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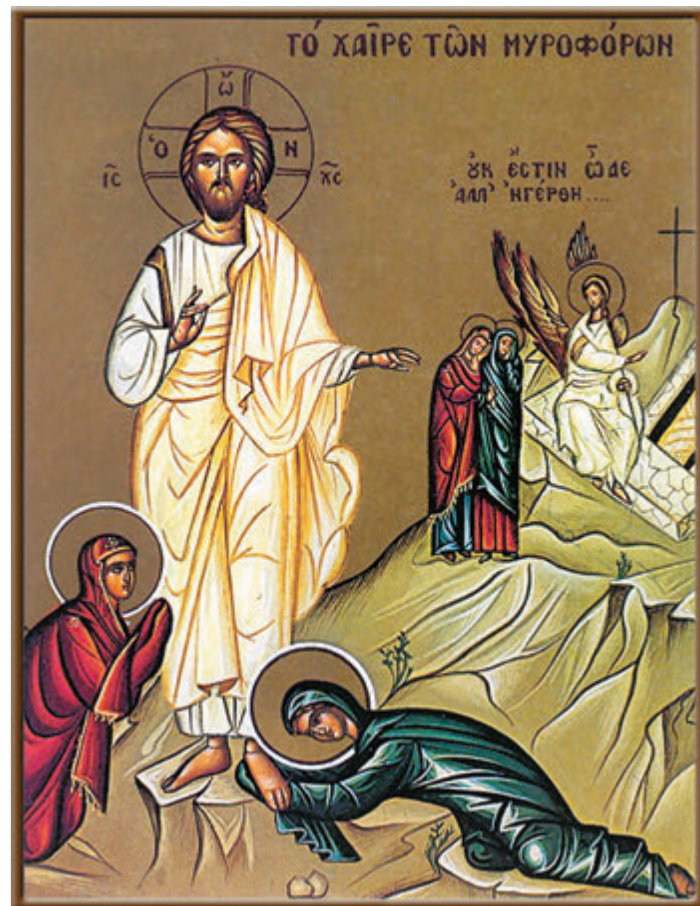
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Holy Pascha: The Feast of Feasts

Resurrection Day! O peoples, let us brilliantly shine! Pascha, the Lord's Pascha! For Christ our God has out of death passed us over into life, and likewise from earth to heaven, as we now sing unto Him a triumphal hymn.

Canon of Holy Pascha

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,

Χριστός Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

In the light and joy of this blessed and holy Day of Resurrection, we gather to celebrate our Holy and Sacred Pascha. This Pascha, this Feast of Feasts, is a celebration of life, abundant and eternal. It is a celebration of the power of grace. It is a day above all others when we proclaim throughout the world that the chains of sin and death have been broken, we have victory through Christ, and through the power of the Cross and the Resurrection we are being transformed from death to life.

On this blessed day, Lent ends by being transformed into a feast of joy. The time for contrition of heart and contemplation has past as we engage all our soul, body, and mind with the jubilation before us. Repentance has received forgiveness and grace. We have returned home and are welcomed with the loving embrace of the Father. We have completed the journey of faith, and in the glory of this Holy Pascha we glimpse eternal life and rest. Our hope in the blessed promises of God has been fulfilled in the Holy Resurrection.

This transformation has come to us through our Risen Lord. On this holy day we celebrate because of Him Who said I am the resurrection and the life (John 11:25), and we celebrate with Him. He is in our midst. We have seen His Passion. In the journey through the wilderness we have seen our Lord lifted up on the Cross to bear

our shame and sin through His suffering. Today, Jesus Christ is risen in holiness and glory, revealing the power of eternal and abundant life. We greet Him in joy. We receive His body and blood in thanksgiving. We proclaim to the world His Resurrection. We are transformed in the light and life that comes from Him.

Our transformation changes everything! In the radiance and

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NEXT DEADLINE

Deadline for submitting information, articles and photos for consideration in the **May 2015** issue: **Friday, April 17** 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.

Paulette Poulos Honored as 'Greek American Woman of the Year'

NEW YORK – Paulette Poulos, executive director of Leadership 100, was honored as “Greek American Woman of the Year” by the Association of Greek American Professional Women (A.G.A.P.W.) on March 12.

The tribute, under the auspices of the Consulate General of Greece in New York in Celebration of Women’s History Month, was attended by more than a hundred representatives of the Greek American community, including George Tsandikos, Leadership 100 Chairman, and Argyris Vassiliou, Leadership 100 Vice Chairman.

The program opened with introductory remarks by Anthoula Katsimatides, master of ceremonies, an invocation by the Rev. Dr. Robert Stephanopoulos, who also read a congratulatory message from Archbishop Demetrios.

Welcoming remarks were given by Dr. Olga Alexakos, president and founder of A.G.A.P.W., as well as by Anthousa Iliopoulos, wife of the consul General of Greece in New York, and Maria Logus, National Philoptochos Society president.

Prior to the introduction of Ms. Poulos by Dr. Eleni Andreopoulou, the featured speaker, Tsandikos spoke of his long-term friendship and association with her and her half century of service to the Greek Orthodox Church and Community through her long association with Archbishop Iakovos and through leadership positions of increasing responsibility. He said, “You have chosen an exemplary woman for this honor, one who does not discriminate by sex or religion or race, but who yet inspires women young and old by her loving and accepting presence.”

Along with the presentation of the Award by A.G.A.P.W., Poulos was also presented with a New York State Assembly Citation by Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas in recognition of her outstanding service and philanthropy, as well as professional success, in service to the Greek American and New York communities. In addition, an Excellence Tuition Scholarship Award was presented, in her name, by Dr. Aphrodite Navab to Elena Karavassilis.

In her remarks, Poulos said she viewed



O.O. photos

(from left) Olga Alexakos, Anthoula Katsimatides, Anthousa Iliopoulos, Penny Tsilas, Dr. Aphrodite Navab, Paulette Poulos, Elena Karavassilis, Dr. Eleni Andreopoulou, Maria Logus, and Catherine Moutoussis.

her service to the Greek Orthodox Church and community not as a professional accomplishment, but rather as a personal and spiritual fulfillment. She credited her parents for instilling in her faith, ideals and the importance of integrity and Archbishop Iakovos for mentoring her as he set the course for the Greek Orthodox Church and community in America and around the world, believing in placing women in positions of responsibility.

She described her current role as executive director of Leadership 100 as a continuation of his legacy and expressed indebtedness to Archbishop Demetrios, “for his trust in me and his paternal love and guidance”, to Tsandikos “for his sage counsel, guidance, support, love and friendship for so many years, and to “an exceptional group of officers, board of trustees and members who have offered their time, talent and treasure for the good of the Church and for Leadership 100.”

She closed her remarks by extending warmest gratitude to Dr. Alexakos, who as president and founder, “devotes all her

energies and untiring efforts to the success and advancement of A.G.A.P.W.”

Ecumenical Office Plans HCHC Academic Event

The Archdiocese Office of Inter-Orthodox, Interfaith and Ecumenical Relations will sponsor an academic gathering at HCHC to discuss Orthodoxy’s theology of humanitarianism on May 7-8.

The event, “Ideas and Action in the Contemporary World,” funded through a Leadership 100 grant, will present historic and current ideas and practices relating to questions about humanitarianism and define research and action agendas. It will also bring together scholars and those engaged in humanitarian activities to discuss Orthodox global efforts.

For more information, contact 212.570.3593 or via e-mail: ecumenical@goarch.org. Location will be the Maliotis Center on the HCHC campus.

St. Photios National Shrine Gets AAA–Florida Listing

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. Great news for AAA members and fans of St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine in St. Augustine, Fla! The AAA’s Central Florida Tourbook now lists the St. Photios Shrine for the first time in its new edition on page 376, column 2. Shrine Director Polly Hillier submitted the entry to AAA for its places of interest listings in Central Florida.

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



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Archbishop, President, Civil Rights Leaders Commemorate 1965 Selma March

by Stavros H. Papagermanos

SELMA, Ala. – Archbishop Demetrios commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Civil Rights March in Selma led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., during his three-day visit here March 6-8. It was a tribute to those who triumphed faith and hope “under the threat of persecution and death, and in the face of hatred and violence.”

This little town in the heart of the South and of Alabama became a symbol and the center of the Civil Rights Movement and the fight for equal voting rights that led to the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Archbishop Iakovos, the only head of a major religious body in the United States, participated in the March 15, 1965, event along with hundreds of others, including many civil rights leaders and representatives of other Church groups. (Read a comprehensive account of events by Fr. Michael N. Varlamos visit civil rights.go-arch.org/introduction). Fr. Paul Costopoulos, dean of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Birmingham along with AHEPA Supreme President Phillip T. Frangos welcomed Archbishop Demetrios at the airport, late in the evening of March 6. The adverse weather conditions in the northeast prevented the Archbishop from arriving earlier and celebrating the Salutations to the Theotokos in Birmingham.

Archon Ike Gulas of Birmingham and past supreme president of AHEPA, facilitated and coordinated many of the movements of Archbishop Demetrios and his accompanying delegation. Birmingham’s Mayor William A. Bell Sr., extended the courtesies of his office that made many of the Archbishop’s movements possible.

On Saturday, March 7, Archbishop Demetrios traveled to Selma to join other civic and religious leaders for the weekend events marking the anniversary.

Archbishop Demetrios joined President Barack Obama and major civic and religious leaders, to walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge and commemorate the 50th anniversary of “Bloody Sunday,” the violent and bloody confrontation against 600 peaceful marchers by Alabama state troopers, local policemen and local segregationists, an event that helped bring about the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

On March 15, 1965, Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America had come here and participated in the March on Selma, led by Rev. Dr. King.

Upon his arrival to Selma, Archbishop Demetrios noted, “It is truly a blessing to travel to Selma to pay tribute to the legacy of both Dr. King and Archbishop Iakovos. The promotion and protection of civil

rights transcends politics since the ability to determine one’s future is a God-given blessing.”

His Eminence greeted President Obama, first lady Michelle, and their daughters Malia and Sasha in a private gathering prior to the 50th anniversary commemoration rally. More than fifty thousand people attended the presidential address at the foot of the historic Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Archbishop Demetrios marched across the bridge with President Barack Obama and his family, former President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, U.S. senators and congressmen, leaders and foot soldiers who had participated in the 1965 events.

“We know that hope sustained by faith is strengthened when it is shared,” said His Eminence. After thanking everyone for their participation and before departing, President Obama embraced Archbishop Demetrios and noted the significance of faith in the Civil Rights Movement.

While on the bridge, Archbishop Demetrios, at the request of Congressman John Lewis who was present on Bloody Sunday in 1965, offered a prayer for the people of Selma and the nation.

“Today we remember the fight, the faith, the persistence and the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and we also remember the courage of Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory and their time together here in Selma. It is a very significant and moving day, a day of deep emotions, thankfulness to God for what was achieved, and fervent prayer for the work that lies ahead,” said Archbishop Demetrios to the press at the conclusion of the march.

In his visit to Selma, Archbishop Demetrios was accompanied by several AHEPA officials including Supreme President Phillip T. Frangos, Past Supreme President Ike Gulas, Supreme Counselor Greg Stamos from Connecticut, and Executive Director Basil Mossaidis. Also accompanying the Archbishop were the V. Rev. Archimandrite Nathanael Symeonides, director of the Office of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos, Stavros Papagermanos, director of the Archdiocese Press Office; Nicholas Furriss, senior director and producer of GOTELECOM; and Archdiocese photographer Dimitrios Panagos.

Sunday morning, at the Martin and Coretta Scott King Unity Breakfast at Wallace Community College, Archbishop Demetrios delivered remarks on “God, Struggle and Unity.” He said, in part, “In great struggles, hope is sustained by faith in God and the assurance that He will fulfill His promises... On this anniversary we commemorate the heroic faith and hope of those who struggled, of those who upheld human dignity through powerful yet peaceful protests and demonstrations

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Dr. King’s Legacy in Selma

In contrast to the situation 50 years ago, when marchers, including Archbishop Iakovos, faced grave danger along with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, the scene on March 7 was celebratory in nature. (Clockwise from top right) Archbishop Demetrios greets President Obama during the commemoration of the event. His Eminence proceeds along the parade route, then attends the memorial service at Brown Chapel AME church. Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, who is the direct link to the original march when he accompanied Dr. King in 1965, warmly greets the Archbishop and shares his memories of the event. (left) The Archbishop in front of the Brown Chapel AME Church.



Dimitrios Panagos photos





WISHING YOU A JOYFUL PASCHA,
MARY & MICHAEL JAHARIS

HCHC

An Era Draws to a Close

by Jim Golding

BROOKLINE, Mass.— Assistant priest, parish priest, cathedral dean, parochial school co-founder and principal, stewardship director, Leadership 100 executive director, Archdiocese chancellor, youth camp/retreat center developer and director, college president, mentor and confessor.

If anyone comes close to fitting the description that St. Paul ascribes to himself in his First Letter to the Corinthians (ch. 9, v. 22) of becoming “*all things to all men*,” it could be Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou, president of Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology.

“Fr. Nick,” a priest of the Archdiocese more than 50 years, has served as HCHC president for the past 15 years, the longest tenure of anyone in that position and will retire at the end of this academic year, albeit reluctantly. A serious freak accident two years ago that greatly aggravated two spinal and neck injuries he suffered as a young

man led to his decision last fall to leave at the end of the year. In March 2013, Fr. Nick was on an upward moving escalator at LaGuardia Airport for a flight to Ohio where he was to give three talks when a heavysset man in front of him fell backward with his luggage, causing him to fall back onto the moving steps.

The fall aggravated a football injury he suffered in 1954 at age 16 while playing linebacker for the Woburn (Mass.) varsity football team, where he served as captain, and another similar injury he sustained playing soccer in 1961 while a seminarian at Holy Cross.

In the first injury, he wore a neck brace four months. He was in a body cast five months after the soccer mishap. He eventually recovered and completed an M.A. degree at the school. His first assignment was as assistant priest at St. Vasilios Church in Peabody, Mass., serving under Fr. Stanley Harakas.

“I learned much from him,” said Fr. Nick. “It was a rich experience and I consider myself very fortunate for the two-and-a-half years I served under him.”

His next assignment was at Annunciation in Houston, serving as the second priest under Fr. George Kalpaxis for six months, then as interim priest in the transition period when the church was designated a cathedral in 1968, when he became dean.

While in Houston, he earned his M.Div. degree at St. Thomas University.

Two years later, Fr. Nick and Presbyteria Diane achieved one of their proudest accomplishments, the founding of Annunciation Orthodox School.

What prompted them to establish the school was the challenge of life in the South to young people of Greek Orthodox background. “We felt that we had a rich heritage, educationally, as Greek Orthodox and Houston was a young city with many young people in the community,” he said.

Initially the grades were pre-school and Kindergarten. “People wanted more and we continued up to grade six.” The school now goes up to 8th grade.

Also during his time in Houston, Fr. Nick was named as the first National Stewardship director on a part-time basis and he traveled the country to promote the program

Concurrently, he helped to establish two parishes in Texas. “The (Annunciation) parish council was very supportive of the effort to expand the number of parishes in Texas,” he said. The cathedral had a second priest which facilitated Fr. Nick to do the extra traveling.

In 1981, he helped restart St. Nicholas in El Paso, which had been active before World War II. In the mid-’80s, he helped found Transfiguration Church in Austin.

Archbishop Iakovos named Fr. Nick as full-time vicar general of the Archdiocese in 1987, while continuing his Stewardship duties. For the next several years, he worked with clergy and their families in working out problems and planning their careers.

He went on to serve as the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund’s executive director, chancellor of the Archdiocese, dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Charlotte, N.C., and, prior to becoming school president, as the first director of the youth camp established by Metropolitan Methodios in Contocook, N.H., which Fr. Nick expanded into a retreat center.

Since becoming president of HCHC in 2000, he has initiated many programs



FR. NICHOLAS C. TRIANTAFILOU

O.O. photo

and enhanced the school’s operation. The benchmarks listed in the accompanying box highlight the most significant of these.

Over the years, he has implemented administrative, curriculum, financial, personnel and other changes, along with wide-ranging improvements to the infrastructure.

The most notable change has been in combining the schools into one, as Hellenic College Holy Cross.

“It shows that we have one goal, one scope,” the president said. “The college and graduate school form people spiritually, and the graduate school carries through much of the teachings of the college.” He added, “The deans of both schools are superb.” Recruiting of students has been stepped up to the point that “the numbers will grow significantly in September,” the beginning of the new academic year.

Since 2000, enrollment in the college has increased by 79 percent, from 47 students to 84 this year. Holy Cross experienced a 40 percent increase, going from 68 students then, to 95 now.

Financially, the school also has experienced improvement. “Finances are coming into shape and there is significant movement forward,” said Fr. Nick, who acknowledged the significant donations from Leadership 100, the National Philoptochos Society and many individual donors. “Leadership 100 has been giving more than \$1 million a year. We never could have done this without their support,” Fr. Nick said. “Philoptochos, as well, has contributed an enormous amount of money.”

Fr. Nick noted that, as a result of the support given to the school, “education here is equal to any school in the country.” HCHC is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

He added, “The school has had some magnificent presidents before, I’m just building on what the past presidents and deans have put in place.”

Being in excruciating pain the past two years has severely limited his ability to work. Now at age 78, on the advice of his doctor, he spends a few hours at his office two or three days a week and also does work from his home in North Andover, Mass., about half an hour’s drive north of Boston. He also attends weekly physical therapy sessions. As for his post-retirement plans, Fr. Nick hopes to continue some involvement with the school. “If the school requests anything from me, I’m available as a volunteer to the extent that my health will allow.”

REFLECTIONS BY THE DEANS

HCHC’s deans, James Skedros of Holy Cross and Dimitri Katos of Hellenic College

noted the impact that Fr. Nick has had on the institution, and its students.

“What Fr. Nick accomplished was the vision of the whole school for the whole Church; a college and a school of Theology working together to support the Church,” said Dean Skedros. “This is not just another secular college or seminary,” he continued. “It is a school of theology preparing clergy and lay leaders, and a college preparing leaders for the Church.

“These kids come here, they’re shaped and formed and go back to help run their churches and witness to Christ,” he continued, adding, “Fr. Nick has always seen a role here for women, and men not seeking ordination.”

