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## **Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Celebrates 20th Anniversary**

Nearly 500 persons joined Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on Oct. 21 to celebrate his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at a banquet hosted by Archbishop Demetrios and the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle.

The event was held at the Four Seasons Bosphorus hotel in Istanbul.

Among those attending were Patriarchs Irinej of Serbia and Ilia II of Georgia, Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana and All Albania, U.S. Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, Istanbul Mayor Kadir Topbas, Governor of Istanbul Huseyin Avni Mutlu, and representatives of the Orthodox Churches, hierarchs of the Throne from Europe, the United States, Crete and the Greek Dodecanese, and many other countries.

In his welcoming remarks, Archons National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, noted "The 20-year Patriarchal Ministry of His All-Holiness is one of a few unparalleled diakonias in the 1,700 year history of the Sacred See of St. Andrew not only in terms of longevity, for His All-Holiness is one of only nine Ecumenical Patriarchs who have served for more than 20 years, but more importantly in substantive accomplishment.

"What Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has achieved by the Grace of God, in the last two decades under the



Photo by DIMITRIOS PANAGOS

Several children greet His All Holiness with flower bouquets at the anniversary celebration.

most difficult circumstances, is nothing short of extraordinary.

"From an ecclesiastical standpoint, he has pioneered breakthrough initia-

tives such as the luminary sessions of the Synaxis of the heads of all Autocephalous Churches, the biennial Synaxis of the Hierarchs of the Great Church of Christ, the International Clergy–Laity Congresses and International Youth Conferences."

Dr. Limberakis reviewed the Ecumenical Patriarch's accomplishments from a global perspective, ecumenical, Inter-Orthodox, political ecological and social perspectives.

"All of this has taken place under the most difficult political, social and financial conditions. Despite recent positive steps to improve the religious freedom of our Ecumenical Patriarchate, the forcibly closed Halki Theological School, which this year we are commemorating an ignoble 40-year anniversary of its closure, stands as a powerful reminder of the circumstances within which our own spiritual leader must serve and function," Dr. Limberakis said.

"His remarkable Patriarchal Ministry of Diakonia through Martyria serves as a worldwide example par excellence to inspire, encourage and strengthen all men and women of goodwill."

In his remarks at the banquet, Patriarch Bartholomew noted that with the grace of God, the last 20 years have been filled with numerous and diverse blessings for all of us and for our Church throughout the world. Unexpected and



# Bishop Savas of Troas Elected Metropolitan of Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH – Metropolitan Savas, formerly Bishop Savas of Troas, was elected by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople on Nov. 3 to succeed Metropolitan Maximos, who retired on Sept. 1.

He was chosen for the see of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh from a list of three candidates whose names were submitted to the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate by the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Archdiocese.

Metropolitan Savas is a native of Gary, Ind., the second of six children of Skevos and Stamatia (Georgiades) Zembillas of Kalymnian and Cypriot ancestry. He is a graduate of Andrean High School, Gary, Ind. (1975), Colby College, Waterville, Maine (1979, BA in philosophy and English Literature) and Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Mass. (1984, M.Div. with highest honors).

He served as the pastoral assistant at Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas in Cincinnati, Ohio from 1985-87 before resuming his academic studies at Oxford University, England, from 1987 until 1994, under the supervision of then Bishop Kallistos (Ware) of Diokleia, researching texts and

persons of spiritual significance for the history of early Byzantine monasticism.

He was ordained to the diaconate on Nov. 21, 1992, and to the priesthood on Jan. 8, 1995; on both occasions by Bishop (now Metropolitan) Iakovos of Chicago, at his home parish of Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Merrillville, Ind.

During the two-year interim between ordinations, he served as deacon to Bishop Kallistos.

Upon his return to the United States in September 1995, he was appointed as proistamenos of Annunciation Church in Kalamazoo Mich. He was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite on Nov. 12, 1996, by Bishop Maximos of Pittsburgh. In September 1997, Archbishop Spyridon of America assigned Archimandrite Savas to St. Demetrios Church in Merrick, N.Y., where he served until December 1999 when Archbishop Demetrios appointed his former student as chancellor of the Archdiocese, a position he held for 10 years. On Dec. 11, 2001, he was elected an auxiliary bishop to Archbishop Demetrios by the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and given the title "Bishop of Troas.



ORTHODOX OBSERVER PHOTO

Sunday School students of St. Demetrios Church in Merrick, N.Y., welcome Bishop Savas for the Vespers service of St. Demetrios on Oct. 25, where he also celebrated the Divine Liturgy the following day.

Bishop Savas served as the chancellor until 2009, when he was named director of the Archdiocesan Office of Church, Society and Culture

Newly elected Metropolitan Savas will be formally enthroned as head of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh at 4p.m., Thursday, Dec. 8 at St. Nicholas Cathedral, 419 D. Dithridge St. Following the enthronement service on Dec. 8, a reception will take place at the cathedral hall.

The Metropolitan traveled to the Ecumenical Patriarchate on Nov. 14-15 for the reading of the Official Announcement of Election (Mega Minima).



### **Oratorical Festival** to Take Place in June

BETHESDA, Md. - The 2012 Archdiocese Oratorical Festival will be hosted by the Metropolis of New Jersey and take place at the St. George Church June 8-10. Co-chairpersons of the host committee are Fr. Dimitrios and Presbytera Maria Antokas. Fr. John and Presbytera Margaret Orfanakos, Archdiocese co-chairpersons of the Oratorical Festival, recently met with the host committee to discuss the events for the weekend.

The committee members are excitedly looking forward to the festivities and have already reserved rooms at the Marriott Suites, where the finalists and their families will be staying. As plans for the weekend were discussed different ideas included what sites in our nation's capital will be visited after the presentation of the speeches and the award ceremony.

Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, and Dr. Anton C. Vrame, the Department of Religious Education director, will also attend the Oratorical Festival, now in its 29th year.

The 2012 Oratorical Festival topics

Every year the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides young people from grades 7-12 the opportunity to research and prepare a speech on a topic relating to the Orthodox Faith and to deliver it before an audience. Topics for St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival 2012 are:

#### Junior Division (Grades 7–9)

1. Many times in the New Testament. we see Jesus caring about the blind, the paralyzed, and others with physical disabilities (for example, Matthew 9:2 and

#### **CORRECTION**

The correct dateline for St. Katherine's Church is Redondo Beach, Calif., not Camarillo as indicated in an article in the October issue.

### **To Contact Us**

For questions about submitting information/news to the Orthodox Observer: Jim Golding, 212.570.3557, jim@goarch.org Advertising & Greek sections, Lefteris Pissalidis, 212.570.3555, lefteris@goarch.org.

#### **NEXT DEADLINE**

Deadline for submitting information, articles and photos for consideration for the December 2011 issue: Mon., Nov. 21.

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

Members of the 2012 Oratorical Festival Committee in Bethesda, Md.

are listed below and are on the web-site of the Department of Religious Education at www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/ religioused. The Archdiocese Oratorical Festival weekend is months away and each metropolis must select district and metropolis chairpersons and dates for each event.

Once this information is received, it

will be posted on the web-site of the Department of Religious Education.

The next step is to encourage more parishes to include the Oratorical Festival in their ministries. Parish size is not the determining factor in holding an Oratorical Festival. Even very small parishes were among the 226 participating in 2011.

### **Oratorical Festival Topics Announced**

9:27-29). Following Christ's footsteps, discuss the Christian attitude toward disabled people.

2. Discuss the lives of Sts. Cyril and Methodios and their missionary work. How can we follow their example by responding to Christ's commandment to "go forth"? (Matthew 28:19)

3. In the Old Testament, we see many stories involving disagreements among siblings. What can families learn from these stories today?

4. Discuss one of the following Great Feasts of the Church. How has this feast become important to you and your family?

- Pascha (the Feast of Feasts)
- The Twelve Great Feasts:
- · Nativity of the Theotokos
- Annunciation of the Theotokos • Elevation of the Holy Cross
- Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem
- Presentation of the Theotokos Ascension of the Lord
- Nativity of the Lord
- Pentecost
- Theophany
- Transfiguration of the Lord
- Presentation of the Lord
- Dormition of the Theotokos

5. In our day, when people's lives have become more and more focused with events, how might we reclaim our understanding of Sunday (the Sabbath) as a day of rest and honoring the Lord?

#### Senior Division (Grades 10–12)

1. In Leviticus 19:33, we read, "And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him." Immigration has always been a source of growth and change in American society. What should be the attitude of an Orthodox Christian toward immigration and immigrants?

2. Discuss the prayers and Biblical references of the Sacrament of Holy Unction in the Orthodox Church (James 5:14-15). What does the sacrament tell us about faith, healing, and our relationship with God?

3. In Matthew 18:21-22, Jesus tells Peter that one should forgive one's brother not just seven times but "seventy times

Discuss how and why we should forgive wrongdoers, even when something within us cries out for justice—especially if we're the injured party.

4. Discuss the famous speech of St. Paul in Athens (Acts of the Apostles 17:22-31). Why is the speech meaningful, and what is its relevance for others today?

5. Stress and anxiety seem to be inevitable nowadays, in our every relationship and activity.

How are we as Christians supposed to act in times of worry and uncertainty?

You can also find the topics, topic tips, and bibliography at: www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religioused.

### Change of Address

To submit a change of address: By phone contact Soula Podaras at 212.774.0235 - e-mail: spodaras@goarch.org - fax: 212.774.0239. Or regular mail to: Orthodox Observer, 8 E. 79<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10075. Be sure to include old address, new address and name of parish.

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### **Scholarship Awards Given** for 2011-12 Academic Year

The Archdiocese Scholarship Committee has announced the winners from three scholarship programs for the current academic year (2011-12).

The George and Naouma Gioles Scholarship Fund, established in 1997 with a generous gift from Marian Gioles in memory of her beloved parents, honors their commitment to the Orthodox Faith, their love of Hellenic heritage, and their desire to help youth who are orphaned or in need.

Scholarships are awarded annually to Greek Orthodox students committed to serious study in undergraduate programs at accredited colleges or universities in the US. Each year, one scholarship is also given to a student pursuing studies in journalism. This year it went to Zachary Bobst (Timonium, Md.). Scholarships were also awarded to the following: Jonathan Heyward (Charleston, S.C.), Mary Krontiris (Brooklyn, N.Y.), Kyra Tabak (New Middletown, Ohio) and Mina Zissopoulos (Astoria, NY).

The Katina John Malta Scholarship Fund was established in 2002 through a generous gift from the estate of Katina John Malta, in recognition of the love she had for the Church and to honor her desire to help others, especially children and youth of the Orthodox Christian Faith. The scholarship is open to students from all jurisdictions of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America, reflecting the Pan-Orthodox nature of this program.

This year, Timothy Cremeens from the Albanian Orthodox Church and Linda Laham and Melissa Likiardopoulos, both from the Antiochian Orthodox Church, were awarded scholarships.

From the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, the following received scholarships: Christina Aicklen (Dunwoody, Ga.), Margot Aicklen (Dunwoody, Ga..), Anthony Argires (Palos Hills, Ill.), Eleftheria Avdelas (Canton, Ohio), Zachary Bobst (Timonium, Md.), Stelanie Chirgott (Aliquippa, Pa.), Maria Christakis (St. Louis, Mo.), Chloe Fleming (Sunapee, N.H.), Gabriella Gallo (Brecksville, Ohio), Stergios Gatzoflias (East Meadow, N.Y.), Jonathan Heyward (Charleston, S.C.), Eftihia Kaparos (Tenafly, N.J.), Mary Krontiris (Brooklyn, N.Y.), Anastasia Nicoloudakis (Reading, Pa.), Athena Papaporfiriou (Manhasset, N.Y.), Eugenia Skapetsos (Edgewater Park, N.J.), Kelly Sklavounos (North Canton, Ohio), Samuel Sullivan (Willow Springs, Ill.), Kyra Tabak (New Middletown, Ohio), Despina Victory (Elmhurst, NY), and Mina Zissopoulos (As-

Awards were also granted from the Paleologos Graduate Scholarship Fund. This fund assists students enrolled in graduate studies leading to advanced degrees in academic fields other than theology. This award is open to students from jurisdictions affiliated with the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America. The Archdiocese recipients of the 2011-2012 Paleologos Graduate Scholarships are: Deena Alex (Bay Village, Ohio), Rebecca Chohlas-Wood (Seattle), Sydney Freedman (Scottsdale, Ariz.), Thomas Hatzilabrou (St. Charles, Ill.), Athanasios Kokkalas (Bronx, N.Y.), Alexandra LaMela (Haverhill, Mass.), Dimitra Lotakis (Seattle), Danae Roumis (Stoughton, Mass.) and Demetra Sourlis (Timonium, Md.).

Scholarship winners from other Orthodox jurisdictions were: Timothy Carroll (Costa Mesa, Calif., Antiochian Orthodox) and Stephan Millik (Youngstown, Ohio, Carpatho-Russian Orthodox).

All three scholarships will again be awarded for the 2012-13 academic year. Applications and guidelines will be available by the end of January on the Archdiocese website (www.goarch.org) or by contacting the Archdiocese.

### New Ionian Village **Director Named**

NEW YORK - Archbishop Demetrios appointed Deacon Evagoras C. Constantinides as the new director of Ionian Village in early November. Deacon Evagoras, who will also continue to serve as the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the Direct Archdiocesan District, will oversee the continuation and expansion of the Ionian Village program which has served thousands of young Orthodox Christians over the past 40 years.

Deacon Evagoras, who will be ordained to the priesthood on Nov. 20, grew up outside of Chicago. He lived in Bethesda, Md., prior to attending Holy Cross School of Theology. He has extensive experience in the fields of youth and camping ministries, having served camps and conducting retreats across the country. Prior to entering the seminary, Deacon Evagoras served as a counselor at Fanari Camp in Chicago.

He also served Camp St. Paul, the Direct Archdiocesan District camping ministry, as both boys' director and program director. Additionally, Deacon Evagoras served as program director at Summer Fenn Day Camp, an eight-week day camp for children ages 5-15 in Concord, Mass.

He has participated in the Ionian Village program several times as a camper and was a staff member for three years. He plans to continue the rich Ionian Village tradition of discovering Greece and living

Deacon Evagoras holds a degree in communication studies from Monmouth College in Monmouth, Ill., and a Master of Divinity from Holy Cross School of Theology. He was ordained to the diaconate in December 2009 by Bishop Andonios of Phasiane and will be ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Demetrios at St. Nicholas Church, in Flushing, NY.

His wife Maria (Calender), of Bethesda, has also participated in Ionian Village as a camper and served as staff member for multiple summers. He is the son of Fr. Christopher and Presbytera Angie Constantinides of Holy Trinity in Dallas and the grandson of Fr. Evagoras Constantinides of Merrillville, Ind.

### **Bishop Savas of Troas Elected Metropolitan of Pittsburgh**

from page 1

On Dec. 9, Metropolitan Savas will celebrate the Divine Liturgy of the Conception of St. Anna of the Theotokos with orthros beginning at 9 a.m. at the cathedral. A brunch will follow in the cathedral hall



The cathedral seats about 500 and parking is limited.

Plans call for videotaping and live-streaming of both services on the Archdiocese and Metropolis of Pittsburgh websites. (www.goarch.org and www.pittsburgh.goarch.org. For more information, contact the Metropolis of Pittsburgh at 412.621.5529.



Archbishop Demetrios chats with students at a reception following his presentation.

### **Archbishop Delivers Lecture at Yale**

by Stavros H. Papagermanos

NEW HAVEN, Conn. - "Orthodoxy: An Unlimited Expression" was the topic of a lecture presented by Archbishop Demetrios Nov. 9 at Yale University's Marquand

Archbishop Demetrios was invited by Yale Divinity School to present this lecture at the start of a conference titled "Looking East: A Window on the Eastern Christian Traditions of Epiphany" and the art exhibition "People, Piety, and Sacred Power in the Eastern Mediterranean.'

His Eminence was welcomed and introduced by Yale Divinity School Dean Dr. Harold W. Attridge. In his engaging lecture the Archbishop presented the many contributions of Orthodoxy to the World and to people of faith throughout the centuries.

These included expressions in the

fields of language, literature, hymnology, philosophical thought and language, the arts as in iconography, embroidery, architecture, music and even in the dramatic arts.

Archbishop Demetrios also documented Orthodoxy's offerings and expressions in the development of social institutions, the advancement of philanthropic works and ideals and the promotion of education. He said that Orthodoxy offers many unlimited expressions, but it is in itself an unlimited expression which is making the material spiritual and thus is declaring the Glory of God.

The lecture was attended by Yale faculty members, students, clergymen and many faithful who had come for this event. It was broadcasted live in the Internet and is available for viewing as an archive at http://divinity.yale.edu/orthodoxyunlimited-expression.

