

**Resolution of the Board of Trustees of St. Tikhon's
Orthodox Theological Seminary on the Conferral of the Degree
DOCTOR OF DIVINITY, *honoris causa*,
on Bishop JOSEPH (Al-Zehlaoui)**

WHEREAS, His Grace, Bishop JOSEPH (Al-Zehlaoui) has given his entire life to the service of the Holy Orthodox Church of Antioch in many lands, most notably Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Greece, England and, currently, the western United States and Canada;

AND WHEREAS, he has shepherded the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of Los Angeles and the West for nearly fifteen years, a diverse flock of Middle Eastern immigrants, native-born North Americans, and those who have chosen Holy Orthodoxy as the one, true Faith, making no distinction between their backgrounds;

AND WHEREAS, he has spearheaded inter-jurisdictional cooperation on the West Coast and pledged, with his brother bishops in that region, to provide the clergy and the laity an example of liturgical unity in Christ Jesus above all obstacles, manifesting that the Sacraments dissolve all divisions;

AND WHEREAS, he is devoted to the ongoing pastoral formation of his current and future clergy, stressing the importance of seminaries and all institutions of higher Orthodox Christian learning, as well as attendance at the annual Clergy Seminars in order to continue and build on their knowledge for the benefit of their parishes;

AND WHEREAS, he is personally committed to the growth of each one of his sheep, giving and doing all that is necessary to counsel, teach and lead them in "The Way," freely giving of his spiritual acumen for the sake of their life and salvation in Jesus Christ;

AND WHEREAS, he has wisely guided his clergy in the evangelization of the Diocese entrusted to him, remaining steadfast to the Antiochian traditions while transfiguring them with the newness of Orthodoxy in this land, ensuring that the Gospel is spread through its four corners, and that newcomers to the Faith are securely and properly rooted in Holy Orthodoxy;

AND WHEREAS, he has inspired ministry of the laity of all ages, providing for programs of camping, youth education, and teen outreach, as well as college campus activity for young adults; parish council and organization leadership; and, above all, a greater participation in the liturgical arts, guiding the clergy and laity into organic, dynamic unity with their heritage of true worship;

NOW BE IT AND IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of St Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary, to confer on His Grace, Bishop JOSEPH (Al-Zehlaoui), loyal son of Antioch and devoted father in North America, illumined educator and patient shepherd, inspiring churchman and loving archpastor, the academic degree Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*.

Given in South Canaan, Pennsylvania, this 29th day of May, 2010.