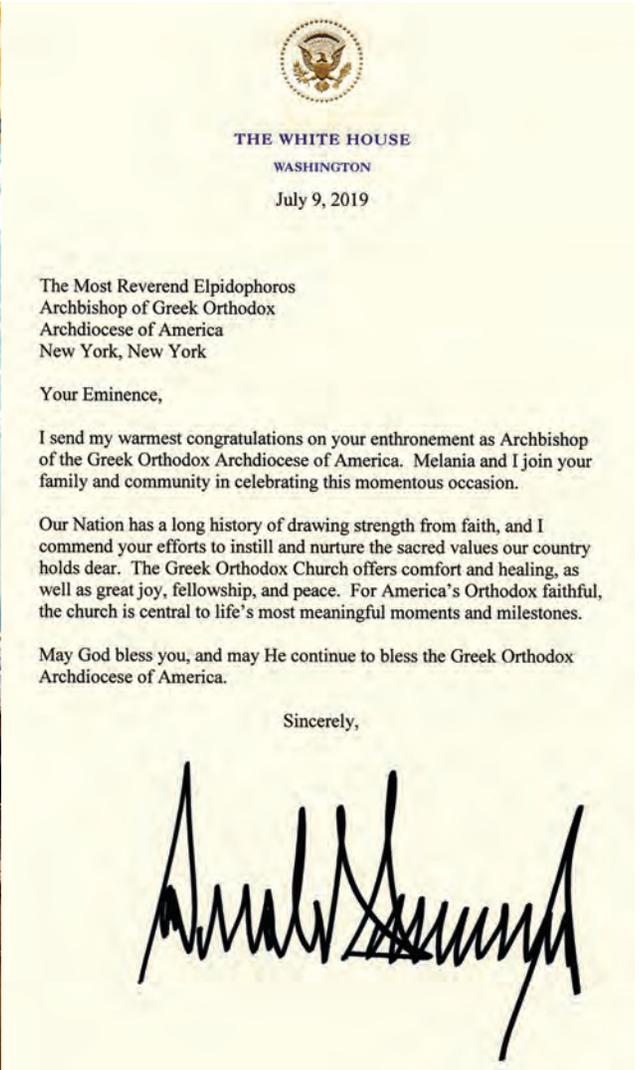




President Trump welcomes Archbishop Elpidophoros to the Oval Office, with Vice President Mike Pence (at left)



Archbishop's 1st Meeting with President Trump

WASHINGTON – Archbishop Elpidophoros met with President Donald Trump at the White House on July 16, in conjunction with his participation in the second annual Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom.

The Oval Office meeting also was attended by Vice President Mike Pence and the Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, who represented the President at the Archbishop's June

22 enthronement.

His Eminence thanked the President for his sincere support to the sacred institution of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and his constantly demonstrated sensitivity to the protection of Christians throughout the world.

The President indicated particular interest for the Orthodox Church and promised continued support for the activities and the work of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

The Archbishop was accompanied by Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Vicar General of the Archdiocese.

The Ministerial to Advance Reli-

gious Freedom was organized for under the direction of U.S. Ambassador-at-large for Religious Freedom Samuel Brownback, under the aegis of the State Department.

Later in the day, His Eminence attended a formal dinner in his honor hosted by the Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, under the leadership of Dr. Anthony Limberakis, with Patriarch Theofilos of Jerusalem also in attendance.

On July 17, Archbishop Elpidophoros made a scheduled address on Protecting Vulnerable Religious Minorities in Conflict and Crisis Settings and met with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

Financial Statements Show Positive Results

NEW YORK – The Chancellor's Office has announced the recent completion of the Archdiocese financial audit for the year ending Dec. 31, 2018 that confirms improving progress in financial accountability. This is the earliest after a year end in more than 15 years that audited financial statements have been made available.

The audited financial statements disclose significant improvement in Archdiocese finances.

Spending was substantially reduced from prior years as a result of budget and staff reductions in late 2017 and early 2018.

Those reductions, together with significant cost controls and a delay in filling budgeted staff positions resulted in an unrestricted revenue surplus over expenses of about \$3.4 million.

AHEPA Fulfills \$1 Million Pledge for St. Nicholas

CHICAGO - AHEPA fulfilled its \$1 million donation to rebuild St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at World Trade Center with a presentation of the remaining pledge balance to Archbishop Elpidophoros at the organization's 97th Grand Banquet, July 5.

Supreme President George E. Loucas, and Board Chairman Nicholas A. Karacostas, who also served as the chairman of AHEPA's Capital Campaign to rebuild St. Nicholas, made the presentation.

"Since 1922, AHEPA has stood by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America thus creating the 'Twin Pillars of Hellenism' in America that we see today," Loucas said. "We are deeply grateful to the AHEPA family; to our amazing grassroots network of districts, chapters, and dedicated members, all of who made this landmark donation a reality."

Karacostas added, "We are proud to be the only secular organization to make

To Contact National Ministries

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NEXT DEADLINE

Deadline for submitting information, articles and photos for consideration in the November-December 2019 issue:

Friday, November 8

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.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Response to False, Unsubstantiated and Slanderous Charges Regarding Ukraine Autocephaly

NEW YORK – *The following statement was issued by the Press and Communication Office of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.*

Following questions by the press regarding offensive statements against the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which were allegedly made recently by a member of the autonomous presence of the Patriarchate of Moscow in Ukraine, Nikos Papachristou, director of the Ecumenical Patriarchate's Press and Communication Office, said: Allegations or information from anyone claiming that the Ecumenical Patriarchate, in order to grant the Tomos of Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, allegedly sought and received, or requested, any form of compensation, financial or other, whether from political or ecclesiastical persons, is absolutely false, unsubstantiated and slanderous. At the same time, such allegations are also highly

offensive to the Mother Church of Constantinople, from which nine other local Churches, including Moscow, received their Autocephaly, through analogous and similar processes. It is characteristic that the Ecumenical Patriarch, in a recent speech referring to the granting of Autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, pointed out that *"the proper ecclesiological response given by the Ecumenical Patriarchate was and is always based on the eternal tradition of the Church, inspired by the Gospel, with respect to the sacred canons and free from any political and diplomatic pressure. Indeed, this must be made clear in the light of the accusations and misinformation circulating on the Internet, the well-known fake news, which is used against the canonical rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate."* It should also be recalled that on Jan. 6, 2019, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew handed the Tomos of Auto-

cephaly to the Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, His Beatitude Epiphanius, Metropolitan of Kiev and All Ukraine, which was formed by the Unification Synod of Dec. 15, 2018. From that day on, the new Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Ukraine is completely self-sufficient and has the absolute freedom to manage its internal affairs through the judgment and decisions of its Holy Synod. Her relationship with the First-throned Church of Constantinople is a relationship of a Mother to her Daughter, a strong spiritual bond that has been preserved for centuries, from the time of St. Vladimir's baptism to this day.

A relationship that endures no matter how many people, obviously for their own purposes, have tried and continue trying to disrupt it, for the Mother Church of Constantinople always cares, with a sacrificial spirit and self-denial, for all her spiritual children.

Patriarch Bartholomew's Message for New Ecclesiastical Year

+ B a r t h o l o m e w

By God's mercy
Archbishop of Constantinople-New
Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
to all the Plenitude of the Church
Grace, Peace and Mercy from the
Maker of all Creation
Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus
Christ

Dearest Brother Hierarchs and Beloved Children in the Lord,
With the goodness and grace of

the all-bountiful God, today marks the 30th anniversary since the Holy Great Church of Christ established the Feast of Indiction and first day of the Ecclesiastical Year as "the Day of Environmental Protection." We did not only address our Orthodox faithful, nor again just Christian believer or even representatives of other religions, but also political leaders, environmentalists and other scientists, as well as intellectuals and all people of good will, seeking their contribution.

The ecological activities of the ecumenical patriarchate served as the inspiration for theology to advance prominently the truth of Christian anthropology and cosmology, the Eucharistic worldview and treatment of creation, along with the spirit of Orthodox asceticism as the basis for understanding the reason for and response to the ecological crisis.

The bibliography related to theological ecology or ecological theology is extensive and on the whole constitutes an admirable orthodox witness before the major challenges of contemporary humanity and earthly life. concern for the ecological crisis and for the global dimensions and consequences of sin – of this alienating internal "reversal of values" in humankind – brought to the surface the connection between ecological and social issues as well as for the need to address them jointly. Mobilizing forces for the protection of the integrity of creation and for social justice are interconnected and inseparable actions.

The interest of the Ecumenical Patriarchate for the protection of creation did not arise as a reaction to or as a result of the contemporary ecological crisis. the latter was simply the motivation and occasion for the church to express, develop, proclaim and promote its environmentally friendly principles.

The foundation of the church's undiminished concern for the natural environment lies in its ecclesiological identity and theology. respect and care for creation are a dimension of our faith, the content of our life in the Church and as the Church. the very life of the church is "an experienced ecology," an applied respect and care for creation, and the source of its environmental activities.

In essence, the interest of the church for the protection of the environment is the extension of the Holy Eucharist in all dimensions of its relationship to the world. the liturgical life of the church,

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

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212.570.3500; www.goarch.org

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312.337.4130; www.chicago.goarch.org

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303.333.7794; www.denver.goarch.org

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248.823.2400; www.detroit.goarch.org

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Saint Basil Academy

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St. Michael's Home

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St. Photios National Shrine

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Other key organizations and services

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Orthodox Children's Bible Reader Online:

cbr.goarch.org

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ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

Archbishop Appoints New Archdiocesan Council Officers

NEW YORK – Archbishop Elpidophoros recently named a new vice president and secretary to the Archdiocesan Council following the resignations of Vice President George Tsandikos and Secretary Catherine Bouffides-Walsh in late September.

The Archbishop has accepted these resignations with regret, praising the faithful service of both of these prominent members of the Church, distinguished for their ethos, and hard work, for their selflessness and devotion to their ecclesiastical authority.

John Catsimatidis has been named president and Judge Theodore Bozonelis is secretary.

The formal handing over of the responsibilities will take place at the upcoming meeting of the Archdiocesan Council, Oct. 17-18.

Enthronement Luncheon Proceeds to Benefit St. Nicholas

NEW YORK - Net proceeds of \$260,000 from the June 22 Enthronement Luncheon for Archbishop Elpidophoros will benefit the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, His Eminence announced recently.

More than 1,700 people representing every metropolis, the Church organizations and many parishes attended.

“I was immensely moved by the number of faithful who traveled from near and far to participate in my Enthronement. I wish to thank all the generous parishes, organizations and faithful who contributed to the Enthronement Luncheon and whose presence made the day extraordinary. From the start I asked that the net proceeds of the Luncheon be restricted for the construction of St. Nicholas Church and National Shrine and I am so pleased with this significant donation.”

The Luncheon was underwritten by many generous faithful including parishes, organizations and individuals. The donation and other fundraising activities will enable the resumption of construction at the World Trade Center site.

The full financial report on the Enthronement and related events, including the Luncheon, will be included as part of the second quarter Archdiocese financial statements that will be posted on the website when completed.

Christmas Advertising Deadline

The November-December issue will be the Christmas edition. The deadline for Christmas advertisements will be Friday, Nov. 15.

Send ads to: observer@goarch.org, marissa@goarch.org, or call 212.570.3555.



Supreme President Loucas (right) and Chairman of the Board Karacostas, PSP (left), present Archbishop Elpidophoros with the fulfillment of AHEPA's \$1 million donation to help rebuild St. Nicholas.

AHEPA Fulfills Pledge for St. Nicholas

► From page 1

and fulfill a one-million-dollar donation to this campaign. I echo the sentiments of Supreme President Loucas in convey our sincere appreciation to all our donors.”

Additionally, Loucas and Karacostas expressed confidence Saint Nicholas

Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine will be rebuilt and both hope AHEPA's fulfillment of its pledge will provide the springboard for the additional support the project needs.

The 97th Grand Banquet is the pinnacle event of the 97th Annual Supreme Convention, which took place in Chicago.

Financial Statements Show Positive Results

► From page 1

This compares to an excess of revenues over expenses of about \$352,000 in 2017. The excess of revenues over expenses in 2018 is necessary to cover prior period shortfalls.

The audited statements also confirm that, as previously announced, all custodial and restricted accounts were restored in 2018 in accordance with donor wishes. Restoration of the funds was completed in June 2018 with bank financing that provided a \$5.5 million mortgage and a \$3 million line of credit (\$2 million of the line of credit outstanding at the end of 2018 and fully repaid at the present time).

The bank financing also provided the necessary funds for the Archdiocese to become current on its obligations to creditors, Hellenic College Holy Cross, the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Archdiocesan pension plan as is evident in the audited financial statements. The Archdiocese also advanced \$2.8 million to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine for contractors to be paid in full.

In commenting on these results, Archbishop Elpidophoros stated “I am pleased that our 2018 financial results were confirmed by the audit. There are unfilled budgeted positions at the Archdiocese and also a reprioritizing of needs that must be addressed. But as we do that, we must maintain a balanced budget and also eliminate the deficits of the past to ensure the Archdiocese remains on firm financial footing.”

The Archdiocese recently provided internally prepared interim financial statements for the quarter ended March 31, 2019 to the Executive Committee and Archdiocesan Council, with those statements showing that a surplus revenues over expenses was also generated in the first quarter. (See interim financial statements and budget to actual results, also on the Archdiocese website).

Concert to Benefit St. Nicholas Shrine

NEW YORK – Archbishop Elpidophoros invites all faithful to a special concert at Stern Auditorium-Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall on Thursday, Oct. 10 at 8 p.m. to benefit St. Nicholas Church and National Shrine.

The concert will feature the debut performance of Yiannis Hadjiloizou conducting the Athens Philharmonic in Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2, “Resurrection.”

Under the generous initiative of Ms. Katerina Nafplioti Panagopoulos, who is recognized by the Greek state as Honorary Ambassador, the production will feature Mr. Hadjiloizou, an accomplished conductor, composer and pianist.

This concert offers a unique opportunity to celebrate our Hellenic Heritage while assisting in the rebuilding of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. For tickets please contact Carnegiecharge at 212.247.7800 or visit www.carnegiehall.org



Members of the Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos Board attended an affirmation ceremony conducted by Archbishop Elpidophoros in the Chapel of St. Paul on Oct. 2, which was followed by a board meeting with His Eminence. New officers were selected. They are: President Jennifer Constantin, 1st Vice President Rose Koulouris, 2nd Vice President Marina Katsoulis, Treasurer Bia George, Assistant Treasurer Irene Panagos, Secretary Cathy Chrestatos and Assistant Secretary Vasilianna Fakiris.

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Patriarch's Climate Message to UN Secretary-General

Message of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to

Secretary-General of the United Nations His Excellency António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres,

on the Occasion of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Regarding Climate Change

Your Excellency António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,

We are encouraged by the work that Your Excellency has done to combat climate change during your tenure as Secretary-General of the United Nations and look forward to the further advancement of the response of the international community to this crisis at the upcoming Climate Action Summit. This noble initiative has the potential to reinforce and enforce a solid framework for a post-carbon era along a socially just pathway to its consequent challenges. We are reminded of the nine symposia

we hosted on the environment, two of which were co-hosted with your predecessor, His Excellency Kofi Annan

In view of the Climate Action Summit, we urge you and all leaders of the international community to increase the ambition and accelerate the progress toward meeting the decarbonization targets of the Paris Agreement, as well as to begin looking beyond to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's indisputable imperative for net zero emissions as soon as possible. Furthermore, we encourage the world's economically developed countries to provide the necessary financial support to developing countries in order to facilitate a socially equitable and efficient transition to an environmentally sustainable and climate-friendly course of development. While investment models can be successful, charitable giving must not be overlooked.

This year marks the 30th Anniver-

sary since the Ecumenical Patriarchate's first encyclical on the protection of the environment. Along the way, the Vatican and the Anglican Communion, as well as the World Council of Churches, have embraced and endorsed September 1st as a global day of prayer for the environment. Through our annual encyclicals, we implore the global community to work together to save the planet. We are convinced that governments, universities, businesses, civil society, people of faith and all people of good will must unite behind science in a determined and harmonious effort to save God's creation from human-induced climate change, which is now threatening the natural world and human livelihoods at an unprecedented scale. Now more than ever humanity must stand above all cultural and other differences – be they national or religious divisions, historic and partisan enmities, economic and personal interests – in order to ensure

a bright future for our children and for generations yet to come.

Finally, please know that our Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America is in General Consultative Status through ECOSOC and represents the Orthodox Church at the United Nations. Thus, we are prepared to partner in advocacy for the protection of our precious environment.

Thanking Your Excellency for your sincere consideration of our request, we convey to you our Patriarchal prayers and best wishes for the climate saving deliberations at the New York Summit on September 23, 2019.

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the tenth of September, 2019

Prayerfully yours,
+ B a r t h o l o m e w
Archbishop of Constantinople-
New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch

Ecumenical Patriarch Receives Teachers, Students from Ukrainian Theological Schools

ISTANBUL - A large group of students from theological academies and seminaries of the Autocephalous Church of Ukraine traveled to the Ecumenical Patriarchate as part of a two-day training program organized by the Academy of Theological Studies of the Holy Metropolis of Dimitriadis and Almyros in Volos, Greece.

Led by Metropolitan Ignatios of Dimitriadis and Almyros, the students were accompanied by their teachers from Ukraine and the Academy's director, executives and associates.

The students attended the Divine Liturgy on July 14 celebrated by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

"Among Orthodox Christians, dialogue and the struggle for the protection of human rights are duties that derive from the core of our faith," Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew said in his homily after the Liturgy he celebrated in the patriarchal church.

In welcoming the students, His All-Holiness stated, "We are particularly pleased that the educational program, rich in teaching, courses and other training programs, concludes with a visit to the city of Constantine and the Venerable Center of Orthodoxy.

"In the person of the director, Dr. Panteleimon Kalaitzidis, we congratulate the Academy of Theological Studies of the Holy Metropolis of Dimitriadis for its contribution to theology, the promotion of dialogue and the encounter of Orthodoxy with the modern world through its many remarkable programs."

The Ecumenical Patriarch noted the role and mission of theology and theologians in the modern world. "Theology is always 'theology in dialogue,' an attempt to express the truths of faith in the language of a particular era. The theologian must feel the pulse of his contemporaries, in order for theology to be existential, 'like a fisherman.'



Nicholas Manginas photo

At another point, he emphasized, "It is obvious that theological work is particularly demanding. Theologians must be interactive and communicative, interested in 'human affairs,' sensitive to the vicissitudes of human freedom and, in addition to challenges, to record in depth the positive perspectives of the civilization of the time.

As it has been said, 'the genuine theologian cannot despise education, science, art, philosophy that is the language of the spirit of every age. Whoever does not love education and culture, whoever does not have the desire to study, cannot really love theological study and the teaching of Christ.'

A model for the Orthodox theologian are the great Fathers of the Church, who are not a dimension of the past, but a fixed point of reference for ecclesiastical life and theology."

"In this spirit, Orthodox Theology is presently giving its God-loving and

philanthropic testimony to the great contemporary technological, economic, social, political, cultural, moral and religious challenges, and the associated threats to the sacredness and beauty of the human person.

It opposes individualism with community and relationship, and opposes collectivization and the reduction of man to a measurable dimension and a material object with the freedom and uniqueness and absolute value of every human being.

It emphasizes, in the face of religious fundamentalism, the peacemaking force and the peacekeeping mission of religion, and the necessity of interfaith dialogue, in accord with the principle, 'No peace of civilizations without peace of religions. No peace of religions without a dialogue of religions.'

For us as Orthodox Christians, dialogue and the struggle for the protection of human rights is a duty that derives from the core of our faith. With impres-

sive clarity, our eminent spiritual father, Metropolitan Meliton of Chalcedon, outlined the meaning of the definition of Chalcedon for our philanthropic mission to all mankind: "The definition of Chalcedon is a true 'charter of human rights,' because it unites God to humanity and glorifies mankind in the divine life' (*Chalcedonia*, p. 211)."

The Metropolitan of Demetriados said in his remarks: "After your great and very important decision to grant Autocephaly to the Orthodox Ukrainian people, as you had the right to do, we had the idea to ask the Board of Directors and the director of the Academy to create conditions for meeting with our brothers, the new Church, Ukrainian Orthodox, firmly believing that this could make the unity of Communion with the common Cup more genuine. Thus a program addressed to the theologians, professors and students of the ecclesiastical and theological schools of Ukraine was developed."

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Ecumenical Patriarch: 'Every Place Has One Bishop'

ISTANBUL - Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew discussed the importance of observing the doctrines of the Church, as well as its genuine and authentic ecclesiology, as he celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Church of St. Paraskevi Pikridiou on July 26, which was granted by the Patriarchate to serve the Romanian-speaking community of the City (Constantinople). "Each place has one Bishop, regardless of ethnic origin," His All-Holiness said emphatically. "Being baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, we live and grow and continue in the truly great Mystery of the Church as children of her image, and have the conscience that the experience of the proper expression of the Church is the foundation of true life. For it is not enough to believe only in dry and established dogmas without genuine and authentic ecclesiology. Dogma is eternal life only within the Church, otherwise it is of no benefit. And the first element of this ecclesiology is that each place has one Bishop, regardless of ethnic origin. This is what we all feel in this City of the Theotokos, because we have children of different ethnic backgrounds, who, because of their lives and work in this City, are our own flock; as is the case with you all, the Romanian-speaking community. As well as the fact that if one of the Orthodox members of this City of ours moves to live or work in Bucharest, for example, he or she becomes part of the flock of Patriarch Daniel of Romania. In each place, then, there is one Bishop," the Ecumenical Patriarch noted in his address in the Community Hall of the church.

"And because you would hear a great deal and you would obviously be aware of the recent actions of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Ukraine, we also inform you that the Mother Church

of Constantinople for decades received messages, appeals, supplications to resolve the ongoing problem in Ukraine. You know that each Bishop theologically has the same fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. But from a hierarchical standpoint, the Church charged the Archbishop of this City, Constantinople, with additional responsibilities.

Conforming therefore with this sacred tradition and recognizing these responsibilities before the Lord, we ourselves as it is our duty, judged favorably the pleading petitions and have convened a Synod of the Ukrainian bishops, not excluding anyone.

"From this Synod emerged Metropolitan Epiphanius of Kiev and all Ukraine as Primate, a beloved brother in Christ, to whom we also granted the Tomos of Autocephaly of the Holy Church of Ukraine, this past Theophany. And so, one more daughter Church was born, in the sense of course, of internal administration, as the Church is one, as we affirm one Confession of Faith, and we rejoice and care for it daily, to ensure that it progresses in the Holy Spirit and manages by itself its ecclesiastical affairs." Concluding his address, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew urged members of the Romanian-speaking community of the city to continue to struggle for the good and true witness of Jesus Christ and to cultivate Orthodox belief and morality. "We, as your spiritual father, also have the responsibility for your souls, and we are beside you, vigilant and praying ceaselessly for you, having secured for you a good priest, Father Sergio Vlad, who is sure to teach you that you are an honored flock of the Holy Archdiocese of Constantinople and that your Patriarch loves you very much and unconditionally."



Nicholas Manginas photos

Ecumenical Patriarch with U.S. Consul General Dana Darnell

U.S. Consul General to Istanbul Daria Darnell visited Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew July 16, her first official visit since her recent appointment. Ms. Darnell and His All-Holiness had a long discussion on issues of life and initiatives of the Mother Church of Constantinople, including the Diaspora, for Orthodox believers in Turkey and in the US.

Commerce Secretary Ross Visits Ecumenical Patriarch

ISTANBUL - U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross visited the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Phanar Sept. 8, accompanied by his wife, and new American ambassador to Ankara, David Satterfield.

Secretary Ross was welcomed by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, with whom he had a long discussion on the issues relating to the life and initiatives of the Mother Church of Constantinople, the Diaspora, and more generally, the Orthodox faithful in Turkey, and the use of the former

orphanage of the Princes' Islands.

They also discussed Orthodoxy in the United States, the recent election of Archbishop Elpidophoros, the Church's initiatives in inter-Christian and interfaith dialogue, and its efforts to raise public awareness over the need to protect the natural environment.

Accompanying Secretary Ross was James G. Rockas, deputy director of policy and strategic planning of the Department of Commerce, who helped arrange the visit.



Nicholas Manginas photos

Armenian Vicar Visits Ecumenical Patriarchate

Bishop Sahak Mashalian, the newly elected Vicar of the Armenian Patriarchate in Istanbul, visited the Ecumenical Patriarchate on Aug. 2. Bishop Sahak, accompanied by clergy of the Armenian Patriarchate, met with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and discussed the ongoing process of electing their new Patriarch.

with regard to preserving God's creation.

We pray for all those threatened or afflicted by the fires in all corners of our world. We call all faithful and all people of good will to consider carefully how

we live, what we consume, and where our priorities lie, using the words of the Divine Liturgy: "Let us pay attention! Let us stand with awe!"

At the Phanar, Saturday August 24th, 2019

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's Statement on the Global Wildfires

In recent weeks, our planet has witnessed extreme heat waves and expansive wildfires throughout the world—from the rain forests of the Amazon and desert regions of Africa, normally snow-covered regions such as the Arctic and Alaska to far away countries from Spain to Siberia. Month after month, we have experienced record temperatures and unprecedented heat waves, resulting in the destruction of millions of acres and the disruption of millions of people. And the intensity of these fires and storms is progressively increasing and intensifying, mandating critical and commensurate changes on our part.

Scientists warn us about the threat of such fires to the world's ecosystems, which are becoming increasingly jeopardized and vulnerable. The impact of these fires could reverberate for generations, affecting soil, infrastructure, and human beings.

Trees are vital for the soil, for our survival and for our soul. Trees are not simply valuable for their aesthetic beau-

ty or commercial benefit, but essentially for our defense against climate change. Planting more trees is certainly commendable, but cutting down less trees is perhaps the most compelling response to global warming.

While this global wildfire crisis may not entirely or exclusively be a consequence or cause of climate change, the calamitous events that the world is now experiencing undoubtedly and undeniably sound the alarm about the urgent and dire repercussions of a rising level of carbon emissions.

Therefore, if nothing else, such extreme phenomena compel us to consider the fundamental fragility of nature, the limited resources of our planet, and the unique sacredness of creation.

In our Encyclical on September 1, we outline the diverse initiatives and activities pioneered by the Ecumenical Patriarchate over the last 30 years, while observing the fundamental principles and precepts proposed by the Orthodox Church over the last twenty centuries

ARCHONS

Archons Host Religious Freedom Event at U.S. Capitol Archbishop, Members of Congress, Diplomats Attend

WASHINGTON – In connection with a State Department-sponsored “Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom”, the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, held a sidebar conference led by Archbishop Elpidophoros.

The event, held July 17 at the Capitol Visitor Center, included several bi-partisan members of Congress and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The Order presented the sidebar conference as part of the Ministerial at the invitation of U.S. Ambassador for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback.

During his remarks, Archbishop Elpidophoros thanked Speaker Pelosi and 17 other Members of Congress for their efforts to promote religious freedom and their support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Other speakers included: Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, Vicar General of the Archdiocese and spiritual advisor of the Order of St. Andrew; Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias; Sen. Robert Menendez (New Jersey), ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Sen. Chris Van Hollen (Maryland), Senate Appropriations Committee member; Rep. Gus Bilirakis (Florida), Archon and Hellenic-Israel Alliance co-chair, Congressional Hellenic Caucus co-chair and a House Energy and Commerce Committee member; Rep. Chris Smith (New Jersey), ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Global Rights Subcommittee and Tom Lantos, Human Rights Commission co-chair; Rep. John Sarbanes (Maryland),



Archons National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis addresses attendees to the sidebar conference of the Ministerial to Advance Religions Freedom.

House Energy and Commerce Committee member; Rep. Carolyn Maloney (New York), Congressional Hellenic Caucus co-chair, Hellenic-Israel Alliance co-chair and Joint Economic Committee vice chair; Rep. David Cicilline (Rhode Island), House Foreign Affairs Committee Europe Subcommittee member; and Rep. Jamie Raskin (Maryland), House Judiciary Committee and Oversight Committee member.

During his remarks, Dr. Limberakis noted that “the persecution of Christians is a global phenomenon that is as widespread as it is unnoticed. Almost everywhere that Christians are in the minority, they face regular harassment, discrimination, and worse. 30 percent

of the world’s population identifies as Christian, but 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination are directed at Christians. Nor is this persecution restricted to one particular region of the world: Christians face persecution today in more than 60 countries. Between 2007 and 2014, Christians were targeted for harassment in more countries than any other religious group. Millions of Christians regularly face interrogation, arrest, torture, and even death because of their religious convictions.”

Dr. Limberakis focused in particular on the plight of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, saying, “in Istanbul, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the center of our Orthodox Faith, continues to suffer.

“The Turkish government is persistent in maintaining policies that, if not reversed, could lead to the asphyxiation of Orthodox Christianity in Turkey, one of its historical heartlands, and nothing less than the threatened end of our Holy and Great Mother Church.”

Also attending: U.S. Reps. Chris Pappas (New Hampshire), House Infrastructure Committee and Veteran’s Affairs Committee member; Eliot Engel, House Foreign Affairs Committee chair; Nita Lowey (New York), House Committee on Appropriations; Josh Gottheimer (New Jersey), House Problem Solvers Caucus co-chair; Sean Maloney (New York), House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence member; Chuck Fleischmann (Tennes-

see), House Appropriations Committee member; Jim Cooper (Tennessee), House Armed Services Committee and Budget Committee and Oversight Committee member; and Dina Titus (Nevada), House Foreign Affairs Committee member. Present from the Senate were Sens. Menendez and Van Hollen.

Religious leaders and foreign dignitaries attending were: Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem; Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London; European Union Ambassador to the United States Stavros Lambrinidis; Cyprus’ Ambassador to the U.S. Marios Lysiotis; Theodoros Bizakis, deputy chief of mission of the Embassy of Greece; and Achilles Rakinis, political affairs officer of the Embassy of Greece.

Speakers also noted the persecution of Christians in the Middle East, Asia, China, India, Africa and elsewhere, calling attention to the gravity of this global catastrophe.

Dr. Limberakis acknowledged the efforts of Regional Commander Archon Andrew E. Manatos, Archon Mike Manatos, Liz Fagan, Archon Andrew Veniopoulos and Archon John Mindala organizing this historic initiative as part of the Archons’ overall global strategy to secure the complete and unfettered religious freedom of the Spiritual Center of the world’s 300 million Orthodox Christians, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in Istanbul.



(Above) U.S. Congressman Gus Bilirakis of Florida is one of several Congressional leaders at the religious freedom event. (Below) Archbishop Elpidophoros, Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem and U.S. Ambassador-Designate to Albania Yuro Kim.



(From left) Andrew Manatos, Coptic Church Archbishop Angaelos of London, U.S. Rep. Chris Smith from the 4th District of New Jersey, Archons National Commander Anthony Limberakis and Judge Theodore Bozonelis, who recently was named Archdiocesan Council secretary.

ARCHONS

Reception for Archbishop

WASHINGTON - The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle honored Archbishop Elpidophoros at a July 16 dinner, with a special guest in attendance, Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem. The dinner took place during the U.S. State Department Religious Freedom Ministerial Week.

The timing and location of this dinner was particularly important in light of the fact that the persecution of Christians worldwide continues to escalate, and is now as widespread as it is unnoticed.

In addition to Archbishop Elpidophoros and Patriarch Theophilos, also attending were: Ukrainian Orthodox Archbishop Yevstratty of Chernihiv; Fr. Alex Karloutsos, Order of St. Andrew spiritual advisor and the Archdiocese vicar general; Congressman Gus Bilirakis; members of the Trump Administration and diplomatic corps, many Archons and other guests.

Representing the Order of AHEPA was its newly elected Supreme President Archon George Horiates and Supreme Treasurer Archon Savas Tsivicos, who is also the honorary chair of the Cyprus Children's Fund. AHEPA Executive Director Archon Basil Mossaides was also present.

Representing the American Hellenic Institute was Executive Director Archon Nick Larigakis. The Hellenic Initiative was represented by Archon George Stamas, its president, and the National Hellenic Society by its Executive Director, Art Dimopoulos. Representing the American Hellenic Leadership Council was executive director, Endy Zemenides. The Hellenic American Women's Council was represented by its co-founder Theodora Hancock, and the National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes by Archon Andy Manatos. The Western Policy Center was represented by Archon John Sitalides.

Archbishop Elpidophoros addressed Patriarch Theophilos, saying: "Your Beatitude, on behalf of all those assembled, please accept our profound respects, love, and appreciation for the role that you play in the protection – not only of the Orthodox Christians of the Holy Land and Jordan, but of all those who bear the Name of Christ throughout the Middle East."

The Archbishop also noted: "This week, we are participating in this 'Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom.' A thousand participants from the world over have gathered here in the Nation's Capital to advance the cause of religious freedom for every human person, and we all know how much the esteemed Order of Saint Andrew has done in this regard.

It is significant to note that the opening of the Ministerial took place at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the closing will be at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

In the former location we remember those who perished from an ethnic and religious hatred; in the latter we commemorate those in our own land who endured the inhumanity of slavery and subsequent racial discrimination. Although nearly every people of

the world has suffered oppression, hatred, and even genocide at one time or another, it is our fervent pledge that we will never stand for such to happen anywhere again."

The Archbishop added: "Therefore, we must see our goals for the Diaspora and for our all our Orthodox Christian Homelands in this bright and shining light – the light of liberty of conscience and freedom of worship.

Whether it be in Constantinople or Jerusalem, in Greece or Ukraine, in Cyprus or Egypt, in Syria or Israel – our duty is to speak truth to power with love and with authority, even as the Lord spoke the Message of the Kingdom during His earthly ministry."

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, national commander of the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, stated: "How appropriate it is for the Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which has been the victim of religious persecution for centuries, to participate and speak at this ministerial, having served the Mother Church for over 25 years and who has witnessed first-hand the Martyria of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew."

National Commander's remarks
Dr. Limberakis praised Archbishop Elpidophoros' tireless work for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Church in general, noting in particular his efforts on behalf of Autocephaly for the Orthodox Church in Ukraine: "His clarion voice in the magnificent book he authored in advocacy of Ukrainian Autocephaly which supported the brilliant and just decision of His All-Holiness was a tour de force... And yes, Ukrainian Autocephaly is a statement in support of Religious Freedom!"

Dr. Limberakis added: "We are especially honored this evening with the presence of His Beatitude Theophilos III, the Patriarch of Jerusalem where the very birthplace of Christianity is being threatened with the complete asphyxiation of the Christian Community."

Explaining the urgency of the Ministerial, Dr. Limberakis said: "Whether you look at the Middle East, or Africa, or Asia, the countries of Syria, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Egypt, Turkey, Yemen, China, Pakistan, India... it's horrific that Christians are persecuted globally. According to our own State Department, Christians face persecution in more than 60 countries around the world, that's more than one out of every three countries in existence today. Stated another way, although Christians comprise only 30 percent of the world's population, 80 percent of all acts of religious discrimination are directed at Christians."

He also said that "the Order of St. Andrew commends President Trump, Secretary Pompeo and Ambassador for International Religious Freedom Brownback for organizing this Ministerial in which over 1,000 individuals representing 130 countries are participating to focus attention on religious persecution and deliberating on the ways and means this evil can be contained and ultimately overcome."



White House photo

With Archbishop Elpidophoros (from left) Archdiocese Vicar General Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, U.S. Undersecretary of State for Management Brian Bulatao and Archon Andrew Manatos, president of the Manatos and Manatos lobbying firm in Washington.



John Mindala photo

His Eminence and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York in the senator's office.



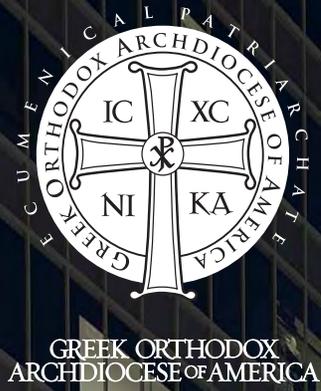
John Mindala photo

U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi greets participants to the conference.



John Mindala photo

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and Archbishop Elpidophoros discuss a variety of topics including the Secretary's upcoming visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



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St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, rendering by Santiago Calatrava

CLERGY UPDATE

Ordinations to the Diaconate

Kamilaris, Alexander – Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta – Chapel of the Panagia, Diaconia Center, Salem, NC 05/05/19
Palis, Theodosios – Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh – St. Nicholas Cathedral, Bethlehem, Pa. 06/04/19
Maginas, Angelo – Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco – Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Calif. 06/08/19
Tsikalas, John – Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago – St. Luke Church, Columbia, Mo. 06/01/19
Halikias, Philip – Metropolitan Methodios of Boston – St. George Chapel, Contoocook, NH 07/27/19
Mataragas, Nicholas – Metropolitan Nathanael – St. Spyridon Church, Palos Heights, Ill. 08/03/09
Orfanos, Alexander – Archbishop Elpidophoros – Cathedral of St. Paul, Hempstead, NY 08/25/19

Ordinations to the Priesthood

Dn. William Damaskos – Bishop Sevastianos of Zela – Holy Trinity Church, Clearwater, Fla. 05/26/19
Dn. Angelo Maginas – Metropolitan Gerasimos – Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Calif. 06/09/19
Dn. Stephanos Ritsi – Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana and All Albania – Cathedral of the Resurrection, Tirana, Albania 06/09/19
Dn. John Tsikalas – Metropolitan Nathanael – Holy Apostles Church, Westchester, Ill. 06/15/19
Dn. Thomas Bartz – Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver – St. Catherine Church, Greenwood Village Colo. 07/21/19
Dn. Nektarios Karantonis – Metropolitan Alexios – St. Nektarios Church, Charlotte, NC 07/21/19
Dn. Alexander Kamilaris – Metropolitan Alexios – St. Mark Church, Boca Raton, Fla. 08/11/19
Dn. Nicholas Mataragas – Archbishop Elpidophoros – Holy Trinity Church, Waterbury, Conn. 08/24/19

Date Correction:

Dn. Jeremy Troy – Metropolitan Isaiah – Annunciation Cathedral, Houston 09/30/18

Assignments

Fr. Stephen Gousios – St. Catherine Church, Ithaca, NY 04/15/19
Fr. Panayiotis Hasiakos – St. Demetrios Church, Chicago 05/15/19
Dn. John Tsikalas – Holy Apostles Church, Westchester, Ill. 06/01/19
Fr. John Verginis – Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church, Aliquippa, Pa. 06/01/19
Dn. Theodosios Palis – Annunciation Church, Lancaster, Pa. 06/05/19
Fr. Angelo Maginas – Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Calif. 06/10/19
Dn. Thomas Bartz – St. Catherine Church, Greenwood Village, Colo. 06/15/19
Fr. William Damaskos – Holy Trinity Church, Clearwater, Fla. 06/15/19
Fr. Andrew Pavlakos – St. George Church, New Port Richey, Fla. 06/15/19
Fr. Cosmin Sicoe – Holy Trinity Church, Ft. Wayne, Ind. 06/15/19
Fr. Richard Demetrios Andrews – Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Glenview, Ill. 07/01/19
Fr. Peter Dogias – St. Katherine Church, Redondo Beach, Calif. 07/01/19
V. Rev. Fr. Chrysostom Panos – St. Eleftherios Church, New York, NY 07/01/19

Fr. Nektarios Karantonis – St. Nektarios Church, Charlotte, NC 07/15/19
Fr. Nicholas Halkias – Holy Trinity Church, Canton, Ohio 08/01/19
Fr. Perikles Kallis – St. George Church, St. Paul, Minn. 08/01/19
Fr. Alexander Kamilaris – St. Mark Church, Boca Raton, Fla. 08/01/19
Fr. Steven Klund – St. Nicholas Church, Wilmington, NC 08/01/19
Fr. Matthew Moore – Holy Trinity Church, Steubenville, Ohio 08/01/19
Fr. Michael State – St. Demetrios Church, Concord, Calif. 08/01/19
Fr. Nicholas Mataragas – Holy Trinity Church, Waterbury, Conn. 08/12/19
Fr. John Ketchum – Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church, Racine, Wis. 09/01/19
Fr. Ciprian Sas – Annunciation Church, Milwaukee, Wis. 09/01/19
Fr. Anastasios Theodoropoulos – All Saints Church, Peoria, Ill. 09/01/19
Fr. James Berends – Holy Spirit Church, Rochester, NY 09/02/19
Fr. Gregory Hohnholt – Holy Trinity Cathedral, Indianapolis 09/02/19
Fr. Michael Marcantoni – Holy Trinity Church, Nashville 09/02/19
Correction:
Fr. Jonathan Mettasophia – Holy Trinity Cathedral, Charlotte, NC 04/08/19

Offikia

Fr. Costas Keares – Office of Protopresbyter, bestowed by Metropolitan Savas 04/21/19
Fr. Constantine Aliferakis – Office of Protopresbyter, bestowed by Metropolitan Nathanael 05/20/19
Fr. Micah Hirschy – Office of Confessor, bestowed by Metropolitan Alexios 05/26/19
Fr. Gregory Edwards – Office of Protopresbyter, bestowed by Metropolitan Alexios 05/26/19
Fr. Sotirios Malamis – Office of Economos, bestowed by Metropolitan Nathanael 06/05/19
Fr. Thomas Alatzakis – Office of Economos, bestowed by Metropolitan Nathanael 06/10/19
Fr. David Bissias – Office of Protopresbyter, bestowed by Metropolitan Nathanael 06/10/19
Fr. Sotirios Dimitriou – Office of Protopresbyter, bestowed by Metropolitan Nathanael 06/10/19
Fr. John Kalomas – Office of Protopresbyter, bestowed by Metropolitan Nathanael 06/10/19
Fr. Chrysanthos Kerkeres – Office of Economos, bestowed by Metropolitan Nathanael 06/10/19
Fr. Demetrios Kounavis – Office of Economos, bestowed by Metropolitan Nathanael 06/10/19
Fr. Dustan Lyon – Office of Confessor, bestowed by Metropolitan Nathanael 06/10/19
Fr. Chris Mihalopoulos – Office of Confessor, bestowed by Metropolitan Nathanael 06/10/19
Fr. Stamatios Sfikas – Office of Confessor, bestowed by Metropolitan Nathanael 06/10/19

Retired Clergy

Fr. William J. Bartz 08/01/19
Fr. Marin State 08/01/19
Fr. Thomas Pappalas 09/01/19

Suspensions

Fr. Romanos Galben 06/20/19
Fr. Dionysios Listerman-Vierling 07/01/19

Receptions

Fr. Jeffrey Frate – Aug. 29, 2018 (from Orthodox Church in America)

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America on the occasion of the Feast of Saint Elpidophoros cordially invites the faithful to celebrate

the nameday of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

Saturday, November 2, 2019

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 Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral Center
 337 East 74th Street, NYC

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ARCHDIOCESE NEWS



Orthodox Observer photo



Orthodox Observer photo

Archbishop Elpidophoros welcomes Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, his wife, Mareva and son Konstantinos to Archdiocese headquarters on Sept. 26. Several members of the Greek news media reported on the event. Also shown (from left) Deputy Foreign Minister for Greeks Abroad Antonis Diamataris, Bishop Apostolos of Medeia and Consul General of Greece in New York Dr. Konstantinos Koutras.

Prime Minister Mitsotakis Makes First Visit to Archdiocese

By Stavros Papagermanos

NEW YORK – Archbishop Elpidophoros welcomed the Prime Minister of Greece Kyriakos Mitsotakis to the headquarters of the Archdiocese on Sept. 26. The Prime Minister was in New York for the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly, along with hundreds of other world leaders..

Archbishop Elpidophoros, in his remarks, expressed his love, excitement

and special appreciation for the meeting. He stated that after the ten-year period of austerity in Greece, during which the Greek people suffered, the new Prime Minister will assuredly govern in a spirit of love, unity, compassion, brotherhood, philanthropy and understanding. The Archbishop closed his remarks by stating that he is looking forward to a harmonious cooperation in all areas, strengthening and upholding

► From page 21



Orthodox Observer photo

Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades enters the Chapel of St. Paul at the Archdiocese to light a candle prior to attending a welcome reception with the Archbishop.

Archbishop Welcomes Cyprus Pres.

NEW YORK – Archbishop Elpidophoros welcomed President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades on Sept. 27 who arrived at the Archdiocese with wife, Andri, After first venerating the icons at the Archdiocesan chapel they were received in the second floor salon, where formal greetings were exchanged.

In his welcoming remarks, the Archbishop stated: “As a Hierarch of

the Ecumenical Throne, responsible for the pastoral care of the Orthodox Christians in the United States, I pray to God of love, peace, philanthropy and of reconciliation, that He may allow us to see the island of Cyprus united, where Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots, all of its citizens living harmoniously together, will enjoy the benefits of reconciliation, brotherhood, love, economic progress and growth.”



GOA/D.Panagos photo

Archbishop Elpidophoros, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Omer Celik.

Archbishop Meets with Turkish President

NEW YORK – Archbishop Elpidophoros had a previously unscheduled meeting, Sept. 25, with the President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan at Manhattan’s Cipriani Hotel. Accompanying President Erdogan was his close advisor Ömer Çelik, former minister of European affairs.

The meeting was cordial and the discussion revolved around issues of minorities in Greece and Turkey, the need of restoration of the orphanage on

the island of Prinkipos (Buyukada) and the prospects of reopening the Theological School of Halki.

Archbishop Elpidophoros emphasized all issues concerning the total protection of religious freedom and human rights in general.

After being briefed on the activities and accomplishments of the Holy Archdiocese, President Erdogan invited His Eminence to visit him during his next trip to Turkey.

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led by Fr. Mark Leondis

of St. Mark Church in Boca Raton, FL

& Fr. John Mamangakis

of St. Nicholas Church in Ft. Pierce, FL

April 28 - May 7, 2020

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Of St. Anthony Church in Reno, NV

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GETTING ACQUAINTED: THE FIRST 90 DAYS

Editor's Note: At Archbishop Elpidophoros' press conference upon his arrival at Kennedy Airport on June 19, a reporter from Greece asked how he might view his first 100 days, to which His Eminence responded: "Difficult." One might even say overwhelming in view of his rush of activities presented on this and the following pages.

In his first 90 days, His Eminence tackled a whirlwind familiarization schedule of visits, activities, events and encounters. Along the way he experienced a microcosm of the Archdiocese of America.

Even before setting foot in New York, from the day of his election on May 11, the Archbishop initiated his ministry by issuing numerous communications, presenting his thoughts and goals via pastoral letters, e-mails, skype visits and teleconferences with many Church leaders and organizations anxiously awaiting his arrival.

Following his June 22 enthronement, his ministry has taken him to every corner of the Archdiocese – from New England, to Washington, D.C., Florida, the Midwest and Far West.

In the process, he has met with the nation's top political leaders, state and local government leaders and officials, representatives of Greece and Cyprus, heads of Orthodox, Roman Catholic and other Christian groups in the U.S., and a wide representation of the faithful ranging from senior citizens to young adults, to young children, and every category of parishioner in between.

Friday, June 28

- Metropolis of Atlanta Clergy Laity Conference, Hyatt Riverfront, Jacksonville, Fla.

Sunday, June 30

- Feast of the Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles; Orthros, Archieratical Divine Liturgy St. Paul Cathedral, Hempstead, NY

Fri., July 5.

-AHEPA 97th Annual Supreme Convention Grand Banquet, the Palmer House Hilton, Chicago

Sat., July 6

- AHEPA's Sons of Pericles and Maids of Athena Awards Brunch, Palmer House Hilton, Chicago
-Meeting with Metropolis of Chicago clergy, Palmer House Hilton
- Chicago Riverboat Architectural Tour with Clergy, Young Adults and the YAL Board
- Dinner with Metropolis of Chicago leadership, Cite, 505 N. Lakeshore Dr., Chicago

Sun., July 7

- Orthros, Archieratical Divine Liturgy, Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago
- National Hellenic Museum, 333 South Halsted St., Chicago.
- Serbian Orthodox Diocese of New Gračanica and Midwestern America and New Gračanica Monastery, Protection of the Most Holy Mother of God, Third Lake, Ill.

Mon. July 8

- Greek American Nursing Home, Wheeling, Ill.
- Fanari Camp/St. Iakovos Retreat Center, Kansasville, Wis.

Tue., July 9

Visitors to Archdiocese headquarters, New York
- Bishop Ierotheos of Efkarpia



Archbishop Elpidophoros and Vice President Pence discuss an icon that His Eminence was presenting to him

- Federation of Cypriot American Organizations board members

- Permanent Representative of Greece to the U.N. Ambassador Maria Theofili
Wed., July 10

- Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, chief negotiator for the Republic of Cyprus

Thurs., July 11

- Visit to Direct Archdiocese District Camp St. Paul at the new camp property, Litchfield, Conn.

Fri., July 12

- Visit of the Chief of the Cypriot Armed Forces Gen. Ilias Leontaris, Asst. Chief of Staff Col. Loukas Hadjimichael, and Lt. Col. Theoklitos Pachoulides Military Assistant to the Chief of Defense, accompanied by Consul General of Cyprus in New York Alexis Phaedonos-Vadet, Archdiocese Headquarters, NYC
- Visit of Metropolitan Markos of Chios and Mayor of Chios Manolis Vournous, accompanied by Markos Marinakis, John Kontolios, president of the Chian Federation, Deacon Apostolos Ladas and Fr. Vasilios Louros, Archdiocese Headquarters, NYC

Sun., July 14

- Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council; Orthros, Archieratical Divine Liturgy, St. Demetrios Cathedral, Astoria, NY

Mon., July 15

- Visit to St. Sophia Cathedral, Washington
- Ecumenical Prayer Service, organized by the organization In Defense of Christians in the Middle East, U.S. Capitol Rotunda, Washington
- Dinner for the Prelates hosted In Defense of Christians in the Middle East Capitol Hill Club, Washington

Tue.-Thurs., July 16 -18

Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, State Department, Washington
Tue., July 16
- Reception and dinner hosted by the Order of St. Andrew in honor of Archbishop Elpidophoros with special guest Patriarch Theofilos III of Jerusalem, The Metropolitan Club, Washington

Wed., July 17

- Ministerial Session: "Protecting Vulnerable Religious Minorities in Conflict and Crisis Settings," Archbishop Elpidophoros was invited to speak by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Ambassador Samuel Brownback, State Department, Washington

- Archons Religious Freedom Reception with Members of Congress, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington
- Meeting with Religious leaders and reception hosted by the Secretary Pompeo, State Department..

- Dinner hosted by Secretary of Health and Human Resources Alex. M. Azar

Thurs., July 18

- State Dept. Ministerial Reception, National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington

Fri., July 19

- Archieratical Great Vespers for the Feast of Prophet Elias, Prophet Elias Church, Yonkers, NY

Sun., July 21

- Orthros, Archieratical Divine Liturgy, Memorial Service by the Federation of Cypriot American Organizations marking the 45th Anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus, Archangel Michael Church, Port Washington, NY

- Archieratical Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Markella, St. Markella Church, Wantagh, NY

Fri., July 26

- Feast of St. Paraskevi, Orthros, Archieratical Divine Liturgy, St Paraskevi Church, Greenlawn, NY.

- Luncheon hosted by St. Paraskevi community to benefit St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Shrine Church at the World Trade Center, The Larkfield, East Northport, NY

Sat., July 27

- Feast of St. Panteleimon, Archieratical Great Vespers, Sacred Patriarchal and Stravopegial Monastery of St. Irene Chrysovalantou, Astoria, NY

Sun., July 28

- Feast of St. Irene Chrysovalantou, Orthros, Archieratical Divine Liturgy, Sacred Patriarchal and Stravopegial Monastery of St. Irene Chrysovalantou, Astoria, NY

Sun., Aug. 4

- Orthros, Archieratical Divine Liturgy, Transfiguration Church, Mattituck, NY

Mon.- Tue., Aug. 5-6

- Visit to the Monastery of Saint Anthony, Florence, Ariz.

Tue., Aug. 6

- Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ, Service of the Great Paraklisis to the Most Holy Theotokos, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix

Thurs., Aug. 8

- Visit of David Harris General Manager of the AJC (Jewish American Commission), the Rabbi Noam Marans

interfaith director Relations and Jillian Laskowitz deputy secretary of the Director-General, Archdiocese, NYC
- Great Canon of Supplication to the Theotokos, St. Nicholas Church, Flushing, NY

Friday Aug. 9

- Small Supplication Canon to the Theotokos, St. Paul Chapel, Archdiocese, NYC

Saturday, Aug. 10

- Visit to Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Holy Protection, Holy Protection Convent, White Haven, Pa.

Sunday, Aug. 11

- Matins, Divine Liturgy, Holy Protection Convent, White Haven, Pa.

Monday, Aug. 12

- Visit by representatives of permanent session pre-Chalcedonian Orthodox churches (SCOCH), Archdiocese, NYC

- Small Supplication Canon to the Theotokos, Sts. Catherine and Georgiou, Astoria, NY

Tuesday, Aug. 13

- Visit of directors and executive director of St. Photios National Shrine, Archdiocese, NYC

- Great Canon of Supplication to the Theotokos, St. Demetrios, Jamaica, NY

Wednesday, Aug. 14

- Visit of Officers of the National Council of Churches (NCC), Archdiocese, NYC

- Visit of Bishop Tikhon of the OCA, Archdiocese, NYC

- Archieratical Great Vespers of the Feast of the Assumption, Assumption Church, Brooklyn, NY

Thursday, Aug. 15

- Feast of the Assumption, Matins, Divine Liturgy, Assumption Church, Southampton, NY

Sunday Aug. 18

Orthros, Archieratical Divine Liturgy - Kimisis tis Theotokou, Island Park, NY

Tuesday., Aug. 20

Visit of Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Primate of the Armenian Eastern Prelacy, Archdiocese, NYC

Thurs., Aug. 22

- Meeting and Lunch with Metropolitan Joseph of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, AOC headquarters, Englewood, NJ
- Great Archieratical Vespers for the Feast of Panagia Proussiotisa. Shrine Church of St. Nicholas, Flushing, NY

Sat., Aug. 24

- Orthros, Archieratical Divine Liturgy, Ordination to Holy Priesthood of Dn. Nicholas Matarangas, Holy Trinity Church, Waterbury, Conn.

Sun., Aug. 25

- Orthros, Archieratical Divine Liturgy, Ordination to the Holy Diaconate of Alex Orphanos St. Paul Cathedral, Hempstead, NY

Mon., Aug. 26

- Welcoming of incoming students on first day of classes HCHC, Brookline, Mass.

Wed., Aug. 28

- Meeting with Archdiocesan Presbyters Council officers, Archdiocese, NYC

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 30-Sept. 1

- YAL Conference Metropolis of San Francisco, Hyatt Long Beach Hotel, Long Beach, Calif.

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS



Orthodox Observer photo

Clergy-Laity Congress Organizing Committee members at Archbishop's office meeting, (from left) Dr. Nicholas Loutsion, Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, Barbara Pasalis of the National Philoptochos Board and Archdeacon Ryan Gzikowski. The congress will take place in Cleveland June 28-July 3.

Preparations Underway for Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress

NEW YORK – A delegation from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh led by Metropolitan Savas met with Archbishop Elpidophoros July 12 to discuss preparations for the 45th Clergy-Laity Congress and National Philoptochos Convention scheduled for June 28-July 3, 2020 in Cleveland.

The group, comprised of Dr. Nicholas Loutsion and Barbara Pasalis, made a presentation and update on the organizational efforts. The Archbishop asked

Metropolitan Savas to name chairmen to continue the preparations and also appointed Bishop Apostolos of Medeia to represent the Archdiocese. The central Congress theme will be the words of St. Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians: "... the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor. 13:13)

In the coming weeks more information, including registration, hotel, and schedules will be announced and available at www.clergylaity.org

Amendments to Archdiocese Regulations Promote Good Governance and Transparency

The amendments to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Regulations enacted during the last Clergy Laity Congress, focusing on financial transparency and accountability for the Archdiocese, Metropolises, and Parishes, have now been merged into the Regulations and are made available to the public on the Archdiocese website, goarch.org. (See Articles 5, 8, 11, 12, 32 and 33 of the Regulations)

The most important provisions, governing the Archdiocese, are those which expand the duties of the Archdiocesan Council Executive Committee, so that henceforth the Executive Committee must (1) review and approve proposed budgets and adjustments to budgets, (2) require copies and review all financial reports on an ongoing basis, (3) review the use of restricted funds and ensure that restricted funds are used only for their intended purpose, and (4) require the Archdiocese to publish for public viewing, in as much detail as is required by the Executive Committee, all financial records. (Article 5, Section 4B) The Chair and each member of the Administration, Audit, and Finance Standing Committees must have the requisite education and experience to serve effectively. (Article 5, Section 5C)

The reason for these and other amendments is to guarantee that the finances of the Archdiocese remain in good order and that there is not again a surprise financial crisis.

The absence of proper governance threatens the stability of the Archdiocese and discourages the faithful.

A key amendment pertaining to the Metropolises is that henceforth they will be required to prepare financial statements audited or reviewed by an independent certified public accountant annually. (Article 8, Section 5) Metropolises also will be required

to adopt a Whistleblower Policy similar to that of the Archdiocese. (Article 8, Section 6) Metropolis financial records now must be made part of Metropolis Assembly meetings (Article 11, Section 8A), and Metropolis financial statements must be made available to the parishes. (Article 11, Section, 8B.) Metropolis Local Councils also must establish Executive, Finance, and Audit Committees, similar to those of the Archdiocesan Council. (Article 12, Section 6) Local Councils also must approve budgets and all transactions which they define as significant. (Article 12, Section 10) Finally, checking accounts shall require a signature of two people, one of which must be a lay official of the Local Council. (Article 12, Section 11)

These key amendments are intended to mirror similar rules governing the Archdiocese. In order to maintain the trust of the faithful in the whole of the Church body, there must be transparency throughout.

The Metropolises should be subject to the same standards as required of the Archdiocese. The amendments also are intended to improve parish governance.

There should be no reason to question fair Parish Board elections or Parish Audit Reports. Accordingly, the amendments limit who may serve on a Parish Board Elections Committee (Article 32, Section 1) or a Parish Audit Committee (Article 33, Section 5).

To understand that each Metropolis understands the true financial condition of its parishes, Parish Audit Committees are now required to submit their reports to the Metropolis. (Article 33, Section 4)

Readers are invited to review the above-mentioned amendments in more detail.

Department of Internet Ministries Announces 2 Job Openings

BROOKLINE, Mass. - The Department of Internet Ministries is hiring for two full-time positions: a software developer and a product support specialist. The software developer is responsible for the development and maintenance of new and existing applications and products provided by the department for the web, mobile, and beyond. This person will be responsible for working both independently and with a creative team by participating in all aspects of the application development process.

The product support specialist will handle a wide range of responsibilities, both technical and interpersonal in nature. Responsibilities involve working with clergy and staff from Orthodox parishes and organizations to assist them in using the many products and services the department offers.

The department operates on the campus of Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology at 50 Goddard Ave in Brookline, Mass.

The Department of Internet Ministries, a national ministry of the Archdiocese, is committed to following the commandment of our Lord Jesus Christ who said: "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" (Mark 16.15). Therefore, our staff is dedicated to using the medium of computers and the Internet for the proclamation of the Good News of the Gospel and for the advancement of Orthodox Christian ministry.

To learn more about the Department of Internet Ministries, visit: internet.goarch.org.

Interested applicants are encouraged to send their resume and a cover letter via email to internet@goarch.org.

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GETTING ACQUAINTED: THE FIRST 90 DAYS

► From page 11

Sun., Sept. 1

- Orthros, Archieratical Divine Liturgy, St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, 1640 San Gabriel Blvd, San Gabriel, Calif.

Tues., Sept. 3, 2019

- Visit to the Permanent Mission of Greece to the UN, 866 Second Avenue, New York, NY

Wed., Sept. 4

- Lunch hosted by Roman Catholic Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan at the Cardinal's Residence, Madison Ave., New York, NY

Thurs., Sept 5

- Visit of representatives of Ronald McDonald House in Manhattan to Archdiocese headquarters.
--Interview with Ancient Faith Radio.

Sun., Sept. 8, 2019

- Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos, Orthros, Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the new Altar Table and New Complex, Archangels Church, Stamford, Conn.

Wed., Sept. 11

- Hellenic College Holy Cross Strategic Planning meeting, Brookline, Mass.

Thurs., Sept. 12

- HCHC Board of Trustees meeting, Brookline

Fri., Sept 13, 2019

- Great Vespers – Stavroforia of the Students, Holy Cross Chapel, HCHC, Brookline

Sat., Sept. 14

- Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Orthros, Divine Liturgy and Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon Philip Halikias, Holy Cross Chapel

Sun., Sept. 15

- Orthros, Divine Liturgy, Annunciation Cathedral, Boston

Mon., Sept. 16

- Visit of officers and representatives of the Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, Archdiocese headquarters, NYC

- Visit of the leadership of the Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Archdiocese headquarters

Tue., Sept. 17

-Lecture by Rev. Dr. Nicholas

Louh, "Turning Your Faith into a Hands-on Experience that Gives You Hope", National Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy, NYC

Wed., Sept. 18

-Executive Committee Meeting of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the U.S.A. Archdiocese headquarters

Thurs., Sept. 19

-Service of Agiasmos upon the new academic year, St. Demetrios Greek American Day School, Astoria, NY

-"Being Orthodox in a non-Orthodox World," An Orthodoxy on Tap NYC lecture, Pier A Harbor House, NYC

Fri., Sept. 20

-Visits of Greek government officials: Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs Antonis Diamataris, Minister of the Interior Takis Theodorikakos and Minister of Culture Lina Mendoni, Archdiocese headquarters

Sat-Sun., Sept. 21-22

-Synaxis of Abbots and Abbesses of the Monasteries of the Archdiocese, Monastery of St. Nektarios, Roscoe, N.Y.

Mon., Sept. 23

-Agiasmos (Blessing) service at National Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy, National Philoptochos Board meeting, National Philoptochos headquarters, 126 East 37th St., NYC

-Visit of the Alternate Greek government Minister for Citizen Protection, responsible for Migration Policy Giorgos Koumoutsakos, Archdiocese headquarters, NYC

-Benediction at Appeal of Conscience Foundation 2019 Awards Dinner, The Pierre Hotel, NYC

Tues., Sept. 24

-Visit of the Minister of Education of Greece Ms. Niki Kerameus, Archdiocese

-Direct Archdiocesan District Council Meeting, Archdiocese.

Wed., Sept. 25

-Agiasmos service for the new school year at William Spyropoulos, Greek American Day School, St Nicholas Church, Flushing, NY

-Visit of Deputy Minister of Labor of Greece Ms. Domna M. Michailidou, Archdiocese

-Address of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis of Greece to Greek-American Community Petros Patrides Hall, St. Demetrios School, Astoria, NY

Thurs., Sept. 26

-Service of Agiasmos for the new school year, Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral School, NYC

-Visit of the Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Archdiocese headquarters

-Inauguration of new elevator at the Consulate General of Greece in New York Consulate General of Greece, NYC

-Opening of Photography Exhibit and Lecture for Roumaniote Jews, Consulate General of Greece, NYC

-2019 Annual Testimonial Dinner of the Federation of Cypriot American Organizations with the President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades, Terrace on the Park, Flushing Meadows Park, NYC

Fri., Sept. 27

-Visit of President Nicos Anastasiades of Cyprus, Archdiocese

-Visit of the AHEPA Supreme President George G. Horiates, Archdiocese

-Hellenic Initiative Gala, New York Hilton

Sat., Sept. 28

-Pastoral Visit to St. Barbara parish, Orange, Conn., for the community's 100th anniversary.

-Anniversary banquet of St. Barbara community, The Cascade, Hamden, Conn.

Sun., Sept. 29

-Orthros, Archieratical Divine Liturgy, St. Barbara Church, Orange, Conn.

-Concert of Alkistis Protopsalti, The Kaye Playhouse, Hunter College, NYC

Archbishop Receives Congratulatory Letter from Cyprus President

NEW YORK – Consul General of Cyprus in New York Alexis Phedonos-Vadet, visiting Archbishop Elpidophoros on July 3, presented him with a personal congratulatory letter from Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades, on the occasion of His Eminence's election and enthronement.

In his letter, Mr. Anastasiades wrote: "You undertake this God-pleasing work in a particularly demanding time and as I am confident of the diligence you will show, I want to assure you of the readiness of both myself and my Government to develop a close cooperation towards the goal of promoting our national issues and supporting the Greek and Cypriot Omogeneia."

Mr. Anastasiades also expressed the wish to meet Archbishop Elpidophoros in New York, during his upcoming visit and participation in the sessions of the U.N. General Assembly.

Feast Day of St. Elpidophoros Celebrated Nov. 2

The patron saint of Archbishop Elpidophoros lived in Persia in the mid-fourth century and is described as "chief of the nobles" in the court of Shapur II (309-379), a tyrannical and brutal ruler, according to "The Great Synaxaristes of the Orthodox Church." Elpidophoros was also a secret Christian.

Though Christianity had taken root in Persia over the past 300 years, during Shapur's reign "all who confessed Christ were harshly tortured."

Among those who were betrayed for their faith were Akindynos, Pegasios and Anempodistos, who were secretly teaching to disdain the imperial demands to worship the ancient gods and to stand strong in the faith.

They were brought before a tribunal where they were ordered to sacrifice to Zeus. When they refused they were beaten mercilessly but they continued to refuse to do Shapur's bidding.

They were sentenced to be executed.

When he called upon his nobles to

support him, Elpidophoros (Elpidophoros as its spelled in the English translation of the Synaxaristes) stepped forward and fearlessly reproached the king.

He asked the martyrs to "entreat God" on his behalf to guide him "toward piety" and account him with their sacred company.

Elpidophoros replied to the king, "We are not going to venerate false gods."

Shapur therefore ordered them, and 300 others to be beheaded.

The Church honors their memory on Nov. 2.

When then-Metropolitan Bartholomew was elevated to the office of Ecumenical Patriarch in 1991, Archbishop Iakovos expressed that he would be an Elpidophoros (bringer of hope).

The Patriarch kept the thought of bestowing the name on a worthy individual and, when a young Yianni Lambryniadis became ordained as a deacon in 1994, His All Holiness bestowed upon him the ecclesiastical name "Elpi-

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GETTING ACQUAINTED: THE FIRST 90 DAYS

Archbishop Welcomes Metropolitan Tikhon

NEW YORK – Archbishop Elpidophoros welcomed Metropolitan Tikhon of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA) for their first official meeting Aug. 14. The two hierarchs discussed the developing relationship between the Archdiocese and the OCA in recent years, committing to deepening cooperation. They continued with the topic of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA, emphasizing the need to strengthen relationships between the various Orthodox jurisdictions in the USA. Archbishop Elpidophoros and Metropolitan Tikhon expressed mutual desire for regular visits as well as frequent Eucharistic concelebration.



Metropolitan Tikhon with His Eminence at his Archdiocese office

AJC Officials Visit Archbishop

NEW YORK – Two representatives of the American Jewish Committee visited Archbishop Elpidophoros Aug. 12.

They were David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee (AJC - Jewish American Commission) and Rabbi Noam Marana director interfaith and intergroup relations AJC.

The Archbishop expressed appreciation to the AJC organization for deep and lasting bond that connects their group to the Archdiocese and for the unwavering support for the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The committee officials reported in critical international role still played by the Ecumenical Patriarchate to consolidate peace and reconciliation between peoples. In a climate of sincerity and uprightness they discussed some of the challenges facing the Eastern Mediterranean and stressed the strong bond of cooperation between Israel,



Metropolitan Nathanael gives the Archbishop a tour of the Serbian Orthodox cathedral.

AHEPA Leaders Meet with His Eminence

NEW YORK – Archbishop Elpidophoros on Sept. 27 welcomed the Supreme President of AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association), George G. Horiates and members of its leadership: Supreme Vice President Jimmy Kokotas, Chairman of the Board Nick Karacostas, and Executive Director Basil Mossaidis.

During their meeting they discussed a number of issues of importance to the Greek Orthodox faithful in America and committed fully to working together on these matters.

Archbishop Elpidophoros expressed his deep appreciation for the support of all members of AHEPA to the Church, and specifically to the rebuilding of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.



NCC representatives Dr. Tony Kireopoulos, Jim Winkler and the Rt. Rev. W. Darin Moore.



American Jewish Committee representatives Rabbi Noam Marana and David Harris.

Archbishop Meets with NCC Delegation

NEW YORK – A delegation from the National Council of Church of Christ met with Archbishop Elpidophoros Aug. 14 to discuss several issues of interest. The NCC officials included the Rt. Rev. W. Darin Moore (chairman), Jim Winkler (general secretary and president), and Dr. Tony Kireopoulos (associate secretary general).

Bishop Moore emphasized the NCC's current focus on ending racism, remembering the Archdiocese's role in launching the ACT to End Racism initiative in 2018 as well as connecting the current efforts to those of Archbishop Iakovos during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Archbishop Elpidophoros expressed the Archdiocese's continued commitment to the work of the NCC and all relationships therein.

During the meeting, Archbishop Elpidophoros professed, "While texts and explanations are often sought and serve an important purpose, our example negates their necessity. Common witness and common prayer among our churches will be enough to guide our people to understanding one another better and to harmonious living."

Archbishop Visits Serbian Orthodox

CHICAGO – Traveling to the Metropolis of Chicago over Fourth of July weekend, Archbishop Elpidophoros, accompanied by Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago, made a pilgrimage to the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of New Gračanica-Midwestern America.

He was received by Bishop Longin of New Gračanica at Eponymous Monastery, where he venerated the relics of St. Mardarije (Uskokovic), the first Serbian bishop in the U.S. and Canada. The Serbian Orthodox Church canonized him as a saint on May 29, 2015. His feast day is celebrated Dec. 12.

Commenting afterwards, Archbishop Elpidophoros said: "I rejoiced to visit with our Serbian brethren, and savor the piety and devotion the Serbian Church exudes. As someone with a great devotion for the relics of the saints, I was honored to venerate those of St. Mardarije, and to experience his witness here in our blessed nation. All Orthodox Christians of the United States, and indeed the Western Hemisphere, share in the grace of God's holy ones, who constantly intercede on our behalf."

Armenian Archbishop Visits

NEW YORK – Archbishop Elpidophoros on Aug. 20 received Archbishop Anoushavan Tanielian, of the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church under the jurisdiction of the Holy See of the Great House of Cilicia. After recognizing the common history of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Armenian Church, they discussed pastoral concerns – including parochial schools, assimilation, and refugees. Both hierarchs expressed their desire for common witness, more frequent visits and stronger collaboration.

GETTING ACQUAINTED: THE FIRST 90 DAYS



GOA/D. Panagos photo

A highlight of his journey to the Metropolis of Chicago was attending the Supreme Convention of the Order of AHEPA.

Oriental Orthodox Hierarchs welcomed

NEW YORK – Archbishop Elpidophoros welcomed a delegation from the Standing Conference of Oriental Orthodox Churches (SCOOC), on Aug. 12 for a discussion of various issues of interest to both Orthodox groups.

The delegation included Bishop David (Coptic - president of SCOOC), Mor Dionysios (Syriac), Mor Titus (Malankara), Archbishop Silvanos (Malankara-Syriac Knanaya) and Bishop Daniel (Armenian).

Recent changes in both SCOOC and the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA, a strong desire for unity, and the need to reinvigorate the joint dialogue – especially on matters of pastoral concern – were openly discussed. The group agreed on a joint Christmas concert, for which details will be forthcoming.

Archbishop Makes 1st Pastoral Visit to Phoenix

By Kristen Bruskas

PHOENIX - Archbishop Elpidophoros made his first pastoral visit to Arizona Aug. 4-7, being greeted upon his arrival by Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, and area clergy.

The Archbishop greeted each person he met, emulating the love of the Gospel through his words and actions. He was especially engaging with the youth, and encouraged them to remain close to the Church and stay strong in their faith.

“It was a blessing and honor for the faithful of Arizona to have Archbishop Elpidophoros visit within such a short time following his enthronement,” stated Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. “He is a man of great faith and vision, and we look forward to the realization of his inspirational archpastoral leadership.”

On Monday, Aug. 5, the Archbishop traveled to Florence, Ariz., to St. Anthony Monastery. He was greeted by Archimandrite Paisios, abbot of the monastery, and members of the monastic community.

He participated in a doxology service, and celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration at the Monastery on Aug. 6 where he ordained monk Kyrilos to the Holy Diaconate, and Hierodeacon Seraphim to the Holy Priesthood.

Upon returning to Phoenix, he met with clergy from Arizona, learning more about the local parishes, and also sharing his vision for the growth of the Church and the strengthening of the Archdiocese.

That evening, nearly 500 people from the surrounding communities gathered at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix for the Service of Great Paraklisis.

As a memento of the first visit, Metropolis Vicar for the Southwest Vicarate Fr. Andrew Barakos, presented the Archbishop with a framed Navajo turquoise cross on behalf of all the parishes.

The evening concluded with a festive reception coordinated by the Holy Trinity Cathedral Philoptochos, assisted by chapters from nearby parishes.



GOA/D. Panagos photo

His Eminence's journey to Holy Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix included meeting with regional San Francisco Metropolis clergy and young people of the Cathedral.



GOA/D. Panagos photo

GETTING ACQUAINTED: THE FIRST 90 DAYS

California YAL Conference Turns National in Scope

By Kristen Bruskas

LONG BEACH, Calif. - "Let me start by telling you, without any doubt, uncertainty or hesitation: I am here to stand by you, to laugh with you, to cry with you, and to serve with you! I have a yearning to see your generation advance the Church. Your generation is special! You have an innate desire to lift each other up – this is what our world needs now!" It was with these powerful words that Archbishop Elpidophoros greeted the 2019 Young Adult League Conference participants following the Agiasmos service on Aug. 30.

"Proclaim" was the theme of the conference held from Aug. 29–Sept. 1 at the Hyatt Regency in Long Beach.

