



ORTHODOX OBSERVER

NOVEMBER 2014 • Vol. 79 • No. 1300

www.observer.goarch.org • e-mail: observer@goarch.org

\$1.00

In THIS ISSUE

More Cyprus coverage

Including Archbishops' first-ever visit to the occupied territory

• P. 3,4-5 & Greek section

Orfanakos Scholarship Fund

Scholarship established in memory of Fr. John Orfanakos

• P. 6

Out of the ashes

Reflection by Nicholas Gage on the St. Nicholas National Shrine

• P. 8

Atlanta Fundraiser

Metropolis of Atlanta event supports HCHC and Retreat Center

• P. 9

The Making of the New Testament

A book review by Fr. Stanley Harakas

• P. 14

Teachers Seminar

Annual Direct Archdiocesan District Teachers Development Seminar

• P. 23

Ebola Crisis

The ministry of a Greek Orthodox priest and HCHC graduate in West Africa

• P. 24



Church consecration

These happy girls take part in their parish's historic event

• P. 25

New IOCC Chairman

Archdiocesan Council member and Archon named board chairman

• P. 27

150-year milestone

The Archdiocese's oldest parish celebrates its sesquicentennial

• P. 32

A Pilgrimage to a Sacred Land

by Stavros H. Papagermanos

NICOSIA, Cyprus – “Welcome to Cyprus the ethereal, to the blessed land. In its beautiful and much afflicted body its pure psyche was not extinguished, but lives, and lives, and lives.” When these verses of the national Greek poet Kostis Palamas, from the lips of young school children with big, brilliant, black eyes welcome you, you realize that this visit is special.

A visit to Cyprus is not a series of ceremonial formalities, it is not a sequence of routine meetings with officials, and it is not the total of courtesy calls and public protocol events. Cyprus is not the land for that. Cyprus is still a beautiful, ethereal and blessed island, even if much afflicted by savage invaders and ruthless occupiers.

“This land is sacred and should be treated accordingly,” said Archbishop Demetrios, who arrived in Cyprus Oct. 21 for an official visit at the invitation of Republic of Cyprus President Nikos Anastasiades, and with the unanimous agreement of the Church of Cyprus Holy Synod.

Archbishop Demetrios set the tone and the scope of his fourth visit to Cyprus from the start, upon his arrival to Larnaca International Airport: “This visit for us is not simply a visit but a pilgrimage. It is a pilgrimage in a sacred place that has given culture and has suffered injustice. In return for everything it has contributed it continues to suffer adversity, pressure and the occupation of a significant part of its territory. Cyprus continues to offer a lesson in resilience, a lesson of high principles and adherence to values, a lesson of pure patriotism and untainted Orthodoxy; and it is for this reason that we declare publicly that Cyprus for us is a very dear, venerable and sacred part of our *Genos*, of Orthodoxy and of universal Hellenism.”

“Our pilgrimage here starts with a very deep feeling of duty, so that the days we



Dimitrios Panagos photo

THE WALL SAYS IT ALL – This warning sign and the fragmented United Nations colors painted on the “green line” that divides the capital epitomize the plight of the Republic of Cyprus in its 40 years under Turkish occupation of more than 36 percent of its territory, where Archbishop Demetrios made his first visit.

spend on this island will give us additional data for when we return to America it will enable us to continue this struggle that we do all these years with the support of the Greek American community and especially with the Greek Cypriot American Community. It is a struggle we undertake regardless of results and it will continue because we believe that the God of justice and of love will at the end justify this blessed and pained people and will grant to all the people who live on this island a life of creativity and peace, as they continue to offer culture and peace to the whole world,” said his Eminence at the arrival press conference.

“We welcome you as an angel of peace and dear friend of Cyprus and we express unequivocally our love and gratitude,”

said Metropolitan of Kition Chrysostomos, representing the Church of Cyprus and on behalf of the government Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment Nikos Koufialis added: “It is indeed an honor to welcome His Eminence to Cyprus, we receive him with great joy, knowing fully his tireless work in America for the promotion of our national issues and the advancement of all the things that concern Hellenism.”

The delegation accompanying Archbishop Demetrios included Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, Bishop Sevastianos of Zela (chief secretary of the Eparchial Holy Synod), Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos, Cyprus Federation of America past President Panikos Papanikolaou, current President Kostas Tsentas, the director of the Archbishop's Office Alice Keurian, Archdiocese Press Office Director Stavros Papagermanos and Archdiocese photographer Dimitrios Panagos.

The Archbishop's seven-day schedule was rigorous and rewarding. It included five well-thought and planned sectors of Cyprus' public life. The Church, the State and the government, philanthropic and public benefit institutions and organizations, cultural and educational areas of public life and finally the occupied northern part of Cyprus and the few hundred enclaved Greek-Cypriots who still live there. (*separate story, pages 4-5*)

There were many other occasions that do not neatly fall in these categories, as Archbishop Demetrios met, conversed with, gave his blessing and heard the voice of regular folks, people in the street or patrons in a restaurant, pilgrims or tourists

Cyprus Visit Comes at a Critical Time

Forty years have elapsed since the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 and the occupation of 37 percent of its territory, representing 70 percent of the economic potential of the island. One third of the Greek Cypriots became refugees in their own country and to this day are prevented from returning to their homes by Turkish occupation authorities.

In an effort to alter the country's demographic structure, 114,000 colonists were brought into Cyprus from Turkish Anatolia. In view of the mass emigration of Turkish Cypriots from the occupied area the total number of Turkish troops and settlers is now greater than that of the

Turkish Cypriots remaining.

These are simple historical facts, but worth repeating as relevant background. The atmosphere in Cyprus became even more electrified on the day just before the Archbishop's arrival to Cyprus, as Turkey made good on its threat to carry out surveys for hydrocarbons within Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and sent the Turkish research vessel *Barbaros* off the island's southeastern coast, accompanied by two support vessels and a Turkish warship.

As a result the government of the Republic of Cyprus suspended its participation in the UN backed negotiations with the Turkish-Cypriot side.

To contact National Ministries

Archives

212.570.3517
ncalles@goarch.org

Communications

212.774.0244
communications@goarch.org

Greek Education

212.774.0233
greekeducation@goarch.org

Internet Ministries

646.519.6690
internet@goarch.org

Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations

212.570.3593
ecumenical@goarch.org

Ionian Village

212.570.3538
ionianvillage@goarch.org

Marriage & Family

845.424.8175
familycare@goarch.org

Parish Development

847.825.1432
jminetos@goarch.org

Philanthropy

212.774.0283
bishopandonios@goarch.org

Public Affairs

212.774.0400
fralex@goarch.org

Registry

212.570.3558
frmichael@goarch.org

Religious Education

646.519.6300
religioused@goarch.org

Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism

646.519.6160
stewardship@goarch.org

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

646.519.6180
youthoffice@goarch.org

NEXT DEADLINE

Deadline for submitting information,
articles and photos for consideration
in the **December 2014** issue:
Monday, Nov. 24

Photos should be sent as a large
format .jpg attachment (300 dpi min.).
E-mail to: jim@goarch.org
Regular mail: Editor, Orthodox Observer,
8 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10075.

ENCYCLICAL

The Synaxis of the Holy Archangels

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,

On this blessed Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels, we are called by the hymns of our Holy Orthodox Church to reflect on the great role angels have in service to our Almighty God.

The Holy Scriptures tell us that angels constantly offer praise to God, deliver His message, and protect and defend those in need, carrying out the will of God both now and in the age to come.

The ministry of angels is a ministry of radiating the holiness of God. It is also a ministry of obedience. As God directs, the holy angels respond seeking to fulfill His commands in their service to Him and to His creation.

Their ministry for our sake is also filled with compassion. In serving a God of grace, they offer protection, help, and guidance.

The blessed ministry of the angels is also reflected in the quality of care and compassionate service offered by our beloved St. Michael's Home.

On this feast we recognize the faithful service of the trustees, directors, and staff, affirming that in a sacred environment, filled with the presence of God, they are being faithful to His command to offer comfort, love, and healing.

For almost sixty years this institution of our Holy Archdiocese has provided ministry to our faithful, and we now have the opportunity to expand. With the purchase of an 11-acre site on Long Island, the vision for St. Michael's is to build a state of the art, continuous care facility. When this is accomplished, many more will be served with



various levels of care and the same sacred ministry of compassion that is offered now.

In support of this sacred ministry and the expansion of St. Michael's Home, I ask the parishes of our Holy Archdiocese to conduct a special offering on Sunday, Nov. 9. Designate your gifts for St. Michael's, send them to the Archdiocese, and they will be forwarded to the Home. I also ask on this blessed feast that you offer prayers for the residents, staff, and directors, and for the many ministries throughout this country offered by our Metropolises and parishes in the care of the elderly.

In following the commands of our Lord and revealing the grace of God, we see a tremendous and growing effort to offer ministry to those in need.

May we give thanks to God for the witness, protection, and service of His holy angels, and may we continue to offer faithful service to others in truly sacred and love.

With paternal love in Christ,

† DEMETRIOS, Archbishop of America

How to Contact Archdiocesan Institutions, Metropolises and Related Agencies and Organizations

Direct Archdiocesan District

212.570.3500; www.goarch.org

Metropolis of Chicago

312.337.4130; www.chicago.goarch.org

Metropolis of Boston

617.277.4742; www.boston.goarch.org

Metropolis of Denver

303.333.7794; www.denver.goarch.org

Metropolis of Atlanta

404.634.9345; www.atlmetropolis.org

Metropolis of Detroit

248.823.2400; www.detroit.goarch.org

Metropolis of Pittsburgh

412.621.5529; www.pittsburgh.goarch.org

Metropolis of San Francisco

415.753.3075; www.sanfran.goarch.org

Metropolis of New Jersey

908.301.0500; www.nj.goarch.org

Archdiocesan Institutions

Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

Tel. 212.288.3215; www.thecathedralnyc.org

Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology

617.731.3500; www.hchc.edu

Saint Basil Academy

845.424.3500; www.stbasil.goarch.org

St. Michael's Home

914.476.3374; www.stmichaelshome.org

St. Photios National Shrine

904.829.8205; www.stphotios.com

Other key organizations and services

National Philoptochos

212.977.7770; www.philoptochos.org

Internet Ministries: www.internet.goarch.org

• Orthodox Jobs: www.orthodoxjobs.com

• Orthodox Marketplace: www.orthodoxmarketplace.com

• Online Store for Parishes: www.goarch.org/freebookstore

• Orthodox Children's Bible Reader Online: cbr.goarch.org

Leadership 100 Sunday Observed

by George Schira

National Leadership 100 Sunday was observed throughout the Archdiocese on Oct. 26, the sixth consecutive celebration. This year's event, which followed the Feast of St. Iakovos in honor of the founder of Leadership 100, coincided with the Feast of St. Demetrios. It also marked the year-long celebration of the endowment fund's 30th anniversary.

Parish priests throughout the nation read the encyclical issued by Archbishop Demetrios at the Divine Liturgy. Many parishes also held a program during the coffee hour. Leadership 100 trustees coordinated with parish priests to develop awareness of the support provided by Leadership 100 to the Church.

Ted Zampetis of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., a prominent business leader and a member of the Board of Trustees, served for the third consecutive year as chairman. He also serves as chairman of the Membership Committee.

"I want to thank all members of Leadership 100 who participated, especially Ted Zampetis, National Leadership 100 Sunday chairman," said George S. Tsandikos, Leadership 100 Chairman. Tsandikos hosted the coffee hour at Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral, following the reading of the encyclical by Fr. John Vlahos, dean, who spoke on the Leadership 100 Scholarship Program at Holy Cross School of Theology."

"National Leadership 100 Sunday has helped our Church and community become familiar with the purpose and mission of Leadership 100," said Zampetis, who spoke at St. Nicholas Church in Troy, Mich. "We are receiving positive reports from Maryland to Ohio to California on renewed interest in Leadership 100," he added.

Over three decades, Leadership 100 has distributed close to \$40 million in grants to support the National Ministries and institutions of the Archdiocese, as well as other programs and projects that advanced Orthodoxy and Hellenism and assisted humanitarian causes in the nation and around the world.



St. Nicholas parish photo

Ted Zampetis speaks on Leadership 100 grants during National Leadership 100 observance at St. Nicholas Church in Troy.

Saint Basil Christmas Program

GARRISON, N.Y. – Saint Basil Academy will hold its annual Christmas Open House and Pageant at 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 13. The Academy is located at 79 Saint Basil Road (off Highway 9 D) in Garrison. RSVP (845) 424.3500 or e-mail: stbasil@goarch.org.

 **ORTHODOX OBSERVER**

USPS 412340

ISSN 0731-2547

In 2014, published monthly
except February–March and July–August
by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Editorial and Business Office:

8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075

TEL.: (212) 570-3555

FAX (212) 774-0239

EDITOR IN CHIEF *Jim Golding (Chryssoulis)*

GREEK SECTION EDITOR

Eleftherios Pissalidis

PRODUCTION & ADVERTISING

Eleftherios Pissalidis

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Abel Montoya

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT *Soula Podaras*

BUSINESS MANAGER

Marissa P. Costidis

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Dimitrios Panagos • Nicholas Manginas

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

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

Subscription rates are \$12 per year. Canada \$25.

Overseas Air Mail, \$55 per year. \$1.50 per copy.

Subscriptions for the membership of the Greek Orthodox Church in America are paid through their contribution to the Archdiocese. Of this contribution, \$5 is forwarded to the Orthodox Observer.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: **ORTHODOX OBSERVER, 8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075**

CYPRUS TRIP 2014

Pilgrimage to a Sacred Land

▶ from page 1

from another country, policemen, teachers, reporters and journalists, Orthodox faithful welcoming him in the narthex of a church or attending the Sunday Liturgy for the feast of St. Demetrios and well-wishers at an open house reception for his name day.

The Church

The Church of Cyprus is a church of saints and martyrs that dates back to 45 AD when St. Paul, accompanied by Barnabas and Mark the Evangelist, came to Cyprus to spread Christianity.

Shortly after his arrival to Nicosia, Archbishop Demetrios paid a first visit to Archbishop Chrysostomos of Cyprus. On the third day in Cyprus, His Eminence, with the members of his delegation, officially visited Archbishop Chrysostomos of Cyprus who welcomed him at the steps of the Archdiocesan headquarters in Nicosia. During their substantive meeting, Archbishop Demetrios said that the Greek-American Orthodox community remains vigilant and will continue to actively stand by the people of Cyprus until their just fight bears fruit and until the possibility for all people in Cyprus to lead a peaceful, productive and happy life is restored. His Beatitude expressed the gratitude of the Cypriot people for the solidarity of the *Omogeneia* and its tireless efforts in the United States, “the country that is the center where many crucial decisions are made.”

Shortly after their meeting, Dr. Ioannis Iliades, the director of the Byzantine Museum of the *Archbishop Makarios III Cultural Foundation* led a tour of the museum for Archbishop Demetrios, with emphasis to the exhibit of recently repatriated stolen ecclesiastical treasures.

Feast of St. Demetrios

On St. Demetrios the Myrrh-bearer Feast Day, Archbishop Demetrios's patron, he presided at the hierarchal Divine Liturgy in the Church of St. Demetrios Akropoleos in Nicosia, which was filled to capacity.

Concelebrating with the Archbishop were Metropolitan Nicholas and Bishop Sevastianos, and two hierarchs from the Church of Cyprus, Bishop of Mesaoria Grigorios and Bishop of Karpasia Christophoros. Archbishop Chrysostomos attended prayerfully in the altar.

Shortly before the dismissal, the Cypriot prelate addressed the faithful, wishing the Archbishop “many and blessed years in the service of His Church, and strength from God in your multifaceted leadership

in America,” he said. Addressing the Archbishop he added: “Our people here in Cyprus derive strength and hope from you and your presence here today.”

Archbishop Demetrios assured the congregation that the support of the Greek American and Greek Cypriot American community in the United States would continue and intensify. He said that it is a good fight, a fight to end a great injustice done to Cyprus and to end an unacceptable occupation in every respect.

Government and Diplomatic Officials

On Oct. 22, Archbishop Demetrios began his meetings with government and diplomatic officials at the Ministry of Education and Culture where Minister Kostas Kadis received the Archbishop and his delegation.

For the past eight years, the Ministry and the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute have organized and hosted a summer educational program to train parochial school teachers of the Archdiocese. The program focuses on methods of teaching Greek as a second language and elements of culture and history.

The Archbishop and the minister discussed ways of strengthening, expanding and diversifying this program and furthering the cooperation between the Ministry and Archdiocese.

Greece's Ambassador to Cyprus, Vassilis Papaioannou, welcomed the Archbishop to the embassy, which is located next to the green line separating Nicosia in half and right at the *Ledra Palace* checkpoint. Ambassador Papaioannou discussed with His Eminence the latest developments in the region and their pertinence to Cyprus.

Later, Archbishop Demetrios met with Fotis Fotiou, presidential commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs and Cypriots Abroad. Mr. Fotiou, who holds a ministry level post directly under the president of Cyprus, is responsible for issues pertaining to missing persons following the Turkish invasion, to persons enclaved in the occupied areas and Cypriots living abroad.

Archbishop Demetrios also visited the U.S. embassy in Nicosia and met with Ambassador John Koening.

On Oct. 23, the Archbishop visited the Supreme Court of Cyprus and met with Chief Justice Myron Nicolatos and with other members of the Court, where they discussed the scope of their work and challenges they face.

President of Parliament Yiannakis Omirou welcomed the Archbishop and apprised the Archbishop of latest develop-



Archbishop Demetrios, President Nicholas Anastasiadis and Archbishop Chrysostomos of Cyprus in the president's office.

ments and new Turkish provocations in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone.

On Oct. 27, Archbishop Demetrios visited the Foreign Ministry of Cyprus and met with Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides and discussed information and views on Cyprus-related issues and role of the Greek American *Omogeneia*. The apex of Archbishop Demetrios' encounters with government officials was his meeting that morning with President Anastasiades.

Upon the Archbishop's arrival at the Presidential Palace, the Cyprus Police Department philharmonic band performed and a Special Forces military contingent saluted the Archbishop. While there, His Eminence placed a wreath at the statue of Archbishop Makarios III.

President and Mrs. Anastasiades welcomed the Archbishop at the front steps. At their request, he conducted a blessing service of *Agiasmos*, with many staff members present.

After the service, the president received the Archbishop and his accompanying delegation in his office. Also present was Archbishop Chrysostomos of Cyprus.

The president hosted an official luncheon for Archbishop Demetrios, at which President Anastasiades expressed his love, appreciation, respect and gratitude of the people of Cyprus toward the Archbishop.

“Your presence here, Your Eminence, constitutes proof of your diachronic care and anguish for the survival of the Cypriot Hellenism,” said President Anastasiades. “It is therefore well understood why many people often ask whether you are of Cypriot descent. This of course is not unconnected with your struggles for vindication of the Cypriot Hellenism. Your visit will renew and strengthen even more the already rich and mutual feelings between You and the people of Cyprus.”

Archbishop Demetrios, in his response, expressed the emotions he felt during his pilgrimage in Cyprus and paraphrasing St. Paul said, “while here we experienced a reality as a work produced by faith, a labor prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope.” He also said that with the experiences gained during this visit in Cyprus, “we have been greatly impressed and we have a greater sense that these people are worth all our support. This pilgrimage has increased in us the feeling that Cyprus is worth not just the things we do, but a thousand times more of what we do in America, because the people of Cyprus are worth it. As we are about to depart, we leave indeed changed from when we arrived, and I will use an expression similar to a phrase the Archbishop of Athens used when he visited us in the United States last year, and I will say that we return to America better Orthodox and better hellenes, because we lived these days here in Cyprus.”

Organizations and Institutions

It was a small room, with a large window letting in the bright light of the mediterranean sun. A table stood in the center covered with a white cloth and upon it lay the remains of a soldier who was killed in the aftermath of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in July 1974. Nicos was among the missing for 40 years. On a table by the window stood his picture, a vase with flowers, and an icon of St. Nicholas with a small oil candle in front of it. Two other small tables were set on the sides. On the right, personal clothing items were carefully placed, indicating these remains belonged to a soldier. The left one, held a small wooden casket with a cross. His mother, as so many other mothers in Cyprus, was probably among

▶ to page 4



Archbishop Demetrios greets the children during a visit to one of the schools.



The Archbishop and Metropolitan Nicholas enter the occupied part of the capital.

CYPRUS TRIP 2014

Pilgrimage to a Sacred Land

▶ from page 3

those who have been seen countless times holding the photographs of their missing sons. This soldier's bones now lay on this table, without a skull, waiting for the family to come, weep, pray and take for a proper burial at last, and hopefully bring closure and peace.

This was the scene at the Anthropological Laboratory of the Committee on Missing Persons (CPM) located in the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA) near the Old Nicosia Airport, which was visited by Archbishop Demetrios and his delegation on Wednesday Oct. 22. The facility became operational in August 2006. The primary objective of the CMP is to enable relatives of missing persons to recover the remains of their loved ones, arrange for a proper burial and close a long period of anguish and uncertainty. Nestoras Nestoros, the Greek Cypriot member of the Committee and **Gülden Plümer Küçük**, the Turkish Cypriot member, led a tour of the facility for Archbishop Demetrios and provided information and statistics. They explained how the process works from exhumation, storage, cataloging through the identification process by DNA methods and the return of the remains.

According to the CMP, there are 1,508 missing Greek Cypriots and 493 Turkish Cypriots. There have been 916 sites excavated, 1,090 human remains have been found and 957 sets of remains have been analyzed. Of those, 491 remains of Greek Cypriots and 127 of Turkish Cypriots have been identified and returned to their families.

The Archbishop has previously visited the Municipality of St. Dometios, on the outskirts of Nicosia and at the dividing line. It is a very active community in philanthropic works.

On Oct. 23, His Eminence made a return visit at the invitation of the local Community Council on Volunteerism, which operates a day care and Kindergarten center for needy children. At the school, the Archbishop said he was very moved by the young children, their recital, and their songs and dancing.

St. Dometios' Mayor Dr. Kostas Petrou and Council President Stelios Stylianou offered greetings to the Archbishop and revealed a plaque at the entrance of the school recognizing the contributions of the Archdiocese and the Omogeneia.

The afternoon of Oct. 24, Archbishop Demetrios spent time at the Limassol Autism Intervention Center in Lemesos, saw the small volunteer-run facility and heard from parents of autistic children and adults of the challenges they are facing. Center director Artemis Vlahou explained the scope and the operation of the facility.

Later that afternoon, His Eminence visited the Cyprus Red Cross Children Therapy Center *Stella Soulioti* in Lemesos.

The Home, the only one of its kind in Cyprus, treats around 75 children up to 18 years old that live with severe physical disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and other physical and developmental problems.

Archbishop Demetrios conducted an Agiasmos service for a newly renovated school wing of the facility, made possible by financial support from the Archdiocese of America, the Cyprus Federation of America, Michael and Mary Jaharis, Panikos and Nasia Papanikolaou, Dimitrios and Georgia Kaloidis and George and Olga Tsounis.

Cyprus Red Cross President former first lady Fotini Papadopoulou and current first lady Andri Anastasiades attended the renovated classrooms opening.

On Oct. 26, Archbishop Demetrios held a blessing service at Nicosia's Freedom Square for the opening of the Pancyprian Special Olympics, where he met Nicosia Mayor Constantinos Yiorkadjis, other officials, athletes and their families.

Monday morning Oct. 27, the Archbishop and the members of his delegation visited the Christos Stellios Ioannou Foundation facility in Nicosia. The institute provides services to about 200 adults with moderate and mild mental disabilities. The director, Andreas Georgiou and other staff presented the facilities, the program and the participants' activities that are geared towards gradual and total socioeconomic integration.

Just during this trip, and while visiting various philanthropic organizations, Archbishop Demetrios presented donations totaling \$200,000 from the Cyprus Relief Fund of the Archdiocese and pledged another \$85,000.

Cultural and educational

The A.G. Leventis Gallery opened its doors in March of 2014 and quickly became the new jewel of Nicosia. On Oct. 22, Archbishop Demetrios visited the museum, which is the realization of the dream of the late Anastasios Leventis to share with his fellow countrymen a vast collection of works of art he obtained throughout his life. The state of the art museum houses three

distinct collections, the Cypriot, the Greek and the Paris collection, and through them presents the history and glory of European Art. The Archbishop was welcomed and given a tour of the museum by director Loukia Hadjigavriel and former first lady of Cyprus Fotini Papadopoulou.

Young students of the St. Kassianos elementary school, in the old part of Nicosia, welcomed Archbishop Demetrios in the morning of Oct. 23, with very moving expressions of love through poetry, song and dance. Right after the Archbishop and his delegation, accompanied by the Chief of Protocol Marios Kountourides, the lieutenant mayor of Nicosia Eleni Loukaidou and other City Council members toured the old part of town inside the Venetian walls.

George Philotheou, of the Department of Antiquities, led the tour to the churches of Panagia Chrysalinotissa, St. Kassianos, the Royal Chapel of Missirikou and the Orthodox Church of Holy Cross, which in Ottoman times had been converted to a mosque. His Eminence venerated the historic and miraculous icon of Panagia Faneromeni in the 14th century church of the same name and learned about the church's history from Byzantine historian Christodoulos Hatdzychristodoulou.

Archbishop Demetrios visited the historic School of Faneromeni, founded in 1859, that now operates as both an elementary and middle school. "You are a herald of sacrifice and of hope," said in her greeting the principal, Eftyhia Kalepiti. Students gave symbolic gifts to His Eminence and performed a short program of songs and hymns.

Archbishop Demetrios expressed interest in the archaeological site at the ancient city of Kourion, (near Lemesos)

where, on Oct. 24, first lady Andri Anastasiades accompanied him on a tour that included the house of Efstolios, dating back to the end of the 4th century AD, the ancient theater overlooking the Mediterranean and the early Christian basilica of the 5th century, which was the cathedral of Kourion and now stands in ruins.

Later, while visiting the Medieval Castle and Museum of Lemesos, His Eminence had the opportunity to see through the exhibits the economic, social and religious life of Cyprus from the 3rd to the 18th centuries.

The schedule of the official visit of Archbishop Demetrios to Cyprus, for which His Eminence said again and again "was a pilgrimage to a sacred land," was overseen and realized by the Protocol Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chief of Protocol Ambassador Marios Kountourides assisted by Mr. George Loizou.

Many other events included a number of private meetings, a dinner at the residence of Panicos and Nasia Papanikolaou, a reception at the U.S. Embassy, three separate television interviews with the major networks in Cyprus and numerous other occasions where Archbishop Demetrios made statements to the Press following visits and meetings. "Cyprus is familiar to us, it is beloved and by extension it is our home," said Archbishop Demetrios before he departed from Cyprus, the morning of Oct. 28.



KEY TO MAP

- 1) Limassol
- 2) Nicosia
- 3) Famagusta (Ammochostos)
- 4) Salamis
- 5) Agia Trias
- 6) Rizokarpaso
- 7) Agios Andreas

Archbishop Makes First-Ever Visit to Occupied Cyprus

by Stavros H. Papagermanos

The ringing bells of the historic monastery of St. Andrew in Karpasia resounded joyfully again, welcoming Archbishop Demetrios, as if it was the orthros (matins) of the feast day of its patron saint more than forty years ago, when this renown monastery was a place of pilgrimage and reverence for many orthodox faithful from all over the world.

The trip to the occupied part of Cyprus began in Nicosia, the morning of Saturday October 25, 2014, with arrangements by the U.S. Embassy. The two vehicles carrying Archbishop Demetrios and U.S. Ambassador John

Koenig in the first, and the Archbishop's accompanying delegation in the second, crossed the line of partition at the Ledra Palace checkpoint and drove through the occupied northern part of the city. Entered the plains of Mesaoria, spanning from Mount Troodos to the mountain range of Pentadaktylos and drove along the old road connecting Nicosia and Amochostos (Famagusta). Small villages appeared flaunting shiny minarets and waiving crescents in white and red backgrounds. Churches and bell towers were visible in every village, without crosses on top, looking dreary, grey and bleak under the brilliant sun, left prey to the harshness of the elements and the brutality of people.

The drive went through the village of Lefkoniko, Lapathos and reached the gulf of Famagusta, then turned north towards Bogazi and entered the peninsula of Karpasia, then even further north to Yialousa. The two vehicles entered the village of Agia Triada, which takes its name from the village church of Holy Trinity. About 70 enclaved Greek-Cypriots still live under occupation in the village, holding their own Thermopylae. Bishop of Karpasia Christoforos, who had arrived there earlier, welcomed the Archbishop and the American ambassador. A dozen or so Greek-Cypriots gathered in front of the church, some others watched from a distance, yet others approached and took photographs, and they were not reporters. An old man tolled the church bell, pulling on the long rope. Overwhelmed with emotions, the Archbishop and we, the members of his delegation, entered the Church. His Eminence lit a candle and venerated the icons. We all did the same, not as we had done so many times before, but prayerfully, with feelings of extraordinary reverence, as if it was the last time we would do such a thing.

