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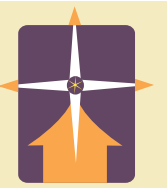
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Archdiocese Schools Proudly Hold Graduations

FAITH ENDOWMENT Awards Academic Excellence in Archdiocese Schools

NEW YORK—Forty three students graduating this month on top of their class, from the 23 Greek American Day Schools of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America nationwide, are the recipients of the Faith Endowment Awards for academic excellence, established for the first time this year.

by Stavros H. Papagermanos

This is a significant and innovative step by the Faith Endowment Fund for Orthodoxy and Hellenism, which supports and rewards the academic excellence of our students and schools in pursuit of the ideal of paideia.

Commenting on this initiative by the Faith Endowment, Archbishop Demetrios stated that it is in the context of a general review and updating of the measures and programs connected with Greek Education and Culture throughout the Archdiocese of America, that this generous act



D. PANAGOS

ARCHBISHOP Demetrios presents valedictorian Stephanie Fotini Gergoudis with her diploma and the Faith Endowment award.

comes as an important first step towards this direction.

This new program is consistent with the purpose of the Faith Endowment which is to "support the National Ministries and institutions of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, with special attention to programs that promote Hel-

lenism, ... Greek education scholarships, ...and youth",

These awards are part of this year's grant of \$500,000 from the Faith Endowment to the Archdiocese, in support and development of programs related to

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HC/HC Graduates 56, Honors Charles Masterpolis

BROOKLINE, Mass. – Holy Cross-Hellenic College held its 65th Commencement on May 19 that graduated 34 from the school of theology and 22 from the college.

The ceremonies, which followed the Divine Liturgy celebrated by Archbishop Demetrios earlier in the day, also conferred honorary degrees upon great benefactor of the school and Archon Charles T. Masterpolis and Professor Anthony-Emil N. Tachiaos, a member of the Academy of Athens, who also gave the commencement address.

Mr. Masterpolis, a Savannah, Ga. Businessman who also is a grand benefactor of St. Photios Shrine, received the honorary Doctor of Humanities degree and Dr. Tachiaos, an Emeritus Professor of Church History and Slavic Ecclesiastical Literature at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,



D. PANAGOS

HELLENIC College graduates joyously await to receive their diplomas.

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Archbishop's 40th Anniversary

FORTY YEARS AGO, on June 20, 1967 the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece elevated Archimandrite Demetrios to the episcopacy. On Sept. 17 of that same year the newly elected Bishop Demetrios of Vresthena was ordained a bishop in the Annunciation Cathedral of Athens.

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of that event and our Church in America rejoices as we celebrate with gratitude to God, this important milestone along with our spiritual leader, Archbishop Demetrios of America.

There have been, already this year, several occasions of recognition, honor and tribute paid to His Eminence, for his leadership and his service.

In March, President Bush offered a special tribute at the White House during the Greek Independence Day Ceremony and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi hosted the Archbishop and other leaders at a luncheon that was organized in his honor.

Recently recognitions of Archbishop Demetrios' 40th Anniversary as a bishop were made during ceremonies by the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding and by Fordham University. (See separate stories).

Other events are being planned for early Fall to celebrate this anniversary. In October, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate will bestow the Athenagoras Human Rights Award on Archbishop Demetrios during their Annual Banquet.



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in our upcoming issues

St. Basil Academy Holds 60th Anniversary Commencement

GARRISON, N.Y. – In his final remarks at the 60th commencement exercises of St. Basil Academy on June 9, Archbishop Demetrios commented to the students that they “set a record” in the amount of tears they shed as they looked back on their years at the Academy.

by Jim Golding

The graduating students who spoke were indeed filled with emotion as they reminisced about their experiences and relationships they formed during their years there, including a little eighth grader, Jacob Brown, who broke down and sobbed for several minutes before regaining his composure.

Even the commencement speaker, an alumnus who graduated in 1990, Manny Fantis, who now is a broadcast journalist with the CBS-TV affiliate in West Palm Beach, Fla., became misty-eyed.

“I’m home,” he declared tearfully.

He told the children they are “lucky to be here. God dealt us a hand that other people may not be able to deal with.” He recalled that his brothers, one of whom was in the audience, had dropped out of high school to support him so he could remain at the academy. “All of you are my brothers and sisters,” he continued, “and the academy is our home forever. “Some in the surrounding towns don’t like the Academy because of the ‘poor kids,’ he said, alluding to the opposition to the presence



ARCHBISHOP Demetrios gives the opening prayer at the Academy's 60th commencement.

ORTHODOX OBSERVER



EIGHTH-GRADER Jacob Brown emotionally recounts his experiences at the Academy.

of St. Basil's by some in the local area who did not want the children going to their public schools. But, he added, “there are no richer kids in this world” than the St. Basil students.

Archbishop Demetrios participated in his fifth commencement program in 48 hours, having attended graduations at four day schools in Flushing, Manhattan, Jamaica and Astoria the previous two days.

His Eminence reminded the students of four Greek maxims they should strive to follow. Translated, they are “Save the time,” “Keep the balance-nothing in excess,” “know yourself” and “excel in everything.” From the New Testament, the Archbishop reminded them “from a pure heart, love each other extensively.”

He also noted that St. Basil's “is a place of excellence. It keeps the beautiful traditions of Hellenic excellence and Orthodox faith.”

Archbishop Demetrios announced that

the recently created Church endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism, “Faith,” has dispersed \$500,000, part of which was awarded to each valedictorian and salutatorian (\$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively).

Representatives of the National Philoptochos, Metropolis Philoptochos and local chapters also presented scholarships and other gifts.

Archon Vice Commander Anastasios Manassis, introduced a group of prominent business men, including bankers, who presented \$300 to each of the students at St. Basil's, and \$4,000 for the needs of the Academy. They included Marathon Bank President Paul Stathopoulos, Atlantic Bank President Spyros Voutsinas, PCB Millennium Bank President Pedro Belo, Cephalonia Brotherhood President Louis Lorentzatos, Cephalonia Association Aenos President Vassilis Kokosis, Greek American Home Owners Association of Queens President George Kitsios, Pan Gregorian of Metro New York President Demitrios Kofchitsas; also Dino Rallis, Gerry Stefanitsis, Louis Lorentzatos, George Alexiou and Theodoros Moschokarfis of Thessaloniki Jewelry who donated two watches.

Among those present were Bishop Philotheos of Meloia who, 40 years ago, was the director of St. Basil's. Others offering greetings included the new president of the Board of Trustees, Evellyn Tsiadis, Consul General of Cyprus and a frequent visitor to the Academy, Martha Mavromatis, who will be moving on to new duties in her native country. She invited the children to visit her in Cyprus. Also, Consul of Greece Sophia Veve and National Philoptochos Secretary Elaine Cladis.



SENIOR Ashley Mendoza speaks about her life and memories at St. Basil's.

Master of ceremonies was Christine Karavites of the National Philoptochos.

Graduating students are Stella Yopp, who received a master's in guidance counseling from Long Island University and took part in her fifth graduation ceremony since coming to the Academy as a small child. High school seniors are Ashley Mendoza, Nancy Morana and Thomas Spentzos. Eighth grade graduates are Jacob Brown, Kallithea Tetradi, Thomas Koumboulis and Michael Clemente.

In his comments, Executive Director Fr. Constantine Sitaras had words of praise for the students and the support staff at the school and the “many volunteers who

helped in many, many ways.” Citing a reference in Psalm 37, Fr. Sitaras told the students to “commit yourself to the Lord and trust in the God.”



MASTER of Ceremonies Christine Karavites welcomes the audience members to the graduation.

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HC/HC Graduates 56, Honors Charles Masterpolis at May Commencement

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was awarded the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

Hellenic College Graduates

Students earning their bachelor of arts degrees are as follows: Thomas P. Alajakis, Aristidis Arban Arizi, Dean C. Brown, Xanthoula Chazandrouli, Jason Dickey, Christopher Gilbert, Adam Izquierdo, Zechria Jacob, ElenaNor David Canaan Khoury, Madees Nadim Canaan Khoury, Christina Maria Krommydas, Stephanie Lewis, Paula Joy Magoon, Nicholas J. Marcus, Marilesse I. Mars, Elizabeth Mellas, Alexandros Mousis, Zipporah Mwaura, Christina Patitsa, Lavinia Streza, Croissant Tiggas, Emmanouella Vendouti.



HEL. COLLEGE Valedictorian Marilisse I. Mars.

School of Theology

Graduates receiving Master of Theology degrees: Katerina Pekridou, John Sanidopoulos, Rev. Demetrios Tagaropoulos, Dimitrios Tsourous

Master of Theological Studies: Rev. John Paul Abdelsayed, Nicholas Gonis, Vasiliios Kallis, Sofia Matzarioti Kostara, Angela Grace Nelson, George Elias Sarraf, George Yfantidis.

Master of Divinity: Deacon Virgil Petrisor Andronache, Bryan Bodien, Christopher John Bundros, George Callos, J. Anthony Cook, Deacon John Dalrymple, Seraphim Danckaert, Ioan Irinel Dumitrascu, Conan Wade Gill, Demetrios Glimidakis, Rev. Nicholas Hadzellis, Micah Hirschy, Rev. Alex Musadzi Inyagwa, Dimitrios Lee, Christopher Lockwood, Angelo Mago, Soula Mellos, Rev. Kevin Millsaps, Deacon Anastasios George Pourakis Teva I. Regule Deacon Ciprian Streza, Dimitri Tobias, and Aaron Clay Walker.

At the graduation event, the Hellenic College Valedictorian was Marilisse I. Mars. The Holy Cross Valedictorian was Deacon Virgil Andronache.

Following the commencement address by Professor Tachiaos, Archbishop Demetrios offered his remarks and gave the benediction.

Three Hierarchs Medal Recipients

The previous evening, following vespers, a dinner took place to honor two recipients of the Three Hierarchs Medal for Distinguished Service to Church and Society, Clara Nickolson, a longtime member and president of the Volunteer Women of Hellenic College, and the Rev. Dr. Diane C. Kessler, outgoing executive director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

Holy Trinity of Portland Celebrates Centennial

PORTLAND, Oregon – The whirlwind of activities celebrating the centennial anniversary of Portland's Holy Trinity Church May 4-6, spanned from the stately and the formal to the raucous and the rustic.

For visiting dignitaries the highlight of the weekend may have turned out to be the simplest of affairs, a visit with the youth of the community at the idyllic Camp Angelos on the Sandy River.

by Maria Boyer

Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco both extolled the beauty and "green" of the setting and the relaxed nature of the event, complete with fresh pizzas baked in the village style "forno" near the camp's Kalamata Lodge. (Metropolitan Gerasimos is reported to have ordered one topped with "the works").

Members of Joy and Hope, as well as both senior and junior GOYAs, met in rotation with the hierarchs in groups assembled in the campfire pit, by a memorial garden waterfall and near overhanging grapevines at the lodge. The Saturday excursion contrasted with the more formal proceedings of the grand banquet that evening, which featured a video of historic footage and photos including a series of photographs in memoriam.

The festive, rocking *Glendi* proved a gleeful party following the blessing



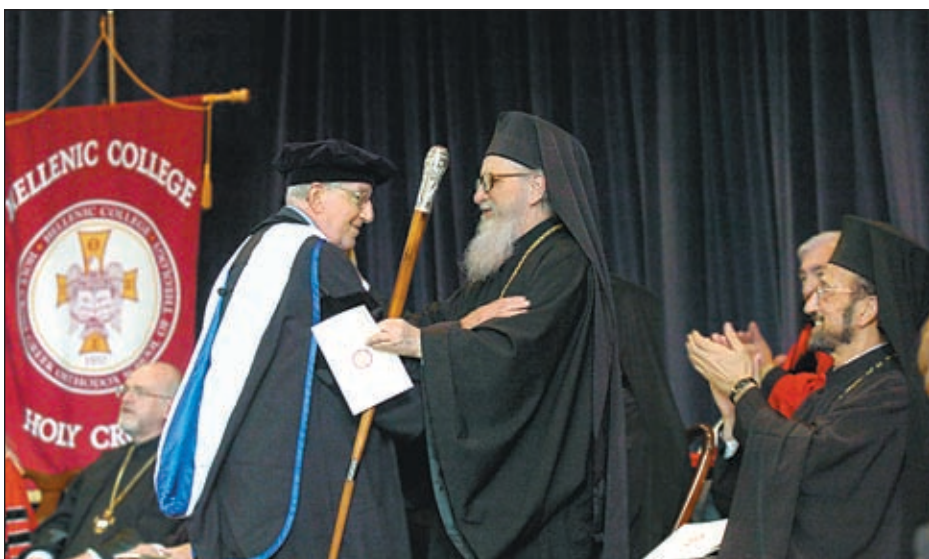
MARI LOU Diamond, president of Portland's Hellenic American Cultural Center, with Fr. Paul Schroeder, Metropolitan Gerasimos and Archbishop Demetrios.

and ribbon cutting of the community's Hellenic American Cultural Center, a splendid facility within the church grounds serving as a museum of the community's culture, historical artifacts and photos.

Publication of "A Centennial Celebration of Faith, History and Community," a beautiful commemorative volume of history and photographs, and a community wedding photo album marked the occasion as well. The clergy and hierarchs took part in an ecumenical doxology service Saturday morning with religious

leaders from throughout the city. The weekend's observances culminated with Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning celebrated by nine visiting clergy from across the nation, the 34-voice Centennial Choir, and a special chant choir assembled by the Protopsaltis of the Metropolis.

The luncheon following had a vibrant, happy atmosphere as all marveled at the brilliant success and the many months' labor of countless volunteers.



CHARLES Masterpolis is honored by Archbishop Demetrios; Metropolitan Gerasimos applauds.



HOLY CROSS Valedictorian Dn. Virgil Andronache.



HOLY CROSS School of Theology graduates with Archbishop Demetrios and (L to R) Dr. Thomas Lelon, Fr. Nicholas Triantafylou, Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, Fr. Thomas FitzGerald and Bishop Ilia of Philomelion.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

AL GORE VISITS ECUMENICAL 'GREEN' PATRIARCH



PRIVATE discussion in the Patriarchal Office.

N. MANGINAS

CONSTANTINOPLE – Former vice president Al Gore visited Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Phanar, June 12. During the hour long meeting they discussed issues of mutual concern on the environment. Mr. Gore recalled the 1997 Patriarchal Visit to the U.S. and the breakfast he had hosted for the Patriarch when he termed His All Holiness, “The Green Patriarch.”

His All Holiness invited Mr. Gore to the Seventh Ecological Symposium entitled “The Artic: Mirror of Life” scheduled for September 2007 (www.rsesymposia.org).

Mr. Gore commenting on his visit with the Ecumenical Patriarch, said: “It is a great honor for me to visit the Ecumenical Patriarch. Along with so many millions of people around the world, I also think of him as the ‘Green Patriarch’ because of the importance of his moral teaching and leadership throughout Christendom and throughout the entire world... [his teaching] has been about the importance of protecting the integrity of God’s creation....”

The onslaught of modern civilization, without caring about the impact of what we do on the environment, is in the

Patriarch’s words ‘not unsustainable but unjustifiable.’ So pointing out the ethical and moral dimensions of the environment crisis is one of the many great teachings of His All Holiness ... and again for me it is a great honor to visit the Ecumenical Patriarch here... – if I may speak in secular political terms—it is such a great distinction for Turkey among all its other assets, to have this Patriarchate located here in Istanbul, it is one of the so many distinctive features of this world city, that is so impressive.”

His All Holiness responding to the Vice President said: “Thank you for the honor of your visit to us. I remember vividly our meeting in Washington almost ten years ago when you were so kind to host a breakfast in my honor with a large participation of more than a hundred people... and we had the occasion to speak on environment issues and now is another occasion to continue our dialogue on our common interest for our planet. This afternoon I shall have the privilege along with many other people to attend your conference and to learn more and more.”

As I said to you in my office, we are planning our 7th International Environmental Symposium in Greenland this



FORMER US Vice President Al Gore lights a candle as he enters St. George Cathedral.

coming September and we shall be more than delighted to have you with us even for one day, the day of silent prayer for the survival of our planet.”

Later that evening, at an address given at the Ciragan Palace for the World Wildlife Fund in Turkey, Mr. Gore recog-

nized Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as the leading spiritual spokesman for environmental causes and as Ecumenical Patriarch – the spiritual head of the worldwide Orthodox Church.

— Compiled by Nicholas Manginas

Orthodox Position on Religious Freedom Discussed at UN Event

The UN General Assembly recently adopted a Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

by Lila Prounis

The unanimous vote was the culmination of almost a quarter of a century of persistent efforts by a small, dedicated group of representatives of several governments, helped and encouraged by several non-governmental organizations including the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

On Oct. 25, 2006, 25 years later the UN NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief held a panel discussion commemorating the passage of the Declaration.

Unfortunately, violations of the basic human right of people to believe as they choose still occur on a daily basis throughout the world

The all day session included several panelists from member country NGOs, including Dr. Antonios Kireopoulos, one of Greek Orthodox community’s representatives at the United Nations. He has many years of experience in the area of religious freedom, most notably in the late 1990s as the Greek Orthodox representative to the State Department’s Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad and as past president of the UN NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

Dr. Kireopoulos highlighted the Orthodox position on religious freedom, issues of particular relevance to the Orthodox Church in various National contexts, and persistent problems in the international dialogue on the implementation of religious freedom principles,

Dr. Kireopoulos stated that in both the Greek and Russian traditions, the

universality of religious freedom is affirmed by the Orthodox Church. He then proceeded to illustrate the experience of the Church relative to religious freedom in both religious majority and religious minority contexts.

In Turkey he pointed out the violations of religious freedom committed against the Greek Orthodox and other minority communities.

In Greece he outlined an increasing openness to religious freedom mandates, particularly in light of participation in the European Union; he also made reference to Greece’s relative success within the EU in terms of relations with Muslims.

Finally, in Russia and other Eastern European countries, he noted the tensions caused after the fall of the Soviet system by the encounter of new-found freedoms with the manipulation of those freedoms by others from the outside.

With respect to this latter situation, Dr. Kireopoulos argued that the distinction between evangelism and proselytism has never been fully appreciated or explored in western circles, including the academic and perhaps most especially the US foreign policy establishment.

The importance of this issue, he stated could not be underestimated.

Dr. Kireopoulos concluded his remarks by listing three needs to be taken in account in ongoing religious freedom discussions: one, the need for an intra-Christian conversation on the issue of what is legitimate evangelism and what is aggressive and thus inappropriate proselytism; two, the need for a more honest recourse to legal and human rights frameworks by both majority and minority groups; and three, the need to refrain from the temptation to subjective analysis and politicization when it comes to US foreign policy applications of religious freedom principles.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Cappadocia



ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH Bartholomew presides at the Divine Liturgy held at the Church of Sts. Constantine and Helen at Sinassos of Asia Minor. Metropolitans Cyrill of Smolensk (left) and Barnabas of Neapolis (Thessaloniki) concelebrated. The Liturgy was part of the Patriarch’s eighth annual pilgrimage to Cappadocia.

Bishop Dimitrios 'Retires' after More Than 40 Years' Service

For more than 40 years, a quiet, unassuming native of South Carolina who spent his formative years in Schenectady, N.Y., has served the Church in some of its most high-profile positions and helped launch ministries that continue their service today.

by Jim Golding



BISHOP Dimitrios of Xanthos.

James Couchell, (a.k.a. Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos) came to the Archdiocese in 1964, in the midst of an exciting time for the Church as well as the nation. It would be nearly 20 years, however, before he would become ordained as a priest, which led him to eventually become a bishop.

He recently announced his retirement, though at a luncheon in his honor at the Archdiocese in May, Archbishop Demetrios indicated no one really "retires" from the priesthood and hinted that Bishop Dimitrios may still have some future role with the Church.

After graduating from Holy Cross in 1963, Mr. Couchell studied at Yale Divinity School for a year before Archbishop Iakovos invited him to begin a campus ministry program for the Archdiocese.

His first effort was at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. in September 1964. It was there where he also became friends with a student there at the time, Clifford T. Argue, who years later would become highly involved with the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, which Couchell helped to establish.

In 1965, the Campus Ministry program came under the aegis of SCOBA, and Mr. Couchell became the organization's first full-time employee. He also served with SCOBA's Faith and Order Commission.

In the late 1960s, Archbishop Iakovos tapped him to be the director of the newly created Youth Department, where he worked tirelessly to minister to the Church's younger generation. In this capacity, he organized the church's first national conference of college students in 1968.

He became involved in youth work at the international level as well, serving for three years as president of Syndesmos, the organization of Orthodox youth worldwide.

His work brought him to many countries including Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, Lebanon, Finland and France.

Observer editor

Then, in 1971, he was selected as the first English editor of the Orthodox Observer, a position he held for 10 years.

He recalled that in those days, when production was entirely mechanical, not computerized, the Observer published 26 issues a year.

"Those were exciting years," he said. Twice a month, he would travel to Albany, where the Observer was then published at Clarity Publishing, which involved leaving New York at 6:30 a.m. the day of publication and would remain there "until the paper came off the press."

At the same time, he served as the interim Ecumenical Officer of the Archdiocese, along with his Observer duties.

"Sometimes I had to work until midnight to prepare the English section before I could do anything else," he said.

Off to Florida

He asked to leave the Archdiocese in 1981 and volunteered to serve as executive director of the just opened St. Photios National Shrine in St. Augustine, Fla.

As there was no priest to hold services in the shrine's chapel, Mr. Couchell finally

became ordained as a priest on Pentecost Sunday, June 26, 1983, by Archbishop Iakovos and Bishop John of Thermon, in at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind in St. Augustine.

Fr. Couchell then officiated at Greek Landing Day services at the St. Photios Shrine.

In 1985, Archbishop Iakovos consecrated the Shrine and elevated Fr. Couchell to the rank of Archimandrite.

He was next named as the director of the new Archdiocese Mission Center, which was then located at the Shrine, until it came under the jurisdiction of SCOBA in 1995.

After about 12 years of missions work, Fr. Couchell was elevated to the episcopacy and transferred to New York, where once again he became involved with SCOBA, this time as general secretary of the organization.

Bishop Dimitrios noted, "The cooperative work done through SCOBA has increased significantly, a web site was established, a number of new Agencies and Commission have been established, and a procedure for the Endorsement of various groups was developed."

Under Archbishop Demetrios, he also continued the Church's active ecumenical presence in the National Council of Churches in the USA.

"At present, 21 GOA persons serve on various boards, committees, etc. of the National Council of Churches of Christ," the bishop said.

Looking back on his 43 years in service to the Church, the bishop noted, "It's been an exciting career, though not what I anticipated in working for the Church."

His entire service had been in administrative positions, which enabled him to travel throughout the world.

"It's not your normal ecclesiastical track," he said. "Archbishop Iakovos gave me and assignment and the freedom to go out and do it."

Though he was a celibate clergyman, the bishop adopted a son in 1985, a 13-year-old boy from Ethiopia who was also part Greek.

He sent him to college and later married and had a son, Bishop Couchell's first grandson. They live in Southern California.

Bishop Dimitrios himself has owned a home in St. Augustine for 18 years and he plans to spend his retirement there.