This theme was incorporated into all aspects of the weekend filled with faith and fellowship amongst Orthodox young adults. Originally planned as a Metropolis of San Francisco event, it quickly grew to attract 357 registrants from 33 states and 127 parishes across the Archdiocese.

Conference Chairman George Anagnostopoulos, led a team of 54 young adults to plan and implement this event put YAL back on the map!

In his welcome remarks, Metropolitan Gerasimos quoted from the poem *Ithaca* by renowned poet Constantine Cavafy who wrote, "The days of the future stand in front of us like a line of candles all alight; golden and warm and lively little candles."

Relating that passage to the young adults, Metropolitan Gerasimos continued, "This is how I see all of you—the future in front of me, shining like candles, shining with the love of the Lord in

your hearts. What better way to create a legacy of leadership for our church than to cultivate the best and brightest of our young adults."

The keynote address presented by five-time Daytime Emmy® Award winning actor and devoted Orthodox Christian Jonathan Jackson focused on the conference theme, "Proclaim."

In his remarks, Jackson shared a very personal message about proclaiming Christ in a secular world. He spoke of proclaiming the Mystery of Christ through silence, humility and prayer. He also spoke about the tension of Grace and Truth as the presence of the Cross in the world, noting that if we lose either of these realities, we no longer have the Cross, we no longer have Christianity. This void, as we have seen throughout history, will be replaced by religious fundamentalist or secular progressive ideologies.

The Royal Path of Orthodoxy is the tension of Grace and Truth present in the world through the Holy Spirit and the faithful proclamation of the Gospel by the Church.

Workshops were presented throughout the weekend, allowing the attendees to actively engage in dialogue about topics relevant to their lives, addressing topics including: Balancing Humility with Career Progress as an Orthodox Christian; Proclaiming the Mystery of Christ in an Apathetic World; Not On Our Own Terms: Letting the Kingdom of God Come Into our Life and Transform Us; Broken, Wounded...and Perfect! Christ's Perfection Amidst Our Broken Nature; Created for Connection;

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GETTING ACQUAINTED: THE FIRST 90 DAYS



Kristen Bruskas photos

Calif. Visiting on a Nice Summer's Day

Ready for their not-too-closeups – (above) Young adults from 33 states with Archbishop Elpidophoros, Metropolitan Gerasimos and other participating priests attending the conference. (right) Laid-back clergy (well, it's in Southern California) from various metropolises, along with Deacon Eleftherios Constantine who accompanied the Archbishop. (left) Organizing committee members who applied their talents, skills and sheer dynamic presence to make it all possible. (left corner) Fr. Tom Tsagalakis of Holy Apostles Church in Seattle, conducts a workshop with the Archbishop and Metropolitan in attendance. (upper left) The Archbishop conducts an agiasmos service.



GETTING ACQUAINTED: THE FIRST 90 DAYS

Archbishop Attends Atlanta Metropolis Assembly

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – After his enthronement, Archbishop Elpidophoros attended his first Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly June 26-29 where delegates of the Atlanta assembly welcomed him to their meetings, which also included the Philoptochos Conference, Southeastern Choir Federation Conference and Archons gatherings.

The event included several workshops and other events.

The Archbishop gave the keynote address at the Grand Banquet, noting that the tasks would be difficult but he is, as his name implies, hopeful because of the incredible spirit of the Orthodox faithful in America.

Atlanta Metropolis Philoptochos President Irene Politis and President of the Sisterhood of Presbyteres Harriet Wilson presented gifts to Archbishop Elpidophoros.

Previously, at the beginning of the Assembly, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta spoke of the progress of the Metropolis Diakonia Retreat Center and the Panagia Chapel.

St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church, with Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh senior pastor, was the host parish. Clergy Laity Conference chairman was Archon Nick Furriss.

The three-day program also featured a performance by the Daytona Greek Dance Group performing to the music of the Elida Band.

The Southeastern Choir Federation performed. Also featured was a musical presentation by soprano opera soloist Alexandra Loutsion.

Many workshops offered included Archon Bill Marianes' Comprehensive Stewardship Workshop and Archon Frank Boardman's workshop of the Best Religious Educational Materials available for growth in the Orthodox Faith.

Atlanta Archons Well-Represented at Archbishop's Enthronement

ATLANTA – Metropolis of Atlanta Archons Regional Commander Dr. Manuel Tissura reported that a large number of Metropolis Atlanta Archons and their wives attended Archbishop Elpidophoros' Enthronement on June 22.

Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, along with several monks, escorted the new Archbishop from Istanbul to New York, where His Eminence was welcomed by the faithful.

The Enthronement Service was very moving and everyone received a beautiful gold cross as a reminder of this historic service.

Archon Mike Emanuel was the Master of Ceremonies at the Enthronement Luncheon. Metropolitan Methodios of Boston served as general chairman of the Enthronement Weekend and offered special thanks to Archbishop Demetrios for his many years of loyal service to the Archdiocese.

Regional Commander Dr. Manuel Tissura chaired an Archon Breakfast with Metropolitan Alexios and Archon Nick Furriss with his committee members, Cookie Kalleres and Teala Johnson.

Also attending were Bishop Sevastianos of Zelon, Chancellor Very Rev. George Tsahakis and Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh. Regional Commander Archon Liaison Dr. Nick Loutsion of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh, Regional Commander Archon Dr. Ted Vlahos of Tampa Bay and Northeast Florida and Regional Commander Archon Harry Cavalaris of Charlotte, N.C.

A Side Trip to St. Photios Shrine

Delegates, Archons and their wives were invited to the 251st Anniversary of the Greek Landing Day Celebration in St. Augustine.

St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Executive Director Polly Hillier and the Greek Landing Day Committee from St. Barbara Philoptochos of St. Demetrios, Daytona Beach, welcomed the guests who viewed a new exhibit, "The Profound and Abiding Presence of Parishes in the South, Part 2," created by historian Dr. William Samonides.

The Blessing of the Graves of the first Greek settlers in America was performed at the Tolomato Cemetery with Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta and Bishop Sevastianos of Zelon laying a wreath at the gravesite of Mary Darling, the daughter of Ioannis Ioannopolis an early settler.

The Colonists' memorial service was held at the Shrine with Metropolitan Alexios, Bishop Sevastianos, V. Rev. Joseph Samaan, Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh and Rev. Dn. Athanasios Kartsonis. Clergy Laity Special Events Chairperson, Mary Pappas, organized an evening at the Lightner Museum following a tour of the special and vast collection.

Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis offered outstanding welcoming remarks to Archbishop Elpidophoros who responded that with the incredible spirit of the Orthodox faithful in America, his goals will be achieved.

Among his primary goals, he noted three: to complete St. Nicholas National Shrine, revitalize Holy Cross Seminary and restore stability to the Archdiocese.

Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis offered outstanding welcoming remarks to Archbishop Elpidophoros who responded that with the incredible spirit of the Orthodox faithful in America, his goals will be achieved.



Orthodox Observer photo

NY Assemblywoman Meets Archbishop

NEW YORK – State Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis paid a visit to Archbishop Elpidophoros on Aug. 28. She was born in New York and grew up on Staten Island, the daughter of immigrant parents; her mother is from Cuba and her father is from Greece. She was raised in the Greek Orthodox faith and represents Staten Island in the state Legislature and recently launched her campaign for Congress. She is a member of Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Church in Staten Island and recently made an official visit to Israel where she toured the Holy Sites of Christianity.



Orthodox Observer photo

Archbishop, APC Board Members Meet

NEW YORK – Archbishop Elpidophoros met Aug. 28 for the first time with Archdiocesan Presbyters Council Executive Board members at the Archdiocese headquarters.

The meeting provided His Eminence the opportunity to learn more about the APC, to get to know the officers better and to discuss details of the upcoming National Clergy Retreat, scheduled for Oct. 28-31 in San Antonio. Attendees included APC President Fr. Mark Leondis, Vice President Fr. Paul Kaplanis, Treasurer Fr. George Gartelos and Secretary Fr. Michael Ellis.



Orthodox Observer photo

Ancient Faith interview

Bill Marianes conducts a wide-ranging interview with the Archbishop for Ancient Faith Radio at the Archdiocese chapel for the Stewardship Calling Program, which aired in early October.

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GETTING ACQUAINTED: THE FIRST 90 DAYS

Archbishop Elpidophoros Visits Connecticut Church

STAMFORD, Conn. - Archbishop Elpidophoros made his first visit to Archangels Church in Stamford on Sunday, Sept. 8 where he celebrated the Divine Liturgy, consecrated a new altar table and tonsured several altar boys.

During the visit, the Archbishop blessed the renovation of the 1st floor complex that includes a new floor plan for front and rear entrances, foyer, hall, kitchen conference room offices, pre-school and bathrooms.

The renovation is one of the largest parish wide projects in the 91-year history of the church that took more than six years of planning, a feasibility study, town hall meetings, a general assembly, and a capital campaign that raised \$3.8 million. The first phase was a comprehensive renovation of the interior that was completed in January 2018.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, the following were recognized for their contributions to the Church: Fr. George Poulos for his 53 years of service as pastor. He is currently pastor emeritus. Elian Kulukundis, Capital Campaign chairman, who was presented the Medal of St. Paul, the highest honor bestowed to a layperson.; and Jason Kondaris, recognized for his tireless efforts as Master Planning chairman while serving as parish council president.

Following worship, 300 guests attended a catered, festive luncheon in the new Fellowship Hall featuring a slide presentation and greetings. Local government officials, along with area clergy and principals of the construction project joined in the celebration.

Archbishop Conducts Agiasmos for NY Parochial School

FLUSHING, N.Y. - Archbishop Elpidophoros celebrated the Sanctification of the Water service for the new school year Sept. 25 at the Greek-American Day School "William Spyropoulos" of St. Nicholas Church, one of the largest parishes in the Archdiocese.

This was the third agiasmos service the Archbishop conducted for the start of the new school year. He previously officiated at the agiasmos for Holy Trinity Cathedral Day School.

Fr. Paul Palesty, of St. Nicholas, head priest welcomed and introduced His Eminence expressing the love and gratitude of the parish for their new Archbishop. Afterwards, the School's Principal, Ms. Mary Tzallas, spoke of the love and respect the students and teachers have for Archbishop Elpidophoros and presented him with a monetary gift towards the rebuilding of St. Nicholas at Ground Zero. The Archbishop spoke to the children in Greek, emphasizing three important elements in their lives: first, their parents and family; second, their teachers and school; and third, the Church and God. He urged the young students to always start their day by making the Sign of the Cross, thanking God for His many gifts and blessings. Assisting His Eminence in the service were the parish assistant priests, Frs. Aristides Garinis and Andreas Houpos, and Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos

Scenes from His Eminence's Metropolis of Chicago visit



A highlight of Archbishop Elpidophoros' journey was a cruise on the Chicago River to take in the architectural panorama for which Chicago is known



Monastic visits to the New Gracanica Monastery in Third Lake, Ill.



Metropolis of Chicago Clergy meet with the Archbishop



His Eminence spends time with hundreds of young people at Camp Fanari in Wisconsin.

GETTING ACQUAINTED: THE FIRST 90 DAYS



His Eminence with choir members at St. Paraskevi Church

Archbishop Celebrates Feast of St. Paraskevi

GREENLAWN, NY – Archbishop Elpidophoros celebrated the Feast of St. Paraskevi the Great-Martyr with the Divine Liturgy July 26 at the church of the same name on Long Island.

“You and I are equally sons and daughters of our Father in heaven. We are equally heirs of His riches. We are equally blessed with His power from on high through faith in Christ,” said the Archbishop in his sermon to the congregation.

Young children and parish officials welcomed His Eminence as he arrived for the Orthros service in the morning. Ten clergymen took part in the liturgy. Soon the beautiful church filled to capacity as the faithful came to honor the feast of their patron saint, but also welcome and meet their new spiritual father, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America.

In his homily the Archbishop spoke about the life and healing witness of St. Paraskevi and the Epistle and Gospel readings of the day, connecting them through the single thread of the healing power of God.

“We should be always a people of hope and optimism; people of joy and thanksgiving; people of fervent prayer and bold intercession, as was the saint for whom this Shrine Church is named. Through the intercessions of the holy Great-Martyr Paraskevi, may the Lord grant us eyes that are open always to the possibilities of His incomparably great power in us.”

Just before the conclusion of the

Liturgy, His Eminence, by the laying-of-the-hands, blessed six young men of the parish as Readers, gave them the book of Psalms and proclaimed each one Axios! The Archbishop said that this event of the blessings of the Readers gives him hope. “These young men give me hope,” he said and requested from mothers, grandmothers and family to encourage their children, their young men, to become priests. “Give the most successful, the best, the most brilliant minds to the Church,” he urged them.

His Eminence praised Fr. Elias Nicholas, pastor of the community, and said that the priest is the reference point for every community... without a good priest who sacrifices from his own; the community cannot see success and prosperity. He also expressed congratulations and gratitude to the parish council, its president, Steve Ramerini, and the Philoptochos Society members for their hard work for the church.

After the Liturgy, the Archbishop visited and venerated the Grotto-Shrine of the Holy Water fountain of St. Paraskevi located next to the church. The fountain and Shrine is a replica of the miraculous holy spring of St. Paraskevi in Therapia, Turkey.

The community hosted a luncheon in honor of Archbishop Elpidophoros’ first visit, with the proceeds benefiting the rebuilding fund of St. Nicholas Shrine at the World Trade Center. Young students and the St. Paraskevi GOYA Hellenic Dancers performed traditional folk dances.



National Philoptochos Board

The Archbishop attends his first meeting of the National Philoptochos Board that took place at the Center for Philanthropy on Sept. 23. Philoptochos spiritual advisor Bishop Apostolos of Madeira also attended.



Chicago senior citizens

During his stay in the Metropolis of Chicago, the Archbishop paid a visit to the Hellenic Nursing Home.

Archbishop Receives Warm Welcome at Camp St. Paul

By Stavros Papagermanos

LITCHFIELD, Conn. – Archbishop Elpidophoros received enthusiastic greetings, joy and love; and repeated exclamations of AXIOS, as he made his first Archpastoral visit July 11 to Camp St. Paul, the Direct Archdiocesan District’s youth camp in western Connecticut, about 40 miles north of Long Island Sound.

The recently acquired camp property consists of about 38 acres on the shores of Bantam Lake.

Bantam Lake is the largest natural lake in Connecticut, covering 947 acres in the towns of Morris and Litchfield. Much of the land at the northern end of the lake, including the marsh peninsula, is protected by the White Memorial Foundation and home to a wide array of bird species.

The camp program, now in its 15th year, has grown every year. This summer, it hosted nearly 800 campers.

The facility operates under the oversight of the Archdiocese District Youth Office, directed by Fr. Panagiotis Papazafiroopoulos, and the guidance of Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, the Archdiocese chancellor.

Campers, counselors, staff and serving clergy led by camp Director Fr. Elias Villis, welcomed the new Archbishop with cheers and excitement char-

acteristic of a youthful crowd.

Following the His Eminence’s arrival, they all gathered under the tent that serves as the chapel.

They chanted the apolytikia of the camp and the Virgin Mary followed by the Fimi of the Archbishop. The Archbishop said he was overjoyed to be with the campers and spend the day with them in such a beautiful natural setting in harmony with the faith of the Orthodox Church. His Eminence gave his blessing to all the campers and staff and a small symbolic gift.

“I am very proud of being here in our Camp St. Paul of the Archdiocese,” said the Archbishop describing it as “a place that can build friendships of the kind that last forever,” and added: “this camp offers a possibility to teach children the doctrines and the practice of our orthodox faith in a lasting and deeper way.”

We find what children, through doing what they like, through their experiences, their games, through enjoying nature, they build faith in a lasting way.”

The Archbishop, campers and staff had a barbecue lunch followed by a recreational period that included dancing and singing.

Also present, were Frs. Nicholas Dassouras, Peter Orfanakos, George Livaditis and Deacon Eleftherios Constantine. (Photos page 55)

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ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

Archbishop Convenes First-Ever Monastic Assembly



Monks and nuns from monasteries throughout the U.S. attend the first monastic assembly convened by Archbishop Elpidophoros at St. Nektarios Monastery in Upstate, N.Y.

ROSCOE, N.Y. – Abbots and abbesses from 18 sacred monasteries of the Archdiocese participated in the first Monastic Assembly of the Sacred Monasteries of the Holy Archdiocese of America Sept. 21-22 at St. Nektarios Monastery in Roscoe, N.Y.

In addition, the following hierarchs attended: Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, Alexios of Atlanta, Nathanael of Chicago, Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, Apostolos of Medeia, and Bishop Ierotheos of Eukarpia, abbot of the Sacred Patriarchal and Stavropolegial Monastery of St. Irene Chrysovalantou.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew blessed the Assembly with an inspiring video message in which he congratulated the Archbishop for his initiative and encouraged him to continue to promote and support the blessed Orthodox Monasteries in the USA.

“Orthodox monasteries express Christian authenticity, ‘what is needed’ according to the faith concerning man and his eternal destiny, within the pluralistic, technocratic, and economically focused world of our age,” concluded the Patriarch in his message.

At the conclusion of the inspirational opening address of Archbishop Elpidophoros, in which he referred to the principles and values of the monastic life as angelic life and the observance of the word of the gospel, the following presentations were made:

Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta spoke about the current General Regulations and the Regulations of Internal Operations of the Sacred Monasteries of the Holy Archdiocese.

V. Rev. Archimandrite Paisios, abbot of the Sacred Monastery of Saint Anthony spoke on the topic: “Monasticism: The Apostolic Life.”

The Rev. Mother Superior Melani, abbess of the Sacred Monastery of St. John Chrysostom spoke on the topic: “Commentary of the Orthodox Monastic Experience.”

Participants raised the following points during the discussions that followed:

A desire was expressed to update the General Regulations and the Regulations of Internal Operations of the Sacred Monasteries of the Holy Archdiocese.

A period of time was requested to afford the Sacred Monasteries to express their opinions on these to the Archbishop and the Holy Eparchial Synod.

The beneficent presence of Elder Ephraim, former abbot of the Sacred Monastery of Philotheou on Mount Athos, was raised, as was his great contribution to the spreading and strengthening of monasticism in the USA.

The need to draft a Protocol for the Sacred Monasteries in the USA was recognized.

It was decided that the minutes

from the Assembly would be published in both Greek and English.

Following the kind invitation of Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, it was decided that the second Monastic Assembly will be held at the Sacred Monastery of the Life-Giving Spring in Fresno, Calif., Oct. 9-11, 2020 with the theme: “The spiritual inheritance of the blessed Elder Joseph the Cave-dweller and his offering to Orthodox monasticism in America.”

The Assembly culminated with the

festal celebration of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Spt. 22 presided over by Archbishop Elpidophoros together with the reverend abbots of the monasteries.

In closing, thanks were expressed to Bishop Apostolos, chief secretary of the Holy Eparchial Synod, for organizing the Monastic Assembly. Gratitude was also expressed to the Very Rev. Archimandrite Joseph, abbot of Sacred Monastery of St. Nektarios and his sacred brotherhood, for their Abrahamic hospitality.

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Prime Minister Mitsotakis' Visit

► From page 10

the already strong bonds between the people of Greece and the faithful of the Greek Orthodox Church in America.

In response, Prime Minister Mitsotakis noted that the year 2019 is momentous for both of them, as the Archbishop will give new impetus to the Archdiocese of America and Mr. Mitsotakis begins the task entrusted to him by the Greek people to lead the country out of crisis. He spoke of the important concept of unity, which is a precondition for Hellenism to be able to look to the future with optimism, and to be able to grow as it has done so many times in its history. He said that this affects not only

Greeks living in their motherland but also concerns people of Greek decent and their unity with their motherland, ensuring that the ties remain meaningful, with quality and function. In closing his remarks, the Prime Minister said that he has high expectations for the work that can be done in America. “The Archbishop’s name, Elpidophoros, means messenger of hope, and through his work we are given the power and the mental and spiritual resources to move through our difficult path with confidence, knowledge of our history, and with respect to our church and our traditions, always keeping with us what makes us separate as a nation and not resting on the laurels of the past.”

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS



GOA/D.Panagos photo

(From left) Archbishop Michael (Treasurer, Orthodox Church in America), Bishop Saba (Georgian Apostolic Orthodox Church in North America), Metropolitan Joseph (Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Diocese of the USA, Canada, and Australia), Metropolitan Joseph (vice-chair, Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America), Archbishop Elpidophoros (chair), Metropolitan Tikhon (Orthodox Church in America), Metropolitan Gregory (secretary, American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA) and Bishop Irinej (Serbian Orthodox Dioceses in the United States of America)

Assembly of Bishops Executive Committee Recommits to Orthodox Unity

NEW YORK – The Executive Committee of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America met Sept. 8, under the chairmanship of Archbishop Elpidophoros, to discuss the state of Orthodox Christian unity in the USA. Recognizing the challenges in global Orthodoxy, the jurisdictional representatives reiterated their commitment to the local faithful of America and rededicated themselves to fulfilling the call for canonical normalcy and pastoral unity on contemporary issues.

The meeting began with jurisdictional updates followed by the Secretary's report on the activities of the body since the last Assembly meeting in October 2018. The Executive Committee went on to discuss the Assembly's structure including committees, agencies, endorsed organizations, and dialogues, and decided to analyze all components prior to the next Assembly meeting in order to determine the best path to achieve the ultimate goal of unity. The heads of the jurisdictions committed to regular concelebration and look forward

to the annual Sunday of Orthodoxy celebration in March 2020 in New York. In addition, all other hierarchs, clergy, and laity are encouraged to organize regionally.

Responding to an appeal of Orthodox Christian mental health professionals, the Executive Committee decided to mandate its endorsed organization, Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology and Religion (OCAMPR), to develop a task force to address the issue of mental health. OCAMPR will work in partnership with the Assembly, through the Office of the Secretariat.

Additionally, the bishops received an appeal from Orthodox Christian organizations working on the crisis of homelessness. In response to their recommendations, a working group to develop an Orthodox Volunteer Corps, under the guidance of the Assembly Secretariat, was sanctioned.

Finally, the date and location was established for the 10th anniversary meeting of the Assembly of Bishops: May 2-5, 2020 in Washington.

Letter from Archbishop Regarding New Youth Safety Policies

Dear Faithful of the Archdiocese of America,

The beginning of the new Ecclesiastical New Year is a time of hope and diaconia. A time when we ask ourselves and ask the Lord, "how can I best serve my family, my Lord and His Great Church?"

I am writing as Archbishop to bring to your attention an important matter that is and must be an urgent concern for all of us who work with children in every aspect of the Archdiocese, in every Metropolis and in every parish and youth ministry.

This letter is to call each of us to action, and to encourage us as our clergy, our lay leaders and our fellow parishioners to mobilize to serve our children and youth. The Archdiocese has distributed a new set of procedures and requirements intended to improve safety

for the children in all our Church programs. Youth Safety is our top priority and greatest duty in our family of Orthodox Christians. As we all inherently know, protecting our children and our future requires hard work and diligence.

The new requirements demand that every single person who works with youth in any way in your [parish, your metropolis and your Archdiocese move rapidly into compliance.

This month of September begins the process of all clergy and all youth workers registering with the designated Youth Protection Parish Administrator at your Church community and being trained by on-line courses, as well as passing a criminal background check. Under this new mandate of our Church, unless a worker completes this

Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos Named to St. Photios Shrine, OCMC Positions

NEW YORK - Archbishop Elpidophoros has appointed Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, former Metropolis of Chicago chancellor, as the hierarchal proistamenos of St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine in St. Augustine, Fla.

The bishop's duties and responsibilities will include organizing and developing missionary, social, and philanthropic activities geared towards the region's Spanish-speaking population. His Grace is knowledgeable in Spanish, the second most-prominent language in the Florida.

In addition, Bishop Demetrios was named the synodal liaison to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center Board, a position formerly held by Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh.

"We are excited to work with Bishop Demetrios, and we look forward to all the good that is to come through his ministry and service," said Niko Birbilis of the OCMC in a press release. "Please keep him and his work in your prayers as he takes on this new role."



GOA File photo

Bishop Demetrios served for many years as a priest and as a hierarch in his position as Chancellor for Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago. Following the metropolitan's death in 2018, he returned to the position as auxiliary bishop.



GOA/D.Panagos photo



GOA/D.Panagos photo

Highest Chios honor

Metropolitan Markos of Chios bestows the highest honor of his metropolis upon the Archbishop, the Cross of St. Isidoros medal. Accompanying the metropolitan was the mayor of Chios, Manolis Vournous, other officials and members of the Chian Federation in the U.S., and Fr. Vasilios Louros, assistant priest at St. Demetrios Cathedral in Astoria, who is a Chios native.

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

Archdiocese Unveils New Youth Safety Videos & Resources

NEW YORK – The Archdiocese has announced a new 10-episode video series introducing the faithful to the new Policies for the Safety of Children and Youth. These new resources also include step-by-step checklists designed to help parishioners and communities follow the new guidelines.

“The new policies are an important achievement. Implementing them across our Archdiocese will be a valuable gift we give to our children: the gift of encountering our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in a healthy, Christ-centered environment. This is a significant priority, not just for me, but for all of the

faithful of this Archdiocese,” said Archbishop Elpidophoros.

These new policies will govern all youth ministry programs and events across the Archdiocese. They were endorsed by the Holy Eparhial Synod and unanimously approved by the Archdiocesan Clergy Laity Congress in 2018.

To view the policies themselves, including the videos and checklists mentioned above, visit goarch.org/safety.

For more information contact Fr. Earl Cantos, the Archdiocesan Youth Safety Compliance officer, at 480.440.2277 or by email at youthsafety@goarch.org.



His Eminence speaks to the 100 young adults attending “Orthodoxy on Tap.”

Archbishop Participates in ‘Orthodoxy On Tap’

NEW YORK – Archbishop Elpidophoros participated on Sept. 19 in “Orthodoxy on Tap – NYC,” a grassroots fellowship for young adults in an informal setting centered on the Orthodox faith, featuring guest speakers and casual networking.

The event took place at Pier A Restaurant in Battery Park near Manhattan’s Financial District, where a hundred young adults and professionals from various backgrounds welcomed him.

His Eminence presented a paper titled: “Being Orthodox in a non-Orthodox world.” He reminded those of the importance of praying for the world and addressed questions of globalization and Tradition, Orthodoxy and religious pluralism and the importance for young people of a genuine liturgical experience.

He invited Orthodox youth to be missionaries in the world: “Let us find the strength and courage of our Fathers

and Mothers in the faith, not to live in isolation, but to participate in the baptism of cultures, languages and civilizations, by engraving the sign of the Cross as the beginning and the end of all things. We should not be afraid. And to those who write and preach that we as Christians should choose the option of leaving the world, I say, as Orthodox Christians we have the spiritual resources in our Tradition to be in the world, to pray for the world, and to sanctify the world, for the simple and extraordinary reason that: Christ gave Himself up for the life of the world.” The evening ended with participants asking questions that touched on various themes, including the place of children in the life of the Church to outreach and ministries. Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A. and Episcopal Liaison of the OCF was among the participants.

Archbishop Receives Church Musicians Group Board Members

NEW YORK – Archbishop Elpidophoros met with the Direct Archdiocesan District Executive Board of the Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians on Monday, Sept. 16.

Executive Board members are Anna Dounelis, president; Theodore Brakatselos, vice-president; Irini Kaparelitis, treasurer; Fay Pavlidis, Peggy Stilianos, Public Relations Office, and V. Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostomos Gilbert, spiritual advisor.

The Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians brings together all District church musicians to encourage strong participation and a high standard of singing for church choirs and chanters, to provide lectures, workshops, and conferences to improve the musical and spiritual education of its members, and to provide the faithful a spiritually uplifting worship experience.

The meeting allowed the Executive Board to become acquainted to His Em-

inence, to discuss the role of the Federation of Church Musicians in the District, and to offer insight to the accomplishments and challenges the Federation faces in today’s society.

Topics discussed included the issue of aging choirs and chanters, the dire need for instituting youth choirs in our parishes, as well as the necessity of educating and encouraging our parish faithful to participate more fully in the Divine Services.

His Eminence expressed his dedicated support to the District church musicians for the work that they have done and that they will continue to do. During the meeting, His Eminence also re-appointed V. Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostomos Gilbert as spiritual advisor.

The Direct Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians will hold their next conference during the weekend of Nov. 22-24, at Holy Trinity Church in New Rochelle, N.Y.

Archbishop’s Letter for Youth Safety Policies

► From page 22

process by the end of this year, he or she cannot be allowed to work with parish youth. Many religious and charitable institutions, including some of our own parishes, have been doing training and background checks for years. Now in this new Ecclesiastical New Year, we join them in better training and screening our youth workers and educators to identify and protect our children against all forms of abuse.

Two first steps were taken in September, naming a parish administrator and gathering a completely inclusive list of both paid and volunteer workers whose efforts include contact with children. Anyone who does anything that involves contact with children will have to be registered, trained, and screened by the end of the year, with no exceptions.

Many of you who receive this letter are leaders of various ministries and programs. You are in the best positions to begin compiling lists of people in your ministry who have contact with children and youth. We are relying on your commitment to get this done. Please be aware that the Holy Metropolises and the Direct Archdiocesan District will be sending your church leadership all that is needed to comply under these Policies for the Safety of Children and Youth.

Thank you for being part of this effort and for working with your Hierarchs, your priest and your parish leadership. May our Lord bless and protect you, your family and your Church family as we begin this Ecclesiastical New Year.

Yours in the service of this Great Archdiocese,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

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FAITH

FAITH Endowment, Tufts University Create Leadership Training Program

NEW YORK - *FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism (FAITH)*, has partnered with The Fletcher School at Tufts University in Somerville, Mass., to create a leadership training program, the "Executive Education Program in Strategic Leadership and Transformative Action" (SLTA) for clergy and laypersons of the Archdiocese at Tufts.

The STLA is an intensive executive leadership training program designed to give clergy and laity a foundational set of technical, intellectual, and spiritual tools and ideas for strategic management and leadership that can produce transformative action in the Church and community. The pilot program will launch in the Metropolis of Chicago in January. The program is the first of its kind for the Greek Orthodox community. The curriculum was developed by

Professor Elizabeth Prodromou and will include customized lectures by leading experts in related disciplines of faith-based and non-profit organizations covering topics such as: strategic planning and management, financial planning for non-profits, leadership, communication strategies, Orthodox ethics, religious literacy and Orthodoxy in American and global contexts.

Dr. Prodromou and The Fletcher School have hosted similar training programs for other community and church/faith-based institutions.

Participants are selected from clergy and laity, based on their desire and potential to learn and incorporate their new knowledge to further develop a strong, vital, and active Church built upon institutional sustainability and adaptability in their parishes and communities.

IOCC

Agency Expands Programs in Greece to Boost Economy

By Rebecca Loumiotis

BALTIMORE - With an eye to expanding its successful initiatives of recent years, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) has renewed its far-reaching Give for Greece program, including a pilot program in vocational training.

Since 2013, Give for Greece has been IOCC's flagship initiative in that country, addressing both immediate and longer-term needs brought on by Greece's slow-moving economic crisis, which has affected livelihoods, pensions, and employment levels.

In partnership with Apostoli, the philanthropic organization of the Archdiocese of Athens under the Church of Greece, IOCC has reached tens of thousands of people affected by the economic downturn and the simultaneous refugee crisis. Response has comprised in-kind support (e.g., medical supplies to hospitals) worth over \$30 million since 2012, which helped leverage additional monetary backing worth over \$13 million from individuals and institutions—including generous gifts to IOCC from the Jaharis Family Foundation Inc.; the John L. Santikos Foundation, a fund of the San Antonio Area Foundation; the Order of AHEPA; and the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society.

Boosting the productivity and profitability of agricultural associations and small businesses throughout Greece has been an important focus of IOCC's work. Since 2015, more than 80 associations and micro businesses (over 3,000 families) have participated in Give for Greece and received equipment and training. IOCC has provided more than 265 pieces of new production equipment valued at more than \$1.3 million and technical services worth \$40,000 to help recipients scale up production and

improve economic viability.

In 2017, IOCC added business mentoring to the program, connecting participants with experienced professionals who volunteer through KEMEL, a Greek nonprofit dedicated to supporting businesses. The mentors help small enterprises create stronger business plans, improve productivity and marketing, and increase the businesses' sustainability.

"You woke us up from dreaming about success and helped us ... take real actions," said Athina, a small-business owner in Athens who participated in the business-mentoring program.

The newest phase of Give for Greece adds a pilot program in vocational training to prepare Greek and asylum-seeker participants who meet certain language criteria to work in the growing caregiving sector.

Participants will complete train in both theory and practice with a certified trainer in this field, learning skills they need to enter the caregiving profession. Once they've completed the curriculum, trainees will be placed in workplaces and matched with healthcare professionals who will also receive training in how to work with novices ("training of trainers"). In all, the project offers training and practical experience in an in-demand profession.

IOCC's history in Greece begins with the Athens field office, a regional hub 1993-2009. Since 2012, IOCC has worked closely with Apostoli, responding to the extensive financial crisis with more than \$43 million in monetary and in-kind support. Other IOCC assistance to Greece includes prepaid grocery cards so families can shop for Greek-produced food.

To support IOCC's work in Greece with a financial gift, please contact IOCC online (ioccc.org/greece)

ST PHOTIOS SHRINE



St. Photios Shrine photo

Atlanta Metropolis Chancellor the V. Rev. George Tsahakis reads the City of St. Augustine Proclamation on Greek Landing Day.

Celebrating the 251st Anniversary of Greek Landing Day

By Polly Hillier

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. - St. Photios National Shrine marked its 251st anniversary on June 26 with several observance to honor the occasion,

Following an opening prayer by the V. Rev. Joseph Samaan began Greek Landing Day 2019 he introduced the event chairs, Christy Xynidis and Denise Brown of St. Barbara Philoptochos of St. Demetrios Church in Daytona Beach who made opening remarks.

This year's commemoration honored the New Smyrna Colony and the Xynidis and Sarris families who came from Symi to Florida as shrimp boat builders and entrepreneurs: Steve Xynidis, Christy's father, of Daytona Beach and uncle, Shrine Founder Steve Sarris.

Fr. Joseph read Archbishop Elpidophoros' Greek Landing Day Encyclical, in which he said, "The St Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine reminds all of us that the human person's odyssey in search of true freedom is never ending, but our goal is always union with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Guest speaker Dr. William Samonides, a historian who writes the Church History column in the *Orthodox Observer*, presented a paper on the priests and parishes of the South, and opened "Profound and Abiding Presence Part II" in the Shrine Special Exhibit area.

Also attending the event was Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Bishop Sebastian of Zela, Metropolis Chancellor the V. Rev. George Tsahakis and Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh.

Metropolitan Alexios presided at the church services and led the procession to the Tolomato Cemetery for the memorial service, assisted by Dn. Athanasios Kartsonis, and acolytes Jacob Gaetanos and Nicholas Kelley.

Fr. Tsahakis read the City of St. Augustine's Greek Landing Day Proclamation.

Antonia Avero portrayed by historical re-enactor, Diane Jacoby, gave a tour of the neighborhood on the return to the Shrine. She spoke about the Avero House and what it meant to the family to return to their home after being exiled

to Cuba during the St. Augustine British period.

Metropolitan Alexios, congratulated Dr. Samonides on his preservation work of the Greek Orthodox Church in America history.

The second exhibit highlights the history of the Metropolis parishes of Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, St. George Cathedral, Greenville S.C.; St. Nicholas Cathedral, Tarpon Springs Fla., Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Orleans, Annunciation Church, Pensacola Fla., and St. George Church, Shreveport La. [Metropolis of Denver].

Part I included Atlanta Metropolis parishes: Holy Trinity (Charleston, S.C.), Holy Trinity (Charlotte, N.C.), St. Paul (Savannah, Ga.) and St. John the Divine (Jacksonville).

St. Augustine, America's oldest city, each year celebrates Greek Landing Day, when 251 years ago, eight ships with over 1,200 people arrived on Florida's east coast.

The indentured servants were registered with the customs office and sent 75 miles south to farm the 100,000-acre plantation of New Smyrna in Mosquito Inlet.

They received brutal treatment and, in the 9th year of their contract, the remaining 500 New Smyrna Colony survivors fled to St. Augustine where they found a place to live, worship and, most importantly, freedom from their contracts indenturing them to Dr. Andrew Turnbull, owner of the colony.

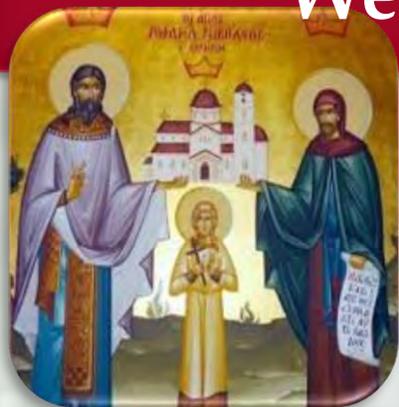
The Minorcans, many Corsicans, French and Italians were Roman Catholic. The Greeks were all from Asia Minor, Crete, Greece and Corsica. Initially the clergy were Catholic.

The Catholic priest, Fr. Pedro Camps, ministered to the colonists from the period of recruitment (1767) to relocating in St. Augustine (1777). First vice president of the Shrine trustees Archon Dr. Manuel Tissura said, "Today is a fitting reminder that the Catholic residents of St. Augustine are our brothers and sisters, united in the immigration history of not only this city but of America."

Polly Hillier is director of the St. Photios National Shrine

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at Saints Raphael, Nicholas & Irene Greek Orthodox Church, Palm Harbor, FL

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Thyranoixia 5:00 pm ~ Followed by Vespers

Reception 6:45 pm – 7:30 pm

Formal Dinner Banquet 7:30 pm (\$65.00 donation)

(Formal Attire – Pappas Spanos Community Hall, Tarpon Springs)

Please RSVP saintraphaelchurch1010@yahoo.com or (727) 741-4125



We are asking with great humility for the faithful to help us to reach our fundraising goal by January 2020 .

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Bell Tower \$100,000.00

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straphaelchurch.fl.goarch.org

The Narthex will have a beautiful full-size icon of “The Vine” with all the names of the faithful that have and will continue to help build this holy temple to be remembered for “Generations to Come”. The benefactors of this historic project will bestow upon their children and grandchildren for many generations the opportunity to become the torch bearers of Christendom.

It will allow visitors to connect with a civilization that dates back over a thousand years. It will serve as a beautiful place of worship, a landmark and a storm shelter in the Tampa Bay Area. It will serve as a beacon of hope and a reverence to our Orthodox heritage for centuries to come.



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These saints were unknown for about 500 years after their martyrdoms during the Turkish occupation of Lesvos. In 1959 the three saints appeared to the people on Lesvos in dreams and visions. They guided excavations of their own graves, called people to repentance, and cured many kinds of diseases. For more information go to straphaelchurch.fl.goarch.org.

Please mail donations to Saints Raphael, Nicholas & Irene (727)789-5905 saintraphaelchurch1010@yahoo.com
1100 Riviere Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34683 or give online at straphaelchurch.fl.goarch.org

HONORING ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS' 20 YEARS



Honorary doctorate-Pomona College



Honorary doctorate-Notre Dame



Honorary doctorate-Fordham University



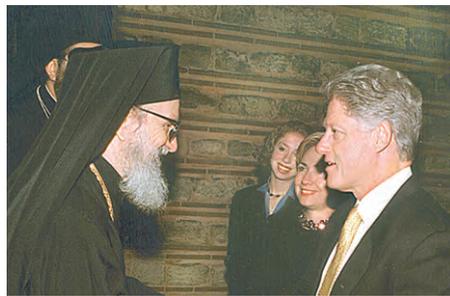
Honorary doctorate-Fairfield University



Honorary doctorate-Aristotelian University



President of Turkey Abdullah Gol



President Clinton



In Cuba with Ecumenical Patriarch, Fidel Castro



President Bush



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton



With the Obamas and the Bidens



Pope Benedict



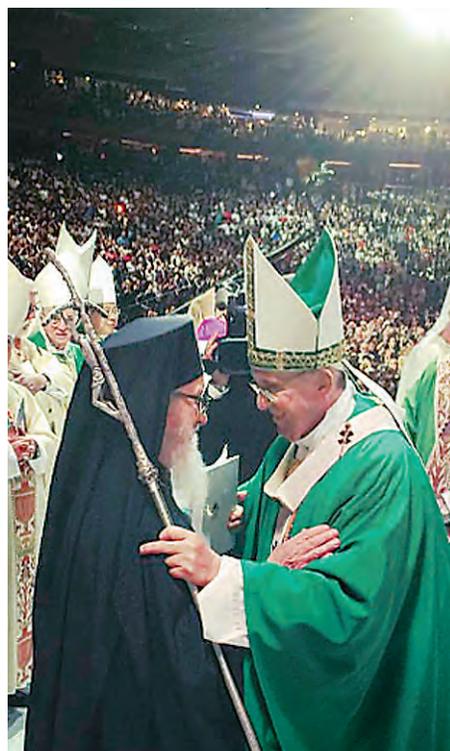
Pope John Paul II



White House meeting shortly after 9/11



Taking part in liturgy during visit to Russia



Pope Frances



Taking part in liturgy during visit to Russia

Orthodox Observer Archival - D. Panagos photos



At Vatican with Ecumenical Patriarch

HONORING ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS' 20 YEARS

A 20-Year Ministry to the Faithful

ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS served the Archdiocese for 20 years as head of the Church in America, but his ministry here extended further back, as Bishop of Vresthena.

In 1984-85 and again in 1988-89, he taught New Testament at Harvard University Divinity School, where in 1972 he earned a Ph.D., and at Holy Cross School of Theology from 1983-93, where he taught Biblical Studies and Christian Origins to hundreds of seminarians, many of whom are priests of the Archdiocese today.

He returned to the University of Athens in 1993 to pursue his academic career as a researcher, lecturer and writer before the fateful call in 1999 from the Ecumenical Patriarch to return to the U.S. as the Archbishop of America.

The Church was undergoing a stressful period over the previous two years and the new Archbishop ushered in a period of calm and a higher spiritual level.

From September 1999 to September 2001, His Eminence brought stability to the Archdiocese.

Then, on a sunny Tuesday morning, Sept. 11, 2001, life in America and the Archdiocese was turned upside down to this day when a small number of Islamic terrorists who hijacked airliners from Boston brought down the iconic symbols of New York - the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center - and, along with them, tiny St. Nicholas Church, which lay buried under hundreds of tons of rubble, debris and human remains that came crashing down on the century-old structure.

The Archbishop and many Church leaders vowed to rebuild the church. That dream and goal served as the backdrop for His Eminence's ministry as he and Archdiocese officials and lay leaders invested thousands of hours over the ensuing 18 years to pursue that elusive goal, facing many legal and financial hurdles and barriers that, for a long time, resulted from strong opposition to the rebuilding of a church by certain government officials.

That notwithstanding, Archbishop Demetrios proceeded with his energetic service to the Church, logging hundreds of thousands of miles traveling to every corner of the Archdiocese, to hundreds of parishes, and to various parts of the world.

He served as a kind of ambassador to national and international lay and religious leaders that included U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barrack Obama and Donald Trump; Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and other Orthodox leaders; Popes John Paul II, Benedict and Francis; other high-ranking federal, state and local government leaders, and leaders of other faiths.

Over the years he was bestowed with honorary degrees from many colleges and universities, including Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind., Fordham University in New York, the University of Athens and Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki, Presov University in Slovakia, Fairfield University in Connecticut, Pomona College in New Jersey and St. Tikhon's and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminaries, HCHC,

and others.

The Archbishop also was the recipient of the Ellis Island Medals and highest awards from Greece and Cyprus.

Through his efforts, millions of dollars in philanthropic aid were contributed for earthquake and fire victims in Greece, hurricane victims in the U.S., and those with other humanitarian needs.

He connected to thousands of young people through the metropolis dance festivals, youth Olympics and other events, elevated four current metropolitans to the episcopacy - Savas of Pittsburgh, Gerasimos of San Francisco, Evangelos of New Jersey and Nathanael of Chicago, and consecrated four other hierarchs: Bishops Andonios of Phasiane, Demetrios of Mokissos, Sevastianos of Zela and Apostolos of Medeia, as well as dozens of priests

In his final encyclical written in his own words in May, Archbishop Demetrios said, in part:

...By the blessing of God, 20 years ago, I received the singular honor of being elected Archbishop of America by our Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and the Holy and Sacred Synod of our Ecumenical Patriarchate.

On September 18, 1999, in my enthronement address I emphasized the necessity of cultivating three very important areas. First, the cultivation and growth of our Orthodox faith which our Ecumenical Patriarchate has preserved intact and immaculate. Second, the establishment of a spirit and action of love, charity, and care for the human being, without any limitation, discrimination or reservation. And third, the promotion of unbreakable unity, concord, and unanimity of our ecclesiastical body, and of our Greek Orthodox Community in general, remembering what the Lord prayed to His Father, *that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me* (John 17:21).

For twenty years, through an intense effort to cover the multifaceted spiritual, educational and cultural needs of our Archdiocese, I have tried, in cooperation with the grace of God to remain faithful to the aforementioned aims of Faith, Love, and Unity. In addition, major themes related to the important diptych of Orthodoxy and Hellenism such as the religious freedom of our Ecumenical Patriarchate, the tragedy of the foreign occupation of Cyprus, and the Macedonian issue, have also been areas of our concern and action.

All of the above have been realized through strong and substantive cooperation with the distinguished and beloved brother hierarchs, pious priests, deacons, monks, and nuns, the dedicated lay people of the major organizations of the holy Archdiocese and the Omoigenia, and with the impressive contribution and help of the more than 500 parishes in America. An integral part of this twenty-year effort has been the unflinching care and support in every way of our Ecumenical Patriarchate.

It must be earnestly noted that such

Iconic Scenes from Ground Zero



GOA/D.Panagos photo



GOA/D.Panagos photo



GOA/D.Panagos photo

HONORING ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS' 20 YEARS



Post-9/11 events through the years: Life magazine photographer Joe McNally selecting the Archbishop for his "Faces of Ground Zero" photography exhibit and book, "One Nation." Architect Santiago Calatrava goes over plans. Presiding at numerous memorial services over the years. Blessing the cross that topped the dome of the new St. Nicholas Church in late 2016, which seemed as if the end was in sight.



Gov. Pataki supported St. Nicholas rebuilding.



Bari Italy delegation pledges support for St. Nicholas.



Marking the anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's Civil Rights March in Selma, Ala., and commemorating Archbishop Iakovos' participation in that historic event. (at left) the Rev. Jesse Jackson.



Secretary of State Colin Powell



On an official visit to Cyprus



Prime Minister Konstantine Karamanlis and wife, Natasha at the Archdiocese



Consecrating Scottsdale, Ariz. church with Metropolitan Gerasimos, Archdeacon Panteleimon

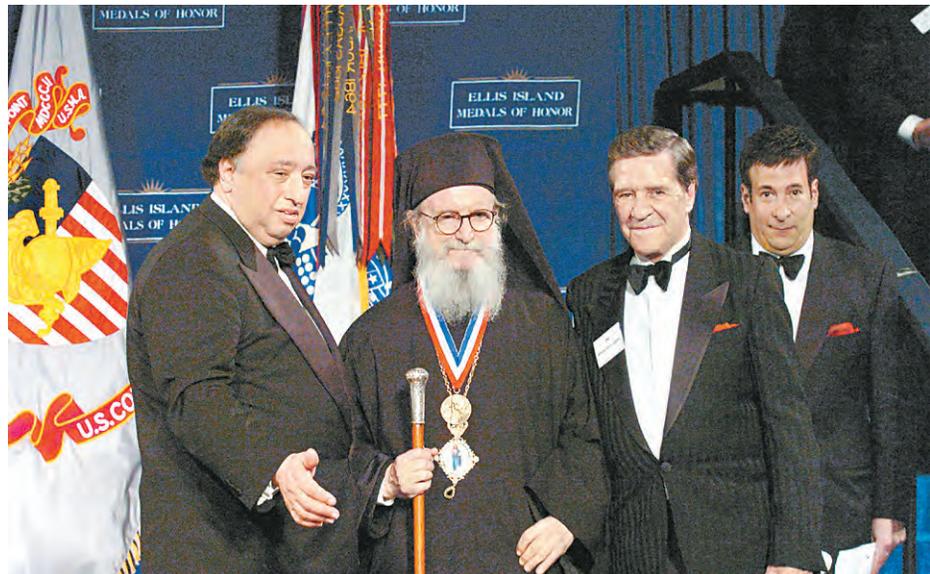


Lecture for the dedication of the St. Demetrios Chair in Orthodox Theology at Fordham

HONORING ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS' 20 YEARS



Recipient of Cyprus' highest honor, the Great Cross of the Order of Archbishop Makarios III



Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipient



As a member of the Holy and sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Presiding at the graveside service for Archbishop Iakovos on the HCHC campus



Honorary doctorate-Presov University-Slovakia



Annual Saint Basil Academy graduation



Gov. Andrew Cuomo signs agreement to enable construction of St. Nicholas to proceed.



One of the graduating seminarian groups

A 20-Year Ministry

► From page 22

an undertaking extending over a 20-year period has gone through various challenges, unpredictable difficulties, unjust attacks and actions by various people, something that has been happening to the Church from its inception to our own times. In every case, I have remembered daily what St. Paul said that, *a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many opponents* (1 Corinthians 16:9), and also the text from the Book of Revelation, *Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut* (Revelation 3:8).

Glory and honor and thanksgiving belong to the almighty and merciful God, Who did not allow for us to be crushed, but on the contrary, He granted us the gift of having among us inspiring examples of many faithful clergy and laity who remained strong and dedicated to God in spite of all difficulties.”



The final move of the National Philoptochos Society to its present location on East 37th Street

HONORING ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS' 20 YEARS



Bestowing the Athenagoras Human Rights Award upon former Russian Premier Mikhail Gorbachev (above) and Archbishop Anastasios of Albania at the annual Archons banquets



Attending President Obama's 2013 inauguration.



Attending his first Archdiocesan Council meeting in 2000 (above) and his last in May 2019.



GOA/D.Panagos photos



Archbishop Demetrios Receives Serbian Orthodox Church's Highest Honor

LIBERTYVILLE, III. – Archbishop Demetrios, former of America, received the Order of Saint Sava of the 1st degree, July 14, following the divine liturgy of the Assembly/Sabor of the Serbian Episcopal Council in the USA. This particular recognition is the highest honor bestowed by the Serbian Orthodox Church.

The Archbishop said in his response that “the fact that I am receiving this truly humbling honor during the time when the Serbian Orthodox Church is

celebrating 800 years from the time they were granted Autocephaly makes this medal of St. Sava even more meaningful and prestigious.”

The Order of Saint Sava of the 1st degree is issued by the Holy Synod of the Serbian Orthodox Church. Archbishop Demetrios was nominated by the Episcopal Council of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States of America for his 20 years of leadership, fostering positive Inter-Orthodox relations.



6 Direct Archdiocesan District Clergy honor the Archbishop at St. Michael's Home on May 30.

GOA/D.Panagos photos

METROPOLIS NEWS



Archbishop Chairs Direct Archdiocesan District Council Meeting

NEW YORK – Archbishop Elpidophoros chaired his first meeting of the Direct Archdiocesan District Council on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at the Archdiocese.

Archdiocese Chancellor Bishop Andonios attended along with Coun-

cil members.

Executive Board officers are Larry Hotzoglou, vice president; the Very Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostomos Gilbert, secretary; and Theodore Geranakos, treasurer.

During the meeting, the Council

unanimously approved the formation of an LLC (Limited Liability Corporation) to manage and develop a Faith and Heritage Center in Warren, Conn.

The Council also approved unanimously the By-Laws of the Direct Archdiocesan District, in addition to reinforcing the Archdiocesan Youth Safety program with an implementation deadline of December 2019 for all Direct Archdiocesan District parishes.

Archbishop Elpidophoros thanked the Direct Archdiocesan District Council for dedicating their time, skills and gifts for the good of the Archdiocese.

Parishes Spared from Hurricane

Hurricane Dorian, the monster storm that at one point reached Category 5 status with sustained wind speeds of 185 mph, turned out to be nearly a non-event for dozens of parishes stretching from Palm Beach, Fla., to Wilmington, N.C.

After seeing the horrific devastation of the communities on the far northern islands of the Bahamas, everyone braced for the worst, but the storm stayed offshore and veered to the north and northeast without making landfall, though some areas experienced flooding.

Charleston and Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Wilmington, N.C. were not adversely affected.

Metropolis of Atlanta Chancellor Fr. George Tsahakis, who stayed in contact with parishes in the affected region replied in an email message Sept. 5 to the *Orthodox Observer*, that "We were grateful the Florida parishes were spared, we are concerned for flooding in historic Charleston; there have been lots of power outages there, and the approaching storm impact in Wilmington. There is no power for much of area.

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NJ Attorney Elected AHEPA Supreme President

CHICAGO – Delegates of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), the leading association for the nation's millions of American citizens of Greek heritage and Philhellenes, elected George G. Horiates, of Moorestown, N.J., Supreme President at the 97th annual Supreme Convention.

Horiates, 52, ran unopposed in elections that took place July 5. Installation ceremonies were held July 6.

In his inaugural remarks, Supreme President Horiates paid tribute to the community's immigrant forebears, including his own who came to the United States as survivors of World War II, stating the Greek American community has

an obligation to preserve and project its Hellenic heritage to ensure its survives for future generations.

Horiates, a member of Chapter 69, Camden, N.J., also expressed heartfelt gratitude to the delegates for entrusting him to lead the Order into the start of the next decade. He stated he is looking forward to working with the Brotherhood as "One AHEPA."

Horiates articulated an overarching goal of reinvigorating AHEPA's base while continuing to outreach to the community.

In doing so, he has set the ambitious goal to increase membership collectively between all four Orders of the AHEPA Family to 100,000

Boston Metropolis Honors Archbishop Demetrios, Parish Award Recipients

The evening of the June 9 the 33rd annual Metropolis of Boston Ministry Awards Banquet was a magnificent tribute to the faithful women and men of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston who were recognized for their dedication and distinctive services to their communities.

More than 800 participated in this yearly banquet, including 60 clergy, where 1,700 brethren received the Ministry Award over the past 35 years. The evening's guest of honor was Archbishop Demetrios Former of America who has served as our spiritual leader for 20 years. Metropolitan Methodios was recognized for his 35th anniversary as the dynamic spiritual leader of the Boston Metropolis.

Metropolitan Methodios along with all the faithful present, congratulated the recipients of the 2019 Ministry Award. The evening's masters of ceremonies were Nicholas and Jane Kourtis. The musical interlude by the students of

Berklee College of Music was sensational. An excellent video was presented to Archbishop Demetrios by Metropolitan Methodios as a special gift which featured key moments in Archbishop Demetrios' life and ministry.

"We are not asked merely to call ourselves Christians; we are asked to be Christian through our deeds." St. Ignatius of Antioch

Remarks by Metropolitan Methodios

Fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. (Eph. 2:19)

For 33 years now, our Metropolis gathers every second Sunday of June to honor the Clergy and Laity for the faithful, loving and dedicated ministry they offer out parishes throughout New England. For me personally, this festive celebration attended by 800 or so brethren, is one of the most enjoyable evenings of the entire year as we convene

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ARCHONS

Metropolitan Epiphanius of Ukraine to Receive Athenagoras Award

Archbishop Elpidophoros, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, together with Archon National Commander Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, will present the Athenagoras Human Rights Award to Metropolitan Epiphanius of Kyiv and All Ukraine at the New York Hilton Midtown on Oct. 19.

Metropolitan Epiphanius has been a strong advocate for religious freedom and a key defender of the ecclesiastical and canonical prerogatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Archbishop Elpidophoros hailed the choice: "His Beatitude Metropolitan Epiphanius has been a staunch defender of the religious freedom of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, even as its prerogatives have been challenged and even rejected outright by some, and as it has been placed under tremendous pressure from others.

In Ukraine he has already provided the Solomon-like wisdom that was needed to reunify the Church, return to Eucharistic unity, and establish it as an integral member of the group of autocephalous Orthodox Churches worldwide."

In recognizing Metropolitan Epiphanius' long record of defense of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, National

Commander Limberakis noted: "Immediately after the successful completion of the work of the Unifying Synod which was convened in Kyiv in December 2018 and which chose Metropolitan Epiphanius as the Primate of the autocephalous and newly unified Orthodox Church in Ukraine, His Beatitude contacted His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in order to express his respect and to request the good wishes and blessings of the Mother Church so that his primatial ministry would bear good fruit. This epitomized His Beatitude's understanding of the canonical position of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Church, and his deep respect and love for His All-Holiness."

Metropolitan Epiphanius was elected by bishops from Ukraine's three divided Orthodox Churches at a unity council on Dec. 15, 2018. Then, on Jan. 6, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew signed the Tomos of Autocephaly for the Orthodox Church in Ukraine, formally establishing the world's 15th autocephalous Orthodox Church.

The Athenagoras Human Rights Award was established in 1986 by the National Council of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America.

Zavitsanos to Receive Bouras Award

Houston attorney John Zavitsanos, an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate since 2004, has been named recipient of Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship.

He will receive the award Oct. 18 during the Archons' weekend in New York.

In 2007, he was elected to the Archons National Council. Since then, he has worked to enact efficiencies and updates in the organization's administration and policies.

National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis appointed Archon Zavitsanos to chair the Exarch's appeal committee in 2014 at a time when the total collections were less than \$500,000. He dramatically changed the program by creating the Sponsor-A-Day Program, which more than doubled the annual contributions.

In 2019, the pledged contributions for the first time finally covered the full budget of the Order (over \$1.1M). Zavitsanos initiated the Archon Boot camp in 2017 to train Archons-elect regarding the serious responsibilities they will have going forward to defend the Holy Mother Church.

He helped revamp the selection process and move it from appointment to an application process, so as to assure that all new Archons do not simply view this as a lifetime achievement award and fully understand the duty and service they promise to provide.

Zavitsanos was also on the committee that hosted Religious Freedom Conferences in Brussels and in Washington. The summits focused on the persecution of Christians in the Middle

East and Turkey. He was also a member of the international team that assisted with the representation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate successfully sued the government of Turkey and reclaimed an orphanage it had owned for hundreds of years just outside of Istanbul. The victory over this largest wooden structure in all of Europe was unanimous and precedent setting. He also is a member of Leadership 100.

He others others pro bono, including the nuns of St. Paraskevi Monastery in rural Texas who needed help after the monastery basement flooded.

He helped secure millions in their full construction costs to remediate the damage done.

He has served his Houston, Texas community outside of the Church as well, serving as a board member of the Houston Lawyer Referral Service.

Zavitsanos also was a board member of the Menil Art Museum's Byzantine Fresco Chapel in Houston and was stewardship chairman of his local parish, Annunciation Cathedral.

Annunciation Cathedral now has one of the largest stewardship programs in the country (they collected over \$1.5M in 2018). That program serves as a model for a number of parishes in the United States.

Zavitsanos has been married for 30 years to Joni and has four children. His wife and children all speak Greek. His wife Joni is an artist who focuses on Byzantine iconography like her father Diamantis J. Cassis (also an Archon) before her.

LEADERSHIP 100

U.S. Chief Technology Officer to Speak at L-100 Conference

Michael Kratsios, the U.S. Chief Technology Officer, will give the keynote speech at the 29th annual Leadership 100 Conference Feb. 20-23 at The Breakers in Palm Beach, Fla., Leadership 100 Chairman Argyris Vassiliou has announced.

Kratsios, who has served in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy since March 2017, was confirmed by unanimous voice vote by the U.S. Senate on Aug. 1.

Kratsios is now the highest-ranking Greek American in the Administration.

The position of U.S. CTO was created in 2009 under President Obama, and has been vacant since the beginning of the Trump administration and Kratsios had served as the Acting Chief Technology Officer. He has been the White House's principal technology policy advisor and a secretary-level representative of the U.S. at international meetings, including at the G7 and G20. He has led a team of policy advisors driving U.S. policy and priorities on a range of technology issues, including artificial intelligence (AI), unmanned aerial systems, autonomous vehicles, quantum computing, telecommunications, rural broadband, entrepreneurship, the digital economy, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing and STEM

education.

Under his leadership, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy encourages the development of emerging technologies in the United States, empowers American companies to commercialize and adopt new technologies, and improves and expands access to the tools necessary for Americans to succeed in the 21st century economy.

Kratsios was born Nov. 7, 1986, in Salisbury, Md., and grew up in Columbia, S.C. He graduated from Princeton University in 2008 with a degree in political science and a certificate in Hellenic Studies. He received the Hellenic Studies Senior Thesis Prize. He was a visiting scholar at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

After graduation, he worked for Barclay's Capital and Lyford Group International, and later served as the Chief Financial Officer of Clarium Capital Management. He then became a Principal at Thiel Capital and served as Chief of Staff to entrepreneur and venture capitalist Peter Thiel.

His mother, Maria, immigrated to the US from the Greek island of Chios. His father John's father immigrated to the US from Kastoria in northern Greece.

OCMC

Board Meeting: Celebration, Progress, and Reflection

by Niko Birbilis

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla - The Orthodox Christian Mission Center trustees convened for their spring meeting at the Mission Center May 20-22.

The Divine Liturgy, Board Meeting, and board/staff dinner (held on the feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen) coincided with the 10-year anniversary of the dedication of the Archbishop Anastasios and Archbishop Demetrios Missionary Training and Administration Building. It was a great opportunity for everyone in attendance to reflect and evaluate what has been accomplished and formulate plans going forward.

In his report to the Board, OCMC Executive Director Fr. Martin Ritsi presented a number of current special projects underway or recently completed.

These include:

- Missionary housing construction in Guatemala
- Church construction in Uganda and Indonesia
- Orphan care in Albania, Kenya, Guatemala, India, Madagascar, and Mexico
- Education efforts in Ghana and Kenya
- Supporting the dioceses of Albania, Ghana, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, Kenya, South Korea, Madagascar, and Sweden
- Supporting seminaries in Alaska and Kenya
- Drilling wells in Kenya and Uganda
- Sponsoring the memorial fund

and funeral arrangements for Bishop Athanasius of Kenya

Fr. Martin also noted future efforts being considered - all in addition to, and in conjunction with, the long-term missionaries and short-term teams serving in various countries.

Missionary Director Deacon James Nicholas briefed the Board on the streamlined long-term missionary recruitment, training, and sending process as OCMC continues to increase its work in various countries. Thomas and Elizabeth Manuel, two OCMC missionaries in the field, also spoke with the board in a video call. They are currently studying Spanish in Mexico and preparing to serve in Guatemala, and they shared some of their experiences to give the Board a glimpse into the life of missionaries serving in the field.

The Board welcomed its newest member: Stacey Gleeson of Newtown, Pa.

Officers reelected for new three-year terms included John Colis, president; Gayle Woloschak, vice president; and Fr. Ceraphim Mitchell, treasurer. Bruce Humphrey was newly elected as secretary taking over for Betty Slanta who was recognized for her long service in that position.

A new Strategic Planning Committee was created to follow-up on the innovative one-page plan adopted at the previous board meeting. OCMC finances and investments were reviewed, including the most recent audited financial statements; and a balanced budget for the new fiscal year was approved.

Εγκύκλιος

Τις Ίνδικτου καί πρώτης ημέρας του έκκλησιαστικού έτους

Προσφιλείς αδελφοί Ίεράρχαι και τέκνα εν Κυρίω αγαπητά,

Εύδοκία και χάριτι του πανδύρου Θεού συμπληρούνται σήμερον 30 έτη από της καθιερώσεως υπό της Αγίας του Χριστού Μεγάλης Έκκλησίας της έορτής της Ίνδικτου και πρώτης ημέρας του έκκλησιαστικού έτους ως «Ημέρας προστασίας του περιβάλλοντος». Η εύλογη αυτή πρωτοβουλία έσχε δαφιλή καρποφορίαν. Δέν απηυθύνθημεν μόνον προς τους όρθοδόξους πιστούς, ούτε μόνον προς τους χριστιανούς ή τους εκπροσώπους άλλων θρησκειών, αλλά και προς πολιτικές προσωπικότητες, προς περιβαλλοντολόγους και άλλους έπιστήμονας, προς τους διανοούμενους και κάθε άνθρωπον καλής θελήσεως, έπιζητούντες την συμβολήν των.

Αί περιβαλλοντικά δράσεις του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου έλειτούργησαν ως έναυσμα διά την θεολογίαν, να προβάλη με έμφασιν την αλήθειαν της χριστιανικής ανθρωπολογίας και κοσμολογίας, την εύχαριστιακήν θεώρησιν και χρήσιν της δημιουργίας και τό πνεύμα του όρθοδόξου άσκητισμού ως βάσιν διά την κατανόησιν των αίτιών και αντιμετώπισιν του οικολογικού προβλήματος. Η σχετική με την θεολογικήν οικολογίαν ή οικολογικήν θεολογίαν βιβλιογραφία είναι έκτενεστάτη και συγκροτεί εν τώ συνόλω της αξιόλογον όρθόδοξον μαρτυρίαν εναντι μιάς εκ των μεγαλυτέρων προκλήσεων διά την σύγχρονον ανθρωπότητα και την ζών επί της γής. Η ένασχόλησις με τό οικολογικόν πρόβλημα και τάς κοσμολογικάς διαστάσεις και έπιπτώσεις της άμαρτίας, αυτής της άλλοτριωτικής έσωτερικής «ανάτροπής άξιών» εις τόν άνθρωπον, έφερεν εις τό προσκήνιον την συνάφειαν περιβαλλοντικών και κοινωνικών προβλημάτων

▶ Σελίδα 38



Φωτο. Λευκού Οίκου

ΣΥΝΑΝΤΗΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΕΛΠΙΔΟΦΟΡΟΥ ΜΕ ΤΟΝ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟ ΤΡΑΜΠ

ΟΥΑΣΙΝΓΚΤΟΝ - Στα πλαίσια των προγραμματισμένων συναντήσεών του στην Ουάσιγκτον, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος έγινε δεκτός χθες, 16 Ιουλίου, στο Οβάλ Γραφείο του Λευκού Οίκου από τον Εξοχώτατο Πρόεδρο των ΗΠΑ κ. Ντόναλντ Τράμπ, παρουσία του Αντιπροέδρου κ. Μάικλ Πενς και του Υπουργού Υγείας κ. Άλεξ Έιζαρ.

Η συνάντηση διεξήχθη σε πολύ εγκάρδιο κλίμα, ενώ ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος είχε την ευκαιρία να ευχαριστήσει τον Πρόεδρο: α) για την αποστολή εκπροσώπου του κατά την τελετή της ενθρονίσεως, β) για την αποστολή θερμού συγχαρητηρίου γράμματος επί τη αναλήψει των καθηκόντων του, γ) για την θερμή υποστήριξη του προς τον ιερό θεσμό του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου, και δ) για την διαρκώς επιδεικνυόμενη ευαισθησία του Προέδρου σε θέματα προστασίας των χριστιανών ανά τον κόσμο.

Ο Πρόεδρος έδειξε ιδιαίτερο ενδιαφέρον για την Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία και υπεσχέθη κάθε υποστήριξη στις δραστηριότητες και το έργο της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής.

Ως γνωστόν, Αρχιεπίσκοπος συνοδευόμενος από τον Αιδεσιμόλ. Πρωτοπρ. του Οικουμενικού Θρόνου κ. Αλέξανδρο Καρλούτσο, Γενικό Αρχιερατικό Επίτροπο, μετέβη στην Ουάσιγκτον για να συμμετάσχει στο ετήσιο «Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom» που διοργάνωσε για δεύτερη χρονιά το υπό τη διεύθυνση του Πρέσβευς Samuel Brownback «Γραφείο για τα Θρησκευτικά Δικαιώματα Διεθνώς», που τελεί υπό την προστασία του Υπουργείου Εξωτερικών των ΗΠΑ.

Την ίδια μέρα, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος συμμετείχε σε επίσημο δείπνο, το οποίο παρέθεσε προς τιμήν του το Τάγμα των Αρχόντων του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου υπό την ηγεσία του κ. Αντωνίου Λυμπεράκη, με την υψηλή παρουσία του Μακ. Πατριάρχου Ιεροσολύμων κ. Θεοφίλου.

Σήμερα είναι προγραμματισμένη η επίσημη ομιλία του Αρχιεπισκόπου με θέμα την προστασία των αδυνάμων θρησκευτικών μειονοτήτων σε συγκρουσιακά περιβάλλοντα, όπως και η συναντησή του με τον Υπουργό Εξωτερικών κ. Μάϊκ Πομπέο.

ΣΥΓΧΑΡΗΤΗΡΙΑ ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΥ ΤΡΑΜΠ ΠΡΟΣ ΤΟΝ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟ ΕΛΠΙΔΟΦΟΡΟ

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ - Ο Πρόεδρος των Η.Π.Α. κ. Ντόναλντ Τραμπ έστειλε σήμερα συγχαρητήρια επιστολή στον Σεβασμιώτατο Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής κ. Ελπιδοφόρο με την ευκαιρία της ενθρονίσεως του.

Στην επιστολή του ο Πρόεδρος Τράμπ αναφέρει:

Σεβασμιώτατε,
Σας απευθύνω θερμότατα συγχαρητήρια για την ενθρονισή σας ως Αρχιεπισκόπου της Ελληνικής Ορθοδόξου Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής. Η Μελένια και εγώ συμμετέχουμε με την οικογένεια και την κοινότητά σας στον εορτασμό του σημαντικού αυτού γεγονότος.

Το Έθνος μας στην μακρά του ιστορία αντλεί δυνάμεις από την Πίστη. Σας συγχαίρω για τις προσπάθειές σας να ενσταλάξετε και να καλλιεργήσετε τις ιερές αξίες, τις οποίες η χώρα μας αγαπά. Η Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία προσφέρει παρηγορία και θεραπεία, καθώς και μεγάλη χαρά, αλληλεγγύη και ειρήνη. Για τους Ορθοδόξους πιστούς της Αμερικής, η εκκλησία αποτελεί το επίκεντρο των πιο σημαντικών στιγμών και ορόσημο της ζωής.

Είθε ο Θεός να σας ευλογεί και να συνεχίσει να ευλογεί την Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Αρχιεπισκοπή Αμερικής.

Ειλικρινώς,

Ο ΠΡΩΘΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΟΣ ΜΗΤΣΟΤΑΚΗΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΔΡΑ ΤΗΣ ΙΕΡΑΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗΣ



GOA-Δημήτρης Πανάγος

του Σταύρου Η. Παπαγερμανού

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ - Τον Εξοχώτατο Πρωθυπουργό της Ελλάδος κ. Κυριάκο Μητσοτάκη υποδέχθηκε σήμερα στην Έδρα της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Ελπιδοφόρος.

Κατά την είσοδό του, στο Αρχιεπισκοπικό μέγαρο ο Πρωθυπουργός χαίρτισε το προσωπικό της Αρχιεπισκοπής και συνοδευόμενος από την σύζυγό του κ. Μαρέβα Μητσοτάκη και τον γιό τους Κωνσταντίνο, άναψε κεριό στο ιερό παρεκκλήσι.

Στην προσφώνησή του ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος, μεταξύ άλλων, ανέφερε:

«Προσφιλέστατε κ. Πρωθυπουργέ, ως ποιμενάρχης του Ορθοδόξου πληρώματος της Αρχιεπισκοπής της Αμερικής και εξ ονόματος της Α. Θ. Παναγιόττης του

Οικουμενικού μας Πατριάρχου κ. κ. Βαρθολομαίου, εύχομαι και προσεύχομαι όπως η αρξάμενη υπό την Πρωθυπουργία σας νέα Ελληνική Κυβέρνηση καταστεί αντάξια των ελπίδων του ελληνικού λαού και να επιτύχει την πρόοδο, την ευημερία, την οικονομική ανάπτυξη και την επίλυση των υπαρχόντων κοινωνικών και άλλων προβλημάτων» (βλ. το πλήρες κείμενο)

Στην αντιφώνησή του ο κ. Μητσοτάκης είπε:

«Σας ευχαριστώ Σεβασμιώτατε, για τα πολύ θερμά σας λόγια και θέλω να σας μεταφέρω πόσο συγκινημένος είμαι που σας επισκέπτομαι εδώ στην έδρα της Αρχιεπισκοπής για πρώτη φορά με τη νέα μου ιδιότητα ως Πρωθυπουργού της Ελλάδος. Το 2019

▶ σελίδα 38

ΕΠΙΣΚΕΨΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΚΥ- ΠΡΟΥ ΝΙΚΟΥ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΑΔΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΔΡΑ ΤΗΣ ΙΕΡΑΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗΣ

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ - Τον Εξοχ. Πρόεδρο της Κυπριακής Δημοκρατίας κ. Νίκο Αναστασιάδη υποδέχθηκε σήμερα το πρωί στην έδρα του ο Σεβ. Αρχιεπίσκοπος κ. Ελπιδοφόρος.

Ο κ. Πρόεδρος και η ερίτιμος σύζυγός του κ. Άντρι, αφού προσκύνησαν στο Ι. Παρεκκλήσιο της Αρχιεπισκοπής, ανήλθαν στην επίσημη Αίθουσα Υποδοχής, όπου αντηλλάγησαν εκατέρωθεν προσφωνήσεις.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος, καλωσορίζοντας τον υψηλό επισκέπτη, είπε, μεταξύ άλλων, τα εξής: «Ως Ιεράρχης του Οικουμενικού Θρόνου επιφορτισμένος με την ευθύνη της διαποιμάνσεως των ορθοδόξων των ΗΠΑ, προσεύχομαι στον Θεό της αγάπης, της ειρήνης, της φιλανθρωπίας και της καταλλαγής, να μας αξιώσει όλους να δούμε ενωμένο το νησί, όπου ελληνοκύπριοι και

τουρκοκύπριοι, όλοι οι πολίτες του, αρμονικά συμβιούντες, θα απολαμβάνουν τα αγαθά της συμφιλίωσης, της ειρήνης, της αδελφοσύνης, της αγάπης, της οικονομικής προόδου και της ανάπτυξης». Του ευχήθηκε δε και χρόνια πολλά για τα γενέθλιά του.

Ο Πρόεδρος, απαντώντας στον Αρχιεπίσκοπο, τον παρακάλεσε να διαβιβάσει στον Παναγιώτατο Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη κ. κ. Βαρθολομαίο τον βαθύτατο σεβασμό του ιδίου και συνόλου του κυπριακού λαού προς το σεπτό πρόσωπό του και ανεφάρθη διεξοδικά στις επίσημες διεξαχθείσες συνομιλίες για την επίλυση του κυπριακού προβλήματος.

Τέλος, ο Πρόεδρος προσκάλεσε τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο να επισκεφθεί επίσημα την μεγαλόνησο, όποτε το επιτρέψουν οι υποχρεώσεις του

ΣΥΝΑΝΤΗΣΗ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΜΕ ΤΟΝ ΠΡΟΕΔΡΟ ΤΗΣ ΤΟΥΡΚΙΑΣ

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ - Ο Σεβ. Αρχιεπίσκοπος κ. Ελπιδοφόρος συναντήθηκε εκτάκτως χθες αργά το βράδυ με τον Πρόεδρο της Τουρκικής Δημοκρατίας κ. Recep Tayyip Erdogan στο Ξενοδοχείο Cipriani του Μανχάτταν. Τον Πρόεδρο συνόδευε ο στενός του συνεργάτης κ. Ömer Çelik, πρώην Υπουργός Ευρωπαϊκών Υποθέσεων.

Η συνάντηση διεξήχθη σε καλό κλίμα και η συζήτηση περιστράφη στα θέματα της καταστάσεως των μειονοτήτων σε Ελλάδα και Τουρκία, στην αναγκαιότητα

της αναστηλώσεως του Ορφανοτροφείου της Πριγκίπου και στις προοπτικές για την επαναλειτουργία της Θεολογικής Σχολής της Χάλκης. Ο Σεβ. Αρχιεπίσκοπος έδωσε ιδιαίτερη έμφαση σε όλα τα ζητήματα που αφορούν στην απόλυτη προστασία των θρησκευτικών ελευθεριών και εν γένει των ανθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων.

Ο Πρόεδρος, αφού ενημερώθηκε για έργο της Ι. Αρχιεπισκοπής, προσκάλεσε τον Σεβασμιώτατο να τον επισκεφθεί κατά την προσεχή επίσκεψή του στην Τουρκία.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος προέβη σε νέους διορισμούς μετά την παραίτηση Αντιπροέδρου και Γραμματέως του Αρχιεπισκοπικού Συμβουλίου

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ - Η Ιερά Αρχιεπισκοπή ανακοινώνει ότι ο Εντιμολ. κ. Γεώργιος Τσαντίκος και η Ελλογιμ. κ. Αικατερίνη Μπουφίδη-Walsh, υπέβαλαν στον Σεβ. κ. Ελπιδοφόρο τις οικειοθελείς παραίτησεις τους εκ της θέσεως του Αντιπροέδρου και της Γραμματέως του Αρχιεπισκοπικού Συμβουλίου, αντιστοίχως.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος μετά λύπης έκανε δεκτές τις εν λόγω παραίτησεις, εξαιρώντας την εύορκο υπηρεσία αμοτέρων των εκλεκτών τέκνων της Εκκλησίας, διακριθέντων για το ήθος και για την εργατικότητα, για την ανιδιοτέλεια και την αφοσίωσή τους στην εκκλησιαστική τους αρχή.

Εις διαδοχήν δε των ανωτέρω ο Σεβ. Αρχιεπίσκοπος διόρισε τον μεν Εντιμολ. κ. Ιωάννη Κατσιματίδη, διακεκριμένο επιχειρηματία, στη θέση του Αντιπροέδρου, τον δε Εντιμολ. κ. Θεόδωρο Μποζονέλη, επιφανή δικαστικό, στη θέση του Γραμματέως, αντιστοίχως, του Αρχιεπισκοπικού Συμβουλίου. Στα νέα στελέχη του Αρχιεπισκοπικού Συμβουλίου ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος ευχήθηκε καλή επιτυχία και επεκαλέσθη την ευλογία του Κυρίου.

Η επίσημη παράδοση και παραλαβή μεταξύ των ως άνω θα γίνει κατά την προσεχή συνεδρίαση του Αρχιεπισκοπικού Συμβουλίου.

ΕΠΙΣΗΜΗ ΕΝΑΡΞΗ ΤΩΝ ΠΡΟΕΤΟΙΜΑΣΙΩΝ ΤΗΣ 45ΗΣ ΚΛΗΡΙΚΟΛΑΪΚΗΣ ΤΟΥ 2020

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ. - Την Παρασκευή 12 Ιουλίου 2019, ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Ελπιδοφόρος δέχθηκε την επίσκεψη του Σεβ. Μητροπολίτου Πιτσβούργου κ. Σάββα και συνεργατών του για να συζητήσουν τον σχεδιασμό της 45ης Κληρικολαϊκής Συνελεύσεως της Ελληνικής Ορθοδόξης Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής καθώς και του Συνεδρίου της Εθνικής Φιλοπτώχου Αδελφότητας, που πρόκειται να πραγματοποιηθούν στο Κλήβελαντ του Οχάιο από 28 Ιουνίου έως 3 Ιουλίου του 2020.

Κατόπιν πλήρους παρουσιάσεως και ενημερώσεως σχετικά με τη διοργάνωση, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ελπιδοφόρος κάλεσε τον Σεβ. κ. Σάββα να διορίσει τον προεδρεύοντα και τα μέλη της οργανωτικής επιτροπής της 45ης Κληρικολαϊκής Συνε-

λεύσεως ώστε και επίσημα να προχωρήσει η προετοιμασία και διοργάνωση αυτής, εκ μέρους της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής. Από πλευράς της Ι. Αρχιεπισκοπής υπεύθυνος ορίστηκε ο Θεοφ. Επίσκοπος Μηδείας κ. Απόστολος, Αρχιγραμματέας της Ι. Επαρχιακής Συνόδου.

Ως κεντρικό θέμα της Κληρικολαϊκής ορίστηκε ο λόγος του Αποστόλου Παύλου: «μείζων δὲ τούτων ἡ ἀγάπη» (Κορ. Α' 13:13).

Μέσα στις επόμενες εβδομάδες και μήνες, με τον διορισμό των υπευθύνων προέδρων, θα ανακοινωθούν περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με τις εγγραφές, το ξενοδοχείο, και το πρόγραμμα, τα οποία και θα αναρτηθούν στην ιστοσελίδα www.clergylaity.org μετά την 1η Σεπτεμβρίου 2019.



GOA-Δημήτρης Πανάγος

ΕΠΙΣΚΕΨΗ ΤΗΣ ΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΥ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΜΑΤΩΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ ΝΙΚΗΣ ΚΕΡΑΜΕΩΣ

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ - Την Εξοχ. κ. Νίκη Κεραμέως, Υπουργό Παιδείας της Ελλάδος, υποδέχθηκε σήμερα ο Σεβ. Αρχιεπίσκοπος κ. Ελπιδοφόρος.

Στην συνάντηση που ακολούθησε διαπιστώθηκε η κοινή βούληση για την προώθηση της ελληνικής γλώσσας και παιδείας στις ΗΠΑ, για στενότερη συνεργασία της Θεολογικής Σχολής του Τιμίου Σταυρού Βοστώνης με το Υπουργείο Παιδείας της Ελλάδος και για από κοινού διοργάνωση των εορτασμών της πετείου των 200 ετών από την έναρξη της Ελληνικής Επανάστασεως.

Ιδιαίτερο ήταν το ενδιαφέρον της Εξοχ. κ. Υπουργού για την πρόοδο και την οργάνωση των Ελληνικών Σχολείων στις ΗΠΑ, κάτι που χαροποίησε τον Σεβ. Αρχιεπίσκοπο, ο οποίος επίσης δίνει ιδιαίτερη σημασία και επιδεικνύει προσοχή στα ζητήματα αυτά.

Την κ. Υπουργό συνόδευαν ο Γεν. Πρόξενος της Ελλάδος στη Νέα Υόρκη κ. Κωνσταντίνος Κούτρας και η Σύμβουλος της κ. Όλγα Γιαννιάδη, ενώ τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο πλαισίωσαν οι Θεοφιλ. Επίσκοπος Μηδείας κ. Απόστολος και Πανοσιολ. Αρχιμ. κ. Βασίλειος Δρόσος



Ορθόδοξος Παρατηρητής

Επίσκεψη του Αναπληρωτή Υπουργού Προστασίας του Πολίτη

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ - Ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Ελπιδοφόρος δέχθηκε σήμερα την επίσκεψη του κ. Γιώργου Κουμουτσάκου Αναπληρωτή Υπουργού Προστασίας του Πολίτη της Ελλάδος, ο οποίος είναι αρμόδιος για τη Μεταναστευτική Πολιτική.

Ο κ. Κουμουτσάκος ενημέρωσε τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο για θέματα της αρμοδιότη-

τός του και ιδιαίτερα για την αυξημένη εισροή μεταναστών στα νησιά του Αιγαίου και τις σχετικές επαφές του στη Νέα Υόρκη στα πλαίσια των εργασιών της Γενικής Συνελεύσεως του ΟΗΕ.

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος ευχαρίστησε τον κ. Υπουργό για την επίσκεψη και του ευχήθηκε κάθε δυνατή επιτυχία στο δύσκολο έργο του.

Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης: Να προβάλλουμε πνευματική αντίσταση στη βία και το μίσος

Ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος εκφράζει τον αποτροπιασμό του για την δολοφονική επίθεση στο Ελ Πάσο του Τέξας, των ΗΠΑ, από την οποία έχασαν τη ζωή τους είκοσι συνάνθρωποί μας και τραυματίστηκαν άλλοι είκοσι έξι, αλλά και για την επίσης αιματηρή επίθεση στην πόλη Ντέιτον του Οχάιο, από την οποία φέρονται να βρήκαν τον θάνατο και να τραυματίστηκαν αρκετοί συνάνθρωποί μας.

Ο Παναγιώτατος καταδικάζει απερίφραστα κάθε πράξη μίσους - φυλετικού, θρησκευτικού ή κοινωνικού, αλλά και κάθε μορφή βίας και φονταμενταλισμού, απ' όπου και αν αυτές προέρχονται. Το μίσος και η βία, επισημαίνει, προκαλούν πολύ πόνο και φόβο, ενίοτε δε είναι η αιτία περαιτέρω πράξεων βίας με τη μορφή της εκδίκησης. Απέναντι σε αυτό το διογκούμενο, επικίνδυνο και αιματηρό, φαινόμενο, σημειώνει, κάθε άνθρωπος καλής θέλησεως οφείλει να προβάλλει ισχυρή πνευματική αντίσταση. Καλεί δε όλους να εργαστούν, μέσω του διαλόγου και σε πνεύμα αλληλοσεβασμού, για τη διαφύλαξη του αγαθού της ειρηνικής συνύπαρξης και συνεργασίας, ενάντια σε πρακτικές που ενισχύουν το φόβο και το διχασμό της κοινωνίας.

Η Αγία του Χριστού Μεγάλη Εκκλησία, με πίστη στη διδασκαλία του Κυρίου μας, καταβάλλει άοκνες προσπάθειες προς αυτή την κατεύθυνση. Προσεύχεται δε για την ανάπαυση των ψυχών των θυμάτων, εκφράζοντας τα θερμά συλλυπητήριά της προς τις οικογένειές τους, ενώ εύχεται κουράγιο και ταχεία ανάρρωση στους τραυματίες. Ταυτόχρονα, εκφράζει τη συμπάθεια και τη συμπάραστάσή της προς την τοπική κοινωνία του Ελ Πάσο αλλά και του Ντέιτον, την Κυβέρνηση και τον λαό των ΗΠΑ.

Ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης ζήτησε από τον Σεβ. Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής Ελπίδοφόρο να μεταφέρει το παραπάνω μήνυμα του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου προς τις τοπικές και εθνικές Αρχές και συνολικά στον λαό των ΗΠΑ.

Επίσκεψη του Δημάρχου Αθηναίων στο Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχείο

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ - Σύμφωνα με ανακοίνωση του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου, ο προσφάτως εκλεγείς νέος Δήμαρχος Αθηναίων κ. Κώστας Μπακογιάννης πραγματοποίησε σήμερα, Παρασκευή, 12 Ιουλίου, επίσκεψη στο Φανάρι και έγινε θερμά δεκτός από τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη κ. Βαρθολομαίο.

Ο κ. Μπακογιάννης, ο οποίος συνοδεύεται από συνεργάτες του, ζήτησε και έλαβε την Πατριαρχική ευλογία εν όψει της αναλήψεως των νέων καθηκόντων του, και είχε την ευκαιρία να μοιραστεί με τον Παναγιώτατο ορισμένες από τις σκέψεις και τα οράματά του για τον Δήμο Αθηναίων.

Ο Πατριάρχης τον συνεχάρη για την τιμητική εμπιστοσύνη των Αθηναίων στο πρόσωπό του και ευχήθηκε εγκαρδίως στο νεοεκλεγέντα Δήμαρχο κάθε επιτυχία στο έργο του προς όφελος των πολιτών αλλά και των επισκεπτών της Πρωτεύουσας της Ελλάδος.

Στη συνάντηση παρέστη και ο Σεβασμιώτατος Μητροπολίτης Γερμανίας κ. Αυγουστίνος.

ΗΜΕΡΑ ΕΟΡΤΑΣΜΟΥ ΜΝΗΜΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΕΙΡΗΝΗΣ ΧΡΥΣΟΒΑΛΑΝΤΟΥ ΣΤΗ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΙΚΗ ΜΟΝΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΑΣΤΟΡΙΑ



GOA-Δημήτρης Πανάγος



GOA-Δημήτρης Πανάγος



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GOA-Δημήτρης Πανάγος

Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ελπιδοφόρος προεξήρχε της Θείας Λειτουργίας στο Καθεδρικό Ναό του Αγίου Δημητρίου στην Αστόρια τον Ιούλιο μέσα σε μια κατάμεστη αίθουσα. Στη Θεία Λειτουργία μαζί με τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο ήταν ο Επίσκοπος Μηδείας Απόστολος, ο οποίος υπηρέτησε την κοινότητα του Αγίου Δημητρίου ως ιερέας για αρκετά χρόνια.

ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΝ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟΝ: ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΘΕΝ

Συνήλθε σήμερα, 3ην τ.μ. Ὀκτωβρίου 2019, υπό τήν προεδρίαν τῆς Α. Θ. Παναγιότητος, τοῦ Πατριάρχου, ἡ Ἁγία καί Ἱερά Σύνοδος εἰς τήν πρώτην συνεδρίαν αὐτῆς τῆς νέας Συνοδικῆς περιόδου καί τοῦ νέου Ἐκκλησιαστικοῦ Ἔτους. Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἀντηλάγησαν αἱ εἰθισμέναι προσφωνήσεις καί ἀντιφωνήσεις μεταξύ τοῦ Παναγιωτάτου Πατριάρχου καί τοῦ πρώτου τῆ τάξει τῶν νέων Συνοδικῶν Παρέδρων, Σεβ. Μητροπολίτου Ἀγκύρας κ. Ἱερεμίου.

Κατ' αὐτήν:

α) Ἀπεφασίσθη, τῇ εἰσηγήσει τῆς Κανονικῆς Ἐπιτροπῆς, κατόπιν θεωρήσεως τοῦ ἀρμοδίως διαβιβασθέντος τῇ Μητρὶ Ἐκκλησίᾳ σχετικοῦ αἰτήματος τοῦ Σεβ. Μητροπολίτου Καστορίας κ. Σεραφεῖμ, ἡ ἀναγραφὴ εἰς τὸ Ἁγιολόγιον τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας τῶν μαρτυρικῶς τελειωθέντων ὑπὲρ τῆς ἀμωμῆτος ἡμῶν πίστεως: α) Μάρκου Πέτρου Μαρκοῦλη ἐκ Κλεισούρας, β) Νούτζου ἐκ Καστορίας, καί τῶν σὺν αὐτῷ ἀθλησάντων, γ) Γεωργίου τοῦ ἐκ Καστορίας, δ) ἱερέως Βασιλείου

Καλαπαλίκη, ἐφημερίου Χιλιοδεντρίου Καστορίας καί ε) Ἀρχιμανδρίτου Πλάτωνος Αἰβαζίδη.

β) Εἰσηγήσει τῆς Α. Θ. Παναγιότητος, ἐξελέγησαν ὁμοφώνως εἰς Τιτουλάριον Μητροπολίτην Σεβαστίας ὁ μέχρι τοῦδε Θεοφ. Ἐπίσκοπος Ἀπολλωνιάδος κ. Σεραφεῖμ, καί εἰς Τιτουλάριον Μητροπολίτην Εἰρηνοπόλεως ὁ μέχρι τοῦδε Θεοφ. Ἐπίσκοπος Δορυλαίου κ. Νικάνδρος, ἀνυψωθέντες ἀμφοτέρω, αὐθημερόν, διὰ διοικητικῶν πράξεων, εἰς ἐν ἐνεργείᾳ Ἱεράρχας τοῦ Θρόνου.

γ) Εἰς ἀνταπόκρισιν πρὸς σχετικὴν παράκλησιν τοῦ Σεβ. Ἀρχιεπισκόπου Ἀμερικῆς κ. Ἐλπιδοφόρου, ἀνυψώθη, ὁμοίως παμψηφεί, εἰς Τιτουλάριον Μητροπολίτην ὁ μέχρι τοῦδε, Θεοφ. Ἐπίσκοπος Φιλομηλίου κ. Ἡλίας, ἀρχιερατικῶς προϊστάμενος τῶν ἐν Η.Π.Α. Ἀλβανοφώνων Ὁρθοδόξων Κοινοτήτων.

Ἐκ τῆς Ἀρχιγραμματείας τῆς Ἁγίας καί Ἱεράς Συνόδου.



Νίκος Μαγγίνας

Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΥ ΑΥΤΟΝΟΜΟΥ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΦΙΛΛΑΝΔΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ Ο ΛΟΥΘΗΡΑΝΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΦΙΛΛΑΝΔΙΑΣ ΣΤΟ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΕΙΟ

Συνάντηση με τον Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη Βαρθολομαίο είχαν σήμερα Τρίτη, 13 Αυγούστου, στο Φανάρι, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Ελσινκίου και πάσης Φιλανδίας Λέων, ο οποίος προΐσταται της Ορθοδόξου Αυτονόμου Εκκλησίας της Φιλανδίας, και ο Λουθηρανός Αρχιεπίσκοπος Φιλανδίας Ταριο Luoma, στο πλαίσιο προσκυνηματικής επισκέψεώς τους στο Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχείο και στην Πόλη. Κατά τη διάρκεια της συναντήσεώς τους, στην οποία παρέστησαν και συνεργάτες των δύο Αρχιεπισκόπων, συζητήθηκαν ζητήματα που αφορούν στον διαχριστιανικό διάλογο και συνεργασία στην Φιλανδία, αλλά και γενικότερα στην πορεία των σχέσεων μεταξύ Ορθοδόξων και Λουθηρανών.

Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΠΡΩΗΝ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ ΕΛΑΒΕ ΤΗΝ ΑΝΩΤΑΤΗ ΤΙΜΗ ΑΠΟ ΤΗ ΣΕΡΒΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ

ΛΙΜΠΕΡΤΥΒΙΑ, Ιλλινόϊς – Η Σερβική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία απένευσε το Παράσημο του Τάγματος του Αγίου Σάββα, 1ου βαθμού, στον Σεβασμιώτατο Αρχιεπίσκοπο πρώην Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριο, την Κυριακή 14 Ιουλίου 2019, αμέσως μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία της Συνελεύσεως του Σερβικού Επισκοπικού Συμβουλίου στις Η.Π.Α. Η συγκεκριμένη αναγνώριση αποτελεί την ανώτατη τιμή την οποία απονέμει η Σερβική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία.

Στην ομιλία του κατά την αποδοχή του τιμητικού παρασήμου ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος είπε: «το γεγονός ότι λαμβάνω αυτή την αληθινά εξέχουσα τιμή τη στιγμή που η

Σερβική Ορθόδοξη Εκκλησία γιορτάζει 800 χρόνια από τη στιγμή που της χορηγήθηκε η Αυτοκεφαλία προσδίδει στο παράσημο αυτό του Αγίου Σάββα ακόμα περισσότερη σημασία και κύρος».

Το Παράσημο του Τάγματος του Αγίου Σάββα, 1ου βαθμού απονέμεται από την Ιερά Σύνοδο της Σερβικής Ορθοδόξου Εκκλησίας. Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος προτάθηκε από το Επισκοπικό Συμβούλιο της Σερβικής Ορθοδόξου Εκκλησίας στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες Αμερικής για την επί εικοσαετία ηγεσία του στην προώθηση και καλλιέργεια αγαστών διορθοδόξων σχέσεων.



GOA-Δημήτρης Πανάγος

Εγκύκλιος

ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΥΨΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ

Ἡ Παγκόσμιος Ὑψωσις τοῦ Τιμίου καὶ Ζωοποιοῦ Σταυροῦ

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Πρεσβυτέρους καὶ Διακόνους, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους Ἄρχοντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ Ἡμερήσια, Ἀπογευματινὰ καὶ Κατηχητικὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴν Νεολαία, τὶς Ὁμογενειακὲς Ὀργανώσεις καὶ τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

Προσφιλεῖς Ἀδελφοὶ ἐν Χριστῷ,

Καθὼς τιμοῦμε τὴν τρισευλογημένη ἑορτὴ τῆς Ὑψώσεως τοῦ Τιμίου καὶ Ζωοποιοῦ Σταυροῦ, διατρανώνουμε ἐν ὕμνοις τὴν πίστη μας καὶ μαρτυροῦμε τὸν εὐαγγελικὸ λόγον πρὸς ὅλον τὸν κόσμον, ὅτι «Σταυρὸς ἀνυψούμενος, τοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ ὑψωθέντος, τὸ πάθος τὸ ἄχραντον, ἀνυμνεῖν προτρέπεται κτίσιν ἅπασαν» (Στιχηρὸν τοῦ Ἑσπερινοῦ). Σήμερα, ὡς Χριστιανοὶ Ὁρθόδοξοι, ὑψώνουμε τὸν Σταυρὸ ὡς σημεῖο τῆς νίκης καὶ ὡς ἀκαταμάχητη ἀσπίδα.

Ὑψώνουμε τὸν Σταυρὸ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, διακηρύσσοντας τὴν

σωτηρία ἢ ὅποια ἦλθε μέσῳ Αὐτοῦ. Ὑψώνουμε τὸν Σταυρὸ, ἐπιβεβαιώνοντας ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ γιὰ ἐμᾶς ὑπερβαίνει τὴν ἰσχύ τοῦ θανάτου. Ὑψώνοντας τὸν Σταυρὸ, ὑψώνουμε τὸν ἴδιο τὸν Χριστό, γιὰ νὰ δεῖ ὁ κόσμος ὅλος τὸν Ἀναστάντα Κύριο καὶ νὰ πιστέψει.

Ἡ σημερινὴ ἑορτὴ τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ εἶναι πολὺ σημαντικὴ γιὰ ἐμᾶς ὡς Ὁρθόδοξους πιστοὺς, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀποτελεῖ πολὺ ιδιαίτερη ἡμέρα καὶ γιὰ τὴν Ἱερὰ Ἀρχιεπισκοπὴ Ἀμερικῆς. Κάθε χρόνο, κατὰ τὴν ἑορτὴ αὐτὴ, ἐπιβεβαιώνουμε τὴν στήριξή μας στὸ ἱερό ἔργο τῆς ἀγαπημένης μας Ἑλληνορθόδοξης Θεολογικῆς Σχολῆς τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ.

Κατὰ τὴν εὐσημη αὐτὴ ἡμέρα προσευχόμεθα ὑπὲρ τῶν ἐκεῖ διδασκομένων, διδασκόντων καὶ ἐργαζομένων, παροτρύνοντας τὶς ἐνορίες καὶ τοὺς πιστοὺς νὰ συνδράμουν στὸ ἔργο τῆς Σχολῆς. Προσέτι, προτρέπεσθε νὰ ἐνθαρρύνετε νέους σπουδαστές, οἱ ὁποῖοι θὰ προέρχονται ἀπὸ τὶς ἐνορίες σας καὶ νὰ δεσμευθεῖτε ὅτι θὰ ἀναδείξετε ἀκόμη περισσότερους ἡγέτες ποὺ θὰ διακονοῦν τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν μας.

Ἐφέτος ἡ ἑορτὴ βρῖσκει τὴν Σχολήν μας σὲ μιὰ κρίσιμη καμπὴ στὴν ἱστορία τῆς καὶ

καθὼς ὑψώνουμε τὸν Σταυρὸ τοῦ Κυρίου στίς κοινότητές μας, σᾶς παρακαλῶ νὰ ἀναπέμψετε δεήσεις καὶ ὑπὲρ τῆς Σχολῆς τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ.

Ἔχουμε ἤδη ἐκκινήσει τὴν διαδικασία γιὰ τὴν ἐξεύρεση νέου προέδρου τοῦ ἰδρύματος. Ἐργαζόμεθα ἐπιμελῶς μαζὶ μετὸν Σεβ. Μητροπολίτη Βοστώνης κ. Μεθόδιο καὶ τὴν Ἐφορεία τῆς Σχολῆς γιὰ νὰ ἀντιμετωπίσουμε ζητήματα καὶ προκλήσεις, ὥστε νὰ ἐξακολουθήσει ἡ προσοχή μας νὰ ἐστιάζεται στὴν κατάρτιση κληρικῶν καὶ ἄλλων ἡγετῶν, οἱ ὁποῖοι θὰ ἀφιερῶσουν τὸ ὑπόλοιπο τῆς ζωῆς τους στὴν ὑπηρεσίαν τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας του. Οἱ προσευχὲς καὶ ἡ στήριξή σας εἶναι ἀναγκαῖες, ὥστε νὰ παραμείνει ἡ εὐλογημένη μας Σχολὴ καὶ ἡ κληρονομία τῆς σὲ σταθερῇ τροχιά στὸν χώρο τῆς ἐκπαίδευσης καὶ στὸ ἔργο τῆς γαλούχησης γενεῶν κληρικῶν.

Σήμερα ὑποδεχόμεθα τὸν Σταυρὸ μετὰ χαρὰ, διότι ὁ Σταυρὸς μᾶς δόθηκε ὡς φῶς καὶ σωτηρία τῶν ψυχῶν μας. Φωτίζει τὸν δρόμον πρὸς τὴν ἀγιότητα.

Μᾶς καθοδηγεῖ στὴν πορεία πρὸς τὴν αἰώνια ζωὴ, τὴν ὅποια διανύουμε ἐν πίστει. Μέσα στὴ χαρὰ αὐτὴ εἶθε νὰ ἐορτάσουμε τὴν εὐεργετικὴ παρουσία τῆς Θεολογικῆς

Σχολῆς τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ, μαζὶ μετὰ τὸ τεράστιο ἔργο, τὸ ὁποῖο προσέφερε καὶ θὰ συνεχίσει νὰ προσφέρει ἀπὸ τὸν ἀγιασμένο λόφον, ὅπου στέκεται.

Ἡ προσφορὰ αὐτὴ συνέβαλε στὴ διάδοσιν τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου σὲ ὅλοκληρον τὸν κόσμον, στὴ γαλούχησιν τῶν πιστῶν στίς ἐνορίες μας ἀνὰ τὴν ἐπικράτεια καὶ στὴ λειτουργίαν τῆς Σχολῆς ὡς κοινότητος πνευματικῆς ἀνασυγκροτήσεως, ὡς ἀκαδημίας, ἢ ὅποια προάγει τὴν ἐπιστημονικὴ ἔρευνα μετὰ ἀγάπην, καὶ ὡς φάρου ἀληθείας καὶ χάριτος.

Εἶθε ἡ δύναμη τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ νὰ σᾶς φυλάττει, τὸ φῶς του νὰ σᾶς καθοδηγεῖ καὶ ἡ ἑορτὴ αὐτὴ νὰ σᾶς ἐμπνέει νὰ ἄρετε τὸν σταυρὸ σας καθημερινῶς, μετὰ τὴν πίστη ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς μᾶς δίδει τὸ νίκος διὰ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. (Α' Κορ. ΙΕ', 57).

Μετὰ πατρικῆς ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπης

† Ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἀρχιεπίσκοπος

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GOA-Δημήτρης Πανάγος

Η ΠΡΩΤΗ ΜΟΝΑΣΤΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΑΞΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ – Όλοκληρώθηκαν σήμερα οι εργασίες της πρώτης Μοναστικής Συνάξεως των Ιερών Μονών της Ι. Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής που συνήλθε στην Ι. Μονή Αγίου Νεκταρίου Roscoe, μεταξύ 21 και 22 Σεπτεμβρίου, κατόπιν προσκλήσεως του Σεβασμιωτάτου Αρχιεπισκόπου κ. Ελπιδοφόρου.

Συμμετείχαν οι ηγούμενοι και οι ηγουμένες 18 Ιερών Μονών, καθώς και οι Σεβασμιώτατοι Μητροπολίτες Denver κ. Ησαΐας, Ατλάντας κ. Αλέξιος και Σικάγου κ. Ναθαναήλ, ως και οι Θεοφ. Επίσκοποι Μωκρησού κ. Δημήτριος, Μηδείας κ. Απόστολος και Εύκαρπιας κ. Ιερόθεος, Ήγούμενος της Ι. Πατριαρχικής και Σταυροπηγιακής Μονής Όσιας Ειρήνης Χρυσοβαλάντου.

Την Σύναξη εϋλόγησε με έμπνευσμένο βιντεοσκοπημένο μήνυμα του ή Α. Θ. Παναγιώτης ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης κ. Βαρθολομαίος, ο οποίος συνεχάρη τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής γι' αυτή του την πρωτοβουλία και τον προέτρεψε να εξακολουθήσει να προαγάγει και να στηρίζει τα εϋλογημένα Όρθόδοξα Μοναστήρια στις ΗΠΑ. «Αί όρθόδοξοι μοναί έκφράζουν την χριστιανικήν αυθεντικότητα, τὸ ὀρθόδοξον δέον» περί του ανθρώπου και του αιώνιου προορισμού του, μέσα εις τὸν πλουραλιστικόν, τεχνοκρατικόν και οικονομοκεντρικόν κόσμον τῆς ἐποχῆς μας», κατέληξε ὁ Πατριάρχης σὸ μήνυμά του.

Μετὰ τὴν ἐμπεριστατωμένη εἰσηγητική ὁμιλία τοῦ Σεβ. Ἀμερικής κ. Ἐλπιδοφόρου ἡ ὁποία ἀναφέρθηκε σὲς ἀρχές και ἀξίες τῆς μοναχικῆς βιωτῆς ὡς ἀγγελικοῦ βίου και ἐφαρμογῆς τοῦ εὐαγγελικοῦ λόγου, ἔγιναν οἱ ἐξῆς εἰσηγήσεις:

α) Τοῦ Σεβ. Μητροπολίτου Ἀτλάντας κ. Ἀλεξίου περὶ τῶν ἰσχυόντων Γενικῶν Κανονισμῶν και τῶν Κανονισμῶν Ἐσωτερικῆς Λειτουργίας τῶν Ἱερῶν Μονῶν τῆς Ἱερᾶς Αρχιεπισκοπῆς.

β) Τοῦ Πανοσιολ. Καθηγουμένου τῆς Ἱερᾶς Μονῆς Ἀγίου Ἀντωνίου Γέροντος Παΐσιου με θέμα: «Μοναχισμός - ἡ Ἀπο-

στολικὴ Ζωή».

γ) Τῆς Ὄσιολ. Καθηγουμένης τῆς Ἱερᾶς Μονῆς τοῦ Ἀγίου Ἰωάννου τοῦ Χρυσοστόμου, Γερόντισσας Μελάνης με θέμα: «Διήγησις Ὁρθοδόξου Μοναστικῆς Ἐμπειρίας».

Στὶς συζητήσεις ποὺ ἀκολούθησαν:

1) Ἐξεφράσθη ἡ ἐπιθυμία γιὰ ἐπικαιροποίηση τῶν Γενικῶν Κανονισμῶν Λειτουργίας και τῶν Ἐσωτερικῶν Κανονισμῶν τῶν Ἱ. Μονῶν τῆς Ἱ. Αρχιεπισκοπῆς και ἐζητήθη χρονικὴ προθεσμία ὅπως οἱ Ἱερεῖς Μονῆς ἐκφράσουν τὶς ἀπόψεις τους πρὸς τὸν Σεβ. Αρχιεπίσκοπο και τὴν Ἱερὰ Ἐπαρχιακὴ Σύνοδο.

2) Ἐξήρθη ἡ μεγάλη και εὐεργετικὴ παρουσία τοῦ Γέροντος Ἐφραίμ Ἱερομονάχου, προηγουμένου τῆς Ἱ. Μονῆς Φιλοθέου, σὲ τὴν διάδοση και στερέωση τοῦ Ὁρθοδόξου Μοναχισμοῦ σὲς ΗΠΑ.

3) Διεπιστώθη ἡ χρησιμότης καταρτίσεως Συνταγματίου τῶν ἐν ΗΠΑ Ἱ. Μονῶν.

4) Ἀπεφασίσθη ἡ ἐκδοση τῶν Πρακτικῶν τῆς Συνάξεως σὲ δύο γλώσσες.

5) Ἀπεφασίσθη, κατόπιν εὐγενοῦς προσκλήσεως τοῦ Σεβ. Μητροπολίτου Ἀγίου Φραγκίσκου κ. Γερασίμου, ὅπως ἡ δεύτερα Μοναστικὴ Σύναξις πραγματοποιηθῆ σὲ τὴν Ἱ. Μονὴ Ζωοδόχου Πηγῆς ἐν Fresno Καλιφορνίας μεταξύ 9 - 11 Ὀκτωβρίου 2020 με θέμα: «Ἡ πνευματικὴ κληρονομιά τοῦ μακαριστοῦ Γέροντος Ἰωσήφ τοῦ Σπηλαιώτου και ἡ συμβολὴ του στὸν ὀρθόδοξο μοναχισμὸ τῆς Ἀμερικής».

Ἡ Σύναξις κορυφώθη με πανηγυρικὴ Θεία Λειτουργία τελεσθεῖσα τὴν Κυριακὴ, 22 Σεπτεμβρίου, προεξάρχοντος τοῦ Αρχιεπισκόπου και συλλειτουργούντων αὐτῶ τῶν Πανοσιολ. ἁγίων Καθηγουμένων. Ἐν κατακλείδι ἐξεφράσθησαν εὐχαριστίες στὸν διοργανωτὴ τῆς Συνάξεως Θεοφιλ. Επίσκοπο Μηδείας κ. Απόστολο, Ἀρχιγραμματέα τῆς Ἱ. Ἐπαρχιακῆς Συνόδου, ὅπως και στὸν Πανοσιολ. Ἀρχιμ. κ. Ἰωσήφ, Καθηγουμένο τῆς Ἱ. Μονῆς Ἀγ. Νεκταρίου, και τὴν περὶ αὐτὸν Ἱ. Ἀδελφότητα, γιὰ τὴν ἀβραμαϊαία φιλοξενία.

Ο ΠΡΩΘΥΠΟΥΡΓΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΟΣ ΜΗΤΣΟΤΑΚΗΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΔΡΑ ΤΗΣ ΙΕΡΑΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗΣ

► σελίδα 33

είναι μια σημαντική χρονιά και για τους δυο μας. Αναλαμβάνετε εσείς αυτή τη κρίσιμη αποστολή να ηγηθείτε της Αρχιεπισκοπῆς Αμερικής και να προσδώσετε νέα δυναμική σε μια Εκκλησία που έχει τόσο βαθιές ρίζες στην Ελληνική Ομογένεια».

Ο Έλληνας Πρωθυπουργός σε άλλο σημείο της ομιλίας του σημείωσε: «Χαίρομαι πολύ που στην προσφώνησή σας μνημονεύσατε αυτή τη σημαντική έννοια της ενότητας, η οποία για μένα αποτελεί απαραίτητη προϋπόθεση για να μπορέσει ο Ελληνισμός και πάλι να ατενίσει το μέλλον με αισιοδοξία και να μπορέσει να μεγαλοουργήσει όπως το έπραξε πολλές φορές στη μακρά του ιστορία».

Τέλος, ο κ. Μητσοτάκης εξέφρασε την αισιοδοξία του για το μέλλον, τονίζοντας:

«Σεβασμιώτατε, έχω μεγάλες προσδοκίες από το έργο το οποίο μπορείτε να

επιτελέσετε εδώ στην Αμερική και το όνομά σας είναι ίσως συμβολικό.

