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*Holy Ukrainian Autocephalic
Orthodox Church In Exile
[Blessings of Kiev]*

Serving International Jurisdictions

1960 Founding Member of Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in America

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SUSPENSION LETTER

Dear Deacon Joseph,

Your actions last Sunday at the Divine Liturgy has prompted this letter of Suspension. You are hereby suspended from all ecclesiastical duties for a period of 30 days. You are suspended from all of the Divine services. If you insist to celebrate the Divine services with any other clergyman you will be deposed. If there is true repentance from your actions last Sunday the suspension will be lifted. If you do not repent from your actions, you will deposed to the rank of laity.

During the Divine Liturgy last Sunday, you did not return after escorting Bebe out of the chapel. By not returning, you violated (2) of the Holy Orthodox Canons. No matter what the reason you felt justified not to return, you never abandon the altar of the Lord. Also, your poor attitude was noticed when you were not allowed to read the Epistle. It is the right of the Hierarch to choose who will read. Our job is always to maintain an attitude of humility and a thankful heart to serve at the altar.

The Canons violated are listed below:

Canon VIII of the 85 Canons of the Holy Apostles

If any Bishop, or Presbyter, or Deacon, or anyone else in the sacerdotal list, fail to partake of communion when the oblation has been offered, he must tell the reason; and if it is good excuse, he shall receive a pardon. But if he refuses to tell it, he shall be excommunicated, on the ground that he has become a cause of harm to the laity and has instilled a suspicion as against the offerer of it that the latter has failed to present it in a sound manner.

Canon IX of the 85 Canons of the Holy Apostles

All those faithful who enter and listen to the Scriptures, but do not stay for prayer and Holy Communion must be excommunicated, on the ground that they are causing the Church a breach of order.

May the Lord have mercy on you.

Metropolitan Haralambos, Primate