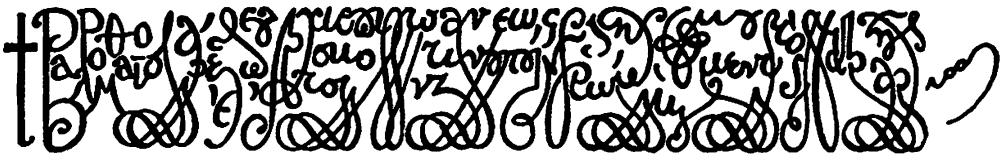


To the Reverend Father Nicolaie Atitienei, Executive Director, and the esteemed Members of the Board of Directors of St. John the Compassionate Mission in Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Grace be unto you and peace from God.

We received with heartfelt appreciation the gracious letter from Dr. Michael Saunders on behalf of St. John the Compassionate Mission of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America under our Ecumenical Throne, along with the report regarding your activities and financial stewardship in 2024.

In turn, it is with much paternal joy that we give thanks to the Lord for the forty years of faithful ministry, witness, and sacrificial love offered by your blessed community. Your ardent commitment has embodied a living *diakonia*—an ecclesial testimony that the Gospel is not merely proclaimed in word, but manifested in daily acts of generosity, compassion, justice, and solidarity with those who suffer.

In feeding the hungry, accompanying the lonely, sheltering the vulnerable, and affirming the dignity of every human person created in the image and likeness of God, you are participating in that hallowed labour through which the Church reveals the nearness of the Kingdom and the radiant beauty of divine philanthropy.

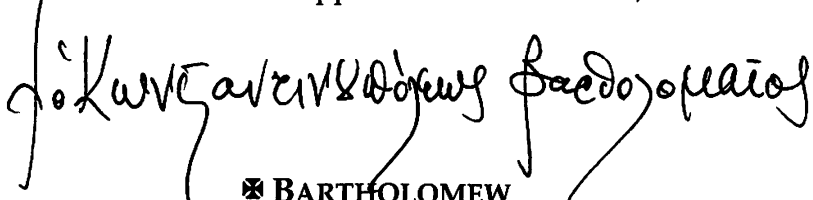
On this joyful anniversary, we extend to you, to the staff and volunteers, and to all whom you embrace in your benevolent outreach, our wholehearted congratulations and paternal exhortation to continue courageously in this holy work. May your witness remain a beacon of hope, a refuge of charity, and a living proclamation of the Gospel's inexhaustible mercy.

We bestow upon your fellowship our Patriarchal blessing, invoking the grace and consolation of our Lord, God, and Saviour, Jesus Christ, that you may be renewed in zeal, fortified in faith, and steadfastly sustained in your sacred service.

May our loving Lord, Who is wondrous in His saints and merciful beyond measure, grant you, at the dawn of this New Year, health, peace, spiritual fruits, and enduring strength in every good deed, to the glory of His holy Name.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, 12 January 2026

Your fervent supplicant before the Lord,



✠ **BARTHOLOMEW**

Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch