



# ORTHODOX OBSERVER

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## Metropolitan Evangelos Ordained, New Jersey Metropolis Installs New Shepherd

NEW YORK – The Ordination of a Bishop in our Orthodox Church is always a solemn and historic occasion.

“No human words can describe all the special elements of sacredness and the unique heavenly-in-nature events that transpire during a bishop’s ordination.” These were the words of Archbishop Demetrios on May 19 at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manhattan following the ordination of the Very Rev. Archimandrite Evangelos Kourounis to the episcopacy, as Metropolitan of New Jersey, the newest metropolitan of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

by Stavros H. Papagermanos  
and Jim Golding



D. PANAGOS

HUNDREDS of faithful attended the Enthronement of Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey.

## AXIOS!

Axios! Axios! resounded through the cathedral from the hundreds of faithful in attendance.

Archbishop Demetrios of America presided at the Archierarchial Divine Liturgy and the ordination of the new metropolitan.

Archbishop Iakovos celebrated along with Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Metropolitan Paisios of Tyanon, Bishop Philotheos of Meloa, Bishop Anthimos of Olympos, Bishop Vikentios of Apameia, Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, Bishop Savas of Troas, Bishop Gerasimos of Krateia, Bishop Andonios of Phasiane and more than 20 priests who also participated in the ordination ceremony.

The Great Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople the Very Rev. Athenagoras Chrysanis represented the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy and Sacred Synod.



D. PANAGOS

METROPOLITAN Evangelos of NJ on the day of his Ordination

Archbishop Demetrios asked the faithful to participate in prayer in the great sacrament of the ordination as he

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## Orthodox Easter Receives Extensive Media Coverage

Indications from around the country show Greek Orthodox Christians turned out in larger numbers for Holy Week and Pascha than in past years and that a growing awareness of Orthodox Easter among the general public also is evident.

The Archdiocese and the Orthodox Observer have received reports from various sources on the widespread mention of Holy Week, Orthodox Easter and related activities in media outlets around the na-

tion, as the following indicates.

Greek Orthodox Coverage in TV markets:

**Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, FL:** WSVN – FOX – Ch. 7 News **Cable [CA]:** CNBC – Squawk Box Chicago: WGN – Independent Morning News **Baltimore:** WJZ – CBS – This Morning Edition **New York:** WNYW – FOX – Good Day New York

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IOANNIS THOMAS

THE FIRST Resurrection, Holy Saturday morning at the Church of Our Savior, Rye NY

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# Church Ordains New Metropolitan for New Jersey

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petitioned the “Divine Grace to ordain the devout presbyter Evangelos bishop of the Metropolis of New Jersey of the Holy Archdiocese of America.”

The Archbishop drew on the image of Christ from the Book of Revelation standing before the door of an individual’s heart and knocking. He said Metropolitan Evangelos is standing before such an open door. “We have to keep the door open and communicate the message of truth and the reality of God.” He also explained the qualities of a bishop as they are described in the New Testament and concluded:

“You are called to a wonderful Episcopal See, among pious and willing people, to continue the great work of love, of faith, of devotion and service, the work of patience, the work of ‘open door’...”

Archbishop Iakovos advising the new hierarch concurred with Archbishop Demetrios and said that his words should be a treasure for the new Metropolitan and referring to the next day, the day of his enthronement and Sunday of the Myrrh Bearers he urged: “Tomorrow take the most fragrant myrrh of your soul and present them to our Lord Jesus Christ as a sweet smelling incense in front of His throne.”

As it is the tradition of the Church, Metropolitan Evangelos was led to the throne for the first time by two other hierarchs, Bishop Philotheos of Meloa—who had ordained him both to the diaconate and the priesthood—and Bishop Gerasimos of Krateia.

In an emotionally and spiritually loaded atmosphere the new Metropolitan blessed the congregation and distributed the antidoron among repeated exclamations of Axios.

His father, Ioannis, his mother Magdalene with tears in their eyes along with his brothers Haralambos and Michael and their families were the first to receive the antidoron from the hands of the new metropolitan.

A reception followed in the Cathedral Center and a formal luncheon hosted by the new metropolitan at the Terrace on the Park hall at Flushing Meadows, Queens.



D. PANAGOS

METROPOLITAN Evangelos of NJ with Archbishop Demetrios, Cardinal Keeler of Baltimore, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston and NJ Governor James E. McGreevey after the enthronement.

Among the several speakers were Haralambos Kourounis, Metropolitan Evangelos’ first cousin from the island of Kalymnos and president of the local city council who brought a proclamation of the City of Kalymnos congratulating the new metropolitan.

In his comments, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston said the new Metropolitan is “a person of decency, a forthright loving human being,” and urged him “to continue to be the person you are.” Further Metropolitan Methodios advised him, “You have to reflect every moment in your life the person of Jesus Christ,” and called the new metropolitan “an apostle to the nation of America in the Metropolis of New Jersey.”

Bishop Philotheos of Meloa urged the Metropolitan to “remain Evangelos and continue to evangelize the Holy Gospel and the joyous message of salvation.”

Archbishop Demetrios in his short remarks at the luncheon said it was “indeed a great day for the Church” as he urged Metropolitan Evangelos “to be a champion of offering abundantly to others what was given to us in our Orthodox faith.”

Metropolitan Evangelos said, “With the Grace and help of God I would do my utmost to prove worthy of the love and the trust of the Church.” He also made it a point to thank individually all those who have supported him and guided him along the



D. PANAGOS

WITNESSING the Enthronement of her son was the greatest Mother’s Day gift for Magdalene Kourounis.

way especially his teachers and professors.

Messages of congratulations were read from Metropolitans Anthony of San Francisco and Soterios of Toronto while many other congratulatory messages were received. Among them messages from Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece Ioannis Magriotis, the ambassador of Greece George Savaides and Cyprus Ambassador Erato Kozakou-Markouli.

The invited guests included all the hierarchs and clergy who participated in the Ordination and the Consul General of Cyprus in New York Martha Mavromatis, the president of the National Philoptochos, Georgia Skeadas, national commander of the Archons, Dr. Anthony Limberakis, presidents of Archdiocesan and community organizations and many representatives from the Metropolis of New Jersey and the communities of St. Demetrios in Astoria, NY and St. Spyridon in Manhattan.

nor of a state with an active Greek-American community, I look forward to working closely with him, and I commend His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople for selecting a leader of Metropolitan Evangelos’ character to guide the new Metropolis of New Jersey.”

Archbishop Demetrios called upon the New Metropolitan to bring back in the fold the unchurched, expand the works of philanthropy and provide strong and unyielding witness of Orthodoxy so that the Metropolis of New Jersey becomes a bright beacon for the population at large.

Metropolitan Evangelos expressed his gratitude to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to Archbishop Demetrios and the members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Archdiocese and asked the heartfelt prayers and love of his flock.

Among those in attendance were Cardinal Keeler, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore, Metropolitan Nicholas of Amissos, Consul General of Greece Dimitris Platis, and all the hierarchs and officials who had attended the ordination.

The Mega Minima (formal Election Announcement) was read May 9 during a moving ceremony at the Archdiocesan Chapel of St. Paul.

The Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate unanimously elected Archimandrite Evangelos Kourounis on April 12, on the recommendation of the Eparchial Synod of the Archdiocese of America.



Governor James E. McGreevey congratulates the new Metropolitan.



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# Resurrection Parish Rejoices in New Church Groundbreaking

GLEN COVE, N.Y. – A week after Orthodox Christians rejoiced in celebrating the Risen Christ, Archbishop Demetrios rejoiced at the future rising of a new part of the Body of Christ, during groundbreaking ceremonies of the planned new Church of the Resurrection that will replace the existing house of worship.

His Eminence celebrated the Holy Water Service and Blessing of the Foundation for the 27,000 square-foot project joined by the parish priest, Fr. Emmanuel Gratsias and hundreds of faithful. The event took place concurrently with the celebration of the parish's name day, which is held the Sunday following Pascha.

The new \$6.5 million facility will be located at Route 107 and Northern Boulevard in Brookville, about five miles south of the community's present home in Glen Cove on Long Island's north shore.

The complex will include a Byzantine-style church, a connecting two-level parish center that will include an administration area, classrooms, community hall and kitchen.

The new building will replace the parish's current home near downtown Glen Cove. It was a former Roman Catholic church building purchased in 1981 and converted into a Greek Orthodox church.

Archbishop Demetrios noted a trend of new parish building programs throughout the United States. "We are part of a tremendous activity here in this country," he said. "There is more and more a need for places of God reminding people of the need to be connected with the One who will be there."

Fr. Gratsias estimates that construction



RESURRECTION PARISH demonstrates its commitment to its youth as several children join Archbishop Demetrios in the groundbreaking ceremony.

may be completed sometime in the summer of 2004.

"To build this temple, there had to be a need," said

Fr. Gratsias. "We built a community, a body of believers because people came to worship; people put kids in Sunday school, teachers and youth advisors sacri-

ficed and were willing to give their time so we could have the full range of youth programs."

He continued, "We have people who care about adult education. It took a community first; we're building a building because there is a demand for it. People sacrificed in order to build the Body of Christ, to build a community."

Other speakers and dignitaries at the

event included Irene Poulos, widow of the late Jim Poulos, the community's founding president; and Nassau County Executive and former Glen Cove Mayor Tom Suozzi; State Sen. Carl Marcellino and other state and local officials.

Archbishop Demetrios presided at the groundbreaking ceremony, turning the first shovel of dirt and carving a cross into the cornerstone of the building.

## Archbishop Demetrios Speaks at Yale Divinity School

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – Archbishop Demetrios presented a lecture at Yale Divinity School Tuesday, April 29. The Archbishop responding to a gracious invitation by his old friend and colleague distinguished professor and dean of the Yale Divinity School Harold Attridge spoke at the Marquand Chapel on the subject "As Poor, Yet Making Many Rich (2 Corinthians 6:10): Orthodoxy in the American Context."

Quoting St. Paul many times throughout his lecture Archbishop Demetrios characterized the invitation an opportunity "to have consideration for one another with an aim of provoking love and good works" (Heb. 10:24) and thanked Dean Attridge and the academic community of the renowned Yale University for "a wonderful academic and ecumenical encounter," he said.

His Eminence spoke about the "essence and the mission of Orthodoxy" in America, reviewed the origins of Orthodoxy in the New World and offered five key points that characterize Orthodoxy



in the American context, clarifying many misconceptions that exist about the Orthodox Faith. The Archbishop explained that "The Orthodox of America remain united in faith despite the diversity of their ethnic heritage or linguistic and cultural expressions," and pointed that, "as the Church whose focus is the Resurrection, Orthodoxy remains open to renewal in every context."

Archbishop Demetrios noted that the Orthodox immigrants came from their homelands poor, for economic reasons but made significant contributions to this country socially, academically, philanthropically, artistically, patriotically, culturally and "Even though poor, they have been given the grace to make many rich, in many ways."

Afterwards, during a reception that followed in the Archbishop's honor many in attendance from the Yale academic community said it was an enlightening and inspiring lecture of love and brotherhood.

Yale University Divinity School, a graduate professional school of Yale University, offers a setting for the scholarly assessment of the religious features of human existence. The School currently has 411 students pursuing three degrees: Master of Divinity, Master of Religion and Master of Sacred Theology.

YDS is the academic home not only to the Divinity School, but also to its partners in theological education, the Berkeley Divinity School and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

— SP

## Small Manhattan Church Welcomes Archbishop

NEW YORK – More than 300 persons packed the small church of St. Gerasimos on the upper West Side of Manhattan on April 6 for Archbishop Demetrios' first visit.

"There is a need for a complete and burning faith in our time," the Archbishop told the congregation. "We keep our churches open in Manhattan even when our parishioners move into the suburbs."

St. Gerasimos Church was founded by immigrants from the island of Cephalonia and is supported by the Cephalonian societies.

Following the Liturgy, the Archbishop presided at an induction ceremony of the "Ainos" Society and Cephalonian Federation. Deacons John and Panteleimon accompanied His Eminence.

A Lenten luncheon followed in the church hall.

The pastor is Father George Zugravu, a graduate of St. John's University in Queens and currently a Columbia University graduate student.

Among those attending included parish council President Valsamakis Sklavounos, "Ainos" Society President Vasilios Kokoris, Cephalonian Federation President George Menegatos, Philoptochos chapter President Tina Moulinos, and St. Gerasimos choir members Spiros Mihalitsianos, Gerasimos Miniatis and Gerasimos Athanasatos.

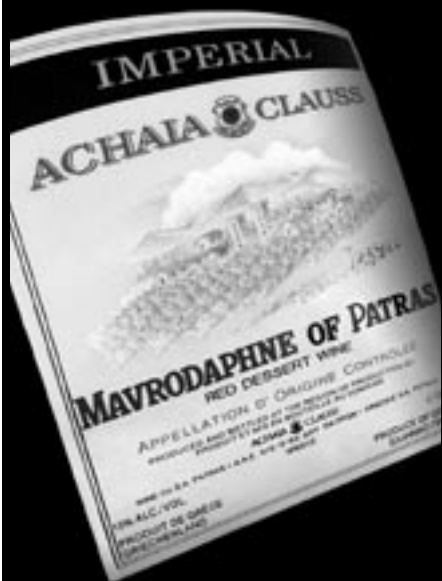


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Harold Attridge with the Archbishop.



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Robin Garr's Wine Lovers' Page

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# ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

## Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Makes First Visit to Azerbaijan

BAKU, Azerbaijan – Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew made his first official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan on April 16-18, which the Central Asian country's political and religious leaders characterized as "an exceptionally significant event of historic proportions."

by Nicholas Manginas

President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan warmly and cordially welcomed Patriarch Bartholomew, whom he commended as an exceptional personality.

He also praised the Patriarch's contribution and tireless efforts to promote friendship among nations and different religions.

Mr. Aliyev emphasized that Patriarch Bartholomew is a charismatic and charming person, saying he has held meetings with many officials, but conversing with the Patriarch particularly impressed him.



PRESIDENT Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan welcomes Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.



N. MANGINAS

AZERBAIJAN and its capital Baku, strategically located at the center of the Caspian Sea.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH Bartholomew visited the historic site of Apostle Bartholomew's martyrdom in Baku and held a short prayer service.



N. MANGINAS

Patriarch Bartholomew stressed that his goal in Azerbaijan is to promote the interfaith dialogue and to further cultivate friendly relationships among people of different convictions, noting that this is precisely what humanity needs now more than ever.

He thanked his host for the warm hospitality he received, and expressed his best wishes to the nation's people.

The Patriarch also referred to the presence of the country's president in the recent door-opening ceremony of the renovated Russian Orthodox Church in Baku, saying, "You as president give the best example to your people," by cultivating good relations among the religions.

The Patriarch called upon President Aliyev to approve a permit for the construction of a chapel at the historic site of the Apostle Bartholomew's martyrdom in Baku, the capital, which Mr. Aliyev did prior to His All Holiness' departure.

The local Russian Orthodox Church has undertaken initiatives for the construction of the chapel. The Patriarch expressed his interest in the project, since the chapel will bear the name of the Apostle Bartholomew.

The President said with a smile that since the chapel will bear his name, the Patriarch would have to be present at the inauguration ceremony.

His All Holiness also congratulated the president on the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Mr. Aliyev said later, "We wish to benefit from the experience and open new horizons with Patriarch Bartholomew and with respect to the interfaith dialogue."

During his stay in Baku, Patriarch Bartholomew also met with the president of

the Parliament, Murtuz Alekserov, Foreign Minister Dr. Vilayiat Guliyev and the leader of the Muslims of Caucasus, Sheikhulislam Hai Allahshukur Pasharzade, who held a reception at his residence in the Patriarch's honor.

Other receptions for the Patriarch were also held by the President of the National Committee for Religious Collaboration and the ambassadors of Greece and Turkey.

Patriarch Bartholomew officiated at a doxology in the Russian Orthodox Church of the Myrrh Bearers, where he was welcomed by the Russian bishop of Baku and Caspia, Alexey, and a crowd of faithful.

The Primate of Orthodoxy offered the bishop a piece of the holy relic and an icon of Apostle Bartholomew as well as an archiepiscopal engolpion.

At one point, the Patriarch referred to the conflict between the Azeri and the Armenians, stressing that "this is not a conflict or a clash between Muslims and Christians, but rather a political issue."

He added that the Church is always on the side of those who suffer for any

reason and regardless of which religion or nation they belong."

Patriarch Bartholomew also addressed professors and students at the University of Baku on interfaith dialogue and its prospects.

The Republic of Azerbaijan, a former state of the Soviet Union, is of particular geopolitical significance in the wider area of Central Asia.

The country covers an area of 86,000 square kilometers and borders Russia to the north, Iran to the south, Armenia and Turkey to the west and Georgia to the northwest.

To the east, Azerbaijan faces the Caspian Sea, where Baku, also the major port, is located.

The population of Azerbaijan is about 8 million, composed mainly by Azeri, who account for more than 90 percent of the population. Other nationalities include the Armenians and the Russians. The Azeri are traditionally Muslims (70 percent Shiite, and 30 percent Sunni).

Azerbaijan is the basic trading bridge between Western Europe and Central Asia.



## U.S. Fund for UNICEF Honors Greek Orthodox



D. PANAGOS

Charles J. Lyons presented National Philoptochos President Georgia Skeadas and Archbishop Demetrios of America, with an honorary award at a luncheon at the Crown Plaza Hotel in NY.

NEW YORK – The U.S. Fund for UNICEF honored the Greek Orthodox community and the Ladies Philoptochos Society for their enduring commitment to UNICEF and its life-saving and life-enhancing programs for children in need during an honorary Luncheon hosted at a central Manhattan hotel.

Charles J. Lyons, U.S. Fund president, praised the Archdiocese and the Philoptochos for the generosity shown to UNICEF.

“UNICEF is the world’s safety net for children,” he said, “...and on behalf of those children we express our deepest appreciation and look forward to a continued partnership...”

The program included a video presentation on the worldwide efforts of UNICEF in preserving and improving the lives of children during the second part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Nils Kastberg, UNICEF’s director of emergency programs in his keynote presentation spoke about the organization’s work in Iraq, the vaccination campaign and the efforts of UNICEF to create “a sense of normalcy for the children of Iraq in the midst of abnormality.”

He also spoke about the HIV-Aids virus and how adversely it affects the lives of children, especially girls in African countries.

He recounted the extensive and

chronic malnutrition of children in North Korea and the bleak conditions for children in Afghanistan. “Because of the vaccination program this year 35,000 children will not die of measles there” he said.

Mr. Lyons presented separate honorary plaques to Archbishop Demetrios and National Philoptochos president Georgia Skeadas.

His Eminence commended “the resilience of UNICEF’s work and urged all present to “work for the elimination of all obstacles and pave the way for a brighter future for the worlds children.”

Georgia Skeadas, in accepting the honor noted that the National Philoptochos has contributed to UNICEF over 300 thousand dollars since 1979, the Year of the Child. She recognized the contributions of many Philoptochos members and in particular Sophia Altin, Terry Kokas and Lila Prounis.

Mrs. Skeadas on behalf of the National Philoptochos, presented to UNICEF a check for twenty thousand dollars for the immediate needs of their program in Iraq.

The list of honored guests included Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, director of the Department of Philanthropy and Bishop Savas of Troas, the Archdiocese chancellor.

## Archimandrite Epiphanius Perialas Elected First Metropolitan of Spain and Portugal

NEW YORK – The Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople on April 12 unanimously elected the Very Rev. Archimandrite Epiphanius Perialas as the first Metropolitan of the newly established Metropolis of Spain and Portugal.

Metropolitan-elect of Spain and Portugal Epiphanius was born in Ithaca, N.Y., in 1935. He enrolled and graduated from Holy Cross School of Theology and Syracuse University.

He also holds a certificate in educational management from the Harvard School of Business and has attended Cornell and Fordham universities.

From 1959 to 1984 he served in various positions as youth director, chanter and choir director in many parishes.

From 1984 until his election, he served many parishes as pastor and was for 15 years at St. Catherine’s parish in Ithaca, N.Y. From 1961 he has worked public school teacher and held academic positions at Syracuse University and Ithaca College having a specialty in speech communication.

He current assignment has been serv-

ing as pastor of Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church in St. Claire Shores, Mich.

Upon learning of the Synod’s action, Archbishop Demetrios issued the following statement:

“The election of a fine clergyman of our Holy Archdiocese of America like Archimandrite Epiphanius Perialas in the newly established Metropolis of Spain and Portugal is an event of particular joy and pride in the Lord.

“We congratulate the Metropolitan-elect who has served with zeal and success in the Church and in the field of education for many years here in America, the place of his birth.

“Now, God calls him to offer his God-given talents and minister in Europe as Metropolitan of a newly established Metropolis. It is apparent that this new sacred post is not only pastoral but also missionary in character; it is a complex and challenging task.

“He has our best wishes for the abundant blessings from God for spiritual prosperity which we believe will be, with the grace of God ‘exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think’ (Eph. 3:20).”

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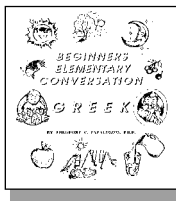
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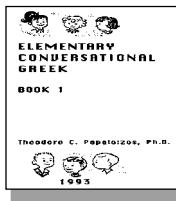
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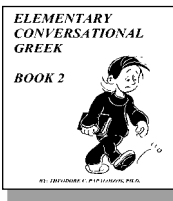
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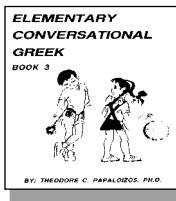
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## Wheelchair Foundation Efforts to Benefit Orthodox Nations



ORTHODOX OBSERVER

MEETING WITH Archbishop Demetrios on May 14 are Libby Pataki, Frederick Gerhardt of the Wheelchair Foundation, Bishop Andonios and Georgia Skeadas (at left).

NEW YORK – The state's first lady, Libby Pataki, and officials of the Wheelchair Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides wheelchairs to people in more than 100 countries, met with Archbishop Demetrios, Department of Philanthropy Director Bishop Andonios of Phasiane and National Philoptochos President Georgia Skeadas on May 14 to discuss reaching out to new regions where there is a demand for wheelchairs.

"We want to identify ... where there might be interest on the part of the Archdiocese to cooperate with the Wheelchair Foundation to identify where people are in need of wheelchairs," Mrs. Pataki said in a brief statement to the press after their meeting.

She said there have been "a tremendous number of requests" from nations in the Balkans, Eastern Europe, Russia, and the former Soviet Republics where there are many victims of war, landmines, diseases and accidents who could benefit from the organization's efforts.

"This is a noble project reaching out to people condemned to immobility for many reasons," said Archbishop Demetrios after their meeting.

He said that, through the Wheelchair

Foundation's efforts, many people would be able to become employed, further their education "or go out and see the world outside of their limited area."

"As a church we are supporting and blessing these aims at alleviating pain, hardship and other difficulties for people who deserve to have something better in life," His Eminence said.

The organization has provided more than 250,000 wheelchairs and plans to distribute 1 million in areas not yet reached.

"This will have immense consequences for these countries and for the recipients," the Archbishop added.

## NYC Churches Offer Wheelchair Access

NEW YORK – Within the past three years, three churches in Manhattan have installed handicapped ramps to welcome worshippers, reports activist Phaedra Damianakos. They are the Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral at 319 East 74<sup>th</sup> St., Annunciation Church at 302 W. 91<sup>st</sup> St., and St. John the Baptist Church, 143 E. 17<sup>th</sup> St.

## Altar Boys "Come & See" HC/HC

BROOKLINE, Mass. – Two groups of altar boys visited Hellenic College and Holy Cross last month as part of its "Come & See program."

Frs. Demetrios Recachinas and Peter Karloutsos led a group of about eighty altar boys from the Connecticut area and Fr. Andrew Georganas, Peter Serolas and Chris Avramopoulos led a group of sixteen boys from the Chicago area.

The altar boys attended church services at the Holy Cross chapel, participated in interactive discussions, and enjoyed tours of both the campus and the city of Boston. The Chicago group gladly took-in a Boston Celtics game.

HC/HC considers it a great blessing to be able to host groups such as these. To arrange a Come & See visit for your group, please call 1-866-HCHC-EDU.



THE ALTAR BOYS from the Chicago area pose for picture with Fr. Nicholas Triantafyllou, President of Hellenic College / Holy Cross





## Elegance, Excellence and Enthusiasm at Holy Trinity Cathedral Ball

NEW YORK – Elegance, excellence and enthusiasm distinguished the 72<sup>nd</sup> Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity Ball held May 2 at The Pierre Hotel in New York City. Over 400 hundred guests, of all ages, from throughout the United States attended the Ball, including some 200 who attended The Soiree designed for singles and younger couples.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Cathedral Dean Father Robert Stephanopoulos and Board of Trustees' president Robert Shaw presented the distinguished HOLY TRINITY AWARD to philanthropist and industrialist Nicholas J. Bouras. Other speakers noting the many activities and achievements of Mr. Bouras included: Michael Jaharis, vice chairman of the Archdiocesan Council; Arthur Anton, chairman of Leadership 100 and Anthoula Katsimatides, assistant to N.Y. Governor Pataki for Community Affairs, who pre-

sented a proclamation on behalf of the Governor to Mr. Bouras.

Mr. Bouras was the 23<sup>rd</sup> recipient of the Holy Trinity Award, which is presented as an expression of appreciation by the Cathedral to individuals dedicated to serving others – a distinguished honor bestowed upon those who have given of themselves of their time and efforts to Greek Orthodoxy and Hellenic Ideals.

Guests included co-chairman Dr. Anthony Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of St. Andrew; sponsor co-chairs George Behrakis and George Saffiol, members of Leadership 100 Board of Trustees; National Philoptochos President Georgia Skeadas and Helen Nicozisis, president of the OCMC Board of Directors. Ball Chairman was Kassandra Romas and coordinators were Froso Beys, Penelope Dambassis, Katerina Shaw and Maria Yatrakis.



ORTHODOX OBSERVER

**BENEFITS COMMITTEE MEETS** – The Archdiocese Benefits Committee and its various subcommittees met at the Archdiocese on May 6-7. Among the matters discussed were pension plan funding and an actuarial updating, pension fund investment status, benevolence matters, insurance plans and improved claims experience under the health plan. There are 486 pension plan participants and 287 persons are receiving pension benefits. Archbishop Demetrios graciously hosted the ABC for lunch and thanked the members for their excellent work and dedication to the Benefits Program.

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## HC / HC REPORT

### Stephen and Catherine Pappas Patristic Institute Established at School



ATTENDEES AT the newly created Patristic Institute board's first meeting (from left) Fr. George Dragas, professor of patristics; Dr. Conostas, Fr. Daly, S.J.; Archbishop Demetrios, Catherine Pappas, Fr. Clapsis, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston; Fr. Triantafilou, Fr. Stylianopoulos, Dr. Bovon and George Chryssis, vice-chairman of the HC/HC board of trustees.

BROOKLINE, Mass. – Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology has established the Stephen and Catherine Pappas Patristic Institute as an integral and indispensable part of its educational programs.

The institute's role is to promote the academic study of the legacy of Church's Fathers, publish theological texts and monographs on important themes, personalities and aspects of the Christian tradition, and sponsor conferences and lectures to illuminate and communicate Church history.

Funding for the establishment of the Patristic Institute has been provided by the late Stephen Pappas and his wife, Catherine, in honor of the 1990 visit to the School of Patriarch Demetrios.

Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, who at the time served as HC/HC president, described the love of the donors for the Orthodox Church in this country and their unswerving willingness to support its vitality through the resources that God had given them. "The vision of Stephen and Catherine Pappas for the future of Orthodoxy in the Western Hemisphere has always been expressed through their continuous generosity of the local, diocesan, and archdiocesan levels. This unprecedented donation to HC/HC is an example of their love and appreciation for this important institution of our Archdiocese in America."

The current president, Fr. Nicholas C. Triantafilou, after consultations with Holy Cross Dean the Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Clapsis and the faculty, appointed the first administrative board of the Institute consisting of the following five renowned scholars and theologians:

Dr. Francois Bovon, Frothingham Professor of the history of religion at Harvard; Dr. Nicholas Conostas, associate professor of theology at Harvard; Fr. Robert J. Daly, S.J. Professor Emeritus of Boston College; Fr. George Dragas, professor of patristics at Holy Cross and Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos, Archbishop Iakovos Distinguished Professor of Theology at Holy Cross.