“Fr. Nick’s vision is to serve the needs of the Church,” added Dean Katos. “He is a model of what it means to be a pastor to future pastors. Spiritual formation is what makes us distinctive and what HCHC is about.” Both deans noted Fr. Nick’s “hands-on involvement” with the spiritual formation of the students, to the point of serving as their pastors, hearing confessions and interacting directly with students as much as possible.

Dinner to Honor Fr. Nick

In honor of Fr. Nicholas C. Triantafilou, the 2015 Presidential Scholarship Dinner will take place Friday, May 15, at the Boston Marriott-Newton, 2345 Commonwealth Ave., in Newton, Mass.

The Hellenic College Holy Cross Presidential Scholarship Fund was established in honor of Fr. Triantafilou, who has worked to attract and assist high-caliber students with funding based on merit and need. This initiative provides an opportunity for HCHC constituents to provide a financial and developmental investment in some of the school’s most outstanding students.

Hellenic College Holy Cross Presidential Scholarships are awarded to students who exhibit superior academic and leadership potential and achievement. Scholarship recipients must demonstrate through academic work, extracurricular activities, and personal experiences a desire to strive for excellence in all aspects of their life. Their attributes reflect an exceptional commitment to faith, education and service.

Fr. Nick also will be this year’s honorary Doctor of Theology degree recipient to be awarded at the May 16 commencement.

To make reservations or to contribute to the scholarship fund, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 617-850-1268.

Benchmarks Achieved
under Fr. Nick’s Leadership

- 2000 – Leadership 100 Scholarship Fund established
- 2002 – Kallinikeion Greek Language Summer Program established
- 2002 – Lilly Endowment Grant for Theological Exploration of Vocation awarded to Hellenic College
- 2003 – Office of Vocation & Ministry established
- 2003 – Stephen and Catherine Pappas Patristics Institute established
- 2004 – CrossRoad Summer Institute for high school juniors and seniors begins on campus
- 2005 – Seven acres of land abutting the south side of campus purchased
- 2006 – Foundation for Hellenic College Holy Cross established
- 2006 – Leadership 100 Fitness Center opened
- 2006 – New Computer Labs opened
- 2007 – Michael G. and Anastasia Cantonis Chair of Byzantine Studies inaugurated
- 2007 – Achilleas & Anastasia Thomas Styliades Pastoral Theology & Care Chair established
- 2007 – Diaconate Program established
- 2008 – Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture founded
- 2008 – New York Life Center for the Study of Hellenism in Pontus and Asia Minor founded
- 2010 – Missions Institute of Orthodox Christianity established
- 2010 – Classroom Building renovations included latest SMART board technology
- 2011 – Hellenic College Semester of Faith program begun
- 2012 – Certificate in Byzantine Music program started
- Worked closely with National Philoptochos as they spearheaded several initiatives for student scholarships and capital improvements
- Throughout the past 15 years, spearheaded several campus capital improvement projects including building renovations, chapel restorations, campus landscape upgrades, and informational technology improvements



THE ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW THE APOSTLE ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

On this day, the Resurrection of Our Lord, let us join His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to support, protect and defend the apostolic mission and legacy of the Apostolic See of Saint Andrew.

The Order of Saint Andrew, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America and Defenders of the Faith, with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and the Holy Synod, will continue to raise the resurrection banner of religious freedom for our Mother Church so that the unwaning light of the Phanar may forever enlighten God's oikoumene and the bells of Saint George Patriarchal Cathedral may ring joyously with the good news that the Great Church of Christ is free... finally free at last to proclaim to all...

Χριστός ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

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*Icon from
St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
Naples, Florida*

THE VOICE OF PHILOPTOCHOS

Daughters of Penelope Present Philanthropy Award to National Philoptochos Society

by Rania Richardson

WASHINGTON – The Daughters of Penelope, the 10,000-member women's affiliate of AHEPA, honored the National Philoptochos Society at a reception March 20.

Daughters of Penelope (DOP) Grand President Anna-Helene Grossomanides, and Grand Lodge officers hosted the event.

"We honor the National Philoptochos Society for its implementation of philanthropic programs to benefit the community," said President Grossomanides, who presented the award – an inscribed crystal vase – to National Philoptochos First Vice President Arlene Siavelis-Kehl on behalf of National Philoptochos President Maria Logus and the 26,000 stewards of the society.

"We accept this award with humility and gratitude, mixed with the comfort and camaraderie that comes from the heritage and advocacy of worthy causes shared by our sister organizations," said Ms. Kehl. "[We are] women working together to give back to our communities, eager to take on

any challenge and prepared to make things better for those in need."

Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, National Philoptochos spiritual advisor, represented Archbishop Demetrios and read a letter on his behalf.

Attending the event were Fr. Dimitrios and Presvytera Maria Antokas of St. George Church in Bethesda, Md., Fr. Michael Eaccarino, of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church of Washington, and Eleftheria Aristotelous, second secretary, Republic of Cyprus embassy, who represented Ambassador George Chacalli. Also present were National Philoptochos Board members, including Daughters of Penelope Past Grand Presidents Elaine Kevgas and Evvelyn Tsiadis.

As philanthropy is key to the mission of both Philoptochos and DOP, Ms. Kehl commented on the initiatives shared by both organizations, such as helping victims of domestic violence, responding to those in need in times of national or international crises, honoring and assisting veterans, nurturing Saint Basil Academy and, most recently, building the St. Nicholas National



Phillip Saviolakis photo

First Vice President of National Philoptochos Society Arlene Siavelis Kehl (left), Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, and Daughters of Penelope Grand President Anna-Helene Grossomanides.

Shrine.. She applauded Daughters of Penelope projects such as Penelope House, in Mobile, Ala., and Penelope's Place in Brockton, Mass., that provide shelter for victims of domestic violence, and the Uni-

versity of Miami, Sylvester Cancer Research Center, a world leader in the search for a cure for cancer. The reception also served as a fundraiser for the campaign to build the St. Nicholas National Shrine.

President's Message for Pascha

Dear National Board Members, Chapter Presidents and Stewards of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society,
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

On Pascha we celebrate the moment when good conquered evil and life triumphed over death. Just as Spring brings warmth and bright colors to the earth after a harsh Winter, Pascha brings joy and new life to the spirit, offering us the hope of renewal and a time to recommit ourselves to our Faith, our Holy Church, our families and friends, and, of course, to those in need.

As faithful stewards of Philoptochos, we have a daily opportunity, indeed an obligation, to follow the selfless example of Christ's love, to share the "light" by helping those in need. Some of you may have heard about the Butterfly Effect, a physics concept, which suggests that a single butterfly flapping its wings on one side of the globe can, in theory, cause a significant weather event on the other side of the world. What if a simple act of kindness, a very small change not unlike the movement of a butterfly's wings, could also result in significant consequences?

We in Philoptochos can be that small change. Unknown good and great things can flow from every kindness we show – without our knowledge or design. There are things we can do right now to start the change. Today, 50 million Americans struggle with hunger. Even more disturbing is that one in five children in our country, the richest in the world, goes to bed hungry.

Philoptochos chapters across the country have recently been challenged to serve 250,000 meals to those in need by Summer 2016. Imagine that each person we help then helps another and another and another. We could be the start of a network of unanticipated kindness, a renewed goodness in our lives. The possibilities are extraordinary and boundless.

On behalf of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society and the people we help, I thank you for your devoted service to Christ and His Church.

With love in the Resurrected Christ,

Maria Logus

National Philoptochos President

Feed the Hungry' Sets Goal of 250,000 Meals

President Maria Logus has set forth a vision and goals for chapters and stewards nationwide to engage all members of the community so that Philoptochos and its philanthropic work is fully integrated into the life of the Church.

She stated, "To encourage family, youth and our children to participate with Philoptochos, we must join together in hands on philanthropy."

To address this important mission, National Philoptochos is launching a new initiative – Feeding the Hungry. Through this new program Philoptochos has challenged the more than 400 active chapters to serve 250,000 meals in the next 16 months leading up to the National Philoptochos Convention in 2016.

Georgia Vlitaz will serve as Feeding the Hungry Committee chairman, which is already cataloguing successful programs that many chapters nationwide have begun. These programs are unique in each area and include young people serving at

a food kitchen and also providing items for children of families where food is served; parishes establishing food pantries and distributing blankets and pantry items along with cooked food; parish teams make sandwiches and go to the missions after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday; a Sunday School donates scarves, gloves and hats; GOYA members make quilts from fabric and old blankets to distribute; a seniors group knits and crochets blankets for distribution; seniors are cooking alongside the younger members; parishes actually go to the shelter or food kitchen and prepare the food.

These programs currently in operation will be featured throughout the Philoptochos communications media and information will be made available to chapters that wish to initiate a new program or enhance or improve an existing program.

National Philoptochos' Support for Its Ministries

by Christine Karavites

National Philoptochos President Maria Logus announced that in 2014 through the outstanding generosity of the Philoptochos chapters and stewards nationwide, National Philoptochos disbursed \$1,475,349.

President Logus noted, "The women of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society continue to demonstrate their well-proven commitment to charity, giving and philanthropy through the Ministry Commitments of the Society and through many other causes. We women of Philoptochos know a lot about giving of our time, talent and treasurer to improve people's lives; it is clearly one of our strengths.

Through this dedication and commitment, children are granted medical treatment, senior adults are nurtured and cared for, students at our beloved Scholi receive financial aid, children and young adults reside in a loving environment, emergency aid is offered to disaster victims, and the list continues.

We may all be justifiably proud of the Society's respected and widely admired ability to take swift and effective action for worthy and challenging causes."

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society Donations for the period of Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2014 included the following:

- * Saint Basil Academy Vasilopita: \$350,000 for operational expenses and \$21,950 from the Sisterhood Fund.

- * Hellenic College Holy Cross - Scholarship Fund: \$ 79,600; \$75,000 for operational expenses.

- * Autism Assistance Fund - \$14,000 to three organizations.

- * Aid to the People of Greece and Cyprus: \$ 82,000–\$27,000 to the Archdiocese of Athens Apostoli After School Program in Moschato, Athens and \$ 15,000 to Apostoli for food and the great needs of the children and the people.

- * \$20,000 to the Archdiocese of Cyprus, \$10,000 to Independent Social Support Body of Cyprus and \$ 10,000 to Metropolis of Kykkos and Tillyria Cancer Fund - \$ 58,743 - \$30,743 for assistance to individuals and \$ 28,000 to 4 organizations.

- * Children's Medical Fund 2013 - \$125,500 to 19 organizations serving medi-

cally ill children.

- * Ecumenical Patriarchate - \$150,000 General donation for Patriarchal ministries.

- * General Medical Fund - \$ 26,770 for assistance to individuals and organizations.

- * International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC): \$ 45,000 for continued support of the relief efforts and for Podocioniosis Program in Ethiopia.

- * National Philoptochos Emergency Fund - \$ 10,000 to IOCC for aid to the flood victims in Serbia.

- * Archdiocesan Presbyters Council/National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Benevolent Fund (APC/NSP) - \$ 47,000 for assistance to priests and their families.

- * Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF): \$ 20,000 for OCF Summer Leadership Institute.

- * Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC): \$ 35,000 for missionary efforts.

- * Retired Clergy and Widowed Presvyteres Benevolent Fund - \$ 65,000 general donation.

- * 75th anniversary Founders Fund - \$ 32,307 To organizations and for assistance to individuals.

- * Social Services - \$ 59,362 For assistance to individuals.

- * Support a Mission Priest - \$ 36,000 general donation.

- * St. Photios Shrine - \$ 25,750 general donation.

- * UNICEF-\$30,000 To help end human trafficking

- * Philippines Relief Fund 2013 - \$31,187 to IOCC for the special relief project.

- * Convention 2014 Account - \$ 18,100: \$ 13,600 to Veteran's Multi-Service Center, Philadelphia for 68 Homeless Veterans 'Move-in' baskets; \$ 2,500 to GEMS to assist female victims of human trafficking; \$ 2,000 Cure Search for Children's Cancer, Bethesda, Md.

- * Unrestricted Operating Account-\$ 37,080- \$ 25,000 for Patriarchal/Papal Medallions for the historic meeting of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis in Jerusalem; \$ 7,080 - Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry for clergy to prisoner correspondence/visitation training; \$ 5,000 to Orthodox Christian Network (OCN) for monthly Internet program.

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Archon Paul and Evangelia Sogotis and Family

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS



Photos courtesy of Fr. Evagoras Constantinides

Metropolitan of Sylvria Maximos addresses the visiting Real Break participants (above). Participants stand in front of the entrance to a park (below) with a banner reading "Welcome".

Real Break Group Visits Eastern Thrace

NEW YORK.- A group of Orthodox students from the United States, led by Fr. Evagoras Constantinides, director of Ionian Village, visited the Sylvria region of Eastern Thrace, Turkey, during an eight-day Real Break trip in early March.

They were greeted by the Metropolitan of Sylvria Maximos.

The Metropolitan later led the group and Fr. Constantinides to a private guided tour of the city.

The pilgrims from America also visited the site where the paternal home of St. Nek-

tarios, bishop of Pentapolis, once stood, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and several monasteries and churches in Istanbul.

With the initiative of the municipality in cooperation with Metropolitan Maximos, the saint's house will be erected once again. Later the group of the Orthodox students together with the Metropolitan visited the mayor of the city and had an informative discussion about its history.

It was the first time that a group of pilgrims from the United States visited the Sylvria region.



CLERGY UPDATE

Ordinations to the Diaconate

Lundberg, Paul – Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, 12/27/14

Ehmer, Theodore – Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Transfiguration Church, Marietta, Ga. 01/17/15

Assignments

Fr. Daniel Payne – Assumption Church, Bayard, Neb.

Offikia

Fr. J. Michael Diavatis – Office of Ekonomos, bestowed by Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta 10/05/14

Fr. Peter J. Spiro – Office of Protosphyter, bestowed by Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago 01/18/15

Fr. Soterios Rousakis – Office of Protopresbyter, bestowed by Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta 01/04/15

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS



O.O. photo

National Archons Retreat

Members of the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate-Order of St. Andrew the Apostle held their national Lenten retreat at Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church in Southampton, N.Y., March 27-29. Retreat master was the Rev. Dr. Themistocles Adamopoulos, priest-monk in Sierra Leone, who spoke to the gathering about the plight of this poor African nation that had just weathered the Ebola crisis. Story and interview with "Fr. Themis" will appear in the May issue.

What is an Assyrian Christian?

by Anton Vrame, Ph.D.

With the horrific stories still coming out of the Middle East about the sufferings of the Christian community there, and the news about Assyrian Christians, some of you might be asking questions about their identity. Again, there is much more to say about this and the history of the Middle East can get complicated (and most of us are not well schooled about the history in that part of the world), but this gives a general picture.

Christianity was established and was blossoming in Mesopotamia (in general, today's Iraq, Syria, and southern Turkey) by the mid-second century AD. The Persians conquered the territory, thus separating this Christian community from the other parts of the Roman (Byzantine) Empire. Under pressure from the Persian rulers and to avoid suspicion about their loyalties, the Church there was forced to separate itself from the Church associated with the Byzantine Empire. The Assyrians became an independent Christian community, with its own head called a Catholicos and Patriarch.

As a result Assyrian Christianity developed independently from the rest of the Church. The Assyrians accepted the theology of Theodore of Mopsuestia and Nestorius and their teachings about Christ. The Assyrians were not present for the Third Ecumenical Council (at Ephesus) that condemned Nestorianism.

After the Council many followers of Nestorius were expelled from the Byzantine Empire and were sent into Persia. As a result, some people still refer to the Assyrian Church as a "Nestorian Church" although the Church itself asks not to be called this. To this day, the Assyrian Churches still only formally recognize the first two Ecumenical Councils but through dialogue with other Christians they have concluded that they do recognize the Christology of the Fourth Ecumenical Council (Chalcedon, 451).

The church flourished for many centuries, even after the Muslim conquests in the 7th century. It sent missionaries to China and India. The Church, though, was almost totally destroyed by the 14th century. In the 16th century, a group of Assyrians united with the Roman Catholic Church under the name of Chaldean Catholic Church. Thus, to this day, there

are two distinct groups of Assyrian Christians: the Assyrian Christian Church of the East (<http://news.assyrianchurch.org/>) and the Chaldean Catholic Church (www.chaldeansonline.org/church.html).

Jumping ahead, the Assyrian Christian community was nearly wiped out during the First World War by the Turkish government. Those who escaped persecution moved to Iraq, which was under control of the British after the War (remember that the borders of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, and most of the Middle East were established after World War I). Eventually, the Assyrian Christian Church established itself in the United States and its global headquarters in the suburbs of Chicago.

The Assyrian Church has its own liturgy, usually celebrated in Syriac, following the Anaphora of Addai and Mari, a rite that traces its origins to the third century. According to Fr. Ron Roberson, "Officially the church adheres to extreme Antiochian christological terminology, according to which in Christ there are two natures and two qnoma (a Syriac term with no Greek equivalent that refers to an individual but never personalized concrete nature) in one person." The Assyrian Church is not in communion with any other Christian Church.

For more information about the Christian communities in the Middle East Philip Jenkins book, *The Lost History of Christianity: The Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia* is excellent.

Ron Roberson, *Guide to the Christian East*, www.cnewa.org/default.aspx?ID=1&pagetypeID=9&sitecode=HQ&pageno=1. Fr. Roberson works for the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and studies Eastern Christianity for the Conference. And a new book Gerard Russel, *Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms: Journeys into the Disappearing Religions of the Middle East*. Getting good reviews. I just received my copy, but this text looks at various religious communities, not just Christian, in the region.

For the agreed statements between Oriental and Eastern Orthodox Churches, see, *Restoring the Unity in Faith: The Orthodox-Oriental Theological Dialogue* (Holy Cross Press, 2007).

Dr. Vrame is director of the Archdiocesan Department of Religious Education.

Archons National Commander Speaks at Oxford U. on Ecum. Patriarchate Plight

OXFORD, United Kingdom—On March 27, National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis presented a dynamic multimedia lecture regarding the religious freedom crisis asphyxiating the Ecumenical Patriarchate at the Harris Manchester College at the renowned University of Oxford sponsored by the Oxford Centre for the Study of Law and Public Policy (oxfordpolicycentre.com).

The three-day symposium entitled Persecution, Peace and Reconciliation focused on religious freedom in the Republic of Turkey. Distinguished speakers from Eu-

rope, Africa, China and the United States participated in the symposium, including Baroness Elizabeth Rose Berridge, Member of the House of Lords, Dr. Aykan Erdemir, Turkish parliamentarian, Dr. Tugba Tanyeri Erdemir an expert on religious minorities in Turkey and other distinguished scholars.