### An Invitation to HCHC Alumni

As part of the 75th anniversary commemoration of Holy Cross School of Theology, the Orthodox Observer invites alumni of the School to submit a brief article (250-300 words) of a memorable experience (anecdotal, poignant or other personal remembrance) of your vears at the seminary. It may focus on a particular classroom experience, other topic of your choice. Articles will appear in each issue through the culmination of the anniversary in May 2013.

Please include your name, year of graduation and current position.

They may be submitted by email to the Observer (jim@goarch. org, or observer@goarch.org)

### **CLERGY UPDATE**

Ordinations to the Diaconate Demetrios Kazakis - Archbishop Demetrios of America - Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church, Brooklyn, NY - 7/30/11 Athanasios Sharpley - Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver - Holy Trinity Church, Dallas

Ordinations to the Priesthood Deacon John Haby - Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit - Assumption Church, Springfield, Ohio - 8/27/11 Deacon Haralambos Spaliatsos – Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver - Holy Trinity Church, Dallas – 9/11/11 Deacon Athanasios Papagiannis- Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago – Assumption

Church, Chicago - 9/18/11

#### Assignments

Fr. John Haby - Assumption Church. Springfield, Ohio – 8/27/11 Fr. Nicholas Bekris – Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco – 10/01/11Fr. Luke Palumbis – Nativity of Christ Church, Novato, Calif. – 10/01/11V. Rev. Fr. Grigorios Tatsis - Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Orleans - 10/01/11 Offikia

Fr. Thomas Newlin - Office of Confessor, bestowed by Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta - 8/14/11

Fr. Thomas Guerry - Office of Economos, bestowed by Metropolitan Alexios

**Sabbaticals** 

Fr. Michael Kontos - 9/19/11

### ENCYCLICAL

### Thanksgiving Day

I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving. (Psalm 69:30)

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

#### **Beloved Brothers** and Sisters in Christ,

On this blessed day of Thanksgiving, we are encouraged in the tradition of this great national holiday to be thankful to God for His presence in our lives and His abundant gifts to us. As Orthodox Christians this gratefulness to God is something we share with all who celebrate this day. It is also an attitude and manner of life that is presented in our worship and in our relationships with others

Our first calling as Christians is to respond to the grace of God through worship and communion with Him. We sing hymns of praise and thanksgiving, offering honor and glory to our Creator and Sustainer. We celebrate and receive the Holy Eucharist, a divine mystery of worship and faith that unites us with Christ and fills our hearts with joy. We also show our thankfulness to God by responding to His call to service. We give our time, abilities, and resources for the sacred work of His kingdom and for the needs of others.

This spiritual fruit of thanksgiving which is produced from grateful hearts can have a tremendous impact. Words of gratitude can bring joy and fulfillment into the life of another person. Kindness and respect through acts of thankfulness can affirm human value and dignity and instill hope that care and compassion remain essential qualities of life. An attitude of thanksgiving even in the midst of challenging circumstances can be the strength for another and a witness of the power and grace of God.

This is a vital connection of faith to life. Does the thanksgiving you offer to God become attitudes of gratefulness and joy in all areas of your life? Are you thankful to Him through your kindness and gratitude toward others? Is your life a witness of thanksgiving, bringing blessings and strength to others? These are questions to consider on this holiday as we affirm the spiritual character of this day and the priority of thanksgiving in our Christian lives.

May you and your families have a beautiful and blessed Thanksgiving Day, filled with joy and fellowship in the presence of God. As you gather in homes, as you share in meals, and as you offer time in serving others, may you praise His name with songs and magnify Him with thanksgiving!

With paternal love in Christ,

† DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America

## **Celebrating 20 Years**

from page 1

unimagined gifts have been showered upon the Great Church of Christ and its faithful children, the Patriarch said, and added that "on his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the late Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras—who was affectionately known as 'the Patriarch from America'—noted: '20 years in this ministry are neither many nor few. They are few before eternity; but they are many when one conscientiously labors to achieve something.'"

"In our preface to the *Imerologion* for this past year, we wrote the following: In looking back at the two decades of our Patriarchal ministry, we behold

days of joy, but also days of sorrow; days of light, but also days of darkness; days of glory, but also days of bitterness; days of excitement and optimism, but also days of anxiety and disappointment. With the grace of God, we neither lost our footing as a result of pride nor were crushed by the pressure, but endeavored, as much as humanly possible, 'as servants of God commending ourselves in every way: through great endurance, a filliction, hardship sleepless nights with the weapons of righteousness.' (2 Cor. 6.4-10)

"In many ways, the last two decades reflect the story of the Mother Church of Constantinople through the centuries."



Photo by DIMITRIOS PANAGOS



Photo by DIMITRIOS PANAGO



Photo by DIMITRIOS PANAGOS



Photo by DIMITRIOS PANAGOS



Photo by DIMITRIOS PANAGOS

(Clockwise from top-right)

Archons National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis presents Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with a mantel clock, a gift from the Order of St. Andrew.

(center right)

Members of the Holy Synod of the Archdiocese and various lay representatives including Leadership 100 Chairman Gus Caras (front, standing), Archons and others attend the service honoring the Ecumenical Patriarch.

(above right)

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of teh Archdiocese.

(left)

The Ecumenical Patriarch receives greetings from AHEPA Supreme President Dr. John Grossomanides Jr. Also shown are National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas, Fr. Alex Karloutsos and Archon's National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis.

(center left)

 $\label{lem:commutation} Ecumenical Patriarch and other hierarchs and clergy including the Patriarch of Serbia and Archbishops Demetrios and Anastasios of Albania at the Divine Liturgy.$ 

(top left)

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew prepares to cut the commemorative cake at the celebration.