We all chanted the dismissal hymn of Pentecost and the hymn to the The-

▶ next page

CYPRUS TRIP 2014

Stops included Agia Triada, Rizokarpaso, St. Andrew Monastery

otokos “Ti Ypermaho.” Archbishop Demetrios together with the other clergy chanted a short impromptu Trisagion memorial for Giannakis Liassis, a Greek-Cypriot soldier who was missing since August 14, 1974. His remains were found in 2010 near the village of Klepini and identified by the method of DNA. The Archbishop later visited his enclaved elderly parents Savas and Maroula Liassi at their house. At the old coffee house across from the church, the mostly elderly Greek-Cypriots of the village treated the whole entourage to traditional Cypriot coffee.

The next stop was the enclaved Rizokarpaso, a land of heroes and martyrs; about 200 enclaved Greek-Cypriots still live there. For 40 years they have lived in fear and terror, but they refuse to abandon their birthplace, their ancestral land. Almost all had gathered outside the church of St. Synesios, named for the first bishop of Karpasia. The church is dilapidated, but the cross still stands atop the bell tower and the dome.

Vassoula Prodromou, a senior at the Rizokarpaso high school welcomed the Archbishop and impressed him with the linguistic level of her greeting: “Your Eminence, we welcome you in our beloved Karpasia Peninsula and we thank you very much for honoring us with your presence. We want you to know that your manifested and tangible interest contributes greatly to the psychological livelihood of all the residents of Rizokarpaso, and please remember that you are our supporter, our advocate and our ally in our daily struggle.”

We all entered the church moved to tears, lit candles and venerated the old icons.

“We know that here you are heroically holding high the banner of Orthodoxy, and you should know that we are always together and we strive hard for the day that Rizokarpaso will again be free and part of the Republic of Cyprus. Now that we have experienced being with you we will continue and will intensify our struggle.”

The Archbishop gifted to the church a censer and said, “it is a symbolic gift to remind you that some of your brothers and sisters in America are fighting for you with all means possible. Everyone knows Rizokarpaso, because you are an example of heroism, patience, tenacity

and perseverance, to the great ideals of Orthodoxy and Hellenism. Preserve this example.”

“I wish you all that liberation and reunification come quickly,” said Kostas Tsentas, the president of the Cyprus Federation of America in his greeting.

“We think of you always, and do the best we can. The students of the School of Rizokarpaso are all part of the assistance program we have in the United States. We watch closely what you do and hope that soon we will all be able to live united in a

country for all people,” said Panikos Papanikolaou former president of CFA. “In our eyes you are all heroes,” said Bishop Sevastianos of Zela who comes from the occupied village of Zodeia in Morphou, and expressed the hope that “this distressed land will soon find justice and freedom.”

U.S. Ambassador John Koenig, spoke in Greek and expressed his will to do whatever is possible to support the enclaved “because you are a nucleus of hope for a reunited Cyprus,” he said.

The kilometers from Rizokarpaso to Agios Andreas were longer, the trip slower and the road rougher. When we arrived, the once glorious monastery with no crosses atop the main church or bell tower, looked battered by time, neglected by people and crumbling.

First, the Archbishop venerated the historic icon of St. Andrew the Apostle, kept at a makeshift chapel.

The hymn of Sts. Andrew and Demetrios were chanted. His Eminence gifted to Fr. Zacharias, the pastor of the church who has stayed in Karpasia for 40 years, a pectoral cross in remembrance of the visit.



Dimitrios Panagos photos

Archbishop Demetrios visited the monastery’s Katholikon. Restoration work has finally begun on the church in September and scaffolding now surrounds it, while everything has been completely removed from the interior.

Based on an architectural study of the University of Patras, the United Nations Development Program – Partnership for the Future in partnership with the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage is implementing the restoration project, which is funded by the Church of Cyprus and the Evkaf Administration (with 2.5 million euros each) and with a contribution of 25,000 USD from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

With appropriate safety precautions in a construction site, His Eminence and his entourage walked around the church and to the 15th century chapel underneath the *Katholikon*, where in a crypt the historic icon of Apostolos Andreas was found.

Exiting the underground chapel Archbishop Demetrios washed with the agiasma (holy water) that springs from the base of the church next to the sea.

On the way back to Nicosia, Arch-

bishop Demetrios stopped at the monastery of Saint Barnabas, the founder of the Church of Cyprus.

The bell tower of this monastery retains its cross and is operated by the occupation authorities as “an icon museum” according to the sign at the entrance and the brochure given to those who pay the ticket to enter.

In a crypt under the nearby chapel, His Eminence and the members of his delegation venerated the tomb of Apostle Barnabas.



Scenes from a visit – (top) U.S. Ambassador John Koenig with the Archbishop, Metropolitan Nicholas and Bishop Sevastianos. (above) Cyprus native Bishop Sevastianos of Zela speaks to enclaved Greek-Cypriots in the church of St. Sinesios in Rizokarpaso (below) This ruined little church in the occupied part of Cyprus is one of many that have deteriorated from intentional neglect by the occupiers of the island. (lower left) Archbishop Demetrios and Ambassador Koenig visit the elderly parents of Giannakis Liassis, Savas and Maroula Liassis at their home (at left) His Beatitude and His Eminence greet each other at the entrance of the Church of Cyprus headquarters.



ENCYCLICAL

Thanksgiving Day

*We give thanks to You,
Lord God Almighty!*

Revelation 11:17

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,**

The tradition of Thanksgiving Day has a long history in this country, beginning with the celebrations of early settlers who offered thanksgiving to God for safe passage to this land, for their freedom from religious persecution, for the strength to endure many hardships, and for the opportunities that were before them. In 1789 following a resolution passed by Congress, President George Washington issued a Thanksgiving Proclamation designating November 26 as a day "for rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; ...and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us."

The institution of Thanksgiving Day as an annual national holiday followed in 1863, when in the midst of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation calling for the people "to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens...and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union."

These foundations of Thanksgiving Day, and its place within the history and life of this nation as a regular observance have made this a holiday shared by many as well as a time for families to gather in fellowship and gratitude. The focus on giving thanks to God, the attitude of grate-

fulness for the blessings in our lives, and the traditions centered upon the family resonate with our emphasis on the family as a dwelling of Christ and a witness of His Gospel.

On this day when families gather to give thanks to God, they are gathering in His name, and Christ is in their midst (Matthew 18:20). As a day of Thanksgiving, it is a day of worship and prayer. It is a day to celebrate the life that comes from our Creator and is transformed by our Resurrected Lord. It is a day when the fruits of the Holy Spirit are shown in the fellowship of the home. Thanksgiving Day is a day when families share in what the family and home should be throughout the year – a place of praise and thanksgiving and a dwelling of Christ.

This strong relationship between our faith and the observance of Thanksgiving Day also shows that this is a time when families can offer a witness of the Gospel. Through the commemoration of this day, families have the opportunity to offer a witness of the Gospel by acknowledging that Christ is in their midst and by offering visible gratitude to God for His abundant blessings. In addition, the fellowship among members of the family nurture the bonds that are shared, affirming that the family is a place of love, care, healing, and forgiveness. In a home that is a dwelling of Christ with a family that is connected to God, each member can experience the love that flows from God's love for each of us. Friends and guests can see a testimony of the power of faith and grace, and lives can be drawn by this witness to the Gospel of salvation, which renews, transforms, and saves.

On this blessed Thanksgiving Day may we offer our deep gratitude and jubilant thanksgiving to our Almighty God.

May His abundant blessings be upon your gatherings and fellowship, and by observing this strong and vibrant tradition of our nation, may Christ be in your midst as you offer a witness of His Gospel of truth and love.

With paternal love in Christ,

Archbishop Demetrios

† DEMETRIOS, Archbishop of America



Dimitrios Panagos photo

Stephen and Mrs. Arete Cherpelis, receive the Archangel Michael Award from Archbishop Demetrios and Haeda Mihaltzes, board president. At far left is Bishop Andonios, director of St. Michael's Home.

St. Michael's Honors Stephen Cherpelis

by Alexa Cecchini

YONKERS, N.Y. – Sunday, Nov. 9, was an evening to remember as more than 230 of St. Michael's closest friends and supporters gathered at the Metropolitan Club in Manhattan for the Annual Name Day Gala. The event held in conjunction with the November 8th feast day of the Archangels is one of the signature fundraisers of the year and is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the Home and raise critically needed funds for the Expansion Project.

Part of the gala's tradition has been to honor a distinguished member of the

Greek Orthodox Community with the Archangel Michael Award which recognizes individuals who embody and promote the finer qualities and traditions of our Greek Orthodox heritage.

This year's recipient was Stephen Cherpelis. Mr. Cherpelis has given tirelessly to the Greek Orthodox Community as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, 1st Vice President of the Archdiocesan Cathedral of Holy Trinity, devoted member of St. Nicholas Church of Flushing where he was instrumental in the building of the ex-

▶ to page 14

Orfanakos Memorial Fund Created for Oratorical Festival Scholarships

NEW YORK – The Archdiocese Department of Religious Education has established the Fr. John Orfanakos Fund for the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Scholarship as a tribute to the late co-chairman of the program. Fr. John passed away Aug. 20.

Fr. Orfanakos along with his wife, Presbytera Margaret, served as co-chairman for nearly three decades. At the tri-sagion, funeral service, and luncheon, his leadership with the Oratorical Festival was remembered. Archbishop Demetrios commented that Fr. Orfanakos' commitment to the youth of the church, promoting the best from them, was a sign of his leadership in the Archdiocese.

As national finalists will recall, Fr. John was a presence, encouraging the speakers and their families. He helped

them relax before their presentations. Behind the scenes, he was always asking about how to get more young people and parishes involved with the program. In addition, over the years he helped create the annual topics, form the rules and guidelines for the festival, worked with judges, and helped resolve any problems when they arose.

Donations to the Orfanakos Fund may be sent to the Oratorical Festival Scholarship-Orfanakos Fund, Department of Religious Education, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445. For information about donating appreciated securities, contact the Department of Religious Education at religiousused@goarch.org

Contact Info: Anton Vrame, director, Department of Religious Education - tvrame@goarch.org

CLERGY UPDATE

Ordinations to the Diaconate

Honeycutt, James, Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, Holy Trinity Church, Nashville, 08/03/14

Cook, Timothy, Metropolitan Nicholas, St. George Church, Southgate, Mich. 08/10/14

Redmon, William, Metropolitan Nicholas, Assumption Church, Louisville, Ky. 10/11/14

Ordinations to the Priesthood

Dn. James Honeycutt, Metropolitan Nicholas, Annunciation Church, Muskegon, Mich. 08/09/14

Dn. Timothy Cook, Metropolitan Nicholas, St. Demetrios Church, Saginaw,

Mich. 08/16/14

Dn. Christos R. Mihalopoulos, Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago, St. Demetrios Church, Chicago, 09/28/14

Assignments

Fr. James Honeycutt, Annunciation Church, Muskegon, 08/10/14

Fr. Timothy Cook, St. Demetrios Church, Saginaw, 08/17/14

Fr. John Kostas, St. Spyridon Church, Clarksburg, W.Va. 10/26/14

Fr. Irenaeus Cox, Annunciation Church, Nassau, Bahamas 11/01/14

Suspensions

Fr. Adam (Adamantios) Metropoulos 09/15/14



Orthodox Observer photo

RCA board

Members of the Retired Clergy Association board met with Archbishop Demetrios on Nov. 11. Show with His Eminence are: (l.to.r.) Fr. Constantine Efstathiou, Fr. Eugene Pappas, vice president; Fr. Nicholas Soteropoulos, advisor; Fr. Joel McEachen, president; Fr. Constantine Eliadis, treasurer; and Fr. Theoharis Theoharis, secretary. Not present were Frs. George Poulos and John Maheras.

THE VOICE OF PHILOPTOCHOS

Maria Logus Named New National President

NEW YORK – Archbishop Demetrios announced the appointment of Maria Logus of New York as the new National Philoptochos president at the inaugural 2014-16 board meeting Oct. 17.

The Archbishop praised Ms. Logus for her commitment and service to Philoptochos and the Church.

On accepting the appointment and the charge of His Eminence, the new president stated, “Our National Board is blessed with a dynamic group of women. I look forward to working with all of them to advance the values and the mission of the Philoptochos Society. We will embrace new members as we continue to give honor to our founders.”

Ms. Logus is a lifelong New York City borough of Brooklyn resident and a parishioner at Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church. She is currently a lawyer for the New York State Unified Court System, and has three decades of legal experience. She studied at New York University and Brooklyn Law School.

She joined Philoptochos at age 18, following in the footsteps of her grand-

mother and mother, who held several positions in the organization.

In 1986, Archbishop Iakovos appointed Ms. Logus to the Philoptochos National Board as parliamentarian.

Multiple leadership roles followed, including chair for two national conventions and first vice president under Presidents Mimi Skandalakis, Eve Condakes, and Georgia Skeadas.

She served as Saint Basil Academy board president for several years and has been on the boards of Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology and St. Michael's Home.

Her paternal grandparents were from Constantinople and her maternal grandparents are from the island Limnos.

The Executive Board includes: Aphrodite Skeadas, past president-advisor; Arlene Siavelis Kehl, first vice president; Evangeline Mekras Scurtis, second vice president; Jeannie Ranglas, third vice president; Christine Karavites, secretary; Martha Stefanidakis, treasurer; and Georgia Vlitas, assistant treasurer; and the metropolis presidents: Jennifer



Dimitrios Panagos photo

National Board officers, shown with Archbishop Demetrios, (from left) Anita Kartalopoulos, legal advisor; Jeannie Ranglas, 3rd vice president; Christine Karavites, secretary; Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, spiritual advisor; National Philoptochos President Maria Logus. (right of Archbishop) Evangeline Mekras Scurtis, 2nd vice president; Arlene Siavelis Kehl, 1st vice president; Martha Stefanidakis, treasurer; Georgia Vlitas, assistant treasurer; Irene Steffas, parliamentarian; and Maria Stavropoulos, protocol officer.

Constantin, Direct Archdiocesan District; Irene Arsoniadis, Metropolis of Chicago; Frances Levas, Metropolis of Boston; Marian Catechis, Metropolis of Denver; Dee Nicolaou, Metropolis of Atlanta; Margaret Yates, Metropolis of Detroit; Rosemary Nikas, Metropolis of Pittsburgh; Jeannie

Ranglas, Metropolis of San Francisco and Anastasia Michals, Metropolis of New Jersey.

Serving in advisory positions are Anita Kartalopoulos, legal advisor; Maria Stavropoulos, protocol officer; and Irene Steffas, parliamentarian.

Patron Sts. Kosmas and Damianos Celebrated Nov. 1

NEW YORK – Archbishop Demetrios celebrated the Feast Day of Sts. Cosmas and Damianos, patron saints of the National Philoptochos Society, at Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral on Nov. 1 with National Board and chapter members present.

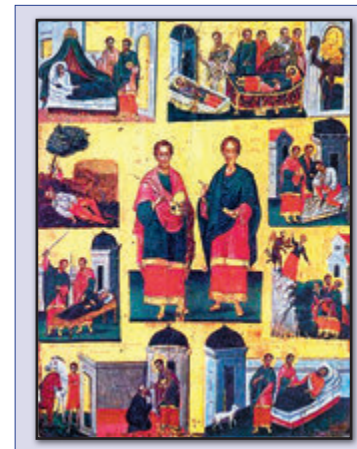
Also participating in the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy was the Philoptochos spiritual advisor, Bishop Sevastianos of Zela.

Among those attending were National President Maria Logus and National Past President and Advisor Aphrodite Skeadas.

Following the service, the festivities

continued at an open house at the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy at 126 East 37th St. The reception was hosted by Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos President Jennifer Constantin and local and national board members. Archbishop Demetrios and Bishop Sevastianos spoke of their recent visit to Cyprus, including offering the \$10,000 donation from the Philoptochos Aid to Greece and Cyprus campaign. President Logus, on behalf of the Society's 27,000 members, expressed best wishes to His Eminence on the recent occasion of his

name day, October 26, and thanked him for his leadership, guidance and support of the Society. She thanked all those in attendance and commented that she is looking forward to the challenges and eager to continue the extraordinary work of Philoptochos. For the two-year period of January 2012 through December 2013, National Philoptochos distributed an unprecedented \$3.1 million in philanthropic aid. For more information contact: Rania Richardson, communications manager, Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society.



In Memoriam Dina Skouras Oldknow

President Maria Logus informed Philoptochos members of the passing of Dina Skouras Oldknow on Oct. 28 and extended deepest sympathy to Mrs. Oldknow's family on behalf of the entire national organization.

Mrs. Oldknow served as the seventh national president (1990-94) under Archbishop Iakovos.

Dina's commitment to the Church was guided by a lifelong friendship with Archbishop Iakovos. In a 2012 interview, Mrs. Oldknow fondly recalled that while attending the National Philoptochos Convention in Washington, in 1990, Archbishop Iakovos whispered to her that he would like to talk to her about something. She was nervous and thought she had done something wrong. It was then that His Eminence asked her to serve as Philoptochos national president. The Archbishop told her he had asked her husband first.

Mrs. Oldknow's presidency was marked as a period rich in community service and outreach. Among her many significant contributions was the establishment of the Children's Medical Fund that served as the precursor to the present support nationwide with Children's

Medical Fund Luncheons held in each Metropolis. During Dina's second term the National Philoptochos adopted the International Orthodox Christian Charities as one of its ministries.

Dina visited extensively throughout the country and in each Metropolis during her tenure and also visited Canada and South America.

Together with her late husband, William Oldknow, Dina served the Church with deep commitment and devotion and offered a life of unparalleled service to her family, her Church and the community—at-large leaving behind a great legacy. Dina was always grateful that her family was very supportive of her great passion for Philoptochos.

Sympathies are extended to her four daughters Elizabeth, Theodora, Constantina and Teresa with their families.

May her memory be eternal.



Dina Skouras Oldknow

Social Services: An Overview

The National Philoptochos Department of Social Work assists Greek Orthodox and Orthodox Christian individuals and families, and Greek and Cypriot nationals while they are in the United States.

Licensed social workers help people address and resolve issues of poverty and income inadequacies; health and mental health including life-threatening illnesses, chronic and debilitating diseases, substance abuse and co-dependency; hunger and nutritional deficiencies; housing and homelessness; aging and family services; and domestic violence including partner, elder and child abuse.

Clients complete and sign an “Application for Assistance” and “Consent for Release of Information” and, using information gathered through assessment interviews, an action plan is created to help them manage on their own.

Services include interim case management, supportive counseling and short-term interventions, information about and referrals to local and broader resources, and advocacy assistance to ensure clients access the benefits and services to which they are entitled. Depending on need and documentation, we provide limited financial assistance to help prevent evictions, foreclosures, and utility shut-offs; assist victims of intimate partner abuse relocate to a safe environment; contribute

to uncovered medical costs; and contribute to funerals of indigent members of our community.

To ensure accountability, such grants are made payable directly to vendors providing services. Working with local chapters and Metropolis Philoptochos, the Department of Social Work assists with daily living needs of food and clothing through awarding supermarket or other forms of gift cards.

In addition to direct services, the department develops resources and gives presentations to inform the Church community about the issues at hand and to propose actions that a faith-based community can take to encourage effective responses.

Recent presentations and resources include, Mental Illness: Our Community's Journey to Understanding, Compassion and Hope, Domestic Violence: Identifying and Responding to Domestic Violence in the Greek Orthodox Community, A Guide to Finding Local Resources, Programs and Services, and Fact Sheets on Breast Cancer, Ovarian Cancer (in Greek and English), Talking To Your Children About Violent Events, Intimate Partner Abuse, Elder Abuse and more.

These documents are posted on the social services pages of the Philoptochos website at www.philoptochos.org

ST. NICHOLAS NATIONAL SHRINE

Out of the Ashes, a Symbol of Our Faith

by Nicholas Gage

Once firmly established in the United States, the major religious denominations in America took action to proclaim their presence by each building a great house of worship in a major thoroughfare in the country's most significant urban center – New York City.

The Episcopalians, the American version of the Church of England, made the first imprint with the construction of St. Paul's Chapel on lower Broadway in 1766 and went on to erect the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the enormous Romanesque edifice in Morningside Heights, beginning in 1892. Not to be absent from the heart of the city, a decade later they built St. Bartholomew's Church, a magnificent Byzantine-inspired basilica, on Park Avenue and 50th Street.

The Catholics chose the same general area, but on Fifth Avenue between 50th and 51st streets to announce their presence when they began construction of St. Patrick's Cathedral, their imposing Gothic temple, in 1910, across from what would later become Rockefeller Center.

The Rockefeller were Baptists and were not about to let their denomination go unrepresented once they made their vast fortune. So, in 1926, they financed the construction of the tallest religious structure in America – Riverside Church on Morningside Heights overlooking the Hudson River.

The Jews made their statement in 1958 with the construction of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue, 12 blocks up from St. Patrick's.

We Greek Orthodox have taken our time to make our presence felt in the Big Apple, content with our modest Cathedral of the Holy Trinity on 74th Street between Second and First avenues, some distance from the city's nerve centers.

Over the years, many Greek American leaders have talked about buying or building a cathedral on Park and Fifth avenues, now that we have made so much progress in America and achieved the second highest per capita income of any ethnic group.

But the talk never went anywhere. Now a terrible national tragedy has given us the opportunity to create a great shrine to our faith, and a spiritual memorial to all those who perished on 9/11.

The Church of St. Nicholas that will be built at the heart of Ground Zero replacing the one destroyed on 9/11 will make the most stirring statement that any house of worship has made in the United States in a long time. It will tell America in brilliant visual images what we are, where we come from and where we are going.

Selecting Santiago Calatrava to design the church was an inspired choice, for he is able to capture in his designs the past and future in such imaginative ways as to astound both the eye and the mind.

There is a small bridge in Athens that he designed over a roadway halfway between the city center and Aghia



Paraskevi that at first looks like a futuristic spaceship ready to take off from its launching pad, but then seems to take the form of an ancient Greek trireme gliding over the Aegean.

A fusion of the past and the future is what characterizes the new St. Nicholas Church. Calatrava has taken his inspiration from some of the great churches in Constantinople in creating his design. The shallow dome will have 40 ribs as does the dome of the Aghia Sofia, and alternating bands of stone at the corners will echo the walls of the Church of the Holy Savior in Chora.

But the church will also be constructed in such a way as to create an ethereal effect reminiscent of the more mystical scenes of "2001: A Space Odyssey." This will be achieved by fusing the exterior stone cladding with glass that in the evening hours will create a luminous aura and make the whole church appear to glow from within.

Most of all, St. Nicholas Church will have something entirely its own – what Laurence Durrell called "spirit of place." The original church, a neighborhood parish built in 1916, was completely buried by the collapse of the South Tower of the World Trade Center on 9/11, the only place of worship destroyed in the terrorist attack.

The new church will be built on a platform 25 feet above street level at the end of an open space that will include a non-denominational bereavement center for rest and medication, a shrine that will attract pilgrims of all beliefs from all over America and the world.

The church and the park area it will crown will become a national destination that some 10 million people are expected to visit every year. That will make St. Nicholas National Shrine one of the most popular sites in New York City, attracting twice as many visitors as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, for example, and many times more than other churches in the area, including the most majestic cathedrals.

A terrible tragedy has brought us the opportunity to leave our mark on our new-found land and to do it in a way that is worthy of our faith, fitting to the memory of all those who perished on 9/11, and mindful of the promise of Jesus when he said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people."

Nicholas Gage is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, an author of several books, including "Eleni," and a former New York Times reporter.

METROPOLIS NEWS



Photo by Alex Mavradis

Boston Cathedral veterans at program held in their honor at Annunciation Cathedral.

Boston Cathedral Honors 839 Veterans

BOSTON – Annunciation Cathedral held its annual Veterans Day Remembrance Program in honor of its 839 veterans who served in the U. S. Armed Forces from WWI to the present Nov. 9 following the Divine Liturgy.

Included was a special service for the more than 500 deceased veterans. Participating were the Hanscom Field Color Guard, the George K. Menichios Post 324 American Legion, branches of the armed forces and Evzones from the Hellenic American Societies of New England, a wreath presentation, descriptive flag folding, "Taps," and the singing of the "Our Father" by choir member Colleen Palmer. Following this solemn service, a tribute was made by a special armed forces guest, Commissioner Francisco Urena of Veterans' Services.

The cathedral choir concluded the festivities with a medley of patriotic musical numbers. The cathedral Veteran's Carillon, dedicated in memory of the veterans, was played "Let There Be Peace on Earth" as attendees file out. The cathedral Ladies Philoptochos hosted a warm reception in the fellowship hall.

Photographic displays of veterans and other memorabilia including the Memorial Veteran's Plaque listing 839 veterans added further nostalgia to the program.

Cathedral veterans, or members of their families, were recognized with a patriotic cross pin by the cathedral youth.

Submitted by Dr. Marica Arvanities, parish council president, and Dr. Christopher G. Gussis, Cathedral Veteran's program chairman.



Shadwells Restaurant hostess photo

Ninth decade

Clergy from several Virginia parishes recently honored Fr. Peter Rexinis (center) retired pastor of Transfiguration Church in Charlottesville, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Fr. "Rex" has been a priest for 60 years and served the Charlottesville community from 1973-97. Shown with him are (l. to r.) Fr. John Manuel of St. Nicholas Church, Virginia Beach; Fr. George Chioros, Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, Newport News; Fr. Nicholas Bacalis, dean of Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral, Richmond, and Fr. Peter Day of Holy Trinity Church, Roanoke. Fr. Rex continues to serve the Church, even in retirement. On Sundays, he makes a 250-mile round-trip journey from his home to St. Peter's Church in Danville, Va., to officiate at the Divine Liturgy.

Change of Address

To submit a change of address:

Contact Soula Podaras

at 212.774.0235

e-mail: spodaras@goarch.org

fax: 212.774.0239.

Or regular mail to:

Orthodox Observer,

8 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10075-0192

Be sure to include old address, new address and name of parish.

Questions about submitting news and photos:

Jim Golding (212) 570.3557;
jim@goarch.org

For advertising or the Greek section:

Lefteris Pissalidis, (212) 570.3555;
lefteris@goarch.org

METROPOLIS NEWS

Metropolis of Atlanta Shows Support for Hellenic College Holy Cross

by Jim Golding

ATLANTA—Hundreds of faithful from several states in the Metropolis showed their strong support for Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology and the Diakonia Retreat Center in South Carolina at a fundraiser Nov. 7 at Annunciation Cathedral Center under the theme “United in Ministry.”

The event was part of a weekend of activities that included the annual Archangel Michael Awards dinner on Nov. 8 and a general planning meeting.

The event, chaired by HCHC Trustee and 75th Anniversary Chairman Helen A. Carlos, included presentations from Fr. James Katinas, director of institutional advancement at HCHC, and recent graduates Paul Lundberg and Stella Hondros who both serve the Metropolis of Atlanta.

FOX-TV Chief Congressional Correspondent Mike Emanuel, serving as emcee, said in his welcoming remarks that the missions of HCHC and the St. Stephen’s Diakonia Center “are vital to our Faith” in light of the crisis confronting Christianity around the world, especially in the Middle East.

Fr. Katinas focused on the importance of HCHC in training the clergy needed to minister to the faithful and present the Orthodox Christian faith in a society where Christianity is under attack.

He warned of the forces “tearing at the fabric of our families,” including prioritizing material success “rather than in growing in relationship with God,” and the effects of popular culture on children.

“The bombardment of temptations is one Smart phone away,” he said, while the situation in the Church is one of “steady declines in baptisms, weddings and chrismations and increasing numbers of funerals and expenses.”

He noted that, while the world has become increasingly complex, “Through our ministry at the school and through philanthropy we can respond in ways that can be effective.”

Both HCHC and the Diakonia Retreat Center can foster spiritual growth in people of all ages,” Fr. Katinas said, because “Jesus continues to shine in the darkness.”

He continued, “Parishes need well-educated, Christ-centered teachers and the school is actively inspiring and recruiting future lay leaders and clergy of our Church. Because of you, the Diakonia Center and HCHC can continue their vital ministries.”

The Diakonia Center is located on a 210-acre site in northwestern South Carolina, which hosts year-round retreats and other events.

It can accommodate groups of 50 to



Orthodox Observer photos

Metropolitan Alexios gives the opening prayer at the fund-raiser for HCHC, assisted by Fr. James Katinas (at right of the metropolitan).

150. It features three lodges with a capacity of 35 persons each in two-person rooms; eight one-bedroom cabins, a meeting center, chapel, workshop facilities, hiking trails, a lake, and a dining hall.

The two graduates shared their thoughts on how they benefited from the school and the Diakonia Center.

“I’m very grateful for these two places,” said Stella Hondros, who earned a Masters in Divinity degree at Holy Cross and has served as a counselor at St. Stephen’s.

