



ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW

ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Defenders of the Faith

May 11, 2019

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
Archbishop of Constantinople, New-Rome and Ecumenical Patriarchate
The Ecumenical Patriarchate
At the Phanar

Your All Holiness,

CHRIST IS RISEN!

I ask for your Patriarchal and Paternal Blessing.

On behalf of all the members of the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, I express the tremendous satisfaction and gratefulness of the Order for the election today by the Holy and Sacred Synod of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros to the Eparchial Throne of America, and his appointment as the new Exarch of the Ecumenical Throne. All of the faithful are deeply thankful for the wisdom, prudence, and providential ministry of the Holy Mother Church for all Her Eparchies around the globe, and particularly for the Holy Archdiocese of America.

All of us understand that Archbishop Elpidophoros has been left with numerous challenges to meet and overcome. We pledge to Your All-Holiness that the Order of Saint Andrew shall welcome and embrace him with open arms as Your representative and our new archpastor, and that we shall lead the way in our support, obedience, provision, and promotion of the goals and programs of our new Archbishop.

In the coming days and weeks as we eagerly await the arrival of Archbishop Elpidophoros, please know and be assured that we shall be ceaselessly preparing the ground for his Archiepiscopal ministry in America. In accordance with the word of the Prophet as expressed in the Gospel of Luke (3:5), we shall fulfill a prodromal role for His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros. Although the challenges that confront our Church in America are significant, our All-Holiness can count on the Order of Saint Andrew to *fill* every "valley," to *bring low* every "mountain and hill," to *straighten* any "crooked" path, in order to make smooth the entrance of our new Archbishop Elpidophoros into his new ministry on behalf of our beloved and precious Ecumenical Patriarchate.

In the Service of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and with

Profound respect and affection,

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Aktouarios
National Commander