



**ВОСТОЧНО-АМЕРИКАНСКАЯ ЕПАРХИЯ**  
Русская Православная Церковь Заграницей

**EASTERN AMERICAN DIOCESE**  
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

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*Three Holy Hierarchs*

**To the Very Reverend Archimandrite Luke  
Abbot of Holy Trinity Monastery  
Rector of Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary  
The Seminary Professors, Lectors, Advisors & Students**

Reverend Father!

Distinguished professors, lectors, and advisors of Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary!

Dear alumni and students!

On this day, sanctified by the prayers of our preceptors – the Holy Hierarchs Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom, I sincerely greet all of you, who have come from every corner of this country and from abroad to your alma mater for its first alumni gathering, honoring an institution that opened a new path before you, one leading to a new and substantive life serving Christ's Holy Church.

The path of those who serve the Church is thorny, full of trials, and at the same time is full of grace. And, over the years of our service, each of us has had an opportunity to be convinced of this. In Holy Trinity Seminary, we received fundamental theological knowledge and practical skills, all of which served us well as we began our pastoral – or even, for some of us, archpastoral – labors. It was within the walls of Holy Trinity Monastery and Seminary that the Most-Wise Creator ordained that we should spend the best years of our young lives, which are the most important years for the formation of any adult person, his moral and spiritual values. All of us had a unique opportunity to be spiritual nourished by the professors and monks of the old school, from whom we gleaned the spiritual experience, wisdom, and heartfelt love so necessary for a pastor, *love that suffereth long... that is kind... that envieth not... that vaunteth not itself, that is not puffed up, that doth not behave itself unseemly, that seeketh not*

*her own, that is not easily provoked, that thinketh no evil; that rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in Truth; that beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things* (I Cor. 13:4-8). From our preceptors we also learned to remain faithful to our calling, approaching everything entrusted to us with great responsibility. Let us always remember them and keep them in our prayers.

We would like to address the current seminarians, as well. May you take as your examples the Heavenly intercessors of theological education – the Holy Hierarchs Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom, as well as the monastics – the founders and laborers of this holy monastery. A multitude of parishes and monasteries in our Church are today impatiently awaiting educated pastors, laborers and men of prayer. A boundless field of service in the Church is opening before you on every continent. And the remainder of your life will be based in no small part on how you make use of the years you have here at Holy Trinity Monastery and Seminary.

From the bottom of my heart, to the representatives of various generations of clergy, church servers, and teachers gathered here, I wish that God’s grace will always fortify you on the difficult path of spiritually nourishing and enlightening those already walking the path of salvation, as well as those who have not yet found the road to the Orthodox Church. May the Chief Shepherd – Our Lord Jesus Christ – and His Most-Pure Mother further fortify you in your service to the Holy Orthodox Church and the people of God.

I call down upon all of you God’s blessing.

With love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a plus sign followed by the name "Hilarion" in a cursive script.

Metropolitan of Eastern American & New York  
*Fist Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad*