



## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

### ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 248/2022

#### **Archiepiscopal Encyclical for the Feast of the Archangels**

November 6, 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:

*Who makes His Angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire. (Psalm 103:5)*

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year, on the 8th of November, as we celebrate the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels, Michael and Gabriel, together with all the ranks of the Bodiless Powers of Heaven, we remember our precious Archdiocesan Institution, Saint Michael's Home. Although most of us will never see an Angel face to face before we pass from this life, we do often feel their presence. They bring us messages of God's love and strength in trying times, especially when our faith is tested. But as much as we need to receive the aid and consolation of such Heavenly Beings, we must also be willing to be "angelic" in character – meaning, that we should also carry messages of love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness to others, and thus serve in the ministry of the "flame of fire," spoken of in the Psalm.

The mission of Saint Michael's home is a ministry that we can all embrace with a fiery love and devotion, especially because it is in the service of those precious members of our community who not only have given so much to the Church we now enjoy, but also are in need of our compassion and care in their twilight years. As it says in the Book of Leviticus: *Stand up in the presence of the elderly, and show respect for the aged (19:32)*. Saint Michael's Home



affords every member of our Archdiocese an opportunity to take a stand for the elderly, and show concrete respect and appreciation for those who have labored from the “first hour.”

With this year’s commemoration of the Heavenly Hosts, led by the Princes of the Angelic Powers, Michael and Gabriel, let us take inspiration from their ministrations throughout the history of both the Old and New Israel. Let us take up the cause of Saint Michael’s Home as a spiritual devotion, and light a flame of fire within our hearts that burns with love and compassion for our seniors – whether they are of our own parishes and families, or of this God-pleasing and venerable Institution of our Sacred Archdiocese of America.

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America



## ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

### ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Αριθμ. Πρωτ. 248/2022

**Ἀρχιεπισκοπικὴ Ἐγκύκλιος γιὰ τὴν ἐορτὴ τῶν παμμεγίστων Ταξιαρχῶν.**

6 Νοεμβρίου 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 Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἠγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Απογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

*«Ὁ ποιῶν τοὺς ἀγγέλους αὐτοῦ πνεύματα καὶ τοὺς λειτουργοὺς αὐτοῦ πυρὸς φλόγα» (Ψαλμὸς 103:5).*

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Κάθε χρόνο κατὰ τὴν ἐορτὴ τῆς συνάξεως τῶν παμμεγίστων Ταξιαρχῶν Μιχαὴλ καὶ Γαβριὴλ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων ἐπουρανίων δυνάμεων ἀσωμάτων, κάνουμε ἰδιαίτερη ἀναφορὰ στὸ πολυτιμότερο ἴδρυμα τῆς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς μας, τὸν οἶκο εὐγηρίας «Ὁ Ἅγιος Μιχαὴλ». Οἱ περισσότεροι ἀπὸ ἐμᾶς ἴσως νὰ μὴν ἀντικρύσουμε ποτὲ τὸ πρόσωπο ἑνὸς ἀγγέλου στὴ ζωὴ αὐτὴ, ὅμως συχνὰ ἀντιλαμβανόμαστε τὴν παρουσία τους. Φέρνουν μηνύματα ἀγάπης ἀπὸ τὸ Θεὸ καὶ μᾶς ἐνισχύουν ὅταν βρισκόμαστε ἐν καιρῷ πειρασμοῦ, ἰδίως ὅταν ἡ πίστη μας δοκιμάζεται. Ἀλλὰ ὅσο χρειαζόμαστε τὴ βοήθεια καὶ τὴν προστασία τῶν ἐπουρανίων δυνάμεων, ἄλλο τόσο ὀφείλουμε νὰ μιμούμαστε τὸν ἀγγελικὸ βίον τους, δηλαδή νὰ εἶμαστε φορεῖς τῆς ἀγάπης, τοῦ ἐλέους, τῆς συγχωρήσεως καὶ τῆς συμπαθείας πρὸς τοὺς ἄλλους, γινόμενοι «πυρὸς φλόγα» ὡς λειτουργοὶ τοῦ ὑψίστου, καθὼς καὶ ὁ ψαλμωδὸς ἐπισημαίνει.



Δίνεται μοναδική εύκαιρία νὰ ἀναλάβουμε τὴν ἀπόστολή καὶ νὰ συνεισφέρουμε κατὰ τὸ δυνατὸ στὴ λειτουργία τοῦ οἴκου εὐγηρίας «Ὁ Ἅγιος Μιχαήλ» μὲ ἀγάπη καὶ αὐταπάρνηση, διότι ἡ ἀποστολή αὐτὴ ἐπικεντρώνεται στὴν ὑποστήριξη τῶν τιμίων ἐκείνων μελῶν τῶν κοινοτήτων μας, ποὺ ὄχι μόνο προσέφεραν πολλὰ στὴν Ἐκκλησία καὶ στὶς κοινότητες μας, ἀλλὰ χρῆζουν τῶν φροντίδων μας κατὰ τὴν περίοδο αὐτὴ τῆς ζωῆς τους. Ὁ οἶκος εὐγηρίας «Ὁ Ἅγιος Μιχαήλ» δίνει τὴν εύκαιρία σὲ ὅλους τοὺς πιστοὺς τῆς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς μας νὰ προσφέρουν, στηρίζοντας τοὺς ἡλικιωμένους μας, δείχνοντας τὴν ἀγάπη μας σὲ ὅλους αὐτοὺς «τοὺς ἐργάτες τῆς πρώτης ὥρας» κατὰ τὸν εὐαγγελιστὴ.

Αὐτὴ τὴ χρονιά, ἃς ἐμπνευστοῦμε ἀπὸ τὴ διαχρονικὴ παρουσία στὸν παλαιὸ καὶ στὸ νέο Ἰσραὴλ τῶν ἀγγέλων, προεξαρχόντων τῶν ταξιαρχῶν Μιχαήλ καὶ Γαβριήλ. Ἄς ἐνστερνιστοῦμε τὸν φιλανθρωπικὸ σκοπὸ τοῦ οἴκου εὐγηρίας «Ὁ Ἅγιος Μιχαήλ», ἀνάβοντας στὴν καρδιά μας τὴ φλόγα τῆς ἀγάπης καὶ τῆς συμπαθείας στοὺς ἡλικιωμένους ἀδελφούς μας, εἴτε αὐτοὶ ἀνήκουν στὶς οἰκογένειες καὶ στὶς ἐνορίες μας εἴτε ὄχι, ἐνισχύοντας τὸ θεάρεστο ἔργο αὐτοῦ τοῦ πολυτίμου ιδρύματος τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀγάπης,

† Ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος