



THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX EPISCOPATE OF AMERICA

The Most Reverend Dr. NATHANIEL Popp, Archbishop

December 17, 2020

Prophet Daniel and the Three Youths

My Dear Young People,

I write to you during this holy season with much joy! Once more, I thank those who participated this past summer in our virtual camp activities, which I hope brought you closer to God and to one another as brothers and sisters in faith.

These joyous days of the Nativity, New Year and the Baptism of our Lord, remind us all, and especially you, of the power of youth! Your youth – filled with energy, enthusiasm, creativity and passion – is a fountain of hope and inspiration for you and to those around you. You have an opportunity to change darkness into light, negative into positive, sadness into laughter, isolation into presence.

You are very important to your family and community, now more than ever. I encourage you to be a *bright star* of youthful energy and love in your family. Show God's love through simple acts of presence: hug your parents and siblings, be genuine in your sentiments, be attentive to them when you are among them, reach out to uncles and aunts, cousins and of course grandparents. Be involved in the community parish, even if restricted by the current situation (write cards, make video Christmas messages, Christmas carols, etc.)

Good days are on the horizon! We know that God loves us! The spirit of Christmas is the tangible love of God for us. Without the love of God in our hearts, we would not feel as we do during this holy season. The greatest gift is God's love for us. This love is real and is with us... that is OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

I embrace you paternally and assure you of my prayers before the Lord!

+ *Bishop Andrei*
+ Bishop Andrei

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)