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Dimitrios Panagos photos

Archbishop Demetrios in the procession led by Armenian Supreme Patriarch Karekin II. Vice President Joe Biden is shown at upper part of picture.

Archbishop Attends Armenian Genocide Observance

by Stavros H. Papagermanos

WASHINGTON – Archbishop Demetrios attended the May 7 ecumenical service at the National Cathedral commemorating the centennial of the Armenian Genocide.

The multi-faith service marked the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide, in which an estimated 1.5 million Armenians perished at the hands of Ottoman Turks from 1915-1923 and delivered a message of awareness, gratitude and unity.

Esteemed guests and representatives of various faiths gathered for “The Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide: A Prayer for Justice and Peace” to remember those lost in the Genocide and to demonstrate gratitude for the regeneration of life for which the survivors and their saviors worked so hard.

Among the thousands attending the service were many dignitaries including the Republic of Armenia President Serzh Sargsyan, Vice-President Joe Biden, His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, His Holiness Ignatius Aphrem II, Patriarch of Antioch and All East of the Syriac Orthodox Church,

members of Congress, and Christian faith leaders from around the country.

The Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, welcomed attendees to the service and the Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, delivered the homily. Archbishop Demetrios offered a prayer of the evening hour.

Armenian President Sargsyan, in his speech, noted a verse of the psalmist “Mercy and truth will meet, justice and peace will embrace.”

“Today, as we commemorate the holy martyrs of the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by Ottoman Turkey, we remember the hundreds of thousands of Greek and Syriac Christians who were also victimized by the same perpetrators. We remember the other crimes against humanity of the 20th century: the Jewish Holocaust, the genocides in Cambodia and Rwanda and elsewhere,” said the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II. Aram I, the Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, in his message emphasized the three elements of the centennial, to remember, to remind and to educate.

The ecumenical service was organized by The National Commemoration

of the Armenian Genocide Centennial (NCAGC) uniting the efforts of the Diocese and Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Churches of America, East and West. It was co-sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Council of Churches of Christ.

See more at: www.goarch.org/news/armeniancommemoration-05082015#sthash.zqiYey63.dpuf



Leads prayer- His Eminence offers a prayer during the ecumenical service.

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Internet Ministries

646.519.6690
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212.570.3593
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Youth and Young Adult Ministries

646.519.6180
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NEXT DEADLINE

Deadline for submitting information,
articles and photos for consideration
in the **July-Aug.** issue: **Friday, June 26**

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.

by George Schira

The Executive Committee of Leadership 100 convened a conference call on May 13, and unanimously approved an additional \$700,000 in new grants to be distributed in 2015, increasing total grants for the period of 2015–17 to \$2,670,799. The additional grants were unanimously recommended by the Grant Committee.

The amount to be distributed in 2015, which includes previously approved grants, now totals \$3,232,651, bringing the year to date total since the inception of Leadership 100 to a new high of \$42,292,163.

The committee addressed the addi-

tional grants in a continuing session of its meeting of Feb. 12 at the 24th annual Leadership 100 Conference as there was not ample time then to review all the grants.

The total of new grants approved for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is now \$1,930,243, while those to affiliated organizations is now \$740,556. Both included multi-year grants.

The additional grants approved are as follows:

- The Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations—\$150,000 for one year for the “Inter-Orthodox Enhancement” project to support the up-coming Great and Holy Synod.
- The Department of Marriage

and Family Center for Family Care – \$230,000 for one year for the “Renewal of Family Ministry.”

- The Department of Finance and Administration – \$200,000 for one year for the Archdiocese Committee for Small Parishes’ “The Small Parish Program.”

- Fordham University – \$100,000 for Orthodox Christian Studies Center to strategize and develop an academic journal dedicated to Orthodox Christian Studies.

- The Hellenic Orthodox Church of the Annunciation (Buffalo, N.Y.) – \$20,000 for one year for the International Commission of Anglican-Orthodox Theological Dialogue.

Staff Members Run or Walk as Civic Duty

NEW YORK - For the second consecutive year, members of the Archdiocese staff participated in the JP Morgan Corporate Challenge, an annual event that draws more than 30,000 participants from 425 private and non-profit corporations in support of the Central Park Conservancy. The Conservancy is a private, not-for-profit organization of concerned citizens determined to improve Central Park that manages the park under a contract with the City of New York.

The park, located half a block from Archdiocese headquarters, receives about 40 million visitors a year and is the most frequently visited urban park in the United States.

Similar JP Morgan Corporate Challenge events take place in about 12 cities worldwide, including Boston, Frankfurt, Germany; London England and San Francisco.

The New York event, the second largest after the annual New York City Marathon, brings together sprinters, joggers and walkers who traverse a 3-mile course in the park over a two-day period June 3-4.

Each participant pays a \$50 registration fee.

The Corporate Challenge served as an opportunity for the staff to witness to the faith. Their maroon T-shirts were emblazoned on the front with the logo of the Archdiocese, while on the back was the scriptural verse from Philippians 4:13, “*I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.*”

Missing text

In the May issue story on the Ebola epidemic on page 10, an advertisement covered the last four words. The text of the final paragraph should read (missing words in italics): One other “obstacle” he faces hasn’t prevented him from energetically pursuing his multi-faceted *ministry* – *he is legally blind.*

Change of Address

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Contact Soula Podaras
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e-mail: spodaras@goarch.org
fax: 212.774.0239.

Or regular mail to:
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8 E. 79th St., New York, NY 10075-0192
Be sure to include old address,
new address and name of parish.

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Jim Golding (212) 570.3557;
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For advertising or the Greek section:
Lefteris Pissalidis, (212) 570. 3555;
lefteris@goarch.org



Orthodox Observer photos



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Direct Archdiocesan District

212.570.3500; www.goarch.org

Metropolis of Chicago

312.337.4130; www.chicago.goarch.org

Metropolis of Boston

617.277.4742; www.boston.goarch.org

Metropolis of Denver

303.333.7794; www.denver.goarch.org

Metropolis of Atlanta

404.634.9345; www.atlmetropolis.org

Metropolis of Detroit

248.823.2400; www.detroit.goarch.org

Metropolis of Pittsburgh

412.621.5529; www.pittsburgh.goarch.org

Metropolis of San Francisco

415.753.3075; www.sanfran.goarch.org

Metropolis of New Jersey

908.301.0500; www.nj.goarch.org

Archdiocesan Institutions

Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

Tel. 212.288.3215; www.thecathedralnyc.org

Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology

617.731.3500; www.hchc.edu

Saint Basil Academy

845.424.3500; www.stbasil.goarch.org

St. Michael's Home

914.476.3374; www.stmichaelshome.org

St. Photios National Shrine

904.829.8205; www.stphotios.com

Other key organizations and services

National Philoptochos

212.977.7770; www.philoptochos.org

Internet Ministries: www.internet.goarch.org

• Orthodox Jobs: www.orthodoxjobs.com

• Orthodox Marketplace: www.orthodoxmarketplace.com

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

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



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Archbishop Named Among Top 100 Christian Leaders

NEW YORK – Archbishop Demetrios recently was named by *Newsmax* magazine as one of the top 100 Christian leaders in America. He is the only Orthodox Christian leader to make the list, which includes not only clergy, but influential political, entertainment and sports figures and some private sector individuals. Among them are Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, evangelist Billy Graham and his son Franklin, former Arkansas governor and potential 2016 GOP presidential candidate Mike Huckabee, Liberty University President Jerry Fallwell Jr., National Council of Churches President Jim Winkler, and others.

Assembly of Bishops Executive Committee to Meet with the Patriarch

On June 16, the Executive Committee of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America will travel to Istanbul in order to meet with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. This meeting is scheduled prior to the Assembly's annual meeting in September in order to share with the Ecumenical Patriarch the overall work of the Assembly of Bishops, particularly as it relates to the achievements of its committees, and to discuss preparations for the upcoming Great and Holy Council, which is scheduled for 2016. The prayers of our faithful for safe travel and fruitful deliberations inspired by the Holy Spirit are requested.

Archbishop Presides at Funeral for Family Killed

WASHINGTON - Archbishop Demetrios presided on June 1 at the funeral for three members of a prominent St. Sophia Cathedral family found murdered in their home. Business man Savvas Savopoulos, 46; his wife, Amy, 47; and their 10-year-old son, Philip, and the housekeeper, were found dead May 14 and a suspect, thought to be a former employee, was arrested a week later. According to reports, they – along with their housekeeper – were held hostage in the family's DC mansion, which was then set on fire. Cathedral Dean Fr. Stephen Zorzos and other clergy assisted at the funeral, attended by hundreds of parishioners, friends and others.



Orthodox Observer photo

UN visitors

Members of ADF International's UN team and global division (Alliance Defending Freedom) came to Archdiocese headquarters May 26 where they were received by Archbishop Demetrios. His Eminence held a prayer service for the group in the St. Paul Chapel and spoke to them about the Church and the relics retrieved from St. Nicholas Church after the 9/11 terrorist attacks that destroyed the building. ADF is the leading religious liberty group internationally and works with a global alliance to advance the right of conscience around the world.

National Choir Conference Set for July

INDIANAPOLIS – The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians will hold its annual meeting July 8-12, at Holy Trinity Church.

The Church Music Federations of each metropolis send five delegates to the meeting but, in addition, any and all current National Forum stewards are welcomed and encouraged to attend, according to Maria Keritsis, national chairman.

The meeting provides church musicians an opportunity to connect with others from throughout the country, to learn and participate in the work of the National Forum, and to enjoy some fellowship.

Among the topics on the agenda are the updating of the *Congregational Participation* booklet that outlines an approach for encouraging congregational singing and discussion of ideas for engaging our youth in worship by teaching hymns.

Delegates will review updates of the Forum's "Hymns of the Orthodox Church" instructional series for use by religious education, camps, and any gathering of youth.

This update will include the music for the new standard English texts once they are released by the Holy Synod. Other agenda items include recruitment and training of choir directors, choir singers and psalti; exploration of newly composed music; and with the financial support of Leadership 100, planning for additional Church Music Institutes throughout the country for the training of church musicians.

The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians looks forward to welcoming the Archdiocese's church musicians to Indianapolis.

Archbishop Praises Governor's Education Initiative

NEW YORK – The Archdiocese has endorsed the recent efforts of Gov. Andrew Cuomo in introducing the Parental Choice in Education Act. Archbishop Demetrios commented, "On behalf of the Greek Orthodox citizens of New York who are deeply committed to their own parochial schools, I thank and congratulate Gov. Cuomo for his leadership in this important family-oriented initiative. This is a step in the right direction for the state of New York, and for society as a whole."

Orthodox Christians have always stood up for equality, and the Parental Choice in Education Act has the potential to offer equal opportunity in education to those who currently do not have the possibility of choice.

The Parental Choice in Education Act, which will support and protect alternative school options for parents and students across New York State. The Act provides for \$150 million in education tax credits annually that will include:

- Tax credits to low-income families who send their children to nonpublic schools,
- Scholarships to low- and middle-income students to attend either a public school outside of their district or a nonpublic school,
- Incentives to public schools for enhanced educational programming (like after school programs); and,
- Tax credits to public school teachers for the purchase of supplies.

More information: www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-introduces-parental-choice-education-act

CLERGY UPDATE

Ordinations to the Diaconate

Gadah, Gabriel – Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver – Annunciation Cathedral, Houston, 05/03/15

Ordinations to the Priesthood

Deacon Theodore Ehmer – Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta – Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, 03/15/15

Deacon Paul Lundberg – Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta – Holy Transfiguration Church, Marietta, Ga. 03/29/15

Deacon Seraphim Johns – Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver – Assumption, Pocatello, Idaho 05/17/15

Deacon Anastasios Theodoropoulos – Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago – Annunciation, Town and Country, Mo. 05/10/15

Assignments

Fr. Leo Schefe – St. George Church, Bangor, Maine 05/01/15

Fr. James Berends – Holy Trinity Church, Grand Rapids, Mich. 06/01/15

Fr. Nicholas Marcus – Church of the

Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Plymouth, Mich. 06/01/15

Fr. Cosmin Sicoe – Panagia Pantovasilissa Church, Lexington, Ky. 06/01/15

Offikia

Fr. Dennis Strouzas – Office of Protosphyter of the Ecumenical Throne, bestowed by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew 04/16/15

Fr. Steven Zorzos – Office of Protosphyter of the Ecumenical Throne, bestowed by Patriarch Bartholomew 04/16/15

Fr. Mario Giannopoulos – Office of Protosphyter, bestowed by Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver 05/03/15

Retired Clergy

Fr. Anastasios Raptis 06/30/15

Receptions

Fr. Joseph Gingrich, April 30 (Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia)

Fr. Cosmin Gavril Sicoe, May 1 (from the Orthodox Church in America)

Save the Date
JULY 3-8, 2016



43RD Biennial CLERGY - LAITY CONGRESS

NASHVILLE
TENNESSEE

Archdiocesan Council Holds Spring Meeting in San Francisco

by Jim Golding

SAN FRANCISCO – At their spring meeting May 28-29, Archdiocesan Council members received notification that the installation of the new president of HCHC, Fr. Chris Metropulos, will take place Sept. 14, the Feast Day of the Holy Cross, and that the 2016 Clergy-Laity Congress will be held in Nashville, Tenn., July 2-8, and heard reports from the Council committees.

These included Finance, Religious Education, Youth, Stewardship, Administration, Outreach and Evangelism and Communications.

The Council also received an update of the progress on St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.

The Archbishop also announced that the interim director of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Steven Christoforou, has been appointed as the director.

With a few members short of having a quorum, decisions by the Council would be deferred until its fall meeting in New York.

Members of the Holy Eparchial Synod in attendance were Metropolitans Iakovos of Chicago, Gerasimos of San Francisco, Nicholas of Detroit and Savas of Pittsburgh.

Also present were Bishop Sevastianos of Zela and Bishop Apostolos of Medeia.

His Eminence spoke of the diminishing of Christian populations throughout the world and expressed the importance of witnessing to the Faith.

"We are an apostolic Church," he said, and noted five "identities" that have had and continue to have a bearing on teaching and proclaiming the truth: the Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. "Let us work today in this spirit," he said.

The Archbishop also reflected on the recent observance in Selma, Ala., on the 50th anniversary Civil Rights March. He cited a comment by Andrew Young that "Orthodoxy is a source for spirituality. We need spirituality," His Eminence said.

"We are in a condition of mission. That is our destiny. We are in a nonstop march. The time of black and white is over."

St. Nicholas update

Executive Director of Administration Jerry Dimitriou reported that a new construction management firm has been selected for the project and the target date for the opening of St. Nicholas is summer 2017.

He said construction will begin in June with concrete to be poured in October or November.

The original St. Nicholas Church occupied about 1,360 square feet. The rebuilt



church and national shrine will cover about 4,500 square feet. Projected construction cost is about \$40 million, but the actual cost could be lower. More than \$29 million in pledges has been received.

Some donors have given materials and labor, including Peter J. Pappas and his family, who have offered more than \$1.25 million in materials and whose firm, P.J. Mechanical, will be installing the heating, electrical and air conditioning equipment.

Once completed, the church and national shrine will be administered by a board appointed by the Archbishop, and that will be composed, in part, by original board members of St. Nicholas parish.

Archbishop Demetrios added that, while the church "is being rebuilt as a parish church," because of the special nature of the World Trade Center where thousands of victims died, the building "is going to be an international shrine, far beyond a parish church."

Following are summaries of committee reports presented.

Expanded versions will run in the July-August issue.

Administration Committee

Chairman Anthony Stefanis reported that the committee is studying updates of regulations, a National Ministries parish list,

a focus on effectiveness to identify communities with successful National Ministries programs and a proposed amendment dealing with foundations the Council would be reviewing at its upcoming meetings.

Religious Education

Dr. Anton Vrame, director, said the Department of Religious Education and the Orthodox Marketplace will merge, which his department will maintain for the Archdiocese.

The department also is conducting ministry effectiveness studies on how to engage young people digitally with the Religious Education Department and to create better connections with the parishes.

Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Y'AM)

Steven Christoforou noted four areas of the department's work activities: resource development, video series, i-Tunes and Bee the Bee, which has about 4,600 subscribers. Chairman Elaine Jaharis reported that parishes and metropolises operating summer camps must perform background checks on all volunteers and youth workers taking part in the camp programs if they have not already done so.

Marriage and Family

Fr. Constantine Sitaras noted the success of recent conferences, including a Pastoral Challenges in Marriage Conference held Jan. 29-31 in Irvine, Calif., and nine other presentations around the country.

Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism

Fr. Jim Kordaris reported that the department's Orthodox Natural Church Development program has been adopted by the Metropolises of Denver, Boston and San Francisco and on a parish-by-parish basis in other areas. The department also recently initiated a video program with GOTelecom.

Chairman George Matthews noted recent efforts to promote stewardship, including a national stewardship training program.

Communications

Vice Chairman Clifford T. Argue reported on the committee's review of the parish crisis management guide, the continuing discussion of the need to hire a full-time professional communications director and the need to increase the Church's presence through social media.

Greek Education

Dr. Ioannis Efthymiopoulos reported that the series "Ta Ellinika mou" will be completed in 2015-16 and will replace the first book of the series that was first published in 2008.

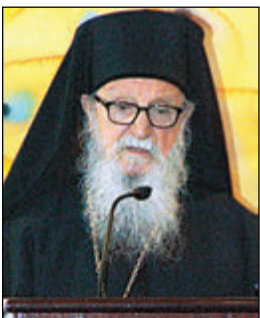
Finance Committee

Chairman George Vourvoulis, Peter Arbes and Effie Marie Smith made brief presentations on the pension and insurance sub-committees and Parish Software Initiatives. Mr. Vourvoulis discussed a program being developed to help parishes reduce operating costs.

Closing comments

In his closing comments, Archbishop Demetrios cautioned that a "critical approach" should be taken when considering statistics about declining Church membership. He said that some "well-known entities" strive to show that Christianity is shrinking. "We should have a critical approach, especially when we face such numbers." He said the real population of Greek Orthodox in America is "an illusive condition. Be careful with numbers."

The Archbishop also recognized Council member Arthur Anton, who celebrated his 90th birthday and, even with the use of a cane, continues to faithfully attend each meeting for more than four decades.



ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS



ANTHONY STEFANIS



PETER ARBES



CLIFFORD ARGUE



STEVEN CHRISTOFOROU



ELAINE JAHARIS



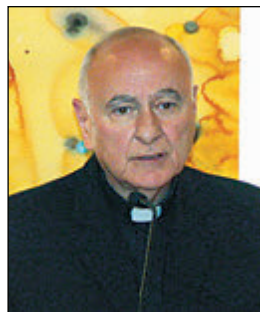
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GEORGE VOURVOULIS



EFFIE MARIE SMITH



FR. CONSTANTINE SITARAS



DR. ANTON VRAME



DR. IOANNIS EFTHYMIPOULOS



GEORGE MATTHEWS



FR. JIM KORDARIS



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

StNicholasWTC.org

L-100 Director Addresses National Philoptochos Board on National Shrine

The following are remarks by Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund Director Paulette Poulos relating to the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the May 6 National Philoptochos Board dinner.

It is indeed a pleasure and honor to be here with so many wonderful, faithful and dedicated friends who have offered so much to the Church, Philoptochos and Philanthropy.

As you know most of my talks deal with Leadership 100 but tonight I am here to talk to you about something very dear to my heart, namely, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine, which our beloved spiritual leader, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, has made as part of his legacy to the Church in America. I recall back in 2001 after the tragic attack, I visited ground zero with Archbishop Demetrios and Archbishop Iakovos. It was a cold, dark and rainy day and more depressing than you can ever imagine.

A member of the military, approached Archbishop Demetrios and said "Father please pray for me. As he knelt and the Archbishop prayed, you could see the pain and emotion in the faces of both Archbishops. As I looked at Archbishop Iakovos, he started to tremble and my first thought was he was cold.

However, when we returned to the car and were heading to his home, I saw the Archbishop's eyes filled with tears as he made his cross and remained silent. When he finally spoke, he said "I will not be here to see this, but with God's help, you will see our Church of St. Nicholas rebuilt and stand again." Those of you who were privileged to be at the Oct. 18 dedication of

the rebuilding of the St. Nicholas Church witnessed first-hand the beauty and peace that surrounded the World Trade Center. As I stood with Fr. Alex and Presvytera Xanthi (Karloutsos), I could actually feel the presence of the Archbishop looking down on us with his special smile.

The reason I share this experience with you is because those who knew Archbishop Iakovos, can attest to the fact that he was a man of God with great vision and if he were here today, the Archbishop would join Archbishop Demetrios in the rebuilding of this historic shrine.

St. Nicholas is not merely a local church in New York but rather it is a testament of Orthodoxy throughout the world. The Greek Orthodox Church will be the only presence of a Church at the World Trade Center. Presently, 20,000 people visit this site every day and I ask that you envision the strength of Orthodoxy when many of these visitors enter the sacred ground of the St. Nicholas Church to light a candle and offer a prayer.

The Church will provide a bereavement center on the second floor where peoples of all faith can gather to reflect, to mourn and to meditate.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios has tirelessly offered his efforts together with Fr. Alex, Governor Cuomo, Michael Jaharis, Emanuel Demos, Dennis Mehiel, Jerry Dimitriou, and so many others toward making this dream a reality. I am confident that with the love and support of all peoples, Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike, we will complete the construction and open the doors of this Sacred House of Prayer in 2017.

Leadership 100 Chairman, George Tsandikos, together with his executive committee, approved and offered a gift of \$1 million. Our Leadership 100 members, recognizing the importance of this project, came forward on their own to offer personal contributions amounting to an additional \$1.5 million and I am happy to say that Leadership 100 is hoping to raise more.

Philoptochos has been and continues to be the right-hand of the Church and I am confident that all of the members throughout the United States will do their part in fulfilling their pledge and offering whatever they can toward this once in a life-time project.

As members of the National Board, you had the unique privilege of touring the grounds of the World Trade Center and I know that this memory will serve as an inspiration to you as we work together to raise the additional revenue needed at this time.

You will make your children and grandchildren very proud to know that you, as Philoptochos members, have played a vital part in this rebuilding.

I thank your most capable and dedicated National President Maria Logus, for inviting me to share these thoughts with you and on a personal note, I would like to thank each and every one of you for truly serving as philanthropists and stewards for the glory of God.



Kurt Nikkanen, Maria Asteriadou and event co-chairs. (Reading parish photo)

Pennsylvania Church Holds National Shrine Benefit Concert

READING, Pa. – St. Xenia Philoptochos Society of Sts. Constantine & Helen Church sponsored a concert April 26 at the Miller Center for the Arts to raise funds for the rebuilding of the St. Nicholas National Shrine. A committee of 20 women led by co-chairs Despina Denne, chapter President Ann Kraras, and Sharon Whitman planned the event, featuring internationally acclaimed artists Maria Asteriadou, pianist, and her husband, Kurt Nikkanen, violinist.

Both are graduates of Juilliard.

The Greek-born Dr. Asteriadou teaches at the Manhattan School of Music and is also associate professor at Kutztown University in Berks County, Pa.

Mr. Nikkanen is the concertmaster with the New York City Ballet Orchestra and maintains a private teaching studio in New York City.

The couple donated their time and talent for the fundraiser and treated their audience to a musical "journey through time" which included compositions by Bach, Schubert, Yannis Constantinidis, and Gershwin.

To commemorate the occasion, the chapter commissioned a local hot glass artist to create a contemporary plate which was inscribed and presented to the performers.

The event concluded with a catered "Meet the Artists" reception.

At the urging of the National Philoptochos, the St. Xenia chapter had set a goal to raise the equivalent of \$100 per member – or about \$11,500 – for the St. Nicholas Shrine initiative. Largely through the proceeds of the benefit concert, the chapter has raised more than \$21,000.

Additional fundraising activities are planned throughout 2015.

The Responsibility of Giving – Evellyn Tsiadis

"Yes, it's a house of worship, but it is so much more," said Evellyn Tsiadis when asked about the thought process behind her inspiring donation to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. "I was raised with the pride and responsibility of a Greek Orthodox Christian living in America. Our ancestors sacrificed to build the magnificent churches that we worship in today. We, who have benefited from their sacrifices, must now sacrifice for this historic opportunity - this opportunity to show our faith to the world."

Last Christmas Mrs. Tsiadis announced to her parents, siblings and nieces and nephews that instead of purchasing actual gifts for them, she would make a donation in their family's name to the rebuilding of St. Nicholas Shrine. She told them why, and showed them the video of the ground blessing so that they would fully understand how meaningful this gift would be.

Her nieces were moved that, at night,

the church lights up like the candles they light in church.

Tsiadis also describes how she felt when she first went down to the site, "I cried. I stood where the doors to the nave will be. I was honored to be there, to be a part of a positive place in history. We must find a place to honor and pray for the souls who were lost on 9-11.

We lost our church and now it is our responsibility to rebuild something as great, or even greater, than St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Acropolis." Tsiadis says that her nieces and nephews know the importance of the Shrine and know that they are now a part of it.

She hopes that she can inspire others to give what they can. "We must understand the gift we have been given, the gift of the Greek Orthodox faith and heritage. Now we must give generously so that this shrine will forever be a part of the religious landscape of America and the world."



Orthodox Observer photo

Evellyn Tsiadis (second row right) with her sister, friends and nieces at St. Nicholas National Shrine site.

METROPOLIS NEWS

New Cathedral Rises on Site of Earthquake Devastated Church

SAN FRANCISCO – Nearly 26 years after the Loma Prieta earthquake inflicted irrevocable damage to Annunciation Cathedral, a new structure is rising at the same location.

According to Cathedral Dean Fr. Stephen Kyriacou, the exterior of the new cathedral should be completed in about a year, with the interior to be ready by 2017.

In the early '90s the old cathedral was demolished and parishioners have been using the facility next door (visible in picture) which contains a chapel, temporary classrooms offices and the Bishop Anthony Hall. Permits to rebuild were issued in 2013, 24 years to the date of the Oct. 17, 1989 disaster.

Fr. Stephen noted that Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios – who came to San Francisco in 1990 during his U.S. visit and toured the area of the demolished cathedral – told Bishop Andonios “this is the site where the cathedral will be built.”

Total cost of the project will be about \$13 million, Fr. Stephen noted, adding that San Francisco has been experiencing “the largest building boom in decades” but that rising costs have made the city “almost unaffordable.” The cathedral is the only house of worship being built in the city.

Modeled after Constantinople’s Church of Hagia Eirine, with echos of the Great Church (Hagia Sophia), the new Cathedral is in the shape of a Greek Cross, with an apse and the narthex bringing it to 165 feet in length. It will seat 800. Its central dome, 50 feet in diameter, rises to 70 feet. It features an adult baptismal font and a choir loft.

There will be underground parking for 70 vehicles.

The skeleton consists of “red-iron steel” (called “red-iron” because of its protective orange-red coating, similar to that of the Golden Gate Bridge). Some 1,000 pieces of red steel are being used.

Groundbreaking took place Nov.



Orthodox Observer photos

6, 1997, by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who also laid the cornerstone.

On May 30, after presiding over meetings of the Archdiocesan Council held the previous two days, Archbishop Demetrios visited the cathedral construction site and signed a steel column.

His Eminence was met by Bishop

Apostolos of Medeia, Fr. Kyriacou, Cathedral Dean, and Presbyteria Alike, S. Chris Kyriacou, parish council president, and his wife, Irene; Archon Paul Sogotis, architect John Goldman, and general contractor Dan McNely. Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco was visiting the St. Demetrios, Camarillo parish to open that com-

munity’s Agape Center.

On Sunday June 14, a Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Waters service will be celebrated. Afterward, everyone will proceed to the construction site, where donors and everyone else will have an opportunity to sign their names on the steel columns.



IOCC

Committees Host Fundraisers

Local International Orthodox Christian Charities committees recently hosted fund-raising events in Chicago, Cleveland and Grand Rapids, Mich. The Chicago IOCC Metropolitan Committee hosted its annual Pan-Orthodox Grand Banquet and Silent Auction on April 30. More than 230 faithful attended at the event in Des Plaines.

Hierarchs in attendance were Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago and Bishop Peter of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, along with Pan-Orthodox representation of local clergy and past and current IOCC board members.

IOCC Director of Programs Mark Ohanian, provided detailed information about IOCC’s response in Syria and the Middle East, and about other programs around the world.

The IOCC Cleveland Metropolitan Committee hosted its annual IOCC Benefit on May 1 with more than 200 participants attending.

Mark Gruin, IOCC director of Strate-

THE VOICE OF PHILOPTOCHOS

Philoptochos Commits to St. Nicholas Church and National Shrine

by Ann Michals

NEW YORK – During the National Philoptochos Board's two-day meetings in early May, Archbishop Demetrios spoke of the importance of rebuilding St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.

National Board members recalled the terrorist act when nearly 3,000 innocent people lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001.

What better way to promote the faith than through the resurrection of this sacred place of healing and worship which will stand for all the world to see as an expression of our Greek Orthodox faith and love for humankind?

St. Nicholas National Philoptochos Initiative Chairs Jennifer Constantin, Arlene Siavelis Kehl and Anne Michals offered remarks and reported on the progress of Philoptochos' efforts throughout the country to raise funds for the rebuilding of this house of worship. After National President Maria Logus' introduction, which included her personal journey through the initial days following the terrorist attack, Jennifer Constantin offered a brief review of funds collected.

Anne Michals delivered an overview of fundraising events in metropolises and chapters throughout the country, which reveal Philoptochos' passion for the building project. She offered inspiring and creative ideas for the continuation of Philoptochos fundraising efforts.

Arlene Siavelis Kehl gave a summary of the well planned events of the day that would begin shortly after the close of the meeting's morning session.

The National Board announced at the May meeting the approval of \$482,088 for disbursement to various recipients.

These donations reflect the hard work of all chapters nationwide, as well as the support and cooperation received from their entire parish families. The following programs and organizations received funding:

- St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center \$200,000
- Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology, including (HCHC) \$100,000: \$40,000 for 28 student scholarships and \$60,000 for capital improvements
- The Ecumenical Patriarchate, \$65,000
- Archdiocesan Presbyters Council/National Sisterhood of Presbyteres Benevolent Fund (APC-NSP), \$20,000



National Philoptochos' presents \$200,000 to Archbishop Demetrios for St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. With His Eminence are Philoptochos Metropolis and Direct Archdiocese District presidents (from left) Jennifer Constantin, (Direct Archdiocese District) Ann Michals (New Jersey) National President Maria Logus, former National President Aphrodite Skeadas, Arlene Siavelis Kehl (Chicago) and spiritual advisor Bishop Sevastianos of Zela.

At the conclusion of the presentation, National President Maria Logus presented Archbishop Demetrios with a \$200,000 check, the first of many donations as part of the Philoptochos' fundraising initiative.

National Board members then traveled to the future site of the church and shrine at the World Trade Center, for a presentation by Fr. Alex Karloutsos, a member of the Rebuilding Committee for St. Nicholas; Steven Plate, deputy chief of capital planning and

director of construction at the WTC; and Nick Koutsomitis, the architect of record.

The presentation began with commemorating Sept. 11 and included an EarthCam time-lapse movie detailing the construction process for the 16.5 acre WTC complex.

National Board members learned that the site will include six new skyscrapers, the memorial pools dedicated to the 9/11 victims, the museum, transportation hub and

St. Nicholas Church and National Shrine. Construction is set to begin this summer and with completion in about two years.

The walking tour, guided by Port Authority of New York and New Jersey representatives, included visiting the 'Oculus' transportation hub and the other significant structures now in various stages of construction.

A tour of the 9/11 Memorial Museum, which commemorates the lives of those who perished, included displays of photography, biographical information, artifacts and audio recordings. At a dinner reception that followed, Paulette Poulos, executive director of Leadership 100, spoke of a remarkable day soon after Sept. 11, 2001, when she joined Archbishop Iakovos to view the destruction of St. Nicholas Church and the Twin Towers.

It was the Archbishop's dream to see the church rebuilt and to bring life back to the area.

Also attending was Anthoula Katsimatis, actor, producer, writer and board member of the National September 11th Memorial and Museum, who lost her brother, John, on 9/11.

She said that John, a faithful man who would light candles in St. Nicholas Church, worked for Cantor Fitzgerald, the company that suffered the largest loss of life that day.

Anthoula spoke about the life of her brother, whose body was never found among the ashes at ground zero.

This is truly hallowed ground, a cemetery, and St. Nicholas National Shrine will commemorate the thousands of lives lost and serve as a beacon of hope and healing for the world.

National Philoptochos Distributes \$482,088 on Behalf of Its Chapters

- National Emergency Fund to International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) for Nepal relief, \$20,000
- Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) for water wells in Kenya, \$20,000
- Support a Mission Priest (SAMP), \$20,000
- St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine, \$20,000
- Orthodox Christian Fellowship Fund (OCF) for 16 students to attend the Summer Leadership Institute, \$16,000
- Philippines Relief Fund to International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC),

\$778 (final distribution to close out the account)

- Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund to the Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos, \$310 (final distribution to close out the account)

• The National Philoptochos Society has always striven to provide immediate assistance in times of crisis, to victims of 911, Hurricane Katrina, the California fires, the Greek fires, the Iowa floods, the Asian Tsunami, and more.

- The National Emergency Fund was established in 2006 to facilitate a quick re-

sponse in emergency situations.

Through this fund, an immediate donation of \$20,000 was forwarded to IOCC to address the urgent humanitarian need for emergency supplies of water, food, shelter and medication.

In addition, National Philoptochos is collecting donations from individuals and chapters, earmarked for the National Philoptochos Nepal Disaster Relief Fund, to provide continuing, long-term assistance.

Donations may be given to your local Philoptochos chapter, mailed to the National Philoptochos office or placed online at www.philoptochos.org.

For more information on National Philoptochos ministries and commitments, visit www.philoptochos.org/outreach/commitments

Chapter Expands Clothing Drive

LAS VEGAS – The Panagia Philoptochos chapter of St. John the Baptist Church sponsors one or two projects each year in keeping with the National Philoptochos focus on "hands-on" philanthropy.

The Social Service chair identifies charities for which the organization's contribution will make the most difference.

In February, the chapter expanded a previous clothing drive for University Medical Center for which they had collected newborn layettes, receiving blankets, booties and hats for babies that have nothing to go home in.

The chapter also collected new

clothing for children, sizes infant to 5T who arrive in the emergency room in damaged clothes. Members lovingly sorted the clothing by size to assemble complete outfits. In no time, 50 packages were ready to be taken to UMC.

Chapter reports about meetings involving hands-on projects always draw the most members. "Our Greek Orthodox women love to give their time and energy for causes that touch their hearts."

This is another example of how the ladies of Panagia Chapter and members across the country dedicate themselves to the Philoptochos mission and helping their fellow man.

Boston to Host Children's Medical Fund Luncheon

BOSTON – The 15th Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, will take place Oct. 31 at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront hotel, hosted by the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos under the spiritual leadership of Metropolitan Methodios.

October is a beautiful time of the year to be in Boston, to enjoy the colors of New England and to participate in tours ranging from the Freedom Trail to special museum tours, and the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center.

Since their inception in 1989, the Children's Medical Fund Luncheons have raised and distributed nearly \$3 million for children's hospitals, universities conducting research to benefit children who are ill, and social service

programs that serve sick children and their parents throughout the United States.

Funds from the Metropolis of Boston luncheon will benefit programs in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and eastern Connecticut. Sponsorships to support the Children's Medical Fund are welcome. Donations may be mailed to the National Philoptochos Office or submitted online at www.philoptochos.org.

The Annunciation Philoptochos will offer a reception following the Divine Liturgy. chapters and friends from throughout the Metropolis will join the

HCHC

Thank You's and Praise Highlight Presidential Scholarship Dinner

by Jim Golding

NEWTON, Mass. – They came from 25 states ranging from Massachusetts to California and Oregon, and the Bahamas, to honor Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou, the longest-serving president of Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology on the occasion of his retirement after 15 years of remarkable service to the school.

More than 500 persons attended the Presidential Scholarship Dinner held in his honor at the Boston Marriott Newton, which raised more than \$480,000 to aid future students.

Co-chaired by HCHC trustees Helen Carlos and Christine Karavites, who had also spearheaded the school's 75th anniversary in 2014, the event included a large contingent from Texas, where Fr. Nick served as the Houston cathedral's dean for 22 years, re-established St. Nicholas Church in El Paso and organized Transfiguration Church in Austin.

An appreciative group of speakers expressed their gratitude and praise for Fr. Nick. Trustees' Vice Chairman Dr. Thomas Lelon, himself a former president; Hellenic College Dean Dr. Demetrios Katos, Holy Cross Dean Dr. James Skedros, Chief Operating Officer James Karloutsos, director of the Office of Institutional Advancement Fr. James Katinas, Student Government Association representative William Kallas and International Orthodox Christian Charities Executive Director and CEO Constantine "Dean" Triantafilou, Fr. Nick's son, offered personal reminiscences of their association with the school's president.

Dean Triantafilou shared an anecdote illustrating how his father's reputation preceded him in his travels to many countries receiving IOCC aid when being greeted was asked was, "Are you Fr. Nick's son?" In a vivid illustration of how his father inspired him throughout his life, he sang a few verses of Josh Groban's "You Raise Me Up."

Each speaker also acknowledged Presvytera Diane's selflessness in her support and "sharing" Fr. Nick with the school. Archbishop Demetrios, however, in his reflections, noted that the "essence" of the sharing was more like 80 percent for the school and 20 percent for presvytera and his family.

The Archbishop said that it was a "bittersweet" event taking place: a celebration of Fr. Nick's service to the school mixed with a sadness at his retirement.

He said the remarks by the various speakers were "a manifestation of recognition of more than a well-done job."

His Eminence recalled the selection process for a new president in 2000, when trustee George Behrakis headed the search committee and Fr. Nick's name figured prominently.

At the time he was serving as the



Dimitrios Panagos photos

Family photo – Fr. Nick and Presvytera Diane with their extended family, including daughters Nicole Postolos and husband George of Houston; Melanie and Fr. Elias Villis of Rye, N.Y.; Constantine and his wife, Maja, and nine grandchildren.

Metropolis of Boston chancellor. Asked if parting with Fr. Nick would be a problem, Metropolitan Methodios replied that "It's a loss for me, but a gain for the school," Archbishop Demetrios recalled.

He continued that, while other major Roman Catholic and Protestant theological schools and seminaries have experienced a crisis in enrollment and progress, the Archbishop said, "It was not so at Holy Cross" under Fr. Nick's leadership, which enabled the school to maintain an "unyielding, continuing tradition of excellence."

The Archbishop said the president possessed three theological virtues that enabled him to succeed in his ministry: "faith, love and hope."

"Fr. Nicholas has been a person of faith, a hundred percent," His Eminence said. "It is a simple, clear faith, not only in God and Christ, but also in Hellenic College and Holy Cross."

"If the terrible accident didn't happen, he would never stop," said the Archbishop, alluding to the freak accident in 2013 that befell Fr. Nick on an escalator at LaGuardia Airport in New York when a heavyset man fell backward onto him, causing serious injury that has brought unending daily pain.

Referring to the virtue of love, the Archbishop continued, "You have to love what you do in serving God in the capacity

of the school, running all over the country to raise funds."

Yet he was always present for worship services. "He didn't neglect the spiritual aspects of his position," Archbishop Demetrios noted.

"He found occasions to spend one or two days with groups of students, like a good father, personally guiding the students."

He also called Fr. Nick "a man of hope" in his approach to his work, regardless of any difficulties.

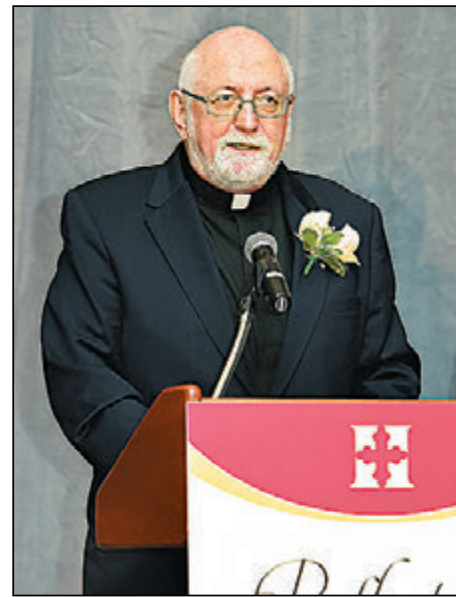
"He always offered a full-of-hope perspective," said the Archbishop.

Among those attending the event were representatives of the Boston Theological Institute, a consortium of schools of divinity that include Harvard, Boston University, Boston College and others.

The Archbishop also commented on the "high esteem" the BTI presidents hold for Fr. Nick. "They said 'you have a great treasure in the school' in their opinion of him."

His Eminence concluded by characterizing the celebration as "an evening of thanksgiving; a thanksgiving to God for giving us people like you."

Also in attendance were students, faculty, trustees, Leadership 100 members, Archons, IOCC representatives, school



alumni, Philoptochos, Massachusetts Council of Churches representatives and members of Fr. Nick's graduating class, including Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos.

Other hierarchs at the event were Metropolitans Methodios, Alexios, Savas, Gerasimos and Bishops Andonios, Sevastianos, John of Antioch, Kyrillos of Greece and Demetrios.



DR. THOMAS LELON



DEAN JAMES SKEDROS



JAMES KARLOUTSOS



CONSTANTINE TRIANTAFILOU



FR. JIM KATINAS



DEAN DIMITRIOS KATOS

HCHC



Dimitrios Panagos photos

Holy Cross School of Theology graduates with Archbishop Demetrios, Fr. Triantafilou, Greek Consul General Iphigenia Kanara, hierarchs of the Archdiocese, Church of Greece and the Antiochian Orthodox Church. (below) Archbishop Demetrios and school officials bestow the honorary Doctor of Theology degree upon Fr. Nick. (bottom: Trustees Jeannie Ranglas, Christine Karavites, Kassandra Romas and Maria Logus, National Philoptochos president.)

54 Graduate HCHC, Fr. Triantafilou Receives Honorary Doctorate

BROOKLINE, Mass. – The 73rd Commencement program of HCHC featured the awarding of 20 Bachelor of Arts degrees, 34 Masters and an honorary Doctor of Theology degree to retiring President Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou, who graduated from the school in 1963.

Offering salutations and greetings at the start of the program were HCHC trustees Vice Chairman Dr. Thomas Lelon, Consul General of Greece in Boston Iphigenia Kanara, Leadership 100 Chairman George S. Tsandikos and National Philoptochos President Maria Logus, who announced a \$100,000 gift to the school.

In his commencement address, Fr. Nick told the graduates “We are one brotherhood, one body of men and women who have graduated from HCHC who are dedicated to serving our one true apostolic faith to proclaim teaching so Jesus Christ.”

He continued, “Your commission is from Christ Himself. All of your studies have prepared you to feed the sheep of Jesus. Every discipline is directed to prepare you to become leaders for the constant improvement of God’s society. You are responding to and fulfilling our Lord’s admonition, no matter what position you have in the Church.”

He urged the students to “be bold, be prudent and be pleasant. Be strong enough to say ‘you don’t know but you will find out.’ People respect honesty and self-assurance. Each of you can make a difference if you are steadfast in your commitment.”

Archbishop Demetrios offered the “heartfelt blessings and congratulations” from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

In his remarks on Fr. Nick’s service to the school, the Archbishop noted the “expanded academic offerings that reflect splendor, and beauty of the Orthodox faith,” that he promoted. “You understood the need to help people seeking God’s will.” He highlighted Fr. Nick’s accomplishments in raising funds for the school, and creating the Office of Vocation and Ministry and other programs that have enhanced the

academic progress of HCHC.

His Eminence also expressed appreciation to Presvytera Diane “for supporting you in your sacred mission.”

Rachel Contos was Hellenic College valedictorian and Peter Hasiakos was the Holy Cross valedictorian.

Undergraduate and graduate degrees were awarded to:

- Bachelor of Arts to Hellenic College students: Marios Adamakis, Ilias Andriopoulos, Nicholas Biribilis, Demetrios Constantine, Rachel Contos, Nikoletta Evangelatos, Hosea Hatjaji, Margaret Hutchinski, Anthony Jonas, Alexander Kamilaris, Alexander Karcher, Theodore Karcher, John Livick-Moses, David Maillis, Jenna Mason, Evangelia Glykeria N. Palis, Mary Robinson, Peter Tarasidis and George Tsougranis.

- Master of Theology: Jason Falcone, Maria Koulianos and Dr. Magdi Salmon.

- Master of Theological Studies: Nicholas Calibey, Frank Edelblut, Peter Pappalas, Nikki Ann Stournaras and Haralambos Zaharis.

- Master of Divinity: Deacon Gary Alexander, Michael Yuri Andrzejewski, Andrew Steven Athanasiou, Andrew Calivas, Nikolas Steve Delaveris, Devin Patrick Edgecomb, Fr. Theodore Daniel Ehmer, Peter Hasiakos, Evangelos Karantonis, Dionysios Koulianos, Nicholas Lanzourakis, Fr. John Mamangakis, Michael Chris Manos, Jonathan McClish, Brian McMullen, Deacon Demetre Mott, Nicholas Mueller, Michael Odegaard, Joshua Pappas, Sarah Robinson, Peter William Romanovsky, Anthony Joseph Ruggiero, Steven James Sarigianis, Emile Sarkis, Robert Bruce Shand, Christian Siskos.

HCHC has also begun offering a special program in Byzantine music and awarded certificates to the following 10 students: Richard Barrett, Peter Hasiakos, Samuel Thomas Herron, Sarah Jenks, Irene Christina Koulianos, Maria Diveris McMullen, Athanasios Minetos, Evangelia Glykeria N. Palis, Nicholas G. Roumas and Charleton Constantine Alexander Trumpower.



METROPOLIS NEWS

Illinois Church Marks 90th Year with '90 Acts of Kindness'

CHICAGO – Assumption Church announced its Sunday Church School '90 Acts of Kindness' Challenge in commemoration of the community's 90th anniversary in 2015. *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."* (Matthew 25:35-36)

Beginning in September 2014 and culminating in the anniversary dinner in October 2015, the church school students have pledged to complete 90 projects in support of church ministries and local, national and international philanthropies.

Christina Arvanites, church school director, describes the origins of the 90 Acts of Kindness Challenge: "My fellow teachers recognized the need to capture the imagination of our children as we approached the community's 90th year.

Hence, the genesis of the 90 acts. What has been pleasantly surprising has been the parish's response to the challenge. Every week someone approaches me with an idea for another activity.

It means a lot to the children that their parents and grandparents are monitoring our Acts of Kindness Thermometer as the total advances to 90!"

