

Enthronement Ceremony of
Greek Orthodox
Archbishop of America Demetrios
New York, NY

9/18/99

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

**Enthronement Ceremony of Greek Orthodox Archbishop of America Demetrios
Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**

**New York, New York
September 18, 1999**

Your Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Your Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, Your Eminence Metropolitan Demetrios, to all who are gathered, I'm all that stands between you and lunch. And I want to extend my greetings on behalf of the President and myself and on behalf of the people of the United States.

This is a very significant occasion, not only for the Greek Orthodox Church, not only for Greek Americans, but for our country as well.

Those of us who were there for the procession that led up to the enthronement could not help but have been moved. As you came down the aisle, Archbishop, there were tears in the eyes of those whom I could see and a wave of emotion that went from one end of the Cathedral to the other. That is because you brought us, as you so eloquently said in your address, a message of unshakable faith, of unlimited love, and of unbreakable unity.

That is not only a fitting message for the Greek Orthodox Church of America, it is a fitting message for our country and our world, and your reception here demonstrates clearly the enthusiasm and the commitment of not only this Church but of all Americans who wish you well.

The work that lies ahead of you, that continues the work of your very distinguished predecessors, is work that is critical to defining who we are as Christians, who we are as Americans.

I thank you for entering into it with a spirit of faith and love and unity, and I know that on behalf of the President and myself and so many others, we wish you and the Church you love and serve, well.

But we also ask that in your mission of faith and love and unity that your words resound far beyond the Greek Orthodox community, that they be used to stretch out helping hands, especially to our young, so that all of us have that same sense of commitment to a hopeful future for the next century and the coming millennium.

And it is an honor for me to be here with you, to have met so

many of you who are supporting you in your work, to have heard your words, and to be part of welcoming you to America.

Thank you and God speed.