At the conclusion of the symposium Commander Limberakis was conferred the position of Distinguished Fellow of the Oxford Centre at Harris Manchester College

▶ to page 28



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Christ has Risen! Truly He has Risen

Χρόνια Πολλά!

Dr. Gregory & Stelée Papadeas
Venetia, Ioanna, Nicolía & George

Assumption of the Theotokos Cathedral
Denver, Colorado

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

Diplomacy Fellowship Available for UN

NEW YORK – The Archdiocese Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical, and Interfaith Relations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America announces its Faith-Based Diplomacy & Advocacy Initiative.

The Initiative establishes a total of four (two for 2015-2016 and 2 for 2016-2017) yearlong Archdiocesan fellowships at the United Nations. All Orthodox Christian graduate and post-graduate students are invited to apply for a stipend fellowship.

The Faith-Based Diplomacy and Advocacy Initiative is made possible by a generous grant awarded by The Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, and is meant to help develop future diplomats, policy-makers and advocates by providing them the professional framework upon which to exercise their academic training.

Fellows will focus their work at the United Nations in five main areas: Religious Freedom and Human Rights, Environment/Ecology, Issues of Equality: Gender, Race, etc, Global Conflict,

Peacemaking and Humanitarianism 5) Health Advocacy.

Among other activities, fellows will have the opportunity to join and participate in the work of UN NGO Committees; assist in formulating oral and written Archdiocesan statements and interventions; help plan and host “Side Events” during ECOSOC Functional Commissions; and participate in panel discussions at future Biennial National Clergy-Laity Congresses.

To apply for the fellowship please visit <http://adobe.ly/1DCQ8SO>.

The deadline for submitting an application for the fall 2015-summer 2016 fellowship is May 31. For more information, please contact us: Ecumenical@goarch.org, 212-774-0226.

The Archdiocesan Council (GOAC) is accredited through the UN Department of Public Information (UN DPI) and has General Consultative Status under the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC). GOAC has been actively working at the United Nations for 30 years.

Archdiocese Co-Sponsors Status of Women Event at UN

NEW YORK – The Archdiocesan Council and the Salesians of Don Bosco co-sponsored an event at the U.N., March 9, on “Trafficking & Migration, Girls & Women: Human Rights Have No Borders.” It brought together a panel of experts on migration and trafficking that emphasized the human dignity and rights of girls and women who choose to migrate or are forced to migrate or trafficked.

Topics addressed were: regular and irregular migration, forced labor, sexual exploitation, legal realities, issues of sovereignty in dealing with humanitarian crises, and push and pull factors that affect migration or trafficking.

The Archdiocese and the Salesians of Don Bosco, a Roman Catholic order, have

submitted a statement to the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women to the Secretary-General, member states, and all participants as an official document of the Commission.

The Statement is available at: www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2015/NGO.94

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GOAC has been actively working at the United Nations for 30 years. For more information about the work of the Archdiocese at the U.N., write to UN@goarch.org.

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Youth Retreat at St. Photios Shrine

ST. AUGUSTINE – Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, with retreat leaders, Frs. Mark Leondis and Stephen Klund, their presbyteres, and parishioners from St Mark Church in Boca Raton, Fla. The youth experienced a two-day Lenten retreat which began at the Orthodox Christian Mission Center where they learned about evangelism and Orthodoxy. The group is shown here with Bishop Dimitrios, Shrine Director, Polly Hillier and Shrine volunteer, Niko Kelly. The retreat ended with a tour of America's oldest city.

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

50th Anniversary of Selma

► from page 3

against racism, prejudice, fear and hatred."

Attending the event were many religious and civic rights leaders including Mayor George P. Evans of Selma, Martin Luther King III, Lucy Baines Johnson, daughter of President Lyndon Johnson who pushed for the approval of the 1965 Voting Rights Act following the national outrage sparked by the Bloody Sunday confrontation; former Gov. Duval Patrick of Massachusetts, U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro, U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez and White House Office of Management and Budget Director Shaun L. S. Donovan.

His Eminence participated in the five-hour-long service at the Brown Chapel AME Church that followed and included scripture readings, choral responses, tributes and remarks by government officials, religious leaders and Civil Rights Movement leaders. Among those present were the U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. and former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Andrew Young.

Ambassador Young, who was a good friend of Martin Luther King Jr. and his principal lieutenant, was also

a good friend of Archbishop Iakovos. In his remarks, he warmly presented Archbishop Demetrios, the successor to Archbishop Iakovos, paying tribute to Iakovos' memory and contributions to the Civil Rights Movement and the March on Selma. "Archbishop Iakovos was my mentor," he said and added that the African American community owes a debt of gratitude to the Greek Archbishop.

Archbishop Demetrios continues the longstanding legacy of the Orthodox Church to fight against racism and to defend human rights. The Greek Orthodox Church has always been an advocate for equality and continues to fight against racism, prejudice, discrimination and xenophobia with fervent love for God and all people.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the March on Selma, and to highlight the efforts of Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory to advance the Civil Rights Movement, the Archdiocese has launched a website of historical resources and announcements for upcoming events around this most important time in our nation's history. Visit: civilrights.goarch.org

See photos: [flickr.com/photos/orthodoxnews/sets/72157650817803910/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/orthodoxnews/sets/72157650817803910/)



DIMITRIOS PANAGOS photos

A new generation of African American youth, who only know of the Civil Rights Era through textbooks and personal recollections of their parents or grandparents, greet His Eminence as he stops to greet them individually and (below) as he passes by along the route of the march.



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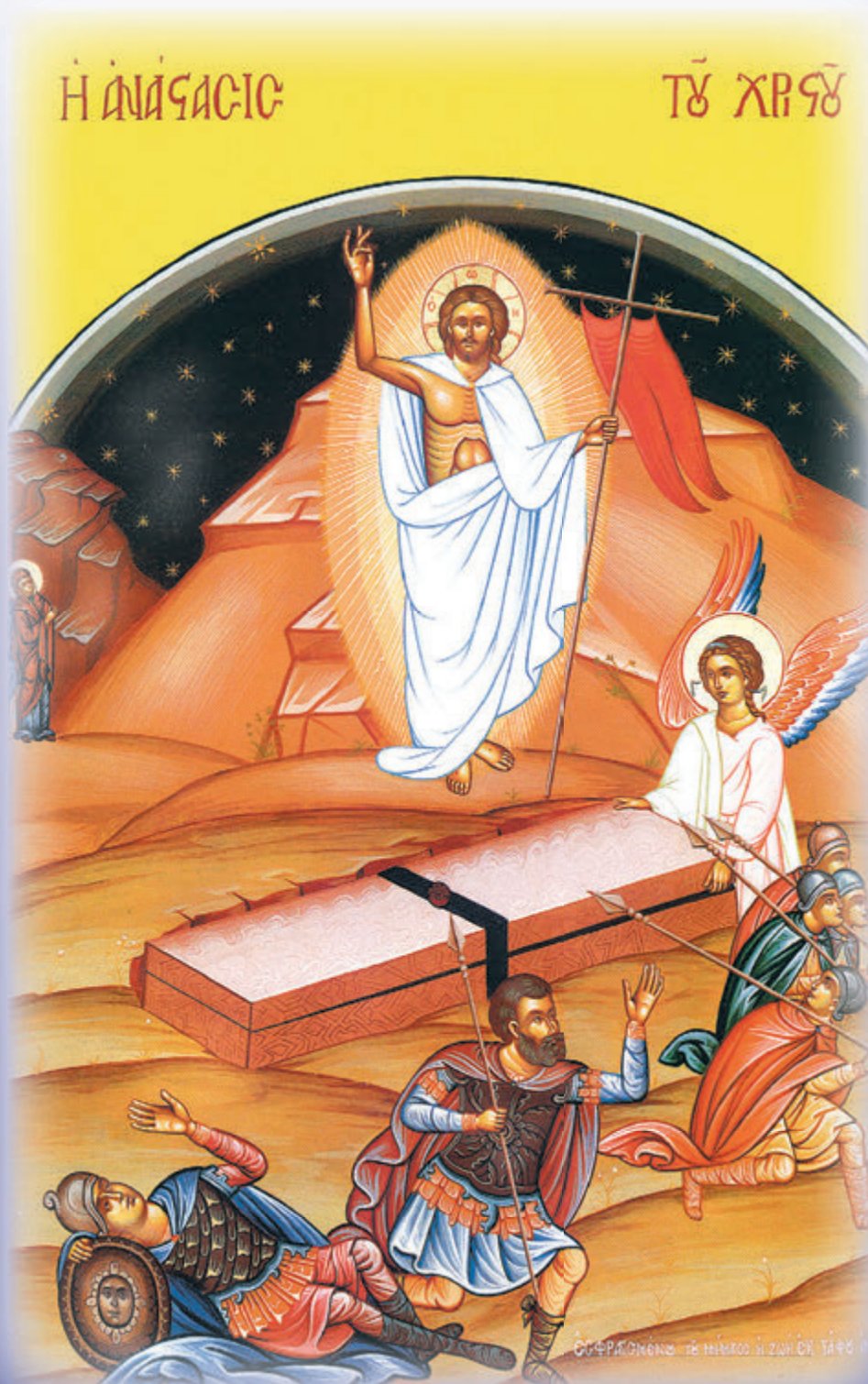
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**Faith is the substance of things hoped for,
The evidence of things not seen.**

Hebrews 11:1

**Christ Is Risen
Truly He Is Risen**

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ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ



Ἅγιον Πάσχα: Ἡ Ἑορτή τῶν Ἑορτῶν

*Ἀναστάσεως ἡμέρα
λαμπρυνθῶμεν Λαοί,
Πάσχα Κυρίου Πάσχα.
Ἐκ γάρ θανάτου πρὸς ζωὴν
καὶ ἐκ γῆς πρὸς οὐρανὸν
Χριστὸς ὁ Θεὸς ἡμᾶς
διεβίβασεν, ἐπνίκιον ἄδοντας.
(Κανὼν τοῦ Πάσχα)*

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τίς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴν Νεολαία, τίς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὀργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμον πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς,

**Προσφιλεῖς Ἀδελφοί
καὶ Ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,**

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη!

Στὸ φῶς καὶ τὴ χαρὰ αὐτῆς τῆς εὐλογημένης καὶ ἱερᾶς Ἡμέρας τῆς Ἀναστάσεως συγκεντρωνόμεθα γιὰ νὰ ἐορτάσουμε τὸ Ἅγιο καὶ Μέγα Πάσχα. Τὸ Πάσχα, αὐτὴ ἡ Ἑορτὴ τῶν Ἑορτῶν ἀποτελεῖ ἐορτὴ ζωῆς, ἄφθονης καὶ αἰωνίας. Εἶναι ἐορτὴ τῆς δυνάμεως τῆς χάριτος. Εἶναι κυρίως ἡμέρα κατὰ τὴν ὁποία διακηρύσσουμε σὲ ὁλόκληρο τὸν κόσμον ὅτι τὰ δεσμά τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ τοῦ θανάτου συνετρίβησαν, θριαμβεύσαμε διὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, καὶ διὰ τῆς δυνάμεως τοῦ Σταυροῦ καὶ τῆς Ἀναστάσεως περνοῦμε ἀπὸ τὸν θάνατο στὴ ζωὴ.

Αὐτὴ τὴν εὐλογημένη ἡμέρα, τελειώνει ἡ Τεσσαρακοστή καὶ μεταλάσσεται σὲ ἐορτὴ χαρᾶς. Ἡ περίοδος τῆς συντριβῆς τῆς καρδιάς καὶ τῆς περισυλλογῆς ἔληξαν καθὼς ἡ ψυχὴ μας, τὸ σῶμα μας καὶ ὁ νοῦς μας μετέχουν τῆς ἀγαλλιάσεως. Ἡ μετάνοια ἔλαβε συγχώρηση καὶ χάρη. Ἐπιστρέψαμε στὸν οἶκο μας καὶ μᾶς ὑποδέχεται ἡ θερμὴ ἀγκαλιά τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ Πατρός. Ὁλοκληρώσαμε τὸ ταξίδι πίστεως καὶ μέσα στὴ δόξα τοῦ Ἁγίου Πάσχα βλέπουμε τὴν αἰώνια ζωὴ καὶ τὴν ἀνάπαυση. Ἡ ἐλπίδα μας στὶς εὐλογημένες ὑποσχέσεις τοῦ Θεοῦ ὁλοκληρώνεται στὴν ἁγία καὶ ἔνδοξη Ἀνάσταση.

Αὐτὴ ἡ μεταμόρφωση μᾶς ἔχει δοθῇ διὰ τοῦ Αναστάντος Κυρίου. Τὴν ἱερὴ αὐτὴ ἡμέρα ἐορτάζουμε λόγῳ Ἐκεῖνου ὁ Ὅποιος εἶπε ἐγὼ εἰμι ἡ ἀνάστασις καὶ ἡ ζωὴ (Ἰωάν. 11:25) καὶ ἐορτάζουμε μαζί Του. Εἶναι ἀνάμεσά μας. Βιώσαμε τὰ Πάθη Του. Στὸ



Εἰκόνα τῆς Ἀναστάσεως, ἀπὸ τὴ Μονὴ Σταυρονικήτα, πού φιλοτέχνησε ὁ Θεοφάνης ὁ Κρης (1546). Ἡ ἐλληνικὴ, ιδιόρρυθμη Μονὴ Σταυρονικήτα τοῦ Ἁγίου Ὁρους, κτισμένη τὸν 10^ο αἰῶνα καταστράφηκε ἐπανειλημμένα ἀπὸ πυρκαϊὰ τὰ ἔτη 1607, 1817, 1864 καὶ 1879. Τὸ καθολικὸ τῆς μονῆς χτίστηκε στὸ διάστημα 1527-1536. Τοιχογραφήθηκε τὸ 1546 ἀπὸ τὸν Κρητικὸ ζωγράφο Θεοφάνη. Τὸ τέμπλο τοῦ καθολικοῦ, πού εἶναι ζωγραφισμένο ἀπὸ τὸν Θεοφάνη, ἔχει ὡς θέμα τὸ Δωδεκάορτο. Στὸ καθολικὸ ἐπίσης ὑπάρχει μία ψηφιδωτὴ εἰκόνα τοῦ Ἁγίου Νικολάου τοῦ Στρεϊδᾶ. Ἡ εἰκόνα ὀνομάζεται ἐτσι, ἐπειδὴ ὅταν ἀνασύρθηκε ἀπὸ τὴ θάλασσα, ὅπου βρισκόταν ἐπὶ 5 αἰῶνες, στὸ μέτωπο τοῦ Ἁγίου ἦταν κολλημένο ἓνα μεγάλο στρεϊδί.



Φωτογραφία: ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Σέλμα: 50 χρόνια μετὰ τὴν πορεία γιὰ τὰ ἀνθρώπινα δικαιώματα

«Σήμερα μνημονεύουμε τὸν αγώνα, τὴν πίστη, τὴν ἐπιμονὴ καὶ τὸ ὄνειρο τοῦ Dr. Martin Luther King ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ θάρρος καὶ τὸ σθένος τοῦ μακαριστοῦ Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Ἰακώβου, καὶ τὴν ἀπὸ κοινού παρουσία τους ἐδῶ στὴ Σέλμα. Εἶναι μία μέρα σημαντικὴ, αἰσθανόμεθα μεγάλη συγκίνηση, ἐγνωμοσύνη στὸ Θεὸ γιὰ ὅ,τι ἐπετεύχθη ἀλλὰ καὶ προσευχόμεθα γιὰ τὸ ἔργο πού πρέπει ἀκόμη νὰ γίνεῖ καὶ βρίσκεται ἐμπρὸς μας»

Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀμερικῆς Δημήτριος



Φωτογραφία: ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Με εκατοντάδες κυανόλευκες σημαίες στολιστήκε ἡ Νέα Υόρκη, ἡ ὁποία γιὰ μία ἀκόμη χρονιά, φιλοξένησε τὴν καθιερωμένη ἐλληνοαμερικανικὴ παρέλαση πρὸς τιμὴν τῆς ἡμέρας κατὰ τὴν ὁποία ἐπίσημα ξεκίνησε ἡ ἐλληνικὴ ἐπανάσταση τὸ 1821. Ἕλληνες, Ἑλληνοαμερικανοί, φιλέλληνες, τουρίστες καὶ πλήθος κόσμου συγκεντρώθηκαν τὸ μεσημέρι τῆς Κυριακῆς 29 Μαρτίου κατὰ μῆκος τῆς ἱστορικῆς 5^{ης} Λεωφόρου καὶ ἐδώσαν βροντερό παρῶν. μαζί με τὸν Ἀρχιεπίσκοπο Ἀμερικῆς Δημήτριο, τὸν Δήμαρχο τῆς Νέας Υόρκης Μπιλ Ντι Μπλάσιο, τὸν Κυβερνήτη Ἀντριου Κούμο, τὸ Γερουσιαστὴ Τσακ Σούμερ, τὸν ὑπουργὸ Ἐθνικῆς Ἀμύνης τῆς Ἑλλάδας, Πάνο Καμμένο, στρατιωτικῶν, ἐυζώνων καὶ ἄλλων ἀντιπροσώπων διαφόρων ὁμογενειακῶν ὁργανώσεων.

ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ



Εορτή του Εὐαγγελισμού τῆς Θεοτόκου Ἡμέρα Ἑλληνικῆς Ἀνεξαρτησίας

Μεγαλύνει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον...
Ὅτι ἐποίησέν μοι μεγαλεῖα ὁ Δυνατός,
καὶ ἅγιον τὸ ὄνομα Αὐτοῦ
(Λουκ. 1-46-49)

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Ἐντιμοτάτους Ἀρχοντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχεῖα, τὰ Ἡμερησία καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τίς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴν Νεολαία, τίς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὅργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμον πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

Προσφιλεῖς Ἀδελφοί
καὶ Ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Ἡ Εορτὴ τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ τῆς Ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου καὶ Ἀειπαρθένου Μαρίας εἶναι ἡμέρα κατὰ τὴν ὁποία γιορτάζουμε μιά πραγματικά ἐκπληκτικὴ καὶ θαυματουργικὴ ἀποκάλυψη. Στὸ γεγονός τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ, ὁ πρωτοστάτης ἄγγελος τοῦ Θεοῦ παρουσιάσθηκε στὴν Παρθένου Μαρία καὶ ἀνεκοίνωσε τὸ θεῖο σχέδιο γιὰ τὴν σωτηρία μας διὰ τῆς γεννήσεως τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Οἱ λόγοι τοῦ Ἀρχαγγέλου Γαβριὴλ ἀπεκάλυψαν πῶς θὰ ἐκπληρώνονταν οἱ ὑποσχέσεις τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ πῶς θὰ πραγματοποιῶνταν οἱ ἀρχαῖες προφητεῖες. Καθὼς ὁ Ἀρχάγγελος μίλησε καὶ ἡ Παρθένος Μαρία πίστευσε στὸ οὐράνιο ἄγγελμα καὶ ἐξέφρασε τὴν προθυμία τῆς νὰ ὑπηρετήσῃ τὸν Θεό, τὸ Ἅγιο Πνεῦμα τῆς ἐπισκέφθηκε καὶ ἐκείνη ὕμνησε τὸν Θεό μέ τὰ λόγια: *Μεγαλύνει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον, καὶ ἡγαλλιάσεν τὸ πνεῦμά μου ἐπὶ τῷ Θεῷ τῷ σωτήρῃ μου, ὅτι ἐπέβλεψεν ἐπὶ τὴν ταπεινῶσιν τῆς δούλης Αὐτοῦ. Ἰδοὺ γάρ ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν μακαριοῦσιν με πᾶσαι αἱ γενεαί, ὅτι ἐποίησέν μοι μεγαλεῖα ὁ Δυνατός, καὶ ἅγιον τὸ ὄνομα Αὐτοῦ* (Λουκ. 1-46-49).

Αὐτὴ ἡ ἀποκάλυψη στὴν Θεοτόκο ἦταν καὶ συνεχίζει νὰ ἀποτελῇ ἀποκάλυψη τῆς ἀληθείας καὶ τῆς ἀπύθμενης σοφίας τοῦ Θεοῦ. Διὰ τῆς σαρκώσεως τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐκπληρώθηκαν οἱ ὑποσχέσεις Του στὸν Ἀδὰμ καὶ τὴν Εὐα καὶ σέ ὅλη τὴν ἀνθρωπότητα. Ἡ ὥρα τῆς ἀνακαινίσεως εἶχε ἔλθει. Τὸ σχέδιο λυτρωσῶς Του ἐπετεύχθη μέ τὴν εἴσοδο τοῦ Θεοῦ στὴν ἀνθρώπινη πραγματικότητα μας καὶ μέ τὸ γεγονός τῆς σαρκώσεώς Του, δηλαδή ὅτι ἔλαβε τὸ σῶμα καὶ τὸ αἷμα τὰ ὁποῖα ὁ ἴδιος εἶχε δημιουργήσει. Ὁ σκοπὸς καὶ τὸ νόημα τῆς δημιουργίας μας, ἡ προτεραιότητά τῆς ἀπελευθερώσεώς μας ἀπὸ τὴν ἁμαρτία καὶ τὸ κακό, ἡ κοινωνία μας μέ τὸν Θεό, καὶ ὁ τρόπος τῆς ζωῆς ἐν ἀγιότητι ἀποκαλύφθηκαν τώρα μέ τὸ γεγονός τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ.

Ὁ Εὐαγγελισμὸς ἀπεκάλυψε, ἐπίσης τὴν τεράστια καὶ ἀμέτρητη δύναμη τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἡ δύναμή Του ἐπὶ τῆς κτίσεως φάνηκε στὸ θαυματουργικὸ γεγονός τῆς σαρκώσεως τοῦ Κυρίου μας. Διὰ τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ ἀποκαλύφθηκε ὅτι τὸ πρόσκαιρο σκοτάδι τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ τῆς ἀπελλισίας τοῦ θανάτου θὰ ἐξαλειφετο διὰ τῆς

ἀκατανίκητης δυνάμεως τοῦ Θεοῦ, γεγονὸς πού ἔκανε τὴν Θεοτόκο νὰ ἀναφωνίσῃ, *ἡγαλλιάσεν τὸ πνεῦμά μου ἐπὶ τῷ Θεῷ τῷ σωτήρῃ μου... ὅτι ἐποίησέν μοι μεγαλεῖα ὁ Δυνατός, καὶ ἅγιον τὸ ὄνομα Αὐτοῦ* (Λουκ. 1-47-49).

Σὲ αὐτὴ τὴν ἱερὴ καὶ θεϊκὴ ἀποκάλυψη ἀναγνωρίζουμε ἐπίσης τὴν ἀπειρὴ χάρι τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὁ Εὐαγγελισμὸς ἦτο πλήρης τῆς ἀγάπης τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ αὐτὸ φάνηκε διὰ τῆς σαρκώσεως, καθὼς ὁ Χριστὸς ἐγένε ἀνθρώπος γιὰ μᾶς καὶ τὴ σωτηρία μας. Τὸ γεγονός ἀπεκάλυψε τὴν δύναμη τοῦ Θεοῦ νὰ δίδῃ, νὰ διατηρῇ καὶ νὰ ἀνακαινίῃ ὅλη τὴν ζωὴ. Ἡ ἀποκάλυψή Του αὐτὴ πρὸς χάριν μας ἐγένε στὴ Θεοτόκο, ὅχι σέ βασιλεῖς καὶ ἡγέτες, ἐπιβεβαιώνοντας ὅτι ἡ σωτηρία ἐρχεται διὰ τῆς χάριτος, τῆς ταπεινώσεως καὶ τῆς πίστεως καὶ ὅχι διὰ τῆς κοσμικῆς ἐξουσίας, τῆς δυνάμεως, τῆς ὑψηλῆς θέσεως ἢ τῆς βίας.

Ἡ Εορτὴ τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια, ἡ δύναμη καὶ ἡ χάρις τῆς ἀποκαλύψεως τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀπέτελεσε τὴν ἐμπνευση γιὰ τοὺς Ἑλληνες προγόνους μας οἱ ὁποῖοι ξεκίνησαν τὴ μάχη γιὰ ἀνεξαρτησία τὴν ἡμέρα αὐτὴ τὸ 1821. Ἐπικυρώνοντας τὴν ἀλήθεια τῆς ζωῆς καὶ τῆς ἐλευθερίας ὡς ἐγγενὴ στοιχεῖα τῆς ἀνθρώπινης υπάρξεως, οἱ ἀνδρεῖοι αὐτοῖ ἀνθρώποι νίκησαν μιά μεγαλύτερη δύναμη καὶ αἰῶνες Ὀθωμανικῆς κατοχῆς. Διὰ τῆς ἀγάπης των πρὸς τὸν Θεό καὶ τὴν ἐλευθερία, πρὸς τὴν Ἑλληνικὴ κληρονομία καὶ τὴν Ὀρθόδοξο πίστη των, κατάφεραν νὰ προσφέρουν στίς ἐπερχόμενες γενεές ἕνα ἐλεύθερο ἔθνος καὶ μίᾶ ἐλεύθερη κοινωνία ὅπου τὰ στοιχεῖα τῆς αὐτοδιαθέσεως, ἡ ἐλευθερία καὶ ἡ πίστη γίνονταν σεβαστά. Καθὼς γιορτάζουμε τὴν Εορτὴ αὐτὴ καὶ τὴν Ἡμέρα τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Ἀνεξαρτησίας, τιμοῦμε τὴ μνήμη τῶν προγόνων μας καὶ ἀναζητοῦμε ἐμπνευση καὶ θάρρος γιὰ νὰ κρατήσουμε καὶ νὰ διατηρήσουμε ὅλα αὐτὰ γιὰ τὰ ὁποῖα ἐκεῖνοι πολέμησαν καὶ σκοτώθηκαν γιὰ νὰ ἐπιτύχουν.

Σήμερα, συγκεντρωνόμεθα ὅλοι γιὰ νὰ θημηθοῦμε καὶ νὰ τιμήσουμε αὐτὴ τὴν ἐπέτειο, καθὼς ἐκφράζουμε μέσα ἀπὸ τὴν πίστη μας τὴν ἀλήθεια, τὴ δύναμη καὶ τὴν ἀγάπη τῆς ἀποκαλύψεως τοῦ Θεοῦ στὸν Εὐαγγελισμό τῆς Θεοτόκου. Ὡς Ὀρθόδοξοι Χριστιανοὶ γνωρίζουμε καὶ ἐπιβεβαιώνουμε ὅτι ἡ ἀπόλυτη κυριαρχία ἐπὶ τοῦ θανάτου, τῆς καταπίεσεως, τοῦ μίσους, καὶ τῆς βίας κερδίζεται κατ' αὐτὸν τὸν τρόπο. Ἡ ἀλήθεια Του ἀντέχει σέ ὅλα. Ἡ δύναμή Του χαρίζει ζωὴ καὶ σωτηρία. Ἡ ἀγάπη Του φέρνει ἐλπίδα καὶ βεβαιότητα. Τὴν ἡμέρα αὐτὴ τοῦ πανηγυρισμοῦ ἂς προσφέρουμε μαρτυρία τῆς ἀληθείας καὶ ἀγάπης τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἀποκαλύπτοντας στοὺς ἄλλους, ὅπως Ἐκεῖνος σ' ἐμᾶς, τὴν ὁδὸ πρὸς τὴν ἄφθονη καὶ ἀληθινὴ ζωὴ.

Μετά πατρικῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης,

✠ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀμερικῆς Δημήτριος

✠ ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀμερικῆς Δημήτριος



Επίσκεψη στη Σιλυβρία

NEA YOPKH. – Ὁμίλος Ὀρθοδόξων φοιτητῶν ἀπὸ τὴν Ἀμερικὴ, με ἐπικεφαλὴς τὸν π. Ευαγόρα Κωνσταντινίδη, κληρικὸ τῆς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς, ἐπισκέφθηκαν τὴ Σηλυβρία τῆς Ἀνατολικῆς Θράκης, ὅπου τοὺς υποδέχθηκε καὶ τοὺς ξενάγησε ὁ Μητροπολίτης Σηλυβρίας Μάξιμος. Οἱ Ἀμερικανοὶ προσκυνητὲς ἐπισκέφθηκαν τὸν χώρο ὅπου ἦταν ἡ πατρικὴ οἰκία τοῦ Ἁγίου Νεκταρίου Ἐπισκόπου Πενταπόλεως. Κατὰ τὴν ἐπίσκεψη στὸν χώρο τοῦ πατρικοῦ σπιτιοῦ τοῦ Ἁγίου ὁ Μητροπολίτης Σηλυβρίας ἐψάλε τὸ ἀπολυτίκιο τοῦ Ἁγίου Νεκταρίου. Ὅπως εἶναι γνωστό, σύντομα, με πρωτοβουλία τοῦ Δήμου Σηλυβρίας καὶ σε συνεργασία με τὸν Μητροπολίτη Σηλυβρίας Μάξιμο, θὰ ἀνεγερθεῖ καὶ πάλι τὸ σπῆτι τοῦ Ἁγίου. Ἡ ομάδα των Ὀρθοδόξων φοιτητῶν μαζί με τὸν Μητροπολίτη Σηλυβρίας, ἐπισκέφθηκαν, στὴ συνέχεια, τὸ Δήμαρχο τῆς πόλης καὶ συζήτησαν μαζί του γιὰ τὴν ἱστορία τῆς. Νὰ σημειώσουμε ὅτι γιὰ πρώτη φορὰ ὁμίλος προσκυνητῶν ἀπὸ τὴς Η.Π.Α. ἐπισκέφθηκε τὴν Σηλυβρία.

Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης: Εἶμαι συγκλονισμένος ἀπὸ τὸν θάνατο τοῦ Βαγγέλη Γιακουμάκη

ΤΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ ΜΑΓΓΙΝΑ

Συγκλονισμένος ἀπὸ τὸν «πρόωρο καὶ ἀδικο θάνατο» τοῦ Βαγγέλη Γιακουμάκη ἐμφανίστηκε ὁ Οἰκουμενικὸς Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαῖος ὁ ὁποῖος μίλησε γιὰ τὸν ἀδικοχαμένο νεὸ ἀνήμερα τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ που θὰ εὐρτάζε τα ονομαστήρια του.

Σε ἐπιστολὴ που ἀπέστειλε χθες πρὸς τὸν Μητροπολίτη Ρεθύμνης καὶ Αυλοποτάμου Ευγένιο, ἀπὸ τὸν ὁποῖο ζήτησε νὰ διαβιβάζει τα συλλυπητήρια του πρὸς τὴν οἰκογένεια Γιακουμάκη, ὁ Οἰκουμενικὸς Πατριάρχης σημείωσε ὅτι ὁ Βαγγέλης «θα εορτάσει τα ονομαστήριά του μετὰ των ἀγγέλων».

«Δεν θα μπορούσαμε νὰ μὴν θυμηθοῦμε τὸ ἀδικοχαμένο παλικάρι»

Ὅπως κάθε χρόνο, ἀνήμερα τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ, ὁ Οἰκουμενικὸς Πατριάρχης χοροστάτησε στὸν Ἱερό Ναὸ τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ τῆς Θεοτόκου στο Βαφειοχώριο, στὴν κοινότητα ὅπου γεννήθηκε ὁ μακαριστὸς προκατόχος του, Πατριάρχης Ἰωακείμ ὁ Γ'. Ἀμέσως μετὰ τὴν λειτουργία ὁ Πατριάρχης τέλεσε τὸ καθιερωμένο τρισάγιο στὸν τάφο των γονέων του μακαριστοῦ Ἰωακείμ, που βρίσκεται πίσω ἀπὸ τὸ Ἱερό του Ναοῦ. Μόνον που σήμερα ὁ Πατριάρχης μνημόνευσε ἕνα ἀκόμα ὄνομα, αὐτὸ τοῦ νεαροῦ Βαγγέλη Γιακουμάκη που τόσο πρόωρα καὶ ἀδίκῃ ἐφυγε ἀπὸ τὴν ζωὴ.

«Σήμερα τοῦ Εὐαγγελισμοῦ δεν θὰ ἦταν δυνατό νὰ μὴν θυμηθοῦμε με συγκίνηση καὶ

στοργὴ ἕνα ἀδικοχαμένο παλικάρι, τὸν Βαγγέλη Γιακουμάκη που ἔχασε τὴ ζωὴ του κατὰ τρόπο μυστηριώδη, πρόωρα καὶ ἀδίκῃ», εἶπε ὁ Οἰκουμενικὸς Πατριάρχης στὴν ομιλία του στὴν κοινοτικὴ αἴθουσα, παρουσία των Μητροπολιτῶν Μυριοφύτου καὶ Περιστάσεως Εἰρηναίου καὶ Κυδωνίων Ἀθηνᾶγορα, τοῦ Προξένου τῆς Ἑλλάδος στὴν Πόλη, Ἀθανασίου Ἀστρακά καὶ πλήθους πιστῶν ἀπὸ τὴν Ομογένεια καὶ τὴν Ἑλλάδα. «Σκέπτομαι τὸν πόνο τῆς μητέρας», πρόσθεσε ἐμφανῶς συγκινημένος ὁ Οἰκουμενικὸς Πατριάρχης.

Πατριαρχικὸ γράμμα συμπαράστασης

Ὁ Οἰκουμενικὸς Πατριάρχης ἀπέστειλε ἐπιστολὴ πρὸς τὸν Μητροπολίτη Ρεθύμνης καὶ Αυλοποτάμου Ευγένιο με τὴν ὁποία του ζήτησε νὰ διαβιβάζει στους οἰκείους, στους συγχωριανούς καὶ τοὺς φίλους τοῦ Βαγγέλη τὴν βαθύτατη συμπάθεια καὶ τα συλλυπητήρια του. «Γνωρίζουμε ἀκόμη ὅτι ὅλη ἡ ἀγάπη καὶ ὅλοι οἱ λόγοι μας δεν εἶναι ἱκανοὶ νὰ ἀπαλύνουν τὸν ἀβάστακτο πόνο των οἰκογενῶν του μεταστάντος», τόνισε σύμφωνα με πληροφορίες ὁ Οἰκουμενικὸς Πατριάρχης ὁ ὁποῖος ἐξέφρασε τὴν παράκλησή του πρὸς τὸν Θεό νὰ βοηθήσει τὴν οἰκογένεια τοῦ ἀδικοχαμένου νέου νὰ σηκώσει τὸν βαρύντατό σταυρὸ τῆς. Ὁ Οἰκουμενικὸς Πατριάρχης συνεχάρει τὸν Μητροπολίτη Ευγένιο γιὰ τὴν καθημερινὴ συμπαράστασή καὶ τὴν στήριξη που προσφέρει στὴν σκληρὰ δοκιμαζόμενη οἰκογένεια Γιακουμάκη.

Εγκύκλιος

► Σελίδα 13

ταξίδι μέσα στὴν ἔρημο εἶδαμε τὸν Κύριό μας πάνω στὸ Σταυρὸ νὰ σηκώνῃ τὴν καταισχύνῃ καὶ τὴν ἁμαρτία μας διὰ τοῦ Πάθους Του. Σήμερα, ὁ Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς ἀνασταίνεται μέσα σέ ἀγιότητα καὶ δόξα, ἀποκαλύπτοντας τὴ δύναμη τῆς αἰώνιας καὶ ἀφθονῆς ζωῆς. Τὸν χαίρετοῦμε μέ χαρά. Λαμβάνουμε τὸ σῶμα καὶ αἷμα Του μέ εὐγνωμοσύνη. Διακηρύσσουμε στὸν κόσμο τὴν Ἀνάστασή Του. Μεταμορφωνόμεθα στὸ φῶς καὶ τὴ ζωὴ πού προέρχονται ἀπ' Ἐκεῖνον.