The list of projects completed to date is staggering. The children fulfilled the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge - goading their parents to join them (act 2).

The Sunday Church School committed to sew 35 fleece blankets for the patients at Ronald McDonald House - Loyola University; Assumption delivered 55 (act 7).

Rather than overeating on Halloween candy, the children sent their excess to our troops overseas (Operation Gratitude, act 11).

They walked (5K Walk for the International Orthodox Christian Charities (act 4) and they walked some more (St. Jude's Children's Hospital Give Thanks Walk, act 15), and they even did some running (Dan Gibbons 5K Turkey Trot, act 17).

They wrote get-well cards (act 10) and

they made snacks for homeless teens (Teen Living Programs—act 12).

They collected toys for a two year old named Ramona battling acute lymphocytic leukemia (act 23).

They delivered packages to the sick at Ronald McDonald House-Loyola (act 9) and comforted the cancer patients on the Pediatric Unit at Rush Medical Center (Simply from the Heart, acts 13 and 16). The children played a game with disabled residents at the Marklund Philp Center, Bloomingdale (act 63) They had a jump rope contest to raise funds for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (act 64)

Assistant pastor Fr. Athanasios Papagannis shares his insight: "Prior to my enrollment in the seminary, I was a teacher. As a teacher, I discovered that children best remember those things taught by experiential learning. I can read the Gospel of Matthew and the kids will tune me out.

I can ask them to live the Gospel of Matthew and they will recall it forever."

Having completed almost three quarters of their 90 Acts, the children will sew quilts for the sick and abused children (SEWonderful Quilts (act 66) and are now collecting books for Bernie's Book Bank (act 69).

Fr. Timothy Bakakos, the church school pastor and spiritual advisor, places the 90 acts in the broader context of Greek Orthodox theology: "Philanthropy is a Greek word meaning 'love of mankind.' The Greeks have another word, philoxenia, which means 'love of strangers.'

The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37) was revolutionary since Christ taught that our obligation to perform goods works extends not only to our relatives, neighbors and people who look like us, but to all God's Children. The 90 Acts of Kindness Challenge has inspired our young people and our adults to remember the true meaning of the Gospel."

Parish council President Dr. Peter Pantou recalls the legacy of Assumption Church's founders: "As immigrants, our founding generation lacked money, education and they spoke broken English. None-



Assumption Church photo

theless, they had an abiding faith which led to the construction of the magnificent edifice which we now call home. Many of that generation were recipients of acts of kindness. There can be no better memorial for our ancestors than to teach our children to become 21st century Good Samaritans."

To follow the progress of the 90 Acts of Kindness Challenge, log in to the Assumption Church website at www.assumptionchicago.org/news/90-acts-of-kindness.

Pictures can be found by clicking this link: <https://picasaweb.google.com/101866137863785029684/90ActsOfKindness>

NY Bowlers Support Leukemia Fundraiser

WANTAGH, N.Y. – More than 300 Goyans and JOY members and parents from several Long Island parishes contributed more than \$37,000 May 9 at the 13th annual Pins 4 Pauly Bowl-a-thon to benefit children afflicted with childhood leukemia.

Participants represented St. Markella, Wantagh; St. Demetrios, Merrick; Holy Trinity, Hicksville; St. Demetrios, Astoria; St. Paul's Cathedral, Hempstead; and St. Nicholas, West Babylon.

Each bowler contributes funds raised through pledges. Private donations are also accepted. The event and non-profit Pins 4 Pauly Foundation were established in memory of Paul Pavlou of Seaford, a member of St. Demetrios, Merrick, who was an avid bowler and was a leukemia victim. His parents, Andreas and Georgia Pavlou, established the foundation.

Each year's proceeds go to help children with the disease. Over the years, more than 280 children have received assistance.

In the picture at left, Fr. Nikiforos Fakinos of Merrick, Fr. Vasilios Louros of Astoria and Fr. Demetrios Kazakis of West Babylon, led participants in a song for the occasion.



Orthodox Observer photo

METROPOLIS NEWS



Parish priest Fr. Jim Paris (left), Metropolitan Alexis (center), Fr. James Rousakis (right, retired pastor) and fundraising committee members. (Holy Trinity photo)

Clearwater Church Offers Strong Support for Metropolis Center

CLEARWATER, Fla. – More than 80 supporters of the Metropolis of Atlanta Diakonia Center in South Carolina attended a fund-raiser May 3 and contributed more than \$86,000.

Chaired by long-time Holy Trinity members, Archon Markos Lagos and Mrs. Sevi Lagos, the evening exceeded all expectations.

Supporters at the event learned of the many benefits and ministries the Diakonia Center offers as four speakers expounded upon the importance of this Metropolitan ministry.

Holy Trinity young adult Hali Drizis, spoke of her experiences and life-changing moments at the Center where she built a stronger relationship with God and felt His sanctifying presence. Fr. James Paris, Holy Trinity pastor, related how the Diakonia serves and benefits all Metropolis parishes and members.

He said it offers everything spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually to everyone.

As Holy Trinity's pastor for more than 22 years, and vicar of the Western Region of Florida, Fr. James Rousakis, spoke of his involvement from the genesis of the Diakonia Center when it was still a concept. He was with Metropolitan Alexis from the beginning and saw the dream become a reality.

Metropolitan Alexis expressed his love and gratitude to all present who came to learn and support this most important ministry, and he shared his inspired plans for a Byzantine chapel on the grounds of the Center.

He expressed his desire that the Center be a home away from home and encouraged all present to be ambassadors, to spread the word, to come, and to bring people to the Center for rest, renewal, and spiritual transformation in a setting that only God can provide and only as His people are blessed to receive.

Among the generous benefactors present, were Helen Carlos and Ron Hilliard of Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta.

Hartford Cathedral Tournament Aids IOCC in Syria

HARTFORD, Conn. – St. George Cathedral has allocated \$8,500, all of the proceeds from its golf tournament to assist Christians and other religious minorities who have experienced harsh discrimination, violence and displacement in recent months in Syria and Iraq.

"We wanted to do something concrete to assist those suffering because of ISIS and the wars in Syria and Iraq, which are destroying religious communities that have endured in the Middle East for hundreds, even thousands, of year," said parish council President Nicholas C. Paindiris, chairman of the golf tournament.

The tournament took place on May 2 at the Goodwin Park Golf Course in Hartford, across the street from the Cathedral.

Proceeds will go to International Orthodox Christian Charities, the collaborative emergency aid and international development organization that represents Orthodox Christian jurisdictions in the United States.

"It is imperative, as Orthodox

Christians, to respond in a palpable way to the martyrdom, decimation, and dislocation of our brothers and sisters who have lived and prayed for many hundreds of years in the Middle East," commented the Rev. Dr. George Zugravu, cathedral dean.

The IOCC's response to the Syrian civil war began in 2012 and the organization is focused on meeting the needs of 6.5 million people who have been internally displaced in Syria by war and 2.5 million other refugees from war who are now living in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Armenia.

In this crisis, IOCC works closely with the Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch, based in Damascus, Syria.

The IOCC's services to victims of the war include emergency aid, shelter, health care, education, aid to infants and children, education, psychosocial support, water, hygiene and health programs, and livelihood restoration programs.

For more information, contact: Andrew Walsh at andrew.walsh@trincoll.edu, and by calling 860-297-5354.

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OBITUARY

Fr. William S. Chiganos

WESTCHESTER, Ill. – Fr. William S. Chiganos, 82, pastor of Holy Apostles Church and founder of the AMNOS (All Men Need Our Savior) ministry, died May 4.

He was born Nov. 10, 1932, in Oak Park, Ill., and attended public schools in Chicago. He enrolled at Holy Cross School of Theology for six years and graduated with a B.A. in Theology in 1955. He also studied New Testament for two years at Chicago Lutheran Seminary in Maywood, Ill., and earned a B.A. at Elmhurst College and an M.A. at De Paul University.

He married Ethel Anestos in June 1955, was ordained in Chicago as a deacon Aug. 22, 1955 and as a priest Dec. 27, 1955 by Bishop Ezekiel of Nazianzos.

He was assigned to St. George Church in Pittsfield, Mass., from January to July 15, 1959, then was sent to Westchester, Ill., where he organized Holy Apostles.

Fr. Chiganos was one of the longest-serving priests in the Archdiocese.

According to the Chicago *Sun Times* newspaper, his congregation started out worshipping in a gym at Westchester's old Nixon School while he oversaw Holy Apostles' construction and growth, from blueprints to a celebrated work of architecture. The parish has about 800 families, some with third – and fourth – generation worshippers, and offerings from holy services, to Greek language lessons, to classes on how to "Bake Like Yiayia."

He blended English and Greek into services. He started what amounted to a theological book club, with churchgoers reading works by internationally known philosophers and members of the clergy, who were then invited to lecture at Holy Apostles.

He helped expand a Greek youth camp that has operated for 30 years in Williams Bay, Wis., leading to lifelong friendships and marriages.

The AMNOS ministry included production of the Daily Bible Reading Guide for Orthodox Christians. At one point nearly 90,000 copies were sent a nationally.

It also included a "Celebration of Books" every year starting on the second Sunday of Lent, which involved hosting internationally known speakers and scholars along with the viewing of thousands of Orthodox books.

For a number of years Fr. Chiganos hosted a prayer breakfast that started at 6 a.m. with a small service then discussion over breakfast.

Nearly 150 copies of his sermons as a tape ministry were sent to people across the nation, including college students.

Fr. Chiganos welcomed church donations, no matter how small, saying, "You give what you give," his son, Bill, told the *Sun Times*.

He taped his sermons and was gratified to learn they were circulating throughout the country, including prisons.

"There were people who would get them in jails and write letters on how he helped them," his son said.

He wrote sermons that touched people, especially when he spoke of grief and death.

He and Effie, his wife of 59 years, lost their daughter, Sofia Stefanos, to breast cancer when she was 33 and had recently given birth to her third child.

In the church newsletter, he wrote of his loss for words when, as a young priest, he met with those in mourning. But he said, "I discovered the deep pain that death brought into my life when members

of our family were taken from us, especially our beloved daughter, Sofia."

The tragedy meant "when he sat with families that were struggling with death of a loved one, that he could understand that pain and difficulty," his son said.

The son of immigrants from Kalamata, Greece, young Bill Chiganos went to Austin High School and Assumption Greek Orthodox Church at 601 S. Central in Chicago. His father, Sam, owned Chicago's Washington Restaurant, and his mother, Sophia, was a homemaker.

As Greek-Americans moved from the city to the western suburbs, the diocese charged him with building a new church, said another Holy Apostles priest, Rev. Nicholas Georgiou. "He started the church with a handful of people and his family," he said.

In his private life, Fr. Chiganos had a passion for golf. His favorite players were Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer, whom he encountered at Oak Brook Golf Course.

When the priest congratulated him on his game, Palmer said, "Thanks, Father."

In addition to his wife and son, Fr. Chiganos is survived by a daughter, Marissa Lorusso; another son, Phillip; and 12 grandchildren.

In his remembrance of Fr. Chiganos, Fr. Evagoras Constantinidis, director of Ionian Village, who as a youth attended Camp Fanari where Fr. Chiganos served as director, said, "Fr. Bill, as I said in my Facebook post upon his passing, was many things to many people. He was a father, a brother, a husband, an uncle, a spiritual father, an advisor, a counselor, a teacher, a mentor, and a friend.

"And to the thousands of us that passed through the gates of Fanari Camp when he was at the helm, he was our director. He was the voice in the chapel that reminded us why we were there. Because of his vision with the camp, hundreds of marriages and children have come as a result of Fanari Camp.

"People who worked with Fr. Bill at camp now span the globe, and each one affectionately remembers their time serving under his leadership. He was our fearless leader and guide. And now, to each of us entrusted with the care of summer camping ministries, he should continue to be a role model.

"Fr. Bill knew the importance of summer camp, long before summer camp was the cool thing to do. He knew that removing our young people from society and taking them on a retreat was for their best interest and benefit.

"He knew that summer camp provided a unique opportunity to affect change in a young person, and he truly believed in it.

"Each one of us who serves our camp programs now, whether in Chicago or around the world, can look to the example of Fr. Bill, to his longevity, determination, and love, and try to instill those same qualities in ourselves.

"Fr. Bill, thank you for everything you did for so many of us, thank you for creating in me the love for summer camp that I have to this day, and may your memory be ever eternal."

Funeral services took place May 8 at Holy Apostles Church with Archbishop Demetrios officiating.

The Archbishop interrupted his schedule in Washington, where he participated in activities relating to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian holocaust and the consecration of St. Sophia Cathedral, to fly to Illinois for the funeral. He was assisted by Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago, Metropolitan Nikitas of Dardanelles, Fr. Nicholas Georgiou, assistant pastor, and 40 other clergy.

OBITUARIES

Bishop Anthimos

Bishop Anthimos of Olympos, 80, died May 29 at his residence in West Yarmouth, Mass.

He had been retired since 1987. Upon his retirement, the Ecumenical Patriarchate granted him the title of Bishop of Olympos.

Upon announcing the news at the Archdiocesan Council's spring meeting in San Francisco, Archbishop Demetrios offered a trisagion memorial service at the hotel meeting room.

Born George Draconakis in Kasteli, Crete on Nov. 19, 1934, to Nikolaos and Kalliope, he was drawn to the Church from a young age and followed the calling of the Lord. He was a graduate of the Patriarchal Theological School of Halki where he received his Master of Divinity degree.

He was ordained to the diaconate in 1954, and to the priesthood in 1956. He was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite in 1959. He served parishes in Belgium where he studied at the Catholic University of Louvain. From 1960 - 1969 he was assigned to the Archdiocese of Germany in several capacities and served parishes in Berlin and Nuremberg before being appointed as the Archdiocese vicar.

In July 1969 he arrived in the United States and was appointed as the parish priest of St. Nicholas Church in Clinton, Mass. During this time he continued his education at the Harvard Divinity School. In July 1971 he was appointed dean of the Archdiocesan Cathedral in New York, where he served until his election as Bishop in 1977. From the time of his election through 1979 he served as the Pittsburgh Diocese bishop. He was enthroned as the Diocese of Boston bishop in April 1979



and served there until he was enthroned as the first bishop the Denver Diocese in 1983.

Bishop Anthimos was a close friend of Metropolitan Anthony of San Francisco of blessed memory, both having been born and raised in Crete.

The bishop was a frequent visitor to the Metropolis of San Francisco. He loved attending the annual Folk Dance and Choral Festival; was a great supporter of St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center and the Monastery of the Theotokos the Life Giving Spring in Dunlap, Calif.

Archbishop Demetrios and other clergy in attendance, officiated at the trisagion service June 2, at the HCHC Chapel in Brookline, Mass.

He is survived by his brother, Fr. Konstantinos Draconakis, who had served as a priest in Germany for many years, and is now retired and resides in Crete. Bishop Anthimos had expressed the wish to be entombed in his motherland, in Kasteli Fournis near Neapolis in Crete.

Fr. Demetrios A. Lokis

EAST MEADOW, N.Y. – Fr. Demetrios Lokis, 82, a retired priest of the Archdiocese, died May 30. He had served numerous parishes in New York, Georgia, Texas, Louisiana and other states.

He was born Jan. 1, 1933 in Stratinista, Ioannina, Greece. He entered the United States in 1947 and attended English High School in Boston. He enrolled at Newman Preparatory School in Boston for one year, then studied at Holy Cross Seminary in Brookline in 1956-59. He also studied at the University of Thessaloniki four years and graduated in 1966, and at North Adams State College in Massachusetts and the University of Houston.

He was ordained a deacon Sept. 24, 1966 in Brookline by Bishop Gerasimos of Abydos, and as a priest the following day

in Norwich, Conn. He served the following parishes: Assumption, Manchester, N.H. (11/66-8/68); St. John, Charleston, W.Va. (8/68 to 10/70); St. George, Pittsfield, Mass. ((1/73-8/74); Holy Trinity, Fort Wayne, Ind. (9/74-9/75); Annunciation Cathedral, Houston (2nd priest, 9/75-4/80); Holy Trinity, New Orleans (4/80-10/82); Holy Trinity, Augusta, Ga. (11/82-8/83); St. Dionysios, Overland Park, Kansas (9/83-12/84); Sts. Anargyroi, New York 7/86-10/88); St. Eleftherios, New York (11/88-4/90); Holy Cross, Brooklyn (assistant 6/90-12/92); and St. Nicholas, Flushing (12/92-1/03).

He was married to Sophia Yiannaki of Greece. They had two children, Mariana and Elena.

The funeral took place June 5 at Holy Cross Church in Brooklyn with Bishop Andonios of Phasiane officiating, assisted by the Very Rev. Gerasimos Makris and other clergy from area churches.

merce at Washington and Lee University. He enlisted in the Navy and commanded an amphibious landing craft in New Guinea in the Pacific during World War II. He left military service in 1946 as a lieutenant senior He earned a degree at the University of Maryland School of Law and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1948.

He was a lifelong member of the Annunciation Cathedral, where he was a past president of the parish council.

Evan A. Chriss

BALTIMORE - Evan Alevizatos Chriss, an attorney and leader at Annunciation Orthodox Cathedral, died June 1. He was a former member of the Archdiocesan Council and an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. He was 93.

Mr. Chriss, a 1938 City College graduate, earned a bachelor's degree in com-

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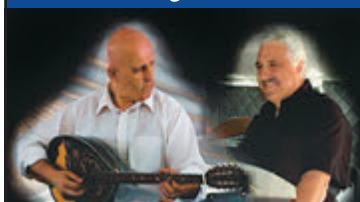
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OBITUARIES

Fr. Spyridon Papademetriou

WYOMISSING, Pa. – Fr. Spyridon C. Papademetriou, 89, died May 22 at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. He had been retired since 1988.

He served as a parish priest more than 60 years and came from a family of priests and presveteres, including his brother, the Rev. Dr. George C. Papademetriou, former director of the HCHC library and professor emeritus.

Fr. Papademetriou was the former pastor of St. Matthew's Church in Reading, Pa., from 1974-1998. During his retirement he served as an assistant pastor at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, also in Reading.

He was born Sept. 25, 1925 in the Petralona region of Evritanias Karpenision Greece to Rev. Constantine and Presvetera Ourania Papademetriou.

In 1945, after graduating from high school, he was invited by Archbishop (later Patriarch) Athenagoras to study at the Holy Cross School of Theology in Pomfret, Conn. The Archdiocese arranged for Fr. Spyridon and 10 other seminary candidates to travel to America.

In 1951, he was ordained into the priesthood by Archbishop Ezekiel Tsoukalas and was assigned to serve Annunciation in Newburyport. He eventually was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Theology in 1953 and a Bachelor of Divinity in 1956. He also took courses at the Harvard School of Divinity and studied church history and patristics under Russian theologian Georges Florovsky.

In 1959 Fr. Spyridon was reassigned to serve St. Spyridon's Church in New-
port, R.I.

He transferred to St. Matthew's in 1974 where he served as pastor for twenty-three years. During his pastorage, the mortgage was paid in full, the 25th anniversary of the parish was successfully observed in 1993, and \$65,000 was raised to restore the church's steeple.

Fr. Spyridon was awarded the titles of Sakelarios in 1959 and Ekonomos in 1965. In 1971, upon completion of 20 years as a parish priest, Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople named him Protoprebyter of the Ecumenical Throne, the highest honor bestowed upon a married Orthodox priest.

In 1986 he was designated "Priest of the Year" by Bishop (later Metropolitan) Maximos and the Pittsburgh Diocese clergy. In 1991 he was honored by the local AHEPA chapter on the 40th anniversary of his ordination and he received the Alumni Citation from Holy Cross School of Theology in 1992. Fr. Spyridon was active in ecumenical and civic affairs.

In Massachusetts, he served as Newburyport Public Library director. In Rhode Island he served as auxiliary chaplain for the Eastern Orthodox Priests Association. He offered the invocation at the inauguration of Gov. John H. Chaffee.

In Reading, Fr. Spyridon served as Greater Reading Council of Churches director, Greater Reading Ministirium president, as a Community General Hospital Pastoral Care Department member, director and member of the Board of the American Lung Association of Berks County, member of the Pittsburgh Diocese Ecclesiastical Family Court for Southeastern Pennsylvania, and president of the Eastern Pennsylvania Orthodox Council of Churches.

Fr. Spyridon was invited on occasion to open the Pennsylvania State Senate with a prayer and to offer invocations at Reading's City Council meetings. He also offered prayers to open sessions of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

He is listed in the *Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans and the International Who's Who in Community Service*.

Fr. Papademetriou's wife of 59 years was Metaxia (Zerveas), who was born in Detroit, and raised in Platza region of Sparta. She returned to the United States in 1948 and they were married in July 1949.

Fr. Spyridon was pre-deceased by Presvytera Metaxia and also by a son, Constantine, and brother, John.

He is survived by his daughter, Ourania, and her husband, Jon Belisonzi, his son Stylianos-John and his wife, Diane (Innis), and by grandchildren and a great-granddaughter; his sister, Olga Marudas; brothers Rev. George and his wife, Presvytera Athanasia, Evangelos and his wife, Lucia, and Alkiviades, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 26, with Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh officiating and many clergy assisting.

Memorial donations can be made to the Rev. Spyridon and Presvytera Metaxia Memorial Scholarship at Hellenic College Holy Cross, 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline MA 02445.

Eula Carlos

ATLANTA – Eula Caras Carlos, a member of the National Philoptochos Board for the last 30 years and lifelong member of Annunciation Cathedral, died May 21.

Mrs. Carlos many accomplishments for the national Church included establishment of the Lofos Stewardship Program, member of Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, serving on its board many years; the League of Greek Orthodox Stewards, and emeritus board member of St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine in St. Augustine, Fla. She was the sole benefactor of Holy Transfiguration Church in Marietta, Ga., where she built St. Andrew Chapel in memory of her husband, Andrew.

She also established the Chair of Hellenic Studies at Georgia State University to bring the study of Hellenism to a greater number of people. She had been a long-time volunteer and supporter of Shepherd Spinal Center and established the Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Institute at Shepherd for extensive treatment and research for multiple sclerosis. She was a founding member of the auxiliary for visiting nurses in which hospice Atlanta was built in 1996. Together with Dr. Arthur and Linda Booth, she and her husband worked many years to make this facility a reality.

She was born July 17, 1928, in Cordele, Ga. Her family moved to Atlanta 15 months later.

On Jan. 23, 1949, Eula married Andrew C. Carlos.

She was predeceased by her husband and her eldest son, Chris.

Survivors include son and daughter in law, Jimmy and Helen Carlos, son and daughter in law, John and Elaine Carlos, daughter and son in law, Helen Carlos and Ron Hilliard; daughter-in-law Marina Carlos; her brother and sister-in-law Billy and Betty Caras, and granddaughters and many nieces, nephews and godchildren.

Memorial donations in eula's memory may be made to the Annunciation Cathedral, Hospice Atlanta, the MS Institute @ Shepherd Center, Hellenic College Holy Cross, St. Photios National Shrine, or Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church Building Fund.

Funeral services took place May 25 with Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Alexios officiating.

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Προσφιλείς Άδελφοί καί Άδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ, Χριστός Ανέστη!