An executive secretary of the Institute will soon be appointed upon the recommendation of the administrative board.

Holy Cross administrators expressed gratitude to Fr. Robert J. Daly for assisting Holy Cross in developing the governance charter of the Patristic Institute in consultation with the president, the dean and faculty.

The Administrative Board of the

Stephen and Catherine Pappas Patristic Institute convened its first meeting on Tuesday April 8.

Also present were Archbishop Demetrios, Catherine Pappas, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston, Fr. Triantafilou and the Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Clapsis, dean.

Archbishop Demetrios, underlining the importance of the Patristic Institute for the life and the witness of the Orthodox Church in this country stated: "The establishment of the Stephen and Catherine Pappas Patristic Institute constitutes an event of great significance. The Institute will study and present the persons, the lives, and the writings of the Fathers of the Church who have been among the most noble and holy souls, the most brilliant and creative minds, the most amazing and prolific authors, the most eloquent and insightful teachers and the most sensitive and dedicated pastors that the world has seen. Such a constellation of bright stars as an object of study, will certainly enhance the theological work at Holy Cross, and render the Patristic Institute a beacon of the Orthodox Faith, the faith of the Fathers of the Church, for the entire Americas."

Fr. Triantafilou expressed on behalf of the Holy Cross board of trustees, the faculty and students his profound gratitude to the generous donors. "We are forever grateful to all those faithful Orthodox Christians who, like Catherine and the late Stephen Pappas, have recognized the mission and the importance of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology for the life and the witness of the Orthodox Church in this Country," said Fr. Triantafilou. "The Stephen and Catherine Pappas Patristic Institute will immensely contribute to the strengthening of the Patristic ethos of School's academic programs and enhance the witness of our Church in this country."

Holy Cross School of Theology is a unique Orthodox Christian institution of higher learning that offers graduate theological education and programs of study leading to Master of Divinity (M. Div.), Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.), and Master of Theology (Th. M.) degrees.

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# A Life's Journey to Holy Cross

*Editor's note: This is the first in a series of regular features by seminarians on their experiences at Holy Cross School of Theology.*

A year ago, before I came to Holy Cross, everyone that knew me thought that I had it all. I was 31 years old and had the perfect career as a vice president with a division of the largest financial services company in the world and my marriage was the envy of all my friends and colleagues.

by John Boukis

For seven years my wife, Doreece, and I paid our dues and were now reaping the benefits. We remodeled our entire home, bought nice cars and took a few trips a year to places like Hawaii and the Caribbean. From the outside it looked as though we had everything. But looks can be deceiving.

I was miserable. God wouldn't let me rest; He constantly was reminding me of where I should be. From the time I had been a young child I knew that I had to be a priest, even though I wanted to be a capitalist, God had other plans for me. Frankly, I think there are better candidates for the clergy than me, but from the time I could walk I felt the "calling" and who am I to argue with God.

So there I was with everything most people wanted in life and I knew it was time to give it all up. I had run from God for too long and now I had to heed His call.

From the time I truly made the decision to leave my home in Ohio and take my wife from the life we'd built together and go into student housing, I couldn't have been happier.

I know it sounds ironic but everything that I would be leaving behind didn't matter, not the house or car or career. I was finally starting the journey that God has been leading me towards for 30 years.

I knew that I was being called – but I was asking Doreece to give everything up and follow my call. Even though I was asking her to leave her family and career she never once hesitated because she knew that God wanted us to serve Him.

If I said that the 10 months from the time we made the decision to the time that we moved was difficult that would be a gross understatement; we didn't know what we were going to, we only knew what we were leaving.

Then we moved. We loaded our whole life into a 15-foot U-Haul and took off for Brookline. On the drive many tears were shed and our conversation centered on how for the first time in our lives we truly felt homeless.

I caused my wife so much pain by making her move and that day in the truck I knew it, and the pain it caused me was indescribable. Just knowing that I was the cause of so much pain for Doreece tore me up, yet I was ecstatic about the direction we were going.

We arrived at Holy Cross to the most wonderful people. The admissions office and student life were our first contacts and the smiles we were greeted with will never be forgotten.

I don't know if they realized how hard our move was or if they just smile a lot but just seeing them made us feel at ease and I will always be grateful for their kindness.

Although we had visited the school once before, we had forgotten just how magnificent it is. The campus is a jewel – our yard in Ohio didn't compare. Our

apartment was much bigger and nicer than we thought it would be; to be truthful, the school not only gave us more than we expected but in many ways much more than any other school that I have ever seen would give their students. We actually went out and bought more furniture because the space is so generous.

The one thing that took us from being "homeless" to being home was the fellowship we found with our fellow students. The friends we made in the first 30 days will be our friends for life.

The community we had entered knew the pain we were feeling because they all had gone through it and they made it their mission to make us feel welcome – and it worked.

We literally felt as though we were loved and that our new friends had been waiting for us to arrive. We were home.

We are now ending our first academic year and now feel like veterans of the school. The classes are demanding but the knowledge we are given, the "A-Ah" experiences especially, are priceless. I wish that every Orthodox Christian could learn what we learn. I can't wait to share what I've learned with the community that I will serve (God willing).

Aside from the academics, I chose to jump into the community and was chosen to serve as our class president. Because I was given this honor, I've had many dealings with the president of the school, Fr. Nick Triantafyllou, and with other members of the administration.

I am amazed at how Fr. Nick and his staff consistently bent over backwards to improve the community and help the students. No other school would even bother to listen to the students let alone consider their input and in most cases implement the changes.

I sincerely want to thank each and every member of this institution for their dedication to the students and to this Holy School. I would also like to personally thank everyone that supports this school and help each and every one of us to become servants to the Body of Christ.

It might sound as if I am belaboring my story, which is one of many; everyone here has one, but I feel as though it must be told.

You see, there are hundreds of people out there that are being called by God to serve His Church and are fighting the "call," I want you to know that when Doreece and I decided to change our direction and leave what many thought was the perfect life, we defined a successful experience at the seminary as survival – maybe the time would go fast and we could return to our home in Cleveland.

Now, we don't want to leave. This is where our friends are. We get to see them daily and are in each other's homes constantly. We are able to worship with our community and learn together.

We are so comfortable and now can't even imagine leaving this beautiful community and going back to "isolation." We had careers and God showed us lives. We left home and God gave us community. We defined success and God showed us love.

Those of you that are fighting the "call," STOP IT!!! God will give you more that you need if you follow Him.

He will give you this school with this staff and these professors. He will give you peace and love and a community that you would long to be a part of if you knew it existed.

God is waiting for you to come; and as my fellow classmates appeared to be awaiting our arrival, we now await yours. Remember, you can run from God's call, but you can't run forever, He will win! And then, so will you!

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# OPINIONS

## EDITORIAL

### Fulfilling Christ's Mandate

A basic function of the Church's ministries is its outreach to people who are not members or who no longer actively participate in the full sacramental and ecclesiastical life of the Orthodox faith, as well as reaching out to newly established churches in various parts of the world, to help them develop into strong, self-supporting entities.

This has been made possible through support of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center and the mission teams it fields each year that receive strong support from the faithful, and the home missions effort, which has received considerable support from the Leadership 100 Endowment Fund.

When the original Orthodox Christian immigrants came to the New World, they established communities to serve their spiritual needs and those of ensuing generations.

In the difficult years of the Church's growth and development in America, attention was focused almost exclusively on the needs of those who were already baptized into the Faith.

Much has been written about the efforts and struggles of pioneer settlers to establish and maintain their parishes. Missionary work was almost exclusively internal. Missionary work in other areas was virtually non-existent.

Decades have passed and a loosely organized association of Greek Orthodox communities has been transformed into a well-organized and effective Archdiocese with flourishing

parishes and new programs.

The Church in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century is moving steadily in an outward direction, bringing the message of Christ's Resurrection beyond the confines of the parish.

But much still needs to be done. There is a tremendous need for expanded Orthodox missionary work, both here and abroad.

Opportunities for development and growth of this outreach ministry abound.

The task is monumental and the challenges are many.

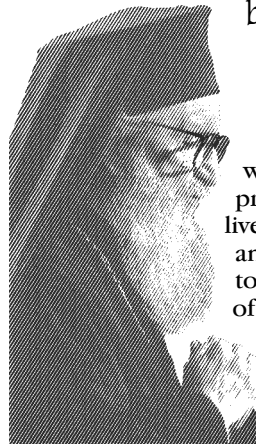
In recent years, Clergy-Laity Congresses and the Archdiocesan Council have placed great emphasis on the need to aggressively develop this outreach. One result has been the creation of the Department of Parish Renewal, Outreach and Evangelism, which was organized specifically to meet the needs of those inactive Orthodox Christians and unchurched, and to help with parish renewal and establishment of new parishes.

Progress is being made as many new mission parishes have formed, with some becoming full-fledged parishes.

The Church, with the support and prayers of all its faithful, will continue to make every effort to reach out to scattered Orthodox Christians in the immediate vicinity of established parishes as well as those in remote areas to fulfill its role of spreading the Gospel of Christ.

## Archpastoral Reflections

by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America



This month, we observe Memorial Day, a special day dedicated to the remembrance of our departed loved ones. Throughout our country, we gather on this day as families and as communities to pray for the blessed repose of their souls, that they might live eternally in God's Kingdom, and forever in our hearts and minds. So that we might express this spiritual yearning together as a Greek Orthodox family united in the Body of Christ, our Church has prescribed memorial services throughout the ecclesiastical year.

As we join our neighbors across America in observance of this national holiday, May 26, we also remember the heroic men and women of our armed forces who sacrificed their lives so that we may live in conditions of liberty and freedom. Our gatherings over the Memorial Day weekend are rightful occasions for the celebration of freedom in our blessed nation and also for the solemn remembrance of those who have defended liberty with their lives.

Our Creator has endowed our minds with manifold abilities and complex functions, among the most extraordinary of which is the faculty of memory. Our inclination to honor and revere our departed loved ones is not only natural; it is also sacred and God-given. Our memory connects us to the continual presence—the living reality—of those who have passed on before us. Our act of remembering our loved ones has the extraordinary capacity to bring us comfort, to renew our spirit, and to mend the fractures of our soul. Moreover, our memory of the departed brings us into communion with the collective memory of the entire body of the Church—with those who also shared the experience of our earthly life ages ago, even with the Saints.

Our reverencing of those who have departed this life is, thus, a collective act, which connects us ultimately to the mystical body of Christ, to the Savior of the world who paid for our freedom by His death on a Cross, so that we would not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). In this sense, Memorial Day accords us the wonderful opportunity to affirm, through the sacrifice of Christ, that death has been overcome; and that He has granted us the joy of being in a lasting communion with our departed loved ones.

May our communion with God be also strengthened through our memory of all those who have departed this life; and may the joy of the Risen Lord strengthen your hearts, nourish your souls, and renew your spirit on this Memorial Day and throughout the Paschal season, as we draw closer to one another in fellowship and in love.

## LETTERS

### ► Thanks Archbishop ◀

The great writer Homer describes the great happiness felt by all in the community when a husband and wife love each other.

But the greatest joy, he says, is in the hearts of the couple themselves.

It was with this same feeling of elation that I, after so many years, was able to enter my home, the beloved Archdiocesan Holy Trinity Cathedral. I was overjoyed to see Archbishop Demetrios there that Sunday during the Agape service.

Our Church is to be congratulated for, in the very short space of approximately three years, we have demonstrated the great humanity and love of our neighbors as mandated by our Lord, Jesus Christ, by opening the doors of our beloved churches to all individuals, allowing families to worship together in Manhattan.

Truly, Archbishop Demetrios, you are to be congratulated for your humanity, your great leadership of our Greek Orthodox Church and your wise guidance of the flock.

We love and admire you because of the magnitude of your intelligence, the depth of your thought and the encompassing breadth of your humanity.

**Phaedra Vasiliki Damianakos**  
New York

### ► Media Relations ◀

Editor,

In the March Orthodox Observer I read the letter to the editor from Chancellor Demetri Kantzavelos of the Metropolis of Chicago regarding the "GMA offensive reporting."

I also noticed that couple issues ago someone else from the clergy wrote complaining about the "unfairness" of the American media regarding either national or ecclesiastical coverage from the media.

I believe now more so than ever it is time for the Archdiocese through the Metropolises and the Parishes to form a rapid response team, and some of the functions may be:

1. Make sure the news media (TV, newspapers, magazines, and so on) extend the same coverage to us as they do for the other denominations in this country. It is a rotten shame when our Pascha (for over 200 million people) comes around, and there is not a single word said at any TV channel, yet other groups with a hand full of people get top coverage.

2. Notify the media of any upcoming event and ask for the appropriate coverage. This can start from the parish level to the Diocese to the Archdiocese. Each parish can write a letter to the media identifying the days and type of coverage we are expecting from them and ask for EQUAL treatment.

3. If the media fails to honor the request, the parish will report this to the Metropolis who in turn will write a letter and ask them to be fair in their coverage. If again nothing happens the Archdiocese will send a letter reminding the media of their responsibility and the continuous sliding of the Greek population and the many business people who use the media for their business.

**Thomas Thanasoulis**  
Linwood, N.J.

### ► Under one God ◀

Editor,

There will not be true peace in the world until people realize there is only one God. There is only one superpower that created and controls this universe. We call Him God. There is only one God, but people worship Him in different ways. That is why we have many different religions and denominations.

If we say God of the Jews, God of the Christians, God of the Muslims, etc., we are implying that more than one God exists, which is not true. We believe in Him differently, but He sees us all the same and loves us the same. We are all brothers and sisters under one mighty Father.

He sees and loves us the way a good father loves his children. A good father would never say to his son, "Go and burn your brother's house and kill his family with my blessings." God is really hurting when He sees His children arguing and fighting among themselves.

We might ask, "Why did He make us all different? Difference and variety create harmony."

In order to make a song, you use different notes. You cannot make a song with just one note. The different sounds of the notes create a harmony that pleases our ears.

The different shapes and colors of flowers in a garden please our eyes. The different trees, animals and birds in a forest please our eyes. The different aromas of flowers please our sense of smell. The different flavors of foods please our taste buds.

Putting all those together, we see that God knew what He was doing. He created everything in wisdom. Anything for His children – all of us. When we

travel, we see different landscapes and different architecture, different cultures and religions. We hear different stories in different languages. We see different people who enjoy God's goods.

We exchange goods and ideas like brothers and sisters would do. All those things make our lives interesting and worth living.

God did this all for us – His children. Instead of being grateful and thankful, we misunderstand His intentions and His fatherly love. We are constantly at each other's throats or we live in sin.

The most disturbing is when people fight in God's name. The Greeks have a saying, "All fingers are not the same, but they all hurt the same when you cut them and the same blood runs through them."

**Kostas Tsoukalis**  
York, Pa.

### ► Likes Observer ◀

Editor,

I am writing to express my appreciation for the noticeable changes in the substance of the Orthodox Observer in recent months. More and more, I am finding that your coverage in the areas of greatest interest to me has expanded.

Specifically, I cite the news from our ecclesiastic communities throughout the country, including the focus on Philoptochos chapters.

The church profiles are particularly helpful when we travel. They make visiting a parish in another area that much easier because we've had the opportunity - through your pages - to get to know the community. Keep up the good work, and, "kai s'anoter!"

**Ona Spiridellis**  
Westfield, N.J.



# Archiepiscopal Encyclical

## AHEPA Sunday

May 18, 2003

*To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Day and Afternoon Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America*

My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

### Christ is Risen!

It is in the joy of the Resurrection that we honor this year the significant work of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA). Initially organized in 1922 by Greek immigrants to overcome the forces of bigotry and discrimination that threatened their early welfare, the AHEPA has long demonstrated a remarkable ethos of civic responsibility, serving the needs of the Hellenic community of this nation for decades. Today, the AHEPA enriches and benefits Greek Americans from all walks of life through promoting educational and philanthropic initiatives, and through encouraging excellence within families and individuals.

As Greek Orthodox Christians, we give thanks to God for our dynamic faith and our Hellenic heritage, which guide the efforts of our Archdiocese to promote education and philanthropy, and to strive for excellence in both body and spirit. During this joyous Paschal season, we are renewed foremost in this striving by the hope and power of the Resurrection. We are also enriched by the good work of the AHEPA, which serves our heritage and our faith, and continues to cultivate excellence throughout its many chapters in America and abroad.

Therefore, in recognition of the remarkable work of the AHEPA, I am pleased to designate this Sunday, May 18, 2003, as AHEPA Sunday, and I ask that you offer your prayers and support for the local chapters, as well as the national organization, as we grow in our love for one another and in the joy of our Risen Lord.

With paternal love in the Risen Christ,



†Archbishop DEMETRIOS of America

## viewpoint

### The Hazy Days of Summer

Summer may have begun early this year in the Chicago northern suburbs on the first Sunday of May. Perhaps too much has been said about the hazing incident on that day among the Glenbrook North High School junior and senior girls, but what exactly is hazing?

by Fr. Angelo Artemas

Historically, hazing originates in the 16<sup>th</sup> century among sailors and crew workers on long ship voyages. The earliest definition of hazing in Webster's International Unabridged dictionary is the attempt to exact unnecessary, disagreeable or difficult work from sailors and crew workers.

Because such harassment primarily took place on hazy days (which could drive sailors crazy) it became known as hazing. Webster's modern definition includes the infliction of excessive or unnecessary work, an attempt to embarrass by ridicule or persistent criticism, and the subjecting to treatment intended to put in ridiculous or disconcerting positions.

Hazing is not defined as the subjecting to treatment that lands one in the hospital; that is still known as assault, which is a crime.

Parents of the students who have been charged with misdemeanor assault have been quoted as saying that their kids are good kids. That is simply not true! Good kids do good things. When good kids have done bad things, they apologize and accept the consequences of their actions.

Kids who do bad things and try to avoid consequences and attempt to blame others are babies.

Parents protecting their kids from the consequences of bad behavior is a temptation as old as parenthood, but the

consequences of no consequences can be much bigger according to Michele Borba, author of No More Misbehavin. Borba writes, "To raise trophy kids, the focus is on grades, athletics, SATs and Ivies rather than moral development. The trade-off: No conscience, no sense of remorse, no accountability or empathy." This sounds like a summary of May 4.

In his book Parenthood Paul Reiser writes the following about preparing for their first baby: "Baby's room – check, crib – check, infant car seat – check, diapers – check, formula – check, morals and values – oh my God I forgot to get morals and values."

Parents who wait until a baby is born or baptized to develop morals and values, and a relationship with God and church are a little late. Parents who think that teaching and being an example of morals and values is not important for teenagers have abandoned their teenagers.

Back to hazing for a final moment – any fraternity, sorority, work place, club, sports team or group of friends that is involved in any form of hazing is not worthy of respect or membership.

Anyone who seeks to ridicule, embarrass or injure others is not a good person. He or she can become a good person by doing good things. Anyone who is contemplating subjecting themselves to ridicule, embarrassment or personal injury in order to be accepted should always remember that we belong to Christ, and we are members of His body.

All other accolades or acceptances are superficial and hardly necessary. Is it time for teachers, school and university administrators and parents to stop looking the other way and grow up? Then maybe our teenagers will follow.



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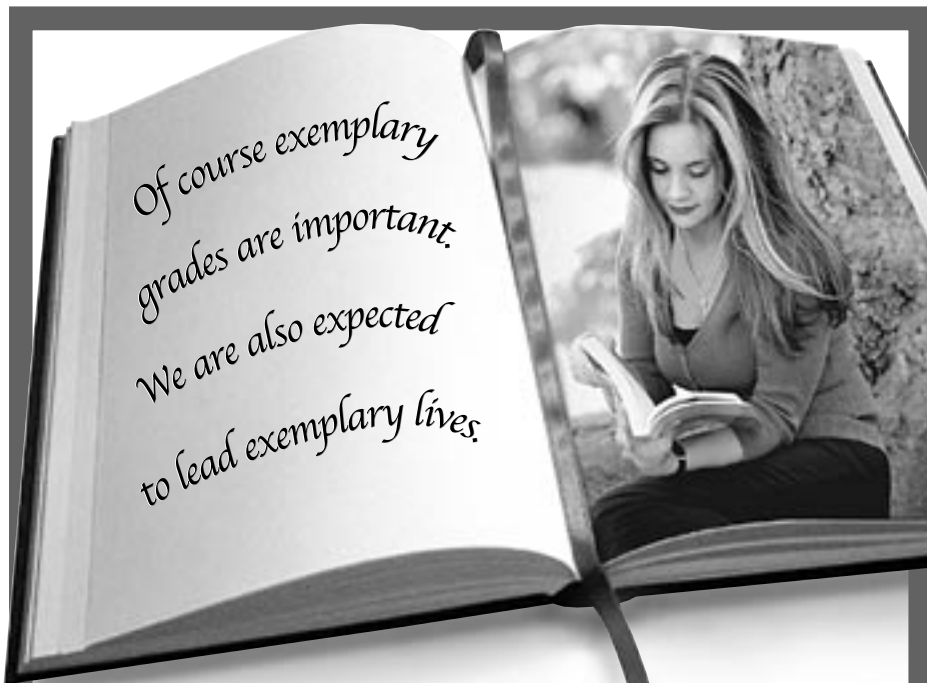
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## Kireopoulos to Lead NCC International Affairs

NEW YORK – Dr. Antonios (Tony) Kireopoulos, an Orthodox Christian theologian, a former special assistant at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, and currently executive director of the U.S. Conference of Religions for Peace, will join the National Council of Churches U.S.A. (NCC) staff May 19 as associate general secretary for international affairs and peace.

His responsibilities will include helping the NCC formulate its position on peace issues, international issues and U.S. foreign policy, especially in conflict and post-conflict situations.

High on the agenda will be the Middle East, including the Israeli–Palestinian conflict and post-conflict reconstruction in Iraq. He will also maintain relationships with Christian churches, councils and other religious communities worldwide.

Announcing the appointment, NCC General Secretary Bob Edgar said, “Dr. Kireopoulos brings particular strengths in the areas of interfaith relations and particular sensitivities to Middle East issues. He also will help bring a much-needed Orthodox Christian perspective to the NCC’s senior staff.”

The National Council of Churches U.S.A. is the nation’s leading ecumenical body, with 36 Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican member Churches that in turn comprise 50 million adherents in 140,000 congregations.

The U.S. Conference of Religions for Peace (USCRP) is a national non-profit organization that promotes multi-religious collaboration and religious-secular partnerships to issues that cut across community lines, including ethnic, religious and racial diversity and religion in public life.

Dr. Kireopoulos, USCRP’s executive director since 1999, also serves as advisor to the Secretary General of the World Conference on Religion and Peace, the USCRP’s parent organization, which advances this same mission globally.

“I hope to bring to the NCC experience that will help lead to comprehensive solutions in situations of conflict,” Dr. Kireopoulos said. “And by bringing the theological traditions of our member Churches to these same situations, I hope to further promote the NCC’s vision of how our nation, particularly as a citizen of the world, can truly live up to its founding principles.”

He hailed the NCC’s substantial work in the area of Christian-Jewish and Christian-Muslim relations and expressed the hope to build on those good relationships in work for peace.

Dr. Kireopoulos also said he will



Dr. Antonios (Tony) Kireopoulos

make religious freedom a focus of his work, with the hope of fostering a better understanding among US religious freedom advocates of the perceptions of American motivations within societies where religious freedom has been difficult to implement, and to likewise nurture a better understanding within those societies of the legitimate motivations for the promotion of religious freedom as a fundamental human right.

Dr. Kireopoulos holds a doctorate in theology from Fordham University (2003); a Masters of Divinity degree from St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Seminary (1991); a Masters of International Management from the American Graduate School of International Management (1983); and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service degree from Georgetown University (1981).

Dr. Kireopoulos has more than 10 years of experience in non-profit management, including administration, board relations, budgeting, development, program direction and public relations.

Previous to leading the United States Conference of Religions for Peace, he worked as special assistant to the Archbishop at the Archdiocese where his duties included representing the Church at the United Nations and at the State Department.

He also was an assistant to the Chancellor of the Orthodox Church in America.

Among his affiliations, he is currently the president of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

## World SAE President Visits Georgia to Further Medical Help

CHICAGO – World Council of Hellenes President Andrew A. Athens, leading a self-management team for the Medical Relief Initiative, traveled at the end of April to the Republic of Georgia for meetings in Tbilisi, the capital.

“We have already made important improvements in the administration of the medical centers since taking direct management of our program that provides free basic medical care to Hellenes and their neighbors in the Black Sea area countries,” Mr. Athens said.

Mr. Athens was accompanied by Dr. Charles Kanakis, director of Medical Relief Initiative, Cynthia Yannias, coordinator, and Evan Kakis, certified public accountant for the project.

They held meetings with the in-field medical director, Dr. Roland Stamatov, and the medical and administrative staffs of “Hippocrates,” and the other four medical

centers in Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine.

In Athens, SAE’s president met with President of the Greek Parliament Apostolos Kaklamanis, an early supporter of the program, whom he updated on recent developments in the medical project.

In a separate meeting the same day in Thessaloniki, Mr. Athens met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Ioanni Magrioti with whom he discussed the support of the Hellenic State to the medical program.

The Medical Relief Initiative was founded by Mr. Athens five years ago when it became apparent that the Hellenic communities lacked even basic medical care following the collapse of the former Soviet Union. More than 35,000 free medical services are provided every month in the program funded with the help of the U.S. State Department, private donations worldwide and Greece.



# ORTHODOXY WORLDWIDE

## The Strength of the Orthodox Church in Korea

In its 103 years, the Orthodox Church in Korea has endured multiple conflicts, occupation, enslavement and wars. Through out it all, the Church has endured.

In February the Church celebrated the 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the first Divine Liturgy celebrated in Korea.

The event also marked 100 years of the Orthodox Church in Korea being blessed with a Miracle-working Icon of St. Seraphim of Sarov, commissioned by the last tsarina of Russia.

The celebration, held at the Cathedral in Seoul, was a time for the Orthodox faithful in Korea to learn more about, and remember, the first Orthodox missionaries who brought the Orthodox faith to their nation.

The work of those early missionaries has brought much fruit and today a vibrant Orthodox Church is thriving in Korea under the guidance of Metropolitan Dionysios of New Zealand and Bishop Soterios of Zelon. There is a full schedule of services celebrated regularly in Korean in seven churches around the country.

The Cathedral in Seoul has daily services and a regular worshipping community made up of people from various cultures and ethnicities. The work of spreading the Gospel in Korea continues



The ornate wood-carved iconostasis at the St. Nicholas Cathedral in Seoul, Korea.

as new areas are being evangelized and communities are growing steadily.

Fr. Daniel Na, a Korean Orthodox priest who has been working for more than 20 years to help the Orthodox Church grow, was the featured speaker for this season's OCMC spring lecture tour, March 29-April 13.

Through Fr. Daniel Na's efforts, what was once only a family of four celebrating monthly liturgies with a visiting priest is now St. Paul Orthodox Church in Incheon, Korea with 136 baptized Orthodox Christians, a full schedule of services, Bible studies, Sunday school and philanthropic activity.

All this was accomplished under great financial strain and struggle.

Fr. Daniel visited 20 communities in Florida, with a side-trip to the St. Louis metropolitan area and a day-trip to the University of Illinois in Champaign.

## Holy Week and Easter in South America

Once again, by the invitation of Metropolitan Tarasios of Buenos Aires and with the permission and blessings of Archbishop Demetrios, I had the opportunity to serve our Church in South America during Holy Week and Easter.

by Fr. George E. Kaplaxis

Last year, I was in Sao Paulo, Brazil. This year, my destination was Argentina, probably the most European of all Latin American countries.

After I arrived in the very Parisian-looking capital of Buenos Aires, I traveled on to the small city of Berisso – actually a suburb of the much larger city of La Plata, 70 kilometers south of Buenos Aires, on the Rio de la Plata, and part of the Argentine Pampas region.

There, I had the honor of conducting all of the Holy Week services at the Church of Sts. Constantine and Helen, which was the first Greek Orthodox community established in South America. That was in 1910.

