



ORTHODOX OBSERVER

VOL. 64 – NO. 1166

OCTOBER 1999

<http://www.goarch.org/goa/observer>
E-mail: observer@goarch.org

A New Era of Faith, Love and Hope Begins

Nearly 2,000 Attend Enthronement Service

by **Jim Golding**

NEW YORK — For the sixth time in Archdiocese history, a new archbishop ascended the throne of the Church in America with the enthronement of Demetrios of Vresthena on Sept. 18 as the new Archbishop of America.

A standing-room-only Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral witnessed the Church's ancient rite of enthroning a new leader. Hundreds also watched the ceremony on closed-circuit TV in the undercroft below the main sanctuary and in the Cathedral Center.

The impressive procession into the cathedral began at 11 a.m. and included dozens of Orthodox, ecumenical and academic leaders. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton topped the list of dignitaries and guests attending.

As Archbishop Demetrios advanced down the center aisle the entire congregation erupted into spontaneous, enthusiastic applause.

Standing on the solea to meet the new Church leader was, most appropriately, the Patriarchal Representative and Presiding Hierarch who occupied the throne of the Archdiocese for 37 years, Archbishop Iakovos.

Following the Doxology and several hymns, Bishop George of New Jersey, the archiepiscopal vicar, and the Rev. Dr. Robert Stephanopoulos, cathedral dean, read the Ecumenical Patriarchate's protocol letter in Greek and English naming Metropolitan Demetrios as archbishop.

Archbishop Iakovos, noted in his address that followed: "We hear the command of the Lord, saying: As long as you have the light go forward so that you may become children of light. The long night is coming to an end. Darkness belongs to the night... 'When undertaking a task, it is necessary to put on an illumined face.' The prospects of your Archdiocesan ministry are very clear, your thoughts are crys-

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ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS, Metropolitan Demetrios of Sevastia and all the Synodical Hierarchs are standing on the "Synthrono" (the throne behind the altar) during the concelebration of the Archbishop's first Divine Liturgy.

Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating together with his All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew the 8th Anniversary since his election as Ecumenical Patriarch and his enthronement as spiritual leader of world wide Orthodoxy, we extend our humble prayers, deep respect and warm congratulations.

ORTHODOX OBSERVER



D. Panagos
ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS arrives at Kennedy Airport, greeted by Metropolitan Demetrios of Sevasteia and Bishop George of New Jersey. Traveling with the Archbishop were Metropolitan Maximos of Ainos and Metropolitan Maximos of Serres, representing the Church of Greece.

Safe Airport Arrival Includes Tropical Storm Greeting

KENNEDY AIRPORT — Archbishop Demetrios' arrival and airport reception in New York on Sept. 16 — low-key and humble, yet sincere and purposeful — seemed well-suited to his nature.

With great anticipation, mixed with a sense of foreboding, Archdiocese officials began Thursday morning amid hopes of welcoming Archbishop Demetrios that afternoon.

Foreboding because the ferocious hurricane, Floyd, had disrupted life on the East Coast for the past three days and threatened to scuttle His Eminence's arrival altogether as it roared northward like an unstoppable speeding freight train.

It jeopardized nearly a month of planning and scheduling.

The Olympic Airways Boeing 747 "Olympic Spirit" carrying the Church's new leader departed Athens airport for New York as scheduled, but the answer as to whether it would land at Kennedy Airport as planned, or be diverted to another city, was literally up in the air.

By noon the forecast called for Floyd to reach the New York area at 4 p.m. If there was any good news under the circumstances, it was that

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INSIDE

Enthronement Luncheon Marks Beginning of 'Eternal' Relationship

by Jim Golding

NEW YORK – The Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria, including the balconies, seats about 1,200 persons.

The Sept. 18 enthronement luncheon for Archbishop Demetrios exceeded all expectations as an overflow crowd of some 1,650 persons packed the facility in one of the hotel's most heavily attended events ever.

It also overwhelmed the Archbishop, who commented during his remarks that the faithful's show of support and love was "not just a glass of water, but a flood to last a lifetime."

Numerous speakers offered His Eminence their greetings and congratulations, each closing with the words "axios!, axios!, axios!"

Among them was first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who called Archbishop Demetrios' enthronement "a very significant occasion for our country." Mrs. Clinton noted that she had observed many at the cathedral who were deeply moved by the procession. "A wave of emotion swept from end of the cathedral to the other because you brought us a message of unshakable love, faith and unity," she said.

"It is not only a fitting message for the Greek Orthodox Church of America, it is a fitting message for our country and our world. The work that lies ahead of you and continues the work of your very distinguished predecessors, is work that is critical in defining who we are as Christians, who we are as Americans."

She continued, "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 love and unity, that your words resound far beyond the Orthodox community – that they may 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, to the next century of the coming millennium."

The first lady concluded, "It is an honor for me to have been here with you, to have met those who are supporting you in your work, to have heard your words and to be part of welcoming you to America."

Interrupting the program, His Eminence rose to thank Mrs. Clinton and "to convey the greetings of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew."

U.S. Sen. Paul Sarbanes of Maryland recalled His Eminence's arrival on Sept. 16 "to gusty winds and furious rain, but he made it through and, the next day, the sun shone, it was calm and peaceful, and everyone was looking forward to the new day."

The senator told His Eminence that "we're prepared to march with you in dynamic faith, and unlimited and unbreakable unity," and expressed hope that the Archbishop's ministry will serve as "the opportunity to stand with dignity and pride in the midst of pluralism and at the same time to further our Orthodox faith and our Greek heritage, to bring limitless love translated in the service to humanity and in the course to have a unified, dynamic and grateful Orthodox Church."

U.S. Sen. Charles Shumer of New York, welcoming His Eminence to the state, said: "It gives me profound sense of joy to look at the faces here, at the distin-



DAIS GUESTS with His Eminence hear the national anthem at the start of the enthronement luncheon.

guished audience, thousands who are proud and pleased and so gratified that a leader as gifted and as spiritual and as strong and as kind as you, has arrived in New York to be enthroned as the new Archbishop of America and is seeking your inspiration today."

Archbishop Iakovos, as patriarchal representative, rose to the podium amid a standing ovation from the jubilant audience.

In a brief, but heartfelt message, the former head of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese said to Archbishop Demetrios that "with a heart full of gratitude to God and joy for His blessings to select and designate you, beloved Archbishop Demetrios, as the spiritual father and shepherd of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in the United States, we greet your enthronement as a beginning in the life of our Church in America."

He continued: "You have been enthroned in the first month of the new ecclesiastical year, the month when we in our Church are called to live, move and act in the spirit of God; more specifically as recalled by St. Luke: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he hath joined me to preach the Gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them what are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.'"

Metropolitan Demetrios of Sebastia, director of the Patriarchal office of His All

Holiness, began his comments with praise for Archbishop Iakovos "who shepherded the flock of Christ in this hemisphere for nearly four decades."

In his tribute to Archbishop Demetrios, the Metropolitan said that His Eminence, "besides being a distinguished ecclesiastical and academic figure, is more importantly a genuinely spiritual man...a man of cultivated soul, a person rich in the things of the spirit."

He continued: "The Church now calls upon him to undertake a very difficult work: to lead God's people in a materially wealthy, yet spiritually impoverished, period of history, to the attainment of joy, genuine joy, the joy that Christ gives, the joy of salvation. We of the Orthodox faith know that there can be no true joy without enduring the Cross, however much the men and women of today choose to ignore this truth, preferring instead to live as if they have already attained the Resurrection."

Master of ceremonies, CBS News anchorwoman Thalia Assuras, read messages of congratulations from President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and U.S. Sen. Olympia J. Snowe of Maine.

Other speakers included Metropolitan Iakovos of Krinis, on behalf of the Holy Eparchial Synod (*see full text on p.6*) Bishop George of New Jersey, John Catsimatidis, National Council of



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First Lady HILLARY CLINTON speaks at the enthronement luncheon for His Eminence.

Churches General Secretary the Rev. Dr. Joan Campbell, Greece's ambassador to the U.S. Alexander Philon, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore William Cardinal Keeler, Greece's Deputy Foreign Minister Gregorios Niotis, Metropolitan Maximos of Serres and Nigrita representing the Church of Greece, and President of Cyprus Glafkos Clerides.

In his closing comments at the luncheon, Archbishop Demetrios told the overflow crowd: "it is impossible to convey my immense gratitude. You have strengthened my heart and determination to serve the blessed and beloved people of the Archdiocese."

He continued: "We have been together for seven hours, but we're going to be together and work together far beyond these seven hours. We're going to be together from here to eternity."

"Reaffirming our commitment of the Church to Christ, together we are going to offer an appreciation of the past and its value to those who seem to have only a present, with no past or future."

ORTHODOX OBSERVER

USPS 412340

ISSN 0731-2547

Published by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Semi-monthly in March, April, May, June, October and November, and monthly in January, February, July, August, September and December.

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Periodicals' postage paid at New York, NY 10001 and at additional mailing offices. The Orthodox Observer is produced entirely in-house. Past issues can be found on the Internet, at <http://www.goarch.org/goa/observer>. E-mail: observer@goarch.org

Articles do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America which are expressed in official statements so labeled.

Subscription rates are \$5.50 per year. Canada \$25.00. Overseas Air Mail, \$55.00 per year. \$1.50 per copy. Subscriptions for the membership of the Greek Orthodox Church in America are paid through their contribution to the Archdiocese. Of this contribution, \$3.00 is forwarded to the Orthodox Observer.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ORTHODOX OBSERVER, 8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10021

A New Era of Faith, Love and Hope



D. Panagos

ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS, Metropolitan Demetrios of Sevasteia (left) director of the Patriarchal office, and Metropolitan Maximos of Serres (right) from the Church of Greece as they listen to Archbishop Demetrios' Enthronement address.

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talline, your intellect is sparkling, your reasoning is not clouded, your conscience ever sensitive, your devotion to the Lord, His Church and His people is fully known and comprehensive. Use all these characteristics and virtues with discernment and, having shod your feet with the gospel of peace, you may proceed to do your duty..." (Full text of speech, page 6).

In his enthronement address, Archbishop Demetrios identified challenges facing the Church, including "the cultivation and growth" of the Faith; "love, charity, and care for the human being;" and the Church's "unity, concord and unanimity."

The Archbishop's engaging, didactic delivery seemed reminiscent of his college lectures as he discussed the importance of the Orthodox faith and its relationship to the individual and society through love and service.

He called upon dioceses and parishes to "intensify and to continually optimize this excellent spirit of love"... through intensified philanthropy and service to humanity.

"A Church which embraces every human being, especially the suffering ones, and offers, on a continuous basis, love, care and tenderness to a world tormented by cruelty, violence, alienation and selfishness.

"Limitless love translated into service of the suffering human being, is a basic priority, which we have as members of the Church of Christ, especially in view of the dawning of the third millennium."

He warned that "people will need strong support to survive and progress in the midst of huge changes in the environment, the economy, the social transformations, biotechnology," and other developments taking place, and that the Church must be ready to play a significant role and contribute to resolving problems humanity will face in the future.

The archbishop also called upon the faithful "to build in the highest and strongest degree a unity, dynamic and unbreakable, so that we could be and stay one body, one soul, one mind, one will..."

He called the cultivation of unity and harmony, and for "a mutual understanding" between generations and a "harmonic cooperation between the clergy and the laity" and between the community in America (omogeneia) and people of "Mother Greece."

Reaction to the new archbishop was overwhelmingly positive.

"What I saw was a countenance emanating joy and love," said Dr. Vicki Pappas,

a professor at the University of Indiana-Bloomington, and national chairman of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.

"What I heard," she continued, "was a spiritual father valuing his flock and suggesting paths upon which we can travel together. What I felt was a lifting of the spirit and a vibrant Archdiocese ready to move forward with our new leader. The church musicians of our Archdiocese stand ready to work with His Eminence and our Holy Synod, and through our work in liturgical music, contribute to their mission of strengthening our spiritual education."

One priest attending the service, Fr. George Wilson of Panagia Pantovasillisa Church in Lexington, Ky., a former student of His Eminence, told the Observer: "Our new archbishop is well known by many of my brother priests as a man of prayer, scholarship, gentleness, fairness and humility. In his address, he briefly outlined a ministry that comes directly from the Word of God, the corpus of Holy Scripture - an entity with which our blessed new archbishop is intimately familiar and comfortable. His exhortation to the flock of the stewards of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is clear: that we ought to always be growing in our Orthodox Faith; that we become living ambassadors of God's perfect love, and that each of us is called to reach out to our brothers and sisters in the hopes of building up the Body of Christ."

After the enthronement, more than 1,600 persons attended a luncheon in the Archbishop's honor at the Waldorf-Astoria.

Rounding out enthronement weekend activities on Sunday, His Eminence, assisted by diocesan metropolitans and bishops, presided over Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral. Among those attending included Greece's foreign minister, George Papandreou; U.S. Sen. Paul Sarbanes of Maryland, and other dignitaries.

In his homily on the day's gospel reading, Mark 8:34-38, 9:1., Archbishop Demetrios called upon the faithful "to walk the road of sacrifice and love; a road that, in the end, leads to Christ." He said that he has "borne the cross and lived with the cross and traveled with the cross. I live with Christ, Christ is within me. The Lord said, 'If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'"

Following the Liturgy, His Eminence conducted a memorial service, then distributed antidoron to all the faithful.

A reception followed at the Cathedral Center.

ENTHRONEMENT ADDRESS OF ARCHBISHOP OF AMERICA DEMETRIOS

Holy Trinity Cathedral, New York, September 18, 1999

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen (Revelation of John 7, 12).

This beautiful Biblical hymn from the book of the Revelation of John expresses my feelings at this solemn hour: feelings of fervent worship and adoration offered to the Triune God, and, at the same time, intense prayer to have His mercy, love, and power supporting me in the sacred task in which He has called me, to serve as Archbishop His selected and beloved people of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

My adoring reference to God, is accompanied by feelings of the warmest thanks to His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomaios and to the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for the supreme honor of bestowing upon me the awesome responsibility of tending the bright and high promising flock of the Greek Orthodox faithful in this great country.

I am thinking, also very thankfully, of my distinguished and holy predecessors, the Archbishops Alexander, Athenagoras and Michael of blessed memory, and the Archbishops Iakovos and Spyridon. They have served with all their power the very same people whom I am going to serve, thus continuing their work. I extend my particular thanks to His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos for the very gracious words he offered me as representative of the Ecumenical Patriarch and for his truly inspiring and edifying address.

I should like to extend my sincere thanks to my precious Brothers the Metropolitans and Bishops, the pious clergy and the faithful lay people for the warm reception and the plentiful of love they showed me. My wholehearted thanks also extend to the Church of Greece and to the Greek Government for their support and their presence here through distinguished representatives. Last but not least, I am expressing my warm thanks to the honorable representatives of the U. S. A. governmental and political leadership and to all the distinguished friends, religious, civil, academic, and business leaders, who were kind enough to participate in this ceremony.

On this solemn occasion, please allow me, in the spirit of love and honor for all of you, to bring to our attention a few basic issues which are significant for our work in the years to follow. I will limit myself to three of them which seem to be the most significant and which constitute fundamental priorities in the life of the Church.

The first, is the issue of the cultivation and growth of our Orthodox faith which our Ecumenical Patriarchate has preserved intact and immaculate. This is a faith by which our Church lives and functions for twenty centuries. A faith which gave to the world millions of true Christians faithful to the Gospel of Christ. millions of saints and martyrs. A faith which the great and genius Fathers and Ecumenical Teachers of the Church defended, safeguarded and delivered to us whole, clear, and undistorted. A faith which created a wonderful tradition in which with utter discretion and control have been used and incorporated elements from the Greek cultural heritage.

This Orthodox faith has been always and is still today a basic priority for us. This is the reason why a number of serious questions is raised at this crucial moment: How much intense and deep is our consciousness of this Orthodox faith? How much we feel bound as individuals and as a community to our Orthodox Christian beliefs? How much do we know the substance of this faith as power and knowledge? As a power capable of changing the human beings and the world, as capable of Moving even the mountains and of rendering the impossible possible (Matthew 17, 20-21)? As a knowledge which offers the saving truth about God, humanity and the entire creation. Finally, how much our Orthodox faith constitutes our real and genuine identity within the pluralistic and multidimensional world of the contemporary American society?

The questions are many and so are the answers, as we contemplate the past and look towards the future which the love of God has granted to us. Regardless of the answers, however, one thing is certain: Here, a remarkably wide field of a truly great work is open to us. A work with immense possibilities and huge perspectives. A work aiming at the invigoration, cultivation and growth of a dynamic and illumined faith within the clergy and the lay people of the blessed Omogeneia which constitute the flock of our Holy Archdiocese.

To this superb work, to this wonderful effort I should like to invite today all the beloved brothers and sisters. We have to be the Church which should give whole, powerful and Genuine the witness of faith to this great country of America where God has planted us in. All of us, without exception have been called by the Lord to become conscious, true, dynamic and illumined people of faith, who, as Apostle Peter underlines, are ready and *prepared to make a defense to any one who calls us to account for the hope that is in us* (I Peter 3, 15).

There is no doubt, that such a work, such an orientation, necessitates an emphasis and an intensification of the didactic, educational and cultural activities and programs of our Church. Within this perspective, it becomes imperative that we revitalize and further develop our theological and educational centers, like our Holy Cross School of Theology and our Hellenic College so that they could increase to its most and best their educational dynamism and become brilliant centers of cultivation and promotion of the values of the Orthodox faith and the Greek "paideia" and culture.

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS



Welcome neighbor!
Gov. George Pataki welcomes Fr. Constantine Sitaras, executive director of St. Basil Academy in Garrison, N.Y., to a private meeting following the recent Governor's Prayer Breakfast. Also attending were Dr. Steve Gounardes, St. Basil trustees president, and Nick Chahalís, education committee chairman. The governor is a Garrison native and also has a residence there.

A Transition Year for St. Photios Shrine

by **Fr. Nicholas Manousakis**

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – The St. Photios Foundation Board experienced profound mixed emotions this past spring and summer over the retirement of Bishop John of Amorion, board president for many years, and the departure of Very Rev. Fr. Dimitrios Couchell, executive director, who was elected Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos.

Although he assumed responsibilities at the Archdiocese, he continues to serve as an ex officio board member.

Trustees welcomed Bishop Alexios of Atlanta as the new board president; the Very Rev. Nicholas Graff, as executive director; and Fr. Nikitas Theodosian of St. Augustine as Shrine chaplain.

Bishop Dimitrios was honored for his many years of dedicated service to the Shrine at the annual Shrine Feast Day

Luncheon last February.

Bishop John of Amorion will be feted for his many years of dedicated service at the annual luncheon next February.

The National Shrine's mission is two-fold. One is to honor the memory of the first colony of Greeks in the New World and succeeding generations of Greek immigrants (protopori); the other is to preserve, enhance and promote the ethnic and cultural traditions of Greek heritage and the teachings of the Church in the United States.

As a service to the Orthodox churches and the general public, the Shrine also operates a bookstore/gift shop, as well as the National Shrine Church supplies. All profits are earmarked for maintenance of the St. Photios Shrine.

Fr. Nicholas Manousakis is secretary of the St. Photios Foundation Board

St. Basil's Hosts Orthodox Mission Orientation

GARRISON, N.Y. — Since 1987, the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) has used mission teams in its efforts to bolster Orthodox Churches around the world.

The Mission Team experience does not begin overseas. It starts with prayer and preparation. Prayer is the most vital, but perhaps the most crucial portion of the mission experience is the "team" preparation.

Mission teams are groups of Orthodox Christians, from throughout the United States and Canada, who are sent on a short-term basis to a specific area to help the hosting Orthodox communities implement one of its ongoing projects or programs.

Prior to departing the United States, these individuals gather for an orientation to prepare, as a team, for their mission trip. It is an opportunity to learn about the other team members, the goals of the team, and the communities they will visit. It also prepares them for the spiritual implications of the experience ahead.

The OCMC continues to use the facilities of the picturesque St. Basil Academy in Garrison, N.Y., located along the Hudson River.

St. Basil Academy provides an ideal setting for spiritual nourishment. A visit to St. Basil Academy has been described as both a pilgrimage and a retreat experience.

Both are essential in providing the mission team members a place to develop a vision for missions and to contemplate the spiritual implications of putting their faith in action.

Another aspect of orientation is to prepare the mission team members to enter a new culture as servants. They must be able to communicate the importance

of learning and serving.

Their expectations are based in what God is doing. Thus, throughout the orientation, the question is posed, "What is God teaching me?" It is also where the need for teamwork is instilled in each of the members. The teams learn they are not merely a collection of individuals, but a group of individuals coming together to work, witness, learn, worship and grow together.

The Mission Center hopes to continue meeting and exposing its members to the mission environment through its visits to St. Basil's as they prepare to serve others. To learn more about St. Basil Academy, call (914) 424-3500, or to become part of the mission experience, contact the OCMC at (904) 829-5132

Join Next Summer's Ionian Village Staff

Next summer marks Ionian Village's 30th anniversary. It is expected to be a fantastic summer to celebrate this program. Ionian Village seeks to recruit enthusiastic staff members wanting to work with teen-agers in an Orthodox camp setting.

The following areas need staffing: arts and crafts, athletics, music and Greek culture, Orthodox life, lifeguards (ALS or WSI certification required) and nurses or doctors for the infirmary (RN or MD required).

Applicants must be at least age 21, as of June 20, 1999, and Orthodox Christian.

For more information on joining next summer's staff, contact the Ionian Village office at (212) 570-3534; or email: ionianvillage@goarch.org or write to Ionian Village, 8-10 East 79th St, New York, NY 10021.

Public Schedule of Archbishop Demetrios

The following is Archbishop Demetrios upcoming public schedule through Oct. 31.

Oct. 21 – Diocese of Chicago Commemoration of Metropolitan Iakovos of Krinis' 20th anniversary as presiding hierarch of diocese and his 30th year as a hierarch of the Church, (312) 337-4130

Oct. 22 — New Jersey Diocese Clergy-Laity Conference dinner, Cherry Hill, N.J., 7 p.m., (908) 233-3070

Oct. 24 – Consecration of St. Demetrios Church, Bristol, Conn., (860) 583-3476

Oct. 25 — SCOBA meeting, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Ukranian Orthodox Church Consistory, South Bound Brook, N.J.,

(732) 356-0090

7:30 p.m. — Great Vespers of St. Demetrios, St. Demetrios Church, Jamaica, N.Y.

Oct. 26 — Divine Liturgy of St. Demetrios, 9 a.m., St. Demetrios Cathedral Astoria, N.Y.

— Archdiocese Open House, **5 p.m.-8 p.m.**; the faithful are invited to celebrate Archbishop Demetrios' feast day.

Oct. 31 – Divine Liturgy, 9 a.m., Holy Trinity Church, Egg Harbor Township, N.J., (609) 653-8092

— Richard Stockton College of New Jersey to confer honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters upon Archbishop Demetrios, **4 p.m.**, (609) 652-4528

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| 3 ΛΑΧΝΟΣ: | 2 αεροπορικά εισιτήρια για Εῒλλάδα |
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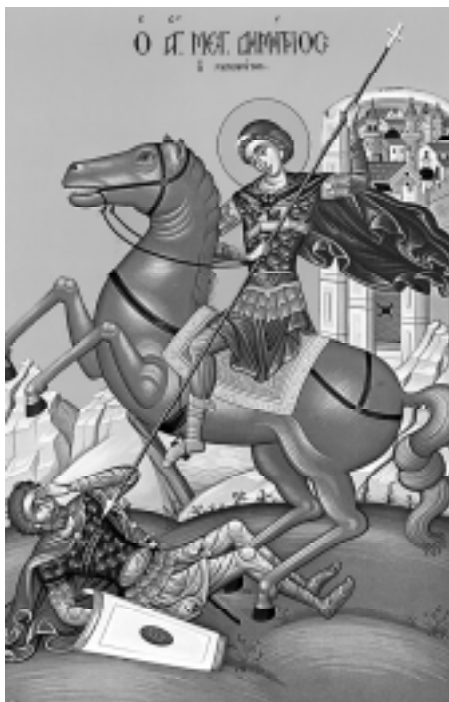
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Is a Colorado business
incorporated in the state of Colorado.

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ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

Happy Nameday!



In only a few days (October 26), our Holy Orthodox Church will be celebrating the Feast of St. Demetrios the Great Martyr, Patron Saint of His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America. The Orthodox Observer wishes to convey to our spiritual father the best wishes of all the Orthodox faithful in America and express our prayers that our Lord God may grant Him health so that He may lead us for many years. EIS POLLA ETI DESPOTA!

Also celebrating his Nameday on October 23rd, the feast of St. Iakovos, is the former Primate of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, our beloved and respected, Archbishop Iakovos. To His Eminence we extend our most cordial salutations and our prayers for continuous and abundant health and many years. In addition, to our current and former Archbishops we wish a happy nameday to Metropolitan Iakovos of Krinis (Presiding Hierarch of the Diocese of Chicago), Metropolitan Iakovos of Laodikia (Ecumenical Patriarchate), Metropolitan Demetrios of Sevastia, Director of the Patriarchal office of His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and last but not least to His Grace, Bishop Demetrios of Xanthos, Assistant to the Archbishop and Director of Ecumenical Affairs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

ΠΟΛΛΑ ΤΑ ΕΤΗ!

Participants in Archbishop's Enthronement Service

Participants in the Ecumenical Service came from throughout the Western Hemisphere, and from Europe and Africa.

They included representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Church of Greece, the Archdiocese Holy Synod, SCOBA hierarchs and hierarchs of other Orthodox jurisdictions.

They were as follows: Metropolitan Demetrios of Sebasteia (Ecum. Patriarchate), Metropolitan Maximos of Serres (Church of Greece), Metropolitan Iakovos of Krinis, Anthony of Dardanelion, Maximos of Ainou, Methodios of Aneon, and Bishops Alexios of Atlanta, George of New Jersey and Nicholas of Detroit.

Metropolitans of other jurisdictions in the Western Hemisphere included Sotirios of Toronto and Athenagoras of Panama.

SCOBA hierarchs included Archbishop Victorin (Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America and Canada), Archbishop Herman (Orthodox Church in America), Archbishop Anthony (Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA), Metropolitan Nicholas of Amissos (American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA), Metropolitan Joseph (Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, and Bishop Demetri (Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America).

Other Orthodox hierarchs included Metropolitan Silas of Saranta Ekklisies, Bishop John of Amorion, Archbishop Ambrosios of Neapolis, Metropolitan

Jonah of Uganda, Metropolitan Paisios of Tyana, Bishop Paul of Zarsk, Bishop Philotheos of Meloa, Bishop Anthimos of Olympos, Bishop Vikentios of Apameia and Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos.

Ecumenical and academic leaders included: William Cardinal Keeler (Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore), Archbishop Renato R. Martino (Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations), Bishop James McCarthy (Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York), Rev. Dr. Joan Campbell (General secretary, National Council of Churches), Archbishop Khajag Barsamian (primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America), Archbishop Abune Matthias (Ethiopian Orthodox Archdiocese), Archbishop Mar Cyril Aphraim Karm (Syrian Orthodox Archdiocese), Bishop Suriel (Coptic Orthodox Church of North America), Bishop Matthews Mar Barnaba (Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church), Very Rev. Anoushavan Taniellan (prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America), Dr. James Skedros, Holy Cross School of Theology, Professor Petros Vasiliadis (University of Thessaloniki School of Theology), Professor John Ericson (St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary), Rev. Dr. J. Robert Wright (General Theological Seminary), Dr. William Rusch (NCCC, Faith and Order Commission), Peter J. Liacouras (president, Temple University), Dr. Constantine Papadakis (president, Drexel University).



OPEN HOUSE AT THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE FAITHFUL

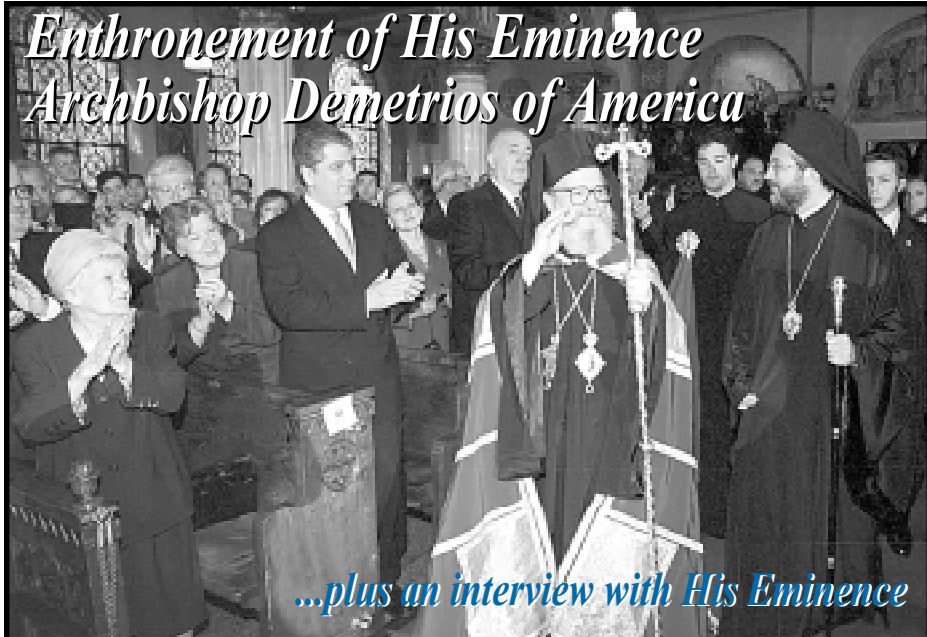
*A FESTIVE
CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST DAY
OF ST. DEMETRIOS the GREAT MARTYR,
PATRON SAINT
OF HIS EMINENCE
ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS,
SPIRITUAL LEADER
OF AMERICA*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1999

5:00 ~ 8:00 p.m.

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ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

Celebratory Address of Metropolitan Iakovos of Krinis Upon Archbishop Demetrios' Enthronement On Behalf of the Members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of America 18 September, 1999 - New York City

On behalf of the Hierarchs, Clergy and Laity, we welcome you into our midst with the timeless proclamation of the Apostle:

ΠΙΣΤΟΣ Ο ΘΕΟΣ
ΔΙ ΟΥ ΕΚΛΗΘΗΤΕ ΕΙΣ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΑΝ
ΤΟΥ ΥΙΟΥ ΑΥΤΟΥ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΗΜΩΝ.
GOD IS FAITHFUL!
FOR BY HIM YOU WERE CALLED INTO
THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.
(I CORINTHIANS 1,9)

Calling to mind these wise words of St. Paul, we celebrate with poignancy and joy the enthronement of our brother Hierarch Demetrios Trakatellis as Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Together with the Holy Apostle we proclaim, that indeed, ΠΙΣΤΟΣ Ο ΘΕΟΣ – ‘GOD IS FAITHFUL!’ Faithful to respond to the unique needs of His Greek Orthodox Community in these United States. Faithful to provide a brilliant teacher, a gentle guide, a genuine leader to guide us into the third Millennium. Faithful to gather our Holy and Apostolic and Eparchial Synod around a source of our unity, around a pastoral icon of our Christ, around a source of hope and exhilaration as we look to the future.

On this joyous day, however, we realize more than God’s abiding faithfulness. On this day we see divine faithfulness manifest in the calling of Your Eminence and indeed the calling of us all: the calling, in St. Paul’s opening words to the Corinthians to fellowship in Christ Jesus. From its inception, this holy Archdiocese has been grounded in the spirit of fellowship, of collegiality, of conciliarity, of synodality.

There are no individualist, isolated hierarchs in our holy tradition, just as there are no individualist, isolated authentic Christians; as our brother, the Metropolitan of Pergama has put it so precisely, our very being is found in communion, in fellowship with one another.



N. Manginas

His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Krinis during Divine Liturgy concelebration on Sunday the 19th after the Archbishop's enthronement.

Iakovos, who ably represents our Mother Church of Constantinople in our midst today. Gathered under the omophorion of our new Archbishop, Demetrios, we can continue to look forward to both visionary leadership and more Congresses expressing the spirit of fellowship and collegiality between all –laity, clergy and hierarchs alike. Indeed, we welcome you into our midst, Your Eminence, celebrating our historic unity and prayerfully looking to the future.

As you raise the staff of Moses in our midst, we feel again our divine mission of synergeia –of laity, clergy and hierarchs, of Greek Orthodox sisters and brothers working together toward a common purpose.

We recognize in your ministry our uniquely American potential for harmony and cooperation with other Eastern and Oriental Orthodox peoples, with our ecumenical and interfaith partners, with persons of diverse races, ethnicities and struggles.

We know that with your spirit, with your ethos, with your approach, we shall enthusiastically pursue our vision, our mission and our purpose—a purpose no less than realizing the liberating and life-creating and unifying Gospel of our Christ on this American soil. What, indeed, could be more glorious than this vision? What indeed could be more triumphant than such unity?

We welcome you, as a brother and as our Archbishop, sensing today that the Divine Liturgy’s call to omonoiā –to unity of heart and of soul, of mind and of spirit— is ever being realized for this holy and historic Archdiocese of America.

We welcome you, as a unifying icon of our Christ, sensing that we move decisively forward with communion of purpose and of direction. We welcome you with excitement and with a resolution to work together for our God-given purpose in these United States, to nurture our beloved omogeneia in the sacred traditions of our ancestors, and to offer the sweetest nectar of our precious Orthodox faith and Hellenic culture to the thirsting, hurting, seeking Western world that surrounds us. Perhaps such great hopes, such towering expectations may be daunting; we do



Text of Archbishop Iakovos' Address at Enthronement



D. Panagos

*Thou shalt be over my house
and according unto thy word shall
all my people be ruled: only in the
throne will I be greater than thou*

(Genesis 41:40)

This is a biblical saying. It refers to a secular ruler who spoke to one who was to become his successor. However, it has contemporary familiarity and relevance. Therefore I use it in a calm manner on behalf of His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, from whom I accepted the revered command to enthrone you as Archbishop of this Holy Archdiocese and Exarch of Orthodox Christians in the great Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The house over which you will preside as overseer and caretaker is the Archdiocese. One Archdiocese which has waited to say that it belongs to you. To no one else. And it is one. Duly constituted in order to see the new day whose first rays of light illumine your face and the faces of us all.

We hear the command of the Lord saying: As long as you have the light go forward so that you may become children of light. The long night is coming to an end. Darkness belongs to the night. And our Church not brightly arrayed sings: “This is the day which the Lord hath made.” And indeed we are peaceful and rejoice and are glad in it.

The immortal voice of our forebears in the words of the ancient poet Pindar surely commands us: “When undertaking a task it is necessary to put on an illumined face.” A new ecclesiastical year, a new school year and a new academic season. A day of awakening from whatever deep slumbers and nightmares may have existed. A day whose brightness was predicted long ago “by the dawn’s early light.”

“When undertaking a task it is necessary to put on an illumined face.” The prospects of your Archdiocesan ministry are very clear, your thoughts are crystalline, your intellect is sparkling, your reasoning is not clouded, your conscience ever sensitive, your devotion to the Lord, His Church and His people is fully known and comprehensive. Use all these characteristics and virtues with discernment and having shod your feet with the gospel of peace you may proceed to do your duty.

Tend your flock like a good shepherd, ready to sacrifice yourself -even your very life- for the sheep. Ground yourself on this staff, supporting others by it, and being supported yourself by it as you go up the path of discovering and saving the lost sheep. Be grounded by it. Stretch forth your sanctifying hands. Intercede for us and bless the people who await your word, an inspired word, a righteous word. Speak these words: “Peace be upon Israel and the salvation of nations.” And all the people will respond; “So be it. So be it.”



not mean for them to be so. We wish only to express to you, our beloved Archbishop, that your ‘feet’ are most certainly those blessed to bring us ‘glad tidings’ from our venerable Ecumenical Patriarchate.

We wish only to convey our great love for you, as you come to us from our ancestral homeland and from the Great Church of Christ, filling our hearts with prayerful hopes for the future. We wish only to articulate our fervent prayer that ‘God grant You many years’ as Archpastor in our midst.

We greet you, Your Eminence, with more love and more hope than words can express. We embrace you with a spirit of joyous faith and trust in the future.

Indeed, we entrust to you, our wise shepherd and biblical scholar the unique unfolding history of this Theosostos, God-saved Archdiocese. with a vision of glory, and with a spirit of triumph, we commend to your synodal leadership, the mission of this particular people of God.

Finally, we welcome you with a powerful sense of kairos inspired by the dawn of the Third Christian Millennium.

Indeed, this is a kairos moment –a moment which marks a transformative ‘coming of age’ for our people here; a moment heralding a new era in the life of the Greek Orthodox Church in America; a moment when we simply bow our heads and say from the heart: Κύριός του ποιήσαι τῷ Κυρίῳ—‘It is time for the Lord to act.’

ΠΟΛΥ ΚΑΛΩΣ ΩΡΙΞΑΤΕ!
ΠΑΝΤΑ ΑΕΙΟΣ!
ΕΙΣ ΠΟΛΛΑ ΕΤΗ ΔΕΣΠΟΤΑ!

Generous Gift for Earthquake Victims



Leadership 100 Endowment Fund Chairman George P. Kokalis (left) and Vice Chairman Arthur C. Anton present a check for \$100,000 to Archbishop Demetrios for the Archdiocese Greek Orthodox Relief Fund. His Eminence later presented the donation to Greece's Deputy Foreign Minister Gregoris Niotis.

Orthodox Observer

Safe Airport Arrival Includes Tropical Storm Greeting

► page 1

the National Weather Service downgraded the hurricane to a tropical storm as it crossed North Carolina in late morning.

Meanwhile, in other parts of the country, many flights to New York were canceled because of the weather, preventing some from coming to personally welcome the new archbishop.

The logistics team that spent weeks planning for His Eminence's arrival kept

parts of New Jersey and areas north of the city, although some low-lying areas near the airport were evacuated.

At 5, nearly 40 persons — mostly diocesan metropolitans and bishops, priests and Greek media representatives — gathered at the top level of Terminal One, Olympic's new home at JFK. Fifteen minutes later, the Olympic jet taxied into view after successfully landing in the rainy, blustery conditions.

Some 10 minutes after the aircraft docked at the gate, Archbishop Demetrios emerged from the elevator into the terminal to warm applause and shouts of "axios!"

Frequently stopping to greet and bless those present, he slowly made his way to a small VIP room. After an introduction by Bishop George of New Jersey, the archiepiscopal vicar, His Eminence spoke informally in Greek and English.

"You have my deep thanks for a very, very warm welcome," Archbishop Demetrios told the crowd in his soft, calm voice. "Your sunshine has transformed the atmosphere into something very differ-

ent, a spirit of love and peace."

Everyone in the room focused on his words, quickly forgetting the storm.

"It is with particular joy and deep emotion that I stand here on the well-known and truly hospitable soil of this country," he continued. "I am coming here to serve a distinguished Church — a community of people known for their dynamic and great achievements — and to offer our faith to contemporary American society, and the mission of pointing out the significance of the universal values of our cultural heritage.

"The possibilities are great and the future is filled with hope and promise," he said, continuing his praise for the Greek Orthodox in America. "I have an appreciation for what you are doing and have heard many good things about you."

After his brief statement, Archbishop Demetrios and his retinue were taken to the hotel in Manhattan where they would stay.

As the group drove away, the wind and rain greatly diminished. The storm had passed. — **Jim Golding**



N. Manginas

in touch with Olympic officials throughout the day to learn if Flight 411 actually would reach New York. Possibilities mentioned as an alternate landing site included Washington and Montreal.

Meanwhile, plans to hold a welcoming reception at Archdiocese headquarters were canceled. Staff members were allowed to leave early to tend to their families and residences before the main part of the storm could reach the area. Throughout the day sporadic rain, heavy at times, drenched the city.

By 2 p.m., airline officials confirmed the New York arrival, but an hour later, but at 5 p.m., an hour later than originally scheduled, because of flight delays in and out of Kennedy. The welcoming committee from the Archdiocese departed for the airport.

Floyd reached the city later in the afternoon, but considerably diminished, with winds gusting 40 to 50 mph, instead of the 60 mph-plus forecast earlier. Rain-fall along the South Shore of Long Island did not reach the record totals that flooded

Archbishop Takes Part in White House Prayer Breakfast Discussions



Agence France-Presse/Orthodox Observer

WASHINGTON — Archbishop Demetrios received a warm reception from President and Mrs. Clinton at the Sept. 28 White House Prayer Breakfast attended by some 100 religious leaders from throughout the United States.

"Hate Crimes and Gun Violence" was the breakfast theme discussed by a broad spectrum of participants including religious leaders of all faiths and recent victims of violent attacks.

His Eminence later said that, if the opinions of the various religious leaders "are taken seriously, this would facilitate efforts to deal with violence in the fam-

ily and in society."

He said that the issue of child abuse in relation to the larger issue of family violence also was discussed at length.

The Archbishop said that a major underlying reason for violence singled out by many at the breakfast was electronic games. Archbishop Demetrios noted that, at times, the discussion at the breakfast among the religious leaders achieved an atmosphere of spirituality.

His Eminence also said that he had the opportunity to discuss Greek-Turkish issues with President Clinton.

WILLIAM CARDINAL Keeler, Roman Catholic archbishop of Baltimore, paid a courtesy call to Archbishop Demetrios on Oct. 12 at Archdiocese headquarters. The Cardinal discussed the Orthodox/Roman Catholic Dialogue which was scheduled for last June in Maryland but was postponed because of the crisis in Kosovo. The Dialogue has been reset for next July in Emmitsburg, Md. The two hierarchs expressed hope for the future progress of the Dialogue.



D. Panagos

Assistant Sec. of State, Greek, Cypriot Leaders Visit

NEW YORK - Archbishop Demetrios met with the Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs, Marc Grossman, at Archdiocese headquarters Sept. 22 to exchanged thoughts on a number of issues including the reopening of the Halki Theological School and efforts to move forward on the Cyprus issue.

His Eminence also received Glafcos Clerides, president of the Republic of Cyprus on Sept. 21. During that meeting, Mr. Clerides informed the Archbishop about meetings at the United Nations concerning efforts to solve the Cyprus issue.

On Sept. 20, Archbishop Demetrios welcomed Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece Gregoris Niotis. His Eminence



HIS EMINENCE WITH MARC GROSSMAN

Orthodox Observer

characterized this meeting as one of "substance," placing great emphasis on the earthquake victims in Greece, and on the urgency of this situation.

Archbishop Iakovos Library Dedicated Sept. 12, President Bush Attends

BROOKLINE, Mass. – In only 15 months, the Archbishop Iakovos Library and Learning Resources Center progressed from an idea with some funding, to a fully functioning grand edifice that serves as the centerpiece for Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology.

And one year after it opened, dedication ceremonies for the completed library took place Sept. 12 with hundreds of faithful attending the agiasmo ceremony with Archbishop Iakovos officiating and former President George Bush as main speaker.

The day's events began with Divine Liturgy at the Holy Cross Chapel, where the Archbishop told the standing-room-only congregation that "it was my wish to once again ascend this holy hill and pray with you in the chapel built during the first years of my ministry, and the chapel where I saw no problem in communicating with God for inspiration."

At the dedication, several speakers extended their congratulations and well-wishes to His Eminence.

Bishop George of New Jersey, delivering a message from Archbishop Demetrios who was still in Greece, called the library "a magnificent gift that marks the beginning of a new renaissance of the Church. Generations to come will bless your name."

Metropolitan Sotirios of Canada, representing the Ecumenical Patriarch, called the library "a small token of the gratitude to your people for 60 years of consecutive service in the life of the Church. The gift is a luminous pillar reaching to the sky, guiding us to even greater spiritual heights, showing us the way to our Lord Jesus Christ."

Expressing his great joy, Archbishop Iakovos said "Lo and behold, I am the hap-



D. Panagos



Orthodox Observer

ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS officiates at the agiasmo service as President Bush looks on.

piest man in the world today, because I've had the privilege to serve you, the children of God, my spiritual children."

He told the gathering that "this library is presented as a humble expression of love and gratitude of the Hellenes and Orthodox Christian faithful of America to this beloved nation of ours and its citizens."

"It is and will ever be a living invitation and challenge for research, learning, further study, knowledge and true definition of the identity of human intellect, its origins and its intentions for reaching the absolute truth – God!"

President Bush, reflecting on the Archbishop's long tenure as head of the Church in America, called the period "37 years of profound change."

"When I was president, he was there, very patriotic, in the name of God to help a president of the United States. The president also noted that, in the days leading up to Operation Desert Storm in 1990, the Archbishop "was there as a father and loyal friend."

Commenting on the transient nature of today's society, he said that "faith, friends and family are what count these days" and praised those who devoted themselves to becoming clergy. "God bless them for dedicating themselves to God," President Bush said.

Other speakers included Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, and Greece's Consul General in Boston, George Chatzimichelakis.

Following the ceremony and ribbon cutting, guests toured the library and greeted Archbishop Iakovos on the third floor that houses His Eminence's archives collection.

(Additional coverage will appear in the next issue of the Observer)

Non-Stop Activities Highlight First Day at Office

For Archbishop Demetrios, Sept. 17 was the start of a new chapter in a life previously devoted to study, writing and teaching – his first day at the helm of the Archdiocese.

Arriving shortly after 9 a.m., His Eminence, accompanied by Bishop George of New Jersey, entered the main lobby to warm applause from staff members waiting to greet him.

After speaking briefly to acknowledge the reception, the Archbishop briefly entered his new third-floor office, which Bishop George commented was "the office Archbishop Iakovos loved."

"I cannot speak, I cannot speak," His Eminence repeated softly.

A doxology followed a short time later in the Chapel of St. Paul, where Archbishop Demetrios led the staff in singing the "fimi" of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Afterward, Fr. Gabriel Karambis read a message welcoming the new archbishop.

His Eminence addressed the gathering in Greek and English, speaking of the witness of the three themes he emphasized in his enthronement address: faith, hope and love.

"On the road ahead of us, we are called upon to do Christ's teaching and to follow his will," the Archbishop said.

"I bring you greetings of faith, love and hope and with a vision and perceptive that we have been called to a magnificent task."

Archbishop Demetrios spoke of the continuity of the Church, calling it "a love developing through the centuries."

He also said that we "have been honored to an unbelievable degree" to be called to continue the task that St. Paul referred to as "a work of love, a labor of love and the patience of hope" and to "commit ourselves to what is life and the abundance of life."

He closed his remarks by expressing "deep grati-



N. Manginas

IN ST. PAUL Chapel addressing clergy and staff.

tude" for the work of the staff, telling them, "whatever the Lord has in store for us we cannot imagine."

For the rest of the day, His Eminence's schedule consisted of interviews and meetings.

Richard Ostling of the Associated Press, Gus Niebur of the New York Times and Ira Rifkin of the Religious News Service each interviewed the Archbishop in the morning.

The remainder of the day included a luncheon and meetings with members of the Synod of Bishops, the executive committees of the Archdiocesan Council, National Philoptochos, Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, the Archons and several clergy.

– Jim Golding



N. Manginas

THE NEW Archbishop enters the Archdiocese on his first official day of his new ministry



Orthodox Observer

ARCHDIOCESE STAFF members greet the new archbishop upon his arrival to the Archdiocese.

The Voice of Philoptochos

Domestic Violence Grant Renewed

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services has awarded second-year funding to the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society Inc. to continue its domestic violence program.

The project, titled DYNAMIS, addresses domestic violence in the Greek community through a collaboration between Philoptochos, the largest women's organization in the Greek community, and HANAC Inc., the largest agency meeting the social service needs of persons in the Greek community.

The program's two components include training and education implemented by the Social Work Office of National Philoptochos and direct client service implemented by HANAC's Child and Family Counseling Program.

Eve Condakes, national president, said: "We are delighted that New York State is continuing support of this worthwhile program. It is only when we, as a community, break our silence and acknowledge the existence of domestic violence that our victims will break their silence and seek help. As a women's organization, we must take a strong stand to lead this effort.

In its first year of funding, DYNAMIS served 50 domestic violence victims and their children assisting them to increase their safety, to seek counseling, support and shelter, and to obtain legal assistance.

Jean Sotirakis, director of child and family counseling at HANAC said: "Our bi-

lingual, bicultural staff have made a strong commitment to this program and are offering a lifeline to the victims who have turned to us for help."

Through its training and educational seminars, DYNAMIS has reached nearly 1,500 members of the Greek ethnic and religious communities to help them improve their understanding of the problem and to assist them in developing culturally sensitive ways to identify and respond to victims of domestic violence.

A major outcome of the project has been the publication of a Domestic Violence Training Manual directed to clergy and other interested persons within the Greek Orthodox community.

Written and edited by Paulette Geanacopoulos, CSW, social work consultant to National Philoptochos, the manual provides information on the dynamics of domestic violence, how cultural attitudes and religious beliefs influence our understanding and acceptance of domestic violence, and suggests ways that our community can respond to the problem.

Ms. Geanacopoulos said, "Perhaps the most moving section is the chapter contributed by a Greek Orthodox survivor of domestic violence. Her experiences and her ongoing struggle to heal-emotionally, physically and spiritually- is a lesson for all of us."

To obtain a copy of the manual and for more information on the DYNAMIS program, contact the Social Work Office of National Philoptochos.



Welcomed to Ecumenical Patriarchate

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew greets National Philoptochos President Eve Condakes during her recent visit to the Phanar. Mrs. Condakes presented His All Holiness with the Philoptochos annual contribution in support of the Patriarchate.

Our Strong Commitment to HC/HC

Beloved Chapter Presidents and Sisters in Christ,

"A city set on a hill cannot be hid," the Gospel tells us (Matt.5:14). Our beloved schools of Hellenic College and Holy Cross shine forth like a city on a hill, like a bright beacon offering light and hope to those near and far all across our land.

As you know, the new academic year

has begun and the work of training the future priests, theologians and layworkers is under way in earnest.

For the students of Hellenic College and Holy Cross — that is, for our children and grandchildren — their experience at the school is a blessing that changes their lives forever.

When we assist them in their education, we give them something far more precious than silver or gold. We give them the very breath of life, knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

But without our help, many worthy and diligent students will be unable to take full advantage of their time on campus. Our assistance is vital to the quality of their life and studies.

Virtually every student who graduates from Hellenic College and Holy Cross has been able to do so because of help from the Philoptochos. But our students and seminarians are not the only ones who benefit from the generosity of our Sisterhood.

