

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF CANADA
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΚΑΝΑΔΑ
L'Archidiocèse Grec Orthodoxe du Canada
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP • ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ

**ARCHBISHOP APOSTOLOS OF CANADA VISITS THE HELLENIC
HOME FOR THE AGED**

(Toronto, Ontario) On Thursday, October 15, 2026, His Eminence Archbishop Apostolos of Canada visited the Hellenic Home for the Aged in Toronto, expressing his paternal love, appreciation, and pastoral concern for the elderly members of the Greek Orthodox Omogenia and recognizing their invaluable contribution to the preservation and advancement of Hellenism in Canada.

His Eminence was warmly welcomed by Mr. John Fanaras, Chief Executive Officer of the Hellenic Home; Mr. Kosta Kostouros, President of the Hellenic Home; Mrs. Betty Skoutakis, President of the Greek Community of Toronto; and members of the Hellenic Home Board of Directors. Also present was the Rev. Protopresbyter Kosta Chialtas, Parish Priest of the Chapel of the Holy Unmercenaries (Sts. Anargyroi).

During his address, His Eminence paid tribute to the pioneering generations of Greek immigrants who arrived in Canada under challenging circumstances, particularly in the years following the Second World War. He acknowledged their sacrifices, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to their Orthodox faith, cultural heritage, and families, emphasizing their enduring contribution to the establishment and flourishing of the Greek Orthodox Omogenia throughout Canada.

Reflecting on their remarkable journey, His Eminence stated: "Despite the difficult circumstances and the many challenges they faced, these were the people who built the greatness of the Greek diaspora in Canada." He further expressed profound gratitude to Canada for welcoming generations of Greek immigrants and offering them the opportunity to establish a new homeland while preserving their spiritual and cultural identity.

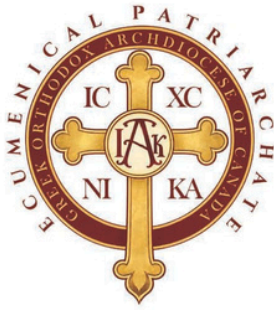
The Archbishop emphasized the indispensable role of the Orthodox Church in safeguarding the faith, traditions, language, and Hellenic consciousness of successive generations. He noted that the Church continues to serve as the spiritual foundation of the Omogenia, strengthening the sacred bonds that unite its members with their ancestral heritage.

His Eminence also conveyed his sincere appreciation to the leadership, Board of Directors, administration, and dedicated staff of the Hellenic Home for their compassionate service and commitment to the dignity, welfare, and quality of life of its residents.

Addressing the members of the Board of Directors, His Eminence recalled the Fifth Commandment given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai: "Honor your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12). He emphasized that this divine commandment constitutes not merely a moral obligation but a sacred responsibility toward those who have preceded us, reminding everyone that the elderly deserve the same affection, respect, dignity, and devoted care that we owe to our own parents.

Addressing the residents with particular paternal affection, His Eminence described the Hellenic Home as "a house of love, a place that preserves the cherished memories of our homeland, the beauty of our Greek language, and the sacred traditions of our Orthodox faith."

He continued: *"You are blessed to live in an environment of compassion, dignity, and loving care, where every effort is made to ensure your safety, comfort, and well-being. Yet, above all, I encourage you to preserve within your hearts the two most precious gifts of our Christian life: prayer and love. Prayer keeps us united with God, while love brings us closer to one another. These are the spiritual treasures that give meaning, peace, and hope to every stage of our lives. Never forget that you are precious to the Church, and that your Archbishop stands beside you with sincere paternal love and affection."*



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His Eminence assured the leadership and residents of the Hellenic Home that the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada will remain steadfastly at their side, offering its spiritual, pastoral, and moral support. He further affirmed his personal commitment to this sacred ministry, emphasizing that the care of the elderly, particularly those experiencing loneliness, illness, hardship, or other difficulties, will occupy a special place in his Archpastoral ministry.

"The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada will always stand beside you. As your Archbishop, I consider it both a sacred responsibility and a personal privilege to offer my pastoral service, love, and support to those who are in need. Our elderly are not simply part of our history; they are the living witnesses of our faith, the guardians of our traditions, and the foundation upon which our Omogenia has been built. We owe them not only our gratitude, but also our presence, our compassion, and our unwavering care," His Eminence stated.

He further underscored that the Church's pastoral responsibility extends beyond the walls of its sacred temples and must find tangible expression in acts of mercy, solidarity, and Christian philanthropy, particularly toward the most vulnerable members of society.

The visit concluded in an atmosphere of profound emotion, gratitude, and spiritual fellowship, reaffirming the enduring commitment of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada to the elderly and honoring the generations whose faith, sacrifices, and tireless dedication have shaped the history and strengthened the future of the Greek Orthodox Omogenia in Canada.

His Eminence concluded by invoking the blessings of Almighty God upon all the residents, their families, and those entrusted with their care, expressing his heartfelt prayer that the Hellenic Home may always remain a sanctuary of Christian love, human dignity, spiritual consolation, and enduring hope.

PressOffice
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October 15, 2026