

## INDUCTION SERVICE

*At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy or Vespers, the presiding Metropolitan or Bishop stands facing the congregation,*

*The North American/Diocese Officer or designee calls the names (in alphabetical order) of the inductees to come forward and form a line in front of the iconostasis, facing the altar. The inductees shall be escorted according to the protocol of the Order.*

**Bishop:**

Blessed is our God always; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir/People:** Amen.

*The Metropolitan or Bishop continues, chanting the Troparion of St. Ignatius (Tone 4):*

By choosing the Apostles' way of life, you seceded to their throne. Inspired by God you found the way to divine contemplation through the practice of virtue. After teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the faith to the very shedding of your blood. O Holy Martyr among Bishops Ignatius. Entreat the Lord, our God, to save our souls.

**Bishop:**

Hear these words of the Martyr Ignatius, the third to preside over the throne of the chiefs of the Apostles, Peter and Paul, in the God-protected city of Antioch. The eternal truth which he confessed has been preserved in his own words: Pray without ceasing for the rest of mankind. See that they be instructed by the example of your works. Jesus Christ is our only Teacher, of Whom even the prophets were disciples in the Spirit, and didst wait for Him as their Teacher. May the cross with which you will be invested be a reminder of Him who willingly accepted the Cross for our salvation, and of the Martyr Saint Ignatius of Antioch, called the God-Bearer, who cheerfully united his sacrifice with that of his Divine Master. May the crimson of the rib-bon recall the blood which the Martyr Ignatius shed for Christ and of that empire which, having sacrificed the martyrs, was then conquered by their faith.

**Deacon/Priest:**

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir/People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Bishop:**

O Master, Lord our God, who has commanded that we bring unto thee an offering of each of thine own things, and who rewardest the same with the gift of thine eternal good things; who didst graciously accept the offering of the widow, according to her ability: Accept the gifts of these thy faithful, and vouchsafe to place the same among thine eternal treasures; granting unto them an abundant harvest of thy earthly blessings, together with all things profitable unto them. Be mindful, O Lord, of those who bear fruit and do good works in thy holy churches, give them things heavenly for things earthly, things eternal for things temporal, things incorruptible for things corruptible: For thou art a good God and loves mankind, and unto thee do we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir/People:** Amen.

**Bishop:**

The following oath shall now be recited aloud in unison.

**Inductees:**

I (*Name*) do solemnly pledge before Almighty God and this congregation, to commit myself to serve the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America through this Order to the best of my ability; to work in harmony with my fellow members; to remain steadfast in my loyalty to the Order for the rest of my days; through the intercession of our patron, St. Ignatius of Antioch.

*The crosses for presentation are brought forward, as the Metropolitan or Bishop says:*

**Bishop:**

In recognition of your commitment, we receive you into the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch. Receive the Cross of the Order in recognition of your dedication to

Christ's Church and the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America for the rest of your days.

*The North American/Diocese Officer or designee calls out the name and rank and city of each inductee and he or she comes forward.*

*After receiving the Cross of the Order, each kisses the hand of the Metropolitan or Bishop,*

**Bishop:**

The blessing of Lord and his mercy come upon you through His grace and love towards mankind, always: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

**Choir/People:** Amen.

*All members then return to their places among the congregation.*