



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

August 1, 2018

Mrs. Katherine Poulos VanMarkwyk
Mrs. Stella Poulos Chronis
Saint Catherine Greek Orthodox Church
120 West Seneca Street
Ithaca, New York 14850

Dear Mrs. VanMarkwyk and Mrs. Chronis,

With a heart filled with love and compassion, I offer to you my prayerful condolences upon receiving the news of the falling asleep of your beloved brother and dedicated priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, the Very Reverend Archimandrite Seraphim Poulos.

Father Seraphim centered his life and ministry on the victory that came from the sacrificial death on the Cross of our Lord and His glorious Resurrection. Entrusted with the priesthood in 1978, Father Seraphim served many parishes of our Archdiocese from communities in the Direct Archdiocesan District to the Metropolis of San Francisco to this community where he grew up and held so near to his heart. He nurtured the growth of the communities under his care and focused his energies on the ultimate goal of bringing faithful closer to Christ.

In this difficult hour of separation, Saint Gregory Nazianzenos encourages us as Christians to not feel defeated as the meaning of life lies in our journey towards God. Let us offer to God our supplication in the hymn chanted today, *With the spirits of the righteous made perfect, give rest to the soul of Your servant, O Savior, and preserve it in that life of blessedness which is with You, O You, Who loves mankind* (Troparion for the Departed).

Please know that my thoughts and prayers will be with you. May the Lord grant life to you and eternal rest to His beloved servant, Father Seraphim, who has fallen asleep in the Lord.

With paternal love and heartfelt sympathy,

+ DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America