Στό φῶς καί τή χαρά αὐτῆς τῆς εὐλογημένης περιόδου τῆς Ἀναστάσεως τοῦ Κυρίου μας, δοξάζουμε καί εὐχαριστοῦμε τόν Θεό ὁ Ὅποιος καλύπτει ὅλες τίς ανάγκες μας λόγω τῆς ἀφθονίας τῆς χάριτός Του. Μέσω τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐλάβαμε ζωή καί μέσω τῆς χάριτός Του καί τῆς πίστεώς μας θά ἔχουμε αἰώνια ζωή στήν ἔνδοξη παρουσία Του.

Σήμερα ἐορτάζουμε ἕνα ἐξοχο θαῦμα, τήν ἴαση ἀπό τόν Χριστό ἑνός ἀνθρώπου ὁ ὁποῖος ἦτο τυφλός ἐκ γενετῆς (Ιωάν. 9:1-38). Πρόκειται περὶ ἰσχυρᾶς διακηρύξεως τῆς μεγάλης θεραπευτικῆς δυνάμεως τοῦ Κυρίου μας Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ καί τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου Του.

Ἡ ἡμέρα αὕτη συμπίπτει ἐπίσης καί μέ τόν ἐτήσιο ἐορτασμό τῆς Κυριακῆς τῆς ΑΧΕΠΑ, σέ ἀναγνώριση τῶν μελῶν τῆς Ἑλληνοαμερικανικῆς Ἐκπαιδευτικῆς Προοδευτικῆς Ἐνώσεως καί τοῦ σημαντικοῦ ἔργου των σέ ὅλο τόν κόσμο. Μέ προσφορά προγραμμάτων στεγάσεως ὑπερηλίκων, ὑποτροφιῶν γιά νέους καί πολλῶν ἄλλων φιλανθρωπικῶν καί ἐκπαιδευτικῶν εὐκαιριῶν, ἡ οἰκογένεια τῆς ΑΧΕΠΑ συνεχίζει νά καλύπτει ἀνάγκες μέ γενναιοδωρία καί εὐσπλαγχνία. Ἐμπνεόμενα ἀπό τήν ρῆση τοῦ Χριστοῦ πρὸς τούς μαθητάς Του, οὕτως λαμπρά τὸ φῶς ὑμῶν ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ὅπως ἴδωσιν ὑμῶν τὰ καλὰ ἔργα καί δοξάσωσιν τόν Πατέρα ὑμῶν τόν ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς (Ματθ. 5:16), τὰ μέλη τῆς ΑΧΕΠΑ προσφέρουν φῶς, ἐλπίδα καί εὐκαιρίες σέ πολλούς.

Αὐτό τὸ ἔργο εἶναι ἰδιαίτερος αἰσθητὸ στὴ σημαντικὴ προσφορά ἐκ μέρους τῆς ΑΧΕΠΑ ἱατρικοῦ ἐξοπλισμοῦ καί εἰδῶν διατροφῆς γιά τούς κατοίκους τῆς Ελλάδος. Στὴ διάρκεια τῆς τωρινῆς κρίσεως, ἡ οἰκογένεια τῆς ΑΧΕΠΑ ἔχει συμμετάσχει στήν προσπάθεια ἀνακουφίσεως διὰ δωρεῶν σέ φιλανθρωπίες μέ σκοπὸ τὴν σίτιση, τὴν παροχὴ ἱατρικοῦ ἐξοπλισμοῦ καί τὴν διευκόλυνση ἀποστολῶν ἱατρικοῦ ὕλικου. Αὐτὸ ἀποκαλύπτει τὸν φιλανθρωπικὸ χαρακτῆρα τῶν μελῶν τῆς ΑΧΕΠΑ καί τὴν διαρκὴ ἐπιθυμία των νά καλύπτουν ἐπείγουσες ἀνάγκες.

Τὴν Κυριακὴ τῆς ΑΧΕΠΑ, παρακαλῶ ὅλες τίς ἐνορίες τῆς Ιερᾶς Ἑλληνικῆς Ὁρθόδοξης Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς ἀνά τὴν ἐπικράτεια νά ἀναγνωρίσουν τὰ μέλη, τὸ ἔργο καί τὴν ἀποστολὴ τῆς Ἑλληνοαμερικανικῆς Ἐκπαιδευτικῆς Προοδευτικῆς Ἐνώσεως.

► Σελίδα 18

Εγκαίνια του Καθεδρικού Ναού Αγίας Σοφίας στην Ουάσιγκτον

του **Σταύρου Η. Παπαγερμανού**

ΟΥΑΣΙΝΓΚΤΟΝ – Παρουσία χιλίων καὶ πλέον πιστῶν, με μεγαλοπρέπεια καὶ κατάνυξη καὶ σύμφωνα με τὴν Ὁρθόδοξη παράδοση αἰῶνων, εγκαινιάσθηκε τὴν Κυριακὴ 10 Μαΐου 2015, ἀπὸ τὸν Ἀρχιεπίσκοπο Ἀμερικῆς κ. Δημήτριο ὁ Καθεδρικός Ναός τῆς Ἀγίας τοῦ Θεοῦ Σοφίας, στὴν πρωτεύουσα τῶν Η.Π.Α.

Τὸ τελετουργικὸ τῶν εγκαινίων καὶ τὸν καθαγιασμό τοῦ ναοῦ ξεκίνησε νωρὶς τὸ πρωί, ἀμέσως μετὰ τὸν Ὁρθρο, με τὴν περιφορὰ τῶν ἱερῶν λειψάνων ποὺ προορίζονταν νὰ τοποθετηθοῦν στὴν ἀγία τράπεζα, τρεῖς φορές γύρω ἀπὸ τὸν ναό. Τὰ λείψανα ποὺ εἶχαν τοποθετηθεῖ στὸ ἱερὸ δισκάριο ἐπὶ τῆς Ἀγίας Τραπέζης κατὰ τὴν προετοιμασίαν τὴν προηγουμένη ἡμέρα ἦταν τῆς Ἀγίας μεγαλομάρτυρος Βαρβάρας, τοῦ Ἁγίου ἐνδοξοῦ μεγαλομάρτυρος Παντελεήμονος τοῦ ἱαματικού, καὶ τοῦ Ἁγίου Κήρυκου.

Στὴ λιτανεὶα προηγούνταν οἱ ἱερόπαιδες με τὰ ἐξαπτέρυγα καὶ τὶς λαμπάδες, ὁ χορὸς τῶν ἱεροψαλτῶν ἐψάλε «Ἅγιοι Μάρτυρες, οἱ καλῶς ἀθλήσαντες καὶ στεφανωθέντες...» καὶ τὶς ἄλλες ὁδὲς τῆς περιφορᾶς, ἀκολουθοῦσαν οἱ ἱερεῖς με τὶς φορητὲς εἰκόνες, τὸν Τίμιο Σταυρὸ καὶ τὸ ἱερὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, ἀμέσως μετὰ οἱ διάκονοι με τὰ θυμιατὰ καὶ τὰ δικεροτρίκερα.



Φωτογραφία: Δημήτριος Πανάγος

Τέλος, ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀμερικῆς Δημήτριος κρατοῦσε ψηλὰ τὸ ἀργυρὸ ἱερὸ δισκάριο με τὰ ἱερὰ λείψανα, συνεπικουρούμενος ἀπὸ τὸν Ἐπίσκοπο Φασιανῆς Ἀντώνιο. Ἀκολουθοῦσε πλῆθος πιστῶν ποὺ εἶχε κατακλύσει τὸν προαύλιο χώρο τοῦ ναοῦ.

Μετὰ τὴν πρώτη καὶ δευτέρη περιφορὰ, καὶ μπροστὰ ἀπὸ τὴν κυρία εἴσοδο ἐγίνε ἡ ἀνάγνωση τῶν ἀποστολικῶν ἀναγνώσμάτων καὶ τῶν Εὐαγγελίων. Μετὰ τὴν Τρίτη περιφορὰ ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος κρούοντας με τὴν ποιμαντικὴ ράβδο τὴ θύρα τοῦ ναοῦ ἀναφώνησε με δυνατὴ φωνή: «Ἀρατε Πύλας, οἱ ἄρχοντες ὑμῶν, καὶ ἐπάρθητε, πύλαι αἰώνιοι, καὶ εἰσελεύσεται ὁ Βασιλεὺς τῆς δόξης».

Ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος εἰσερχόμενος στὸ ἅγιο βῆμα ἀπέθεσε ἐπὶ τῆς ἁγίας τραπέζης τὸ ἱερὸ δισκάριο με τὰ λείψανα. Με μεγάλη εὐλάβεια τοποθέτησε τὰ μικρὰ τεμάχια τῶν σε μια μικρὴ ἀσημένια λειψανοθήκη ἐπιχέοντας ἐπ' αὐτῶν ἅγιο μύρο. Τὴν τοποθέτησε σε μικρὴ κοιλότητά στὸ μέσον τῆς ἁγίας τραπέζης καὶ τὴν κάλυψε με ἕνα μίγμα κηρομαστίχης, σφαλίζοντας καὶ σφραγίζοντας τὴν κοιλότητα με μια μικρὴ μαρμάρινη πλάκα καὶ τὸ μίγμα τῆς κηρομαστίχης. Στὴ συνέχεια ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος καὶ ὁ Ἐπίσκοπος Ἀντώνιος περιεβλήθησαν με εἰδικὴ λευκὴ σινδὸν ἐπάνω ἀπὸ τὰ αρχιερατικά ἄμφια καὶ γονατιστοὶ γύρω ἀπὸ τὴν ἀγία τράπεζα μαζί με τὸν κλῆρο καὶ τὸ λαὸ ἀνέπεμψαν τὶς εὐχὲς τῆς τελετῆς. Ἀκολούθησε ἡ πλύσις καὶ καθαρισμὸς τῆς ἁγίας τραπέζης με χλιαρὸ νερὸ, λευκὸ σαποῦνι καὶ φυσικοὺς σπόγγους καὶ με ἀγγέλιο ποὺ περιεῖχε ἀπόσταγμα αρωματικῶν φυτῶν καὶ ροδόσταμα, ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος ἔρανε καὶ ἐπάλειψε τὴν ἐπιφάνεια κάνοντας τὸ σημεῖο τοῦ Σταυροῦ τρεῖς φορές. Χρησιμοποιώντας τὰ λινὰ υφάσματα καινουργῶν ἀντιμηνσίων, οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ ἱερεῖς στέγγωσαν τὴν ἀγία τράπεζα.

Τέλος ἐπάλειψαν τὴν μαρμάρινη ἐπιφάνεια με τὸ ἅγιο μύρο. Ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος χρησιμοποιώντας καὶ πάλι τὸ μίγμα τῆς κηρομαστίχης ἐπικόλλησε στὶς τέσσερις γωνίες τῆς ἁγίας τραπέζης μικρὰ κομμάτια λινοῦ υφάσματος ποὺ ἀπεικονίζουν τοὺς τέσσερις εὐαγγελιστὰς καὶ κάλυψε τὴν ἀγία τράπεζα με τὸ κατασάρκιο (λευκὸ λινὸ υφάσμα) δένοντάς το ἀσφαλῶς.

Ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος τὸ ὑπέγραψε στὸ κέντρο, καὶ τὸ ἴδιο ἔκανε καὶ ὁ Ἐπίσκοπος Ἀντώνιος ἀκριβῶς ἀπὸ κάτω. Ἀμέσως τοποθετήθηκε τὸ περίτεχνο λευκὸ κάλυμμα τῆς ἁγίας τραπέζης, καὶ ἐπάνω του τὰ ἀντιμηνία ποὺ χρησιμοποιήθηκαν καὶ τὸ ἀντιμηνίσιο τοῦ ναοῦ καὶ ἐπ' αὐτῶν τοποθετήθηκε τὸ ἱερὸ εὐαγγέλιο.

Μετὰ τοποθετήθηκαν σύμφωνα με τὴν

► Σελίδα 16

Εαρινή Συνεδρίαση Αρχιεπισκοπικού Συμβουλίου

του **Σταύρου Η. Παπαγερμανού**

ΑΓΙΟΣ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΣ – Συνήλθε στὶς 28 καὶ 29 Μαΐου 2015 στὸν Ἅγιο Φραγκίσκο γιὰ τὴν καθιερωμένη εαρινὴ τοῦ συνεδρίαση τοῦ Ἀρχιεπισκοπικοῦ Συμβουλίου τῆς Ιερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς, ὑπὸ τὴν προεδρία τοῦ Σεβασμιωτάτου Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Ἀμερικῆς κ. Δημητρίου.

Οἱ ἐργασίες τοῦ Ἀρχιεπισκοπικοῦ Συμβουλίου, ποὺ πραγματοποιήθηκαν στὸ ξενοδοχεῖο St. Francis Westin Hotel, ξεκίνησαν με τὴν συνεδρία τῆς Ἐκτελεστικῆς Επιτροπῆς καὶ με τὶς ἰδιαίτερες συνεδριάσεις τῶν ἐπὶ μέρους επιτροπῶν, τὴ Πέμπτη 28 Μαΐου, οἱ ὁποῖες ἀσχολήθηκαν με τὸ ἔργο τῶν διακονιῶν τῆς Ἐκκλησίας καὶ προετοίμασαν τὶς ἐκθέσεις τους.

Ὁ Σεβασμιώτατος Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀμερικῆς κ. Δημήτριος ἀνοίξε τὶς ἐργασίες τῆς ὁλομέλειας τοῦ Συμβουλίου με προσευχὴ καὶ στὴ συνέχεια ἀνέπεμψε ἐπιμνημόσυνη δέηση γιὰ τὰ δέκα χρόνια ἀπὸ τὴν εἰς Κύριον ἐκδημία τοῦ μακαριστοῦ Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Ἰακώβου.

Ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος στὴν εἰσηγητικὴ τοῦ ὁμιλῶ μετέφερε τὸν χαιρετισμὸ καὶ τὶς εὐλογίες τοῦ Παναγιωτάτου Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριάρχου κ. Βαρθολομαίου καὶ ἐνημέρωσε τὸ Συμβούλιο γιὰ τὶς τελευταῖες ἐξελίξεις καὶ γεγονότα στὴ ζωὴ τῆς ἀνὰ τὸν κόσμον Ὁρθόδοξης Ἐκκλησίας καὶ τῆς Ιερᾶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξης Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς ἰδιαίτερα. Ὁ Σεβασμιώτατος ἀναφερόμενος στὴν πρὸς Ἐφεσίους ἐπιστολὴ τοῦ Ἀποστόλου Παύλου (Εφεσ. 4:11) τόνισε ὅτι καλούμεθα νὰ γίνουμε ἀπόστολοι, προφῆται, εὐαγγελισταί, ποιμένες καὶ διδάσκαλοι καὶ ἐδώσε ἰδιαίτερη ἐμφαση στὸ βασικὸ ἀποστολικὸ ρόλο τῆς Ἐκκλησίας λέγοντας «εἴμαστε Ἐκκλησία ἀποστολική καὶ ἡ παρουσία συνάντησέ μας ἔχει ἀποστολικὸ χαρακτῆρα καὶ σκοπὸ».

Στὴ συνεδρία τοῦ Ἀρχιεπισκοπικοῦ συμβουλίου παρέστησαν οἱ Σεβασμιώτατοι

Μητροπολίτες τῆς Ιερᾶς Ἐπαρχιακῆς Συνόδου Σικάγου κ. Ἰάκωβος, Ντιτρόιτ κ. Νικόλαος, Πίτσμπουργκ κ. Σάββας καὶ Ἁγίου Φραγκίσκου κ. Γεράσιμος, ὁποῖος εἶναι καὶ ὁ ἐπιχρῆστος ἱεράρχης. Παρέστησαν ἀκόμη ὁ ἀρχιγραμματέας τῆς Συνόδου Ἐπίσκοπος Ζήλων κ. Σεβαστιανὸς καὶ ὁ πρωτοσυγκελλεὺς τῆς Ι. Μητροπόλεως Ἀγ. Φραγκίσκου Ἐπίσκοπος Μήδειας κ. Ἀπόστολος.

Ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος ἀνακοίνωσε τὸν διορισμὸ τοῦ νέου προέδρου τοῦ Ἑλληνικοῦ Κολεγίου καὶ τῆς Ιερᾶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξου Θεολογικῆς Σχολῆς τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ π. Χριστοφόρου Μητρόπουλου καὶ τὸν διορισμὸ τοῦ Στίβεν Χριστοφόρου στὴ θέση τοῦ διευθυντοῦ τοῦ Τμήματος Νεολαίας.

Ὁ κ. Ἀντώνιος Στεφάνης, ὁ ὁποῖος προήδρευσε τῶν ἐργασιῶν τὸν Συνεδρίου, παρουσίασε καὶ τὴν ἐκθεση τῆς Επιτροπῆς Διοικητικῶν Θεμάτων.

Ὁ κ. Ιερώνυμος Δημητρίου, ἐκτελεστικὸς διευθυντὴς διοικήσεως παρουσίασε πλήρη καὶ ἀναλυτικὴ ἐκθεση γιὰ τὴν ἀνοικοδόμησιν τοῦ ναοῦ τοῦ Ἁγίου Νικολάου στὸν χώρο τοῦ Διεθνoῦς Ἐμπορικοῦ Κέντρου τῆς Νέας Υόρκης, ὁ ὁποῖος κατεστράφη ὁλοσχερῶς κατὰ τὴν τρομοκρατικὴ ἐπίθεση τῆς 11^{ης} Σεπτεμβρίου 2001.

Παρουσιάστηκαν καὶ συζητήθηκαν ἐκτενῶς καὶ οἱ ἐκθέσεις τῶν επιτροπῶν ἐπὶ τῶν ἐπὶ μέρους ἐθνικῶν διακονιῶν καὶ προγραμμάτων τῆς Ιερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς ὡς ἐξῆς: Ὁρησκευτικῆς καὶ Κατηχητικῆς Παιδείας, Διακονιῶν καὶ Προγραμμάτων Νεολαίας, Γάμου καὶ Οἰκογενείας, Ἐπικοινωνιῶν, Οἰκονομικῆς προσφοράς καὶ στήριξης, Ἱεραποστολικῆς καὶ εὐαγγελικοῦ ἔργου, Ἑλληνικῆς Παιδείας καὶ Οἰκονομικῶν.

Τέλος ἀνακοινώθηκε ὅτι ἡ ἀνὰ διέτις Κληρικολαϊκὴ Συνέλευση τῆς Ιερᾶς Ὁρθόδοξης Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς θὰ πραγματοποιηθεῖ μετὰ 2 καὶ 8 Ἰουλίου στὴν πόλη Νάσβιλ τοῦ Τενεσί.

“Η Παιδεία, για να πετύχει, χρειάζεται χρηματοδότηση”

NEA YORKEH.– Ήταν πριν από περίπου μία δεκαετία, όταν ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής Δημήτριος ανέθετε στον δρ Ιωάννη Ευθυμιόπουλο τη Διεύθυνση Παιδείας της Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής. Δέκα χρόνια μετά, έχοντας καταφέρει να συνδέσει το όνομά του με την ελληνική Παιδεία στις μακρινές Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες -και όχι μόνον- ο δρ Ευθυμιόπουλος τιμήθηκε σε αναγνώριση του “δημιουργικού, ιδιαίτερης σημασίας, έργου του και της ανεκτίμητης προσφοράς του στα Ελληνικά Γράμματα, την Ορθοδοξία και τον Ελληνισμό” από τους ίδιους τους συναδέλφους του στην Ομοσπονδία Ελληνο-Αμερικανών Εκπαιδευτικών.

Με αφορμή τη βράβευσή του αυτή, πριν από μερικές εβδομάδες, για «την επίπονη εργασία και φροντίδα που επέδειξε για την έκδοση της σειράς των βιβλίων διδασκαλίας της ελληνικής γλώσσας “Τα Ελληνικά μου”», ο δρ. Ευθυμιόπουλος μίλησε στο ΑΠΕ-ΜΠΕ για το “ύψιστο καθήκον” που, όπως τονίζει, του ανατέθηκε από τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής, αλλά και για την Παιδεία εν γένει που για να πετύχει, όπως τονίζει, χρειάζεται χρηματοδότηση.

“Ενίωσα ότι επωμίστηκα ένα μεγάλο χρέος κι ένα ύψιστο καθήκον” εξηγεί ο δρ. Ευθυμιόπουλος, ο οποίος έθεσε ως πρώτο στόχο του, αμέσως μετά την ανάληψη των καθηκόντων του, να κρατήσει “γερά και ψηλά την μπάρα”.

Χρειάστηκε να περάσει ένα διάστημα προσαρμογής και να αξιολογήσει τις συνθήκες, τις ανάγκες και τις δυνατότητες. Ήρθε αντιμέτωπος με προβλήματα σχολικών μονάδων, σχολικά προγράμματα, διδακτικό υλικό και άλλα θέματα παιδαγωγικού χαρακτήρα. Άνοιξε δίαυλο επικοινωνίας με ιερείς, κοινότητες και φορείς σε όλη την Αμερική, άρχισε τις επισκέψεις σε σχολεία -ακόμη και τα πιο απομακρυσμένα- και απέστειλε ένα ερωτημα-

τολόγιο σε όλους, προκειμένου να μάθει από “πρώτο χέρι” προβλήματα και ζητήματα που απασχολούν τα σχολεία της Αρχιεπισκοπής.

“Από τις απαντήσεις του ερωτηματολογίου αυτού, που άγγιξαν το 90% και ύστερα από μελέτη βγήκαν κάποια συμπεράσματα για το διδακτικό υλικό, για τα προγράμματα διδασκαλίας, για την επιμόρφωση των δασκάλων και γενικά για τη λειτουργία των σχολείων μας” εξηγεί ο δρ. Ευθυμιόπουλος, ο οποίος κάνοντας το επόμενο “βήμα” πέρασε στη συγγραφή και έκδοση, μαζί με μια ομάδα συνεργατών του, του έργου “Τα Ελληνικά μου”, με την οικονομική βοήθεια του FAITH.

“Στα βιβλία μας συμπεριλάβαμε κείμενα και ενότητες ευχάριστες και ωφέλιμες για τα παιδιά μας από την ιστορία, τον πολιτισμό, τις παραδόσεις μας, από τις θρησκευτικές και εθνικές μας γιορτές, την οικολογία, τη γεωγραφία, ώστε να γνωρίσουν και να αγαπήσουν την Ελλάδα. Δεν αποσιωπήσαμε και δεν παραποιήσαμε ιστορικά γεγονότα, γιατί πιστεύουμε ότι η αλήθεια αγγίζει τις ψυχές των παιδιών μας” τονίζει.

Ανταποκρινόμενος στο αίτημα των δασκάλων για να καλυφθούν και οι ανάγκες των μικρότερων παιδιών, η συγγραφική του ομάδα προχώρησε στην έκδοση βιβλίων προσχολικής και νηπιακής αγωγής για να εισάγουν τα παιδιά από νωρίς στον προφορικό λόγο, το τραγούδι, το παιχνίδι και τις αρχές του συλλαβισμού στη διδασκαλία της ελληνικής γλώσσας.

Ανάγκη επιμόρφωσης των δασκάλων...

Εδώ και χρόνια, επίσης, ο δρ. Ευθυμιόπουλος και η ομάδα του υλοποιούν, σε συνεργασία με το πανεπιστήμιο και το Παιδαγωγικό Ινστιτούτο της Κύπρου ένα σεμινάριο (φέτος θα διεξαχθεί το 2ο δεκαπενθήμερο του Ιουλίου) για την επιμόρφωση των δασκάλων των σχολείων της Αρχιεπισκοπής, που όχι μόνο

αποκτούν παιδαγωγικά οφέλη, αλλά και “ζουν την αγάπη, τη ζεστασιά και τη φιλοξενία της Κύπρου”.