Ως φορέας της ελπίδας μάς δίνετε και μέσα από το δικό σας έργο τη δύναμη και τα ψυχικά και πνευματικά αποθέματα να πορευθούμε στο δικό μας δύσκολο δρόμο, με εμπιστοσύνη στις δυνάμεις μας, με βαθιά γνώση της Ιστορίας μας, με σεβασμό στην Εκκλησία μας και τις παραδόσεις μας, κρατώντας πάντα μέσα μας αυτά που μάς κάνουν ξεχωριστούς ως Έθνος, χωρίς όμως να επαναπαυόμαστε στις δάφνες του παρελθόντος. Είμαι απολύτως σίγουρος ότι ο Ελληνισμός στην Ελλάδα, στην Αμερική και παντού στο κόσμο, θα τα καταφέρει».

Τον κ. Πρωθυπουργό συνόδευαν επίσης, ο Υφυπουργός Εξωτερικών, Αρμόδιος για θέματα Αποδήμιου Ελληνισμού κ. Αντώνης Διαματάρης και ο Γενικός Πρόξενος της Ελλάδος στη Νέα Υόρκη Δρ. Κων/νος Κούτρας.

Εγκύκλιος

Τις Ἰνδίκτου καὶ πρώτης ἡμέρας τοῦ ἐκκλησιαστικοῦ ἔτους

► Σελίδα 33

και τὴν ἀνάγκη κοινῆς προσεγγίσεως των. Στράτευσις διὰ τὴν προστασίαν τῆς ἀκεραιότητος τῆς δημιουργίας και διὰ τὴν κοινωνικὴν δικαιοσύνην εἶναι δράσεις ἀλληλένδετοι και ἀδιαίρετοι.

Τὸ ἐνδιαφέρον τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου διὰ τὴν προστασίαν τῆς κτίσεως δὲν ἐγεννήθη ὡς ἀντίδρασις εἰς τὴν σύγχρονον οἰκολογικὴν κρίσιν, δὲν εἶναι δημιούργημά της. Αὐτὴ ἦτο ἀπλῶς ἡ ἀφορμὴ και ἡ εὐκαιρία διὰ νὰ ἐκφράσῃ, νὰ ἀναπτύξῃ, νὰ διακηρύξῃ και νὰ προβάλῃ ἡ Ἐκκλησία τὰς οἰκοφιλικάς ἀρχὰς της. Θεμέλιον τῆς ἀδιαπτώτου μερίμνης τῆς Ἐκκλησίας διὰ τὸ φυσικὸν περιβάλλον εἶναι αὐτὴ αὐτὴ ἡ ἐκκλησιολογικὴ ταυτότης και ἡ θεολογία της. Ὁ σεβασμὸς και ἡ προστασία τῆς κτίσεως εἶναι διάστασις τῆς πίστεώς μας, περιεχόμενον τῆς ζωῆς μας ἐν Ἐκκλησίᾳ και ὡς Ἐκκλησίας. Ἡ ἰδία ἡ ζωὴ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας εἶναι «βιωμένη οἰκολογία», ἔμπρακτος σεβασμὸς και μέριμνα διὰ τὴν δημιουργίαν και πηγὴ τῶν οἰκολογικῶν δραστηριοτήτων της. Κατ' οὐσίαν, τὸ ἐνδιαφέρον τῆς Ἐκκλησίας διὰ τὴν προστασίαν τῆς κτίσεως εἶναι προέκτασις τῆς Θείας Εὐχαριστίας εἰς ὅλας τὰς διαστάσεις τῆς σχέσεώς της με τὸν κόσμον.

Ἡ λειτουργικὴ ζωὴ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, τὸ ἀσκητικὸν ἦθος, ἡ ποιμαντικὴ διακονία, ἡ σταυροαναστάσιμος βιοτὴ τῶν πιστῶν, ὁ ἄσβεστος πόθος τῆς αἰωνιότητος, συγκροτοῦν μίαν κοινωνίαν προσώπων διὰ τὴν ὁποίαν ἡ φυσικὴ πραγματικότης δὲν εἶναι ἀντικείμενον, χρηστικὸν ὑλικὸν διὰ τὴν κάλυψιν τῶν ἀναγκῶν τοῦ ἀτόμου και τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος, ἀλλὰ ἐνέργημα, πεπραγμένον, δημιούργημα τοῦ προσωπικοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ ὁποῖος μάς καλεῖ νὰ τὸ σεβασθῶμεν και νὰ τὸ προστατεύσωμεν, καθιστάμενοι «συνεργοί» αὐτοῦ, «οἰκονόμοι», «φύλακες», και «ιερεῖς» τῆς δημιουργίας, νὰ καλλιερῶμεν εὐχαριστιακὴν σχέσιν με τὴν κτίσιν.

Ἡ μέριμνα διὰ τὸ φυσικὸν περιβάλλον δὲν εἶναι μίᾳ πρόσθετος δραστηριότης εἰς τὴν ἐκκλησιαστικὴν ζωὴν, ἀλλὰ οὐσιαστικὴ ἔκφρασις αὐτῆς. Δὲν ἔχει κοσμικόν, ἀλλὰ ἀμιγῆ ἐκκλησιαστικὸν χαρακτῆρα, εἶναι «λειτουργικὴ διακονία».

Ὅλαι αἱ πρωτοβουλία και αἱ δράσεις τῆς Ἐκκλησίας εἶναι «ἐφηρμοσμένη ἐκκλησιολογία». Ἐν τῷ πνεύματι τούτῳ, ἡ θεολογικὴ οἰκολογία δὲν ἀναφέρεται μόνον εἰς τὴν ἀνάπτυξιν οἰκολογικῆς εὐαισθησίας και εἰς τὴν ἀντιμετώπισιν τῶν περιβαλλοντικῶν προβλημάτων ἐπὶ τῇ βάσει τῶν ἀρχῶν τῆς χριστιανικῆς ἀνθρωπολογίας και κοσμολογίας, ἀλλὰ ἐπεκτείνεται εἰς τὴν ἐν Χριστῷ ἀνακαινίσιν συμπίσεως τῆς κτίσεως, ὅπως αὐτὴ πραγματώνεται και βιοῦται ἐν τῇ Θεῷ Εὐχαριστίᾳ, ὡς εἰκόνι και προγεῦσει τῆς ἐσχατολογικῆς πληρώσεως τῆς Θείας Οἰκονομίας ἐν τῇ δοξολογικῇ πληρότητι και φωτοχυσίᾳ τῆς Βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Τιμῶτατο ἀδελφοί και προσφιλέστατα τέκνα ἐν Κυρίῳ,

Τὸ οἰκολογικὸν πρόβλημα ἀποκαλύπτει ὅτι ὁ κόσμος μάς ἀποτελεῖ ἐνότητα, ὅτι τὰ προβλήματά μάς εἶναι παγκόσμια και κοινά. Διὰ τὴν ἀντιμετώπισιν τῶν κινδύνων ἀπαιτεῖται πολὺπλευρος κινητοποίησης, σύγκλισις, συμπίσεως, σύμπραξις. Εἶναι ἀδιανόητον, ἡ ἀνθρωπότης νὰ γνωρίζῃ

τὴν σοβαρότητα τοῦ προβλήματος και νὰ συνεχίξῃ νὰ συμπεριφέρεται ὡς νὰ μὴ ἐγνώριζεν. Ἐνῷ κατὰ τὰς τελευταίας δεκαετίας, τὸ κυρίαρχον πρότυπον οἰκονομικῆς ἀναπτύξεως ἐν τῷ πλαίσῳ τῆς παγκοσμιοποίησης, με πρόσημον τὸν φετιχισμόν τῶν οἰκονομικῶν δεικτῶν και τὴν μεγιστοποίησην τοῦ κέρδους, ὤξυνε τὰ οἰκολογικά και κοινωνικά προβλήματα, ἐξακολουθεῖ νὰ κυριαρχῇ εὐρέως ἡ ἄποψις ὅτι «δὲν ὑπάρχει ἄλλη ἐναλλακτικὴ ἐπιλογή» και ὅτι ἡ μὴ συμμόρφωσις πρὸς τὴν ἀτεγκτον νομοτέλειαν τῆς οἰκονομίας θὰ ὀδηγήσῃ εἰς ἀνεξέλεγκτους κοινωνικάς και οικονομικάς καταστάσεις. Τοιοῦτοτρόπως, ἀγνοοῦνται και δυσφημίζονται αἱ ἐναλλακτικαὶ μορφαὶ ἀναπτύξεως και ἡ ἰσχύς τῆς κοινωνικῆς ἀλληλεγγύης και τῆς δικαιοσύνης.

Ἡμεῖς ὀφείλομεν νὰ δραστηριοποιηθῶμεν ἐτι περαιτέρω διὰ τὴν ἐφαρμογὴν ἐν τῇ πράξει τῶν οἰκολογικῶν και κοινωνικῶν συνεπειῶν τῆς πίστεώς μας. Εἶναι ἐξόχως σημαντικόν ὅτι αἱ καθ' ἡμᾶς ἀρχιεπισκοπαὶ και μητροπόλεις, πολλαὶ ἐνορίαὶ και ἱεραὶ Μοναί, ἔχουν ἀναπτύξει οἰκολογικάς πρωτοβουλίας και πρακτικάς διὰ τὴν προστασίαν τοῦ περιβάλλοντος, και ποικίλα προγράμματα περιβαλλοντικῆς ἀγωγῆς.

Πρέπει νὰ δοθῇ ἰδιαίτερα ἔμφασις εἰς τὴν ἐν Χριστῷ διαπαιδαγώγησιν τῶν νέων, ὡστε αὐτὴ νὰ λειτουργῇ ὡς χώρος καλλιέργειας και ἀναπτύξεως οἰκολογικοῦ ἠθους και ἀλληλεγγύης.

Ἡ παιδικὴ και ἡ ἐφηβικὴ ἡλικία ἀποτελοῦν ἰδιαίτερος εὐνοϊκάς περιόδους τῆς ζωῆς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου δι' οἰκολογικὴν και κοινωνικὴν εὐαισθητοποίησην. Τὸ Οἰκουμενικὸν Πατριαρχεῖον, ἐν ἐπιγνώσει τῆς σπουδαιότητος τῆς περιβαλλοντικῆς ἐκπαίδευσως, συνεχίζον τὴν σειράν τῶν σχετικῶν σεμιναρίων, ἀφιέρωσε τὴν ἐν τῇ Ἐδρᾷ αὐτοῦ ὀργανωθεῖσαν Γ' διεθνή «Διάσκεψιν τῆς Χάλκης διὰ τὴν Θεολογίαν και τὴν Οἰκολογίαν» (31 Μαΐου - 4 Ἰουνίου 2019), εἰς τὸ θέμα τῆς ἐντάξεως εἰς τὰ προγράμματα τῶν Θεολογικῶν Σχολῶν μαθημάτων και προγραμμάτων σχετικῶν με τὴν οἰκολογίαν και τὴν οἰκολογικὴν παιδείαν. Ἡ λύσις τῶν μεγάλων προβλημάτων τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος εἶναι ἀνεπίσκοτος χωρὶς πνευματικὸν προσανατολισμόν.

Περαίνοντες τὸν λόγον, εὐχόμεθα πᾶσιν ὑμῖν αἴσιον και εὐλογημένον ἐκκλησιαστικὸν ἔτος, πλοῦσιον ἐν ἔργοις θεαρέστοις, καλοῦντες δὲ τὰ ἀνά τὴν οἰκουμένην φωτόμορφα τέκνα τῆς Μητρὸς Ἐκκλησίας νὰ προσεύχωνται διὰ τὴν ἀκεραιότητα τῆς δημιουργίας, νὰ ζοῦν οἰκοφιλικάς και φιλαδέλφους εἰς ὅλας τὰς διαστάσεις τῆς ζωῆς των, νὰ ἀγωνίζωνται διὰ τὴν προστασίαν τοῦ φυσικοῦ περιβάλλοντος και διὰ τὴν προαγωγήν τῆς εἰρήνης και τῆς δικαιοσύνης, και διατρανοῦντες ἅπαξ ἔτι τὴν ἀλήθειαν ὅτι δὲν ὑπάρχει ἀληθὴς πρόοδος, ὅταν θίγεται ἡ «καλὴ λίαν» δημιουργία και ὁ καθ' εἰκόνα και καθ' ὁμοίωσιν Θεοῦ πλασθεὶς ἀνθρώπος, ἐπικαλούμεθα ἐφ' ὑμᾶς, μεσιτεῖα τῆς Ἁγιωπρωτοῦ Παναγίας τῆς Παμμακαριστοῦ, τὴν ζωπάροχον χάριν και τὸ ἄπειρον ἔλεος τοῦ Δημιουργοῦ και

Προνοητοῦ πάσης τῆς κτίσεως.
βιθ' Σεπτεμβρίου α'
Ὁ Κωνσταντινουπόλεως
διάπυρος πρὸς Θεὸν εὐχέτης πάντων ὑμῶν

METROPOLIS NEWS



Boston Metropolis Honors Archbishop Demetrios, Parish Award Recipients

► From page 31

as a Metropolis family to recognize our award recipients. Our Ministries Award Dinner is a joyous celebration of fellowship, warmth, and love. Over those 33 years 1,750 brethren have received the Metropolis Ministry Award.

That celebration is enhanced even more this year because, in addition to recognizing and thanking the faithful stewards of our parishes, we are truly honored by the presence of Archbishop Demetrios among us. We have the opportunity to express our love and admiration, our respect and gratitude to him for his lifetime of service to Orthodoxy throughout the world, but especially to our Archdiocese as a professor at our Seminary and for the last 20 years as our Archbishop.

I have the pleasure of introducing tonight's masters of ceremonies, Nicholas and Jane Kourtis, both of whom are well known in our Metropolis.

Nick is the son of Fotios and Tasia Kourtis of West Roxbury. Nick is a lawyer --- a graduate of Boston Latin School, U Mass Amherst, and Harvard Law School. He is an active steward of the St. Demetrios Parish in Weston, the Alpha Omega Council and the Boston Marathon Committee.

He currently serves on the Metropolis Council and the Archdiocesan Council.

Jane is also an attorney. She is an Associate General Counsel at Bright Horizons, a childcare and education solutions company. Honored by her peers for her leadership in the community.

Knoxville Church Restored after Fire

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. - Four years after the devastating fire, the parish of St. George recently opened its doors again to welcome the people of God.

The inauguration of the church, the restoration of which has cost \$ 5.2 million, took place tomorrow June 8.

The church priest, Fr. Anthony Stratis, said that parishioners returned to their home."

Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta presided at the inauguration, in the presence of ministers, local officials and

representatives of the Knoxville Fire Brigade, who in 2015 carried out superhuman efforts to save the church.

It is worth mentioning that new techniques, special heating and air conditioning systems were used to restore the church, which has been enriched with beautiful mosaics.

Fr. Antonios thanked the local community for their love and support during all these years, stressing that "St. George never stopped helping the homeless and our wretched brothers."

Michigan Church Built at Icon Location

WILLIAMSBURG, Mich. - Twenty years after a small group of Greek Orthodox Christians in the far northern part of the state established a mission parish, which in 2009 achieved parish status as Archangel Gabriel Church, they recently built the first phase of their house of worship.

According to information from the parish priest, Fr. Ciprian Streza, in May 2018 Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit set the cornerstone and, in August, as the site was being prepped for the building, a beautiful icon of the Theotokos was discovered in the exact place where the altar was to be built. The small, metal icon, also depicting Archangel Gabriel, had the words: "Our Lady of Perpetual Help."

The last use of the land was in the 1950s when a cherry orchard had a small farm house. It is such a blessing to know that this icon waited more than a half of century to be discovered on the very place where an Orthodox church

was to be located and whose patron saint is Archangel Gabriel.

The complete story of this discovery can be found on the Church's website. www.tcorthodoxchurch.com

Since the arrival of Fr. Streza in 2011, the parish has flourished and grown to more than 60 active families. Efforts were made to find the perfect location for their first permanent home. After much research, the group settled on a beautiful five-acre property, which had three desired qualities: to be accessible, visible and, above all, inspirational. Situated on U.S. 31, the highway connecting Mackinaw Island-Harbor Springs-Petoskey-Charlevoix and Traverse City, the property is the gateway to the beautiful, tourist community. Because of its visibility and beauty of the future church, the presence of the parish in the local community has gone from insignificant to a landmark overnight. It overlooks the East Bay of Lake Michigan near Traverse City.

Parishes Spared from Hurricane

► From page 31

Savannah reported no damage. There were tornados in Wilmington this morning. Myrtle Beach is also a concern, but there was indication of eastern movement which helps things."

Annunciation parish in Nassau, the Bahamas' capital, located further south than the hurricane's path, had no serious damage, parish administrator/secretary Althea Gibson (a relative of the women's tennis great of the same name), told the *Observer* on Sept. 6. "There was some flooding in Nassau and minor wind damage in the city, but

the community escaped damage," she said. Most parishioners live in Nassau and some nearby islands.

In St. Augustine, Holy Trinity parish, St. Photios National Shrine and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center had no damage.

In follow-up phone calls a week after the storm passed, a secretary at St. Demetrios Church in Daytona Beach replied that the parish was unaffected. "We've had thunderstorms worse than this hurricane," she said.

Holy Trinity parish in Charleston, reported of Sept. 13 there was no damage to the church, although the city had flooding and power outages.

EOCS Awards Scholarship to NJ Girl Scout

The Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting (EOCS) recently awarded three \$1,000 scholarships of \$1,000 each to three high school students selected from a nationwide group of applicants who have been recipients of their Scout organization's highest award and the Alpha Omega medal, the EOCS' highest religious award.

Students are also evaluated on how they demonstrate love of God and their Orthodox Christian Faith, and how they live up to Scouting ideals, through scholarship, leadership, community service, and active involvement in their church.

Two recipients are members of OCA communities. The third, Valassia

(Noni) Theocharides is a member of Kimisis.Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church in Holmdel, NJ. She attended Colts Neck High School and was a member of Girl Scout Troop 337.

Her accomplishments include many academic distinctions. She was an Advanced Placement Scholar and a member of the Math, Science, Latin, and National Honor Societies.

She has organized and led a beach cleanup on the island of Lesvos, Greece.

In Girl Scouts, she served for several years as mentor for younger girls and camp patrol leader, and has undertaken a variety of leadership development projects.

Arts Organization Opening EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION

The Hellenic-American Cultural Center & Museum of Oregon and Southwest Washington in Portland, Oregon, presents exhibitions displaying the cultural heritage of the region's Hellenic community and programs celebrating this legacy. The popular, vibrant center is governed by a Board of Directors now seeking professional applicants for the position of **Executive Director**, responsible for community relations, development & fundraising, operations & fiscal management, strategic planning & board support.

Visit HellenicAmericanCC.org for requirements and to apply.



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THOUGHTS FROM L.A.

Where Am I?

By Fr. John Bakas

Kosta died. Somehow he soon regained consciousness in the next world. Before him lay a vast expanse of pleasant country, greenery, slow flowing creeks, and the symphony sounds of exotic birds. After resting comfortably under a tree in a delightful meadow, a slight feeling of boredom began to gnaw at him. He yelled out in frustration, "Is there anybody here?" An attendant dressed in dazzling white appeared. In a formal tone, he inquired, "What is it you desire?" "What can I have?" Kosta asked. "Whatever you want," responded the smiling attendant. "How about something to eat?"

The attendant summoned others who brought Smith the finest gourmet meals, including those which he liked best on earth. This included the finest in French cuisine, exquisite aged wines and mountains of deserts. Kosta was only satisfied for a short while though. He wanted something more but wasn't exactly sure what, so he called for games and fun times. They came in profusion. Electronic games, Las Vegas style card and gambling games, slot machines, and roulette drinks poured by lovely attendants. He demanded to see the latest Hollywood movies, with Hol-

lywood stars calling in to puff up his lusts and ego. He called for everything he could think of and received all in abundance.

But after a while that feeling of boredom and discontent returned. All was done and brought to him. He could do nothing for himself. In total frustration he shouted, "I need something to do! I...I...I... need some problems. Give me something to do. GIVE ME SOME PROBLEMS!" His attendant appeared and said, "I'm terribly sorry sir, but that is the one thing we cannot provide. We have no problems here. There's nothing for you to do here."

Kosta became furious. Wild eyed, he screamed at the attendant, "I hate you and I hate this place. I need some problems! I need to do something for myself. Send me to hell then, I'd rather go to hell! They must have some problems there, something for me to do for myself! Send me to hell!" Calmly but somewhat surprised, the attendant asked, "Where do you think you are Kosta? Where do you think you are?"

In Christ,

Fr. John Bakas is dean of St. Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles, and adjunct professor of Orthodox Theology at Loyola Marymount School of Theology

CHURCH HISTORY

Archimandrite Joachim Georgiou

By William H. Samonides, Ph.D.

Archimandrite Joachim Georgiou (1873-1918) was an important early Greek Orthodox priest in America. He served in this country for 18 years (1900-1918), spending his first decade in New England and his final eight years in the South. His influence extended beyond the parishes to which he was assigned due to his extensive missionary activities. In 1918, his life was tragically cut short during the Spanish influenza pandemic.

In 1890, Joachim Georgiou arrived in this country at the age of 17. He remained for a year, spending most of his time in Charleston, S.C.. Fr. Dr. George J. Tsoumas, longtime professor of Church history at Holy Cross School of , writes: "Seeing that his countrymen needed spiritual leaders, he returned to Greece determined to enter the priesthood." He graduated from the University of Athens, received clerical training, and was ordained a priest of the Church.

In April 1900, Fr. Georgiou returned to America. With canonical permission from the Holy Synod of Greece, he became the fourth priest to serve the Holy Trinity parish in Lowell, Massachusetts. It was a significant period in the history of the parish, which had just been incorporated by the state and was planning to build a church.

During his six years in Lowell, Fr. Georgiou laid the groundwork for the church, which was erected in 1906. The building has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places for many years and is still in use.

The local press often seemed more intrigued by Fr. Georgiou's appearance than by his accomplishments, with one article stating: "in his native costume [he] has been by far the most picturesque clergyman of the town...his dress is like that of all Greek priests, consisting of a long, black robe with a long cape and a gold cross hanging from his neck. The head dress is a cap of black velvet in the shape of a Turkish fez."

As with many of the early priests in America, Fr. Georgiou was constantly on the move. In July 1901, he returned to Charleston to visit old friends and celebrate one of the first recorded Greek Orthodox liturgies in that city. Back in Massachusetts, he ministered to the Greek communities throughout Essex County and the Merrimack River Valley.

In Ipswich, Mass., he conducted services in a hall near the mills and played an important role in the construction of the church in 1906. After completing his service in Lowell, Fr. Georgiou moved up the Merrimack River to become the second priest to serve the St. George parish in Manchester, N.H. (1908-1910). He is also thought to have been the first Greek Orthodox priest to visit Nashua, N.H.

In March 1910, Fr. Georgiou returned to Charleston. Steps were immediately taken to establish the Holy Trinity parish and to build a church. Property was purchased. During the fall of 1910, Fr. Georgiou and his parishioners traveled through Georgia, Ala-

bama, and Florida to raise money for construction. Fr. Georgiou, described in the local press as "a gentleman of much culture," laid the cornerstone of the new church the following spring.

He did not, however, remain in Charleston. He relocated to Pensacola, Fla., where the Annunciation Greek Orthodox parish was forming after years of effort. By the first decade of the 20th century, Pensacola had attracted a sizable Greek population and was on track to become the first city in Florida to establish a parish. In the summer of 1905, however, yellow fever broke out. Spread by infected mosquitoes, the disease could be fatal. During the 19th century, yellow fever had struck Pensacola at least 18 times. At each occurrence people fled, and the city had needed time to recover.

In 1905 the exodus included most of the Greek population. Many Greeks had outdoor jobs, with the fruit vendors being especially vulnerable. This time, however, the swamps around the city were finally drained.

By August 1910, the Greek population had recovered, and the cornerstone of the Pensacola church was laid.

From his base in Pensacola, Fr. Georgiou would continue his missionary activities. On Jan. 26, 1912, he presided at the first organizational meeting of the community in Mobile, Ala. After six years in Pensacola, he returned briefly to Charleston.

In September 1918, Fr. Aimilianos P. Georgoulis, his successor at the Annunciation in Pensacola, passed away, and Fr. Georgiou was asked to conduct the funeral. Later that month it was announced that he had again been appointed to serve as the priest in Pensacola.

His second term of service in Pensacola was very short. On November 29, 1918, while doing missionary work in Mississippi, Fr. Georgiou contracted influenza and died. He was only 45 years old, one of many to succumb to this terrible disease.

Between January 1918 and December 1920, over 50 million people worldwide would die in the pandemic. In the United States almost 30 percent of the population would become inflected, with over half a million people perishing.

The funeral for Fr. Georgiou was conducted in Pensacola on Dec. 6, 1918 by Fr. Stylianos Vassiliades, the priest from Holy Trinity in New Orleans. Pensacola would have to wait a year before a permanent replacement could be assigned.

The Church in America and the Annunciation in Pensacola had been deprived of the services of a priest who had devoted himself to building communities of the faithful in this country.

This is one of many stories included in the special exhibition, "A Profound and Abiding Presence: The Greek Orthodox Church in the South," on display this year at the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine in St. Augustine, Fla. (904-829-8205; www.stphotios.org).

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PASTORAL REFLECTIONS

A Movement to Change the World!

By Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation.”

Mark 16:15

How do you answer these questions?

I view the church more as:

- An organization to which I belong
- A movement to change the world

I think the majority of parishioners in my community view the church more as:

- An organization to which I belong
- A movement to change the world

Perhaps the biggest gap in how things are and how they should be in the church is found in the answers to these two questions. Viewing the church more as “an organization to which I belong” poses a lot of problems.

First, if one views the church as an organization, we see it from a secular, almost business perspective. Organizations have officers and rules, budgets, fundraisers, etc. Organizations also have members. The members of organizations have obligations, such as paying a membership fee.

Members also want rights—they have not only expectations but “contractual” rights. People who belong to organizations come and go—they may re-up their membership, suspend it or discontinue it. The organization has to cater to the members in order to retain their membership. Members become shareholders in an organization that now belongs partly to them. Organizations, at their core, are member-centered. Without many members, there is no organization.

Perhaps the word “movement” is

not the most appropriate word. After all, Christ coming into the world was not a political movement. However, it was a theological movement, a social movement and a revolutionary movement.

Christ’s message was theological because it changed the human understanding of God. God no longer resided in a temple, but could be worshipped anywhere. God did not require blood sacrifices. Christ shed His blood for us, and in return, we are supposed to live for Him. Death no longer consigned us to Hades, but because of the Resurrection, we to can inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God. We can again be in the Paradise from which Adam and Eve fell. The focus on God shifted from a God of Law and punishment, to a God of mercy and forgiveness. Because Christ partook of our human nature, it showed us that even as human beings we can have access to God.

Christ’s message changed society. No longer was it enough to “check boxes” in adhering to the Law. The 613 commandments of the Old Testament, which had been summarized into the Ten Commandments, were further summarized in two commandments—to love God and to love our neighbor. Love cannot be about checking boxes because love has no boundaries. In the words of St. Paul, “love never ends.” (I Corinthians 13:8)

In loving our neighbor, we are to serve and to share. “*There is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows His riches upon all who call upon Him.*” (Romans 10:12)

This means that we are not to distinguish between who we love and how we love. We are to love and to serve all,

without hesitation and without distinction. Christ didn’t tell us to give away 10 percent of what we have or even everything we have, but simply to give.

Christ’s message was revolutionary. It turned the world upside down. It took the focus off of self and put it on God and on others. Because so many people put themselves at the center of everything, the message was not well received by all.

The Roman and Jewish leadership saw Christ as a threat to their power. And throughout the 2,000 year history of Christianity, people have seen Christ as a threat, and have worked to extinguish Christians and Christianity.

In many ways, the world is this way today—Christ’s message hasn’t changed. The focus is still supposed to be on Him and on others. And because people seem to be putting themselves continually at the center of everything, the message of Christ is not well received by many. Because if I am going to follow after Christ, I will have to give up some of my own ideas and submit to His, and in American society anyway, any threat to someone’s rights is a threat to be eliminated. So we try to suppress the message, even going so far as to say that the Christian message is the greatest threat to our way of life, our independence. And that’s precisely the message—true freedom is found in faith and dependence on God. True freedom is found not in individual expression but in obedience. This message is revolutionary compared to how we are conditioned to think as Americans.

The Christian message is still one that can change the world, and the Church is supposed to be the deliverer of that message. The problem with see-

ing the Church as an organization to which we belong is that we all already have too many organizations to which we belong, too many obligations, too many things to do. If all the Church is another thing to do, no wonder it is shrinking.

Christ, through the Church, intends for us to change the world by spreading His message and serving others. His message gives form and purpose to life. There are many who feel they have no purpose or nothing greater than themselves.

The message of Christ is actually very attractive because there are so many who feel voids that can only be filled with Him. But they have to be given an opportunity to know Christ, and that is what the Church does. It spreads the message of salvation to everyone.

We have to change our thinking regarding the Church from being an organization to which we belong, to a movement to change the world.

We have to stop “doing” church in the sense of just keeping the doors open, and having activities that merely help perpetuate our organizations—fundraising, festivals and so on—and instead help us to actually BE the Church, the Body of Christ which actively spreads the message to everyone.

The church is not an organization but a movement to change the world. Stop doing church and starting being the church.

Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis is the proistamenos of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa, Fla. He writes a daily series called “The Prayer Team” that is published on the Orthodoxy Christian Network (OCN), which has resulted in three books.

METROPOLIS NEWS

Chicago Parish Icon Reported Tearing Prior to Church Sale

CHICAGO – The Metropolis of Chicago issued the following statements on Sept. 10 regarding the tearing of the icon of the Theotokos discovered at Holy Trinity Church two days before the sale of the parish’s properties due to a bankruptcy court ruling.

Statement Regarding the Icon of the Virgin Mary at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

“On Sunday morning, Sept. 8, the icon of the Most-Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary on the iconostasis of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago was discovered, by an employee of the parish, to appear to be weeping.

“In such cases, Orthodox clergy know to immediately inform their bishop so that he may take appropriate steps to discern the nature of the phenomenon.

“When similar events were discovered in the Metropolis in the past, such news was not shared until months later in order to discern that what was observed was truly a sign from God.

“Unfortunately, appropriate discernment was not used in this particular instance, and an announcement was hastily posted on Facebook, which subsequently led to negative public attention.

“In order for the Church to lend its official voice to this event, the Holy Metropolis of Chicago has asked the parish for temporary possession of the icon. After a period of prayer and examination, the Metropolis of Chicago will return the icon to the Holy Trinity parish and will issue an official statement on the nature of what was observed.

“The Metropolis of Chicago asks the faithful to remain vigilant and also reminds them that while it is indeed possible to experience the divine through temporal objects, our faith rests not on ‘signs,’ but on Christ crucified” (1 Cor. 1: 20-25).

Statement regarding the sale of the Chicago and Deerfield, Ill., properties of Holy Trinity Church.

“Earlier today (Sept. 10), the U.S.

Bankruptcy Court approved the parish’s motions to approve the sale of the Chicago property and the Deerfield property. The decision comes after a faith-based community stepped forward to acquire the Chicago property, and a developer stepped forward to acquire the Deerfield property, allowing Holy Trinity to reach an understanding with its lender to avoid an auction of the properties.

“An earlier effort by the parish to sell the Chicago property to a foundation under a contract dated Dec. 11, 2018 failed because the foreclosing lender did not approve the 75 percent financing condition of the offer. While the parish’s ongoing foreclosure and bankruptcy has been difficult for parishioners and the Metropolis as a whole, Holy Trinity Church is not closing.

“The parish is selling real estate assets to settle debts with a lender. While hard choices remain and nothing is yet final, the Metropolis will continue to work closely with the Holy Trinity community to continue parish life and

ministries at a location chosen by the community.

“To this end, a General Assembly meeting held on June 2 informed parishioners of the foreclosure and bankruptcy status.

“Although a quorum was not present at the meeting, Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago asked about the parish’s fundraising efforts and donor outreach, as well as plans for the future, and he offered assistance in these matters as well.

“We ask the faithful of the Metropolis, along with all people of good will, for their continued prayers and support of the Holy Trinity community during this difficult period of transition and renewal.”

For more information, visit www.chicago.goarch.com. To sign up for news from the Metropolis, visit: <http://chicago.goarch.org/signup>, or call Chris Varones 312-213-3887, chris.varones@aesopgroup.com

ENCYCLICALS

Patriarch Bartholomew's Message for New Ecclesiastical Year

► From page 2

the ascetic ethos, pastoral service and experience of the cross and resurrection by the faithful, the unquenchable desire for eternity: all of these comprise a communion of persons for which the natural reality cannot be reduced to an object or useful matter to meet the needs of an individual or humanity; by contrast, this reality is considered as an act, deed the handiwork of a personal God, who calls us to respect and protect it, thereby rendering us his “co-workers,” “stewards,” “guardians,” and “priests” of creation in order to cultivate a eucharistic relationship with it.

Care for the natural environment is not an added activity, but an essential expression of church life. It does not have a secular, but rather a purely ecclesiastical character. It is a “liturgical ministry.” All of the initiatives and activities of the church are “applied ecclesiology.”

In this sense, theological ecology does not merely refer to the development of an ecological awareness or the response to ecological problems on the basis of the principles of Christian anthropology and cosmology.

On the contrary, it involves the renewal of the whole creation in Christ, just as this is realized and experienced

in the Holy Eucharist, which is an image and foretaste of the eschatological fullness of the divine economy in the doxological wholeness and luminous splendor of the heavenly kingdom.

Most honorable brothers and most precious children in the Lord, the ecological crisis reveals that our world comprises an integral whole, that our problems are global and shared. In order to meet these challenges, we require a multilayered mobilization, a common accord, direction and action. It is inconceivable for humankind to recognize the severity of the problem and yet continue to behave in oblivion.

While in recent decades the dominant model of economic development in the context of globalization – highlighting the fetishism of financial markers and magnification of financial profit – has exacerbated ecological and economic problems, the notion still prevails widely that “there is no other alternative” and that not conforming to the rigid validity logic of the world’s economy will lead to unbridled social and financial situations. Thus, any alternative forms of development, along with the power of social solidarity and justice, are overlooked and undermined.

For our part, however, we are obliged to assume greater measures for

the application of the ecological and social consequences of our faith. It is extremely vital that our archdioceses and metropolises, as well as many of our parishes and sacred monasteries, have fostered initiatives and activities for the protection of the environment, but also various programs of ecological education. We should pay special attention to the Christian formation of our youth, so that it may function as an area of cultivation and development of an ecological ethos and solidarity. Childhood and adolescence are particularly susceptible life phases for ecological and social responsiveness.

Aware of the urgency of environmental education, the Ecumenical Patriarchate devoted the third in its series of International Halki Summits to the subject of “theological education and ecological awareness” (Istanbul, May 31st to June 4th, 2019) with a view to incorporating ecology and environmental awareness into programs and curricula of theological schools and seminaries. The solution to the great challenges of our world is unattainable without spiritual orientation.

In conclusion, then, we wish all of you a favorable and blessed Ecclesiastical Year, filled with works pleasing to God.

We invite the radiant children of the Mother Church throughout the world to pray for the integrity of creation, to be sustainable and charitable in every aspect of their lives, to strive for the protection of the natural environment, as well as the promotion of peace and justice.

And we proclaim once more the truth that there can be no genuine progress, when the “very good” creation and the human person made in the image and likeness of God suffer.

Finally, through the intercession of the First-Among-the-Saints Theotokos Pammakaristos, we invoke upon you the life-giving grace and boundless mercy of the creator and provider of all.

September 1, 2019
+Bartholomew
of Constantinople
Your Fervent Supplicant
before God

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross

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

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we commemorate this most blessed Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross, we sing as an exclamation of faith and a witness of the Gospel to all the world, “The Cross is raised on high, and urges all the creation to sing the praises of the undefiled Passion of Him who was lifted high upon it.” (Hymn of Vespers) Today, as Orthodox Christians we raise high the Cross as an emblem of victory and an invincible shield. We raise high the Cross of Christ our Lord, proclaiming the salvation that has come through Him. We raise high the Cross, affirming that God’s love for us is greater than the power of death. And in raising high the Cross, we raise up Christ so that all the world may see our Resurrected Lord and believe.

This Feast of the Holy Cross is a very special day for us as Orthodox faithful, and it is also a special day for our Holy Archdiocese. It is on this Feast each year that we affirm our support for the sacred work of our dear Schole, our Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. On this Feast we offer our prayers for the students, faculty and staff, we encourage parishes and faithful to contribute to the mission of the school. In addition, you are encouraged

to recognize seminarians from your parish and to commit to cultivating more leaders for the Church.

This year the Feast comes at a very critical time in the life of our Schole, and as we raise high the Cross of Christ in our communities, I ask that you raise your prayers on behalf of Holy Cross. We have begun the search for a new president for the institution. We are working diligently with His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios and the Board of Trustees to address issues and challenges so that our focus remains on preparing clergy and other leaders for a lifetime of service to God and His Church. Your prayers and support are needed so that our blessed Schole and its legacy of training and nurturing generations of clergy can be on firm foundations.

