



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy

Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhood, 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

My Beloved,

Over the last few days, once again, a serious concern over the very important topic of the meaning of the name of the country of Skopje, with the name "Macedonia," or any other name derived from that has resurfaced. We Greeks, as true descendants of Plato, Socrates, Aristotle, Pericles, but also of Alexander the Great, know full well that MACEDONIA IS GREEK AND ONLY GREEK. No other nation nor people have the right to dishonestly appropriate nor exploit the name of another people, especially the neighbors of Skopje, who are clearly and historically proven to be of Slavic origins.

As patriotic Greek Americans, but also Orthodox Christians, we are obligated to rise up with every manner and means against this attempt to exploit and distort our history. History IS NOT negotiated, the past does not change and the reality is clear. Our Macedonia is ONE and it is GREEK. Its heroic name DOES NOT belong to any other nation, only to the Hellenes. Therefore, we are obligated to show our reactions against this unthinkable attempt to alter history. We owe it to our forefathers, who shed their blood on the blessed and heroic grounds of Macedonia... our Macedonia. We owe it to the great kings Phillip and Alexander, to the Macedonian Saints Demetrios, Nestor, Cyril and Methodios, Paisios of the Holy Mountain, and so many others. We owe it to the heroes of our Macedonia, such as Pavlos Melas, Ionan Dragoumis, as well as to the many hierarchs, such as Germanos Karavaggelis of Kastoria, Ioakeim of Pelagonia, Photios of Korytsa, Theodoritos of Nevrokopi, Aimilianos of Grevena, Alexandros of Thessaloniki, and so many others who sacrificed their lives so that Macedonia would always remain Greek.

As your Metropolitan, and as a Hellene, I ask that we unite and direct our voice towards all directions. First and foremost, I ask that we fervently pray to our just God, that He does not allow such an injustice, while enlightening those who govern and all the world powers, and at the same time to inform all, with a peaceful manner, about this unthinkable act of exploitation.

The Greek Americans have always been united and strong, and have supported our Motherland, Greece. Therefore, I encourage all to participate in the demonstration that is planned for Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 12:00pm (noon) at the United Nations headquarters in New York, so that we may declare that MACEDONIA IS GREEK AND OUR HISTORY IS NON-NEGOTIABLE. Also, MACEDONIA IS GREECE will be the central theme of this year's Parade for Greek Independence, in Philadelphia, on Sunday, March 25, 2018, where I ask that we all attend.

Praying for a blessed Great Lent
And success in all of our just ethnic reactions, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The word "Metropolitan" is written in a smaller, more compact script, while "Evangelos" is larger and more prominent. The signature is centered on the page.

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