Many of the first Greek immigrants that came to Argentina came to La Plata and Berisso to work in the meatpacking plants of British and American companies such as Swift and Armour.

The community at that time numbered about 2,000 persons. Immigration from Greece continued and was particularly strong in the years after World War II until the early 1960s.

Eventually, perhaps 50,000 Greeks immigrated to South America with almost half of those settling in Argentina.

Few of the more recent arrivals, however, went to Berisso.

Today, the community there numbers perhaps 200 families as the original immigrants have passed on, and their descendants have moved to Buenos Aires or other large Argentinean cities in search of economic

opportunity, or have just drifted away from the Orthodox Church in general.

Unfortunately, many of the second, third and succeeding generations are currently not active in the Church.

The problems of Berisso are not unique. They are characteristic of all of Argentina, and in fact of all 21 Greek Orthodox communities in South America.

They are, quite frankly, the result of years of benign neglect. This neglect has led to a dire shortage of priests. Most of the communities either have no priest or only an itinerant priest from time to time to administer to the needs of the people.

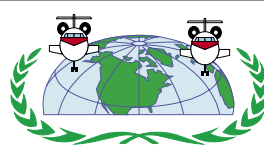
This neglect has also resulted in an almost total lack of dynamic parish organization, and to very few financial resources readily available either in the individual communities or at the Metropolitan level – a situation exacerbated by the terrible economic conditions that presently exist in most of South America.

In Buenos Aires, for example, it is estimated that 150 Orthodox families are currently on the verge of starvation. Available funds are barely able to sustain them.

Almost two years ago Metropolitan Tarasios was ordained and sent to Buenos Aires. The former Peter Anton who grew up in San Antonio, Texas, is a graduate of our Holy Cross Theological School and worked closely with Patriarch Bartholomew at the Patriarchate for more than 10 years before his present assignment.

He is youthful, dynamic and was well aware of the difficulties he would face in South America.

Nevertheless, he was and is still eager to meet the challenges that are before him and to make Orthodoxy a vibrant force in the lives of the people of that vast continent. "May our Lord and Savior grant him health, the strength and the courage to succeed in his holy mission.



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# Archdiocesan Council Committees Have Productive Meetings

WASHINGTON – Following their opening session at the Marriott Metro Center hotel on April 4, Archdiocesan Council members broke up into their 12 standing committees for discussions, after which each reported its recommendations to the entire Council when it reconvened.

Following is a summary of the committee efforts:

## Administration Committee

The committee, which has been combined with the Committee of the Eparchial Synod, is working to draft and revise the Archdiocesan Regulations necessary for implementing the 2003 Charter, and to address the administrative needs of the Archdiocese and metropolises in their day to day operations, including the updating of the Uniform Parish Regulations to conform to the Charter as well as the applicable provisions adopted at previous congresses.

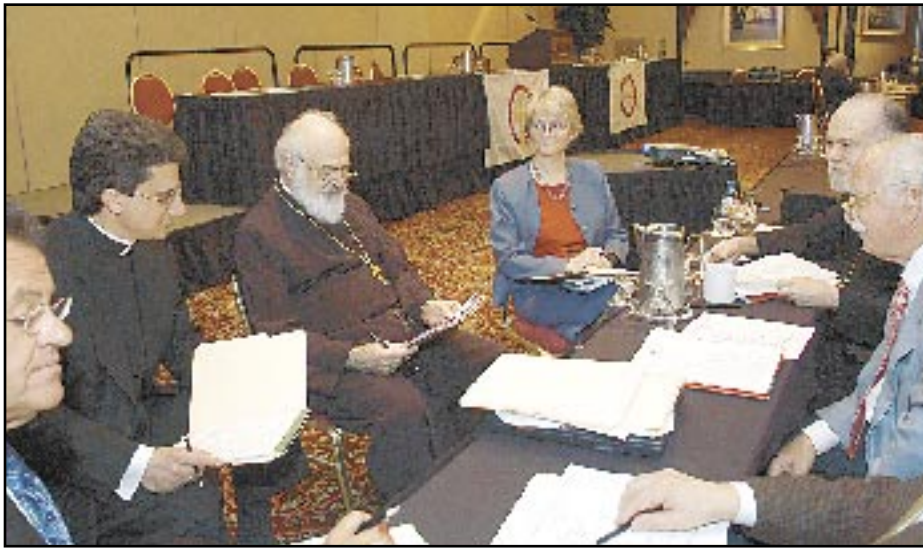
The 14-member committee is comprised of Metropolitan Iakovos (presiding hierarchy), Metropolitan Methodios, Anthony Stefanis (chairman), Peter J. Pappas, Gust Feles, Dr. Steven Gounardes, staff member Jerry Dimitriou, the Very Rev. Alexander Leondis, Michael Jaharis, Fr. James Moulketis, Professor Elias Patsavos, Peter Bassett, Eleni Huszagh, Emanuel C. Demos and Catherine Bouffides Walsh.

## Finance Committee

Director of Finance John Barbagallo reported that Total Commitment collections for 2002 increased by more than \$600,000 from the previous year but, because of several factors, the Archdiocese completed the year with a deficit. However, it would have ended the year with a surplus if all parishes had paid their total commitment in full and on time.

These factors included the following:

- As of Dec. 31, about \$925,000 in uncollected Total Commitment funds was due to the Archdiocese.



METROPOLITAN MAXIMOS of Pittsburgh presides over the discussion at the Youth Committee meeting, with participants including Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos and Fr. James Kordaris.

look at other cost-cutting measures.

- Expenses for the Department of Finance were \$277,900; \$175,000 had been budgeted, which included costs to expand the department.

- Legal fees and settlements totaled \$656,000, which includes one large legal settlement of about \$425,000.

- Insurance expense was \$760,800; \$538,000 had been budgeted. The Finance Department will get new bids during 2003.

Finance Committee Chairmen John Marks and John Papajohn urged a renewed emphasis on promoting stewardship and to educate the faithful about the importance of supporting the national Church.

"Many don't meet their stewardship obligations," Mr. Marks said. "Each metropolitan must pursue efforts to collect these past due amounts and help reduce the debt."

He also said that all agencies of the

Anton, Helen Hadjiyannakis Bender, Peter Dion, Andrew Manatos, George Vourvoulis, Alex Spanos, Ron Harb, Dr. Louis Roussalis, Peter Vlachos, Fr. Stephen Kyriacou and Steven Kyriakos.

## Development and Stewardship Committee

Chairman George Behrakis reported three important issues the committee addressed.

- To adopt the "Chicago Plan" by the other metropolises for a successful Total Commitment program.

- To re-establish the National Stewardship Committee

- To produce a map of the economy of the Archdiocese.

Committee members are Metropolitan Nicholas (presiding hierarchy), George Behrakis (chairman), staff members Jerry Dimitriou, Jerry Menetos, Chris Andreas, members Bishop Andonios, Peter Vlachos, John Pappajohn, Harold Peponis, Theofanis Economides, Fr. James Moskovites, William Kallinikos, Fr. John Touloumes, George Vourvoulis, John Zavitsanos, Peter Zikos, Fr. Evagoras Constantinides and George Kaludis.

## Hellenic College/Holy Cross

In his report, HC/HC President Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou expressed his gratitude to the Leadership 100 Endowment Fund for its support of the school that will help the institution increase its programs.

He also said the school is implementing a strategic plan that includes accommodating the increasing numbers of students. "We've run out of space," he said. The school has a need for more single and married student housing and some students must be housed off-campus.

Fr. Triantafilou also reported that a property owner adjacent to HC/HC will be offering 6.8 acres to the school.

The Hellenic College/Holy Cross Higher Education Committee includes the following members: Metropolitan Nicholas (presiding hierarchy), George Behrakis (chairman), Fr. Triantafilou, Bishop Savas, Fr. Peter Karloutsos, the Very Rev. Nicholas Graff, Fr. William Cassis, Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Fr. Dean Gigicos, Gerald Clonaris and Fr. Alkiviades Calivas.

## Marriage and Family

Fr. Constantine Sitaras and Demetri Moschos discussed three issues of the committee – the establishment of a Ministry of the Family, the designation of 2005 as the "Year of the Family" and the progress of the Archdiocesan Center of Family Care.

The committee also called for adopting outreach programs to reach out to families, and to recognize that clergy families also need a support ministry.

Committee members include Metropolitan Alexios (presiding hierarchy), Demetri Moschos (chairman), Fr. Costa Sitaras, Fr. Charles Joanides, Metropolitan Nicholas, Bishop Gerasimos, Presbyter

Angie Constantinides, George Cantonis, Fr. William Christ, Fr. William Cassis, Catherine Lingas, Fr. James Moulketis and Dr. John Collis.

## Religious Education

Dr. Vicki Pappas reported on the five-year plan of the Religious Education Department and continuing curriculum development. Among the new materials being created at CD-Roms that will be financed by grants, including one on Byzantine music, and a new study guide.

Among the recommendations was for every metropolitanate to have a funded director of religious education, or for a training program for volunteers at the Department.

Committee members include Metropolitan Methodios (presiding hierarchy), Dr. Antoine Harovas (chairman), Fr. Frank Marangos, Metropolitan Isaiah, Dr. John Collis, Dr. Vicki Pappas, Dr. Nicholas Lousion, Dr. James Dimitriou, and Fr. John Maheres.

## Greek Education

Committee Chairman Dr. Steven Gounardes said the instruction of "Greek language and culture should be given high priority." The committee recommended that Greek should be taught as a second language and that heritage "must also be part of the curriculum."

Committee members are Metropolitan Alexios (presiding hierarchy), Dr. Gounardes, Maria Makedon, Panikos Papanikolaou, Savvas Tsivicos, Michael Cantonis, George Dariotis, Manuel Tissura, Fr. Demetrios Constantelos, Fr. Emanuel Pratsinakis and Thomas Dallas.

## Missions and Evangelism

Increased efforts to serve mission parishes and struggling small parishes were discussed by the committee. Fr. James Kordaris said a development guide on ministering to mission parishes and the need for seminars on home missions at Holy Cross School of Theology were among the recommendations.

Greater coordinated efforts with the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council and SCOBA were also recommended.

The committee consists of Metropolitan Maximos (presiding hierarchy), Lou Nicozisis (chairman), Fr. Kordaris, Bishop Dimitrios, Catherine Lingas, Demetri Moschos, Stephen Cherpelis, Gus Stavropoulos and Anthony Stefanis.

## Youth Ministry

Fr. Mark Leondis and Chairman Tom Kanelos discussed the latest developments in youth ministry, including assessing and revitalizing the Young Adult League and developing standard responsibilities for youth workers.

Fr. Mark also reported his department "is currently studying the situation" regarding Ionian Village and is "heavily promoting" the camp for this year's session.

Other committee members include Metropolitan Methodios (presiding hierarchy), Dr. Nicholas Lousion, Chris Avramopoulos, Fr. John Bakas, Georgia Skeadas and Catherine Bouffides-Walsh.

## Communications

Fr. Nektarios Morrow said the committee has recommended increasing the distribution of information to parishes through e-mail with less reliance on faxing, provide more immediate, regular communications with communities and metropolises through the list server and that parishes not having fax machines should be provided with them. He also cited rising mailing and printing costs for the Observer and efforts to raise additional funds through advertising.

Committee members include Metropolitan Isaiah (presiding hierarchy), John Payiavlas (chairman), Fr. Morrow, Bishop Savas, Savvas Tsivicos, Panikos Papanikolaou, Fr. Byron Papanicolaou, Andrew Athens and John Catsimatides.



FINANCE Committee Chairmen John Marks (left) and John Papajohn (center) with director of finance John Barbagallo.

- Because the Ionian Village program was cancelled, the Archdiocese received no income, but had about \$224,000 in fixed costs.

- The Archdiocese paid about \$285,000 to priests between assignments. The budgeted amount was for \$115,400.

- The Archdiocese also had to spend about \$115,000 in unreimbursed costs relating to the 2002 Clergy Laity Congress; \$7,000 had been budgeted.

- Expenses incurred by the 2002 Patriarchal visit were about \$200,000, of which \$120,000 was underwritten by various donors.

- Total costs for the Department of Internet Ministries was about \$226,000; \$115,400 was budgeted.

- Total expenses in 2002 for the Orthodox Observer were about \$744,000; \$568,200 was budgeted. The plan for 2003 is to increase advertising revenue and to

Archdiocese would be asked to submit budgets with ideas for eliminating costs.

George Vourvoulis of Chicago suggested "examining mid-size cities" as sites for clergy-laity congresses as a way to reduce the cost and attract more participation from parishes.

Harold Peponis, also of Chicago, called for "raising the level of consciousness" among the metropolitanates for the need to support the Church. "We have to stand together," he said. "We need to be team players."

Fr. William Christ of Tulsa, Okla., said the matter of supporting the Church "should be approached as a spiritual issue."

The Finance Committee consists of Metropolitan Iakovos (presiding hierarchy), John Pappajohn and John Marks (co-chairmen), staff member John Barbagallo, Metropolitan Anthony, Nicholas Bouras, Thomas Dallas, James C. Fountas, Arthur





ΜΑΪΟΣ 2003

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# ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΠΑΡΑΤΗΡΗΤΗΣ

## Η Εκκλησία χειροτόνησε και ενθρόνισε τον Μητροπολίτη Νέας Ιερσέης Ευάγγελο

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ – Η χειροτονία επισκόπου στην Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία μας αποτελεί μεγάλο, επίσημο και ιστορικό γεγονός ζωντανή και μυστηριακή υπενθύμιση της συνέχειας του αποστολικού έργου και της διάδοσης του Ευαγγελίου.

του Σταύρου Η. Παπαγερμανού

«Κανένας λόγος ανθρώπινος δεν μπορεί να περιγράψει τα ειδικά στοιχεία ιερότητας, μοναδικότητας και όντως ουρανίας υφής των συμβαινόντων σε μια χειροτονία Επισκόπου».

Αυτά ήταν τα λόγια του Σεβασμιωτάτου Αρχιεπισκόπου Αμερικής κ. Δημητρίου κατά την εις Επίσκοπον χειροτονία του Αρχιμανδρίτου Ευάγγελου (Κουρουνη) ως Μητροπολίτου Νέας Ιερσέης στον Αρχιεπισκοπικό Καθεδρικό Ναό της Αγίας Τριάδος στο Μανχάταν, στις 19 Μαΐου 2003.

Άξιος! Άξιος! αντήχησαν οι επευφημίες των εκατοντάδων πιστών, συγγενών και φίλων που κατέκλυσαν τον Καθεδρικό Ναό.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος προεξήρχε της Αρχιερατικής Θείας Λειτουργίας και του μυστηρίου της χειροτονίας του νέου επισκόπου.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Γέρων πρώην Βορείου και Νοτίου Αμερικής κ. Ιάκωβος συλλειτουργήσε μαζί με τον Μητροπολίτη Βοστώνης Μεθόδιο, τον Μητροπολίτη Ατλάντας Αλέξιο, τον Μητροπολίτη Τυάνων Παΐσιο, τους Επισκόπους Μελόης Φιλόθεο, Ολύμπου Άνθιμο, Αλαμείας Βικέντιο, Ξάνθου Δημήτριο, Τρω-



ΔΗΜ. ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Ο Μητροπολίτης Ευάγγελος συνοδευόμενος από τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής Δημήτριο εισέρχεται στον Καθεδρικό Ναό του Αγ. Ιωάννου του Θεοδόγου.

άδος Σάββα, Κρατείας Γεράσιμο και Φασιανής Αντώνιο καθώς επίσης και είκοσι περίπου ιερείς και δύο διακόνους που συμμετείχαν στην τελετή της χειροτονίας. Ο Μέγας Αρχιμανδρίτης του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου Πανοσιολογιώτατος π. Αθηνάγορας Χρυσάνης εκπροσώπησε τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη και την Σύνοδο του Πατριαρχείου.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος αναφερόμενος στην παρουσία μεγάλου αριθμού Αρχι-

ερέων ως δηλωτικής του μεγάλου γεγονότος και του μεγάλου μυστηρίου ζήτησε από τους πιστούς να συμμετέχουν συμπροσευχόμενοι την στιγμή της χειροτονίας.

Η συγκίνηση κορυφώθηκε καθώς ο χειροτονούμενος αρχιερεύς γονάτισε μπρος στην Αγία Τράπεζα και ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος επικαλέσθη το Άγιο Πνεύμα λέγοντας: «... η Θεία Χάρις, η πάντοτε τα ασθενή θεραπεύουσα και τα ελλεί-

ποντα αναπληρούσα προχειρίζεται τον Θεοφιλέστατον πρεσβύτερον Ευάγγελον Επίσκοπον της Θεοσώστου Ιεράς Μητροπόλεως Νέας Ιερσέης της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής...»

Εξ άλλου ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος παρέσχε πατρικές νουθεσίες στον νέο Μητροπολίτη λέγοντας μεταξύ άλλων: «Εφ' όσον είχες την ευκαιρία να γεννηθείς και να μεγαλώσεις σε μια οικογένεια ευσεβέστατη και εφ' όσον η Εκκλησία υπήρξε ο χώρος που μεγάλωσες από μικρή ηλικία σήμερα η είσοδος σου στην Αρχιεροσύνη αποτελεί ένα σταθμό και μια αφετηρία» Αφού δε αναφέρθηκε στα κύρια γνωρίσματα που πρέπει να χαρακτηρίζουν έναν Επίσκοπο όπως αυτά αναφέρονται στις δύο προς Τιμόθεον επιστολές του Αποστόλου Παύλου και στην προς Τίτον επιστολή του, καθώς και τα τρία πρώτα κεφάλαια της Αποκαλύψεως, κατέληξε λέγοντας: «Καλείσαι σε μια ωραϊότατη επισκοπική έδρα εν μέσου ευσεβούς λαού και προθύμου, να συνεχίσεις ένα μεγάλο έργο το οποίο θα είναι έργο αγάπης, πίστεως, διακονίας και υπομονής, έργο ανοιχτής θύρας και υπομονής εν ώρα του μεγάλου πειρασμού...»

Κατόπιν ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ιάκωβος απηύθυνε λίγα λόγια στον νέο Μητροπολίτη:

«Σεβασμιώτατε Άγιε Αδελφέ,

Έως χθες ήσουν τεκνίον σήμερα προάγγος εις αδελφόν, συναγωνιστήν και συμπαλαιστήν εις τον αγώνα της ποιμαντικής ζωής. Η Αυτού Σεβασμιότης ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος μας κ. Δημήτριος σου έδωσε την πεμπτουσία των τριών πρώτων κεφαλαίων της Αποκαλύψεως. Πιστεύω ότι αυτή η πεμπτουσία θα είναι στα χέρια σου μέσα ο θησαυρός ο οποίος θα σε οδηγεί σε κάθε σου βήμα. Οι γονείς σου σε εμόρφωσαν εις ευσεβήν νέον. Ο Απόστολος Τίτος σε μορφώνει σήμερα εις Αρχιερέα της του Χριστού Εκκλησίας. Δεν έχω να σου προσφέρω τίποτε παρά μόνο μια συμβουλή. Να ενθυμείσαι πάντοτε τον ορισμό του Επισκόπου που δίδει ο Απόστολος Τίτος. Να ενθυμείσαι ότι ο Θεός σου εχάρισε πάρα πολλά δώρα και το μεγαλύτερο δώρο σήμερα είναι για τους γονείς σου οι οποίοι προσηύχοντο και περίμεναν να σε δουν μια μέρα να γίνεσαι όχι απλώς το ίνδαλμα... αλλά ο δούλος του Χριστού για το οποίο να αξίζει το επιφώνημα Άξιος.

Εγώ σου δίδω μια διπλή συμβουλή. Αύριο να πάρεις τα πιο αγνά και ωραία μύρα της ψυχής σου και μαζί με τας μυροφόρους γυναίκες να τα παρουσιάσεις εις τον Χριστόν. Για να κάνει την ζωή σου εὐδοσιον σαν θυμίαμα ενώπιον του Θρόνου του Θεού και διά να είσαι πάντοτε μυροφόρος, κομίζων μύρα αγάπης, καλοσύνης, αλληλεγγύης, δικαιοσύνης, αγνότητος και αληθείας εις τον κόσμο. Αυτή είναι η ολόψυχη ευχή μου και η δευτέρα είναι να ξεύρεις ότι η αποστολή σου... η αποστολή μας είναι να εξυπηρετούμε τους πιστούς μας

### ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

## Κυριακή τῆς ΑΗΕΡΑ

18 Μαΐου 2003

Πρός τούς Σεβασμιωτάτους καί Θεοφιλεστάτους Αρχιερείς, τούς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερείς καί Διακόνους, τούς Μοναχούς καί Μοναχές, τούς Προέδρους καί Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τά Ἡμερήσια καί Ἀπογευματινά Σχολεῖα, τίς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τήν Νεολαία, τίς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καί ὁλόκληρο τό Χριστεπώνυμον πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικής.

**Ἀδελφοί καί ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,  
Χριστός Ἀνέστη!**

Μέσα στήν χαρά τῆς Ἀναστάσεως τιμοῦμε ἐφέτος τό σημαντικό ἔργο τοῦ Ἑλληνο-Αμερικανικοῦ Προοδευτικοῦ Συλλόγου (ΑΗΕΡΑ). Ὁ Σύλλογος αὐτός δημιουργήθηκε ἀρχικά τό 1922 ἀπό Ἑλλήνες μετανάστες γιά ν' ἀντιμετωπίσῃ τόν φανατισμό καί τήν προκατάληψη, στοιχεῖα τά ὁποῖα τοῖς ἀπειλοῦσαν στά πρώτα τους βήματα. Ἀπό τότε ἡ ΑΗΕΡΑ ἔχει ἐπιδείξει ἀξιοθαύμαστο ἥθος κοινωνικο-πολιτικῆς εὐθύνης ἐναντί τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Κοινότητος τῆς Ἀμερικής, καλύπτοντας τίς ἀνάγκες τῆς ἐπὶ σειρά δεκαετιῶν. Σήμερα, ἡ ΑΗΕΡΑ ἐμπλουτίζει καί συμπαραστέκεται στούς Ἑλληνοαμερικανούς ὅλων τῶν κοινωνικῶν στρωμάτων μέσω τῆς ὑποστηρίξεως ἐκπαιδευτικῶν καί φιλανθρωπικῶν πρωτοβουλιῶν, καί μέσω τῆς ἐνθαρρύνσεως πού παρέχει σέ οἰκογένειες καί άτομα γιά τήν ἐπίτευξη τοῦ ὄντως ὑπέροχου.

Ὡς Ἑλλήνες Ὀρθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί, εὐχαριστοῦμε τόν

Θεό γιά τήν δυναμική πίστη μας καί τήν Ἑλληνική κληρονομιά μας, ἐφόδια τά ὁποῖα καθοδηγοῦν τίς προσπάθειες τῆς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς μας στήν προαγωγή τῆς ἐκπαιδεύσεως, τῆς φιλανθρωπίας καί τῆς ἀναζητήσεως τοῦ ὑπέροχου τόσο γιά τό σῶμα ὅσο καί γιά τό πνεῦμα. Κατά τήν διάρκεια αὐτῆς τῆς χαρμόσυνης Πασχαλινῆς περιόδου, οἱ προσπάθειές μας αὐτές ἀνανεώνονται κυρίως διά τῆς ἐλπίδος καί τῆς δυνάμεως τῆς Ἀναστάσεως. Ἐμπλουτιζόμεθα ἐπίσης ἀπό τό καλό ἔργο τῆς ΑΗΕΡΑ, τό ὁποῖο ὑπηρετεῖ τήν κληρονομιά μας καί τήν πίστη μας, καί συνεχίζει νά καλλιεργῇ τό ὑπέροχο καί ὠραῖο διά τῶν πολλῶν τοπικῶν μονάδων τῆς στήν Ἀμερική καί στό ἐξωτερικό.

Γι' αὐτό τόν λόγο, σέ ἀναγνώριση τοῦ ἐξαιρετικοῦ ἔργου τῆς ΑΗΕΡΑ, εὐρίσκομαι στήν εὐχάριστη θέση νά ἀνακηρύξω αὐτή τήν Κυριακή, 18 Μαΐου 2003, Κυριακή τῆς ΑΗΕΡΑ, καί ζητῶ ἀπό οἶας νά προσφέρετε τίς προσευχές καί τήν στήριξή σας στίς τοπικές μονάδες καί στόν ἐθνικό ὄργανισμό τῆς ΑΗΕΡΑ, καθώς μεγαλώνει ἐντός μας ἡ μεταξύ ἀλλήλων ἀγάπη καί ἡ χαρά μας ἐν τῷ Ἀναστάντι Κυρίῳ.

Μέ τήν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἀνασάντι πατρική ἀγάπη,

*Ἱ. Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος*

† ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής Δημήτριος



# Με τις ευλογίες του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου εκτοξεύθηκε με επιτυχία ο δορυφόρος HELLAS-SAT



ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ. – Το διαστημικό κέντρο στο ακρωτήριο Κανάβεραλ της Φλόριδας επισκέφθηκε ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος την Δευτέρα 12 Μαΐου 2003 για να ευλογήσει τον πρώτο Ελληνικό δορυφόρο Hellas-Sat. Η εκτόξευση του δορυφόρου ανεβλήθη τελικά για τεχνικούς λόγους αλλά πραγματοποιήθηκε με επιτυχία την επομένη.

Με θέα τον επιβλητικό πύραυλο Atlas V που επρόκειτο να μεταφέρει τον τηλεπικοινωνιακό δορυφόρο στο διάστημα ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος πραγματοποίησε την τελετή του αγιασμού και ακολούθως οδηγήθηκε στην βάση εκτόξευσης του πυραύλου, ανήλθε με ανελκυστήρα στη κατασκευή υποστήριξης του πυραύλου δίπλα ακριβώς από το σημείο που περιέκλειε τον δορυφόρο και ράντισε με τον αγιασμό τον πύραυλο και το περιεχόμενό του.

Ο δορυφόρος Hellas-Sat είναι το πρώτο ελληνικό εγχείρημα στο διάστημα, αποτελεί συνεργασία της Ελλάδας και της Κύπρου και θα καλύπτει την Ευρώπη, την Μέση Ανατολή, την Αφρική, την Ασία και την Δυτική Ωκεανία και θα εξασφαλίσει την τηλεοπτική κάλυψη των Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων του 2004 σε όλο τον κόσμο ενώ παράλληλα θα καλύψει εμπορικές και αμυντικές τηλεπικοινωνιακές ανάγκες.



Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος ραντίζει με Αγιασμό την κάψουλα που περιέχει τον πρώτο ελληνικό δορυφόρο.

Τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο υποδέχθηκαν και ξενάγησαν ο Υφυπουργός Μεταφορών της Ελλάδας κ. Μανώλης Στρατάκης, ο πρόεδρος του Ομίλου Εταιρειών Hellas-Sat κ. Γιώργος Αργυρόπουλος, ο διευθύνων σύμβουλος της Κυπριακού σκέλους της εταιρείας κ. Πρωτόπαπας καθώς και πολλοί άλλοι Έλληνες και Κύπριοι επιστήμονες. Να σημειωθεί ότι ο πύραυλος Atlas V σχεδιάστηκε από τον αντιπρόεδρο της μεγάλης αμερικανικής εταιρείας Martin-Lockheed ελληνοαμερικανό Γιάννη Καρρά.

## Χειροτονήθηκε και ενθρονίστηκε ο Μητροπολίτης Νέας Ιερσέης

► σελ. 15

να ανεύρουν, να αγκαλιάσουν και να κατακτήσουν την σωτηρία της ψυχής των. Ο Θεός να σε καταστήσει πραγματικώς δόκιμον διάκονόν Του και άξιο αρχιερέα της Αγίας του Χριστού Μεγάλης Εκκλησίας. Αμήν. Άξιος!»

Ο Επίσκοπος Μελόης Φιλόθεος και ο Επίσκοπος Κρατείας Γεράσιμος οδήγησαν, σύμφωνα με την παράδοση της Εκκλησίας, τον νέο Ιεράρχη για πρώτη φορά στον θρόνο απ' όπου ευλόγησε το Εκκλησίασμα και ψάλλοντας το Χριστός Ανέστη έκανε την απόλυση ενώ οι πιστοί αναφώνησαν για μια ακόμη φορά ΑΕΙΟΣ!

