



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

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Archepiscopal Encyclical on the Sunday of the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres

June 1, 2025

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

Αποστολικῶν παραδόσεων, ἀκριβεῖς φύλακες γεγονάτε ... (Δόξα... Τῶν Πατέρων)
You have become the precise guardians of the Apostolic traditions ... (Glory ... of the Fathers)

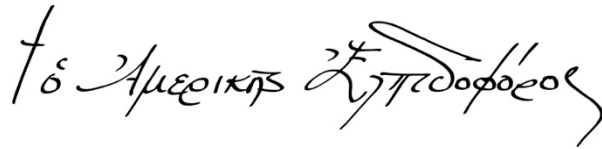
My beloved sisters and brothers in Christ,

This year's National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Sunday arrives one week early due to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost on June 8. In falling on the Sunday of the 318 Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, whose seventeen hundredth anniversary we celebrate this year, the honoring of the Presvyteres and Diakonisses of our Church seems a most fitting counterpoint. For we can never forget the service that these noble women offer to the Church, just as how we can never forget the Holy Fathers who gave us the Nicene Creed.

This is why I chose the verse above from the Great Vespers of today's Feast. Because it can as easily be applied to our beloved Presvyteres and Diakonisses as to the Great Fathers of Nicaea. The National Sisterhood of Presvyteres is a dynamic organization that serves the specific interests of our clergy spouses around the country. They support and sustain their fellow sisters in Christ with a variety of programs and a network of encouragement. These yokefellows of their ordained husbands bear witness to the Orthodox Faith every day — in their dealings with parishioners, in the examples set in their families, and in the mission-driven efforts they bring to the life of the local church and the Church-at-large.

Therefore, on this Sunday of the Holy Fathers, may we pay homage to these precious spiritual mothers in our churches, who protect and foster the sacred traditions of the Apostles with precision and devotion. Let us honor them on local and national levels with abiding gratitude for their sacrifices and deep appreciation for their offerings and enhancements to our parishes.

With much paternal love in Christ,



† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America