**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER** 

### **OCMC Board Holds Fall Meeting**

by OCMC Communications Staff

PARMA, Ohio – Led by board President Fr. George Liacopulos, Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) trustees from across the country held their annual fall meeting Oct. 10-12 at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, hosted by Metropolitan Constantine, Fr. John Nakonachny, Fr. Michael Hontaruk, Deacon Ihor Mahlay, and the faithful of the cathedral.

Also attending was Bishop Savas of Troas (now Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh) who had been serving as a liaison between OCMC and the recently formed Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America.

At the meeting, missionaries serving in Albania, Moldova, Romania, and Tanzania reviewed their progress. Stories of the Church's rapid expansion among the Turkana of northern Kenya were shared as well as the potential opportunities for sharing the Faith in Mongolia.

OCMC ministries are increasingly working to welcome non-Christian peoples into the Body of Christ. This focus has been a driving force behind the Mission Center's recent strategic planning process. The work that has been done thus far on the strategic plan was approved by the board. The new strategic plan is aimed at emphasizing the importance of bringing

people to the Faith, establishing church communities in parts of the world where they may not yet exist, and helping these communities to mature into self-sustaining, self-governing, and self-propagating parishes.

A reception took place Oct. 11 at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Rocky River, Ohio, organized by Dn. Ihor and Fr. James Doukas, to broaden awareness of, and support for, Orthodox missions and the work of the OCMC. During the banquet mission team member to Alaska Alexis Steffas, OCMC board member John Colis and his wife Carrie who recently served in Tanzania, and OCMC Executive Director Fr. Martin Ritsi shared their experiences from the mission field and highlighted the importance of missions in the world. The evening's festivities ended with some closing remarks from Bishop Savas who, following his recent trip with OCMC to Kenya, underscored the profound impact that missions can have in the lives of others.

The next board meeting will be in May 2012 at Mission Center headquarters in St. Augustine, Fla.

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) is the official missions agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America dedicated to fulfilling Christ's last command to make disciples of all nations.

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Baltimore, MD 21298-9242 USA Toll-free donation hotline: (877) 803-IOCC (4622)

### **Orthodox Family Mission Team**

by Center for Family Care staff

"... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him" (John 14:23)

This past July, a unique groundbreaking international Orthodox Christian missionary effort took place—the first Family Mission Team traveled to Albania. The team was a collaboration between the Archdiocese Center for Family Care (CFC) and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC), and part of a new family ministry intitative of the Orthodox Church of Albania. Families from North America along with Albanian families participated in "One Family in Christ" Family Camp led by CFC Resource Coordinator Panayiotis Sakellariou, and by OCMC short- and long-term missionaries.

The purpose of sending the Family Team was to offer a "family witness"—while sharing the Orthodox faith and growing as a family in Christ—and to answer the call of the Church of Albania to begin its own family ministry. Albanian leaders now plan to build on this camp experience and the family resources that were provided to them, to create a strong foundation for family ministry in Albania.

Team leader Panayiotis Sakellariou said, "We thank God for providing on behalf of all the families and for granting success to our camp efforts. We are also very grateful for everyone's support and prayers. We hope and pray this first Family Mission Team will be the beginning of an ongoing missions endeavor that gives families the opportunity to share their love of God and of neighbor, and to grow in their faith."

"One Family in Christ" Family Camp consisted of a total of 65 participants, 12 of which were Family Team members from America. Specifically, there were 39 adults and 27 children of various ages.

The camp included parent, couple and children programs; family activities and Olympics; outreach endeavors and local excursions. In particular, team members presented on the following topics: Church of the Home, Child Spiritual Development, Parenting Skills, Social Networking, the Journey of Marriage, and Family Ministry.

For further information on this mission team or the involved agencies contact the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Center for Family Care at 845-424-8175 or family-care@goarch.org, or Orthodox Christian Mission Center at 877-463-6784 or missions@ocmc.org.



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ORTHODOX OBSERVER \_\_\_\_\_\_ NOVEMBER 2011

# Save the Date July 1 - 5, 2012



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PHOENIX, AZ

More information to come in future issues of the Orthodox Observer!



«The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth» (Jennie A. Brownscombe 1914).

### It's a Wonder-Filled World!

by Fr. Mark Sietsema

I had a lousy Monday last November. My computer went haywire and needed professional attention. The bank made an accounting error and I lost three whole hours straightening it out. My planned workday was shot, so I got home while there was still daylight. Since the weather was unusually nice, I opted to go to the grocery store on my bike, probably for the last time that year.

It was a lovely ride ... which turned into a lovely walk after I got a flat tire! But just as I reached the final stretch before my house, something stopped me in my tracks. On one side of my street is a line of eight or nine very tall trees. And up in those trees, lining every single branch, were birds.

I don't know what kind of birds they were, but they were noisy! In fact, they would have been deafening, had the trees not been so tall. Nothing I can say will convey to you the experience of that enormous flock of birds. It made me think of the old reports about the now-extinct passenger pigeons, how a single flock could darken the sky.

Sure, it wasn't the Grand Canyon, but it was an awe-inspiring sight, literally in my own backyard. And in that moment, when I took in the grandeur of that innumerable flock of birds, a feeling arose in my heart. Gratitude. I was simply grateful to God that I was there at that place, at that time, to take in the splendor of His creation.

The squirrels gathering their acorns didn't seem to notice the birds. A neighbor was walking his dog: the man looked up and marveled, but the dog was more interested in the smells around the mailbox. It is something unique to the human race - this sense of wonder. I have never seen a housecat transfixed by a sunset or a raccoon who looked up at the night sky in amazement. These are purely human experiences, unique gifts of the heavenly Father to His children.

The birds didn't fix my computer, correct the bank error, or patch a leaky tire. But they did make me-for one wonderful moment-intensely thankful, despite those little troubles. And in that wonder-filled moment, I was also intensely happy.

