

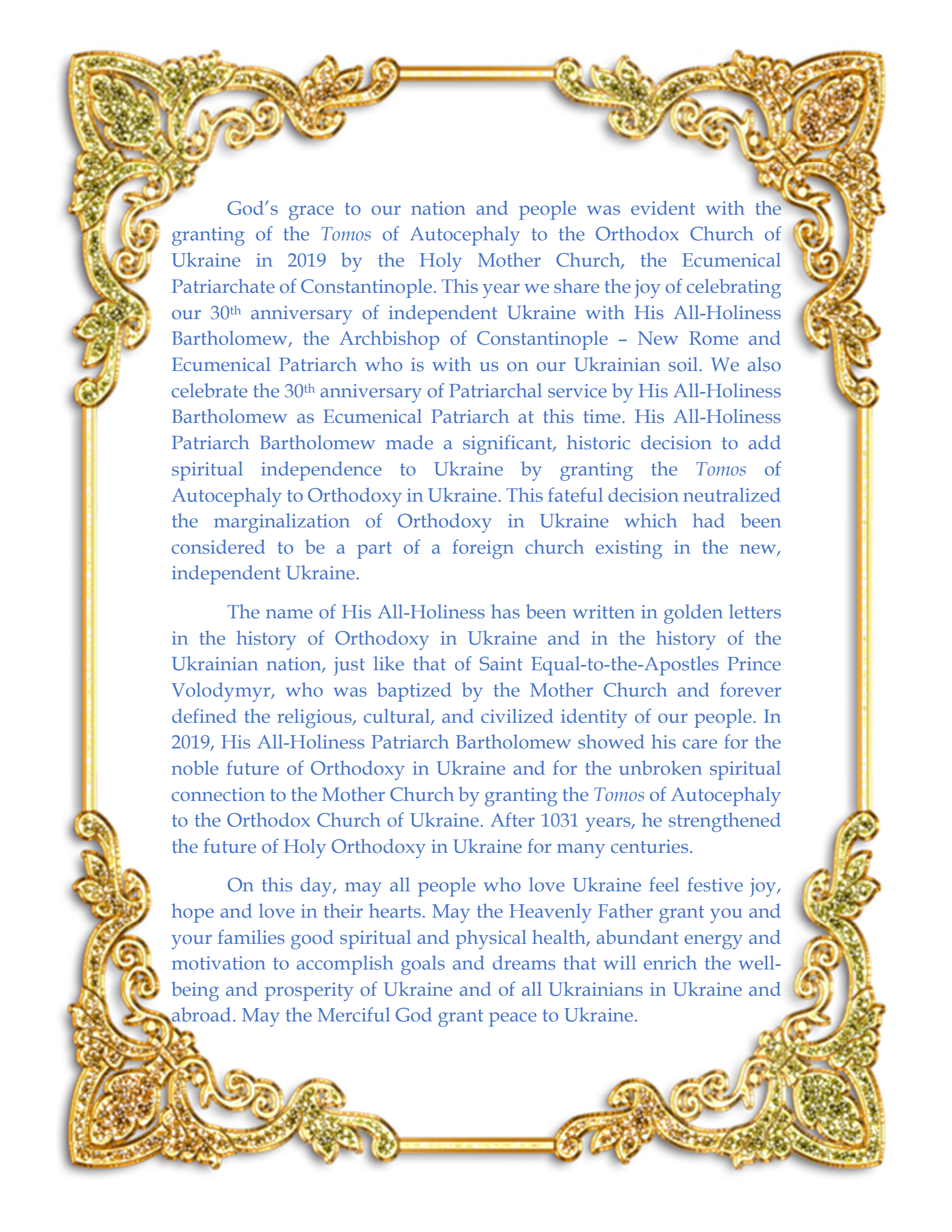


**Encyclical of the Permanent Conference of
Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine
for the
30th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence**



**To the clergy & faithful of the
Holy Ukrainian Orthodox Church beyond the borders of Ukraine
& all Ukrainians in Ukraine & throughout the world celebrating
the 30th anniversary of Ukrainian Independence
24 August 2021**

