

The 1,700th Anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council

Seventeen hundred years ago, in the year 325, our Church gathered in the city of Nicaea to answer a beautiful and essential question: *Who is Jesus for us?* The bishops who came from all corners of the Christian world declared with one voice that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man, the Savior who loves us and gives life to the world. From that meeting came the first form of the **Nicene Creed**, the prayer that has been on the lips of every Orthodox Christian for centuries.

Why this celebration matters to us

This anniversary is not simply a historical date. It is a reminder of the faith we carry in our hearts every day. The Council of Nicaea laid the foundation for what we believe, and it continues to inspire everything we do: *our worship, our service, our charity, and our love for one another.*

A historic gathering in our own time

To honor this great anniversary, something truly special will take place this year. **His All-Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch**, together with the **Patriarchs of the East**, will meet **Pope Francis in Nicaea (modern-day Iznik) and Constantinople from November 28–30, 2025.** This unique gathering shows that the message of Nicaea still matters for all Christians. It is a moment of hope, prayer, and unity in a world that deeply needs all three.

What this means for Philoptochos

For us in the Philoptochos, the spirit of Nicaea lives in the way we serve.

- When we help someone in need, we confess our faith with words of compassion and with actions of love.
- When we comfort, support, and uplift others, we continue the work of the Church that began so long ago.
- When we stand together as sisters and brothers in Christ, we reflect the unity that the bishops sought to protect in Nicaea.
-

A simple message to hold in our hearts

“After 1,700 years, the light of Nicaea still shines. Christ is our hope and our unity, and through our love and service, we share that light with the world.”