The entire Church of Christ, both in America and around the world, is blessed through the ministry and skills of our beloved graduates. When we give liberally for the cause of our school, we also give ourselves a gift of light, life and love. For the students that we support financially today will be the clergymen and lay assistants who support us spiritually tomorrow.

Philoptochos' commitment to benefit Hellenic College and Holy Cross is truly important. For this reason, we recently called on every chapter of every parish to hold a fund-raiser in conjunction with the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.

Only through your dedication and faithfulness can we maintain the high standards of scholarship and achievement that we have come to expect from our school.

Help keep the light of faith burning bright in our Archdiocese. Help this precious jewel of the Church shine ever more brilliantly with each passing year, so that our school may reflect the glory of the Lord in every direction and from every facet of its being.

May the Lord bless Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and may He bless all of you richly for your love and generosity.

With love in Christ,

Demetra Safiol, scholarship chair
Eve Condakes, national president

Rituals. Traditions. Basically these two are alike. Some traditions may sometimes seem routine, time-consuming, and even monotonous.

All of us at one time have groaned at a promised effort we have made to help out in the community. We easily come up with many excuses to substantiate our absence.

Traditions

by Patti Booras

However, many times we find that our presence brings us many hidden blessings. Rituals, traditions, even daily chores are constant reminders of where we belong, how we are needed, what's expected of us as the years go by and, ultimately, how glad we are to be a part of it all.

One of the very important traditions of our Church and of all Orthodox churches is the Philoptochos.

Recently, I have made the commitment to become part of this organization by taking the time to get involved.

The philanthropic work these women support is calling enough. However, I want to address something else in reference to these wonderful ladies.

It is spiritually enriching to spend time with each and every woman in this organization.

Until you have stood for unending hours preparing the traditional recipes for the annual bake sale and marveled at the perfection of complete organizational science achieved, you have really missed.

Many times I have shied away from participating because I felt that I would be a hindrance to the production. I found out how very wrong - I was. The women are so sharing and loving that it becomes an awe-inspiring event. There is untold patience, constant laughter, total unity and most importantly, years of experience, guiding you towards a knowledge of a legacy that will ultimately be the future responsibility of the younger generations.

As a newcomer to St. George and of

the Orthodox faith, I want to personally thank each of the women I have come to know. Had I not spent the time beside them putting in the hours it takes to achieve the funds necessary to carry on their missionary work, I would never have had the chance to understand the deep faith each of them possess.

They have experience so many things in their journey with Christ and the church and our community is truly blessed to have them as such a valuable resource.

In the past, as a person who has volunteered in almost every capacity, I want to emphasize that this is the first time that it truly felt as if I made some small difference.

The women of the Philoptochos have so much more to offer than skills. Their talents and resources stretch much farther than their tasks. Procrastination has a way of robbing opportunities from us. Do not take for granted what we can learn from these dedicated women. Challenge yourself and experience first hand the traditions of the Philoptochos.

Long Island Chapters Celebrate End of Cardiac Program

STONY BROOK, N.Y. — Nassau-Suffolk-Queens (NSQ) Philoptochos chapters recently celebrated the end of a program that began in 1983 at the State University of New York-Stony Brook Department of Pediatrics.

The Stony Brook Greek Children's Cardiac Program, was started by Dr. Constantine Anagnostopoulos, then chief of thoracic surgery at the center.

Dr. Anagnostopoulos, assisted by Dr. Thomas M. Biancaniello, now the director of pediatric cardiology, and their medical staff performed life-saving heart surgery on children referred to them by physicians in Greece.

Drs. Anagnostopoulos and Biancaniello would travel to Greece each year to examine candidate patients as well as train Greek physicians so that surgery could eventually be performed in Greece, which has come to pass.

The last patient admitted to the program returned to Greece in 1997. Since then, the Onassion Cardiac Institution in Athens has attended to children who previously came to the United States

for treatment. In its 14-year existence the program treated more than 250 children.

The program reached out to the Greek-American community and involved many individuals, both clergy and laity, who gave unselfishly of their time and resources.

Under the aegis of Archbishop Iakovos and Bishop Philip of Daphnousia (of blessed memory) the NSQ chapters adopted the Cardiac Program and organized a large and important volunteer effort.

A cadre of volunteers throughout Long Island, coordinated by Despina Albanes, of Church of the Resurrection in Glen Cove, N.Y., provided transportation, housing, translation services, financial and moral support to patients and their families.

Spiritual needs of the patients and their families were ministered by Fr. John Kefalas, of St. John's Church, Blue Point, N.Y.

Along with the volunteer effort, chapters raised about \$9,000 to cover the program's medical and non-medical costs which they presented at a recent reception.

OPINIONS

EDITORIALS

A New Beginning

Greek Orthodox Christians from across the nation gathered Sept. 18 at Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral in an atmosphere of harmony to witness the enthronement of their new archbishop.

Just as the hurricane/tropical storm, Floyd, that menaced the East Coast dissipated shortly after Archbishop Demetrios' arrival two days before, bringing a beautiful new day in its wake, the events surrounding His Eminence's enthronement and the highly spiritual, loving tone that he set forth in his address instilled a feeling of tranquillity and optimistic hope for the future.

The archbishop quickly established a rapport with those at the cathedral ceremony, with everyone's attention focused on every word as he discussed major issues the Church faces and what Her role and priorities should be at the start of a new millennium.

Among these priorities is the cultivation and growth of the Orthodox faith in a pluralistic society, to which he has called upon all Orthodox Christians to serve as witnesses.

True to the high ideals of Christ's gospel, the archbishop also called for giving special attention to love, charity and care for our fellow human beings, and encouraged communities of the Archdiocese to place greater emphasis on philanthropy and service in a spirit of love.

Another basic priority for the archbishop is to cultivate unity, concord and unanimity between clergy and laity, American-born and immigrants, between generations, with "the larger circle of Orthodox Churches in the United States" and with the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

In setting these priorities, His Eminence has challenged the faithful of the Archdiocese to rise to attain higher plane of spiritual existence and to raise the level of dialogue in the Church.

In Archbishop Demetrios, we have a leader who can relate to today's Greek Orthodox Christians in the United States and to Americans in general.

From his arrival to this country in 1965, until his return to Greece in 1993,

His Eminence studied and taught at the nation's most prestigious university, Harvard, and influenced some 150 current priests of the Archdiocese through his biblical studies and Christian origins classes at Holy Cross.

He observed and experienced life in the tumultuous Vietnam-era '60s, the Watergate period, the Carter, Reagan and Bush years and the economic and social ebbs-and-flows that have shaped the lives and attitudes of contemporary Greek Americans over the past 30 years.

Archbishop Demetrios also can relate to the life and challenges of the typical small parish in the United States, having served as the priest at St. Demetrios Church in Fall River, Mass., in the early 1970s.

As a result, he has a deep and abiding respect and love for the faithful in this country, as his comments on his arrival at Kennedy Airport, at the cathedral and the luncheon that followed, clearly reveal.

His Eminence also has close relations with the Orthodox Church of Greece, where 30 years ago, as titular Bishop of Vresthena, he demonstrated his commitment to the principles of freedom and democracy when he was elected Metropolitan of Attica and Megaridos.

He refused the position on the basis of conscience, believing that to accept would signal an endorsement of the military junta ruling Greece at the time.

His Eminence has authored three books on Orthodox theology, and numerous articles on the faith, which have established him as an important international religious scholar in academia.

In the person of the archbishop, the Church in America has a leader who can bring all the faithful together in a true spirit of unity, love and faith.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate has provided the Church with an outstanding and distinguished spiritual leader, for which we are truly grateful.

This is a most welcome new beginning as we enter a new century and millennium.

Disasters Bring Rivals Together

It has taken two "acts of God" to accomplish what decades of talk and saber-rattling have not – turn the relationship between Greece and Turkey on its ear.

The cataclysmic Aug. 17 earthquake that struck northwestern Turkey and the Sept. 7 quake in Athens produced an unprecedented display of compassion, love and spirit of cooperation between the two nations.

Greece rose to the highest ideals of her Orthodox Christian heritage when she became the first country to respond to the Turkish tragedy. Upon learning of the disaster, Foreign Minister George Papandreou immediately called his counterpart in Turkey to offer whatever humanitarian aid and support needed.

Teams of Greek doctors, seismologists and rescue workers were dispatched to stricken areas in Turkey to assist the victims and Turkish volunteers reciprocated in September. Individual Greeks and Turks even offered their kidneys to quake victims.

The tragedies produced other unexpected results.

Greece is actively promoting Turkey's accession to the European Community. The two countries signed up for a joint peace-keeping force, building on the NATO cooperation during the Kosovo crisis, talks have restarted in Ankara on a rail link between Thessaloniki and Istanbul, tourism, illegal immigration, drug trafficking, energy distribution, emergency response teams and anti-terrorism.

These actions notwithstanding, there are still serious issues both nations must overcome in their relationship, foremost among them being Cyprus.

Hopefully, sensible Greeks and Turks will not allow these problems to derail the new spirit that has been instilled as the result of these two terrible tragedies.

LETTERS

► In defense of Greek ◀

Editor,

I must respond to a letter on the Commission report printed in your August edition. It seems to me that the author's own hostility towards the Greek language has blinded him to the core issue.

He paraphrased the report in your June edition by saying the commission stated 13 reasons for learning Greek, implying that the commission advocated those reasons.

In fact, if he had reread the article he would have seen that they were merely conveying some of the common responses they received from Orthodox parents and children during their public hearings.

My husband and I are both of Greek heritage, born in this country. He was taught Greek as his first language, I was taught English.

We now have two young children of our own and we strive to teach them Greek.

We are also raising them in the Greek Orthodox faith. While they certainly do not understand all of the formal Greek spoken during liturgy, they do not understand all of the formal English (*many Catholic*) phrases, either. But, we are learning.

Nowhere better is the deep beauty and true spirituality of the Orthodox faith expressed than the Greek language!

My children never seem to repeat what they heard at liturgy in English, but "Xristos Anesti!" and many other Orthodox beliefs resound in our home in Greek.

My strongest conviction for continuing to teach my children Greek and encouraging it through our Greek Orthodox churches here came from our summer visit to Greece this year.

My children were able to experience and participate in liturgical and religious experiences through their knowledge of Greek. They smiled when we visited monasteries and they could talk to the nuns and accept their blessings and understand the monks' chants.

We smiled and cried tears of joy when they were able to say a prayer at their papou's grave and listen to the priest pray for his soul and all of ours.

We watched their Orthodox faith deepen through their still small understanding of the Greek faith.

If the saints are crying at the loss of children to the Orthodox faith, it is not because we insist upon the Greek language being used in church, but rather because we have found one more excuse not to practice and teach our Orthodox faith.

**Suzanna George
Rescue, Calif.**

► Memories of the Archbishop ◀

Editor,

I would like to share with your readers a story about our new Archbishop Demetrios. It illustrates his character and courage. I have known the Archbishop since his high school years in Greece, and later met him again in Cambridge, Mass., while he studied at Harvard.

In 1967 he unexpectedly received a telegram from the Archdiocese of Athens informing him that the Synod had elected him to the rank of bishop.

He was to return to Athens immedi-

ately for the ordination. This created a big dilemma for him. He never sought personally this promotion, especially during the time the military junta was in power. Such was his frustration, he even asked my humble person what to do.

His ordination took place at the Cathedral in Athens, and the ceremony was broadcast throughout Greece. In his traditional homily as newly ordained Bishop, he chose to emphasize the role of individual freedom as a great gift from God. Suddenly, the junta-controlled broadcast was interrupted and the announcer said: "We must end this program due to technical difficulties..."

**Gregory Arzoumanidis, Ph.D.
Naperville, Ill.**

► In appreciation ◀

Editor,

Thank you for the subscription to your publication. I especially enjoyed the long articles about the Turks invading Cyprus in 1974 and taking a third of the island.

I had a friend in SingSing who was a victim of the Turks during the invasion.

I also learn a lot about Orthodoxy in general. I am a convert from Protestantism. Fr. James Doukas comes in to see me and I so appreciate him. I have come to love and respect him very much.

Recently, I ordered a cassette of the Holy Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in English that was recorded at St. Vladimir's Seminary. It was the first time I had heard the full Holy Liturgy in English. The singing was beautiful beyond description. It was as though I had been taken up to heaven.

As I close I want to share two things. At my chrismation I took the Christian name of Christodoulos because I willingly put my ear to the doorpost and wanted to be a bondservant of Jesus Christ for the rest of my life.

And what I like to refer to as my anchor verses that I have clung to so many times these 12½ years of incarceration are II Corinthians 4:16-18: "For this cause we faint not, but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things that are not seen are eternal."

May we all press on toward the same mark as St. Paul spoke about on another occasion. He was referring to deification. Time, chronos time, is passing, but God's time, kairos, is outside of this time frame we live in.

One day we shall all worship Him corporately with millions of the faithful that have gone on before us that suffered yet endured being inspired just as we are today by the same Holy Scriptures such as I just quoted.

Be encouraged whatever your situation in life. This life is but a vapor. I look forward to meeting all of you one day either here or there.

Because of God's grace, one of "the least of these."

**Christodoulos (Don) Mason
Alden, N.Y.**

Mr. Mason may be "visited" at Wende Correctional Facility, 3622 Wende Rd., PO Box 1187, Alden, NY 14004-1187.

ENTHRONEMENT ADDRESS OF ARCHBISHOP OF AMERICA DEMETRIOS

► page 3

Within the same perspective, all the Dioceses and the Communities of our Holy Archdiocese are called to make the work of the cultivation and development of the Orthodox faith a substantive part of their activities and programs, by using all possible available means, from the traditional educational processes to the advanced communication technologies. Our target is the growth and preservation of a robust and illumined Orthodox identity as a basic characteristic of the members of our Greek Orthodox Church, particularly of our young generation, of 8ur beloved and very promising children. This Greek Orthodox identity will enable our Greek-American faithful to stand with dignity and pride in the midst of our American fellow-citizens, respecting their religious and political beliefs within the large scheme of pluralism and globalization but, at the same time, insisting in the effort to safeguard the unique treasure which is our Orthodox faith, and to cherish our precious asset which we all acknowledge to be our Greek heritage.

The second major issue which deserves special attention is the issue of **love, charity, and care for the human being**. Our Orthodox Church, faithful to the Gospel of her Founder, is the Church which loves each and every human person without any limitation , discrimination or reservation, especially when he or she is in a condition of need, pain and ordeal.

Center of our faith is a God, Who is love, is the Son of God who became man in order to serve man, in order to redeem humanity and the whole of creation from evil, decay and death. Our Church following the steps of this God who is a serving God, is permanently dedicated to the care of man, serves man not only within the limits of the possible but beyond any limit. Simply, she loves beyond any measure.

All of our communities in the Archdiocese are invited to intensify and to continually optimize this excellent spirit of love and diakonia, service. Let the living mutual love and the eagerness to transcend ourselves for the sake of the other who is in need, be the distinctive sign of our Orthodox ethos. Here we are not talking only about philanthropy or offering of material help to the suffering brothers and sisters. Here we are talking about an attitude of life which encompasses our whole existence, and which means initiative and dynamism and avant-guard programs which cover conditions of sorrow, isolation and loneliness. sickness, despair, poverty, and all sorts of ordeals. Of course, our Church in America has given for many years plenty of palpable evidence for her philanthropic ethos and disposition. Today, however, we emphasize the need to intensify such an offering towards all directions. Here, there is an outstanding human dynamic and in addition tremendous possibilities due to the astonishing progress and the very impressive growth of the Omogeneia on all levels. Here, there appears the bright opportunity for the Greek Orthodox Church in America to be, with the blessings and the grace of God who is love, a truly model Church in terms of offering love to man. A Church which embraces every human being, especially the suffering ones, and offers, on a continuous basis , love, care , and tenderness to a world tormented by cruelty, violence, alienation and selfishness.

Limitless love translated into service of the suffering human being, is a basic priority, which we have as members of the Church of Christ, especially in view of the

dawning third millennium. A millennium, which, in all probability, may have in store serious ordeals for humanity. It seems that the people will need strong support in order to survive and progress in the midst of huge changes in the environment, the economy, the social transformations, the biotechnology, the population explosion, the ideological confusion and the continuous technological revolution. Our Church here in the United States, as a Church of limitless love and philanthropy, as a Church destined to serve and to ,give, can play a significant role in the sacred effort to support man and the right to life and to contribute in the task of resolving the pressing problems which humanity will face in the years to come. Here, the limitless, wise and inexhaustible love of the Church becomes a strong element in the confrontation with the future, no matter what this future might be.

At this point, please allow me to indicate, and close with it, a third important issue, which in addition to the two previous ones, constitutes a basic priority for us. This is the issue of unity, concord, and unanimity of our ecclesiastical body, and of our Greek Orthodox Community in general.

Let us remember what the Lord immediately before his passion, has requested from the Father concerning the believers: *keep them in your name, which you have given me, so that they may be one like us* (John 17, 11)... *that may they all be one; even as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they may also be one in us, so that the world bay believe that you have sent me* (John 17, 21). And Paul, the Apostle to the nations, pleads with the believers to live *forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*. Why? Because *we are one body and one*

Spirit, just as we are called to the one hope that belongs to our call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all of us (Ephes. 4, 1-6).

This is precisely the reason why, we feel our duty to stress the need for unity and peace among us. Without fear or hesitation we are invited, beloved brothers and sisters, to set aside difference, misunderstanding or conflict that could create distances among us. Distances that shake the unity and drive away the peace of God. Nothing should jeopardize the great and divine gifts of unity and harmony, of unanimity and communal accord. We have all the presuppositions, as people and as Church to build in the highest and strongest possible degree, a unity dynamic and unbreakable so that we could be and stay one body, one soul, one mind, one will. In our case the continuation and intensification of the task for unity and peace, is the wonderful work into which God calls us today. He calls us in view of the great objectives which are being set in front of us. The future is our superb destination, and the future cannot be built but only on the basis of our unity.

A unity and harmony which must be cultivated and pursued on many levels and in many forms within our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and our Greek-American community inn general. It must be cultivated as unity and mutual understanding among the generations, that is the young, the middle aged and the old. It must be cultivated as unity and harmonic cooperation between the clergy and the laity. It

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The Community of
Holy Trinity Church of New Rochelle
Welcomes
His Eminence, Archbishop DEMETRIOS
to his new home.

We extend our respect and best wishes to you,
your Eminence
and anxiously await your first Pastoral visit
to Holy Trinity.
Eis Rouzá Ein Déonora

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HC / HC REPORT



ARETI BRATIS
BISHOP GEORGE of New Jersey, archiepiscopal vicar, with the new HC/HC students after liturgy for the Feast Day of the Holy Cross, Sept. 14. His Grace presented each student with the school cross.

31 New Students Enroll for Fall Quarter

BROOKLINE, Mass. – Hellenic College-Holy Cross officials welcomed 31 new students for the start of fall semester.

Seventeen are enrolled in Holy Cross School of Theology and 14 are in Hellenic College.

The following are enrolled in the school of theology programs:

Master of Divinity: Robert Fox, Nashua, N.H.; Ryan Gzikowski, Canonsburg, Pa.; Gregory Lemelson, Mercer Island, Wash.; Peter Leneweaver, Plano, Texas; Mark Munoz, Ellsworth, Kans.; Luke Palumbis, Lake Oswego, Ore.; Chris Plitz, The Colony, Texas; Robert Sakellar, San Jose, Calif.; Jonathan Tartara, Brecksville, Ohio; and Evangelos Valsamis, Haverhill, Mass.

Master of Theology: Nicholas Louh, Jacksonville, Fla.; Laney Ross II, St. Clairsville, Ohio.

Master of Theological Studies: Alexander Dragas, Brookline, Mass.; Thomas Dallianis, Chicago; Stamatina Malouchou, Athens, Greece; Fr. Constantine Bbonobingi, Kampala, Uganda.

Master of Arts in Church Service: Lisa Boston, Cleveland, Tenn.

The 14 Hellenic College students are enrolled in the following programs:

Religious Studies: Laertis George Gjinis, Worcester, Mass.; Basil Labi, Ghana, West Africa; Sarantis Loulakis, Newington, Conn.; Nicholas Sandoukas, Livingston, N.J.; Ioannis Triantafilou, Melbourne, Fla.; Georgios Zervos, Baltimore, Md.

Elementary Education: Israel Collins, Walhalla, S.C.; Kalliope Paviadakakis, Portage, Ind.

Classics: April Nicole Haretakis, Santa Ana, Calif.; Monica Pappas, Athens, Greece.

Human Development: Michael Lambrakis, Oklahoma City; Angelo Maginas, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Special students: Konstantina Goudanas, Kalambaka, Greece; Anastasia Vassiliadou, Thessaloniki, Greece (exchange student).

Seminary to Receive \$10,000 Grant

BROOKLINE, Mass. - Holy Cross School of Theology is one of 40 theological schools to receive a \$10,000 planning grant from Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc., to participate in a national technological initiative.

The endowment program helps seminaries to gain access to important technological resources, train faculty and staff in their use, provide for their maintenance and updating, and rethink teaching practices in light of the new possibilities that these technologies offer.

On receiving notification of the award, Dr. James Skedros, acting dean of Holy Cross, made the following statement: "It is with great excitement that Holy Cross

learned of the awarding of the Lilly Endowment Grant for information technology. This planning grant will enable our institution to assess the technological needs of our faculty and staff and plan for the future use of technological resources for theological education. Fr. Frank Marangos, adjunct professor of religious education, will head a team of faculty, staff and students in preparing a more detailed proposal to the Lilly Endowment for an implementation grant," he said.

"As Holy Cross prepares men and women for Christian service, we recognize the need continually to upgrade our facilities and methodologies in theological education. Now is an ideal time for us to undertake new capabilities in the use of information and computer technology, to coincide with the installation of new hardware in our offices and classrooms, and the opening of the new Archbishop Iakovos Library and Learning Resource Center."

The Endowment also announced 30 supplemental technology grants of \$100,000 each to schools who had received \$200,000 implementation grants in 1997. Holy Cross will be eligible to receive a \$300,000 implementation grant when the Endowment announces the grantees next summer.

The Endowment is a private foundation that follows its founders' wishes in supporting the causes of community development, education and religion.

Alumni Elect Officers

Alumni of Hellenic College/Holy Cross elected officers at their recent meeting.

Fr. Peter Karloutsos, pastor of Assumption Church in Danbury, Conn., was elected president. Other officers are: Frs. Dennis Strouzas, Archangel Michael Church, Roslyn Heights, N.Y., vice president; Elias Velonis, St. Luke Church, East Longmeadow, Mass., secretary; and Demetrios Antokas, Holy Trinity Church, Westfield, N.J., treasurer.

Immediate past president is Fr. Nicholas Katinas, Holy Trinity Church, Dallas.

PEOPLE

► 'Koumbaro' honoree

Peter J. Pappas, CEO and president of P.J. Mechanical Corp., was honored Sept. 21 by the Koumbaro Club, a Long Island-based Hellenic American social/fraternal organization that honors individuals who have professionally demonstrated their dedication to improving the quality of life. Mr. Pappas also is a member of the Archdiocesan Council Executive Committee, an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Leadership 100, president of Hellenic American Neighborhood Action Committee, vice president of the Hellenic Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the New York State Hellenic American Republican Committee, board member of the Hellenic National Golf and Tennis Classic and a noted philanthropist. He joins the ranks of New York Gov. George Pataki and others as an honorary member.

► Earns doctorate

Michael C. Billys, son of Charles and Evangeline Rentos Billys of Camp Hill, Pa., recently earned a doctorate in education from California Coast University in Santa Ana.

Dr. Billys has been teaching special education in the Harrisburg School District 15 years.

He also is a graduate of Holy Cross School of Theology, Hellenic College, and Millersville University. In 1985, he was ordained into the sub-diaconate by Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh. He and his parents are members of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Camp Hill.

► Award honorees

Joanna Szalewski and Anthony John Gorski, two graduating seniors of the DePaul University School of Education in Chicago have received the Andrew T. Kopan Leadership and Scholarship Award. The university established the award in 1994 in honor of Professor Kopan, an Archon and active layman in the Church, who retired from the faculty after 30 years of active teaching.

► Principal retires

Betty Kourasis has retired as principal of Koraes Elementary School at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Palos Hills, Ill. She was honored at a dinner in her honor where Metropolitan Iakovos presented her with a plaque. Kaliopi Flaskos is the recently appointed principal of the school.

► Brothers win award

Constantine and Alexander Zavras of Stamford, Conn., recently were presented the Eastern Orthodox Alpha Omega Award at Church of the Archangels. They are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Zavras.

Industrious Greeks Seeking Industrial Jobs Start Parish

The first Greek Orthodox Christians came to what is America's first industrial city looking for jobs in its many factories.

It was here in 1793 that Samuel Slater built the first successful textile mill in the United States.

About 100 years later, a small group of men from villages in the Peloponnesus arrived to find work in, by then, the hundreds of mills and factories operating in this city that borders Providence on the northeast.

separate church. However, the divisions were healed when Fr. Theodore Baglancas arrived in the community in 1956 and brought the two factions together. He served the parish until 1974, the longest tenure of any priest in the community.

The new church, the only Byzantine structure in the Blackstone Valley of north-eastern Rhode Island, was completed in 1968. Services took place in a renovated structure on the property that served as a chapel until the new building, located just off Interstate 95 near downtown, was

35 enrolled.