One has the feeling it may be a retirement in quotation marks. The bishop is a mere 70 years of age.

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Communications Surveys

The Department of Communications is running a series of surveys on issues and topics of the day that affect Orthodox Christians and society at large. The regular survey presents an opportunity for readers to interact with the Archdiocese and offer their responses to the various issues. To complete the survey and submit a response, please go to the website <http://www.goarch.org/surveys>

Views on Spiritual Life

*"I will sing to the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live."
Psalm 104:33*

1. On a scale of 1 (not satisfied at all) to 100 (very satisfied), how satisfied are you with your life in general?
2. On a scale of 1 (not satisfied at all) to 100 (very satisfied), how satisfied are you with your spiritual life?
3. How many times have you attended Church services in the last month?
4. How many years have you been a member of the Orthodox Faith?
5. What is your age?

PAST SURVEY RESULTS

**Results to last month's survey
about the tragic killing of more than 30 students
at Virginia Tech University on April 16.**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you think the VTU tragedy could have been prevented? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No—22 % Yes—70 % No opinion—8 % 2. What are the major reasons that the killings in American schools have been occurring over the past several years? (up to three answers permitted) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Overall decrease of moral values in American society—64 % — Decrease of family ties and family values—60 % — Loosening ties of the young generation with Church life and undermining of Christian values—51 % — Availability of guns—37 % | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Spread availability of video games—20 % — Increased violence on television—24 % — Loss of teacher control in schools—9 % — Spread of violence on the Internet—6 % <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Do you think the media coverage was excessive? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes—54 % No—37 % No opinion—9 % 4. Was the mass killing of students at VTU addressed appropriately in your local parish? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes—51 % No—23 % No opinion—26 % |
|---|---|

CLERGY UPDATE

Ordination to the Diaconate

Dalrymple, John G, by Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, St. Stephanos Church, St. Petersburg, Fla. 05/06/07

Pourakis, Anastasios, Bishop Savas of Troas, St. Paul Cathedral, Hempstead, N.Y. 05/12/07

Mars, Christos, Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago, Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, Palos Hills, Ill. 5/21/07

Ordination to the Priesthood

Hadzellis, Rev. Dn. Nicholas, Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, St. George Church, Oklahoma City 05/06/07

Sarolas, Rev. Dn. Peter J., Metropolitan Iakovos, St. Demetrios Church, Chicago 05/20/07

Assignments

Fr. Peter Sarolas, St. Demetrios Church, Chicago 05/20/07
Deacon Christos Mars, Annuncia-

tion Church, Milwaukee 05/21/07

Fr. Gregory Patsis, Sts. Constantine & Helen, Middletown, Ohio 06/01/07

Leave of Absence

V. Rev. Archimandrite John Heropoulos 06/01/07

Offikia

Bishop Savas of Troas bestowed the office of Confessor upon: Fr. Luke M. Melackrinos 05/13/07

Retired Priests

Fr. Gregory C. Wingenbach 06/01/07

Receptions

V. Rev. Archimandrite Apostolos Koufallakis/April 18, 2007 (from the Metropolis of Rhodes, Greece)

Appointments

Archbishop Demetrios appointed Rev. Fr. Mark Arey as the Director of the Office of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, June 1, 2007

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After Ten Years of Service

Earlier this year, the director of the Archdiocese Benefits Office, Mrs. Katherine Peters left her post after successfully completing nearly 10 years of service. The administrative chairman of the Benefits Committee, Fr. Gabriel Karambis said that during Mrs. Peters' tenure, he has "witnessed a total change

in the office operation and substantial growth" of the benefits office work.

Fr. Karambis also pointed out Mrs. Peters' professionalism and dedication to the service of clergymen.

The Archdiocese family wishes Mrs. Peters good health, happiness and every blessing from God.



Dr. Georgette Bennett, president of the Tanenbaum Center presents the Award. ETA PRESS

Tanenbaum Center Awards Archbishop Demetrios for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding

NEW YORK – Archbishop Demetrios received the distinguished Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Award for the Advancement of Interreligious Understanding at an auspicious ceremony held at Gotham Hall in New York, June 11.

The Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding is a non-sectarian organization that addresses unresolved tensions by helping to change behaviors in religiously-diverse workplaces, schools and in areas of armed conflict.

The Center has earned a global reputation for promoting tolerance and harmony among people of different faiths. Previous recipients include the names of national and international personalities such as Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, Elie Wiesel, Prince El Hassan bin Talal, President Bill Clinton, and Archbishop Iakovos.

In her introduction, Dr. Georgette F. Bennett, founder and president of the Tanenbaum Center, praised Archbishop Demetrios "for his humility, scholarship, and love for people of all races and religions." She acknowledged the work of the Archbishop for promoting inter-religious understanding by exclaiming the Greek word "AXIOS" (he is worthy)!

"I am grateful for the work of the Tanenbaum Center," said Archbishop Demetrios, "and I am deeply humbled for the great honor you bestow upon me."

In his remarks, His Eminence outlined four reasons why the award was of particular significance to him, namely the legacy of interfaith work pursued by Rabbi Tanenbaum himself, the close relationship



ARCHBISHOP Demetrios with NBC Nightly News Anchorman Brian Williams, who was also honored with the Tanenbaum Media Bridge Builder Award. ETA PRESS

of Hellenism and Hebraism, the accomplishments of the Tanenbaum Center as an educational institution, and his childhood experience of the Jewish persecution by the Nazis in Thessalonika, Greece.

Archbishop Demetrios concluded by reading in the original Hebrew language a verse from the 133rd Psalm that states: "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!"

During the course of the event, the US Ambassador to the United Nations Dr. Zalmay Khalilzad delivered the annual Tanenbaum Memorial Lecture on the interesting and current subject of the US involvement in Iran and Afghanistan.



Lord the Lifegiver - Commissioned by Saint Demetrios Church in Jamaica, NY

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2265B

FAITH ENDOWMENT Awards Academic Excellence in Archdiocese Schools

▶ page 1

educational initiatives promoting Orthodoxy and Hellenism.

The individual monetary awards are given to the valedictorian and salutatorian of each graduating class.

Archbishop Demetrios of America personally presented some of the awards to the worthy students during the graduation ceremonies he attended in New York.

Graduations

The Cathedral School of the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manhattan held its graduation ceremony the morning of June 8, in the school's auditorium, in the presence of Archbishop Demetrios of America, Fr. Robert Stephanopoulos, dean of the Cathedral and Fr. Vasilios Bassakyros, assistant priest. The principal Sonia Celestin welcomed all the guests and the parents. Consul General of Cyprus Martha Mavrommatis was the honored speaker.

Addressing the graduates and the student body of the Cathedral School Archbishop Demetrios said that they are "fortunate to attend a great and distinct school worthy of its name and title." His Eminence also praised the graduating class for a unique recital performance of ancient Greek writings, quotations and maxims. He also reminded the students of those not so fortunate children of the world in places afflicted by poverty, illiteracy and disease.

"Do not take all the things you have been blessed with, including this school, for granted" said the Archbishop and noted all the ancient Greek writers and the wisdom which derives from their legacy, that guides us to constantly strive for excellence as it is expressed by the pronouncement "Αιέν Αριστεύειν."

"It is in that spirit and tradition the 'FAITH Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism' is presenting these awards for excellence to the valedictorian and the salutatorian of each day school," said His Eminence as he immediately presented the two awards to the valedictorian Nefeli Piree Iliou and the salutatorian Randy Castro.

This year's Cathedral School Graduates were: Nicholas Argyros, Randy Castro, Savo Majstorovic, Nefeli Piree Iliou and Charles J. Richards II.

The same evening two very prominent and well attended schools of the Archdiocesan School system in New York, held their commencement ceremonies.

It was the 24th commencement for the William Spyropoulos Greek-American Day School of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church in Flushing, NY.

A total of 40 students graduating from the eighth grade received their diplomas from the hands of Archbishop Demetrios. Their names were announced as they came up, followed by the name of the high school, they would be attending in the fall. It was indeed a list of some of the most prestigious public and private schools of New York. Archbishop Demetrios noting the list, urged the parish, its officials and the parishioners to seriously consider the expansion of the school "to include a high school as well, so we do not send our kids to other places," he said and added: "...they are good schools indeed... but after the hard work done here for eight or nine years, these schools reap the benefits from the excellence and talent of our students."

The Archbishop said that "the St. Nicholas, Flushing school is one for which we all boast. I am personally very proud and I speak about it everywhere I go," he added.

His Eminence further conveyed the paternal blessings of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who had visited the parish and the school "a visit which he nostalgically recalls," said the Archbishop.

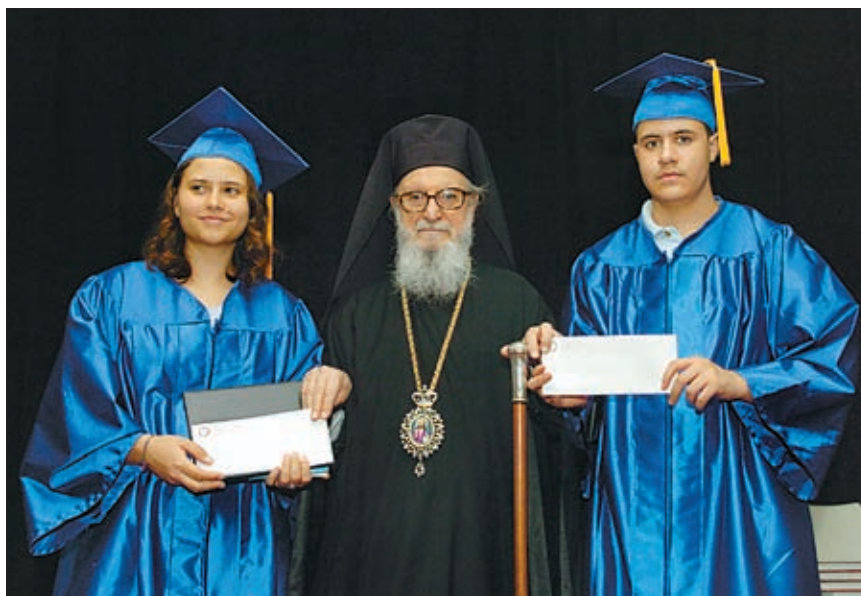
The Archbishop also awarded the Faith Endowment Awards to valedictorian



SALUTATORIAN Vasilis Tzalas receives his award (St. Nicholas School, Flushing.)



ATHANASIOS Fountas (valedictorian) and salutatorians George Douvelis and Andjela Milic with Archbishop Demetrios and Anastasios Koularmanis, principal (St. Demetrios, Astoria.)



VALEDICTORIAN Nefeli Piree Iliou and the salutatorian Randy Castro with His Eminence.



ARCHBISHOP Demetrios (c) presents the FAITH awards to valedictorian Alexandros Dimetriou and salutatorian Jonathul Nuaz of St. Demetrios Day School of Jamaica, NY.

Stephanie Fotini Gergoudis and the salutatorian Vasilis Tzalas. His Eminence urged the graduates to keep the things that come from the Hellenic and the classical tradition and combine them with the teachings of the Gospel as they proceed in their lives always with a clean and pure heart filled with the love of Christ.

Among the many family members and friends who had filled the church, were Fr. Paul Palesty, the parish proistamenos, the school principal Athena Kromidas, the parish president Lazaros Hotzoglou and other officials. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Costas Bizekis.

The list of graduates consists of: Irene Adamis, Eleana Agopianis, Antonia Arapis, Anna Astrinidis, Nicholas Athanasopoulos, Antony Barsamian, Sophia Cunningham, George Dandolos, Chrysanthi Demosthenous, Yanna Gatanas, Stephanie Gergoudis, Efthymia Giannopoulos, Louie Goumakos, Billy Holevas, Konstantinos Johnson, John Kaloumenos, Paula Katsanos, Melina Kostakis, Magdalini Kotsalis, Christopher Koulouris, Victor Kouvaras, Christos Liberatos, Gerasimos Liberatos, Christina Mavrikis, George Mirisis, Dino Moutopoulos, Gregory Nodaros, Georganna Panos, Vasilios Pantazis, Augustus Psarros, Mary Shokralla, Anastasia Solomou, Alexander Spiridakis, Chris Tavantzis, Panagiotis Tsioumas, Vasilis Tzallas, John Tzanidakis, George Varnava, Constantine Vasiliou and Tommy Vonortas.

High School

The St. Demetrios Greek American School of Astoria NY encompasses all grades including the only high school in the Archdiocesan School system. This year it proudly graduated 42 students. The commencement ceremony was held in the Petros Patrides Cultural Center, the Consul General of the Republic of Cyprus Martha Mavrommatis delivered the commencement address.

Archbishop Demetrios expressed his sincere pride for the St. Demetrios School. He said it is a school of excellence which is often the focal point of many officials and dignitaries who come from Greece and show an interest in visiting it. His Eminence admonished the graduates to keep intact the ties with their school, their community, their Church and their faith. He also urged them to display and offer to the rest of the world whatever is excellent, whatever is beautiful, whatever is good, all that comes from the riches of our tradition of Hellenism and Orthodoxy.

In the presence of the community's head priest V. Rev. Archimandrite Apostolos Koufalakis and the school's principal Anastasios Koularmanis, the Archbishop presented the diplomas to all the graduates and the FAITH Endowment Awards to valedictorian Athanasios Fountas and salutatorians George Douvelis and Andjela Milic. Numerous other awards and honors were presented during the ceremony. Remarks were also offered by the parish council president Fotios Papamichael and school board chairman Nick Andriotis.

The list of St. Demetrios' graduates consists of: Katina Argenas, Anastasia Argiros, Isidoros Botsios, Erato Demetriou, Vasilios Demos, Christopher Doumas, George Douvelis, Maria Fessaras, Athanasios Fountas, James Fuchs, Melanie Garcia-Briceno, Nicole Gerakoulas, George Kaiafas, Cindy Karathanasis, Emammuel Katehis, Eva Katsigeorgis, Joanna Katsigeorgis, George Kefalogiannis, Nicholas Kordistos, Picassio Kyriacou, Nestor Mamounas, Apostolos Maroudas, George Massuridis, Maria Mavrakis, Andjela Milic, Sofia Mistridis, Michael Nedelcu, Alex Palmer, Nikki Papadakis, Nicholas Paros, Peter Psathas, Konstantinos Sapountzis, Konstantinos Simotas, Yiannis Sismanoglou, Milos Stojanovic, Lambros Tsampas, Kosta Tsirogiannis, Ioannis Tzivelekis, Christos Unda, Arhodoula Vatos, Eleni Velonakis and Cris Victora.

Archbishop Demetrios also attended the commencement ceremony of the St. Demetrios Day School in Jamaica, NY.

Archbishop Demetrios Receives Honorary Doctorate from Fordham University

NEW YORK – Fordham University bestowed an honorary ‘Doctor of Humane Letters’ degree to Archbishop Demetrios, June 14, on the occasion of his 40th anniversary of Episcopal service, during a solemn conferral ceremony held in the University Church at the institution’s Rose Hill Campus in the Bronx.

The degree ceremony took place in conjunction with the fourth annual Orthodoxy in America Lecture Series established by Fordham in 2004 when Archbishop Demetrios was invited to give the inaugural lecture. This year’s lecture was delivered by the Rev. Andrew Louth, Ph.D., renowned Orthodox scholar of Patristic and Byzantine Studies at Durham University in the United Kingdom, who spoke on the subject “Heart in Pilgrimage: St. Augustine’s Reading of the Psalms.”

Founded in 1841, Fordham is the Jesuit University of New York, offering exceptional education distinguished by the Jesuit tradition to more than 15,600 students in its four undergraduate colleges and its six graduate and professional schools. It has residential campuses in the Bronx, Manhattan, Tarrytown, and Armonk, N.Y.

“We claim you as one of our own,” said to Archbishop Demetrios, the Rev. Joseph M. McShane, S.J., President of Fordham University. Fr. McShane continued by referring to the Archbishop as “one of the great religious leaders of our time, a man of understanding, graciousness and transparent holiness . . . the perfect role model.”

“The Archbishop has worked tirelessly to heal the division that exists between the Eastern and Western churches,” continued Father McShane. “He is a master teacher, a teacher who yearns for, and who builds, the Kingdom with his every word and his every deed.”

Archbishop Demetrios expressed with humility his joy and gratitude in receiving the honorary degree. He described the work and mission of Fordham University as “encompassing more than the mere transferal of knowledge. “The mission of Fordham,” stated the Archbishop, “involves offering mercy and justice to the entire world!”

His Eminence also expressed the grateful feelings of all Orthodox people in America for the establishment and continuation of the annual “Orthodoxy in

America Lecture Series,” and he thanked Aristotle Papanikolaou and George Demacopoulos, both professors of Theology at Fordham who have greatly contributed to its success.

The University announced a new undergraduate Interdisciplinary Orthodox Christian Studies program, to start in September.

A private dinner was held in honor of His Eminence in the magnificent Great Hall of the Duane Library following the degree ceremony and lecture.

ARCHBISHOP Demetrios receives a doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*.

ORTHODOX Clergy following the conferral ceremony in front of the University Church.



ETA PRESS Photos



The Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas

SCOBA Hierarchs Address Issues of Suicide and Global Climate

CRESTWOOD, N.Y. – SCOBA, the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas, adopted two important statements at its spring session May 23 at St. Vladimir’s Seminary.

The hierarchs adopted “A Pastoral Letter on Suicide” and a “Statement on Global Climate Change: A Moral and Spiritual Challenge” (issued separately and found at www.scoba.us). Both documents were presented by Fr. John Chryssavgis and Dr. Albert Rossi of the SCOBA Social and Moral Issues Commission.

Archbishop Demetrios, SCOBA chairman, convened the session.

Metropolitan Herman of the Orthodox Church in America hosted the session and welcomed the assembly.

In addition to Metropolitan Herman, other hierarchs present included Metropolitan Joseph of the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church, Archbishop Nicolae of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese, Bishop Ilia of Philomelion of the Albanian

Orthodox Diocese, Bishop Antoun of Miami representing Metropolitan Philip of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese, and Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos in his last official meeting of SCOBA as General Secretary.

Also present were Fr. Mark Arey, who succeeds Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos as SCOBA general secretary, and members of the SCOBA Study and Planning Commission: Fr. Nicholas Apostola (Romanian), Fr. Frank Estocin (Ukrainian), Fr. Thomas FitzGerald (Greek), Fr. Jonathan Ivanoff (proxy for OCA), V. Rev. Fr. Kiprian Kazandzhiev (Bulgarian), Fr. Luke Mihaly (Carpatho-Russian), Fr. Robert Stephanopoulos

(Greek), Fr. Patrick Tishel (Bulgarian), Fr. Bazyl Zawierucha (Ukrainian).

In other business, Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou, president of Hellenic College and Holy Cross, made a presentation on an Orthodox Clergy Fellowship for all of North America. The hierarchs encouraged the initiative and requested additional documentation and detailed analysis.

Fr. Kevin Scherer, director of OCF, a SCOBA Agency, made a preliminary presentation on widening the Antiochian Archdiocese program OYO (Orthodox Youth Outreach) to become a SCOBA Agency. The Hierarchs requested additional information on the concept.

Dr. Kyriaki FitzGerald presented the request for “St. Catherine’s Vision” (an association of Orthodox women theologians from all Orthodox Seminaries in the Americas) for a “Second Level of Endorsement” of SCOBA as an endorsed group. The hierarchs granted the endorsement.

Following the meeting, faculty and staff of St. Vladimir’s Seminary hosted a luncheon. SCOBA members were joined by members of SCOOCCH, the Standing Conference of Oriental Orthodox Churches. Hierarchs present included the new primate of the Ethiopian Tewahedo Orthodox Church in America, Archbishop Abune Kewostos, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and Archbishop Vicken of the Armenian Church in America, and Archbishop Mor Cyril Aphrem Karim of the Syrian Orthodox Archdiocese.

Following the luncheon, the respective Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Hierarchs held a private discussion on issues of mutual interest and concern.

*For favorable weather,
an abundance of the
fruits of the earth,
and temperate seasons,
Let us pray to the Lord.*

Petition from the Divine Liturgy

OPINIONS

Archiepiscopal Encyclical July 4: Independence Day

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 Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This day, July 4, is one that we share each year with millions of others who live in the United States of America and who continue to celebrate the preservation of independence and freedom.

Throughout this land people will participate in ceremonies, prayers, parades, and family gatherings that will embody the life, liberty and happiness this nation has offered to so many.

It is also a day of commemoration, when we reflect on the ideals and principles that have fostered a free society and promoted human dignity. Intrinsic to the function and progress of this nation has been the recognition of the ability and potential of the human person.

Each individual should have the freedom to grow, to achieve, and most importantly, to live in a peaceful and beneficial way.

Certainly, our history shows that this has not been easy to attain or uphold.

It has been a struggle to understand the implications of equality and freedom for all persons. However, we have had in this nation an intellectual and social environment that promotes dialog, creates forums for the sharing of ideas, and allows people to speak freely from their experiences, beliefs, and knowledge.

The founders of this country cherished both freedom of thought and speech as they deliberated over the nature and shape of a new government.

They examined the history of nations, both ancient and new, to determine what would endure. They engaged in serious debate over political ideas that would prevent tyranny, balance power, and rest the purpose of governance in the wellbeing of the people; and through intense and challenging dialogue, they were able to establish a unique and new nation, "conceived in liberty."

Many of the founders knew that the task of shaping this nation would continue.

New challenges would come, crises would arise, and the "more perfect union" would be tested. However, the nation would be preserved and grow stronger if ideas and perspectives could be shared freely.

As Orthodox Christians we know the importance of this freedom.

First, we are thankful to live in a society where we are free to practice and share our faith. We gather in worship of the Triune God without fear of persecution. We offer ministry, build churches, and speak openly of our Orthodox faith with no thought of reprisal or violence against us.

We are able to be witnesses of the truth, which through love, not force or violence, has a transforming and saving power.

Second, we know that our faith is a commitment to a lifetime of spiritual growth, and that freedom to grow, to ask, to seek is essential. Yes, we

look to our faith and the Church to give us guidance in a very challenging world.

Yet as persons, we have the God-given ability to examine, reflect, and discern. Within the body of Christ, we have the potential to "all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13)

Here, in this country, we are free to do this—free to live in Christ, free to engage and challenge ideas and issues with the fullness of our faith, and free to extend to all the invitation of our Lord to find perfect life, freedom, and joy in Him.

On this Independence Day may we join with our fellow-Americans and with all who share our love for freedom in a commemoration of what this nation has given to us.

May we also commit ourselves through our faith in Christ, our love for our Church and our lives in this country to the preservation and challenges of a political and social environment that upholds freedom.

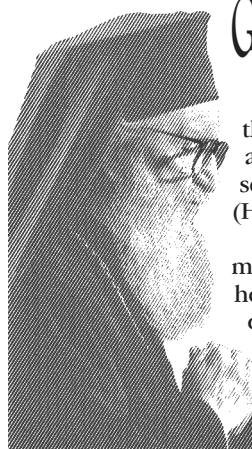
With paternal love in Christ,

Archbishop Demetrios

† Archbishop DEMETRIOS of America

Archpastoral Reflections

God's Ministering Spirits, the Angels



In continuing with our series of reflections on authentic sources of security, we turn to consider the holy angels and their roles in our lives as ministering spirits sent for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation (Hebrews 1:14).