Today, we greet the Cross with joy, for the Cross has been given to us as a light and the salvation of our souls. It illumines the path of holiness. It guides our journey of faith unto eternal life. In this joy may we also celebrate our Holy Cross School of Theology and the tremendous offering that has and will continue to be made from this holy hill. That offering has had an impact in taking the Gospel into all the world, in nurturing the faithful in our parishes across this land, and in serving as a community of spiritual formation, an academy that cherishes intellectual inquiry, and a beacon of truth and grace.

May the power of the Cross protect you, its light guide you, and this Feast inspire you to take up your cross daily, believing that God gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. (I Corinthians 15:57)

With paternal love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

PAN ORTHODOX

Scholars, Pastors, Policy Makers Discuss Orthodoxy, Sex, Gender, and Sexuality

OXFORD, England - An international academic gathering of scholars, pastors, clinicians, and other experts took place in Oxford Aug. 16-19, which addressed contemporary issues of sex, gender, and sexuality in relation to the Orthodox Church.

The meeting brought together a wide variety of views on highly controversial social issues confronting the 260-million strong Orthodox Christian community.

The conference was supported by the British Council as part of the second iteration of its “Bridging Voices” project. It was organized by a consortium of scholars from the University of Exeter and the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University in New York.

Some 50 scholars gathered from across the globe. They brought a diversity of professional expertise and experience, and represented a range of academic disciplines including theology, philosophy, church history, and canon law, and fields within the natural and social sciences. Orthodox clergy from multiple jurisdictions, LGBTQ+ activists, and clinicians attended. A small number of ecumenical observers from the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church also took part.

The goal of the meeting was neither to reach immediate consensus nor issue common statements but rather to stimulate dialogue among experts to help

the Church discern responses to urgent pastoral needs that are both truthful and pastorally sensitive.

The meeting was strictly unofficial: all participants attended in a private capacity and the Church hierarchy was not involved in a formal capacity. This arrangement ensured that all participants could speak freely, without fear of misrepresentation.

Conference delegates participated in nine workshops. Topics included hermeneutic issues in scripture and tradition, theological anthropology, ethics, pastoral challenges, therapeutic approaches, and secularism and public policy. Each session included stimulus presentations followed by open discussion.

Views represented every perspective. Participants who strongly support, defend, and adhere to the traditional teachings and disciplines of the Orthodox Church spoke alongside those who find them somehow problematic—and many contributed perspectives along a continuum between these positions. The gathering showed that a range of opinions and practical approaches exist within the Church.

Among the 50 participants were Professors George Demacopoulos and Aristotle Papanikolaou, founders of the Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham, and Metropolitan Kallistos Ware of Diokleia (Archdiocese of Thessalonica and Great Britain).

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

The Stages of Marriage: Chronos and Kairos

By Presvytera Kerry Pappas MA, LMFT

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ... a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance ... a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ... a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-6).

The writer of the above verses, though not speaking specifically about marriage, beautifully captures the essence of the movement, the ebbs and flows, of life and marriage. We move from one stage, or season, to another, where some things remain the same and others change. For those of us married in the Orthodox Church, the single most important consistent reality of marriage is that Christ joins us; He is ever-present within and beside us.

On a practical level, some of the daily responsibilities of husband and wife remain constant, while others may change depending on external circumstances and interests.

Thus, a newly married couple with both spouses working outside the home may equally share household responsibilities, whereas a couple with young children may make very different choices regarding household responsibilities, with one perhaps carrying more of the load than the other for a period of time.

When considering the stages (or seasons) of marriage, we may think chronologically: romance/courting, the early years, raising children, the empty nest, the senior years. Or, we may think of marriage in terms of the actual seasons of the year: winter (difficulty and intense struggle), spring (hope, new life), summer (joy, connection, contentment), fall (underlying currents of tension and strife).

Further, significant life-changing events such as the onset of a chronic physical or mental illness, the birth of a child with special needs, conversion to Orthodoxy, a major career and/or geographical change, or an unexpected death in the family may also be markers for seasons of marriage.

Time can be understood in two distinct ways: chronos and kairos. Chronos

is measureable, quantifiable time, “the tick and tock of the clock, the ebb and flow of months and years” (Nicole Roccas in Time and Despondency). Kairos, the significant present moment when God acts, is characterized by the “unpredictable moments of opportunity ... filled with meaning when clock time stands still, when eternity breaks in” (Metropolitan. Kallistos Ware).

Regardless of how we view the seasons of marriage, God is working in our lives. Though we live in the realm of created time, chronos, God consistently and regularly presents kairos moments into our lives, big and small moments, which give us opportunity to recognize His presence and experience “the transfiguration of our marriage on earth into the reality of the Kingdom” (Fr. John Meyendorff).

Everything that happens in marriage has the potential to be a kairos moment, where God is acting decisively in our lives to transform us from the inside out by His grace to “love our neighbor as we love ourselves” (Matthew 22:39) and to be saved moment by moment in this relationship with our closest neighbor, our spouse. As the Church clearly teaches, those who choose the path of marriage are saved in and through marriage. We often miss the “small” kairos moments of transformation as we give in to the temptations of anger, brooding, complaining, and negative thoughts and feelings, rather than seeing them as opportunities God gives us to allow Christ to work in and through us to encounter Him and to do what is right. For example, when a husband is late again for dinner, God provides a kairos moment for both husband and wife. The husband has the choice of allowing God to work through him by offering a sincere apology from a place of humility or to simply walk in the door and rationalize his lateness. The wife has the choice of allowing God to work through her by lovingly and firmly expressing her disappointment or to become frustrated and show contempt to her husband.

When we experience a decisive, life-changing event in our married life, we are more prone to take pause and to consider the active presence of God in

Pastoral Challenges in Marriage Conference *Kairos and Chronos*



January 22–25, 2020
Houston, Texas

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ... a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance ... a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ... a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away.”

ECCLESIASTES (3:1-6)

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email: familycare@goarch.org



our joy and/or suffering. For example, if the husband completes the lifelong dream of completing an educational goal, the couple may take the opportunity to recognize God’s grace at work and to thank Him. Or, as Elder Aimilianos of blessed memory taught, the onset of a chronic or life-threatening illness may become for the couple the catalyst of “birth pangs, the travail, the suffering ... that will enable God to be born and to grow within them ... to teach them, reshape them, and awaken them to reality, to see what is truly important and of value.”

God always stands at the door of our hearts and knocks, offering an abundance of kairos moments. And, He does so in a way that is unique to each of us and to our marriage relationship, knowing what we need, as He loves us so much that “*even the hairs of our heads are counted*” (Luke 12:7).

These moments of opportunity come in many and varied ways in our marriages, in the height of joy and the pit of suffering and everything in between. In order to see God at work in these moments, the eyes of our hearts must be open to Him. God offers to us kairos moments in marriage—when we set up our first home, experience a

breach of trust, witness the new life given to our child at baptism, navigate a relationship with meddling in-laws, share a moment of peace and quiet, struggle with and come to agreement on a major decision, go about daily responsibilities around the home (mundane as they may seem to be), and practicing forgiveness to name a few. Are our hearts open to recognizing His presence and seeking to draw nearer to Him?

Throughout the seasons of married life in created time (chronos), He acts decisively in the kairos moments of those seasons, both in the daily rhythms of married life and in milestone events, to draw us nearer to Him and, by His grace and our faithful response, to become like Him, being saved one day at a time within the blessed communion of marriage.

Presvytera Kerry Pappas is the coordinator for Clergy and Seminararian Couple Care, a member of the staff of the Center for Family Care. She has Master’s degrees from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and Adler Graduate School and is a licensed marriage and family therapist. She has been married to Fr. Harry Pappas for 38 years. They have three adult children and five grandchildren.

Center for Family Care to Host National Conference: Pastoral Challenges in Marriage - Chronos & Kairos

Using the expertise of leaders in the field of pastoral care and marriage, the purpose of this conference is to inspire and equip those in the front lines of ministry with tools and resources to effectively serve the pastoral challenges of marriage they encounter.

In addition to keynote presentations and workshops, the conference will offer participants opportunities for formal and informal interaction. It is our hope that they will leave the conference with a network of people to support them in their ministry.

The conference is hosted by the

Center for Family Care in collaboration with the Annunciation Cathedral in Houston, Jan. 22-25, 2020.

The conference will focus on the seasons of marriage through the lens of Kairos and Chronos time. A keynote will anchor each day of the conference to explore this theme through different lenses. Keynote speakers will be Dn. Michael and Gail Hyatt, Dn. Stephen Muse, PhD, and Carrie Fredrick Frost, PhD. Workshops and an interactive intensive activity will further round out the conference. The conference is open to clergy, seminar-

ians, pastoral care workers, professional counselors, ministry leaders, and all who minister to Orthodox Christian couples.

A generous grant from Leadership 100 is helping to fund this conference. We are grateful for their support.

For more details about the conference schedule, accommodations, and registration, visit www.family.goarch.org.

See Conference graphic attached for graphic. Crop so it is just the title and icon as the other info is in the above article.

Family Matters

Family Matters is a podcast produced by Fr. Alex Goussetis, director of the Center for Family Care, and features interviews, reflections, book reviews, and narratives to encourage dialogue and strengthen families. Recent episodes are now available at: www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/familymatters: Don’t Forget the Clergy Family—Fr. Alex offers a narrative of clergy family life, helping parishioners to appreciate the unique lives of those who minister, love, and care for us.

10 Basic Concepts of a Successful Marriage Part 1 & 2—Fr. Aaron Warwick, pastor of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church in Wichita, Kansas, outlines materials from MarriageBuildres.com on strengthening the marital relationship.

YAL NEWS

California YAL Conference Turns National in Scope

► From page 16

and Rediscovering Relationship: How the Church Calls Us Back After Falling Away.

While the young adults enjoyed Friday afternoon at the beach, Archbishop Elpidophoros met with area clergy that provided a forum for priests to discuss their parish ministries, while benefiting from hearing from Archbishop Elpidophoros about priorities he has established for his archpastoral ministry.

Jonathan Jackson was the featured performer for a Friday night concert, performing his original music, filled with uplifting lyrics and soulful vocals. Additional performers from the YAL Conference included Nick Settlemeyer, Nia Matty, and DJ Andie Roy.

An open forum on Relationships was featured at the Saturday breakfast with Jonathan and Elisa Jackson, facilitated by Metropolis Family Wellness Ministry Director, George Papageorge. They shared their journey to the Orthodox faith and the development of their personal relationship, and how their shared faith in God brought forth their love for each other and became the foundation for their marriage, and raising their family as devoted Orthodox Christians. Young adults had the opportunity to address Archbishop Elpidophoros directly in a question-and-answer session following Saturday's luncheon. He was direct and engaging with thoughtful questions brought forth, which included: the role of women in the Church, the relationship with the Armenian Church, and the growing use of English in worship.

Giving back to others was another way that the YAL Conference participants exemplified the theme "Proclaim", and this was done through a group Diakonia project on Saturday afternoon. Working with the non-profit Rise Against Hunger, young adults packaged 10,125 meals in under 90 minutes for distribution to people in desperate need in Southeast Asia.

Prior to the conference, YAL members also raised funds through smaller events at their local parishes, resulting in \$3,000 raised for the International Orthodox Christian Charities.

Both of these were excellent opportunities for team building, serving others, and looking beyond ourselves to those in need.

Steven and Stacia Counelis, YAL conference advisors, addressed the crowd at the Grand Banquet, proclaiming, "Keep alive the spirit that you are experiencing this weekend!"

You and your generation have many challenges before you in keeping your faith vibrant.

Bring together your friends and tell your priest you want to do the same thing we are doing here this weekend – worshipping together, witnessing your faith together, serving others together, and creating community together. What we are talking about is evangelizing –

sharing the good news. Let's also call it commitment. So if you pray enough, you dream enough, you plan enough, and you work hard enough, you will be able to write an amazing life story in real time that will be filled with faith and service, inspiring and motivating those around you to offer their God given gifts back to our Father in Heaven."

In special recognition of Archbishop Elpidophoros' visit to the YAL Conference, he was presented with a hand-crafted episcopal staff, upon which three images are depicted: the Golden Gate of Constantinople, the Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco, and the Cross of the Archdiocese.

In his keynote address at the Grand Banquet, Archbishop Elpidophoros stated, "As you depart from this blessed gathering, you will have discussed many marvelous thoughts and goals. It is not enough, though, to remember these ideas as intellectual concepts only. The point of proclaiming these truths here today is for you to enter more fully into the sacramental life from this day forward; and to do so with greater reverence for God, with faith and love."

Archbishop Elpidophoros' presence during the Conference weekend and his positive interaction at all of the events were true blessings for the participants.

Sunday's Divine Liturgy took place at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Long Beach. Following the service, the community offered exceptional hospitality to the young adults at the parish Greek Festival.

The weekend festivities came to conclusion aboard the historic *Queen Mary* for a "white out" dinner and dance. The bonds of friendship formed during the weekend were evident by the embraces and tears shared as people prepared to say farewell. While this may have been the last evening of the conference, it was evident to all involved that this is just the beginning of a new and expanded Young Adult ministry for the Metropolis of San Francisco, that will continue to be cultivated and expanded.

Conference Chairman George Anagnostopoulos summarized the successful weekend, saying, "I hope this weekend is everything you envisioned and more; that you leave here feeling spiritually fulfilled and socially connected. I want you to never forget there is always a place for you in the church, that you are not alone and that you now have this YAL Family, lifelong and nationwide to guide you, stand with you and be with you as we journey through life together. You are a part of a movement in which the resurgence of this ministry is strong and growing rapidly." Plans are already underway for the 2020 Metropolis of San Francisco YAL Conference over Labor Day Weekend. Stay tuned for more details on the location and how you can be involved on the leadership team to grow this important ministry.

Y2AM

Archbishop Elpidophoros Co-Hosts New "Be the Bee" Episode

NEW YORK – The Archdioceses Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Y2AM) released a new episode in mid-July of "Be the Bee" featuring Archbishop Elpidophoros.

"Why Service(s) Matter" is the 135th episode in the beloved video series that is viewed in homes and communities around the world. In this latest episode, Archbishop Elpidophoros poses two powerful questions for Orthodox Christians of all ages as he calls the faithful to concrete, Christ-centered action.

"Be the Bee has had a significant

impact throughout the Church. Not only has it helped nourish young people, it has also helped lead a substantial number of new converts into Holy Orthodoxy.

I was very pleased to join Steve in this episode and speak directly to so many of the faithful. May Be the Bee continue to bear much spiritual fruit," said the Archbishop.

Be the Bee #135 | Why Service(s) Matter watch at youtube.com/y2am.

For more information: Y2AM at 646.519.6780 or email y2am@goarch.org.



Y²AM
Ministry Plan
2019-20



2019 - 20 BeeTreat Schedule

Be the Bee retreats, better known as BeeTreats, are monthly events which bring together youth and adults for a day full of worship, fellowship, and connection. Last season, nearly seven hundred people attended BeeTreats in six cities across the United States. This season, the BeeTreat team returns with scheduled visits to 8 locations between the months of October and June.

Steven Christoforou leads youth (6th-12th grades) through four sessions that explore concrete ways to open the heart to the presence of God and neighbor. Christian Gonzalez leads adults through four sessions that explore practical ways to create formative ministry experiences, both in the home and parish.

BeeTreats are made possible thanks to a generous grant from Leadership 100, ensuring BeeTreats remain accessible.

2019-20 BeeTreat Schedule

October 12
Transfiguration of Our Savior
Greek Orthodox Church
Florence, South Carolina
November 23
Assumption Greek Orthodox

Church

St. Clair Shores, Michigan
December 13

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

Church

Union, New Jersey
January 11, 2020

St. John the Divine Greek Orthodox Church

Church

Jacksonville, Florida
February 29, 2020

St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church

Church

Providence, Rhode Island
March 28, 2020

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

Church

Syracuse, New York
April 25, 2020

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Church

Lancaster, Pennsylvania
June 6, 2020

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

Church

Anaheim, California

For more information, visit y2am.org/BeeTreats. To schedule a BeeTreat in your community, please contact Y2AM at 646.519.6780 or by email at y2am@goarch.org.



y2am.org/beetreats

OBITUARIES

Fr. John Androutsopoulos

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. – Fr. John Androutsopoulos, 93, a retired priest and former protopresbyter of Annunciation Church died July 17.

Born on Jan. 7, 1926 in the mountain village of Porovitsa, Peloponnesos, Greece and completed his elementary education and high school in Akrata.

In 1947, he entered the theological school of the University of Athens and obtained his master's degree in Theology, thus fulfilling a calling he had since a young child to serve God.

His studies were disrupted in 1949 when he was drafted to serve in the Greek army during the civil war against the communists. After his discharge, Fr. John continued his studies at the university and graduated in 1954.

Faced with poverty and no opportunities in his homeland, Fr. John decided to move to America where his two brothers and an uncle had emigrated several years earlier. He settled in Lincoln, Ill., with his brother Pete and his Uncle Tony, who by this time had opened their own restaurant. He did what almost everyone from that generation did upon arrival in the States: worked in a restaurant. Fr. John studied English at the University of Illinois in Champagne, Ill.

On Nov. 20, 1960, Fr. John was ordained a deacon at the Assumption Church in Chicago and, on June 18, 1961, he was ordained a priest at the Annunciation Church in Decatur, Ill. He always recalled the advice offered to him by the late Archbishop Iakovos upon his ordination as a deacon: "Deacon John, imitate your patron Saint – St. John the Baptist – and Preach the Truth."

He was then assigned to begin his ministry at Annunciation Church in New Kensington on July 1, 1961. For 36 years, from 1961 until he retired in 1996, Fr. John served as the parish priest of Annunciation Church. This was his first and only parish. He had offers to transfer to larger parishes, but he always declined, preferring to stay where he felt he was needed the most.

Upon his retirement, he was welcomed to serve as a guest priest at Holy Trinity Church, now in McCandless, where his daughter's family attended and was able to serve in the altar with his two grandsons when they were young acolytes and two priests whom he loved and respected very much: Frs. John Touloumes and Radu Bordeianu.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Presvytera Ethel Androutsopoulos, and his three children and their spouses: Kathy (Dr. Chris Balouris), Bill (Nicole Tratras) and Dino (Olga Farmakis).

He so loved his grandchildren who provided him with so much joy and entertainment. Marielena, Antonios and Yanni Balouris and Yanni and Georgios Androutsopoulos.

He served two terms as president of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood and hosted a monthly sermon on the Greek radio station and submitted the monthly "Gheronda's Corner" column for Holy Trinity's Herald.

Fr. John ministered to so many in need. He loved his parishioners and they all became family. Because of his spirituality, he taught us humility, kind-

ness and empathy to all. He also was an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan and an avid gardener.

Funeral services took place July 20 at Holy Trinity Church, in McCandless Township.

Memorial donations may be made to the Holy Trinity Church Building Fund.

Archon Peter Anton

SAN ANTONIO – Archon Peter C. Anton Sr., 94, father of Metropolitan Tarasios of Buenos Aires, died Aug. 17.

He was the oldest ongoing employee of the San Antonio Spurs of the NBA, since their founding 46 years ago.

Anton was born in East Chicago, Ind., on May 11, 1925, the son of Greek immigrant parents, Gust and Europe Antonopoulos.

In 1996 he was designated an Archon by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and was a member of AHEPA (American Hellenic Educational and Philanthropic Association).

A devout member of St. Sophia Church, he served on the parish council as president and a member.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Angela Vamvoras Anton, and his siblings, Demetrios, George, Christopher, Aristotle and Angie.

In addition to Metropolitan Tarasios; he is survived by a daughter, Irene F. Pavlovsky and spouse James Anthony of Katy, Texas; a grandson, U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Arthur Pavlovsky and his spouse, Vanessa; four great-grandchildren: Izaiha, Sophia, Aubrey and Zoey; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and godchildren.

The funeral service was held Aug. 22 at St. Sophia Church, with Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, Metropolitan Tarasios and numerous local and visiting clergy.

Archon Dimitrios Kaloidis

BAY RIDGE-BROOKLYN, N.Y. – Dimitrios Kaloidis, a great benefactor of the Church and business entrepreneur died Sept. 16 at age 86 in Greece.

For many decades, he pursued philanthropic efforts that included donating more than \$1 million to his parish of Holy Cross in Brooklyn to support the parochial school that bears his name and that of his wife, Georgia, and the establishment of a state-of-the-art medical/dental facility at Saint Basil Academy.

He also supported many other parishes and educational organizations of the community at-large.

He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and participated in a pilgrimage to the Phanar in 1998.

Upon hearing the sad news, Archbishop Elpidophoros immediately offered a Trisagion in the chapel of the Archdiocese for the repose of the soul of the departed and ever-to-be remembered Dimitrios and prayed for his eternal rest among the saints. Following this, His Eminence communicated with the distinguished spouse of Dimitrios Kaloidis to whom he expressed his heartfelt condolences and the sadness of the church and the Omogenia.

The Archbishop stated the following:

"Dimitrios Kaloidis during his entire blessed life on earth, together with his distinguished spouse Georgia, gave a powerful witness in every event in the life of the Church and in the Greek community here in the USA. Dimitrios' life was a life of successes, but also one of sacrifice and generosity towards his fellow human being, towards the Church, and towards God. A man full of love, complemented by the wisdom and love of his spouse, Dimitrios Kaloidis' name will remain forever written with golden letters in the history pages of Hellenism, as well as in all the hearts of those who were the recipients of his beneficence and had the blessing of knowing him personally. May his memory be eternal. Today he is in the embrace of the ultimate Philanthropist, our Lord Jesus Christ."

According to published reports, Kaloidis was well-known in the Bay Ridge community as owner of the Bridgview Diner.

He was born in Petrina, a small town in Greece located outside of Sparta in the region of Laconia in the southern Peloponnese.

He eventually moved to Athens before emigrating to the United States with his wife, Georgia, in 1955 and developed a restaurant business while his wife studied technology and business administration.

Attorney Demetrius Kalamaras, a distant relative of Kaloidis told the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper that Kaloidis "set a new standard in the diner business. His goal was to open up a diner named after every state in the union," Kalamaras continued. "He had the Floridian Diner, the Nebraska Diner, the Dakota Diner, the Georgia Diner, so his model almost reinvented the modern diner."

Kaloidis also purchased the Terrace on the Park banquet hall in Queens and ultimately settled in Brooklyn. Over the years, he financed numerous schools, hospitals, charitable foundations and ecclesiastical institutions in the United States, Greece and Cyprus.

Kaloidis continued to work hard and expand his businesses, eventually buying the Bridgview Diner in Bay Ridge.

He was also the benefactor of the Incurable Illness Foundation, which cares for mentally and physically challenged children nationwide and in Greece.

Internationally, he founded the five-star Mystras Grand Palace Resort & Spa hotel in Laconia. "More recently, his big endeavor was the just-completed resort outside the city of Sparta which he named Petrina after his hometown," said Kalamaras.

Kaloidis' funeral took place in Greece Sept. 19 at the Metropolitan Church of Evangelistria in Sparta.

Fr. Demetrios Katerlis

CHERRY HILL, N.J. – Fr. Demetrios Katerlis, 88, a retired priest and one of the longest serving, died Aug. 14. He was a protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and for most of his service to the Church was the pastor of

St. George Cathedral in Philadelphia, except for five years at Holy Trinity Cathedral in New Orleans.

Fr. Katerlis was born July 13, 1931 in New York and attended public schools and Stuyvesant High School in the city.

He graduated from Holy Cross School of Theology in 1954 and attended the General Theological Seminary in New York, the University of Athens (Greece), and the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia, receiving diplomas from each school.

He was ordained a deacon in August 1958 at St. Paul's Church and a priest in Mary 1959 at St. George in Philadelphia.

Among his innumerable accomplishments in his ministry, Fr. Katerlis was instrumental in efforts to start the Greek Independence Day Parade in Philadelphia.

He served at St. George from Sept. 1, 1958 to Aug. 31, 1972, and again from Sept. 15, 1977 until Aug. 31, 2004, when he retired.

He was assigned to Holy Trinity in New Orleans from Sept. 1, 1972 to Sept. 14, 1977.

In April 1958 he married Antonia Tambaki of Athens, Greece. They had two children, Ismene and Flora.

Funeral services took place Aug. 23 at St. George Cathedral in Philadelphia with Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey officiating.

In his eulogy, the Metropolitan said, in part: The entirety of Fr. Demetrios life was marked by his dedication to Christ, to Christ's Church and to the parish of St. George Greek Orthodox church in Philadelphia, where Fr. Demetrios is fondly remembered for his over 40 years of dedication and faithful service to the Greek Orthodox faithful of Philadelphia... It is impossible to summarize for than a half-century of faithful service to God in just a few words. It is inconceivable to envision the number of Divine Liturgies, baptisms, chrismations, weddings, confessions, sacred services, visitations and conversations Fr. Demetrios had through his long and distinguished service to the Church... it is difficult to imagine not just the wonderful moments of his priesthood, but the numerous trying times he endured; holding the hand of a dying parishioner, comforting the family of a young life cut too short, or accompanying someone in overcoming spiritual struggles..."

In his condolence letter to Presbyteria Antonia and her family, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew said, in part, "Truly Fr. Katerlis was a remarkable supporter and devoted son of the Mother Church who labored tirelessly for more than sixty years in selfless service to our beloved spiritual flock in the United States. As a descendant of a proud family from Asia Minor-one whose roots are deeply entrenched in the historic lands and fertile soil of our blessed genes-he carried with him ever so vibrantly the saintly values and sacred traditions of our centuries-old Hellenic-Christian heritage and faith, which he received from his parents and grandparents, and enthusiastically endeavored to instill within all those around him – most especially, though, within the de-

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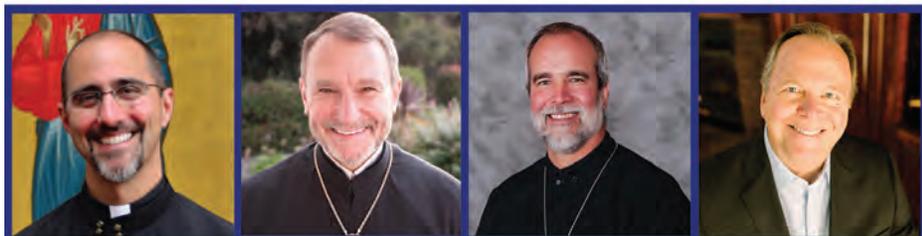
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OBITUARIES

▶ from page 46

vout faithful of the community of Saint George in Philadelphia, as well as the greater Delaware Valley.



Helen Lavorata

By *Jim Golding*

LINDENHURST, N.Y. – Helen Lavorata, director of the Helen Lavorata, director of the National Philoptochos Society Office for more than 20 years, died Sept. 5 after battling brain cancer for 17 months. She was 59. On April 23, 2018, she had suffered a seizure as the result of an undetected brain tumor while commuting from to Manhattan on the Long Island Rail Road.

She was born Aug. 16, 1960 in the Philadelphia area and lived in the Suffolk County community of Lindenhurst with her husband of 37 years, Michael, who is major of Lindenhurst, and daughter Nicole, who gave up her job as a legal secretary for more than a year to care for her mother.

Prior to her appointment as director on June 1, 1997, Helen was the office manager at St. Paraskevi Church in Greenlawn for 14 years, making the daily 30-mile round trip from her home on the South Shore of Long Island to the North Shore parish. Her daily commute increased to about 90 miles round-trip upon taking up her new position.

As the National Philoptochos Office director, she had responsibility for organizing and planning the biennial National Philoptochos conventions, the Children's Medical Fund Luncheons, various special events held during the year, including meetings of the National Board and in making the moves of the National Office to several temporary locations in Manhattan until finally relocating to its permanent home on East 37th Street.

She was beloved by many. "She lived a short but fulfilled life," said her husband. "She had a lot of class and was extremely will loved.

"It's amazing the amount of people who came to the wake and funeral," he continued. "And being first lady of the village brought many local people and politicians." He estimated that about 1,500 people attended the wake.

"We worked so well together from the time she started," said Georgia Vlitias, a member of the Executive Board and assistant treasurer who worked with Helen the entire time she was director.

"She was very organized, and

planned all the national conventions and National Board meetings. She always worked side-by-side with all the board members, said Ms. Vlitias."

"She was the person who kept everything running," said Amy Kalogeropoulou, the Philoptochos development and information officer.

She noted that the news of Helen's passing brought a huge response from Philoptochos members on the Society's webpage, including 28,000 postings, 500 reactions and 300 comments.

"She was amazing. She was dedicated. She loved Philoptochos," said Administrative Assistant Kay Brakatselos, who worked with Helen for the entire period she was the director.

"We had a very, very unique relationship and we ended up having an amazing friendship.

She had a lot of energy, she cared, she was funny, kind and was a big animal lover," she continued.

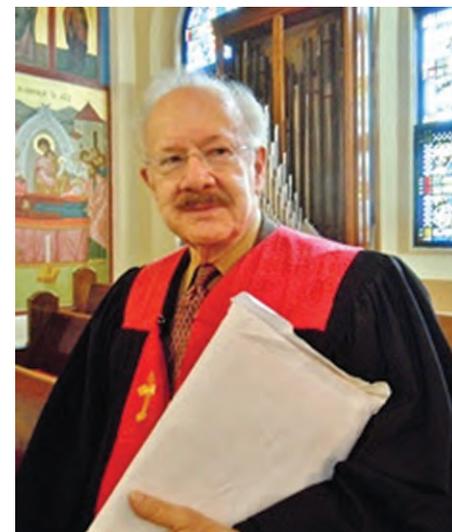
During her tenure Helen served under four national presidents: Eva Condakes, Georgia Skeadas, Aphrodite Skeadas and Maria Logus. "It's not an easy job to adjust to a different person every four to six years," Kay reflected.

Helen had an associate degree from the State University of New York-Farmingdale, and a BA in business from Long Island University's C.W. Post campus in Brookville.

The funeral took place Sept. 10 at St. Paraskevi Church in Greenlawn with Bishop Apostolos of Madeia officiating, assisted by Fr. Louis Nicholas, the pastor, and other clergy.

His Grace delivered a eulogy in which he praised her great devotion and dedication to the Church.

In addition to her husband and daughter, Helen is survived by her father, Michael Love (Agapitos) and a sister, Maryann Swan.



Constantine "Dean" Limberakis

LYNNFIELD, Mass. – One of the preeminent church musicians of the Archdiocese, Archon Constantine "Dean" Limberakis, who had served in many capacities of church musicianship at many levels for nearly 75 years, died June 11. He was 91.

He was the longest-serving choir director in the Archdiocese, including: 75 years at the helm of Greek and Antiochian Orthodox choirs, 30 years as director of music at Boston's Annunciation Cathedral.

OBITUARIES

In addition, he served as president of the Metropolis of Boston Federation of Church Musicians (recently named President Emeritus), 30 years as a member of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians and 21 years as director of music for Hellenic College Holy Cross.

He also was choirmaster of children's, juniors and young adults' choirs.

He served as one of three National Forum liturgical consultants for the massed choirs that sang at many Clergy-Laity Congresses and was guest conductor many times.

Most recently he completed the first liturgical setting for choirs that used the Archdiocese's new standard English translation that he debuted and conducted at the Nashville Clergy-Laity Congress in 2016.

Limberakis also created the medals and medallions bestowed at National Forum gatherings.

In 1989, upon retiring after 36 years as an administrator and teacher in music education in the public schools of Massachusetts, he joined the HCHC faculty as an adjunct professor and was named the school's director of music in 2008 by President Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou.

While there, he created the Graduating Seminarian Awards and had a significant role in the construction of the National Forum Church Music Room in the Archbishop Iakovos Library.

Along with teaching at HCHC, he also served as director of career services, supervisor of buildings and grounds, food services manager, director of housing, purchasing agent and coordinated special festivities, events and conferences.

Limberakis was a member of the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Executive Board for 20 years, wrote a weekly music column for the *Lowell Sun* daily newspaper during the 1960s, served as liaison for the Massachusetts Alliance for Arts and Education, founded the Massachusetts Administrators in Music Education, was a member of the American Association for Advancement of the Humanities and the Council for Basic Education, founder and artistic director of community choruses, concert bands and orchestral societies in the greater Boston area and

Limberakis was the recipient of many awards: Patriarch Elias IV of Antioch Medallion, Antiochian Archdiocesan Citation for contributions made to the Church Music Ministry and Liturgical Life; Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan St. Paul and St. Andrew Medals, Archdiocesan Years of Service Medal (as Choirmaster), National Forum St. Romanos Medallion Choirmaster for outstanding contributions to the Liturgical Life and its Church Music Ministry, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston Ministry Laity Cross, the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians 50 Years-Plus Award as Choirmaster, and the Patriarch Bartholomew Medallion and Cross presented by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

In 1997, he was named to the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle of the Ecumenical Patriarchate as Archon Primikorios. In October 2001, he was appointed director of the Liturgical Music Ministry for the Metropolis of Boston; in 2005, was one of five, from all of the religious denominations, who received

the National Religious Music Week Alliance Award of Distinction for developing and maintaining one of the nation's finest Worship Music Ministry; and in 2007 received the Archbishop Iakovos Distinguished Service Award.

He was also the founder and artistic director of the Pan-Orthodox Chorale of Greater Boston, which existed for some 10 years. Dean was currently compiling a handbook of articles titled "What You Should Know About the Male and Female Voices: Techniques and Rehearsal Procedures."

Mr. Limberakis was guest conductor for various Choir Federation Conferences in the Metropolises; the 300-voice choir for the 1988 Clergy-Laity Congress Hierarchal Liturgy held in Boston; the 1990; the 250-voice choir for the Patriarchal Liturgy held in Boston during the visit of Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios, and the 100-voice Metropolis of Boston Choir and Brass Ensemble for the convocation held at Tufts University for the honorary doctorate bestowed upon Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

He was also a Life Member of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians and served on the Executive and Presidents' Council and the Committee on Music Education, and was presently on the committee for Public Relations and Awards, liaison for Hellenic College and Holy Cross

"It is difficult to think of all that Dean meant to us, there is so much — good and generous friend and family member, longtime choir director, loving teacher and mentor, consummate performer and producer, and also composer, guest director and clinician, classic and witty Bostonian — all in all, a dedicated Orthodox Christian, the epitome of church musicianship at its best," said Dr. Vicki Pappas, national chairman of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians and a longtime colleague of Limberakis.

Survivors include partner Paul J. Cassettari, sisters Andra Delis and Carrie Nicholeris; nieces Anaastasia Sabarsky, Elizabeth Manning and Mark Nicholeris; and great-nephew Matthew Manning.

The funeral was June 17 at Annunciation Cathedral.

Fr. Nicholas F. Nichols

PALM HARBOR, Fla. — Fr. Nicholas F. Nichols, 87, a former priest with the Antiochian Orthodox Church who transferred to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta in 1994, died June 3.

He was retired and had previously served as the priest at St. George Church in New Port Richey, Fla., which he led the efforts in establishing and building.

Fr. Nicholas was born May 16, 1932 in Cairo, Egypt.

After immigrating to the United States and completing his public education, he went to Berea College in Kentucky earning a bachelor's in biology, the University of Pittsburgh, receiving a master's in public health, and Rochester University in New York, earning a master's in education.

He worked for several years as a social worker in Florida, as a college professor, and in various private sector and government positions.

He became a priest in the Antiochian Archdiocese and served two parishes before transferring to the Metropolis of Atlanta jurisdiction.

He and his wife, Helen (Tsirtsikios) were parents of two children.

Metropolitan Panteleimon of Tyrolois

Metropolitan Panteleimon of Tyrolois and Serntiou, who taught at Holy Cross School of Theology (1963-66) and taught theology at other leading universities, died Aug. 7 at age 90.

He born in Athens in 1929, and studied theology in the University of Athens. Ordained deacon in 1952. In 1954, he pursued graduate theological studies at the universities of London and Oxford (1954 to 1957) and Frankfurt, Germany (1957-1958).

He was appointed chancellor of the Holy Metropolis of Thessaloniki and head of the Cathedral of Sophia. In 1958, he earned a doctorate at the School of Theology, University of Athens and in 1960; he was elected assistant professor at the Theological School of the University of Thessaloniki, then was elected professor.

One of his students was the future Archbishop Elpidophoros, who issued the following statement upon learning of the Metropolitan's passing: "With deep sorrow being informed to the Lord passing of Metropolitan Tyroloë and Serentiou Cyrus Panteleimon...as my teacher at the university he taught me not only Canon Law, but was an ecclesiastical moral example for all us younger clergy...we are particularly grateful to the late teacher, because he served with dedication, love and efficiency at our Holy Cross Theological School in Boston."

The Metropolitan also was bestowed honorary doctorates from Holy Cross School of Theology and Boston College.

Parallel with his duties as professor at the University of Thessaloniki, he held a position at the Theological School of St. John Damascene Balamand, and achieved identification as the highest faculty, both under the Ministry of Education of Lebanon, and by the Orthodox Theology schools in Greece. In 1974, he was elected Metropolitan Tyana, later reorganized as the Metropolis Tyroloë and Serentiou.