In terms of outreach to the greater community, Fr. Economou takes part in the Pawtucket Clergy Association and the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches.

The parish, through Philoptochos, helps the area's needy through food drives.

Along with other Orthodox communities in the Pawtucket area – Russian, Antiochian and Romanian – Assumption helps support Serenity

PARISH profile

Name: Assumption

Greek Orthodox Church

Location:

Pawtucket, R.I.

Founded: 1912

Diocese: Boston

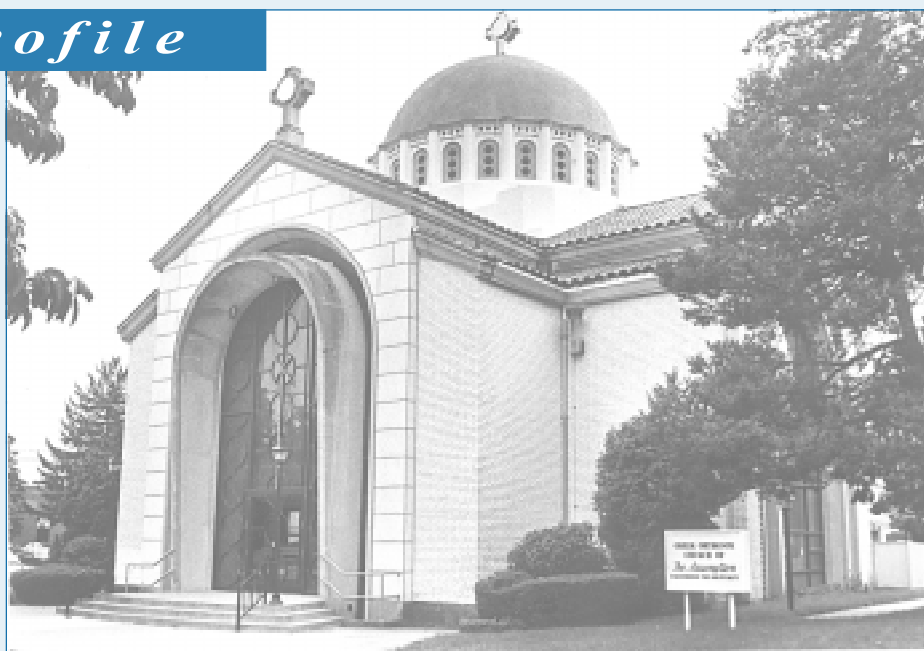
Size: 300 members

Clergy:

Rev. Dr. George Economou
(*Holy Cross '65*)

Noteworthy:

a typical parish that personifies
the Church in America



ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

According to a parish history, the Greek community reached about 75 members by 1910, including a few families. In great need of spiritual fulfillment, they rented halls or houses where visiting priests would hold Divine Liturgy.

In one year, they raised the \$750 needed to buy property on which to build a church. Their house of worship was completed at a cost of \$7,500 and in time to celebrate the first St. Demetrios Feast Day service on Oct. 26, 1913. A visiting priest, Fr. George Sakellarios officiated.

The community continued to grow and the church building served the parish until 1966, when an urban renewal project resulted in the community relocating and constructing a new building.

For a number of years, a disagreement with parish priest created a split and part of the community formed a

ready.

First services took place Nov. 10, 1968. Archbishop Iakovos consecrated the building May 24, 1970.

Fr. Economou, who has served Assumption Church for five years, describes the Pawtucket parish as "a hard-working community dedicated to serving the Lord. The people are very warm and very supportive."

Today's community, typical of most parishes of its size, is a combination of American-born, recent immigrants over the past 25 years, converts and a few original pioneers.

Several live in outlying communities of northern Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts, which borders Pawtucket to the east. They work in a variety of fields and professions and in private business.

Among the active ministries are the Philoptochos, youth groups, Sunday School, with 50 children that meets following the Liturgy, and Greek school with

House, a local facility for those suffering from AIDS.

Three years ago, Fr. Economou introduced the stewardship program, which he describes as "very successful," but adds that "it takes time to change attitudes."

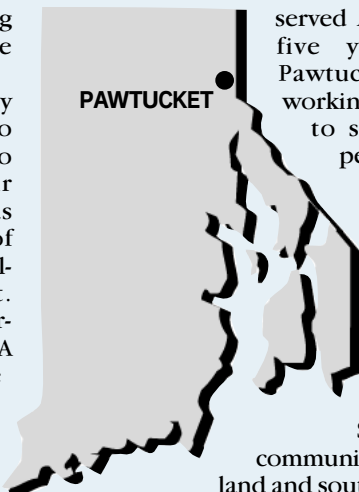
The parish's other main income source is the Greek festival that takes place the weekend following the church's Feast Day in August.

The priest noted that perhaps the major challenge he faces in his ministry is to "bring people back to active participation and involvement in the church."

"The struggle is how do we help people set priorities and to make their relationship to the community the primary aspect of their lives. How do I bring to people's attention our Christian faith and love for the Lord which should be the primary focus of our lives?" he continued.

"To be a Christian today," he added, "is a very tough place to be. It's not an easy way of life. It requires a very strong commitment to the Lord."

— compiled by Jim Golding



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Πορεία πίστεως, αγάπης και ενότητας

του Σταύρου Παπαγερμανού

Μια νέα ημέρα ανέτειλε στις 18 Σεπτεμβρίου και οι πρώτες ακτίνες της φωτίζουν ήδη απ' άκρου εις άκρον την Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή Αμερικής.

Το τρίπτυχο της Πίστης, της Αγάπης και της Ενότητας έθεσε ως βασικά σημεία αναφοράς, ο νέος ποιμενάρχης και ηγέτης μας, ο Σεβ. Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος στον Ενθρονιστήριο Λόγο του.

Το πλήρωμα της αγίας Εκκλησίας μας στην Αμερική, ξεκινά και συνεχίζει με νέα πνοή, «πνοή Θεού» την πορεία στον ωραίο και μεγάλο δρόμο των αγίων, των μαρτύρων και των πατέρων της Εκκλησίας μας.

Ο Ιερός Αρχιεπισκοπικός Καθεδρικός Ναός της Αγίας Τριάδος στο Μανχάταν, αλλά και η 74η οδός και το παραπλεύρως κοινοτικό κέντρο ξεχείλισαν από αγάπη και ενθουσιασμό και από το πλήθος των πιστών και των επισήμων προσκεκλημένων που παρακολούθησαν με κατάνυξη και τάξη την βυζαντινής μεγαλοπρέπειας ενθρόνιση του έκτου κατά σειρά Αρχιεπισκόπου Αμερικής.

Η επιβλητική τελετή, που πραγματοποιήθηκε σύμφωνα με την αρχαία ορθόδοξη τάξη, ξεκίνησε με πομπή από την αρχή της 74ης οδού. Δεκάδες κληρικοί της Ι. Αρχιεπισκοπής, κληρικοί και αντιπρόσωποι άλλων ορθόδοξων εκκλησιών και δικαιοδοσιών και εκπρόσωποι άλλων χριστιανικών εκκλησιών συμμετείχαν στην πομπή που ανέβηκε σεμνά τα σκαλιά του Καθεδρικού ναού.

Εκατοντάδες πιστών, ομογενών και μαθητών των κοινοτικών σχολείων, με λάβαρα και σημαίες, είχαν κατακλύσει τα πεζοδρόμια επευφημώντας και χειροκροτώντας τον Σεβ. Αρχιεπίσκοπο κ. Δημήτριο συνοδευόμενο από τον Σεβ. Μητροπολίτη Σεβαστείας κ. Δημήτριο, που εκπροσωπούσε το Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχείο Κωνσταντινουπόλεως. Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος κοντοστάθηκε στο πρώτο στασίδι για να χαιρετίσει τον κόσμο και να ευλογήσει τα παιδιά.

Μόλις ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος εισήλθε στο ναό το εκκλησίασμα ξέσπασε σε ενθουσιώδες χειροκρότημα. Συγκινητικές ήταν οι στιγμές που ακολούθησαν. Ο Σεβασμιότατος κοντοστάθηκε στο πρώτο στασίδι και με ένα πλατύ χαμόγελο χαιρέτισε την σεβάσμια μητέρα του, τον αδελφό του και τα υπόλοιπα μέλη της οικογένειάς του.

Στο σολέα του ναού τον ανάμενε ο Σεβ. Αρχιεπίσκοπος Γέρων πρώην Β. και Ν. Αμερικής κ. Ιάκωβος, που εκπροσώπησε την Α.Θ.Π. τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη κ. Βαρθολομαίο και την Αγία και Ιερά Σύνοδο του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου και προεξήρχε της ενθρόνισης.

Στην πρώτη σειρά των καθισμάτων, παρακολουθούσε με ευλάβεια η πρώτη κυρία των Η.Π.Α. Χίλαρι Ρόνταμ Κλίντον μαζί με τον πρόεδρο της Κυπριακής



Νίκ. Μαγγίνης

ΕΝΘΡΟΝΙΣΤΗΡΙΟΣ ΛΟΓΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ κ. ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ

Καθεδρικός Ναός Αγίας Τριάδος Νέας Υόρκης, 18 Σεπτεμβρίου 1999

Η ευλογία και η δόξα και η σοφία και η ευχαριστία και η τιμή και η δύναμις και η ισχύς τω Θεώ ημών εις τους αιώνες των αιώνων. Αμήν. (Αποκ. Ιωάννου 7,12).

Ο υπέροχος αυτός βιβλικός ύμνος από την Αποκάλυψη του Ιωάννου, εκφράζει τα αισθήματα τα οποία κυριαρχούν εις την ψυχήν μου κατά την σημαντικήν αυτήν ώραν. Αισθήματα απεριόριστου λατρείας του εν Τριάδι Θεού, και ταυτοχρόνως θερμής δεήσεως, το έλεος, η αγάπη και η δύναμις Του να με συνοδεύουν και να με ενισχύουν εις την ιερωτάτην προσπάθειαν την οποίαν εν τω ονόματί Του αναλαμβάνω. Να με ενισχύουν εις το μεγάλο έργον εις το οποίον Εκείνος με εκάλεσε: να διακονήσω ως Αρχιεπίσκοπος τον εκλεκτόν και προσφιλέστατον λαόν Του της Ελληνικής Ορθοδόξου Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής.

Την λατρευτικήν μου αναφοράν προς τον Θεόν συνοδεύουν αισθήματα θερμότητος ευχαριστίας προς τον Παναγιότατο Οικουμενικόν Πατριάρχην Κύριον Βαρθολομαίον και την Αγίαν και Ιεράν Σύνοδο του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου μας διότι μου έκαναν την μέγιστην τιμήν να μου αναθέσουν την ευθύνην της διαποιμάνσεως του εν Αμερική λαμπρού ομογενειακού ποιμνίου της Εκκλησίας και να με στηρίξουν με κάθε τρόπο.

Σκέπτομαι επίσης μετά πολλών ευχαριστιών τους αγίους προκατόχους μου, τόσοσιν τους κεκοιμημένους Αρχιεπισκόπους Αλέξανδρον, Αθηναγόραν και Μιχαήλ, όσον και τους ζώντας Αρχιεπισκόπους Ιάκωβον και Σπυριδωνα, διότι υπηρέτησαν με όλως των τας δυνάμεις τον ευγενή και φιλοπρόοδο αυτόν λαόν τον οποίον καλούμαι και εγώ να υπηρετήσω, συνεχίζων το έργον των. Ιδιαίτέρως ευχαριστώ τον Σεβασμιότατον Γέροντα Αρχιεπίσκοπον πρώην Αμερικής Κύριον Ιάκωβον διά τα εξαιρετικώς ευμενή λόγια τα οποία μου απηύθυνε εκ

προσώπου του Παναγιωτάτου Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχου και διά την άκρως ενισχυτικήν προσφώνησίν του.

Θα ήθελα επί πλέον να ευχαριστήσω εκ βάθους καρδιάς τους πολυτίμους αδελφούς μου αγίους Αρχιερείς, τον ευσεβή κλήρον και τον πιστόν λαόν διά την θερμότητην υποδοχήν που μου επεφύλαξαν και την περίσσειαν αγάπης που μου επεδάφισαν. Επίσης θα ήθελα να εκφράσω εγκάρδιους ευχαριστίας και προς την Εκκλησίαν της Ελλάδος καθώς και προς την Ελληνικήν Πολιτείαν διά την όλην θερμήν συμπαράστασιν και διά την εδώ παρουσίαν των δι' εκλεκτών αντιπροσώπων. Τέλος αι ευχαριστίαι μου επεκτείνονται και εις όλους τους εκλεκτούς εκπροσώπους της πολιτικής ηγεσίας των Ηνωμένων Πολιτειών της Αμερικής που με τιμούν με την παρουσίαν των, καθώς και όλους τους φίλους που συμμετέχουν εις την ιεράν αυτήν τελετήν, τους επισήμους θρησκευτικούς, πολιτικούς, κρατικούς, ακαδημαϊκούς και λοιπούς ηγέτας.

Με την ευκαιρίαν της σημερινής αναλήψεως των καθηκόντων μου, θα ήθελα με όλην μου την αγάπην και την τιμήν που αισθάνομαι απέναντί σας, να υπενθυμίσω εν συντομία ορισμένα βασικά θέματα, τα οποία έχουν σημασίαν διά την πορείαν μας εις τα έτη που ακολουθούν. Θα περιορισθώ εις τρία τα οποία είναι ίσως τα πλέον σημαντικά και αποτελούν θεμελιώδεις προτεραιότητες της ζωής της Εκκλησίας μας.

Το πρώτον είναι το θέμα **καλλιέργειας και αναπτύξεως της Ορθοδόξου πίστεως μας**, την οποίαν ως κόρην ορθολογίου διατηρεί απαράχαρακτον το Οικουμενικόν Πατριαρχείον μας. Εδώ πρόκειται διά μιαν πίστιν με την οποίαν η Εκκλησία μας ζει και εργάζεται επί είκοσιν ολόκληρους αιώνας. Μιαν πίστιν η οποία έδωσε εις τον κόσμον εκατομμύρια αληθινών χριστιανών, εκατομμύρια αγίων και μαρτύρων. Μιαν πίστιν,

ΕΝΘΡΟΝΙΣΤΗΡΙΟΣ ΛΟΓΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ Κ. ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ

► σελ. 15

την οποίαν εδημιούργησε μιαν θαυμαστήν παράδοσιν, εις την οποίαν με άκραν διάκρισιν και πλήρη έλεγχον εχρησιμοποίησαν και ενσωματώθηκαν στοιχεία και από την Ελληνικήν πολιτιστικήν κληρονομίαν.

Αυτή η Ορθόδοξος πίστις υπήρξε πάντοτε και είναι και σήμερα βασική προτεραιότης μας. Διά τον λόγον αυτόν και τα ερωτήματα τα οποία τίθενται ενώπιόν μας κατ’ αυτήν την ιεράν στιγμήν είναι πολλά: Πόσον έντονα και βαθεία έχομεν συνειδησιν αυτής της Ορθοδόξου πίστεως; Πόσον έχομεν δεσμευθή ως άτομα και ως σύνολον εις το Ορθόδοξον χριστιανικόν πιστεύω μας; Πόσον γνωρίζομεν την ουσίαν αυτής της πίστεως ως δυνάμεως αλλά και ως γνώσεως; Ως δυνάμεως ζωής ικανής να αλλάξει τον άνθρωπον και τον κόσμον, ικανής να μετακινήσει όρη και να κάνει τα αδύνατα δυνατά (Ματθαίου 17, 20-21). Ως γνώσεως η οποία μας προσφέρει την σωζουσαν αλήθειαν διά τον Θεόν, τον άνθρωπον και την όλην δημιουργίαν. Τέλος, πόσον η Ορθόδοξος πίστις μας αποτελεί την αληθινήν ταυτότητά μας μέσα εις τον πλουραλιστικόν και πολυδιάστατον κόσμον της συγχρόνου Αμερικανικής κοινωνίας.

Τα ερωτήματα είναι πολλά και πολύ περισσότεραι αι απαντήσεις εις μίαν ώραν όπως η παρούσα κατά την οποίαν αναθεωρούμεν το παρελθόν και ατενίζομεν το μέλλον το οποίον μας χαρίζει η αγάπη του Θεού. Ασχέτως όμως απαντήσεως, ένα πράγμα είναι βέβαιον: Εδώ ανοίγεται εμπρός μας ένα τεράστιον πεδión ενός πράγματι μεγάλου έργου. Ενός έργου με απεράντους δυνατότητας και ευρυτάτην προοπτικήν. Ενός έργου που θα αποβλέπει εις την αναζωογόνησιν, καλλιέργειαν και ανάπτυξιν μιας φωτισμένης και δυναμικής Ορθοδόξου πίστεως εντός του κλήρου και του λαού της ευλογημένης Ομογενείας που αποτελεί και το πλήρωμα της Ιεράς μας Αρχιεπισκοπής.

Εις αυτό το έργον, εις αυτήν την ευλογημένην προσπάθειαν να είμεθα η Εκκλησία η οποία θα καταθέτει ακεραίαν και άσπιλον την μαρτυρίαν της πίστεως εις την μεγάλην χώραν εις την οποίαν μας εφύτευσεν ο Θεός, την Αμερικήν, θα ήθελα να καλέσω σήμερα όλους τους αδελφούς. Όλοι ανεξαίρετως καλούμεθα να γίνωμε και να είμεθα οι συνειδητοί, αληθινοί, δυναμικοί και φωτισμένοι πιστοί, οι οποίοι όπως τονίζει ο Απόστολος Πέτρος είναι *έτοιμοι αεί προς απολογίαν παντί τω αιτούντι ημάς λόγον περί της εν ημίν ελπίδος* (1 Πέτρου 3, 15).

Χωρίς αμφιβολίαν, ένα τέτοιο έργον, ένας παρόμοιος προσανατολισμός σημαίνει έμφασιν και εντατικοποίησιν των διδακτικών, εκπαιδευτικών και μορφωτικών δραστηριοτήτων και προγραμμάτων της Εκκλησίας μας. Εντός αυτής της προοπτικής αποκτά αποφασιστικήν σημασίαν η ανασυγκρότησις και ανάπτυξις των θεολογικών και εκπαιδευτικών μας κέντρων όπως είναι η Θεολογική μας Σχολή του Τιμίου Σταυρού και το Ελληνικόν Κολλέγιον, ώστε να μεγιστοποιήσουν τον μορφωτικόν δυναμισμόν των και να μεγαλουργήσουν ως κέντρα μελέτης, καλλιέργειας και ακτινοβολίας των αξιών της Ορθοδόξου πίστεως και της Ελληνικής παιδείας.

Με την ιδίαν προοπτικήν, αι Επισκοπαί και Κοινότητες της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής καλούνται να εντείνουν το έργον της καλλιέργειας και αναπτύξεως της Ορθοδόξου πίστεως, και να το κάμουν ουσιώδες μέρος της ζωής, των δραστηριοτήτων, και των προγραμμάτων των. Να το κάμουν με την χρησιμοποίησιν και αξιοποίησιν όλων των μέσων που προσφέρονται τόσον από την παραδοσιακήν παιδεία όσον και από την σύγχρονον προηγμένην επικοινωνιακήν τεχνολογίαν. Σκοπός μας είναι η ανάπτυξις και διατήρησις μιας ρωμαλαίας και φωτισμένης ταυτότητας Ορθοδόξου πίστεως ως βασικού χαρακτηριστικού των μελών της Ελληνορθοδόξου Εκκλησίας μας, ιδιαίτερος της νέας γενεάς, των παιδιών μας. Η Ελληνορθόδοξος αυτή ταυτότης καθιστά τους Ελληνοαμερικανούς πιστούς μας ικανούς να σταθούν με αξιοπρέπειαν και υπερηφάνειαν μεταξύ των Αμερικανών συμπολιτών μας, σεβομένους τās θρησκευτικάς και πολιτικάς πεποιθήσεις των μέσα εις το ευρύ σχήμα του πλουραλισμού και της παγκοσμιοποίησεως, αλλά και επιμένοντας εις την διατήρησιν του μοναδικού θησαυρού που ονομάζεται Ορθόδοξος χριστιανική πίστις και του πολυτίμου κεφαλαίου που ονομάζεται Ελληνική πολιτιστική κληρονομιά.

Το δεύτερο μείζον θέμα, το οποίον θα ήθελα να



Με ευλάβεια παρακολουθούν την τελετή της ενθρονίσεως οι επίσημοι καλεσμένοι. (από αριστερά) η κα Χίφαρικλίντον, ο πρόεδρος της Κύπρου Γλαύκος Κληρίδης, ο υφ. Εξωτερικών Γρ. Νιώτης, ο πρόεδρος της Επιτροπής Αποδήμου Ελληνισμού της βουλής Δημ. Παντερμαλής, ο αντιπρόεδρος της Ελληνικής Βουλής Νικ. Κατσάρος και ο Μέγας ευεργέτης του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου Θεόδωρος Αγγελόπουλος.

παρακαλέσω να προσεχθή ιδιαίτερος, είναι το θέμα της **εντονοποιήσεως της αγάπης, της στοργής και της φροντίδος διά τον άνθρωπον**. Η Ορθόδοξος Εκκλησία μας, πιστή εις το Ευαγγέλιον του Ιδρυτού της του Κυρίου Ιησού Χριστού, είναι η Εκκλησία που αγαπά χωρίς μέτρον, χωρίς διακρίσεις και χωρίς επιφυλάξεις τον άνθρωπον. Ιδιαίτερος τον άνθρωπον, ο οποίος ευρίσκεται εις κατάστασιν ανάγκης, θλίψεως και δοκιμασίας.

Κέντρον της πίστεώς μας είναι ένας Θεός, ο Οποίος είναι αγάπη, είναι ο Υιός του Θεού που έγινε άνθρωπος διά να υπηρετήσει τον άνθρωπον διά να λυτρώσει την ανθρωπότητα και την κτίσιν από το κακόν, την φθοράν και τον θάνατον. Η Εκκλησία μας που ακολουθεί τα βήματα αυτού του Θεού, που είναι «ο διακονών Θεός», είναι μονίμως εις την υπηρεσίαν του ανθρώπου, διακονεί τον άνθρωπον, όχι απλώς εις τα μέτρα του δυνατού, αλλά και πέραν οιοδήποτε ορίου. Απλούστατα αγαπά χωρίς μέτρον.

Εις την εντονοποίησιν και συνεχή ανάπτυξιν του γνησίου χριστιανικού αυτού πνεύματος της αγάπης και διακονίας αξίζει να επιδοθούν όλαι αι κοινότητές μας της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής. Μόνιμον χαρακτηριστικόν των ενοριών μας και διακριτικόν σημείον του Ορθοδόξου ήθους μας, ας είναι η ζωντανή προς αλλήλους αγάπη, και η ετοιμότης υπερβάσεως του εαυτού μας χάριν των άλλων. Εδώ δεν πρόκειται μόνον διά την φιланθρωπίαν ή διά την προσφοράν υλικής βοηθείας προς τους πάσχοντας αδελφούς μας. Εδώ πρόκειται διά μιαν στάσιν ζωής η οποία σημαίνει πρωτοβουλίαν και δυναμισμόν και πρωτοπορειακά προγράμματα που καλύπτουν καταστάσεις θλίψεως, μοναξιάς, αρρώστειας, απελπισίας, φτώχειας, και κάθε μορφής δοκιμασίας. Βεβαίως, η εν Αμερική Εκκλησία μας έχει δώσει επί μακράν σειράν ετών πολλά δείγματα του αληθινά φιλανθρωπού ήθους της. Σήμερα τονίζομεν την ανάγκην να μεγιστοποιηθεί η προσφορά αυτή προς πάσαν κατεύθυνσιν. Εδώ υπάρχει ένα έξοχον ανθρώπινον δυναμικόν και επί πλέον τεράστiai δυνατότητες που οφείλονται εις την εκπληκτικήν πρόδοον και την εντυπωσιακήν ανάπτυξιν της Ομογενείας. Εδώ υπάρχει η λαμπρά ευκαιρία, η Ελληνική Ορθόδοξος Εκκλησία της Αμερικής, να είναι με την ευλογίαν του Θεού της αγάπης, μια Εκκλησία πρότυπον προσφοράς αγάπης εις τον άνθρωπον. Μια Εκκλησία, η οποία αγκαλιάζει κάθε ανθρώπινον πλάσμα, η οποία προσφέρει επί συνεχούς βάσεως στοργήν, φροντίδα και τρυφερότητα εις ένα κόσμον που βασανίζεται από την σκληρότητα, την βίαν, την αποξένωσιν και τον εγωκεντρισμόν.