As God's appointed messengers and guardians, we may gain a real and lasting comfort knowing that the holy angels are with us throughout our lives in times of danger and distress. This is what we mean when we pray to the Lord at our divine services for "an angel of peace, a faithful guide, and a guardian of our souls and bodies."

by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America

One of the more remarkable and humbling aspects regarding our relationship with the holy angels is that it is not only we human beings who are provided with the comfort afforded to us by these bodiless powers of heaven.

Indeed, the angels were active in the life of Jesus Christ from His very conception with the annunciation of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, throughout the trials of His passion and crucifixion, and even after His resurrection, when angels were present at his empty tomb.

We know from the Holy Scriptures that when Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane prior to His arrest, followed by His crucifixion, there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening Him (Luke 22:43).

Here, we see the poignant application of the holy angels in their role as comforters and purveyors of peace, even to Christ as a perfect human being.

It is these very same holy angels, who provided comfort to Christ in His times of agony, who also provide comfort to us in our own times of human agony, distress, and fear. It is in this regard that the holy angels serve as a very real, authentic, and truly divine source of security in our lives.

Are we truly aware of the holy angels in our midst as our protectors and guardians? Are we aware of the significance between the shared security offered by the angels to us as human beings and to our Savior Jesus Christ? Do we truly believe that they exercise a very real and active presence in our world today, especially in places of conflict?

Here are some important questions for us to contemplate daily in our lives as we endeavor as citizens of heaven and as citizens of earth to come to a closer comprehension of a lasting security.

LETTERS

▶ God at Prom? ◀

Editor,

Is God at the prom?

No!

That's where you lose your heritage and soul. We have GOYA to compete. We should have matchmakers.

Ted Verges
Johnson Creek, Wis.

▶ Reaching Out ◀

Editor,

Reading "Reach Out on Holidays" by Zarahati Jackie Morfesis brought back sweet memories dating back 45 years.

It was in 1962 while stationed at Fort Gordon's Military Police School in Augusta, Ga., that all Christian Orthodox soldiers were welcomed to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Augusta.

The priest was Fr. Nick, a devoted

and driving force and, together with the parish members, welcomed us all to the church on outings and barbecues held at the church hall, the church property in the mountains.

We were also welcomed into the homes of the most Christian, loving people one could ever want to meet.

Every Sunday, any soldier in uniform would always be approached by someone in the community and be welcomed home for a Sunday dinner just as one's own parents and grandparents would do.

How could we feel homesick?

This idea of reaching out I hope will spread everywhere.

The Ladies Philoptochos has always been a strong loving institution that has made our Church proud of these fine women for their positive influence in helping the needy, poor and lonely.

Nicholas Serras
Brooklyn, N.Y.

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Communicating the Faith

THE PARIS HILTON SYNDROME: Spiritual Blind Spots

"Some of the Pharisees said to Jesus, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?'"
John 9:40

What do the celebrity "party girls" Paris Hilton, Britney Spears, Lindsay Lohan, and Nicole Richie have in common? Apart from donning the covers of most paparazzi-based supermarket tabloids, they are all noted for their unfortunate lack of discernment.

by Rev. Frank Marangos

They suffer from what I would like to call the Paris Hilton Syndrome - the inability to see situations and issues with clarity because of spiritual blind spots. As a result, they, and many teenagers like them, make unsuitable decisions resulting in serious problems with alcohol, drugs, low self-esteem, and authority.

Few issues should garner as much attention as the need for teenagers as well as adults to develop discernment in order to make appropriate life decisions. It is a valuable God-centered capacity that would help teens safely deal with issues such as peer pressure, friends, sexuality, loss, and emotional wellbeing.

Since the Holy Church Fathers regard discernment as one of the most important spiritual gifts, it would be valuable to briefly reflect on its essential characteristics and its ability to guard against self-deception through clarity of vision.

According to popular tale, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson once went on a camping trip. After a good meal and a bottle of wine, they lay down for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend. "Watson, look up and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars." "What does that tell you?" Holmes continued.

"Astronomically," Watson pondered, "it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all-powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Why . . . what does it tell you?" Holmes said, "Watson you idiot, it tells me that someone has stolen our tent."

Orthodox Christians are people of keen religious eyesight . . . at least that is what we profess at the conclusion of every Holy Liturgy. "We have seen the Light," we chant, "the True, Authentic Light!"

If we are honest, however, we must simultaneously confess that, unlike our corporate revelation, our personal vision of the True God is often prone to spiritual blind spots.

Like the blind spot around an automobile where rear or side-view mirrors are vulnerable to miss-representation, spiritual blind spots are created by virtue of the fact that we are imperfect creatures and, as such, unable to entirely discern God's immediate action in our lives. Simply stated, it is possible to have the gift of physical vision and yet be blind to spiritual activity.

A fascinating story concerning such spiritual blindness is found in the Gospel of St. John (9:1-38). The narrative describes the miraculous healing by Jesus of a man who was born sightless. A close examination of the pericope reveals the true interest of the evangelist who is more

interested in the apparent lack of discernment (blindness) of the crowd to who and what Jesus has done, than he is with the actual physical cure of the sightless man.

Four classifications of spiritual blind spots can be outlined:

The first type of blind spot described in the story may be linked to the callous reaction of Jesus' disciples. "Rabbi," they asked, "who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

Although it was a common belief among the Jews during that time in history that God punished people for their sin in the form of sickness or disease, the Disciples' query reveals a most deleterious blind spot, namely, judgment of others.

While Jesus distinguished the blind man as someone in whom the work of God could be made known (John 9:4), the disciples, unfortunately, unable to discern an opportunity for mercy, saw him as merely the focus of a heartless theological debate over the root cause of his infirmity.

It is far less difficult to debate the theological ramifications of sin than to make a significant difference in people's lives. Jesus insists, however, that we refrain from judging others. "Do not judge, or you too will be judged," cautions the Lord, "for in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you" (Matthew 7:1-2). Jesus' stern rebuke of His disciples' arrogant posture towards the blind man emphasizes the need for all Christians to ask to be healed of the blind spot of religious self-righteousness. It is always easier to judge than to heal.

The second spiritual blind spot described in the miracle story may be classified as religious skepticism. When the man who was formally blind returned to his neighborhood, the people who knew him questioned his honesty rather than acknowledging and celebrating the healing power of God.

While some refused to believe it was the same man, others, skeptical of what had happened, demanded that he provide a plausible explanation to the curious restoration of his eyesight.

In their defense, it would have been difficult to believe what they were seeing. They remembered this man as being blind, begging at the Temple gate, and now walking without assistance. Certainly, it would have been natural for some of them to wonder, "Was he really born blind" (John 9:8)?

In an effort to treat this type of spiritual blindness, St. Paul insists that the "righteous live by faith and not by sight" (Romans 1:17).

However, many today are unable and unwilling to acknowledge the power of Christ to change lives in such a fashion. The lesson provided in this gospel story is clear.

We should be on guard for the blind spot of spiritual skepticism that often prevents us from seeing, acknowledging, and experiencing the grace and power of God working in the lives of people today.

The third and perhaps most dangerous blind spot is religious fanaticism. At the conclusion of the miracle, Jesus is confronted by a group of Pharisees who are un-nerved at the actual healing of a blind man.

In their attempt to find a legal technicality to undo the miracle that Jesus

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Fr. Robert Stephanopoulos, George Stephanopoulos and Rev. Donald J. Harrington, President of St. John's University.

St. John's University Honors Fr. Robert, George Stephanopoulos

QUEENS, N.Y. – The 137th St. John's Commencement exercises convened before more than 19,000 on the Great Lawn of the University's Queens Campus.

George Stephanopoulos, ABC Chief Washington Correspondent, delivered the 2007 Commencement Address and spoke of solidarity and love as the cornerstone of hope for future generations.

His father, the Rev. Dr. Robert Stephanopoulos, dean of Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral and a 20-year theology professor at SJU, received the honorary Doctor of Sacred Theology degree.

In his address, George Stephanopoulos, who also was bestowed with an honorary degree said, in part, "When people are living in need we must help, as the first Christian communities did, by practicing solidarity and making them feel truly loved."

Solidarity and love are needed more than ever in a world that confounds us with contradictions and confronts us with

the challenge of living with its paradoxes. Stand for ideal. Act against injustice. Make this your world. Make it better."

George, in front of his father and mother, Presbytera Nikki (appropriately on Mother's Day), shared a dream his two parents had for him upon entering college several years ago.

"About 25 years ago I promised my parents that I would go to law school and I never made it – but today I finally got the degree (an honorary Doctor of Laws) from St. John's. I want to thank the University and fellow graduates of the Class of 2007. You have no idea how much I owe you."

After acceptance of his honorary degree, Rev. Stephanopoulos lamented about his fondness of St. John's University. "I am grateful for the privilege being granted to both George and I from St. John's University, which I consider to be an excellent school," he said. "We are humbled by the recognition given to both of us today."

Bowl-a-thon for Childhood Leukemia

PINS FOR PAULY, executive commiteemembers with two of the children helped by the annual bowl-a-thon, Molly (with her mother), whose illness has been in remission, and Stavros (with his mother) who is currently undergoing treatment at Sloan-Kettering Hospital. (At right) Fr. Nikiforos Fakinos, pastor of St. Demetrios parish in Merrick, N.Y.



ORTHODOX OBSERVER

WANTAGH, N.Y.–More than 160 persons took part in the fifth annual Pins for Pauly Bowl-a-thon on May 12 to raise money to assist children with childhood leukemia. This year, more than \$70,000 was raised that will help children throughout the country.

The Pins for Pauly organization donated \$15,000 of the funds to help a child from Greece who has been at the Ronald McDonald House in New York with his parents for many months.

Most of the participants in the event

represented St. Demetrios Church of Merrick, where Paul Pavlou, for whom the bowl-a-thon was named, was a member with his parents, Andreas and Georgia Pavlou.

Other communities represented included St. Nicholas of Babylon, N.Y., St. Demetrios of Astoria and St. Markella in Wantagh.

The bowl-a-thon received media coverage through *Antenna* and *Macedonia TV of USA* and was broadcast worldwide, and by *Hellas-FM* radio.

Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund Honors Nicholas Bouras

NEW YORK – Nicholas J. Bouras, a 25-year member of the Archdiocesan Council and an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, received the Humanitarian Leadership Award at the 16th annual Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund Dinner Dance on May 19.

Mr. Bouras is a founding member of Holy Trinity Church in Westfield, N.J., a supporter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology, St. Basil Academy, and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center.

Also honored at the event held at the Marriott at Times Square was Constantine Maroulis, a finalist on American Idol in 2005, who received the Humanitarian Artistic Achievement Award.

Since its beginnings in 1990, the HTSF, chaired by New York business leader John Catsimatidis, has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to over 500 deserving Greek American students throughout the nation.

This year's recipients are as follows: Ann Marie Axarlis, Illinois; Andrea Carras, Maryland; Matthew Christensen, Iowa; Charles Comenos, Massachusetts; Ernest Constantine, New York; Andreas Damianides, Illinois; Kayla Delisle, Massachusetts; Joseph Dukes, Texas; Sean Fitzgerald, New York; Allison Georgioff, Oregon; Eleni Gouvas, Illinois; Theodora Guliadis, New Jersey; Jocelyn Halikias, New York; Konstantinos Horaites, Oregon; Robert Humburg, Florida; Christopher Kachulis, Massachusetts; Panagiotis Koutsoupas, New Jersey; Maria Litsakis, New York; Sultania Makrides, New York; Petros Michaelides, New York; Ashlyn Michalakis, New York; Dimitri Millionis, New York; Thomas Nikolaidis, New Jersey; Catherine O'Hare, California; Daphne Panayotatos, New York; Caitlin Pangares, Oregon; Angela Pitenis, Florida; Evangelia Podaras,



HELLENIC Times Scholarship recipients with fund officers and honorees.

New York; Maroulla Plangetis, Maryland; Katerina Skiadas, New York; Peter Smith, Connecticut; Christopher Stathis, Connecticut; Alina Tsouristanis, New York; Alexis Umowski, New Jersey; and Raquel Verdina, New York.

Among those attending was Archbishop Demetrios, who gave the invocation.

Two guest artists, Taylor Dayne and Thanos Petrelis gave a concert for the more than 1,500 people in attendance. Dinner chairman and president of the HTSF is Nicholas Katsoris.



JOHN Catsimatidis, Nicholas Bouras and Nick Katsoris.

Seattle Church Publishes Comprehensive History

SEATTLE – St. Demetrios Church has published "A History of Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and Her People," a 439-page volume 11 years in the making.

It began as a 75th anniversary album of church itself, but grew to encompass the story of Greeks and other ethnic groups in that Seattle community.

The history book chronicles all this and much more through the end of the 20th century.

Detailed research, in both local and national records and through interviews, provided information that is presented in groupings: by decades and by organizations, the various ethnic groups in the community, biographies of the priests, vital statistics, historic lists of parishioners, and memorials.

Some 2,000 photographs including family pictures, many from private collections, compliment the comprehensive text. An extensive bibliography and references are included.

The volume offers the reader and historical researcher a wide-ranging and engaging story of the life, growth and people of the Greek community in Seattle and the Puget Sound region, through the history of St. Demetrios Church which today serves over 700 families in western Washington.

The book shows that as the community grew, parishioners' needs led to the development of other Greek Orthodox churches in the Greater Seattle area.

Dorothea Moutafes and Theodora Dracopoulos Argue co-authored and edited the book. Perry Scarlatos was the lead researcher.

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PEOPLE

▶ Winning writer

Tony Phyrillas, a member of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Reading, Pa., received a first place award for opinion column writing in the 2007 editorial contest sponsored by Suburban Newspapers of America. The competition was open to 2,000 newspapers. Phyrillas, an editor at The Mercury in Pottstown, Pa., was also named one of the leading Greek-American bloggers by Odyssey: The World of Greece magazine.

▶ Present programs

Paul Chardoul and **Pearl Kastran Ahnen** recently presented the programs "Greeks in Grand Rapids" and "Greek Immigrants in Chicago in the 1900s" at the Annunciation and St. Paraskevi Church in New Buffalo, Mich. Mr. Chardoul taught history for over 30 years at Grand Rapids Community College. He was project director of the National Endowment for the Humanities Project, "Greeks in Grand Rapids," which included oral histories and research, an exhibit and a publication. Ms. Ahnen, a prize-winning journalist, has written, edited or contributed to eight books. In her program, she discussed her latest work, "Daughter of Immigrants," a novel about a Greek immigrant family in Chicago. Ms. Ahnen has also written eight plays staged at theaters throughout Michigan.

▶ Mother of the year

Philoptochos members of St. Sophia Cathedral in Los Angeles recently presented the "Mother of the Year" award to **Frances Bissias**, a 20-year member of the National Philoptochos Board, chairing the St. Basil Academy Committee. She has also served as a board member of the San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos and as president of St. Sophia Cathedral, as chairman of the Cyprus and Kalamata Relief committees, as a fund-raiser for the IOCC and as a member of the Daughters of Penelope for 30 years.

▶ Member of the year

The Archdiocesan District Federation Choir recently named **Constantine Gajdjis** of Jamaica, N.Y., as "Member of the Year" in ceremonies at Resurrection Church in Brookville, Long Island. Archbishop Demetrios bestowed a silver cross upon Mr. Gajdjis for his musical contributions. He arranged the hymn, "Agapisose Kyrie," which the federation choir performed.

▶ Winning team

The volleyball team of Archangels church in Stamford, Conn., recently won the Connecticut Eastern Orthodox Volleyball League championship, defending their title against Annunciation Church, also of Stamford. Team members are **Nicole Yorandis**, **Virginia Gasparakis**, **Jessica Mihaleas**, **Mary Poulos**, **Katrina Wells**, **Megan Demetros**, **Olivia Demetros**, **Eleni Begetis** and **Amy Sierpina**. Coaches are **Soulafrada Valassis** and **Perry Mihaleas**.

▶ Greek authors

Several Greek authors gathered at the national book show, Book Expo America, at the Jacob Javits Center in New York June 1-3. They included **Yvette Manassis Corporation**, **Nick Katsoris** (author of the iparenting Media award winning book and CD "Growing Up With Loukoumi" and "Loukoumi"), Fox-5 news anchor **Ernie Anastos** (author of the new children's book "Ernie & The Big Newz") and **Eva Kalivas** (author of "I Get Knocked Down: A Woman's Survival Guide to Business & Life.")

Church Ministered to Virginia Tech Community after Shootings

ROANOKE, Va.—Holy Trinity Church was most directly affected by the April 16 shootings on the campus of Virginia Tech University by student Cho Seung-Hui, who killed at least 33 in the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history.

Blacksburg, the location of Virginia Tech, is only half-an-hour from the church and there are many Orthodox students and faculty members at the school. Many Holy Trinity parishioners also live in the college town.

"None of our Orthodox students was injured," said Fr. Constantine Natsos, pastor of Holy Trinity since

as well as other parish organizations that include an active Philoptochos.

The Philoptochos support the Roanoke Area Ministries, which consists of monthly participation in serving food to the homeless, and also participate in a rescue mission for the homeless.

The Church school has about 75 students. There is no Greek school, as the only Greek teacher died about two years ago and the parish has not been able to restart the program.

Improvement projects

Holy Trinity is about to begin a \$1 million renovation project to improve the

tra pickles and onions on a sandwich, the parish history noted.

The customer tossed a rock through a window and the Greek owner fired a pistol at the perpetrator.

A drunken mob then wrecked the restaurant, The Belmont, then rampaged through downtown and smashed the windows of Greek and Syrian-owned businesses.

The mayor had to call in the fire department to hose down the rioters.

The incident drew the involvement of the Greek consul general in Washington, the U.S. secretary of state and the governor of Virginia.

PARISH profile

Name: Holy Trinity

Greek Orthodox Church

Location: Roanoke, Va.

Metropolis: New Jersey

Size: 150 families

Founded: 1928

Clergy: Fr. Constantine J. Natsos

(HC '85)

E-mail: htrinityroa@verizon.net

Noteworthy: Community traces

roots to 19th Century.



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2003, "but it was great stress and great trauma for them." He said there are about 30 Orthodox students of various ethnic backgrounds, including some from Russia, and several professors who are members of his parish.

Fr. Constantine oversees the Orthodox Christian Fellowship program at Virginia Tech and he was continuously on campus from the morning after the shootings for an entire week.

"We extended ourselves as part of our Christian responsibility," he said. "There also was a great impact from national OCF representatives" who also came to minister to the university community.

"Many supportive people offered time and money to help," he added.

Fr. Natsos' OCF involvement also extends to other Virginia universities, including the Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee University both near Lexington, about 50 miles away.

In fact, his area of ministry to parishioners living beyond stretches for about 180 miles along Interstate 81 in western Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, from Wytheville to Harrisonburg.

The church itself in Roanoke, is the only Orthodox church in a city of about 95,000 people, and its membership includes not only those of Greek background, but also Orthodox of Lebanese, Bulgarian and Russian background.

Services are mostly in English.

Fr. Constantine said the parish offers programs "for everybody from 1 to 92" (one parishioner is 104).

Among the parish organizations are the "Happy Hearts" group for those 55 and up, a "Mr. and Mrs. Plus" for married couples over 21 and singles,

parish hall, add Sunday school classrooms, expand the kitchen and add rooms for conferences and youth activities.

Next year, the parish is slated to begin the third phase of an iconography project that will complete the filling of the entire church with icons.

In 2006, the parish established its first Greek festival, held during the Labor Day Weekend.

Demographics and history

The priest said nearly all the current parish families of Greek ethnic background trace their roots to the region of *Evrytania* in west central Greece and there is an active chapter of the *Evrytania* Society in the community.

However, the first recorded Greek to have come to Roanoke was Gus Vurnakes who came to America in 1888 at age 22 from *Crissafa*, near Sparta, according to a parish history by Dr. Paul Dallas.

Vurnakes first settled in Raleigh, N.C., and opened the California Fruit Stand, which later became a well-known restaurant.

In the early 1890s, he visited Roanoke and brought his brother, Alec, from Chicago and they opened a fruit stand there.

Soon, several Greeks came to the city looking for work, many of them eventually were employed by the Norfolk and Western Railroad, the area's largest employer.

An economic depression in the late 1890s hit the city hard. Public schools were closed and the railroad went into receivership. There were riots, with some directed against the Greek immigrants.

Prejudice against immigrants, including Greeks, during that era was a national phenomenon, and not limited to a small part of the country.

In 1907, a riot began at one restaurant when a street tough argued with the owner after being charged an extra 5 cents for ex-

Eventually, the Roanoke City Council had to pay for the damages.

Though a number of Greeks left the city as a result of the riot, by 1911, more Greek men arrived in the city from various parts of Greece, including *Peloponnesus* and *Karpenisi*.

They opened restaurants, cleaner's, shoe stores and ice cream parlors but still had to contend with prejudice," according to the parish history. One local amusement park sign read "No Jews, Blacks, Greeks or Lebanese."

Church beginnings

There were some attempts to start a church in the 1920s. The first continuous service began in November 1928 by Fr. George Vasiliadis, who celebrated Divine Liturgy over a downtown meat market.

He continued the services until 1932 when the Great Depression hit the community hard and ended the priest's service. Unemployment had reached 35 percent and times were hard for 39 Greek-owned businesses.

Services began the following year with Fr. Demetrius Cassis arrived in Roanoke. He reactivated the church and helped to acquire the community's first church building, a former synagogue, for \$7,000. His salary was \$75 a month. Since the restaurants were open seven days, on Sundays before church Fr. Cassis would visit all the business owners with a collection box and bring the church to them.

In 1938, he published the community's 10th anniversary album. The former synagogue was remodeled and converted into a Greek Orthodox Church and was officially dedicated on July 25, 1937. Fr. Cassis served the

Αποφοίτηση από το Ελληνικό Κολλέγιο και τη Θεολογική Σχολή

ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗ - Η 65η τελετή αποφοίτησης του Ελληνικού Κολλεγίου και της Θεολογικής Σχολής του Τιμίου Σταυρού πραγματοποιήθηκε στις 19 Μαΐου στο Μπρούκλαϊν της Μασαχουσέτης. Αποφοίτησαν 34 από τη Θεολογική Σχολή και 22 από το Ελληνικό Κολλέγιο.

Ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος προέστη της Θείας Λειτουργίας στο παρεκκλήσιο της Σχολής και ακολούθησε η τελετή αποφοίτησης.

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ΔΗΜ. ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Με υπερηφάνεια αποφοίτησαν οι μαθητές των σχολείων της Αρχιεπισκοπής

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ – Τους 43 αριστούχους αποφοιτούντες αυτό το μήνα μαθητές και μαθήτριες των 23 Ελληνοαμερικανικών ημερησίων σχολείων της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής βραβεύει με γενναία χρηματικά βραβεία ο οργανισμός «ΠΙΣΤΗ: Αποθεματικό Ταμείο για την Ορθοδοξία και τον Ελληνισμό», που ιδρύθηκε το 2003 με πρωτοβουλία του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου.

