

Protocol 20070320-2

To All Priests & Deacons
of the
Russian Orthodox Autonomous Church Of America

Beloved in the Lord,

1. As a reminder, when signing your name on any letter or document, it is improper for Priests or Deacons to place the sign of the **Cross (+)** either in front or after your name. This is the prerogative of a Bishop only, in the Russian Church.
2. The proper word order for writing the name of our church on documents is:

Russian Orthodox Autonomous Church

and not

Russian Orthodox Church (Autonomous)

or

Autonomous Russian Orthodox Church, etc.

Note - Although it might make more sense to the English reader, the Metropolitan wants us to be consistent with how the name of our Church is written in Russian. This should help to make it clear to people who it is that we belong to. In the United States, changing the word order, or even changing a preposition in a title, could mean that an entirely different organization is being referred to.

3. When using the official name of your parish on a letterhead, church bulletin, business cards, an outdoor sign, etc., for the sake of consistency, it is better not to insert the word "**Christian**" or "**Eastern**" or "**American**" in the title, as its use could be confusing to people in the United States. Below the official name of the parish, the second line should read "**A Parish of the Russian Orthodox Autonomous Church.**" If the local pastor feels a need to deviate from this policy, he should contact Bishop Andrei for approval and receive a blessing before publishing.

With love in Christ,
Fr. Elias Greer
Chancellor