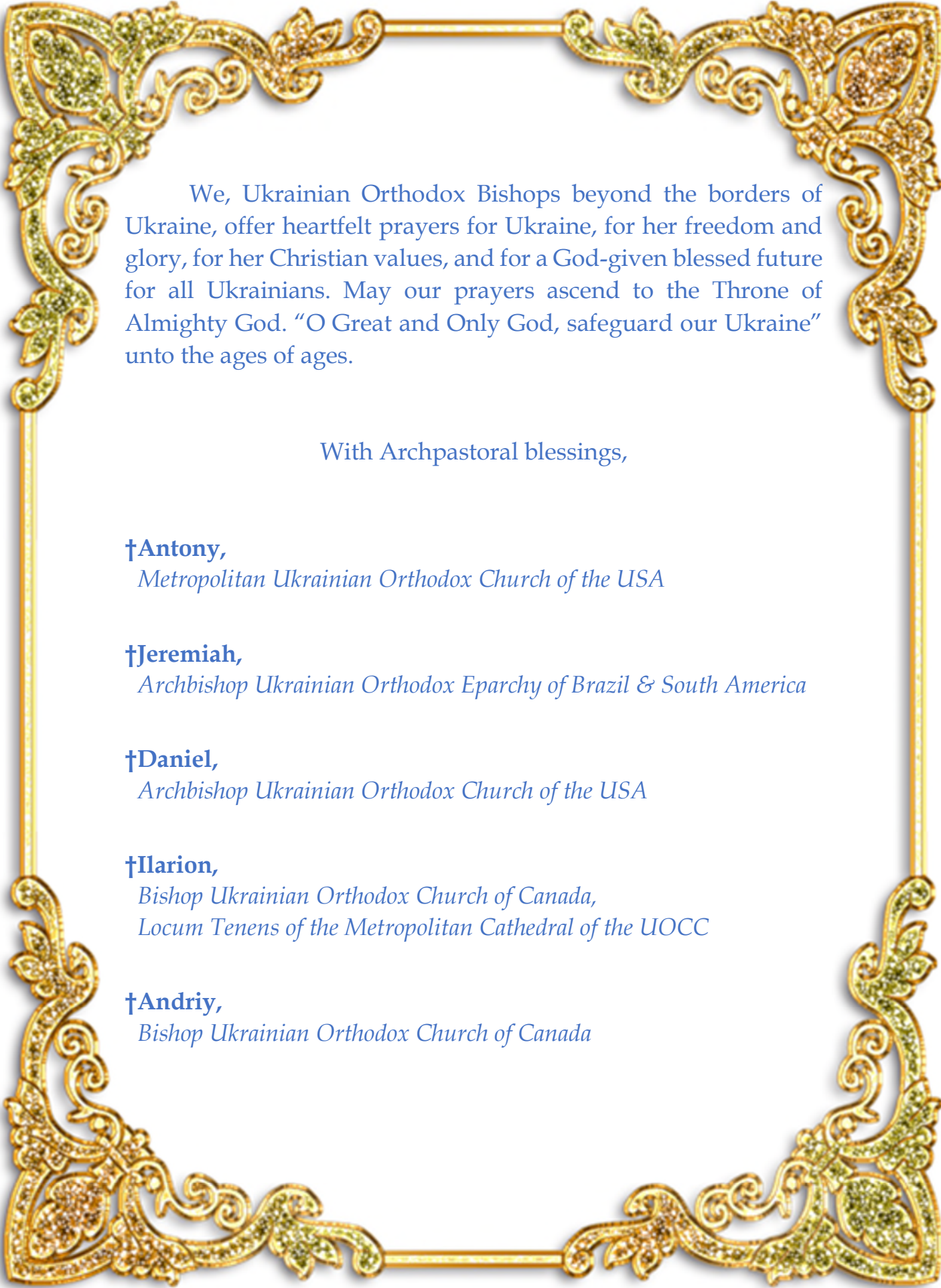
By the grace of God, on August 24, 2021, we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Ukraine's independence. We cordially greet every one of you on this joyful, festive occasion, which is cherished by all Ukrainians, both in Ukraine and around the world. Once the Soviet Union collapsed, the Ukrainian nation renewed and revived her hopes and dreams of an independent future. National independence once more became a new goal for all Ukrainians. Many accomplishments have been made over these past years, but unfortunately, many hopes and expectations are yet to be fulfilled. Ukrainian people are still confronting and overcoming many serious problems and threats associated with their country's colonial past. The road to build an independent country is unusually complex and thorny. God led His chosen people through the desert for forty years before they reached the promised land, but God never left them to their own devices or to their own fate. We must pray and beseech God to bestow His abundant blessings upon our people and that He deliver us from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity.



God's grace to our nation and people was evident with the granting of the *Tomos* of Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in 2019 by the Holy Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. This year we share the joy of celebrating our 30th anniversary of independent Ukraine with His All-Holiness Bartholomew, the Archbishop of Constantinople - New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch who is with us on our Ukrainian soil. We also celebrate the 30th anniversary of Patriarchal service by His All-Holiness Bartholomew as Ecumenical Patriarch at this time. His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew made a significant, historic decision to add spiritual independence to Ukraine by granting the *Tomos* of Autocephaly to Orthodoxy in Ukraine. This fateful decision neutralized the marginalization of Orthodoxy in Ukraine which had been considered to be a part of a foreign church existing in the new, independent Ukraine.

The name of His All-Holiness has been written in golden letters in the history of Orthodoxy in Ukraine and in the history of the Ukrainian nation, just like that of Saint Equal-to-the-Apostles Prince Volodymyr, who was baptized by the Mother Church and forever defined the religious, cultural, and civilized identity of our people. In 2019, His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew showed his care for the noble future of Orthodoxy in Ukraine and for the unbroken spiritual connection to the Mother Church by granting the *Tomos* of Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. After 1031 years, he strengthened the future of Holy Orthodoxy in Ukraine for many centuries.

On this day, may all people who love Ukraine feel festive joy, hope and love in their hearts. May the Heavenly Father grant you and your families good spiritual and physical health, abundant energy and motivation to accomplish goals and dreams that will enrich the well-being and prosperity of Ukraine and of all Ukrainians in Ukraine and abroad. May the Merciful God grant peace to Ukraine.



We, Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops beyond the borders of Ukraine, offer heartfelt prayers for Ukraine, for her freedom and glory, for her Christian values, and for a God-given blessed future for all Ukrainians. May our prayers ascend to the Throne of Almighty God. "O Great and Only God, safeguard our Ukraine" unto the ages of ages.

With Archpastoral blessings,

†**Antony,**

Metropolitan Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

†**Jeremiah,**

Archbishop Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of Brazil & South America

†**Daniel,**

Archbishop Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

†**Ilarion,**

*Bishop Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada,
Locum Tenens of the Metropolitan Cathedral of the UOCC*

†**Andriy,**

Bishop Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada