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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