Η απεριόριστη αγάπη, μεταφρασμένη εις διακονίαν του ανθρώπου, πρέπει να είναι η προτεραιότης μας ως πιστών και ως Εκκλησίας του Χριστού, ιδιαίτερος εις την χλιετιάν που ανατέλλει. Μιαν χλιετιάν, η οποία πιθανόν να επιφυλάσσει μεγάλας δοκιμασίας διά την ανθρωπότητα. Οι άνθρωποι φαίνεται ότι θα χρειασθούν ισχυρά στηρίγματα διά να επιβιώσουν και να προσδεύσουν εν μέσω των τεραστίων αλλαγών εις το περιβάλλον, την οικονομίαν, την κοινωνικήν συγκρότησιν, την βιοτεχνολογίαν, την πληθυσμιακήν έκρηξιν, την σύγχυσιν των ιδεών και την συνεχή τεχνολογικήν επανάστασιν. Η Ελληνική Ορθόδοξος εκκλησία μας εδώ εις τας Ηνωμένας Πολιτείας, ως Εκκλησία αγάπης και φιλανθρωπίας χωρίς όρια, ως Εκκλησία διακονούσα τον άνθρωπον, δύναται

να παίξει σημαντικόν ρόλον εις την ιερωτάτην προσπάθειαν υποστηρίξεως του ανθρώπου και συμβολής εις την επίλυσιν των πιεστικών προβλημάτων τα οποία θα ορθωθούν ενώπιόν του εις τα χρόνια που έρχονται. Εδώ η απεριόριστη, σοφή και αστείρευτη αγάπη της Εκκλησίας γίνεται ισχυρότατον στοιχείον αντιμετώπισεως του μέλλοντος, ό,τι και αν επιφυλάσσει το μέλλον αυτό.

Επιτρέψατέ μου να επισημάνω, και να κατακλείσω με αυτό, ένα τρίτον σπουδαίον θέμα, το οποίον εν συνδυασμώ προς τα δύο προηγούμενα πρέπει να αποτελεί επίσης άμεσον προτεραιότητά μας. Πρόκειται διά το θέμα της **ενότητος και ομοψυχίας** του εκκλησιαστικού αλλά και του Ομογενειακού μας σώματος.

Ας ενθυμηθούμε τι εξήτησεν ο Κύριος εις την περίφημον αρχιερατικήν προσευχήν προ του Πάθους Του από τον Πατέρα διά τους πιστούς: *Τήρησον αυτούς εν τω ονόματί σου ίνα ώσιν έν καθώς ημείς* (Ιωαν. 17,11),... *ίνα πάντες έν ώσιν, καθώς συ Πάτερ εν εμοί καγώ εν σοί ίνα και αυτοί εν ημίν έν ώσιν ίνα ο*

κόσμος πιστεύει ότι συ με απέστειλας (Ιωαν. 17,21). Και ο Απόστολος Παύλος, παρεκάλεσεν εντόνως τους πιστούς να ζούν *ανεχόμενοι αλλήλων εν αγάπη, σπουδάζοντες τηρείν την ενότητα του Πνεύματος εν των συνδέσμω της ειρήνης*. Διατί; Διότι είμεθα *έν σώμα και έν Πνεύμα καθώς και εκλήθημεν εν μια ελπίδι της κλήσεως ημών' είς Κύριος, μια πίστις, έν βάπτισμα' είς Θεός και Πατήρ πάντων και διά πάντων και εν πάσιν ημίν* (Γρος Εφεσίους 4,1-6).

Αυτήν ακριβώς την επιτακτικήν ανάγκην της ενότητος και της μεταξύ μας ειρήνης αισθανόμεθα χρέος να τονίσωμεν. Χωρίς φόβον και δειλίαν, καλούμεθα αδελφοί μου, να παραμερίσωμεν οιαδήποτε διαφοράν, παρεξήγησιν ή σύγκρουσιν που ενδέχεται να δημιουργούν αποστάσεις μεταξύ μας. Αποστάσεις που κλονίζουν την ενότητα και φυγαδεύουν την ειρήνην του Θεού. Τίποτε δεν πρέπει να θέτει εις κίνδυνον το θείον δώρον της ενότητος και αρμονίας της ομοψυχίας και της κοινοτικής μας ειρήνης. Ως λαός και ως Εκκλησία έχομεν όλες τας προϋποθέσεις διά να οικοδομήσωμεν εις το μέγιστον δυνατόν μιαν ενότητα δυναμικήν και ακλόνητον, διά να είμεθα και να μείνωμεν έν σώμα, έν πνεύμα, μια ψυχή, μια θέλησις. Εις την περίπτωσίν μας η συνέχισις της προσπάθειας διά την ενότητα και την ειρήνην είναι το θαυμάσιον έργον εις το οποίον μας καλεί σήμερα ο Θεός. Μας καλεί εν όψει των μεγάλων στόχων που διανοίγονται ενώπιόν μας. Το έγγυς και το απώτερον είναι ο μεγάλος προορισμός μας και το μέλλον οικοδομείται επί της ενότητος μας.

Μιάς ενότητος και αρμονίας, η οποία πρέπει να καλλιεργηθεί εις πολλά επίπεδα και διαφόρους μορφάς εντός της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής και της Ομογενείας γενικότερον. Πρέπει να καλλιεργηθεί ως ενότης και αμοιβαία κατανόησις και συνεργασία μεταξύ των γενεών, δηλαδή μεταξύ των νέων, των ωρίμων και των ηλικιωμένων. Πρέπει να καλλιεργηθεί ως ενότης και αρμονική συνεργασία μεταξύ κλήρου και λαού. Πρέπει να καλλιεργηθεί ως ενότης μεταξύ των νεοφερμένων Ελληνοαμερικανών μεταναστών και των Ελληνοαμερικανών της τρίτης ή και της τέταρτης γενεάς. Πρέπει να καλλιεργηθεί ως ενότης και δεσμός αδιάσπαστος και δημιουργικός μεταξύ του λαού της Ομογενείας και του λαού της Μητρός Ελλάδος.

Η πολυδιάστατος αυτή ενότης δεν εξαντλείται εις το πλήρωμα της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής μας, αλλά στηρίζεται και διασφαλίζεται οργανικά ως ενότης αδιάσπαστος και ζωογόνος με την Μητέρα Εκκλησίαν, το Οικουμενικόν μας Πατριαρχείον. Ως ενότης, η οποία διά του Οικουμενικού μας Πατριαρχείου επεκτείνεται και εις τον ευρύτερον κύκλον των εδώ Ορθοδόξων Εκκλησιών διά να εναγκαλισθεί τελικώς όλον τον κόσμον.

Όλοι μαζί, υπό την πνοή και δύναμιν του Θεού, καλούμεθα σήμερα να συνεχίσωμεν την δημιουργικήν πορείαν μας. Να την συνεχίσωμεν εις τας φωτεινάς λεωφόρους εις τας οποίας μας οδήγηι η αγάπη και η σοφία του Θεού. Πρόκειται διά μιαν πορείαν δυναμικής πίστεως, απεριορίστου αγάπης και ακλονήτου ενότητος, η οποία εις κάθε βήμα θα μας κάνει να επαναλαμβάνωμεν τον εξαίσιον ύμνον της Αποκαλύψεως με τον οποίον αρχίσαμεν: *Η ευλογία και η δόξα και η σοφία και η ευχαριστία και η τιμή και η δύναμις και η ισχύς τω Θεώ ημών εις τους αιώνας των αιώνων. Αμήν*.

Ή Άξιος! Ή Άξιος! Ή Άξιος!

► σελ. 15

Δημοκρατίας κ. Γλαύκο Κληρίδη, τον Υφυπουργό Εξωτερικών της Ελλάδος κ. Γρηγόρη Νιώτη και πολλούς άλλους επισήμους, εκπροσώπους του θρησκευτικού, πολιτικού, διπλωματικού, ακαδημαϊκού και επιχειρηματικού κόσμου της Ελλάδος, της Κύπρου και της Αμερικής. Την Εκκλησία της Ελλάδος και τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αθηνών και Πάσης Ελλάδος εκπροσώπησε ο Σεβ. Μητροπολίτης Σερρών και Νιγρίτας κ. Μάξιμος.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος ανήλθε στον θρόνο του και άρχισε η ιερά ακολουθία της ενθρονίσεως.

Το Πατριαρχικό και Συνοδικό Γράμμα που επίσημα ανήγγειλε την εκλογή του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου διάβασαν ο Θεοφ. Επίσκοπος Νέας Ιερσέης κ. Γεώργιος στα ελληνικά και ο Ιερατικώς προϊστάμενος του Καθεδρικού Ναού της Αγίας Τριάδος π. Χαρόλαμπος Στεφανόπουλος στα αγγλικά.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ιάκωβος

Στην παραινετική του προσφώνηση (βλ. πλήρες κείμενο σελ. 18), ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ιάκωβος τόνισε ότι ο νέος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος θα έχει στην ανάληψη και εκτέλεση των ποιμαντορικών του καθηκόντων πρώτιστα τη στήριξη του Θεού αλλά και την στήριξη του «υπερέχοντος μεταξύ της Ιεραρχίας» του Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχη κ. Βαρθολομαίου. Σε άλλο σημείο της ομιλίας του και με εμφανή συγκίνηση στη φωνή του, ο σεβάσμιος Ιεράρχης είπε: «Η νύχτα έφτασε στο τέλος της. Το σκοτάδι ανήκει στη νύχτα... (σήμερα είναι) Ημέρα αφυπνίσεως από τους οιουσιδήποτε μακρούς ύπνους ή εφιάλτες. Ημέρα, που την προεμήνυε από καιρόν «της αυγής το δροσάτο αστέρι».

Και αναφερόμενος στο πρόσωπο και τα χαρίσματα του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου τόνισε: «Η προοπτική της Αρχιεπισκοπικής σας διακονίας είναι καθαρότατη, η σκέψις σας διαυγεστάτη, η διάνοιά σας σπινθηροβόλουσα, ο νους σας άνευ οιουδήποτε γνόφου, η συνειδήσις σας πλέον η ευαίσθητος, η αφοσίωσίς σας εις τον Κύριον, την Εκκλησίαν του και τον λαόν Του πλήρης και εγνωσμένη...».

Ενθρονιστήριο Λόγος

Ο Σεβ. Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος στον ενθρονιστήριο λόγο του (βλ. πλήρες κείμενο σελ. 15) στάθηκε σε τρία βασικά σημεία.

Πρώτο, την ενίσχυση και καλλιέργεια της Ορθόδοξης Πίστης μας σαν βασική προτεραιότητα. Μια πίστη και παράδοση είκοσι αιώνων, όπως είπε, που μας καλεί να γίνουμε απολογητές της, «να είμεθα συνειδητοί, αληθινοί, δυναμικοί και φωτισμένοι πιστοί...»

Το έργο αυτό της αναζωογόνησης και ανάπτυξης της Ορθόδοξης πίστης, που όπως είπε ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος διαφυλάττει διά μέσου των αιώνων «ως κόρη οφθαλμού» το Οικουμενικό μας Πατριαρχείο, μπορεί να επιτευχθεί μέσα από μια νέα φωτισμένη πνοή και κατεύθυνση στα εκπαιδευτικά μας ιδρύματα, το Ελληνικό Κολέγιο, τη Θεολογική Σχολή του Τιμίου Σταυρού αλλά και στις Επισκοπές και τις κοινότητες.

Η αγάπη, η Χριστιανική Αγάπη, η στοργή και η φροντίδα για τον άνθρωπο ήταν το δεύτερο βασικό σημείο που τόνισε ο Σεβασμιότατος. Μίλησε με εμπνευσμένα λόγια για την αγάπη χωρίς μέτρο και χωρίς όρια για υπέρβαση του εαυτού μας χωρίς των άλλων και την ανάγκη μεγιστοποίησης αυτής της αγάπης για τον συνάνθρωπο ώστε να καταστεί «στάση ζωής» κι όχι απλά μια έννοια ρηχής κι από συνθήματα υλικής και μόνο φιλανθρωπίας. «Εδώ υπάρχει η λαμπρά ευκαιρία, η



Δημ. Πανάγος

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ιάκωβος παραδίδει την αρχιεπισκοπική ράβδο στον νέο Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριο λίγο πριν το τέλος της ακολουθίας της ενθρονίσεως.

Ελληνική Ορθόδοξος Εκκλησία της Αμερικής, να είναι με την ευλογίαν του Θεού της αγάπης, μια Εκκλησία πρότυπον προσφοράς αγάπης εις τον άνθρωπον. Μια Εκκλησία, η οποία αγκαλιάζει κάθε ανθρώπινον πλάσμα, η οποία προσφέρει επί συνεχούς βάσεως στοργήν, φροντίδα και τρυφερότητα εις ένα κόσμον που βασανίζεται από την σκληρότητα, την βίαν, την αποξένωσιν και τον εγωκεντρισμόν», τόνισε ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος εκφράζοντας τον οραματισμό του για τον αληθινό ρόλο που μπορεί να παίξει η Εκκλησία μας στη σημερινή κοινωνία.

Άμεση προτεραιότητα χαρακτήρισε επίσης το τρίτο σημείο της ομιλίας του. Την ενότητα, την ομοψυχία και την αρμονία. Μια ενότητα που πρέπει να καλλιεργηθεί μεταξύ όλων των στρωμάτων που αποτελούν το πλήρωμα της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής. Μεταξύ των γενεών και των ηλικιών, μεταξύ κλήρου και λαού, μεταξύ των νεοφερμένων μεταναστών και Ελληνοαμερικανών της τρίτης και τέταρτης γενεάς, μεταξύ της Ομογένειας και της Ελλάδος, μεταξύ της Αρχιεπισκοπής και της Μητέρας Εκκλησίας, του Οικουμενικού μας Πατριαρχείου.

Άξιος!

Άξιος! Αναφώνησε το εκκλησίασμα καθώς ο Σεβ. Αρχιεπίσκοπος Γέρων πρώην Β. και Ν. Αμερικής ενεχείρισε την αρχιεπισκοπική ράβδο στον νέο Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριο εγκαθιδρύοντάς τον ως Προεστό και Προεδρεύοντα Επίσκοπο της Ελληνορθοδόξου Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής, ενώ ο Χορός έψαλλε το Πολυχρόνιον του Αρχιεπισκόπου:

«Πολυχρόνιον ποιήσαι Κύριος ο Θεός τον Σεβασμιώτατον και Θεοπρόβλητον Αρχιεπίσκοπον ημών Κύριον Δημήτριον. Κύριε φύλαττε αυτόν, εις πολλά έτη, εις πολλά έτη, εις πολλά έτη».

Το επίσημο γεύμα

«Ποταμό αγάπης» χαρακτήρισε ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος τις εκδηλώσεις στήριξης και αγάπης προς το πρόσωπο του από τους παρευρισκόμενους συνδαιτυμόνες του στο επίσημο γεύμα, που ξεπέρασαν τα 1.600 άτομα και που πραγματοποιήθηκε στο ξενοδοχείο Γουόλντορφ Αστόρια το απόγευμα του Σαββάτου της ενθρονίσεως.

Μια σειρά ομιλητών εξέφρασαν τις ευχές τους και τα συγχαρητήριά τους στον Σεβασμιότατο. Μεταξύ τους η

πρώτη κυρία των Ηνωμένων Πολιτειών κυρία Χίλαρι Ρόνταμ Κλίντον.

Η κυρία Κλίντον είπε ότι η ευκαιρία που της δόθηκε να παρευρίσκεται στην ενθρόνιση του Αρχιεπισκόπου αποτελεί ιδιαίτερη τιμή για αυτήν και χαρακτήρισε την ημέρα εκείνη «ως ιδιαίτερα σημαντικό γεγονός για ολόκληρη τη χώρα... Το μήνυμά σας της ακλόνητης αγάπης, της πίστης και ενότητας δεν το έχει μόνο ανάγκη η Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία αλλά η χώρα ολόκληρη και ο κόσμος όλος», είπε η κυρία Κλίντον και συνέχισε: «Εκ μέρους του Προέδρου και εμού σας ευχόμαστε κάθε επιτυχία αλλά και σας ζητούμε το μήνυμά και η αποστολή σας να αντηχήσουν σε πολύ πιο ευρύ ορίζοντα και εκτός των ορίων της Ορθόδοξης κοινότητας, ώστε να βοηθήσουν τη χώρα μας και την κοινωνία μας δίνοντας την αίσθηση ενός ελπιδοφόρου μέλλοντος και στον επόμενο αιώνα στη νέα χιλιετήριδα...»

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος ανταποκρινόμενος στα γεμάτα ειλικρίνεια λόγια της κυρίας Κλίντον την ευχαρίστησε και της μετέφερε δημοσίως τους χαιρετισμούς και τις ευχαριστίες του Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχη Βαρθολομαίου για την θερμή υποδοχή που του επεφύλαχτη στον Λευκό Οίκο κατά την επίσκεψή του το 1997.

Όταν σηκώθηκε ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ιάκωβος στο βήμα, να απευθύνει σύντομο μήνυμα, το ακροατήριο όρθιο ξέσπασε σε ένα παρατεταμένο χειροκρότημα αναγνωρίζοντάς του έτσι την πολυετή διακονία του. Ο Σεβασμιότατος πρώην Αμερικής είπε:

«Το πρόγευμα αυτό, που παρατίθεται προς τιμήν σας από τους ομογενείς πιστούς οπαδούς της Εκκλησίας μας και αληθινούς θαυμαστές της πνευματικής σας μορφής και φυσιογνωμίας και εις το οποίο παρακάθηνται επίσημοι εκκλησιαστικοί και πολιτικοί ηγέτες είναι κάτι, που ανταποκρίνεται στη βαθεία μας επιθυμία να γευθούμε μια μέρα όχι πολύ μακριά τους καρπούς της ποιμαντικής σας διακονίας.

Δοξολογούμε τον Θεό για τη σοφή και σωστή επιλογή, που έκαμε ο Πατριάρχης μας κ. Βαρθολομαίος και η περί αυτόν Αγία και Ιερά Σύνοδος να αναθέσουν στη Σεβασμιότητά σας την διαποίμανση και ενοποίηση των πνευματικών σας τέκνων των Ηνωμένων Πολιτειών, που σαν έργο μιας Εκκλησίας, που έχει τις ρίζες της στον πρώτο αιώνα παρακάθηνται γύρω από την Τράπεζα αυτή αγάπης αναμένοντας με κάποια ανυπομονησία

την ημέρα, που θα μας λούσει με τις χρυσές ακτίνες του ο Ήλιος της Δικαιοσύνης. Αυτάς, που θα σκορπίσει τα σύννεφα, θα διαλύσει τα σκότη και θα χρυσώσει με τις ακτίνες του κάθε ημέρα από σήμερα φέροντας εμπρός σας τις προσευχές, τις ελπίδες και τις προσδοκίες του λαού σας. Όλοι εμείς, που μετέχουμε ενεργά και με την ψυχή μας στο πρόγευμα τούτο δεν θα παύσουμε να προγευώμεθα της χαράς και άλλων μεγάλων συνάξεων, που θα ίστασθε και θα προίστασθε, όπως είσθε «πράος και ταπεινός τη καρδιά».

Ο Σεβασμιότατος Μητροπολίτης Κρήνης και πρόεδρος της Επισκοπής Σικάγου κ. Ιάκωβος εκ μέρους των μελών της Ιεράς Πατριαρχικής Συνόδου απηύθυνε χαιρετισμό στον νέο Αρχιεπίσκοπο καλωσορίζοντάς τον και ευχαριστώντας τον Πανάγαθο Θεό που διά της Θείας Προνοίας «ανταποκρίθηκε στις ιδιαίτερες ανάγκες της Ελληνορθοδόξου Εκκλησίας στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες».

«Σας καλωσορίζουμε Σεβασμιότατε, με αγάπη πιο πολύ κι ελπίδα πιο πολύ από αυτή που μπορούν να εκφράσουν οι λέξεις», είπε ο Μητροπολίτης Κρήνης κ. Ιάκωβος.

Ο Σεβ. Μητροπολίτης Σεβαστείας κ. Δημήτριος, διευθυντής του ιδιαίτερου Πατριαρχικού Γραφείου του Παναγιωτάτου αν και είπε ότι τα αισθήματα του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου τα εξέφρασε «με τρόπο γλαφυρό και όπως πάντα εξαίρετο, ο πολυσεβάστος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ιάκωβος» και αφού διαβίβασε και ο ίδιος τα «πλέον ειλικρινή συγχαρητήρια της Α.Θ. Παναγιότητος του Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχου μας κ. Βαρθολομαίου και της Αγίας και Ιεράς Συνόδου», χαρακτήρισε τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο «καλλιεργημένο ψυχικά, πλούσιο εσωτερικά, ο οποίος καλείται κατά τους πνευματικά και μεταφυσικά ξηρούς αυτούς καιρούς να οδηγήσει ένα λαό στην πραγματική χαρά –την όντως χαρά– την κατά Χριστόν, και δι αυτής στην σωτηρία».

Ο Σεβ. Μητροπολίτης Σερρών και Νιγρίτας, που αντιπροσώπευε την Εκκλησία της Ελλάδος και τον Μακαριότατο Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αθηνών και Πάσης Ελλάδος κ. Χριστόδουλο, αφού μετέφερε τις ευχές και τα συγχαρητήρια του κ. Χριστόδουλου και σύσσωμης της Ελλαδικής Εκκλησίας τόνισε μεταξύ άλλων:

«Η Εκκλησία της Ελλάδος χαίρει και συγχαίρει επί τω γεγονότι της πανηγυρικής εκλογής και ενθρονίσεως σας και καυχάται δι υμάς. Καυχάται διότι προσέφερεν εις την Μεγάλην του Χριστού Εκκλησίαν και εις την εκλεκτή Ομογένεια της Αμερικής Αρχιερέα πρώτου πνευματικού αναστήματος, άγιον και πεφωτισμένον, ποιμένα καλόν και άγιον, ο οποίος έδωκεν και θα δώσει εν έργοις την μαρτυρίαν του Χριστού σθεναρώς και εν παντί, ως επιδέξιος εκκλησιαστικός ηγέτης και οικιοστροφός».

Ο πρόεδρος του Αρχιεπισκοπικού Συμβουλίου της Ι. Αρχιεπισκοπής κ. Τζον Κατσιματίδης αφού ευχαρίστησε όλους τους επίσημους παρευρισκόμενους, τόνισε ότι «τώρα είναι η ώρα για συναδέλφωση... ώρα να αναγκαλισθούμε ο ένας τον άλλο με την αγάπη του Χριστού... και να ατενίσουμε με ελπίδα το μέλλον».

Χαιρετισμούς και συγχαρητήρια απηύθυναν επίσης, ο πρόεδρος της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας κ. Γλαύκος Κληρίδης, ο Υφυπουργός Εξωτερικών της Ελλάδος κ. Γρηγόρης Νιώτης, ο πρέσβης της Ελλάδος στις Η.Π.Α κ. Αλέξανδρος Φίλων, η πρόεδρος του Εθνικού Συμβουλίου Εκκλησιών Δρ. Τζόαν Κάμπελ, ο ρωμαιοκαθολικός Αρχιεπίσκοπος Βαλτιμόρης Καρδινάλιος Γουίλιαμ Κέλερ, ο Ελληνοαμερικανός γερουσιαστής κ. Πολ Σαρμπάνης και ο γερουσιαστής κ. Τσαρλς Σούμερ.

ΠΑΡΑΙΝΕΤΙΚΟΣ ΛΟΓΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΙΑΚΩΒΟΥ

ΚΑΤΑ ΤΗΝ ΕΝΘΡΟΝΙΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ κ. ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ

«Σύ ἔση ἐπὶ τῷ οἴκῳ μου καὶ ἐπὶ τῷ στόματί σου ὑπακούσεται
πᾶς ὁ λαός μου. Πλήν τόν Θρόνον ὑπερέξω σου ἐγώ.» (Γεν. 51, 40)

Αυτή η ρήσις είναι βιβλική. Ανήκει εις κοσμικόν ἄρχοντα, ο οποίος ομιλοῦσε προς κάποιον, που θα εχρίετο διάδοχός του. Ἐχει ὁμως πολλήν ομοιότητα και επικαιρότητα. Διά τούτο και την χρησιμοποιώ σεσιγημένως εκ μέρους της Αυτοῦ Θειοτάτης Παναγιότητος του Οικουμενικοῦ Πατριάρχου κ.κ. Βαρθολομαίου του Α', παρά του οποίου και ἐδέχθην την σεπτήν ἐντολήν να σας ἐνθρονίσω ως Αρχιεπίσκοπον της Ιεράς ταύτης Αρχιεπισκοπῆς και Ἐξάρχον των Ορθοδόξων Χριστιανῶν των βιούντων εις τας μεγάλας θαλάσσας, τους ὠκεανούς Ατλαντικόν και Ειρηνικόν.

Ο οἶκος ἐπὶ τον οποίον θα εἰσθε Ἐπόπτης και Δεσπότης εἶναι η Αρχιεπισκοπή. Μία Αρχιεπισκοπή, που σας ἀνέμενε διά να σας εἴπη, ὅτι εἶναι ἰδική σας. Κανενός ἄλλου. Και εἶναι μία. Συντεταγμένη, ἀδιαίρετος, ἀδιάσπαστος, ἠνωμένη με τον Χριστόν, που δεν διαφεντεύεται ἀπό κανέναν ἄλλον.

Επὶ τω στόματί σας ὑπακούσεται πᾶς ο λαός, πρό παντός, εἰάν εκ του στόματός σας ἐξέρχεται ἡ ἀλήθεια, λέγεται ἐν αὐτῇ ἐν ἀγάπῃ. «Αὐξήσωμεν εις αὐτόν τα πάντα, ὅς ἐστιν ἡ κεφαλή, ὁ Χριστός, ἐξ' οὐ πᾶν το σῶμα συναρμολογούμενον και συμβιβαζόμενον διά πάσης ἀφῆς της ἐπιχορηγίας του Ἁγίου Πνεύματος.» (Εφ. 4. 15-16).

