



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 340/2024

Archiepiscopal Encyclical for the Commemoration of OXI Day

October 27, 2024

To the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of the 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:

Blessed is the people, whose help is the Lord their God.
(Doxology for October 28th, the Feast of Victory)

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

OXI Day is a shining reminder of the courage and steadfastness of the People of Greece, who stood tall in the face of the fascist aggression and invasion against their Nation during World War II. The line that they drew was in their own blood, and their heroism is redolent of those Immortal Heroes of 1821, in whose steps they faithfully followed.

Greece may be a small land, but it is an enormous civilization. Whether in the mainland, the islands, or the outposts of Asia Minor that were founded thousands of years ago, the genius of Hellas has always shone forth for all the world to see. The resistance of Greece to the fascists of the Second World War was inevitable, for such cruel and violent forms of domination are counter to every impulse of the Hellenic Mind. Add to this culture the Christian Orthodox Faith, and you have a spiritual, mental, and indeed, national phalanx against tyranny.

Therefore, it is no accident that the Church of Greece transferred the feast of the Holy Protection of the Virgin from October 1st (the day it is normally observed) to OXI Day, October 28th. This recognition of God's favor and aid in the face of invasion through the intercessions of His Holy Mother is deeply engrained in the psyche of the Greek People. Around the world, Hellenes and Philhellenes alike celebrate this faith in God and



faith in the human potential for justice and goodness on this Day of the “OXI” to totalitarianism and the “NAI” to freedom. How blessed we all are to be the People whose help is on the Lord our God.

With paternal love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ.: 340/2024

Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκύκλιος για την ημέρα του «ΟΧΙ».

27 Οκτωβρίου 2024

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, 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 Ἠγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

«Μακάριος ὁ λαός, οὗ ἔστι βοηθὸς Κύριος ὁ Θεὸς αὐτοῦ»
(Δοξολογία ἐπὶ τῇ 28^ῃ Ὀκτωβρίου. Τῶν Νικητηρίων).

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Ἡ ἡμέρα τοῦ «ΟΧΙ» ἀποτελεῖ μία λαμπρὴ ὑπενθύμιση τοῦ θάρρους καὶ τῆς ἐπιμονῆς τοῦ Ἑλληνικοῦ Λαοῦ, ὁ ὁποῖος ἔδειξε τὸ ἀναστημὰ του ἀπέναντι στὴν φασιστικὴ ἐπιθετικότητα καὶ τὴν εἰσβολὴν στὰ ἱερά μας χῶματα κατὰ τὸν Δεύτερο Παγκόσμιον Πόλεμον. Ἡ γραμμὴ ἄμυνας βάρφηκε μὲ αἷμα καὶ ὁ ἡρωϊσμός τους μοιάζει μὲ ἐκεῖνον τῶν ἡρώων τοῦ 1821, τὸ παράδειγμα τῶν ὁποίων ἀκολούθησαν πιστά.

Ἡ Ἑλλάδα μας εἶναι μία μικρὴ χώρα μὲ ἀνυπέρβλητο πολιτισμὸ! Εἴτε στὸ ἠπειρωτικὸ τμήμα, εἴτε στὰ ἀμέτρητα νησιά της, εἴτε στοὺς θύλακες τῆς Μικρᾶς Ἀσίας ἐδῶ καὶ χιλιάδες χρόνια, ἡ ἰδιοφυΐα τοῦ Ἕλληνα ἀνέκαθεν ἔλαμπε σὰν ἄστρο σὲ ὅλο τὸν κόσμον. Ἡ ἀντίσταση τῆς Ἑλλάδος στὸν κατακτητὴ καὶ στοὺς φασίστες τοῦ Δευτέρου Παγκοσμίου Πολέμου ἦταν αὐτονόητη, καθὼς ἡ βία, ἡ καταπίεση καὶ ἡ ὠμότητα ἀποτελοῦν ξένες ἔννοιες γιὰ κάθε γνήσιον Ἕλληνα. Ἄν σὲ αὐτὸν τὸν πολιτισμὸ τῆς δημοκρατίας καὶ τῆς ἐλευθερίας προσθέσουμε τὴν χριστιανικὴν ὀρθόδοξον πίστην μὲ τὸν πνευματικὸν δυναμισμόν καὶ τὴν αὐταπάρνησιν ἀπέναντι στοῦ κακοῦ, τότε μπορούμε νὰ καταλάβουμε αὐτὴ τὴν ἀυθόρμητη ἀντίσταση κατὰ τῆς τυραννίας.



Ἐπομένως, δὲν εἶναι τυχαῖο ὅτι ἡ Ἐκκλησία τῆς Ἑλλάδος μετέφερε τὴν ἑορτὴ τῆς Ἁγίας Σκέπης τῆς Θεοτόκου ἀπὸ τὴν 1^η Ὀκτωβρίου (τὴν ἡμέρα πὺ ἐορτάζεται κανονικά) στὴν ἡμέρα τοῦ «ΟΧΙ». Αὐτὴ ἡ πίστις ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς μὲ τις μεσιτεῖες τῆς Θεοτόκου ἔρχεται πάντοτε ὡς προστάτης καὶ βοηθὸς ἀπέναντι σὲ κάθε ἀδικὴ εἰσβολή, εἶναι βαθιὰ ριζωμένη στὴν καρδιὰ τοῦ ἑλληνικοῦ λαοῦ. Σὲ ὅλο τὸν κόσμον, αὐτὴ τὴν ἡμέρα, οἱ Ἕλληνες καὶ οἱ φιλέλληνες γιορτάζουν μὲ πίστις στὸ Θεὸ τὸν ἀγῶνα γιὰ δικαιοσύνη καὶ ἀγαθοσύνη, ἀπαντώντας «ΟΧΙ» στὸν ὀλοκληρωτισμὸ καὶ «ΝΑΙ» στὴν ἐλευθερία! Πόσο, ἀλήθεια, εὐλογημένοι εἴμαστε, πὺ ἔχουμε βοηθὸ καὶ σκεπαστὴ τὸν Κύριον καὶ Θεὸν μας;

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἐν Κυρίῳ Ἰησοῦ Χριστῷ ἀγάπης,

† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος