



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 477/2026

Archiepiscopal Encyclical for National Leadership 100 Sunday

October 25, 2026

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Presvyteres and Diakonisses, 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.

... for God loves a cheerful giver. (II Corinthians 9:7)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this October 25th, the Lord's Day closest to the Nameday of the ever-memorable Archbishop Iakovos, we observe our annual National Leadership 100 Sunday. The more than 1,400 members of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund represent a rising tide of "cheerful givers," whose open hearts and helping hands have brought about amazing transformations and advancements for our Church. Through their remarkable stewardship, Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology have received over 32 million dollars; the National Ministries of the Archdiocese have received nearly as much; and the Fund is the third-largest donor to the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine in New York City. These accomplishments have taken place in a spirit of generosity and vision, marked by the sense of joy that real philanthropy produces in the hearts of benefactors.

Over the decades, Leadership 100 has grown to include a vast representation of the diversity of our Church in America. Its programs are vital to the health of our Institutions, which thrive because of the joyful generosity of so many.

The generous support of Leadership 100 has helped to build up our Sacred Archdiocese and to create a legacy for the generations to come. May the abundant blessings of our loving God continue to enable us to open our hands and hearts in service to Him and to one another.

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, written in Greek. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Ὁ Ἀμερικανὸς Ἐπισκοπὸς".

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America