On later reflection, that thankfulness turned into an even deeper gratitude. For I realized, that if I had not suffered a flat tire, I would have zipped right by that stretch of trees with helmet on and the wind in my ears and my eyes on the road. I would have missed the birds.

And I also realized that I would not have even been there at all, except my day was derailed by problems at the office and the bank. The bike ride happened just because my precious plans went up in smoke. And so, because of those mishaps, not despite them, I experienced a moment of wonder and joy. And so I was grateful. Those Monday mishaps slowed me down. Because of the enforced pause in my life, suddenly there was a little room for a moment of wonder, of amazement.

Socrates is recorded as having said that to thaumazein (to look with the sense of wonder) is the beginning of philosophy. I think he was right. And this sense of wonder is also the beginning of thanksgiving.

It is that sense of wonder around the Thanksgiving table at how plants can grow out of the dust of the earth and produce vegetables and fruits for us to eat and enjoy. It is that sense of wonder in our families at how our children come from us and are a part of us and are so much like us, and yet so different. It is that sense of wonder in our marriages and friendships that this other person could be so committed to us and love us, despite knowing us so well. And from this sense of wonder arises thanksgiving.

But if wonder gives birth to thanksgiving, then there is something that gives birth to wonder. And that something is quietness.

Rest, cessation of labor, a pause from the busyness of life. This is the soil in which moments of wonder grow. If the nose is forever at the grindstone, the eyes will never see the stars. "Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy," says the Lord. It is for our sake that this commandment was given. We need Sabbath-time in order to put aside the cares of life, our work, our hobbies, our daily pursuits, if we are to cultivate that sense of wonder.

We Americans have so much, and so much to be thankful for. And yet study after study concludes that we are not a happy people (even before the Great Recession). Indeed, we are less happy now than in the 1950s, when homes were smaller and budgets tighter and opportunities fewer in every way. And yet, as our wealth has increased, so has the frenetic pace of our lives. And in the dawn to dusk run on the hamster wheel of modern life, the scramble to multi-task, to keep pace with technology and media ... something is lost. Moments of peace, quietude, serenity and wordless wonder--when we lose a sense of sabbath, we lose wonder. And losing wonder, we lose gratitude. And losing gratitude, we lose happiness. And so the richest, most comfortable society in the history of humankind is also the one most in need of anti-depressants and anxiety pills.

Coca-Cola used to have the slogan, "The Pause that Refreshes." I believe that there is such a pause, and I also believe that soda pop is not it. When life's problems slow you down, then you should pay attention: a God-given moment of wonder may be just around the corner. "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you!" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). On this Thanksgiving weekend 2011, please thank the Lord with me even for life's "speed bumps" - for computer problems and bankers' bungling and flat tires ... and flocks of tiny birds that fill the air with song and our hearts with joy.

Fr. Sietsema is pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Lansing, Mich.

# The Voice of Philoptochos

### Campaign for Center Continues

National Philoptochos launched its Phase II Media Campaign for the Center of Philanthropy in September with the release of the first of two videos: "Open the Doors" available on You Tube, www.goarch.org and www.philoptochos.org.

National President Aphrodite Skeadas urges all chapters and members to share the video with friends and family on Facebook or other media. Support for the Center of Philanthropy will enable Philoptochos to expand its philanthropic outreach and important services to the underprivileged, enhance social services, and provide more services to benefit the chapters and members. The center will also serve as the permanent home of the Philoptochos archives.

For information and to receive a donation form, contact National Philoptochos at *Philosny@aol.com*.



### Assembly Views Keynote Address through Skype

CHAMPAIGN, III.— In addition to hearing a live video conference address from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at opening ceremonies of the Metropolis of Chicago Clergy—Laity and Philoptochos Assembly in October, participants also viewed Deacon John Chryssavgis of the Ecumenical Patriarchate deliver a keynote address through Skype.

Deacon Chryssavgis, a noted author and theologian, has taught theology and authored several major studies. His address to the combined Metropolis Clergy–Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Conference focused on the ecumenical ministry of the Mother Church, with special attention to the two-decade tenure of Patriarch Bartholomew.

Noting the many changes in the global situation, Deacon Chryssavgis said that His All Holiness' many initiatives, from focusing on greater Pan-Orthodox unity to environmental issues, were rooted in the historic concerns of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Against claims by those who view such innovations as counter to unity among Orthodox Churches, the theologian stated, "Over the past twenty years, His All-Holiness has been carving and shaping the events leading to Orthodox unity today."

The process, he noted, is slow and one that brings criticism. Yet His All-Holiness has been "way ahead of his time" and has been forging new ground not seen since the 7th Ecumenical Council in 787.

The deacon's address is available on the Metropolis of Chicago website (www.chicago.goarch.org).



New metropolis board members with Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, Fr. James Adams (then chancellor) and Deacon Niko Bekris.

### San Francisco Metropolis Holds Fall Conference

DUNLAP, Calif. – The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos' fall spiritual conference took place Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center. The program included guest speakers and the election of new officers.

Keynote speaker was Presbytera Pat Tsagalakis of Holy Apostles Church in Shoreline, Wash., who spoke on "Balance: the Art of Giving and Receiving" – Reflections on Saints Mary and Martha. Her theme addressed the challenge Orthodox Christian Women face to find balance in their lives. Attendees also heard from Paulette Geanacopoulos, National Philoptochos Social Services director, who discussed the role of social services in philanthropy at the national, metropolis and chapter level.

