



**GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL**

Prot. No. 492/2025

Archepiscopal Encyclical for the Commemoration of OXI Day

October 28, 2025

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 Sacred Archdiocese of America:

**Ἐστω δὲ ὁ λόγος ὑμῶν ναὶ ναί, οὐ οὐ (κατὰ Ματθαῖον 5:37)
Let your “yes” be “yes,” and your “no” be “no”.... (Matthew 5:37)**

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

If, in the history of the Greek People, there was ever a definitive example of the ‘no being no,’ it is doubtless October 28, 1940 — OXI Day. In the face of overwhelming fascist aggression, and the horrendous consequences of standing up to the Axis of evil, which would bring the brutal Nazi Occupation (*Κατοχή*) to Greece, brave Hellenes rejected any submission to the evil to come with a single word, “OXI.” In doing so, they signaled that in saying their ‘no was no,’ they also voiced a roaring “Yes!” to freedom and to truth.

The Heroes of 1940 were no different than those of 1821. Their sacrifices and courage served to preserve the liberty of Greece, just as those of 1821 served to bring about the liberation of Greece. And like those Immortal Heroes of the Revolution, many perished without seeing the final victory for which they died. But their vision extended

well beyond this world into the world to come — where freedom, justice and peace reign supreme. They could say a resounding “No!” to the tyrants of this world, because their hearts were crying out with “Yes!” to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords of the Eternal Realm of Heaven.

Therefore, on this OXI Day, eighty-five years after their heroic cry of freedom, let us commit to follow in their footsteps. Let our “no be no” to tyranny, to despotism, to oppression and to cruelty. And let our “yes be yes” to the truth, to liberty, to decency and to the true patriotism that values love for our country, rather than hatred for the “other.”

Though we may not be spending sleepless nights of vigilance in the cold and rain of mountain fortresses, or risking our very lives in the defense of our homeland, we shall yet be revealed to be worthy successors of those Heroes of 1940, crying out “No!” to the abuse of power wherever it may occur, and “Yes!” to the freedom that our Lord promises to all who follow Him.

With much paternal love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in Greek script, reading "Ὁ Ἀμερικανὸς Ἐπισκοπὸς", which translates to "The Archbishop of America". The signature is written in a fluid, cursive style.

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America