She said of her HCHC experience that, “It made me a better person.”

Currently, she is an assistant with the Metropolis Youth Ministry program.

Ms. Hondros also praised the Cross-Road program at the school that helps high school students “know who they are and who God wants them to be.” The program takes place over the summer in two separate 10-day sessions. “It helps high school students make life decisions,” she added.

Paul Lundberg, now a lay assistant at Transfiguration Church in Marietta, Ga., said the two institutions have something in common.

“They offer a total immersion into an integrated whole Orthodox life. In this intensely integrated Orthodox life, a tremendous sense of community is built,” he said.

“The strength of the school is the unity and sense of community we feel for one another.”

In his concluding remarks, Metropolitan Alexios observed that “In being here, we are building a family and when we build a family, we enjoy the time with the siblings.”

Noting that “We are losing 60 percent of our youth when they go to college,” the Metropolitan urged the parents to “give time to your children and to make them feel that somebody loves them.”

He continued, “We have to try to create opportunities to open dialogue so they can live with substance and respect life.” That is why we are here, for a cause, for the principles, We must become ambassadors and speak about these things.”

He challenged audience members to go to their parishes and encourage them to support these institutions.

Following the formal program, Basile the comedian performed his show, but also seriously spoke about the importance of supporting the two institutions.

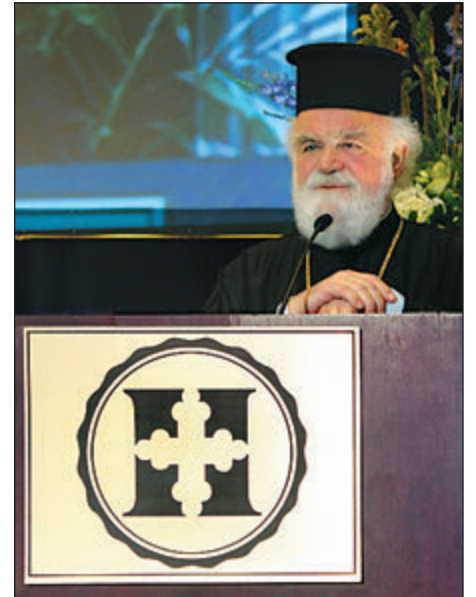
Commenting later on the success of the fund-raising dinner, Ms. Carlos noted, “This event is unique in that it partners, benefits and impacts two very important ministries of our Orthodox Church. It is our hope that this event will inspire our bothers and sisters in Christ around the country to consider having events that will bring awareness to more than one ministry especially when they compliment each other.

“The Diakonia Retreat Center, which is the location of our Metropolis of Atlanta St. Stephen’s Camp, is a natural ‘stepping stone’ to Hellenic College Holy Cross’ CrossRoad and Semester of Faith as well as building a foundation for a future full-time student at HCHC,” she said.

“Our speakers Stella Hondros and Paul Lundberg, HCHC graduates, captured for us the essence of these two ministries and how they impact our young people. Our MC, Mike Emanuel, chief congressional correspondent for FOX News, gave us a unique perspective from his worldwide experiences in which Christianity is under attack which reinforces the support of the DRC and HCHC.

“Even, our own Basile, in his comedic performance brought forth his own gratitude of how these ministries have benefited his children and family.

“The event raised over \$150,000 which will be split between the DRC and HCHC. We are grateful to have had this opportunity to partner the DRC and HCHC,” Ms. Carlos said. The greatest result I encountered after the event was from a young man expressing ‘United in Ministry was an epiphany for me; how can I get involved?’”



METROPOLITAN ALEXIOS



CHAIRMAN HELEN A. CARLOS



EMCEE MICHAEL EMANUEL



PAUL LUNDBERG



Hundreds of faithful represented parishes from several states of the Atlanta Metropolis.

THE CREED & LORD'S PRAYER GREEK & ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSIONS



Parishes & Parishioners:

Re-order your beautiful, color laminated cards (4.25" x 5.50" folded) of the Creed/Lord's Prayer in Greek & English.

Cost is \$1 per card + S&H (\$7 per every 50 cards). All orders must be paid before shipment.

Please call Orthodox Observer at: 212-570-3555

or complete the form below and mail it to:

Orthodox Observer,
8E. 79th Street, New York, NY 10075.



Yes, I want to order _____ **Prayer Cards**

Enclosed is my check for: \$ _____ price of cards + (S&H), or

I authorize the ORTHODOX OBSERVER to charge my:

Card No.: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____ @ _____

NATIONAL MINISTRIES REPORTS

This is the fourth installment of National Ministries reports that continue from the July-August issue presented at the Clergy Laity Congress in Philadelphia.

The National Ministries serve the entire Church in the United States and are supported by all parishioners through their stewardship commitment.

Reports are condensed and abridged because of space limitations. To view the complete texts of the reports, go to the Archdiocese website, www.goarch.org; then to the Archdiocese heading, scroll down to Clergy-Laity Congress link, double click, then go to Reports and Resolutions entry on the top panel.

The July-August issue presented the Chancellor's Office, Communications, and Department of Religious Education reports. The September issue presented the Archdiocesan District Office of Education, Greek Education (English), Marriage and Family, and the Orthodox Software Initiative reports.

The October issue included the Orthodox Observer, Office of Parish Development, Department of Philanthropy, and St. Michael's Home.

This issue presents Information Technology and Internet Ministries, Saint Basil Academy and Stewardship Outreach and Evangelism report summaries.

Departments of Information Technology, Internet Ministries

The technology ministry of the Archdiocese is comprised of two departments with two distinct areas of responsibility.

- Department of Information Technology: The IT Department is responsible for the overall technology vision and direction of the Archdiocese including standards, applications, and systems.

The IT Department also oversees the daily operational aspects of the Archdiocese's technology infrastructure and provides technical support to Archdiocese employees who use those internal systems.

- Department of Internet Ministries: Internet Ministries is responsible for the outward facing, technology ministry of the Archdiocese headquarters to parishes, parishioners, those seeking the Orthodox faith and Metropolises.

The department sets and executes the Archdiocese's overall Internet/digital strategy including the web, social networking, and mobile technology.

Leadership 100 and the FAITH Endowment grants have made many of the ministry offerings and services possible.

Range of responsibilities

The Department of Internet Ministries and the Department of Information Technology have broad responsibilities from the Ecumenical Patriarchate down to the local parish level.

A small sampling of the sites and services for which the Department of Internet Ministries is responsible includes:

- patriarchate.org: The Ecumenical Patriarchate official website.
- goarch.org: The Archdiocese official

website.

- apostolicpilgrimage.org: Official website for the 2014 meeting between Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

- assemblyofbishops.org: The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America official website.

- scoba.us: The web site of the former SCOBA (still maintained for archival purposes).

- faithandsafety.org: Technology safety through the eyes of faith. A joint technology safety initiative between the Archdiocese and U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

- orthodoxmarketplace.com: The official online store of the Archdiocese.

- bulletinbuilder.org: Bulletin Builder is a revolutionary tool that enables users to create and publish their parish's Sunday bulletin online for the web, email, and print in just minutes.

- iconograms.org: Iconograms is a free electronic icon greeting card service.

- orthodoxjobs.com: OrthodoxJobs is the premier online location for employment and other opportunities in lay ministry within the Orthodox Church.

The Archdiocese website is one of the most visited Orthodox websites with nearly 2.5 million visitors/year who view well over 7 million pages of content.

It is considered the authoritative site for Orthodox Christianity and is referred to by the U.S. State Department—including staff to be stationed in Orthodox countries, other domestic and foreign

continued next page



ΕΜΠΝΕΥΣΗ - ΤΕΧΝΗ - ΠΡΩΤΟΤΥΠΙΑ

The one and only jewelry store in the USA that designs and manufactures **Christenings Crosses**



36-05 162nd Street
Flushing, NY 11358

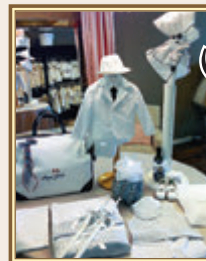
www.rizosjewelry.com

(877) 445-7475
(718) 445-7272

Design by efimeridany

Events by Stella

WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS & EVENTS



We specialize in the finest trends in wedding & baptismal wear & accessories: Stefana, Lambades & Boubounieres. Many of our products are imported from Greece and handmade in our boutique.

9022 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, IL 60714 • Tel.: 224-217-9670

- Visit us or shop online at www.eventsbystella.com

- Find us on Facebook at **Events by Stella**

- We ship throughout the United States

NATIONAL MINISTRIES REPORTS

Information Technology..

government agencies, academic institutions, and more. It serves as both an authoritative and informational resource on the faith, life, and culture of Orthodox Christianity.

The Department of Internet Ministries provides a number of services to the metropolises, parishes, and our various institutions and organizations. The Department currently hosts:

- 600 parish, metropolis, and organizational web sites on its infrastructure.
- More than 3,000 e-mail accounts spanning 200 domains which pass close to 900,000 e-mails/month.
- 13 Archdiocesan parishes and two parishes from other Orthodox Christians jurisdictions for live webcasting of services. Over 12 terabytes of live streaming data is consumed by users every year.
- More than 720 e-mail listservers encompassing over 130,000 subscribers and pushing out as many as 1.3 million e-mails/month.
- More than 55,000 users/month who send and view over 30,000 Iconograms electronic greeting cards.

The Archdiocese has a strong presence on various social media channels including: *(stats current as of June 5)*

- Facebook: facebook.com/goarch - over 44,000 likes.
- Twitter: twitter.com/goarch - 11,000 followers.
- YouTube: youtube.com/greekorthodoxchurch - over 3,900 subscribers and over 600,000 views.

Additional statistics are available further in the report.

The Archdiocese is also responsible for the social media sites of the Ecumenical Patriarchate:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/ecumenicalpatriarchate
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/ecupatriarch
- YouTube: www.YouTube.com/patriarchate

Department of Internet Ministries staff travel nationally to conduct lectures and presentations on a variety of topics related to the Church's use of technology and how parishes can use modern technologies effectively as tools for evangelism and outreach.

Serving many organizations

Additionally, the two departments provide products, services, consulting, and support for: the Ecumenical Patriarchate, The Pastoral Healthcare initiative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, The Archdiocese, Remote Archdiocesan Offices, Metropolises, parishes, the Assembly

of Bishops, The Order of St. Andrew: Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, National Philoptochos Society, Camping programs and ministries, Saint Basil Academy, Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

The Information Technology Department provides the complete groupware, calendaring, and mobile platform support for the Archdiocese and Metropolises.

Projects and Initiatives

The Departments of Internet Ministries and Information Technology have been active on a variety of projects and activities. A sampling includes:

- Apostolic Pilgrimage of Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Meeting of Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras.
- Expanding Infrastructure and Reducing Annual Costs by \$100,000. In the summer of 2013, the IT Department completed a full overhaul of the entire data and telecommunications infrastructure of the Archdiocese at six locations.
- Alexander Project: Full Parishioner and Clergy Data Management; real-time synchronization to mobile devices; and digital sacramental registry.
- Historic Partnership with Roman Catholic Church on Technology Safety.
- Bulletin Builder 2—Major Version Update. Bulletin Builder revolutionizes the Sunday Bulletin ministry.
- Daily Readings App for Android, Amazon Kindle Fire, Apple iOS, Nokia, and Windows Mobile Devices.
- Orthodox Marketplace-Growth and Expansion into Amazon Services.
- Leadership 100 GOTELECOM Video Programming; Metropolis Clergy-Laity Family Ministry Conference.
- National Technology Safety Educational Initiative.
- Facebook Educators and Community Leaders' Guide.
- Religious Alliance Against Pornography Board of Directors and Executive Committee.
- Technology CONVERGENCE Summit.
- Archons Religious Freedom Conference in Berlin.
- Digital Archives Project.
- E-books and Digital Media.
- Interactive Children's Bible Reader Online.
- Assembly of Bishops website.
- St. Nicholas National Shrine website.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

The Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry – Y2AM as it is known in the social media – works to improve education programs for youth and young adults and to increase program offerings. Y2AM serves as the new department logo for branding and marketing purposes, placed alongside the Archdiocese logo.

Y2AM's mission includes helping youth and young adults to better understand and experience Orthodox Christianity, setting the tone and vision for youth and young adult ministry, creating free parish and field ministry resources, providing training and Archdiocese-wide standards for the youth-young adult ministry.

Connecting With Resources

Y2AM offers a variety of online resources, shared with youth and young adults either through their parishes or directly through our various social media outlets.

Social Networking

The department cultivates an active and engaging presence on social media, including Twitter and Instagram @ GOA_Youth, and Facebook @ GOAYouth.

Young Adults pages are on Pinterest, GOA YoungAdults and Tumblr, GOA Young Adults.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food”

— Matthew 25:35

Join us in our ongoing fight against hunger. Your support will help us reach those who need it most.

Thanks to a generous donor, *your gift to IOCC will be matched dollar for dollar*, up to \$100,000, until December 31, 2014. So, please give as generously as possible.



DONATE TODAY AT
iocc.org/giftmatch

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES
P.O. Box 17398 • Baltimore, MD 21297-0429 USA
Toll-free donation hotline: (877) 803-IOCC (4622)

GREECE

CULTURE - RELAXATION - EXCITEMENT

FROM **\$865** AEGEAN DELIGHT
7 DAYS - Athens & Greek Island cruise

CLASSICAL & BYZANTINE GREECE - 7 DAYS FROM **\$1,199**
Athens, Mycenae, Olympia, Delphi & Meteora

CONSTANTINOPLE, ATHENS & GREEK ISLAND CRUISE FROM **\$1,320**

FROM **\$1,690** GREEK ISLAND HOPPING
10 DAYS - Athens, Mykonos, Santorini

BOOK EARLY & SAVE BIG!
Book any 2015 Brochure Package by Dec 31st and receive **\$200 OFF** per couple.

*Over 40 packages to choose from. Applies to new bookings only.

* Tour prices are per person, double occupancy. Port tax is additional \$141

WE OFFER COMPETITIVE AIRFARES TO GREECE FROM MOST USA CITIES



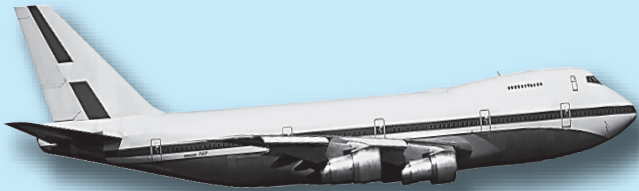
For a FREE brochure call your Travel Agent or Toll-Free: **1-800-223-5570**

55 East 59th Street, New York, NY 10022 • Tel.: 212-753-1100
e-mail: info@homerictours.com • www.Homerictours.com



MARKOS travel service

Καθημερινές αναχωρήσεις
με Delta, KLM, Alitalia, Lufthansa



Με επιστροφή από **\$349***

Περιορισμένος αριθμός θέσεων

Πτήσεις χωρίς σταθμό

*Συν φόρου

Κλείστε θέσεις τώρα
και κερδίστε

**Nationwide toll free
800-243-7728**

Για Connecticut 800-842-8260

E-mail: mmtravel1981@sbcglobal.net

Μάρκος Χατζηκωνσταντής, ιδιοκτήτης

ΑΝΤΑΠΟΚΡΙΣΙΣ Σ' ΟΛΗ ΤΗΝ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗ
ΑΠΙΣΤΕΥΤΑ ΧΑΜΗΛΕΣ ΤΙΜΕΣ

MARKOS TRAVEL
235 E. River Dr., Unit 402
East Hartford, CT 06108-5013
860-296-1722

NATIONAL MINISTRIES REPORTS

Youth and Young Adult Ministries

▷ from page 11

#LiveOrthodoxy hashtag continues to be popular, with about 900 unique photographs on Instagram alone. Other popular hashtags include #y2am, #bethebee, #OrthodoxLife and #beREAL.

Face-to-Face Ministry

Y2AM regularly offers presentations, workshops, making other appearances at parishes and organizing “Be the Bee”-themed retreats.

Parish and Field Ministry Resources YouTube Videos

The department’s YouTube channel, Y2AM, has 1,260 subscribers and 51,677 views as of May 28. The weekly “Be the Bee” series is the core YouTube offering. Each episode averages about 1,400. Y2AM had 11 subscribers before launching “Be the Bee.”

Be the Bee Retreats, Website

“From YouTube to YOU,” offers customizable retreats, regional retreats for multiple parishes at once. Working with the YMT, the Department of Religious Education, and Internet Ministries to create a resource for parents and youth workers of all kinds to better use and apply Be the Bee.

Episodes are paired with study questions, sample Sunday school and retreat lesson plans (tailored to different age groups) to help youth fully benefit from episodes, whether viewing them at home or in a classroom setting.

The website will also connect to a daily “Be the Bee blog.”

“ExeGenius”

Y2AM launched “ExeGenius,” annotation of the weekly Sunday Gospel reading. The project is developed in close cooperation with the advanced exegesis class at Holy Cross School of Theology, taught by Dr. Bruce Beck, assistant professor of New Testament and director of the Pappas Patristic Institute at Holy Cross School of Theology. Annotations offer patristic quotes, Scriptural cross-references, and other comments and questions that help the reader better understand the reading.

Podcasts

“OL with FJ” podcasts were launched on the Orthodox Christian Network. They are geared toward young adults summer camp programs. Sessions are casual, catechetical discussions primarily led by a priest and conducted with a small group of participants at summer camp.

This podcast takes the same tone but presents like a sermonette, while encouraging discussion via e-mail at the conclusion of every episode. “Word” is a new podcast on Ancient Faith Radio geared towards young adults and offers listeners weekly exegetical sermons on the Sunday gospel readings, exploring the richness and depth of meaning behind even the simplest words of Scripture.

“Word,” a companion offering to “ExeGenius,” is hosted by Steven Christoforou, interim director of the department.

Meme Project

Taking compelling lines from the Scripture, the Fathers, modern elders, etc. and setting them with inspirational backgrounds (designs, photographs, etc.).

Blogs

Maintain “The Ladder,” a blog written

for young adults offering a weekly reflection that offers a deeper, more theological look at the Faith. New posts are released every Monday and Friday. “The Ladder” recently moved to the new GOA blog website at blogs.goarch.org.

Real Weekend

•REAL (Representing Emerging Adult Leaders) is our national young adult ministry that has been cultivated and well received at the grass-roots level.

•Superseding the outdated YAL model, REAL is foundationally an initiative based on service and fellowship, reaching our young adults where they are and fulfilling the needs that these emerging leaders have today.

Orthodoxy On Tap

•Orthodoxy on Tap is currently the most popular REAL young adult ministry, and gathers young adults for fellowship and education in casual settings such as restaurants and bars. Young adults gather for presentations, guided discussion, or other opportunities to learn about the Faith in a relaxed and communal setting. Y2AM has a how-to guide to help parishes start this ministry.

Orthodoxy in Motion

Y2AM has developed a video contest with the Department of Philanthropy, “Orthodoxy in Motion.” This will help youth express their faith in a short video, to increase the Church’s presence on YouTube, and provide material that can be incorporated into future educational curricula. First prize to the junior and senior division will be \$2,000.

•Y2AM, along with the Department of Religious Education, is exploring ways to use this contest as a model for future additions to the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival.

Youth Ministry Standards Youth Protection Manual

Praesidium Inc., the national leader in abuse risk management, is the content provider for the Youth Protection Manual and online training modules for youth workers and clergy. This manual offers more specific and robust training, and proper stipulations for the eventual rollout to all parish ministries, including volunteers and workers associated with youth.

Youth Worker Training

Youth Protection also needs to be “positive,” an invitation to know Christ. To properly do this, youth workers in the Archdiocese are properly trained through the highest standards to ensure that youth are getting the best possible experience from their participation in various youth ministries through three key areas: doctrine, skills, and pastoral care.

Camping Ministries L-100 Camping Ministries Grant

The Leadership 100 Endowment Fund has provided a \$270,000 grant for national Camping Ministry efforts, of which \$30,000 will be distributed to each metropolis and the Direct Archdiocesan District through the Office of the Archbishop.

These funds help subsidize attendance and assists camp program enhancements simultaneously. It has enabled hundreds of participants from across the nation to attend their local camp and learn to live Orthodoxy first hand.

ΟΡΑ! GREEK CRUISE

Let the fun begin for 2015!

“A one week cruise, including fabulous Greek entertainment.”

MSC CRUISES - THE DIVINA

SATURDAY

FEBRUARY 7-14, 2015

SAILING FROM MIAMI TO: PHILLIPSBURG, ST.MAARTEN, SAN JUAN, AND GREAT STIRRUP CAY, BAHAMAS

For a limited time only, BOOK NOW, and receive Shipboard Credits of up to \$150. (Outside, balcony, and yacht club cabins)

Prices starting at only

\$799

Per person, double occupancy, includes cabin, all taxes, and entry to private shows and events.

You must book with TravelGroup to attend any of our private parties.

Sponsored by St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church of Ocala

JUST ANNOUNCED OUR ENTERTAINERS FOR THE CRUISE

HILARIOUS New Show!

GREEK ALL OVER
BASILE & IN CONCERT

The Aegeanduo, Nick and Steve

A Night in Athens Trio

WWW.OPACRUISE.COM

125 SE MIZNER BLVD. SUITE 14 BOCA RATON, FL 33432

Phone: 1 561 447 0750 ext. 102 or 108 OR Toll Free 1 866 447 0750

Email: opacruise@travelgroupintl.com

*Information subject to change without notice

INSTITUTIONAL REPORT

Saint Basil Academy

Saint Basil Academy is an Archdiocesan institution with its basic infrastructure founded upon the Christian teachings of Jesus Christ and His Orthodox Church.

The Academy is the only Greek Orthodox licensed residential child-care institution for Orthodox children in need in America. It is the manifestation of the Church's caring love for young people in desperate life situations and ministers to the whole child: mind, body and spirit.

The Academy's mission is to facilitate shelter, protection, love and education for our young people so they are able to grow up as healthy, wholesome, well-rounded Orthodox Christians, as well as productive members of society with vision and hope. For 70 years Saint Basil has provided a loving, safe and warm Christian environment for its youth. Its Garrison campus is situated in the Hudson Valley across from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Saint Basil offers children an opportunity for a new beginning and a chance to view themselves with an enhanced self-esteem. The children depend on the attitudes, understanding and skills of the Saint Basil staff. They thrive when they feel they are being supported and encouraged in an atmosphere where guidelines and expectations are consistent and predictable.

Educational Program

The staff places emphasis on each child's academic success. Whether the youngster's a high achiever academically or has special education needs, each child is dealt with as an individual. Their abilities are examined and the appropriate program is structured for each resident. Students attend two local schools in the area and there is excellent cooperation with both. Transportation to and from school is provided by the Residential Life Department staff.

Learning Center

The Nicholas J. Sumas Library became the Learning Center in January 2001 to address the students' educational needs. It was created with the expertise and cooperation of Marist College's School of Education in that the original basis of instruction would not only address homework strategies, but would also remediate underlying educational deficits and provide strategies for students. The center's staff members value and understand the students, with and nearly 100 percent of them going on to college or trade schools.

Residential Life

The Residential Life Department has been operating for more than 65 years. A typical day consists of helping children meet their educational, recreational and spiritual needs. The program consists of a behavior modification program that holds the children accountable for both positive and negative behavior.

The schedule includes study time in the Learning Center, a weekday chapel service, recreation, chores, clean up and sleep. The weekends include excursions to local parishes, recreation on campus with monthly young adult Saturday activities, shopping, movies and many other events.

Students live in one of seven dorms here on campus, four for the girls and three for the boys. Common areas such as the television room, kitchen and bathrooms are shared by all students.

The Bridge Program has a male and female dorm for the post high school residents. The children have 24-hour resi-

dential counselors when not in school. The dorm is their home and they are able to personalize their rooms.

Spiritual Life

The chapel is central to the life of the children. It symbolizes the religious life, and spiritual education and nurturing of the children. This is what makes Saint Basil Academy a totally unique residential child-care institution. The Greek Orthodox faith as given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ is what sustains and enhances the ministry to the children. They truly grow in their faith, belief and love of God. The chapel, built by William Chirgotis of blessed memory in 1985, is used on weekdays for a brief vesper service followed by a teaching sermon for the children and staff of the Academy and, of course, Sunday Divine liturgies. Retreats for both GOYA and adults are hosted on a regular basis throughout the year. A small local constituency of parishioners join the children to participate in Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings which complements the Saint Basil "family." Saint Basil Academy is a holy place. In addition to having the gravesite of Archbishop Michael, there is the Zoodochos Peghe (Life Giving Fountain) shrine, the St. Dionysios Chapel, and the St. Iakovos Chapel.

Recreation

The Pan Arcadian Gym at the Academy is central to the year-round recreational needs of the children and is a very versatile building. It is used as a basketball court and houses an exercise/weight room. Each child is taught how to ride a bicycle, if they do not know, and receive one at the first Christmas. The gym is also available as an auditorium for many events at the Academy. The annual Christmas Pageant, Fashion Show, and Vasilopita celebrations are all held in the Gym. The facility is capable of holding 200 people. Swimming is a major part of the children's lives. The Daughters of Penelope pool was built in 1983 and enclosed in 1985. It is heated and available for use by the children and visitors to the Academy throughout the year. All the children learn how to swim. Many of the high school and college age youth have obtained their lifeguard certification. The athletic field, created by the Philoptochos Sisterhood of Saint Basil, is located on the southern part of the campus. It is also made available to the Haldane School District for their lacrosse and soccer teams. Thus, Saint Basil is a viable part of the local community.

Health Programs, Emotional Care

The Clinical Staff includes clinicians (who have attained at least a master's degree), a registered nurse, graduate students, and a consulting child psychiatrist.

All inquiries and questions relating to admissions and programs at Saint Basil are channeled to the director of clinical services.

Clinicians complete a comprehensive and thorough report justifying the need for placement of all children and provide family counseling, sibling group counseling and workshops in the dorms.

Medical Care

Every child is under the care of a local pediatrician. With the staff registered nurse, all children are given their appropriate physical exams, and inoculations. Care is given in all areas. Some children have Medicaid. All are cared for equally and offered the proper, appropriate and best medical care available.



Specialists in Travel to Greece, Croatia, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Canary Islands, Turkey, Israel, Egypt, Cyprus & Jordan

- Tailor made itineraries to any of our unique destinations.
- European Honeymoon & Wedding specialists.
- European Family Vacations.
- Customized European Group Travel.
- Specialists in Greek Orthodox groups to the Holy Land, St. Catherine's Monastery, Constantinople & Greece.



JOIN US ON OUR SPECIAL GREEK ORTHODOX PILGRIMAGES:

ITALY: Rome & Southern Italy, Thessaloniki, Corfu & Mt. Athos
Dates to be announced- End of April

ITALY: Southern Italy & Sicily
Dates to be announced- End of April

GREECE: "In the Footsteps of St. Paul"
Dates to be announced-Beginning of June

Visit us at:
www.GreekOrthodoxPilgrimages.com

31 09 Newtown Ave. Long Island City, NY 11102
Tel.: (718) 721-3808 Toll Free: 1-800-223-7880
Fax: (718) 795-4356 E-mail: info@cloudtours.com

www.cloudtours.com

GALLERY BYZANTIUM

<p>Phos Zoe Silver \$43.00 14kt \$365</p>	<p>St. Irene 14kt \$479 Silver \$43.00</p>	<p>St. George 14kt \$398 Silver \$43.95</p>	<p>Get Free Shipping with coupon code OBS!</p>
<p>14kt \$365</p>	<p>14kt \$479</p>	<p>14kt \$398</p>	<p>St. Theodora 14kt \$795 Silver \$75.00</p>
<p>14kt \$365</p>	<p>14kt \$479</p>	<p>14kt \$398</p>	<p>14kt \$795</p>
<p>14kt \$365</p>	<p>14kt \$479</p>	<p>14kt \$398</p>	<p>14kt \$795</p>

1-800-798-6173
Many more designs available at:
www.gallerybyzantium.com

THREE GENERATIONS OF YIAYIA'S,
ONE RECIPE, CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF GREECE

AN ASSORTMENT OF YUMMY SWEETS
DELICIOUS, BEAUTIFULLY BOXED & BOWED!

PERFECT FOR YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING,
OR JUST TO ENJOY YOURSELF!

COMPLIMENTARY SHIPPING

10% OFF

THROUGH DEC. 10TH, USE THE CODE "OPA"

VISIT US AT:
WWW.SWEETSBYSTELLA.COM
INFO@SWEETSBYSTELLA.COM
914-708-0096

ARCHONS



Dimitrios Panagos photo

Archon class

New Archons with Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Methodios of Boston at Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral following their induction into the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle on Nov. 19

Corrections, clarification

- * In the obituary of Fr. John Orfanakos, Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey was listed as participating in the funeral service. He was out of the country at the time.
- * In the article by Clifford Argue on the visit to Orthodox lands in southeast Europe, Marina Zazanis is a member of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) Board of Directors and is not a missionary. Floyd Frantz is an OCMC missionary in Romania and he and Christi Thiery are both addiction counselors.

To donate

to the St. Nicholas National Shrine, make checks payable to:

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

Mailing Address: Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America,

8 East 79th St., New York, NY 10075 - www.stnicholaswtc.org

GO TELECOM TV on wherever TV

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
of America's 24/7 TV Channel.

Exclusively available on WhereverTV.

FREE with any paid subscription.

WATCH YOUR FAVORITE TV CHANNELS
LIVE FROM GREECE

MEGA
COSMOS

STAR
INTERNATIONAL

packages starting at:

\$14.99
per month

- Cable TV without the Cable
- No installation necessary

- No contract required
- Cancel at any time

To Learn More · Visit <http://greek.wherever.tv>
· Call +1 412 663 0094

Available on the
App Store

ANDROID APP ON
Google play

BOOK REVIEW

The Making of the New Testament

Fr. Theodore G. Stylianopoulos,
*The Making of the New Testament:
Church, Gospel and Canon*
Brookline, MA.
Holy Cross Orthodox Press,
170 pp. \$14.95.

By Rev. Dr. Stanley Harakas Th.D., D.D.

Fr. Theodore G. Stylianopoulos is well-known far beyond the generations of students he has taught at Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Mass. since 1967, Holding the titles of Professor of New Testament and Archbishop Iakovos Professor of Orthodox Theology, *Emeritus*, he has a worldwide reputation as a foremost expert in the field of New Testament academic studies.

In this book, Fr. Theodore investigates carefully and responsibly the relationship of the formation of the New Testament and the Early Church in a balanced, integrative and uplifting way, for his readers.

The fundamental issue he addresses in this book is the question of the formation of the New Testament and its profound and inseparable relationship with the Church of Christ and the New Testament's development.

This book is marked on the one hand by what Archbishop Demetrios calls in the "Forward," a "serious scholarly contribution," with copious documentation shown in the many notes at the end of each of the eight chapters and the rich bibliography.

Nevertheless, Fr. Theodore's illuminating chapters are written in the way that parish clergy and interested laypersons can easily read and understand the issues that he addresses. Chief among these are how, in the earliest Christian years, a living and vibrant Church was inspired, guided and informed by a living tradition, the "canon of faith," which gave to the Church the ability to acknowledge the authentic message in some writings and to reject as false and unconnected with the authentic beliefs conveyed in the Christian gospel.

Repeatedly, throughout the book, Fr. Theodore emphasizes that the core of that gospel, that is, "The Good News" is Jesus Christ as the Savior of all who come into this world.

That is, Jesus' life, message, witness, death and resurrection. Thus, he begins the book in a chapter titled "The Ministry

of Jesus" with this affirmation: "The story of the making of the New Testament begins with the ministry of Jesus. From Jesus came the Church and from the Church came the New Testament."

In several chapters, Fr. Stylianopoulos provides us with a description of the interplay between the tradition of faith proclaimed by the Church in the earliest centuries and the written documents which were acknowledged to authentically reflect and concurrently to inform the Church's proclamation of its faith. It is the story of the rejection of some writings and the acknowledgement of other writings containing the authentic "canon of the faith."

The story of this mutual and interpenetrating process is clearly told in the pages of this book. Clergy and laity who are interested in exploring the formative years of the Church and the New Testament will find this book a valuable and readable account of the formative years of both the Church and its New Testament Scriptures. The last four chapters address the issues of how, of all the varied writings of the era shortly after Jesus Christ's death and resurrection were selected as authentic – that is, the formation of the New Testament canon, its 27 books witnessing to the life, ministry, teaching, crucifixion and victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ and the first years of the establishment of His Holy Church.

Bishops, priests, theologians, and religious educators should take Fr. Theodore's message seriously. As Orthodox Christians, we are encouraged to affirm a fundamental truth: the Church of the Apostolic times addressed the "issue of orthodoxy and heresy. It is a travesty to claim that this view means that orthodoxy did not exist until the late second century. The heritage that was finally acknowledged as orthodox existed from the time of Jesus."

In my judgment, this book should especially serve to orient those who preach and teach in the Orthodox Church today, to keep their focus and message continuously on the Orthodox teaching about Jesus and the "Good News" of the Gospel.

Orthodox Christians in the English speaking world are grateful to have such a competent, focused, articulate and reverent guide to the New Testament as we have in Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos. We are grateful.

This book is highly recommend.

St. Michael's Honors Stephen Cherpelis

▶ from page 6

panded community center and school, vice chairman of the Direct Archdiocesan District Council, member of Leadership 100, and a major contributor and fundraising chairman of the Ronald McDonald House.

Archbishop Demetrios, along with Board President Haeda Mihaltses, bestowed the award to the honoree, whose family including wife, Arete, and four daughters. Friends and colleagues were all in attendance to celebrate his philanthropic achievements. Residents in attendance from the Home enjoyed a beautiful evening and even finished it off with some dancing.

The success of this year's gala was due to the extraordinary commitment of the Gala Chairwoman, Board of Trustee member, and speaker, Eftalia Katos, along with the hard working gala committee. Attendees adorned in exquisite cocktail attire were greeted in the Grand Hall.

For more information about St. Michael's events, to volunteer or make a donation, visit <http://www.stmichaelshome.org> or call (914)-476-3374.

ABOUT ST. MICHAEL'S HOME

Since its opening in May of 1958 the mission of St. Michael's Home has been to provide the elderly of our Greek Orthodox community with a home-away-from-home where they can live out their "golden" years with love, dignity, and quality care in a Greek Orthodox environment. As the only residential adult care facility under the aegis of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the Home is a unique facility offering a loving environment where residents are treated as family members and are accorded the appropriate physical and spiritual care they need.

Alexa Cecchini is the development officer for St. Michael's.

ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Έορτή Αγίων Αναργύρων Κοσμά και Δαμιανού

Πρός τούς Σεβασμιωτάτους και Θεοφιλεστάτους Αρχιερείς, τούς Εύλαβεστάτους Ιερείς και Διακόνους, τούς Μοναχούς και Μοναχές, τούς Προέδρους και Μέλη των Κοινοτικών Συμβουλίων, τήν Ημερήσια και Απογευματινά Σχολεία, τήν Φιλοπτώχους Αδελφότητα, τήν Νεολαία, τήν Έλληνορθόδοξη Οργανώση και όλόκληρο τό Χριστεπώνυμον πλήρωμα τής Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής.

Προσφιλείς Άδελφοί και Άδελφές εν Χριστώ,

Κάθε χρόνο δείχνουμε τήν αγάπη και ύποστηριξη μας στό φιλανθρωπικό έργο του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου μας ανακηρύσσοντας τήν Έορτή τών Αγίων Αναργύρων, Αγίων Κοσμά και Δαμιανού, ως ημέρα προσευχής και άρωγής τών φιλανθρωπικών διακονιών που προσφέρει ή Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή Κωνσταντινουπόλεως. Αυτές οι διακονίες σέ όρφανά, ηλικιωμένους, άρρώστους και ένδεείς συνανθρώπους μας άποτελούν ζωτικό και ουσιαστικό έργο του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου από τής ιδρύσεώς του και συνεχίζονται ως τής ημέρας με τήν μαρτυρία τής κλησεώς μας από τόν Κύριό μας να προσφέρουμε εϋσπλαγγνική θεραπεία και πιστή ύπηρεσία στους έχοντες ανάγκη.

Καθοδηγούμεθα στην προσπάθειά μας αυτή από τήν Έθνική Φιλόπτωχο Αδελφότητα Κυριών. Τήν Κυριακή, 2 Νοεμβρίου, τοπικά παρατηρήματα ανά τήν Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή θά προσφέρουν ειδική βοήθεια σ' αυτές τής διακονίες. Σας προσκαλώ να συνεισφέρετε με γενναιοδωρία για να βοηθήσετε τό έργο του προσφιλοϋς μας Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου τήν ώρα κατά τήν όποια οι βασικές ανάγκες εκεί και στην Μέση Ανατολή αύξάνουν. Όπως παρακολουθούμε, διακονίες με μακρά ιστορία δοκιμάζονται από τήν έλλειψη μέσων καθώς συνεχώς αναδύονται νέες ανθρωπιστικές κρίσεις και άπελπισμένες εκκλήσεις για βοήθεια.

Στή γενναιοδωρη προσφορά μας προς στήριξη του ζωτικού έργου του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου, προσφέρουμε μαρτυρία τής ενότητός μας εν Χριστώ και τής ενότητός μας διά τής πίστεως. Αυτή είναι ή μαρτυρία τής πρώτης Εκκλησίας όταν συγκεντρώνονταν προσφορές και δίδονταν σέ κοινότητες με μεγάλες ανάγκες, καλλιεργώντας τούς δεσμούς τής εγάπης εν Χριστώ (Ρωμ. 15:26, Κορ. Α', 16:1-4, Κορ. Β', 8-9). Αυτή είναι ή μαρτυρία τών Αγίων Αναργύρων, Κοσμά και Δαμιανού. Ενώ ήσαν συγγενείς εξ αίματος ως άδελφια, ήσαν επίσης ένωμένοι εν Χριστώ και εν τή δυνάμει τής πίστεως καθώς χρησιμοποίησαν τά θεϊκά δώρα των για να προσφέρουν ίαση, παρηγορία και έλπίδα σέ αυτούς οι όποιοι είχαν ανάγκη.

Αυτή είναι επίσης ή δική μας μαρτυρία επί τών ημερών μας σέ ένα τμήμα του κόσμου όπου ή διακονία εν ονόματος του Χριστού άντιμετωπίζει πολλές προκλήσεις. Έν μέσω σημαντικών έμποδίων και άντιθέσεων, τό Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχείο μας, υπό τήν ήγεσία του Παναγιωτάτου

► Σελίδα 16

Ιστορικό Προσκύνημα στα κατεχόμενα, στη Μονή του Αποστόλου Ανδρέα και στους εγκλωβισμένους Ελληνοκύπριους της Καρπασίας

του Σταύρου Η. Παπαγερμανού

ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑ – Ήχησε και πάλι χαρμόσινα η καμπάνα της Μονής του Αγίου Ανδρέα υποδεχόμενη τον Σεβασμιώτατο Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριο στην ιστορική πρώτη επίσκεψη και προσκύνημα συνάμα Αρχιεπισκόπου Αμερικής στην ιστορική μονή, στη Χερσόνησο της Καρπασίας και στις κατεχόμενες περιοχές της Κύπρου.

Το ταξίδι ξεκίνησε από τη Λευκωσία νωρίς το πρωί του Σαββάτου 25 Οκτωβρίου 2014. Το πρώτο αυτοκίνητο με τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο και τον Αμερικανό πρέσβη στην Κύπρο John Koenig. Το δεύτερο, ένα μικρό λεωφορείο με τα μέλη της συνοδείας του Αρχιεπισκόπου. Τα οχήματα πέρασαν στον κατεχόμενο τομέα της Λευκωσίας και μήκην στον παλιό δρόμο Λευκωσίας – Αμμοχώστου διασχίζοντας την πεδιάδα της Μεσαορίας που απλώνεται από το όρος Τρόδος μέχρι τον Πενταδάκτυλο, εκεί που σύμφωνα με τον θρύλο ο Διγενής Ακρίτας άπλωσε το χέρι του κι ακούμπησε την κορυφογραμμή αφήνοντας το αποτύπωμα του. Στο τοπίο απλώνονταν μικρά χωριά με υψωμένους επιδεικτικά τους στιλπνούς μιναρέδες, και ημισελήνους να κυματίζουν σε λευκό και κόκκινο φόντο. Σε αρκετά σημεία διακρίνονταν οι εκκλησιές και τα καμπαναριά χωρίς σταυρούς, ναοί θλιβεροί στην όψη, χλωμοί και γκριζοί κάτω απ' τον λαμπρό ήλιο, αφημένοι στα στοιχεία της φύσεως και στον κατατρεγμό των κατακτητών και του χρόνου. Το χωριό Λευκόνερο, με άλλο όνομα τώρα, βρίσκεται στη μέση της πεδιάδας. Μεγάλες και μικρές τσιμεντένιες κατασκευές διάσπαρτες στο τοπίο κι από τις δυο μεριές του δρόμου, οι περισσότερες ημιτελείς, δίχως ανθρώπους σαν στοιχειωμένες που τις εγκατέλειψε ο εργολάβος τους. Η Λάπαθος βρίσκεται κι αυτή πάνω στο δρόμο λίγα χιλιόμετρα πιο κάτω. Κι



Φωτογραφίες: ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος προσκυνεί την ιστορική εικόνα του Αποστόλου Ανδρέα

ύστερα τα οχήματα έφθασαν στο κόλπο της Αμμοχώστου κι ανηφόρσαν βόρεια για το Μπογαζί. Ο ήλιος είχε σηκωθεί τώρα για καλά πάνω απ' τη θάλασσα. Ελιές και χαρουπιές παντού. Πινακίδες διάσπαρτες σε κτίσματα και στύλους με πωλητήρια να αναγγέλλουν την πώληση του ιδρώτα κάποιων άλλων, την περιουσία των προσφύγων που καταπάτησε και νέμεται παράνομα ο κατακτητής.

Λίγο αργότερα μετά τη Γιαλούσα το αυτοκίνητο που μετέφερε τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο και τον Αμερικανό Πρέσβη έφτασε στο χωριό Αγία Τριάδα όπου ζουν μέχρι σήμερα 70 περίπου εγκλωβισμένοι Ελληνοκύπριοι. Τους προϋπάντησε ο οικείος ιεράρχης, Επίσκοπος Καρπασίας κ. Χριστόφορος. Μια χούφτα Ελληνοκυπρίων μαζεύτηκαν μπροστά στο ναό. Αρκετοί άλλοι κοιτούσαν τουλάχιστον με

περιέργεια, μερικοί τραβούσαν φωτογραφίες. Ένας ηλικιωμένος άντρας χτύπησε την καμπάνα του ομώνυμου ναού κι ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος, μαζί με τον Μητροπολίτη Νητροίτη Νικόλαο, τον Επίσκοπο Ζήλων Σεβαστιανό και τα άλλα μέλη της συνοδείας του, συγκλονισμένοι μήκην στο ναό, άναψαν ένα κερί και προσκύνησαν βαθιά συγκινημένοι. Έψαλλαν το απολυτίκιο της Πεντηκοστής και τον ύμνο «Τη Υπερμάχῳ» και σύντομο τρισάγιο για τον γιο του Σάββα Λιασή, αγνοούμενο στρατιώτη Γιαννάκη Λιασή, που ήταν 21 ετών όταν σκοτώθηκε και αγνοείτο από τις 14 Αυγούστου 1974. Τα λείψανά του βρέθηκαν το 2010 κοντά στο χωριό Κλειτήνη, αναγνωρίστηκαν με τη μέθοδο του DNA και επεστράφησαν στους

► Σελίδα 16

Η αγνή ψυχή δεν έσβυσε στην Κύπρο, στη Μακαρία γη...

του Σταύρου Η. Παπαγερμανού

«Καλώς ήρθατε στην Κύπρο την αέρινη, στη Μακαρία γη. Στ' ωραίο πολύπαθο κορμί ή αγνή ψυχή δεν έσβυσε. Και ζει, και ζει και ζει!» Όταν οι στίχοι αυτοί του Κωστή Παλαμά από τα χείλη των παιδιών με τα μεγάλα, ορθάνοιχτα, λαμπέρα, μαύρα μάτια σε καλωσορίζουν στη Κύπρο, αντιλαμβάνεσαι αμέσως ότι πρόκειται για μια ιδιαίτερη ευκαιρία, για μια μοναδική επίσκεψη.

«Αυτός ο τόπος είναι ιερός και πρέπει να αντιμετωπισθεί ανάλογα», δήλωσε ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος ο οποίος αφίχθη στην Κύπρο την Τρίτη 21 Οκτωβρίου πραγματοποιώντας επίσημη επίσκεψη στη Μεγαλόνησο, κατόπιν προσκλήσεως του Προέδρου της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας κ. Νίκου Αναστασιάδη και με την σύμφωνη γνώμη της Ιεράς Συνόδου της Εκκλησίας της Κύπρου.



Φωτογραφίες: ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Οι μαθητές του Γυμνασίου Ριζοκαρπάσου με τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο και τα μέλη της συνοδείας του.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος έθεσε τον τόνο και το ύφος της τέταρτης κατά σειρά επίσκεψής του στην Μαρτυρική Μεγαλόνησο από την αρχή κατά την άφιξη του στο Διεθνές Αεροδρόμιο της Λάρνακας: «Αυτή δεν είναι επίσκεψη, για μας είναι προσκύνημα. Προσκύνημα σ' ένα χώρο ιερό στον οποίο επί αιώνες έχουμε συνεχή προσφορά πολιτισμού και ειρήνης και ο οποίος έχει υποφέρει τελείως άδικως. Ενάντι της προσφοράς του έχει δεχθεί τα εντελώς αντίθετα και εξακολουθεί να υφίσταται αυτές τις δυσκολίες, τις πιέσεις και την κατοχή ενός σημαντικού μέρους της Κύπρου η οποία εξακολουθεί. Βέβαια

η Κύπρος ταυτοχρόνως μας δίνει διεθνώς ένα μάθημα αντοχής, μη συμβιβασμού με εύκολες λύσεις, μάθημα καθαρού πατριωτισμού, καθαρές Ορθοδοξίας και γι' αυτό το λόγο – το λέμε δημόσιως και το δηλώνουμε – για μας η Κύπρος είναι ένα προσφιλέστατο, σεβασμιο ιερό κομμάτι του Έθνους, της Ορθοδοξίας, του παγκοσμίου Ελληνισμού.

Η επίσκεψη του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου στην Κύπρο πραγματοποιήθηκε σε μια κρίσιμη περίοδο. Έχουν περάσει 40 χρόνια από την Τουρκική εισβολή του 1974 και το

► Σελίδα 17

► Σελίδα 15

γονείς του. Οι ηλικιωμένοι γονείς του είναι ανάμεσα στους εγκλωβισμένους και παραμένουν στην Αγία Τριάδα. Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος συνομίλησε με τον πατέρα και επισκέφθηκε την κυρία Μαρούλα Λιασή στο σπίτι της. Οι εγκλωβισμένοι Ελληνοκύπριοι, υπερήλικες στην πλειοψηφία τους, προσέφεραν κέρασμα στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο και τη συνοδεία του στο καφενείο του χωριού. Λίγες στιγμές άδολης φιλοξενίας, πόνο αλλά και ελπίδος.

Στη συνέχεια μαζί με τον Επίσκοπο Καρπασίας ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος μετέβη στο Ριζοκάρπασο όπου ζουν 200 περίπου εγκλωβισμένοι. Για 40 χρόνια ζουν με το φόβο και τον τρόμο της κατοχής αλλά παρ' όλες τις αντιξοότητες αρνούνται να εγκαταλείψουν την πατρογονική τους γη.

Ήταν όλοι συγκεντρωμένοι μπροστά στο ναό του Αγίου Συνεσίου, του πρώτου επισκόπου της Καρπασίας. Κι αυτός ο ναός χρίζει άμεσης συντήρησης αλλά στέκεται όρθιος με τους σταυρούς ακόμη στην κορφή του τρούλου



Δuo μαθήτριες του Δημοτικού Σχολείου Αγίου Κασσιανού με τις ζωγραφιές που δώρισαν στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο.

και του καμπαναριού.

Η τελειόφοιτη μαθήτρια Βασούλα Προδρόμου με λουλούδια στα χέρια καλωσόρισε εκ μέρους του Γυμνασίου Ριζοκάρπασου τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο με τα παρακάτω λόγια:

«Σεβασμιώτατε, Σας καλωσορίζουμε στην αγαπημένη χερσόνησο της Καρπασίας και σας ευχαριστούμε θερμά που μας τιμάτε με την παρουσία σας. Θέλουμε να γνωρίζετε ότι το έκδηλο και έμπρακτο ενδιαφέρον σας

ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

► Σελίδα 15

Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχου κ.κ. Βαρθολομαίου, εξακολουθεί να ανταποκρίνεται στο ιερό κάλεσμα μας ως Χριστιανών να βοηθήσουμε όποιον έχει ανάγκη. Με εύσπλαγχία και φροντίδα ποιότητας, οί υπεύθυνοι και εργαζόμενοι σε αυτές τις διακονίες στην Κωνσταντινούπολη προσπαθούν να προσφέρουν ανακούφιση και έλπιδα. Μένοντας πιστοί στον Θεό και άφοσιωμένοι στους έχοντες ανάγκη, άποκαλύπτουν τήν δύναμη τής πίστewς ή όποια προέρχεται από τή γνώση ότι προσφιλείς αδελφοί και αδελφές εν Χριστώ ανά τόν κόσμο συμβάλλουν και προσεύχονται για τήν ένισχυση του έργου των.

Σέ αυτή τήν Έορτή τών Αγίων Αναργύρων, σάς προσκαλώ να ανταποκριθήτε γενναϊόδωρα στήν έκκληση τής Φιλοπτώχου Αδελφότητος Κυριών και να προσευχηθήτε ειλικρινά. Έν μέσω τραγωδιών, βιαίων συγκρούσεων, καταστροφών και θανάτων, ή Έκκλησία μας και ή Ορθόδοξος πίστη μας, υπό τήν ήγεσία του Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχου μας αντίτάσσει έλπιδα, συμφιλίωση, διαρκή ειρήνη και χάρη διά του Κυρίου μας Ίησου Χριστού.

Μετά πατρικής εν Χριστώ αγάπης,

for Amfrikay Δημήτριος

† ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής Δημήτριος

Ιστορικό Προσκύνημα στα κατεχόμενα, στη Μονή του Αποστόλου

συμβάλλει τα μέγιστα στη ψυχολογική στήριξη όλων των κατοίκων του Ριζοκάρπασου και να ξέρετε ότι είστε για όλους μας στήριγμα, αρωγός και συμπαραστάτης στον καθημερινό μας αγώνα».

Όλοι μαζί εισήλθαν στο ναό προσκύνησαν με περισσή ευλάβεια τις εικόνες και έψαλαν ύμνους και τροπάρια. Ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος παρουσίασε τα μέλη της συνοδείας του και τον Αμερικανό πρέσβη και απευθυνόμενος στους κατοίκους του χωριού που είχαν συγκεντρωθεί στο ναό είπε ότι «ξέρουμε ότι εδώ κρατάτε ηρωικά τη σημαία της Ορθοδοξίας και εσείς πρέπει να ξέρετε ότι είμαστε μαζί πάντοτε και αγωνιζόμεθα για να έρθει η ημέρα που το Ριζοκάρπασο θα είναι και πάλι μέρος ελεύθερο της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας. Τώρα που έχουμε την εικόνα και την εμπειρία να είμεθα μαζί σας θα συνεχίσουμε και θα εντεινουμε τον αγώνα μας». Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος διαβεβαίωσε τους Ελληνοκυπρίους ότι έχουν την προστασία των αγίων, την προστασία των αγγέλων και πάνω απ' όλα την προστασία του Θεού, «ο Οποίος είναι Θεός της δικαιοσύνης και της αγάπης και δεν θα αφήσει να παρατείνεται επ' άπειρον η δοκιμασία αυτού του λαού».

Στη συνέχεια ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος προσέφερε προς το ναό ένα θυμιατό, συμβολικό δώρο για να τους θυμίζει, όπως είπε, «ότι ορισμένοι αδελφοί σας στην Αμερική προσεύχονται για σας και αγωνίζονται για σας με κάθε τρόπο», καταλήγοντας δε πρόσθεσε: «Το Ριζοκάρπασο το ξέρουν όλοι γιατί είστε σημείο αναφοράς, ηρωισμού, εγκαρτερήσεως, υπομονής και εμμονής στα μεγάλα ιδανικά της Ορθοδοξίας και του Ελληνισμού. Κρατείστε αυτό το παράδειγμα».

Ο πρόεδρος της Κυπριακής Ομοσπονδίας Αμερικής κ. Κώστας Τσέντας κληθείς να απευθύνει χαιρετισμό διαβεβαίωσε τους εγκλωβισμένους συμπατριώτες του για την αμέριστη συμπαράσταση των Κυπρίων ομογενών της Αμερικής και ευχήθηκε «καλή ελευθερία και καλή επανένωση».

Ο κ. Πανίκος Παπανικολάου, πρώην πρόεδρος της Κ.Ο.Α. στο δικό του χαιρετισμό είπε: «πάντοτε σας σκεφτόμαστε, καταλαβαίνουμε τον πόνο σας, προσπαθούμε να κάνουμε ότι καλύτερο μπορούμε. Όλα τα παιδιά του Σχολείου είναι στο πρόγραμμα βοήθειας παιδιών της Κύπρου που έχουμε στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες, παρακολουθούμε στενά το τι κάνετε και ελπίζω ότι σύντομα όλοι μαζί θα μπορούμε ενωμένοι να ζούμε σε μια πατρίδα για όλους».

«Στα μάτια μας είσατε όλοι σας ήρωες», τόνισε στον δικό του χαιρετισμό ο Επίσκοπος Ζήλων Σεβαστιανός που κατάγεται από το κατεχόμενο χωριό Ζώδια της Μόρφου και ευχήθηκε «τούτος ο τόπος ο πονεμένος να βρει γρήγορα δικαιοσύνη και ελευθερία».

Ο Αμερικανός Πρέσβης John Koenig στο χαιρετισμό του στα Ελληνικά ευχαρίστησε για την υποδοχή και είπε: «Είναι μεγάλη μας τιμή να είμαστε σήμερα εδώ μαζί με 2-3 συνεργάτες



Φωτογραφίες: ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος με τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Κύπρου Χρυσόστομο, τον Μητροπολίτη Ντιτροϊτ (αριστερά), τον Επίσκοπο Ζήλων Σεβαστιανό (δεξιά) και τον Μητροπολίτη Κυρηνείας Χρυσόστομο.

μου από την Πρεσβεία μας και να μπορούμε να βοηθήσουμε σε ορισμένα πράγματα [αλλά ευχαριστούμε] και τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής και την συνοδεία του να επισκεφθεί το Ριζοκάρπασο και την Καρπασία και τους εγκλωβισμένους Ελληνοκύπριους που μένουν εδώ. Από την πρώτη θητεία μου στην Κύπρο ήμουν πάντα κοντά στους Ελληνοκύπριους της Καρπασίας και νομίζω ότι πρέπει να κάνουμε ότι μπορούμε να σας υποστηρίξουμε διότι είστε ένας πυρήνας της ελπίδας για μια επανενωμένη Κύπρο».



Ο Πρόεδρος Αναστασιάδης ασπάζεται τον Σταυρό μετά τον αγιασμό στο Προεδρικό.

Από το Ριζοκάρπασο στον Απόστολο Ανδρέα τα χιλιόμετρα φάνηκαν πολλά, το ταξίδι πιο αργό από το αναμενόμενο και ο δρόμος παλιός και ανώμαλος. Η ένδοξη, ιστορική και δοξασμένη Μονή του Αποστόλου Ανδρέα, προσκύνημα για όλους τους Ορθόδοξους κάποτε, στέκει τώρα στην άκρη της θάλασσας ερειπωμένη και λυπηρή. Το καθολικό και το κωδωνοστάσιο χωρίς σταυρούς περιστοιχι-



Άγημα ειδικών δυνάμεων αποτίει τιμές στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο καθώς προσέρχεται στο Προεδρικό μέγαρο.

σμένα από τις σκαλωσιές και με εμφανή τα σημάδια 40 χρόνων κατοχής.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος, σταμάτησε πρώτα και προσκύνησε σ' ένα πρόχειρο παρεκκλήσιο που έχει δημιουργηθεί κι όπου φυλάσσεται η ιστορική εικόνα του Αποστόλου Ανδρέα. Εψάλη το απολυτικό του Αγίου Ανδρέα και του Αγίου Δημητρίου.

Στη συνέχεια ο Σεβασμιώτατος δώρισε στον εφημέριο π. Ζαχαρία, που παραμένει στην διακονία του Υψίστου και των πιστών εγκλωβισμένους στην Καρπασία για 40 χρόνια τώρα, επιστήθιο σταυρό εις ανάμνηση της επισκέψεώς του.

Ο κ. Δημήτριος επισκέφθηκε το Καθολικό της Μονής του Αποστόλου Ανδρέα. Ο ναός είναι σε προχωρημένη κατάσταση ερειπίωσης και αποσυνθέσεως και από τον Σεπτέμβριο άρχισαν εργασίες αναστηλώσεως.

Η ξενάγηση στο χώρο γύρω από το ναό που τώρα είναι εργοτάξιο, έγινε με τα απαραίτητα μέτρα ασφαλείας από τους εκπροσώπους και τους μηχανικούς της Τεχνικής Επιτροπής Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς και του αναπτυξιακού προγράμματος του ΟΗΕ 'Συνεργασία για το Μέλλον' (UNDP-PFF) που έχει αναλάβει το έργο και προωθεί την καλλιέργεια εμπιστοσύνης μεταξύ Ελληνοκυπρίων και Τουρκοκυπρίων.



Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος με την πρώτη κυρία Άντρη Αναστασιάδη και την κ. Φωτεινή Παπαδοπούλου.

Το έργο της αναστηλώσεως βασισμένο σε αρχιτεκτονική και στατική μελέτη του τμήματος αρχιτεκτονικής του Πανεπιστημίου Πατρών, χρηματοδοτείται εξ ίσου από την Εκκλησία της Κύπρου και από την Διοίκηση Βακουφίων (Evkaf Administration) με το ποσό των 2,5 εκατομμυρίων ευρώ εκάστη, έχει δε ενισχυθεί από την Αμερικανική Υπηρεσία Διεθνούς αναπτύξεως (USAID) με 25 χιλιάδες δολάρια.

Αμέσως μετά ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος και η συνοδεία του επισκέφθηκαν ένα παρεκκλήσιο του 15ου αιώνα που βρίσκεται υπό γης στο κάτω μέρος του ναού και είδαν την κρύπτη όπου βρέθηκε η ιστορική εικόνα του Αποστόλου Ανδρέα. Μετά βγήκαν στον λαμπρό μεσημεριανό ήλιο και ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος πήρε

► Σελίδα 17

Ανδρέα και στους εγκλωβισμένους Ελληνοκύπριους της Καρπασίας

ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Έορτή τῆς Συνάξεως τῶν Ἁγίων Ἀρχαγγέλων

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Ἐυλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴν Νεολαία, τὶς Ἐλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

Προσφιλεῖς Ἀδελφοὶ καὶ Ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Στὴν σημερινὴ εὐλογημένη Ἑορτὴ τῆς Συνάξεως τῶν Ἁγίων Ἀρχαγγέλων, καλούμεθα ἀπὸ τοὺς ὕμνους τῆς Ἁγίας Ὀρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας μας νὰ σκεφθοῦμε τὸν μεγάλου ρόλου τὸν ὁποῖον ἔχουν οἱ ἄγγελοι στὴν ὑπηρεσία τοῦ Παντοδυναμοῦ Θεοῦ μας. Ἡ Ἁγία Γραφή μᾶς λέει ὅτι οἱ ἄγγελοι δοξολογοῦν συνεχῶς τὸν Θεό, μεταφέρουν τὸ μήνυμά Του καὶ προστατεύουν καὶ ὑπερασπίζονται αὐτοὺς πού ἔχουν ἀνάγκη, ἐκτελώντας τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τώρα καὶ στὴν αἰωνιότητα.

Ἡ διακονία τῶν ἀγγέλων εἶναι διακονία ἀκτινοβολίας τῆς ἀγιότητας τοῦ Θεοῦ. Εἶναι ἐπίσης διακονία ὑπακοῆς. Ὁ Θεὸς δίδει ἐντολές, καὶ οἱ ἅγιοι ἄγγελοι ἀνταποκρίνονται προσπαθώντας νὰ ἐκπληρώσουν τὶς ἐντολές Του ὑπηρετώντας Ἐκεῖνον καὶ τὴν δημιουργία Του. Ἡ διακονία των πρὸς χάριν μας εἶναι ἐπίσης πλήρης ἀγάπης. Ὑπηρετώντας ἕναν Θεὸν χάριτος, προσφέρουν προστασία, βοήθεια καὶ καθοδήγηση.

Ἡ εὐλογημένη διακονία τῶν ἀγγέλων ἀντανακλάται, ἐπίσης, καὶ στὴν ποιότητα τῆς φροντίδος καὶ στὶς στοργικὲς ὑπηρεσίες οἱ ὁποῖες προσφέρονται ἀπὸ τὸν προσφιλή μας Οἶκο Εὐγγερίας Ἁγίου Μιχαήλ. Κατὰ τὴν ἑορτὴ αὐτὴ, ἀναγνωρίζουμε τὶς ἐκλεκτὲς ὑπηρεσίες τῶν ἐπιτρόπων, διευθυντῶν καὶ τοῦ προσωπικοῦ, ἐπιβεβαιώνοντας ἔτσι ὅτι μέσα σὲ ἕνα ἱερό περιβάλλον, γεμάτο ἀπὸ τὴν παρουσία τοῦ Θεοῦ, μένουν πιστοὶ στό θέλημά Του νὰ προσφέρουν ἀνακούφιση, ἀγάπη καὶ θεραπεία. Ἐπὶ ἐξήντα σχεδὸν ἔτη αὐτὸ τὸ ἴδρυμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς μας προσφέρει διακονία στους πιστούς μας, ἐνῶ τώρα ἔχουμε τὴν εὐκαιρία καὶ νὰ ἐπεκταθοῦμε. Μὲ τὴν ἀγορὰ οἰκοπέδου σαράντα τεσσάρων στρεμμάτων στὴν περιοχή Long Island, ὁ Ἅγιος Μιχαήλ ὁραματίζεται τὴν οἰκοδόμησι ἐγκαταστάσεων τελευταίας τεχνολογίας γιὰ τὴν προσφορά συνεχοῦς φροντίδος. Ὅταν αὐτὸ ἐπιτευχθεῖ, πολλοὶ περισσότεροι θὰ ἐξυπηρετηθοῦν λαμβάνοντας διαφορετικὰ ἐπίπεδα φροντίδος καθὼς καὶ τὴν ἴδια ἱερά διακονία εὐσπλαχνίας ἢ ὁποῖα προσφέρεται σήμερα.

Γιὰ νὰ στηρίξουμε αὐτὴ τὴν ἱερά διακονία καὶ τὴν ἐπέκτασι τοῦ Οἴκου Εὐγγερίας Ἁγίου Μιχαήλ, παρακαλῶ ἀπὸ τὶς ἐνορίες τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς μας νὰ προβῆτε σὲ εἰδικὴ δωρεὰ τὴν Κυριακὴν, 9 Νοεμβρίου. Παρακαλῶ, ἀποστείλετε τὴ δωρεὰ σας μὲ τὴν ἔνδειξη γιὰ τὸν Ἅγιο Μιχαήλ στὴν Ἀρχιεπισκοπή, καὶ αὐτὴ θὰ προωθηθῆ στὸν Οἶκο Εὐγγερίας. Ἐπίσης, σὰς προσκαλῶ στὴν εὐλογημένη αὐτὴ ἑορτὴ νὰ προσευχηθῆτε γιὰ τοὺς τροφίμους, τὸ προσωπικὸ καὶ τοὺς διευθύνοντες, καὶ ἐπίσης γιὰ τὶς πολλὰς διακονίες ἀνὰ τὴν ἐπικράτεια οἱ ὁποῖες προσφέρονται ἀπὸ τὶς Μητροπόλεις καὶ τὶς ἐνορίες γιὰ τὴ φροντίδα ὑπερηλικῶν. Ἀκολουθώντας τὶς ἐντολές τοῦ Κυρίου μας καὶ ἀποκαλύπτοντας τὴν χάρι τοῦ Θεοῦ, βλέπουμε μίαν τεράστια καὶ αὐξανομένην προσπάθεια προσφοράς διακονίας στοὺς ἔχοντες ἀνάγκη. Ἄς εὐχαριστήσουμε τὸν Θεὸ γιὰ τὴν μαρτυρία, προστασία καὶ ὑπηρεσία τῶν ἁγίων ἀγγέλων Του, καὶ ἄς συνεχίσουμε νὰ προσφέρουμε ὑπηρεσίες πίστεως καὶ στοργῆς στοὺς συνανθρώπους μας μὲ πραγματικὴ ἱερά ἀγάπη.

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης,

Ἁγίου Δημητρίου

† Ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀμερικῆς Δημήτριος



(Α) Στὴ συνάντησι στο γραφεῖο τοῦ Προέδρου τῆς Δημοκρατίας (ἀπὸ ἀριστερὰ) ὁ Ἐπίσκοπος Μεσαορίας Γρηγόριος, ὁ Ἐπίσκοπος Ζήλων Σεβαστιανός, ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Κύπρου Χρυσόστομος, ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος, ὁ Πρόεδρος Αναστασιάδης, ὁ Μητροπολίτης Ντιτρόιτ Νικόλαος καὶ ὁ πρόεδρος τῆς ΚΟΑ κ. Κώστας Τσέντας. (Δ) Ὁ Θεοφ. Ἐπίσκοπος Ζήλων κ. Σεβαστιανός συζητᾷ με μίαν ἠλικιωμένην πρεσβυτέρα, εγκλωβισμένην στὴν Ἁγία Τριάδα.

► Σελίδα 16

το αγίασμα τῆς Μονῆς που αναβλύζει ἀπὸ τὸ πίσω μέρος τοῦ Καθολικοῦ λίγα μόλις μέτρα ἀπὸ τὴ θάλασσα. Καὶ τα δύο αὐτὰ μνημεῖα θὰ ἀναστηλωθοῦν σὲ δευτέρη φάσι, μετὰ τὴν ἀποπεράτωσι τοῦ Καθολικοῦ.

Στὸ δρόμο τῆς επιστροφῆς πρὸς τὴ Λευκωσία, ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος σταμάτησε καὶ προσκύνησε στο Μοναστήρι τοῦ Ἁγίου Αποστόλου Βαρνάβα, ἰδρυτοῦ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Κύπρου. Στὴ μονὴ αὐτὴ διατηρεῖται ὁ σταυρὸς ἐπάνω στο κωδωνοστάσιο καὶ ὁ χώρος λειτουργεῖ μὲ εἰσιτήριο «ὡς Μουσεῖο Εἰκόνων», ὅπως ἀναγράφεται στὴν εἰσοδο. Σὲ μικρὴ ἀπόστασι ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος προσκύνησε με συγκίνηση καὶ εὐλάβεια τὸν τάφο τοῦ Αποστόλου Βαρνάβα ὁ ὁποῖος βρίσκεται σὲ κρύπτη κάτω ἀπὸ τὸ παρεκκλήσιο.



Ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος με τὶς κυρίες Ἄντρη Αναστασιάδη καὶ Φωτεινὴ Παπαδοπούλου καὶ τὸν Μητροπολίτη Ντιτρόιτ Νικόλαο, στα ἀποκαλυπτήρια εἰδικῆς ἐπιγραφῆς που ἀναγνωρίζει τὶς προσφορές ὁμογενῶν ἀπὸ τὴν Ἀμερικὴ γιὰ τὴν ἀνακαίνισι τοῦ εἰδικοῦ σχολεῖο τοῦ Κυπριακοῦ Ἐρυθροῦ Σταυροῦ.

Ἡ ἀγνή ψυχὴ δεν ἔσβυσε στὴν Κύπρου, στὴ Μακαρία γη...

► Σελίδα 15

37% τῆς Κυπριακῆς Δημοκρατίας παραμένει ὑπὸ κατοχή. Οἱ συνθήκες ἐντάσης στὴν Κύπρου ἐπιδεινώθηκαν μίαν ἡμέρα μόλις πρὶν τὴν ἀφίξι τοῦ Ἀρχιεπισκόπου, καθὼς ἡ Τουρκία ἀποφάσισε νὰ πραγματοποιήσῃ τὴν ἀπειλή τῆς καὶ νὰ ξεκινήσῃ ἐρευνες γιὰ ὑδρογονάνθρακες ἐντὸς τῆς Ἀποκλειστικῆς Οἰκονομικῆς Ζώνης (ΑΟΖ) τῆς Κύπρου στέλλοντας τὸ ἐρευνητικὸ σκάφος Barbaros στὴν Κυπριακὴ ΑΟΖ.

«Τὸ προσκύνημα μας ἐδῶ γίνεται με αὐτὸ τὸ βαθύτατο αἶσθημα εὐθύνης, ὥστε αὐτὲς οἱ ἡμέρες που θὰ εἴμαστε ἐδῶ θὰ εἶναι ἡμέρες που θὰ μας δώσουν ἐπιπλέον στοιχεῖα, ὥστε ὅταν επιστρέψουμε στὴν Ἀμερικὴ, νὰ συνεχίσουμε αὐτὸν τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν ὁποῖο κάνουμε με τὴν συμπαράστασι τῆς Ὁμογένειας ἐκεῖ καὶ ἰδιαίτερα τῆς Κυπριακῆς», δήλωσε ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος κατὰ

τὴν ἀφίξι του. Τὸν Ἀρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο ὑποδέχθηκαν ὁ Ὑπουργὸς Γεωργίας, Φυσικῶν Πόρων καὶ Περιβάλλοντος κ. Νίκος Κουφιάλης καὶ ὁ Μητροπολίτης Κιτίου κ. Χρυσόστομος.

Τὴ συνοδεία τοῦ Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου στὴν Κύπρου αποτελοῦσαν ὁ Μητροπολίτης Ντιτρόιτ Νικόλαος, ὁ Ἐπίσκοπος Ζήλων Σεβαστιανός, ὁ Ἀρχιδιάκονος Παντελεῖμων Παπαδόπουλος, ὁ πρῶν πρόεδρος τῆς Κυπριακῆς Ὁμοσπονδίας Ἀμερικῆς Πανίκος Παπανικολάου, ὁ νυν πρόεδρος Κώστας Τσέντας, ἡ διευθύντρια τοῦ Γραφείου τοῦ Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Ἀμερικῆς Ἀλίκη Κιουριάν, ὁ διευθυντὴς τοῦ Γραφείου Τύπου τῆς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Σταύρος Παπαγερμανός, καὶ ὁ φωτογράφος τῆς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Δημήτριος Παναγός.

► Σελίδα 18



Οἱ ἐκπρόσωποι τοῦ Ἀνθρωπολογικοῦ Ἐργαστηρίου ἐξηγοῦν στὸν Σεβασμιώτατο καὶ τὰ μέλη τῆς ἀκολουθίας τοῦ τῆς μεθόδου ἀναγνωρίσεως τῶν ἀγνωσμένων.



Επιστήθιος σταυρὸς γιὰ τὸν εγκλωβισμένο λευτῆ τῆς Καρπασίας π. Ζαχαρία.



Ἐγκαταλελειμμένος στα στοιχεῖα τῆς φύσεως ὁ ὀρθόδοξος ναὸς καὶ δίπλα τοῦ ἑνᾶς μιναρέ.



Ἡ κρύπτη με τὸν τάφο τοῦ Αποστόλου Βαρνάβα.



(Α) Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος χαιρετά τον κ. Σάββα Λιασή. (Κ) Οδόφραγμα σ' ένα δρόμο της παλιάς Λευκωσίας. (Δ) Λόγια παρηγοριάς για την ηλικιωμένη κυρία στο Ριζοκάρπασο.



Φωτογραφίες: Δ. ΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

► Σελίδα 17

Το πρόγραμμα του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου στην Κύπρο περιελάμβανε πέντε βασικούς κορμούς της δημοσίας ζωής της Κύπρου. Πρώτον, την Εκκλησία της Κύπρου, δεύτερον την Πολιτεία και το διπλωματικό τομέα, τρίτον φιλανθρωπικά ιδρύματα και οργανισμούς κοινής ωφελείας, τέταρτον τους τομείς του Πολιτισμού και της Παιδείας και τέλος το ιστορικό προσκείμενα στα κατεχόμενα και τους εγκλωβισμένους Ελληνοκυπρίους.

Εκκλησία της Κύπρου

Σχεδόν αμέσως μετά την άφιξη του στην Λευκωσία ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος επισκέφθηκε τον Μακαριώτατο Αρχιεπίσκοπο Κύπρου κ. Χρυσόστομο.

Η δεύτερη επίσημη συνάντηση πραγματοποιήθηκε το μεσημέρι της 23ης Οκτωβρίου στο Αρχιεπισκοπικό Μέγαρο. Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος διαβεβαίωσε τον προκαθήμενο της Εκκλησίας της Κύπρου ότι η Ομογένεια της Αμερικής επαγρυπνει και θα συνεχίσει τον αγώνα έως ότου δικαιωθεί η Κύπρος και αποκατασταθεί η δυνατότητα ζωής και ευτυχίας για όλο τον Κυπριακό λαό.

Η γιορτή του Αγίου Δημητρίου

Με πολυαρχιερατική Θεία Λειτουργία στον Ιερό Ναό του Αγίου Δημητρίου Ακροπόλεως στη Λευκωσία γιόρτασε την μεγάλη εορτή του Αγίου Μεγαλομάρτυρος Δημητρίου του Μυροβλήτου και τα ονομαστήρια του ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερι-

κής Δημήτριος. Συλλειτουργήσαν οι εξ Αμερικής Αρχιερείς της συνοδείας του Αρχιεπισκόπου, Μητροπολίτης Ντιτρόιτ Νικόλαος και Επίσκοπος Ζήλων Σεβαστιανός και από την Εκκλησία της Κύπρου συμμετείχαν οι Επίσκοποι Μεσαορίας Γρηγόριος και Καρπασίας Χριστόφορος.

Πολιτεία

Οι συναντήσεις και επαφές του Αρχιεπισκόπου περιέλαβαν το Υπουργείο Παιδείας και Πολιτισμού της Κύπρου και τον Υπουργό Κώστα Καδή, την Ελληνική Πρεσβεία στη Λευκωσία, όπου συναντήθηκε με τον πρέσβη της Ελλάδος Βασίλειο Παπαϊωάννου, ο οποίος παρέθεσε και γεύμα προς τιμήν του. Συναντήθηκε επίσης με τον Επίτροπο της Προεδρίας για ανθρωπιστικά θέματα και θέματα Αποδήμων κ. Φώτη Φωτίου και επισκέφθηκε τον Αμερικανό Πρέσβη στην Λευκωσία John Koenig στην Πρεσβεία των Ηνωμένων Πολιτειών. Επισκέφθηκε επίσης το Ανώτατο Δικαστήριο της Κύπρου, όπου συναντήθηκε με τον πρόεδρο Μύρωνα Νικολάτο και τα μέλη του Σώματος και την Βουλή των Αντιπροσώπων όπου τον υποδέχθηκε ο Πρόεδρος της Βουλής Γιαννάκης Ομήρου.

Την Δευτέρα 27 Οκτωβρίου, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος επισκέφθηκε τον Υπουργό Εξωτερικών της Κύπρου Ιωάννη Κασουλίδη, στο Υπουργείο Εξωτερικών, με τον οποίο είχαν πολύ εποικοδομητική ανταλλαγή απόψεων για όλα τα θέματα που αφορούν στο Κυπριακό και στο ρόλο της Ελληνοαμερικανικής Ομογένειας στην Αμερική. Λίγο αργότερα, την ίδια ημέρα, ο Πρόεδρος της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας Νίκος Αναστασιάδης και η σύζυγός του πρώτη κυρία της Κύπρου κυρία Αντρη Αναστασιάδη υποδέχθηκαν τον Σεβασμιώτατο Αρχιεπίσκοπο στο Προεδρικό Μέγαρο.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος κατέθεσε στεφάνι στον ανδριάντα του Αρχιεπισκόπου Μακάριου Γ' και ετέλεσε αγιασμό στους χώρους της υποδοχής του Προεδρικού. Ακολούθησε συνάντηση στο προεδρικό γραφείο που επικεντρώθηκε σε ορισμένες πτυχές των διεθνών πολιτικών και οικονομικών εξελίξεων που αφορούν στο Κυπριακό θέμα και

επηρεάζουν την Μεγαλόνησο. Αμέσως μετά ο πρόεδρος Αναστασιάδης παρέθεσε επίσημο γεύμα προς τιμήν του Αρχιεπισκόπου.

«Το προσκύνημα στην Κύπρο αυτή τη φορά δυναμώνει μέσα μας την αίσθηση ότι η Κύπρος αξίζει όχι αυτά που κάνουμε αλλά χίλιες φορές αυτά που κάνουμε στην Αμερική, διότι αξίζουν οι άνθρωποι», είπε ο κ. Δημήτριος τονίζοντας ότι «φεύγουμε όντως διαφορετικοί απ' ότι ήρθαμε, επιστρέφουμε στην Αμερική καλύτεροι ορθόδοξοι και καλύτεροι Έλληνες διότι ζήσαμε αυτές τις μέρες εδώ στην Κύπρο»

Ιδρύματα και οργανισμοί

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος πραγματοποίησε επίσκεψη στο Ανθρωπολογικό Εργαστήριο για τους Αγνοούμενους, το οποίο τελεί υπό την εποπτεία της Επιτροπής για τους Αγνοούμενους Κύπρου με τριμερή εκπροσώπηση. Το έργο τους περιλαμβάνει την εκταφή λειψάνων αγνοουμένων προσώπων και την εργαστηριακή μελέτη από ανθρωπολόγους, γενετιστές και άλλους ειδικούς επιστήμονες ώστε να γίνει ταυτοποίηση και η επιστροφή των λειψάνων στους συγγενείς.

Ο κατάλογος των φιλανθρωπικών ιδρυμάτων που επισκέφθηκε Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος συμπεριλάμβανε τον Νηπιαγωγείο και Βρεφονηπιακό Σταθμό του Συμβουλίου Κοινοτικού Εθελοντισμού του Αγίου Δομετίου, το Κέντρο Παρέμβασης για άτομα με Αυτισμό Λεμεσού, και το Ειδικό Σχολείο του Θεραπευτικού Κέντρου Παιδιών του Κυπριακού Ερυθρού Σταυρού, στο οποίο ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος τέλεσε τα εγκαίνια των αιθουσών που ανακαινίστηκαν με τη συμβολή της Ι. Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής και δωρητών από την Ομογένεια.

Σε άλλη ευκαιρία, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος μαζί με τον δήμαρχο Λευκωσίας Κωνσταντίνο Γιωρκάτζη κήρυξε την έναρξη των Παγκύπριων Ειδικών Ολυμπιακών Αγώνων για αθλητές με αναπηρίες. Τέλος, επισκέφθηκε το Ίδρυμα Χριστού Στέλιου Ιωάννου στη Λευκωσία, ίδρυμα που ιδρύθηκε το 1983 και προσφέρει υπηρεσίες σε 200 περίπου ενήλικα άτομα με ελαφρά ή μέτρια νοητική υστέρηση ή και σχετική αναπηρία. Μόνο κατά



Στο ναό του Αγίου Συνείσου.

τη διάρκεια των επισκέψεων του αυτών ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος προσέφερε εκ μέρους του Αρχιεπισκοπικού ειδικού Ταμείου Ανακουφίσεως Κυπρίων το συνολικό ποσό των 200 χιλιάδων δολαρίων και υπεσχέθη για κάποιες περιπτώσεις το ποσό των 85 χιλιάδων δολαρίων.

Πολιτισμός και παιδεία

Την Λεβέντειο Πινακοθήκη της Λευκωσίας που αποτελεί ένα στολίδι της πόλης και λειτουργεί τους τελευταίους έξι μήνες επισκέφθηκε ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος και ξεναγήθηκε από την διευθύντρια κ. Λουκία Χατζηγαβριήλ και την κυρία Φωτεινή Παπαδοπούλου.

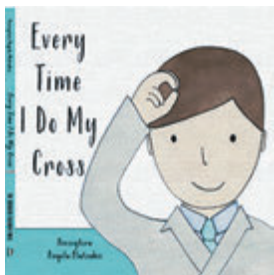
Οι μικροί μαθητές του Δημοτικού Σχολείου του Αγίου Κασιανού που βρίσκεται κοντά στην πράσινη γραμμή στην παλιά εντός των ενετικών τειχών Λευκωσία, όπου και σήμερα 40 χρόνια μετά, είναι ορατά τα σημάδια της συνεχιζόμενης διχοτόμησης, απήγγειλαν στίχους του Κωστή Παλαμά. Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος παρακολούθησε συγκινημένος το καλλιτεχνικό πρόγραμμα των μικρών μαθητών και τους πρόσφερε ως ευλογία μικρούς ασημένιους επιστήθιους σταυρούς. Στη συνέχεια συνοδευόμενος από τον διευθυντή Εθμοτυπίας του ΥΠΕΞ, πρέσβη Μάριο Κουντουρίδη, την αντιδήμαρχο Λευκωσίας Ελένη Λουκαΐδου και μέλη του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου ξεναγήθηκε από τον λειτουργό του Τμήματος Αρχαιοτήτων δρ. Γιώργο Φιλοθέου, στις εκκλησίες της Χρυσανιωτίτσας και του Αγίου Κασιανού, το τέμενος Ταχτακαλέ και το Βασιλικό παρεκκλήσι του Μισρίκου και στην εκκλησία του Τιμίου Σταυρού των Ορθοδόξων, που μετατράπηκε στην οθωμανική περίοδο σε τέμενος. Προσκύνησε την θαυματουργή εικόνα της Παναγίας Φανερωμένης στον ομώνυμο Ναό του 14ου αιώνα.

Με κλαδιά μυρτιάς είχαν στρώσει οι μαθητές και μαθήτριες το προαύλιο και τα σκαλιά του σχολείου της Φανερωμένης για να περάσει ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος. «Σας έχουμε στήσει στις συνειδήσεις μας ως μαντατοφόρο της θυσίας», είπε καλωσορίζοντας η κ. Ευτυχία Καλεπίτη, διευθύντρια του ιστορικού σχολείου. Στην επίσκεψή στη Λεμεσό, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος συνοδευόμενος από την κυρία Αντρη Αναστασιάδη επισκέφθηκε τον αρχαιολογικό χώρο του Κοιριού και το Μεσαιωνικό Κάστρο της Λεμεσού.



Ένας σταυρός ευλογίας, χειροποίητο έργο του ομογενή καλλιτέχνη Γιάννη Φραζή, συμβολικό δώρο προς τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Κύπρου Χρυσόστομο.

EVERY TIME I DO MY CROSS



WHAT IT'S ABOUT:

How we make the sign of the cross, and some of the reasons why we do. The book follows a boy (named James) through his Sunday; waking up, going to church, participating in liturgy and church school, playing in a soccer game, riding his bike, eating with his family, and going to bed. During these events in his day, he tells us why he does his cross.

Hardcover with Dust Jacket: 32 pages
 Publisher: The Orthodox Children's Press
 Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 11.5 x 0.5 inches
 Age Range: 2 - 8 years

www.tocpstore.com



THE ORTHODOX CHILDREN'S PRESS
 Connecting home and Church

www.theorthodoxchildrenspress.com

ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΤΙΚΟ ΣΕΜΙΝΑΡΙΟ



Φωτογραφίες: ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Εκπαιδευτικό επιμορφωτικό σεμινάριο κατάρτισης

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ.- Το Τμήμα Ελληνικής Παιδείας υπό την Αιγίδα του Σεβασμιωτάτου Αρχιεπισκόπου Αμερικής κ. Δημητρίου πραγματοποίησε ολόημερο επιμορφωτικό σεμινάριο κατάρτισης το Σάββατο 4 Οκτωβρίου 2014 στο ελληνοαμερικανικό Σχολείο του Αγίου Δημητρίου Αστορίας για όλους τους δασκάλους των Κοινοτικών Σχολείων και άλλων φορέων.

Σε αυτό παραβρέθηκαν ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος, ο Ιερατικός προϊστάμενος Αρχιμανδρίτης π. Νεκτάριος Παπαζαφειρόπουλος, ο Πρόξενος του Γενικού Προξενείου της Ελλάδος στη Νέα Υόρκη, κ. Μάνος Κουμπάρκης, ο Πρόεδρος της Ομοσπονδίας Ελληνικών Σωματείων Μείζονος Νέας Υόρκης, κ. Πέτρος Γαλάτουλας, η Πρόεδρος της Ομοσπονδίας Εκπαιδευτικών Αμερικής, κ. Στέλλα Κοκόλη, ο Πρόεδρος του Συλλόγου Καστοριανών, κ. Βασίλειος Ζήσης, ο εκπρόσωπος του Γραφείου Συντονιστή Εκπαίδευσης, κ. Βασίλειος Νικολός και άλλοι επίσημοι.

Το σεμινάριο αυτό είχε σκοπό να βοηθήσει τους δασκάλους που διδάσκουν τις τάξεις της προσχολικής αγωγής ως και όλες τις άλλες τάξεις των βαθμίδων της Εκπαίδευσης.

Πραγματοποιήθηκαν δειγματικές διδασκαλίες από τα νέα βιβλία που εκδόθηκαν φέτος, δηλαδή από τα βιβλία του Προνηπιαγωγείου καθώς και από τα βιβλία του Πρώτου και Τρίτου επιπέδου.

Για το σκοπό αυτό είχε προσκληθεί να συμμετέχει η παιδαγωγός - ερευνήτρια του Παιδαγωγικού Ινστιτούτου Κύπρου Δρ. Μαρία Ηρακλέους.

Η Δρ. Ηρακλέους εξειδικευμένη σε θέματα προσχολικής αγωγής, δίδαξε με επιδεξιότητα θεματικές ενότητες από τα καινούρια βιβλία του Προνηπιαγωγείου και Νηπιαγωγείου, χρησιμοποιώντας πολλά παραδείγματα και παιγνιώδεις τρόπους διδασκαλίας.

