



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Feast of the Indiction
September 2009

The Reverend Clergy
Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate,
Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council,
Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Societies,
Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools,
Directors and Participants of all Youth Organizations, and all devout
Orthodox Christians of the Greek Orthodox Communities of our
Holy Metropolis of New Jersey

Beloved in the Lord,

The philanthropy of Almighty God enables us once again to worthily enter into the New Ecclesiastical Year, which by tradition commences on the 1st of September with the Feast of the Indiction, celebrated from ancient times. Through the Feast's sacred hymnology, the Church prays and beseeches our merciful God that He will bless the New Ecclesiastical Year from above as we attempt to utilize our time most effectively in our daily lives, doing good and keeping the virtues of the Gospel and commandments of our Lord.

Time is indeed one of the most precious divine gifts given to mankind by our Creator, and as such, we are compelled to use it for its spiritual cultivation, growth, virtue, and the accomplishment of all good and pure deeds. As our loving Lord said in John 9:4, *"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work."* The word day here refers to our time spent living on this blessed Earth, a time to be spent practicing our Orthodox Faith with true love and dedication. Truly, we shall not be successful in living virtuously if God is not with us, present in our daily lives, thus, our Mother Church urges us to seek God's blessing throughout the entire New Ecclesiastical Year.

As the summer season comes to a close, we embark on a new journey as the programs and activities of our Ecclesiastical and Community life begin. The Catechetical and Greek Schools commence and our children return, invigorated from the relaxation of summer, for another year of continued spiritual growth within the bosom of the Church, benefiting from the fruits of Hellenic Orthodox Education. Thus, as Chief Shepherd of this God-saved Holy Metropolis, I paternally exhort all of our parents to ensure that their children are registered for our Catechetical and Greek Schools, so that they may be equipped and enriched by the necessary tools, which are offered by our Church with much love and affection.

Filled with love, enthusiasm and accountability, let us all, with one spirit and heart, once again unite our resources and resolve, and implore our loving God that He grant unto us the Grace and blessing to succeed in our noble purpose and goals.

Invoking the Grace and Blessings of our Lord upon you and your families, and wishing you with all my heart a most blessed and fruitful New Ecclesiastical Year 2009, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

† E V A N G E L O S
Metropolitan of New Jersey

To be read from the pulpit on Sunday, August 30th