

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan JOSEPH

The Right Reverend  
Bishop JOHN



Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of  
All North America

Chairman of the Temporary  
Operating Committee

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**  
OF NORTH AMERICA

October 6, 2022

Virgin Mary Life-Giving Spring Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Rev. Fr. Paul Marji and the Members of the Parish Council  
6655 Ming Ave.  
Bakersfield, CA 93309

**Re: Acquisition of vacant land at 1230 34<sup>th</sup> St. in Bakersfield, CA**

Beloved in Christ, Fr. Paul and esteemed Members of the Parish Council,

Greetings and blessings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I have been advised by our chancellor of your parish's request for permission to purchase the above-referenced property, consisting of approximately 35,718 square feet of vacant land (a.k.a. APN 120-120-13, zoned commercial C-2). I have been further informed that you held a duly called and constituted Special General Assembly on October 2, 2022, and after careful study and due diligence, a resolution was unanimously adopted to acquire this property for the price of \$232,167.00, through a cash purchase, without mortgage. You also provided financial statements showing that your parish currently has this amount of cash on hand. Additionally, I trust that you have retained the services of an attorney to make certain all due diligence and inspections are conducted.

Based on the representations you have made, we hereby approve the acquisition of the above-referenced property for the above-referenced price. Please keep our chancellor apprised of any new developments and, after the purchase, provide him with a copy of the new deed along with evidence of adequate property- and liability-insurance coverage, naming the Archdiocese as "additional insured." The subject property is to be placed in the name of Virgin Mary Life-Giving Spring Antiochian Orthodox Church. Additionally, I trust that the appropriate application will be submitted for the property to be exempt from taxes.

Wishing you and all your parishioners God's every blessing, I am,

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bp John".

Bishop JOHN, Chairman  
Temporary Operating Committee  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

*"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)*