“Αποτελεί δικαίωμα των δασκάλων να επιζητούν την επιμόρφωσή τους και υποχρέωση δική μας να την παρέχουμε. Οφείλουν τα σχολεία μας, οι κοινότητές μας να φροντίσουν και να στηρίξουν τους δασκάλους, για να ενημερωθούν πάνω στις νέες παιδαγωγικές μεθόδους και να παρακολουθήσουν νέες και χρήσιμες παιδαγωγικές πρακτικές” σημειώνει.

...και στήριξη του Ταμείου Ελληνικής Παιδείας

Πώς η έλλειψη δασκάλων, λόγω της οικονομικής κρίσης στην Ελλάδα, επηρεάζει την προσπάθεια της Διεύθυνσης Παιδείας της Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής και με ποιον τρόπο καλύπτονται τα κενά από αποσπασμένους από την Ελλάδα δασκάλους, που δημιουργούνται;

“Η προσπάθεια να καλυφθούν κενά από αποσπασμένους δασκάλους από την Ελλάδα, χωρίς να θίγεται το εργασιακό καθεστώς των ομογενών δασκάλων μας στα κοινοτικά σχολεία, ήταν μια ανάσα, θα έλεγα” απαντά ο δρ Ευθυμιόπουλος.

Σημειώνει, ωστόσο, πως “λόγω της οικονομικής κατάστασης που έχει η πατρίδα, είμαστε υποχρεωμένοι σήμερα να εξεύρουμε τρόπους και να προτείνουμε λύσεις να αντιμετωπίσουμε την έλλειψη δασκάλων, για να μη φτάσουμε σε ανεπιθύμητα αποτελέσματα”.

“Οφείλουμε να εκπαιδεύσουμε δασκάλους και να στηρίξουμε τα σχολεία μας” λέει, επισημαίνοντας: “Μια εφικτή λύση ανάγκης, που θα μπορούσε να προταθεί, θα ήταν ένα ταχύρρυθμο μεταβατικό πρόγραμμα εξάμηνης ή τρίμηνης διάρκειας, που θα προετοιμάζε τους διδάσκοντες για τα σχολεία μας έως ότου υλοποιηθεί ένα ολοκληρωμένο πρόγραμμα προετοιμασίας”.

Απευθύνει δε, κάλεσμα στήριξης του Ταμείου Ελληνικής Παιδείας, που αναμένεται σύντομα να θεσμοθετηθεί από την Ομοσπονδία Εκπαιδευτικών Αμερικής, υπογραμμίζοντας πως “αυτό θα είναι ένα μεγάλο επίτευγμα στην ελληνική παιδεία”.

Σε ό,τι αφορά, τέλος, το μέλλον της ελληνικής γλώσσας και παιδείας στην Αμερική, αφού επισημαίνει πως “η Παιδεία για να μπορεί να επιτύχει χρειάζεται γενναία χρηματοδότηση, για να υπάρξουν μακροπρόθεσμα και ουσιαστικά αποτελέσματα”, ο δρ. Ευθυμιόπουλος υπογραμμίζει: “Πρέπει να ξεφύγουμε από μια κατευθυνόμενη μοιρολατρεία για την παιδεία μας, ότι δεν έχει μέλλον η ελληνική γλώσσα και ότι χάνεται. Αν χαθεί η γλώσσα του Ευαγγελίου, τότε θα χαθεί και η ελληνική γλώσσα [...]. Όπως κτίζουμε μια εκκλησία, με τον ίδιο τρόπο χρειάζεται να βοηθήσουμε οικονομικά τα σχολεία μας για να μπορέσουν να ανταπεξέλθουν στις απαιτήσεις της λειτουργίας τους”.

“Να ασχολείσαι με αυτά που ενδιαφέρουν τους άλλους”

Στη συγκινητική τελετή βράβευσής του, ο δρ Ευθυμιόπουλος, αφού απαρτίθησε τους “σταθμούς” της μακράς και -κατά γενική ομολογία- πετυχημένης του πορείας, στάθηκε σε μια συμβουλή που του είχε δώσει ένας πανεπιστημιακός του δάσκαλος: “Αν θέλεις να είσαι άξιος, να ασχολείσαι με αυτό που ενδιαφέρει εσένα. Αν όμως θέλεις να πετύχεις, να ασχολείσαι με αυτά που ενδιαφέρουν τους άλλους!”.

“Δεν ξέρω” τόνισε, κλείνοντας την ευχαριστήρια ομιλία του, “αν το έχω καταφέρει και αν τελικά ασχολήθηκα με αυτά που ενδιαφέρουν τους άλλους. Μπορώ όμως να πω ότι το προσπάθησα”...

(Πηγή: Σ. Παπαδοπούλου-ΑΠΕ-ΜΠΕ)



Φωτογραφίες: Δημήτριος Πανάγος

Εγκαίνια του Καθεδρικού Ναού Αγίας Σοφίας στην Ουάσιγκτον

► Σελίδα 15

τάξη, το ιερό αρτοφόριο και τα λοιπά λειτουργικά αντικείμενα. Λίγο πριν το τέλος της τελετής του καθαιγιασμού ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος θυμίασε όλο το ναό και κατόπιν ο ίδιος και ο Επίσκοπος Αντώνιος, χρησιμοποιώντας ένα φυσικό σπόγγο εμβαπτισμένο με άγιο μύρο και τοποθετημένο σε μακρύ καλάμο, έχρισαν σταυροειδώς όλα τα σημεία του ναού, τις ιερές εικόνες, τα ψηφιδωτά και τις άλλες επιφάνειες.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής Δημήτριος προεξήρχε της πρώτης Θείας Λειτουργίας στον καθαγιασμένο ναό της Αγίας Σοφίας, συλλειτουργούντος του Επισκόπου Φασιανής Αντωνίου, οκτώ ιερέων και δύο διακόνων ως εξής: π. Σέργιος Ζώρζος, ιερατικώς προϊστάμενος του Καθεδρικού ναού της

Αγίας Σοφίας, Πανοσιολ. Αρχιμανδρίτης Ιωακείμ Κοτσώνης, π. Βασίλειος Μπάρτζης, π. Κωνσταντίνος Παυλάκος, π. Δημήτριος Αντόκας, π. Μιχαήλ Eaccarino, π. Στέφανος Αλεξόπουλος, π. Δημήτριος Lee, Αρχιδιάκονος Παντελεήμων Παπαδόπουλος και Διάκονος Ελευθέριος Κωνσταντινίδης. Ο πρώην ιερατικώς προϊστάμενος της Αγίας Σοφίας π. Ιωάννης Ταβλαρίδης παρέστη στο ιερό συμπροσευχόμενος.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος απευθυνόμενος προς το εκκλησίασμα επαινέσε την ενορία και κοινότητα της Αγίας Σοφίας για την ακλόνητη ορθόδοξη μαρτυρία της στην πρωτεύουσα των Ηνωμένων Πολιτειών.

Τόνισε ότι τα εγκαίνια και ο καθαιγιασμός του ναού αποτελεί κάλεσμα για όλους μας για αναβάπτισμα και καθαιγιασμό εκ νέου, στα νάματα της Ορθοδοξίας και της πίστης μας στο

Χριστό, στο παράδειγμά Του και στο Ευαγγέλιο.

Σε άλλο σημείο, ο Σεβασμιώτατος είπε ότι με την ευκαιρία των εγκαίνιων του ναού προσευχήμασε διακαώς για ελευθερία και δικαιοσύνη στη μαρτυρική Κύπρο, και το δικό της αναβάπτισμα και επανένωση μετά από 40 και πλέον χρόνια κατοχής.

Τέλος, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος διεβίβασε τα συγχαρητήρια, τις ευχές, τις ευλογίες, και την αγάπη του Παναγιωτάτου Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχου κ. Βαρθολομαίου, λέγοντας ότι κατ’ επιθυμίαν του απονέμει το οφίκιο του Πρωτοπρεσβυτέρου του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου στον ιερατικώς προϊστάμενο του Καθεδρικού Ναού της Αγίας Σοφίας π. Σέργιο Ζώρζο.

Μετά την απόλυση ο Σεβασμιώτατος διένειμε στο εκκλησίασμα ως ευλογία μικρά τεμάχια της λευκής σινδόνης που φορούσαν

οι αρχιερείς κατά την τελετή των εγκαίνιων.

Οι εκδηλώσεις του Σαββατοκύριακου των Εγκαίνιων άρχισαν το Σάββατο 9 Μαΐου 2015 με τη συνάντηση του Αρχιεπισκόπου με τη νεολαία της κοινότητας της Αγίας Σοφίας γι δύο και πλέον ώρες.

Ο Σεβασμιώτατος επισκέφθηκε τα παιδιά όλων των ηλικιών στις αίθουσες διδασκαλίας τους στο παρακείμενο κοινοτικό και εκπαιδευτικό κέντρο, απάντησε στις ερωτήσεις και στις απορίες των μεγαλύτερων παιδιών και ενημερώθηκε για τις δραστηριότητες και τα προγράμματα νεολαίας της κοινότητας.

Το απόγευμα τέλεσε την ακολουθία της προετοιμασίας των αγίων λειψάνων και αμέσως μετά το μέγα πανηγυρικό εσπερινό. Το βράδυ του Σαββάτου, η ενορία της Αγίας Σοφίας παρέθεσε επίσημο εορταστικό δείπνο σε ξενοδοχείο της Ουάσιγκτον.



Φωτογραφία: ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Η Τάξη αποφοίτων του 2015 του Ελληνικού Κολλεγίου με τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής Δημήτριο, Αρχιερείς της Αρχιεπισκοπής, της Εκκλησίας της Ελλάδος, της Αντιοχειανής Εκκλησίας, τον π. Τριανταφύλλου και την πρόξενο της Ελλάδας Ιφιγένεια Καναρά.

Έκκληση Πατριάρχη Αντιοχείας: «Να προσευχέστε για τις δύσκολες μέρες που περνάμε»

Ο Πατριάρχης Αντιοχείας Ιωάννης ο 10^{ος}, ο προκαθήμενος της Εκκλησίας που βιώνει τους χειρότερους διωγμούς σε ολόκληρο τον χριστιανικό κόσμο, προέστη με τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Κύπρου Χρυσόστομο πολυαρχιερατικού συλλεiturγου στον ναό της του Θεού Σοφίας, στην Λευκωσία. «Να προσευχέστε για τις δύσκολες μέρες που περνάμε» αιτήθηκε από την Ιεραρχία και το ποίμνιο της Εκκλησίας Κύπρου ο Πατριάρχης Ιωάννης.

Το συλλεiturγο, με την ευκαιρία της επίσκεψης του Πατριάρχη Ιωάννη στην Κύπρο, τελέστηκε στα ελληνικά και στα αραβικά. Παρέστη, συμπροσευχόμενος, ο νέος πρέσβης της Ελλάδος στην Λευκωσία Ηλίας Φωτόπουλος,

ο οποίος ανέγνωσε το «Σύμβολο της Πίστεως».

Σε ομιλία του στα ελληνικά ο Πατριάρχης Ιωάννης αναφέρθηκε στην κατάσταση που επικρατεί στην Συρία και χαρακτήρισε «μάρτυρα» τον πιστό λαό του Πατριαρχείου του. «Ο χριστιανικός λαός της Συρίας δεν φοβάται και δεν απειλείται, αλλά είναι έτοιμος να χύσει και το αίμα του για να διαφυλάξει την πίστη του», τόνισε.

Επίσης υπογράμμισε: «Καμία δύναμη δεν θα κατορθώσει να μας εκριζώσει από τη γη μας».

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Κύπρου Χρυσόστομος, απευθυνόμενος στον Πατριάρχη Αντιοχείας Ιωάννη, επεσήμανε ότι οι δύο αδελφές Εκ-

κλησίες υπέστησαν φοβερά κτυπήματα από τη γειτονική Τουρκία. «Είναι γνωστός ο τρόπος με τον οποίο υφήρπασε από την Εκκλησία σας την αρχαία κοιτίδα του χριστιανικού σας πολιτισμού, την Αντιόχεια. Είναι επίσης γνωστός ο τρόπος που παρανόμως εισέβαλε στην Κύπρο πριν από 41 χρόνια και επέβαλε πολιτική εθνικού ξεκαθαρίσματος, καταλαβούσα το 38% του εδάφους μας και εκδιώχασα όλους τους ορθόδοξους κατοίκους του νησιού μας από τις πατρογονικές τους εστίες» είπε ο κ. Χρυσόστομος.

Αναφερόμενος στην κατάσταση στην Συρία ο Κύπρου Χρυσόστομος επεσήμανε ότι «η κατάρα του εμφυλίου πολέμου βρίσκεται στην

κορύφωσή του με χιλιάδες τραγικά θύματα. Ο πόνος είναι πολύς και το μέλλον άδηλο».

Επίσης, διαβεβαίωσε τον Πατριάρχη Αντιοχείας ότι η Εκκλησία και ο λαός της Κύπρου θα βρίσκονται πάντοτε στο πλευρό Του, παρέχοντας κάθε ηθική συμπαράσταση.

Ο Κύπρου Χρυσόστομος απένειμε στον Πατριάρχη Αντιοχείας την ανώτατη τιμητική διάκριση της Εκκλησίας Κύπρου, το «Χρυσό Παράσημο του Αποστόλου Βαρνάβα».

Το παράσημο τούτο, είπε ο κ. Χρυσόστομος, «ας αποτελεί μία διαρκή υπόμνηση του χρέους που όλοι έχουμε για τους πρόσφυγες και αγνοούμενους αδελφούς μας, καθώς και για τις οικογένειές τους».

Οικ. Πατριάρχης: Έχουμε δικαίωμα, χρέος και καθήκον να θυμόμαστε τους υπέρ πίστεως και πατρίδος πεσόντας

ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥΠΟΛΗ.- Στον Άγιο Νικόλαο, στο γειτονικό στο Φανάρι τζιμπάλι της Πόλης χοροστάτησε ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος στη μνήμη της Αγίας Οσιοπαρθενομάρτυρος Θεοδοσίας της Κωνσταντινουπολίτισσας ο βυζαντινός Ναός της οποίας που σήμερα λειτουργεί ως μουσουλμανικό τέμενος, βρίσκεται λίγα μόλις μέτρα πιο πέρα.

Παρέστησαν συμπροσευχόμενοι οι Ιεράρχες Θεοδωρουπόλεως Γερμανός και Συνάδων Διονύσιος, Αρχιερατικώς Προϊστάμενος της Περιφέρειας Φαναρίου-Κερατίου Κόλπου, ο Γενικός Πρόξενος της Ελλάδος στην Πόλη Ευάγγελος Σέκερης, καθώς και πλήθος προσκυνητών από την Πόλη και την Ελλάδα.

Η εικόνα της Αγίας ήταν στολισμένη με ρόδα, όπως τότε, που την βρήκαν οι Οθωμανοί στις 29 Μαΐου του 1453 και μετονόμασαν ως εκ τού του τον Ναό της σε Gül Camii (τέμενος των ρόδων).

ΤΡΙΣΑΓΙΟ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΠΕΣΟΝΤΕΣ

Στο τέλος της Θείας Λειτουργίας ο Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος με έκδηλη συγκίνηση ανέγνωσε Τρισάγιο υπέρ αναπαύσεως των ψυχών εκείνων που αγωνίσθηκαν για την πίστη και την πατρίδα κατά την Άλωση της Βασιλίδος των Πόλεων, της Πόλης μας.

Στη δεξίωση που ακολούθησε στον προαύλιο χώρο τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη προσφώνησε ο Επόπτης της Περιφέρειας Επίσκοπος Συνάδων Διονύσιος.

Ο Πατριάρχης μιλώντας από στήθους και εκ καρδίας, αναφέρθηκε στο πρόσωπο του Αγίου Πατριάρχου Γενναδίου Σχολαρίου καθώς ήταν ο πρώτος Πατριάρχης και ταυτόχρονα Γενάρχης μετά την Άλωση της

Κωνσταντινούπολης ενώ δεν παρέλειψε να σημειώσει πως το Τρισάγιο αποτελεί ελάχιστη προσευχητική ενθύμηση προς τους μακαριστούς Πατέρες και προπάτορές μας οι οποίοι αγωνίσθηκαν για τη διατήρηση της πίστης αλλά και των αξιών και ιδανικών της φυλής μας και ότι οφείλουμε εμείς οι σημερινοί διάδοχοι και επίγονοί τους να τους ενθυμούμαστε με αγάπη και στοργή εμπνεό μενοι στην συνέχιση του χρέους αλλά και της ειρήνης και της καταλλαγής των λαών.

Είπε χαρακτηριστικά: «Σήμερα που είναι μία αποφράς ημέρα για το Γένος μας ή το άξιον και δίκαιον να ενθυμηθώμεν τους αγωνισθέντας και πεσόντας. Έχουμε και δικαίωμα και χρέος και καθήκον να ενθυμούμεθα τους ομογενείς και ομοδόξους και ομοπίστους αδελφούς μας οι οποίοι έπεσαν κυριολεκτικώς υπέρ πίστεως και πατρίδος. Ποιός άλλος θα τους ενθυμηθεί και ποιός άλλος θα προσευχηθεί για την ανάπαυση των ψυχών τους;

Εμείς!

Οι συνεχιστάι των, οι διάδοχοί των. Διότι εμείς δεν είμαστε ξενοφερμένοι εδώ. Είμαστε οι συνεχιστάι εκείνων των προγόνων μας, δεν είμαστε μετανάστες εδώ, Είμαστε αυτόχθονες και γηγενείς, σαρξ εκ της σαρκός, γέννημα θρέμμα αυτής της Πόλεως.

Και κατα τούτο έχουμε χρέος να τιμούμε και να ενθυμούμεθα την μνήμη των προγόνων μας, των πατέρων μας.»

Στο τέλος συνεχάρη τόσο τον άοκνο και αθόρυβα εργαζόμενο Επίσκοπο Διονύσιο όσο και την Εφοροεπιτροπή για το σημαντικό έργο που προσφέρουν στη φτωχική αυτή Κοινότητα.



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Κύπρος: Ενδιαφέρουσα έρευνα για τα εκκλησιαστικά μνημεία εκπόννησε ομάδα μαθητών

ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑ.– Μια πολύ αξιόλογη και ενδιαφέρουσα έρευνα-μελέτη, με τίτλο «Οδοιπορικό: Τέσσερα θρησκευτικά μνημεία, τέσσερις πολιτιστικοί σταθμοί», εκπόννησε ομάδα μαθητών του Λυκείου Ιδαίου. Η έρευνα-μελέτη καλύπτει τις εκκλησίες των Αγίων Αποστόλων, του Αγίου Δημητρίου και του Αγίου Γεωργίου, και το ασκητήριο του Αγίου Σωζομένου, που κοσμούν τις κοινότητες Πέρα Χωρίου, Ποταμιάς και Ιδαίου. Απώτερος σκοπός των μαθητών ήταν, όπως τόνισαν στην παρουσίαση της έρευνας τους, η ανάδειξη των μνημείων της πολιτιστικής κληρονομιάς της περιοχής, που παραμένουν μέχρι και σήμερα άγνωστα στο ευρύ κοινό.

Είναι σημαντικό ότι η αρχαιολογική λειτουργία Α' στο Τμήμα Αρχαιοτήτων Κύπρου, δρ. Ελένη Προκοπίου, εξέφρασε την έκπληξη της από «την ακρίβεια και ακριβολογία» των περιγραφών των μαθητών, αλλά και από «την εμφάνιση στην έρευνα», που πραγματοποιήσαν. Και αρχαιολόγοι ακόμα «θα μπορούσαν να φθονήσουν τα έργα των παιδιών», επισήμανε η δρ. Προκοπίου, η οποία ήταν υπεύθυνη των πρόσφατων ανασκαφών στην εκκλησία του Αγίου Δημητρίου.

Στο πλαίσιο της έρευνας τους, οι μαθητές επισκέφθηκαν τα τέσσερα μνημεία σε μια προσπάθεια προσέγγισης και εξοικείωσης με το θέμα. Ασχολήθηκαν και ανέλυσαν σε βάθος τις πηγές από έγκυρα επιστημονικά βιβλία και από το διαδίκτυο.

Επίσης, ήρθαν σε επαφή με άτομα καταρτισμένα και εξειδικευμένα και επισκεφτήκαν τη βιβλιοθήκη της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Κύπρου, όπου συνέλλεξαν πολύτιμο υλικό και πηγές, που συνέβαλαν στη συγγραφή της έρευνας. Στην έρευνα παρατίθενται στοιχεία για τον βίο των Αγίων, στους οποίους είναι αφιερωμένες οι εκκλησίες και το ασκητήριο, για την τοποθεσία τους, την αρχιτεκτονική, τον εσωτερικό και εξωτερικό διάκοσμο τους. Επίσης, γίνεται αναφορά σε σχετική βιβλιογραφία και παρατίθενται φωτογραφίες και σχεδιαγράμματα.

Τα βασικότερα στοιχεία για τα τέσσερα μνημεία, όπως καταγράφονται στην μαθητική έρευνα, είναι συνοπτικά τα ακόλουθα:

1. Η εκκλησία των Αγίων Αποστόλων βρίσκεται στην επαρχία Λευκωσίας, στη νότια όχθη του ποταμού Γιαλιά, και υπάγεται στο βορειοδυτικό τμήμα του Πέρα Χωρίου. Μέσα στην αυλή του ναού, βρίσκεται σήμερα το παλιό κοιμητήριο της κοινότητας. Δεν διασώζονται στοιχεία για την ακριβή χρονολογία ανοικοδόμησης του ναού, ενώ μια παράδοση φέρει την εκκλησία να λειτουργεί ως μοναστήρι.

Κατά τη διάρκεια των αρχαιολογικών ανασκαφών, δεν έχουν εντοπισθεί ερείπια που να προδίδουν την ύπαρξη μονής. Από το 1940, η εκκλησία κηρύχθηκε Αρχαίο Μνημείο Β' Πίνακα και τέθηκε υπό την προστασία του Περί Αρχαιοτήτων Νόμου. Έξι χρόνια αργότερα, ξεκίνησαν οι εργασίες συντήρησης του κυρίως κτίριου. Το 1959 ξεκίνησαν οι εργασίες καθαρισμού και συντήρησης των τοιχογραφιών στο εσωτερικό,

από το συνεργείο συντήρησης Βυζαντινών μνημείων Κωνσταντινουπόλεως του Ινστιτούτου Dumbarton, ενώ το 1998 τις ανέλαβαν ομάδες από το Τμήμα Αρχαιοτήτων. Ο ναός ανήκει στον τύπο του μονόχωρου τρουλλαίου ναού (domed hall-church), και ειδικότερα σε συνεπτυγμένη παραλλαγή σταυροειδούς εγγεγραμμένου τύπου, που είναι ευρέως διαδεδομένος στην Κύπρο, τόσο κατά τη Μεσοβυζαντινή περίοδο, όσο και αργότερα στην περίοδο της Φραγκοκρατίας και της Ενετοκρατίας. Τυπικό παράδειγμα αυτού του τύπου ναού είναι η Παναγία του Άρακα στα Λαγουδερά. Στο εσωτερικό ο ναός είναι χωρισμένος σε τρία μέρη. Το εσωτερικό του ναού είναι πλούσιο σε αγιογραφίες, που έχουν μεγάλη ιστορική, αλλά και αισθητική αξία. Σε μελέτη που ανακοινώθηκε στο 12ο Διεθνές Συνέδριο Βυζαντινών Σπουδών, οι τοιχογραφίες του ναού των Αγίων Αποστόλων χρονολογήθηκαν στην περίοδο 1160-1180 μ.Χ. Η εστίαση της όλης διακόσμησης του ναού, όπως συνήθίζεται στις θολωτές εκκλησίες, γίνεται στην απεικόνιση του Παντοκράτορα στον τρούλο του ναού. Άλλες σημαντικές τοιχογραφίες είναι: η Πλατυτέρα, η Μετάδοση του Τιμίου Σώματος και η Μετάληψη του Τιμίου Αίματος του Κυρίου, η σκηνή της Γέννησης, η Υπαπαντή κ.ά.