Πλήν τον θρόνον ὑπερέξω σου ἐγώ. Τον θρόνον σας θα στηρίξῃ ὁ ὑπερέχων, ὁ ἔχων θρόνον τον οὐρανόν και ὑποπόδιον την γῆν, εις την ἰδιαιτέραν δε περίπτωσίν σας θα τον στηρίξῃ ὁ ὑπερέχων μεταξύ της ἱεραρχίας της καθ' ἡμᾶς Ἐκκλησίας ὁ Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης ἡμῶν κ.κ. Βαρθολομαίος.

Στήθι το λοιπόν, ἀδελφε ἠγαπημένε, και ἐπὶ τον θρόνον της καρδιάς ἡμῶν, των κυκλούντων σας σήμερον και ἐντεινε και κατευωδού και βασιλευε ἐνεκεν πραότητος και δικαιοσύνης.

Ἀρατε κύκλω τα ὄμματά σας και ἴδετε. Ἰδοὺ γαρ ἤκασί σοι τα πνευματικά σας τέκνα εκ βορρᾶ και θαλάσσης, και ἐξ ἐώας και δυσμῶν, διά να ἴδουν την νέαν ἡμέραν, της ὁποίας αι πρώται ἀκτίνες φωτίζουν το πρόσωπόν σας και κατ' ἐπέκτασιν το πρόσωπον ὅλων ἡμῶν.

Ακούομεν της προσαγῆς του Κυρίου λέγοντος: Ἔως το φῶς ἔχετε πορεύεσθε, ἵνα υἱοὶ φωτός γένησθε. Ἡ νύξ προέκοψε. Το σκότος ἀνῆκει εις την νύκτα. Και ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας λαμπροφορούσα ψάλλει: «Αὕτη ἡ ἡμέρα, ἣν ἐποίησεν ὁ Κύριος». Και ἡμεῖς γαληνιώμεν και ευφραινόμεθα και ἐμφαιδρυνόμεθα ἐν αὐτῇ.

Ἡ δε ἀθάνατος φωνή των προγόνων μας διά στόματος του ἀρχαίου ποιητοῦ Πινδάρου μας δίδει το πρόσταγμα: «Ἀρχομένου δὴ ἔργου χρή πρόσωπον θέμεν τηλαυγές». Νέον Ἐκκλησιαστικόν ἔτος, νέα σχολική και ἀκαδημαϊκή ἡμέρα. Ἡμέρα ἀφυπνήσεως ἀπὸ τους οἰουσιδήποτε μακροῦς ὕπνου ἢ ἐφιάλτας. Ἡμέρα, που την προεμήνυε ἀπὸ καιρόν «της αὐγῆς το δροσάτο ἀστέρι».

«Ἀρχομένου δὴ ἔργου χρή πρόσωπον θέμεν τηλαυγές». Ἡ προοπτική της Αρχιεπισκοπικῆς σας διακονίας εἶναι καθαροτάτη, ἡ σκέψις σας διαυγεστάτη, ἡ διάνοιά σας σπινθηροβόλουσα, ὁ νοῦς σας ἀνευ οἰουδήποτε γνόφου, ἡ συνειδησίς σας ἡ πλέον ευαίσθητος, ἡ ἀφοσίωσίς σας εις τον Κύριον, την Ἐκκλησίαν Του και τον λαόν Του πλήρης και ἐγνωσμένη. Χρησιμοποίησατε ὅλας αὐτάς τας ἰδιότητες και ἀρετάς σας με ευθυκρισίαν, και ὑποδυσάμενος τους πόδας σας διά του ευαγγελίου της εἰρήνης οδεύσατε ἐπὶ το καθήκον.

Ποιμάνετε την ποίμνην σας ως καλὸς ποιμήν, ἐτοιμῶς ἔχων να θυσιάσετε και την ζωὴν σας ὑπὲρ των προβάτων. Στηριχθῆτε ἐπὶ την ράβδον ταύτην, στηρίζων δι' αὐτῆς και στηριζόμενος ὑπ' αὐτῆς εις τον ἀνάντη δρόμον της ἀνευρέσεως και διασώσεως του ἀπολωλὸτος προβάτου. Στηριχθῆτε ἐπ' αὐτῆς. Ἐκτείνετε τας σοῖας χεῖρας σας. Δεηθῆτε ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν και εὐλογῆσατε τον περιστώτα λαόν σας, ὁ οποίος ἀναμένει τον λόγον σας, λόγον θεόπνευστον και λόγον ευθύτητος. Εἴπατε «εἰρήνη ἐπὶ τον Ἰσραὴλ και σωτήριον ἔθνεσι». Και ἀποκριθῆσεται πᾶς ο λαός γένοιτο, γένοιτο!

ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟ...



Νικ. Μαγγίνας

«Σας υποδέχομαι ως ἀγγέλους εἰρήνης», εἶπε ὁ Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαῖος υποδεχόμενος τους Ἕλληνες διπλωμάτες που συμμετείχαν στα μέσα του Σεπτεμβρίου στην δεύτερη φάση του ἐλληνοτουρκικοῦ διαλόγου που συνεχίσθηκε στην Ἀγκυρα.

Επικεφαλῆς της ἐλληνικῆς ἀντιπροσωπείας για τον διάλογο που ἀρχισε τον περασμένο Ἰούλιο, ἦταν οὖι πρέσβεις Κωνσταντίνος Γεροκωστόπουλος και Ἀναστάσιος Σκοπελίτης.

Οὖι Ἕλληνες διπλωμάτες πριν την μετάβαση τους στην Ἀγκυρα ἐγίναν δεκτοὶ στο Φανάρι ἀπὸ τον Πατριάρχη Βαρθολομαῖο, ὁ οποίος εἶχε την ευκαιρία να τους τονίσει την μεγάλη σημασία που ἀποδίδει στην ἀποκατάσταση φιλικῶν σχέσεων ἀνάμεσα στην Ελλάδα και την Τουρκία.

Ὁ Πατριάρχης μιλώντας προς τους διπλωμάτες τόνισε με ἐμφαση: «Εὐχομαι αὐτό το κλίμα φιλίας που δημιουργήθηκε να μην εἶναι οὔτε προσωρινό οὔτε φαινομενικό. Ἐμεῖς εἴμαστε ὑπὲρ της εἰρήνης, ἐμεῖς και ἡ Ομογένεια εἴμαστε τα θύματα αὐτῆς της διένεξης των δύο γειτονικῶν χωρῶν». Στη συνέχεια συνεχάρη τον Ἕλληνα Πρωθυπουργό Κ. Σιμίτη και τον Ὑπουργό Ἐξωτερικῶν Γ. Παπανδρέου για τις προσπάθειες που κάνουν για εἰρηνική συνύπαρξη των δύο χωρῶν.

N.M.



Δημ. Πανάγος

(ἀριστερά) Ὁ πρέδρος της Κυπριακῆς Δημοκρατίας κ. Γλαῦκος Κληρίδης ἐπισκέφθηκε τον Σεβασμιότατο στη ἑδρα της Ἰ. Αρχιεπισκοπῆς και τον ἐνημέρωσε για την ἐξέλιξη του Κυπριακοῦ προβλήματος.

(κάτω) Στελέχη της Ἑλληνικῆς κυβέρνησης συμμετείχαν στην πρώτη μετά την ἐνθρόνισή, Θεία Λειτουργία του Σεβ. Αρχιεπισκόπου Αμερικῆς κ. Δημητρίου. Στην πρώτη σειρά ἀπὸ ἀριστερά διακρίνονται ὁ ὑπουργός Ἐξωτερικῶν Γιώργος Παπανδρέου, ὁ ὑφυπουργός Γρηγόρης Νιώτης, ὁ βουλευτής και πρέδρος της ἐπιτροπῆς της βουλῆς για την Ὁρθοδοξία Στέλιος Παπαθεμελῆς, ὁ πρέδρος της ἐπιτροπῆς της βουλῆς για τον Ἀπόδημο Ἑλληνισμό Δημήτρης Παντερμαλῆς και ὁ Δ' ἀντιπρέδρος της βουλῆς Νικόλαος Κατσαρός.

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Η 28η Οκτωβρίου 1940 και η Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία

του καθ. Γεωργίου Μπεμπή

Μια από τις πλέον ηρωικότερες στιγμές στην Ιστορία της σύγχρονης Ελλάδας, υπήρξε ασφαλώς και η 28η Οκτωβρίου 1940, όταν ολόκληρος ο Ελληνικός λαός με μια ψυχή και με μια καρδιά ανεφώνησε το περίφημο «ΟΧΙ» στους ιταμούς και θρασεείς επιδρομείς, που ζητούσαν την παράδοση του ιερού Ελληνικού εδάφους. Και είπαν το ένδοξο «ΟΧΙ» σύσσωμος ο Ελληνικός λαός στην άδοξη και άτολη βία, προσπαθώντας τα όσια και ιερά της πίστης και της πατρίδας, τα αναφαίρετα δικαιώματα της ελευθερίας, της θρησκείας και της προσωπικής και εθνικής αξιοπρέπειας.

Έτσι ο Ελληνοϊταλικός πόλεμος τον Οκτώβριο του 1940, αλλά και ο Ελληνο-γερμανικός πόλεμος τον Απρίλιο του 1941 πήρε και έλαβε, από την αρχή θρησκευτικό χρώμα, θα έλεγε κανείς, θεολογική έννοια, θεολογικό περιεχόμενο και σκοπό. Η ιαχή των Ελλήνων στρατιωτών στα άγονα βουνά της Βορείου Ηπείρου και της Αλβανίας, ότι «Η Παναγιά είναι μαζί μας» εξέφρασε την ακράδαντη πίστη όλων των Ελλήνων και μέσα στην Ελλάδα, αλλά και απανταχού της γης, ότι οι αλαζόνες επιδρομείς έθιγαν την θρησκευτική και ηθική υπόταση του Ελληνικού έθνους.

Υπάρχουν ήδη αρκετά συγγράμματα, τα οποία με ακρίβεια και συγκίνηση περιγράφουν την αγία αυτό-προσφορά των Ελλήνων κατά τον πόλεμο του 1940, αλλά και για την σκληρή και στυγνή τριεθνή κατοχή, των Ιταλών, των Γερμανών και των Βουλγάρων. Αναφέρω εδώ, το εξαιρετικό βιβλίο του Κων. Βοβολίνη με τίτλο «Η Εκκλησία εις τον αγώνα της ελευθερίας 1453-1953». Δεύτερο, το θαυμάσιο σύγγραμμα του Ι. Χατζηφώτη με τον τίτλο «Η Εκκλησία στον αγώνα του Σαραντα» και τρίτο, το χρησιμότερο του Γ. Διονυσίου, «Μάρτυρες της κατοχής». Και τα τρία αυτά συγγράμματα περιγράφουν την ηρωική αντίσταση του Ελληνικού λαού εναντίον των μηχανοκίνητων εισβολέων, αλλά και την πανεθνική αντίδραση και απερίγραπτη αποφασιστικότητά του, κατά το διάστημα της ξενικής κατοχής του 1940-1944.

Εκείνο το οποίο τονίζουν οι ως άνω συγγραφείς και πολλοί άλλοι, είναι η απόλυτο, γενναία και ευλογημένη συμμετοχή και προσφορά και θυσία της Ελληνικής Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας στον αγώνα του Έθνους.

Το φωτεινό παράδειγμα έδωσαν δύο δυναμικοί, ζηλωτοί και εμπνευσμένοι Ιεράρχες, ο μακαριστός Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αθηνών και πάσης Ελλάδος Χρυσάνθος Φιλιππίδης και ο επίσης μακαριστός Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αθηνών και πάσης Ελλάδος Δαμασκηνός Παπανδρέου. Είναι γνωστό ότι ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Χρυσάνθος, μετά την κήρυξη του πολέμου, στάθηκε στο πλευρό του Ελληνικού λαού και του στρατού ενισχύοντάς τους με κάθε πνευματικό και υλικό μέσο. Είναι αξιόπαινο το έργο του για την οργάνωση «Προνοίας των Στρατευομένων». Κανείς δεν θα λησμονήσει την ανδρεία στάση του όταν οι Γερμανοί εισήλθαν στην Αθήνα. Αρνήθηκε να συμμετάσχει στην παράδοση της πόλης των Αθηνών στους Γερμανούς και αρνήθηκε να ορκίσει την κατοχική Κυβέρνηση Λογοθετόπουλου. Στον επισκεφθέντα στρατηγό της Γερμανικής στρατιάς ζήτησε ευθαρσώς, να μη θίξει «την φιλοτιμία του Ελληνικού λαού».

Εκείνος, ασφαλώς, ο οποίος μόχθησε, κυριολεκτικά για τον Ελληνικό λαό ήταν ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δαμασκηνός. Υψηλός στο σώμα, αλλά και στην ψυχή κατέστη ο πανάξιος υπερασπιστής του Ελληνικού λαού και μάλιστα των παιδιών της Ελλάδας, όλης της Ελλάδας. Όταν εκατοντάδες πέθαιναν από τη πείνα, την αστία και την ασθένεια στους παγωμένους δρόμους των Αθηνών, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δαμασκηνός

όρθωσε το ανάστημά του στους κατακτητές, αλλά και προς τους συμμάχους για την σωτηρία του ηρωικού λαού της Ελλάδας.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δαμασκηνός ίδρυσε την περίφημη Ε.Ο.Χ.Α. (Ελληνικός Οργανισμός Χριστιανικής Αλληλεγγύης) και με την παροχή τροφής στα εκκλησιαστικά και ενοριακά συσσίτια διέσωσε τον Ελληνικό λαό από βέβαιο αφανισμό. Από τον Καθεδρικό Ναό των Αθηνών ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δαμασκηνός επανειλημμένα δεν φοβήθηκε ούτε δέλιασε να καυτηριάσει επανειλημμένα την απάνθρωπη συμπεριφορά του Γερμανικού στρατού κατοχής να υπερασπισθεί με θάρρος ενώπιον του Γερμανού πληρεξουσίου Άλτεμπουργκ, τα πανανθρώπινα δικαιώματα του Ελληνικού λαού και να καταδικάσει τον απηνή διωγμό των εν Ελλάδι Ισραηλιτών.

Δεν υπάρχει, δυστυχώς ο χώρος, για να αναφερθούμε στον ηρωικούς αγώνες αγίων επισκόπων και ταπεινών ιερέων και ιεροδιακόνων και μοναχών, που υπέστησαν εξευτελισμούς, βασανιστήρια και τον ίδιο τον θάνατο, υπερασπίζοντας την ελευθερία και αξιοπρέπεια του Ελληνικού λαού.

Τα συγγράμματα, που αναφέρθηκαν παραπάνω είναι γεμάτα από ηρωικούς κληρικούς που έδωσαν τα πάντα προς «Δόξα Θεού» και για τη τιμή της Πατρίδας. Αλλά εκείνο που παραμένει, πράγματι αλησμόνητο και πραγματικά, συγκινητικό είναι η βαθειά θρησκευτική πίστη η οποία διακατείχε όλους τους Έλληνες της ηρωικής εκείνης ιστορικής περιόδου.

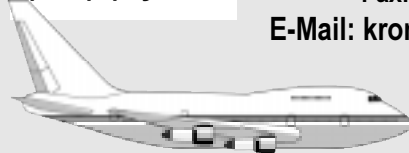
Μεγάλοι και μικροί πλημμύριζαν τους ναούς και προσεύχονταν για την ευδωχή του ιερού αγώνα και την νίκη. Οι αξιωματικοί και οι στρατιώτες εξομολογούνταν και κοινωνούσαν των Αχράντων Μυστηρίων και παντού επικρατούσε μια έντονη και κατανυκτική ατμόσφαιρα πηγαίας ευλάβειας. Η λαϊκή ψυχή με την περίφημη τραγουδίστρια Σοφία Βέμπο τραγουδούσε «...Παιδιά της Ελλάδος, παιδιά, που σκληρά πολεμάτε πάνω στα βουνά, παιδιά, στη γλυκιά Παναγιά προσευχόμαστε όλες να'ρθετε ξανά...» Και ο περίφημος αείμνηστος ποιητής Γ. Βερίτης εκφράζοντας την ολοκληρωτική και ακράδαντη πίστη όλων των Ελλήνων στην Παναγία μας, έγραφε: «...Ω χαίρε, χαίρε αθάνατη Παρθένα και Μητέρα. Μεσ' σ' του πολέμου την οργή και μεσ' στην καταγίδα σε σένα υψώνεται η ψυχή κι ο νους μας νύχτα-μέρα...»

Τα μοναστήρια είχαν καταστεί κέντρα τροφοδοσίας των πεινασμένων Ελλήνων και οι ευσεβείς χριστιανικές οικογένειες είχαν εγκαθιδρύσει το λεγόμενο «πιάτο της αγάπης» που πρόσφεραν αφιλοκερδώς στους φτωχούς της κάθε γειτονιάς. Τα κατηχητικά σχολεία, οι ενορίες, οι διάφορες εκκλησιαστικές οργανώσεις επετέλεσαν στο ακέραιο το καθήκον τους. Έτσι η μικρή, αλλά αθάνατη Ελλάδα δίδαξε ολόκληρο τον κόσμο και όλους τους λαούς, ότι η γνήσια αγάπη προς τον Θεό και την Πατρίδα συμβαδίζουν και συνυπάρχουν προς δόξα της εν Χριστώ ελευθερίας.

Ας τελειώσουμε με ένα απόσπασμα από ένα άρθρο το οποίο δημοσιεύθηκε στον «Ορθόδοξο Παρατηρητή» στις 15 Φεβρουαρίου 1941. Συγγραφέας του είναι ο αοιδίμος τότε πρεσβύτερος, αργότερα δε Επίσκοπος Ελαίας και Αρχιεπίσκοπος Θυατείρων Αθηνάγας Κοκκινάκης. «Η Ελλάς διδάσκει με το αίμα της. Τα έθνη και οι Λαοί συγκινούνται. Οι εκπρόσωποι ελευθέρων κρατών τους πλέκουν εγκώμια, τους ονομάζουν ήρωες. Η Εκκλησία μας τους συνοδεύει. Και αυτοί προχωρούν μαζί της. Η παρουσία της και η συμμετοχή της τους γιγαντώνει. Με επικεφαλής την Υπερμάχον Στατηγόν προελαύνουν και νικούν και τιμούν το Ελληνικό όνομα... Η Ελλάς διδάσκει...».

Ο κ. Γεώργιος Σ. Μπεμπής είναι καθηγητής Πατρολογίας, στην Θεολογική Σχολή του Τιμίου Σταυρού, της Ι. Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής.

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RETIREDCLERGY

My "Third Dad" - Bishop Cavadas

by Fr. Nicholas Vieron

Just imagine if the Three Wise Men were “Three Wise Women!” They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought practical gifts!

My life was filled - overflowing, I might add - with both - wise men and wise women. Their influence might not have successfully been imbued in me, but it was not because they didn’t try.

Let me tell you about the three wise men in my life. First, there was my papou. My grandfather - Paul Metaxas - was a simple person.

He was a man of books, of letters, of the daily newspaper which he read daily from front to back. He was not concerned with material things.

He was a peanut vender. When six o’clock in the evening came around, I would hear his familiar “cough” - clearing his throat - as he pulled his push car into our back yard from a day on a corner of Canal and Front streets in New Orleans.

I would get excited for I knew it meant that soon I would be hearing another story - stories that have stayed with me to this very day. It wasn’t just Bible stories - there were many of them - all Our Lord’s parables and most of His miracles - Old Testament stories, too, but also many Greek dramas and tragedies.

I loved the bloody story of an old man and a young man trying to cross the same narrow bridge at the same time. How the young man killed the older one, then went into town and married an older woman. When he finally realized that he had killed his father and married his mother, he gouged his eyes out.

The story of Oedipus Rex was followed by the story of Antigone. However, my papou’s didactic instructions were mostly around the church and Her sacred services. At eight years old I knew the 50th Psalm by heart - didn’t know what I was saying at the time - but it sure served me well later at Holy Cross when I was compelled to recall it.

But, I am getting ahead of my story. When I was nine years old, I rendered the Epistle reading in the liturgy on Aug. 15. My papou stood beside me in that historic edifice - Holy Trinity in New Orleans - the first Greek Orthodox Church in America.

I still recall from memory those words from chapter two of Philippians, “Touto froneisqw en umin o kai en Cristw Ihsou” (Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus). The next year - 1935 - my papou died. I was 10.

What a blessing that first decade of my life was!

For the next few years my dad - Leonidas - was the male guiding light of my life. From that early age he called on me to “help” him at his small Sun Coffee Shop at the foot of Canal Street. He thrust responsibility upon me as if I were old enough to handle it. I took pride in that. His work ethic has remained with me to this day. The most tiring thing for me, even now at 74, is not having something to do.

But, it wasn’t just his working ways that influenced me but also his calm approach to life. He never raised his voice to me, yet if I could just read his thoughts, I would want to comply with his every wish. I always wanted to please him. He had ways which later in life I wished I

could apply in the raising of my two sons.

My dad also had the knack of giving small doses of praise, encouragement that stimulated a young teen-ager to do his best. All this made him much wiser than his academic background. He also possessed a sense of humor which made not only his “parea” a much sought-after commodity in the Greek-American community of the Crescent City, but his didactic methods more effective.

In September 1942, I left New Orleans for Holy Cross where I met the most remarkable man in the lives of all of us - Bishop Cavadas.

He was the co-founder and the first dean of our seminary. He had the talent of “turning boys into men and men into priests,” as Fr. George Poulos would later write in the introduction of his book, *Footsteps in the Sea*.

At the end of my first month at Pomfret I wrote a letter to my dad. I told him how I found a man who reminded me of him. I am glad I wrote that letter, for soon after he received it, he suffered a massive heart attack and died at the age of 56. Cavadas called me into his office to inform me. However, he only told me that my dad was seriously ill. In later years he would admit that he hesitated to tell me because I turned white as a sheet at the thought of my father’s death.

The bishop assigned Fr. Ezekiel Tsoukalas who accompanied me to Hartford and Fr. Constantine Andrews who went on the two-day train ride with me to New Orleans, to inform me of the fact that my father died. So there I was, still only 16, leaving to bury my dad - the “second man” in my life.

I returned to Pomfret after the Christmas holidays. My classmates greeted me warmly but alarmed me when they said, “Nick, you’re going to have a problem catching up. We had to learn this long psalm.” It was the 50th which my papou had taught me when I was a little boy. I knew it by heart - in Greek of course.

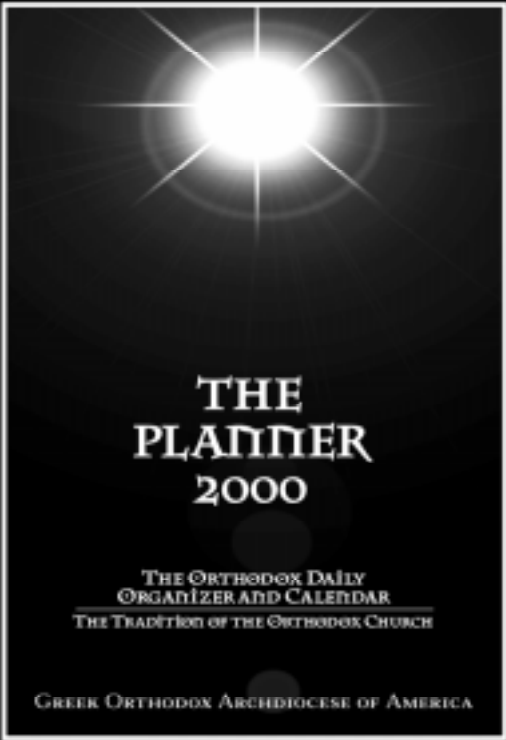
In those days everything was taught in the New Testament language, and God help the student caught speaking English. As we “Cavathakia” look back to that Golden Decade, we recall one more reason for being grateful to this venerable churchman. It was as if he was saying to us, “If God chose to speak to us in Greek, the least we can do is tune Him in!”

From 1942 until I was ordained a priest, Bishop Cavadas became my surrogate father - the “third man” in my life. He was a strict disciplinarian but I could see beyond his austere facade. I was assured he loved me even more, I thought, than he did any other student.

It was only with the passing of years at Holy Cross - four at Pomfret and one year at Brookline - that I realized that he made every one of his students feel special and loved. Bishop Cavadas assured us that as priests our greatest joy in life would be in serving and pleasing both God and His people. In 1962 he slept in the Lord. Thus, the last of my “dads” rode into the sunset of eternity.

My Eternal Father in Heaven was reflected on earth by these three men in my life. Talk about being blessed!

Write to Fr Nicholas L. Vieron, RCA Epistle Editor Pastor Emeritus of the Annunciation Church 573 N. Highland - Memphis, TN 38122 - (901) 323-9530 E-



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Retired Orthodox Bishop Basil Dies

(RNS) Bishop Basil, a retired leader of the Orthodox Church in America who led the church in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, has died. He was 84 and died Friday (Sept. 17) — the day he was to obtain his American citizenship.

Born Basil Rodzianko in Russia, he took monastic vows in 1979 following the death of his wife. The following year Basil became the OCA’s first Washington-area bishop, as well as the church’s bishop for San Francisco and the West. He retired in 1984.