Ἡ μεταμόρφωσή μας ἀλλάζει τὰ πάντα! Στὴ λάμψη καὶ δόξα τοῦ Ἁγίου Πάσχα, ἀνακαλύπτουμε τὸ νόημα τῆς ζωῆς ὅπως αὐτὴ δημιουργήθηκε νὰ εἶναι. Βλέπουμε τοὺς στόχους, τὸν σκοπὸ τῆς υπάρξεώς μας, τὴν ὁλοκλήρωσή μας καὶ τὴν αἰωνιότητά μας. Ἡ ἐλπίδα μας γιὰ τὸ ταξίδι τῆς ζωῆς ἐνισχύεται. Ἡ κατανόηση τῆς ζωῆς, τῶν ἄλλων, τοῦ κόσμου καὶ ὅλης τῆς δημιουργίας μετατρέπεται στὴν ἀλήθεια καὶ τὴ βεβαιότητα τῆς Ἀναστάσεως. Ὁ φόβος υπερνικάται, ἡ ἀπειλὴ τοῦ θανάτου ἐξολοθρεύεται

καὶ ἡ ἀδυναμία τῆς ἁμαρτίας φανερώνεται στὸ διαρκές φῶς τῆς ἀγιότητος καὶ δόξης τοῦ Κυρίου μας. Εἴμεθα τώρα ἐλεύθεροι ἀπὸ τὴν ἐνοχλή, ἡ κοινωνία μας μέ τὸν Θεό ἔχει ἀποκατασταθῇ καὶ ὁ Θεὸς μᾶς προσφέρει ἄφθονη ζωὴ εἰρήνης καὶ χαρὰς.

Καθὼς συγκεντρωνόμεθα αὐτὴ τὴν ἡμέρα, ἂς γεμίσουμε μέ τὴν χαρὰ τοῦ Ἁγίου Πάσχα! Ἄς καθαρίσουμε τίς αἰσθήσεις μας, γιὰ νὰ δοῦμε τὸν Χριστό! Ἄς εορτάσουμε τὸ λυτρωτικὸ Πάσχα τοῦ Θεοῦ! Ἄς προσκυνήσουμε τὸν Ἅγιο Κύριό μας Ἰησοῦ! Συγχωρήσωμεν πάντα τὴ Ἀναστάσει καὶ ἂς διακηρύξουμε: Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνημασιν ζῶνι χαρισάμενος!

Μέ πατρικὴ ἐν Κυρίῳ Ἀναστάντι ἀγάπη,

✠ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀμερικῆς Δημήτριος

✠ ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀμερικῆς Δημήτριος



THE
SAINT NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX
NATIONAL SHRINE
AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER



StNicholasWTC.org

APRIL 2015 • www.stnicholaswtc.org

A Donation Letter
from Metropolitan
Gerasimos

Editor's note: Below is Metropolitan Gerasimos' letter accompanying the San Francisco Folk Dance Festival donation for the Shrine.

Your Eminence,

I pray that this Great and Holy Season of Lent brings you His Peace and Mercy. It was with great joy that we shared with you our wonderful Folk Dance Festival! I know that you experienced the great love and commitment of our faithful, and especially our youth during this extraordinary Festival in the Metropolis of San Francisco.

Enclosed is the gift our dancers and parents for St. Nicholas Shrine collected following the Divine Liturgy at the Folk Dance Festival.

Praying that our Loving Lord keep you healthy and strong as you navigate the Ship of His Church, I remain,

With Filial Love and Respect,
Metropolitan Gerasimos
of San Francisco



The site of the future St. Nicholas National Shrine (circled) awaits some preliminary preparations set for May, with actual construction to begin this fall. Port Authority of New York - New Jersey photo

Donor Profile: John & Mary Pappajohn

John Pappajohn is a visionary, and that vision is seen not only in an extraordinary life of entrepreneurial genius, but in a philanthropic legacy of beauty and wisdom.

He became one of the nations first, and is now recognized as one of the world's premier venture capitalists. In 1969 he founded Equity Dynamics and Pappajohn Capital Resources in Des Moines, Iowa. He has served as a director for more than 40 publicly traded companies, launched more than 100 startups, and taken more than fifty companies public. He has received many honors for his accomplishments including the prestigious Horatio Alger Award, four honorary doctorates, and other awards too numerous to mention.

But while John is a known entrepreneurial genius, he is equally known for his generosity. John and Mary Pappajohn have contributed 100 million dollars to charities and education. They have founded the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial centers at five Iowa colleges and universities. Their success has resulted in more than 175,000 graduates of the program and more than 1,000 small businesses launched.

And their philanthropy toward education is equaled by their love of beauty. John and Mary Pappajohn are among the top 200 art collectors in the world. John sits on numerous boards for the arts, including Vice Chairman, Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, DC, the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Trustees Council the National Gallery of Art and the Whitney Museum.

Mary is a trustee at the Des Moines Art Center and former trustees at the Walker

museum of Art in Minneapolis.

John is a leading Archon, a member of Leadership 100 and the Faith Endowment Fund. He has served the Archdiocese in many different capacities, but in the early design stage for the new Saint Nicholas Church at Ground Zero, John was a prophetic voice for the Calatrava design.

He recently answered a few questions about the rebuilding of St. Nicholas.

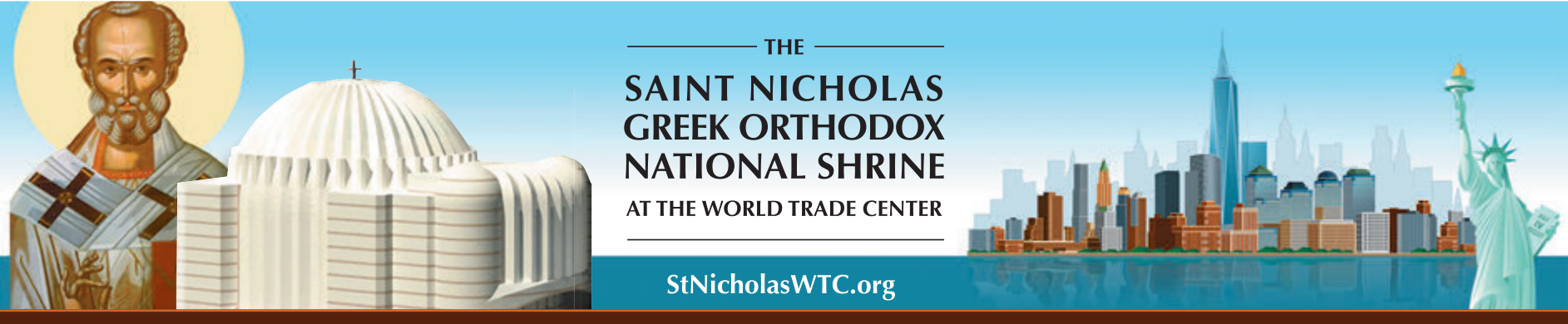
OO: Mr. Pappajohn, you were the first person to commit one million dollars to rebuilding St. Nicholas at Ground Zero. What inspired you about the project?

Pappajohn: First of all, I thought it was a wonderful project! Every time I went to Wall Street, I would stop by the little church on Cedar Street, that outpost of Greek Orthodoxy, and pray and light a candle. With the rebuilt Church, St. Nicholas will put our faith on the map like nothing else! It will be a place to bring people of all religions together. I loved that little church and to see it rise again as a National Shrine, a beacon, an icon of our faith is really something to be proud of!

OO: How do you feel about the design by Calatrava?

Pappajohn: He is an artist – most architects are not – and his design is brilliant. From the first time I saw the model, I knew was the one we had to build. It's a beacon, a holy shrine, a place to do your stavro, to pray and to be at peace. And the color, the gleaming effect of the marble. It will tell the story for generations.





The rebuilding program of **St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine** at the World Trade Center is progressing and we continue to raise funds, receive pledges, and work with architects, engineers and project managers. On these pages our goal is to inform you, our readers and our faithful, of the economics of this historic opportunity.

On these two pages you can see where the funds are coming from and the expenses of the project since 9/11. Some of our generous donors have made pledges as large as \$5 million and other faithful have committed whatever stewardship offering they can. Please know that all gifts large and small are critical to the success of our National Shrine. St. Nicholas will be a beacon of faith and light for all people!

Donations come from individuals, in-kind donations from corporations, fundraisers in parishes, local and Metropolis fundraisers, endowments like Leadership 100 and FAITH, Philoptochos chapters and members, AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope. All support is appreciated and necessary. Before construction begins, and in order to make sure construction is not interrupted, it is necessary to have a majority of funds already collected for St. Nicholas. We ask all faithful to continue their support. Timing is critical!

We are also committed to showing the faithful regular reports on where the funds are going. Initial major costs include fundraising, architect fees and outside management fees. We will strive to keep you informed as this project continues.

You can find additional information on our website at www.stnicholaswtc.org

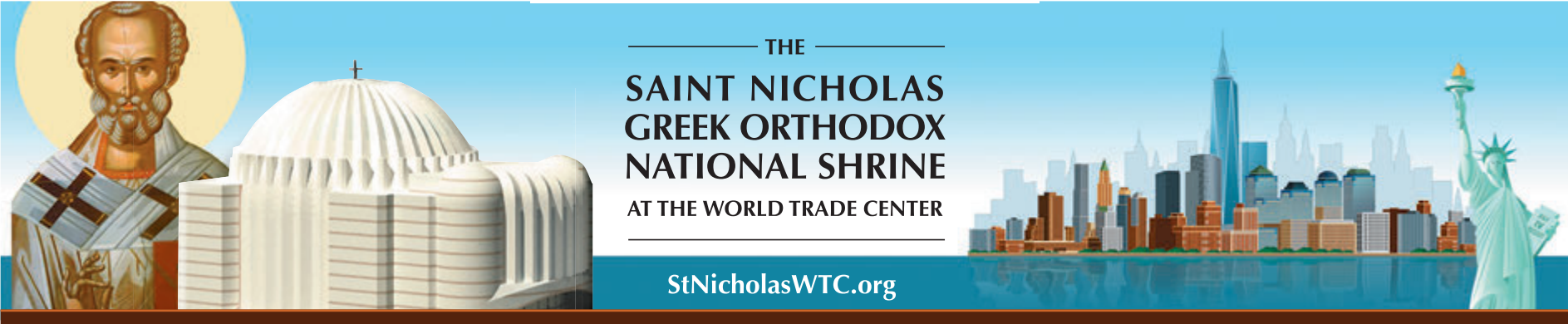


PLEDGES: Grand Total



OUR GOAL : Between \$40–50 Million

■ Pledge Amount ■ Pledge Received

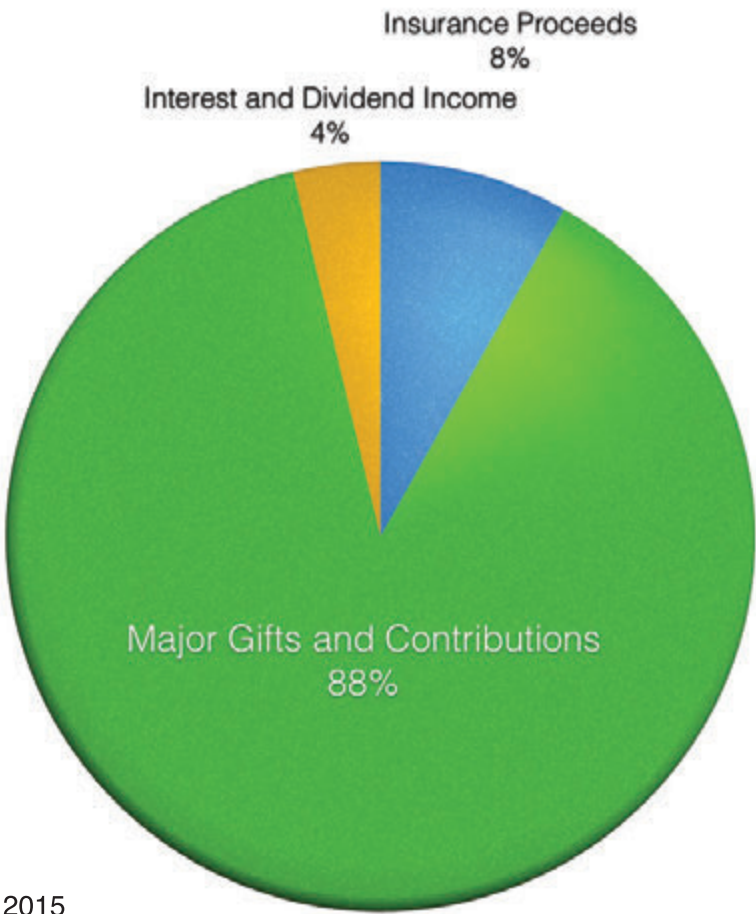


Where the Money Is Coming From –INCOME–

Insurance Proceeds: \$1,257,295
Major Gifts and Contributions: \$13,585,489
Interest and Dividend Income: \$579,795

Total Income: \$15,422,579

*St. Nicholas Fund since inception - September 11, 2001



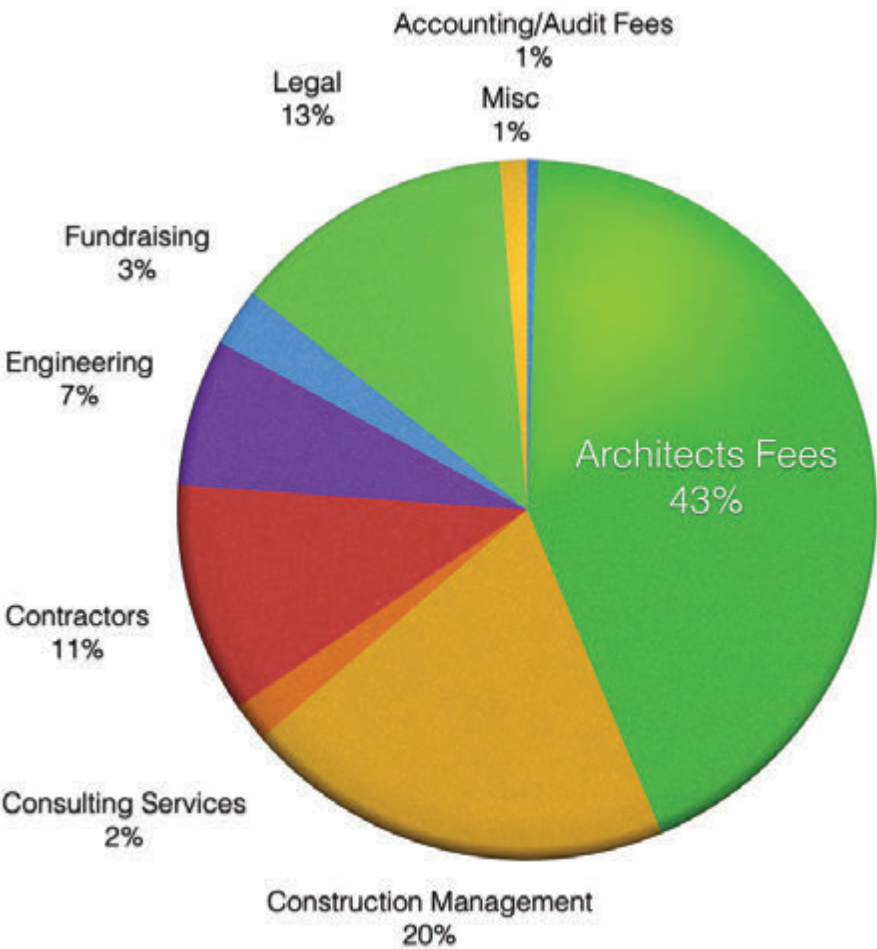
Financials as of March 31, 2015

Where the Money Is Going –EXPENSES–

Accounting Fess / Audit Fees: \$52,802
Architects Fees: \$4,341,213
Construction Management Expenses: \$2,007,128
Consulting Services: \$179,549
Contractors Expenses: \$1,071,363
Engineering: \$685,101
Fundraising Costs: \$270,134
Legal Expenses: \$1,317,655
Miscellaneous Expense: \$125,623

Total Expenses: \$10,050,568

*St. Nicholas Fund since inception - September 11, 2001



Financials as of March 31, 2015



THE SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX NATIONAL SHRINE

AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER

StNicholasWTC.org



St. Nicholas shrine donor pledges

The following donor pledges were reported as of March 31.

\$5 million

Anonymous
Stavros Niarchos Foundation

\$2 million

Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society

\$1.3 million

Pappas Sr., Peter and Cathy

\$1 million

AHEPA, Maria Allwin, Nicholas J. and Anna Bouras Foundation, Mae and John P. Calamos, Sophia and George Coumantaros, Elizabeth and William Doucas, *FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism*, Dathel and John Georges, Leadership 100, Judy and George Marcus, Marianne and Dean Metropoulos, Mary and John Pappajohn, Robin and Michael Psaros, Spanos Family, Faye and Alexander; Nick and Jeanne Tsakalos, The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle-Archons.

\$500,000

Liveris, Paula and Andrew

\$250,000

Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Connie Cotros, Katherine and Michael Johnson, Angelo and Sofia Tsakopoulos, Theodore and

Ann Zampetis.

\$100,000

Joan and Chris Caras, Arete and Steve Cherpelis, Dennis Dickos, Jeffrey and Ann Michaels, The Pan Cretan Assoc. of America, David Peterson, Jeanne and Gerry Ranglas, Debby and Scott Rechler, The Spell Family Foundation, Linda and Bill Stavropoulos, Mary Pappas, TITAN Cement.

\$50,000

Pantelides Brothers, Joan and Peter G. Peterson

Large donations total: \$31.9 million

Other donations

Metropolises	\$90,000
L-100 members	\$341,112.52
2013 Pledge Drive	97,363.44
2014 Letters	226,145.44
Parishes	112,514
GOYA (parishes)	16,221
2015 donations received	13,529.75
2014 letters sent 1-12-15	57,962.76
Online	43,127.51
Insurance Fund Proceeds	
Remaining Balance	\$309,325
St. Nicholas Parish	
Account Balance	350,000
Other donations total	\$1,667,301.42
Grand total	\$33,827,301.42



Dimitrios Panagos photo

Five-borough Goyans

Officers representing the GOYA chapters of the five boroughs of New York City – Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island, Bronx and Queens – presented donations to Archbishop Demetrios on Feb. 24 for the rebuilding of St. Nicholas National Shrine, and for a food bank in Greece. Goyans raised \$10,000 for the shrine and \$2,000 for the food kitchen operated by Metropolitan Barnabas of Stavropoleos and Neopoleos at an after-Christmas dance party held at Central Lounge in Astoria. The owners donated the use of the facility, the food and refreshments. Along with the officers is Fr. John Lardas, spiritual advisor and coordinator for the Five-Borough GOYA chapters.



Georgia church donation

Parishioners of St. Christopher Church in Peachtree City, Ga., in response to an appeal from the Very Rev. George Tsahakis, chancellor of the Atlanta Metropolis, raised this \$15,350 donation in support of St. Nicholas National Shrine (which has since topped \$16,000) Shown with Fr. Tsahakis (center) are DeDee and Kirk Panayis, Parish Council President Julie Skouteris, Presvytera Marinda Tsahakis, Philoptochos chapter President Katie Tsahakis Wilson and daughter, Evie. The parish also sent an \$11,000 donation to Saint Basil Academy through their Vasilopita event.

