

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

165 Park Drive
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

V. Rev. Father Robert Arida, Rector and Dean

(617) 262-9490 Church

29 December 29, 2009

The Most Reverend Dmitri
4112 Throckmorton
Dallas, Texas 75219

Vladyka Dmitri,

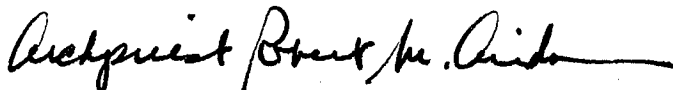
Bless, Most Reverend Master!

Christ is Born!

The New Year will mark the centennial of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Boston. Your episcopal ministry in the diocese of New England continues to be gratefully remembered. At the Cathedral, you are credited for placing the parish on a missionary path to proclaim the Gospel to all. Consequently, because of your vision and courage, the Cathedral was able to develop into a community rooted in liturgical prayer and opened to all seeking new life in Christ.

Pentecost weekend, May 21-23, will be the culmination of a yearlong centennial celebration. On behalf of Bishop Nikon and the Cathedral community, I wish to extend to Your Eminence an invitation to join us during these days to celebrate this milestone event. Additional information regarding lodging and other relative details will be forthcoming. Please consider participating in this important event in the life of a parish you helped nurture during a critical transitional period for the entire Orthodox Church in America.

Sincerely,



Archpriest Robert M. Arida, Dean

The Very Reverend Father Robert Arida
Holy Trinity Cathedral
165 Park Drive
Boston, Massachusetts 02215

Dear Father Robert and Members of Holy Trinity Cathedral,
Indeed, Christ is in our midst!

Thank you for your gracious letter and your kind invitation to take part in the centennial celebrations of Holy Trinity Cathedral. Unfortunately, both my age and my health keep me from traveling nowadays, but I can be there in spirit.

When I was named Bishop of Hartford and New England, Holy Trinity was the diocesan cathedral, and I spent as much time there as I could. The clergy and the members of the cathedral made me feel "at home," and I served there as often as possible.

I will never forget my first Pascha in Boston. The cathedral nave was filled to overflowing, and the procession around the church was such a joyous event. We made the three circuits, and the crowd seemed to grow each time. I think that it was then and there that I felt that I was one of them. Even though the services were long, we did not want them to end.

The "old-timers" of the congregation took me in, and although I was not one of them ethnically, spiritually, I was. The legendary "southern hospitality" was pale in comparison to that of the cathedral people. I was able to visit many homes of the parishioners, including that of the then pastor, Father Eugene, and those of the members of the parish council.

Located as it is in central Boston and close to the universities, it was then and, I am sure, now, the first Orthodox Church that many of the students had seen or visited. Receptions of converts became a feature of our church life.

I must say that although there were many parishes in New England in which I was made to feel at home, Boston's Holy Trinity was outstanding in this respect.

Please convey my blessings and best wishes to the people of Holy Trinity, and let them know that I treasure my time at the Cathedral as a high point of my episcopal career. Ask them to remember me in their prayers, as I do them. May the Lord continue to bless you, Father, in your pastoral ministry.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Archbishop Dmitri

+ Archbishop Dmitri