



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ

November 1, 2023

Saint Phoebe Center for the Deaconess  
Anniversary Symposium: *Deaconesses for the Orthodox Church Today*  
c/o Carrie Frederick Frost, Ph. D., Chair  
Hellenic College/Holy Cross

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I greet all of you on this happy occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Saint Phoebe Center for the Deaconess, and I extend to the members of the Board and participants in the Symposium: *Deaconesses for the Orthodox Church Today*, my heartfelt best wishes and blessings for a successful gathering on the grounds of our beloved School, between November 10 and 12 of this month.

The labors of the Saint Phoebe Center for the Deaconess have been replete with outstanding scholarship and insightful presentations, which are bringing the issues surrounding the restoration of the female Diaconate into sharper focus. Your work of clarifying past practices, outlining current conditions, and describing future opportunities is helpful to the hierarchy, clergy, and laity alike. Thus, you are already performing the *diakonia* for which you advocate. I look forward to the Symposium, and to the papers and dialogue that will issue forth from the sessions.

As ever, I thank you for the energy, devotion, and, above all, the faithfulness that you bring to this important discussion. May Saint Phoebe herself, your heavenly protector, inspire your deliberations and grant that your efforts yield fruit in the life of the Church, even to “a hundredfold.” (Luke 8:8)

With paternal love and blessings in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America