Metropolis Philoptochos members also viewed the new video, "Help Philoptochos Open the Doors" to promote the new Center of Philanthropy Campaign. Newly elected are: Mary Lofton (as-

Newly elected are: Mary Lofton (assistant treasurer), Lisa Xanthos (recording

secretary), Diana Jianas (treasurer), Valerie Roumeliotes (past president), Jeannie Ranglas (president), Agatha Felactu (1st vice president), Mari Lou Diamond (corresponding secretary); Michele Genetos (2nd vice president); Voula Dodd, Emilie John, Elaine Wright, Elaine Kanellos, Connie Ralph, Sophie Mastor, Dora Hart, Patricia Aleck, Mary Peros, Genie Kontos, Kathy Gabriel, Judie Christopoulos, Gloria Vincent, Presvytera Evelyn Adams, Frances Bissias, Tula Gallanes and Christine Peratis.



Participants from St. Barbara Church at the recent 'Walk to End Alzheimer's event in New Jersey.

### NJ Chapters Walk for Alzheimer's

TOMS RIVER, N.J. --The Philoptochos and GOYA alumni of St. Barbara Church, raised more than \$5,000 for the Alzheimer's Association in the "Walk to End Alzheimer's" on Sept. 24 in Point Pleasant, N.J. St. Barbara's participation was under the Metropolis Philoptochos Chapter

Challenge, "Shine A Light" project initiated by St. George chapter in Asbury, N.J.

The combined St. Barbara, St. George, and Kimisis tis Theotokou of Holmdel chapters, will continue to raise awareness and help the cause of Alzheimer's disease by holding more events during the year.

### Medical Fund Luncheon to Feature Youth Concert

GREENWICH, Conn. -- The 2011 Children's Medical Fund Luncheon will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Hyatt Regency in Old Greenwich under the theme "For the Health and Well-Being of Children."

Support of the luncheon makes it possible for the Philoptochos to offer financial assistance to hospitals and special children's medical programs nationally. The Children's Medical Fund has made a positive difference in children's lives in the United States and Ethiopia through donations of about \$2.2 million to medical programs and facilities that offer care, treatment, innovative research and cures. National Philoptochos also provides vital support for critically ill children whose families are unable to afford appropriate and necessary medical treatment as well as ongoing assistance to medically fragile children.

National President Aphrodite Skeadas and luncheon Chairman Maria Skiadas have announced that Andrea Tantaros, Fox News political commentator, will serve as the emcee. The Archdiocesan Youth Choir, which has preformed throughout the world, will present a musical performance.

To become a luncheon sponsor or for more information, call co-chairs Stella Fiorentino at 516.496.8242 or Lily Katos at 347.542.3014. For hotel reservations, contact the Hyatt Regency-Greenwich at 1.888.421.1442 and request the National Philoptochos block.

### **Commentaries and Reflections**

# **For God and Country**

by Rev. Dr. Nicholas Verdaris

Recently an editorial in a British newspaper explored the impact of 9/11 on America and concluded that this country's optimistic spirit was extinguished as we watched nearly 3,000 of our citizens perish at the hands of Islamic fanatics.

The author argued that the same people, for whom the moon was not a horizon too far, have now been convinced that clouds of gloom will overshadow all of our tomorrows. The idea being that this dark new direction in the American psyche is the direct result of the actions of a handful of terrorists. Such a proposition is perhaps a bit too simplistic and we would do well to reconsider what really gave this country a sense of optimism and why it now seems so elusive.

There is plenty of evidence to show it was not the terrorists that succeeded in changing the spirit of this land.

Instead, it is a citizenry that gradually lost sight of this country's true history and developed confused personal priorities.

From a historical perspective, no matter how much the politically correct crowd may howl, this nation was founded on Christian principles and with a profoundly religious perspective (The American "public school" system was initiated to enable young people read the Bible and thereby become noble citizens.)

Faith in the Lord led pilgrims to make the treacherous trip to the New World, and led a rag-tag group of founding fathers to risk life, limb and livelihood to stand up to an empire and create a new country.

Faith in God enabled settlers to cross uncharted plains, hills, mountains and deserts in order to forge a better way of life. It enabled this country to forsake the scourge of slavery, and it led this nation to oppose the evils of nazism and communism.

What makes this country stand out as a beacon of hope is that for nearly 200 years most Americans individually believed in God and tried to live according to His Divine precepts.

It was an active faith in the Lord that led this country's citizens to believe that good was always possible and that every setback could be overcome.



#### ► Appreciates article ◀

I thank my dear friend and colleague Andy Manatos for his thoughtfulness in writing the article appearing in the October issue of the Observer.

It will be 15 years in January that hellenicare has been providing health care and humanitarian services. We have served more than 2.8 million people since 1997 and delivered more than \$158 million of aid to our fellow Hellenes and their neighbors in the former Soviet Republics and the Republic of Albania

In establishing hellenicare, I have only responded to our Lord's calling to serve "the least of our brethren."

We are thankful for the support we have received.

Andrew A. Athens President and Founder, hellenicare



The pessimism of the modern age is not rooted to specific events, no matter how horrific, but comes from a population that increasingly lacks faith.

The current marginalization and outright hostility towards Christianity in American society directly produces the bitter fruits of fear and cynicism. While not everyone in America is an Orthodox Christian, for the better part of its history this country has consisted of men and women who looked to the future through the prism of John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world, that He sent His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

This is the only way to explain how people from every corner of the earth could leave everything behind and find happiness here, and how this nation has found its way through revolution, civil war, economic depressions, world wars and the vastness of space while maintaining a measure of hope and optimism.

Faith in Christ gives mortals the courage to face powerful obstacles. Faith in Christ also gives people confidence to navigate through the fierce storms of life and enables people to do the impossible.

Terrorism has not changed this country; the economy is not eating away at the psyche of the nation. The increasing number of men and women who have stopped looking to God is changing the American spirit. Too many of our fellow Americans do not know or even consider the magnificence of John 3:17: "For God sent the Son into the world, NOT to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

Without faith in God, evil grows in strength, problems seem insurmountable and hope sounds like a fairy-tale.

