



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

November 2, 2019

Mr. George Matsoukas, Executive Director
Orthodox Christian Laity
Post Office Box 6954
West Palm Beach, FL 33405

Dear Mr. Matsoukas,

I greet each of you in the peace and love of our Lord as you gather together in Christian fellowship for the Orthodox Christian Laity's 32nd Annual Meeting being held this year in Houston, Texas.

You have chosen a very appropriate and timely theme for your Open Forum: *Thinking Globally and Acting Locally on Pan-Orthodox Unity*. It is easy for us to maintain a parochial mindset, especially on the local parish level in our churches. It is much more difficult, however, to view our parishes with the entirety of the Orthodox Church as our perspective. Using an adage attributed to the divine Chrysostom, instead of looking at our parish as our universe, we should look at our universe as our parish.

As we now find ourselves in a time when our world is filled with tremendous pressures from all sides, we must stay strong and committed in our Faith and support each other, "encouraging one another and building one another up" (1 Thess. 5:11), so that we "may be filled with the fullness of God" (Eph. 3:19) through Christ's holy Church.

Offering you my best wishes for every success in your meetings, that they might prove to be uplifting and enriching, and to Almighty God my prayers for many healthy years filled with spiritual renewal and every blessing from above, I remain

With paternal love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS

Archbishop of America