Church to Hold Benefit Concert

READING, Pa. – St. Xenia Ladies Philoptochos Society of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church will sponsor a benefit concert to raise funds for the St. Nicholas National Shrine on April 26.

The concert will feature the husband and wife team of pianist Maria Asteriadou, a graduate of the Julliard School and Manhattan School of Music where she earned

her Doctor of Musical Arts degree and where she currently teaches, and violinist Kurt Nikkanen, also a graduate of Julliard and currently concertmaster for the New York City Ballet Orchestra.

The benefit will take place at the Miller Center for the Performing Arts at Reading Area Community College, beginning at 3 p.m.

Philoptochos Begins Fund-Raising Initiative for St. Nicholas National Shrine

NEW YORK – National Philoptochos President Maria Logus and the entire National Philoptochos organization with its 26,000 members nationwide is proud to embrace the vision of Archbishop Demetrios to build the St. Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center through the National Philoptochos St. Nicholas National Shrine Fundraising Initiative.

President Logus leads the fundraising initiative along with Tri-Chairs Jennifer Constantin, Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos president; Arlene Siavelis Kehl, first vice president and Anne Michals, New Jersey Metropolis Philoptochos president. The committee includes the National Philoptochos Executive Board and National Board and is led in each Metropolis by the Metropolis Philoptochos presidents: Metropolis of Chicago, Irene Arsoniadis; Metropolis of Boston, Frances Levas; Metropolis of Denver, Marian Catechis; Metropolis of Atlanta, Dee Nicolaou; Metropolis of Detroit, Margaret Yates; Metropolis of Pittsburgh, Rosemary Nikas and Metropolis of San Francisco, Jeannie Ranglas. The Society's fundraising initiative is designed to encourage each

and every member to participate by offering a personal donation and to instill in all members the importance and significance of joining in this historic endeavor. Each Metropolis Philoptochos has been organizing presentations to the chapters along with National Board members to share the vision of the St. Nicholas National Shrine. Many chapters have eagerly responded and are designing creative outreach to engage their members. The committee is confident that the Philoptochos chapters and our members nationwide will show their love and support for this beautiful St. Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center that will serve as a beacon of hope for the Greek Orthodox Church in America and throughout the world. President Logus noted, "Through our combined efforts, our Church will offer the country and the world a place for prayer and healing."

For information and resources visit www.philoptochos.org/news/saintrnicholas. To be part of the St. Nicholas Shrine Philoptochos Fundraising Initiative, please donate directly to your local Philoptochos chapter or your metropolis Philoptochos.

Donor Profile: John & Mary Pappajohn

➤ from page 15

OO: How do you see the mission of St. Nicholas in the future?

Pappajohn: The new St. Nicholas is for people – ALL PEOPLE – to come, to come and pray and thank God for our well being, and to memorialize the people who perished that fateful day in American history. It will become a place of Pilgrimage for Greek Orthodox and for others. Saint Nicholas will have a tremendous responsibility to be the face of the Greek Orthodox Church in America.

The clergy, the docents, who will give tours, all of us have an opportunity to proudly share our religion and our heritage. And how many of us have families that immigrated from Greece through Ellis Island

in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty? St. Nicholas has this story to tell as well.

OO: What is the impact you feel that St. Nicholas will have on the Greek Orthodox and wider communities?

Pappajohn: I believe it will expose Greek Orthodoxy to other faith groups and I can anticipate ecumenical services being part of the life of this church. I am very pleased that the third floor Bereavement Center will be a space open to all. And so St. Nicholas will not flaunt our faith but bring us closer to other communities. We should all be so proud – *periphanoi!* – of our new church.

This is something like nothing else that we never had. Mary and I and our whole family are so very proud that we are part of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine!

Νέα Υόρκη: Οι Ελληνες έδωσαν βροντερό παρών στην 5^η Λεωφόρο



Full coverage of the Greek Independence Day celebrations from around the country in the May 2015 issue of the ORTHODOX OBSERVER

Φωτογραφίες: Δημήτριος Πανάγος

NEA YOPKH.— Με εκατοντάδες κυανόλευκες σημαίες στολίστηκε η Νέα Υόρκη, η οποία για μία ακόμη χρονιά, φιλοξένησε την καθιερωμένη ελληνοαμερικανική παρέλαση προς τιμήν της ημέρας σύμφωνα με την ιστορία κηρύχθηκε επίσημα η ελληνική επανάσταση το 1821. Ελληνες, Ελληνοαμερικανοί, φιλέλληνες, τουρίστες και πλήθος κόσμου από κάθε μεριά της πολύβουης πολιτείας συγκεντρώθηκαν το μεσημέρι της Κυριακής 29 Μαρτίου κατά μήκος της ιστορικής 5^{ης} Λεωφόρου κι έδωσαν βροντερό παρών. μαζί με τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής Δημήτριο, το Δήμαρχο της Νέας Υόρκης Μπιλ Ντι Μπλάσιο, τον Κυβερνήτη της πολιτείας Αντρίου Κουόμο, το Γερουσιαστή Τσακ Σούμερ, τον υπουργό Εθνικής Αμύνης της Ελλάδας, Πάνο Καμμένο, στρατιωτικών, ευζώνων κι άλλων αντιπροσώπων διαφόρων ομογενειακών οργανώσεων.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος, στο επίσημο κάλεσμά του προς τους ομογενείς, τόνισε μεταξύ άλλων: «Η ετήσια συγκέντρωσή μας για την Παρέλαση της Έλληνικής Έθνικής Ανεξαρτησίας αποτελεί έορτασμό των πολύτιμων ιδανικών μας, απότιση μνήμη σ' εκείνους που θυσιάστηκαν προς χάριν της ελευθερίας, και μαρτυρία της δυνάμεως της πίστωσης και της κληρονομιάς μας...»

«Εορτάζοντας την Έλληνική Ήμέρα Ανεξαρτησίας, διαιωνίζουμε την ανάμνηση της ηρωϊκής πάλης ή οποία ξεκίνησε το 1821 και οδήγησε στην ανεξαρτησία των Ελλήνων. Ή πάλη αυτή εμπνεύστηκε από μία βαθειά αγάπη για την ελευθερία και την αυτοδιάθεση ή οποία είχε καταπιεσθεί επί αιώνες υπό την Όθωμανική κατοχή. Έπικυρώνοντας την αλήθεια της ζωής και της ελευθερίας ως αναπόσπαστα στοιχεία της ανθρωπίνης ύπαρξης, οι θαρραλέοι αυτοί άνθρωποι νίκησαν μία μεγαλύτερη δύναμη. Μέσα από την αγάπη των για τον Θεό και την ελευθερία, την Έλληνική κληρονομιά και την

Όρθοδοξη πίστη των, στάθηκαν ικανοί να προσφέρουν στις επερχόμενες γενεές ένα ελεύθερο έθνος και μία ελεύθερη κοινωνία όπου ή ελευθερία και ή πίστη θά διατηρείτο μέ πολλή στοργή.

Καθώς παρελαύνουμε, θυμόμαστε αυτούς τους προγόνους και τις θυσίες τις οποίες αυτοί προσέφεραν έτσι ώστε εμείς να είμεθα ελεύθεροι. Ή ανάμνηση του θάρρους και της προσφοράς των προπατόρων μας αποτελεί καθήκον μας ως αποδέκτες αυτής της ευγενούς κληρονομιάς. Αποτελεί, επίσης, μοναδική ευκαιρία καθώς προσφέρουμε αυτό τό μνημόσυνο στις Ήνωμένες Πολιτείες Αμερικής. Αυτό τό έθνος γεννήθηκε από την πάλη για την απόκτηση της ελευθερίας. Τα ιδανικά μιάς ελεύθερης κοινωνίας και οι άρχες της διακυβερνήσεως, οι οποίες αποτελούν τό θεμέλιο αυτού του έθνους ενισχύουν τόν έορτασμό μας και επικυρώνουν τή σημασία του». «Η Παρέλασή μας επί της Πέμπτης Λεωφόρου και παρόμοια γεγονότα σ' ολόκληρο τό έθνος αυτό και τόν κόσμο αποτελούν επίσης μαρτυρίες της δυνάμεως και της αναγκαιότητας της αδιαχωρίστου σχέσεως μεταξύ της Έλληνικής κληρονομιάς και της Όρθοδόξου πίστωσης. Εορτάζουμε την Ήμέρα Έλληνικής Ανεξαρτησίας σέ συνδυασμό μέ την Εορτή του Ευαγγελισμού. Ή εορτή αυτή και ή αλήθεια και ή χάρη της αποκαλύπτει το Θεοῦ ή οποία εορτάζεται στή λατρεία μας στις 25 Μαρτίου ένέπνευσε τους Έλληνες προπάτορές μας να ξεκινήσουν τόν ευγενή αγώνα των. Επιβεβαιώνουμε επίσης ότι τό θεμέλιο της πίστωσης μας είναι καίριο για την κατανόηση της αναγκαιότητας της ελευθερίας για όλους τους ανθρώπους...»

«Θά παρελάσουμε αδελφωμένοι και χαρούμενοι, αλλά όπως παρελαύνουμε είθε να εμπνευσθοῦμε από την κληρονομιά μας, ευγνώμονες για την Έλληνο-Αμερικανική κληρονομιά μας, ένδυναμωμένοι από τή δύναμη της πίστωσης μας, και πλήρεις ελπίδος διά της τεραστίας μαρτυρίας την οποία προσφέρουμε σέ όλους».



**Hellenic College
HOLY CROSS**
Greek Orthodox School of Theology

*Undergraduate and graduate degrees
that integrate faith, education, and service*

100%
of HCHC students receive
scholarships and/or grants

Source: The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

student body consists of
42% in state **58%** out of state

8:1
student/faculty ratio

52
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Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος μαζί με τον Πρόεδρο Ομπάμα στη Σέλμα για την 50^ή επέτειο της πορείας για τα ανθρώπινα και πολιτικά δικαιώματα

του **ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ Η. ΠΑΠΑΓΕΡΜΑΝΟΥ**

ΣΕΛΜΑ, Αλαμπάμα – Η επίσκεψη του Αρχιεπισκόπου Αμερικής Δημητρίου στη Σέλμα, στις 7 και 8 Μαρτίου 2015, για τις επετειακές εκδηλώσεις 50 χρόνων από τα δραματικά γεγονότα του 1965, ήταν ένα χρέος για απότιση ελαχίστου φόρου τιμής σε όσους αντέταξαν την πίστη και την ελπίδα στο μίσος και στη βία και πρωτοστάτησαν στους αγώνες για ισότητα και ισοπολιτεία, αφηφώντας τις απειλές διώξεων και θανάτου.

Του μεγάλου ειρηνικού κινήματος για τα ανθρώπινα και πολιτικά δικαιώματα ηγείτο ο Αιδεσιμώτατος Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., και στις 15 Μαρτίου 1965, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Βορείου και Νοτίου Αμερικής Ιάκωβος, αφηφώντας κινδύνους και απειλές, βρέθηκε στο πλευρό του κατά την ιστορική πορεία στη μικρή κωμόπολη Selma της Αλαμπάμα, η οποία έγινε έκτοτε το σύμβολο και το σημείο αναφοράς των αγώνων για μαύρων για ισότητα.

Κατά την άφιξη του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου στο Birmingham, το βράδυ της 8ης Μαρτίου, τον υποδέχθηκε ο π. Παύλος Κωστόπουλος, ιερατικός προϊστάμενος του Καθεδρικού ναού του Μπίρμινγχαμ και ο πρόεδρος της ΑΧΕΠΑ Φίλιππος Φράγκος. Σημαντική για την επιτυχία της επισκέψεως του Αρχιεπισκόπου, υπήρξε και η συμβολή του πρώην προέδρου της ΑΧΕΠΑ Θεόδωρου (Αϊκ) Ικούλα, ο οποίος εξασφάλισε τις καλές υπηρεσίες του δημάρχου του Birmingham, William A. Bell, Sr.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος ταξίδεψε οδικώς στη Σέλμα το πρωί του Σαββάτου 7 Μαρτίου 2015. Παρακολούθησε την ομιλία του Προέδρου Ομπάμα και στη συνέχεια συμμετείχε μαζί του και άλλους πολιτικούς και θρησκευτικούς ηγέτες στη συμβολική πορεία κατά μήκος της γέφυρας Edmund Pettus Bridge εις ανάμνηση των βίαιων και αιματηρών γεγονότων

του 1965, που έμειναν γνωστά στην ιστορία ως «Ματωμένη Κυριακή». Ακριβώς πριν 50 χρόνια, ημέρα Κυριακή αστυνομικές δυνάμεις και ντόπιοι υποστηρικτές των φυλετικών διαχωρισμών και διακρίσεων, επιτέθηκαν βίαια με δακρυγόνα, όπλα και γκλομπ σε 600 περίπου διαδηλωτές που προσπαθούσαν ειρηνικά να διασχίσουν τη γέφυρα.

Μια εβδομάδα αργότερα στις 15 Μαρτίου 1965, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ιάκωβος ανταποκρινόμενος σε πρόσκληση του Dr. Martin Luther King έφτασε στη Σέλμα και συμμετείχε στην πορεία που ξεκίνησε από τον ιστορικό ναό Brown Chapel της πόλης και κατέληξε στο δικαστικό μέγαρο. Η στιγμή εκείνη απαθανατίστηκε στο εξώφυλλο του περιοδικού TIME της 26ης Μαρτίου 1965.

Φτάνοντας στη Σέλμα ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής Δημήτριος δήλωσε: «Αποτελεί ευλογία Θεού να βρεθούμε σήμερα εδώ για να αποτίσουμε φόρο τιμής στην μνήμη και στη κληρονομιά και του Dr. King και του Αρχιεπισκόπου Ιακώβου. Η προαγωγή και η προστασία των ανθρωπίνων πολιτικών δικαιωμάτων υπερβαίνει την πολιτική, διότι η δυνατότης για τον κάθε άνθρωπο να προσπαθεί και να καθορίζει το μέλλον του είναι δώρο Θεού».

Ο Σεβασμιώτατος αντάλλαξε χαιρετισμούς με τον Πρόεδρο Ομπάμα, την πρώτη κυρία Μισέλ Ομπάμα και τις κόρες τους Μαλία και Σάσσα κατά τη διάρκεια ειδικής συναντήσεως πριν την έναρξη της παλλαϊκής συγκεντρώσεως.

ΠΟΡΕΙΑ ΜΝΗΜΗΣ

Πάνω από πενήντα χιλιάδες άνθρωποι συγκεντρώθηκαν στις παρυφές της γέφυρας που ενώνει τις όχθες του ποταμού Alabama για να ακούσουν την ομιλία του Αμερικανού προέδρου. Αμέσως μετά δημιουργήθηκε πορεία με επικεφαλής τον Πρόεδρο Ομπάμα, τον πρώην πρόεδρο Τζόρτζ Μπους και τη σύζυγό του Λόρα, γερουσιαστές και βουλευτές του

Αμερικανικού Κογκρέσσου. Μαζί τους στη κορυφή της πορείας ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος και ηγέτες που συμμετείχαν στην ίδια πορεία πριν 50 χρόνια. Ο κ. Ομπάμα, όταν η πορεία έφτασε στο μέσο της γέφυρας και λίγο πριν την αναχώρησή του χαιρέτισε μ' ένα θερμό εναγκαλισμό τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο, αναγνωρίζοντας στη στιχομυθία τους τη σημασία και το ρόλο της πίστεως στους αγώνες της Αφροαμερικανικής κοινότητας για ισότητα και ισοπολιτεία. Αμέσως μετά, ο βουλευτής Τζον Λιούις που ήταν παρών στα γεγονότα και πριν από 50 χρόνια, ζήτησε από τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο να κάνει μια προσευχή για τους ανθρώπους της Σέλμα και το Έθνος, και ο Σεβασμιώτατος ανταποκρίθηκε αμέσως.

«Σήμερα μνημονεύουμε τον αγώνα, την πίστη, την επιμονή και το όνειρο του Dr. Martin Luther King αλλά και το θάρρος και το σθένος του μακαριστού Αρχιεπισκόπου Ιακώβου, και την από κοινού παρουσία τους εδώ στη Σέλμα. Είναι μια μέρα σημαντική, αισθανόμεθα μεγάλη συγκίνηση, ευγνωμοσύνη στο Θεό για ό,τι επετεύχθη αλλά και προσευχόμεθα για το έργο που πρέπει ακόμη να γίνει και βρίσκεται εμπρός μας», είπε ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος μετά το πέρας της πορείας.

Το πρωί της Κυριακής 8 Μαρτίου 2015, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος μίλησε με θέμα «Θεός, κοινωνική πάλη και ενότητα», κατά τη διάρκεια προεγγύματος εις μνήμη του Martin Luther King και της σύζυγου του Coretta Scott King, παρουσία 2.000 ατόμων.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος μεταξύ άλλων σημείωσε ότι: «Στους μεγάλους αγώνες η ελπίδα στηρίζεται στη πίστη προς το Θεό και τη βεβαιότητα ότι ο Θεός θα τηρήσει τις υποσχέσεις Του... στη σημερινή επέτειο τιμούμε και μνημονεύουμε την ηρωική πίστη και ελπίδα εκείνων που αγωνίστηκαν, εκείνων που υπερασπίστηκαν την ανθρώπινη αξιοπρέπεια, μέσα από σθεναρές αλλά ειρηνικές διαμαρτυρίες και διαδηλώσεις, εναντίον του ρατσισμού, των



Φωτογραφίες: ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

προκαταλήψεων, του φόβου και του μίσους».

Λίγο μετά ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος μετέβη στον ιστορικό ναό Brown Chapel (Μεθοδιστών-Επισκοπελιανών) και παρακολούθησε την πολύωρη τελετή, η οποία συμπεριλάμβανε αναγνώσματα από την Παλαιά και Καινή Διαθήκη, ύμνους, αφιερώματα και ομιλίες από κυβερνητικούς παράγοντες, θρησκευτικούς ηγέτες και ιστορικούς ηγέτες του Κινήματος Ίσων Πολιτικών Δικαιωμάτων για τους Αφροαμερικανούς.