του Σταύρου Η. Παπαγερμανού

Συγκεκριμένα ο πρώτος μαθητής (valedictorian) της αποφοιτούσας τάξης κάθε σχολείου, βραβεύεται με το χρηματικό ποσό των δύο χιλιάδων δολαρίων και ο δεύτερος (salutatorian) με το ποσό των 1500 δολαρίων.

Τα βραβεία αυτά αποτελούν μέρος της εφετεινής επιδότησης συνολικού ύψους 500 χιλιάδων δολαρίων του «Ταμείου ΠΙΣΤΗ» προς την Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή για τη στήριξη και ανάπτυξη προγραμμάτων και εκπαιδευτικών και πολιτιστικών πρωτοβουλιών με σκοπό την προώθηση της Ορθοδοξίας και του Ελληνισμού.

Σχολιάζοντας την πρωτοβουλία αυτή ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος δήλωσε: «Είναι όντως μια γενναϊόδωρη προσφορά, η οποία αποτελεί σημαντικό βήμα προς τη συνεχιζόμενη προσπάθεια στηρίξεως και πρόδου της Ελληνικής Παιδείας και του Ελληνικού Πολιτισμού στην Αρχιεπισκοπή μας».

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος παρενέβη σε



ΔΗΜ. ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Η Αριστούχος μαθήτρια του Λυκείου του Αγίου Δημητρίου Αστορίας Άντζελα Μίθικ απευθύνει χαιρετισμό προς τους συμμαθητές της.

πολλές σχολικές τελετές σε ενοριακά ημερήσια σχολεία της Νέας Υόρκης και παρέδωσε προσωπικά τα βραβεία στους αριστούχους.

Η τελετή αποφοίτησης στο Σχολείο του Καθεδρικού Ναού της Αγίας Τριάδος στο Μανχάταν πραγματοποιήθηκε στις 8 Ιουνίου παρουσία του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου, του ιερατικώς προϊσταμένου π. Χαράλαμπος Στεφανόπουλου και του π. Βασιλείου Μπασακύρου. Η γενική πρόξενος της Κύπρου στη Νέα Υόρκη κ. Μάρθα Μαυρομάτη ήταν η κυρίως ομιλήτρια.

Απευθυνόμενος προς τους αποφοίτους ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος είπε ότι είναι «ιδιαίτερα καλότυχοι να φοιτούν σ' ένα ξεχωριστό σχολείο άξιο του ονόματος και της φήμης του». Ο Σεβασμιώτατος συνεχάρη τους μαθητές για την πρωτότυπη παρουσίαση αρχαίων ελληνικών κειμένων και ρητών και υπενθύμισε σε όλους ότι σε πολλά σημεία του κόσμου υπάρχουν παιδιά όχι και τόσο καλότυχα, που υποφέρουν υπό συνθήκες υποσιτισμού, ασθενειών και ανέχειας. Ας είμεθα ευγνώμονες για αυτά τα αγαθά που μας χάρισε ο Θεός

και ας θυμόμαστε ότι η ελληνορθόδοξη κληρονομιά μας οδηγεί και μας κατευθύνει προς το άριστο και το μέγιστο όπως εκφράζεται από το αρχαίο ρητό «Αιέν Αριστεύειν».

«Με αυτό το πνεύμα», σημείωσε ο Σεβασμιώτατος «και ακολουθώντας αυτή τη λαμπρή παράδοση το Ταμείο

ΧΡΗΜΑΤΙΚΑ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΑ ΑΡΙΣΤΕΙΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΤΑΜΕΙΟΥ ΠΙΣΤΕΩΣ

ΠΙΣΤΗ βραβεύει τους αριστούχους κάθε σχολείου». Στη συνέχεια επέδωσε τα χρηματικά βραβεία στη Νεφέλη Πιρέ Ηλιού (πρώτη) και στο Ράντυ Κάστρο.

Το απόγευμα της ίδιας ημέρας ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος παρενέβη στις αποφοιτήσεις δύο μεγάλων σχολείων της Νέας Υόρκης.

Το Ελληνοαμερικανικό Σχολείο με την επωνυμία του ευεργέτη του «Βασίλειος Σπυρόπουλος» της κοινότητας του

Ιερό Προσκύνημα στην Καππαδοκία

Στη γη των πολλών χριστιανών μαρτύρων, στην αγιοτόκο Καππαδοκία βρέθηκε και φέτος ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης κ. Βαρθολομαίος πραγματοποιώντας με συγκίνηση κι ευλάβεια την όγδοη επίσκεψή του.

του Νικολάου Μαγγίνα

Το φετινό προσκύνημα έγινε με ιδιαίτερη λαμπρότητα και τον προκαθήμενο της Ορθοδοξίας συνόδευσαν εκατοντάδες προσκυνητές από την Πόλη, την Ελλάδα και διάφορες χώρες. Σημαντική εκκλησιαστική παρουσία ήταν αυτή του Μητροπολίτη Σμόλενσκ κ. Κύριλλου ο οποίος εκπροσώπησε τον Πατριάρχη Μόσχας κ. Αλέξιο. Κατά την παραμονή του στο Φανάρι και την Καππαδοκία ο Ρώσος Ιεράρχης είχε συνομιλίες με τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη Βαρθολομαίο και τους Μητροπολίτες Περγάμου κ. Ιωάννη και Φιλαδελφείας κ. Μελίτωνα. Οι συζητήσεις των δύο πλευρών διεξήχθησαν σε πολύ καλό κλίμα και με διάθεση αντιμετώπισης των όλων των θεμάτων που έχουν κατά καιρούς ανακύψει και που απασχολούν τις δύο Εκκλησίες.

Στην Καππαδοκία, ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος χοροστάτησε για πρώτη φορά στον βραχώδη Ναό του Αγίου Ιωάννου του Θεολόγου που βρίσκεται στην Αραβισσό (Gulsehır) κοντά στη Νεάπολη.

Την επομένη, Κυριακή 13 Μαΐου, ο Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος προεξήρχε της Θείας Λειτουργίας που τελέστηκε στον Ναό των Αγίων Κωνσταντίνου και



Ο Οικ. Πατριάρχης με τον Μητροπολίτη Σμόλενσκ Κύριλλο.

Ελένης στη Συνασό. Συλλειτουργήσαν οι Μητροπολίτες Σμόλενσκ Κύριλλος και ο Νεαπόλεως Βαρνάβας από την Θεσσαλονίκη ενώ παρέστησαν συμπροσευχόμενοι οι Περγάμου Ιωάννης, Φιλαδελφείας Μελίτων, Πέτρας Νεκτάριος, Ρεθύμνης Άνθιμος, Χαλκίδος Χρυσόστομος.

«Δεν ημπορούμε, βεβαίως να μην ενθυμηθούμε, εις κάθε προσκυνηματική επίσκεψή μας εδώ, τους μεγάλους Πατέρας της Καππαδοκίας, τους θεμελιωτές των δογμάτων και της θεολογίας της Εκκλησίας μας» τόνισε ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης στην ομιλία του και πρόσθεσε: «Εδραίασαν την αρμονική σύζευξη του αρχαίου Ελληνικού πνεύματος μετά του Χριστιανισμού, δημιουργώντας έτσι και τα δύο συστατικά γνωρίσματα της ιδιοπροσωπείας του Γένους μας. Αυτοί εδημιούργησαν τον «χρυσούν αιώνα» της

Χριστιανικής πίστεως και θεολογίας, και το έργο των έγινε πηγή εμπνεύσεως και κανόνας ζωής δι' όλες τις μετέπειτα γενεές των Ορθοδόξων... Όμως, αν και η παρουσία των χριστιανών έπαυσε τοπικώς, η διαχρονική παρουσία των Αγίων είναι αδιάλειπτος στον ιερό αυτό χώρο».

Ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης εξέφρασε τις ευχαριστίες του σε όλους τους Αρχιερείς και τους πιστούς που ταξίδεψαν μέχρι την Καππαδοκία. Ιδιαίτερος δε, ευχαρίστησε τον εκπρόσωπο του Πατριάρχη Μόσχας Αλέξιου, Μητροπολίτη Σμόλενσκ Κύριλλο. «Η εδώ παρουσία του αποδεικνύει τους μακραίωνες δεσμούς αδελφικής αγάπης και ενότητας της Μητρός Εκκλησίας της Κωνσταντινουπόλεως μετά της οσημέραι αναγεννημένης Ρωσικής Εκκλησίας, δεσμούς οι οποίοι εδράζονται επί της κοινής κληρονομιάς των Ορθοδόξων Αγίων».

Από την πλευρά του ο Μητροπολίτης Σμόλενσκ Κύριλλος μετέφερε στον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη Βαρθολομαίο τις θερμές ευχές και την αγάπη του Πατριάρχη Μόσχας Αλέξιου.

Ο υπεύθυνος των εξωτερικών σχέσεων του Πατριαρχείου Μόσχας, στην ομιλία του, αναφέρθηκε κυρίως στη σημασία της διαφύλαξης της ενότητας της Ορθοδοξίας.

«Διατηρώντας την ενότητα της Ορθόδοξης Εκκλησίας εμείς, ως Ορθόδοξοι, ζούμε με την πίστη μας κοντά στους πιστούς άλλων θρησκειών και είμαστε ανοικτοί προς αυτούς και καλούμε και τους άλλους να μιμηθούν το παράδειγμά μας. Πιστεύουμε ότι οι καλές σχέσεις μεταξύ των διαφορετικών λαών και θρησκειών είναι αυτό που πρέπει να επιδιώκουμε σήμερα. Και γι' αυτό δίδει ιδιαίτερη χαρά σ'εμάς τους Ρώσους η πρόοδος στις σχέσεις μεταξύ των λαών της Ελλάδος και

της Τουρκίας. Και εκτιμούμε πολύ το γεγονός ότι συμπροσευχηθήκαμε μαζί Σας εδώ στη γη της Καππαδοκίας, με την ελπίδα ότι και στο εξής θα αναπτύσσονται οι σχέσεις μεταξύ Ελλάδος και Τουρκίας, μεταξύ Ρωσίας και Τουρκίας, ενώ οι σχέσεις μεταξύ Ελλάδος και Ρωσίας είναι ήδη αδελφικές και αδιάρρηκτες» επισήμανε ο κ. Κύριλλος.

Κατά τον εσπερινό που τελέστηκε την προηγούμενη ημέρα ο Μητροπολίτης Σμόλενσκ εξέφρασε την χαρά του για την επίσκεψη του στην Καππαδοκία. «Είχα ένα προσωπικό όνειρο, να επισκεφθώ αυτόν τον ιερό τόπο, ο οποίος έχει τόσο πολλή μεγάλη σημασία στην ιστορία μας. Επιθυμούσα να έλθω εδώ όχι ως απλός επισκέπτης για να δω τους τοίχους, αλλά ως ένας χριστιανός για να προσευχηθώ. Να προσευχηθώ, όχι μόνος μου, αλλά μαζί με τους αδελφούς μου από την Εκκλησία της Πόλεως» είπε ο κ. Κύριλλος και πρόσθεσε: «Θα ήθελα να σας ευχαριστήσω, Παναγιώτατε, γι' αυτήν την πρωτοβουλία σας για το προσκύνημα κάθε χρόνο στην Καππαδοκία.

Αυτό το προσκύνημα έχει κάθε χρόνο πανορθόδοξη διάσταση, επειδή πολλοί Προκαθήμενοι και εκπρόσωποι των Ορθόδοξων Εκκλησιών σας συνοδεύουν σ'αυτό. Πάλι και πολλάκις μαρτυρώ ότι είμαστε μία Εκκλησία, είμαστε ένας Ορθόδοξος λαός και σας ευχαριστώ, Παναγιώτατε, γι' αυτήν την πρωτοβουλία σας. Έχω την ευτυχία να σας γνωρίζω για τριάντα χρόνια. Στη διάρκεια αυτών των τριάντα χρόνων επικοινωνούμε πολύ συχνά. Από την πρώτη μας ακόμη συνάντηση στο αεροδρόμιο της Πόλεως διαφυλάττω στην καρδιά μου την λαμπρή σας προσωπικότητα. Η επικοινωνία μαζί σας πάντοτε με εμπνέει και μου διδάσκει πολλά.

Παρακαλώ, Παναγιώτατε, να μνημονεύετε στις προσευχές σας την Ρωσική Εκκλησία, τον Ρωσικό λαό και ημάς τους αναξιούς». Κατά την τριήμερη παραμονή τους στην Καππαδοκία, ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης και οι άλλοι αρχιερείς επισκέφθηκαν παλαιούς ναούς και πετρομνάστρα της περιοχής.

Επίσκεψη του Πατριάρχη Βαρθολομαίου στον ασθενούντα Αρχιεπίσκοπο Χριστόδουλο



Ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης κ. Βαρθολομαίος πραγματοποίησε στις 16 Ιουνίου ταξίδι αστραπή στην Αθήνα για να επισκεφθεί τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αθηνών και Πάσης Ελλάδος κ. Χριστόδουλο, στο Αρεταίειο Νοσοκομείο, όπου νοσηλεύεται. Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Χριστόδουλος υπεβλήθη σε εγχείρηση αφαίρεσης όγκου του παχέος εντέρου, ενώ οι εξετάσεις που ακολούθησαν διέγνωναν καρκίνο του ήπατος.

ΕΙΔΙΚΕΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΟΛΥΜΠΙΑΚΗΣ ΓΙΑ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ

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ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ – Επίτιμος διδάκτωρ Ανθρωπιστικών Σπουδών του Πανεπιστημίου Fordham της Νέας Υόρκης ανακηρύχθηκε ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος στις 14 Ιουνίου, κατά τη διάρκεια επίσημης τελετής στο ναό της πανεπιστημιούπολης Rose Hill, που βρίσκεται στο Μπρόνξ της Νέας Υόρκης.

Το Πανεπιστήμιο Fordham ιδρύθηκε το 1841 σύμφωνα με τη ρωμαιοκαθολική ιησουϊτική παράδοση. Διαθέτει τέσσερα κολέγια και έξι σχολές μεταπτυχιακών σπουδών σε διαφορετικές περιοχές της Νέας Υόρκης στις οποίες φοιτούν πάνω από 15 χιλιάδες φοιτητές.

Η απονομή του τιμητικού διδακτορικού διπλώματος στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο έγινε στα πλαίσια του 4ου Ετήσιου Τριήμερου Θεολογικού Συμποσίου με την επωνυμία «Η Ορθοδοξία στην Αμερική» που πραγματοποιείται τις ημέρες αυτές στο Πανεπιστήμιο Fordham. Το πρώτο θεολογικό συμπόσιο της σειράς αυτής

Θεολογίας και πνευματικό ηγέτη της εποχής μας, για την γενναιοδωρία του πνεύματος του και τη μεγαλοσύνη της καρδιάς του».

Ακολούθησε η πρώτη διάλεξη του Θεολογικού Συμποσίου από τον αιδεσιμολογιώτατο δρ. Andrew Louth, καθηγητή Πατερικών και Βυζαντινών Σπουδών του Βρετανικού Πανεπιστημίου Durham, με θέμα «Ανάγνωση των ψαλμών κατά τον Άγιο Αυγουστίνο».

«Η αποστολή του πανεπιστημίου αυτού δεν είναι απλά η μεταφορά και μόνο γνώσεων, αλλά περιλαμβάνει την προσφορά ευσπλαχνίας και δικαιοσύνης προς όλο τον κόσμο», τόνισε ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος κατά τη διάρκεια επισήμου δείπνου που παρέθεσαν προς τιμήν του ο πρόεδρος και η εφορία του πανεπιστημίου αμέσως μετά την τελετή. Ο Σεβασμιώτατος εξέφρασε την ευγνωμοσύνη του για την μεγάλη τιμή προς το πρόσωπό του αλλά και την προσφορά του προγράμματος «Ορθοδοξία στην Αμερική», εκ μέρους του



ETA PRESS

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος υπογράφει στο Βιβλίο Πράξεων απονομής διδακτορικών τίτλων του Πανεπιστημίου Fordham της Νέας Υόρκης.

εγκαινίασε ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος το 2004 με εναρκτήρια διάλεξή του.

Ο Καρδινάλιος και καθηγητής Avery Dulles, συνεχάρη τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο για την 40η επέτειο της εις Ελίσκοπον χειροτονίας του και σημείωσε ότι στο πρόσωπό του τιμάται «ένας μεγάλος πνευματικός ηγέτης της εποχής μας». Ο πρόεδρος του Πανεπιστημίου αιδεσιμολογιώτατος π. Joseph McShane παρουσίασε τον τιμητικό τίτλο στον Σεβασμιώτατο, εξέφρασε τα συγχαρητήρια και τις ευχές του για την τεσσαρακοστή επέτειο στο επισκοπικό αξίωμα που εορτάζει εφέτος ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος και μεταξύ άλλων τόνισε: «Η επιστροφή σας στον χώρο του Πανεπιστημίου μας αποτελεί για μας μεγίστη ευλογία, σας θεωρούμε και σας συγκαταλέγουμε ως έναν από εμάς και με υπερηφάνεια απονέμουμε το τιμητικό αυτό δίπλωμα σ' ένα μέγα δίδασκαλο, δόκτορα της

Πανεπιστημίου. Ευχαρίστησε ακόμη τους δύο ορθοδόξους καθηγητές θεολογίας του Fordham Αριστοτέλη Παπανικολάου και Γεώργιο Δημακόπουλο για την καθοριστική συμβολή τους στη δημιουργία και καθιέρωση του προγράμματος αυτού και καταλήγοντας την ομιλία του τόνισε: «Ο κόσμος μας σήμερα έχει ανάγκη ελέους και δικαιοσύνης και είναι αδιανόητο να μη μπορούμε ως Χριστιανοί που στο σύνολό μας αποτελούμε τουλάχιστον το 33% του πληθυσμού του πλανήτη, να αποτρέψουμε φαινόμενα παραφροσύνης, μίσους και βίας».

Να σημειωθεί ότι στο Πανεπιστήμιο Fordham αρχίζει από εφέτος διεπιστημονικός κύκλος Ορθοδόξων Χριστιανικών σπουδών, το πρώτο πρόγραμμα του είδους του στις Η.Π.Α.

— Σ.Π

Για ερωτήματα σχετικά με τον Κανονισμό για θέματα επιλήψιμης σεξουαλικής συμπεριφοράς κληρικών της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής ή για σχετικές καταγγελίες καλέστε χωρίς χρέωση τον ειδικό αριθμό (877) 544-3382 Όλες οι καταγγελίες θα ληφθούν σοβαρά υπ' όψιν και θα διερευνηθούν πλήρως και με απόλυτη αμεροληψία. Μπορείτε να μιλήσετε Αγγλικά ή Ελληνικά σε εθελοντή ή εθελόντρια.



Ο Κύπρου Χρυσόστομος στο Βατικανό

ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑ.- Επίσκεψη στο Βατικανό πραγματοποίησε την Τρίτη 12 Ιουνίου ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Κύπρου Χρυσόστομος όπου συναντήθηκε με τον Πάπα Βενέδικτο τον 16ο.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Χρυσόστομος συζήτησε με τον Πάπα το Κυπριακό και την ανάγκη συνεργασίας της Τουρκίας για την εξεύρεση δίκαιης και βιώσιμης λύσης του προβλήματος. Ζήτησε επίσης βοήθεια στην προσπάθεια της Εκκλησίας της Κύπρου να αποκαταστήσει τους ναούς στα κατεχόμενα, που είτε έχουν υποστεί καταστροφές, είτε μετατράπηκαν σε τεμένη.

«Ο Πάπας Βενέδικτος έδειξε μεγά-

λο ενδιαφέρον και θα πράξει το καθήκον του για τις εκκλησίες της κατεχόμενης Κύπρου...» δήλωσε ο προκαθήμενος της Κυπριακής Εκκλησίας και πρόσθεσε:

«Μου έχει δώσει την εντύπωση ότι συμφωνεί πλήρως με τις απόψεις μου. Έφυγα από τη συνάντηση μαζί του έμπλεος αισιοδοξίας. Εξάλλου έχω πίστη ότι θα υπάρξει στήριξη και από τις Βρυξέλλες για το θέμα των εκκλησιών».

Για τα αποτελέσματα της επίσκεψης του στο Βατικανό και στη Ρώμη ο κ. Χρυσόστομος ενημέρωσε τον πρόεδρο της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας, Τάσσο Παπαδόπουλο.

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Η τάξη του 2007 της Ακαδημίας του Αγίου Βασιλείου, στο Γκάρison της Νέας Υόρκης κατά την τελετή αποφοίτησης.

Αποφοιτήσεις των Σχολείων

► σελ. 15

Αγίου Νικολάου Φλάσιγκ πραγματοποιήσε για 24η χρονιά μια αλησμόνητη τελετή. Σαράντα συνολικά μαθητές και μαθήτριες αποφοίτησαν από την όγδοη τάξη και πήραν τα απολυτήρια τους από τα χέρια του Αρχιεπισκόπου.

«Περηφανεύομαστε για το σχολείο σας, το αναφέρω ως πρότυπο και ως παράδειγμα σε πολλά από τα ταξίδια μου», είπε ο Σεβασμιώτατος και παρότρυνε κλήρο και λαό της κοινότητας να αναβαθμίσουν περαιτέρω το σχολείο ώστε στο μέλλον περιλάβει και Λύκειο «ώστε να μην στέλνουμε τα παιδιά που μορφώσαμε και αναθρέψαμε με πολύ κόπο σε άλλα σχολεία». Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος μετέφερε επίσης τις ευχές και ευλογίες του Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχη κ. Βαρθολομαίου και τόνισε ότι «θυμάται πάντοτε με πολλή νοσταλγία τη επίσκεψή του στη κοινότητα και στο σχολείο σας».

Στη συνέχεια ο Σεβασμιώτατος παρουσίασε τα βραβεία του ταμείου ΠΙΣΤΗ στην πρώτη μαθήτρια Φωτεινή Γεργουδή και στον επίσης αριστεύσαντα μαθητή Βασιλή Τζάλα.

«Κρατείστε ως κόρη οφθαλμού τα στοιχεία που πηγάζουν από την ελληνική κλασική κληρονομιά μας και συνδυάστε τα με τις διδασχές του Ευαγγελίου καθώς συνεχίζετε την ακαδημαϊκή σας ζωή», είπε ο κ. Δημήτριος στους αποφοίτους.

Αποφοίτηση Λυκείου

Το Σχολείο του Αγίου Δημητρίου στη Αστόρια της Νέας Υόρκης περιλαμβάνει από νηπιαγωγείο μέχρι και πλήρες Λύκειο, το μοναδικό στο Αρχιεπισκοπικό εκπαιδευτικό σύστημα, και μάλιστα με σημαντικές ακαδημαϊκές επιτυχίες τα τελευταία χρόνια. Σαράντα δύο μαθητές και μαθήτριες αποφοίτησαν φέτος από την 12η τάξη (3η Λυκείου).

