

RUSSIAN TRUE ORTHODOX CHURCH
ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA
СНАОГЕРУ

225 NATHAN LANE NORTH SUITE 117
PLYMOUTH, NH 05441



РУССКАЯ ИСТИННО-ПРАВОСЛАВНАЯ ЦЕРКОВЬ
СЕРБНО-АМЕРИКАНСКАЯ АРХИЕПАРХИЯ
КАНЦЕЛЯРИЯ

EMAIL: ARCHDIOCESE@EMAIL.COM
WEB: [HTTP://TRUTHORTHODOX.ORG](http://TRUTHORTHODOX.ORG)

Statement of Metropolitan ALEXY on the Devastating Fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris

It was with great sadness that I watched the tragic fire that engulfed the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. The loss of this church is not just a tragedy to the Catholic Church in Paris or the people of France, but to people throughout the world who have come to this venerable and holy temple for centuries to pray and to be edified by its magnificence. No matter what one's religious affiliation or beliefs may be, this church has stood as a shining beacon of the beauty and hope that exists in a world that is often lacking in both.

France, and Paris in particular, holds a special place in the hearts of the Russian Church. It was this country and this city that received so many of our people as they fled the religious persecution they were facing in their homeland. It was in Paris that great Russian theological thought and debate flourished in the early part of the last century. And it is still home to so many of our people. Without question, it was this magnificent edifice that caught their attention as they settled in their new home and gave them hope for a future in which religious ideas could be freely discussed and that gave them the courage to build churches of their own.

As your Church enters into this most solemn of weeks, the reality of the Suffering and the Passion of Christ take on an even more personal meaning. This is a truly heartbreaking time in your history, but as we know, tragedy and loss can bring out strength we never knew we had, and can also lead us to something more magnificent than we could have ever imagined.

On behalf of our Church, myself, and all the clergy and faithful, I extend to you our sincere prayers that the tragedy that has befallen you today unites you and leads you to an even brighter future.

+ALEXY

First Hierarch of the Russian True Orthodox Church -Moscow Metropolia

Metropolitan of Moscow and All Russia

Archbishop Of the Archdiocese of North America