Πρώτοι οι γονείς του, ο πατέρας του Ιωάννης και η μητέρα του Μαγδαληνή με δάκρυα στα μάτια του φίλησαν το χέρι και έλαβαν το αντίδωρο. Ακολούθησαν τα αδέρφια του Χαράλαμπος και Μιχάλης, οι οικογένειές τους, οι λοιποί συγγενείς και το πολυπληθές εκκλησίασμα.

### Το Γεύμα

Αργότερα το απόγευμα ο νέος Μητροπολίτης παρέθεσε επίσημο γεύμα στο οποίο παρέστησαν 400 και πλέον συγγενείς και προσκεκλημένοι από την Νέα Ιερσέη, αλλά και τις κοινότητες του Αγίου Σπυρίδωνα –στην οποία ο Μητροπολίτης Ευάγγελος μεγάλωσε και υπηρέτησε, καθώς και από την κοινότητα του Αγίου Δημητρίου στην Αστόρια στην οποία υπηρετούσε ως Ιερατικώς προϊστάμενος τα τελευταία τρία χρόνια.

Ο κ. Χαράλαμπος Κουρούνης, πρόεδρος του δημοτικού συμβουλίου της Καλύμνου και πρώτος εξάδελφος του Μητροπολίτου, που ήρθε από την Ελλάδα του επέδωσε διακήρυξη του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου της Καλύμνου και μετέφερε την χαρά και υπερηφάνεια των συμπατριωτών του στην γενέτειρα.

Ο Θεοφ. Επίσκοπος Μελόης Φιλόθεος τον προέτρεψε να παραμείνει «Ευάγγελος –ευαγγελιζόμενος το Ευαγγέλιο... και να ευαγγελίζεις το χαρούμενο άγγελμα της εν Χριστώ σωτηρίας», είπε.



ΔΗΜ. ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος παραδίδει στο νέο Μητροπολίτη την Ποιμαντορική Ράβδο.

Ο Μητροπολίτης Βοστώνης κ. Μεθόδιος ευχαρίστησε αρχικά τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο και αναφερόμενος στον Μητροπολίτη Ευάγγελο τόνισε ότι διαθέτει πολλά προσόντα: «Αγαπάει πολύ την Εκκλησία και την Ορθοδοξία, ξέρει να αγαπά και έχει μεγάλη καρδιά και είμαι βέβαιος ότι θα αγκαλιάσει όλους. Ιδιαίτερος τα παιδιά», είπε.

«Θα πονέσεις σαν Επίσκοπος όπως έχουμε πονέσει όλοι», τον προειδοποίησε: «αλλά είσαι και να παραμείνεις άνθρωπος που αγαπάει την αλήθεια», κατέληξε τονίζοντας ότι πρόκειται για άνθρωπο ακέραιο και ευθύ.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος στον σύντομο χαιρετισμό του μίλησε για «μια πολύ μεγάλη και ιερή ημέρα για όλους μας» και κάλεσε τον Μητροπολίτη Ευάγγελο να αναδειχθεί πρωταθλητής της προσφοράς κάθε Θείου δώρου στον κόσμο και την κοινωνία γύρω μας.

Ο Μητροπολίτης Ευάγγελος που μίλησε τελευταίος τόνισε: «Θέλω να με αξιώνει ο Θεός να φανώ αντάξιός της

αγάπης και της εμπιστοσύνης της Εκκλησίας μας» και ευχαρίστησε όλους όσους με οποιοδήποτε τρόπο του στάθηκαν στήριγμα ιδιαίτερα δε τους δασκάλους και καθηγητές του –μερικοί εκ των οποίων ήταν παρόντες στο γεύμα– και οι οποίοι συνέβαλαν τα μέγιστα στην διαμόρφωση της προσωπικότητάς του όπως είπε.

Διαβάστηκαν συγχαρητήρια μηνύματα του Μητροπολίτη Αγίου Φραγκίσκου κ. Αντωνίου και του Μητροπολίτη Τορόντο και Καναδά κ. Σωτηρίου. Χαιρετισμούς και ευχές απηύθυναν ακόμη η γενική πρόξενος της Κύπρου Μάρθα Μαυρομάτη, η πρόεδρος της Εθνικής Φιλοπτώχου Γεωργία Σκιαδά, ο διοικητής του Τάγματος των Αρχόντων δρ. Αντώνιος Λυμπεράκης και άλλοι εκπρόσωποι φορέων και οργανισμών.

### Η Ενθρόνιση

Το εσπέρας της Κυριακής 11 Μαΐου σχηματίστηκε πολυάριθμη πομπή αποτελούμενη από τα εξαπτέρυγα, τον κλήρο, τους ιεράρχες, τιμώμενους

προσκεκλημένους, άρχοντες του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου και κατευθύνθηκε στον Καθεδρικό Ναό του Αγίου Ιωάννου του Θεολόγου στο Tenafly NJ για την ενθρόνιση του νέου και πρώτου Μητροπολίτου της Ιεράς Μητροπόλεως Νέας Ιερσέης κ. Ευαγγέλου.

Διαβάστηκαν οι επίσημες επιστολές του Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχου και του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου ο οποίος διετέλεσε τοποτηρητής της εν χηρεία επισκοπής τα τελευταία τρία χρόνια.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος τόνισε ότι «πρόκειται για ιερώτατο γεγονός στο οποίο σας συνοδεύουν οι ευχές του Παναγιωτάτου και της Αγίας και Ιεράς Συνόδου του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου. Καλείσθε φίλτατε αδελφέ να διακονήσετε τον λαόν του Θεού με τον Θεοφιλέστατον δυνατόν τρόπον», είπε και τον προέτρεψε να αγαπήσει το απολωλός πρόβατο και να το επαναφέρει αλλά συγχρόνως να διαφυλάξει και να προστατεύσει και το ισχυρόν. «Καλείσθε στο εξής να είσθε Απόστολος, Προφήτης, Ευαγγελιστής, Ποιμήν και Δάσκαλος» είπε, περιγράφοντας το ποιμαντορικό έργο και τις ποιμαντικές ευθύνες του Επισκόπου.

Ο Μητροπολίτης Νέας Ιερσέης κ. Ευάγγελος στον Ενθρονιστήριο λόγο του ανέπτυξε τις σκέψεις και τα σχέδια του για την πνευματική ανάπτυξη της Μητροπόλεώς του και απευθυνόμενος στο ποίμνιό του είπε: «Ζητώ την προσευχή σας, την καρδιά σας, και την αγάπη σας... ο Κύριος είναι η κεφαλή μας και ο Αρχηγός που θα μας οδηγήσει, Αυτός είναι ο Άρχων και ο Προστάζων».

Παρόντες μεταξύ άλλων ήταν ο Ρωμαιοκαθολικός Καρδινάλιος Κέλερ της Βαλτιμόρης και ο Κυβερνήτης της Νέας Ιερσέης James E. McGreevey, ο οποίος μάλιστα εξέδωσε και συγχαρητήριο μήνυμα προς τον Νέο Μητροπολίτη.

Ιδιαίτερα συγκινητική ήταν η τελετή του Μεγάλου Μηνύματος που πραγματοποιήθηκε την Παρασκευή 9 Μαΐου στο παρεκκλήσιο του Αποστόλου Παύλου της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής.



## Ελληνική Γλώσσα και Παραδοσιακοί Χοροί στη Utah



Ντυμένες με εθνικές φορεσιές και με ιδιαίτερη υπερηφάνεια χόρεψαν παραδοσιακούς χορούς στο μεγάλο πανηγύρι της μεγάλης και προσδευτικής κοινότητας της Αγίας Τριάδος του Salt Lake City οι νεαρές ελληνοαμερικανίδες φοιτήτριες της Ελληνικής Γλώσσας και Λογοτεχνίας του Πανεπιστημίου της Utah. Στην φωτογραφία με τον καθηγητή τους κ. Βασίλειο Δημ. Κουκορίνη στο μέσο (από αριστερά) Μ. Αεράκη, Τασία Γεωργιάδ, Φ. Τσαγγάρη και Νικόλη Βαρανάκης.

## Συνεδριάζει το Προεδρείο του ΣΑΕ

ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ. – Το Προεδρείο του Συμβουλίου Απόδημου Ελληνισμού συνεδριάζει στα γραφεία του ΣΑΕ στη Θεσσαλονίκη από 15 έως 18 Μαΐου 2003 υπό την Προεδρία του κ. Ανδρέα Άθενς.

Κατά τη δεύτερη ετήσια συνεδρίαση του Προεδρείου θα γίνει ανασκόπηση πεπραγμένων για το διάστημα από τη συνεδρίαση του Φεβρουαρίου μέχρι σήμερα, με αναφορές του Προέδρου και του 11μελούς Προεδρείου, και θα καθοριστούν οι άμεσες προτεραιότητες στην εκτέλεση των επιμέρους προγραμμάτων. Επίσης θα συζητηθούν θέματα που σχετίζονται με τη συμμετοχή του ΣΑΕ στη διοργάνωση της πρώτης ΕΛΛΗΝΙΑ-ΔΑΣ τον Ιούνιο του 2003, την ενίσχυση και προβολή των Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων του 2004 και ειδικότερα του προγράμματος Εθελοντισμού.

Το Προεδρείο του ΣΑΕ θα έχει κοινή συνεδρίαση με τους Συντονιστές των πέντε Δικτύων του ΣΑΕ (Νεολαίας, Επιχειρηματιών, Επιστημόνων, Πολιτισμού και Γυναικών), ενώ παράλληλα θα συνεδριάσουν το Προεδρείο του Ιδρύματος Απόδημου Ελληνισμού και το Δ.Σ. του Εθνικού Ταμείου Ομογενών.

Τα μέλη του Προεδρείου του ΣΑΕ θα έχουν διαδοχικές συνεργασίες με τον Υφυπουργό Εξωτερικών Ιωάννη Μαγκριώτη, με τον Γενικό Γραμματέα Απόδημου Ελληνισμού Δημήτρη Δόλλη, με το Προεδρείο της Ειδικής Μόνιμης Επιτροπής της Βουλής για Θέματα Απόδημου Ελληνισμού, καθώς και συναντήσεις με τον Υπουργό Μακεδονίας Θράκης κ. Γιώργο Πασχαλίδη, το Νομάρχη Θεσσαλονίκης κ. Παναγιώτη Ψωμάδη και τον Δήμαρχο Θεσσαλονίκης Βασίλη Παταγεωργόπουλο.

## «Μουσικό Ταξίδι στην Ελλάδα» στο Kennedy Center

ΟΥΑΣΙΝΓΤΟΝ. – Παρουσία του Σεβασμιωτάτου Αρχιεπισκόπου Αμερικής κ. Δημητρίου, του επιτετραμμένου της Ελληνικής Πρεσβείας κ. Ελ. Αγγελόπουλου, και 450 Αμερικανών, Ομογενών και Ευρωπαίων φίλων της Ελλάδος, πραγματοποιήθηκε με μεγάλη επιτυχία στις 3 Μαΐου στο γνωστό Kennedy Center της Ουάσινγκτον συναυλία της Πειραματικής Χορωδίας και του ορχηστρικού συγκροτήματος PRO ARTE του συνθέτη Δημήτρη Παπαποστόλου.

Το 45μελές ελληνικό χορωδιακό συγκρότημα ενθουσίασε το κοινό με ένα «Μουσικό Ταξίδι στην Ελλάδα», μια ηχητική ξενάγηση του ελληνικού χώρου με την έντεχνη ανάπλαση του Δ. Παπαποστόλου και με το έργο του «Τα Πάθη», εμπνευσμένο από τους ύμνους της Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας, που συνδύασε με συναρπαστικό τρόπο στοιχεία από αρχαία ελληνική, βυζαντινή και δυτική κλασική μουσική. Εντυπωσίασε το

πολύμορφο ρεπερτόριο και συγκίνηση προκάλεσε η ερμηνεία των σολίστ, Μυρσίνης Καραμιχάλη-Κατσιναβάκη, Ελένης Μιχαλοπούλου, Τζίνας Φωτεινοπούλου και Ευγενίας Γρέντζελου.

Η Πειραματική Χορωδία έδωσε για πρώτη φορά συναυλία στις ΗΠΑ το 1982 στο Lisner Auditorium της Ουάσινγκτον, παράσταση την οποία η εφημερίδα WASHINGTON POST είχε επαινέσει για τη «θαυμάσια ισορροπία και εκπληκτική τονική ομορφιά της».

Η συναυλία διοργανώθηκε από το Γραφείο Τύπου της Ελληνικής Πρεσβείας στην Ουάσινγκτον στο πλαίσιο πολιτιστικών εκδηλώσεων για να εορτασθεί η Ελληνική Προεδρία της ΕΕ στην αμερικανική πρωτεύουσα. Χρηματοδοτήθηκε από το Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού, το Υπουργείο Τύπου & ΜΜΕ, τη Γενική Γραμματεία Αποδήμου Ελληνισμού και άλλους χορηγούς στην Ελλάδα και στις ΗΠΑ.

## Διάλεξη του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου στη Θεολογική Σχολή Πανεπιστημίου YALE

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ. – Διάλεξη με θέμα «ως πτωχοί πολλούς δε πλουτίζοντες (Προς Κορινθ. Β', 6:10): Η Ορθοδοξία εντός της Αμερικανικής πραγματικότητας», έδωσε ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος, προσκληθείς υπό του κοσμήτορος της Θεολογικής Σχολής του Πανεπιστημίου Yale Harold Attridge, την Τρίτη 29 Απριλίου 2003 στο χώρο του παρεκκλησίου Marquand της σχολής στο Νιού Χέιβεν του Κονέκτικατ.

Με συχνές αναφορές σε ευαγγελικές περικοπές από τις επιστολές του Αποστόλου Παύλου κατά την διάρκεια της ομιλίας του ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος χαρακτήρισε την πρόσκλησή του στο παγκοσμίως αυτό γνωστό κέντρο μελέτης και γνώσεως ως ευκαιρία εφαρμογής της Παύλειου παρότρυνσης «Κατανοώμεν αλλήλους εις παροξυσμόν αγάπης και καλών έργων». (Εβρ. 10:24) και ευχαρίστησε τον οικοδεσπότη, κοσμήτορα Attridge και την ακαδημαϊκή κοινότητα του Πανεπιστημίου για «την υπέροχη ευκαιρία της ακαδημαϊκής και οικουμενικής αυτής συνάντησης».

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος αναφέρθηκε στην «ουσία και την αποστολή της Ορθοδοξίας» στην Αμερική, έκανε μια σύντομη αναδρομή της εμφάνισης και της παρουσίας της Ορθοδοξίας στον Νέο

Κόσμο και ανέλυσε πέντε κύρια σημεία που χαρακτηρίζουν την Ορθοδοξία εντός της Αμερικανικής πραγματικότητας, διευκρινίζοντας πολλές παρανοήσεις που τυχόν επικρατούν σε μερικούς κύκλους για την Ορθόδοξη πίστη. Ο Σεβασμιώτατος εξήγησε ότι «οι Ορθόδοξοι της Αμερικής παραμένουν ενωμένοι εν τη πίστη παρά την ποικιλία της εθνικής τους καταγωγής ή των γλωσσικών και πολιτιστικών τους εκφράσεων» και τόνισε ότι η Ορθοδοξία, ως Εκκλησία με επίκεντρο και στόχο την Ανάσταση, παραμένει ανοιχτή στην ανανέωση υπό οποιαδήποτε πραγματικότητα. Σημείωσε ακόμη ότι οι Ορθόδοξοι μετανάστες ήρθαν φτωχοί από τις πατρίδες τους και μετανάστευσαν κατ'εξοχήν για οικονομικούς λόγους αλλά η συνεισφορά τους σ' αυτήν την χώρα είναι αξιόλογη και σημαντική σε επίπεδο κοινωνικό, ακαδημαϊκό, φιλανθρωπικό, καλλιτεχνικό, πατριωτικό και πολιτιστικό και τόνισε ότι «αν και φτωχοί, είχαν την ευλογία να πλουτίσουν πολλούς με πολλούς διαφορετικούς τρόπους».

Στην δεξίωση που ακολούθησε προς τιμήν του Αρχιεπισκόπου πολλά από τα μέλη της ακαδημαϊκής κοινότητας του Yale εξέφρασαν την ικανοποίησή τους για την ευκαιρία μιας διαφωτιστικής και εμπνευσμένης από αγάπη διαλέξεως.

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## Προσκύνημα στον τόπο μαρτυρίου του Αποστόλου Βαρθολομαίου



ΝΙΚ. ΜΑΤΤΙΝΑΣ

Ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος προσέφερε τεμάχιο ιερού λειψάνου του Αποστόλου Βαρθολομαίου στο Ρώσο Επίσκοπο Μπακού και Κασπίας Αλέξανδρο.

Εκκλησία. Ο Πατριάρχης εξέφρασε την χαρά του για την προοπτική ανέγερσης του νέου παρεκκλησίου που θα φέρει το όνομα του Αποστόλου Βαρθολομαίου και ο πρόεδρος Αλίγιεν ανταποκρινόμενος και χαμογελώντας είπε στον Πατριάρχη ότι εν τοιαύτη περίπτωση θα πρέπει να έλθει και πάλι για τα εγκαίνια του παρεκκλησίου.

Πριν την αναχώρησή του από το Μπακού ο Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος ενημερώθηκε από τον πρόεδρο της κρατικής Επιτροπής Θρησκευτικών Υποθέσεων ότι ο Πρόεδρος της Δημοκρατίας έδωσε εντολή για την έκδοση αδειάς για την ανέγερση του παρεκκλησίου του Αγ. Βαρθολομαίου.

Κατά την παραμονή του στην πρωτεύουσα του Αζερμπαϊτζάν, το Μπακού, ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος είχε συναντήσεις με τον πρόεδρο του Κοινοβουλίου Murtuz Aleskeron, με τον υπουργό εξωτερικών Δρ. Vilayat Guliyen και με τον Ηγέτη των Μουσουλμάνων του Καυκάσου Sheykhlulislavan Haji Allahshukur Pashazade ο οποίος και παρέθεσε γεύμα προς τιμήν του Πατριάρχου στην κατοικία του με συμμετοχή άλλων θρησκευτικών λειτουργών, βουλευτών κ.ά. Γεύματα επίσης παρέθεσαν προς τιμήν του Πατριάρχου ο πρόεδρος της κρατικής επιτροπής για την συνεργασία με τα θρησκευόμενα του Αζερμπαϊτζάν καθώς και οι πρόεδροι της Ελλάδος και της Τουρκίας.

ΜΠΑΚΟΥ, Αζερμπαϊτζάν – Ως γεγονός ιστορικής σημασίας και ιδιαίτερης σπουδαιότητας χαρακτηρίστηκε από τους πολιτικούς και θρησκευτικούς ηγέτες του Αζερμπαϊτζάν, η επίσημη επίσκεψη του Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχου Βαρθολομαίου στη χώρα τους από 16 έως 18 Απριλίου.

του Νικόλαου Μαγγίνα

Ο πρόεδρος της Δημοκρατίας του Αζερμπαϊτζάν Heydar Aliyev υποδέχθηκε με θερμότητα και εγκάρδιότητα τον Πατριάρχη Βαρθολομαίο και έπλεξε το εγκώμιό του λέγοντας ότι πρόκειται για μία εξέχουσα προσωπικότητα την οποία υποδέχεται το Αζερμπαϊτζάν με υπερηφάνεια. Ακόμη, εξήρε την συμβολή του Πατριάρχου καθώς και τις άοκνες προσπάθειές του στην καλλιέργεια της φιλίας μεταξύ των λαών και των διαφόρων θρησκειών και τον χαρακτήρισε χαρισματικό ως ηγέτη λέγοντας ότι έχει δεχθεί και συναντήσει τόσους επισήμους, αλλά η συζήτηση με τον Πατριάρχη τον εντυπωσίασε ξεχωριστά.

Ο Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος από την πλευρά του τόνισε ότι η παρουσία του στο Αζερμπαϊτζάν σκοπό έχει την προώθηση του Διαθρησκειακού διαλόγου και την περαιτέρω καλλιέργεια των φιλικών σχέσεων μεταξύ ανθρώπων με διαφορετικό πιστεύω, παρατηρώντας ότι κάτι τέτοιο το έχει ανάγκη η ανθρωπότητα σήμερα περισσότερο παρά ποτέ. Ευχαρίστησε για τη θερμή φιλοξενία, στέλλοντας διά του Προέδρου τις ευχές του σ' ολόκληρο το λαό της χώρας. Ευχήθηκε ακόμη περαστικά στον πρόεδρο Αλίγιεν για την πρόσφατη εγχείρηση στην οποία υπεβλήθη στην Αμερική και τον συνεχάρη για την επικείμενη επέτειο των γενεθλίων του.

Ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης αναφέρθηκε με λόγια ευγνωμοσύνης στο γεγονός της παρουσίας του Προέδρου του Αζερμπαϊτζάν στα πρόσφατα θυρανοίξια του ρωσικού Ορθόδοξου ναού που ανακαίνισθηκε στο Μπακού, επισημαίνοντας ότι: «Εσείς ως Πρόεδρος δίνετε το καλύτερο παράδειγμα στο λαό σας», στην καλλιέργεια των αγαθών σχέσεων μεταξύ των θρησκειών. Στη συνέχεια ο Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος επικαλέσθηκε την συνδρομή του προέδρου Αλίγιεν για την έκδοση αδειάς το ταχύτερο δυνατό για την ανέγερση παρεκκλησίου, σε ιστορικό χώρο του Μπακού στο σημείο όπου μαρτύρησε ο Απόστολος Βαρθολομαίος. Σχετικές ενέργειες για την έναρξη των εργασιών έχει ήδη κάνει η τοπική Ρωσική Ορθόδοξη

Ο Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος προέστη Δοξολογίας στον ρωσικό Ορθόδοξο ναό των Μυροφόρων, όπου τον υποδέχθηκαν ο Ρώσος Επίσκοπος Μπακού και Κασπίας Αλέξανδρος και πλήθος πιστών. Ο Προκαθήμενος της Ορθοδοξίας προσέφερε στον Επίσκοπο τεμάχιο ιερού λειψάνου και εικόνα του Αποστόλου Βαρθολομαίου και αρχιερατικό εγκόλλιο.

Ιδιαίτερες συνομιλίες είχε ο Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος με τον πρόεδρο της κρατικής Επιτροπής για την συνεργασία με τα θρησκευόμενα του Αζερμπαϊτζάν Rafiq Aliyev και με παράγοντες της

## Ο Αρχιμ. Επιφάνιος Περιηλάς εξελέγη Μητροπολίτης Ισπανίας και Πορτογαλίας

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ.— Η Αγία και Ιερά Σύνοδος του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου Κωνσταντινουπόλεως, υπό την προεδρεία της Α.Θ.Π. του Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχου κ.κ. Βαρθολομαίου, εξέλεξε στις 12 Απριλίου 2003 παμψηφεί τον Πανοσιολογιώτατο Αρχιμανδρίτη Επιφάνιο Περιηλά Μητροπολίτη της νεοιδρυθείσας Μητροπόλεως Ισπανίας και Πορτογαλίας.

Επί τη αναγγελία της ανωτέρω εκλογής, ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος δήλωσε:

«Αποτελεί γεγονός ιδιαίτερας χαράς και καυχήσεως εν Κυρίω, η εκλογή ενός εκλεκτού κληρικού της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής όπως είναι ο Αρχιμανδρίτης κ. Επιφάνιος Περιηλάς στην νεοσύστατη Ιερά Μητρόπολη Ισπανίας και Πορτογαλίας. Ο εψηφισμένος νέος Μητροπολίτης ο οποίος έχει τα εγκάρδια συγχαρητήριά μας, εργάσθηκε με ζήλο και απόδοση τόσο στον τομέα της Εκκλησίας όσο και στον τομέα της Παιδείας επί πολλά χρόνια εδώ στην Αμερική, όπου και γεννήθηκε. Τώρα ο Θεός τον καλεί να προσφέρει τις εκκλησιαστικές υπηρεσίες του και τα εκ Θεού τάλαντά του στην Ευρώπη ως Μητροπολίτης μιας καινούργιας Μητροπόλεως. Είναι φανερό ότι το έργο του στην νέα ιερώντατη θέση του έχει χαρακτήρα όχι μόνο ποιμαντικό αλλά και ιεραποστολικό, και είναι ένα έργο σύνθετο και δύσκολο. Τον συνοδεύουμε

Επιτροπής, για το διαθρησκειακό διάλογο. Ο πρόεδρος της Επιτροπής τόνισε: «Επιθυμούμε να επωφεληθούμε από την εμπειρία του Πατριάρχου Βαρθολομαίου πάνω στο διαθρησκειακό διάλογο και τους ανοικτούς ορίζοντές του».

Για το θέμα της συγκρούσεως Αζέρων και Αρμενίων στις συζητήσεις και στις συνεντεύξεις του ο Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος τόνισε ότι: «δεν είναι διαμάχη η σύγκρουση μεταξύ χριστιανών και μουσουλμάνων αλλά πρόκειται για πολιτικό θέμα» προσθέτοντας ότι ο ίδιος και η Εκκλησία «είναι πάντοτε στο πλευρό των ανθρώπων που υποφέρουν από οποιοδήποτε λόγο και σε όποια θρησκεία και έθνος και αν ανήκουν».

Η Δημοκρατία του Αζερμπαϊτζάν χώρα της πρώην Σοβιετικής Δημοκρατίας της δυτικής Ασίας κατέχει ιδιαίτερα σημαντική γεωπολιτική θέση στην ευρύτερη περιοχή της κεντρικής Ασίας. Η χώρα, που καλύπτει έκταση 86.000 τετρ. χλμ, στον βορρά συνορεύει με την Ρωσία, νότια με το Ιράν, δυτικά με την Αρμενία και την Τουρκία και βορειοδυτικά με την Γεωργία, ενώ ανατολικά περιβάλλεται από την Κασπία Θάλασσα, όπου βρίσκεται και το Μπακού, το μεγάλο της λιμάνι. Το Αζερμπαϊτζάν έχει πληθυσμό περίπου 8 εκατομμύρια και κατοικείται κυρίως από Αζέρους που ξεπερνούν το 90% του πληθυσμού. Άλλες εθνότητες που ζουν είναι η αρμενική, η ρωσική, κ.ά. Οι Αζέροι είναι παραδοσιακά μουσουλμάνοι (Σιίτες 70% και Σουνίτες 30%)

Το Αζερμπαϊτζάν αποτελεί μία βασική γέφυρα μεταξύ Δυτικής Ευρώπης και Κεντρικής Ασίας στη διακίνηση αγαθών από τον Ευρωπαϊκό χώρο προς τον Κεντροασιατικό.

όμως με τις καλύτερες ευχές για πλούσια ευλογία παρά Θεού και για πνευματική καρποφορία η οποία πιστεύουμε ότι με την Χάρι του Θεού θα είναι «υπερεκπερισσού ων αιτούμεθα ή νοούμεν» (Εφεσ. 3: 20).

Ο εψηφισμένος Μητροπολίτης Ισπανίας και Πορτογαλίας κ. Επιφάνιος εγεννήθη το 1935 στην πόλη Ithaca, της πολιτείας της Νέας Υόρκης. Μετά τις εγκύκλιες σπουδές του εφοίτησε στην Θεολογική Σχολή του Τιμίου Σταυρού, στο Πανεπιστήμιο του Syracuse, στην Σχολή Επιχειρήσεων του Πανεπιστημίου Harvard και στο Πανεπιστήμιο Fordham της Νέας Υόρκης.

Διετέλεσε από το 1959 έως σήμερα, διαδοχικά, διευθυντής Νεότητας, ψάλλτης, και χοράρχης, σε διάφορες ενορίες. Από το 1984 μέχρι σήμερα υπηρέτησε σε διάφορες ενορίες ως κληρικός με μείζονα προσφορά την ενορία της Αγίας Αικατερίνης στην πόλη Ithaca, New York επί 15 έτη.