2. Η εκκλησία του Αγίου Δημητρίου βρίσκεται στα βορειοδυτικά του Ιδαίου, στην τοποθεσία Αγρίδια. Χαρακτηρίζεται ως μια από τις περικαλλέστερες εκκλησίες της Κύπρου, λόγω των ωραίων της αναλογιών.

Η εκκλησία είναι μικρών διαστάσεων (9Χ5,42 μέτρα) και είναι κτισμένη με τετραγωνισμένους πωρόλιθους. Ανήκει στην κατηγορία των μονόχωρων τρουλλαίων ναών και ειδικότερα σε συνεπτυγμένη παραλλαγή σταυροειδούς εγγεγραμμένου τύπου, όπως και οι Άγιοι Απόστολοι.

Η εκκλησία κτίστηκε το 13^ο αιώνα, όπως φαίνεται από τα οξυκόρυφα τόξα και την επιμελημένη τοιχοδομία.

Τη χρονολογία αυτή υποστηρίζει και ο ζωγραφικός διάκοσμος του ναού. Στο ναό υπάρχουν δυο στρώματα τοιχογραφιών. Το αρχαιότερο στρώμα χρονολογείται σύμφωνα και με την κτητορική επιγραφή, που βρίσκεται πάνω από τη δυτική πόρτα, γύρω στο 1317. Από τις πιο αξιόλογες τοιχογραφίες που σώζονται είναι αυτή του Αγίου Δημητρίου, καθώς και η τοιχογραφία με τους δωρητές Μιχαήλ Καστουρούμπο και τη γυναίκα του, οι οποίοι προσφέρουν την εκκλησία στο Θεό. Δυστυχώς, πολλές από τις τοιχογραφίες έχουν καταστραφεί εντελώς. Ό,τι διασώθηκε, συντηρήθηκε και αναδείχθηκε με την τελευταία συντήρηση του ναού (2014-2015). Στο τύμπανο του δυτικού τυφλού τόξου του νότιου τοίχου εικονίζεται ολόσωμος ο Άγιος Δημητρίανος.

3. Το μεγαλύτερο από τα σωζόμενα λαξευτά ασκητήρια στην Κύπρο είναι το ασκητήριο του Αγίου Σωζομένου. Βρίσκεται περίπου 300μ. βορειοδυτικά του χωριού Άγιος Σωζόμενος της επαρχίας Λευκωσίας. Στο χωριό, τα παλαιότερα χρόνια, κατοικούσαν Τούρκοι και Έλληνες, αφού ήταν μεικτό, με πλειοψηφία των Τούρκων. Γειτονικό χωριό είναι η Ποταμιά. Το ασκητήριο του Αγίου είναι λαξευμένο σε λόφο από πωρόλιθο. Μετά τον θάνατό του χρησιμοποιήθηκε σαν εκκλησία. Δεν είναι γνωστό πότε έγινε αυτό, ούτε και μετά από πόσο καιρό από το θάνατό του. Το 1912, οι λιγοστοί χριστιανοί κάτοικοι του χωριού έκτισαν στη νότια πλευρά του ασκητηρίου έναν τοίχο με ακατέργαστους λίθους και λάσπη. Στη διάρκεια των διακοινοτικών συγκρούσεων (1963-64), το εξωκλήσι καταστράφηκε και εγκαταλείφθηκε.

Το Τμήμα Αρχαιοτήτων, σε συνεργασία με την Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή Κύπρου συνέβαλαν για να διατηρηθούν τα λιγοστά απομεινάρια του κτίσματος και των τοιχογραφιών του. Το πάνω μέρος του ανατολικού τοιχώματος του ασκητηρίου, είναι ελαφρώς λαξευμένο και σχηματίζεται ένα αβαθές τόξο. Στο μέσον του ανατολικού τοιχώματος προεξέχει ορθογώνιο βάθρο, το οποίο καλύπτεται με πλάκα από γυψομάρμαρο και χρησιμεύει ως Αγία Τράπεζα (μικρών διαστάσεων). Το βόρειο τοίχωμα του ασκητηρίου,

κάτω χαμηλά, λαξεύτηκε, δημιουργώντας εσοχή πλάτους 90 εκ. και μήκους 2μ. Η εσοχή αυτή στο πάνω μέρος της είναι επικλινή. Στο σημείο αυτό έχει δημιουργηθεί κιβωτίοσχημος τάφος, που πιστεύεται ότι είναι αυτός του Αγίου Σωζομένου. Στο εσωτερικό του ασκητηρίου βρίσκονται μοναδικής σημασίας τοιχογραφίες, οι οποίες ζωγραφίστηκαν από τον 10ο αιώνα, μέχρι τις αρχές του 16ου αιώνα.

4. Ο ναός του Αγίου Γεωργίου βρίσκεται 500μ. περίπου προς τα ανατολικά του Ιδαίου. Ο τύπος του είναι μονόκλιτος με τρούλο, σαν και αυτόν του Αγ. Δημητρίου, τόσο στο μέγεθος, όσο και στο ρυθμό. Είναι κτισμένος με πελεκητούς πωρόλιθους.

Η τέχνη των τοιχογραφιών είναι μάλλον επαρχιακή και όχι παλαιότερη του 15ου αιώνα. Διασώζεται μέρος από τον Παντοκράτορα στον τρούλο, πιο κάτω οι άγγελοι και οι προφύτες, στο Ιερό Βήμα η ένθρονος Θεοτόκος. Στο Βόρειο τόξο υπήρχε μεγάλη τοιχογραφία του Αγίου Γεωργίου. Αξιοθαύμαστες είναι, η θαυματουργή εικόνα του Αγίου Γεωργίου και η ημικατεστραμμένη εικόνα της Παναγίας, οι οποίες χρονολογούνται στα 1600 και είναι έργα εξαιρετικής κρητικής τεχνοτροπίας.

Οι φορητές αυτές εικόνες αποδίδονται στον ζωγράφο Εμμανουήλ Τζανφουνάρη, εξαιτίας κάποιων επιμέρους τεχνοτροπικών στοιχείων που διακρίνονται.

Στην εκδήλωση για την παρουσίαση της έρευνας, η αρχαιολόγος δρ. Ελένη Προκοπίου ανακοίνωσε για πρώτη φορά και τα νέα στοιχεία της αρχαιολογικής έρευνας που πραγματοποιήθηκε τα τελευταία δύο χρόνια από το Τμήμα Αρχαιοτήτων Κύπρου και συγκεκριμένα: παρά την πολύ αποσπασματικά σωζόμενη κατάσταση των αποκαλυφθέντων ερειπίων, λόγω πολλών και σε συνεχείς στρώσεις μεταγενέστερων ενταφιασμών, εν μέσω αυτών, παράλληλων με την τελευταία φάση του ναού, διαφάνηκαν μία ή δύο αρχαιότερες φάσεις, από τρίκλιτο ναό, μεγαλύτερων διαστάσεων.

Ο σωζόμενος σήμερα συνεπτυγμένος σταυροειδής εγγεγραμμένος ναός με τρούλλο του 1317 φαίνεται να αποτελεί συνέχεια αυτών των φάσεων, και ανοικοδομήθηκε πάνω στο νότιο κλίτος της δεύτερης. Η αρχαιότερη εκκλησία μοιάζει σε κάτοψη να έχει στοιχεία μεταβατικής τρουλλαίας βασιλικής, πιθανότατα σταυροειδούς.

Τα θεμέλια αυτά έφεραν κατά πάσαν πιθανότητα χαμηλή τοξοστοιχία, πάνω στην οποία βασταζόταν καμάρα τουλάχιστον στο κεντρικό κλίτος.

Από το μέγεθος και τη διάταξη των στηριγμάτων στο κέντρο, υποδεικνύεται ότι αυτά, κατά πάσαν πιθανότητα, βάσταζαν τρούλλο, σε ένα σύστημα σταυροειδούς διάταξης καμαρών και τόξων, όπως αυτός εφαρμόστηκε αρχικά στην Κωνσταντινούπολη στον ναό της Αγίας Ειρήνης, λίγο μετά/και δίπλα από την Αγία Σοφία.

Παρά τα συνεχή και αλλεπάλληλα χτυπήματα των Αράβων, η Κύπρος παρέμεινε πιστή

και δεμένη με τη Βασιλεύουσα τροφό της. Ο ναός αυτός μπορεί και πρέπει να χρονολογηθεί μέσα σε αυτήν την περίοδο και μάλιστα στην αρχή της, γύρω στα τέλη του 7^{ου} ή τις αρχές του 8^{ου} αιώνα. Τα δάπεδα του ναού αυτού είχαν επιστρωθεί με μαρμάρινες κρούστες πολυτελών εισαγόμενων μαρμάρων, οι οποίες συνέθεταν γεωμετρικά μοτίβα.

Η τελευταία φάση αυτή που διασώζεται σήμερα, ανέφερε η κ. Προκοπίου, αποτελεί μία επιπλέον σμίκρυνση του ναού, ο οποίος πλέον περιορίζεται στην έκταση που καταλαμβάνει το νότιο κλίτος της β' φάσης, εξακολουθεί όμως να έχει τα χαρακτηριστικά του κατ' εξοχήν βυζαντινού τύπου της εκκλησιαστικής αρχιτεκτονικής, είναι δηλ. ένας μονόχωρος/συνεπτυγμένος σταυροειδής ναός, ο οποίος, σύμφωνα με την τοιχογραφία και την επιγραφή που έχει διασωθεί στον δυτικό τοίχο, ολοκληρώθηκε και δωρήθηκε στον Χριστό το 1317 από τον Μιχαήλ Κατζουρούμνη και τη συμβία του.

Εφαρμόστηκε μία ανανεωμένη, επίσης Κωνσταντινοπολίτικης προέλευσης παραλλαγή, αυτής του απλού τετράστου, με συμμετρικές αναλογίες, η οποία έχει ευρύτατη διάδοση στην Κύπρο.

Η αποκρυστάλλωση του τύπου σε αρχιτεκτονικό σχέδιο-αρχέτυπο γίνεται στις αρχές του 12ου αιώνα από τα συνεργεία του Δούκα Ευμάθιου Φιλοκάλη στο παρεκκλήσιο της Αγίας Τριάδας, που είναι προσκολλημένο στο καθολικό της Ιεράς Μονής του Αγίου Ιωάννη του Χρυσοστόμου στον Κουτζοβέντη, στο κατεχόμενο τμήμα της Κύπρου.

Αυτή η μεσοβυζαντινή τελείωση περνά στους Αγίους Αποστόλους στο Πέρα Χωριό και μετά σε κλίμακες λίγο πιο υπερυψωμένες στην Παναγία του Άρακος, στα τέλη του 12ου αιώνα, και στις εκκλησίες του Αρχαγγέλου Μιχαήλ Λευκάρων, του Αγίου Ευφημιανού της Λύσης και της Παναγίας στις Μάνδρες Αμμοχώστου, στις αρχές του 13ου αιώνα. (σ.σ: Οι δύο τελευταίες εκκλησίες βρίσκονται στο κατεχόμενο τμήμα της Κύπρου)

Μετά την πώληση της Κύπρου στο Βασίλειο των Λουζινιανών, ο τύπος παραμένει σε χρήση και εκφράζει, όπως τόνισε η κ. Προκοπίου, το «επιμένω Βυζαντινά δηλ. Κωνσταντινοπολίτικα των Κυπρίων», έναντι της λατινικής καταπίεσης.

Στην εκπόνηση της έρευνας- μελέτης για τα πιο πάνω μνημεία πήραν μέρος οι μαθητές: Δημητριάνα Χατζηστεφάνου, Ξένια Κωνσταντίνου, Άγγελος Πελεκάνος, Στυλιανός Ηλία, Γαλάτεια Ιακώβου, Αντωνία Νικολαΐδου, Ελισάβετ Παπάκη, Ιάκωβος Ιουλιανού, και Δήμητρα Σάββα.

Οι μαθητές είχαν την καθοδήγηση των καθηγητών: Αριστοφάνους Μαρίας, Τζίτζου Ελένης, αρχιμανδρίτη Γρηγόριου Ιωαννίδη, Κτίστη Κυριακής, Σοφοκλέους Πώργου, Ολυμπίου Ελένης, Σχοινόπουλου Παράσχου και Χρυσόστομου Αζucena.

(Πηγή: ΑΠΕ-ΜΠΕ-Α. Βικέτου)



Εγκύκλιος

► Σελίδα 15

Επίσης, σάς παρακαλώ να ενθαρρύνετε και να στηρίζετε το έργο των τοπικών παραρτημάτων διότι συνεισφέρουν σε αυτές τις προσπάθειες και βοηθούν στο έργο των ένοριών μας. Πολλά μέλη της ΑΧΕΠΑ είναι ηγετικά στελέχη και ευεργέτες στις κοινότητές μας, και προσφέρουν σημαντική μαρτυρία της δυνάμεως και της σημασίας των Έλληνικών ιδανικών μας, της Όρθοδοξης πίστεώς μας και της δυνάμεως της Άναστάσεως καλύπτοντας τις ανάγκες πολλών ανθρώπων.

Μέ πατρική αγάπη εν Χριστώ Αναστάντι,

✠ Ἀμερικῆς Δημήτριος

✠ Ὁ Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος Ἀμερικῆς Δημήτριος

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE DISTRICT OLYMPICS



Suffolk County Community College's Field House in eastern Long Island served as the venue for the 37th annual Greek Orthodox Archdiocese District Olympics over Memorial Day weekend. Archbishop Demetrios presided over the opening ceremonies. He also spent much of the morning on May 24 observing hundreds of JOY and GOYA kids taking part in the various sports and awarded several medals. Teams from New York and Connecticut parishes participated.



Heavy weight – This Goyan from St. Sophia-Albany feels every bit of the 16-pound shot put sphere during one of his throws. The shot put event has been part of the modern Olympic games since 1896 but, according to the Wikipedia online encyclopedia, Homer makes mention of competitions of rock-throwing by soldiers during the Siege of Troy. There is no record of any dead weights being thrown in Greek competitions in ancient Greece, with Homer making reference to soldiers.



Winning run and winning gold (L) – After hitting a home run and scoring the winning run in the final game of the GOYA softball event to earn the gold medal for Holy Cross-Brooklyn, Peter Tavoularis prepares to be smothered by a host of euphoric teammates. Sts. Constantine and Helen-Brooklyn parish won silver.



That's using her "kefali"



Spirit of camaraderie – GOYA girls soccer teams from St. Demetrios-Astoria and St. Paraskevi, Greenlawn, first and second place winners respectively, pose for a combined photo.



On their marks – GOYA girls in the 400 meter run wait for the sound of the starter's pistol. The girl at right, Alexia Moustakas of St. Demetrios-Merrick, eventually won gold medals in several running events.



Long distance calling (L) – A host of runners put their best feet forward at the start of the 5K run.



Brooklyn dynasty – For the second consecutive year, Vasili Niamonitakis (r) and James Bantis (l), both of Holy Cross Church-Brooklyn, won the gold and silver medals in chess.



"Port Jeff" rules! (R) It was a clean sweep for the boys and girls volleyball teams from Assumption Church in Port Jefferson as they each won gold medals in their categories, the first time teams from the same parish accomplished the feat in many years.



Tennis finals – In girls doubles, Jamie Orthos and Alexa Kourepenos of Church of Our Savior in Rye, won silver medals, and Eleni Markopoulos of St. Markella-Wantagh and Georgia Golding of St. Demetrios-Merrick, won the gold.

Orthodox Observer photos

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CHURCH HISTORY

Harry Agganis Connected with His Faith—and the Ball

by William H. Samonides, Ph.D.

Sixty years ago, on June 27, 1955, Harry Agganis died. “The Golden Greek,” as he was widely known, was the most celebrated Greek-American athlete of his era. From his meteoric rise to fame to his untimely death at the age of 26, he captured the attention of the American public. Handsome, humble, and talented, he was a public relations dream, but what made him special was his devotion to his family, his church, and his community.

Born Aristotle George Agganis, he was the youngest of seven children of George and Georgia Agganis, who both immigrated to America from Sparta in the first decade of the 20th century. His mother called him “Ari,” which became “Harry” to his childhood friends.

After an outstanding high school career, he was recruited by colleges across the country. Frank Leahy, the legendary coach at Notre Dame, labeled him “the finest prospect I’ve ever seen.” Agganis chose to attend nearby Boston University. It was not a football power, but it allowed him to be near his recently widowed mother.

Agganis thrust BU football into the national spotlight. Widely considered the top player in the country, he was the first pick of the Cleveland Browns in the football draft. Agganis turned down the Browns’ \$50,000 offer, taking less money to play for the Boston Red Sox. He wanted to stay close to home and had confidence he could prove himself in baseball, too. After a year in the minor leagues, he won the starting job at first base.

Agganis always lit a candle at St. George in Lynn when the Red Sox played home games at Fenway Park. While playing for the Sox, he became acquainted with a young priest at the Annunciation Cathedral, Fr. James Coucouzis (later Archbishop Iakovos). Fr. Coucouzis, who sometimes saw Agganis play, commented at the time, “He was rather humble and kind, and liked to converse with everyone. . . . He was an example to the young athletes of the time. He was grateful to God for his parents who were church people. . . . He was proud of them, and they were proud of him.”

He was hitting over .300 when he was felled by pneumonia during the 1955 season, his third with the Red Sox. Hospitalized in May, he returned to play two games, suffered a relapse, and re-entered the hospital. He died suddenly from a massive pulmonary embolism. The news of his death on June 27 stunned the nation.

The next day his body was transferred to St. George in Lynn to lie in state. Agganis had helped pay for the new church, which had opened earlier that year, donating a sizable part of his signing bonus with the Red Sox to the building fund. From June 28 to 30, more than 30,000 people came to the church, standing in line for hours to pay their respects. Presiding at his funeral on

June 30 was Athenagoras Kokkinakis, titular bishop of Elaia and newly-appointed prelate of the Diocese of Boston. He was assisted by six priests, including Frs. Christopher Argyrides and Charles Mihos, who served St. George for three quarters of a century. Fr. Mihos delivered the eulogy.

Among the thousand mourners crowded into the church for the funeral were the governor of Massachusetts, the president of Boston University, and more than 50 uniformed Little Leaguers. Another thousand heard the service in the community center, and 6,000 more stood outside the church. More than 20,000 lined the streets to watch the funeral procession to Pine Grove Cemetery. Agganis was buried next to his father, who died in 1946 and had never seen his son’s exploits on the field.

His Red Sox teammates were scheduled to play a Red Cross benefit game in Washington and could not be present at the funeral. Both teams attended a special memorial service conducted by Fr. Thomas Daniels of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in the nation’s capital. Fr. Daniels was one of many Greek Orthodox priests across the Archdiocese who knew Agganis personally. While on road trips, in college and as a professional, Agganis visited Greek Orthodox churches everywhere he went. “That boy would have made a fine priest. . . . he was so openly honest about everything,” Fr. Daniels said.

In August, Archbishop Michael instructed all Greek Orthodox parishes of the Western Hemisphere to observe the 40-day memorial for Agganis. This was the first time such a tribute, usually reserved for Greek statesmen and royalty, was accorded a Greek-American. At Annunciation Cathedral in Boston, Fr. Peter Kyriakos said the service was “an expression of the ability, morals, and character of Harry Agganis, a great fighter who won the greatest battle – that of eternal life.”

Today monuments and memorials to Agganis abound. A mural featuring Agganis adorns the foyer of his high school in Lynn. The Agganis All-Star Football Classic in Lynn annually attracts the top talent in the region and is a major fundraiser for the Harry Agganis Foundation, which has provided over \$1.5 million in athletic scholarships.

A life-size bronze statue stands before Agganis Arena, which opened in 2005 at the corner of Harry Agganis Way and Commonwealth Avenue on the campus of Boston University. Agganis Field at Camp Lejeune, N.C., honors his service in the Marine Corps during the Korean War.

To this day, his brief life continues to serve as an example to young people. Archbishop Michael characterized Agganis as “young in age, but mature spiritually and mentally.” His mother said at the funeral, “God has taken him at this time to bring home to young people everywhere how high they can go from nothing if they work hard and live good lives.”

PEOPLE

Elected to S.C. Supreme Court

COLUMBIA, SC - Costa Pleicones was unanimously elected chief justice of the five-member South Carolina Supreme

Court by the General Assembly on June 3. Pleicones, 71, will take the post early next year. He started off in the legal system’s trenches as a public defender in 1973, then held posts as municipal judge, county attorney and a lawyer in private practice before being elected to the circuit court in 1991. He became an associate justice in 2000.

He is a first cousin of Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos.

PARISH PROFILE

Church Served as Pomfret Seminarians' Spiritual Home

PARISH profile

Name: Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Church

Location: Danielson, Conn.

Metropolis of Boston

Founded: 1916

Clergy: Fr. Nick Milas
(M.Div. Holy Cross '74)

Size: about 80 families

E-mail: frNickM2@aol.com

Web: www.holytrinitydanielson.com

Noteworthy: Church draws members
from three states.



Holy Trinity Church photo

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

DANIELSON, Conn. – The rural countryside of northeastern Connecticut is home to a small Greek Orthodox community that played a big part in the development of Holy Cross Seminary at nearby Pomfret, where from 1934 to 1948 the first American-born priests received their training.

Danielson itself (population about 4,500) is described as a borough of the town of Killington, and about 1.2 square miles in size. It lies along U.S. Route 6, the nation's longest transcontinental highway, which links Provincetown, Mass., with Bishop, Calif. About a half-hour drive to the east is Providence, R.I., where parish priest Fr. Nick Milas resides. More than two decades before the school was established in Pomfret, Greek immigrants arrived in the area to find employment in the many textile mills that were the mainstay of the region's economy at the time.

According to a parish history, the local Greek Orthodox residents gathered in a small rental hall on Aug. 6, 1916, for the first Divine Liturgy to be celebrated in the community. Those who spearheaded the drive to organize the church were George Berris and Peter Senopoulos.

The first priest to serve the parish was Fr Christos Hatzis, who celebrated the first Liturgy on November 25, 1917.

In December, the parish received its state charter and property was acquired on Water Street, where the present church now stands. Parishioners raised money to

build a church and the cornerstone was laid Nov. 25, 1917. The building was completed by June and the first Divine Liturgy took place then. In 1923, and soon after, the community purchased two houses on adjacent properties for a priest's residence and a Greek school.

Danielson, being very close to Pomfret, figured prominently in the school's progress in the 1930's and '40's.