Έδειξε πώς το μάθημα στα μικρά παιδιά

μπορεί να γίνει ευχάριστο, ελκυστικό και με το παιχνίδι να γίνουν τα παιδιά χαρούμενα ενώ μαθαίνουν. Τα νέα βιβλία της σειράς «Τα Ελληνικά μου» παρουσίασε ο Διευθυντής Παιδείας Δρ. Ιωάννης Ευθυμιόπουλος και στη συνέχεια έγιναν επί μέρους δειγματικές διδασκαλίες.

Η κ. Μαρία Τελειπούλου, βοηθός του Διευθυντή και μέλος της συγγραφικής ομάδας, ανέπτυξε και ανέλυσε με μεθοδικότητα τη δομή και τη φιλοσοφία του 3^{ου} Τεύχους του Πρώτου επιπέδου και τον τρόπο διδασκαλίας του. Ας σημειωθεί ότι το βιβλίο αυτό αποτελεί «γέφυρα» μεταξύ του Πρώτου και Δευτέρου επιπέδου.

Στη συνέχεια το μέλος της συγγραφικής ομάδας κ. Ιωάννης Παβάρας, παρουσίασε και ανέλυσε με γλαφυρό τρόπο μια θεματική ενότητα από το παραπάνω βιβλίο ως και μια επιπλέον ενότητα από το 2^ο τεύχος του Τρίτου επιπέδου.

Κατά τη διδασκαλία του ο κ. Παβάρας παρουσίασε πρακτικές μεθόδους διδασκαλίας, ώστε να βοηθήσει τους δασκάλους μας στη διδακτική τους πρακτική.

Ο Διευθυντής Παιδείας Δρ. Ιωάννης Ευθυμιόπουλος ανέπτυξε και ανέλυσε τη θεματική ενότητα «Ανθολόγιο», ως και τα περιεχόμενα της ενότητας αυτής.

Ας σημειωθεί ότι η ενότητα αυτή περιλαμβάνει κείμενα, λογοτεχνικά ποιήματα, τραγούδια, και αφηγήσεις με θέματα αντλούμενα από τη σύγχρονη ιστορία και τον ξεριζωμό των Ελλήνων της Μικράς Ασίας και τη γενοκτονία των Ελλήνων του Πόντου.

Εξέφρασε την ικανοποίησή του για τη μεγάλη συμμετοχή των δασκάλων και ευχαριστώντας τους ανέφερε ότι «η επιμόρφωση αποτελεί δικαίωμα του δασκάλου και υποχρέωση των ιθυνόντων». Αξίζει να σημειωθεί ότι στο σεμινάριο παραβρέθηκαν και δασκαλοί εκτός της Μητροπολιτικής περιοχής της Νέας Υόρκης, από τη Βοστώνη, το Χιούστον, τη Νέα Ιερσέη, τη Φιλαδέλφεια και το Πιτσβούργο.



Φωτογραφίες: Ορθόδοξος Παράτηρητής

Θυρανοξία Ναού Μεταμορφώσεως του Σωτήρος

ΑΝΚΟΡΑΤΖ, Αλάσκα.- Τα Θυρανοξία του νέου ιερού Ναού της Μεταμορφώσεως του Σωτήρος τέλεσε ο Μητροπολίτης Αγίου Φραγκίσκου Γεράσιμος, με συνοδεία κλήρου και πλήθους πιστών, το Σάββατο 4 Οκτωβρίου, στο Ανκορατζ, στη μεγαλύτερη πόλη της πολιτείας της Αλάσκας. Η κλασική βυζαντινού τύπου επιβλητική σε μέγεθος εκκλησία -εμβαδού 8.000 τετραγωνικών ποδών-η οποία σχεδιάστηκε από το αρχιτεκτονικά γραφεία "Ikona Architects of San Francisco" και "Krochima Architects of Anchorage" περιέχει περισσότερες από 100 εικόνες βυζαντινού ρυθμού. Στο στιγμιότυπο διακρίνονται αριστερά ο Μητροπολίτης Αγίου Φραγκίσκου Γεράσιμος κατά τη διάρκεια της τελετής θυρανοξίων και δεξιά οι μεγάλοι δωρητές της εκκλησίας, το ζεύγος Βαρβάρα και Τεντ Κουρή.

ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Ήμερα Εὐχαριστιῶν

Εὐχαριστοῦμέν Σοι,
Κύριε ὁ Θεός ὁ Παντοκράτωρ!

Ἀποκάλυψις 11:17

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ Μοναχές, τοὺς Πρόεδρους καὶ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴν Νεολαία, τὶς Ἐλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμον πλῆρωμα τῆς Ἱεράς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικής.

Προσφιλεῖς Ἀδελφοί
καὶ Ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Ἡ παράδοση τῆς Ἡμέρας Εὐχαριστιῶν ἔχει μακρὰ ἱστορία στὴν χώρα μας, ἀρχῆς γενομένης ἀπὸ τοὺς πρώτους ἐποίκους οἱ ὁποῖοι προσέφεραν εὐχαριστία στὸν Θεὸ γιὰ τὴν ἀσφαλὴ ἀποδημία των στὴν χώρα αὐτή, γιὰ τὴν ἀπελευθέρωσή των ἀπὸ θρησκευτικῆς διώξεως, γιὰ τὴν δύναμη νὰ ἀνταπεξέλθουν στὶς πολλὰς δυσκολίες, καὶ γιὰ τὶς εὐκαιρίες πού τοὺς δόθηκαν. Τὸ 1789, μετὰ ἀπὸ ἓνα ψήφισμα πού πέρασε τὸ Κογκρέσο, ὁ Πρόεδρος George Washington ἐξέδωσε μιὰ Διακήρυξη Εὐχαριστιῶν πού ὀριζε τὴν 26^η Νοεμβρίου ὡς ἡμέρα «ἀποδόσεως εὐλογιῶν καὶ ταπεινῶν εὐχαριστιῶν μας σὲ Ἐκεῖνον γιὰ τὴν εὐσπλαγχνικὴ φροντίδα καὶ προστασία Του στοὺς ἀνθρώπους αὐτῆς τῆς χώρας πρὶν αὐτοὶ ἀποτελέσουν ἓνα ἔθνος...», καὶ, γενικὰ, γιὰ ὅλες τὶς μεγάλες καὶ διάφορες δωρεές τὶς ὁποῖες εὐχαριστῶμας χαρίζει».

Ὁ θεσμὸς τῆς Ἡμέρας Εὐχαριστιῶν ὡς ἐτήσια ἔθνικὴ ἑορτὴ ἀκολούθησε τὸ 1863, ὅταν ἐν μέσῳ τοῦ Ἐμφυλίου Πολέμου ὁ Πρόεδρος Ἀβραάμ Λίνκολν ἐξέδωσε μιὰ διακήρυξη καλώντας τοὺς ἀνθρώπους νὰ ξεχωρίσουν καὶ νὰ ἐορτάσουν τὴν τελευταία Πέμπτη τοῦ Νοεμβρίου, ὡς ἡμέρα Εὐχαριστιῶν καὶ Δοξολογίας στὸν ἀγαθοεργὸ Πατέρα μας ὁ ὁποῖος κατοικεῖ στοὺς Οὐρανούς ... καὶ θερμὰ νὰ ἰκετεύσουν γιὰ τὴν διαμεσολάβηση τοῦ Παντοδυναμοῦ γιὰ τὴν ἴαση τῶν πληγῶν τοῦ ἔθνους καὶ τὴν ἀποκατάστασή του ὅσο πιὸ σύντομα μπορούσε νὰ γίνη σύμφωνα μὲ τὶς θεῖες βουλές στὴν πλήρη χαρὰ τῆς εἰρήνης, τῆς ἁρμονίας, τῆς γαλήνης καὶ τῆς Ἐνώσεως.

Αὐτὰ τὰ θεμέλια τῆς Ἡμέρας Εὐχαριστιῶν, καὶ ἡ θέση της στὴν ἱστορία καὶ τὴν ζωὴ αὐτοῦ τοῦ ἔθνους ὡς κανονικὴ ἑορτὴ εἶχαν ὡς ἀποτέλεσμα ἡ ἑορτὴ αὐτὴ νὰ συννεορτάζεται ἀπὸ πολλοὺς καὶ νὰ καταστῆ εὐκαιρία συναθροίσεως τῶν οἰκογενειῶν σὲ πνεῦμα ἀδελφοσύνης καὶ εὐγνωμοσύνης. Ἡ ἔμφαση στὴν ἀπόδοση εὐχαριστιῶν στὸν Θεὸ, ἡ στάση εὐγνωμοσύνης γιὰ τὶς εὐλογίες τῆς ζωῆς μας, καὶ οἱ παραδόσεις πού ἐπικεντρώνονται στό θεσμὸ τῆς οἰκογενείας

ἀπλοῦν τὴν ἔμφασή μας στὴν οἰκογένεια ὡς κατοικητήριον τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ ὡς μαρτυρία τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου Του.

Τὴν ἡμέρα αὐτὴ, ὅταν οἱ οἰκογένειες συγκεντρώνονται νὰ εὐχαριστήσουν τὸν Θεὸ, συγκεντρώνονται ἐπ' ὄνομά Του, καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς εἶναι ἐν μέσῳ αὐτῶν (Ματθ. 18:20).

Ὡς ἡμέρα ἀποδόσεως Εὐχαριστιῶν, εἶναι ἡμέρα λατρείας καὶ προσευχῆς. Εἶναι ἡμέρα ἑορτασμοῦ τοῦ φωτὸς τὸ ὁποῖο πηγάζει ἀπὸ τὸν Δημιουργὸ μας καὶ μεταμορφώνεται ἀπὸ τὸν Ἀναστάντα Κύριό μας. Εἶναι ἡμέρα κατὰ τὴν ὁποῖαν οἱ καρποὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος φαίνονται στὴν ὁμόνοια τῆς οἰκογενείας.

Ἡ Ἡμέρα Εὐχαριστιῶν εἶναι ἡ ἡμέρα κατὰ τὴν ὁποῖαν οἱ οἰκογένειες γεύονται ἀπὸ κοινὸ τὸ πνεῦμα τῆς οἰκογενείας καὶ τοῦ σπιτιοῦ ὅπως αὐτὸ θὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ εἶναι καθ' ὅλη τὴν διάρκεια τοῦ ἔτους-χῶρος δοξολογίας καὶ εὐχαριστίας καὶ κατοικητήριον Χριστοῦ.

Αὐτὴ ἡ δυνατὴ σχέση μεταξὺ πίστεως καὶ ἑορτασμοῦ τῆς Ἡμέρας Εὐχαριστιῶν δείχνει, ἐπίσης, ὅτι αὐτὴ εἶναι ἡ στιγμή πού οἱ οἰκογένειες μποροῦν νὰ προσφέρουν μαρτυρία τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου.

Μέσα ἀπὸ τὸν ἑορτασμὸ αὐτῆς τῆς ἡμέρας, οἱ οἰκογένειες ἔχουν τὴν εὐκαιρία νὰ προσφέρουν μαρτυρία τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου ἀναγνωρίζοντας ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς εὐρίσκεται ἐν μέσῳ αὐτῶν καὶ προσφέροντας ἔμπρακτὴ εὐγνωμοσύνη στὸν Θεὸ γιὰ τὶς ἄφθονες εὐλογίες Του. Ἐπιπλέον, ἡ ὁμόνοια ἀνάμεσα στὰ μέλη τῆς οἰκογενείας καλλιεργεῖ τοὺς κοινούς δεσμούς, ἐπιβεβαιώνοντας ὅτι ἡ οἰκογένεια εἶναι χῶρος ἀγάπης, φροντίδος, θεραπείας καὶ συγχωρήσεως. Σὲ σπῆτι τὸ ὁποῖο εἶναι κατοικητήριον τοῦ Χριστοῦ σὲ μιὰ οἰκογένεια ἡ ὁποία συνδέεται μὲ τὸν Θεὸ, τὸ κάθε μέλος μπορεῖ νὰ βιώσῃ τὴν ἀγάπὴ ἡ ὁποία πηγάζει ἀπὸ τὴν ἀγάπὴ τοῦ Θεοῦ γιὰ καθέναν ἀπὸ ἐμᾶς. Οἱ φίλοι καὶ οἱ φιλοξενούμενοι μποροῦν νὰ βιώσουν μιὰ μαρτυρία τῆς δυνάμεως τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς χάριτος, καὶ μπορεῖ καὶ ἄλλοι νὰ ἐλκυσθοῦν ἀπ' αὐτὴ τὴν μαρτυρία στό Εὐαγγέλιον τῆς σωτηρίας, τὸ ὁποῖο ἀνακαινίζει, μεταμορφώνει καὶ λυτρώνει.

Σὲ αὐτὴ τὴν εὐλογημένη Ἡμέρα Εὐχαριστιῶν, ἂς προσφέρουμε τὴν βαθειὰ καὶ χαρμόσυνη εὐγνωμοσύνη μας στὸν Παντοδύναμο Θεὸ. Εἴθε οἱ ἄφθονες δωρεές Του νὰ εὐλογήσουν τὶς συγκεντρώσεις καὶ τὶς συντροφίες σας, καθὼς ἐορτάζετε αὐτὴ τὴν δυναμικὴ καὶ ζωντανὴ παράδοση τοῦ ἔθνους μας, εἴθε ὁ Χριστὸς νὰ εἶναι ἀνάμεσά σας ὥστε νὰ προσφέρετε μαρτυρία τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου τῆς ἀληθείας καὶ ἀγάπης.

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης,

✠ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀμερικής Δημήτριος



Fun Songs for Learning Greek!

CD & hardcover songbook set builds vocabulary with songs your child will enjoy. Designed for English Speakers!

Order by mail: Each set \$23.95 plus \$6.50 s/h first set. Add 90¢ s/h for each additional set. Checks payable to: GrAm Publishing, PO Box 3883, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3883. Call 203-838-9158.

CHURCH HISTORY

Close Ties Between Two Parishes in the 1920s and Early '30s

by William H. Samonides, Ph.D.

While the stirring story of the rebirth of Manhattan's St. Nicholas National Shrine is riveting the attention of the Orthodox faithful across the Archdiocese, it is perhaps time to remember that St. Eleftherios Church, a West Side of Manhattan parish, was nearly destroyed about 60 years ago.

St. Eleftherios parish was threatened, not by terrorists, but by city planners. Robert Moses, who more than anyone was responsible for changing the physical appearance of New York City in the 20th century, placed St. Eleftherios and much of its "blighted" neighborhood on the demolition list for the good of the city.

The fourth of 10 parishes in Manhattan, St. Eleftherios originally occupied the former 24th Street Methodist Episcopal Church. The first official service took place on Holy Thursday night, May 2, 1918, one year after the establishment of St. Nicholas. Greece's involvement in World War I in 1917 had resulted in victory for Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos and abdication and exile for King Constantine. Political passions were running high.

Fr. Macaronis, a stalwart Venizelist, had been forced out of the Brooklyn parish, which was dominated by Royalists. He found a haven at St. Eleftherios.

As political passions cooled, the financial position of the St. Eleftherios parish declined. By 1926, according to the late Peter Kourides, longtime legal counsel of the Archdiocese, the parish was in dire financial straits. It could neither pay its

three mortgages nor meet its payroll. On Nov. 1, 1926, Holy Trinity Cathedral took over the title for St. Eleftherios and undertook payment of its liabilities.

This situation would prove beneficial to both parishes. Two months later, on Jan. 23, 1927, when fire destroyed the Cathedral, Holy Trinity was able to move across town to St. Eleftherios, investing about \$25,000 to repair and renovate the church so it could accommodate both parishes.

On Feb. 26, 1931, it was at St. Eleftherios that Archbishop Athenagoras was enthroned as head of the Church in the Western Hemisphere. Two bishops and 30 priests from New York, New Jersey, and New England participated in the ceremony.

The small church could not accommodate all the faithful, but many stood outside in the cold to witness the historic event. In November, the church hosted the first of the six clergy-laity congresses over which Archbishop Athenagoras would preside.

The two parishes remained joined until March 4, 1932, when the Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral was completed, and the parish moved to its present location on East 74th Street.

None of this history mattered to the city planners of the 1950's. Title I of the Federal Housing Act of 1949 provided federal subsidies for the clearance and redevelopment of large tracts of America's cities. It was intended to eradicate blighted urban areas and provide affordable hous-

ing for middle- and low-income families.

In August 1957, the New York City Committee on Slum Clearance, headed by Robert Moses, recommended the construction of a \$34 million housing project south and west of Penn Station. The project, which would cover a six-block area, was named Penn Station South. Chelsea, where St. Eleftherios is located, was one of the most densely populated New York neighborhoods with 98 percent of the mostly two-to-five-story tenements rated substandard.

Only three buildings—a Catholic church, an Episcopal church, and a hotel—were scheduled for preservation. St. Eleftherios was to be demolished and the parish relocated.

Given the cost of New York City real estate, it was unlikely that the church would be able to rebuild in Manhattan, and relocation could mean a loss of its parishioners.

A Protestant church that was also scheduled for demolition threatened to sue, claiming it was religious discrimination to give churches of more powerful denominations favored treatment.

The Committee on Slum Clearance offered a revised plan that "removes the likelihood of any possible criticism that we were discriminating against any church."

The Protestant church and St. Eleftherios were spared. St. Eleftherios also benefited from extra space when the plan added a sweeping curve to 24th Street in front of the church.

This is not to say that all was smooth

sailing for St. Eleftherios after it was saved from the wrecking ball. In August 1973, a two-alarm fire of suspicious origin destroyed the church on the morning of August 5, 1973. By the time parishioners, many of whom had come from Queens and New Jersey, arrived for the 9 a.m. Orthros service, the church was a total loss. Parish Council President Dennis Callinicos, in an expression of resolve foreshadowing that of Archbishop Demetrios after 9/11, said: "We'll have the service next Sunday -- outside." This was the third church fire in the Chelsea area in a month, and the Fire Department ordered an investigation into the possibility of arson, but there were no arrests.

Rebuilt in 1976 on the same site, the present church still stands at 359 West 24th St., surrounded by 22-story residential buildings and a few trees.

The bust of Archbishop Athenagoras on a pedestal outside the church is a reminder of the important role of St. Eleftherios in the history of the Greek Orthodox Church in America. Overcoming challenges including insolvency, condemnation, and fire, St. Eleftherios has demonstrated the faith, determination and resilience of its people.

The story of St. Eleftherios and its early priests will be featured in "Pioneering Priests: Establishing the Greek Orthodox Faith in America," an exhibition funded by Leadership 100 that will be on display at the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine in St. Augustine, Fla., starting in January.



www.hhc.edu

Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek
Orthodox School of Theology
50 Goddard Avenue
Brookline, MA 02445
(617) 731-3500

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

The Board of Trustees invites applications, nominations, and inquiries for the position of President of Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology located in Brookline, Massachusetts. The elected candidate is expected to assume the Presidency, commencing July 1, 2015. The Trustees seek a dynamic, visionary and strategic leader who will implement the strategic plan, enhance its academic stature, and strengthen its position as a leading institution.

The President is the chief executive officer of Hellenic College, Inc., which is governed by the Board of Trustees, chaired by the Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The President is expected to build upon the institution's achievements and to lead the College and School of Theology into a future of ever changing needs in higher education and in the life of Orthodox Christianity.

Founded in 1937, and supported thereafter, by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Hellenic College Holy Cross is an institution of higher learning fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. Hellenic College is a faith and learning collegiate endeavor offering six baccalaureate majors. Holy Cross, a graduate school, is the oldest and largest Orthodox Christian School of Theology in the English-speaking world offering three graduate degrees. The College and School of Theology educate men and women in the liberal arts and selected professions in the context of the teachings and traditions of the Orthodox Christian Church and Hellenic heritage. The institution houses several high quality institutes and centers that provide complementary academic assets to faculty, students, and the scholarly community.

It is essential that the President understands and embraces the vision of Hellenic College Holy Cross as the center for intellectual, educational, and spiritual formation for the Greek Orthodox Church in America. The institution is committed to educating, forming, and developing seminarians, collegians, and graduate students for ordained and lay vocations in service to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, other Orthodox Christian jurisdictions, and Society. Emphasis is placed on preparation for leadership positions in chosen professions.

The ideal candidate for the Presidency, cleric or layperson, possesses intellectual breadth, discernment, an authentic spiritual demeanor, and strong interpersonal skills. The candidate is a successful teacher and scholar, and/or an outstanding clergyman, and/or an excellent senior manager. The candidate is a team-builder and efficacious administrator with a genuine desire and capacity for fund-raising and institutional advancement. The Trustees are seeking a President who can inspire and lead efforts to implement the institution's strategic plan, enhance its academic stature, strengthen and expand its resources, pursue operational excellence, and promote its distinctive ethos, mission, and history.

Further, the Presidency requires passion, energy, and courage to meet the institution's challenges and opportunities. The President needs to be an effective communicator and skilled advocate in order to interact successfully with the institution's trustees, faculty, students, administrators, staff, and external constituencies. The President is a proven business and academic leader who possesses strong financial acumen and who can manage a high degree of complexity.

- A doctoral/graduate degree or equivalent experience is required with proficiency in Modern Greek preferred.
- Non-traditional candidates with organizational leadership and development experience are encouraged to apply.
- Compensation is competitive with institutional peers.
- For information about Hellenic College Holy Cross, visit www.hhc.edu.

Applicants are to submit a letter of application and a resume or curriculum vitae. Nominators are to submit a letter of recommendation and the nominee's resume or curriculum vitae. Additional materials will be requested as needed. The search process strictly adheres to a policy of candidate confidentiality.

Applications or nominations are to be submitted to presidentsearch@hhc.edu by Friday, December 19, 2014.

Please use "nomination" or "application" in the subject line.

Hellenic College is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). A diverse workforce and an inclusive culture is valued.

Hellenic College Holy Cross is an institution of higher learning founded by, associated with, and supported by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

PARISH PROFILE

Virginia Church Makes Visitors, New Members Feel at Home

PARISH profile

Name: *Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church*

Location: *Newport News, Va.*

Metropolis of New Jersey

Founded: *1949*

Clergy: *Fr. George Chioros (Holy Cross '89, M. Div.)*

Size: *more than 400 families*

E-mail: *office@schgochurch.va.goarch.org*

Web: *www.schgochurch.va.goarch.org*

Noteworthy: *Parish has had only two priests in the past 45 years.*



Sts. Constantine and Helen church photo

STIS. CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – When you enter the narthex of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, expect to get “pinned.”

One of this 65-year-old parish's most important ministries is its welcome outreach to visitors and new members. “We are a welcoming community,” said parish priest Fr. George Chioros, a Chicago native who has served the community 15 years.

“We have a greeter in the narthex every Sunday to welcome visitors. When a new person comes for the first time, the greeter will pin them with a small icon of Sts. Constantine and Helen identifying them as a first-timer,” he said. “People at the coffee hour will know they're visitors and they won't feel neglected. It's something every parish should be doing.” The Welcoming Committee consists of several women greeters.

Once or twice a year, especially in late August after the Feast of the Kimisis tis Theotokou, the parish holds “New Member Sunday” where new members are introduced and invited to the solea where Fr. George reads a short biography and presents them with a small icon of the church's patron saints.

To top off their welcoming experience, a group photo is taken with other parishioners present.

Sts. Constantine and Helen receives many visitors as it is a transient community with the presence of three major military installations: Langley Air Force Base, the U.S. Army's Fort Eustis and the U.S. Navy Base in Norfolk, headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet.

Homeless ministry

Twice a year, parishioners take part in a program sponsored by churches in the city to feed the homeless either at the other participating churches or at Sts. Constantine and Helen community center. The church also was accepted as a host parish to host homeless people for overnight stays between October and April.

The Philoptochos chapter is very active in philanthropic causes in the greater community, especially its local children's hospital ministry.

“We definitely think outside the box,” the priest said. “We need to be known for more than just our architecture and Greek festivals.”

In his personal ministry, in addition to his many parish duties, Fr. George has become very involved in the local

community. He is past president of the Newport News Clergy Association, serves on the board of the Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center, which helps people with psychological counseling, and is chairman of the Pastoral Advisory Committee for Riverside Hospital, where he is involved with the pastoral care program and resident chaplaincy students.

Along with Fr. Nicholas Bacalis, dean of Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Richmond, Fr. George represents the Orthodox faith as a member of the Virginia Council of Churches.

He also is past president of the Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology Alumni Association. Presbytera Flora has served as National Sisterhood of Presvyteres president.

Fr. George's reach out extends to the 55,000 subscribers of the Newport News newspaper, *The Daily Press*, for which he writes a column with a pastoral theme several times a year. “I really enjoy doing it,” he said.

The priest is only the second priest to serve the parish in 45 years.

His predecessor, Fr. Peter Makris, retired in 1999 after 30 years' service.

Historical background

Greek immigrants arrived in the area of the Virginia Peninsula, which includes Newport News, Hampton and Yorktown, long before the creation of the parish. According to a parish history edited by Marika Anthony, many relocated from southwestern Virginia to the peninsula attracted by the shipbuilding and railroad industries.

Originally, they came to America from several parts of Greece, including the Peloponnesus and Karpenissi. Some also arrived from Cyprus.

In the 1870s and '80s, California entrepreneur Hollis P. Huntington built a railroad to bring coal from West Virginia to ship to world markets, which became the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. He next developed the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, which became the world's largest shipyard, employing many Greek immigrants.

The closest church in the early years of the 1900s was in Norfolk, a ferryboat ride across Hampton Bay. Annunciation Church in Norfolk is the mother church of Virginia parishes. Priests from the church would come to Newport News to perform weddings and baptisms.

1929 was a milestone for the Greek

community with the founding of AHEPA's Woodrow Wilson Chapter 21 and the Greek Woman's Penelope Society (now the Hellenic Woman's Penelope Society - HWPS), a forerunner of Philoptochos, which promoted civic, educational, cultural and humanitarian projects. It continues to function, parallel with the parish's Philoptochos chapter.

From 1929 to 1949, visiting priests from Norfolk and the U.S. naval base would come to Newport News and hold services at a local Episcopal Church. The HWPS would collect 25 cents from Greek businesses and households to pay the priests.

A second major wave of Greek immigrants, from other parts of the East

Coast, came to the city in the late 1930s and '40s because of the economic boom resulting from increased ship construction. The Newport Shipyards built many of the warships used in World War II.

Ground was broken in January 1947 for the parish's first church, located near downtown. The building was completed at a cost of \$150,000 in 1949.

The ensuing years saw a number of major developments in the parish: the GOYA chapter's founding in 1950, the formation of Philoptochos' St. Helen Chapter 1095 in 1954, the Greek Radio Hour on WACH with host and DJ Miss Tessie Asime in 1954, the selection of the church by the Virginia Council of Greek Orthodox Churches in 1959 to host the annual Epiphany celebration, and the purchase of property in 1966 for a new church and community center at the parish's present location.

The Hellenic Bazaar, which became the Greek festival got its start in 1967. The parish now holds two festivals a year. Its major festival lasts four days after Memorial Day. The smaller, two-day event is in October. These, along with stewardship are the main revenue sources.

The present community center was completed and dedicated in 1976 and the present church was built in 1982 and consecrated by Archbishop Iakovos in 1984.

Sts. Constantine and Helen's choir for many years has been a part of the National Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians and hosted two annual conventions of the Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Choirs.

▶ continued next page

IS YOUR PARISH...

Ready to expand parish participation?

Seeking funds for a building project?

Wishing to promote Planned Giving?

ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE!

THE OFFICE OF PARISH DEVELOPMENT OFFERS

GUIDANCE TO PARISHES THROUGH:

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOPS: For greater involvement in your parish

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLANNING STUDIES: Assessing your project's fundraising potential

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MANAGEMENT: Planning and coaching from beginning to end

STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANCE: Inspiring greater giving in your parish

PARISH PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMS: Guidance in cultivating planned gifts

GRANT PROPOSAL RESEARCH & WRITING: Help throughout the grant proposal process

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

CONTACT US TO DISCUSS YOUR GOALS & NEEDS AND ALLOW US TO EXPLAIN HOW WE MIGHT BE OF HELP.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF PARISH DEVELOPMENT
3 South Prospect Avenue, Ste. II
Park Ridge, IL 60068
Phone: (847) 825-1432
Email: jminetos@goarch.org



AHEPA announced that two study abroad programs will be available summer 2015, providing college students the opportunity to earn credit.

Last year we are pleased to announce our partnership with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation who have graciously offered assistance to our participants!

The Ahepa/Stavros Niarchos Foundation*

Journey to Greece Program is composed of two separate trips.

The AHEPA/Webster Journey to Greece Program, which is being held in cooperation with Webster University.

The AHEPA/DEREE-ACG Excursion to Greece will be launched in cooperation with DERE - The American College of Greece.

