

Ordination Address – Bishop Elect Timothy of Hexamilion
Saturday, December 5, 2020

This morning I stand before you, knowing that I am unworthy as the Church calls upon me to another step in serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. First and foremost, I extend my humble appreciation to His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew and members of the Holy and Sacred Synod in Constantinople for electing me to the rank of Bishop. It is my promise to pledge my obedience to His All-Holiness, the Holy and Sacred Synod, and to Christ and His Church.

To Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and the members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of our Holy Archdiocese of America, I am forever grateful for my nomination to the Holy Patriarchate for consideration as Bishop of our Holy Church. As a Bishop assigned under your Omophorion, I pledge to remain faithful to you, our Holy Archdiocese, and to the Church of Jesus Christ.

Realizing the pandemic that our country and world has faced these past many months, I am thankful for the prayers of those members of the Eparchial Synod who are able to be here in person today. I am especially appreciative to His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, who immediately responded by telling me of his desire to be here today. My respect and gratitude to His Eminence and our friendship go back many years since our days in our Theological School in Brookline, Massachusetts. Please permit me to thank His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zelon, another Hierarch and friend who is present today, who has been supportive throughout our years serving as priests on various committees in our Holy Archdiocese. I am also grateful to His Eminence Metropolitan Ilia of the Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America who is also with us today. Our acquaintance takes us back many decades ago to my days as a seminarian at Holy Cross School of Theology.

I would be remiss if I did save special words for my Metropolitan here in Chicago. Metropolitan Nathanael brought me to serve as his Chancellor shortly after his arrival in Chicago and accepted me to serve him in our Metropolis of Chicago without really having much personal history with me. I am grateful to His Eminence because he perhaps saw something that he saw as being beneficial to the Church. In deciding to appoint me as Chancellor, he allowed me to further my desire to serve the Church in another sort of way, a way that is a bit different from parish life. Your Eminence, I stand proudly today as I say I am most indebted to you because you offered me the opportunity to yes, serve you, but also to serve our clergy, the presvyteres and their families. Age is not a determining factor when it comes to learning. His Eminence and I probably are a ‘role reversal’ when it comes to that. However, I am proud to say that in many ways, Metropolitan Nathanael serves as a ‘teacher and mentor’. You have given me that opportunity, and as I am able to serve you, I am also able to serve the Church and our Lord Jesus Christ. Please allow me to publicly thank you.

I am also grateful to the Clergy Syndesmos, the Sisterhood of Presvyteres, to the members of our Metropolis Council, and to the Metropolis Ladies Philotochos Society. I also wish to acknowledge the ordination committee who tirelessly worked to coordinate and make this day so very special, in spite of the national pandemic and ever-changing restrictions that we continually face. This committee was comprised of both clergy and laity, meeting weekly to ensure everything would run smoothly. I especially also want to thank Fr. Theodore Poteres, Fr. Dimitri

Burikas, the parish council and parishioners of this beloved Parish of Saints Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Merrillville, Indiana, who graciously opened their doors when the restrictions in Illinois forced us to look elsewhere. I will always be grateful for their generous hospitality. I am also thankful to the committee for coordinating with the Office of the Archbishop in New York. Please know that I am forever thankful and will love you always.

As I stand here today, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge a few of my past parish priests at the Panagia Parish in Chicago who played a role in my preparation for seminary: The Very Rev. Kallistos Samaras of blessed memory (who later became Bishop Kallistos of Denver); and the Rev. Fr. Demetrios Treantafeles. I also respectfully acknowledge Bishop Timotheos of Rodostolon and Metropolitan Athenagoras of Mexico, both who served in Chicago and were instrumental during my seminary years.

Finally, I thank my family for their support and for being here today. I want to acknowledge my parents who always saw my desire to serve the Church. Although my older brother is no longer with us, I want to acknowledge him today, as I want to also recognize my other two brothers and their families.

Finally, Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, I pledge to you this morning, as unworthy that I am, standing before You, respected Hierarchs, Clergy, presvyteres and laity, that I commit to obey my Bishop as well as furthering Christ's ministry and His Church. Our purpose as Church leaders is to bring our faithful closer to Christ, assisting them in some small way to achieve salvation. With God's blessing, that is my mission.