

# PROCLAMATION

Exactly 125 years ago, Orthodox Christians from various nations gathered together and, unified in the Orthodox Faith, celebrated the first Divine Liturgy in Chicago and established the first Orthodox Christian parishes in Midwest America.

We, the Orthodox Christian hierarchs of Greater Chicago commemorate those courageous pioneers who came to the New World seeking a better future, bringing with them their most valuable treasure; the Orthodox Christian Faith.

We are grateful to these faithful laity, clergy and hierarchs, and the ever memorable founders of our churches who built our communities with great personal sacrifice; who have done good works, and who have served in our holy churches throughout these 125 years.

Therefore, in honor of this momentous occasion; humbly giving thanks to God, we, the Orthodox Christian Hierarchs of Chicago, proclaim **2017 the 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY IN CHICAGO.**

In so commemorating this legacy of our forefathers, we call upon every Orthodox Christian parish and all Orthodox Christian faithful to join together in celebration of a Pan Orthodox, hierarchical Divine Liturgy, sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Clergy Association of Greater Chicago, on **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017, at LANE TECH AUDITORIUM.** And, in so doing, let us declare and witness to the unity of our Orthodox Faith as the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

*- In Chicago, Illinois, on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017.*

His Eminence Metropolitan **IAKOVOS**  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago

+ Metropolitan Iakovos

His Eminence Metropolitan **NICOLAE**  
Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas

+ Nicolae

The Most Reverend Archbishop **NATHANIEL**  
Romanian Orthodox Episcopate, OCA

+ Nathaniel

The Most Reverend **PETER**  
Archbishop of Chicago, Russian Orthodox Church Abroad

+ Archbishop Peter

The Right Reverend **LONGIN**  
New Gračanica Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Midwestern America

+ Longin

The Right Reverend **ILIA**, Bishop of Philomelion  
Albanian Orthodox Diocese

+ Bishop Ilia

The Right Reverend Bishop **DANIEL**  
Western Eparchy, Ukrainian Orthodox Church, USA

+ Daniel

The Right Reverend Bishop **ANTHONY**  
Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest,  
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

+ Bishop Anthony

The Right Reverend **GREGORY**  
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America

+ Bishop Gregory of Nyssa

The Right Reverend **PAUL**  
Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest, OCA

+ Paul