

Pentecost 2012

To His Eminence HILARION  
Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York  
First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia  
75 East 93<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10128

Your Eminence,

Prostrating, I venerate.

The blessing of our Reverend Elder was for me to be in obedience to Archimandrite Serapheim of Petra, Abbot of our Monastery here in America.

Liturgical needs of the Sacred Monastery of Petra compelled him to return indefinitely, and have kept him there until now, and me here without my Abbot.

Filially I entreat you, having your Paternal love as an encolpion and small Gospel on my chest, allow me to relate to You whatever I did not have the chance to until now.

Before my departure from Petra, I had the need to be strengthened with the power of the Great and Angelic Schema, even from the beginning having the blessing of the then Metropolitan of Thessalotis and Phanariophersala Theocletos, when he called us to Petra with my Elder, whom I followed since 1992 in Jerusalem, where he was Abbot then of the Monastery of the Holy Cross. And I finally received it in the name of the Prophet JEREMIAH, whom I have loved since I was a small child for his lamentation over Jerusalem which crucified and crucifies our Christ.

During this whole time, even though I was in my parents' care in San Francisco, close to Archbishop Kyril of San Francisco and his Vicar Bishop Theodosios, serving them as a celebrant in the Cathedral of the Theotokos "Joy of All Who Sorrow" and catechist of the youth in the church school there of Saints Cyril and Methodius, always under the vigilant care and maternal concern of Abbess Aemiliane of the Monastery of the Entrance of the Theotokos under your Holy Omophore in Maryland, I felt and I feel the incurable longing to return to Petra permanently, anticipating your Release Letter to the Monastery of Petra, where I was tonsured and from where I was canonically sent to the land of which I am an American citizen.

With all my devotion and my life-long gratitude for everything from now on, also, I close.

I make a full-length prostration to you, leaving my soul at your feet.

Hieromonk Symeon



(Great-Schema Jeremiah)