Many students and professors would visit Holy Trinity. The seminary choir often chanted the Liturgy, elder members remember. Some of the clergy who visited during that time included Archbishop Athenagoras, Bishop Kavadas, Frs. George Tsoumas, George Papadeas, Leonidas Contos (who is laid to rest in Danielson), Theodore Logothetis, and Danielson natives John Berris and Emmanuel Metaxas.

The church building was consecrated in 1965, after many years of work on the interior. The iconography was completed by John Papaspiliopoulos, a student of Photis Contoglou, in the mid-1960s.

From its founding until 1985, 25 priests served the parish, one for a little as 18 days.

Fr. Milas, a Philadelphia native and the longest serving priest, came to the parish that year after serving Sts. Constantine and Helen in Washington (1974-77), where he taught in the parochial school, and Assumption in Pawtucket, R.I. (1978-83). The Danielson church had about 25 families then, but no priest. Fr. Milas, who commutes

from his home in Providence, at first served as a substitute on Sundays while he taught special education in the public schools. He retired from teaching in 2013. "I love it," he said of his ability to serve the parish full-time now. "It's a brand new experience. I always had to squeeze my responsibilities to fit into the time available. My job is to bring everyone on the same page."

He described his parishioners as "a very hospitable group, very pious people."

Holy Trinity is into its third and fourth generation with inter-church marriages the norm. "There's very little Greek blood left," Fr. Milas said. Yet members still want the use of Greek in the services.

The amount used in the Divine Liturgy varies from week to week. Services on the first Sunday of the month are all in English. The second and third Sundays contain both and the last Liturgy of the month is done

in all Greek

"Even converts want to hear Greek," he said, even though he uses more English. "The children are in the fourth generation and can't relate. They don't have a problem with it (the Greek), they just can't relate."

There are still some older parishioners from Europe, especially Chios. A large percentage of members consists of converts. Fr. Milas said that one elderly couple was formerly Presbyterian.

By the late 1980s, membership increased to the point where a larger church was needed and a building program was launched in the 1990s. The present church and adjacent Hellenic Center were built on the same property and the houses were demolished to make room for a parking lot. Metropolitan Methodios dedicated the center in 2000. The complex has two levels that include a social hall, the priest's and administrative offices, library, small kitchen and a foyer that allows for overflow attendance from the church on major holy days.

Though the church has a small number of young people, a dance troupe that Fr. Milas began has proven to be very popular with the teens of the community. He hopes that this group will evolve into a broader youth organization. The priest taught Greek school for a few years, but there is no demand for it now. There is a full-range of age groups in the parish, including several young couples with small children and a parents' group meets regularly.

Parish ministries and outreach include a choir that functions year around and a local health screening clinic uses the hall on a regular basis.

Since 1987, Holy Trinity's main revenue source is Stewardship. Parish members come from Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

— Compiled by Jim Golding

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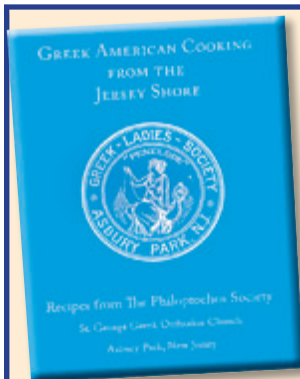
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REFLECTIONS

The Distracted Mind and Our Spiritual Life

by Presvytera Elizabeth Tervo

Have you ever seen this sign at a church door: "Please turn off your cell phones"? We all know that we need to turn them off before Liturgy. We know that only the gravest emergency should interrupt church.

When we think about cell phones, we think about how connected we are, nowadays, to a wide community through the internet. We might think that our age poses a unique challenge for the Christian soul. We are connected with all kinds of news, events, and other people's passing thoughts, in an instant, and constantly, in a way that human beings never experienced before.

However, the problem of the distracted mind was quite well known to the Fathers and saints of our church, since ancient times. The distracted mind is nothing new. Passing thoughts, called logismoi, are not important, yet they can spoil our peace.

Even if our cell phone is off, we may still be distracted by our thoughts. That is why we have a narthex. That is the area in the back of the church where we light candles. We light a candle and say a short prayer. This helps us to take a breath and leave the outside world behind. Now our mind is ready to focus on Liturgy.

I do not mean that we are to ignore the world and our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers, or our illnesses and problems.

On the contrary, the Liturgy gives us many opportunities to pray for the whole world. We do not forget, but we put these people and things into their right place in the context of our relationship with God.

Stray logismoi, however, are another thing. Our brains are constantly busy. Nerve connections are made and thoughts occur to us. Some are ordinary, such as 'My garden has a lot of weeds,' but others are thoughts that lead us toward temptation, such as 'So and so's shoes are nicer than mine.' In either case, while we are at prayer, the Fathers teach us to do the same thing with this kind of thought: ignore it! Then it will pass right out of your mind.

There is no thought as important as your prayer. If something is truly impor-

tant, it will recur to you after the Liturgy. You do not need to try to remember it later or note it down.

If you let a whole train of logismoi start from that one thought, or even if you try to think out reasons why it is not a good thought, it is much more difficult to let it go. You may start with: 'I need to weed the garden' and continue with: 'What is the weather today?' 'Will I have time in my schedule?' 'Nobody is helping me with the weeding.'

By now not only are your thoughts getting involved, but you're also becoming resentful! It's harder to bring your mind back now. How much easier it would have been to ignore the weeds in the first place!

Likewise, do not get angry with yourself and say, 'Why am I thinking about my garden during church? Or someone else's shoes? I can not focus!' You get yourself wound up again, just in another way. Don't get frustrated with yourself. Just try again.

'Stop thinking that thought' is easy to say. Here's what to do. Immediately move your mind on to something else. "Say Lord has mercy."

Notice where we are in the Liturgy and focus on the actual words being said. Look at an icon and contemplate it. Bring yourself back to where you are standing, or sitting, or kneeling. Make your cross to remind yourself to pay attention. In a minute you will even forget you had the thought.

We know that St. John Chrysostom knew about the distracted mind, because there are so many times in the Liturgy where our attention is called back.

For example:

"Let us be attentive!"

"Wisdom! Let us attend!"

"Wisdom, arise!" Literally, we might say that this means, Straighten up!

People's minds always need to be reminded to pay attention! It's not just us in the 21st century. So... this means we have no excuse. We are still able to quiet our minds, as Christians in earlier ages have been able to do. When our mind is quiet, then we can pray and participate fully in our beautiful Liturgy.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Calif. Parish Awards Scholarships

REDONDO BEACH, Calif. – St. Katherine Foundation presented scholarships to the following students on May 17: Benjamin Brothers (Georgetown University), Jack Dulgarian, (University of Arizona) Juliana Farrow (Cornell University), Ioan Gheorghiu (Univ. of Calif. Santa Cruz), Christopher Harris (Cal State Long Beach), Nicholas Pap-

pas (UCLA), Garrett Pierson (California Polytechnic State Univ.), Alexander Farrow (Harvard), Ellen Furgis (USC), Ana Gheorghiu, (Univ. of Calif. Santa Barbara), Lily Hubbard (Boston Univ.), Theodore Pappas (Univ. of Washington in Seattle), Eva Santy (Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles), and (Joseph Wolfe (Univ. of Alabama).

Undergraduate Scholarships Awarded

The Hellenic University Club of New York has announced the winners of the Undergraduate Scholarships offered to graduating high school seniors from the New York tri-state area entering college this fall. Each of these students demonstrated high scholastic achievements

and aptitudes well as active involvement in their communities. Each award is for \$1,500.

The Georgia Bayazes Undergraduate Scholarship award to Phillip Kallinos of Lindhurst, N.Y. The Ted Nicholson Undergraduate Scholarship award to Vasiliki Mitsakis of Astoria, N.Y. Hellenic University Club of NY Undergraduate Scholarship awards to: Ellie Theodorakis of Brooklyn and Christina Tzikas of Astoria.

OCMC



The New Face of Mayan Christianity

by Fr. John Chakos

Christianity among the Mayan Indians is undergoing a dramatic change in places like Guatemala and southern Mexico. This shifting of religious identity is part of a larger trend that is enveloping much of Latin America. According to the Pew Research Center report published in November of 2014, "Historical data suggests that for most of the 20th century, from 1900 through the 1960's, at least 90 percent of Latin America's population was Catholic."

Remarkably, however, in just one lifetime, the Pew survey indicates that only "69 percent of adults across the region identify as Catholic." Until recently, Orthodox Christianity did not play much of a role in this changing landscape.

Most of the Orthodox parishes consisted of immigrant colonies, established mainly to perpetuate the customs, languages, and traditions of their respective ethnic cultures and mother churches in Europe.

The title of a recent article in the Huff-

ington Post by Carol Kuruville, however, announces a major shift in this approach to the church's mission: "The Greek Orthodox Church in Latin America Is Not Very Greek."

Embracing this change and adapting to this new reality, Archbishop Athenagoras, since his 1996 appointment by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to shepherd the Central American churches, has reached out to the indigenous people of this vast region, encompassing Mexico, Central America, Columbia, Venezuela, and the Caribbean islands. Of his 52 active clergy, only three are of Greek descent.

The enthusiastic reception by Metropolitan Athenagoras of many thousands of Mayan Christians into the Orthodox fold has transformed this Church into a unity of diverse people, sharing one faith, but speaking many native dialects, as on the day of Pentecost.

Visit www.thewordfromguatemala.com/ to read more. To learn more about, or support the work of, the Chakos family visit: www.ocmc.org/TheChakosFamily.

OCMC Sends Funds to Build School in Kenya

by Alex Goodwin

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla.—With help from the faithful of North America through OCMC's Agape Canister and Short-term Mission Teams Programs, the community of St. Peter in Loupuala, Kenya, will soon have a new school. With the blessing of Archbishop Makarios of Kenya and support from the faithful from North America through the OCMC, the Church in northern Kenya among the Turkana people continues to grow. Recently \$15,000 from the OCMC Agape Canister program was sent to fund the construction of a school in the town of Loupuala.

Under the pastoral care of Fr. Zachariah, the local Orthodox priest who helped introduce Orthodox Christianity to Loupuala, this school will further serve the growing parish community of St. Peter, which was also built in partnership with the Mission Center. Over the years, OCMC's Agape Canister program has helped underwrite

dozens of philanthropic projects like the school in Loupuala around the world. In addition to the school in Loupuala, Agape Canister funds will make possible the following this year:

- Healthcare and renovations for a facility for the elderly in Guatemala
- Youth camp in Moldova
- Healthcare outreach in Uganda
- Continued support of the St. Thomas orphanage in Indonesia
- Protection of the Theotokos Family Center for mothers and children and the St. Dimitrie substance abuse program in Romania.

With funding in place, construction of the new school will begin with the arrival of an short-term OCMC construction team at the end of May. If you would like to be a part of this team, or learn more about serving as part of an OCMC short-term mission team, contact Andrew Lekos at 1-877-463-6784, or e-mail teams@ocmc.org. Learn more or apply online at www.ocmc.org/about/open_teams.aspx.

NJ OLYMPICS



NJ Metropolis holds GOYA Olympics

The Metropolis of New Jersey GOYA Olympics were held on a sunny Memorial Day weekend at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, N.J.

This year's participants numbered at more than 500 from 16 parishes throughout the state.

The Metropolis of NJ Olympics are held over three different weekends with a boys and girls soccer tournament in early May and indoor Olympics in mid-May which includes table tennis, Wii, chess, checkers and badminton. The final events are held on Memorial Day weekend which include swimming and all track and field competitions followed by the awarding of medals for all winning teams and participants.

Each year fellowship and a feeling of community continue to grow as GOYA members reconnect before summer break. It is also a time when high school seniors are recognized for their years of commitment to GOYA and are encouraged to remain active in the life of the church while they are in college. They are also encouraged to give back to the church as leaders in the future.



Metropolis of NJ photos

Parishes participating this year were: St. George in Asbury Park/Ocean, St. Thomas in Cherry Hill, St. George in Clifton, Ascension in Fairview, St. Anna in Flemington, Kimisis Tis Theotokou in Holmdel, St. Athanasios in Paramus, St. Demetrios in Perth Amboy, St. George in Piscataway, St. Andrew in Randolph, SS. Nicholas, Constantine & Helen in Roseland, St. John the Theologian in Tenafly, St. Barbara in Toms River, St. George in Trenton, Holy Trinity in Westfield and St. Nicholas in Wyckoff.



Committees Host Fundraisers

▷ from page 6

gic Initiatives, gave the keynote speech. The Diane Zamiska award was presented to Alex Machaskee for his outstanding work and long-term support of IOCC. The award was originally created to honor the memory of Diane Zamiska, who was the founder and chair of the IOCC Cleveland Metropolitan Committee. Millie Vovos, IOCC parish representative and co-chairperson for the Greater Cleveland chapter, died in July 2014 and was also honored

for her dedication to IOCC.

In Grand Rapids, St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church hosted an event May 17 to benefit those affected by the crisis in Syria. While St. Nicholas has hosted a number of smaller events in the past, this was first time they hosted an IOCC evening on this scale – more than 200 people attended from several local Orthodox parishes.

IOCC Director of Programs Mark Ohanian, and IOCC Gift Officer Nick Kasemeotes spoke at the event.

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

Archdiocesan Presbyters Council Holds Spring Meetings

by Fr. John Touloumes

BROOKLINE, Mass. – The Archdiocesan Presbyters Council (APC) held its Spring Meetings on the campus of Hellenic College/Holy Cross (HCHC) in Brookline, Massachusetts, from April 20-22. The meetings were held on campus in keeping with the APC tradition of holding one of their four meetings during each two-year term at the School to further strengthen the relationship of HCHC and the clergy of the Archdiocese.

The APC is composed of two elected clergy representatives from each Metropolis Syndesmos and the Direct Archdiocesan District, and the meetings were well attended, with nearly every representative present. Archdiocese Chancellor Bishop Andonios, participated, as did representatives from the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres (NSP), the Retired Clergy Association (RCA) and the HCHC Alumni Association (AA).

While on campus, the presbyters had various opportunities to interact with and develop stronger relationships with the administration, staff and especially the students of the school. There were a number of engaging sessions held as part of the “In Touch with HCHC” theme meetings.

First was “Meet the Deans,” during which the Hellenic College Dean, Dr. Dimitri Katos, and Holy Cross Dean, Dr. James Skedros, reported on the current status of the school and solicited feedback from the APC representatives on the work of their schools in preparing clergy and lay leaders for the future of the Church.

Then came the “In Touch with HCHC Programs” session, which provided an opportunity for the directors and staff of the Office of Vocations and Ministry and the CrossRoad and Semester of Faith programs to present their work and equip the APC clergy to promote these efforts in their parishes.

The “In Touch with HCHC Students” session featured the personal testimonies of four students – two undergraduate level and two graduate level – who offered insights into their experience as students on campus and what that life and education has meant to them.

The APC clergy were also blessed with



The clergy of the APC and the seminarians of Hellenic College and Holy Cross gather in the Archbishop Iakovos Library Reading Room for an evening of casual but powerful conversations and stories of real life ministry in the field.



Bishop Andonios and Archdiocesan Presbyters Council representatives from throughout the Archdiocese gather following Vespers at Holy Cross Chapel.

a brief visit from retiring HCHC President, Fr. Nicholas Triantafyllou, to whom they were able to express their deep thanks and

admiration for his 15 years of dedicated and sacrificial service.

One of the highlights of the three days on campus was a “coffeehouse discussion” with the APC clergy representatives and the HCHC seminarians in the Archbishop Iakovos Library Reading Room.

This casual evening generated an intimate encounter between experienced priests and priests-in-training during which the clergy shared their experiences and the students shared their hopes and fears in an open and honest dialogue. It was quite well received, and in the words of two of the seminarian participants, it was the “best

event ever on campus during my five years,” and an “absolutely fantastic” evening.

As the meetings coincided with the 10-year anniversary of the repose of the late Archbishop Iakovos, whose tomb is located behind the Holy Cross Chapel, Bishop Andonios led the APC representatives in a Trisagion service for His Eminence.

Finally, the APC participated in an educational and pastoral growth “Ministry Building Session” with HCHC Professor Dr. Philip Mamalakis, who presented an insightful set of guiding principles on “Developing Conflict Resolution Skills and Crisis Management Teams.”



Bishop Andonios leads the representative of the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council in a Trisagion for the 10-year repose of Archbishop Iakovos.

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METROPOLIS NEWS

Idaho Parish Celebrates 100th Year, Restoration and Beautification

by Fr. Constantine A. Zozos

POCATELLO, Idaho – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, one of the three or four oldest church sanctuaries still celebrating services in the Archdiocese, and listed on the National Register of Historical Places, marks its 100-year anniversary this year.

Assumption Church celebrated this anniversary in addition to completing a restoration and beautification program, the anointing with Holy Myrrh, the church sanctuary and newly painted Icons, a new altar table, and the ordination of their deacon to the priesthood.

Divine services for Assumption Church took place May 16–17 with Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver officiating, assisted by the following clergy: Fr. Constantine A. Zozos, Assumption Church; Fr. Matthew Gilbert, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Salt Lake City; Fr. Makarios Mannos, St. John the Baptist, Craig, Utah; Fr. Luke Kongas, Price, Utah; Fr. Gregory Horton, Myrrhbearers Orthodox Church, Bonners Ferry, Idaho; Deacon Seraphim Johns, Assumption, Pocatello, Idaho; and Deacon Paul Zaharas, Denver Metropolis youth director.

The 100-year observance began May 16, with the procession of the Holy Martyr Relics consecrated in 1985, and held in reverence by Metropolitan Isaiah.

After sealing the relics in the new altar table, Metropolitan Isaiah sprinkled the table with rose water and then anointed it with holy chrism.

The Metropolitan then anointed the new icons in the Platytera and Pantocratora which were written directly on the walls by George Kordis of Greece and his four iconographers.

During the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, more than 300 parishioners, visitors, dignitaries, and combined choirs from the Salt Lake City parishes, directed by George Miller and Paul Maritsas, attended.

Many more people attended than the church could hold, and a live feed into the parish hall allowed the overflow of attendees to participate via a large-screen TV.

As part of the observance, Deacon Seraphim Johns was ordained to the priesthood, a moving sacrament for parishioners to witness who had known him as a teen-age convert and now as a priest.



After the Liturgy, a banquet was held at the Red Lion hotel with 200 attending; including several related families from out of town whose ancestors had helped found the church in 1915. These families held their first family reunion to coincide with the church anniversary and came from throughout the states and South America.

During the banquet a documentary video was shown that detailed the history of the Assumption parish, including photos from pioneer Pocatello, southeastern Idaho and those early Greek workers on the railroad, the war years, establishment of cultural activities, new youth programs, a revitalized Ladies Philoptochos, and video of the church reconstruction including the iconographers at work.

These were the first icons applied to the walls of the sanctuary in a century, and parishioners who came into the church during the writing of the icons often left with tears in their eyes.

Assumption Church is now prepared to be a spiritual home for her parishioners and those seeking God's love for the next 100 years.

Metropolitan Isaiah with participating clergy at the reconsecration of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. (below) The Metropolitan seals the relics in the altar table. (Assumption parish photos)



Houston Orthodox Clergy Issue Statement about City's Gay Ordinance

The following statement was recently issued by the Orthodox Clergy Association of Houston and Southeast Texas

We, the Orthodox clergy of Houston and Southeast Texas, are compelled by our responsibilities before God to speak out plainly against the rebellion against God's created order that we see being waged on both the local and national level.

It is God who created the two sexes, and established marriage at the time of creation, as our Lord Jesus Christ tells us.

But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder (Mark 10:6-10; cf. Genesis 1:27; 2:24; 5:2).

The so called "Houston Equal Rights

Ordinance," is nothing of the sort; but rather gives a man who wishes to consider himself a woman, on a given day, the right to use women's restrooms in the city of Houston. Such a man need not have even had a "sex change" operation, or even dress like a woman, since "gender" is considered to be a state of the mind rather than a biological fact. After the City council approved this unjust law, Christians of all races, denominations, and political affiliations organized a petition drive, which resulted in far more than the required number of signatures to get the issue on the ballot. But Mayor Annise Parker, disregarding the law, simply chose to disregard the will of the people and their right to vote in accordance with the law. She also used the occasion to unconstitutionally subpoena the sermons and private pastoral correspondences of pastors who were not even a party to a lawsuit that is seeking to force the Mayor to

simply obey the law and allow the citizens of the city of Houston their right to vote. We wish to express our support for the fight against this unjust law, and the unlawful actions of Mayor Annise Parker, and we call upon her to cease ignoring the will of the people - which she clearly knows does not support her actions, or else she would not fear leaving the matter to them.

The question of "gay marriage" is also before the Supreme Court, and it is feared that they will impose "gay marriage" on the entire United States.

We want our parishioners, fellow citizens, political leaders, and our nation's judges to know that if this is done, it will be a violation of the letter and the spirit of the United States Constitution. More importantly, it will be an act of rebellion against "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God." We have laws respecting marriage because only heterosexual relationships are capable

of producing children, and those children are best provided for and properly raised within the context of traditional marriage. Homosexual relationships cannot possibly produce children, and so cannot possibly fit the meaning of the word "marriage," neither should the state concern itself with recognizing such relationships. Homosexual couples also cannot provide both a mother and a father to a child, and so should not be allowed to adopt children.

The Declaration of Independence correctly states that our rights come from God, not from the state. The state can either justly protect those rights, or unjustly violate them. No government, much less an unelected court, can justly proclaim something to be a right which violates God's natural order.

The only way society can accommodate

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO OLYMPICS



PALOS HILLS, Ill. – Sts. Constantine and Helen parish again hosted the 34th annual Junior Olympics, which took place May 23-25 at Stagg High School. More than 2,300 GOYA and JOY members and their families from 37 parishes attended the event. The Olympics directors are Deacon Chris Avramopoulos, the Metropolis of Chicago Youth director, and Fr. Athanasios DeMedeiros and Jim Stavrou, both of Sts. Constantine and Helen.



Metropolis of Chicago photos

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

by Dr. Evelyn Biliás Lolis

What is it that we, as a community of faith, want for our children? This seemingly simple question is riddled with complexity. The social environment allures us with a carnival of enticing considerations. The Internet and social media provide us with an additional kaleidoscope of possibilities and access to information about the personal and professional lives of others that makes competition fueled by social comparison almost inevitable.

These images sculpt a sense of what is “normative” to strive for and secure. As our networks extend, so do the distractions and comparisons. The culture of modern life likely distances us from maintaining and modeling a Christ-Centered home.

Most adults would agree that we have to monitor and be selective of the content of our children’s social scope, television programming, and Internet activities. They are the vulnerable ones we need to protect.

However, we inadvertently forget the pervasive and powerful influence of what we, the adults, select to ingest personally, professionally, recreationally, or simply as social bystanders. We pay limited attention to how our beliefs and behaviors impact our children. For the contemporary Orthodox family, it is easy to become focused on “fitting it all in” (e.g. school, sports, church, family time, etc.) rather than “putting in” the Christ-Centered virtues and resources that will serve our children better in the long run.

Opportunely, modern psychology has recently uncovered the science behind what our Church has taught through its inception. Positive psychology involves the scientific study of strengths and virtues that empower individuals and communities to thrive and flourish. This field of study examines factors that contribute to the pursuit of the engaged and meaningful life (Seligman, 2012). One of its outcomes is the recognition that as individuals we long for things more substantial than what we may appear to chase at a glance. In other words, the characteristics identified for living fulfilled and healthy lives (Seligman, 2012) are those qualities our Church Fathers identified as vital to living a Christ-Centered Life.