Basil was well known for producing religious radio programs that were broadcast to the former Soviet Union for more than 40 years. He was also involved in ecumenical work and lectured widely on Russian Orthodox spirituality.

Basil was found dead at his home by a friend who had come to take him to obtain his U.S. citizenship, according to OCA officials.

In Memoriam

Fr. Spyridon Diavatis

Fr. Spyridon Diavatis, a priest of the Archdiocese for more than 50 years, died Aug. 22 in Waco, Texas. He was 89.

From the beginning of his ministry in the United States in April 1946, Fr. Diavatis served 18 communities from New Hampshire to Alaska.

Born in Kerkyra on April 30, 1910, he studied at the theological school in Corinth from 1928 to 1934.

He was married to his wife, Anastasia in July 1934 and ordained a deacon in September. He served at St. Spyridon Cathedral in Kerkyra. At the time, Metropolitan Athenagoras served at Kerkyra before being named Arch-

bishop of North and South America. He had invited Fr. Diavatis to come to America, but the threat of World War II prevented his departure.

He was ordained a priest Nov. 20, 1938, and, during World War II, served as a chaplain in the Greek Army and was also in charge of distributing Red Cross relief supplies to the villages.

At Archbishop Athenagoras’ invitation, Fr. Diavatis arrived in the United States on April 20, 1946.

He went on to serve 18 Greek Orthodox parishes in Vandergift, Pa., East Pittsburgh, Pa., Dover, N.H., San Antonio, Texas; Ely and McGill, Nev. (temporary assignments); Seattle, Salt

Lake City, Vallejo, Calif., Anchorage, Alaska, Salinas Calif., Ogden, Utah, Lincoln, Neb., Concord, Calif., Modesto, Calif., Fresno, Calif., and Pueblo, Colo. He retired after serving in Concord, Calif., then came out of retirement in the 1980s to assist at St. Sophia Cathedral in Los Angeles.

In addition to his theological training, Fr. Diavatis earned a BA in philosophy from St. Mary’s College in California, and a masters from the University of Nebraska.

While serving in Ogden, he taught modern Greek at Weber State College.

He also was a prolific writer and editor. He published hundreds of articles in a periodical titled “Odigitria,” which he co-edited, in Los Angeles in the 1980s.

Services for Fr. Diavatis took place Aug. 23 at Holy Archangels Monastery in Kendalia, Texas.

In addition to Presbyteria Anastasia of Modesto, Calif., survivors include three sons: Fr. James Diavatis of Anaheim, Calif., Anthony Diavatis of Sacramento, Calif., and Harry Diavatis of Benecia, Calif.; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Fr. John Psillas

ASBURY PARK, N.J. – Fr. John Psillas, a retired priest and former pastor of St. George Church here, died recently after a lengthy illness.

Fr. Psillas, 70, served 45 years as a priest before retiring in 1995.

He graduated from the Bronx Technical High School and his parents had hoped he would pursue engineering studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He held a bachelor’s degree in theology from Holy Cross School of Theology, graduate degrees in education from Columbia University Teachers College, a master’s in sacred theology from St. Vladimir’s in Crestwood, N.Y., and a Ph.D. in religious school administration from Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Fr. Psillas, who served as pastor at St. George for 19 years, also served the communities of Zoodochos Peghe in Bronx, N.Y., where he headed the Greek American Institute and initiated the construction of the community center, St. Spyridon in Washington Heights, Manhattan, where he was born, and at St. Athanasius, then located in Paterson, N.J.

He was a member of the New Jersey chapter of the National Council of Churches, and the New Jersey State Youth Board. He also gave sermons on a local radio program and wrote many religious articles for the Asbury Park Press newspaper.

Funeral services took place at St. George Church, with Metropolitan Silas of Saranta Ecclesion, Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos and 25 priests in attendance. Fr. Psillas died June 10.

Survivors include his presbyteria, Olga (Panesis), and a son, Peter.

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Impressions of Archbishop Demetrios' Enthronement

On September 18, 1999, Archbishop Demetrios was enthroned at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York. There were many people in attendance for the ceremony. Below are some observations and comments about the celebration.

- **Michael Avgoustidis, age 10 - 5th Grade William Spyropoulos School - St. Nicholas Shrine Church, Flushing, NY**
"It was very exciting. When Archbishop Demetrios arrived, everyone clapped because they were happy. I liked the part (very much) when he came to speak to us and he missed all the cameras, just to be with us. He told us that we were all 'a bouquet of flowers' and each one of us a flower, special in our own way."
- **Vassiliki Kourtelis, age 12 - 8th Grade Greek-American Institute - Zoodochos Peghe - Bronx, NY**
"I felt proud at the enthronement ceremony, seeing the procession of all the priests, bishops and most of all the Archbishop. It was exciting to witness someone become an Archbishop. When he came down to speak to us, before he spoke



- to anyone else, we threw rose petals as he walked. He made me feel very comfortable that he will be our spiritual leader, and made me want to go to Church every Sunday (even though I do)."
- **George Vasilopoulos, age 12 - 7th Grade St. Demetrios Cathedral School, Astoria, NY**
"I saw how an enthronement of an Archbishop occurs. Archbishop Demetrios spoke with a lot of love and told us that we were the future of the Church. I was impressed that he smiled a lot when he spoke to us. He was beaming!"
 - **Stamatis Agiovlasis, age 11 - 7th Grade Cathedral School - Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity N.Y., NY.**
"He spoke to us (the youth) as adults and treated us special, he was so nice and

most of all, polite. He told us to be nice to everyone we speak to and to those whom we meet. I liked when he said that 'with God's help we will become better students and better people, only with God's help'"

Katherine Skaris, age 13 - 9th Grade Transfiguration School - Corona, NY
"He likes children a lot because they make him happy. Seeing Archbishop Demetrios in person will make me a better Christian."

• **Father John Roll - Holy Transfiguration Church, Anchorage, Alaska**
"His Eminence has a profound sense of love which radiates to all those around him. At the Enthronement and Divine Liturgy the following day, I noticed the people watching and listening to His Eminence. They, too, saw his good nature and were affected by this love. Leaving New York, I could not help but to feel energized that the Church in America is in the most capable hands of our new Archbishop, a feeling that I am privileged to bring back to the faithful in Alaska."

• **Presbtyera Mary Pappas - St. Nicholas Church, Portsmouth, NH**
"Archbishop Demetrios exemplified humility, love and kindness and his words were comforting and brought a sense of peacefulness within our hearts. When embracing the mitre (staff) from Archbishop Iakovos, it was as though he embraced all of us, his flock, with his warmth and compassion. A day filled with the Holy Spirit, with the promise of hope and unity for our Orthodox Church in America, a day I will always remember."

SAINTS AND FEASTS

St. Pelagia - October 8

St. Pelagia was a wealthy and beautiful harlot, well known in Antioch during the 3rd century. One day, elaborately adorned from head to toe in silks, perfume, and makeup, St. Pelagia paraded through town in her glittering carriage. She passed a group of bishops who quickly turned their eyes away in embarrassment of their lustful thoughts-except for Bishop Nonnus who gazed intently at her with a pure soul. Bishop Nonnus surprised the others when he commented how beautiful St. Pelagia was. He explained that the hours she spent preparing herself for her admirers was a passion and love most Christians never expressed for God. He realized her potential and prayed for her.

The next day, St. Pelagia decided to repent for her immoral lifestyle after hearing Bishop Nonnus preach about the punishment of sinners. She begged to be baptized and afterwards, gave away the great wealth she had acquired during her prostitution. Since her beauty was her greatest obstacle towards complete salvation, St. Pelagia disguised herself as a man and secretly fled into the desert. She took on the name of Pelagius and pursued a monastic life of seclusion.

After years of repentance, fasting, and prayer, St. Pelagia died a sanctified soul in 284. Hopefully, by adopting her discipline and passion and applying it to our lives, we too, will be able to present ourselves beautifully adorned to our greatest admirer, Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The church commemorates the life of St. Pelagia on October 8.

Challenging Word Scramble

- On the Old Testament:** USING THE CLUES BELOW, UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS TO DISCOVER THE DIFFERENT BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.
- 1) **MAPSSL** - The hymnal of ancient Israel compiled from lyrics for use in the temple of Zerubbabel. _____.
 - 2) **PHAZEHLAN** - Promises comfort and consolation to those who wait patiently for the Lord. _____.
 - 3) **NHOAJ** - He was swallowed up by a "great fish". _____.
 - 4) **ICSELVTIU** - The book of priestly worship. _____.
 - 5) **TURH** - She was the great-grandmother of David the King. _____.
 - 6) **CHIAALM** - The name means "my messenger", it is the last book of the Old Testament. _____.
 - 7) **EMEHJARI** - A collection of oracles against Judah and Jerusalem which he dictates to his aide Baruch. He was not a "bullfrog". _____.
 - 8) **ENSGIES** - Meaning "beginning", covers the times from creation to the Israelites' departure to Egypt. _____.
 - 9) **TNAOLSEATNIM** - A small hymnal of communal laments over Jerusalem following its destruction by the Babylonians in 587 B.C. _____.
 - 10) **AHISIA** - Message of God's assurance of divine blessing upon the faithful and punishment upon the faithless. _____.
 - 11) **CRAHIAZEH** - Palm Sunday gospel reading of Jesus' triumphal but humble entrance to Jerusalem. _____.
 - 12) **NELADI** - Recounts the story of King Nebuchadnezzar. _____.

What Do You Think About...?

 To Natalie Portman (Queen Amidala, *The Phantom Menace*) who turned down a movie role over a love scene that required nudity. This 17-year-old talented actress stuck to her values and refused to bare all. Her co-star Susan Sarandon was so adamant about working with this young talent that screen writers were persuaded to rework the script! Natalie accepted the revised edition, so look for her in the upcoming film, *Anywhere But Here*.

 To MTV's late night show *LOVELINE*, for encouraging sex among young adults and not promoting abstinence.

Special Events

CELEBRATE THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM!
Pan-Orthodox Youth Workers Conference
Nov. 19-21
Antiochian Village Retreat Center, Ligonier, Pa.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)
College and Young Adult Conference
Dec. 18-22
Antiochian Village Retreat Center, Ligonier, Pa.

For more information on both youth events, call your Diocese Youth Office or the National Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries @ 212-570-3560.

Challenge is the youth supplement to the Orthodox Observer, a service of the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministries. Articles reflect the opinion of the writers. Write to: Youth & Young Adult Ministries, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, 8 East 79th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021

Contributors to this page
Fr. Anastasios Bourantas
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ORTHODOXY WORLDWIDE

Archdiocese Youth Director Appointed to Syndesmos Board

by Liz Economou

Fr. Anastasios Bourantas, director of the Archdiocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, has a lot to look forward to. He's slated to travel to Prague (Czech Republic) next month. And while this city has become one of Europe's trendiest spots, Fr. Anastasios, no doubt, has much more than sightseeing on his mind.

He will be plenty busy settling in his new role as the American Delegate to the SYNDESMOS Board of Administration where he will be representing not only the United States, but Canada and South America as well.

He is one of ten SYNDESMOS representatives worldwide responsible for cultivating and coordinating programs for Orthodox youth of all jurisdictions and ethnic backgrounds.



Clergy and parishioners of St. Elias Church in Ilomantsi (Finland) make their way to a nearby lake for the service of the blessing of the waters.

of our Church here in America," he says, "it has to be established somehow; we still need a foundation."

Founded in 1953, SYNDESMOS, The World Fellowship of Orthodox Youth, is an international federation of Orthodox Christian Youth Organizations, theological schools, and other Orthodox associations aimed at developing cooperation and communication among Orthodox youth movements. Today, this organization counts more than 100 member movements in 41 countries.

The name SYNDESMOS comes from the Greek word meaning, "bond."

In fact, St. Paul in his Letter to the Ephesians (4:3) says, "Do your best to preserve the unity, which the Spirit gives by means of the peace that binds you together."

Fr. Anastasios recently witnessed a "bond of unity" in the small Finnish town of Ilomantsi on the feast day of Saint Elias. He vividly remembers a colorful procession of clergy and laity snaking its way to a nearby lake for the service of the "blessing of the waters." Fr. Anastasios recalls: "It was beautiful, some 1,000 people dressed in traditional Finnish garb waving banners—and altar boys carrying crosses—coming to celebrate the feast day of St. Elias the patron saint of Ilomantsi—

this is Orthodoxy in its purest form and they have kept it."

Meanwhile, Fr. Anastasios hopes his upcoming meetings in the small town of Olomouc, near Prague, will equip him with the necessary tools to better promote the efforts of SYNDESMOS. He is especially interested in promoting youth exchanges to different countries like Japan, Russia, and even Zimbabwe, and also opening diocesan camps in the United States to Orthodox youth from all over the world. "It is the only way that we can provide Orthodoxy without limits," he says.

Shortly, after returning from the Czech Republic, Fr. Anastasios will have a chance to put into practice what he learned. He, along with others, will play host to scores of youth workers at a Pan-Orthodox conference at the Antiochian Village in Ligonier, Pennsylvania, set for November 19 through 21. This gathering will be sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the Orthodox Church of America (OCA), and the Antiochian Archdiocese.

As for the new millennium, Fr. Anastasios has lofty goals: "I want to make people understand that SYNDESMOS is a world fellowship of Orthodox youth. Unless we unite, we really have no future as Orthodox."

► Patriarch Petros Expresses Sadness over Earthquake

The Patriarch of Alexandria and all Africa, Petros VII, with his thoughts and prayers turned to Greece, sent the following message to the president and to the prime minister of the Hellenic Republic.

With deep sadness we are following the plight of the families and the destruction which befell upon the capital of our motherland, Greece, due to the devastating earthquake.

We are deeply saddened for the loss of lives and we partake in the agony and pain of the families and of all the children of God, who were affected and have suffered from this disaster.

We have also been deeply moved by the immediate response of the Government to alleviate the pain of the people. We pray to God that He will give you the strength and wisdom needed in those difficult times. We pray unceasingly for those who have departed; and all those who are suffering are in our hearts. We are close to all of you with our prayers.

May our Lord God be with all. With our prayers, blessings, and with special honor,

† **Petros of Alexandria**

Also, His Beatitude dispatched the following telegram to His Eminence Archbishop Christodoulos.

"Having been advised of the sad event of the trial of the city of Athens and the surrounding area of Attica by earthquake, we have speedily come to express our deep concern and our brotherly support to You personally and the sympathy of the Alexandrine Throne for Your pious flock, praying that our Lord God removes this terrible threat of earthquake and sends down upon you His abundant grace.

Further, we ask You to please convey to the Metropolitans, dearly in Christ brothers, of the Dioceses of the Most Holy Church of Greece, the sincere feelings of our brotherly love and of our support with prayer.

† **Petros of Alexandria**



The Holy Transfiguration Church in the monastery of New Valamo in Finland.

Fr. Anastasios first learned of his new post over the summer when he traveled to the Holy Transfiguration Monastery in New Valamo, about 250 miles northeast of Helsinki, Finland. There he met up with some 250 delegates from SYNDESMOS member movements from around the globe to participate in the SYNDESMOS XVI General Assembly. The purpose of that gathering was to collaborate on Orthodox youth training programs to be conducted through the year 2003.

Despite his excitement over his new position, he expects challenges ahead: "It [SYNDESMOS] has not been a vital part



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B O O K S

A New Book on Christian Hellenism

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. — Melissa Media Associates Inc., has recently published a new book by the Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos, “Christian Hellenism: Essays and Studies in Continuity and Change.”

The volume is published under the sponsorship of the Speros Basil Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism, as part of the series “Hellenism: Ancient, Medieval, Modern.”

Dr. Constantelos, a distinguished historian and Orthodox Christian cleric, has collected 15 articles spanning from the first centuries of Christianity until the end of the “Tourkokratia,” the period of Ottoman Turkish occupation of Christian lands in Greece and the Balkans.

A basic theme running through the book is the relationship between the historical, cultural, intellectual and ultimately spiritual Hellenism and Christianity. The first part, “The Mind between the Old Culture and New Faith,” includes the articles: “The Formation of the Hellenic Christian Mind,” “A Greek Christian Humanist of Fifth Century Constantinople,” “Byzantine and Ancient Greek Religiosity,” “Intellectual Challenges to Authority of Church Tradition in Byzantium,” and “A Conflict between Ancient Greek Philosophy and Christian Orthodoxy in the Late Greek Middle Ages.”

The second part of the book “In Search of Religious Unity,” touches on issues of Orthodox Christianity’s response to dissent and to contact with Jews and Muslims. The articles included are, “Jews and Judaism in the Writings of their Early Greek Fathers,” “Imperial Policy Regarding Religious Dissent in the Age of Justinian,” “Greek Christian and Jewish Relations in Byzantium,” “Greek Christian Conquests of the Near East.”

The third part, explores the topic of “Continuity and Discontinuity between Ancient and Medieval Greek Culture,” and includes the articles “Russia’s Conversion of Christianity and the ‘Error’ of the

Greeks,” “Church Canons and Cultural Realities: Canon Sixty-Two of the Synod in Trullo, a Case Study,” “Clerics and Secular Professions in the Byzantine Church,” “The Neoterics (Neoterikoi) in the Medieval Greek Mind,” “The Greek Classical Heritage in Greek Hagiology,” and “Neomartyrs in the Late Middle Ages and in the Ottoman Empire.”

While some of Constantelos’ articles are relatively specialized, most are quite accessible to the educated layman. The publication of Christian Hellenism is timely in that there is an increase of interest in, an confusion about, the history of the interrelationship between Hellenism and Christianity.

Though this was not the author’s original purpose, the book also begins to address the ignorance that has accompanied some of the recent bigoted attacks against Orthodox Christianity and Greek culture in the press and elsewhere.

About the author

Demetrios J. Constantelos is professor of history at Stockton State University, a part of the State University of New Jersey. His previous works have included “Byzantine Philanthropy and Social Welfare,” which the American Historical Review called “the first serious and comprehensive treatment of Byzantine philanthropy and social welfare....,” and “Poverty, Society and Philanthropy in the Late Medieval Greek World,” which covers the period from 1204 to 1453.

Bibliographical information

The volume is the 13th in the series Hellenism: Ancient, Medieval, Modern, published under the auspices of the Speros Vryonis Center for the Study of Hellenism. xii+302 pages; clothbound ISBN 0-89241-523-1 \$60; paper covers ISBN 0-89241-588-6 \$30.

For additional information, contact: Kevin Brown, Customer Service (914) 632-8487 — Aristide D. Caratzas, Publisher; Melissa Media Associates Inc., 30 Church St. (PO Box 210), New Rochelle, NY 10802

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New OCAMPR Publications Available

A new volume of lectures, “Sickness or Sin –Spiritual Discernment and Differential Diagnosis,” published by Holy Cross Press, recently has been compiled by members of the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology and Religion (OCAMPR).

The papers offer interdisciplinary sensitivity to critical matters in judgment concerning curing and healing. The contributors offer a holistic perspective while maintaining the professional standards of their particular methods of inquiry.

Featured papers in this compilation include Fr. Philotheos Faros “Caring, Curing, and Healing;” Dimitrios G. Oreopoulos, M.D., “Legalizing Euthanasia” and “Healing and the Patient/Physician Rela-

tionship;” Stephen Muse, Ph.D., “Eros, Asceticism, and Marriage;” Rev. George Morelli, Ph.D., “Emotion, Cognitive Treatment and the Faith;” Demetra Jaquet, M.Div., “Identifying and Healing Child Abuse;” and John T. Chirban Ph.D., Th.D., “The Process of Sexual Development.” Special pre-publication prices are available for this publication.

Several other publications by OCAMPR are also available at reduced prices, including “Personhood: Deepening the Connections Between Body, Mind, and Soul” (including Kallistos Ware, D. Phil., Dr. Ana-Maria Rizzuto, Dr. Christos Yannaras); “Clergy Sexual Misconduct: Orthodox Christian Perspectives” (including J. Stephen Muse, Ph.D., John T. Chirban, Ph.D., Trilby Coolidge, Ph.D.); “Ethical Dilemmas: Crises in Faith and Modern Medicine” (including Martin Marty, Ph.D., William F. May, Ph.D., Vigen Guroian, Ph.D.); and “Healing: Orthodox Christian Perspectives in Medicine, Psychology, and Religion” (including Theodoris Theodorides, Ph.D., M.D., George Pazin, M.D., Milton Efthimiou, Ph.D.).

For further information and prices, please write to OCAMPR, PO Box 958, Cambridge, MA 02238.



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A Touch of Faith Yields Greek-American Film:

Do You Wanna Dance?

by **Eleni Daniels**

In our human quest for direction, a sense of purpose, understanding and success in the world — which often times may seem obscure, unfair, or unbearable, we tend to lose sight of the *dance*. Although we may have to hone the steps every now and then, the *dance* is quick to embrace with its mesmerizing undulations. It is the crux of our life and it is open to everyone. The *dance* can signify different things to many people — as it did for a young Greek American from Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Born Haralambos Krantz (originally Karountzos), young Robert grew up in a typical Greek-American household where Greek was spoken and Greek food was emanating throughout. He attended Sunday school regularly, participated in GOYA and YAL events, but never quite knew where he fit in until the day he attended a Greek Orthodox Church camp in Milwaukee. At the age of 16, he met many youths his age but one person in particular left him with a profound sense of how blessed and lucky he was to be healthy and have all four limbs to write, walk and run with.

“Discipline, no doubt, is never pleasant; at the time it seems painful, but in the end it yields for those who have been trained by it the peaceful harvest of an honest life.”

Hebrews 12:11

“That experience at the camp changed my life. It was the first time that I thought of becoming an actor. I witnessed how someone can overcome pain and adversity and still have a strong sense of faith and happiness. It was a very religious experience,” said Krantz. “I always felt that God wanted me to do something. But what was it? At 21, I walked into St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in Los Angeles and prayed.”

As a freshman at Arizona State University, he had every intention to study law and please his parents. But an introductory course to acting changed all that. He later attended USC’s film business school and went on to work for six years as an actor in films, television, and theater. *Back to the Future*, and the lead in a network series, *The Billionaire Boys Club*, are among his many credits. Ultimately, what Krantz wanted to do was produce and act like Newman, Beatty and Streisand. While acting, he wrote a number of scripts that were sold to Hollywood producers but none reached the big screen. He felt his career stagnating.

Today as an actor, writer, dancer, producer, Robert Krantz has successfully realized his dream from a mystical touch of faith resulting from the inspirational ministry of pastor Rev. Fr. Chris Kerhulas of St. Basil’s Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago.

In 1986, Krantz was at an all-time low point in his life and his career when he met Fr. Chris at a youth conference in Los Angeles. After spending time together, Fr. Chris told Krantz to take the next flight to Chicago where he would spend time with him and his family. Little did Krantz know that the next few days would change his life forever.

“Fr. Chris was very human. We had fun. We went to a Blackhawks game, we spent time with his family and talked and talked.” At the airport, Krantz told Fr. Chris that someday he would make a movie about him and his experience. And ten years later he did.

Written, directed, produced and financed by Greek-Americans, with a budget of under \$1 million, *Do You Wanna Dance?* is a fictional movie inspired by



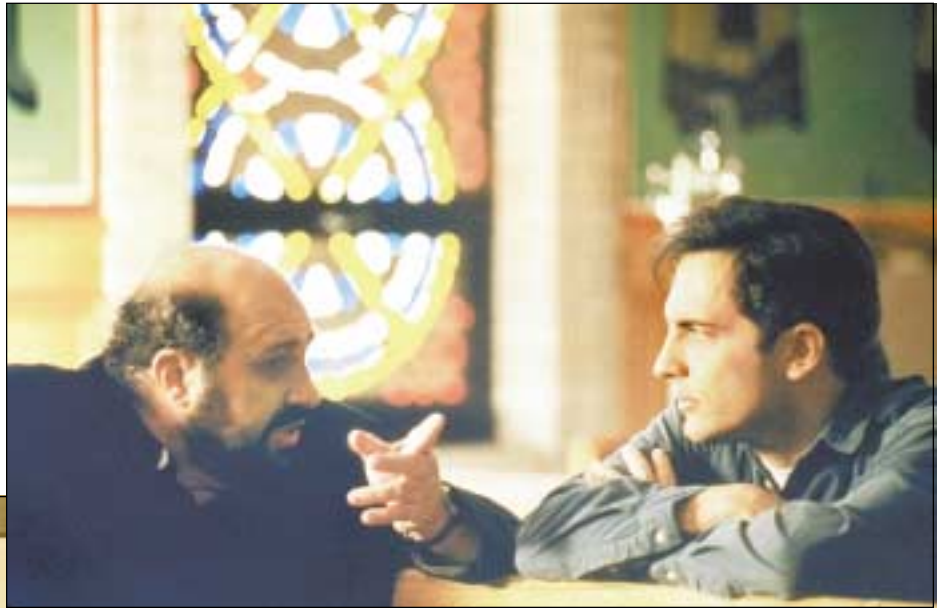
Billy Duncan (Robert Krantz) dances in a triumphant moment of gratitude.

his real-life friendship with Fr. Chris. It encompasses the essence of Chicago’s Greektown, the traditionally spirited folk dance, to the ‘mystical experience’ surrounding the Greek Orthodox faith. It tells of love, honesty, and genuine trust between two unlikely men and another chance on love with young medical student Alexia Constarakis (Patricia Skeriotis). Billy Duncan (Robert Krantz), a convicted auto thief and struggling dancer, is sentenced to community service in a tightly knit Greek community. And Fr. Chris (Robert Costanzo) is a priest who is as passionate about the Blackhawks as he is about his ministry and his congregation.

