



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

DOXOLOGY
— *for the* —
BICENTENNIAL *of the*
GREEK REVOLUTION

MARCH 25



ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

Άριθ. Πρωτ. 57/2021

Άρχιεπισκοπική και Συνοδική Έγκύκλιος για την Έορτή του Εὐαγγελισμού και την 200ῆ Ἐπέτειο τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Ἐπανάστασεως

25 Μαρτίου 2021

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, τὴν Ἡγεσία τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὀλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱεράς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Ἡ μεγάλη ἑορτὴ τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμού τῆς Θεοτόκου εἶναι γιὰ τοὺς Ἕλληνες καὶ ἡ μεγάλη ἑορτὴ τῆς Ἐθνικῆς Παλιγγενεσίας. Ἰδίως κατὰ τὴ φετινὴ χρονιά, ἡ σάρκωση τοῦ Υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ στὰ σπλάχνα τῆς Θεοτόκου συμπίπτει μὲ τὸν ἑορτασμὸ τῆς συμπληρώσεως διακοσίων ἐτῶν ἀπὸ τὴν ἔναρξη τῆς μεγάλης Ἑλληνικῆς Ἐπανάστασης τοῦ 1821, γιὰ τὴν ἀποτίναξη τοῦ τεσσάρων αἰῶνων ζυγοῦ πρὸς ἀνάκτηση τῆς ἐλευθερίας.



**THE GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA**

Prot. No. 57/2021

**Archiepiscopal and Synodal Encyclical
for the Feast of the Annunciation and the
200th Anniversary of the Greek Revolution**

March 25, 2021

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.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The glorious Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos is the annual, joyful, commemoration of the Rebirth of the Greek Nation. This year, on the very day we praise the incarnation of the Son of God, we celebrate the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution of 1821, the beginning of the War for Independence, and the restoration of freedom after four centuries of oppression.

Ὁ χαιρετισμὸς τοῦ Ἀρχαγγέλου Γαβριὴλ πρὸς τὴν Παρθένο Μαρία, «Χαίρε κεχαριτωμένη», γίνεται ἡ ἀπαρχὴ τῆς ἐλευθερίας καὶ τῆς σωτηρίας γιὰ κάθε ἄνθρωπο, ἡ προσωπικὴ πρόσκληση γιὰ ἔνωση μὲ τὸ Θεό. Γιὰ τοὺς ἥρωες τοῦ 1821, ἡ ἡμέρα αὐτὴ σηματοδοτεῖ τὴν ἀπαρχὴ τῆς ἐλευθερίας τοῦ Γένους μας, ἀναδεικνύοντας τὸ δεσμὸ τοῦ ἑλληνικοῦ ἔθνους μὲ τὴν ἐκκλησία.

Ἡ Ἑλλάδα, ἐδῶ καὶ χιλιάδες χρόνια, ἔχει εὐλογηθεῖ νὰ εἶναι ἡ ἀστείρευτὴ πηγὴ καὶ τὸ ἀποθετήριον ἀνεκτίμητων θησαυρῶν τῆς σοφίας καὶ τοῦ πνεύματος, διευρύνοντας τοὺς ὀρίζοντες τοῦ παγκοσμίου πολιτισμοῦ. Ἡ εὐγενὴς αὐτὴ χώρα ἀποτελεῖ τὴ μήτρα τοῦ Δυτικοῦ Πολιτισμοῦ: ἡ φιλοσοφία, ἡ πολιτικὴ, ἡ λογικὴ, τὸ θέατρο, ἡ μουσικὴ, ὁ ἀθλητισμὸς καὶ ἄλλες μεγάλες ιδέες καὶ τέχνες τοῦ ἀνθρώπου φέρουν τὴ σφραγίδα τοῦ ἑλληνικοῦ πνεύματος. Ἡ γέννηση τῆς δημοκρατίας λαμβάνει χώρα στὴν Ἀθήνα πεντακόσια χρόνια πρὶν ἀπὸ τὴ γέννηση τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ ἐπαναλαμβάνεται στὴν Ἑλλάδα μὲ τὴν ἐπανάσταση τοῦ 1821 καὶ τὴ δημιουργία τοῦ νέου ἑλληνικοῦ κράτους. Αὐτὴ ἡ ἀναγέννηση τοῦ ἔθνους ποὺ γέννησε τὴ δημοκρατία προκαλεῖ παγκόσμια κύματα χαρᾶς καὶ αἰσιοδοξίας, καθὼς συμπύπτει μὲ τὴν ἀπελευθέρωση καὶ ἄλλων ἐθνῶν κατὰ τὴν ἴδια περιόδο.