Applications for the programs will be available in early January 2015, for the summer's most exciting trip! **AHEPA** since 1968 has provided this trip for students

to Greece and Cyprus. This program can transfer 6 college credits and allows our young people to connect with the heritage & culture.

Visit the **AHEPA** web site at www.ahepa.org to download and complete the application, **DON'T BE LEFT OUT!**

AHEPA Headquarters.

1909 Q Street, NW, Suite 500 Washington, DC 20009

(202) 232-6300

ΙΣΝ / SNF ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

*Recipients can be awarded financial scholarships funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, based on financial need.

OBITUARIES

Fr. Gregory Champion

LAKE WORTH, Fla. – Fr. Gregory Champion, 85, a retired priest, died Sept. 27. He was born Dec. 1, 1928, in Terre Haute, Ind. After completing public school in Terre Haute, he attended Indiana State and Ball State universities for three years in liberal arts.

He also attended Christ the Savior Theological School in France, Canasius College in Buffalo, N.Y., toward a masters in theology and the University of Athens in 1971-72.

He received a licentiate in theology from Christ the Seminary in Johnstown, Pa in 1962.

He married Georgia Balasis of Patras, Greece in 1965 and was ordained a deacon and a priest at St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral in New York. From 1965 to 1971 he served several Russian Orthodox churches of the Moscow Patriarchate.

He transferred to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in October 1973 and was assigned to Transfiguration Church in Mason City, Iowa, where he served until June 1981.

His next parish was Dornition of the Theotokos in Greensboro, N.C., where he served until his retirement in December 1992.

He is survived by Presbyteria Georgia; brothers, Richard L., Thomas E. and James M. Champion; sisters Esther M. and Ruth

E. Champion; and other relatives.

Services took place Oct 30 at St. Catherine Church in West Palm Beach with Metropolitan Alexios officiating.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Catherine Church, 110 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33405.

Fr. Spiro Pieratos

COVINA, Calif. – Fr. Spiro Pieratos, 85, a retired priest, died Sept. 24.

He was born Sept. 11, 1929, in Scranton, Pa., and completed public school in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

He studied for six years at Holy Cross Seminary, graduating in 1954. He earned a master's in theology from St. Mary's University.

He married Panagiota Panteli of Greece in November 1956 and was ordained a deacon in March 1957 at St. Demetrios Church in Astoria, N.Y., and as a priest on March 17 at Kimisis tis Theotokou in Brooklyn, N.Y.

He served St. Elpis Church in Hopewell, Va., from April 1957 to May 1960; St. Anthony in Pasadena, Calif., from June 1960 until August 1973; St. Sophia Church in San Antonio, 1973-1977; and St. Nectarios in Covina from October 1977 until his retirement in October 1993.

Survivors include Presbyteria Panagiota, two sons, Dionysios and Demetrios Pieratos, and a niece, Roza Pieratos.

Parish Profile

➤ continued from previous page

The Young Adult League was founded in 1987, the Hellenic Youth Dancers were formed in 1990 and the parish hired its first youth director, John Theodosian, in 1991.

Other youth groups were formed in the late 1990s.

Youth ministry also includes reaching out to college students through the Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Each February, through William and Mary College in Williamsburg, the parish participates in an OCF retreat that draws participants from many surrounding states and as far as Connecticut.

Among the concerns that, not only the Newport News parish faces, but

many others as well, is the activity of certain "non-denominational" churches in drawing people away, Fr. George noted.

"It's not just the Orthodox," he said, but "also other established Christian denominations."

The present-day parish consists of second and third-generation Greek American born, but is also "very pan Orthodox," according to Fr. George. Orthodox Christians from other jurisdictions that have no nearby churches are members. There are many converts, some through marriage. Several converts have become Orthodox on their own. There still are some immigrants from Greece and Cyprus.

— Compiled by Jim Golding

Eleni

TOURS, INC.

WORLD WIDE TRAVEL

25th Anniversary

ΘΕΛΕΤΕ ΦΟΗΝΑ ΕΙΣΙΤΗΡΙΑ

To Athens or Thessaloniki from New York

RESTRICTIONS DO APPLY • SPACE IS LIMITED • CALL TODAY

LOWEST HOTEL & CAR FARES AVAILABLE

ΕΠΙΚΟΙΝΩΗΣΤΕ ΜΑΖΙ ΜΑΣ ΣΤΟ ΙΝΤΕΡΝΕΤ

Contact: Eleni & Ari Poulos

WEB: www.eleni.com • E-mail: elenistours@yahoo.com

Επίσης αναλαμβάνουμε Διαβατήρια και Συμβολαιογραφικά (Πληρεξούσια, Μεταφράσεις, Πιστοποιητικά, κ.λ.π.)

1-800-989-4733

Call Now and Begin Saving Money with Eleni Tours, Inc.

FARES BEGIN AT...

\$299 PLUS TAX ONE WAY

\$480 PLUS TAX ROUND TRIP

NON STOP FLIGHT US AIR FROM PHILA TO ATHENS AND CONTINUE TO THESSALONIKI

5 Bayberry Drive, Broomall, PA 19008

610-355-7730 • Fax: 610-355-0823



SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

Offered to Communities, Organizations, Church festivals and all other functions.

Kontos Foods famous for its **POCKET-LESS PITA**, is proud to present its original products once again.

Fillo
Kataifi



Spanakopita
Tyropita

Delicious, traditional products made

with the highest quality ingredients

Courteous Service • WE SHIP EVERYWHERE in the US & CANADA

Exclusive Distributor for USA & CANADA of TRIKOMITES HALOUMI

KONTOS FOODS, INC • EVRIPIDES KONTOS, President
BOX 628, PATERSON, NJ 07544
(973) 278-2800 • Fax: (973) 278-7943



YOUR CONNECTION TO SOUTH FLORIDA



**Specializing in Commercial
& Residential Real Estate Brokerage
From Miami To Palm Beach**



Gus Trataros Realtor®

561.716.0653 / 305.285.7272

gtrataros@skylinerealtyint.com

SKYLINE REALTY INTERNATIONAL

800 Brickell Avenue, Suite 201, Miami, FL 33131

www.skylinerealtyinternational.com

info@skylinerealtyint.com

EDUCATION

Office of Education Holds Annual Teachers Development Seminar

ASTORIA, N.Y. — Hundreds of Direct Archdiocesan District parochial school and Greek school teachers attended the annual Greek Teachers Staff Development Seminar Nov. 4 organized by Office of Education Director Maria Makedon.

The annual seminar held at St. Demetrios Day School provided in-service training that offered workshop sessions on literacy development, the Common Core, math, social studies and science topics.

The program featured a lecture for Greek teachers by Marios Koukounaras-Liagkis, Ph.D. of the Department of Theology at the National Kapodistrian University of Athens and presentations focusing on current trends in education and recent mandates set by the New York State Education Department pertaining to the day schools' English program and Greek program as its foreign language component.

Archbishop Demetrios spoke to the entire gathering following lunch. Caren Moncher Zayde, executive director of the New York City Department of Education Division of Nonpublic Schools addressed the educators on applying for government funding.

Dr. Koukounaras-Liagkis, a philologist and theologian, discussed methods and techniques for teaching Greek through "Art and Applied Theater, and ways of interdisciplinary teaching of religion and Greek language.

Visiting Cyprus schools

Archbishop Demetrios discussed his visits to several schools and meeting with Ministry of Education officials during his trip to Cyprus in late October.

"They spend considerable amounts of money for education," the Archbishop said. "They think education is a priority, despite their economic hardship and occupation.



Dimitrios Panagos photos

Archbishop Demetrios describes his visit to schools in Cyprus, including those in the occupied zone.

They have many innovative programs."

In visiting several schools in the country, he noted that some were for children with special needs, which they referred to as having a "noetic handicap" (intellectual handicap), but that some of the children demonstrated special abilities in other areas. One student could name the particular day of the week that a certain date fell upon, regardless of the year, he said. Describing his visit to the occupied part of Cyprus, the Archbishop recalled being greeted by a girl who "spoke perfect Greek that was rich in content," despite having grown up in an occupied area.

Knowledge and wisdom

Commenting on contemporary education, Archbishop Demetrios said that,

in other generations and previous times, knowledge was transmitted exclusively through the school, but that is not the case in modern society.

"Today, knowledge comes from many sources," including computer programs and games, he said.

His Eminence said schools "have to establish what proper knowledge is; knowledge that leads to wisdom."

He cited a definition of wisdom as "the use of the best means for the best purposes."

He added, "The thing that we have to do is make our work in class and in school different from what it was in the last century."

The Archbishop urged the teachers to "make school a pleasant place -that's important - so children will say 'We don't want to miss any day of school.'"

The Archbishop advised the Greek language teachers, "Don't be discouraged. Even with transmitting a minimum of Greek, you have provided a maximum and optimum of intellectual treasures."

School funding sources

Ms. Zayde spoke briefly about various ways to receive state and federal money through funded programs, including the Title I, Title II and Title III programs. She

▶ continued to page 26



Two of workshops taking place during the morning and afternoon sessions at St. Demetrios School.



(top) Greek language teachers representing more than 30 day and afternoon schools, attend lectures given at the St. Demetrios school library.

(below) Dr. Zayde addresses the audience on state and federal aid programs for parochial schools. Office of Education Director Maria Makedon is at left.



GIVE THE GIFT THAT GIVES BACK



This Christmas, for every **Loukoumi** book sold, we will donate 1 book to charity, plus the \$2 we donate to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

For Church Bookstore & Philoptochos discounts: call 212-397-2804 or email info@loukoumi.com At Amazon.com, BN.com & Loukoumi.com

If You Missed The Make A Difference With Loukoumi TV Special on FOX, Watch It Today on www.Loukoumi.com

STERLING TRAVEL

20 LAUREN LANE, PHILLIPSBURG, N.J. 08865
www.hellastickets.com • sterlingtravel@hotmail.com
 20 Lauren Lane, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

Cheap Tickets,
Great Price

TICKETS 2 GREECE ON SALE

NEA YOPKH – ΑΘΗΝΑ – ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

Με επιστροφή
 από \$ **299**

+ FUEL FEES + TAXES EXTRA • Περιορισμένος αριθμός θέσεων • Restrictions Apply

Χαμηλές τιμές για ΑΠΛΗ ΜΕΤΑΒΑΣΗ • ΕΙΔΙΚΕΣ ΠΡΟΣΦΟΡΕΣ ΚΙ ΑΠΟ ΑΛΛΕΣ ΠΟΛΕΙΣ

Τηλεφωνείστε δωρεάν (Call Toll Free): 1.800.GREECE-8 (1.800.473.3238) 1.908.213.1251 • 1.908. 213.6826

ΙΔΙΟΚΤΗΤΕΣ: ΒΑΣΙΛΗΣ & ΜΙΝΑ ΑΓΓΕΛΗ



Fabra-Clean Carpet & Fabric Specialists Inc.

GETTING ALL THE DIRT SINCE 1949

Oriental carpet & area rugs	Ceramic tile & grout cleaning
Upholstery & fine fabrics	Headboards & bed frames
Drapery & shades	Fabric walls
Marble & stone cleaning	Leather furniture



Serving the Tri-State Area

212.777.4040 fabraclean.com fabracleanstoneandtilecare.com

EBOLA CRISIS

An Orthodox Mission in the Midst of the Ebola Outbreak

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone – Until a few months ago, the word “Ebola” would elicit a blank stare from most people living in the United States.

Not so now, as news reports have cited five isolated cases in locations including Texas, Ohio, Maryland and New York.

Although first described in Africa in 1976, no cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in humans had been recorded in America until 2014. As of October, there have been two deaths in the United States. In addition, hundreds of people have been tested for potential Ebola virus and a few Americans have been evacuated from Africa for treatment in the U.S.

However, the epicenter of what is being described as a pandemic is West Africa where more than 13,000 people have been affected and more than half have died.

In the midst of this tragedy is a Greek Orthodox priest, a graduate of Holy Cross School of Theology, who has spent many years doing mission work in that part of the world under the jurisdiction of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria.

EIGHT YEARS IN WEST AFRICA

Fr. Themis Adams (Adamopoulos) for the past eight years has operated the Orthodox Mission in Freetown, Sierra Leone, overseeing a compound for the disabled, an Orthodox school with 2,000 children and a teacher's college.

He has also been on the front lines in the battle against Ebola.

A native of Australia, Fr. Themis earned a masters and Ph.D in Early Childhood Education at the Monash University, Melbourne, completed a Master's of Theology degree at Princeton Divinity School and a Ph.D. at Brown University in Providence, R.I. He is a founding lecturer of St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College in Sydney, Australia. He is also a former Australian rock star whose band, “The Flies,” who performed with the Rolling Stones and the Beatles.

Recently he has become the subject of a feature film by an Australian movie producer. An American screenwriter, Wid Bastian of Logan, Utah, who is Greek Orthodox, was retained to write the screenplay for the film.

Mr. Bastian recently provided the following information to the *Orthodox Observer* based on interviews with Fr. Themis.

Since the first outbreak in December 2013, the Ebola crisis in West Africa has grown from a local, to a regional and now an international health crisis. While the governments of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea have recently responded with additional resources to combat the problem, as has the United Nations and the international community, the death toll mounts and the disease continues to spread to other nations, such as Nigeria.

Fr. Themis runs the Holy Orthodox Mission in Freetown, which consists of a compound for the disabled, known as Waterloo.

The Waterloo compound was constructed to help care for the children of disabled parents. The mission provides housing for the disabled and their families, water wells for drinking, cleaning and growing of fruits and vegetables. A medical clinic and a small school for the children of the disabled are also located on the compound.

Situated in the heart of Freetown, the St. Syke Primary School was abandoned

during the Sierra Leone civil war and left in a dilapidated state.

A RESULT OF THE CIVIL WAR

In 2008 the Freetown Council and the Education Department handed the operation of the school over to the Orthodox mission. Since the takeover in 2008, the school has benefited from a massive clean-up. A security fence was built around the school making it safe and secure for its over 2,000 students.

The Tower Hill Teacher's College trains native Sierra Leone primary and secondary school teachers who become instructors in schools around the country after they graduate.

From its inception, Fr. Themis's missionary work in Sierra Leone has been extremely challenging, but now the systemic problems of recovering from a devastating civil war, poverty and ignorance have been magnified by a horrific health crisis.

Since March, Fr. Themis has been sounding the alarm about the Ebola threat but, unfortunately, his warnings and the alerts of others were not sufficiently heeded. Now, according to multiple international medical authorities, the Ebola outbreak is out of control.

Interviewed from his residence in Freetown in August, Fr. Themis said, “This is the worst period of the crisis. I'm hoping that within a few weeks the epidemic will be lessened, but right now we are in the worst part of the storm.

Nurses and doctors have run away from the hospitals. There are very few clinics you can go to now and seek any type of medical treatment unless you have a large amount of money.

“Everyone is scared of everybody else. If anyone complains that they have a headache or a fever... boom, they're finished. They are completely shunned and isolated. As for the rest of us, we are doing our best to control the situation. The government has quarantined affected areas, movement has been restricted. There is a national curfew—after 7 p.m. no one is allowed on the streets.

“Daily life has become very difficult. Everyone has to wear gloves and wash their hands in chlorine water. You're never sure if the person you're talking to has the virus but isn't showing any symptoms yet. The country has ground to a standstill. Crowds are not allowed to gather. It's like a war situation.”

“While many of the international air carriers have stopped flying to West Africa, there are still flights from Sierra Leone to other African cities.

Ebola is not transmitted by air, but rather through bodily fluids like blood and saliva. Ebola is also not transmitted through water or food, but it can remain on objects, such as needles or even clothing, for an extended period of time after the infected person comes in contact with that object.

There is no known cure for Ebola (other than experimental drugs such as ZMapp) and no inoculation against the disease.

The death rate for those infected with the Ebola virus can be as high as 90 percent.

“What I am trying to do,” Fr. Themis says, “is to institute a sound understanding of what we are dealing with without creating too much fear or panic. For ex-

▶ continued to page 26

METROPOLIS NEWS

Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Savas Consecrate Church

By Heidi Surunis and Irene Douglas

CANONSBURG, Pa. – Fr. George L. Livanos could not have felt more blessed after the weekend of Nov. 7-9 as he participated in the consecration of All Saints Church where he has served as parish priest for 25 years.

The sacred weekend began with the arrival of Archbishop Demetrios at the Pittsburgh airport, welcomed by youth greeters, a delegation of All Saints faithful and Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh.

The group departed and made a brief stop to visit with Metropolitan Maximos, now retired, to include him in the blessings of this most sacred and holy event. Upon arrival at All Saints the hierarchs were greeted by 21 clergy from Pittsburgh and surrounding area, and 15 acolytes.

Outside the church were the holy relics of St. George the Great Martyr and Trophy-bearer, St. Kyrikos the Martyr and Holy Fathers Martyred in Sinai at Raitho that were to be placed in the altar table. They were kept illuminated by a vigil candle near the Icon of All Saints.

Archon Manuel Pihakis led a procession to the front of the church, carrying the banner of All Saints Church as the relics were delivered to the altar. The church rang with the jubilant voices of the Byzantine choir led by Archon Peter Papadakos, protopsalti of the metropolis and assisted by Archon Dr. Nicholas Loutsion, protopsalti of All Saints, singing the Apoltikia for the saints whose relics were received.

Despite a gloomy forecast, Saturday came in sunshine and splendor. Archbishop Demetrios led the parish outside to process around the building three times as services began, taking the Church “out into the world” then back inside to resume the “baptism” of the holy altar and Church building.

Blue skies and brilliant sunshine warmed the faithful in procession and many eyes turned to the heavens, noticed a formation of clouds striking the undeniable image of the cross across the morning sky.

God was truly with the members of All Saints Church that day. There was silence in the waiting crowd then the insistent “tapping” of the Archbishops staff on the doors was heard as his voice cried out “Lift up the gates, O you rulers, and be lifted



Michael Goltz Photography

(top) Archbishop Demetrios blesses the congregation in the newly consecrated All Saints Church. (below) Metropolitan Savas anoints the icons on the walls of the church.

up, you everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall enter.” The doors were opened by consecration co-Chairmen Dr. Nicholas Loutsion and Irene Douglas who led the parish inside to witness the sealing of the relics, the washing and anointing of the altar table. Cloth icons of the four evangelists were placed in the corners of the table and then the serving clergy dressed the altar table again. Time passed quickly for all held in rapt attention by activity in the altar, normally unseen by most but shown to all on monitors placed throughout the church.

Both hierarchs navigated through the church anointing each wall and icon with holy oil. Council President Paul Stamatakis commented that the oil cross marking made over the sanctuary, still visible, would be a reminder to us all and would never be painted over.

Festivities concluded at a formal banquet held at the nearby Hilton Garden Inn where 550 people, along with Metropolitan Theodosios (emeritus metropolitan of the OCA), a Canonsburg native, gathered in celebration on Saturday evening. The banquet room was radiant, lit by over 50 golden lanterns softly reflecting the shape of the cross. Proclamations were recited by state Rep. Brandon Neuman and Congressman Tim Murphy. David Rhome, mayor of Canonsburg, presented them with keys to the city.

Metropolitan Savas and Archbishop Demetrios complimented All Saints on the impeccable organization and spoke of the many meaningful details of the event. They, along with Fr. George, reflected on the beauty of the church and the richness of its heritage.

They marveled at the beauty of the iconography (Laurence Manos, iconographer) and the attention to their 1925 Blaine Avenue origins, from which icons were restored and framed completing the interior of the new All Saints Church with a unique mixture of old and new Icons.



Apollinaria Livanos and Stellanie Loutsion were part of the large youth contingent at the consecration.

METROPOLIS NEWS

Long Island 'Steel' Church Holds Thyranoixia



Photos by Dimitrios Panagos

WANTAGH, N.Y. – Five years after the ground-breaking ceremony for St. Markella community's future church took place in 2009, Archbishop Demetrios officiated at the thyranoixia service on Nov. 2. Assisted by the parish priest, Fr. Sarantis Loulakis, and Deacons Eleftherios and Constantin, the Archbishop opened the doors for the new building that was constructed around and over the existing church that had served the 200-member parish for 20 years. The church occupies 7,000 square feet on the community's 2 1/2-acre property in South Nassau County, about 35 miles east of Manhattan. Pre-fabricated all-steel building was manufactured in Houston and transported by truck to New York at a cost of about \$1.6 million. A dinner followed at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadows. Among the guests was Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos.

Annual Teachers Seminar

▷ continued from page 23

noted that her office helps ensure parochial schools get their share of benefits from government funds and programs. She also expressed enthusiasm at "partnering with the Archdiocese" to promote high educational standards in the parochial schools.

"Mrs. Makedon is a wonderful advocate for you, your schools and your children," Ms. Zayde said. "She will run to Albany in support of the schools." Commenting on the seminar, Maria Makedon stated, "I was extremely pleased by the number of participants in this annual district educational event.

Attendance was high

Almost 300 teachers and administrators attended a series of workshops and presentations aiming at improving both the English and Greek curricula.

"Throughout their careers, teachers

must participate in educational professional development activities, even if they hold an advanced graduate degree.

Thus, all the English program workshops were designed by the day school principals, whose main goal was to provide their staff with the knowledge and skills needed to align their everyday teaching to the new national Common Core standards.

"The Greek teachers were also eager to learn new and helpful tips to apply in their everyday teaching practice. They had the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the basic principles of inter-disciplinary teaching," she said. "They practice teaching Religion and Greek simultaneously by taking part in a workshop emphasizing experiential learning.

"They also expressed much appreciation on what they learned on their evaluations and congratulated our Office and Professor Koukounaras-Liagkis for an excellent presentation."



'Thank You' to Supporters of the Orthodox Observer

Special Patrons

Christine Athanasoulis, Lansing, Mich.; Betty Parisi, Merrick, N.Y.; Charles Dickson, Lake Charles, La.; Mr. and Mrs. Christ G. Vokos, Portland, Oregon; Dr. and Mrs. George P. Canellos, Weston, Mass.; George Markantonis, Houson; Theordore P. Klingos, New York; John C. Bakes II, Wake Forest, N.C.; Abdalla Elias, Tulsa, Okla.; Theodore D. Vlahos, La Grange Park, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. George Grigoropoulos, Boston, Jim Deamant, San Jose, Calif.; Michel Choban, Jr., Altadena, Calif.; Oeter Riysgajes, Vienna, Va.; Dr. Basile Eleftheriou, Bar Harbor, Maine.

Patrons

Kyiakos Kontostathis, Pottstown, Pa.; George Fotiades, Summit, N.J.; Antonios Diakatos, Havertown, Pa.; Anna and George Gaggos, Grosse Pointe, Mich.; Nancy and Ken Hayward, Okemos, Mich.; Terri Nicholaou, Vail, Ariz.; Clark and Katie Afendoulis, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Ralis G. and Hellen C. Pierides, Keswick, Va.; Electra K. Lockridge, Missoula, Mont.; Angelo Nazirides, Swarthmore, Pa.; Michael Dimitrelis, Paramus, N.J.

Donors

John Poulos, Wheaton, Mo; William and Mary Bruce, Lakewood, Colo.; Sophia D. Pathos, Eau Claire, Wis.; Panagiotis Harlaftis, Roseville, Mich.; Effpraxia Gianos, Cos Cob, Conn.; Constantine Dedes, San Francisco, Calif.; Petro J. Tolos and George J. Tolas, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.; Katherine K. Perros, Potomac, Md.; EP Kalcos, Anderson, S.C.; George Vrachnos, Palm Harbor, Fla.; Dr. Norman A. Fernandes, San Francisco, Calif.; George N. Terris, Washington; George Rook, Hot Springs, Ark.; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stassou, Fort Lee, N.J.; Harry Kessenides, Bethpage, N.Y.; Nan Cusulos, Burlingame, Calif.; Grace Miannecki, Kenosha, Wis.; Kyriacos Adamon, Locust Grove, Va.; Katerina A. Martin, Killeen, Texas; Kostas Bairamis, Mendota, Calif.

Priest Deals with Ebola Crisis

▷ continued from page 24

ample, all of the altar boys have to wear long sleeves, trousers and gloves and wash their hands in chlorine before entering the church. There is a great deal of daily discomfort in addition to the fear of catch-

ing the disease."

Despite the pleas from many of his friends and supporters urging him to leave Sierra Leone and seek safety in Australia, Fr Themis stayed on saying,

"Our Lord Jesus has taught that the shepherd of the flock does not run away when danger or an enemy approaches but remains to protect the sheep. The hireling runs away. 'But he that is a hireling and not the shepherd ... seeing the wolf coming leaves the sheep and flees.... the hireling flees because he cares not for the sheep. (St. John 10. 12-13). I am not a hireling!"

Mr. Tsambazis is the executive producer of the upcoming feature film, *Themis*, about Fr. Themis's life.

For further information contact Wid Bastian at wbtwriter@gmail.com or John Tsambazis at jtsambazis@yahoo.com.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO REBUILDING ST. NICHOLAS

Contributions can be made easily and securely by credit card online at: www.stnicholaswtc.org or by sending a contribution via check to: Greek Orthodox Archdiocese – St. Nicholas Fund, 8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075.

METROPOLIS NEWS



Michael Goltz Photography

Archbishop Demetrios addresses the banquet gathering. From left, Metropolitan Savas, co-Chairmen Dr. Nicholas Loutsion and Irene Douglas, Fr. George Livanos and Parish Council President Paul Stamatakis.



St. Demetrios Church photo

Feast Day visit

Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta celebrated the Feast Day of St. Demetrios Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he tonsured six altar boys and blessed hundreds of faithful. Show with the Metropolitan are: (front row, from left) Helen Taschioglou, John Taschioglou, Dorothea Stratoudakis, Nicholas Stratoudakis, Presbytera Georgia Metropulos, Nicholas Metropulos, Owen Cockrell, Christopher Chong, Dominic Bowler, Valerie Cockrell, Soula Chong. (back row, from left) Samspon Kasepakis, youth coordinator; George Stratoudakis, Goya lead advisor; Fr. John Codis, Deacon John Christakis, Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Christopher T. Metropulos, presiding priest and Tim Cockrell.

Canonsburg Church Consecration

▶ continued from page 25

They applauded the distribution of the hierarch's Savanon which was cut, attached to All Saints icons, and placed in cross-embroidered lace bags for each parishioner.

The service books especially created for All Saints through the diligent efforts of Archdeacon Panteleimon, Fr. Seraphim Dedes, Fr. George Livanos, Fr. Callos, Archon Peter Papadakos, Archon Dr. Nicholas Loutsion, John Dziak, Heidi Surunis and Irene Douglas, would be the standard for consecrations to come. The evening presentation ended

with a lively performance by the All Saints Greek Heritage Youth dancers.

Sunday, after an exhausting weekend, Fr. Livanos, Fr. Callos and Fr. Filipovic celebrated the first service in the newly consecrated church before the All Saints faithful, energized by the Holy Spirit. The consecration of the church building brought with it the rededication of all within it, placing Christ at the center and in the hearts of those who enter.

They are reborn in the spirit of renewal, and hopeful for continued blessings in their beloved All Saints Church, once God's house ... now God's home.



Cliff Argue photo

Pan-Orthodox Service

Members of the Washington Orthodox Clergy Association (WOCA) representing various jurisdictions throughout Western Washington held the first of what are planned to be quarterly Holy Union Services for healing of the faithful in the area at St. Demetrios Church in Seattle. Seven priests and a deacon celebrated the service, while other clergy participated by chanting or praying in the congregation.



Altar boys await the start of the procession of the holy relics the evening before the consecration service.

IOCC

New Board Chairman Named

BALTIMORE – Long-time board member and past Treasurer Mark D. Stavropoulos of Troy, Mich., a member of the Archdiocesan Council and an Archon, was named the chairman of the Board of Directors for International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) at the trustees' annual meeting in Chicago. He succeeds Oklahoma City attorney and former Judge Michael S. "Mickey" Homsey, who served two two-year terms as board chairman.

Stavropoulos assumes leadership of the board at a time when the organization continues to respond to the crisis in Syria, where IOCC works closely with the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East to support one of the largest private humanitarian networks in the country. IOCC's emer-

gency relief also extends to Syrian refugees and locally-affected populations in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Armenia.

To date, IOCC has assisted nearly two million people in the region, including over 1.6 million people inside Syria.

IOCC's global humanitarian reach also provides relief to beleaguered families in Greece where it has delivered more than \$10 million in assistance over the past year, and under Stavropoulos' leadership, aims to expand its health, education and water initiatives in Ethiopia, Uganda and Cameroon.

Stavropoulos and newly elected Vice-Chairman Presbytera Maria Z. Mossaides; Secretary Thomas M. Suehs; and Treasurer John V. Sobchak, will assume their duties in January.

Team IOCC Raises \$25,000

BALTIMORE -- Nearly 30 other supporters of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) at dawn on Oct. 18 to go the distance in the 14th annual Baltimore Running Festival, and to raise money and awareness about the people it serves worldwide with every stride.

