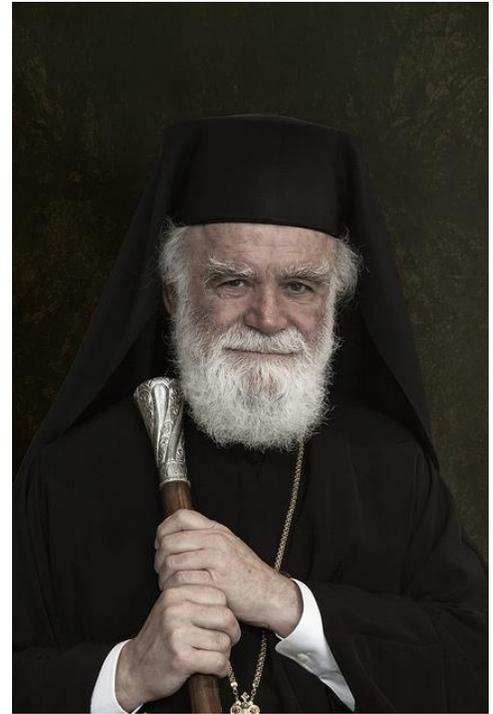


My Beloved Ones,

I greet with love and joy in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as our Archdiocese prepares for an important event in the history of Hellenic Orthodoxy in America: The Enthronement of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America.

I consider myself very blessed to have been able to accompany His Eminence from the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the Archdiocese here in New York. Truly, the welcome His Eminence received from the members of the clergy and laity who had gathered together on Wednesday night to greet Him was a profound moment of spiritual joy.

I also consider it no accident that His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew has, in the person of Archbishop Elpidophoros brought us hope. Indeed, *Elpidophoros* means “Bringer-of-Hope”. Neither is the election of this *Elpidophoros* a signifier of wishes—as our people come to know His Eminence and His Ministry, they will understand that this hope is an active promise.



For those who wish to view His Eminence’s Arrival into JFK Airport, you may find the video [here](#). However, I wish to quote from His English remarks below.

*“I come to this Archdiocese to be your servant, and the true servant of Lord. I come to shoulder the responsibilities of the heavy office and to share them with you, for I know that you are worthy co-workers in Christ. We shall work openly with each other, with transparency, honesty, clarity – speaking the truth in love, that we may rebuild the confidence of the beloved people of our Archdiocese in its institutions.*

*I come to this Archdiocese to serve, and not to be served, even as our Lord came to minister and not to be ministered unto, and to give his life as a ransom for many (cf. Matthew 20:28). Those of us who lead must be the first ones to serve many (cf. Matthew 20:27). I also pledge to you that I shall give my life, my energy, my utmost for the highest goals of this noble Eparchy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.*

*That we should preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ – in season and out of season.*

*That we should share the love of God without reservation and without limitation with all people.*

*That we should embrace every corner of our Archdiocese – every young person, every senior, every marriage, every hurt, every lack, every doubt. And I especially want to*

*draw closer to our fellow Orthodox Christians in the United States. We have so many Orthodox communities that live in isolation from one another, but we are all brothers and sisters of the same family and we share the same Holy Flesh – the Body of the Lord, and the same Holy Blood that we drink from the Sacred Chalice in unity of faith and love. Should we not be closer in every way? I look forward not only to working with my fellow Bishops in the Episcopal Assembly, but also to getting to know and engage with all the Orthodox Christians of America – to know their hopes and their dreams.*

*Let no one feel excluded from the Chalice of Faith! We must work together to build an Archdiocese that values excellence more than habit, transparency more than isolation, and dignity more than expediency.*

*I arrive on these blessed shores full of hope – all of you are my “Elpidophoroi” – my bearers of hope and of the high expectation that this Holy Archdiocese of America will progress from “glory to glory,” as the Apostle says, and as I say – that we shall do it together. Besides, on this journey we have the souls of all our ancestors at our side; for they came to this, their “undiscovered country,” succeeded beyond expectations, and today we have their resting places, from which we yet take strength and hope, for “the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the “oikoumene” and all who dwell therein” (Psalm 23:1, LXX).*

In my mind and heart, I firmly believe that His Eminence will offer a great deal to this lofty and demanding ministry of the Archdiocese of America, in which the Church has elected him. As a shepherd, imitating Christ’s example, and in a God pleasing way, he will minister to all the People.

In closing, I want to ask from all of you the pious people of Atlanta Metropolis to pray for the stability of the Orthodox Church in America for the Clergy and the People and that God will enhance the work we do all together, as we serve in the vineyard of the Lord.

**+ALEXIOS**  
Metropolitan of Atlanta