Στρέφουμε τὰ μάτια τῆς ψυχῆς μας στοὺς μεγάλους ἥρωες τοῦ ἔπους τοῦ 1821, μὲ συγκίνηση καὶ πολλές εὐχαριστίες, ἀναγνωρίζοντας τὶς θυσίες καὶ τοὺς ἀγῶνες τῆς ἀναγέννησης τοῦ Γένους μας, ἐπ' ὀνόματι τῶν ἀπανταχοῦ ἐλλήνων. Προσκυνώντας τὴ θαυματουργὴ εἰκόνα τῆς Παναγίας μας, κλίνουμε γόνυ καρδίας τιμώντας τοὺς πνευματικοὺς καὶ ἐθνικοὺς προπάτορές μας. Οἱ ἀθάνατοι μάρτυρες τοῦ 1821 εἶχαν καταλάβει πολὺ καλά τὸ σύνθημα τῶν προγόνων τους, τῶν ἡρώων τῆς ναυμαχίας τῆς Σαλαμίνας, 2300 χρόνια πρὶν, «Νῦν ὑπὲρ πάντων ἀγών» (Αἰσχύλος, Πέρσαι, στ. 405). Ἡ 25ῃ Μαρτίου λοιπὸν, δὲν εἶναι μόνον ἡ ἐπέτειος τῆς Ἐθνικῆς Παλιγγενεσίας. Ἡ σημερινὴ ἡμέρα ἀποτελεῖ τὸ σύμβολο τῆς ἀθανασίας τοῦ Ἑλληνικοῦ ἔθνους καὶ ἕναν ἀκόμη λαμπρὸ ἀστέρα στὸν ἀστερισμὸ τῆς ἔνδοξης ἱστορίας τῆς φυλῆς μας.

The glad tidings of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, “Rejoice, O Full of Grace,” were the beginning of the liberation and redemption of every human person, the invitation into communion with God. For the Heroes of 1821, this day was the rallying cry to freedom, for if ever there was a People full of God’s grace, it is the Nations of the Hellenes.

Greece has been blessed for thousands of years to be a most precious repository of treasures of wisdom, spiritual knowledge, and the enlightened giants upon whose shoulders the rest of the world has raised its horizons. This noble country is the womb from which Western Civilization was born: Philosophy, Politics, Reason, Drama, Music, Athletics, and the whole host of virtuous human endeavors. The renewal of Democracy that began in Athens, five hundred years before the Birth of our Savior, was born again in Greece. The Rebirth of the Nation in 1821 was a cause for worldwide rejoicing, as it coincided with other nations throwing off their own yokes of tyranny.

We turn the eyes of our hearts, with deep emotion and gratitude, to the Nation whose titanic struggle and blood-soaked sacrifice redounded to the benefit of every Greek today, whether of Greece itself, or the Diaspora. As we bend our knees before the Holy Icon of the Virgin, we bend the knee of our heart before the sacred offering of our spiritual and National forebears. The immortal martyrs of 1821 understood fully what their forefathers, the Heroes of the Battle of Salamis knew 2,300 years before, that *Nûn úpér pánton ágôn* – “Now is the fight for everything!” (Aeschylus, *The Persians*, 405). The Twenty-fifth of March is not only the anniversary of the Rebirth of the Nation, it is the symbol of the immortality of the Greek People. It is a shining star in the constellation of illustrious achievements of the Greek People throughout their glorious history.

Ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Μὲ μεγάλη εὐγνωμοσύνη στὴν Ὑπέρομο Στρατηγὸ τοῦ Γένους καὶ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας ἀναπέμπουμε σήμερα εἰδικὴ προσευχὴ καὶ Δοξολογία, σὲ ὅλους τοὺς Ἱεροὺς Ναοὺς τῆς Ἱερᾶς μας Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς, ἡ ὁποία συνετέθη εἰδικὰ γιὰ τὴν ἐπέτειο τῶν διακοσίων ἐτῶν, εὐχαριστώντας τὸ Θεὸ γιὰ τὰ πλούσια ἐλέη ποὺ ἄφθονα μᾶς χαρίζει. Πλέκουμε στεφάνι ἀπὸ τὰ μυριόπλεκτα ἄνθη τῆς ἐλευθερίας καὶ στεφανώνουμε μὲ αὐτὸ νοερὰ τὴ μνήμη τῶν ἀγωνιστῶν προγόνων μας, ὑποσχόμενοι ὅτι θὰ παραμείνουμε ἀντάξιοι τῆς ἐλευθερίας ποὺ μᾶς χάρισαν δίνοντας τὴ ζωὴ τους καὶ δοξολογώντας τὸ Θεὸ γιὰ τὸ μέγα καὶ πλούσιο ἔλεος του.

Ζήτω ἡ Ἑλλάς. Ζήτω τὸ Ἑλληνικὸ Ἔθνος.

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἀγάπης ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

† ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

† ὁ Βοστώνης Μεθόδιος

† ὁ Ντένβερ Ἡσαΐας

† ὁ Ἀτλάντας Ἀλέξιος

† ὁ Ντητρόϊτ Νικόλαος

† ὁ Πιττσβούργου Σάββας

† ὁ Ἁγίου Φραγκίσκου Γεράσιμος

† ὁ Σικάγου Ναθαναήλ

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With gratitude to the Ὑπέρομαχος Στρατηγός of the Nation and of the Church, today we offer up a special prayer and doxology all across our Holy Archdiocese of America. These have been specifically composed for this Two-Hundred Year Anniversary, in gratitude to God for the rich mercies with which He has so abundantly graced us. Therefore, let us weave a wreath of victory from the valiant deeds of our warrior ancestors, and crown their sacred memory. May we always be worthy of the freedom they gained with their lives, and give thanks unto God, for His mercy endures forever.

Long live Greece! Long live the Greek Nation!

With paternal love in Christ Jesus,

† Elpidophoros of America

† Methodios of Boston

† Isaiah of Denver

† Alexios of Atlanta

† Nicholas of Detroit

† Savas of Pittsburgh

† Gerasimos of San Francisco

† Nathanael of Chicago