



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 11, 2020

Ms. Nikki Vatsures
68 West Cooke Rd.
Columbus, OH 43214

Dear Ms. Vatsures,

Χριστός Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

It is with paternal sentiments of heartfelt compassion and sympathy that I warmly embrace you in the comfort of the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As you grieve over the falling asleep of your beloved brother, Archon Peter Vatsures, I extend to you and your family my personal condolences, as well as the collective prayers of the entire Archdiocese.

Today, we share in your grief, as we mourn together with you the profound loss of a truly exceptional and devoted son of the Church in America, as well as of the Mother Church in Constantinople. Peter was a faithful Archon and a talented church musician, who since a young age earnestly loved the Church and dedicated his life to its service, and we are all deeply saddened by his passing. His lasting contributions and tireless work in the field of church music — on a local parish level, as well as on an Archdiocesan level — will never be forgotten. And the crowning jewel by which he was known to all, the Annual Liturgical Guide Book, will forever be a testament to his precious hallmarks of genuine Christian care and meticulous preparation.

And so, dear Ms. Vatsures, please be assured of my thoughts and prayers for you and your loved ones during this challenging hour of mourning and bereavement. As friends and family gather with you in order to pay your last respects and to bid your final farewells, I encourage you to find some solace in the beautiful hymns of the funeral service — which serve as a pleasant reminder of Peter's life-long love for ecclesiastical music — and to always remain hopeful in the Lord of Resurrection and Life. For, only He can grant us the necessary fortitude to endure the harrowing winds of despair, and guide us through the distressful waters of sorrow.

In beseeching the Almighty to grant eternal repose to the precious soul of His departed servant, Peter the Archon, I pray that his memory be eternal, and that the Resurrected Christ, who triumphed over death and brought about life-everlasting into the world, will bless and protect you always, granting you health and strength, peace and resilience, courage and consolation, so that you may persevere in this time of hardship and separation.

With heartfelt sympathy and
paternal love in the Risen Lord,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America