GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Protocol No. 232/2026

Archiepiscopal Encyclical on the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Sunday

June 7, 2026 (The Sunday of All Saints)

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, Presvyteres and Diakonisses, 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.

… to those called to be saints, grace unto you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ
(Romans 1:7)

My Beloved Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This year, on the Sunday of All Saints, we are also called to remember with great gratitude and appreciation the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres (NSP). This particular Sunday, honoring the hundreds of Presvyteres and Diakonisses of our Church, was chosen because it is the closest Holy Day to the feast of the Sisters of Lazaros, (June 4th). Together, Saints Mary and Martha manifest the active way of service (Martha) and the contemplative way of devotion (Mary).

The National Sisterhood of Presvyteres brings both of these aspects of Saints Mary and Martha together in a paradigm of service and ministry throughout the Parishes of the Sacred Archdiocese of America. Through their own good works and initiatives, our

Sisters in Christ of the NSP exemplify the aspiration for holiness to which we are all called by God.

Presvyteres and Diakonisses work tirelessly in our communities to enhance the atmosphere of grace and peace that are the gift of God through our Lord Jesus Christ. They model the vocation of self-sacrifice and generosity that is essential to the life of holiness: self-sacrifice, in that they so often put the family of the Church before their own, and generosity, because they share with freedom and grace their spouses, the Presbyters and Deacons who serve the Church.

Therefore, let us take this day, when we commemorate all the Saints of the Church, to express to our Presvyteres and Diakonisses our gratitude and appreciation. for their ministries of love and devotion. Many Years to all!

With Paternal Love in the Lord Jesus Christ,



†ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America