



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

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Archiepiscopal Encyclical on the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Sunday

June 11, 2023

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:

*Receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of saints, and place whatever she needs at her disposal.
For, she has been a real champion to many, and to me as well! (Romans 16:2)*

Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On this National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Sunday, let us call to mind these words of Saint Paul for all of our Presvyteres, which were indeed personal for the Deaconess Phoebe. But they could truly be said of each and every Presvytera, who deserve to be received and treated “in a manner worthy of the saints.” These special sisters in Christ give to our communities every day, by supporting the work of their husbands and by being the anchors for our clergy families. Indeed, we should always place at their disposal what they need for spiritual and material success.

We associate this day with the Feastday of the Holy Sisters Mary and Martha, which this year falls on Pentecost Sunday. These sisters represent the right and left hands of contemplation and service, and are a fitting paradigm of ministry and devotion for any Presvytera. We see time and again how Presvyteres bring their special gifts and talents to community life, and how they enhance the ministerial work of their husbands.



Let us, therefore, recognize our beloved Presvyteres as real champions within our communities, and accord them the honor that is their due. They are most worthy of our respect and our gratitude, and of the recognition and awareness with which we laud them on this National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Sunday.

With Thankfulness and Paternal Love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ. 142/2023

Αρχιεπισκοπική ἐγκύκλιος γιὰ τὴν Κυριακὴ τῆς Ἐθνικῆς Ἀδελφότητας τῶν Πρεσβυτερῶν.

11 Ἰουνίου 2023

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλιῶν, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους Ἄρχοντες τοῦ Οἴκουμενικοῦ 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.

«Ἴνα αὐτὴν προσδέξησθε ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀξίως τῶν ἀγίων καὶ παραστήτε αὐτὴ ἐν ᾧ ἂν ὑμῶν χρῆζη πράγματι· καὶ γὰρ αὕτη προστάτις πολλῶν ἐγενήθη καὶ αὐτοῦ ἐμοῦ» (Πρὸς Ρωμαίους 16:2)

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Κατὰ τὴν Κυριακὴ τῆς Ἐθνικῆς Ἀδελφότητας τῶν Πρεσβυτερῶν, ἃς ἀπευθυνθοῦμε πρὸς ὅλες τὶς πρεσβυτέρες ἐπαναλαμβάνοντας τὰ λόγια τοῦ ἀποστόλου Παύλου, τὰ ὁποῖα εἰπώθηκαν γιὰ τὴ διακόνισσα Φοίβη «προσδέξασθε αὐτὲς ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀξίως τῶν ἀγίων». Οἱ πρεσβυτέρες ὡς πραγματικὲς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀδελφές προσφέρουν στὶς κοινότητες μας καθημερινὰ τὸν ἑαυτό τους, ὑποστηρίζοντας τοὺς συζύγους τους, ἀποτελώντας τὸ ἀσάλευτο στήριγμα τῆς κάθε ἱερατικῆς οἰκογένειας. Πραγματικὰ ὅταν βασιζόμαστε σὲ αὐτὲς εἴμαστε σίγουροι γιὰ τὴν ἐπιτυχία εἴτε στὰ πνευματικὰ εἴτε στὰ ἐγκόσμια.

Συνδέουμε τὴν Κυριακὴ αὐτὴ μὲ τὴν ἑορτὴ τῶν ἀγίων ἀδελφῶν τοῦ Λαζάρου τῆς Μάρθας καὶ τῆς Μαρίας, πού γιὰ τὸ τρέχον ἔτος συμπίπτει μὲ τὴν ἑορτὴ τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς. Οἱ ἀδελφές αὐτὲς ἀντιπροσωπεύουν τὴν αὐταπάρνηση καὶ τὴν προσφορὰ καὶ ἀποτελοῦν



ἀκριβές παράδειγμα τῆς διακονίας καὶ τῆς αὐτοθυσίας τῶν πρεσβυτερῶν. Εἶναι καταπληκτικὸ γιὰ τὸ πῶς οἱ πρεσβύτεροι προσφέρουν τὰ χαρίσματα καὶ τὰ ταλέντα τους σὲς κοινότητές μας καὶ πῶς ἐνισχύουν τὴ διακονία τῶν συζύγων τους.

Γιὰ αὐτὸ λοιπὸν ἂς ἀναγνωρίσουμε σήμερα τὸ ρόλο τῶν ἀγαπημένων πρεσβυτερῶν, ὡς πρωταθλητῶν τῶν κοινοτήτων μας, τιμώντας τες ὅπως τις ἀξίζει. Εἶναι παντάξιος καὶ τις ὀφείλουμε σεβασμὸ, εὐγνωμοσύνη καὶ τιμὴ, ἀφιερώνοντας αὐτὴ τὴν Κυριακὴ στὴν Ἐθνικὴ Ἀδελφότητα τῶν Πρεσβυτερῶν.

Μὲ εὐχαριστίες καὶ πατρικὲς εὐχὲς ἐν Κυρίῳ,

† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

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