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Archiepiscopal Encyclical for the Feast of the Archangels

Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels
November 8, 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:

Let brotherly love abide; forget not to welcome strangers: for thereby some have entertained Angels unawares.
(Hebrews 13:1-2)

Beloved Brethren in the Lord,

On this Feast of the Bodiless Powers, when we celebrate the Archangels and the Nine Orders of the Angelic Host whom they command by the will of God, let us also remember the many angelic presences who come into our lives, also by the will of God. As the Apostle states, it is in the context of abiding fraternal love and through our practice of philoxenia – of welcoming and being hospitable to the strangers in our midst – that we come into contact with Angelic Beings.

This wondrous reality is mostly shielded from our understanding, as the Apostle says that we are unaware of their presence, even though they may be standing right in front of us. These "Angels unawares" come in many guises, and each one presents an opportunity for us to stretch our spiritual capacities and open our hearts wider. More times than we may believe, such angelic forces come to us in the persons of our elder

brothers and sisters, whose long-acquired wisdom is often delivered to us in the simplest of terms. Let us never disregard their words or their example. They have much to teach us and much to share with us.

Thus, it is most fitting that on this Sunday, when we celebrate the Angels in all their glory, we remember as well our Archdiocesan Institution of Saint Michael's Home, which serves our elderly. Their shining presence at Saint Michael's reminds us all that old age with dignity, fellowship, and purpose is not something to be feared but rather embraced. It is my fervent prayer that many of you will take this opportunity to extend your *philadelphia* and your *philoxenia* to these much-loved and valued members of our Church Communities. In their day, they labored and built for the generations to come, and we all owe them a debt of gratitude. Please consider supporting Saint Michael's Home, and keep welcoming the Angels in our midst.

With love and gratitude in our Lord Jesus Christ,



† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America