



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

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Archeiscopal Encyclical for National Leadership 100 Sunday

October 23, 2022

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, 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:

*Come and let us all, and with sacred hymns magnify Iakovos,
the first-enthroned luminary of the Church.... (Ode 9)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, on the Sunday that we will celebrate the National Leadership 100 Sunday, we have the special blessing of commemorating the Feastday of the visionary hierarch whose dream it was to have a permanent endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism for our Archdiocese – the ever-memorable Archbishop Iakovos, the longest serving Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Like his namesake St. Iakovos, the Brother of God and First Bishop of Jerusalem, Archbishop Iakovos knew that “faith without works is dead” (James 2:26). He also knew the truth of the proverb: “Blessed is he who plants trees under whose shade he will never sit.” The vision of Archbishop Iakovos for the future of our Greek Orthodox Church was one of provision. He saw fruits that he would never taste, and he was generous with all his successors, of whom I count myself to be fortunate. For Leadership 100 has now gifted over seventy million dollars to the ministries of the Church since 1989 – just seven years before Archbishop Iakovos retired.



I pray that on this Sunday, October 23rd, when we commemorate the First-Enthroned of Jerusalem, the Great Iakovos the *Ἀδελφότητος*, let us also remember our own great Iakovos, who was the First Hierarch of our sacred Archdiocese for thirty-seven years. His providential care for the Archdiocese inspired Leadership 100 — the single largest benefactor of the Church in the United States — with Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology receiving the greatest largesse.

Leadership 100 is an organization that is of the Church, by the Church, and for the Church. We thank them for their contributions and their abundant generosity. Today, we single them out for special mention, but let us keep them in our hearts and prayers every day, as they strive to make possible all the ministries of enhancement and advancement of our Church through their stewardship of God’s blessings, and their own wise governance.

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ. 225/2022

Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκύκλιος για τὴν Κυριακὴ τῆς Ἡγεσίας τῶν 100

23 Ὀκτωβρίου 2022

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 Οἴκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἡγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

*«Δεῦτε τὸν πρωτόθρονον πάντες, τῆς Ἐκκλησίας τὸν φωστῆρα, ἱεροῖς Ἰάκωβον ὕμνοις μεγαλύνωμεν...»
(Κανὼν τῆς ἑορτῆς τοῦ ἁγίου, ᾠδὴ θ')*

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Ἡ Κυριακὴ, κατὰ τὴν ὁποία διοργανώνουμε ἐκδηλώσεις πρὸς τιμὴ τῆς Ἡγεσίας τῶν 100 συμπίπτει μὲ τὴν ἡμέρα τῆς ὀνομαστικῆς ἑορτῆς τοῦ μακαριστοῦ Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Ἰακώβου, τοῦ ἱεράρχου ποὺ ὄραματίστηκε τὴ δημιουργία ἑνὸς ἀποθεματικοῦ ταμείου γιὰ τὴν ὑποστήριξη τῆς Ὀρθοδοξίας καὶ τοῦ Ἑλληνισμοῦ, τοῦ μακροβιότερου πρώτου ἱεράρχου στὸ θρόνο τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

Μιμούμενος τὸν ἅγιο Ἰάκωβο τὸν ἀδελφόθεο, πρῶτο ἐπίσκοπο τῶν Ἱεροσολύμων, ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἰάκωβος γνῶριζε ὅτι «ἡ πίστις χωρὶς τῶν ἔργων νεκρὰ ἐστὶ» (Ἰακωβ. 2:26). Ἀντιλαμβανόταν τὴν ἀλήθεια τοῦ ρητοῦ «Εὐλογημένος ὁ ἄνθρωπος ποὺ φυτεύει δέντρα, ἐκ τῶν ὁποίων δὲ θὰ ἀπολαύσει τὴ σκιά τους». Πράγματι, τὸ ὄραμά του γιὰ τὸ μέλλον τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς ἀποδίδει καρπούς. Αὐτοὺς μὲν τοὺς καρπούς



δὲν τοὺς γεύτηκε ποτέ, ἀλλὰ τοὺς παρέδωσε γενναιόδωρα, ὡς πολύτιμο θησαυρό, στοὺς διαδόχους του, συμπεριλαμβανομένης καὶ τῆς ἐλαχιστότητός μου καὶ αἰσθάνομαι εὐτυχῆς γιὰ αὐτό. Ἡ Ἡγεσία τῶν 100 ἔχει χρηματοδοτήσει μὲ περισσότερα ἀπὸ ἑβδομήντα ἑκατομμύρια δολλάρια διάφορες δράσεις τῆς διακονίας τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ἀπὸ τὸ ἔτος 1989, ἑπτὰ ἔτη πρὶν ἀπὸ τὴν ἀποχώρησή τοῦ Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Ἰακώβου ἀπὸ τὸ θρόνο τῆς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

Προτρέπω αὐτὴ τὴν Κυριακὴ στὶς 23 Ὀκτωβρίου, ἡμέρα τῆς ἑορτῆς τοῦ πρώτου ἐπισκόπου τῶν Ἱεροσολύμων, τοῦ μεγάλου ἁγίου Ἰακώβου τοῦ ἀδελφοθέου, νὰ μνημονεύσουμε τὸ δικό μας μεγάλο Ἰάκωβο, τὸν πρῶτο ἱεράρχη τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς μας, τὴν ὁποία ὑπηρετήσε γιὰ τριάντα ἑπτὰ συναπτά ἔτη. Ἡ προορατικὴ του φροντίδα γιὰ τὴν Ἀρχιεπισκοπὴ μας ἐνέπνευσε τὴν Ἡγεσία τῶν 100, τὸν μεγαλύτερο μεμονωμένο εὐεργέτη τῆς Ἐκκλησίας στὶς Η.Π.Α., μὲ μεγαλύτερο εὐεργετούμενο τὸ Ἑλληνικὸ Κολλέγιο καὶ τὴ Θεολογικὴ Σχολὴ τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ.

Ἡ Ἡγεσία τῶν 100 εἶναι ἕνας ὄργανισμὸς τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ἀπὸ τὴν Ἐκκλησία καὶ γιὰ τὴν Ἐκκλησία. Εὐχαριστοῦμε ὅλα τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἡγεσίας τῶν 100 γιὰ τὴ συμμετοχὴ τους καὶ γιὰ τὴν ὑπέροχη γενναιοδωρία τους. Κατὰ τὴ σημερινὴ Κυριακὴ τοὺς τιμοῦμε ἰδιαίτερος γιὰ τὴν προσφορὰ τους, ἀλλὰ ἂς ἀφιερῶσουμε ἕνα κομμάτι τῆς καρδιάς μας καὶ τῆς καθημερινῆς προσευχῆς μας γιὰ ὅλους αὐτούς, οἱ ὁποῖοι ἀγωνίζονται γιὰ νὰ ὑποστηρίξουν τὸ πολυσχιδὲς ἔργο τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, προσφέροντας κάτι ἀπὸ αὐτὰ ποὺ ἀπέκτησαν μὲ τὴ χάρι τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τὴ δική τους ἐργατικότητα καὶ σοφία.

Μετὰ πατρικῶν εὐχῶν καὶ τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης,

† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος