

**Your Eminence,**

**First, allow me to ask your blessing upon me, my family, and the parishioners of St. Athanasios the Great. I stand here before you and my brother priests, humbled that you have selected me as the next proistamenos of this beloved parish. As we all know quite well, the life of the Church is like the seas and oceans of the world – sometimes calm, sometimes stormy – always dynamic and changing. However, we also know that the ship of salvation – the Church of Christ – has been established by our Lord and Savior to weather all storms. When we choose to be within the sacred vessel leading toward the Kingdom of Heaven, we have nothing to fear with our Lord at the helm. The voyage of our Church has continued for 2,000 years and will continue until the Second Coming. Those of us serving the Church of Christ are but a tiny speck – a millisecond flash in the life of the Church, yet our ministry affects countless souls, as the fringes of our epitrachilia remind us every time we hang them on our necks. It is with all this in mind that I pledge to do my best, always with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in my ministry here at St. Athanasios. In my 23 years in the priesthood, I have learned that a parish is not just bricks and mortar, nor is it only about the person of the priest. A healthy parish, as part of the mystical Body of Christ, consists of all its members – clergy and laity together. Only under the oversight of the local bishop and with the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit, can a parish flourish and grow. My prayer is that I, as your representative on the parish level, can offer the spiritual food necessary for continued spiritual growth. My prayer for this parish is that we bring forward all the good and positive things accomplished throughout its many years of existence, and continue moving forward toward its sacred goal. My continuous prayer will also be to the patron of this holy temple, St.**

**Athanasios the Great whose holy memory we keep this day, for his supplications to God and his protection. With your guidance, Your Eminence, I am confident that this parish will regain and regather its strength, and realign itself on the straight and narrow path toward salvation. I also look forward to working side by side with Fr. Aaron in the Lord's vineyard, who has clearly shown much love and dedication to the parish of St. Athanasios. Together we will till the sacred soil beneath our feet, and spread the divine seeds entrusted to us toward the spiritual growth of all those under our care. May the Triune God keep and protect you, Your Eminence, as well as Fr. Aaron, the members of this parish, and all the priests and parishioners throughout the holy Metropolis of Boston.**