He was sent by the Patriarchate to Rome, as an observer at Vatican Council II (1964), and was a member of several international committees and religious organizations and a representative at many conferences and meetings.

He was elected president in 1982 of the International Scientific Law Society of Eastern Church and, from 1991, honorary president. He was the Orthodox Co-President of the Joint Committee for Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox Church and the World Council of Churches.

He was abbot of Holy Patriarchal Monastery Vlatadon (1984-2012), chairman of the Board of the Patriarchal Institution of Patristic Studies (1985-1989) and Vice President (1989-2012).

He was an honorary board member of Vienna Foundation Pro-Oriente, author of books and articles on issues of rule of law, functional, pastoral, ecclesi-

astical relations and others.

Fr. Dean Talagan

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Fr. Dean Talagan, 82, founding priest of St. Catherine Church in Greenwood Village, Colo., died Aug. 13 in Cheyenne.

He was born Oct. 23, 1933 in Cheyenne and, after completing public school, attended Holy Cross from 1951-54. He next enrolled at the University of Wyoming and graduated with a BA degree in Classical Greek and history in 1956.

He earned an MA degree in history from the University of Northern Colorado in 1958 and an Ed.D from that university in 1965.

He was ordained to the diaconate on May 26, 1974 and to the priesthood Aug. 3, 1975.

He served the parish of Sts. Constantine and Helen in Cheyenne and founded the Greenwood church in 1984.

Fr. Talagan also served as president of the Colorado Council of Churches and was a member of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Religious Education Commission.

He was preceded in death by his presbytera, Argie (nee Lafkas).

Survivors include his children: Stacie Wade (husband Marc) and Paul Talagan (wife Kristi); grandchildren Angela and Miles Wade, and Barbara Talagan; sisters Stella Contos and Jean Langlas (husband Bill); brother-in-law Paul Lafkas.

The funeral took place Aug. 19 at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Cheyenne conducted by Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver and other Metropolis clergy.

Constantine D. 'Gus' Yavis

ALBANY, N.Y. — Constantine D. "Gus," Yavis, a permanent deacon at St. Sophia Church, died July 16 at age 89.

He was born in Vytina, Greece, May 18, 1930, the youngest children of the Demosthenis and Mary (Veloudos) Yavis. The family moved to America shortly after he was born.

He was raised and educated in Albany and graduated from Albany High School in 1950.

He joined the army during the Korean War and served in West Germany. After his honorable discharge in 1954, he married Katherine Tina Vamvalis in 1957. They operated the Mayflower Restaurant, which they operated until retiring in 1998.

He was a lifelong member of St. Sophia Church, serving as deacon, choir member and two-time president of the parish council.

He was also a member of the Albany Masonic Temple, Wadsworth Lodge 417.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Laterina "Tina" Yavis, children Marie McCullough of Delmar, N.Y., Diane Cohen of East Greenbush, and Dimitri Yavis of Albany; nieces, nephews and cousins in the U.S., Greece, London and Australia.

He was predeceased by his sisters, Elizabeth Perdaris, Helen Hazapis and Anna Patelos.

Services took place July 22 at St. Sophia Church.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM NATIONAL ORATORICAL FESTIVAL



GOA/D.Panagos photo

New National Chairman
Katherine Orfanakos Demacopoulos



GOA/D.Panagos photo

Junior and Senior metropolis representatives with Bishop Apostolos, Fr. Anton Vrame, Nick Gregory, Fr. John Lardas and other clergy.

Long Island Parish Hosts National Oratorical Festival

PORT WASHINGTON, N.Y. – Archangel Michael parish hosted the 36th annual St. John Chrysostom National Oratorical Festival June 7-9 that brought together 18 talented young speakers representing their metropolises.

The event marked a historic change, with Katherine Orfanakos Demacopoulos taking on the mantle of national chairman from her mother, Presvytera Margaret Orfanakos who, along with her father, Fr. John Orfanakos, co-chaired the event more than 30 years.

Bishop Apostolos of Medeia represented the Episcopal Vicar Metropolitan Methodios of Boston and offered the invocation with Fr. Anton

Vrame, Ph.D. at the main session on Saturday, June 8.

Metropolis representatives, their divisions and parishes were:

Direct Archdiocesan District

Nektaria Karagiannis (junior), Holy Trinity, Bridgeport, Conn.

Gerasimos Tsilimidos (senior), Sts. Constantine and Helen, W. Nyack, N.Y.

Metropolis of Boston

Andrew Dangelo (junior), Sts. Anargyroi, Marlborough, Mass.

Sebastian Sepulveda (senior), Transfiguration, Lowell, Mass.

Metropolis of Denver

Alexandra Drossos (junior), St. Anna, Cottonwood Heights, Utah

George Papadeas (senior), Assumption of the Theotokos, Denver (2nd place)

Metropolis of Atlanta

Theophany Cruz (junior), St. Demetrios, Daytona Beach, Fla.

Xenya Currie (senior), St. Demetrios, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Metropolis of Detroit

Stavros Singleton (junior), St. Nicholas, Jamestown, N.Y.

Sophia Douglas (senior), Annunciation, Memphis, Tenn. (3rd place)

Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Stavros Spanakis (junior), Holy Trinity, Canton, Ohio (1st place Junior Division winner)

Peter Ariano (senior), Holy Trinity, Camp Hill, Pa.

Metropolis of San Francisco

Natalia Tucker (junior), Assumption, Scottsdale, Ariz. (2nd place)

Naomi Solomon (senior), St. Haralambos, Peoria, Ariz. (1st place Senior Division winner)

Metropolis of New Jersey

Elizabeth Karides (junior), Sts. Constantine and Helen, Annapolis, Md. (3rd place)

Sofia Pennia (senior), Holy Trinity, Wilmington, Del.

(Complete speeches of junior and senior division winners on next page)

Fr. John Lardas, Anna Vrettos and Sevasmia Sara Savva were host committee chairmen and Fox 5 TV meteorologist Nick Gregory served as master of ceremonies.

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Speakers in the Junior Category with Bishop Apostolos



Senior Category speakers with His Grace

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM NATIONAL ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Senior Division Speech – Science, Technology in Service of Humanity

Naomi Solomon
Phoenix, Ariz.
Senior Division
Holy Trinity Cathedral

Topic #4: Describe how science and technology should always be at the service of humanity and, ultimately, of God, in harmony with His purposes.

The first half of my education I exclusively attended Christian schools. Preschool to fourth grade, I had Bible classes once a day, worship services once a week, and I recited their Christian Pledge of Allegiance daily. It was all I knew. Then, fifth grade, where everything changed. I transferred to a science-oriented school, jumping straight into physics, chemistry, and biology classes. A group of my classmates were confused when they found out where I used to go to school. “Wait, so you went from a Christian school to a science school? Aren’t religion and science like...enemies?” They asked. And I blindly agreed with them. I kept those two spheres of my life completely separate, believing they would always be conflicting. However, I was wrong. New technological advancements and scientific studies help with many aspects of Christianity, and they work towards the betterment of society in three key ways. Number 1, they’ve made huge strides towards solving climate change. Number 2, they allow God’s word to reach more people than ever before. And Number 3, they help us discover the truth behind the world God has given us. Now more than ever, science, technology, and Orthodox Christianity work hand in hand to be in harmony with God’s will.

One of the main problems our world faces today is climate change, as we see



1st Place senior winner Naomi Solomon with His Grace, Fr. Vrame and Katherine Demacopoulos

more and more natural disasters hit us, and our resources get depleted. The shifting of weather patterns has damaged the cherished lands that God provided for us. In Genesis 1:29-30, it says “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.” He provided us not only with the Earth itself, but also with all the resources, and we have been using them recklessly and dangerously. With the new scientific methods found to help reduce climate change, such as carbon emission reduction and renewable energy, we can restore the beautiful Earth that God has given us and make sure that it’s still here for all the future generations that come after us.

Over the years, the world has become attached to technology and cell

phones. While this attachment has drawbacks, the Orthodox Christian church has a responsibility to take advantage of the technological boom and use it to share our faith with the world. We see this in the Bible, when Jesus tells us to “Go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” in Mark 16:15. In today’s times, the most efficient way to achieve this is to utilize technology. Through blogs, television, radio, and social media, we are able to share the Word of God with more people than ever before. For example, people with illnesses that stop them from leaving the house and going to church can still experience the Divine Liturgy through watching a live stream of a church service, and social media allows us to bring new people into our faith who would never have been exposed to the won-

ders of the Orthodox Christian Church. Overall, technology plays in expanding the reach of God’s will and spreading the holy word.

Orthodox Christianity and science have key similarity: their want to understand the truth. The basis of scientific inquiry is a desire to know the truth behind the world, and Orthodox Christians want the same thing, as shown when the Bible said “This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:3-4). Orthodox Christianity is a faith that values the simple truth, of knowing the past and how we can use it to help us today. God provided us with the tools to develop science and technology, and it is our job, every person of faith, to use his tools and discover the secrets of God’s beautiful world.

All three of these things contribute to the service of humanity. We can save the environment and make sure that God’s resources are being used responsibly by using social media to spread this message to people who need to hear it. In this process, we can also connect to people all around the world and show them the glory of God and Orthodox Christianity. These ideas work hand in hand with God’s purpose, which is to protect those who have faith and to spread his Holiness to the whole world.

We are no longer in the age where religion means an absence of science, or science means an absence of religion. If we realize that Christianity and science aren’t enemies, but rather a combination of different ideas we can begin to really understand God’s will, the way he intended. And now I am confident that I can walk into my school and into my science classes knowing that my fascination for the world will never get in the way of my love for God.

Junior Division Speech – Significance of Water in the Church

Stavros Spanakis
Canton, Ohio
Junior Division
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Topic #3: Discuss the significance of water in the Church – Baptism, Theophany, holy water, etc. – and what this suggests about our responsibility for the natural world.

Your Grace Bishop Apostolos, Reverend Fathers, Honorable Judges, Fellow Speakers, Ladies and Gentleman, good morning.

August 27, 2005 was a very special day for me. As a 7-month old, I don’t really remember it, but thankfully, I am able to watch the video. That was the day I became a soldier of Christ – the day I was baptized as an Orthodox Christian – the day I was immersed 3 times into the baptismal font filled with holy water and oil in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Baptism is the most significant use of water in the Orthodox Church. During the sacrament of Holy Baptism, we are recreating Christ’s own baptism in the River Jordan. In a sermon to the Antiochians in 387 AD, St. John Chrysostom said, “On this day Christ

was baptized; through His Baptism, He sanctified the element of water. There let us draw of the water and store it in homes, because on this day, the water is consecrated.”

Another significant use of water, is on the great feast day of Theophany. St. Basil the Great affirms that the blessing of water came to us a “mystical tradition” and that the water, through the prayer and blessing of the priest, receives a “quickening power of the Holy Spirit”; it receives the power to bless those who drink from it or are sprinkled with it. As an acolyte, I look forward to helping fill the small bottles of agiasmo, or holy water for parishioners to take home. I make sure to take a bottle, too, and throughout the year, when I’m not feeling well, before a test, before an Oratorical Speech, or whenever I feel the need to be closer to God, I know that I can drink from my vial of Holy Water and feel God’s presence.

Sometimes, like in Tarpon Springs, large bodies of water are blessed by a priest who recites prayers and places a cross into the water. In the Bee the Bee episode, Holy Water for the Whole World, Steve Christoforou states that thanks to the water cycle, as blessed water evaporates and rises to form clouds

of condensation and then falls to the earth as precipitation, the plants and animals drink of the holy water and are blessed. We drink of it and are blessed, too.

Since the water of the earth is so vital to our existence and is a sacred part of God’s creation, what is our responsibility to the natural world? In 1997, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was the first religious leader in history to declare harming the environment a sin. So, just as we must repent from other sins, we must also repent from our sins against nature.

Today, more than 1 billion people live without safe, clean, water. The World Health Organization estimates that 3.6 million people die from water related deaths each year and over 60% of those are children. Water.org states that every 2 minutes, a child dies from water related diseases. In the time it will take me to deliver my speech, somewhere in the world, 2 children will have died from unclean water. This is unacceptable!

Each year on the Ecclesiastical Calendar, Orthodox Christians recognize September 1st as the Day of the Protection of the Natural Environment. Reduce, reuse, recycle is not just a catchy



Junior category 1st place speaker Stavros Spanakis

phrase. We have a moral obligation to protect our resources and use them wisely.

I close my speech today by asking each one of you to bow your heads as I chant the prayer from the Vespers for the Protection of the Environment, “O Loving One, safeguard the earth unharmed and all its encompassing elements, in which, by Your will, we dwell, live, move, and exist, that we, your unworthy supplicants, may be delivered from ruin and destruction.” Amen.

PARISH PROFILE

A Community Noted for Its Broad Pan-Orthodox Character

AT A GLANCE

Name: St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church

Location: Greenwood Village, Colo

Founded: 1984

Clergy: Fr. Louis J. Christopoulos, (Holy Cross 1980); Fr. Paul Fedec-retired from OCA; priest with lay vocation); Deacon John Kava, with a lay profession of practicing attorney and Deacon Thomas Bartz (Holy Cross 2019).

Size: About 360 families

Web: www.stcatherinechurch.org

E-mail: info@saintcatherinechurch.org



St. Catherine Church photo

as well as non-immigrant converts and individuals with no particular ethnic background.

"In this part of the country, in order to grow you have to be open to people from a variety of backgrounds who have discovered Orthodoxy. Many are from Protestant or Roman Catholic backgrounds. It has been positive.

"We also touch on various languages to help people feel at home," he said.

Fr. Christopoulos performs the Divine Liturgy using mostly English, with the Lord's Prayer recited in six languages and various languages used for the petitions.

Greenwood Village, with a highly educated workforce and population near 18,000 is home to several high-tech, communications and financial services companies, including Comcast, Cigna and others that employ some parish members. The community provides strong support for the church primarily through stewardship. Of the \$1.2 total annual operating budget, about \$950,000 comes from stewardship.

There is no Greek festival but the parish rents its classroom facility of a private pre-school and its gym to a local volleyball club.

Ministries

St. Catherine's abounds in ministries. These include an active men's group, a paraklesis service every Wednesday night during the school year, followed by a meal and youth activities, and a 15-20 member book study group that holds discussions on different Orthodox books.

Special organizations include a young adults group that includes many married couples with small children that focuses on parenting. There is a children's choir and several junior and senior GOYA basketball teams that complete in tournaments.

Sunday school enrollment is about 125 in grades pre-K through 12.

There is no Greek school, but some children from the parish attend the school at the Denver cathedral.

The church has a large choir and psaltis that include two women, Presby-

tera Stacy Dorrance of Eikona, whose husband, Fr. Theodore Dorrance, is director of the Metropolis Missions and Evangelism Office, and Alina Buzdugan, who is of Romanian background.

The property, along with its facilities that include a small gym and community center, covers two-and-a-half acres. It did include a senior citizens center that was sold to a private, independent assisted living organization.

Historical background

A parish history notes that plans for a church to serve the southern suburbs of Denver received approval in the early 1980s and Fr. Dean Talagan was assigned to the newly formed community. The first liturgy took place April 1, 1984 at a local elementary school.

The parish received its charter in January 1985 and, a few months later, the faithful -- children and all -- voted on St Catherine the Brilliant Great Martyr of Sinai as Patroness of the new parish.

The elementary school served as the parish home until June 1990 when the parishioners walked with the holy items in procession to their new, recently completed church home.

Bishop Isaiah consecrated the new church on Pentecost, June 10, 1995. After 12 years' faithful service, Fr Dean was assigned to Sts Constantine and Helen Parish in Cheyenne, Wyo.

Fr Dimitrios Nicoloudakis served as interim pastor until July 1997, when Fr Christopoulos arrived as the new head priest of St Catherine, serving to the present time.

In the 35 years of her existence, St Catherine has grown from the original 26 families to over 360 families.

A general theme in the parish is philoxenia -- hospitality. The parishioners, from top to bottom, endeavor to live out the saying inscribed on the banner in our church hall: "There are no strangers at St Catherine, only friends we haven't met," said Fr. Christopoulos.

-compiled by Jim Golding

METROPOLIS NEWS

Alpha Omega Council Helping to Digitize 50 Years of The Hellenic Chronicle

By Nancy Agris Savage

BOSTON -From 1950-2000, The Hellenic Chronicle served as the primary source of information for and about the Greek-American community in America.

The first weekly journalistic vehicle that was American in form, but Greek in substance, its pages charted the expansion of the Archdiocese, the proud history of our Hellenic cultural organizations, and the professional successes and personal celebrations of individuals and families throughout our community.

The Alpha Omega Council has enthusiastically elected to participate in

this project, as the Council's history, and its mission to promote Hellenism and fellowship among all Greek-Americans, is inextricably linked with that mission so successfully pursued for 50 years by *The Hellenic Chronicle*.

This rich archive of the coming of age of Greeks in America is currently only accessible by manually scouring either microfiche at the Boston Public Library or rapidly deteriorating archival pages in bound volumes at The Archbishop Iakovos Library on the Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology campus in Brookline, Mass.

The Project's mission is to bring this vital registry of over 54,000 pages

online, where it will be preserved and readily available to current and future generations. Through this initiative, a separate searchable database will be created to house the entire 50-year archive, allowing for high-speed search, retrieval, and manipulation of all articles and photographs in JPG and PDF formats. The availability of this invaluable resource will be secured into perpetuity by the grant of a legal license for that purpose to the Alpha Omega Council.

To make this a reality, an independent fundraising campaign, comprised of both targeted direct and mass online appeals, has been undertaken by a committee of individuals from within the

Greek-American community at large.

Donations to meet the \$41,000 goal now being accepted by AOCAs part of its multi-faceted mission to promote Hellenism in America.

Tax deductible donations may be made payable to: "The Alpha Omega Council" (with memo line Hellenic Chronicle Digitization Project) and mail to: Alpha Omega Council, PO Box 752, Foxboro, MA 02035.

Nancy Agris Savage is the daughter of the late Peter Agris, founder and editor of *The Hellenic Chronicle*. Mr. Agris was an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Alpha Omega Council founder.



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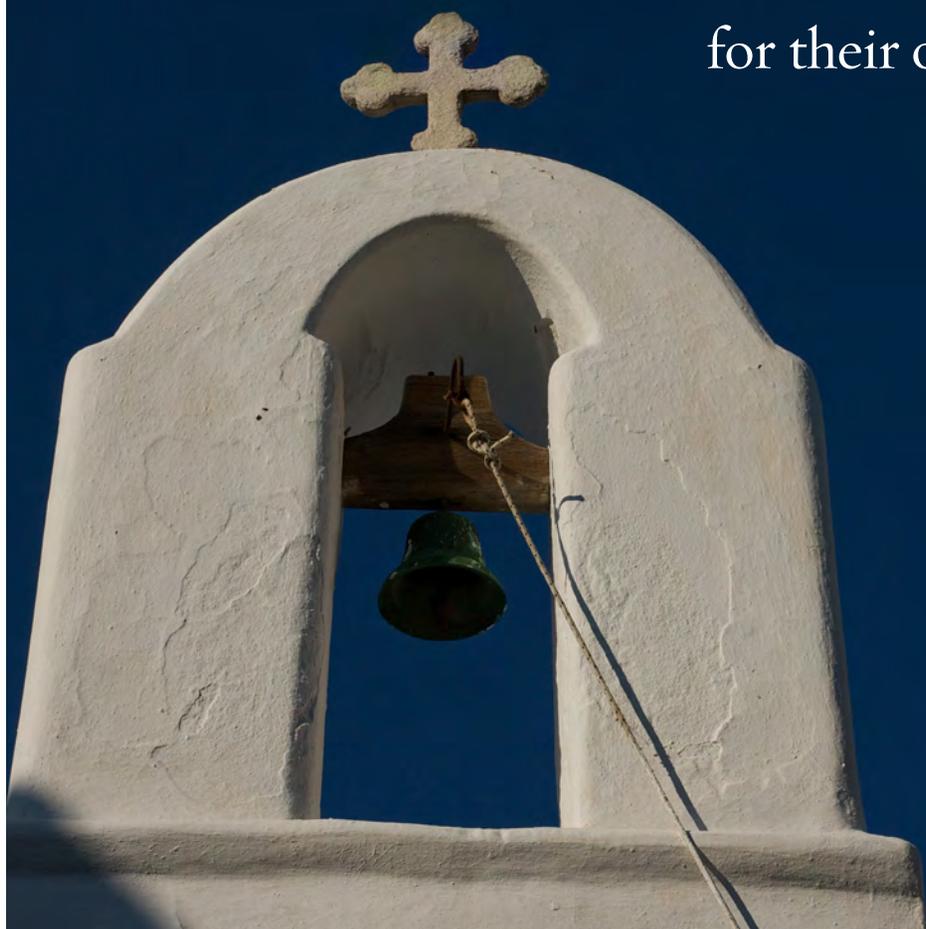
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David Kirman

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Christianna Kyriacou Mantas

for their outstanding counsel



PHILOPTOCHOS

17th Children's Medical Fund Luncheon Set Nov. 16 in Chicago

CHICAGO - The Metropolis of Chicago will host the 17th National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon on Nov. 16 at the downtown Marriott.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$125. Information regarding tickets and hotel reservations is available on the Philoptochos website: philoptochos.org/outreach/cmsection/

Emcee duties for the afternoon will be shared by two nationally recognized, award winning, Chicago-based, Greek-American broadcasters, Andrea Darlas and Dean Richards.

Fr. Mark Munoz, proistamenos of Holy Anargyroi Church in Rochester, Minn, will be guest speaker. Fr. Mark also serves as staff chaplain at the Mayo Clinic and holds a position on the executive board of the Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology, and Religion. Fr. Mark's personal experiences and dedicated service to health-care organizations will enable him to

speak with great insight about the research and treatment of critically ill and fragile children.

Established in 1989, the Children's Medical Fund has raised more than \$3.5 million. Funds are disbursed pursuant to a grant process and are used to support:

Children's health care and social service organizations at the forefront of innovative programs and services; and funding for hospital equipment, programs and research, which benefit children with serious medical or surgical diagnoses.

In addition, financial assistance is provided for the medical care of critically ill children whose families are either un-insured or under-insured. These funds are disbursed through the National Philoptochos Department of Social Services.

In order to continue the success of the Fund, the help of all Orthodox community members is needed.

As a steward committed to helping



others, consider a sponsorship for the upcoming Luncheon. Sponsorships will include the donor's name in the Commemorative Program book, as well as posting on all Philoptochos' social media. Over 800 guests from across the country are expected to attend. Checks should be made payable to National Philoptochos, earmarked 2019 Chil-

dren's Medical Fund, and mailed to National Philoptochos, 126 East 37th St., New York, N.Y. 10016.

Please support the 2019 Children's Medical Fund Luncheon with your sponsorship and attendance on Chicago's Magnificent Mile, where we will gather once again to "Rejoice and Embrace the Children!"

National Philanthropic Initiatives Promote Personal Service

By Barbara Pasalis

"We have learned that life's most urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?' To that, Philoptochos members can say, without hesitation or doubt, We Serve."

-President Maria Logus

For years, Philoptochos has been the organization that disburses funds to its National Ministries and Commitments. Indeed, this is a significant part of our work. In 2018 alone, National Philoptochos disbursed on behalf of its 400+ chapters across the US, \$1,373,376 to these annually-supported ministries. The ladies of Philoptochos are deeply dedicated to the institutions of our Holy Archdiocese, as well as to the support of less fortunate members of society throughout the world.

Equally important is the hands-on work performed by our chapters in their communities. Inspired by our Lord to "serve the least of these thy brethren" on a daily basis, we engage our minds, our hearts, and our hands to answer a need, wherever and whenever it arises. This is our true philanthropic mission.

Philoptochos women in the 21st century juggle many responsibilities. It is the greatness of Philoptochos that despite our many obligations, we find a way to make time to serve our communities for the greater good. The following three philanthropic initiatives are examples of our personal, hands-on work in our communities.

Feed the Hungry Program: Our Feed the Hungry program has been well documented. Each year, Philoptochos chapters rise to the challenge to provide more meals within their communities. From a goal of providing 250,000 meals in 2014-2016, we now have reached a goal of 1,500,000 meals for 2018-2020. Chapters should be sending the number of meals they have provided since the 2018 convention to their Metropolis li-

aisons. Let's watch the numbers rise on our thermometer! We are also looking for chapter programs to Spotlight on our website. Send your information and photos to Feed@philoptochos.org.

Operation Classroom: Over 94 percent of public school teachers provide school supplies for their classrooms out of their own resources without any expectation of reimbursement. President Logus challenges every Philoptochos chapter across the US to adopt an underfunded school in its community and provide needed support. Philoptochos has over 400 chapters across the US. Multiply the number of schools served by the number of students, and imagine the lives we could reach and impact! For a small financial investment, Philoptochos stewards can affect the next generation of scientists, artists, religious leaders, teachers, and perhaps even a president.

The program is flexible and each chapter should design its program to fit the needs of the schools and teachers with which they are working. Projects can be as simple or as ambitious as the chapter chooses:

- Provide library or classroom books
- Furnish art and school supplies
- Comfort closets are being set up in classrooms across the country to furnish low-income students with self-care items they cannot afford -- tissues for runny noses, toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, etc.
- Backpacks with weekend meals so children do not go hungry
- Winter coats, boots, hats, and gloves

More information, including a PowerPoint presentation, is available on the Philoptochos website at: <https://www.philoptochos.org/outreach/projects/operation-classroom>.

The ways you can help are as unlimited as your imagination. Programs should be ready to launch at the begin-

ning of the school year.

National Philoptochos Launches a Kindness Campaign for Make a Difference Day: Now in its 26th year, Make a Difference Day reminds us that everyone, no matter their age, can take an action to improve their community. Make a Difference Day falls on a rotating date, always on the 4th Saturday of October.

Over the past few years, we have encouraged chapters to work with their parish families to sponsor projects to better their communities. The important thing is to involve your entire parish, especially the children. Like everyone, Philoptochos is distressed by the increasing and senseless violence in our society. Through the National Philoptochos Kindness Campaign, we hope to spread love, peace and kindness instead of hatred and violence.

This year, we're expanding the campaign. Rather than only one day, let's perpetuate kindness throughout the year.

Keep in mind that this is purely voluntary. If this is an activity that resonates within your parish, please institute it. However, we are challenging every chapter to have a "Kindness Drive" in their parish.

Small acts of kindness are simple to perform but they can have a big impact on everyone around them, loved ones as well as total strangers. What are some examples?

- Give your seat up to an elderly person on the rapid transit on the way to work.
- Pay it forward with coffee; either in person or at the drive thru; treat the person behind you to a cup.
- Greet a stranger and pay them a compliment.
- Exhibit empathy to a parent with a fussy child in church; we are all children of God.
- Let the person behind you in line at the grocery store go ahead of you.

- Be kind to our environment: recycle, walk or bike to work, buy a refillable water bottle and stop buying plastic throw aways.

- Offer to help a fellow student with their homework.

- Help an elderly acquaintance with projects in their home or yard.

- Offer to help a neighbor with errands.

- When you've hurt someone, tell them you're sorry -- and mean it.

- Be gracious; forgive someone for an offense they've committed against you.

- Express gratitude to someone who has helped you; a simple thank you goes a long way.

These acts are so easy to perform, but they add up to a kinder, more loving society.

In today's world, where acts of hatred and violence are commonplace, a simple act of kindness can change our world for the better -- one person at a time.

Collect and send us a list of your community's acts of kindness performed through the end of October, and we'll include them on our website for World Kindness Day on November 13. Let's work together to make our world a more loving place for all.

Today, women are busier than ever, but also more committed.

Have you wanted to do something to make an impact? Philoptochos offers programs to inspire every woman's imagination.

Choose just one program and make a difference in your community. Devote whatever time you have to serve someone less fortunate than yourself. Pay it forward.

"From everyone to whom has been given, much will be demanded."

...Luke 12:48

This is the spirit of Philoptochos. Join us!

ARCDIOCESE NEWS

National Missions & Evangelism Conference Set for February

NEW YORK – The Archdiocese Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism will hold its next National Conference on Missions & Evangelism Feb. 3-5 at Annunciation Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio.

This event is made possible by a Leadership 100 grant.

Conference theme is “Leading Change Toward a Healthier Parish.” The program includes presentations by Frs. Evan Armatas, Theodore Dorrance, Aris Metrakos and Mr. Steve Tibbs.

The conference will offer insights, tools and strategies for parish leaders to fully engage active parishioners, re-engage those distantly connected and to share the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith with those searching for a spiritual home. “This conference, like one held in Portland, Oregon in 2016, will inform, prepare and inspire parish leaders to return home with useful tools and strategies for meaningful change toward parish health and growth,” said Fr. Jim Kordaris, director of the Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism. “We are convening a panel of experi-

enced parish leaders, trained in the concepts and strategies needed to implement positive change.”

The conference will also provide opportunities for sharing of ideas and experiences among parish leadership. It is open to clergy and laypersons. Attendance is limited to 200 participants, ensuring that discussion is plentiful and productive. Each Metropolis will receive two complimentary registrations in an effort to guarantee Archdiocese-wide participation.

“Our parish family is delighted to welcome participants from across the Archdiocese to Columbus and the National Missions & Evangelism Conference,” said Cathedral Dean Fr. Demetri Gardikes. “We aspire to be the model of a welcoming community to attendees, to the surrounding community and to all who enter our doors.”

Hotel accommodations are within one or two blocks of the Cathedral.

For more information, visit www.goarch.org/evangelism2020 or contact Stacey Stathulis at staceys@goarch.org.

METROPOLIS NEWS

Illinois Parish Opens Doors of Its New Church

LINCOLNSHIRE, ILL. - Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago presided over an “Opening of the Doors” service for the Ascension of Our Lord Church June 5.

In the Orthodox tradition, a Hierarchy conducts the *Thyranoixia* service, to sanctify a church prior to worshiping in it. Following the *Thyranoixia*, the faithful celebrated the church’s Feast Day by attending Great Vespers, the first service to be held in the new house of worship.

“It is with great joy and elation that we welcome His Eminence and invite the faithful to witness this monumental event in the life of our parish,” said Fr. Sotirios P. Malamis, Ascension’s parish priest. “This has been a remarkable journey of faith and fulfills a dream held by the stewards of Ascension for a very long time.

After the June 5th service, Ascension’s Philoptochos ministry prepared a reception.

On June 6, the Feast Day of the Lord’s Ascension, the Metropolitan preside over the first Divine Liturgy in the new church. The Senior Synaxis ministry hosted a celebratory luncheon immediately following the Liturgy.

The \$9-million new construction and expansion project formally began with a groundbreaking service in September 2017 when clergy blessed the site’s foundation. The 18,600-square foot building includes a new 11,000-square-foot church, chapel and adult baptistry based on a late 12th century Byzantine design.

The art and architecture of the building is purposefully designed to create a distinctive atmosphere of worship that embodies many of the fundamental teachings of Orthodoxy. The additional 7,000-square feet of the building includes a redesigned fellowship hall with a kitchen, office space, and refurbished meeting spaces for its Sunday church school and growing ministries.

In addition, the church added a 4,000-square foot basement to accommodate future growth.

According to Ascension’s Parish Council President, Nicholas Marino, “Our dream to build a Greek Orthodox Church in Lincolnshire started more than 20 years ago under the guidance of our founding priest, Fr. James S. Gordon. Our wait has paid off – literally! From day one, our goal was to build it debt-free and I am elated to announce that we achieved that goal this past March because of our generous stewards who never lost faith throughout this construction project.

Now as we step foot into this tremendously beautiful new worship space, we can focus on the growth of all of our ministries without the burden of carrying a mortgage.”

Ascension Parish held its first Divine Liturgy Jan. 11, 1998 with 30 families in attendance. The parish received its official charter from the Archdiocese on April 24, 2002. Today, the Ascension community has grown to more than 320 families that actively participate in a wide range of ministries for all age groups from infancy to seniors.

ECUMENICAL NEWS

Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation Releases Statement on Vocation and Mission

The North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation released a new agreed statement titled “The Vocation and Mission of the People of God: A Chosen Race, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation.”

The document, released Aug. 6, was completed at the Consultation’s most recent meeting held at the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, N.H., in late May.

The Consultation is co-chaired by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, the Catholic Archbishop of Newark, N.J., and by Metropolitan Methodios of Boston.

More than five years in the making, this new text takes a different approach to ecumenical dialogue: instead of addressing together an issue that has prevented full communion between the churches, here the Catholic and Orthodox theologians examine together challenges that affect both churches, in this case the role of the laity in the two traditions and the problem of clericalism.

The document begins with a summary of earlier statements by the Consultation on these and similar themes. It goes on to recognize an ecclesiology that sees the sacrament of Baptism as the foundation of the vocation and ministry of every Christian, clergy and laity alike. Thus all the People of God together constitute a single community. Some members have received a special role of leadership within the community, but all of the members have received specific charisms that are to be exercised for the building up of the whole body. Within this context, the ordained clergy are set apart from the body of believers but are not above or separate from that body. All of this is expressed most clearly in the celebration of the Eucharist where the diversity of gifts and roles is made clear in the gathered community’s single act of praise.

The document reflects on the laity’s mission in the Church, and the

implications of this ecclesiology for the practice of synodality at all levels of the Church’s life.

In a final section, the agreed statement considers certain challenges to the People of God, namely clericalism, individualism and ecumenical engagement.

The Consultation concludes that “our focus in thinking about the Church, and in celebrating its reality, must be on the unity of the People of God that is grounded in our common baptism and on a corresponding understanding of the diversity of roles and charisms within that radically united people.”

Like most dialogue agreed statements, this new text does not speak officially for either Church.

However, it has been drafted by a highly competent group of theologians from both traditions and submitted to all the members of both Churches for their prayerful reflection and discussion.

The North American Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation is sponsored jointly by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America the Bishops’ Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the USCCB, and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. Since its establishment in 1965, the Consultation has issued some 30 agreed statements on various topics.

All these texts are available on the website of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops at: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/ecumenical-and-interreligious/ecumenical/orthodox/index.cfm and on the Orthodox Assembly of Bishops website: at www.assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/orthodox-catholic/

Another body, the Joint Committee of Orthodox and Catholic Bishops, has been meeting annually since 1981 to discuss pastoral issues between the two Churches.

PAN ORTHODOX

Church Reps. Discuss Homelessness

NEW YORK – Representatives from 10 Pan-Orthodox organizations met on Sept. 13 to discuss the crisis of homelessness. The 20 experts issued the following statement reflection a common multi-faceted understanding:

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to love our neighbors by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting those in prison, etc. (Matthew 25:35-40) in a relational way that recognizes the humanity of each person. The value and dignity of each person must be recognized in every moment of serving another human being. Our theology and identity as Orthodox Christians inspires and informs our witness as opposed to witness for recruitment or proselytization. Instead, we must be the Church

and shine Christ’s love in our service to others through Christ-centered empowerment, illuminated by the relational nature of the Eucharist. We recognize that we are each broken and are all spiritually homeless in need of Christ. Beyond a physical house to find shelter in, each person requires to be served as a whole human being in need of a home; spiritually, mentally, physically and emotionally with dignity and respect.

Furthermore, the group decided to reconvene once a month via video conference to enhance Pan-Orthodox humanitarian collaboration on the crisis of homelessness. Any Orthodox Christian organization who is interested in this initiative are encouraged to contact ecumenical@goarch.org.

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GETTING ACQUAINTED: THE FIRST 90 DAYS



GOA/D.Panagos photo

Scenes from a Visit to Camp St. Paul

Young people attending the mid-July session at Camp St. Paul (above) gather near the shore of Bantam Lake with Archbishop Elpidophoros, Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, Bishop Apostolos of Medeia and several clergy on July 11. (right) His Eminence, accompanied by Deacon Eleftherios Constantine, shortly after his arrival is greeted by the young campers. (lower right) The Archbishop and several campers demonstrate applause with the use of sign language. (below) The Archbishop administers a forkful of blessed cake to this eagerly awaiting camper. Camp Director Fr. Elias Villis looks on.



GOA/D.Panagos photo



GOA/D.Panagos photo



GOA/D.Panagos photo

...AND IN CONCLUSION



Orthodox Observer photo

Agiasmo for cathedral school

His Eminence blessed each child at the Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral Day School in Manhattan on Sept. 26., then visited each classroom.



GOA/D.Panagos photo

His Eminence marked the 45th anniversary of the Cyprus invasion by Turkey with a memorial service at Archangel Michael Church in Port Washington, Long Island.



GOA/D.Panagos photo

His Eminence blessing the faithful during his visit to the Saint John Chrysostom Greek Orthodox Monastery in Pleasant Prairie, Wis.



GOA/D.Panagos photo

From visiting the White House to visiting a white horse, Archbishop Elpidophoros logged thousands of miles during his three-month Odyssey since his enthronement and experienced as much as possible the life of the Church throughout the U.S. He made friends with this horse at the Metropolis of Chicago youth camp

“... the greatest of these is love.”

- I CORINTHIANS 13:13



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