ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE • OIKOYMENIKON ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ • PATRIARCAT ŒCUMÉNIQUE
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΚΑΝΑΔΑ
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July 27, 2026

TO THE REVEREND CLERGY, THE PRESIDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCILS, THE PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETIES, THE ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE, THE MONASTIC BROTHERHOODS AND SISTERHOODS, THE MEMBERS OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL, THE TEACHERS OF OUR GREEK SCHOOLS, THE VOLUNTEERS AND COLLABORATORS OF OUR ECCLESIASTICAL AND PHILANTHROPIC MINISTRIES, AND ALL THE PIOUS FAITHFUL OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF CANADA

"That they all may be one." (John 17:21)

Beloved Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

With profound thanksgiving and heartfelt gratitude to the All-Holy and Life-Giving Trinity, I address this first paternal message to you as I prayerfully and joyfully anticipate my arrival in Canada and my official enthronement on September 19.

The High Priestly Prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ—"that they all may be one"—is not merely a scriptural exhortation; it is the very foundation of our ecclesial life and the sacred vision that must guide our common journey. The Church is the living Body of Christ, and each of us has been entrusted with a unique ministry and vocation. Whether clergy or laity, monastic or married, young or old, we are united in our calling to proclaim the Gospel of Christ and to bear witness to His love, truth, and saving presence in the world.

With filial devotion and deep humility, I offer my heartfelt gratitude to His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his paternal love, confidence, and trust in entrusting me with the pastoral care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada, this historic and blessed Eparchy of the Ecumenical Throne. Conscious of the magnitude of this sacred responsibility, I pray unceasingly that I may prove worthy of this high calling by serving God's people with humility, discernment, compassion, and unwavering faithfulness.

At the same time, I respectfully and prayerfully seek the blessing of my venerable predecessor, His Eminence Archbishop Sotirios, whose more than five decades of devoted and sacrificial ministry have shaped the spiritual life and witness of the Church in Canada. His enduring legacy of faith, pastoral care, and visionary leadership will remain a source of inspiration and gratitude for generations to come.

Until the blessed day of our meeting, I earnestly ask all of you to preserve and cultivate the precious gift of ecclesiastical unity. In the words of the Holy Apostle Paul, let us be "eager

to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). The strength of our Archdiocese is found not only in its institutions or ministries, but above all in the unity of its faithful, in our common Orthodox faith, and in our steadfast devotion to our Mother Church of Constantinople.

I look forward with great joy to coming to Canada and personally meeting our devoted clergy, parish leaders, Philoptochos members, Archons, monastic communities, educators, volunteers, benefactors, and, most especially, our young people—the living hope and future of our Holy Archdiocese. It will be a blessing to listen, to learn, and to labor together in a spirit of mutual respect and Christian love.

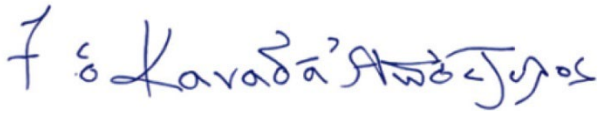
A great and sacred mission lies before us. Together, we are called to strengthen the spiritual life of our faithful, to nurture and inspire our youth, to preserve and promote our Orthodox faith and Hellenic heritage, to support and strengthen our families, and to expand the philanthropic, educational, and pastoral ministries entrusted to our care. This sacred stewardship belongs not to one person alone, but is a shared vocation and a collective responsibility bestowed upon all of us by God.

I humbly ask for your prayers as I assure you of my own daily prayers for each and every one of you. Confident in God's abundant grace, strengthened by the paternal blessings of our Ecumenical Patriarch, and united in faith and purpose, I am certain that the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada will continue to flourish as a radiant beacon of Orthodoxy, Hellenism, and Christian witness throughout this blessed country.

With paternal love and joyful anticipation, I eagerly await the day when we shall gather together in prayer and fellowship, getting to know one another and laboring side by side as one family in Christ for the glory of God and the building up of His Holy Church.

Invoking upon all of you the abundant blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercessions of the Most Holy Theotokos, I remain,

With paternal blessings and abiding love in Christ,



+APOSTOLOS
ARCHBISHOP OF CANADA