The film, shot in Chicago’s Greek town in 21 days, is Krantz’s token of gratitude to Fr. Chris and to all that dare to dream. The film is directed by Greek-American Michael Achilles Nickles whose creative talent took the film even further than expected. In fact, as the credits role, it is hard not to miss a Greek name.

Krantz and his wife of six years, Tricia Karetas Krantz, and their families pro-

“And what of ourselves? With all these witnesses to faith around us like a cloud, we must throw off every encumbrance, every sin to which we cling, and run with resolution the race for which we are entered, our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom faith depends from start to finish.”
Hebrews 12:1



A scene from the movie where Fr. Chris (Robert Costanzo) shares a moment of truth with Billy Duncan (Robert Krantz) at the church.

vided the strength and support for this film. “Their constant words of encouragement, prayers and support kept me going through the years,” said Krantz.

“It has been such a long journey I need to know that the past 9 months (of national film promotion) proves that the last 3 years of my life was worth something. The whole experience of making the film and the movie itself is about faith. Fr. Chris re-instilled that faith in me. As I was making the film, I was going through a spiritual journey, especially during the dance scene.”

The dance he refers to is the culmination of 4 vigorous years of study in ballet, jazz and pop. But did that prepare Krantz for filming in sub-

zero temperatures and fears of limited film footage?

“That morning I read a Bible passage that spoke of a cloud of witness. It felt like the Holy Spirit was with me while I was running towards the goal,” he replied.

The independent film debuted October 1998 in Chicago theatres. Since then, *Do You Wanna Dance?* is all the rave as it reaches thousands of Greek-Americans through various venues. Recently, the film won *The Crest National Audience Award* at the Pasadena Film Festival where it was voted best-liked film.

Answer ‘yes’ to this uncanny, charming Greek-American film, and you begin to join the dance and fully embrace the beauty of life and love. The dance signifies the key to realizing your heart’s deepest dreams. With its religious theme throughout, the film portrays the strength of one’s spirituality, deeply rooted in the Orthodox faith. And, it exemplifies the difference one person can make in the life of another. In this case, it takes a devoted priest to help unravel the worry, the ob-

scurity of rekindling the flame of spirituality, brotherhood, and love. Krantz has the fondest things to say about Fr. Chris.

“If only I had a nickel for everyone who said, *If I had a priest like him, I would stay in the church!*” remarked Krantz. “When we were about to begin production on *Do You Wanna Dance?*, Fr. Chris sent me a note, and it started with the words ‘Eneken e Ora.’ The English translation is, ‘The hour has arrived’ and I have the same feeling — the hour *has* arrived.”

When asked to summarize his feelings about the film, Krantz was quick to recite a line from the song *American Pie* — “And I knew if I had my chance I could make those people dance, and maybe they’d be happy for a while.”

One could say that Krantz has been blessed not only in his vigor to promote the Greek culture and talent in today’s film industry but also in his personal life. He and his wife Tricia are the proud parents of 10-month old triplets, Chris, George and Nicholas.

Life is no doubt busy at the home front, but Krantz finds time to travel and promote his film around the country in hope that enough copies will be sold indicating a viable Greek-American market to big Hollywood producers. He stressed that if enough copies are sold; this film could very well be the breakout film for future productions.

Current projects include a documentary on Smyrna and finishing the script for his next film production called, *All the Days of My Life* — a film that questions the sanctity of the sacrament of marriage into the next millennium sans the pain of separation and divorce. Is it possible to last all the days of your life? The answer remains to be seen - in the movie.

Mark your calendar for an upcoming viewing of *Do You Wanna Dance?* in your hometown. Scheduled dates are: Oct. 30, Annunciation Church, Lancaster PA; Oct. 31, Drexel University, PA; Nov. 1, Annunciation Church, Winston-Salem, NC; Nov. 3, Holy Trinity Church, Charlotte, NC; Nov. 4, St. Constantine & Helen Church, Richmond, VA; Nov. 5, Boston, MA and New York in December. If you or your parish is interested in hosting a screening with Robert Krantz, contact Ellinas Productions at (310) 859-1295 or visit the website at www.ellinasproductions.com for more information.

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PAN-ORTHODOX

Orthodox Peace Fellowship Plans Conference

Gathering to explore the tradition of Christian peace making, and to address North American issues of peace and justice, the Orthodox Peace Fellowship (OPF) will hold a conference in Chicago next summer.

The conference will also serve to introduce a North American branch of the OPF —the OPF-NA.

The Netherlands-based OPF —formed in 1987 — is an association of Orthodox Christians from many nations and jurisdictions who endeavor to live the peace of Christ daily, especially in situations of division and conflict.

It also encourages the formation of national or regional OPF groups to address distinct cultural issues and to be an influence for peace on a local level.

"The Orthodox Peace Fellowship exists to provide peace resources for the Church to be the Church," notes Jim Forest, co-secretary of the OPF, "and since the majority of OPF members live in North America, it seemed right to start an organized effort there."

Details of the conference will be publicized through "In Communion" (the OPF's quarterly journal), other Orthodox publications, and Orthodox e-mail lists.

A consensus on the sanctity of life and on the condemnation of violence is emerging from many Orthodox Christians on this continent, the Dayton committee concluded.

To facilitate North American Orthodox Christian participation in those issues, OPF-NA will focus on at least four strategies: theological research, educational materials and publications, an OPF-NA web site, and environmental-care resources.

Leadership for OPF-NA is still being established; members of the OPF-NA ad hoc committee include those who took part in the Dayton meeting (John and Marge Oliver, John and Lara Oliver, Marilyn Brady, Mark Pearson and Jim Forest) plus Fr. Ted Bobosh, John Brady, Alice Carter, Fr. John Matusiak, Phil Tamoush, Fr. David Tillman, Fr. Steve Tsichlis and Renee Zitzloff.

OPF advisory board members are: Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia; Bishop Basil of Sergievo; Elizabeth Behr-Sigel; Frederica Mathewes-Green, Philip Tamoush, and Frs. Anthony Coniaris; Sergei Hackel; Thomas Hopko; Heikki Huttunen; John Matusiak; Sergei Ovsyannikov; George Papademetriou; Steven Tsichlis; Alexis Voogd; and Theodoor van der Voort.

ENTHRONEMENT ADDRESS

► page 11

must be cultivated between the newcomers Greek-American immigrants and the Greek-Americans of the third or fourth generation. It must be cultivated as unity and unbreakable bond between the people of the Omogeneia and the people of Mother Greece.

Such multidimensional unity and concord is not exhausted within the area of our Archdiocese, but is supported and treasured as a unity integrally connected to the Mother Church, our Ecumenical Patriarchate. A unity which through our Ecumenical Patriarchate is extended to the

larger circle of the Orthodox Churches in the United States, in order to embrace, finally, the world.

Today, all of us then under the wings of God, we are called to continue our creative march. To continue it, in the bright avenues in which the love and the wisdom of our God lead us. This is a march of a dynamic faith, of an unlimited love and of an unbreakable unity, a march in every step of which we will feel the need to repeat the beautiful hymn from the Book of Revelation with which we started: *Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever. Amen* (Revelation of John 7, 2).

REFLECTIONS

His Eminence's First Salutation to the Faithful

by Fr. Demetrios S. Kavadas

He started with an Apostolic salutation, just like St. Paul addressed the thriving Christian church of Rome in the year 60 AD.

At the very beginning of his archpastoral diakonia, Archbishop Demetrios faces all the members of the "Christ-bearing pleroma of the sacred Archdiocese of America" as "most beloved brothers and sisters," and he adds the quotation of Romans 1:7.

We are those people that "God has loved." Therefore He prays -as He writes to us- that God our Father and our Lord Jesus may continue to bestow upon us two great gifts: "Grace and Peace."

If we enjoy these two "fruits of the Holy Spirit" between us and between our Archbishop, perhaps all the "problems" could become tests of love that God allows to exist so that we may strive for perfection in our daily lives.

Archbishop Demetrios does not call us "Beloved Children in the Lord," as his predecessors often practiced in their encyclicals. Perhaps, because he had not undertaken Fatherhood at the writing of his first contact with us, and piousness: "brothers and sisters, people that God loves."

If you open your New Testament and begin to read the letter to the Romans, you will notice that before the salutation chosen by His Eminence for us, there are six verses St. Paul uses as an introduction before he calls the Christians of Rome "ayapitois Theou" (those that God loves).

One may take the dangerous liberty in paraphrasing those first six verses and reflecting them upon the Throne of Archbishop Demetrios, by declaring the following 20 centuries later: like St. Paul, "Demetrios is a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle of the gospel... to call people from among the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith."

He was called. He was chosen. He is the "successor of the Apostles" by the Holy Mother Church of Constantinople -the only canonical center of the continuous flow of the Holy Spirit that changes his responsibilities from the Metropolis of Vresthena (a historical geographical location of the past) to the largest, richest, "mildly disturbed" and excitingly promising of a fruitful harvest, the Archdiocese of America.

His Eminence then makes known to us the inner feelings of His Paternal joy:

- we are permanently in "his thoughts, his heart" and in his conversation with the Lord in prayers;
- he asks God to protect us with His divine love and care; to "increase abundantly our personal, our family and our professional life; to guide our steps into the paths of peace, progress and joy; to illuminate with His Divine light our lives; to conquer darkness.

- His Eminence requests of God to bestow upon all of us an enduring unity of souls and of goals, an unbreakable togetherness, and a pure brotherhood in order to march together into the realization of the supreme destiny that God "charged us with."

- we are destined to remain "a Greek-American Orthodox Church, a lighthouse of true faith, dynamic life and high cultural values, under the God-moving inspiration and wise guidance of the Sacred Center of Orthodoxy, the Ecumenical Patriarchate. For we must continue to proclaim to the world of the radiant shine of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this great American society and more generally to the entire contemporary world."

Notice that the Archbishop "calls us to the obedience that comes from faith."

Finally, His Eminence concludes with the "Apostolic salutation" of a personal embrace in Christ and four joyful verses of the letter of St. Paul to Philipians (4:4-7).

Shocking and alerting are three words in the middle of this quotation: "The Lord is near." A most sagacious alert! I wonder how His Eminence might consider in the future to send an encyclical (Christmas or Easter) with the theme "The Lord is near." I am convinced that, since His Eminence is accepted universally as a profound biblical scholar, his "analysis" of the word "near" will be very apocalyptic and beneficial to the entire Church in America, especially if we bring alike the theological attributes of a God who is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, all-perfection, all-love, all-justice and eternal.

With that biblical observation, we know that His Eminence will suggest to his clergy, his laity, our theologians, scientists and all our churchmen to unite all our talents, our time and our treasures, guided by the words of St. Paul that follow: "The Lord is near." They are written in the following admonitions:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, presenting your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your heart and your minds in Christ Jesus."

We thank you, Your Eminence!

Stay with us for many years to come!

We truly pray for your health, your happiness and for a "blessed" organizational structure of our sacred Archdiocese, one of your present endeavors!

"Eis Polla Eti, Despota"

Fr. Kavadas is pastor of Assumption Church, St. Clair Shores, Mich.

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EARTHQUAKE UPDATES

IOCC Responds to Earthquake Victims

ATHENS, Greece (IOCC) — After surveying disaster areas in Turkey where she described scenes of chaos and devastation, IOCC country representative Despina Katsivelakis returned to Greece to be greeted by yet another earthquake. The quake, measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale, struck in the heart of Athens just miles from the IOCC office.

Katsivelakis toured the hardest hit districts of Aharnes (Menidi), Ilion (Liosia), and Thrakomakedones immediately following the shock to determine the needs and coordinate aid efforts with local officials and other Greek non-governmental organizations.

IOCC issued an appeal for contributions to the aid effort in support of these victims and arranged for the transport and distribution of emergency relief supplies to aid the quake's victims.

More than 5 metric tons of urgently needed equipment, including tents and emergency food supplies, were immediately distributed to hardest hit areas of the city.

Distribution of the aid was coordinated with the support of the Greek Office of Internal Affairs in tandem with the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Office of National Defense.

"The Greek Government has been particularly supportive of IOCC's efforts to serve those in need in other areas of

the world," commented IOCC executive director Constantine Triantafilou. "We are pleased to be working in cooperation with the Orthodox Church of Greece, the Greek Government, and Catholic Relief Services to provide relief in this time of need for the victims of this disaster in Greece."

The supplies have been provided to IOCC by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official overseas relief agency of the United States Catholic community, also based in Baltimore.

IOCC is a member agency of Action by Churches Together (ACT), a worldwide network of churches and aid agencies responding to emergencies. As a participant in ACT, IOCC is providing aid to the victims of both of the recent earthquakes in Turkey as well as Greece.

Tax-deductible contributions designated for "Greece Earthquake Relief" may be sent to International Orthodox Christian Charities, PO Box 630225, Baltimore, MD 21263-0225. To make a credit card contribution, call the IOCC donation hotline toll-free at (877) 803 IOCC (4622) or by making an online contribution at www.iocc.org.

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) was established in 1992 by the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) as the official humanitarian aid agency of Orthodox Christians.

World SAE Helps Quake Victims in Greece, Turkey

World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) President Andrew A. Athens recently announced major aid efforts for earthquake victims in Greece and Turkey, along with donations from Hellenic American organizations in the ongoing fund-raising effort for Athens-area quake victims.

Following a proposal by Mr. Athens, the Archbishop Iakovos 'Leadership 100' Endowment Fund voted to give \$100,000 for relief, and that individual Leadership members will also make personal contributions.

In another assistance effort, SAE has retained the services of a non-government organization, Counterpart Inc., to help create medical centers in the states of the former Soviet Union, and has donated \$800,000 in medical supplies.

The U.S. government has provided the transportation to deliver supplies.

"We are continuing our efforts to secure assistance beyond the already committed amount of 270 million drachmas," Mr. Athens said.

"We expect that the efforts of Hellenes Abroad to help our brothers in Greece will bear fruit in various ways."

Previously, Mr. Athens had made a personal appeal to President Bill Clinton urging assistance beyond the limited government funds already earmarked for Greece.

In the campaign to mobilize Hellenes Abroad to raise funds, Mr. Athens emphasized that the effort is worldwide and that the Greek Orthodox Church in America is playing an important role. Special collections took place in all Greek Orthodox churches in the United States and, at the urging of Metropolitan Sotirios, in Canada.

In a separate assistance program, International Orthodox Christian Charities continues to provide aid under a plan that has already contributed tents and four tons of emergency food supplies.

The Hellenic Canadian Congress has appealed to Greek Canadians to donate to a special account at the National Bank of Greece branches.

SAE of the Americas also has announced that donations can be made by credit card via the Internet at the following web site: www.orama.com/quake 99,

or by making a deposit to Atlantic Bank (account number 5228824).

Checks also may be made payable to "SAE of America—Quake 99" and mailed to: SAE of the Americas, 360 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 710, Chicago, IL 60601.

In New York, checks can also be made payable to "Athenian Society NY – Quake 99" and mailed to: Athenian Society, 61-26 Marathon Pkwy, Douglaston, NY 11362, or directly to any branch of InterBank of New York (account number 0560017848).

Helping Turkish victims

In a related effort, Mr. Athens announced a \$2,500 donation through the American Red Cross to the relief effort following the earthquake in Turkey and has urged all regional offices of SAE to organize local relief drives.

"The devastation in Turkey is of unprecedented proportions, especially in human lives, and we consider it a high priority in the Hellenic community to support those who are suffering," Mr. Athens said. "I encourage both the regional offices of SAE and our member-organizations worldwide to contribute cash and products that are needed to fight nutrition and health problems. I know that some of our regional offices have already begun their drives to provide assistance."

Philanthropy is one of the missions of World SAE which has launched a \$100 million drive to bring much needed medical relief programs to the people of the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union.

Already, three outpatient clinics have been established and are operating in the Republic of Georgia providing free health care to persons without means, both in the Hellenic and general communities there.

World SAE is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established to unite Hellenes in the Diaspora and to strengthen their ties to each other and to Greece. Its programs are educational and philanthropic.

In a related effort, the North and South America region of SAE has appealed to the Greek American community to offer relief to the quake victims in Attica.



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—Fr. Alexey Young

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DIOCESE *news*

South Florida YAL to Host Discovery Weekend Nov. 5-7

BOCA RATON, Fla.—As young Orthodox Christians take on increased responsibilities with work and family, how can they discover and cultivate their heaven on earth, and essentially integrate Orthodox Christianity with daily living?

In a full weekend of workshops and fellowship, the Diocese of Atlanta Discovery Weekend in Boca Raton will offer single and married young Orthodox adults an opportunity to learn, share and walk away with some practical strategies in applying the Orthodox faith in the day-to-day decisions they make. Discovery Weekend will take place Friday, Nov. 5 through Sunday, Nov. 7.

Nicholas Conostas, Ph.D., professor of patristics at Harvard Divinity School will give the keynote speech. Fr. James S. Gavrilos, presbyter of St. Mark Church and former archdiocesan youth director, will kick off the conference with a welcome introduction.

Discussions will offer practical advice and scriptural support on how to deal with many issues that face many Christians.

Opportunities for sponsorship to the program, "A Practical Guide to Creating Your Heaven on Earth", a supplement to the weekend's activities, is also available. Call Angie Antonopoulos at (954) 924-9806 for details.

For more information about Discovery Weekend, call Fr. Michael Sitaras at (305) 595-1343.

Conference to Address Mother-Daughter Relations

LOS ANGELES — The Pacific Region of the Hellenic American Women's Council (HAWK) held its second women's conference on Oct. 16 at Loyola Marymount University- Center of Modern Greek Studies.

The topic was "The Greek Mother-Daughter Relationship."

HAWK is a non-partisan, nationwide network whose mission is to identify and harness the talents of Hellenic American Women.

HAWK encourages awareness of public policy issues and promotes women who wish to play leadership roles in their communities, the nation and their professional fields of endeavor.

The agenda included guest panel speakers, keynote speaker and open forum discussion with the audience. Community members are invited to share their story regarding mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, nieces, grandmothers, granddaughters, godmothers, etc.

Those interested for more information can contact the HAWK regional director, Helene K. Liatsos at (818) 881-8798.

Commemoration for Asia Minor Tragedy

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — An Oct. 10 memorial service at Three Hierarchs Church commemorated the 77th anniversary of the 1922 Asia Minor holocaust.

According to Basilios Theodosakis, event chairman, the commemoration included an exhibit and speakers.

The memorial service took place following the Divine Liturgy.



D. Panagos

HIS EMINENCE conducts part of the consecration ceremony at the entrance to the church.

Archbishop Consecrates First Church

NYACK, N.Y. — Archbishop Demetrios consecrated his first church on his first pastoral visit Oct. 3, when he traveled to Upstate New York to Sts. Constantine and Helen parish.

His Eminence, assisted by Bishop Demetrios of Xanthos, Bishop Philotheos of Meloa, Fr. Theodore Sidaris, pastor, Archdeacon Gerasimos Michaleas, and Fr. Mark Sietsema, performed the ancient service of "baptism" of the edifice.

Other participating clergy were: Frs. John Maheras and Nicholas Katsoulis, former priests of the parish, Peter Kyriakos, Constantine Sitaras, Anastasios Kousoulas, Milton Stamatos, James Tsigonis, Nicholas Lassios and Anastasios Tasopoulos.

More than 400 persons attended the lengthy service, which included a Divine Liturgy and a procession around the church.

The Archbishop, carrying the holy relics to be placed in the altar, re-entered first, followed by the church's godparents: Nicholas Anagnostopoulos, Harry Fotopoulos, the Cuyulis family, Dr. George Limberis, Gus and Eleni Keramidas, and Peter and Geraldine Sarantopoulos, and the remaining congregation.

Inside, His Eminence anointed the altar and iconography and sealed the relics in the altar.

Construction of the new church began in 1980 and was completed in 1985 when first services took place. The consecration took place after completion of the interior iconography work.

A luncheon in the community center followed the services.

OCAMPR Conference to Discuss 'Clinical Problems: Sickness or Sin?'

BROOKLINE, Mass. — A number of scholars will present academic papers under the theme "Enhancing Professional Skills for Treating the Whole Person" at the fall meeting of the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology and Religion (OCAMPR).

The Oct. 30 meeting will take place at the Maliotis Cultural Center on Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology campus.

In addition to presentations by physicians, mental health workers, and clergy, the conference will feature case discussions on managing spiritual concerns in clinical practice.

A subject considered controversial — legitimate and illegitimate uses of faith, and healthy and unhealthy expression of religion — will also be open for debate and discussion.

Presenters will include: Richard Hartnett, Ph.D. (West Virginia University); Jeff Rediger, M.D. (The Cambridge Hospital, Harvard Medical School); Koula Svokos Hartnett, Ed.D. (Fairmont State College, Morgantown, W.Va.); J. Stephen Muse, Ph.D. (Pastoral Institute; Columbus, Ga.); Rev. George Morelli, Ph.D., A.D.P.N. (St. Vladimir's Seminary; Rutgers Univer-

sity); John T. Chirban, Ph.D., Th.D., (Hellenic College; Harvard Medical School).

A related volume of OCAMPR members' lectures titled "Sickness or Sin—Spiritual Discernment and Differential Diagnosis" also has gone to press.

Authors featured in this volume are Fr. Philotheos Faros, "Caring, Curing and Healing;" Dimitrios G. Oreopoulos, M.D., "Legalizing Euthanasia" and "Healing and the Patient/Physician Relationship;" Stephen Muse, Ph.D. (Pastoral Institute, Columbus, Ga.) "Eros Asceticism, and Marriage;" Rev. George Morelli, Ph.D., "Emotion, Cognitive Treatment and the Faith;" Demetra Jaquet, M.Div., "Identifying and Healing Child Abuse;" and John T. Chirban, Ph.D., Th.D. "The Process of Sexual Development."

The program is partially sponsored by the Nicholas Kambouris Endowed Lecture-ship. A reduced fee of \$25 will cover refreshments and lunch for participants. The event is open to the public.

Special pre-publication prices for this publication are available by sending \$15, plus \$3 postage, to the OCAMPR, PO Box 958; Cambridge, MA 02238.

For more information, call (617) 868-6557 or write to OCAMPR.

National Church Music Sunday Commemorated Oct 3

Fifteen persons were honored in their home parishes on National Church Music Sunday, Oct. 3, as part of the annual Archdiocese-wide commemoration of St. Romanos the Melodist, patron saint of church musicians.

National Church Music Sunday honors contributions that choir directors, choir members, organists, psaltai, and church school music educators make to their parishes, and the work of the eight diocesan choir federations and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.

The 15 individuals, each with 25 years or more service as a choir director, received the Archbishop's Years of Service Award medal which depicts St. Romanos the Melodist.

Since the award's inception in 1988, 232 choir directors have received the Years of Service medal.

Names, parishes, and years of service of the 1999 awardees include:

Ruth Chakos, Assumption Church, Olympia Fields, Ill., 50 — Connie Issichopoulos, St. Basil, San Jose, Calif., 35 — Lucretia Papayanakos, St. Vasilios, Watertown, N.Y., 35 — Thomas Kouris, Assumption, East Moline, Ill., 34 — Dr. Nicholas Evans, Assumption, Morgantown, W.Va., 29 — Elaine Gregory, St. Barbara, Toms River, N.J., 27

Sophie Maragos, Assumption, Racine, Wis., 27 — Diana Ballassi, St. Sophia, New London, Conn., 25 — Gary Calligas, St. George, Shreveport, La., 25 — John Nychis, Holy Trinity, Pittsburgh, Pa., 25 — Anna Finch, Sts. Constantine & Helen, Fayetteville, N.C., 25 — Dr. Christos Demakes, Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas, Cincinnati, Ohio, 25 — Harry Kariotis, Annunciation, New Kensington, Pa., 25 — Mary Moss, Annunciation, Montgomery, Ala., 25 — Chris Kypros, Annunciation, Norfolk, Va., 25

Dr. Vicki Pappas, the Church Musicians Forum national chairman, urged parishes to "use National Church Music Sunday to first honor their local church musicians; to reaffirm the work of their diocesan choir federations, and to contribute to the National Church Music Endowment Drive in support of its national programs. At all levels, these activities enhance the development of liturgical music in our Archdiocese."

UN Thanks Philoptochos for Donation

Lila Prounis, Philoptochos representative to the United Nations, recently received the following letter from Sergio Viera de Mello, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs:

"I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of a check in the amount of \$32,000, representing the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society's contribution towards the United Nations Disaster Relief Fund to aid the victims of Hurricane Mitch. I should like to thank you, and through you, the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, for the generous contribution and continued support of our humanitarian programs."



Enthronement Highlights



ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS exchanges a warm greeting with First Lady Hillary Clinton.

D. Panagos



ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS at the podium amid a standing ovation from the jubilant audience.

N. Manginas



U.S. Senators Paul Sarbanes (left) and Charles Schumer (right) with His Eminence.

D. Panagos



ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS smiles and warmly greets his mother, brother and family, as he enters the Cathedral for the enthronement.

D. Panagos



A BLESSING for the crowd lined-up along 74th street, in front of the Holy Trinity Cathedral.

D. Panagos



The excitement was overflowing among these school children and their parents.

D. Panagos