

#### GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

### ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 28/2023

## Archiepiscopal Encyclical on the Feast of Saint Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople

February 6, 2023

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Holy Archdiocese of America:

An Angel among men, you have been shown forth to be, O Father.... (Oikos from the Matins of the Feast).

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As an "Angel among men," Saint Photios the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople, was truly a messenger of God. His defense of the Orthodox Faith against encroachments from all sides, together with his missionary zeal, which was grounded in his extensive learning, made him both famous in his day and the target of attacks. He was a man of his times, and yet, he was a man for all seasons. The hymns that celebrate his memory do not lack in either exuberance or praise, and justly so.

This is the Saint for whom our Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine is named. This year is the Fortieth Anniversary of the establishment of the Shrine as a National Institution of our Sacred Archdiocese of America, and every member of our Church should take pride in this significant milestone. The ever-memorable Archbishop Iakovos captained the efforts to bring about the Shrine in St. Augustine, Florida, together with lay leadership from the region. The purchase of the Avero House in 1966 ultimately led to the dedication of this first National Shrine of our Sacred Archdiocese in 1982. Thousands upon thousands of faithful and visitors have come to the Shrine to learn about the history of Greeks in America. Today, with the Shrine's Fortieth Anniversary, we embark upon a new chapter.



Saint Photios himself is rightfully honored at the Shrine, because he was truly a messenger of the Gospel, an "Angel among men," as the hymn says. I encourage everyone across the Archdiocese to visit the Shrine as they are able, and to support its vital work, continuing the vision of this Great Patriarch of Constantinople, to bring the message of the Gospel to all the world, and to remember those who have come before us as true spiritual giants, upon whose shoulders we stand.

With paternal love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS

16 Aprentis Lyttoopoeol

Archbishop of America



#### ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

#### ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Άριθμ. Πρωτ. 28/2023

# Άρχιεπισκοπική Έγκύκλιος γιὰ τὴν ἑορτὴ τοῦ Μεγάλου Φωτίου, Πατριάρχου Κωνσταντινουπόλεως.

6 Φεβρουαρίου 2023

Ποὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Άρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους ἄρχοντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἡγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ ἄπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους ἄδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὀργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς ἄρχιεπισκοπῆς ἄμερικῆς.

«Άγγελος ἐξ ἀνθρώπων, ἀνεδείχθης ὧ Πάτερ» (Οἶκος τοῦ ὄρθρου τῆς ἑορτῆς).

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφὲς ἐν Χριστῷ,

Ό Μέγας Φώτιος, πατοιάοχης Κωνσταντινουπόλεως ἀποτέλεσε ἕναν ποαγματικὸ ἀγγελιοφόρο τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὡς «ἄγγελος ἐξ ἀνθρώπων». Ἡ ὑπεράσπιση τῆς ὀρθοδόξου πίστεως ἀπέναντι στοὺς ἐχθρούς της πρὸς κάθε κατεύθυνση, μαζὶ μὲ τὸν ἱεραποστολικό του ζῆλο, ὁ ὁποῖος βασιζόταν στὴν εὐρυμάθειά του, τὸν ἔκαναν διάσημο στὴν ἐποχή του ἀλλὰ καὶ στόχο τῶν ἀντιπάλων του. Ἔζησε ὡς ἄνθρωπος τῆς ἐποχῆς του, ἀλλὰ ἀποτελεῖ πρότυπο γιὰ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους κάθε ἐποχῆς. Τὰ τροπάρια τῆς ἀκολουθίας τοῦ ὄρθρου τῆς ἑορτῆς του τὸν ἐξυμνοῦν μὲ ἀκρίβεια γιὰ τὰ πολλά του χαρίσματα χωρὶς νὰ ὑπερβάλλουν στὸ παραμικρό.

Εἶναι ὁ ἄγιος ἐκεῖνος στὸν ὁποῖο εἶναι ἀφιερωμένο τὸ ἐθνικὸ προσκύνημα τοῦ Ἱεροῦ Φωτίου. Αὐτὸ τὸ ἔτος ἑορτάζουμε τὴ τεσσαρακοστὴ ἐπέτειο ἀπὸ τὴν ἵδρυση αὐτοῦ τοῦ προσκυνήματος, ὡς ἐθνικοῦ καθιδρύματος τῆς Ἱερᾶς μας Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς καὶ εἴμαστε



ύπερήφανοι γιὰ αὐτό. Ὁ ἀείμνηστος ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἰάκωβος ἡγήθηκε τῶν προσπαθειῶν γιὰ τὴν ἵδρυση τοῦ προσκυνήματος στὸν Ἅγ. Αὐγουστῖνο στὴ Φλώριδα, μαζὶ μὲ τὴν ἡγεσία καὶ τὰ μέλη τῶν τοπικῶν κοινοτήτων. Ἡ ἀγορὰ τῆς οἰκίας Ἁβέρο τὸ ἔτος 1966 ὁδήγησε στὴν ἵδρυση τοῦ πρώτου ἐθνικοῦ προσκηνύματος τῆς Ἱερᾶς μας Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς τὸ 1982. Χιλιάδες ἐπισκέπτες καὶ προσκυνητὲς ἐπισκέπτονται κάθε χρόνο τὸ ἱερὸ αὐτὸ προσκήνυμα γιὰ νὰ μάθουν καὶ νὰ ἐντρυφήσουν στὴν ἱστορία τῶν ἑλλήνων τῆς Ἀμερικῆς. Κατὰ τὴ τεσσαρακοστὴ ἐπέτειο ἀπὸ τὴν ἵδρυση τοῦ προσκυνήματος εἴμαστε ἕτοιμοι γιὰ τὸ νέο Σύνταγμά μας.

Ό ἄγιος Φώτιος δικαίως τιμᾶται στὸ ἐθνικὸ προσκύνημα αὐτό, γιατὶ ἦταν πράγματι ὁ ἀγγελιοφόρος τοῦ εὐαγγελικοῦ μηνύματος ὡς «ἄγγελος ἐξ ἀνθρώπων», ὅπως τὸ τροπάριο ἀναφέρει. Ἄς ὑποστηρίξουμε μὲ κάθε τρόπο τὸ καθίδρυμα αὐτὲ μὲ δωρεὲς καὶ ὀργανώνοντας ἐπισκέψεις στὸ χῶρο τοῦ προσκυνήματος. Ἐτσι εἴμαστε σίγουροι ὅτι συνεχίζουμε τὸ ὅραμα τοῦ μεγάλου αὐτοῦ πατριάρχου Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, διαδίδοντας τὸ εὐαγγέλιο σὲ ὅλο τὸν κόσμο, ἐνθυμούμενοι πάντοτε τοὺς προγόνους μας ὡς ἀληθινοὺς πνευματικοὺς γίγαντες ποὺ ἐργάστηκαν πρὶν ἀπὸ ἐμᾶς καὶ ἀποτελοῦν τὸ στερεὸ θεμέλιο γιὰ τὴν ἱστορικὴ συνέχειά μας.

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης,

† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

To ALEOIKAS LITTOOOPOROR