More than 25,000 US and international runners and walkers competed in this year's marathon, half-marathon, relay and 5K races. Team IOCC included participants

from Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New York, Washington, and IOCC staff from its Baltimore headquarters. The group raised nearly \$25,000 to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to families displaced by war, overcoming natural disasters or working their way out of poverty.

This is the second year that Team IOCC has participated in the Baltimore Running Festival to support IOCC's humanitarian mission.

Rohlf's Byzantine Stained Glass Art

Serving the Orthodox Church for over 80 years in Achievements of Ecclesiastical Excellence and Beauty

FOR MORE INFORMATION & LITERATURE CALL OUR TOLL-FREE NUMBER

800-969-4106

Rohlf's Stained & Leaded Glass Studio

783 South Third Ave., Mount Vernon, NY 10550

e-mail - rohlf1@aol.com web page - www.rohlfstudio.com



OBSERVER'S CLASSIFIEDS

BASILE

Hilarious Greek Comedy!

Have Basile come to your next community fundraiser!

NOW APPEARING!

<p>Jan. 11 (Sunday) Detroit/Livonia, MI Joey's Comedy Club 734-261-0555</p>	<p>Jan. 23 Hicksville, NY Holy Trinity 718-673-0400</p>	<p>Jan. 31 Salt Lake City, UT DOP AHEPA Holy Trinity 801-558-4591</p>
<p>Jan. 16-18 Charlotte, NC HDF 404-634-9345</p>	<p>Jan. 25 Toms River, NJ St. Barbara's 732-740-6173</p>	

TO ORDER CALL TOLL FREE!
1-888-822-7453

Each DVD
\$17.95
+S&H



Growing Up Greek
In America



Growing Up Greek
In America 2



Growing Up Greek
In America 3

 Basile Fans

 BasileTheComedian

 BasileComedian

 BasileTheComedian

NAPLES FLORIDA REAL ESTATE



Vicky Lewis

Realtor

239.777.4904

Vicky@VickyLewisNaples.com

www.VickyLewisNaples.com

ΜΙΑΘ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ

DOWNING-FRYE REALTY, INC.

MOVE TO FLORIDA

Net Profit 250K minimum per year. AUTO SERVICE CENTER.
2 Separate buildings, 5,600' sq.ft - Land 23K sq.ft. on heavily traveled boulevard. Foreign Auto Repair/Collision Paint, Body, Used Car Sales. Fully Equipped facility in business for 31 years and still going strong. Ready to retire and sell to the right person. Business and Property. Owner Financing Available.
Call Mr. Costas at (904) 744-5863

Mountain View Luxury Log Home

Near Asheville and Skiing Apx 3791 SF on 2.07 Acres with 4+Add'l avail. Open floor plan, 3 bdrm + office, 3 1/2 ba, vaulted ceilings, large custom kitchen 1400 SF of covered porches.
\$448,500. Era Mt. View properties
Tami (828) 925-1130

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME

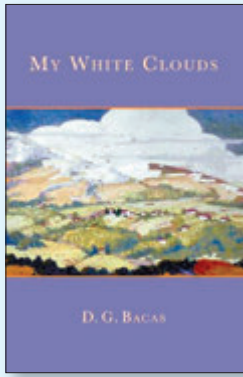
IN PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

One acre land, corner lot, in Palm Beach Country Estates - Close to beaches, the Gardens Mall and two colleges. This is a non-gated community. All lots are one acre or larger - Beautiful land with breathtaking views. Easy access to Palm Beach, West Palm Beach and Jupiter.
Call Eleni at (561) 818-4303

BOOKS

My White Clouds

By D. G. Bacas



D. G. BACAS

White clouds above the mountains towering over a village in Greece lift a young girl's heart to the land of her dreams, America. Journey to Greek customs, family and food (w/ recipes)-and to immigrant life in America in the early twentieth century.

Perfect gift for Yiayia, Papou, Nouna and Nouno!

Order at: www.mywhiteclouds.com
or at Amazon or Kindle



THE SACRED ARCHITECTURE OF BYZANTIUM
ARE, LITURGY AND SYMBOLISM IN EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

AUTHORITATIVE
INFORMATIVE
RICHLY ILLUSTRATED

BYZANTINE
CHURCH ARCHITECTURE
& ICONOGRAPHY

For press release & reviews go to
www.nicksdocs.com/Byzantium
www.amazon.com

Dimitrios Photography & Video

To Purchase Photos from all events visit
www.panagos.com
You can find us on Facebook

CALL NOW (516) 931-2333

INVESTMENTS

Gus Kalivas, CPA

Financial Advisor



20 Imperial Avenue
Westport, CT 06880
o: 203.454.5400
c: 203.984.4275
constantine.p.kalivas@ampf.com

Putting clients' best interest first for over 37 years.

ameripriseadvisors.com/constantine.p.kalivas



Ameriprise
Financial

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Member FINRA and SIPC.
© 2014 Ameriprise Financial, Inc., All rights reserved.

MUSICIANS

Sarasota	Tarpon Springs	Boca Raton	Miami	Ft. Myers
Ft. Myers	Daytona	Naples	Melbourne	Holiday
Orlando	Clearwater	St. Petersburg		Ft. Lauderdale

All Communities with wonderful Greek Orthodox Communities, Churches and Culture

Thinking of Retiring *part time or full time?*
 Let us find you a Greek Community that you will LOVE!
Residential and Commercial Real Estate



Dino Theofilos, Broker/Owner

Florida Capital Real Estate LLC

Call Now for Real Estate Information

941-448-4936

BOSTON MASS BAND

Kostas Taslis
with Bouzouki • Klarino
Male & Female Vocals
 Λαϊκά • Δημοτικά • Ηπειρώτικα • Νησιώτικα
 Μουσική για όλα τα γούστα
Call Kosta: 978.374.1946 • 781.223.6804
 E-mail: tasliskostas@gmail.com

"ELLADA"

The USA's Top Greek Band





www.musicofellada.com **941-448-4936**
 Booking performances throughout the USA, Canada & Caribbean!
 Call **NOW** for available Dates.

ZEPHYROS

Baltimore, Maryland
 Greek and American Music
www.zephyrosband.com

Peter Bisbikis
(410) 821-7521
peterbisbikis@comcast.net

Emmanuel Matsos
(410) 661-6362

TRAVEL SERVICES

MOUNT ATHOS PILGRIMAGE

May 14 to May 28, 2015

For information please contact Theofilos Russos
 at (714) 535-0975 • www.mtathospilgrimage.com

Exclusively for Men

BASILE

foods

GREEK STYLE SEASONINGS

"A Festival of Taste in Every Bite"

5 SEASONING BLENDS!

NO MSG & LOW SODIUM!



BASILE's Greek Style for:

- Salad & Vegetables
- Fish & Seafood
- Pork "Souvlaki"
- Steak/Beef
- Chicken

GIFT BOXES AVAILABLE!

SEND TO FRIENDS OR LOVED ONES!

To see more gift ideas visit us online BASILEFOODS.COM
 Or call 855-4-BASILE (855-422-7453)

A CHRISTMAS GIFT BOOK!

Greek Folk Stories • Old and New

A legacy of stories from Asia Minor, written and illustrated by Mary Ziavras. A delightful collection for all, young and old. Paperback, 131 pp, \$17.95

To order visit www.Amazon.com
www.GreekFolkStories.com



FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Faith In Action: Our Family's Philanthropic Work

by Georgia Williams

Our family does things differently than most. We take our three children (eight years old and under) to play with Russian orphan children, some of whom have communicable skin diseases (nothing incurable). We travel with them to the wilds of Russia, 700 kilometers from Moscow and far from quality medical care. We give shelter to particularly troubled young-adult orphans, who live with our family for months at a time. I suppose all of these decisions could be seen as "imprudent," yet I remain convinced that they are among the wisest we have ever made.

They haven't made life smooth and easy for our family, but our involvement in philanthropic work has been an untold blessing in many ways. It has definitely been "worth it" to do things that seem ridiculous or foolish in the world's eyes in order to help those who are in need.

So how did my family ever get into the business of helping Russian orphans? My husband, Andrew, and I met in Russia, in the course of establishing the Russian Orphan Opportunity Fund (ROOF) in 1997. Its mission was to send teachers into orphanages where children were falling behind in school because the Russian state was not providing them with the necessary education.

ROOF has since grown into an organization that supports Russian orphans through educational and vocational programs, summer camps, and an alternative housing program for young adults who would otherwise be institutionalized for life. This experience has had a profound impact on our family life, and it has made it clear to us how our life and study of the faith relate to our philanthropic work and our children's involvement in it.

Our children must see and be part of our faith in action. Otherwise how will they believe us or understand what it means when we tell them that we are followers of Jesus Christ? After all, Jesus is alarmingly clear about the standards to which He calls His followers when He says, "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). So, just as Jesus does, we are to give our lives for the life of the world—feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, and caring for those in distress (Matthew 25).

We Christians are putting both ourselves and our precious children in danger if we encourage them to hear these teachings in church and then we fail to live them in and with our families. At best our children might consider us hypocrites, for it would be far worse for them to conclude that the Church isn't important and become effectively inoculated against the possibility of taking Jesus' commandments seriously.

Our family loves to visit the orphanages together. Our daughters, Elizabeth (6) and Anna (4), were an amazing help a couple years ago at ROOF's summer camp for mentally and physically handicapped orphans, working with a group of fifteen boys and girls their own age. On one occasion the three of us were left with a large group without any other caregiver. Four children ran to the sink and began to cover the room in water, while one little boy tried to push his fingers into an electric socket. My girls, who have grown up around a certain amount of craziness, quickly helped me form a ring of chairs

around the electrical equipment and then jumped up on the chairs to block other children from coming near it, while I took hold of the little boy and mopped up the water. I was astounded by their poise, as the situation was truly dangerous and they seemed to understand that quite well. Should we be exposing our children to these things? I guess only time will tell . . . But, to my surprise, my girls beg to go into the orphanage each day we are there—they love to know that they are actually helping. Alongside our children we are also learning, by pattern, to not be intimidated and to call on the Lord for help in impossible situations.

Indeed, who could ever wish for a better pastime than putting in a hard day's physical, mental, and spiritual labor together as a family, to bring joy to children who otherwise sit bored, unvisited, and even drugged? Each day we set out to walk the mile to the orphanage in the already blazing early-morning sun, not knowing what genuine surprises the day will bring. Sometimes we witness little miracles together. One day we watched a little girl who didn't speak begin to talk. Another day, a five-year-old blind boy, who doesn't walk because no one has urged him to learn, began to take confident steps, following the sound of a volunteer's voice.

Sometimes we are tempted to call our work "adaptive relational therapy" because we see how the children begin to blossom as soon as we start paying them warm, individual attention. Of course, most people blossom when we start loving them. But it is never long before we realize that adaptive relational therapy works two ways. The children are also transforming us—they are changing our stony hearts to hearts of flesh. And sometimes they are literally the examples we need in our own lives. One such example is the caretaker at our volunteer house - a young man who avoided institutionalization by coming to work for ROOF—who will never let us skip our morning or evening prayers. He truly knows poverty and teaches us how to properly depend on God.

For our family, serving God and being transformed by doing philanthropic work happened halfway around the world because that's where we were at the time. But it doesn't matter if you can't go somewhere far-flung—your own backyard will do perfectly. If you offer your own time, your own homes, and your own lives, God will bless your efforts, because you will be fulfilling Christ's commandment to love one another as He has loved us. And your families will be healthier for it, and your



Photo courtesy Georgia Williams

children will be left without any doubt about what it means to be a follower of Christ. What true Christians everywhere have to offer is precisely this unusual perspective: that glory comes through suffering together in communion when we do not shirk the crosses that we have the honor to take up in and together with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Andrew and Georgia Williams are a British-American couple who live in Quillan, France. Andrew also holds a Master's of Divinity from Holy Cross. In addition, he is trained in music (MA Oxford). Georgia

is trained in economics (BA Princeton) and theology (MA Oxford). As the founders of ROOF, they travel frequently to Russia to keep involved with various projects there. Part of ROOF's special mission to help orphans in Russia is to facilitate the placement of Orthodox faithful from outside Russia into projects for orphans in Russia, and we are eager to hear from anyone who would like to spend time volunteering. Russian language is, of course, a big plus, but is not generally required for active involvement in a project. For more information, visit www.roofnet.org and view us at www.youtube.roofnet.org

ACTS OF CHARITY

- Make an Emergency Kit – The Sunday before Thanksgiving is International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) Sunday. "IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development program to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond." This month learn more about this organization and take time to make an emergency kit for those in need. For more information, visit www.iocc.org.
- A Birthday Present for Jesus – As we approach the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, take time to sit down as a family and decide what you will "give" Jesus for His birth. As you begin your planning, read the Matthew 25:31-46 and discuss if there is anyone you can give food, drink, hospitality, or clothing. Are there other things you can do? Keep it simple but meaningful for you children. Check with your parish priest to find out if there are any needs in your community.
- Make Prosforo – One of the most beautiful gifts we can offer the church is to make Prosforo for the Divine Liturgy. Check with your parish priest for details and to schedule a time. Make sure you explain to your children that making this Holy Bread is a great privilege and responsibility. Start with a prayer, and continue to pray as you make the bread. Don't forget to make a list of people living and departed that you want remembered as the priest prepares the bread before the Liturgy begins. Visit www.family.goarch.org for more details.



Family Connections is a ministry of the Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

For more information about the center's ministries please contact:
79 Saint Basil Road
Garrison, NY 10524
Phone: (845) 424-8175
Email: familycare@goarch.org
Website: www.family.goarch.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/centerforfamilycare

Leadership 100

The Center for Family Care was established with a major grant from the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, Inc.

We are grateful for its support.

AHEPA ZORBA CRUISE

Orlando AHEPA "City Beautiful" Chapter # 161 Presents...

The Gift Of Great Memories...



The Greatest Greek Party Ever !!!

A Fabulous Christmas Gift For Your Spouse...
For Your Single Children... Anyone Needing A Break!

- GET OUT OF THE COLD IN FEBRUARY
- Five Nights Departing From Port Canaveral, FL On Sat. Feb. 7th
- Full Day In Beautiful Cozumel, Mexico



- Full Day In Beautiful Nassau, Bahamas



- Return Thurs. Morning, Feb. 12th to Port Canaveral, FL
- Extended Stay Options Available In Orlando / Universal Studios
- Air Fare Packages Available To Suit Your Schedule

A Portion Of The
Proceeds To Benefit
St. Nicholas At Ground Zero



Party With The Hottest Greek Entertainers In America

Greek Rap Star Sotiri

You Tube Sensation — Mega Hit Feta Kai Psomi

Super Versatile DJ ALEKO

Played with Vanilla Ice, 50 Cent & Others

Singing Star — Rena Tsapelas

New York's Unforgettable and Hottest Greek Singer

Vasilios Kanaras & The Odyssey Greek Orchestra

Baltimore's #1 Greek Band Playing Music From All Regions Of Greece

Rate Schedule

Junior Suite.....	\$864.19
Ocean View Balcony.....	\$654.19
Ocean View Cabin.....	\$584.19
Promenade Cabin.....	\$554.19
Inside Cabin.....	\$514.19

Cabin Fare, Meals, Port Charges, Taxes,
PREPAID GRATUITIES and All Shipboard Entertainment
Included!!! Based On Double Occupancy

Book Today... This Pricing Will Not Last...

Less Than 400 Cabins Remain

You Can't Afford To Miss This Boat!!!

Call Fun Cruise & Travel

1-888-826-9660

Visit Web Site Below For More Details

www.AhepaCruise.com

OCMC

OCMC Announces Mission Team Openings for 2015

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – The Orthodox Christian Mission Center seeks volunteers for its short-term mission teams for 2015. Spaces are available for more than 120 Orthodox Christians to serve in the coming year by ministering to youth, teaching the faith, offering healthcare, and working on construction and maintenance projects. Teams will be traveling throughout the year.

In addition to returning to Alaska, Albania, Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico, Moldova, and Uganda, a team will travel to Indonesia to provide religious education at two Orthodox church schools and offer catechism to the faithful in Medan.

This team will serve from June 28 to July 12. Participation cost is \$1,065 (plus airfare).

Other 2015 Orthodox Mission Teams include:

Albania Teaching: Work with youth leaders on outreach to university students and nurture college students and young adults in Tirana; serving from Feb. 27 to March 8. Participation cost is \$1,150 (plus airfare).

Albania Youth Work: Participate in the annual summer youth camp program at the Children's Home of Hope in Shen Vlash; serving from June 15 to July 1. Participation cost is \$1,135 (plus airfare).

Guatemala Outreach: Work with the community in Nueva Concepcion to restore facilities at a senior center and of-

fer outreach to surrounding communities; serving from July 26 to Aug. 8. Participation cost is \$1,325 (plus airfare).

Guatemala Healthcare: Take part in a holistic health outreach to minister to spiritual and physical needs in northern Guatemala; serving from Aug. 17-26. Participation cost is \$1,475 (plus airfare).

Kenya Teaching: Celebrate Pascha at the Makarios III Seminary in Nairobi and teach the Faith to catechists (local church leaders) from outlying areas of Lodwar; serving from April 9-19. Participation cost is \$1,110 (plus airfare).

Kenya Construction: Assist the community of St. Peter with the construction of a school in the remote village of Loupwala in northern Kenya; serving from May 28 to June 13. Participation cost is \$1,415 (plus airfare).

Moldova Youth Work: Assist with a youth camp in Orhei focused on Orthodox spirituality and culture among the youth of Moldova; serving from July 11-23. Participation cost is \$1,060 (plus airfare).

Uganda Healthcare: Provide healthcare as part of the ongoing initiative of the Orthodox Church to minister to the needs in eastern Uganda; serving from June 1-12. Participation cost is \$1,350 (plus airfare).

More information on teams to Alaska and Mexico will be forthcoming. For more information or to apply, visit www.ocmc.org/about/open_teams.aspx or e-mail teams@ocmc.org.

Grants Help Seminarians Join Teams

by Andrew Lekos

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center provided 10 grants to seminary students to enhance their education with field experience by serving on OCMC short-term mission teams in 2014. These students had the opportunity to preach the gospel, offer catechism, and assist in youth programs in Kenya, Albania, Ghana, and Moldova.

The OCMC Mission Team Grants were awarded to seminarians from Christ the Savior Orthodox Seminary in Johnstown, Pa., Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Mass., St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in South Canaan, Pa., and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, NY. These students were given the opportunity to witness the Holy Orthodox faith in action by implementing Christ's Great Commission to *Go and make disciples of all nations*.

The mission team experience bolsters one's faith through service and engenders compassion. One seminarian grant recipient learned this firsthand, stating, "It is very important for us to sacrifice our will to God on a daily basis and trust that He will guide us in the right path, and by doing so, we allow ourselves to be 'wounded by His love.' It is important to trust God and be fearless in the roads that we undertake through Him because He will provide us with all we need."

Mission service is a unique way to be challenged. The insights gained and lessons learned in this cross-cultural ministry change one's outlook on the world.

Another grant recipient reflects, "Although my time in Albania was brief, it was unbelievably life-changing. I have been inspired and motivated to spread the Gospel to wherever I can, near or

far. I hope this motivation stays within me, and I can't wait to see where God takes me next."

Participating on short-term missions is an important and exciting step into possible long-term missionary service.

These mission experiences offer seminarians and seminary students the experience to broaden horizons, strengthen leadership skills, and develop a vision for the needs of the world by sharing the Gospel.

It is an opportunity to participate through work, witness, and worship and to become a visible expression of love, unity, and support in the Orthodox Church.

The OCMC Mission Team Grants for seminarians provide funding towards the cost participating on an OCMC Orthodox Mission Team and a cash stipend to qualified students.

Over the past 10 years, the OCMC seminarian grant program has distributed \$183,000 to over 50 Orthodox seminary students.

Teams in 2015 will serve Orthodox in Alaska, Albania, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Moldova, and Uganda. Applicants for Mission Team Grants must have completed at least one semester in an Orthodox seminary at the time of application, be in good academic standing, and demonstrate church involvement. The application deadline is Jan. 9.

Seminary students who want more information about the grants, applications, and mission teams, can visit www.ocmc.org/about/open_teams.aspx; or contact Andrew Lekos toll-free at 1-877-463-6784, or e-mail Teams@ocmc.org.

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) is the official missions agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States dedicated to

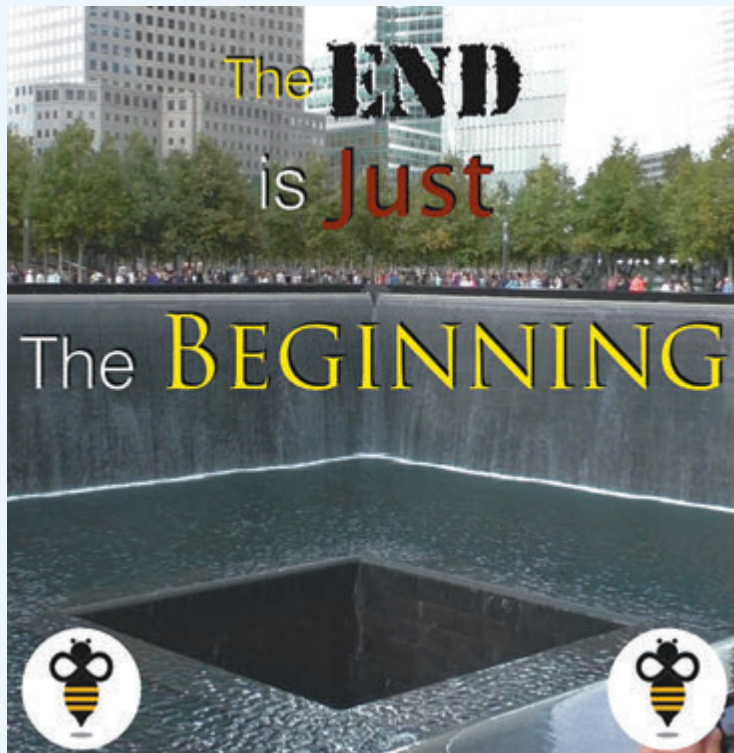
{in the now}

youth and young adult news

#RebuildStNicholas

On October 18th, Orthodox Christian faithful gathered in downtown New York City, at Ground Zero, to witness history in the making: His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios blessed the ground upon which a new St. Nicholas Church building will triumphantly rise.

For thirteen years, faithful Orthodox Christians from around the globe have been praying fervently, and working tirelessly, to ensure that the humble Church building annihilated in the twisted metal and rubble of the September 11th attacks could one day rise again. Rebuilt. Renewed.



Resurrected.

Y2AM has been blessed to help tell this important story. In September, we released a Be the Bee episode recounting the history of St. Nicholas, and its future. After the Ground Blessing, we released a video explaining the depth and beauty of the service. And most recently, we released a Be the Bee episode on the Ground Blessing Service itself, a beautiful illustration of the truth and power of Christ's Resurrection.

Let us never forget that this is a story we should all tell. St Nicholas is now a National Shrine, and will be a beacon of Orthodoxy to the millions of people who see it every year. Share this important story with your friends, family, and parish. Share these articles and videos. Most importantly, share with the world the Good News of Christ's Resurrection.



Want to learn more about the effort to #RebuildStNicholas?

Check out the episodes from our weekly YouTube series, Be the Bee, to learn about the St. Nicholas National Shrine! To watch the full ground blessing or for an opportunity to donate to this beautiful project, go to www.stnicholaswtc.org!

St. Vincent Movie Review

Review Date: October 7, 2014 | Rated: PG-13 | Genre: Drama | Release Year: 2014 | Running Time: 102 minutes

Common Sense Media says
Quirky, smart, stirring buddy comedy has some edge.

AGE ⓘ 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 17

QUALITY ⓘ ★★★★★

For more on this and other movies, as well as reviews on apps, video games, and more, check out www.CommonSenseMedia.org.



Snap with us @GOA_Youth and @GOA_Young Adults

connect with us.

like us
GOA Youth
GOA Young Adults

follow us
@GOA_Youth
@GOA_YoungAdults

snap with us
@GOA_Youth
@GOA_YoungAdults

watch us
Y2AM

reflect with us
<http://blogs.goarch.org/y2am/theladder>

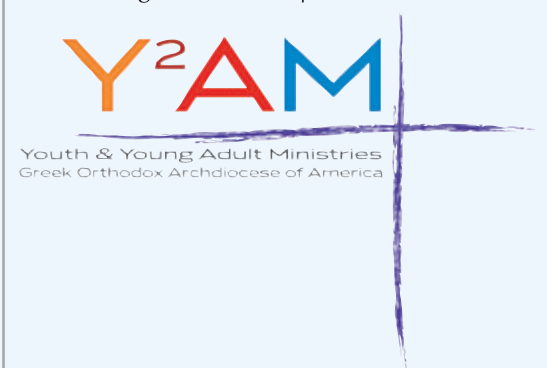
pin with us
GOA YoungAdults

laugh with us
GOA YoungAdults

our mission

{in the now} is the place to find the latest news and happenings from the Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministries (Y²AM).

{in the now} is a catalyst for change in the youth and young adults of our Greek Orthodox church, helping to lead and guide the members of today's generation in practicing our faith and nurturing our relationship with God.



ATLANTA METROPOLIS FEATURE

Archdiocese's Oldest Parish Celebrates 150 Years

by Laila Morcos

NEW ORLEANS – Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, and Metropolitan Tarasios of Buenos Aires came to the city to honor the oldest Greek Orthodox church in the Americas, Holy Trinity Cathedral, which celebrated its 150th anniversary with a weekend of events Oct. 10-12.

On Friday, Oct. 10, the community launched the weekend with “An Evening on the Bayou” glendi. Guests danced to traditional Greek music, enjoyed delectable Greek cuisine, and viewed a grand fireworks display on the grounds of Holy Trinity Cathedral overlooking Bayou St. John. Notable guests included descendants of the Church’s founder, Nicholas M. Benachi, who came from across the country to celebrate their ancestor’s legacy.

The Benachi family is a branch of the family that established the Benaki museum in Athens. Metropolitan Tarasios came to be with relatives for the celebration. His mother, Angie Vamvoras, grew up in New Orleans and his grandfather is buried at the Greek Orthodox Mausoleum at St. Louis 33 Cemetery.

On Saturday, Oct. 11, a historic, three-hour bus tour, “Greeks on the Bayou,” combined the sights of the Crescent City and the long history of Greeks in New Orleans.

Saturday evening, the community welcomed the arrival of Metropolitan Alexios, Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Tarasios and other past Holy Trinity leaders.

Following a youth blessing, Holy Trinity Dean Fr. George Wilson, celebrated Great Vespers with the hierarchs and visiting clergy. The community and clergy attended dinner and the premiere of the documentary film “150 Years of Holy Trinity New Orleans.” The film highlights the history, milestones and achievements of Holy Trinity dating back to the Dragon/Dimitry family – the first Greeks in New Orleans in the 1700s. Descendants of the Dragon/Dimitry and Benachi families were in attendance.

On Sunday, Oct. 12, Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Alexios celebrated a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity.

A banquet followed in the Hellenic Cultural Center. Guests included U.S. Sen. David Vitter and New Orleans Sheriff Marlin Gusman.

Reflecting on the event, Fr. George commented, “Having had the opportunity to be a part of the 150th anniversary of the oldest Greek Orthodox parish in the



Western Hemisphere has been a personal blessing and a wonderful honor. I am most grateful to Archbishop Demetrios for re-arranging his busy schedule to be with us. We also are appreciative of the fatherly love and guidance of Metropolitan Alexios throughout the whole process of planning this weekend. Events of this magnitude depend on the assistance and expertise of many people; this was the case for our anniversary weekend: our cathedral family stepped-up to host a truly memorable celebration.”

About Holy Trinity Cathedral

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral was established in New Orleans in 1864 after businessman and Royal Consul of the Royal Government of Greece Nicholas M. Benachi offered his personal property for a temporary church. In 1867, he sold a small parcel of property on North Dorgenois Street to the community that included a small church. The community eventually relocated to the present site on Robert E. Lee Boulevard, next to Bayou St. John.

The first priest was Fr. Agapios Honcharenko, of Russian Orthodox background. The parish came under the jurisdiction the Church of Greece until it came under the jurisdiction of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America in 1922. Membership consisted of



Frank Aymami photos

Keepers of the Faith Exhibit - exhibit with ancient Orthodox artifacts and artifacts from Orthodoxy in the church fellowship hall. (Saturday & Sunday)

Greek, Serbian, Russian and Syrian Orthodox Christians. The Liturgy was celebrated in Greek, Ukrainian and English.

The parish received its state charter in 1901. The Hellenic Cultural Center was built in 1980, and the new Cathedral

was completed in 1985. Today, the Cathedral serves the Greek Orthodox faithful throughout southern Louisiana, including more than 400 families from the greater New Orleans area, under the spiritual guidance of the Metropolis of Atlanta.

