17/11/2026

New auxiliary bishop ordained in Buenos Aires



His Grace Bishop Alexander of Nicopolis, until now the Vicar of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America’s Slavic Vicariate, was ordained to the episcopacy on Sunday at the Dormition of the Theotokos Orthodox Cathedral in Buenos Aires, during celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the Holy Metropolis of Buenos Aires and South America.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America attended as the official representative of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, conveying the Patriarch’s blessings to His Eminence Metropolitan Iosif of Buenos Aires and to the hierarchy, clergy and faithful of the Metropolis.



His Grace Bishop Alexander of Nicopolis, until now the Vicar of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America's Slavic Vicariate, was ordained to the episcopacy on Nov. 15, 2026 at the Dormition of the Theotokos Orthodox Cathedral in Buenos Aires. (Metropolis of Buenos Aires/José Campos Balagué)

After being canonically released by the Archdiocese, Bishop Alexander was appointed by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as his Auxiliary Bishop, serving in the Metropolis of Buenos Aires and South America.

His departure leaves the post of Vicar of the Slavic Vicariate vacant. The Archdiocese said the matter will go before its Holy Eparchial Synod, which will appoint a successor.

> Archbishop Elpidophoros presides over Divine Liturgy at Slavic Vicariate church

The Archdiocese thanked Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for the appointment, congratulated Bishop Alexander and thanked him for his service to the faithful of the Slavic Vicariate.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate, under Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, created the Metropolis in July 1996, when it divided the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, which had stretched from Alaska to the southern tip of South America, into separate jurisdictions for the United States, Canada, Central America and South America. Metropolitan Gennadios of blessed memory, who had led the Church in Buenos Aires since 1979, served as the Metropolis's first

Metropolitan. Metropolitan Tarasios succeeded him in 2001, and in 2019 the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate elected the Argentine-born Metropolitan Iosif as the Metropolis's third Metropolitan.

In his address, Archbishop Elpidophoros noted that the Metropolis's 30th anniversary coincides with the completion of 35 years of the Ecumenical Patriarch's ministry.

"This was far more than an administrative decision," Archbishop Elpidophoros said of the Metropolis's founding, calling it "an act of profound pastoral foresight" rooted in the conviction that the Church "must never remain confined to the boundaries of ethnicity, geography, or history."

Archbishop Elpidophoros, who enthroned Metropolitan Iosif as the Patriarch's representative on Feb. 29, 2020, recalled handing him the pastoral staff that Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew had given Archbishop Elpidophoros at his own elevation to the episcopacy. He noted that Metropolitan Iosif was born and raised in Córdoba, Argentina, and said his election "demonstrated that Orthodoxy in South America is not a foreign presence, nor merely an inheritance carried across the oceans by earlier generations."



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, pictured with His Eminence Metropolitan Iosif of Buenos Aires, attended the anniversary celebrations as the official representative of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. (Metropolis of Buenos Aires/José Campos Balagué)

Archbishop Elpidophoros also spoke of the ties between the Metropolis and the Archdiocese of America, whose communities belonged to a single Archdiocese of North and South America until 1996. “The historic reorganization of 1996 did not sever these bonds,” he said. The two, he added, “remain branches of the same spiritual vine, children of the same Mother Church of Constantinople.”

“This is the true meaning of Orthodox mission,” Archbishop Elpidophoros said. “It is not simply the preservation of what we have inherited, precious though that inheritance may be. It is the courageous and loving transmission of that inheritance to those who have yet to encounter its beauty.”

orthodoxobserver.org