- Our emotional well-being helps us engage in a meaningful life. Positive psychology identifies six virtues that contribute to emotional wellbeing and an engaged, meaningful life: wisdom/knowledge, courage, humanity, justice, temperance, and transcendence. In the language of the Church these virtues are none other than the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, charity, faith, meekness, and temperance.

- Practicing gratitude daily through journaling and other verbal/written reflection

Complexities of Raising Children



tions significantly improve our physical health, emotional well-being, and relationships (Emmons, 2007). As Orthodox, we offer gratitude and thanksgiving to God through the spiritual disciplines of prayer and almsgiving.

- Mindfulness grounds us to the present and focuses our whole being on the here and now. Taking time to practice mindfulness has been shown to change our brain chemistry, increase feelings of well-being, improve sleep, reduce anxiety, and decrease aggressive behavior in children (Rosenkrantz et al., 2013; Siegel, 2009). As Orthodox Christians, we primarily practice mindfulness, that is, mindfulness of God through: prayer (particularly the Jesus Prayer); worship; reading the Bible and other devotional materials; the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confession; and appreciation for His Creation.

- Routinely expressing compassion leads to increased levels of emotional well-being and social connection (Seppala, Rossomondo, & Dotty, 2013). Compassion is the hallmark of our Lord, Jesus Christ’s life and teachings, “*It is more blessed to give than to receive*” (Acts 20:35).

Thus, compassion is at the heart of a Christ-centered home where children are taught primarily through the modeling of the parents to give and care deeply for the world around them.

- Practicing self-compassion promotes physical/emotional health and human connectedness through the understanding that we are more alike than different. In children, promoting self-compassion can be a more powerful tool than promoting self-esteem (which is based on comparison to and competition with others) (Neff, 2012).

For the Orthodox Christian, self-compassion is an extension of God’s mercy upon His beloved through the sacrament of Holy Confession and our ability to accept His forgiveness. Self-compassion speaks to the fact that we have an all-merciful God who created us out of His love in His image and likeness and continues to love despite our brokenness.

How, then, do we take these findings one step further and use them as an impetus for Orthodox living? We begin by directing our efforts toward one modest act: the intentional pause. That’s right, we need to pause. Each day. Every day. Multiple times a day. On purpose. In Christ. And we need to teach our children to do the same. Only in this way can the fruits of the Holy Spirit be manifest in our lives and in the lives of our children. Because the more our commitments, activities, and pursuits consume our every breath, the less likely we are as fami-

lies to be intentionally working to develop, exercise and let breathe the very strengths, virtues, and behaviors that will serve as the foundation for living a life in Christ. We as Orthodox Christians need to intentionally grow more intimately in communion with our Lord Jesus Christ and become aware of the grace of the Holy Spirit working within our homes and families. It is this grace of God that reveals to us and to our children the very spiritual gifts that our Lord has bestowed upon them for His purpose and good. By teaching our children to pause, pray, and rest in Christ, we teach them to allow Christ to live through them and make manifest His virtues and unique gifts.

What, then, is our greatest responsibility to our children as parents, grandparents and a community of faith when the developmental needs of children are ever-evolving, and confounded with distractions? As a professional my answer would be to provide them with resources that afford enduring foundations in order to navigate the world with courage, humility, compassion, open minds, and grateful hearts. As an Orthodox Christian my answer would be to provide an environment that can enable them take on the identity of Christ each day, as they were called to do so in love and in faith on their baptismal day. As a parent, my answer would be to model all of the above and pray for the grace to do so each day and with every ounce of my heart, mind, and soul.

Evelyn Biliás Lolis, Ph.D is an educational psychologist, school climate consultant, and assistant professor of Psychology & Special Education in the Graduate School of Education & Allied Professions (GSEAP) at Fairfield University. She has worked in adolescent mental health for over 15 years,

helping to design numerous therapeutic programs for at-risk youth with a concentration in crisis counseling and intervention in the schools. She is the former district chair of Psychology for the Stamford Public Schools. She is a member of the Church of the Archangels in Stamford, Conn., where she is the supervisor of the Archangels Church School Program and the chair of the Archangels Greek School Committee.

WISDOM FROM ST. SERAPHIM OF SAROV

“Prayer, fasting, vigil and all other Christian practices, however good they may be in themselves, do not constitute the aim of our Christian life, although they serve as an indispensable means of reaching this end. The true aim of our Christian life consists in the acquisition of the Holy Spirit. As for fasts, vigils, and prayer, and almsgiving, and every good deed done for Christ’s sake, they are only means of acquiring the Holy Spirit of God”

FAMILY ACTIVITY

MINDFUL GRATITUDE IN CHRIST: A FAMILY ACTIVITY

Create a Gratitude calendar (like an advent calendar) on a board with pushpins and small tags for each day. On one side of the tag is the number corresponding with the date. On the other side is a blessing in which the family is grateful. Create all 30 blessings together first and then randomly assign numbers to the back so that each day can be a surprise. Have the children decorate the front of each tag with eye-catching stickers or personal artwork. Each morning or night when they turn the daily tag for the day the family pauses to reflect on the blessing and ask the Lord for thanks.

FAMILY CONNECTIONS:

RAISING COMPASSIONATE CHILDREN

The Summer 2014 expanded issue of Family Connections provides several articles on the subject of teaching children and families to become compassionate and generous Orthodox Christians. Parents and youth group leaders will find several helpful ideas on ways to encourage children and teenagers to be faithful paracletes. To access this newsletter visit www.family.goarch.org.

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

For more information about the center’s ministries please contact:
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Phone: (845) 424-8175
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METROPOLIS NEWS



Alex Mavradis photo

Boston Cathedral Holds Memorial Day Program, Honors Veterans

by Alex Mavradis

BOSTON – The Annunciation Cathedral of New England held its annual Veteran's Memorial Day Program on May 24 to honor its more than 500 deceased veterans. The cathedral welcomed many special distinguished guests in a very solemn memorial service following the Divine Liturgy, led by the Fr. Demetrios E. Tonias, Ph.D., dean of the cathedral. Participating in the service were the Hanscom Field Cadet Color Guard, the George K. Menichios Post 324 American Legion, branches of the Armed Forces and Evzones from the Hellenic American Societies of New England.

The service included a wreath presentation, a descriptive flag folding, "Taps," a singing of the "Our Father" and "Proud To Be An American," by choir-members Colleen Palmer and Stephen D'Amico.

The Memorial Service was followed by the dedication of two Veteran's Plaques designed by Alex Mavradis, displaying the photos of 27 Killed in Action, 64 Purple Heart recipients, 3 POW's and 1 MIA. The plaques were placed next to a larger plaque with 840 cathedral veterans who served in the U.S. armed forces from WWI to the present conflicts. A large eagle on an American flag embellished the upper area of the plaques on the Cathedral Veterans Wall of Honor.

A tribute to the many sacrifices and heroic bravery by veterans in defense of our freedom was made by Boston's Commissioner of Veteran Affairs, Giselle Sterling and Dr. Christopher G. Gussis, chairman of the veterans' program.

The cathedral choir, under the direction of choirmaster Dean Limberakis, concluded the festivities with a medley of patriotic musical numbers.

The Cathedral Veteran's Carillon, dedicated in memory of the veterans, played "Let There Be Peace on Earth" as attendees filed out.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society then hosted a warm reception in the patriotically decorated Davis Fellowship Hall.

A wealth of photographic displays of veterans by Alex Mavradis and numerous other amenities were exhibited showcasing and honoring the contributions of the cathedral veterans to the cause of defending American freedom.

Upon entering the cathedral, veterans and their family members were given a special cross pin of distinction by the cathedral youth.

After the service, group photographs were taken of the guests and veterans.

Those in attendance were deeply moved and left with a greater appreciation of the many sacrifices and heroic bravery in defense of our freedom by 840 veterans.

Statement of Houston Orthodox Clergy

from page 25

the demands of homosexual activists to call their relationships "marriage" and to allow everyone to pick which restroom they desire, is to ignore that men and women are different and have unique characteristics, and to pretend that there is no difference between a mother and a father. This can only be accomplished if we all deny that which we know to be true, and "suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18). Let it be known that we will never recognize such laws or judicial decrees to be either right or just, nor will we be intimidated into silence, but will continue to obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29), and proclaim the whole council of God on these issues (Acts 20:27).

Signed

V. Rev. Fr. Serge Veselinovich, Sts. Constantine and Helen Serbian Orthodox Church, Galveston
V. Rev. Fr. Dejan Tiosavljevic, St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, Cypress

V. Rev. Fr. Gabriel Karam, Holy Forty Martyrs Antiochian Orthodox Church, Sugarland
V. Rev. Fr. Joseph Huneycutt, St. Joseph Antiochian Orthodox Church, Houston

V. Rev. Fr. Anastasios Raptis, St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, Houston
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Fr. Lubomir Kupec, St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church (ROCOT), Houston
Fr. Cassian Sibley, Life-Giving Spring Orthodox Church (ROCOT), Bryan
Fr. Michael J. Lambakis, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Houston
Fr. James Shadid, St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Houston
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Fr. Demetrios Tagaropoulos, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Houston
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Fr. Christopher Xanthos, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Houston
Dn. David Companik, St. Jonah Orthodox Church (ROCOT), Spring
Dn. Juvenaly Hale, St. Joseph Antiochian Orthodox Church, Houston

METROPOLIS NEWS

Chicago Church Recovering after March 2013 Fire

by Sophia Panousakis

CHICAGO – Two years ago, a tremendous fire devastated 105-year-old, St. Basil Church. By the grace of God, no one was injured. However, the fire, smoke, and water damage was considerable within the sanctuary. Icons were burned, stained glass windows destroyed, glass chandeliers melted, and a massive hole was opened in the dome, by firefighters, to permit the smoke to escape. Extensive damage also occurred on the lower level of the building, effecting the kitchen, offices, storage areas, fellowship hall and possessions within.

The downstairs fellowship hall was restored within five weeks, and Sunday Liturgy resumed in the lower multi-purpose room. The structural and cosmetic repairs in the main church have been vast and work continues. Icons were restored and replaced, carpeting ordered, pews rebuilt and restored, and intricate gold leaf was applied to the balcony and ceiling. The church will reopen in the near future.

The design and restoration of the church is being led by John Regas, a Chicago-based interior designer. John is a member of the St. Basil parish and has done work on other Orthodox churches in Chicago and Florida. John's vision for the restored church is based on churches he has seen in visits to Greece's monastic peninsula of Mount Athos, a community of 22 monasteries in Northern Greece.

"It's only by God's providence that we've arrived at this day of our returning to our sanctuary entirely restored and renewed," noted Fr. Panteleimon Dalianis, the head priest at St. Basil Church. "This is a new chapter in our church's 105 year history, and we're certain that this is going to be a great chapter in that history. With the southwest corridor of Chicago booming, we feel that we're in the right place at the right time to minister to the needs of this community, and we pray that God will give us the wisdom and strength to carry out that commission."

"We're excited to be moving forward," noted Anthony Frankos, current parish council president at St. Basil Church. "Most people don't realize the amount of work that goes into a repair project of this size. It's been two years and three months in the making. But we're extremely positive. Things have come together well. And we want to thank all who have supported this project through their time, contributions and prayers, and especially our parish council and our fire repair committee members who have put in countless hours to bring this project to fruition."

The parish continued having services and maintained all of its ministries during the repair work. Divine worship was held

in the downstairs multi-purpose room, Philoptochos Hall. To contribute to the work or for more information contact St. Basil church at 312-243-3738, or visit www.stbasilchicago.org.

History of St. Basil

St. Basil Church was built in 1910 as Anshe Sholom Synagogue. Designed by architect Alexander Levy, the Greek Revival-style temple contained pews upstairs where women were required to sit during services. By the 1920s, many Jewish families had moved to the Lawndale neighborhood, where Anshe Sholom built a new temple.

In 1927, the building was transformed into a Greek Orthodox church. In its April 9, 1927, account of the dedication, the Greek newspaper *Saloniki* noted that, "Over two thousand Greeks participated" and that more than 600 people had to stand in the aisles. The church was designated the first Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Chicago by Bishop Philaretos, who was the first Bishop in Chicago. The Orthodox Youth Organization of Chicago was initiated at St. Basil in 1946.

Parishioners began to leave the area in 1947, with the construction of the Eisenhower Expressway. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Greek town was decimated as homes and businesses from Halsted to Racine and from Harrison to Taylor were torn down to make way for the University of Illinois. Urban renewal projects and the creation of the Illinois Medical District caused further displacement west from Racine to Ogden. Though membership declined during these years, a core of faithful members attended worship services and supported the church.

A fire in 1977 did enormous damage to the struggling church. Through the ensuing years, a community of members dedicated themselves to rebuilding St. Basil. In 1981, Fr. Chris Kerhulas was named full-time pastor of the church. Soon afterward, the church took on a complete renovation of the sanctuary, including the installation of new icons created by the renowned iconographer Athanasios (Tom) Clark of Athens. Upon Fr. Kerhulas' retirement, parish leadership passed to Fr. Panteleimon Dalianis in 2010.

Yet another fire ravished the church in March 2013, and again St. Basil rebounded. Liturgy and sacraments were celebrated in the Philoptochos Hall in the basement. The Ladies Philoptochos Society, Prison Ministry, and Sunday school likewise met downstairs.

In the face of adversity, St. Basil grew closer as a faith community. Now a strong capital campaign is allowing St. Basil to resume services in a completely renovated sanctuary.



Dimitrios Panagos photo

National Board members attend the May 5-7 meetings at the Hilton in Midtown.

Boston to Host Children's Medical Fund Luncheon

▶ from page 7

many guests from across the United States for the luncheon and the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

The planning committee is under general chairmanship of National President Maria Logus who, with luncheon Chairman Frances Levas announced that FOX25 TV news anchor Maria Stephanos, will serve as the emcee.

She is an avid supporter of charitable organizations including the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Action for Boston Community Development, The American Heart Association, Rosie's Place, Relay for Life and The Make-A-Wish Foundation. Maria received an Associated Press award in 2000 for feature reporting.

For information contact cmf2015@philoptochos.org.

Contact Information for the Center of Philanthropy

126 East 37th St., New York, NY 10019

Call or e-mail the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy at [212.977.7770](tel:212.977.7770) or www.philoptochos.org



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OCMC

Volunteers Needed for Two OCMC Mission Teams in July

In Alaska, the indigenous Yup'ik people have traditionally identified themselves as Orthodox Christian for the past 200 years. Preservation of this important aspect of their culture will be in the hands of the youth who need to learn about the Faith and connect with the Church. The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) has been asked by Bishop David to send two short-term mission teams to participate in youth camps in the Kuskokwim and Yukon

Deaneries. The first of these teams will serve July 6-13. The next team will serve from July 22-30. Cost to participate on the July 6 team is \$1,320 plus airfare. Participation cost for the July 22 team is \$1,530 plus airfare.

For more information, or to apply, visit www.ocmc.org/about/open_teams.aspx. You can also contact Pres. Renee Ritsi by phone at 1-877-463-6784 ext. 141, or by e-mail at teams@ocmc.org with any questions.

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BOOKS



BRIDGING THE AEGEAN

by Froso Sendukas

The author was born in Istanbul (Constantinople) and lived there for 22 years, until 1956. During her childhood there were about 100,000 Greeks living in Turkey. Currently, there are barely 3,000 and the number keep dropping. This memoir, in the form of personal and varied essays, depicted the joys as well as the trials and tribulations of growing up in a Moslem country as a member of the once large and thriving Greek community, that no longer exists as it once was.

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youth and young adult news

I'm Just Gonna Shave, Shave, Shave... It Off Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

An abridged version of the weekly blog written by Christian Gonzalez

My wife and I have had multiple conversations about when it would be a good idea for me to shave my beard (like maybe when I'm on a trip for a few days or something, that way it is at least partially grown back by the time I return home). Ultimately, however, it keeps coming back to a pretty basic reality: my family, especially my daughter, has gotten used to **what I look like with the beard**.

If I were to shave, she likely wouldn't recognize me because what my face **actually looks like** would confront **her image of me**. If she were to see what my bare face actually looks like, it might scare her or cause her to wonder, "Are you really my dad?"

And some times, I wonder if we do the same thing with God.

Unfortunately, I wonder if the God we - I follow is too much a god of my own mental construction. Perhaps I think of Him too much as "God **with a beard**." I wonder if I have become too comfortable with God existing **in my own image of Him**.

Bear with me.

The Jews of Christ's time all had "Old Testament" ideas about Who God is and how God acts, but when Christ comes to them, that is, **when God "shaves His beard"** and shows **His actual face**, they couldn't handle it.

The Church has long confessed that Jesus Christ is all that it is to be God and all that it is to be human. To speak of the man Jesus is to speak of Almighty God. But the God we are given in Christ is **so entirely different** from the **god we have in our minds** that when God came near us as a human, we *killed Him, just because we couldn't stand it anymore*. We liked our **ideas about God** better than the **revelation of God's very Person**.

This Sunday is the commemoration of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council, and we are invited to crucify our faulty ideas about the divine and instead contemplate the God who reveals Himself in the all-too-human Christ. There they met to dispel the heresy of Arius, who taught that Christ was not God but was created. I wonder if Arius' impulse was the same as ours. Perhaps Arius would have been more comfortable with a lightning bolt-throwing, cloud-parting, earth-quaking God whose power was made manifest in the **kinds of ways we would expect** a god make himself known.

But that god is not *our God*.

Our God is a God who did not disdain humanity, but rather, fully identifies with humankind to the point of death - even death on the Cross.

And it is this God, whose power is made perfect in weakness, that we are invited to know this Sunday - not some god who is an amalgam of powerful images existing only in our heads.

No, our God **is the crucified and exalted Christ, the Holy One of Israel**. And he makes us uncomfortable.

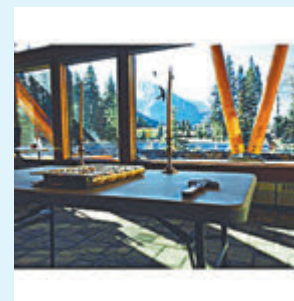
But part of the reason that this God-Man, Jesus, makes us uncomfortable is not only because He reveals a God who willingly unites Himself to weakness, but because He also fully reveals to us **our own weakness and vulnerability**.

And **that** is what **really makes us uncomfortable**.

But it's not just physical vulnerability that makes us nervous. It's also **social vulnerability**. This kind of vulnerability scares us, though, because **suffering stinks**. But to avoid vulnerability is to cease to be human for **to be human is to be vulnerable**. Vulnerability is the name of the game. God has shaved His beard, inviting us to do the same. Instead of **turning away** from the vulnerability we each possess, God asks that we, instead, **turn toward** one another, holding each other close in our shared humanity - a shared humanity that **suffers vulnerability and dies**.

He shares that vulnerability is something that doesn't have to scare us because He has already "been there and done that," revealing that on the other side of **dying** is *not death*, **but abundant and everlasting life**.

For more like this, check out our weekly blog, *The Ladder*, at blogs.goarch.org/y2am/theladder



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CHURCH CONSECRATION

Archbishop Demetrios Consecrates Washington Cathedral

by Stavros H. Papagermanos

WASHINGTON – The Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Sophia in the nation's capital was consecrated, May 10 with Archbishop Demetrios presiding and more than a thousand people in attendance.

The Order of the Consecration began in the morning following the Orthros (Matins) with the procession of the holy relics that circled three times around the Church. The relics used for the Consecration were of the holy great martyr St. Barbara, the great martyr and healer, St. Panteleimon, and the holy child martyr St. Kyrikos.

The Archbishop raised and held high the covered silver paten with the holy relics as he walked around the church. Altar boys holding candles and icons, the choir of chanters chanting *"Glory to You, our God, glory to You,"* the clergy bearing the sacred Cross and the Gospel book preceded the procession.

The faithful followed. After the readings of the Epistles and Gospels, Archbishop Demetrios together with His Grace Bishop Andonios of Phasiane tapped the front doors of the church with the episcopal staff and with a loud voice exclaimed: *"Lift up the gates, O you rulers, and be lifted up, you everlasting doors and the King of glory shall enter."*

Upon entering the church, the Archbishop set the silver paten with the holy relics upon the holy altar table, ceremonially placed them in a small silver container and poured holy myrrh in it. He then deposited the silver container into the prepared reliquary cavity atop the holy altar table and poured liquid wax and mastic, sealing the cavity with a piece of marble and the wax mixture.

At that point, Archbishop Demetrios and Bishop Andonios put on a white linen garment over their vestments, and kneeling down along with the clergy and the faithful offered the prayers of consecration. They washed with soap and water and anointed the holy altar table with holy myrrh. The holy table was then wiped dry with the antimensia and four linen icons depicting the four evangelists were affixed

with wax on the four corners. The Archbishop then spread upon the altar table a white linen cloth katasarkion (burial shroud) and signed it. Bishop Andonios signed it as well. They vested the altar table with a new and bright cover, placed the antimension on top and then top of that the holy Gospel. They also placed upon the holy table the artophorion and the other liturgical items. Just before the conclusion of the Order of the Consecration, Archbishop Demetrios and Bishop Andonios using a sponge anointed with holy myrrh the whole sanctuary including the icons and the mosaics on the walls.

The first Divine Liturgy in the newly consecrated church followed with Archbishop Demetrios presiding. Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese concelebrated assisted by eight priests and two deacons. They were Fr. Steven (Sergios) Zorzos, the dean of the Cathedral, the V. Rev. Archimandrite Joachim Cotsonis, Fr. William Bartz, Fr. Konstantinos Pavlakos, Fr. Dimitrios Antokas, Fr. Michael Eaccarino, Fr. Stephanos Alexopoulos, Fr. Dimitrios Lee and Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos and Deacon Eleftherios Constantine. Former dean of the St. Sophia Cathedral, Fr. John Tavlarides, was prayerfully attending in the altar.

Archbishop Demetrios in his homily to the congregation commended the community of St. Sophia for its steadfast Christian Orthodox witness in the nation's capital for over a century. He said that the consecration of a church invites us also to be consecrated anew in our faith and in the teachings of our Lord and His Gospel.

At another point, His Eminence said that we also pray for Cyprus, that it will be united again and will be renewed in the same spirit after more than 40 years of occupation. Finally, Archbishop Demetrios conveyed the patriarchal blessings, love and best wishes of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, on whose request, as he said, he bestowed the offikion of Protosphyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the dean of the Cathedral, Rev. Dr. Steven Zorzos.

After the dismissal of the Divine Liturgy, His Eminence distributed as a blessing to all in the congregation, a piece of the white linen garment worn by the hierarchs over their vestments, during the service of the consecration.

St. Sophia's Consecration weekend began Saturday, May 9. Archbishop Demetrios met with groups of children of the community, in the church sanctuary and their classrooms, in the adjacent Frosene Education Center. He observed the various activities and learned of the many programs that flourish in the parish. Later in the afternoon, Archbishop Demetrios and Bishop Andonios of Phasiane presided at the service of the preparation of the Holy Relics and the festal and panegyric Archieratical Vespers.

In the sermon, offered by Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, His Grace spoke about the historical basis of the service of Consecration and about the lives of the Saints, whose relics were to be used for the consecration. He said, the Consecration of the Cathedral of St. Sophia gives us all the opportunity to consecrate ourselves as well, to re-baptize, renew and rededicate ourselves, just as in the Holy Sacrament of Baptism. In the evening, a celebratory grand banquet followed in Washington's Ritz-Carlton hotel.



Dimitrios Panagos photos

