



**Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
Archdiocese of North America and Diocese of New York & New England**

March 30, 2020

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen.

To our Beloved Children serving us on the frontlines of the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Healthcare Workers, First Responders, and Armed Forces Personnel:

Grace and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ who sacrificed Himself so we can live forever.

It is with a grateful and indebted heart that we share this message of encouragement and blessing with all of you.

“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10.

We are deeply grateful to each and every one of you who is fighting this health crisis, often at great personal risk. As you confront these tremendous challenges, be assured that your acts of mercy are known to our loving God. As it is written:

“And He gave skill to men that He might be glorified in His marvelous works. By them He heals and takes away pain.” Sirach 38:6-7.

Although you risk your health, as well as that of your families, every day you go to work, and sacrifice countless hours on the job, you will certainly receive your blessings and reward from our Heavenly Father. You are a light in this time of darkness, hope to those who have become hopeless, and a help to those who are helpless in this time of trial that has come upon the whole world. You are bold and courageous in the faith of the Lord in whom you have put your trust. You have the Lord your God always before you. He surrounds you with His grace and you are now a tool in His mighty hand a tool to glorify His holy name and to bring others to Him as you witness to His love, peace and goodness, even in such a difficult time.

We want to assure you of our unceasing supplications on your behalf and on behalf of those whom you serve. May the Holy Spirit guide and protect you. Always remember that you are supported and strengthened by the intercessions of Saint Mary, and all of the chorus of angels and saints, and by our daily prayers to God to grant you protection, guidance and endurance.

Glory be to our God forever and ever. Amen.