



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

ARCHIEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

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Archiepiscopal Encyclical for National Leadership 100 Sunday

October 17, 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.

Ὅλην τὴν ἡμέραν ἐλεεῖ καὶ δανίζει ὁ δίκαιος καὶ τὸ σπέρμα αὐτοῦ εἰς εὐλογίαν ἔσται. (Ψαλμός 36:26)
All the day long the righteous show mercy and lend, and their offspring shall be a blessing. (Psalm 36:26, LXX)

My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

All throughout Sacred Scripture, we read of generosity, mercy, giving, and liberality as the qualities and characteristics of the righteous – of those who understand the judgment of God. If there is an organization of our Sacred Archdiocese that aspires to these values, we must include the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund among those that are committed to the principle of sharing the blessings of God. Every member of Leadership 100 makes an extraordinary commitment to endow and seed the ministries of the Church that are accessed by all Her members. Leadership 100 is a quintessential instrument of generosity for the Archdiocese, and it has fulfilled this all-important role for more than four decades.



Today, we are celebrating National Leadership 100 Sunday – an opportunity to learn more about the work of this organization, and an opportunity to express our gratitude. This movement of munificence and philanthropy has given our Archdiocese many gifts, but none greater than its support for Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Leadership 100 has stood in the breach for our *Scholi* and bridged the gap more than once, in order to ensure that the Archdiocese would maintain a steady stream of qualified candidates for the Holy Priesthood.

Today, when we celebrate all their accomplishments, let us remember that Leadership 100 is comprised of fellow brothers and sisters of our Church, each of whom has decided to give back to the Lord in thanksgiving for the blessings that they have received. Let us take this day to also give thanks for them and to them, for their wise stewardship, and for their dedication and commitment to our Holy Church.

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America