Η τελετή πραγματοποιήθηκε στην αίθουσα πολιτιστικών εκδηλώσεων του Σχολείου και χαρακτηρίστηκε από ενθουσιασμό και νεανικό παλμό.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος εξέφρασε την περηφάνια του για τις επιτυχίες του σχολείου και σημείωσε ότι το σχολείο



ΔΗΜ. ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Αποφοίτηση Σχολείου Αγίου Δημητρίου Τζαμείκα

συγκεντρώνει το ενδιαφέρον όλων των επισήμων που έρχονται από την Ελλάδα και την Κύπρο και θέλουν να το επισκεφθούν.

Απευθυνόμενος προς τους αποφοίτους, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος, του προέτρεψε να συνεχίσουν την επαφή τους με την κοινότητα και το σχολείο του Αγίου Δημητρίου. «Το ότι τελειώνετε δεν σημαίνει ότι κόβετε και το δεσμό με το σχολείο που τελειώσατε», είπε.

Καταλήγοντας δε πρόσθεσε ότι «εκμεταλλεζόμενοι τις τεράστιες δυνατότητες που έχουμε ως Έλληνες και Ορθόδοξοι θα πρέπει να δώσουμε στην κοινωνία και στο υπόλοιπο κόσμο ότι καλύτερο και ότι ωραιότερο έχουμε».

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος επέδωσε τα απολυτήρια σε όλους και τα βραβεία του ταμείου ΠΙΣΤΗ στον πρώτο μαθητή Αθανάσιο Φούντα, και στους επίσης αριστεύσαντες Γεώργιο Δούβελη και Άντζελα Μίλικ.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος παρεβρέθηκε και στις αποφοιτήσεις του ημερησίου σχολείου του Αγίου Δημητρίου στην περιοχή Τζαμείκα της Νέας Υόρκης και της Ακαδημίας του Αγίου Βασιλείου. Παρόμοιες εκδηλώσεις και απονομές πραγματοποιήθηκαν σε όλα τα σχολεία της Αρχιεπισκοπής.



ΔΗΜ. ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

ΑΠΟΦΟΙΤΟΙ του Ελληνικού Κολλεγίου με τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο και (από αριστερά) Τόμας Λέθον, π. Τριανταφύλλου, Μητροπολίτες Ντιτρόιτ Νικόλαος και Αγ. Φραγκίσκος Γεράσιμος, Λίληθ Μακράκη και Επίσκοπος Φιλομελίων Ηλίας.

Επίσκεψη Αι Gore στο Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχείο

ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΗ – Ο πρώην αντιπρόεδρος των Ηνωμένων Πολιτειών Αι Gore επισκέφθηκε στις 12 Ιουνίου τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη κ. Βαρθολομαίο στο Φανάρι, με τον οποίο είχε κατ' ιδίαν συνάντηση.

Συζητήθηκαν θέματα περιβαλλοντικού ενδιαφέροντος αλλά και θέματα που απασχολούν το Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχείο. Ο Αλ Γκόρ βρέθηκε στην Κων-

περιβάλλον – όχι μόνο δεν συμβάλει στην βιώσιμη ανάπτυξη, αλλά είναι αδικαιολόγητη αν όχι άδικη.

»Ο Παναγιώτατος έχει καταδείξει τις ηθικές διαστάσεις της περιβαλλοντικής κρίσης κι αυτό αποτελεί ένα μεγάλο δίδαγμα. Είναι μεγάλη τιμή για μένα προσωπικά να τον επισκεπτόμαι σήμερα εδώ. Μιλώντας με κοσμικούς, πολιτικούς όρους είναι και μεγάλη τιμή για



σταντινούπολη για την προώθηση μιας σειράς συναυλιών με την επωνυμία "Live Earth" που θα πραγματοποιηθούν σε όλο τον κόσμο για την ευαισθητοποίηση των πολιτών στο φαινόμενο της υπερθέρμανσης του πλανήτη.

Το ντοκιμαντέρ "An Inconvenient Truth" που βραβεύθηκε φέτος με το βραβείο Όσκαρ στηρίχθηκε στο ομώνυμο βιβλίο του Αλ Γκόρ.

Ο κ. Γκορ μιλώντας για την επίσκεψή του στο Φανάρι δήλωσε: «Είναι μεγάλη τιμή να επισκεπτόμαι τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη και φυσικά μαζί με εκατομμύρια ανθρώπους σε όλο τον κόσμο, γνωρίζω ότι είναι ο πράσινος πατριάρχης κι ότι διαδραματίζει σημαντικό ρόλο σε όλη τη χριστιανοσύνη και τον πλανήτη. Επίσης αναγνωρίζεται για την ηθική διδασκαλία και ηγεσία του στην προσπάθεια της προστασίας της ακεραιότητας της δημιουργίας του Θεού. Όπως έχει επισημάνει και ο ίδιος ο Πατριάρχης, η επιβουλή του σύγχρονου πολιτισμού – ο οποίος δεν ενδιαφέρεται για την επίδραση των πράξεων μας στο

την Τουρκία, ανάμεσα σε όλα τα ατού της να έχει και αυτό το Πατριαρχείο στην Πόλη. Αποτελεί έναν ξεχωριστό θεσμό γι' αυτή την κοσμοπολίτικη πόλη, ένα θεσμό ιδιαίτερα εντυπωσιακό».

Ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης κ. Βαρθολομαίος απαντώντας στον πρώην αντιπρόεδρο μεταξύ άλλων είπε: «Αποτελεί τιμή η επίσκεψή σας προς εμάς. Θυμάμαι τη συνάντησή μας στην Ουάσινγκτον πριν από δέκα χρόνια. Ήταν τόσο ευγενικό να παραθέσετε πρωινό προς τιμήν μου με συμμετοχή περισσότερων των 200 προσκεκλημένων και είχαμε την ευκαιρία να συζητήσουμε επί περιβαλλοντικών θεμάτων. Και τώρα έχουμε μια άλλη ευκαιρία να συνεχίσουμε τον μεταξύ μας διάλογο και να ενισχύσουμε το κοινό ενδιαφέρον μας για τον πλανήτη μας.

»Όπως σας είπα, προετοιμάζουμε το 7ο διεθνές περιβαλλοντικό συμπόσιο στη Γροιλανδία τον Σεπτέμβριο και θα είναι τιμή μας να σας έχουμε έστω και μια μέρα, την ημέρα της προσευχής που θα κάνουμε για τη σωτηρία του πλανήτη».

ΤΟ ΒΡΑΒΕΙΟ ΤΑΝΕΝΒΑΥΜ ΣΤΟΝ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟ

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ – Εξαιρετική τιμή και αναγνώριση αποτελεί το «Βραβείο Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum 2007 για την Προώθηση της Διαθρησκειακής Κατανόησης» που απονεμήθηκε στις 11 Ιουνίου στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριο από το Ίδρυμα Tanenbaum για την Διαθρησκειακή Κατανόηση.

Η απονομή του βραβείου πραγματοποιήθηκε κατά την διάρκεια του ετησίου επισήμου γεύματος του Ίδρυματος Tanenbaum στην αίθουσα Gotham Hall του Μανχάταν, παρουσία πολλών επισήμων προσκεκλημένων και υποστηρικτών του.

«Το Ίδρυμά μας, σας τιμά για την επιστημοσύνη σας, την ανθρωπιά σας και την προσφορά σας», τόνισε η ιδρυτής και πρόεδρος του Tanenbaum Center κυρία Georgette F. Benett, σύζυγος του αείμνηστου ραβίνου Marc H. Tanenbaum, η οποία παρουσίασε το βραβείο στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο και επαινεσε το πολυσχιδές έργο του το οποίο όπως είπε «αποβλέπει στη δημιουργία άθραυστης ενότητας εντός της παγκόσμιας ανθρωπίνης κοινότητας και στην επίτευξη σκοπών οι οποίοι συμπιπτουν πλήρως με την αποστολή του Tanenbaum».

Το Κέντρο Tanenbaum αποσκοπεί στην καταπολέμηση της θρησκευτικής μισαλοδοξίας και την καλλιέργεια της ανεκτικότητας και κατανόησης μεταξύ των θρησκειών.

Αναλαμβάνει πρωτοβουλίες και υλοποιεί προγράμματα σε όλο τον κόσμο για την προώθηση της ειρήνης, την εκτόνωση των εντάσεων, την κατανόηση και συνεργασία μεταξύ των διαφόρων θρησκειών ή θρησκευτικών ομάδων.



Ο ΣΕΒΑΣΜΙΩΤΑΤΟΣ Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος μιλά από του βήματος στην κατάμεστη αίθουσα Gotham Hall. ETA PRESS

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος αποδεχόμενος την τιμή εξέφρασε την ιδιαίτερη ευγνωμοσύνη του και αναφέρθηκε στη ζωτική κληρονομιά του ραβίνου Tanenbaum στο χώρο του διαθρησκειακού διαλόγου και το πολύτιμο έργο που προσφέρεται σήμερα παγκοσμίως καθώς και στους ιστορικούς δεσμούς της Ελληνορθόδοξου Εκκλησίας στην Αμερική με το ίδρυμα και τον εμπνευστή του.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος αναφέρθηκε τέλος στις ανεξίτηλες μνήμες του από τον καιρό της γερμανικής κατοχής στη Θεσσαλονίκη και περιέγραψε την μέχρι τότε αρμονική συμβίωση του χριστιανικού και εβραϊκού στοιχείου.

Με το «Βραβείο του γεφυροποιού στα Μέσα Μαζικής Ενημέρωσης 2007» τιμήθηκε στην ίδια εκδήλωση ο δημοσιογράφος, παρουσιαστής και αρχισυντά-

κτης του κεντρικού δελτίου ειδήσεων του NBC, Brian Williams.

Την κυρίως διάλεξη της εκδήλωσης παρουσίασε ο πρέσβης των Ηνωμένων Πολιτειών στον Οργανισμό Ηνωμένων Εθνών κ. Zalmay Khalilzad με θέμα τις πρόσφατες εξελίξεις στο Ιράκ και στο Αφγανιστάν.

— Σ.Π.



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COMMUNICATING THE FAITH

► page 11

had performed, the Pharisees reveal their idolization of the Jewish Law. Jesus said that he came so that those who do not see may see, and that those who think they see will realize that they are blind. "But, surely," responded the Pharisees arrogantly, "we are not blind . . . are we?"

Jesus often condemned the Pharisees and Sadducees because they were more concerned with maintaining the letter of their traditions and laws than they were with expressing love.

These Pharisees were religious leaders, well trained, educated, and respected in the community. They could discuss doctrine and were known for their spirituality and for their strict adherence to the Law.

Their blind spot, however, prevented them from adequately discerning the true nature of their religiosity. While some blind spots keep us from seeing what God is doing, other blind spots, as exemplified by these Pharisees, prevent us from seeing what we are really doing.

Rules and traditions in and of themselves are not wrong. In fact, they are useful and sacred.

They become quite dangerous, however, when they are centered in the blind spot of religious fanaticism. St. Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians is adamant about the preeminence of love. "If I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing" (I Corinthians 13:3).

In other words, the law must always bend the knee to love!

The fourth and final spiritual blind spot is fear. A review of the miracle reveals how the man's parents were blinded by this infirmity.

According to the evangelist, when the Pharisees were not pleased with answers they were receiving from the man himself, they turned their fanatical attention to his parents. However, they were unwilling to

provide a strong defense for their son "for fear of being thrown out of the synagogue" (John 9:23).

Fear is a crippling agent. It creates enormous blind spots. Fear keeps up from unleashing the liberating power of God's grace in our daily lives.

Without the fear of failure, rejection, ridicule or persecution, the witness of Christ's message would be greatly enhanced in our personal lives as well as the activities of our respective parish communities.

The Bible is clear as to the type of fear that we should have. It is the fear of the Lord, counsels King Solomon, which is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7)!

In the end, teens and adults should all be encouraged to answer the question posed by Holmes to Watson: "What do you see?" What do we see when we look through the dome of our respective tent of life?

If we have developed the rule of discernment then we will have fortunately learned to always look first through the dome of our corporate Sacramental gatherings where, having received the sacred Body and Blood of Christ, all blindness is cured.

Then and only then will we, like the blind man described in Saint John's Gospel, be able to boldly proclaim our faith in Christ and thereby live life to the fullest!

May we always have full vision of this Light . . . the True and Authentic Light of Christ, and never fall victim to the blind spots of faultfinding, skepticism, religious fanaticism, or fear.

Only in this fashion, can we hope to inoculate ourselves and our children against the dangerous blind spots associated with the Paris Hilton Syndrome!

Rev. Frank Marangos, D.Min, Ed.D., is executive director of communications of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

PARISH PROFILE

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parish until 1944. Since then, 15 priests have served the community.

The number of families increased by the early 1950s and the parish needed larger facilities. The current property near downtown Roanoke was purchased for \$9,500.

With the arrival of Fr. Joseph Vasilios in 1963, construction of the new church began in November 1964. Archbishop Iakovos consecrated the church in 1978.

In recent decades, the character of the parish has changed, with fewer immigrants and Greek restaurants than there once were. Now most parishioners work in various professions.


Fr. Constantine, a native of Chicago who served Annunciation Church in Dayton, Ohio, before coming to Roanoke, had high praise for his community. "The parishioners are very dedicated to the parish, very supportive and work well together," he said. "They have made many positive strides for the parish."

He continued, "There are no rivalries. Parishioners are so connected with each other; that whenever something is needed for the church, they're always there to support it 100 percent.

The general witnessing they do is for the benefit of the church and everybody gets behind the projects."

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Niarchos Foundation Gives \$300,000 Grant to N.H. Retreat Center

BROOKLINE—Metropolitan Methodios has announced that the Metropolis of Boston has received a \$300,000 grant from the Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation for the St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center in Contoocook, N.H. The restricted grant calls for \$200,000 to be used for the construction of a handicapped cabin for the special needs campers, and \$100,000 to underwrite the cost of the elevator in the Retreat House on the grounds of the center. The grant was made in memory of Mary A. Dracopoulos, sister of the late founder of the Foundation.

Metropolitan Methodios commented, "It is an honor for us here in New England that the Niarchos name will forever be associated with a project of the Metropolis whose singular purpose is to pass on our Faith and Cultural Heritage to the coming generations. Our purpose is to develop this center into a radiant beacon reflecting the visionary goals of Stavros Niarchos and his family."

Construction of the cabin to accommodate the campers with special needs will greatly enhance this camp program known as "Embracing the Children". Initiated several years ago, the program features specially trained counselors who offer one-to-one-teaching to the children.

"Our experience has shown that the special needs of these youngsters do not diminish their enthusiasm and thirst to learn and to enjoy all activities," the Metropolitan said. "I want to emphasize that the special needs children are not segregated from other campers during the week they are at the camp but are integrated totally to the program."

In announcing the Niarchos Foundation Grant for the Faith and Heritage Center, Metropolitan Methodios noted that the Niarchos Foundation has also offered financial support to the Philoxenia House of the Metropolis.

Two generous grants, in 2002 and 2006 of \$50,000 each, have greatly assisted the smooth operation of this philanthropic ministry. The 2006 grant enabled Metropolitan Methodios to extensively renovate the residence, which for the past 21 years has hosted thousands from Greece, Cyprus and other nations who come to Boston for treatment of very serious diseases.

The renovations include a much needed handicapped bathroom, an enlarged kitchen-dining room area, and the refurbishing of the 11 bedrooms, nine bathrooms and two living rooms.

The legacy of Stavros S. Niarchos is universally admired and respected. His commitment to education and culture was demonstrated throughout his life and it continues through his Foundation. His vision enhanced his business acumen and led to great success. By establishing the Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation, he truly created an enduring commitment to enriching the lives of others around the world.

The generous grant to the Metropolis of Boston will go a long way to ensure that the St. Methodios Faith & Heritage Center, which was established as an enduring commitment to the preservation and perpetuation of Hellenism and Orthodoxy in New England and America, will be a beacon of Orthodoxy and Hellenism for generations to come.

Testimonial Dinner Held for Fr. Calivas

BOSTON—Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology sponsored a testimonial dinner on April 17 in honor of the Rev. Dr. Alkiviadis C. Calivas years of service to the institution.

The event took place at the Cathedral Center of Annunciation Cathedral.

Fr. Calivas served as the professor of liturgics for 25 years and also served as dean and president.

Those attending included Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco; Dr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Lelon; Consul General of Greece Constantinos Orphanides; the Rev. Dr. Rodney Petersen, executive director of the Boston Theological Institute; Rev. Diane Kessler, executive director of the Mass Council of Churches; members of the board of trustees; and the deans and faculty members of HC-HC.

Also in attendance were three of Fr. Calivas' children and their spouses as well as six of his eight grandchildren. There were also a number of close friends. Fr. Nicholas Triantafyllou, president of HC-HC, served as the toastmaster.

On behalf of the institution, he presented a formal chair of the school and a crystal bowl to Fr. Calivas and Presbyteria Erasmia, respectively.

Speakers included the Rev. Tom Chininis, son-in-law of Fr. Calivas; Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald, dean of Holy Cross; Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos, professor of New Testament; and Dr. Lewis Patsavos, professor of Canon Law.

In his address to the gathering, Fr. Calivas expressed his joy and gratitude and shared the deeply rooted sentiments he felt for the community. He said he saw his years at the school as a privilege and a blessing. The evening closed with remarks from Archbishop Demetrios, who spoke



glowingly of Fr. Calivas as a priest, teacher, and administrator.

Fr. Calivas has devoted most of his priestly life to Hellenic College-Holy Cross, from which he graduated in 1956.

Responding to the call of the Church when circumstances required it, he has served the school with selfless dedication in several capacities: as dean of Holy Cross (1980-1993), chief administrator of both the college and graduate school of theology, and president of the institution.

At the same time, he taught hundreds of our clergy for 25 years as professor of liturgics.

Prior to his years of service at Hellenic College-Holy Cross, Fr. Calivas served the Archdiocese as parish priest for 20 years. His exemplary ministry as pastor of two large parishes in New York City has been widely recognized and celebrated.

With the encouragement of Archbishop Iakovos, he departed for Greece with his family in 1976 to pursue doctoral studies in liturgics at the University of Thessaloniki. Upon receipt of his doctorate two years later, he returned to the United States to begin his teaching career at Holy Cross. Fr. Calivas is well known as respected internationally as a pastor, liturgist, homilist, and theologian. He has been actively involved in academic and ecclesiastical conferences on both a national and international level. He is the author of six books as well as numerous articles and essays in the fields of theology and liturgics.

Fr. Calivas and his wife of 51 years, Erasmia, reside in Needham, Mass., and are the proud parents of three married children and grandparents of eight grandchildren.

California Parish of Holy Cross Celebrates 50 Years

BELMONT, Calif.—With music, dancing and memories galore, the Church of the Holy Cross, recently capped off its year-long 50th anniversary celebrations with a gala banquet at the Westin Hotel attended by more than 400 parishioners, Metropolis clergy and guests.

The church history was recounted by a series of talks by several generations of parishioners, starting with a moving talk by Peter Evangel on the struggles of the church founders and ending with student's appreciation for the presently available ministries and facilities.

The program continued with a performance by the Holy Cross Choir which included a moving tribute written by director Steve Cardiasmenos, and a video presentation by Nick Peros with photos, interviews with past presidents and video clips.

TV anchorwoman Vicki Liviakis and

parishioner Mark Simon served as MCs for the evening.

Metropolitan Gerasimos offered his congratulations and spoke of the importance of belonging to a church family, and Holy Cross pastor Fr. Peter Salmas discussed the biblical references to the 50th anniversary as a Jubilee year.

As part of the church's 50th anniversary, the parish received a piece of the actual Cross of Christ from the Skete of St. Anna of the monastery of Great Lavra on Mount Athos, Greece.

The Cross relic was presented to Metropolitan Gerasimos and the Holy Cross parish at a special service last September on the eve of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The Belmont parish was founded by 12 members in 1956 and has grown to more than 700 families today.

CCT Formally Launched; Stresses Evangelism, end to Poverty

PASADENA, Calif. — A consensus on the importance of evangelism and the need to eliminate domestic poverty marked the official formation of Christian Churches Together (CCT), earlier this year.

Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos represented the Archdiocese.

The CCT is composed of 36 churches and national organizations from virtually all U.S., including the Greek Orthodox Church. CCT began in 2001 out of a deeply

felt need to broaden and expand fellowship, unity, and witness among the diverse expressions of Christian faith today.

Over the past five years, with a focus on praying together and building relationships, CCT has become the broadest most inclusive fellowship of Christian churches and traditions in the USA, including Evangelical/Pentecostal, Orthodox, Catholic, historic Protestant and Racial/Ethnic churches among its participants.

Metropolis of San Francisco Selects Oratorical Festival Winners

SAN FRANCISCO—The metropolis recently held the final round for the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival on May 21 at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center.

With Metropolitan Gerasimos present, 17 participants, along with family, friends and clergy attended this event which was co-chaired by Pete Sotiras, director of Youth and Family Ministries for the metropolis, along with Yianni Kocolas of Modesto, Calif., the first place finalist in the 2002 national festival.

The two finalists advancing in the National Oratorical Festival representing the Metropolis of San Francisco are both from the parish of St. Nicholas in Northridge.

Junior Division winner is Haroula Kyriakou and the Senior Division winner was Caroline Youlios.

They will travel to Miami the weekend of June 15-17 to participate in the National Oratorical Festival with 16 other finalists from throughout the Archdiocese. The top three winners at the national competition will receive college scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

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"Who's Who in America" Honors Holy Cross Theologian

BROOKLINE, Mass.—Theologian, author and psychologist Dr. Kyriaki (Karidoyanes) FitzGerald has been selected for inclusion in the 2007 Edition of "Who's Who in America," the most trusted biographical resource for over 100 years, chronicling the lives and accomplishments of men and women in every significant field of endeavor.

A native of Brookline, Dr. FitzGerald is the daughter of Michael and Tula (Tsopeis) Karidoyanes and is married to Fr. Thomas FitzGerald, dean of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

She is a graduate of Hellenic College and received her Master of Divinity from Holy Cross School. She has also pursued graduate theological studies at the University of Thessaloniki, and received the Ph.D. degree from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of Boston University.

Enjoying a long and distinguished record of service to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, she has taught in the area of pastoral theology at Holy Cross and at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological School in Crestwood, N.Y.

She also has served as the director of education at the Worcester Pastoral Counseling Center in Worcester, Mass., where she directed the certification training program and supervised clergy and seminarians in pastoral counseling and psychotherapy. As a theologian, pastoral counselor and licensed psychologist, she is frequently called upon to lead retreats for clergy and presbyteres, and to speak at theological conferences.

A Dream Come True for Woburn Church

WOBURN, Mass.—Annunciation Church recently celebrated the official dedication of the new Religious and Cultural Center undertaken in February 2006 and was completed in November 2006. Led by Metropolitan Methodios of Boston and clergy in attendance, the ribbon-cutting and blessing of the center took place Jan. 20 followed by a grand banquet in the center. It was truly a dream come true! It is a beautiful building which will serve as an inviting venue for religious, cultural, social, educational, and artistic events. The Religious and Cultural Center is an expression of the inner life of the Annunciation parish. With 360 stewards at present, the parish has a Ladies' Philoptochos Society "Patris," chapters of GOYA, JOY, and HOPE, Sunday and Greek Schools, Bible classes in both Greek and English, and a senior group.