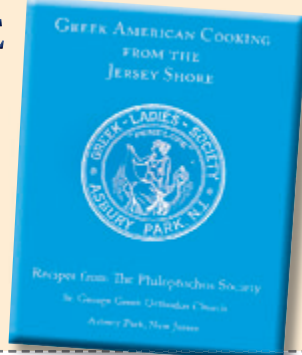
Μεταξύ των ομιλητών ήταν ο υπουργός Δικαιοσύνης των Η.Π.Α. Eric H. Holder, Jr. και ο πρώην πρόεδρος της Αμερικής στον ΟΗΕ Andrew Young, ο οποίος υπήρξε έμπιστος σύμβουλος και φίλος του Dr. King, αλλά και καλός φίλος του Αρχιεπισκόπου Ιακώβου.

Στην ομιλία του, παρουσίασε τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Δημήτριο ως διάδοχο του Ιακώβου, τονίζοντας συγχρόνως τη συμβολή του Ιακώβου στους αγώνες για τα ανθρώπινα δικαιώματα και τις πολιτικές ελευθερίες. «Ως Αφροαμερικανοί έχουμε χρέος και οφείλουμε ευγνωμοσύνη στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο της Ελληνορθόδοξου Εκκλησίας», είπε.

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Εορτασμός της Ημέρας της Ελληνικής Ανεξαρτησίας - Ελληνικής Επανάστασης της 25^{ης} Μαρτίου, στο απογευματινό σχολείο του Αγίου Βασιλείου, στο Χιούστον της πολιτείας του Τέξας. Διακρίνονται (από αριστερά) π. Αναστάσιος Ράπτης, ιερατικός προϊστάμενος, Πέτρος Σκουμπούρης, διευθυντής του απογευματινού σχολείου της κοινότητας, διδασκάλισσες, μαθητές και μαθήτριες.

METROPOLIS NEWS

SF Metropolis Holds Young Adult Retreat

DUNLAP, Calif. – The Metropolis of San Francisco Office of Youth and Young Adults Ministries, directed by Johanna Duterte, organized a Young Adult Lenten Retreat on March 13-15 at its Metropolis St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, Calif.

An astonishing 80 participants from throughout the Metropolis, several Orthodox jurisdictions and even from across the country attended. The theme of the retreat was, “Hold Fast,” and the curriculum was inspired by Fr. Alexander Schmemmen’s book, “Great Lent: Journey to Pascha.”

The retreat was built upon a schedule of prayer and fellowship and the main idea discussed throughout the weekend was that fasting is the refusal to accept one’s passions as “normal”. On Friday evening participants were acquainted with one another through fellowship activities and a candle-lit Paraklesis service.

On Saturday morning, after Orthros and breakfast, Jacob Saylor, youth director at Holy Trinity Church in San Francisco, led the first discussion, emphasizing that fasting is a tangible movement of love toward God.

After lunch the group was welcomed by Abess Markella of the Monastery of the Theotokos, the Life-Giving Spring, located adjacent to St. Nicholas Ranch, who welcomed the participants with a tour of the monastery and a talk on the “Lenten lifestyle.” The participants then offered the monastery a service project by performing different tasks in the monastery grounds for over two hours.

Great Vespers was attended at the monastery, which was presided over by Metropolitan Gerasimos and attended by the newly elected auxiliary bishop, Bishop Apostolos of Medeia. After dinner Metropolitan Gerasimos led the evening discussion on the faith around a campfire, which provided an



Metropolis of San Francisco photos

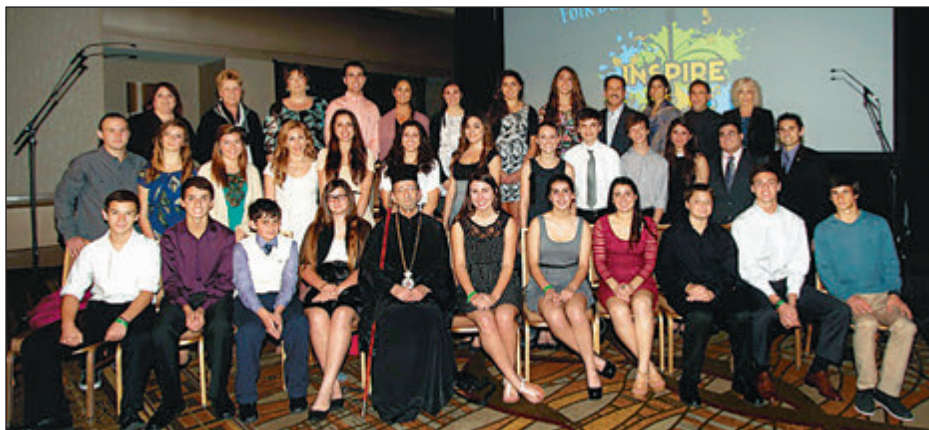
Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and Bishop Apostolos of Medeia with 80 young adult lenten retreat participants.

excellent opportunity for the young adults to spend time with the Metropolitan and discuss the theme of the retreat.

On Sunday morning the Divine Liturgy was prayed at the monastery with the Metropolitan, the Bishop and the Fr. Anthony Savas of St. Nicholas Church in Northridge, Calif., serving. Following lunch the retreat ended with a few words from Metropolitan Gerasimos, Bishop Apostolos, Jacob Saylor and Johanna Duterte and additional questions and discussion with the young adults.



Young adults peel apples as part of a service project during the Lenten retreat.



Sweepstakes winners

The youth choir of St. Spyridon Church in San Diego, directed by Kathy Meck and Evangelia Gryparis accomplished the sweepstakes winning performance at the SF Metropolis Folk Dance Festival held in February in Anaheim, Calif. The choir, which has members ages 8 to 18, has been singing at the event for several years.

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CHURCH HISTORY

The First Greek Orthodox Easter in Utah

by William H. Samonides, Ph.D.

During Great Lent in 1905, the Greek Orthodox faithful in Salt Lake City were looking forward to the arrival of a priest with great anticipation. It had taken almost a year to make the arrangements.

In June 1904, the community organized the Greek Benevolent Society of Utah for the purpose of opening a school, securing a local Greek consul, and establishing a parish. On Jan. 22, 1905, the Society decided to ask the Church of Greece for a priest. They wrote to the Metropolitan of Athens on Feb. 4, and the Holy Synod agreed to send Fr. Parthenios Lymberopoulos.

He was well qualified for his new assignment. After graduating from the Theological School of the University of Athens, he served as a deacon to the Metropolitan of Athens, then did missionary work throughout Greece. As a 38-year-old archimandrite he was given the enormous task of establishing and spreading the Greek Orthodox faith in Utah and the surrounding states. Adjusting to life in the American West would also be a challenge.

Fr. Lymberopoulos arrived in New York on April 16, 1905. Six days later, on the Saturday of Lazarus, he was in Salt Lake City. On Palm Sunday, he became the first Greek Orthodox priest to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in Utah.

The services were held in a rented lodge room on the third floor of the Utah National Bank Building. The *Salt Lake Herald* reported in detail on "one of the most picturesque gatherings ever held in Salt Lake."

"On entering the house of worship... there are small pictures of saints on the walls, there are numerous candles burning here and there, and there were pictures of Christ and the Virgin at the entrance and at the improvised altar for the adoration of the faithful. More conspicuous from a secular point of view, was the intermingling of the U.S. and Greek colors strung along the walls, and along wires down through the center of the hall. About 100 Greeks were present, swarthy sons of toil, but resolute in their devotion to their religion."

The mineral riches of Utah had lured thousands of Greek immigrants. They had come from all parts of Greece and the Greek diaspora and from other Greek settlements in America. There were jobs in the mines, mills, smelters and refineries, and on the railroad. In 1903, after the opening of the Bingham Canyon copper mine, the number of Greeks surged.

In 1905, it was estimated there were over 3,000 Greek Orthodox men living in the state, and many more labored in the neighboring states of Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, and Nevada. It was, however, an exceptionally transient community. Men found work, but it was difficult, dirty, and dangerous. Many would make some money and move on. As in all the early Greek settlements in this country, men outnumbered women, but in Utah the situation was extreme.

When Fr. Lymberopoulos arrived, it was reported there was "only one woman of the faith" in the state.

For these men who led lives of toil far from the comfort of home and family, it meant a lot to be able to attend religious services. During Holy Week Fr. Lymberopoulos held services every evening from 7:30 to 9:15. More than 2,000 men

were expected to attend.

At least 500 arrived from southern Utah on a Rio Grande Western Railroad special train. Others came from mining and railroad camps in other states.

The local newspapers described the midnight service in detail, writing that the rented room was "crowded to suffocation," with a throng of devout men "in the ante-room and in the hallway and down the staircase."

"At 1 a.m. the priest came from an adjoining room bearing a lighted candle. At the altar he called to the faithful to light their candles, saying that the hour had arrived when Christ arose from the tomb, the Christ who was the living light of the world in his time and for all time. Instantly the interior of the hall...was aglow with the tiny flames from more than 1,000 candles."

The tone of the newspaper reporting began to change. The Greeks came to be viewed not just as foreign laborers but as men "strong in their faith."

The community rapidly built on the uplifting experiences of Holy Week. The following week, according to the centennial history of the Salt Lake community written by Constantine Skedros, the Board of Trustees decided to pay Fr. Lymberopoulos \$80 a month plus a quarter of all the money collected from out of state. Soon the parish was incorporated, and funds were raised to build a church. When the cornerstone was laid, Holy Trinity was the only Greek Orthodox church in the 2,000 miles between Chicago and San Francisco. The first services were held on Oct. 29, 1905.

In the coming months and years Fr. Lymberopoulos traveled throughout the region.

In September 1905, he made his first visit to Montana.

In February 1907, he was in Pueblo, Colo., for the laying of the cornerstone of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church. In December 1909, he conducted the first Greek Orthodox funeral in Nevada. Beginning with the memorable Holy Week of 1905, Fr. Lymberopoulos served in Salt Lake City for seven years, fulfilling his mission and leaving a firmly-established community of the faithful.

The story of Fr. Lymberopoulos is one of many featured in "Pioneering Priests: Establishing the Greek Orthodox Faith in America," an exhibition funded by Leadership 100 and now on display at the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine in St. Augustine, Fla.

Feed the Hungry' Sets Goal of 250,000 Meals

➤ from page 7

The Philoptochos and parish teams can view the progress of the number of meals served through the Feed the Hungry Challenge thermometer on the National Philoptochos website.

This team effort is being coordinated by the Metropolis Philoptochos presidents and designated liaisons who can assist the chapters as needed.

For more details on current Feeding the Hungry programs and to view the National Philoptochos Feeding the Hungry Challenge count of meals served visit www.philoptochos.org.



*“Blessed be the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again
to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”*
(1 PETER 1:3)

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OBITUARIES

Fr. Mathew Baker

DANIELSON, Conn. – Fr. Mathew Baker, 37, recently assigned pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Norwich, Conn., died in a car accident March 1 while traveling home from his parish during a snow storm.

Police told the local newspaper in Norwich that Fr. Baker's car drifted in the snow-packed center median on Route 2 and rolled several times, striking the beam of the guardrail before coming to rest on its roof in the eastbound lane. He was ejected from the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries, police said.

Also riding in the car were his six children, who sustained minor injuries and were taken to a local hospital.

He had been assigned to Holy Trinity on Jan. 15 after the retirement of Fr. Paul Pantelis.

Fr. Baker served as an adjunct professor at Hellenic College Holy Cross and a PhD student in systematic theology at Fordham University in New York, where he was in the process of writing his dissertation.

He earned a Master's in Divinity from St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania in 2008 and graduated from HCHC with a Masters in Theology in 2010.

He served as the chanter for several years at St. Michael's Home in Yonkers while doing his PhD coursework.

Fr. Baker was born April 5, 1977 in Warwick, R.I. He was ordained Jan. 19, 2014 at Annunciation Church in Cranston, R.I., where he lived while pursuing his doctorate.

For several years before joining the Cranston church in 2002, was a high school literature teacher at a private school in Virginia.

He was married to Presvytera Katherine (Russell) Baker, also 37, who survives him along with their six children: Isaac, Elias, George, Eleftheria, Cyril and Mathew Jr.



Fr. Baker, his presvytera and children

Funeral services took place at Annunciation Church in Cranston, with Metropolitan Methodios officiating.

A family friend and godfather to Baker's youngest son, started a memorial fund (GoFundMe:Memory Eternal to Fr. Matthew Baker) that will go directly to Baker's wife.

About 10 donations were given within the first 20 seconds of the fund being started, Seraphim Danckaert said. Within 22 hours, more than \$250,000 of the \$750,000 goal had been raised.

The Metropolis of Boston also has established The Father Mathew Baker Fund (visit: www.bostonmetropolis.org)

More than \$10,000 also has been contributed by the Orthodox Christian Radio Network.

Fr. Constantine J. Balomenos

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – Fr. Constantine Balomenos, 86, a retired priest of the Archdiocese, died Feb. 24.

He was born Jan. 17, 1929, in Portland, Maine, where he completed public school.

He attended Holy Cross in Brookline and Rizarion Skoli in Athens, Greece.

He was ordained a deacon in March 1959 in Athens, and a priest in July of that year in New York.

He was assigned to Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Webster, Mass., from Aug. 1, 1959 until Feb. 27, 1962, then went

to Annunciation in Decatur, Ill., where he served until Aug. 31, 1980.

From Nov. 23, 1980 until Jan. 15, 1991, he served Holy Trinity Church in Sioux City, Iowa, then was assigned to Sts. Constantine and Helen in Cheyenne, where he served until Sept. 1, 1994, when he retired.

Though he later served part-time at St. Elias Church in Dubuque, Iowa from July 1999 until January 2013.

Survivors include his wife, Presvytera Vicki, two children James Balomenos and Maria Foutoulakis; and four grandchildren.

Services took place Feb. 28 at Holy Trinity Church in Sioux City, with the Rev. Dimitri Tobias, pastor, officiating.

Fr. Thomas Hopko

The Very Reverend Thomas Hopko, 75, and noted Orthodox Christian priest, theologian, preacher, and speaker, died March 18.

Fr. Thomas was the husband of Matushka Anne (Schmemmann) Hopko.

They became parents of five children, 16 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Thomas John Hopko was born in Endicott, N.Y., on March 28, 1939.

He was baptized and raised in St. Mary's Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Greek-Catholic Church, and educated in Endicott public schools, graduating from Union-Endicott High School in 1956.

Fr. Thomas graduated from Fordham University in 1960 with a bachelor's degree

in Russian studies. He graduated with a theological degree from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in 1963, from Duquesne University with a master's degree in philosophy in 1969, and earned his doctorate degree in theology from Fordham University in 1982.

Ordained to the Holy Priesthood in August 1963, Fr. Thomas served the following parishes as pastor: St. John the Baptist Church, Warren, Ohio (1963–1968); St. Gregory the Theologian Church, Wappingers Falls, N.Y. (1968–1978); and St. Nicholas Church, Jamaica Estates, N.Y. (1978–1983). He was honored with the clerical ranks of Archpriest in 1970 and Protopresbyter in 1995.

Beginning in 1968, Fr. Thomas began his long service to St. Vladimir's Orthodox

METROPOLIS NEWS

Orthodox Churches to Sponsor Benefit for Retired Priests, Widows

DETROIT – The Council of Orthodox Christian Churches of Metropolitan Detroit (COCC) will sponsor its annual “Spring Celebration” dinner dance to benefit retired Orthodox priests and priests’ widows on Sunday, April 26 at the banquet hall of St. Michael the Archangel Church, 26375 W. Chicago Road, Redford, Mich.

The event will begin with a social hour at 5 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner at 6 p.m.

Tickets including dinner and refreshments are \$40 per person, with children ages 12 and under admitted free. Each COCC member parish is eligible to receive

two complimentary tickets for its clergy.

To order tickets or obtain further information, contact Mihaela Charlier at (313) 595-7640 or coccdetroit@yahoo.com, or Richard Shebib at (248) 345-9346 or paschabooks@sbcglobal.net.

The COCC is a 57-year-old clergy and lay association that represents various canonical Orthodox churches in metro Detroit. Its mission is to promote Orthodox Christianity throughout the area through worship, fellowship, and charitable, educational and outreach programs. For more information, visit www.coccdetroit.com/.

Florida Goyans Hold 1st Talent Show

by Maria Angelides

TAMPA BAY, Fla. – About 115 young people participated in the area’s first Talent Show, which served as a fund-raiser for the Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, S.C.

The performance, held Feb. 15, was adorned with the presence of talented youth from throughout the west coast of Florida. The presentations delighted over 300 people in attendance.

Whether singing an operatic Aria, a traditional Greek folk song, a Disney medley, playing the flute, performing a skit, or dazzling the audience with the piano or violin, all in attendance were mesmerized by the God given talents of our young people.

The show ended with a performance by EIKONA – the talented trio of sisters (Stacey, Marika and Chrysanthi Maniatis) who have made several recordings and continue to inspire and educate the faithful through their talents and love of Byzantine music.

Metropolitan Alexios said he was honored to attend the performance and was impressed with the level of professionalism.

The youth who participated were from the following parishes in the Western Florida Conference of the Metropolis: Holy Trinity (Clearwater); St. Michael the Archangel (Lecanto); St. George (New Port Richey); Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene (Palm Harbor); St. Barbara (Sarasota); St. Stephanos (St. Petersburg); St. John the Baptist (Tampa); and St. Nicholas Cathedral (Tarpon Springs).



Metropolitan Alexios and a young friend enjoy the performances of the Tampa Bay Goyans talent show. **Metropolis of Atlanta Photos**



Happy Easter!



Καλό Πάσχα!



Χρόνια Πολλά!



Michael and Robin Psaros & Family

OCMC

Executive Director Visits
Orthodox Church in Fiji

by Alex Goodwin

SUVA, Republic of Fiji – OCMC Executive Director Fr. Martin Ritsi, at the invitation of Metropolitan Amphilochios of New Zealand, traveled to the Republic of Fiji to visit the newly-consecrated Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. The opening of this church in early February was a major milestone in the mission work that has been undertaken by the Archbishop of New Zealand in Fiji. Through this missionary outreach, the Church in Fiji has grown significantly since 2006 and is now home to four churches, a monastery, an orphanage, four Fijian Orthodox clergy, and three nuns (one Australian and two Fijian). Soon there will also be a shelter for women.

This nation consists of more than 330 islands in the southeastern Pacific Ocean (about 110 are permanently inhabited). Fiji is much more than the manicured high-end resorts that may come to most people's minds. It is a lush, mountainous, temperate, and fertile part of the world, and the Fijian people are renowned for their warmth and friendliness.