Κατά το διάστημα από το 1961 έως σήμερα υπηρέτησε ως διδάσκαλος στην δημόσια εκπαίδευση και ως διευθυντής, αντιπρόεδρος και καθηγητής στα Πανεπιστήμια Syracuse και Ithaca College με ειδικότητα την γλωσσική επικοινωνία.

Η παρούσα εκλογή του ως Μητροπολίτου της αρτισυστάτου Μητροπόλεως Ισπανίας και Πορτογαλίας τον ευρήκε υπηρετούντα ως εφημέριο στην Ενορία της Κοιμήσεως της Θεοτόκου εις St. Clair Shores του Michigan.



ΝΙΚ. ΜΑΤΤΙΝΑΣ

ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΗ - Ο τραγουδιστής Διονύσης Σαββόπουλος ασπάζεται την δεξιάν του Πατριάρχου Βαρθολομαίου στο τέλος της συναυλίας που έδωσε στο ξενοδοχείο Χίλτον της Πόλης.



# Εκδηλώσεις μνήμης της γενοκτονίας των Ποντίων

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ. – Την 19<sup>η</sup> Μαΐου, ημέρα Μνήμης της Γενοκτονίας των Ποντίων τιμήσαν από κοινού οι σύλλογοι και οι οργανώσεις των Ποντίων της Αμερικής με εκδηλώσεις που διοργάνωσαν στην Νέα Υόρκη την Κυριακή 18 Μαΐου 2003.

Πλήθος κόσμου από όλη την Μητροπολιτική περιοχή της Νέας Υόρκης εκκλησιάστηκε το πρωί της Κυριακής στον Ιερό Ναό της Αγίας Αικατερίνης στην Αστόρια όπου της Αρχιερατικής Θείας Λειτουργίας προεξήρχε ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος ο οποίος και τέλεσε επιμνημόσυνη δέηση υπέρ των 353 χιλιάδων θυμάτων της Γενοκτονίας του Ποντιακού Ελληνισμού που σφαγιάστηκαν και εξολοθρεύθηκαν πριν 84 χρόνια. Με τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο συλλειτουργήσε ο Πόντιος την καταγωγήν Θεοφιλέστατος Επίσκοπος Φασιανής κ. Αντώνιος.

Στην ομιλία του προς το εκκλησίασμα ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος με αφορμή την ευαγγελική περικοπή αναφέρθηκε στην νίκη της πίστεως επί παντός εναντίου και συνέδεσε το ευαγγελικό μήνυμα με



ΑΗΜ. ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Ο Υπουργός Πολιτισμού της Ελλάδος στην εκδήλωση για τη γενοκτονία των Ποντίων

την ημέρα μνήμης των Ποντίων. Ο Σεβασμιώτατος εξέφρασε την μεγάλη του χαρά για την παρουσία του μεγάλου

πλήθους λαού που ξεχείλισε τον ναό και τον περιβάλλοντα χώρο και τόνισε ότι «οι νεκροί την μνήμη των οποίων τιμούμε σήμερα... υπήρξαν μιμηταί των μαρτύρων της Εκκλησίας μας και το μνημόσυνό τους δεν είναι μνημόσυνο απλώς θλίψεως λόγω θανάτου αλλά είναι μνημόσυνο τιμής του μαρτυρίου τους». Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος αναφέρθηκε ακόμα στην ιστορική εικόνα της Παναγίας Σουμελά και στην συμβολική σημασία της για τον Ελληνισμό του Πόντου.

Οι εκδηλώσεις οργανώθηκαν από κοινού από την Παμποντιακή Ομοσπονδία Αμερικής και Καναδά, το Ιερό Ίδρυμα Ποντίων «Παναγία Σουμελά», τον Σύλλογο Ποντίων Νέας Υόρκης «Κομνηνοί» και τον Σύλλογο Ποντίων του Κονέκτικατ «Πόντος».

Παρόντες ήταν ο Υπουργός Πολιτι-

σμού της Ελλάδος Ευάγγελος Βενιζέλος, η πρέσβυς της Κυριακής Δημοκρατίας Ερατώ Κοζάκου-Μαρκουλή, οι γενικοί πρόξενοι της Ελλάδος και της Κύπρου στην Νέα Υόρκη Δημήτριος Πλατής και Μάρθα Μαυρομμάτη αντίστοιχα, ο Επίσκοπος Φασιανής Αντώνιος, ο πρόεδρος της Ομοσπονδίας Ελληνικών Σωματείων Μείζονος Νέας Υόρκης Απόστολος Τομόπουλος, ο πρόεδρος της Κυπριακής Ομοσπονδίας Πανίκος Παπανικολάου, ο πρόεδρος της Παγκόσμιας Συντονιστικής Επιτροπής Κυπριακού Αγώνα Φίλιπ Κρίστοφερ και πολλοί άλλοι συντελεστές και εκπρόσωποι της Ομογένειας.

Μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία και την επιμνημόσυνη δέηση ακολούθησε εκδήλωση στο Σταθάκειο Κέντρο της Ομοσπονδίας Ελληνικών Σωματείων Μείζονος Νέας Υόρκης.

Η πρέσβυς της Κυριακής Δημοκρατίας στις Η.Π.Α. κ. Ερατώ Κοζάκου-Μαρκουλή ήταν η κύρια ομιλήτρια και συγκίνησε το ακροατήριο με την παρουσίαση των παράλληλων αγώνων του Ποντιακού και Κυπριακού Ελληνισμού διά μέσω των αιώνων.

Ο Υπουργός Πολιτισμού της Ελλάδος κ. Ευάγγελος Βενιζέλος αναφέρθηκε στα γεγονότα που οδήγησαν στην γενοκτονία και έκανε μια εμπειριστατωμένη παρουσίαση των πολλών θεμάτων που απασχολούν σήμερα τον Ελληνισμό.

Σύντομες παρουσιάσεις και χαιρετισμοί έγιναν και από τον πρόεδρο της Παμποντιακής Ομοσπονδίας Αμερικής και Καναδά Πάνο Σταυριανίδη, τον πρώην πρόεδρο και παρουσιαστή της εκδήλωσης Ηλία Τσεκερίδη και άλλους εκπροσώπους ομοσπονδιών και συλλόγων.

Το τμήμα νεολαίας του συλλόγου «Πόντος» από το Κονέκτικατ παρουσίασε αριστοτεχνικά και με πρωτότυπο τρόπο ποντιακούς χορούς.

## Προσφορά 100 χιλιάδων δολαρίων της Pan-Gregorian



ΑΗΜ. ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ. – Το ποσό των 100 χιλιάδων δολαρίων προς το Ταμείο Βοηθείας των θυμάτων της 11<sup>ης</sup> Σεπτεμβρίου της Ι. Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής προσέφερε η Ένωση Ελλήνων Εστιατόρων της Νέας Ιερσέης – Pan-Gregorian Enterprises και το ιδιαίτερο φιλάνθρωπο ίδρυμα της.

Ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος δέχθηκε στην έδρα της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής τα μέλη του Δ.Σ. της Pan-Gregorian, είχε μαζί τους συνάντηση μιας περίπου ώρας κατά την διάρκεια της οποίας του επέδωσαν και την σχετική επιταγή.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος μετά τη συνάντηση δήλωσε: «Θέλω να επαινέσω δημοσίως την ένωση των Pan-Gregorians της Νέας Ιερσέης, όχι μόνο γιατί δίνουν ένα ωραίο παράδειγμα καθαρά εταγματοτικής προόδου, αλλά όπως σας είπα και ιδιαίτερος ένα παράδειγμα εφρευτικούτος και δημιουργικότητας. Είναι ένα δυναμικό σύνολο, συνεχώς αναπτυσσόμενο και μια έκφραση αυτής της συνεχούς αναπτύξης ευγενέστατη χειρονομία προσφοράς ενός ποσού, που δεν είναι καθόλου μικρό, των εκατό χιλιάδων για την περίπτωση των θυμάτων της 11<sup>ης</sup> Σεπτεμβρίου και ιδίως των ορφανών παιδιών. Εκφράζω την βαθύτατη ευγνωμοσύνη της Αρχιεπισκοπής, της Εκκλησίας μας και γενικότερα εκείνων οι οποίοι

θα ευεργετηθούν από τα χρήματα αυτά. Είναι χρήματα ιερά, αποτέλεσμα μόχθου, αγάπης και ευγένειας ψυχής που τιμούν και τα μέλη της ενώσεως και του φιλάνθρωπου οργανισμού Pan-Gregorian, αλλά και την Ελληνορθόδοξη παράδοση».

Απαντώντας ο πρόεδρος της ενώσεως κ. Γεώργιος Σιαμπούλης σημείωσε: «Για μας είναι μεγάλη τιμή που ήρθαμε σήμερα εδώ στην Αρχιεπισκοπή και προσφέρουμε τις 100 χιλιάδες δολάρια για τα θύματα της 11<sup>ης</sup> Σεπτεμβρίου, αντιπροσωπεύοντας όλους τους εστιάτορες της Νέας Ιερσέης. Όπως είπαμε στον Σεβασμιώτατο, όλοι οι εστιάτορες του Νιου Τζέρσεϊ, προσέφεραν τον οβολό τους όταν είπαμε να μαζέψουμε αυτά τα χρήματα για να βοηθήσουμε κι εμείς... και σήμερα ήρθαμε το συμβούλιο της Ένωσης για να τα παραδώσουμε στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο».

Την αντιπροσωπεία της Pan-Gregorian αποτελούσαν οι: Γεώργιος Σιαμπούλης-πρόεδρος, Ιωάννης Σακελλάρης-Τσαίρμαν, Δημήτριος Λογοθέτης-αντιπρόεδρος και ο νεαρός γιος του Εμμανουήλ, Τάσος Χριστοδούλου-ταμίας, Δημήτριος Ζανάκης-βοηθός ταμίας, Μιχαήλ Καραδημητρίου-αντιπρόεδρος β' και Τόνι Μπλετσάκης-εκτελεστική γραμματέας.

## Προς τιμήν του Κύπριου Πρέσβη



ΑΗΜ. ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Τιμητικό γεύμα προς τιμήν του αποχωρούντα πρέσβη της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας στον Οργανισμό Ηνωμένων Εθνών κ. Σώτου Ζακχαίου (που επιστρέφει σε επιτελική θέση στο Υπουργείο Εξωτερικών) παρέθεσε στην Έδρα της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος. Στην φωτογραφία από το γεύμα ο πρέσβης κ. Ζακχαίος (αριστερά) με την σύζυγό του Αγαθή, τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο και τον ελληνοαμερικανό πρέσβη των ΗΠΑ στον ΟΗΕ Τζον Νεγρεπόντη.





# IOCC NEWS

## IOCC Coordinates Aid with Church Partners in Iraq, Jordan



IOCC/David Holdridge

Members of Baghdad's Antiochian Orthodox community, shown here in procession on Holy Friday, will be able to help IOCC identify and assist needy Iraqis.

AMMAN, Jordan (IOCC) – With a humanitarian crisis in Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is working with its church partners to arrange distributions of emergency food and medicines in Iraq in the coming days and weeks.

IOCC Chief Operating Officer David Holdridge is in Amman coordinating IOCC's response with the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) and its member jurisdictions.

The MECC has 44 distribution centers set up in churches and mosques in and around Baghdad.

Holdridge said humanitarian needs already are emerging in northern Iraq, where 300,000 to 400,000 people have been displaced, and in Baghdad, where people are suffering from a lack of basic medical care.

"You have an impending crisis," he said. "You have a population-children, the elderly, the frail-that is becoming traumatized. There's no doubt about that. You can imagine what that bombing does night after night to people."

Especially vulnerable are people with respiratory ailments because of the smoke from oil fires and fires caused by the bombardment, Holdridge said. "You're going to see a dramatic increase in healthcare problems."

Holdridge said IOCC, consistent with its practice in other countries, will work to build the capacity of local Orthodox churches in and around Baghdad to provide assistance to their surrounding communities.

"Any sort of distribution program with the (Orthodox) Church will need a strong capacity-building component

built into it," he said. "You find the Orthodox community all over Iraq, but it's a small community."

Among the estimated 125,000 Orthodox Christians in Iraq are the parishioners of an Antiochian Orthodox congregation in Baghdad.

The Syriac Orthodox Church has 36 congregations in Iraq with an estimated 45,000 members, and the Armenian Apostolic Church has 12 congregations with an estimated 20,000 parishioners, according to the World Christian Encyclopedia.

Christians in Iraq make up about 3 percent of the population in this predominantly Muslim country. Most Christians in Iraq belong to the Assyrian Church of the East and the Chaldean Catholic Church.

IOCC will seek to train and deploy workers from Iraqi parish communities to assist vulnerable Iraqis of all religious and ethnic backgrounds, Holdridge said.

In response to the Iraq crisis, IOCC, the official humanitarian aid agency of Orthodox Christians, is appealing for \$1 million to provide emergency relief, life-saving medicines and medical supplies to suffering people in the Middle East.

IOCC has worked in the Middle East since 1997 and currently has programs in the Holy Land and Lebanon. Since 1992, IOCC has distributed more than \$160 million in relief and development assistance in 21 countries.

To help in providing relief, call IOCC's donation hotline toll-free at 1-877-803-4622, make a gift on-line at [www.iocc.org/iraq](http://www.iocc.org/iraq), or mail a check or money order to IOCC, "Middle East Crisis," P.O. Box 630225, Baltimore, Md. 21263-0225.

## Pilgrimage to Mount Athos

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## INTERFAITH Marriage

### Attending to Your Marriage's Needs

"Father Charles, I wish we had come to you about ten years ago. I think, at that time, the marriage might have had a chance to survive.... Too much has happened since then, and I don't believe it's possible to recover what we've lost.... I'm so sorry, I wish I could love him, but I just can't."

by Fr. Charles Joanides, Ph.D., LMFT

#### Client

When I meet with conflicted couples, I try to advocate for the marriage. To put it another way, I try to help couples recover the love, intimacy and trust they've lost over the years.

My other priority is to help both partners become unstuck from a painfully emotional, often destructive situation. In many instances, the therapeutic process will lead people toward one another. In some instances, therapy will help them make some healthy decisions that will lead them toward divorce.

Please, don't misunderstand this last observation. With the exception of abusive relationships, I am always saddened when two spouses realize their marriage is dead, and they must move on – especially when children are involved.

I am a priest. I perform marriages. I am also a family specialist who is intimately aware of the negative consequences that divorce can have on people. So, it is never easy when therapy guides one or both partners to the realization that the marriage is dead.

Often when therapy reaches this point of no return, at some juncture before termination, one or both partners will offer comments like those that introduced this article. Moreover, this observation is often embedded within a mixture of emotion. Some relief will sometimes be discernible, but most of the emotion can be characterized as deep, profound regret and sadness.

#### Why Don't People Attend to Their Marriages?

I often ask myself, why don't people attend to their marriages better? Why do they take them for granted? Why don't they make them more of a priority?

While I can't answer this question in this short article, what I can say is that marriages are not like babies that cry out when they need something. They are also not like businesses that constantly remind us that if we neglect them, they will fail.

Marriages are just there everyday, like the sun that comes up. However, many of us fail to enjoy them, and worse, we assume they will always be there.

My work with hundreds of couples has taught me this is simply not true. For the stark truth is, if we do not care for them, they may die.

#### Unfriendly Forces

There are too many unfriendly forces out there that can undermine a good marriage these days. These negative forces generally do not have a one-time dramatic impact on our marriages.

In most cases, the impact is very subtle. Researchers have discovered that little irritating things, over time, negatively impact marriages, and undermine marital satisfaction.

As these little irritants remain unattended, they undermine a couple's intimacy, trust and love, while creating distance and leading a couple toward marital meltdown.

To compound couple's challenges further, it does not help that we live in a divorce culture that condones and encourages conflicted couples to consider separation and divorce when lingering disagreement pervades a marriage.

Unfortunately, far too many couples seem to simply accept their unhappiness, attend to their children, their careers, their personal needs, extended family needs and their civic responsibilities.

All the while, they are not always entirely unaware that there is something terribly wrong. Yes, they intuit there is a problem, but other priorities and issues capture their attention and time. They also comfort themselves with the understanding that "things will get better, and that this won't last."

The truth is, if marriages are left unattended things generally do not get better. Instead, over time, conflict grows and unresolved issues cause things to get worse. Very soon, slight dissatisfactions in a marriage increase, and a couple's intimacy is compromised, trust wanes and their love fades.

#### Getting Help

Can you relate to what I have written? Are you and your partner caught on a similar slippery slope that continues to create distance between you? If you are, then don't wait until things degenerate further, because they usually will. Prayerfully broach the issue with yourself and God, and then with your partner, and try and do something about it.

Do not assume the distance is like a cold that will pass. It's not. In most instances, it is more like a cancer that will metastasize, and slowly kill your relationship.

If you are unable to do anything on your own, and you find yourselves simply spinning wheels, then I would urge you to consult your priest. If he cannot help you, at minimum, he will likely be able to refer you to a marital therapist who may be able to help.

#### When You're Seeking Help

In your efforts to find a marital therapist, be very careful whom you choose. Some will not advocate for the marriage, and only make things worse. With your priest's help, choose someone who is religious and, or respectful of your religious perspective of marriage.

In addition, before making an appointment, it's not inappropriate to ask the following questions:

1. Do you have a religious background? 2. Do you work with religious people? 3. Can you be respectful of my religious worldview?

If there is any hesitation in his or her voice, or you feel some discomfort with his or her answers, thank them for their time and keep looking. Remember that God will help you find the right person.

#### Summary

In the end, let's review what I stated. First, do not take your marriage for granted. This is not God's will.

Second, just as your children, family and career need attention, your marriage needs attention.

Third, marriages come apart over time, so you need to be attentive to them daily.

Fourth, if you discern that distance has creep into your relationship, do something about it before the gap becomes bigger.

Fifth, prayerfully ask God to help you broach the subject with your partner, and then talk to your partner about your concerns.

Sixth, if this doesn't work, consult your priest. Seventh, if your priest cannot help, ask for his help in finding a couple's specialist.

Last, but certainly, not least, do not take your marriage for granted and assume your current problems will disappear, because that is how most marriages begin slip-sliding toward divorce.



# Tornado Threatens Holy Friday Procession



MONTGOMERY, Alabama – The local news announced the day before that Great and Holy Friday would be a sunny day with temperatures in the low to mid 70’s. No rain in the forecast.

That is exactly how Great and Holy Friday started, but as late afternoon, early evening came about the skies began to darken and soon a tornado watch was issued. At 5 pm it began to rain heavily, hail started falling some in the size of golf balls, lighting flying across the sky and thunder shaking the very foundation of the Annunciation church. Soon after the tornado sirens began to scream foretelling a twister that had been spotted. Holy Friday night *epitaphios* services were to begin soon. A funnel cloud touched down near the Montgomery County Airport only 10 miles away. Shortly after 7 pm the rain -still intense- was beginning to let up.

Greek Orthodox members of the United States Armed Forces as well as the members of the Greek Armed Forces arrived at the church in their full dress uniform ready to carry the *Epitaphios*. As the service progressed, the rain dissipated, the sopping wet ground began to dry and

the holy procession began promptly.

Montgomery’s Maxwell Air force Base is the home to the Air Force University where members from the Air force from all over the world and all parts of the United States who are in the top percentiles of their profession come for a period of four weeks to a year to be educated in their field of specialty. Maxwell Air force Base is the home of Air Command and Staff College, Airway Command College, Squadron Officer College and other programs.

There are Orthodox officers at the school from all over the United States and Orthodox countries around the world, including Greece and Moldavia.

The officers from the various branches of the Armed Forces who carried the tomb of Jesus are Major Antonios Panidis, Major Zannis Pappas, Captain Stamatias Goutnoudis, Major Ioannis Koskinas, Lieutenant Colonel Efthimios Kaidantzis, Colonel Dennis Saltzman, Major Carl Standifer and Warrant Officer 2 Phillip Wells (ret.). Major Carl Standifer organized the officers under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Demetrios N. Kehagias, Presbyter of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

# HTSF Awards More Than \$100,000 to Students

NEW YORK – Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund awarded more than \$100,000 to 45 students from throughout the nation at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual awards banquet on May 9.

More than 1,200 persons were welcomed by HTSF chairman and vice chairman, John and Margo Catsimatidis, and Nick Katsoris, dinner chairman and emcee. Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos offered the invocation.

The 2003 recipients of the HTSF Humanitarian Award were Tina Fey, the Emmy Award-winning head writer for NBC’s Saturday Night Live, and the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (USA). Former Greek Ambassador to the U.S. Loucas Tsillas and former U.S. Ambassador to Greece Michael Sotirhos accepted the award for the Foundation.

Special presentations were made to Evangelia Katsoulakis (New York) - Tita Monti Scholarship for Medical Studies; Stephanie Terezakis (Maryland) - Don Monti Memorial Scholarship for Medical Studies; Paul Menard (New York) - Tina Fey Scholarship for the Arts; James Papadopoulos (New York) - Jim Gianopulos Scholarship for Film Studies; Pari Dukovic (New York) - Ernie Anastos Scholarship for the Arts; Ekaterina Papaioannou (New York) - Judge Nicholas Tsoucalas Scholarship for Legal Studies; Mary Elizabeth Kanaklides (North Carolina) - John An-

iston Scholarship for the Arts; Christina Psarakis (New York) - The Onassis Foundation Scholarship for Education

The following were recipients of scholarships of \$1,000 to \$5,000: Jennifer Alexander (California); Domna Antoniakis (New York), Klelia Antoniou (New Jersey), Matina Argitakos (New York), Christina Auriemma ((New York), Arthur Baker III (South Carolina), Jessica Bardy (New York), Austyn Belle Isle (Missouri), Alexis Chininis (New Hampshire) Jaclyn Christoforatos (New York) Stephanie Coutouzis (Texas), Christina Devoto (California), Shaundra Eichstadt (South Dakota), Andrew Gegg (Missouri), Natalie Georgakis (New York) Peter Gianopulos (Illinois), Lance Gottshall (Pennsylvania), Tabitha Grivas (Arizona), John Ilias (California), Stephanie Kanellopoulos (Florida), Nansia Koutsou (New Jersey), Elizabeth Lambos (New York), Dimitrios Makrozahopoulos (California), Megan Manos (New York), Louis Marinos (New York), Christina Mastrogianakis (New York), Michael Nevradakis (New York), Trisia Panos (Illinois), Anthony Pappas (New York) John Rach (Ohio), Cara Sotirakis (Ohio), Khristina Spanos (California), Stephanie Terezakis (Maryland), Thomas Tsotas (New Jersey), Theodora Vasilatos (New York), Alkmini Vorvolakos (New Jersey), Raven Wilke (Mississippi) and Parker Zanos (Iowa).

# Family Care

CONCERNS & ISSUES

## ‘I thought I already celebrated Easter’

“I thought I already celebrated Easter.” These are the words of one of our newer staff members who helped dye the traditional red eggs for the Direct Archdiocese District Philoptochos Conference held at the Academy on the Saturday of Bright Week following Pascha.

by Fr. Constantine Sitaras

We celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord for 40 days up until Ascension Thursday. Our children at St. Basil Academy have come to know this. They look forward to the chanting of Christ is Risen and the universal greeting of Christ is Risen and the response Truly He is Risen!

During the time of Great Lent, we explained again the need to prepare for Easter by fasting, praying, and helping the poor. We celebrated together for the Salutations to the Theotokos and the Pre-sanctified Divine Liturgies.

We transitioned into Holy Week first with the Saturday of Lazarus and making palm crosses and then with the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. We lived through the last days of Jesus’ life culminating with His betrayal, trial, crucifixion, and Resurrection.

With Pascha, we rejoiced the incredible and amazing life-changing event. The boys served in the altar and the girls chanted the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom following the outdoor announcement of the Resurrection.

Together we went and shared in the traditional roast lamb meal with the cracking of the red egg. The winner, of course, being the one whose egg cracked symbolizing the opening of the empty tomb and the resurrection of our Lord.

I understand the wisdom of the Church having us celebrate and live each major holy day throughout the year, year after year. The holy events become imbedded in our souls from early childhood.

I see it in our children. “Is this when we walk around our campus for Jesus’ funeral?” they ask. “Do we read the Bible lesson in different languages today?” “Can I read it in Spanish?”

They remember from year to year. They are excited about the event. This is very much a part of who we are as Orthodox Christians. It is at the core of our identity.

A daily reminder for each of us at St.

Basil is the greeting that replaced hello, good-bye, good morning, and good night. The greeting is “Christos Anesti- Christ is Risen” and the response “Alithos Anesti, Truly He Is Risen.”

This we do as an affirmation of the greatest gift to the entire universe. This we do as a remembrance of the selfless and ultimate Paschal sacrifice. This we do as a confirmation that we are the believers of Jesus’ Resurrection and that we are followers of His teaching and His Church.

It would be easy to forget this simple act of greeting. It becomes cumbersome to remind the children and the staff to say Christ is Risen.

However, I have come to know the importance and the value of this simple act. We are uniquely Orthodox Christian. We have customs that are reflections of who we are such as this one—a greeting made during the day as a proclamation of the Resurrection of our Lord.

What a meaningful gesture this becomes. We proclaim His Resurrection in the form of our greeting to each other.

I have come to understand the value and the importance for our children and their formation as Orthodox Christians. It is a simple way of making the fact of the Resurrection a meaningful part of our everyday living. “We affirm, we proclaim, we rejoice!”

### What can you do as parents?

1. During the 40 days of Easter put into practice the greeting of Christ is Risen and the response, Truly He is Risen!
  2. Explain to your child that we do this because Jesus rose from the dead and walked on the earth for those forty days before His Ascension.
  3. Read the following gospels that tell us of Jesus’ appearances after His Resurrection. i.e.  
*John 20:11-18 Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene*  
*John 20:19-23 Jesus Appears to Disciples*  
*John 20:24-31 Jesus and Thomas*
  4. Explain these gospel passages to your children.
- Truly He Is Risen! A simple act of response that carries with it such depth of meaning and essence of faith.

Fr. Sitaras is executive director of St. Basil Academy.

## In the Calendar

### MAY

- 2.....Feast of the Life Giving Fountain
- 16...HC/HC Board of Trustees Meeting
- 17.....HC/HC Commencement
- 21.....Sts. Constantine and Helen
- 26..... Memorial Day

### JUNE

- 5 .....Feast of the Ascension
- 6-7.....National Oratorical Festival– Greenwood Village, Colo.
- 11 .....Saint Bartholomew–Patriarch’s Name Day
- 15 .....Feast of Pentecost

- 21..... St. Basil Academy Graduation
- 22..... All Saints Sunday
- 28-29.....Greek Landing Day Celebration – St. Photios Shrine
- 29.....Sts. Peter and Paul

### JULY

- 3-7.....YAL Conference – Baltimore, Maryland
- 4.....Independence Day
- 10-13.....National Forum of Church Musicians Annual Meeting
- 20..... Prophet Elias
- 27 ..... Saint Panteleimon



## New Church Edifice Inaugurated at Port Jefferson



ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS presides over the inauguration ceremonies.

D. PANAGOS

PORT JEFFERSON, N.Y. – It all started in 1956 when the Assumption parish was founded by a handful of people, most from the Island of Ikaria who settled in Port Jefferson because of their love for the sea.

The old church building that opened its doors on Palm Sunday 1959, with its 120-seat capacity could no longer accommodate the growing Hellenic community of northern Suffolk County.

On Oct. 3, 1993 under the leadership and initiative of Parish Council President Nicholas H. Batuyios, the special general assembly voted to build a new church and selected the Building Committee, with Nicholas H. Batuyios as chairman.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place May 17, 1997. Excavation began in October 1998 and the cornerstone was

tended by many dignitaries, parishioners and friends.

Present were Congressmen Felix Grucci, New York State Sen. Kenneth LaValle, New York State Assemblyman Steven Englebright, Suffolk County Legislator Vivian Fisher, Belle Terre Mayor Vincent Bove, and the consul generals of Greece and Cyprus.

Vasilis Caraftis, 97; Emmanuel Lakios and Catherine Katsaros, the community's oldest members cut the inauguration ribbon.

The Divine Liturgy that followed in the new church was celebrated by His Eminence who was assisted by the pastor, Fr. George Matsis, and by former pastors Archimandrite Alexander Kile and Fr. Vasilios Govits.