The new facilities have attracted a number of new families and young married couples, with more expected to join in the near future. The parishioners participate in various charitable events of social outreach, as well as in ecumenical gatherings.



"Burning of the mortgage" for an adjacent parcel of land purchased that is included in the future building plans of the Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church in Lincolnshire, IL. Pictured from left to right are: Capital Campaign Committee Members - Tom Papastefan, Nicholas Marino and Bill Athenson; Fr. James S. Gordon, Proistamenos; Metropolitan Iakovos and Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos.

Chicago area faithful gathered at the Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church in Lincolnshire, IL May 16, to celebrate the Great Vespers for the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord.

Officiating was Metropolitan Iakovos, joined by Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, Proistamenos Fr. James S. Gordon and other Chicago area clergy.

Along with the joyous celebration of

the Parish's Feast Day, there was also a presentation recognizing an important milestone of the Building Program.

The mortgage for an adjacent parcel of land that had been purchased was retired and celebrated with a "Burning of the Mortgage". Metropolitan Iakovos along with Father Jim and members of the Capital Campaign committee set the mortgage paper on fire.

S.F. Clergy Couples Wellness Retreat

SAN FRANCISCO—Twenty-seven clergy couples from throughout the Metropolis of San Francisco met May 6-8 at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, Calif. for a first-of-its-kind clergy couples' Wellness Retreat.

The retreat was offered under the auspices of the newly established Metropolis of San Francisco Family Wellness Center, which is part of the vision shared by Metropolitan Gerasimos at his enthronement in April 2005.

The mission of the Family Wellness Center also includes programming specifically designed for clergy and their families, including: continuing education for clergy, clergy marriage enrichment programs, and ministering to the children of clergy.

These programs are being designed to strengthen clergy marriages and families so they can better serve the needs of their parishes.

Before a priest can attend to the needs of his parishioners, he must first attend to the needs of his marriage.

According to the organizing committee, the retreat was a refresher course in making marriage a priority.

"As clergy are responsible for fostering loving relationships within the parish community, so must attention be directed toward nurturing healthy marriages in each and every clergy family," stated organizing committee member Presbyteria Donna Pappas who, along with her husband, Fr. James Pappas leads the Orthodox Marriage Encounter ministry. The retreat was also a time for priests and presbyteres to share needed time together as a couple.

The retreat was led by Dr. Steven Muse, Director of the Pastoral Counselor

Training Program at the Pastoral Institute in Columbus, Ga.

A psychologist and Orthodox Christian, Dr. Muse is also a specialist in ministering to clergy in crisis.

Theme of Dr. Muse's presentation was "Marriage as a Spiritual Path: a Way in the World." He presented marriage as a way of encountering Christ, a vehicle of salvation, and a protection against the evils and temptations we face in the world.

Presentation topics included "Eucharist: A Marriage of Heaven and Earth," clergy in crisis, clergy burnout and prevention, divorce trends and cautions, addiction, sleep deprivation and other challenges and opportunities of being a married couple and servants of Christ.

Dr. Muse also led couples in challenging and thought-provoking exercises that included teaching couples about listening, promoting intimacy, and relating joy to meeting the world's needs. There was even an activity that taught couples how to argue in ways that build up marriage rather than those that tend to tear it down.

Metropolitan Gerasimos was in attendance at this retreat, spending time in fellowship and engaging his clergy in conversations on issues that clergy families face today. The retreat was organized by Fr. Demetrios Earl Cantos, chancellor of the Metropolis; Fr. James and Presbyteria Donna Pappas, St. George, Fresno, Calif.; Fr. Theodore Dorrance, St. John the Baptist, Beaverton, Oregon; Fr. John Hondros, St. John the Baptist, Las Vegas; Presbyteria Eleftheria Dogias, Sts. Constantine and Helen, Honolulu; and Presbyteria Pat Tsagalakis, Holy Apostles, Shoreline, Wash.

Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp to Build Chapel

The Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp has announced that it has completed initial plans to build a permanent Greek Orthodox chapel on its grounds in Rose City, Mich.

With the blessing of Metropolitan Nicholas, the camp board of trustees worked with church architect Constantine George Pappas to design a chapel that will serve the summer camp and other Metropolis organizations for years to come.

The designs, and information about the proposed chapel, can be viewed on the camp's website at www.detroit.goarch.org/mdsc.

To raise the funds necessary to complete the project and other camp building improvements, the camp will be hosting an auction "For the Love of Camp" on Saturday, Oct. 6 at St. Nicholas Church in Troy, Mich. Gift donation forms can also be found on the camp's website for interested benefactors and all of the camp's alumni and friends are invited to attend this worthy event.

The Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp has been running continuously since 1952, and welcomes more than 350 campers and 100 staff from parishes in Michigan and Ohio over the six-week period that it operates each summer.

Byzantine Chant Institute at St. Nicholas Ranch

DUNLAP, Calif. — The St. John Koukouzelis Institute for Liturgical Arts presented an intensive week-long workshop in Byzantine Chant and Liturgy at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center April 22-28. Instruction in Byzantine Music, both in the original Greek and in English translation, was directed by John Michael Boyer, protopsaltis of the Metropolis.

Also teaching were Stelios Kontakiotis, protopsaltis and music director of St. Sophia Cathedral in Washington, and Constantine Kokenes, Byzantine music instructor for the Metropolis of Atlanta and Lambadarios (Left Cantor) of Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta.

This year's special honored guest was one of the world's leading scholars in Byzantine Musicology, Dr. Alexander Lingas, a lecturer at City University in London and artistic director of the world-renowned vocal ensemble Cappella Romana. He will be speaking on the history and meaning of liturgy, music's function in liturgy, and the role of Church musicians.

Students of all levels of experience were immersed in Byzantine Music and in the liturgical life of the Church.

The daily program included instruction sessions on both music and liturgy, chapel services, and a lecture each evening by Dr. Lingas.

Set in the rolling hills of California's Central Valley near Yosemite National Park, St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center is home to the Monastery of the Life-Giving Spring (Zoodochos Pigi) www.stnicholasranch.org.

Focusing on the artistic elements of the Orthodox Liturgy, the Koukouzelis Institute was founded to provide the faithful of the Metropolis of San Francisco with the tools to cultivate full and strong liturgical programs in parish life.

In Memoriam

Fr. Emmanuel Papageorge

Fr. Emmanuel Papageorge, 96, a retired priest who had served the Church in America nearly 60 years, died April 12 after a brief illness.

He was born in Vasiliana, a small village near Chania, Crete, in 1910; Fr. Emmanuel was one of three children of George and Diamando Papageorgakis. Having attended grammar school and high school, Fr. Emmanuel entered the military academy where he was commissioned and served as a lieutenant in the Greek Army from 1930-32.

Upon his honorable discharge from military service, he entered theological school.

In 1935, he was married to the late Terpsichore Kalogerakis.

On Dec. 20, 1936, Fr. Emmanuel was ordained to the priesthood at the Church of St. Haralambos in Irakleion, Crete.

In 1938, he accepted the invitation of the late Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras to serve the Greek Orthodox faithful in America. He would serve Assumption Church in Bayard, Neb. (1938-45), where he became an American citizen April 12, 1945; St. Nicholas Church in Youngstown, Ohio (1945-1948), Annunciation Church in Modesto, Calif. (1948-1963) and Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Vallejo, Calif. (1963-1975).

In 1942, Fr. Emmanuel was distinguished with the title of "Father Confessor" by the late Patriarch.

After the passing of his beloved Presbytera, he was elevated to the rank of "Archimandrite" by the late Bishop Meletios.

In 1978, he was honored with the title "Pastor Emeritus" of Annunciation Church in Modesto by Metropolitan Anthony of San Francisco.

At the 60th anniversary of Annunciation Church in October 1990, Fr. Jon Magoulas and the parish dedicated the cultural center to honor the name of the Very Rev. Emmanuel Papageorge.

On Nov. 17, 1996, Fr. Emmanuel participated in the ordination of his grandson, Christopher Flesoras to the diaconate at Annunciation Church.

On Feb. 2, 1997, Fr. Emmanuel again served at the ordination of Dn. Christopher to the priesthood at Holy Cross Church in Belmont, Calif.

Fr. Emmanuel is survived by his children: Mary Biskinis and her husband, Tony, of Santa Maria, Calif.; Angie Flesoras and her husband, Dean, of Modesto, Calif.; George Papageorge and his wife, Barbara, of Nipomo, Calif.; Diane Eckels and her husband, Del, of Livermore, Calif.; his grandson Nicholas Papageorge of Los Angeles, his grandson Fr. Christopher Flesoras and his wife, Presbytera Krissy of Roseville, Calif., and; his great-grandson, Constantine James Flesoras of Roseville, Calif.

Margarite Chafos

Margarita (Nicolopoulos) Chafos, 95, of Rochester, Minn., died peacefully at her residence on April 30, 2007. She was the beloved wife of the late Andrew K. Chafos who died in 1974.

Born Jan. 15, 1912, in Patras, Greece she was married in Patras on Feb. 14, 1931 and moved to Rochester with her husband, who had established the Boston Shoe Repair there in 1921. She was the last surviving founding member of Sts. Anagyroi Church and the local chapters of the Philoptochos and Daughters of Penelope.

Survivors include three daughters, Kal

(Spyros) Stanley of Charleston, W.Va.; Nikki (Rev. Dr. Robert Stephanopoulos, Dean of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, New York City) and Andi Chafos-Pathoulas, with whom she lived in Rochester: two sons, Gus (Kathy) Chafos and Pete and (Angie) Chafos of Rochester.

Also, 14 grandchildren: Zoλ (Stanley) Bassos, Bluffton, S.C.; Louie, Andrew, Margarite and Constantine Stanley; Charleston, W.Va.; Mother Agapia (Stephanopoulos), Presentation Convent, Australia; George (Alexandra) Stephanopoulos, Washington, D.C.; Marguarite Stephanopoulos, New York City, Andrew Stephanopoulos, Beverly Hills, Calif.; Tom Pathoulas and Kula (Tom) Shives of Rochester: Lt. Col. Timothy A. Chafos (Cheryl) Fort Meade, Md.; Matthew Chafos, Owatonna, Minn., and Sam Chafos, Minneapolis, Minn.; sixteen great-grandchildren: Christi and Stephanie Bassos, Chicago; T. Conner and Ariana Shives; Rochester; James, Nick, Joe and Chris Pathoulas, Mantorville, Minn.; Andrew and Zachery Chafos; Fort Meade, Md.; Elias Stanley, Dimitrios Gosser, Kalin and Karson Stanley, Charleston, W.Va., and Elliott Anastasia and Harper Andrea Stephanopoulos, Washington, D.C.

She is also survived by four brothers and sisters, Vilimini, Marina, John and Michael and several nieces and nephews in Greece.

The funeral service was held May 4 at Sts. Anagyroi Church with Frs. Nicholas Kasemeotes and Robert Stephanopoulos co-officiating and interment was in Oakwood Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the Philoxenia House or Saints Anagyroi Building Fund at 703 West Center Street, Rochester, MN 55902.

Katherine Pappas



Katherine Pappas, honorary past president of the National Philoptochos Society passed away on May 12.

Under her leadership, from 1974-82, as the fourth president of the National Philoptochos, the philanthropic auxiliary of the Archdiocese, the organization flourished and expanded its philanthropic endeavors.

Archbishop Demetrios, in offering his condolences upon hearing of the passing of Katherine Pappas said: "As we bid farewell to this beautiful woman of grace and kindness, we recall her dedicated service to her family, her Church, to those in need, and to the vision and purpose of the Philoptochos Society. We pray for the repose of her soul and memory eternal."

The Archbishop presided at the funeral service of Mrs. Pappas on Thursday, May 17 at Annunciation Cathedral, Boston

During Mrs. Pappas' tenure, Philoptochos celebrated its 50 Year Anniversary, expanded its support of Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, MA, and made great strides in the philanthropic endeavors of the National Philoptochos ministries. The organization embraced the entire world by giving support to countries devastated by earthquakes and other natural disasters; by joining the United Nations year-long celebration for the "Year of the Child" and by reaching a new level of giving in 1976-1978 by contributing an estimated one million dollars to various worthy causes.

Mrs. Pappas received numerous honors including being named Alpha Omega's

First Woman of the Year where she was recognized for her contributions to the Greek Orthodox Church and the National Philoptochos, and was also recognized by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, Metropolitan of the Metropolis of Boston with the Metropolis Service Award in 2005.

In a statement on the passing of Mrs. Pappas, National President Georgia Skeadas said, "As President of the National Philoptochos Society, Mrs. Pappas had been an inspiration to each and every Philoptochos member. She had offered an inestimable life of unparalleled service to her family, her Church, and the community at large.

"Under the leadership of Mrs. Pappas, a true visionary, the Philoptochos Society not only continued and expanded its philanthropic outreach, but embarked on several innovative programs designed

to make the Society a vehicle for all Greek Orthodox women to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

"His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory, had appointed Mrs. Pappas as National President from 1974-1982, had stated, "The Philoptochos Society's outreach in the areas of philanthropy and social and moral concerns in the local community, our Archdiocese, across the nation and in Greece and other parts of the world has been successful, perhaps even indescribable.

"Most importantly, it bears the seal of the sensitivity and refinement that is the hallmark of your loving soul as a Greek Orthodox Churchwoman." Mrs. Pappas had served with a loving spirit and a passion for excellence, along with a deep commitment and devotion to the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. May her memory be eternal."

MISSION NEWS



THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT: OCMC Agape Canisters Raise \$2 Million for the Church Abroad

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla.—The clink, clink of pocket change deposited into those, never quite full enough, Plexiglas containers that stare up from the counter of fast food restaurant or convenience stores is a sound familiar to many.

For nearly 20-years the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) has been collecting money with its own version of these anonymous donation receptacles, the Agape Canister.

Ever wonder where that, good-deed-of-the-day, money actually ends up? Does the handful of silvers that we find at the bottom of a purse or amidst balls of pocket lint really feed the hungry, educate the poor, or heal the sick?

Ray Bradbury in a 1952 short story shared the idea that one butterfly could have a far-reaching ripple effect on subsequent events. This idea was explored by theorist Edward Lorenz who, in a 1963 paper for the New York Academy of Sciences, coined the term "butterfly effect."

Mr. Lorenz's theory stated that the flapping of a butterfly's wings in Brazil creates a disturbance that could ultimately cause a tornado in Texas.

Though the metrological validity of Mr. Lorenz's theory is unknown, when applied to pocket change, it reveals some very profound truths.

In businesses from Santa Barbara, Calif., to Bangor, Maine, the OCMC has been distributing Agape canisters throughout the United States.

These canisters accumulate change that, when collected by volunteers known as Agape Partners, fund Church projects that complement the ministries of missionaries and mission priests in some of our world's most impoverished countries.

Moved by the needs of children abroad, and feeling a strong desire to be involved in Orthodox missions, Alex Haimanis started OCMC's Agape Canister Program with the blessing of former Mission Center executive director, Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos.

As of January Agape canisters had

collected more than \$2 million in change since that first canister was displayed in 1988.

Over the years, Agape Canister donations have supported projects from clinics in Kenya to a feeding program in India.

In 2006 alone, grants awarded from Agape Canister collections helped hundreds of children in Africa afford schooling. Donations in 2006 to Agape Canisters also facilitated the continued operation of substance abuse programs in Romania and Alaska, a soup kitchen in Albania, and an orphanage in Indonesia.

This year Agape Canister monies will continue to fund scholarships for African children. Support will also continue for the aforementioned substance abuse programs, the soup kitchen and the orphanage. Additionally, however, a nursing home in Madagascar will be fully furnished and supplied as well.

With enough Agape Canisters placed in businesses throughout America, the winds of Orthodoxy can continue to blow across the face of the earth.

In this torrent - the divine breath of God, more schools can be built, more mouths can be fed, and more lives can be saved.

For it is with that same breath that God breathed physical life into His creation, and it was through the last breath that escaped the lips of His Son, on the cross, that we were given life eternal.

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) is the official international mission agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), commissioned to proclaim the fullness of the Christian faith to all nations by establishing and nurturing vibrant, Eucharistic Orthodox Christian communities worldwide. If you would like more information about OCMC's Agape Canister Program or about becoming an Agape Partner, please contact Kenneth Kidd at 1-877-463-6784 or by e-mail at agape@ocmc.org



The primary lesson for life must be implanted in the soul from the earliest age. The primary lesson for children is to know the eternal God, the One who gives everlasting life.

—St. Clement

The birth of a baby is an exciting time! Everyone rejoices when a new life enters the world. There is much to be concerned with as new parents. You now have a life that is totally dependent on you for everything, and you want to do what's best for your little one.

by Melissa K. Tsongranis

In pursuit of this, you have read all the books about feeding, sleeping, and developing. You've done your research, but there is one thing missing from the mainstream "how to be a parent" book—how to help your newborn grow as a child of God.

At no other time in your child's life will more growth and development occur than between birth to age three. Even when you think nothing is happening, your baby's body is doing all sorts of wonderful things that are laying the foundation for his or her future.

In your little one's brain there are hundreds of thousands of pathways making connections that will help them walk, talk, and even to have a temper tantrum. With all of this critical physical and psychological growth occurring, it is vital that your baby's spiritual development be nurtured as well.

As Orthodox Christians, our concern with our child's spiritual development should be just as important to us as giving them love, protection, and nourishment. If we really think about what it means to be a Christian, we understand that our time in this world is relatively brief and the purpose of our life here is to prepare ourselves for everlasting life with God.

In his book *Baptism and Chrismation*, Fr. Peter Chamberas writes, "It is truly a noble task to nurture our children to become citizens of heaven."

Raising your child to be a citizen of heaven is more than just teaching him or her to be kind.

Rather, it is about helping them to experience the love of God so deeply that it shines brightly to all those around them. It is not just about going to church on Sunday; instead it is about bringing the church home with us and "being" the church in the world.

We know you're exhausted—those 3 a.m. feedings can be brutal! But just as your child needs this physical nourishment from you, your little one is also counting on you for their spiritual nourishment. But where do you start? Here are a few suggestions to get you going; take it one step at a time. The rewards will be eternal!

Start with Yourself

If your heart overflows with faith and love for God, you will find a thousand and two ways to pass on these feelings to your child.

On the Upbringing of Children
by Bishop Irenaeus

The greatest way to help your child fall in love with God is to love Him yourself. This is how children learn everything—from watching those closest to them.

So turn your heart towards God and let Him permeate throughout all that you do. Live your life in a constant awareness that you are a Christian and that your life is to be centered on Christ.

For the Orthodox Family...

Beginning with God

For guidance, talk to your priest or spiritual father about how you can follow the Lord each day of your life.

Pray, Pray, and Pray More

If we pray, and learn little by little to live in the spirit of prayer, we create an atmosphere in which children taste prayer and God's presence. If we dwell in this spirit, even without words, even before children can speak, they can acquire a natural taste for prayer, and the desire to know God.

Children in the Church Today
by Sister Magdalen

Your child is never too young for you to pray with them. As a matter of fact, the younger you begin to pray with your children, the more prayer will become a part of their being. Hold your little one close in your arms each night, stand before an icon and pray to Your Heavenly Father.

Chant familiar hymns from the church to help your child get acclimated to their sounds. Don't worry about your voice—everyone has a beautiful voice when singing praise to God, and your baby loves your voice because it is yours.

As you lay your child down, make the sign of the cross over them and ask the angels to protect them as they sleep. But don't stop there. Pray for, and with your child throughout the day during the simplest of tasks—bathing them, feeding them, and especially when consoling them when they're fussy. Constantly turning to God in prayer will give you the focus you need to raise your child up to God.

Go to Church

...Liturgical living is a vital, vivid, vivifying reality. It is exciting and moving. It is important; one of the most important aspects of what it means to be a Christian... It is in the Divine Liturgy that we find the

reality of our union with Christ and one another as the Church of God.

Living the Liturgy
by Fr. Stanley Harakas

Oftentimes people think babies are too young to understand what is going on in church. But in actuality, participation in the divine services and sacraments of the church at a very young age lays the foundation for future worship. The youngest members are familiarizing themselves to the beautiful experience that is Orthodox worship. They are smelling the incense, seeing the candles, hearing the hymns, tasting communion, and touching the icons.

As your child grows, involve them in the Liturgy. Point out icons, teach hymns, and allow them to learn through worshiping with you every Sunday at the Divine Liturgy and other services of the Church.

But what if they start to cry and fuss in church? This is perfectly natural and likely will happen at some point. When this happens, remember this: the majority of people in church have children—grown or otherwise—and have all been in your shoes.

Then take a deep breath, and ask God to guide you to focus on helping your child during this challenge. In church, surround yourself with relatives, friends, and other parents that can support you when things get difficult.

Strength in Numbers

Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.

Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered

by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 NKJ

Parenting is the hardest job in the world and, unfortunately, in today's society we have greatly isolated parents from one another. There is great benefit from gathering together with other parents to share joys, frustrations, and sorrows.

Some churches have groups that allow parents to come together. Oftentimes these are mothers' groups—but I would challenge you to not forget about fathers.

Their role is critical and they need support also. If your parish doesn't have a group, consider starting one.

It doesn't need to be a major effort. Just meet at the church and ask the priest to join you for prayer. Connecting with other parents with similar beliefs will give you the assistance you need for the amazing, yet challenging task of parenting.

Give it to God

Finally, we must remember that our children are gifts from God. They have been entrusted to us for a short amount of time. We need to offer them back to God and remember that it is not our will in their life but His.

We need to keep them close to Him by keeping them active in the sacramental life of the church. As Sophie Koulomzin writes in her book *Our Church and Our Children*, "Over and above all we have mentioned in speaking of religious growth in infancy, there remains the holy and mysterious action of the holy grace of God that touches it.

No one can measure or evaluate precisely the effects of the sacraments which our Church gives to young babies.

In faith and awe we can only make sure that these channels of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are kept open in the life of our children."

Melissa Tsongranis is the Resource Coordinator for the Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. She has worked extensively with very young children and their families for the past 14 years. She can be reached at mtsongranis@goarch.org

Prayer for Parents

*O Lord,
Heavenly Father,
You have blessed us with the gift of family and have entrusted us with their spiritual upbringing.*

You commanded that we should teach our children about You in our lives: when we sit in our house, when we walk by the way, when we lie down and when we rise.

Guide us O Lord every moment of the day as we work toward this awesome task.

Let the words of Christ dwell in us, so that we may teach and guide our family, through our words and deeds, to the saving knowledge of Your everlasting kingdom.

Help us, O Lord, be compassionate, kind, and patient throughout our days.

If one of us has a complaint against another, help us to forgive each other; as You have forgiven us. Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. Above all, help us to remember to put on love which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

We thank You, Lord, for the many blessings and mercies You continually bestow on us.

*In everything we do, in word or deed, may we always do so in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through His Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES: Summer Reading for Parents

Walking in Wonder
by Elizabeth White;
Published by Conciliar Press
(www.conciliarpress.com)

Our Church and Our Children
by Sophie Koulomzin;
Published by

St. Vladimir's Seminary Press
(www.svspress.com)

Children in the Church Today
by Sister Magdalen;
Published by
St. Vladimir's Seminary Press.
(www.svspress.com)

FAMILY ACTIVITY CORNER: Our Spiritual Memory Book

Spiritual growth is a family affair. Everyday experiences in an Orthodox family will include baptisms and other church functions. Keep a scrapbook to preserve these memories.