There are two major groups in Fiji. The indigenous Fijians who claim African decent make up about 50 percent of the population. Indo-Fijians, whose ancestors came from India, comprise about 43 percent of the population. Most make their living through farming, fishing, or working in the tourist industry. About 58 to 60 percent of the approximately 1 million population consider themselves Christian.

According to the CIA World Encyclo-



Newly ordained clergy in Fiji - OCMC photo.



pedia, the 2007 Census gave the Christian breakdown as: Methodist 34.6 percent; Roman Catholic 9.1 percent; Assembly of God 5.7 percent, Seventh-day Adventist 3.9 percent, Anglican 0.8 percent, other 10.4 percent; other faiths: Hindu 27.9 percent, Muslim 6.3 percent, Sikh 0.3 percent, other or unspecified 0.3 percent, none 0.7 percent. It is in this environment that Archbishop Amphilochios has begun to share the Orthodox faith. People have been drawn by the ancient liturgical practices of the Church and its deep mystical spirituality.

OCMC is considering sending long-term missionaries to serve under the Archdiocese of New Zealand. Fr. Martin described Fiji as similar to parts of Western Kenya and Tanzania.

IOCC



Some refugee children in Ethiopia-IOCC photo.

Sudanese Refugees Struggle
to Survive in New Land

BALTIMORE, -- Thousands of South Sudanese families who fled the violence and bloodshed from their country's civil war now face new hardships as refugees in Ethiopia. More than 196,000 refugees, of which nearly two-thirds are children, have endured months of living out in open fields with little shelter from the searing sun, torrential rains, and floods that washed away the few possessions they managed to cling to in flight. Stagnant water and poor sanitation created a breeding ground for cholera and other infectious diseases, and threaten the health of children already weakened by a lack of food and harsh living conditions.

IOCC, in cooperation with the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter Church Aid Commission (EOCDICAC), is responding with efforts to stem the spread of disease. Newly constructed communal latrines provide privacy and sanitary facilities for 720 families from both the refugee camp and the host communities in Leitchuor, and 300 more refugee families will soon have access to similar facilities under construction in

Kule camp. The distribution of soap, water storage cans and new blankets bring an added measure of comfort to 4,000 families with malnourished children and people living with HIV/AIDS at Tierkidi camp in Ethiopia's Gambela region.

IOCC, an ACT Alliance member, is also addressing the need to ease the emotional trauma facing the vulnerable refugees.

Crisis counseling for 1,000 refugee children, women, and elderly helps each uprooted person develop the skills needed to cope with the daily stress of refugee life and the uncertainty of what their future holds.

How to Help

Emergency Response Fund which will provide immediate relief, as well as long-term support through the provision of emergency aid, recovery assistance and other support to help those in need. To make a gift, visit ioccc.org or call toll-free at 1-877-803-IOCC (4622), or mail a check or money order payable to IOCC, P.O. Box 17398, Baltimore, MD 21297.

IOCC Helping Latest Refugees in Syria

BALTIMORE – Fleeing for their lives, more than 2,400 exhausted and traumatized Christians from northeastern Syria sought refuge in the towns of Hasakah and Qamishli after their small communities were terrorized this week. The attackers targeted a stretch of villages along the southern bank of the Khabour River, where they burned homes and churches, murdered a fleeing 16-year-old boy, and abducted 150 Assyrian Christian men, women and children from their homes.

For those who managed to escape the attack and seek shelter in Hasakah, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), with its church partner, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA), is providing food, medical attention, and emergency aid. IOCC/GOPA, which has offices in both Hasakah and Qamishli, is responding to the immediate needs of more than 1,000 displaced Syrian families seeking shelter at the Syriac Orthodox Church and the Assyrian Church in the Al Nasreh neighborhood of Hasakah with the distribution of food parcels, bedding, infant clothing and



shoes. More than 600 of the survivors who fled the onslaught are children.

IOCC, an ACT Alliance member, is one of the few humanitarian organizations inside Syria providing immediate assistance to displaced families and elderly who have endured four years of a brutal war. Working in 28 offices across Syria, IOCC has provided relief to 2.5 million vulnerable people inside Syria since 2012.

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ENCYCLICALS

Feast of the Annunciation, Day of Greek Independence

*My soul magnifies the Lord....
For He Who is mighty
has done great things for me,
and holy is His name.
(Luke 1:46-49)*

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 Philotochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, is a day when we celebrate a truly amazing and miraculous revelation. At the event of the Annunciation, the messenger of God appeared before Mary and announced the divine plan for our salvation through the birth of Christ. The words of the Archangel Gabriel revealed how God's promises would be fulfilled and the ancient prophecies affirmed. As he spoke and as the Virgin Mary believed and expressed her willingness to serve God, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and she exclaimed: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden. For behold, all generations henceforth will call me blessed. For He Who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name (Luke 1:46-49).

This revelation to the Theotokos was and continues to be a revelation of truth and of God's unfathomable wisdom. Through the Incarnation of Christ came the fulfillment of His promises to Adam and Eve and to all humanity. The time for restoration had come. In the entrance of God into our human reality, assuming the flesh and blood He had created, His plan of redemption was accomplished. The purpose and meaning of our creation, the priority of liberation from sin and evil, of communion with God, and the manner of the life of holiness were now revealed in the event of the Annunciation.

The Annunciation also revealed the tremendous and immeasurable power of God. His power over creation was shown in the miraculous event of our Lord's conception. Through the Annunciation it

was revealed that the temporal darkness of sin and the despair of death would be vanquished through the invincible power of God, causing the Theotokos to sing, *My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.... For He who is mighty has done great things for me* (Luke 1:47-49).

In this holy and divine revelation, we also see God's infinite grace. The Annunciation was filled with God's love, and this was shown through the Incarnation as Christ became man for us and for our salvation. The event revealed God's power to give, sustain and restore life. His revelation for our sake was given to the Theotokos, not to kings and rulers, affirming that salvation comes through grace, humility, and faith, not through mundane power, status, or force.

The Feast of the Annunciation and the truth, power, and grace of God's revelation were the inspiration for our Greek forbearers who began the struggle for independence on this day in 1821. Affirming the truth of life and liberty as inherent to human existence, these valiant people overcame a greater force and centuries of Ottoman oppression. Through their love of God and freedom, of their Hellenic heritage and Orthodox faith, they were able to offer generations to come, a free nation and society where self-determination, liberty, and faith would be cherished. As we celebrate this Feast and Greek Independence Day, we honor the memory of our ancestors, and we seek the inspiration and courage to uphold and preserve all that they fought and died to achieve.

Today, we join together in this remembrance and commemoration, as we also express through our worship the truth, power and love of God's revelation in the Annunciation to the Theotokos. As Orthodox Christians we know and affirm that ultimate victory over death, oppression, hatred, and violence is won in this same manner. His truth will endure all things. His power will give life and salvation. His love will bring hope and assurance. On this day of celebration may we offer a powerful witness of God's truth and love, revealing to others, as He has to us, the way to abundant and true life.

With paternal love in Christ,

† Archbishop Demetrios

† DEMETRIOS, Archbishop of America

Holy Pascha: The Feast of Feasts

➤ from page 1

glory of this Holy Pascha we find the meaning of life as it was created to be. We see our goal, our purpose, our completion and our eternity. Our hope for the journey of life is strengthened. Our understanding of life, of others, of the world, and of all creation is changed in the truth and certainty of the Resurrection.

Fear is vanquished, the threat of death is annihilated, and the weakness of sin is exposed in the enduring light of our Lord's holiness and glory.

We are now free from the guilt, our communion with God has been restored, and He offers to us an abundant life of peace and joy.

As we gather on this day, let us be completely filled with the joy of Holy Pascha! Let us purify our senses, and we shall see Christ! Let us celebrate the saving Pascha of God! Let us worship our Holy Lord Jesus! Let us forgive everything in the light of the Resurrection and proclaim: Christ is risen from the dead, by death He has trampled down death, and on those in the tombs He has bestowed life!

With paternal love in the Risen Lord,

† Archbishop Demetrios

† DEMETRIOS, Archbishop of America

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Archons National Commander Speaks in U.K.

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OBITUARY

➤ from page 24

Theological Seminary. Over the years, Fr. Thomas held the following positions: lecturer in doctrine and pastoral theology, 1968–1972; assistant professor of dogmatic theology, 1972–1983; associate professor of dogmatic theology, 1983–1991; professor of dogmatic theology, 1991–1992; dean, rector of Three Hierarchs Chapel, and professor of dogmatic theology, 1992–2002.

During his years of priestly ministry, Fr. Thomas authored numerous books and articles. Most well known of these publications is "The Orthodox Faith: An Elementary Handbook on the Orthodox Church." A prolific speaker and preacher, he spoke at conferences, retreats, public lectures, and church gatherings of all kinds, many of which were recorded. Fr. Thomas performed countless duties on behalf of

the Orthodox Church in America, including representing the Church at intra-Orthodox gatherings and ecumenical meetings.

Upon retirement, Fr. Thomas and Anne moved to Ellwood City, Pa., where they lived near the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, and Fr. Thomas began a new ministry: internet-based Orthodox Christian radio talks. Since 2008, Fr. Thomas has produced well over 400 podcasts for Ancient Faith Radio.

Fr. Thomas is survived by his wife, Matushka Anne, and their five children, 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be sent to St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Crestwood, N.Y.; the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City, Pa.; Ancient Faith Radio and Good Samaritan Hospice of Concordia, Wexford, Pa.

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PARISH PROFILE

Tiny Church Strives for Big Local Presence

PARISH profile

Name: St. Elias the Prophet
Greek Orthodox Church

Location: Dubuque, Iowa

Metropolis of Chicago

Founded: 1954

Clergy: Fr. Dunstan Lyon
(M.Div. St. Vladimir's '11)

Size: about 25 families

E-mail: steliastdbq@aol.com

Web: www.stelias.ia.goarch.org

Noteworthy: Small parish with a big presence in community life.



St. Elias the Prophet church photo

ST. ELIAS THE PROPHET GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Just because a church is small in membership doesn't mean it does not have a significant affect on the community.

Membership in the parish hit its peak in the 1970s when there were about 100 families in the community. However, with a large downturn in the economy-Dubuque at one point had the highest unemployment rate in the country-and with children of the original founders going off to college, never to return, and their families moving away, the parish went into decline.

"Our primary concern now is church growth," said Fr. Lyon, who has served as pastor since graduating from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary in Crestwood, N.Y.

But he has led his small church in being a major presence in Dubuque, a city of about 60,000 on the Mississippi across from the Wisconsin-Illinois border.

In recent years, the city has bounced back from the economic decline in under-vent in the 1980s and has since diversified its economy with health care, publishing and tourism as the largest industries.

Fr. Dunstan is personally active in the community, serving on the board of the local rescue mission and homeless shelter, the Dubuque Crop Walk that raises money for the hungry and an ecumenical organization known as The Children of Abraham, which holds monthly dialogues involving Christians, Jews and Muslims of the area.

"If the church is confined to just four walls, then it's a club," he said. "We have to be part of a greater community to show Christ's love."

Some parishioners participate in the organization Dubuque Area Congregations United, a group of 45 churches that run the local food pantry, perform other outreach ministries and help the poor with basic expenses such as food, utilities and rent.

St. Elias Church was founded by a group of about 75 immigrants and American-born Greek Orthodox who had settled here in the 1930s. After renting a large room on the second floor of a brick building for worship services, the community held a general assembly meeting in 1954 and the parish got its official start.

The AHEPA chapter then in existence purchased the lot where the present church stands for \$2,500 and donated it to the parish. Pledges of \$16,000 were received and the church, still in use, was built in 1956 for \$51,900. It was consecrated in 1957.

A famous son

The best known former parishioner who went on to achieve international fame is Louis Psihoyos, a long-time photographer for National Geographic and documentary film director. In 2009, he directed and appeared in the feature-length documentary "The Cove," which won an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature. His father was an

immigrant from Greece who fled the communist occupation of the Peloponnesos near Sparta after World War II. Fr. Dunstan noted that Psihoyos' mother and brother are still members of the parish.

Fr. Dunstan is a sixth-generation Iowan of Methodist background.

He came to the Orthodox faith when he was an archaeology and religious studies double major at the University of Minnesota. He said he was looking for the historic Church, about the time he spent two summers in Greece studying excavations. "I decided that the Orthodox Church was the

Church of Christ," he said.

Returning to the university, he joined the Orthodox Christian Fellowship and converted in 2005. He went on to earn a master's in archaeology from the University of Missouri before deciding on becoming a priest and enrolling at St. Vladimir's.

Present-day parish

Membership consists of about a-third of Greek background, another third of mixed ethnicity and the remainder, converts, including the priest. The Liturgy is mostly in English, with some Greek, Church Slavonic and Arabic used intermittently.

Stewardship is the main revenue source. There is no Greek festival and finances are a concern, Fr. Dunstan noted. The parish has had to dip into its savings, but is establishing a capital campaign to pay for badly needed renovations, including a new roof. In the meantime, church services are taking place in a rented chapel.

The church has no choir or psalti, but congregational singing takes place at Sunday Liturgy. The priest holds regular Bible studies and there are about eight high school-age youth and a few younger children. A Philoptochos chapter functions with about eight members.

Still, a positive attitude persists in the community. "We remain dedicated and optimistically look towards the next 50 years with much hope, promise and determination to serve our children and the entire St. Elias community," Fr. Dunstan noted.

— Compiled by Jim Golding

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

Editor,

I want to thank the Orthodox Observer for the very nice obituary on my beloved wife MaryAnn, her Memory be eternal! We have had notes of condolence from clergy and faithful, whom we'd lost touch with during our 43 years of priestly service. I also need to make a couple of corrections and additions. Our children are: Mary-Adele Allison of Fisherville Ky, US Army Lt. Col. (retired) Karl E. Wing-

enbach of Hampton Va., John C. Wingenbach of Wake Forest N.C., and Evgenia K. Morgan of Nashville Ill. (not TN) Also, we wanted to request would-be donors to gift the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese's Camp Nazareth youth retreats, 339 Pew Road, Mercer Pa. 16137.

The latter was always a major part of Presvytera's joyously enthusiastic diakonia!

Fr. Gregory C. Wingenbach
Louisville, Ky.

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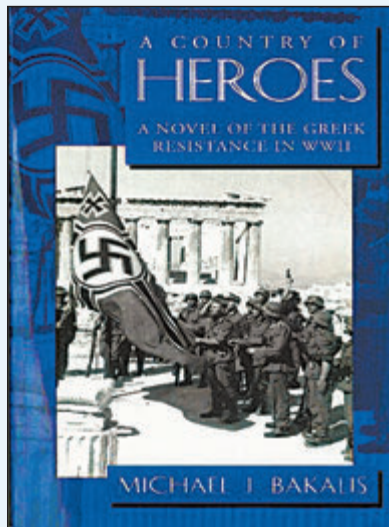
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youth and young adult news

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

We all use New Years Day as an opportunity for new beginnings: we make some resolutions, set some goals, and try to make the most of a fresh start.

Of course, we can set such a course at any time during the year, but there's something invigorating and inspiring about the newness of a new year. Things somehow feel more possible on January 1st than they do on June 1st or December 1st.

Yet what is new will eventually grow old. Though we may begin our resolutions with excitement, we eventually grow tired of them, and set them aside.

There is another way.

There is life in Christ. True life, true newness.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (1 Corinthians 5:17)

On the glorious day of Pascha, as we joyously proclaim that Christ is risen, we celebrate the beginning of something magnificent. Something beyond articulation.

We celebrate the reality of the resurrection, the reality of a world that will not pass away, the reality of a joy that will never be replaced by pain.

Use this as a chance to look forward, to grow into the person God made you to be.

Allow yourself to be made new in Christ. Christ is Risen!



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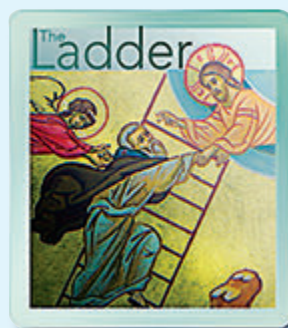


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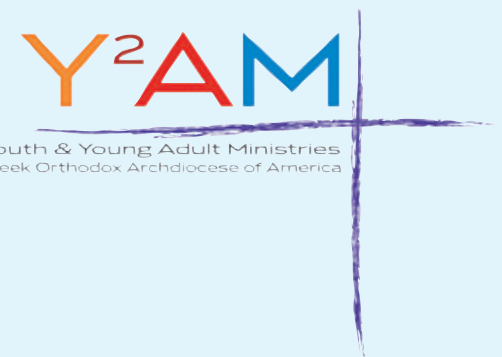
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METROPOLIS FEATURE

by Marissa P. Costidis

N.J. Parish Hosts Annual Sights & Sounds Festival

WESTFIELD, N.J. – The annual Sights & Sounds Festival, hosted by Holy Trinity Church, was held on March 7 and was attended by close to 550 Goyans from 16 parishes across the state of New Jersey.

Participants compete in “Sights” categories including sewing, posters, collage, photography and much more. Sounds categories include individual and group singing, instruments, monologues, and Greek and American language plays.

Chairmen Pam and Eugene Gentile are overwhelmed with the continued success of the event which gives an opportunity for all Goyans in the state to display their artistic talents. Mr. Gentile stated, “I think this is an incredible program and should be initiated all over the country. You hear so much about athletic competition, but this is a way for artistic children to be recognized and awarded.” Mrs. Gentile noted that the

level of talent has increased so much that one of the judges commented on the tremendous artistic ability of so many children and the value of keeping this event so as to keep the children close to the church and to their faith. The judge has never seen the love and dedication to the faith anywhere else in her many travels.

Mr. Gentile also stated that he is thrilled that each church has received an award and therefore no church is going home empty handed. He and his wife, Pam, appreciate the extremely dedicated

and difficult work of the advisors and the directors of the churches’ groups and thank them for their participation in this very important event.

He said that it is inspiring to see the experienced advisors work with the newer advisors in order to keep the program and the interest alive.

“They astonish me every year. May God continue to bless them all,” he said. More than 15 volunteers serve on the host committee and more than 100 volunteers from the parish make this event possible.



Host committee members of Sights and Sounds



St. George, Asbury Park/Ocean Township



Kimisis Tis Theotokou, Holmdel



Mr. and Miss GOYA



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