A luncheon attended by about 400 per-



FAITHFUL attend the inauguration services at Assumption Church.

D. PANAGOS

laid in November of that year.

The church was designed by architect Christ Kamages of Ekona Architecture & Planning on the style of the Church of Sts. Sergius and Bacchus of Constantinople. The new building seats 550.

To date, about \$3 million has been spent. The community raised \$2 million and another \$1million was borrowed from the bank.

Leonidas Diamantopoulos has been commissioned to do the iconography and recently completed the Platytera.

The Thyranoxia ceremony was the next milestone.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America came to the community to preside over the ceremonies. Upon arrival he was greeted by children of the community at the former church nearby where the Orthros service was held.

Afterward, a procession traveled the short distance across the parking lot to the new church building, where His Eminence performed the Thyranoxia ceremony at-

sons followed at the community center.

Luncheon speakers included clergy, guests and members of the community. Nick Klissas and Betty Tufariello served as masters of ceremony.

The celebration was culminated by the address of His Eminence who praised the community's faithful who while building the new church also championed in the other activities essential to the church and the spiritual life of the community.

Special tribute should be paid to the building committee and its chairman, Nicholas H. Batuyios for the past nine years and vice chairman, Peter Legakis, to the parish councils of the past 10 years, current Parish Council President George Kokolakis, to past parish council presidents during the planning and construction – Nicholas H. Batuyios, Nick Aroniadis, George Martinos, to the fund-raising committee and Chairwoman Kalliope LaGamma and past Chairwoman Penny Besculides; also the contributions of Fr. George Matsis, Archimandrites Alexander

## Parish Renewal, Outreach and Evangelism Board Meets with New Director

NEW YORK – The Board of the Department of Parish Renewal, Outreach & Evangelism met recently with newly appointed Director Fr. James Kordaris to chart a course for the renewal and growth of the Orthodox Christian Church in America.

Its mission includes reaching out to inactive Orthodox Christians, to those inquiring about the Orthodox faith, and to the unchurched, offering each community the tools for parish renewal and for the establishment of new parishes.

Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh, liaison to the Holy Synod of the Archdiocese, Fr. Kordaris and Chairman Louis Nicosis of Lancaster, Pa., joined representatives from every Archdiocese metropolis to review the department's objectives.

Archbishop Demetrios visited with the Board and stressed the importance of their work. "Home Missions is not a department, it is a movement," the Archbishop told them.

The Department of Parish Renewal, Outreach and Evangelism will offer the parish methods and tools, and assistance,

to serve all Orthodox Christians, to reach out to those who have been weakened in their faith, and to welcome and serve those inquiring about the faith.

The Department will offer workshops and seminars and relevant resources for both clergy and lay leaders. Guidance is offered in the establishment of mission parishes and the Department will oversee the process of seeking and obtaining grants to support them.

In addition, the department is developing a book of practical steps for parish renewal, a catalog of resources for renewal, outreach and evangelism and a book of successful lay ministries that may be emulated in Orthodox Christian parishes throughout America.

The Board also serves as the Synodal/ Archdiocesan Council Committee for Home Missions.

For more information on the department, contact Fr. Kordaris, Department of Parish Renewal, Outreach & Evangelism, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, 83 Saint Basil Road, Garrison, NY 10524, FrJimK@goarch.org.

## Eastern Orthodox Priests Receive Prophet Elias Awards

GARRISON, N.Y. – The Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting (EOCS) sponsored by The Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) and administrated by the member youth departments of each jurisdictions honored four Orthodox priests with the distinguished National Prophet Elias Award for rendering outstanding service to Orthodox Youth through the Church and the Boy and Girl Scout programs. This is the first time that this award has been presented to priests.

The recipients were the Very Rev. Archpriest John T. Bacon, Chelsea, Mass.; Fr. Angelo L. Gavalas, New York; Fr. Joel L. McEachen: Ansonia, Conn.; and Fr. Constantine L. Sitaras, St. Basil Academy, Garrison.

The presentation ceremony was held at St. Basil Academy and presided over by Bishop Demetrios of Xanthos, the executive secretary of SCOBA and National

EOCS Chairman George N. Boulukos.

The chapel was filled to capacity with guests from as far away as Cape Cod, Mass. to Scranton, Pa. to honor these four priests and afterwards were treated with a spectacular Lenten meal prepared and served by Scouts from Pennsylvania.

The presenters were; Bishop Demetrios, Michael Anderson, the national youth director of the Orthodox Church in America; Andrew Yiannakos, EOCS chairman emeritus; and Mr. Boulukos.

Attendees included representatives from Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese, and the Orthodox Church in America as well as a large number of Scout leaders from throughout the northeast.

All four priests have devoted and volunteered their spare time in promoting scouting as a viable part of the Orthodox Youth Ministry.

### HOLY SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### JUNE . . . . .

**1 Sun** ..... Titus 3:8-15, John 8:1-38  
**2 M**..... Acts 17:1-9, Jn 11: 47-54  
**3 T** ..... Acts 17:19-28, Jn 12:19-36  
**4 W** ..... Acts 18:22-28, Jn 12:36-47  
**5 Th** ..... Acts 1:1-12, Luke 24:36-53  
**6 F** ..... Acts 19:1-8, Jn 14:1-11  
**7 S** ..... Acts 20:7-12, Jn 14: 1-21  
**8 Sun**.Acts 20:16-18, 28-36, Jn 17:1-13  
**9 M**..... Acts 21:8-14, Jn 14:27-15:7  
**10 T** ..... Acts 21:26-32, Jn 6:2-13  
**11 W** ..... Acts 11:19-30, Lk 10:16-21  
**12 Th** ..... Acts 25:13-19, Jn 16:23-33  
**13 F** ..... Acts 27:1-28:1, Jn 17:18-26  
**14 S** ..... I Thess. 4:13-17, Jn 21:14-25  
**15 Sun**. Acts 2:1-11, John 7:37-52, 8:12  
**16 M** .... Eph. 5:8-19, Matthew 18:10-20

**17 T** Romans 1:1-7, 13-17, Mt 4:23-5:13  
**18 W** ..... Rom. 1:18-27, Mt 5:20-26  
**19 Th** ..... Jude 1:1-25, Jn 14:21-24  
**20 F** ..... Rom 2:14-28, Mt 5:33-41  
**21 S** ..... Rom 1:7-12, Mt 5:42-48  
**22 Sun**... Heb. 11:33-12:2, Mt 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30  
**23 M** Rom 2:28-3:18, Mt 6:31-34, 7:9-11  
**24 T** Rom 13:11-14:4, Lk 1: 1-25, 57-68, 76, 80  
**25 W** ..... Rom 4:13-25, Mt 7:21-33  
**26 Th** ..... Rom 5:10-16, Mt 8:23-27  
**27 F** ..... Rom 5:17-6:2, Mt 9:14-17  
**28 S** ..... Rom 3:19-26, Mt 7:1-8  
**29 Sun**... II Cor. 11:21-12:9, Mt 17:16-36  
**30 M** ..... I Cor. 4:9-16, Mt 9:36-10:8

Kile and Sylvester Berberis and Fr. Vasilios Govits who served the parish during the last 10 years.

Also acknowledged are past Parish Council President Elias Stamatopoulos, Thyranoxia committee members and co chairs Kalliope LaGamma, Helayne Damianos and Eleni Katsaros Papadimitriou, and the parishioners for their unwavering support and generosity during the last 10 years.

*This story was compiled from contributions by Fr. George Matsis, Dr. Nicholas H. Batuyios, George Kokolakis and Kalliope S. LaGamma.*

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# The Voice of Philoptochos

## More than 70 Years of Christian Philanthropy

### Part 3

In a relatively short period following its establishment, the Philoptochos was engaged in a broad program of philanthropy, educational projects, emergency relief in the United States and Greece on a local and national level.

by Terry Kokas

Another glorious chapter in Philoptochos Society history was the mobilization of its members to assist Greece following the invasion of Mussolini's armies in October 1940.

Prime Minister John Metaxas' dramatic "OHI" to Italy's request to surrender, resounded around the world. The Greeks in America felt great pride and love for their Motherland and rushed to help.

Harold Vanderbilt and Spyros Skouras launched the Greek War Relief Association Inc., with the blessings and cooperation of Archbishop Athenagoras.

The Philoptochos undertook the enormous task to aid the courageous Greek people who were starving and suffering untold hardships.

Hundreds of thousands of packages were shipped to the people of Greece, including food, clothing, medicine, blankets, hospital equipment and an ambulance bearing the name of the Philoptochos.

Spyros Skouras of Twentieth Century Fox spearheaded the activity of the Greek War Relief. He arranged for a premiere benefit of the famous film, "Gone With the Wind" with the ladies engaged in the myriad of details for this event; a special "Tag Day" was initiated by the Philoptochos throughout the U.S. with members soliciting contributions on street corners, restaurants, supermarkets and other business establishments, including the neighborhood theaters; many events and programs were organized with proceeds sent to the Greek War Relief; and "knit a sweater for a soldier" was a popular project.

Sewing Centers were set up with the assistance of the Council of Hellenic-Jewish Clothing Manufacturers, which was headed by Joseph Josephs, providing hundreds of articles of clothing for children and adults in Greece. Project chairman was Agatha Vernicos of London. Sophie Hadjiyanis and Katy Vlavianos were co-chairmen, and Despina Vrachopoulos was secretary.

Greek War Relief activity continued for several years. With the entry into the war of the U.S. following Pearl Harbor, the Ladies Philoptochos devoted long hours to selling War Bonds, to the American Red Cross under the leadership of Dr. George Papanickolaou, who later developed the famous "Pap" test to detect uterine cancer, and offering hospitality to soldiers on leave prompting the American government to praise the efforts of the Philoptochos.

### St. Basil beginnings

On March 3, 1944, Archbishop Athenagoras announced that the Philoptochos Society had purchased the 250-acre Jacob Ruppert estate in Garrison, N.Y., at a cost of \$55,000.

It was choice property beautifully landscaped and situated on the shores of the Hudson River, opposite the West Point Military Academy.

The Archbishop's dream had become a reality. Since 1932, he had attempted to establish a children's home and orphanage. Now, with the valuable assistance from Philoptochos and proceeds of the

WASHINGTON – The National Board of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society Inc., held its spring meeting April 4-5 at the Marriott Metro Center hotel concurrent with the Archdiocesan Council.

The National Board and Archdiocesan Council attended a joint session with Archbishop Demetrios offering a prayer followed by his opening remarks. His Eminence stated that the continuing work of the Church is vital, most especially during this time of world conflict.

The National Board convened its meeting with the Archbishop joining the members to offer a spiritual message. His Eminence stated, "... the reality of God comes out of facing insolvable problems. Our role is to talk about God, but this is not sufficient. We need to be the people who are the connectors and connect people to God. It is through love that we can make the real connection. Our duty and mission is to show, give, express and share our being in terms of love. We need to touch people's lives. Philoptochos is the great central connector."

In conclusion the Archbishop quoted a passage from the Holy Scriptures: "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20) "We need to be connected with God and open to God through love."

National President Georgia Skeadas greeted the ladies and welcomed past National President Dina Skouras Oldknow and Sisterhood of Presbyteres Board member, Presbyteria Flora Chioris for attending the meeting.

In her opening remarks, Mrs. Skeadas said, "As we proceed through this very Holy and sacred journey of Great Lent, into Pascha, the true Festival of Festivals, the feast of complete joy, hope, reawakening and eternal life, it becomes more evident to me as an Orthodox Christian that there is a great desire and tremendous responsibility to achieve the ultimate goal of an Orthodox Christian, namely, to move closer to God in His likeness and image. This is a time for renewal, special prayer, self-examination, sacrifice, fasting, introspection and reflection. These actions result in a thoughtful evaluation of ourselves, just as Jesus did during His fast for 40 days before His Crucifixion. It is a time that we give immense consideration to acts of charity and mercy, by visiting the sick, consoling the unfortunate and giving assistance to the poor and needy. It is through our acts of charity, our dedication to philanthropy and an intensified commitment in this regard that we begin

Vasilopita from the two previous years, the Ruppert Estate would become a haven for Greek Orthodox children.

On March 15, 1944, the legal papers were signed and the Philoptochos took possession of the estate, which included several buildings. The children's home and school was placed under the direct supervision of the central council of the Philoptochos.

Still ahead to be accomplished were two huge tasks: the complete renovation of the buildings and the legal status of the organization. The Philoptochos applied for and received a Certificate of Incorporation from the state of New York dated July 12, 1944.

With the approval of the Certificate of Incorporation by the state of New York,



MEMBERS of the The National Philoptochos Board listen to Archbishop Demetrio's address at their meeting in Washington in early April.

to approach the objective of loving God and one another."

Most recently, the National Philoptochos' humanitarian efforts have been exemplified by an appeal to the individual chapters on behalf of the USO-created program "Operation USO Care Package."

Mrs. Skeadas continued, "I am very proud to have the National Philoptochos Society sponsor the financial assistance required to send care packages to the brave men and women in our armed forces, who are deployed around the world defending our liberty in what is called "Operation Enduring Freedom".

President Skeadas, speaking to Board members, also said, "It is my dream for the National Board to follow the teachings of Our Lord and to work together as a TEAM, a team of committed and unique individuals that already have, and will continue to devote their time, talents and treasure to the furtherance of our philanthropic endeavors. By encouraging unity and cohesiveness at all levels of our organization, we will ensure that the mission of Philoptochos will progress steadfastly into the future, fulfilling the present and evolving contemporary needs of our National Philoptochos Society, our communities and our Orthodox faith."

The next report on the agenda was the reading of the Minutes by the National Secretary, Arlene Siavelis, followed by the



D. PANAGOS

financial report by Treasurer Aphrodite Skeadas.

The treasurer reported the financial position of the Philoptochos Society is excellent.

The chapters around the country who support the fund drives were acknowledged for their talent, creativity and unceasing efforts. Three chapters in particular were recognized for raising \$12,800, \$9,400 and \$5,500 for the St. Basil Academy Vasilopeta: Holy Trinity Cathedral in Salt Lake City, Annunciation Cathedral in Houston, and Holy Trinity Church in Dallas.

More than \$100,000 was voted to benefit the following organizations: St. Photios Shrine, IOCC, OCMC, UNICEF, Kyklos – Circle of Glory, and Support a Mission Priest, as well as individual grants.

The treasurer announced that the 10 percent administrative allocation would be waived for Operation USO Care Packages. Mrs. Skeadas informed the National Board that Grant Thornton, LLP would conduct the 2002 Independent Audit for the Society.

the Philoptochos Greek Ladies Societies Inc., was recognized as a duly accredited national philanthropic tax exempt organization of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America, engaged in extending benevolence to the Greek-American community.

In August 1944, the Philoptochos Society convened a special General Assembly of the Philoptochos Society at St. Basil Academy that adopted a new constitution and enacted new bylaws.

The next major task was the renovation and furnishings of the Academy's buildings: the main administration building, the dean's residence, the classrooms and dormitories, the reception hall, and setting up a chapel and recreation room. Modern equipment was purchased

for the kitchen and laundry.

In November 1948, Archbishop Athenagoras was elected to the highest ecclesiastical office of the Orthodox Church, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.

He departed for the historic see in January 1949. During the years that followed Patriarch Athenagoras bestowed the highest honors of his Ecumenical Throne on several dedicated Philoptochos Ladies by granting them the title of "Archontissa."

During the first 20 years of its existence the Philoptochos Society's major accomplishments were recorded, among which were the Church's most important institutions – Holy Cross Theological School (which moved to Brookline, Mass., from Pomfret, Conn.), and St. Basil Academy.



# 2002 TOTAL COMMITMENT PARISHES

**ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT:** Annunciation Church, Stamford, CT • Archangels Church, Stamford, CT • Assumption Church, Danbury, CT • Holy Trinity Church, Ansonia, CT • Holy Trinity Church, Bridgeport, CT • Holy Trinity Church, Waterbury, CT • Saint Basil the Great Church, New Haven, CT • St. Barbara Church, Orange, CT • St. Demetrios Church, Weathersfield, CT • St. George Cathedral, Hartford, CT • St. George Church, New Britain, CT • St. George Church, Norwalk, CT • Saint Sophia Cathedral, Washington, DC • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Washington, DC • Annunciation Church, New York, NY • Archangel Michael Church, Roslyn Heights, NY • Assumption Church, Port Jefferson, NY • Assumption Church, Windham, NY • Church of Our Saviour, Rye, NY • Church of the Resurrection, Glen Cove, NY • Holy Cross Church, Brooklyn, NY • Holy Cross Church, Middletown, NY • Holy Cross Church, Whitestone, NY • Holy Trinity Cathedral, New York, NY • Holy Trinity Church, Hicksville, NY • Holy Trinity Church, New Rochelle, NY • Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Church, Staten Island, NY • Kimisis Tis Theotokos Church, Island Park, NY • Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church, Brooklyn, NY • Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church, Poughkeepsie, NY • Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church, Southampton, NY • Saint Sophia Church, Albany, NY • SS. Anargyroi Church, New York, NY • SS. Constantine & Helen Cathedral, Brooklyn, NY • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Jackson Heights, NY • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, West Nyack, NY • St. Barbara Church, New York, NY • St. Basil Church, Troy, NY • St. Demetrios Cathedral, Astoria, NY • St. Demetrios Church, Jamaica, NY • St. Demetrios Church, Merrick, NY • St. Eleftherios Church, New York, NY • St. George - St. Demetrios Church, New York, NY • St. George Church, Kingston, NY • St. George Church, Schenectady, NY • St. George Tropeoforos Church, New York, NY • St. Gerasimos Church, New York, NY • St. John Church, Blue Point, NY • St. Markella Church, Wantagh, NY • St. Nicholas Church, Newburgh, NY • St. Nicholas Church, West Babylon, NY • St. Nicholas Shrine Church, Flushing, NY • St. Paraskevi Church, Greenlawn, NY • St. Paul Cathedral, Hempstead, NY • St. Peter the Apostle Church, Bronx, NY • St. Spyridon Church, New York, NY • Three Hierarchs Church, Brooklyn, NY • Transfiguration Of Christ Church, Mattituck, NY • Zoodohos Peghe Church, Bronx, NY

**METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY:** Holy Trinity Church, Wilmington, DE • Annunciation Cathedral, Baltimore, MD • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Annapolis, MD • SS. Peter and Paul Church, Frederick, MD • St. Demetrios Church, Baltimore, MD • St. George Church, Bethesda, MD • St. George Church, Ocean City, MD • St. Theodore Church, Lanham, MD • Ascension Church, Fairview, NJ • Evangelismos Tis Theotokou, Jersey City, NJ • Holy Trinity Church, Northfield, NJ • Holy Trinity Church, Westfield, NJ • Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church, Holmdel, NJ • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Orange, NJ • St. Andrew Church, Randolph, NJ • St. Athanasios Church, Paramus, NJ • St. Barbara Church, Toms River, NJ • St. Demetrios Church, North Wildwood, NJ • St. Demetrios Church, Union, NJ • St. George Church, Asbury Park, NJ • St. George Church, Clifton, NJ • St. George Church, Piscataway, NJ • St. George Church, Trenton, NJ • St. John the Theologian Cathedral, Tenaflly, NJ • St. Nicholas Church, Wyckoff, NJ • Annunciation Church, Elkins Park, PA • Evangelismos Church, Philadelphia, PA • St. Demetrios Church, Upper Darby, PA • St. George Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA • St. George Church, Media, PA • St. Luke Church, Broomall, PA • Annunciation Cathedral, Norfolk, VA • Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church, Winchester, VA • Holy Trinity Church, Roanoke, VA • SS. Constantine & Helen Cathedral, Richmond, VA • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Newport News, VA • St. Elpis Church, Hopewell, VA • St. George Church, Lynchburg, VA • St. Katherine Church, Falls Church, VA • St. Nicholas Church, Virginia Beach, VA • The Nativity of the Theotokos Church, Fredericksburg, VA • Transfiguration Church, Charlottesville, VA

**METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO:** Holy Trinity Church, Sioux City, IA • St. Demetrios Church, Waterloo, IA • St. Elias The Prophet Church, Dubuque, IA • St. George Church, Des Moines, IA • St. John the Baptist Church, Cedar Rapids, IA • Transfiguration of our Lord Church, Mason City, IA • All Saints Church, Joliet, IL • All Saints Church, Peoria, IL • Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago, IL • Annunciation Church, Decatur, IL • Annunciation Church, Kankakee, IL • Ascension of Our Lord Church, Lincolnshire, IL • Assumption Church, Chicago, IL • Assumption Church, East Moline, IL • Assumption Church, Hegewisch, IL • Assumption Church, Olympia Fields, IL • Holy Apostles Church, Westchester, IL • Holy Cross Church, Justice, IL • Holy Taxiarchai - St. Haralambos Church, Niles, IL • Holy Trinity Church, Chicago, IL • Saint Sophia Church, Elgin, IL • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Palos Hills, IL • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Rockford, IL • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Swansea, IL • SS. Peter & Paul Church, Glenview, IL • St. Andrew Church, Chicago, IL • St. Anthony Church, Springfield, IL • St. Athanasios Church, Aurora, IL • St. Basil Church, Chicago, IL • St. Demetrios Church, Chicago, IL • St. Demetrios Church, Elmhurst, IL • St. Demetrios Church, Waukegan, IL • St. George Church, Chicago, IL • St. George Church, Dekalb, IL • St. George Church, Rock Island, IL • St. John the Baptist Church, Des Plaines, IL • St. Nectarios Church, Palatine, IL • St. Nicholas Church, Oak Lawn, IL • St. Spyridon Church, Palos Heights, IL • Three Hierarchs Church, Champaign, IL • SS. Constantine & Helen Cathedral, Merrillville, IN • St. Andrew Church, South Bend, IN • St. Demetrios Church, Hammond, IN • St. George Church, Schererville, IN • St. Iakovos Church, Valparaiso, IN • Holy Anargyroi/SS. Cosmas&Damianos Church, Rochester, MN • St. George Church, St. Paul, MN • St. Mary’s Church, Minneapolis, MN • The Twelve Holy Apostles Church, Duluth, MN • Assumption Church, Town & Country, MO • St. Nicholas Church, St. Louis, MO • Annunciation Church, Milwaukee, WI • Assumption Church, Madison, WI • Holy Trinity Church, Fond Du Lac, WI • Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church, Racine, WI • SS. Constantine and Helen Church, Wauwatosa, WI • St. Nicholas Church, Appleton, WI • St. Spyridon Church, Sheboygan, WI

**METROPOLIS OF BOSTON:** Holy Trinity Church, Norwich, CT • Saint Sophia Church, New London, CT • St. Nicholas Church, Enfield, CT • Annunciation Church, Newburyport, MA • Annunciation Church, Woburn, MA • Assumption of the Virgin Mary Church, Dracut, MA • Holy Trinity Church, Fitchburg, MA • Nativity-Assumption Church, Cohasset, MA • SS. Anargyroi Church, Marlboro, MA • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Andover, MA • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Cambridge, MA • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Webster, MA • St. Athanasius the Great Church, Arlington, MA • St. Catherine Church, Quincy, MA • St. Demetrios Church, Fall River, MA • St. Demetrios Church, Weston, MA • St. George Cathedral, Springfield, MA • St. George Church, Lowell, MA • St. George Church, Lynn, MA • St. George Church, New Bedford, MA • St. George Church, Pittsfield, MA • St. George Church, Southbridge, MA • St. Gregory the Theologian, Mansfield, MA • St. John The Baptist Church, Boston, MA • St. Luke Church, East Longmeadow, MA • St. Nectarios Church, Roslindale, MA • St. Vasilios Church, Peabody, MA • Taxiarchae Church, Watertown, MA • Transfiguration of Our Saviour Church, Lowell, MA • Holy Trinity Church, Lewiston, ME • Holy Trinity Church, Portland, ME • St. Demetrios Church, Saco, ME • St. George Church, Bangor, ME • Assumption Church, Manchester, NH • Assumption Church, Somersworth, NH • Holy Trinity Church, Concord, NH • St. George Cathedral, Manchester, NH • St. George Church, Keene, NH • St. Nicholas Church, Manchester, NH • St. Nicholas Church, Portsmouth, NH • St. Philip Church, Nashua, NH • St. Vasilios Church, Newport, NH • Taxiarchai Church, Laconia, NH • Annunciation Church, Cranston, RI • Assumption Church, Pawtucket, RI • St. Spyridon Church, Newport, RI • St. Nicholas Church, Rutland, VT

**METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO:** Holy Transfiguration Church, Anchorage, AK • Assumption Church, Scottsdale, AZ • Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ • St. Demetrios Church, Tucson, AZ • St. Haralambos Church, Peoria, AZ • St. Katherine Church, Chandler, AZ • Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco, CA • Annunciation Church, Modesto, CA • Annunciation Church, Sacramento, CA • Ascension Cathedral, Oakland, CA • Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ch, Long Beach, CA • Church of the Resurrection, Castro Valley, CA • Holy Cross Church, Belmont, CA • Holy Trinity Church, San Francisco, CA • Nativity of Christ Church, Ignacio, CA • Prophet Elias Church, Santa Cruz, CA • St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church, Roseville, CA • St. Anthony Church, Pasadena, CA • St. Barbara Church, Santa Barbara, CA • St. Basil Church, Stockton, CA • St. Constantine & Helen Church, Cardiff-By-The-Sea, CA • St. Demetrios Church, Camarillo, CA • St. Demetrios Church, Concord, CA • St. George Church, Bakersfield, CA • St. George Church, Downey, CA • St. George Church, Palm Desert, CA • St. Gregory of Nyssa Church, El Cajon, CA • St. John the Baptist Church, Anaheim, CA • St. John the Baptist Church, Salinas, CA • St. Katherine Church, Elk Grove, CA • St. Katherine Church, Redondo Beach, CA • St. Nicholas Church, Northridge, CA • St. Nicholas Church, San Jose, CA • St. Paul Church, Irvine, CA • St. Spyridon Church, San Diego, CA • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Honolulu, HI • St. Anthony Church, Reno, NV • St. George Church, Eugene, OR • St. John the Baptist Church, Portland, OR • Saint Sophia Church, Bellingham, WA • St. Demetrios Church, Seattle, WA

**METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA:** Annunciation Church, Mobile, AL • Annunciation Church, Montgomery, AL • Annunciation Church, Ft. Myers, FL • Annunciation Church, North Miami, FL • Annunciation Church, Pensacola, FL • Holy Mother of God Church, Tallahassee, FL • Holy Trinity Church, Maitland/Orlando, FL • Holy Trinity Church, Port Charlotte, FL • Holy Trinity Church, St. Augustine, FL • St Demetrios Church, Daytona Beach, FL • St. Andrew Church, Miami, FL • St. Barbara Church, Sarasota, FL • St. Catherine Church, West Palm Beach, FL • St. Demetrios Church, Ft. Lauderdale, FL • St. Elizabeth Church, Gainesville, FL • St. George Church, Hollywood, FL • St. George Church, New Port Richey, FL • St. John the Baptist Church, Tampa, FL • St. John the Divine Church, Jacksonville, FL • St. John The Theologian Church, Panama City, FL • St. Katherine Church, Melbourne, FL • St. Katherine Church, Naples, FL • St. Mark Church, Boca Raton, FL • St. Michael the Archangel Church, Inverness, FL • St. Nicholas Cathedral, Tarpon Springs, FL • St. Nicholas Church, Ft. Pierce, FL • St. Sophia Church, Winter Haven, FL • St. Stefanos Church, St. Petersburg, FL • Holy Cross Church, Macon, GA • Holy Transfiguration Church, Marietta, GA • Holy Trinity Church, Augusta, GA • SS Raphael, Nicholas & Irene Church, Cumming, GA • St. Paul Church, Savannah, GA • Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Orleans, LA • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Monroe, LA • Holy Trinity Church, Biloxi, MS • Holy Trinity&St. John the Theologian Chu, Jackson, MS • Annunciation Church, Winston-Salem, NC • Dormition of the Theotokos Church, Greensboro, NC • Holy Trinity Cathedral, Charlotte, NC • Holy Trinity Church, Asheville, NC • Holy Trinity Church, Raleigh, NC • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Fayetteville, NC • St. George Church, High Point, NC • St. Katherine Church, Burlington, NC • St. Nektarios Church, Charlotte, NC • St. Nicholas Church, Wilmington, NC • Holy Resurrection Church, Hilton Head, SC • Holy Trinity Church, Charleston, SC • Holy Trinity Church, Columbia, SC • St. George Cathedral, Greenville, SC • St. John The Baptist Church, Myrtle Beach, SC • St. Nicholas Church, Spartanburg, SC • Transfiguration Church, Florence, SC • Holy Trinity Church, Bluff City, TN • St. George Church, Knoxville, TN

**METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH:** Annunciation Cathedral, Columbus, OH • Annunciation Church, Akron, OH • Archangel Michael Church, Campbell, OH • Holy Trinity Church, Canton, OH • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Mansfield, OH • St. Demetrios Church, Rocky River, OH • St. Demetrios Church, Warren, OH • St. George Church, Massillon, OH • St. Nicholas Church, Lorain, OH • St. Paul Church, North Royalton, OH • All Saints Church, Canonsburg, PA • Annunciation Church, Lancaster, PA • Annunciation of the Virgin Mary Church, New Kensington, PA • Dormition of the Theotokos Church, Oakmont, PA • Evangelismos Church, Easton, PA • Evangelismos Church, Farrell, PA • Holy Trinity Church, Ambridge, PA • Holy Trinity Church, Pittsburgh, PA • Presentation of Christ Church, East Pittsburgh, PA • St. Mary’s Church, Johnstown, PA • St. Matthew Church, Reading, PA • St. Nicholas Church, Bethlehem, PA • All Saints Church, Weirton, WV • Assumption Church, Morgantown, WV • St. George Church, Huntington, WV • St. John the Divine Church, Wheeling, WV • St. Spyridon Church, Clarksburg, WV

**METROPOLIS OF DETROIT:** Annunciation Church, Little Rock, AR • Zoodochos Peghe Church, Hot Springs, AR • Holy Trinity Church, Fort Wayne, IN • Holy Trinity Church, Indianapolis, IN • Assumption Church, Louisville, KY • Panagia Pantovasilissa Church, Lexington, KY • Annunciation & Agia Paraskevi Church, New Buffalo, MI • Annunciation Cathedral, Detroit, MI • Annunciation Church, Kalamazoo, MI • Annunciation Church, Muskegon, MI • Holy Cross Church, Farmington Hills, MI • Holy Trinity Church, Grand Rapids, MI • Holy Trinity Church, Lansing, MI • Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church, Plymouth Township, MI • St. Demetrios Church, Saginaw, MI • St. George Church, Bloomfield Hills, MI • St. George Church, Sault Ste. Marie, MI • St. George Church, Southgate, MI • St. John Church, Sterling Heights, MI • St. Nicholas Church, Ann Arbor, MI • St. Nicholas Church, Troy, MI • Annunciation Church, Buffalo, NY • Annunciation Church, Rochester, NY • Annunciation Church, Vestal, NY • Holy Spirit Church, Rochester, NY • Saint Sophia Church, Syracuse, NY • SS. Theodoroi Church, Gloversville, NY • St. Athanasios Church, Elmira, NY • St. Catherine Church, Ithaca, NY • St. Nicholas Church, Jamestown, NY • Annunciation Church, Dayton, OH • Holy Trinity - St. Nicholas Church, Cincinnati, OH • Holy Trinity Cathedral, Toledo, OH • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Middletown, OH • Annunciation Church, Memphis, TN • Holy Trinity Church, Nashville, TN

**METROPOLIS OF DENVER:** Assumption Cathedral, Denver, CO • Saint Catherine Church, Greenwood Village, CO • Saint Nicholas Church, Grand Junction, CO • St. John The Baptist Church, Pueblo, CO • Assumption Church, Pocatello, ID • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Boise, ID • St. Dionysios Church, Overland Park, KS • St. George Church, Shreveport, LA • Annunciation Church, Kansas City, MO • Annunciation Church, Lincoln, NE • Assumption Church, Bayard, NE • St. John the Baptist Church, Omaha, NE • St. Elias the Prophet Church, Santa Fe, NM • St. George Church, Albuquerque, NM • Holy Trinity Church, Tulsa, OK • St. George Church, Oklahoma City, OK • Annunciation Cathedral, Houston, TX • Assumption Church, Galveston, TX • Assumption Church, San Angelo, TX • Holy Cross Church, Wichita Falls, TX • Holy Trinity Church, Dallas, TX • Saint Sophia Church, San Antonio, TX • St. Andrew Church, Lubbock, TX • St. Athanasios the Great Church, San Angelo, TX • St. Basil the Great Church, Houston, TX • St. Demetrios Church, Fort Worth, TX • St. John the Baptist Church, Euless, TX • St. John the Prodomos Church, Amarillo, TX • St. John the Theologian Church, Webster, TX • St. Nicholas Church, Corpus Christi, TX • St. Nicholas Church, El Paso, TX • St. Nicholas Church, Waco, TX • Transfiguration Church, Austin, TX • Assumption Church, Price, UT • Holy Trinity Cathedral, Salt Lake City, UT • Transfiguration Church, Ogden, UT • Holy Trinity Church, Casper, WY • SS. Constantine & Helen Church, Cheyenne, WY

THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
and the Department of Stewardship Ministry  
extend their gratitude to all the parishes listed  
which have faithfully supported and completed the  
“2002 TOTAL COMMITMENT PROGRAM”  
“OUR LORD CONTINUES TO BLESS US ALL!”



# PEOPLE

## ► Geography Champ

Oklahoma seventh grader **Chris Chesny**, a member of Holy Trinity Church in Tulsa, recently won the state "Geographic Bee" championship. He competed against 100 other students in fourth through eighth grades at the University of Central Oklahoma. Victory for Chris came when he was able to correctly name the peninsula that forms the southernmost region of mainland Greece — "*Peloponnesus*." He is to compete in the upcoming National Geographic Bee in Washington for the national title and one of the \$10,000, \$15,000 or \$25,000 college scholarship prizes. After his victory, he told a local newspaper, "Being part Greek myself, I already knew quite a bit about that part of the world. That really helped."

## ► Elected to Board

**Matthew G. Garoufalos**, DPM, of Chicago was elected to the Board of Trustees of the American Podiatric Medical Association during the organization's 83rd session of the House of Delegates in Washington.

Dr. Garoufalos has represented Illinois in the APMA House of Delegates since 1997. Active on several APMA committees, he currently serves on the Health Policy Committee. Dr. Garoufalos is a diplomate of the National Board of Podiatric Examiners, a fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgery, and a fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Orthopedics and Medicine. He practices in Chicago and Hinsdale, Ill., and is on the surgical staffs of several area hospitals including the VA Chicago Health Care System-Westside Division, Mercy Hospital and Medical Center, St. Anthony's Hospital, and Hinsdale Hospital.

## ► Greek Scholarships

The Modern Greek Studies Program of St. John's University in Jamaica N.Y., awarded scholarships to the following seven students on April 22: **Katerina Tsiamenzi**, **Constantine Katsanos**, **Angeliki Giakoumis**, **Demetra Pappas**, **Constantine Parthenis**, **Stacey Hoffman** and **Ioannis Babatsikos**. In a separate ceremony, **Kristine Polios** and **Christiana Irakleous** received Modern Greek scholarships from the Greek-American Homeowners Association of Astoria.

## ► Library Namesake

Officials and members of the Peabody, Mass., school community recently turned out to honor **Gregory Theokas** who served the school district for 38 years as a teacher, vice principal, principal assistant superintendent and acting superintendent. He was honored at a Feb. 10 ceremony naming an elementary school library in his honor. Mr. Theokas has been retired since 1994.

## ► Hellenes Honored

The U.S. State Department honored four Greek Americans at an afternoon reception on March 24 to commemorate the 182<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Greek Independence Day. They were Hellenic American Women's Council (HAWC) President **Theodora Hancock**, Washington lobbyist **Tom Korologos**, Deputy Attorney for the Commonwealth of Virginia **Theophani K. Stamos**, and **Stephanie Glikas Tenet**, author and wife of CIA Director George Tenet.

# Young Parish Blooms at Edge of the Desert

The young parish of St. Haralambos is one of three area communities that got its start from a missionary effort launched by a Holy Trinity Cathedral parishioner in Phoenix, one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S.

According to Fr. Michael Pallad, pastor at St. Haralambos since 1994, a Holy Trinity parishioner, Peter Maniatis and his brother, John, formed the "Home Foundation" to help establish these new churches to serve the hundreds of Greek Orthodox Christians throughout this sprawling metropolitan area.

Peoria, now a city of about

### West Valley church

Peoria's Greek Orthodox parish, initially called the West Valley Greek Orthodox Church, came into being in late September 1986 when the first General Assembly met and elected a parish council.

Space for worship was rented at a local elementary school where services were held by visiting priests twice a month. Among these were clergy from the Orthodox Church in America and Serbian Orthodox jurisdictions.

Meanwhile, efforts were under way to find a building for a permanent church, which culminated in

strategic planning committees. There also are two Bible study groups, one for women, and the other mixed.

St. Haralambos has an active youth program and a Sunday school with 45 students in pre-school through high school.

A youth ministry team plans several activities through the year for the children, and in conjunction with other local parishes.

Greek language classes are being offered for the first time this year, consisting of an adult class and a children's class, Fr. Michael said. Both classes are

## PARISH profile

**Name:** St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

**Location:** Peoria, Ariz.

**Metropolis:** San Francisco

**Size:** about 140 families

**Founded:** 1986

**Clergy:** Fr. Michael T. Pallad (Holy Cross '90)

**Web site:**

[www.sharalambos.org](http://www.sharalambos.org)

**E-mail:** [stharalambos@earthlink.net](mailto:stharalambos@earthlink.net)

**Noteworthy:** A very friendly community with caring families is a strong characteristic of the parish



ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

120,000, lies on the northwest side of Arizona's capital.

The other two communities are Assumption in Scottsdale, northeast of the city, and St. Katherine in Chandler, to the southeast.

Peoria began in the mid-1880s as a farming community at the edge of the desert. Residents of Peoria, Ill., purchased 5,000 acres in the area near the Salt River in the Arizona Territory and four families from that city initially settled there.

At the time, the Apache Indian chief Geronimo was marauding through parts of the territory after finding that life on the reservation was not to his liking, but this apparently did not deter these first settlers.

It has since developed into a diversified city adjacent to Phoenix. Its economic base includes high-tech and financial services firms, including Honeywell and American Express, where several parishioners are employed.

Many others are self-employed and several are teachers. Nearly half the parishioners are of retirement age, Fr. Michael noted. Some reside in the large retirement community of Sun City, situated nearby to the north of Peoria.

Still, there are more and more younger families moving into the area and St. Haralambos has its share, the priest explained.

the purchase of a Protestant church building, the Church of the Nazarene, in 1988.

Services in the "new" church began on June 19, 1988.

The community's first full-time priest, Fr. George Patides arrived more than a year later, on Sept. 1, 1989. During his ministry, the church was renamed for St. Haralambos in early November 1990.

Fr. Patides was succeeded in August 1994 by Fr. Pallad, who previously had served as assistant priest at St. John the Baptist Church in Anaheim, Calif. A Los Angeles native, Fr. Michael was raised in the parish of St. Nicholas in Northridge. He and his presbytera, Kristin, have two young daughters.

Fr. Pallad, is the second full-time priest and the longest serving of the parish.

He said the most enjoyable part of his service is "being able to get to know the families better" in a smaller parish.

Most of his flock consists of American-born Greek Orthodox and a number of converts.

In its 16-plus years in existence, the community has developed several ministries that include the establishment of a senior choir, an active Philoptochos chapter that pursues several philanthropic projects, altar boys and stewardship and

taught by a parishioner who has volunteered her time. About 15 children are studying Greek.

There also are Greek folk dance classes.

Another regular feature is the men's monthly breakfast at the church hall.

A bookstore in the church hall offers a number of books, icons and greeting cards.

Philoptochos members are active in the greater community through their supporting of local charities and social service groups. They provide food baskets to needy families and other aid for a family that qualified for a special housing program.

Most of St. Haralambos parish's income is derived from stewardship. Another important revenue source is the annual Greek festival held in the spring.

The community's immediate goal is to build a new church. A five-acre site was purchased in March 2001 about five or six miles northeast of the existing church, which is near downtown Peoria.

"We're now in a campaign to pay off the property by March 2006," said Fr. Michael. "We're also preparing plans for the buildings."

Meanwhile, the priest happily pursues his greatest challenge, which confronts every pastor, "the continual challenge of making the gospel active and relevant in people's lives."

—compiled by Jim Golding

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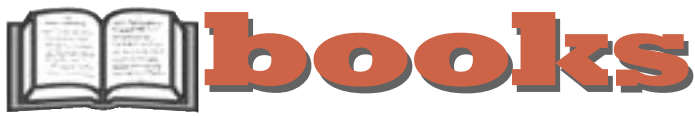
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## Fr. Constantelos Publishes 2 New Books

Bishop Agathangelos of Fanarion, general manager of the Apostolike Diakonia of the Church of Greece, has announced the forthcoming publication of *"The Historical and Ecclesiastical Significance of Church Canons: The Council in Trullo (691-2). A Case study,"* by the Rev. Dr. Demetrios J. Constantelos.

The contents include the following chapters: Part One. 1. "A Holy Nation" and "Royal Priesthood?" 2. Religious Faith and Cultural Inheritance. 3. Clergy and their Problems. 4. Monks and Monasteries. 5. Judaism and Christian Minorities. 6. The Eastern and the Western Churches. Part Two. 1. A Christian Society in an Ancient Culture. 2. Pedagogical Mother or an Avenging Stepmother? 3. Shepherds without a Flock. 4. Canons and Women. 5. Moral Problems and Canonical Regulations. 6. Canons and Religious Life. The book ends with a conclusion, bibliography and index.

The publication of the second book was announced by Professor Nicholas Bratsiotis, president of the "Philo tou Laou" (Friends of the People Society),

one of the oldest Educational and Cultural Societies of Greece.

Also authored by Fr. Constantelos, the title of the book is "Forerunners and Factors that Contributed to the Interrelationship between Hellenism and Christianity."

This publication, larger by far than the previous one, falls into three parts and includes 12 chapters. It examines various aspects of religious, historical, and cultural phenomena, such as Christian Theologians and Hellenic Learning, Hellenic Mysticism and Christian Mysticism, Lives of Saints and Ancient Hellenic Traditions, A Crisis in the Relationship between Hellenic logos and Christian faith, and several more topics of interest.

Fr. Constantelos is a retired priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and Charles Cooper Townsend Sr. Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History and Religion, and the Distinguished Research Scholar in Residence at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

The father of four and the grandfather of six, he lives with his wife, Stella, in Linwood, N.J.

## 'Raised in Power' Confronts Mystery of Death *Institute Of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion*

*Understanding of Death, Resurrection and Immortality, John T. Chirban; Brookline, Mass. Holy Cross Orthodox Press, 2002, 67 pp.*

As the baby boom generation enters its seventh decade, and America grows older as a population, more Americans are facing the emotional and practical realities of death.

In his newest book, *Raised in Power and Glory: Orthodox Understanding of Death, Resurrection and Immortality*, John T. Chirban confronts the complex concerns in the loss of a loved one.

A Harvard Medical School clinician and professor of psychology at Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, Dr. Chirban offers pragmatic guidance for clergy, counselors, and families about their understandings and feelings of death and bereavement.

Beginning with troubling questions regarding the mystery of death: what awaits us after death? Does death make irrelevant all we have experienced?

How does death give meaning to life? Dr. Chirban utilizes his training as a theologian and as a psychologist to unravel such issues in the Orthodox Christian tradition.

For example, he explains, "[w]ithin Orthodoxy's Mystical Tradition, the faithful gain knowledge of God by means of a loving relationship, and a love reminiscent of Christ's sacrifice consecrated in his own death. Through the love of God, oneself, and others, victory over death emerges by one's eternal life.

While such liturgical practices and theological beliefs provide some comfort for the bereaved, Dr. Chirban suggests that Orthodox clergy and counselors, in both spiritual and psychological services, engage the bereaved, guiding them through the grief process.

He also gives detailed advice to counselors of the bereaved and steps through the process of understanding life from the grief that accompanies death.

In addition to his scriptural and liturgical analysis regarding death and death rituals, Dr. Chirban examines the death motifs in Christian iconography. He explains how these "symbolically-charged" works of art represent the convergence of "the gut-wrenching and profound agony of loss, as well as the miracle and joy of life anticipated in the promised Resurrection."

Dr. Chirban's message is that while death remains a mystery, its contempla-

tion enhances the beauty and meaning of a life lived with faith.

By detailing the theological foundations of the Orthodox Tradition's understanding of death, its rituals and liturgical practices, as well as the clergy's role in these practices, he arrives at the following joyful conclusion: "Death, as the ultimate embodiment of the Easter faith, actually clarifies life, orienting our relationship towards God, ourselves, and others... The mystery of death is lost when one seeks solace in the Resurrection."

John D. Morgan, Ph. D., professor emeritus of philosophy and coordinator at King's College Centre for Education about Death and Bereavement, writes:

"Dr. Chirban's *Raised in Power and Glory* is one of the finest booklets that I have seen about the integration of religious views about death and bereavement and contemporary thanatology.

"Dr. Chirban has combined his extensive knowledge of the Greek Orthodox view of dying and afterlife with what the death awareness movement has learned about the needs of the dying and bereaved. He provides many beautiful examples of music and liturgical practice so that the reader is kept interested at all times. I recommend this both for its content, and as a model of what other religious traditions might aspire to."

Rev. Vasilios Thermos, M.D., Ph.D., Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, commented, "Dr. Chirban's book epitomizes the Orthodox Christian teaching about death and bereavement and is very practical and useful for all of us. It depicts not only our mission to confront death and bereavement but also the ecclesiastical context offered by God which is indispensable for this purpose."

*Raised in Power and Glory* is available through the Institute of Medicine, Psychology and Religion (I.M.P.R.) To purchase or for information on other publications, send a check for \$9.95 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling to: IMPR; P.O. Box 958; Cambridge, MA 02138

*John T. Chirban, Ph.D., is a psychologist at the Cambridge Hospital and in private practice. His many books include Interviewing in Depth: The Interactive Relational Approach; Personhood: Orthodox Christianity and the Connection between Mind, Body, and Soul; and Sickness or Sin? Spiritual Discernment and Differential Diagnosis.*

## Greek Heritage Society Produces Documentary

LOS ANGELES – An award-winning documentary on the history of the early Greek settlers in Southern California is now available to the public.

The documentary, "The Greeks of Southern California-Through the Century, The Pioneers, 1900-1942," features oral histories, archival footage, and turn of the century photographs. This film is the recipient of the Film Advisory Board's Award of Excellence in 2002 and is hosted by Olympia Dukakis.

The Greek Heritage Society of Southern California (GHS) produced the film. This documentary highlights the successes of Greek immigrants despite the struggles and discrimination they faced. These issues confronted other ethnic groups that came to Southern California making the film resonate for both Greeks and non-Greeks.

"The Pioneers, 1900-1942" is the first in a two part series on Greek immigrants who settled in Southern California from the turn of the century to present times.

"We are now completing the project," said Ms. Zoye Marino Fidler, executive producer and president of GHS. "By producing the second documentary covering 1942 to the present in preparation for submission to national PBS (Public Broadcasting System) so we can showcase our Greek American history to the general public. We have already aired on KOCE (Orange County's PBS station) and the

response was overwhelming."

The film is the result of 17 years of culling over 100 interviews," Ms. Fidler continued. "But without the efforts of people such as James Gianopoulos, chairman of Fox Filmed Entertainment, Olympia Dukakis, who hosts and narrates the film along with John Kapelos, Anna Giannotis who wrote, produced and directed the project and many other people, we would not have been able to make this documentary a reality."

GHS was founded in 1985, in association with the Basil P. Caloyeras Modern Greek Studies Center at Loyola Marymount University, to preserve the rich culture, heritage, and traditions of Greek immigrants who came to Southern California.

The Society collects oral, video, and written histories, as well as private photographs of Greek immigrants and their descendants to provide documented histories of early Greek immigrants.

GHS has also chaired many worthwhile events such as the 36th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress Museum/Historical Exhibit held in Los Angeles in 2002.

"The Greeks Of Southern California – Through The Century, The Pioneers 1900-1942" is available on VHS and may be purchased online at [www.PAHH.org/ghs](http://www.PAHH.org/ghs) or directly from the Greek Heritage Society at 310 839-4180.

## HMF Presents Romantic Greek Music

NEW YORK. – The Hellenic Music Foundation has recently released a new CD album entitled "Romantic Greek Nights." It includes a selection of well-known traditional melodies, celebrated Greek composers and unforgettable romantic songs of the 30s, 40s and 50s.

The Foundation now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year has presented several benefit concerts in the New York area promoting classical music from Greece. Among the goals of the Foundation are to research, preserve and promote Greek music and music education through concerts, recordings,

lectures and publications.

HMF has setup a scholarship fund designed specifically for talented classical musicians 25 years or younger.

"Our next project is the 2<sup>nd</sup> HMF Young Artists Showcase where we would like to offer substantial amounts of scholarships and grants to young talented musicians," said Katia Zallas-Rosati, a soprano and the president of the foundation.

For more information on the Romantic Greek Nights CD or the Foundation's other activities contact (718) 904-6668 or [HellenicMusic@aol.com](mailto:HellenicMusic@aol.com).

## CLERGY UPDATE

### Ordination to the Diaconate:

Andrew D. Cadieux, by Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, Church of Our Savior, Rye, N.Y., 02/15/03

Monk Michael (Ziebarth), by Metropolitan Maximos, St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, Perrysville, Ohio, 02/13/03

Evangelos Evangelidis, by Bishop Gerasimos of Krateias, Holy Trinity Church, New Rochelle, N.Y., 04/12/03

Costin Popescu, by Metropolitan Anthony of San Francisco, St. Anthony Church, Pasadena, Calif., 08/11/2002

Simon Thomas, by Bishop Anthimos of Olympos, Annunciation Church, Modesto, Calif., 03/22/2003

**Ordination to the Priesthood:**

Dn. Michael Ziebarth, by Metropolitan Maximos, St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, Perrysville, Ohio, 02/14/03

Dn. Simon Thomas, by Metropolitan Anthony, Annunciation Church, Modesto, Calif., 03/23/2003

### Assignments:

Fr. George Xenophanes, St. Nicholas Church, Atlantic City, N.J., 01/01/03

Fr. Stephanos Shagoury, Annunciation Church, Scranton, Pa., 02/01/03

Fr. Stylianos Muksuris, St. George Cathedral, Manchester, N.H., 02/01/03

Fr. Patrick Irish, St. Nectarios Mission, Pasco, Wash., 03/01/03

Fr. Michael Diavatis, St. Katherine Church, Melbourne, Fla., 03/10/03

Fr. Constandinos A. Pavlakos, St. Katherine Church, Falls Church, Va.,

04/01/03

Fr. John N. Sardis, All Saints Church, Peoria, Ill., 04/01/03

Fr. Basil G. Kissal, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Charlotte, N.C., 04/01/03

Fr. Dionisios Marketos, Transfiguration Church, Mattituck, N.Y., 04/01/03

Fr. Constantine J. Nastos, Holy Trinity Church, Roanoke, Va., 04/03/03

Fr. Benjamin Henderson, to St. Nicholas Church, El Paso, Texas, 05/01/2003

Fr. Stephen P. Theophilos, to Transfiguration Church, Charlottesville, Va. 05/01/2003

Fr. Cosmas Halekakis, to St. Demetrios Church, Waukegan, Ill., 05/15/2003

### Offikia:

Metropolitian Maximos bestowed the office of Protosphyter upon: Fr. Stelios Menis, 01/29/03

Metropolitan Isaiah bestowed the following offices:

• Protosphyter upon Fr. George Politis, 10/22/02

• Sakellarios upon Fr. Anastasios Raptis, 03/02/03

• Ekonomos upon Fr. Dennis Schutte, 03/02/03

Metropolitan Iakovos bestowed the office of Ekonomos upon: Fr. George Pyle, 04/13/2003

### Suspensions:

Fr. Joachim C. Pantelis, 05/02/2003



# Church Musicians Adopt Position Statement on Continuing Education

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. -- The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians has adopted a Position Statement supporting the continuing education of choir directors, choir members, and chanters in the Archdiocese of America, National Chairman Dr. Vicki Pappas announced recently.

The Position Statement reflects the National Forum's views that in order to enhance the quality of how liturgical music is rendered in the parishes of the Archdiocese, church musicians must themselves strive for continuous improvement -- in their musical talents, in their understanding of the liturgical music of the Orthodox faith, and in their knowledge of their religion through the Divine Liturgy and other services of the Church.

Further, the National Forum sees the expectations of the local parish as crucial to the achievement of these goals. Each parish also should commit to supporting its church musicians morally and financially so that they may engage in musical training, enroll in classes, and/or attend the workshops and Church Music Institutes sponsored by the National Forum, the Church Music Federations of the Metropolises.

Pappas commented, "The role of the church musician is a sacred responsibility, and both the individual and the parish should aspire to do all that is possible to produce the most worshipful and pleasing musical settings possible. To sing praises to God and to create prayer-inducing and beautiful musical icons have been entrusted to the church musician, choir member and chanter alike - to strive for excellence in this role through further learning should be a solemn commitment of personal and local parish stewardship."

The National Forum adopted this Position Statement at its annual meeting held last summer in Los Angeles in conjunction with the Clergy-Laity Congress. The full text of the Position Statement follows:

## NATIONAL FORUM POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING CONTINU-

## ING EDUCATION FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS

The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians strongly recommends that choir directors, choir members, and chanters actively seek to improve their skills so that they become more effective church musicians. These skills would include a good knowledge of the voice, music theory - including ear training, conducting, rehearsal techniques, and/or liturgics. In addition, choir directors must be able to effectively communicate their knowledge and skills to their choir members.

In order to continue to improve, church musicians are encouraged to attend the various local, regional, and national workshops that are offered by the Metropolitan Church Music/Choir Federations at their annual conferences and also at Church Music Institutes (CMI's) offered throughout the year. In addition, directors, choir members, and chanters should consider studying voice and attend workshops offered locally by colleges, universities, or choral organizations, such as the American Choral Director's Association.

Since music is a liturgical ministry, parishes should encourage and expect their choir directors, singers, and chanters to continually improve their skills. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that parishes offer financial support to their church musicians to attend training sessions provided through the National Forum and the metropolitan church musician federations and/or to avail themselves of other educational opportunities.

Choir directors, choir members, and chanters who take an active role in their continuing education, with the support of the parish priest and parish council, have a much greater likelihood of creating a successful liturgical music program in their parish. Liturgical music is of vital importance to our worship and deserves the moral and financial support of the local parish to ensure its continuation and expansion into the new millennium.

# Orthodox Easter Media Coverage

► page 1

**New York:** WCBS -- CBS 2 News This Morning **Jacksonville, FL:** WAWS -- FOX -- Fox 30 News at 4 **New York:** WNBC -- NBC -- Live at Five and News Channel 4 **Salt Lake City:** KSTU -- FOX -- News at Nine **Baltimore:** WMAR -- ABC -- ABC 2 News: The Latest at 11 **New York:** WCBS CBS -- News at 11PM **Reno, Nev:** KOLO -- ABC -- News Channel 8 at 11 **Toledo, Ohio:** WTVG -- ABC -- ABC 13 Action News **Chicago:** WMAQ -- NBC -- NBC 5 Chicago News at 6 **New York:** WNBC -- NBC -- Saturday Today in New York

**Nationally Televised [NT]:** NBCE Show: Today **Chicago:** WBBM -- CBS -- CBS 2 News at 10 **Columbus, Ohio:** WTTE -- FOX -- Newcenter at 10 **Canada:** GLBL -- Global -- Global News **New York:** WCBS -- CBS -- CBS 2 News Sunday **Chicago:** WBBM -- CBS -- CBS 2 News at 5:30 PM **Chicago:** WBBM -- CBS -- CBS 2 News at 10:00 PM **Los Angeles:** KTLA -- WB -- News at 10 Weekend Edition **Buffalo, NY:** WGRZ -- NBC -- Channel 2 News **Flint-Saginaw-Bay City, Mich:** WEYL -- NBC -- Newcenter 25 at 11 **Flint-Saginaw-Bay City, Mich:** WJRT -- ABC -- ABC 12 News at Eleven **Fresno-Visalia, Calif:** NBC -- KSEE 24 -- News 11 at 11 **Jacksonville, FL:** WJXX -- ABC -- News at 11 **Jacksonville, FL:** WTLV -- NBC -- News at 11 **Buffalo, NY:** WGRZ -- NBC -- Channel 2 Daybreak **Columbus, OH:** WCMH -- NBC -- NewsChannel 4 Today **Flint-Saginaw-Bay City, Mich:** WJRT -- ABC -- ABC 12 News at Five **Milwaukee:** WTMJ -- NBC -- Daybreak Early Edition 1 **Buf-**

**falo, NY:** WGRZ -- NBC -- News **Buffalo, NY:** WGRZ Channel 2 News Daybreak at 6:19 AM, NBC **Milwaukee:** WTMJ -- NBC Daybreak Early Edition.