Include photos of family members receiving the sacraments (obtain permission from your priest first), your child's drawings, their comments or stories, their Sunday School class—anything you want.

Let everyone contribute something; a toddler can scribble with a crayon. Beautiful, commercially made memory albums can be purchased; however, I have found in my work with children that a loose-leaf notebook with pages slipped into clear sheet protectors is less destructible.

These are available in office supply and craft stores.

If you are including photos that you do not want little demolition hands to mutilate, be sure to have duplicates, and use acid-free mounting paper and sheet protectors.

And remember, these memory books are meant to be looked at and handled, not stored away in a box.

Taken from
Walking in Wonder
by Elizabeth White

The Voice of Philoptochos

National Board Convenes Spring Meeting

CHICAGO—The National Philoptochos Board held its spring meeting on April 20-21.

Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, spiritual advisor opened each session with prayer and spiritual reflection.

National President Georgia Skeadas reported that Philoptochos has evolved to respond to contemporary society and as an organization it reflects the "Power of Philanthropy."

She stated that, "our good works as a Philanthropic entity demonstrate to all people the way of love and giving, of justice and respect for life, and the dignity of each individual that we assist."

President Skeadas discussed two initiatives targeting services for the aging, the 75th Anniversary Founders Fund that honors the past members of the organization on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Philoptochos and a special \$10,000 award to each Metropolis for the immediate physical needs of the elderly.

Treasurer Aphrodite Skeadas announced that, as of March 2007, the

following three chapters were the top contributing chapters to the St. Basil Academy Vasilopita: Annunciation Cathedral, Houston, \$11,328; Holy Trinity, Dallas, \$8,900; and Prophet Elias of Halladay, Utah, \$5,740.

The National Board disbursed a total of \$165,500 to its following ministries: Hellenic College/Holy Cross—\$116,500; Orthodox Christian Mission Center—\$25,000; Saint Photios Shrine—\$20,000; Sisterhood of Saint Basil for the 2007 Graduates—\$1500; Cancer Fund—\$2,500. In calendar year 2006, the National Philoptochos distributed \$1,395,290.

The San Francisco Metropolis Philoptochos, hosts of the Eleventh Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, encouraged all members to support the Luncheon on Saturday, November 10, 2007 at the Fairmont Hotel in Newport Beach, California. General Chairman is Valerie Roumeliotis, Metropolis President, Co-Chairmen Patty Chacopoulos, Kathy Gabriel, Marina Kookootsedes, Joan Pohas and Jeannie Ranglas.

Paula Kappos, founder of the Zoe for Life, presented information on this organization that helps Orthodox women who need emotional and spiritual support during crisis pregnancies.

Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, chancellor of the Metropolis of Chicago, addressed the National Board regarding the Bishops Task Force on AIDS that was created in the Metropolis of Chicago in 1992 in which all the Philoptochos chapters participate to assist those who have become affected by HIV/AIDS.

The national standing and special committees engaged in interactive forums to address the mission statements and to finalize action plans, goals and timelines.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate Committee announced the First National Philoptochos Pilgrimage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate will take place Oct. 5-11, with an optional tour to Cappadocia available Oct. 11-14.

Those interested may contact the National Philoptochos office at philosny@aol.com

Pittsburgh Metropolis Holds Annual Daffodil Luncheon in Ohio

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio—The Metropolis of Pittsburgh's annual Daffodil Luncheon was held March 10, at the Youngstown Club. This year's event was co-sponsored by the Philoptochos chapters of St. John Church and St. Nicholas Church in Youngstown; St. Demetrios in Warren, and Archangel Michael in Campbell, Ohio. Irene Costakis and Maria Chimbdis were co-chaired the most successful Daffodil Luncheon to date, raising \$12,713 for the Special Care Fund of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh and \$4,237 for the Rich Center for Autism in Youngstown, Ohio. The Metropolis Special Care Fund is used to help patients who come from Greece for medical treatment at hospitals in the Metropolis.



11th National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon

The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos will host the 11th Children's Medical Fund Luncheon Saturday, Nov. 10 at the Fairmont Newport Beach in Newport Beach, Calif.

National Philoptochos President Georgia Skeadas, along with Luncheon General Chairman Valerie Roumeliotis, Metropolis Philoptochos President and Co-Chairmen Patty Chacopoulos, Kathy Gabriel, Marina Kookootsedes and Jeannie Ranglas invite all Philoptochos chapters, friends and family to plan to attend this important luncheon that benefits the

Children's Medical Fund.

A full weekend of festivities is planned including: **Friday, Nov. 9**—Evening Reception and Extravaganza; **Saturday, Nov. 10**—Eleventh Children's Medical Fund Luncheon; **Sunday, Nov. 11**—Hierarchical Divine Liturgy officiated by Archbishop Demetrios; **Sunday, Nov. 11**—Luncheon honoring Archbishop Demetrios

Since its inception in 1989, funds raised for the Children's Medical Fund from this benefit luncheon have exceeded \$1.3 million.

The Children's Medical Fund provides

medical assistance to critically ill children whose families are unable to afford appropriate and necessary treatment.

The Fund also provides financial support for innovative research programs to pediatric hospitals throughout the United States and most recently expanded beyond the U.S. by establishing a children's medical clinic in Wolizo, Ethiopia, where responding to the HIV/AIDS crisis and other medical needs of Orthodox children is of the highest priority. For information contact the National Philoptochos Office at philosny@aol.com.

National Philoptochos Commitments

One of the commitments supported by the National Philoptochos during May/June is the 75th Anniversary Founders Fund. The National Philoptochos Commitments are adopted by chapter delegates at the National Philoptochos Biennial Conventions and approved by Archbishop Demetrios. Each local Chapter supports these commitments through various fundraising activities.

The 75th Anniversary Founders Fund is a new commitment approved at the 2006 Biennial Convention. Funds collected will be restricted to provide financial support to existing continuing care facilities serving the aging Greek Orthodox population in the United States and for the establishment of similar facilities.

The establishment of this fund is in accordance with the Philoptochos Mis-

sion to aid the poor, the sick, and the elderly.

The elderly population is rapidly increasing in the United States, and the need for facilities is growing. The Philoptochos recognized the need and established this fund upon its 75th anniversary to honor and support our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.

Joyful Light Benefit

ROCKY RIVER, Ohio—The Joyful Light Benefit, established by the St. Demetrios Chapter of Rocky River to raise funds for local charities, held its inaugural event on April 22, to honor 16-year old parishioner Steven Giallourakis who was diagnosed a year ago with osteosarcoma.

The event to date has raised more than \$17,000 for The Steven Giallourakis Adolescent/Young Adult Research Fund created at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital of the University Hospitals of Cleveland to establish a full-time research fellow position in Cleveland to study and improve outcomes for adolescents and young adults ages 15-29 with cancer.

This age group is the only group that has not experienced a significant increase in survival rates since 1975.

Ohio Chapter Raises Over \$17,000 for Adolescent Cancer Research

Barbara Pasalis and Crystal Thomas, members of the National Philoptochos Board, co-chaired the event that included Dr. John Letterio, chief of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology of Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, who offered remarks on the challenges of diagnosis and treatment that are unique to adolescents and young adults with cancer.

Georgia Skeadas, National Philoptochos president, was the keynote speaker.

Mrs. Skeadas presented a review of the National Philoptochos Society's commitments and initiatives during the past five years that includes the disbursement of over \$5.3 million to its many worthy national and international commitments and charities.

President Skeadas presented a donation of \$2500.00 on behalf of the National Philoptochos Society for the Steven Giallourakis AYA Cancer Research Fund.

National Philoptochos Plans Pilgrimage to Ecumenical Patriarchate

The first National Philoptochos Board Pilgrimage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate will occur October 5-11 with an optional tour to Cappadocia available from October 11-14, 2007. Those interested in joining the National Board on this historic Pilgrimage may contact the National Philoptochos Office at philosny@aol.com.

Challenge

YOUTH MINISTRY

e-mail: youthoffice@goarch.org

What's Up WITH the Father's Son?

There were two brothers, and one did everything right. He aced his PSAT's, took college prep, was male cheerleader and captain of the football team, went off to college until he returned home and prepared to take over the family business. His younger brother took a different path; yes, that path: drugs, parties, stayed out, never graduated. In a few short years he had realized his full potential - homeless, on the streets, his health broken.

by Dr. Timothy Patitsas

One day the bad brother was lying in the gutter, when a well-dressed lady walked by. "Spare a dollar, lady!" Startled, she just kicked a rotten apple at him, and disappeared in the rush. As the apple hit him, he thought, "Here I am, getting what I deserve at last. This rotten apple is the fruit of all my sin."

His mom had died when he was very little, before he had a chance to know her. But he thought of his dad, all those years running the family business, keeping his factory going to support so many families. His dad had been so mild and forgiving, he had even given his bad son a fair share of the family's money when he asked - a share the son had blown through in six months of hard Vegas living.

The bad son lay there in the street, and he wept to think of the goodness of his dad. "I'll never be one percent the man my father was. He always did the right thing, no matter the cost." And with that, the bad son got up and started walking and hitch-

ing, all the way from New York to Amarillo, where his dad and brother still lived. "I am just going to ask for a minimum wage job in his warehouse, that's all."

But when his dad saw him across the company parking lot, he ran to get him. Seeing how tired and sick and smelly his son was, he called an ambulance. "Your son has ruined his kidneys drinking." "Take one of mine," the dad said.

The older brother was off in Europe on a business trip for the family company. When he heard what was happening back home, he started wrapping things up, and in a week was home.

He found celebration and parties; his dad had one less kidney but was glowingly happy because the youngest son was back from the dead.

He was disgusted. "I've practically killed myself doing good, and yet Dad gives his own kidney to this degenerate." He packed a few things in a case, threw

them in the back of his old pickup, and started to head for the mountains to clear his head. But his dad called his cell phone before he even got on the highway. "Son, come back."

"Why, Dad? I've slaved for you all these years, and you never even gave me a decent party. But for this son of yours... you even risk your very life."

"You are my son, too, and I love you very much. But your brother was dead, and is now alive, and we've got to rejoice."

You may recognize this as the story of the prodigal son - a good brother, a bad brother, and a loving, forgiving dad. It's a surprising story, because the brother who does everything right winds up as the villain, while the brother who does everything wrong ends in the loving embrace of his father. (See Luke 15:11-32 to read the original story of the Prodigal Son, told by Jesus.)

You might ask, "Does this mean it's okay to take the wrong path? My parents and my teachers are all telling me to be like the good brother. Does God think otherwise?"

It's hard to understand the story, until we remember another Son, one who left His Father's riches behind, and came to live among prostitutes and sinners. That Son is Jesus Christ, and He took the prodigal road in order to rescue all of us, whether good or bad (we all need Him just the same), by coming into our world.

That's the Son, the one who was perfect but ate with sinners, who is telling the story itself. And so the point of the story might not be only the good brother, or the bad brother, but the Son's Father: God.

The father in the story is the person we've got to be like: patient, brave, dignified, loving, forgiving, generous, responsible, and long-suffering. As we struggle to find the balance between outward virtue (like the older brother) and a gentle heart (like the younger one), we eventually learn how to be like the good father, reflecting the image of our heavenly Father, God.

Dr. Patitsas is professor at Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

LESSONS FROM SPIDER-MAN 3

"VENGEANCE IS LIKE A POISON THAT CAN TAKE YOU OVER AND TURN YOU INTO SOMETHING UGLY," says Aunt Mae in the third installment of the Spiderman series. The futility of vengeance, the harm of pride, along with the rewards of forgiveness, are all themes that echo through this feature film now in theatres.

During the first two movies of the Spider-Man series, we discovered Peter's initial hesitation and doubt about his ability and calling as Spider-Man.

After struggling with the responsibility implied by this calling, he finally responded by living up to the call: "For me, the choice to lead an ordinary life is no longer an option." Along with him, we realized that his calling also meant making sacrifices - even to the point of sacrificing himself - in order to fully live out his potential. Now, in this third movie, we see Spider-Man grappling with his own extraordinary power - will he use it to serve himself and his own prideful ego - or will he use it to serve others?

Just like Peter Parker, each of us has that extraordinary potential inside of us, a power that is God-given and meant to be used to serve others. For most of us, this power does not involve flying around or scaling New York City buildings.

One person's power might be their ability to influence people (positively or negatively); for another person, it might be the ability to understand and solve complex problems. The question is, are we using our power - our potential - to serve ourselves, or to serve others?

Here are some things to think about as you see Spider-Man 3 for the first, second, or even tenth time:

CALLING: Peter is an average guy who is following a calling to something above-average, something great. We also are called to be great - we are called to be saints. We are children of God, made in His image, for whom He died and rose from the dead. Therefore, scripture tells



SIN AND THE "GREAT BATTLE: "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle." These are the words of the 1st century philosopher Philo of Alexandria. A battle between good and evil raged within Peter Parker, as it rages within us.

The evil that infected Peter Parker started taking root, changing him from the inside out. Sin is the same way: when we let it infect us, it changes us and we have a hard time doing the right thing. Is there any pattern of sin emerging in our lives? Is there a damaging habit that has taken hold of us? Read Romans 7:17-19 to hear St. Paul's words about his own battle.

REPENTANCE, FORGIVENESS, AND RESPONSIBILITY: To get rid of the infection of evil, Peter had to literally rip away the black ooze from his body.

He had to come to terms with his uncle's killer (the source of the vengeance) and take responsibility for the damage his ego and self-serving use of power had caused.

In our own lives, getting rid of the evil and the self-serving tendencies of our ego requires repentance.

Repentance simply means doing a 180-degree turn away from sin. It requires forgiving those who have hurt us, and it means taking responsibility for our thoughts, words, and actions. In what areas of our lives do we struggle with forgiveness? Have we taken responsibility for the sin in our lives? Are we truly trying to repent and change with God's help, or are our efforts insincere?

Ultimately, since each of us has the calling from God - the calling to be holy - within us, we also have the power to make choices to move us toward that goal. In that battle raging inside - and outside - our hearts, the choice is always ours.

In the words of Peter Parker himself: "Whatever comes our way, whatever battle is raging inside us, we always have a choice. It's the choices that make us what we are, and we can always choose to do the right thing."

us that we are to lead lives worthy of this great calling (Ephesians 4:1). Have we thought about this high calling and what it implies about our lives?

PRIDE: Peter's pride about his power, along with his desire for vengeance, causes him to start serving himself instead of truly serving others. This severely damages his relationship with those closest to him. Are there ever times in our own lives when pride, ego, or the desire to have things OUR way, cause us to only serve ourselves while ignoring and hurting others?



PARENTS and YOUTH Workers Corner

Orders are now being taken for the 2007-2008 Ecclesiastical Planner! To place an order, call the Department of Religious Education at 800-566-1088 or go to www.orthodoxmarketplace.com.

Subscribe to our weekly listserv called The Pulse, containing information and resources for youth workers, parents, clergy, and volunteers. Visit <http://youth.goarch.org> to subscribe or to access archives.

Mark your calendars! The annual Young Adult Retreat will be taking place September 14-16, 2007 at Hellenic College/Holy Cross in Brookline, MA. Details will soon be posted on our website.

The national young adult pilgrimage to Florence, Ravenna, and Constantinople will be happening Nov. 2-10, 2007. It's open to young adults ages 18-35. Check our website <http://youth.goarch.org> for more details.

Challenge is the Youth & Young Adult Ministries supplement to the Orthodox Observer.

Articles reflect the opinion of the writers. Write to: Youth & Young Adult Ministries, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, 83 St. Basil Rd., Garrison, New York 10524 or email: youthoffice@goarch.org

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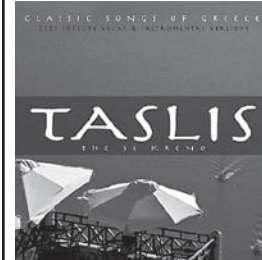
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NJ METROPOLIS Holds 38th Annual GOYA Olympics

KENILWORTH, N.J. – The 2007 GOYA Olympics of the Metropolis of New Jersey were held Memorial Day Weekend in Elizabeth, N.J., with participating athletes surpassing last year's total.

More than 500 athletes and event volunteers representing parishes from throughout the metropolis gathered for fellowship and friendly competition.

Events included track and field, swimming, volleyball and the annual Chris Gacos Memorial Marathon. Most of the running preliminaries, swimming and volleyball events took place on Saturday, May 26, at the Dunn Sports Center of the Elizabeth High School.

The young people enjoyed an entire day of fellowship and spirited, yet friendly, sports competition while at the same time making plans to see each other at Camp Good Shepherd, the official summer camp of the Metropolis of New Jersey in July.

Later that same evening, a dinner dance was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Newark, where medals for the Soccer Tournament held earlier this month were awarded.

On Sunday, May 27, all of the young people, coaches and advisors attended the Divine Liturgy celebrated by Fr. Dimitrios Antokas, pastor of the St. George Church in Bethesda, Md. The Olympiad then moved to Williams Field for the traditional opening ceremony that included the invocation, parade of churches, Olympic torch run, American and Greek national anthems and greetings from Mr. and Miss GOYA. Later in



the afternoon, parents and relatives of the athletes saw the finals of the running events as well as all of the field events, including long jump, shot put and the marathon.

The second annual Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey Joy Run was held Sunday afternoon with young athletes ages 10 and 11 running a 100 meter dash.

Metropolitan Evangelos blessed and presented each of the runners with a gold medal, wishing them the best as they grow in their Faith and friendship with their peers, encouraging them to be athletes for Christ. The Metropolitan presided over the Fr. Dean Martin Memorial Award Ceremony at the end of the events and congratulated each winner as he bestowed the gold, silver and bronze medals.

TOP
HUNDREDS of young athletes who participated in the NJ Junior Olympics gather for a photograph with Metropolitan Evangelos and other Metropolis clergy.

RIGHT
MEDAL winners proudly pose with Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey.



Metropolis of Boston Ministry Awards Dinner Brings Together Hundreds

BROOKLINE—The New England Greek Orthodox family gathered for the 21st time on June 10 “to be inspired by one-another, to take pride in one another, to mentor one-another in our faith.

To encourage each other to be more imaginative and creative in order to meet the needs of those who yearn for a Church which is an oasis of spiritual refreshment in a spiritually parched world.”

Chosen by their parishes for their stewardship of talents and time, the recipients of the 2007 Ministry Award were cheered and thanked by their fellow parishioners, more, than 700 who attended this year's event.

Metropolitan Methodios, who established the annual event in 1987, “To gather as a family to celebrate our unity. To reassure one another of our support. To affirm that our Church truly is One Holy Catholic and Apostolic. To remember that the purpose of the parishes is to preach the word of God, to teach the faithful,” offered Archpastoral reflections.

He reminded the gathering that, “This year's dinner falls on the eve of the celebration of the Feast of St. Bartholomew, patron saint of our Ecumenical Patriarch. The wings of our faith bring us to Constantinople to pray for the blessings of Almighty God upon our Patriarch Bartholomew and

all the hierarchs, priests and laymen who heroically struggle to keep the light of our faith shining ‘for all to see.’ We pray especially for Patriarch Bartholomew whose life is under constant threat.”

Metropolitan Methodios also strongly encouraged those who have never assumed leadership roles in the communities to do so.

He said, “I want to share with you my conviction that it is of outmost importance and critically necessary that we strongly encourage those who have never assumed leadership roles to do so. Our parish councils and Philoptochos boards must be renewed. All those who have served for a number of years should step aside to give others the opportunity. It is imperative that we encourage new membership on our administrative boards to spark new enthusiasm, refreshing new visions, new dreams and new aspirations. Opportunities for service— on Parish Councils, Parish Philoptochos Boards, on our Metropolis Council and Philoptochos Board, and on the various Archdiocesan bodies— must be made available to brethren who have never served.

“There are those who will argue that it is difficult to find people to ‘run for the Board.’ Maybe it is because they have every reason to ‘run away’ from the

various boards in their parishes. Maybe it is because the manner in which these administrative bodies function is no different than similar boards in the secular world. But the Church isn't a secular organization, it isn't a business, it is the Body of Christ.

“Over-inflated egos, personal agendas, and self promotion have no place in the governance of our Church as they do all too often in our communities. Service on these boards should not be considered the lifelong privilege of an exclusive few.

“There are many qualified individuals anxious to get involved that stand at the periphery of the Church. The time has come to give them an opportunity to serve, to invest their enthusiasm, their vigor, their dedication. It is time for them to be given the opportunity to plant the seed of Orthodoxy into the fertile ground of America.

“I am particularly interested in our young people. I strongly encourage you to visit our camp at the Faith and Heritage Center in New Hampshire to see with your own eyes the vital ministry offered by Fr. Phil Mousis, Mike Sintros and a staff of over 100 young adults – college students and university graduates who volunteer their time to nurture our children. I believe that the mantle of leadership must be passed on now to young adults such as these.

“I end by quoting a verse from St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans which we heard during the Divine Liturgy this morning. It reads, “Glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good.”

“Tonight we honor those who have “done good” by their selfless service to our parishes. May the Triune God continue to inspire their lives.”

Presbytera Receives Humanitarian Award

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – The Virginia Conference for Community and Justice, formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews, honored Presbytera Flora Despotides Chioros at their recent 39th annual Humanitarian Awards Dinner.

Presbytera Flora received one of the Humanitarian Awards for her dedication within the Hampton Roads community toward the promotion of respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Presbytera Flora is the past president of the National Sisterhood of Presbyteres and serves as an advisor to its National Board.

She works as a Landscape Architect/Planner for the City of Newport News. She has served in many capacities in the community as well as the Church at large, and currently serves as board chairman of Trinity Lutheran School, where she continues her work of bridging gaps and understanding between people.

Presbytera Flora is the wife of Fr. George Chioros of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church of Newport News.

She is the daughter of Fr. Nicholas and Presbytera Moscha Despotides of Potomac, Md.

If you have questions regarding **The Archdiocesan Clergy Sexual Misconduct Policy** or want to report a complaint of clergy misconduct, call the toll-free hotline **(877) 544-3382**

All complaints will be taken seriously and allegations will be investigated fully and impartially. Callers may speak with a male or female volunteer in either Greek or English.

Fellowship and Sportsmanship

NEW YORK – More than 1,100 young athletes from 25 parishes gathered over Memorial Day weekend for the 29th annual Archdiocesan District Olympics.

This year's event took place at a new venue, Suffolk County Community College's Western Campus near Brentwood, Long Island. The GOYA and JOY youth participated in 51 different categories over the three day period.

