Monday, March 16, 2020

2nd Joint Statement Concerning Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Due to the rapidly evolving situation surrounding the Coronavirus pandemic (“COVID-19”), the Coptic Orthodox Church must comply with the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) and other public health authorities to limit gatherings to very small numbers. Effective immediately, the churches of the Coptic Orthodox Archdiocese in New Jersey and the Diocese of New York and New England will limit liturgical attendance strictly to priests and select deacons. Moreover, it is mandated that any church from which a congregant has tested positive for COVID-19 must close for a minimum of two (2) weeks. These measures are being taken as part of the Church’s efforts to mitigate the spread of the virus and safeguard the health and well-being of the faithful. Currently, several members of the Coptic community have tested positive for COVID-19.

Our faith in the holy Body and the precious Blood of our Lord is beyond doubt. We know that partaking of the holy, life-giving and healing mysteries, in the words of St. Ignatius, is “the medicine of immortality and the antidote to sin.” At the same time, the Church must legally, morally, and spiritually act responsibly by actively participating in social distancing and following guidelines of the CDC and local health authorities.

His Grace Bishop David and the fathers of the churches are committed to continue praying liturgies and offering the oblations during these trying times on behalf of their respective congregations, while it is still legally permissible and in accordance with guidelines. We ask that our congregations participate in the liturgy by live streaming, as well as participate in Sunday school, Bible study, youth group virtual meetings, and additional services, all of which will be made available online. Additionally, each parish shall provide its congregation with a call-in number which may be used for guidance and support for our parishioners.

We are united in prayer with our brothers and sisters in Egypt and throughout the world, under the leadership and guidance of our holy father His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, who sent us the following message: "The Lord Jesus Christ protect you all. It is an exceptional period which shall pass speedily and normal life shall be resumed. My sincere love and wishes for recovery, health and peace.”

May our Lord provide healing for all of humanity and strengthen your faith through His presence.
بيان مشترك (2) بخصوص مرض فيروس كورونا 2019

نظراً للتطورات السريعة للوضع الحالي حول فيروس كورونا (COVID-19)، يجب على الكنيسة القبطية الأرثوذكسية الاستجابة للتحذيرات من مراكز مكافحة الأمراض (CDC) وأيضاً سلطات الصحة العامة لحجز التجمعات إلى أعداد ضئيلة جداً. لذلك قررت في هذا الوقت الكنيسة لليهودي في مدينة نيويورك وأيضاً كنيسة أتباع الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية بين الولايات المتحدة أن تبقى مفتوحة في السابق.

نطالب جميع الأقباط المصريين بتقليد السلوك الذي نشأ فيهم الله وحرصهم على الحفاظ على الصحة والسلام.

نلتزم بكل جهودنا في مكافحة هذا الوباء، ونستعين بالله وتعاليمه. ونتطلع إلى يوم ازدهار وصحبة وسلام.

الخليفة بديع الله، رئيس كنيسة الأقباط الأرثوذكس

الإبصارية نيو بورك ونيو إنجلاند

Diocese of New York & New England

المفروض البابوي بأمريكا الشمالية

Archdiocese of North America

الاثنين، 16 مارس 2020