Orthodox Easter also received extensive coverage in the print media, especially newspapers. Among the articles were the following:

**Boston Herald,** April 27 -- interview by reporter Franci Richardson with Boston Metropolitan Chancellor Fr. Athanasios Demos about the celebration of Pascha.

**Seattle Times** -- article by reporter Janet Tu on Orthodox Easter.

**Miami Herald** -- article by staff writer Ana Veciana Suarez about customs surrounding the celebration of Orthodox Easter.

**Newsday** -- article by staff writer Theresa Vargas on Orthodox Easter celebration at St. Nicholas Church, West Babylon, N.Y., and a three-page feature by freelance writer Alexandra K. Mosca on Easter at St. Nicholas Church, Flushing, Queens.

**JACKSON (MISS.) CLARION-LEADER** -- article by reporter Charlotte Graham on local celebration at Holy Trinity-St. John the Theologian Church.

**Asbury Park (N.J.) Press** -- article by reporter Alison Waldman on Easter Sunday celebration at Kimisis Church.

**Hackensack, N.J. Record** -- article by staff writer John Petrick on foods associated with the celebration of Easter.

**Merrick (N.Y.) Life** -- Page one color photo of the Resurrection service held on the front steps of St. Demetrius Church.

## In Memoriam

## Former Congressman Gus Yatron

FAIRFAX STATION, Va. -- Former U.S. Rep. Gus Yatron died March 13 at the home of his daughter. He was 75.

Congressman Yatron lived in Reading, Pa., but maintained a residence in Arlington, Va. He was a member of the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

He had served 24 years in the U.S. House of Representatives from the Reading area between 1969 and 1992. He rose to become the third-ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and was chairman of the human rights and international organizations subcommittee. He retired from Congress in 1992.

According to the Washington Post, the congressman was known for speaking out on human rights issues affecting foreign policy and had pressed for tough sanctions against China after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre.

He was born Constantine George

Yatron in Reading, the son of George H. and Theano (Lazos) Yatron. His father owned an ice cream manufacturing firm and parlor.

Yatron was a 1950 graduate of Kutztown University in Pennsylvania and also boxed professionally during his college years.

In the 1950s and '60s he served on the Reading school board and was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Senate.

Survivors include his wife, Millie Menzies Yatron; a son, George Yatron of Reading; a daughter, Theana Yatron Kastena of Fairfax Station; a brother, a sister and six grandchildren.

Funeral services took place March 17 at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Reading, with Fr. Demetrius G. Nicoloudakis officiating.

Congressman Yatron was also a former member of St. Sophia Cathedral in Washington.

## Bishop Iakovos (Klimis) of Assou

WILLOW GROVE, Pa. -- Bishop Iakovos (Klimis) of Assou, 75, died March 28. He had been retired since July 1984.

He was born in Mytilene, Greece on March 19, 1928. He attended elementary school and high school in Mytilene.

He attended Halki Theological School and graduated with the Licentiate in Theology degree and arrived in the United States in November 1963.

## Rev. George James Venetos

WOODLAND HILLS, Calif. -- Fr. George James Venetos, 66, former dean of St. Sophia Cathedral, died April 15.

He was born in New Brunswick, N.J., on Jan. 16, 1933 and moved to Baltimore at a young age, where he received his elementary and secondary education.

He came a long line of priests and entered Holy Cross School of Theology, where he received a B.A. in Theology in 1957.



Fr. George James Venetos

Upon graduating, he married Antonette Womas, a Chicago native who lived in Somerville, Mass.

His ordination as a deacon took place June 23, 1957 by Bishop Germanos Constantias. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 30 by Bishop Athenagoras Kokkinakis.

His first parish was Holy Trinity Church in Portland Maine, where he served for more than 14 years, from 1957-71. His second assignment was as dean of St. George Cathedral in Manchester, N.H., from 1971-75, then as dean of St. Sophia Cathedral in Los Angeles until 1987.

While serving Saint Sophia he was instrumental in the building of housing for the elderly.

He also taught Orthodox Tradition at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles for 25 years.

In addition to his Presbyteria, survivors include his children Debbie, Paul and Jimmy. He has five grandchildren, Jennifer, Pamela, Beatrice, Alexander and Eleni.

The Liturgy and funeral service were officiated by Archimandrite the Very Rev. Peter Costarakis, assisted and by 20 priests, including Antonette's brother, Fr. John A. Limberakis of Philadelphia, now retired.

The original St. Sophia choir, with their magnificent angelic voices participated in the funeral service.

Archbishop Demetrios said in his letter of condolence, "Fr. George understood his life as a gift that connected him with the Divine Giver and with the nexus of people that shared in that relationship. It is a sacramental view of life through which God's great and holy name may be glorified. Such was the ethos of this devoted steward of God's love and divine purpose-his actions transparently reflecting his faith convictions. With faith and trust in the Lord we can be assured that as we on earth pray for the eternal repose of Fr. George's soul, in heaven he stands before the throne of the Most High Lord in the company of the saints and angels having fought the good fight, having finished the race and having kept the faith" (Timothy 4:7)

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recognized Fr. George Venetos and adjourned their April 22, 2003 meeting in tribute and reverence.

A memorial fund will be established in his name at Holy Cross Seminary. Checks can be made out to the Holy Cross School of Theology c/o St. Sophia Cathedral 1324 S. Normandie Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90006. Attn: Father Venetos Memorial Fund.



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# Challenge

YOUTH MINISTRY

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## What's Up? WITH MY LIFE?

Do you think God cares about what you do with your life? Do you struggle with the question of what you're "going to be when you grow up?" Do you wonder what your purpose in life is? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, this article is for you!

Does God care about what you do with your life? H-E-L-L-O! As the creator of all, God cares deeply for the whole creation and everyone in it. We read in the Gospel according to John, "God so loved the world the He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (3:16)."

by Fr. Jim Katinas

We hear in the Divine Liturgy that God "never stops doing everything for our salvation" and gives us "every good and perfect gift from above." Indeed God shows over and over again, for those who have eyes to see, that He cares very much about what you do with your life.

God also expects much from you. Are you familiar with the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30)? If not, read it now! The four most important points of it are: 1) God gives talents to each and every person, 2) God expects every person to use their talents for His glory 3) God multiplies the talents of those who put them to good use and 4) God takes away the talents of those who don't use them.

As for the question of what "you want to be when you grow up?" This is not the best question from the standpoint of the Church. The better question is twofold: what does God want you to be and how can you best serve Him?

This view is more complete and takes into account not only your talents and desires but how the needs of others will be served in accordance with God's divine plan. This concept is often referred to as a calling.

How can you find your calling in life? The following exercise, developed by Fr. Michael Himes, an expert in this subject, can help. He suggests asking and answering the following three questions:

1) What do you like doing? What talent, work or hobby do you enjoy the most?

2) Are you any good at it? If you enjoy doing something but are not any good at it, chances are it's not your calling. For example, if playing basketball gives you joy but after years of practice you still can't dribble, pass or shoot, you're probably not called to be a pro basketball player.

3) Does anybody want you to do it? Even if you like doing something and think you are good at it, a true calling is confirmed when other people seek your service. For example, even though I decided I would like to be a priest and thought I might be good at it, it was up to the Church to ordain me. In fact, in an Orthodox ordination, the ordaining bishop says: "axios!" This is a declaration that a person is "worthy" to be ordained. Without the bishop's declaration and the response of "axios" by the people, the candidate cannot be ordained.

As helpful as this exercise may be,

don't expect it to answer all your questions. When it comes to questions like this, it is best to seek the advice of people you look up to and trust, such as your parents, priest, teacher, youth director, guidance counselor or even a close friend.

Finally, regarding the larger question of your purpose in life, this is something more important than what you do for a living or what your unique talents are. Throughout history, many people have become Saints in the most difficult conditions and regardless of the specific nature of their work. Why? Because no matter what "occupation" they had, they devoted themselves to loving God with all their heart, soul, strength and mind and their neighbor as their self (Luke 10: 27). This is the ultimate purpose of every Orthodox Christian!

By all means, then, do what you can to discover and utilize your unique talents and gifts, without forgetting your ultimate purpose of loving God and neighbor.

So, what's up with your life?

*Fr. Jim is the co-director of admissions and records at Hellenic College / Holy Cross and the pastor of St. Vasilios Church in Newport, N.H.*

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- Using Video, Entertainment and Media to Teach Teens
- Counseling in the Youth Ministry Setting
- Creating Responsible Orthodox Youth
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- Craft Exchange
- Games, Ice Breakers, Retreat Starters
- Youth Panels
- Successful Service Projects

Registration, Room and Board is \$199 Friday to Sunday or \$100 for one day. To register contact: youth@goarch.org or 646-519-6180.

## Media Review: EMINEM

Eminem, the rapper/actor, has become an extremely controversial figure in today's media with an increasing popularity. He is the perfect example of an American Misfit.

There is no doubt that much of his subject matter falls far outside the realm Christian life, but is there anything redeeming for today's youth to find in his music?

Eminem emerged onto the popular scene a little rough around the edges. However, as the older generation and critics shunned his blasphemous and inappropriate lyrics, the youth absolutely loved

by Vanessa (Vasiliki) Dremonas

what "Slim Shady" had to offer. Surely, his image was far from Godlike, and his first few CDs (including The Slim Shady LP and The Marshall Mathers LP) contained graphic recurrent themes of drugs, rape, suicide, violence, and chauvinism.

An artist's life has a direct influence on the work he produces. Understanding the psychological pressures of a poverty-stricken and misled young man will allow the listeners to grasp Eminem's mindset. Nevertheless, that anger, confusion, and despondence cannot be justified. He writes what he knows, and that is why he became instantly popular with today's youth.

Eminem could relate with many of his fans, which may live with similar circumstances, through his early criticisms of an unjust world.

His most recent CD, The Eminem Show, exhibits a breakthrough in maturity as his music therapeutically consoles the pain and anger. On some of his new tracks, listeners can hear praise and gratitude for the gifts in his life. While many of recent songs still dwell on his horrible relationships with his ex-wife Kim and his mother, they also show his unconditional love for his only daughter Hailie who has been his reason for living. Despite this introspection, the artist has not nearly completed his catharsis.

## Did You Know... SUMMER IS COMING!

God does NOT go on vacation in the summer! So, don't take a vacation from Him. Check out the following suggestions because ready or not... summer is coming!

• If you're traveling, see where the nearest Orthodox Church is by checking the parish directory at [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org). You can also check out the parish directories for the Antiochian Orthodox Church ([www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org)) and the Orthodox Church in America ([www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org)).

• Every Metropolis in our Archdiocese has excellent summer camp programs. Hint... hint! Most of these programs are still accepting applications for their summer sessions. Give them a call!

• To learn about the different summer camp programs in our Archdiocese, go to our website at [www.camp.goarch.org](http://www.camp.goarch.org).

So, check it out and remember to keep God with you all summer long, whether you are going on a trip, sitting in your back yard or anything else you might have planned.

Eminem's new album has motivational tracks and encourages listeners to seize the day, changing the direction of their lives for the better. While it does loosely incorporate themes of repentance and gratitude, much of Eminem's stifling negativity and obsession with violence is still present.

Although many of his subjects are beyond the scope of morality and his language vulgar, his more recent themes loosely incorporate love, repentance, honesty, and forgiveness. As with any artist, the Christian listener needs the discernment to decipher what can be used toward the glory of God, and what needs to be set aside. More importantly, with his growing success, Eminem has the ability of affecting lives (both young and old) if he will follow the path of his newfound wisdom, and if he can release his past burdens. The question is, will he?

Vanessa is a high school junior in Burr Ridge, IL. She attends Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hills, IL.

## Parent and Youth Worker's Corner

For a session that goes with this month's Challenge for GOYA and/or a Family Activity go to our website at: <http://www.goarch.org/en/archdiocese/departments/youth/youthworkers/sessions/>

#### Available Now for Youth Workers

• JOY Curriculum - This book provides JOY leaders with curriculum for the Ecclesiastical year. The book contains 10 sessions with activities, art projects, family handouts to send home and general tips for JOY programming. A must have for every JOY advisor!

• Where Does God Go for Summer Vacation - This creative book helps breath life into summer youth programs. It is a workbook written for young people of all ages. The author takes the concepts of faith and fellowship, creating some wonderful activities that are sure to entertain and engage young people while they learn about their Orthodox Faith. The resource book also includes a youth worker/parent's guide.

To order either of the above books or get a listing of our resources, go to [www.youth.goarch.org/en/archdiocese/departments/youth/youthworkers/](http://www.youth.goarch.org/en/archdiocese/departments/youth/youthworkers/) and click on the "Resource Order Form," print it, fill it out and mail it to us with payment. To place an order over the phone, call us at 646-519-6180.

Sign up for our youth worker listserver! We send weekly resources, ideas and activities for parents and youth workers. To sign up, send an e-mail to [listserv@listserv.goarch.org](mailto:listserv@listserv.goarch.org). Leave the subject blank and in the body of the e-mail type in "subscribe youth" (without the quotation mark). You'll get confirmation of your subscription shortly after.



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## Assumption Church consecrated in Price, Utah



METROPOLITAN ISAIAH with other clergy at the Consecration of Assumption church.

Price, Utah – The weekend of Feb. 22-23, Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver consecrated the new altar, new furnishings, and the altar sanctuary and nave of Assumption Church, one of the oldest parishes in the Metropolis of Denver.

Although the main portion of the church was built in 1916 and additions were made in the 60's, the church had never been properly consecrated until now.

Greek immigrants came to Carbon County, Utah in the beginnings of the last century and until the 40's and 50's when the Greek population numbered over seven thousand. Today the parish has 135 families.

These events of the Consecration brought many families and friends from other parts of the West to celebrate this memorable occasion. In addition, Metropolitan Isaiah who presided over the ceremonies, those assisting him were: the Very Rev. Athanasios Emmert, proistamenos of Assumption Church; Rev. Luke Uhl, chancellor of the Metropolis of Denver; the Very Rev. Makarios Man-



nos, Craig, Colo.; and Dn. Paul Zaharas, deacon to the Metropolitan and youth director of the Metropolis.

## Boston Metropolis Clergy Hold Annual Lenten Retreat

BROOKLINE, Mass. – The annual Boston Metropolis Lenten Clergy Retreat took place March 19 at the Metropolis Center in Brookline.

Metropolitan Methodios officiated at the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at the Cathedral chapel, assisted by Fr. Constantine S. Bebis, president of the Clergy Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and by Deacon Paul Pappas.

Chanting the hymns were Fr. George Daskalakis, dean of Boston's Annunciation Cathedral, Fr. George Economou, pastor of Assumption Church in Pawtucket, R.I., and other Metropolis clergy.

After the service, Fr. Constantine S. Bebis, and other officers and board members of the clergy brotherhood presented Metropolitan Methodios with a gift of a bishop's staff on the occasion of his eleva-

tion to metropolitan rank.

They included Fr. Thomas Chininis, the Brotherhood vice president; Fr. Michael Sitaras, secretary; Fr. Paul C. Bebis, treasurer; Fr. Anthony Evangelatos, Fr. Chris Stamos, board members and the 40 priests who attended the retreat.

Touched by the loving gesture of his priests, Metropolitan Methodios thanked them for the gift he said he would cherish it all his life.

The annual Lenten Lecture was delivered by HC/HC librarian the Very Rev. Archimandrite Joachim Cotsonis, Ph.D., who spoke on "The Image of Akra Tapeinosis (Extreme Humility) and the Themes of Laments."

A question-and-answer period followed the presentation. After the lecture, Metropolitan Methodios hosted a luncheon.

## 5th Annual Greek Orthodox Golf Classic Planned



WESTCHESTER GOLF CLASSIC committee members

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. – The annual Greek Orthodox golf and dinner fundraiser called the Westchester Classic is scheduled for June 2 at Westchester Hills Golf Club.

The event benefits Holy Cross School of Theology, St. Basil Academy and St. Michael's Home. In the past, more than \$10,000 has been raised to benefit these institutions and the parishes of Holy Trinity in New Rochelle, and Church of Our Savior in Rye, N.Y.

Last year's event attracted 100 golfers. The 2003 tournament is expected to be sold out. After a round of golf

on a challenging course, guests are treated to a cocktail and dinner hour with prizes and other activities.

Last year, 60 sponsors backed the tournament, ranging from Gold, Silver, Bronze, Hole and Tee Sponsors to Supporters. Dinner-only guests are also welcomed. Competition is subdivided into women and men's sections.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. Cocktails and dinner follow at 5:30 p.m.

For more information on participating or becoming a sponsor, call (914) 967-2838 or visit the web site at [www.gogc.org](http://www.gogc.org).

## 21st Annual Holy Trinity Golf Classic Slated in NJ

WESTFIELD, N.J. – Holy Trinity Church will hold its 21<sup>st</sup> annual golf classic at the Echo Lake Country Club on June 9.

This event, which originated in 1982, has as its main objective the collective interest in helping those less fortunate. Each year the Holy Trinity Golf Classic distributes all monies raised through the parishes Outreach Charities Program.

The recipients for the 2002 Tournament included:

Make A Wish Foundation, Newark Youth Golf Group, Memorial Sloan Kettering Breast Cancer Research, Institute for Children with Cancer and Other Blood Disorders, Lainie's Angels, Friends of Melissa and Ladies Philoptochos.

In past years the Golf Classic has provided equipment for "Color" transmission of chapel services at Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ and donations to Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside, NJ in addition to other national charities.

More than \$350,000 has been donated by the Holy Trinity parish through its Golf Classic to national and community charities in the past years

The Golf Classic committee has rotated the event to several outstanding New Jersey golf courses. It has been held at the following Country Clubs, Maplewood, Plainsfield, Upper Montclair, Shackamaxon and Metuchen. For the past two years and again this year it is being held at the Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield, New Jersey. Echo Lake C.C. is a well-known Donald Ross designed course, and the site of numerous championships, most recently the World Junior Women's

Amateur Tournament. The 122 golfers who participated last year requested the Golf Classic schedule a return to Echo Lake this year to again challenge this championship course.

This Holy Trinity event has been a fantastic day of golf, with prizes, lunch, cocktails and dinner. It is a wonderful day of fellowship and attended by friends who travel specifically for this once a year event from all across the country.

The Golf Committee two years ago added a very special silent auction with items such as Dinner and Cruise on the Forbes Yacht, Broadway Tickets, Glants, Jets, Yankees, Mets and Devils tickets, unique Sporting memorabilia and "Four-some" Golf days to some of New Jersey's finest private courses.

Anyone interested in participating can call Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Westfield, N.J. at (908) 233-8533 for further information. Openings are limited.

## National Clergy Retreat Set in Georgia

The National Clergy Retreat sponsored by the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council will take place Nov. 5-7 at Stone Mountain Inn, Stone Mountain, Ga.

This year's retreat theme will be "Clergy Wellness."

All clergy are encouraged to attend. More information will come later.



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## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Metropolis of Chicago Jr. Olympics

CHICAGO – The annual Memorial Day weekend event is being held on May 23-25 and hosted again by the community of Sts. Constantine and Helen in Palos Hills.

This year more than 2,200 young people, ages 7-18, from more than 30 parishes of the six-state Metropolis of Chicago are expected to participate in the individual and team athletic events.

This year's program will include swimming, track & field, soccer, softball, basketball, volleyball, 10K run, tennis, chess, checkers, bowling, and table tennis. Moreover, several different collegiate scholarships (totaling \$2000.00) will be presented on behalf of the Junior Olympics to athletes showing a strong spiritual life, academic record, community involve-

ment and writing skills.

The facilities being used in the Junior Olympics include Sts. Constantine and Helen Church Complex, A.A. Stagg High School, and Moraine Valley Community College, all in Palos Hills.

With each passing year, this event has become all the more larger and stronger. It is through the Stewardship contributions of the participating parish, various individuals, organizations and business as well as the hard work of each and every volunteer, that this event has been a success for 21 years.

The Junior Olympics are open to all young people, ages 7-18, of the Greek Orthodox Faith (with the 10K run open to all ages). Registration must take place through your own parish.

## San Francisco and Charleston Receive 'The Light'

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. – San Francisco and Charleston, S.C., have recently been added to the growing list of cities where the Orthodox Christian Network's *Come Receive The Light* is broadcasted.

*Come Receive The Light* is the flagship radio program of Orthodox Christian Networks and is dedicated to spreading joy, hope and salvation in Jesus Christ while exploring Orthodox Christianity in contemporary society. This unique half hour, radio program features religious news from around the world, inspirational and encouraging devotionals, exciting radio dramas of the lives of Christian heroes, and a thought provoking interview with

a special guest each week.

*Come Receive The Light* began airing Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. on San Francisco's KDIA 1640 AM as of May 17 and in Charleston, S.C. will air each Saturday at 9 a.m. on WZJY 1480AM starting March 22.

"We are thrilled to offer this important Christian voice to the Christians of San Francisco and Charleston, and we look forward to many years of ministry through radio" said Fr. Chris Metropoulos, the founder and host of the program.

Orthodox Christian Networks is headquartered in Ft. Lauderdale and is a member of the National Religious Broadcasters. Its web site is [www.receive.org](http://www.receive.org).

## Kansas Museum Celebrates Greek Heritage

TOPEKA, Kansas -- A celebration of Greek immigrant history, faith, and traditions began May 3 at the Heartland Orthodox Christian Museum in Topeka.

Greek Heritage in the Heartland explores the Greek experience in the Midwest through photographs, icons, and heirlooms ranging from a copper still used to make raki to a hand woven dress worn on the journey to America.

The exhibition, which remains on display through Oct. 12, is the fifth show organized by the Heartland Orthodox Museum since its opening in 2001.

Located in downtown Topeka, near the Kansas Capitol, the museum features changing exhibitions on Orthodox art, history, and culture in the US and around the world.

Greek Heritage in the Heartland begins with the story of the Greek immigrants who arrived in Kansas and Missouri between 1900 and 1920.

Often mere boys of 13 or 14, they worked long hours on the railroad gangs and in the slaughterhouses. Each month, they sent a portion of their meager earnings back to Greece to support families and provide dowries for unmarried sisters.

By the 1920's the immigrants had moved into the ranks of entrepreneurs, opening restaurants and candy stores in Kansas City, Wichita and smaller towns throughout the region.

They sent home "picture brides" and built churches to pass their Greek Orthodox faith on the next generation.

The second half of the exhibition explores how Greeks maintained their culture and faith, even as they became one of America's most successful immigrant groups.

Greek School textbooks from the 1930's an original AHEAD banner and fez, and the 1926 epitaphion and fans from a Kansas City church all reflect the institutions and beliefs that shaped Greek

identity in the heartland.

Special highlights of the exhibition include:

- A large photograph of President Harry Truman signed and dedicated to the Kansas City AHEPA chapter that inducted him in 1946. A bronze model of the Truman statue erected in Athens by AHEPA will also be displayed, courtesy of the Truman Library in Independence.

- A tribute to "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" with crowns, wooden stephanothiki, and hand loomed blankets made by Greek brides for their prika (dowry).

- Liturgical treasures including the zoni (belt) of St. Dionysios of Zakynthos, dating to the 1600's a jeweled silver reliquary of the True Cross, and a rare 18<sup>th</sup> century icon of the Theotokos. The latter is on loan from the Archbishop Iakovos Library at Holy Cross.

Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

The museum is open until 6 p.m. on Thursdays, and Mondays by appointment. For more information, call 785 234-5993 or [www.orthodoxmuseum.org](http://www.orthodoxmuseum.org)

## LA Group Holds Dance

LOS ANGELES – The Hellenic Society of Constantinople recently held its 36th annual dinner dance at the Friar's Club of California in Beverly Hills.

Among those attending were many motion picture and television celebrities, civic leaders and members of St. Sophia Cathedral.

A special award was presented to Nia Vardalos, Rita Wilson and Tom Hanks for promoting Hellenism around the world with their film "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." Proceeds from the event went to philanthropic institutions under the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

## Charlotte Cathedral Senior Class Makes Pilgrimage



CHARLOTTE CATHEDRAL seniors at St. Photios Shrine.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla - The 2003 Senior Class students from the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Charlotte, N.C., made a pilgrimage to the St. Photios National Shrine on May 1-4. Their itinerary included a retreat, time for reflection, worship, and touring.

This was the 13th year that Charlotte's Holy Trinity Cathedral has sponsored this pilgrimage for its senior students.

The group attended meetings at Holy Trinity Church and worship services at the

Shrine, and visited the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). They also toured historic downtown St. Augustine.

Speaking to the seniors during their pilgrimage were Shrine chaplain Fr. Nikitas Theodosios; Andrew Lekos, associate director of the Shrine; and Jordan Henderson, OCMC teams assistant coordinator.

The group leader, Gerry Clonaris stated, "The highlight of the pilgrimage is the Divine Liturgy in the St. Photios Chapel."

## Upper West Side Community Fundraiser Marks It's Fifth Year

New York – The Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation will hold it's 5th Annual "Talent Show" on Sunday Jun. 1, 6:30 pm at Columbia University's Lerner Hall- Roone Aldredge Auditorium - 2920 Broadway (between 114 & 115th streets) in New York City.

Inspired by Fr. James Moskovites' challenge to his community to use their "God given talents," the "Talent Show" provides a venue for amateur and professional performers and artists to raise needed funds for the Church while show-

casing their work.

Returning performers include parody singer/songwriter, Jimmy Santis, best known for his parodies, "I Won't Survive," and "You're Not Greek Babe;" and frequent Bottom Line blues headliner, Lina Koutrakis.

As always, there will be comedy, tragedy and everything Greek in between. Tickets: \$25 (pre-sale) \$30 (at door) - \$15 seniors - \$5 Children. For more information go to [www.evangelismos.org](http://www.evangelismos.org) or call (212) 724-2070.

## Christ's Blessing in the Desert



A \$1 million gift was donated in March by Wilma Panos to name the elaborate Great Hall of the new Community Center at St John the Baptist, Las Vegas. Mrs. Panos, pictured with Fr. John Hondros and Parish Council President Gus Flangas, made the generous offering in memory of her husband, Tom. The Panos', whose name also graced the hall of the old downtown Church, are founding members of the Nevada parish. The Community and Education Center will celebrate its grand opening the weekend of May 10-11.



# HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA 2003



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1. ARCHBISHOP Demetrios proclaims the Resurrection at Holy Trinity Cathedral in NYC
2. YOUNG Children attend Palm Sunday services at Holy Trinity Church in Bridgeport, Conn.
3. A 5-YEAR-OLD GIRL venerating the icon of the Bridegroom at Holy Trinity in Hicksville, NY
4. METROPOLITAN Methodios of Boston shares the Light of the Resurrection with the faithful at the St. Spyridon's Cathedral in Worcester, Mass during the Agape service.
5. ORTHODOX faithful attend as they sing Christos Anesti outside the Archdiocesan Cathedral in NY
6. METROPOLITAN Maximos of Pittsburgh censes the faithful during Holy Friday services at the Archangel Michael Church in Cambell, Ohio.
7. MOTHER and child venerate the Epitaphios after the Apokathelosis service in Holy Cross Church Brooklyn, NY.



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