The following New York state parishes were represented: St. Sophia, Albany; St. Demetrios, Astoria; St. John's, Blue Point; Zoodochos Peghe, Bronx; Kimisis Tis Theotokou, Brooklyn; Sts. Constantine and Helen, Brooklyn; Three Hierarchs, Brooklyn; Church of the Resurrection, Brookville (formerly Glen Cove); Metamorphosis, Corona; St. Nicholas, Flushing; St. Paraskevi, Greenlawn; St. Paul's, Hempstead; Holy Trinity, Hicksville; Panaghia, Island Park; St. Demetrios, Jamaica; St. Demetrios, Merrick; Holy Cross, Middletown; Holy Trinity, New Rochelle; Assumption, Port Jefferson; Archangel Michael, Roslyn; Church of Our Savior, Rye;



ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT OLYMPICS

PHOTOS: ORTHODOX OBSERVER

Trinity, New Rochelle–Sr. boys–Matthew Pappis, St. Sophia, Albany

1500 M: Jr. girls–Diana Vamvakitis, Kimisis, Southampton–Jr. boys–Nikitas Tampakis, W. Nyack–Sr. boys–Nick Klopsis, St. John, Blue Point

5K: Jr. girls–Dena Skeadas, Church of Our Savior, Rye–Jr. boys–James Hunt, Kimisis, Southampton–Sr. girls–Dimitra Kalogiannis, Holy Cross, Middletown–Sr. boys–Nick Klopsis, Blue Point

Relays: Jr. girls–W. Nyack: Chloe Soukas, Alexandra Lappas, Eliana Michaels, Fani Chondris–Sr. girls–Hempstead: Seva Mahrannis, Irene Diakovasilis, Ariana Politis, Katerina Kompogiorgas–Jr. boys–Greenlawn: Yanni Dishley, Chris Koutsoubis, Michael Heretakis, Lee Vasiliakos–Sr. boys–Port Jefferson: George Portelos, Alekos Konstantinidi, Costa Gemetas, John-Luis Demaskos

Shot Put: Jr. boys–Lambros Doulos, Rye–Sr. boys–Michael Lois, Albany–Jr. girls–Christina Alexopoulos, Blue Point–Sr. girls–Eleni Mokkas, Blue Point

Softball Throw: Jr. girls–Stephanie Ross, Greenlawn–Sr. girls–Kathy Kokkosis, Greenlawn

Long Jump: Jr. boys–Alex Crist, Rye–Sr. boys–Chris Nasallah, Rye–Jr. girls–Fani Chondris, W. Nyack–Sr. girls–Christina Brower, W. Babylon

High Jump: Jr. boys–Alex Kekatos, Port Jefferson–Sr. boys–Demetri Babatsikos, Panaghia, Island Park–Jr. girls–Chloe Soukas, W. Nyack–Sr. girls–Katerina Kompogiorgas, Hempstead

Backgammon: Ariana Sukaris, Albany

Checkers: Danny Patsis, Three Hierarchs, Brooklyn

Chess: Theo Drivas, New Rochelle

Tennis: Girls–Elli Vamvakitis, Southampton–Boys–Stephen Praetorius, Greenlawn

Basketball Throw: Jr. girls–Alexandra McCullough, Albany–Sr. girls–Theodora Skeadas, Rye–Jr. boys–Dimitri Vanekas, Kimisis, Brooklyn–Sr. boys–Matthew Pappis, Albany

Swimming events

50 meter: Jr. girls–Elli Vamvakitis, Southampton–Sr. girls–Melanie Graf, New Rochelle–Jr. boys–Yianni Themis, Kimisis, Brooklyn–Sr. boys–Alekos Konstantinidi, Port Jefferson

100 meter: Jr. girls–Alexandra Lappas, W. Nyack–Sr. girls–Theodora Skeadas, Rye–Jr. boys–Yianni Themis, Brooklyn–Sr. boys–Alex Constantinidis, Port Jefferson

Relays: Jr. girls–Rye: Eleni Doulos, Vicky Michalatos, Georgia Skeadas, Dina Skeadas–Sr. girls–W. Nyack: Chloe Soukas, Alexandra Lappas, Theodora Andriotis, Dimitra Maris–Jr. boys–Kimisis, Brooklyn: Peter Tsevdas, Yianni Thermos, Christopher Xanthos, Michael Leonardis–Sr. Boys – Port Jefferson: Alex Kekatos, Ari Danginis, Costa Gemelas, Alekos Konstantinidis.



GOYA Girls soccer match.

Kimisis Tis Theotokou, Southampton; St. Nicholas, West Babylon; Sts. Constantine and Helen, West Nyack; and Holy Cross, Whitestone.

Gold medal winners in each GOYA event were as follows:

Team events

Soccer–boys, St. Demetrios, Astoria; girls, St. Paul, Hempstead

Volleyball–boys, Assumption, Port Jefferson; **girls–**St. Paraskevi, Greenlawn.

Track and Field

50 M dash: Junior girls–Athena Mameris, St. John Blue Point–Junior boys–John-Luis Demaskos, Assumption, Port Jefferson–Senior girls–Theodora Skeadas, Church of Our Savior, Rye–Senior boys –Michael Dischley, St. Paraskevi, Greenlawn

200 M dash: Junior girls–Fani Chondris, Sts. Constantine and Helen. W. Nyack–Junior boys– Alex Crist, Church of Our Savior, Rye–Senior girls–Marina Corines, Holy Trinity, New Rochelle–Senior boys – Constantine Kokkinakis, Archangel Michael, Roslyn

400 M: Jr. girls–Ariana Sukaris, St. Sophia, Albany–Jr. boys–Alex Crist, Church of Our Savior, Rye–Sr. girls–Theodora Skeadas, Church of Our Savior, Rye–Sr. boys–Alex Constantinides, Assumption, Port Jefferson

800 M: Jr. girls–Alissa Kokinakis, Archangel Michael, Roslyn–Jr. boys–Nikitas Tampakis, Sts. Constantine and Helen, W. Nyack–Sr. girls–Melanie Graf, Holy



HIGH jumper clears the bar.



FREESTYLE swimming competition.



FLYING over the long jump sand pit.

Win Annual Youth Olympics

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO HOLDS 26TH JUNIOR OLYMPICS



(L-R) Fr. Nicholas Jonas, Spiritual Advisor of Jr. Olympics; Telly Visvardis, Torch Lighter; Metropolitan Iakovos, Thano Davelis, Coronated Athlete.

PALOS HILLS, Ill. – Nearly 2,200 youngsters ages 7 to 18 representing 32 parishes, participated in the 26th annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Junior Olympics on May 25–27.

Parishes from Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota were all represented during this joyous Christian athletic fellowship fellowship.

The Junior Olympics were hosted, once again, by Sts. Constantine and Helen in Palos Hills, with the assistance of more than 150 volunteers.

Opening ceremonies were held early on May 26 and God truly shined brightly in the spirit of the participants and spectators gathered. All 34 parish teams entered the field proudly holding their colors and sharing in the spirit of Christian fellowship and competition. Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago officially began the Olympics with prayer

and his blessings. The ceremonies featuring many of the traditions of the ancient Olympic games concluded with the lighting of the torch, fireworks, music and balloons.

Participants competed in several sports Friday through Sunday, including basketball, volleyball, swimming, soccer, tennis, softball, track and field, 10K run, chess, checkers, bowling, wrestling, table tennis and more. About 900 medals were awarded.

After Divine Liturgy on Sunday, winners of the Olympic scholarships were announced. Four young people—Nicholas Kaoukis of St. George, Schererville, Ind., Ioannis Kourafas, Vasileios Kalas, and Eftihia Davelis of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, Palos Hills, received \$500 scholarships.

Planning for the 27th annual Junior Olympics will begin towards the early portion of 2008.



Young athletes from Holy Apostles, Westchester, IL.



Participating in the Opening Ceremonies explaining the Olympic Symbols: (L-R): Kayla Karnavas, Gabriella Gofis, Alexis Flamburis.



Girls Volleyball team from St. Spyridon Church, Palos Heights, IL.



Athletes from St. George Church, Schererville, IN.

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DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT: Annunciation, Nassau, Bahamas • Annunciation, New York, NY • Annunciation, Stamford, CT • Archangel Michael, Roslyn Heights, NY • Archangels, Stamford, CT • Assumption, Danbury, CT • Assumption, Windham, NY • Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New York, NY • Church of Our Saviour, Rye, NY • Church of the Holy Resurrection, Brookville, NY • Holy Cross, Brooklyn, NY • Holy Cross, Whitestone, NY • Holy Trinity - St. Nicholas, Staten Island, NY • Holy Trinity, Ansonia, CT • Holy Trinity, Bridgeport, CT • Holy Trinity, Hicksville, NY • Holy Trinity, New Rochelle, NY • Holy Trinity, Waterbury, CT • Kimisis Theotokou, Southampton, NY • Kimisis tis Theotokou, Bronx, NY • Kimisis tis Theotokou, Brooklyn, NY • Prophet Elias, Yonkers, NY • Saint Basil the Great, New Haven, CT • Ss. Constantine & Helen Cathedral, Brooklyn, NY • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Jackson Heights, NY • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Washington DC • St. Barbara, New York, NY • St. Barbara, Orange CT • St. Demetrios, Bristol, CT • St. Demetrios, Merrick, NY • St. Eleftherios, New York, NY • St. George - St. Demetrios, New York, NY • St. George Cathedral, Hartford, CT • St. George Tropeoforos, New York, NY • St. George, New Britain, CT • St. George, Norwalk, CT • St. George, Schenectady, NY • St. John, Blue Point, NY • St. John the Baptist, New York, NY • St. Markella, Wantagh, NY • St. Nicholas Shrine, Flushing, NY • St. Nicholas, Newburgh, NY • St. Nicholas, West Babylon, NY • St. Paraskevi, Greenlawn, NY • St. Paul Cathedral, Hempstead, NY • St. Petros the Apostle, Bronx, NY • St. Sophia, Albany, NY • St. Sophia, Washington DC • St. Spyridon, New York, NY • Three Hierarchs, Brooklyn, NY • Transfiguration of Christ, Mattituck, NY • Zoodohos Peghe, Bronx, NY.

METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY: Annunciation Cathedral, Baltimore, MD • Annunciation Cathedral, Norfolk, VA • Annunciation, Elkins Park, PA • Ascension, Fairview, NJ • Dormition of the Virgin Mary, Winchester, VA • Evangelismos tis Theotokou, Jersey City, NJ • Evangelismos, Philadelphia, PA • Greek Orthodox Church of Hunterdon County, Annandale, NJ • Holy Trinity, Northfield, NJ • Holy Trinity, Roanoke, VA • Holy Trinity, Westfield, NJ • Holy Trinity, Wilmington, DE • Kimisis tis Theotokou, Holmdel, NJ • Nativity of the Theotokos, Fredericksburg, VA • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Annapolis, MD • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Newport News, VA • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Orange, NJ • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Richmond, VA • Ss. Peter & Paul, Frederick, MD • St. Andrew, Randolph, NJ • St. Anthony, Vineland, NJ • St. Athanasios, Paramus, NJ • St. Barbara, Toms River, NJ • St. Demetrios, Baltimore, MD • St. Demetrios, North Wildwood, NJ • St. Demetrios, Perth Amboy, NJ • St. Demetrios, Union, NJ • St. Demetrios, Upper Darby, PA • St. Elpis, Hopewell, VA • St. Fanourios, Elizabeth, NJ • St. George Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA • St. George, Asbury, NJ • St. George, Bethesda, MD • St. George, Lynchburg, VA • St. George, Media, PA • St. George, Ocean City, MD • St. George, Piscataway, NJ • St. George, Trenton, NJ • St. John Cathedral, Tenafly, NJ • St. Katherine, Falls Church, VA • St. Luke, Broomall, PA • St. Nicholas, Atlantic City, NJ • St. Nicholas, Baltimore, MD • St. Nicholas, Newark, NJ • St. Nicholas, Virginia Church, VA • St. Nicholas, Wyckoff, NJ • St. Peter, Danville, VA • St. Sophia, Ss. Faith, Hope & Agape, Jeffersonville, PA • St. Theodore, Lanham, MD • St. Thomas, Cherry Hill, NJ • Transfiguration, Charlottesville, VA

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

METROPOLIS OF BOSTON: Annunciation Cathedral, Boston, MA • Annunciation, Brockton, MA • Annunciation, Cranston, RI • Annunciation, Dover, NH • Annunciation, Newburyport, MA • Annunciation, Woburn, MA • Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Dracut, MA • Assumption, Ipswich, MA • Assumption, Manchester, NH • Assumption, Pawtucket, RI • Dormition of the Mother of God, Burlington, VT • Dormition of the Virgin Mary, Somersworth, NH • Dormition of the Virgin Mary, Somerville, MA • Holy Apostles Ss. Peter & Paul, Haverhill, MA • Holy Trinity, Concord, NH • Holy Trinity, Danielson, CT • Holy Trinity, Fitchburg, MA • Holy Trinity, Holyoke, MA • Holy Trinity, Lewiston, ME • Holy Trinity, Lowell, MA • Holy Trinity, Norwich, CT • Holy Trinity, Portland, ME • Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Cohasset, MA • Saint Sophia, New London, CT • Ss. Anargyroi, Marlboro, MA • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Andover, MA • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Cambridge, MA • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Chicopee Falls, MA • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Webster, MA • St. Athanasios the Great, Arlington, MA • St. Catherine, Braintree, MA • St. Demetrios, Fall River, MA • St. Demetrios, Saco, ME • St. Demetrios, Weston, MA • St. George Cathedral, Manchester, NH • St. George Cathedral, Springfield, MA • St. George, Bangor, ME • St. George, Centerville/Hyannis, MA • St. George, Keene, NH • St. George, Lowell, MA • St. George, Lynn, MA • St. George, New Bedford, MA • St. George, Pittsfield, MA • St. George, Southbridge, MA • St. Gregory the Theologian, Mansfield, MA • St. John the Baptist, Boston, MA • St. Luke, E. Longmeadow, MA • St. Nectarios, Roslindale, MA • St. Nicholas, Clinton, MA • St. Nicholas, Enfield, CT • St. Nicholas, Lexington, MA • St. Nicholas, Manchester, NH • St. Nicholas, Portsmouth, NH • St. Nicholas, Rutland, VT • St. Philip, Nashua, NH • St. Spyridon Cathedral, Worcester, MA • St. Spyridon, Newport, RI • St. Vasilios, Newport, NH • St. Vasilios, Peabody, MA • Taxiarchae, Watertown, MA • Taxiarchai, Laconia, NH • Transfiguration of Our Saviour, Lowell, MA

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO: Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco, CA • Annunciation, Modesto, CA • Annunciation, Sacramento, CA • Ascension Cathedral, Oakland, CA • Assumption, Long Beach, CA • Assumption, Scottsdale, AZ • Assumption, Seattle, WA • Church of the Resurrection, Castro Valley, CA • Holy Cross, Belmont, CA • Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ • Holy Trinity, Portland, OR • Holy Trinity, Spokane, WA • Nativity of Christ, Novato, CA • Prophet Elias, San Bernardino, CA • Prophet Elias, Santa Cruz, CA • Saint Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA • Saint Sophia, Bellingham, WA • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Honolulu, HI • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Lancaster, CA • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Vallejo, CA • St. Spyridon, San Diego, CA • St. Anna, Roseville, CA • St. Anthony, Pasadena, CA • St. Anthony, Reno, NV • St. Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA • St. Basil, San Jose, CA • St. Basil, Stockton, CA • St. Demetrios, Camarillo, CA • St. Demetrios, Concord, CA • St. Demetrios, Seattle, WA • St. Demetrios, Tucson, AZ • St. George, Bakersfield, CA • St. George, Downey, CA • St. George, Eugene, OR • St. George, Palm Desert, CA • St. Haralambos, Peoria, AZ •

St. John the Baptist, Anaheim, CA • St. John the Baptist, Las Vegas, NV • St. John the Baptist, Salinas, CA • St. Katherine, Chandler, AZ • St. Katherine, Elk Grove, CA • St. Katherine, Redondo Beach, CA • St. Nectarios, Covina, CA • St. Nicholas, Northridge, CA • St. Nicholas, San Jose, CA • St. Nicholas, Tacoma, WA • St. Paul, Irvine, CA • St. Spyridon, Upland, CA

METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA: Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, GA • Annunciation, Fort Myers, FL • Annunciation, Montgomery, AL • Annunciation, Pensacola, FL • Annunciation, Winston Salem, NC • Annunciation, Mobile, AL • Christ the Savior Mission, Brooksville, FL • Dormition of the Theotokos, Greensboro, NC • Holy Cross, Macon, GA • Holy Cross/Ss. Constantine & Helen, Huntsville, AL • Holy Mother of God, Tallahassee, FL • Holy Resurrection, Hilton Head, SC • Holy Transfiguration, Columbus, GA • Holy Transfiguration, Marietta, GA • Holy Trinity - Holy Cross Cathedral, Birmingham, AL • Holy Trinity & St. John the Theologian, Jackson, MI • Holy Trinity Cathedral, Charlotte, NC • Holy Trinity, Asheville, NC • Holy Trinity, Baton Rouge, LA • Holy Trinity, Biloxi, MS • Holy Trinity, Bluff City, TN • Holy Trinity, Charleston, SC • Holy Trinity, Clearwater, FL • Holy Trinity, Columbia, SC • Holy Trinity, Maitland/Orlando, FL • Holy Trinity, New Orleans, LA • Holy Trinity, Port Charlotte, FL • Holy Trinity, Raleigh, NC • Holy Trinity, St. Augustine, FL • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Fayetteville, NC • Ss. Markella & Demetrios, Ft. Walton Beach, FL • Ss. Raphael, Nicholas, & Irene, Cumming, GA • Ss. Raphael, Nicholas, & Irene, Palm Harbor, FL • St. Andrew, Miami, FL • St. Barbara, Durham, NC • St. Barbara, Sarasota, FL • St. Catherine, West Palm Beach, FL • St. Christopher, Peachtree, GA • St. Demetrios, Daytona Beach, FL • St. Demetrios, Ft. Lauderdale, FL • St. George, High Point, NC • St. George, Knoxville, TN • St. George, New Port Richie, FL • St. John the Baptist, Myrtle Beach, SC • St. John the Baptist, Tampa, FL • St. Katherine, Burlington, NC • St. Katherine, Melbourne, FL • St. Katherine, Naples, FL • St. Lukes, Mooresville, NC • St. Mark, Boca Raton, FL • St. Michael the Archangel, Lecanto, FL • St. Nectarios, Charlotte, NC • St. Nicholas, Ft. Pierce, FL • St. Nicholas, Spartanburg, SC • St. Nicholas, Tarpon Springs, FL • St. Nicholas, Wilmington, NC • St. Paul, Savannah, GA • St. Philothea, Athena, GA • St. Sophia Cathedral, Miami, FL • St. Sophia, Winter Haven, FL • St. Stefanos, St. Petersburg, FL • St. John the Divine, Jacksonville, FL • St. George Cathedral, Greenville, SC • St. John Chrysostom, Stewart, FL • Transfiguration, Florence, SC

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH: All Saints, Canonsburg, PA • All Saints, Weirton, WV • Annunciation Cathedral, Columbus, OH • Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, New Kensington, PA • Annunciation, Akron, OH • Annunciation, Lancaster, PA • Annunciation, McKeesport, PA • Annunciation, Wilkes Barre, PA • Annunciation, York, PA • Archangel Michael, Campbell, OH • Assumption, Morgantown, WV • Dormition of the Theotokos, Oakmont, PA • Evangelismos, Easton, PA • Evangelismos, Farrell, PA • Holy Cross, Pittsburgh, PA • Holy Cross, Stroudsburg, PA • Holy Trinity Cathedral, Camp Hill, PA • Holy Trinity, Ambridge, PA • Holy Trinity, Canton, OH • Holy Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA • Holy Trinity, Steubenville, OH • Kimisis Tis Theotokou, Aliquippa, PA • Presentation of Christ, East Pittsburgh, PA • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Cleveland Heights, OH • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Mansfield, OH • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Reading, PA • St. Demetrios, Rocky River, OH • St. Demetrios, Warren, OH • St. George, Huntington, WV • St. George, New Castle, PA • St. Haralambos, Canton, OH • St. John, Youngstown, OH • St. Mary, Johnstown, PA • St. Nicholas, Bethlehem, PA • St. Nicholas, Lorain, OH • St. Nicholas, Youngstown, OH • St. Paul, North Royalton, OH • St. Spyridon, Clarksburg, WV • Zoodochos Peghe, Martins Ferry, OH

METROPOLIS OF DETROIT: Annunciation Cathedral, Detroit, MI • Annunciation, Buffalo, NY • Annunciation, Chattanooga, TN • Annunciation, Dayton, OH • Annunciation, Kalamazoo, MI • Annunciation, Little Rock, AR • Annunciation, Memphis, TN • Assumption, Marquette, MI • Holy Cross, Farmington Hills, MI • Holy Spirit, Rochester, NY • Holy Trinity Cathedral, Toledo, OH • Holy Trinity, Ft. Wayne, IN • Holy Trinity, Grand Rapids, MI • Holy Trinity, Indianapolis, IN • Holy Trinity, Lansing, MI • Holy Trinity, Nashville, TN • Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas, Cincinnati, OH • Saint Sophia, Syracuse, NY • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Battle Creek, MI • Ss. Theodoroi, Gloversville, NY • St. Athanasios, Elmira, NY • St. Catherine, Ithaca, NY • St. George, Bloomfield Hills, MI • St. George, Sault Ste. Marie, MI • St. George, Southgate, MI • St. John, Sterling Heights, MI • St. Nicholas, Ann Arbor, MI • St. Nicholas, Jamestown, NY • St. Nicholas, Troy, MI • St. Vasilios, Watertown, NY

METROPOLIS OF DENVER: Annunciation Cathedral, Houston, TX • Annunciation, Kansas City, MO • Annunciation, Lincoln, NE • Annunciation, Missoula, MT • Archangel Michael, Colorado Springs, CO • Assumption, Bayard, NE • Assumption, Galveston, TX • Assumption, Pocatello, ID • Assumption Cathedral, Denver, CO • Assumption, Price, UT • Holy Cross, Wichita Falls, TX • Holy Transfiguration, Sioux Falls, SD • Holy Trinity, Casper, WY • Holy Trinity, Dallas, TX • Holy Trinity, Wichita, KS • Holy Trinity, Tulsa, OK • Holy Trinity, Rock Springs, WY • Holy Trinity & Prophet Elias, Salt Lake City, UT • Saint Basil the Great, Houston, TX • Saint Nicholas, El Paso, TX • Saint Sophia, San Antonio, TX • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Boise, ID • Ss. Constantine & Helen, Cheyenne, WY • Saint Andrew, Lubbock, TX • St. Demetrios, Fort Worth, TX • Saint John the Baptist, Omaha, NE • St. John the Prodigromos, Amarillo, TX • St. Catherine, Greenwood Village, CO • St. Dionysios, Overland Park, KS • St. Elias the Prophet, Santa Fe, NM • St. George, Shreveport, LA • St. George, Albuquerque, NM • St. George, Oklahoma City, OK • St. John the Baptist, Craig, CO • St. John the Baptist, Eules, TX • St. John the Baptist, Pueblo, CO • St. John the Theologian, Webster, TX • St. Nicholas, Corpus Christi, TX • St. Nicholas, Waco, TX • St. Nicholas, Grand Junction, CO • St. Spyridon, Loveland, CO • Transfiguration, Austin, TX • Transfiguration, Ogden, UT

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
"2006 TOTAL COMMITMENT PROGRAM"
as of 6/15/2007

"OUR LORD CONTINUES TO BLESS US ALL!"