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Opening Remarks at Saint Photios National Shrine Board of Directors Meeting



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His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros

Opening Remarks

Saint Photios National Shrine Board of Directors Meeting

November 12, 2024

Virtual Meeting

Beloved Brothers Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, and

Metropolitan Dimitrios of Xanthos,

Director Poxeni Hiller,

Dear Fellow Trustees of the St. Photios Foundation,

First and foremost, I want to thank all of you for making the effort to join this meeting of the Foundation Board today. Your commitment to the Saint Photios Shrine and your sense of volunteerism are to be congratulated.

Our first National Shrine is a House of Memory – the “keep” where the story of Greek immigration to this great land is housed. Connecting this history to the Greeks of New Smyrna was a stroke of genius, giving the Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine a profile that speaks to every member of our Sacred Archdiocese.

The historical person of Saint Photios the Great was a complex human being of great erudition, exceptional competency, deep faith and theological values, and a commitment to the spreading of the Message of the Holy Gospel beyond the Christian Empire, especially among the Slavic Peoples.

We can take inspiration from this amazing Ecumenical Patriarch, and look to the vision and mission of this National Shrine as a mirror image of the Saint’s vast and expansive view.

Whether it is encouraging our Faithful to get in touch with their roots, or raising

awareness about home mission programs right here in the United States, the Saint Photios Shrine has much to contribute to the work of the Church in the contemporary world.

The Shrine brings honor and glory to the memory of all the πρωτοπόροι who traversed the expanse of land and sea to bring the Greek Orthodox Faith and Culture to this continent. We should always hold their memory dear, and find ways through initiatives and programs to enrich and enhance the lives of our Faithful across the Archdiocese.

Thank you again for your dedication to the Shrine, and let us commence our work today to make the Saint Photios National Shrine an even greater presence and positive influence throughout our National Church.

God bless you all!

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