

## **New 21st century chapter begins for all-important trio of Greek Orthodox Archdioceses**



Three of the most important Greek Orthodox Archdioceses outside of Greece will have new hierarchs in the coming days, marking a new 21st century chapter for Hellenism and Orthodoxy.

Over the coming period, the new Archbishops of America, Australia and Great Britain, Elpidoforos, Makarios and Nikitas, respectively, will be enthroned.

The trio of new Archbishops will take over their respective missions amid a particularly critical juncture for both the challenges faced by their Churches, and the international situation, as Christianity has emerged as the most persecuted religion worldwide, mostly in parts of Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and East Asia.

With the blessing and confidence expressed in their person by the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, all three hierarchs

garnered widespread support from members of the Patriarchate's Holy Synod to secure their election.

Speaking after his election, the new Archbishop-elect of Thyateira & Great Britain, His Eminence Nikitas, said he spoke by phone with His Eminence Elpidoforos and His Eminence Makarios, adding that "...we are a trio that will work for the good of the Church, God's faithful, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the ethnos."

The Archbishop-elect of Australia has already arrived in Sydney, whereas the Archbishop-elect of America arrives in New York City today.

Elpidophoros will be enthroned as the seventh Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America on Saturday June 22 at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Manhattan.

The Ecumenical Patriarch has appointed as his personal representative for the enthronement, Metropolitan Augustinos of Germany, who will enthrone the new Archbishop of America.

The service will be broadcast live and made available through satellite and the internet at site [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

Archbishop Elpidophoros is set arrive at JFK airport later this evening. On Thursday morning he will arrive at the headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and will be welcomed by the staff.

His Eminence will then offer a doxology service at the Archdiocese Chapel of St. Paul, followed by a meeting with the Hierarchs, members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of America and the Auxiliary Bishops of the Archdiocese.

On Friday Archbishop Elpidophoros will hold a press conference at the Archdiocese. Afterwards he will attend a welcome luncheon in his honor with New York City religious leaders, hosted by Rabbi Arthur Schneier.

On Sunday day after the enthronement, His Eminence will preside for the first time as Archbishop at the hierarchal con-celebration of the Divine Liturgy, with all the Metropolitans.