Collectively, our country has lost its confidence because too many of our countrymen refuse to bend their knees before the living God. Case in point, the 10th anniversary commemorations of 9-11 at ground zero explicitly banned the participation of any religious leaders.

St. Nicholas Church was crushed by the falling Twin Towers and, until recently, was dismissed as a minor detail by public officials. These are not outside forces at work; this is the handiwork of our fellow Americans.

Orthodox Christian citizens must teach the world that the greatest strength

in heaven and on earth does not come from mortals, but from Christ our God.

True optimism is rooted to Christ and flourishes within His Church. We must make it clear that we are not slaves to the ebb-and-flow of popular culture or unfolding events. We are free men and women who can make a difference - not by government mandate, but because God is our master and we serve His only begotten Son!

Because Christ is the light of our life, we alone can genuinely see hope amidst the storm clouds. Because we are cross bearers, Christ has commissioned us to help friends, neighbors and strangers alike to find God and His Church.

Such sentiments may seem quaint, if not foolhardy and impossible. But the powers of indifference and pessimism rely on us to conclude that the mission of the Holy Church is just too hard to undertake.

The secular world depends on us say that Greek Orthodox Christians in America are too few to make a difference.

Ironically, that is exactly what the authorities believed when they crucified Jesus Christ. They could not conceive how one rabbi and 12 fisherman could possibly change the entire world.

At first, not even the 12 fisherman themselves could imagine how they could make a difference. Every so-called "reasonable person" at that time concluded that the expansion of the Holy Church of Christ around the world and its message of hope was simply impractical.

The mission of Christianity was in every conceivable sense of the word ... impossible.

And if the Holy Spirit had not descended, if Jesus was not the Christ, if there was any question about the new and eternal life in Him, if plain men and women did not have faith in the Lord and were not willing to act based on that faith; there is no question that the history of the human race would neither recall the execution of a Jewish carpenter nor His small band of followers. But with the grace of God and with dynamic faith in Him, the impossible is always possible.

The task has been entrusted to us to carry the Good News forward. As our nation searches to rediscover a true sense of itself, we have the gift of Jesus Christ to offer. As our country looks for solace, we have the shelter of the Church to provide. As our fellow citizens look for ways to meet and overcome the many problems that lie ahead, we have the treasure of faith to share.

It is up to us to be bold, not because it is easy, but because we are Orthodox Christians that love America.

We must do what might seem impossible, not because it is safe, but because we serve Christ, and we are committed to the world's salvation in His Holy Name. Against all odds, we must shine as Orthodox Christians. We must advance the work of our parishes and share the light of Christ, because that is our God-given commission and this vineyard is our personal responsibility.

Let us praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Let us pray for all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country and protect our religious freedom. Let us all recommit ourselves to the Truth of God and the work of our Church to help our nation meet the many challenges ahead with confidence and honor. For only in doing such faithful things, will we be able to rest in the knowledge that we are fulfilling our God-given calling to help instill hope and faith back to the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Fr. Verdaris is pastor of Annunciation Church in Little Rock, Ark.

### ENCYCLICAL



## Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

### Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this blessed feast of the Holy Archangels, we recognize the ministry and service of our cherished Saint Michael's Home in New York. For over fifty years, Saint Michael's has offered the highest quality of care to its residents in an environment of compassion, fellowship, and faith. The nature of this service by the staff and directors has been a true witness of Jesus Christ and of the divine vocation of the Holy Archangels.

In the Holy Scriptures, the testimonies of Saints, and the witness of holy events in the history of the Church, we understand that the ministry of angels is to give praise and service to God. This service is characterized by a recognition of what is holy and by a firm and protective witness of life and all that is good and just. These attributes are why the name of Saint Michael's and the association with this feast are so significant. Saint Michael's has and continues to be a place that recognizes what is holy-the presence and love of God and the lives and well-being of the residents. It is also a place of protection. The care offered at St. Michael's and the atmosphere of compassion and faith protects what is good, sacred, and just against any forces of our world that seek to devalue human life or neglect our responsibility and calling to serve one another.

This faithful service to God and to the elderly has been blessed by your love and generosity over the years and, in support of this vital ministry our parishes passed a special tray on Sunday, Nov. 6.

The gifts sent to the Archdiocese in care of Saint Michael's will be forwarded to the Home. By contributing to the needs, growth, and vision of Saint Michael's, you will join with the Holy Archangels in a sacred work that protects life, upholds goodness, and brings glory to God.

With paternal love in Christ,

Arkborkop Dewe hiss

† Archbishop DEMETRIOS of America

# METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY ME ROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY METROPOLIS OF BUT AND A METROPOLIS OF BUT A



Photo by CLIFFORD ARGUE

Fr. Photios Dumont, proistamenos of St. Demetrios Church, assisted by Deacon Perry Angelos offer a Trisagion service at the dedication of a monument to 20 Greek American military men who lost their lives serving their country.

### Seattle Community Dedicates Military Memorial

by Clifford T. Argue

SEATTLE – A memorial monument honoring 20 Greek-American military members from throughout Washington State who died in the service of their country was dedicated on November 5, 2011 in the Greek section of Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery in Seattle.

Rev. Fr. Photios Dumont, proistamenos of St. Demetrios Church, assisted by Deacon Perry Angelos, chanted a Trisagion for the fallen heroes and blessed the monument. An honor guard from VFW Post 2995 in Redmond, Wash., fired rifle volleys, followed by the playing of Taps by Dr. Dan Schmidt. Members of the committee which organized the event read the names of each honoree, and placed a wreath by the monument. Then, surviving relatives of the honorees placed carnations at the base of the memorial.

Chair of the committee and spearhead of the project was John Limantzakis, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran, a former St. Demetrios Parish Council President and son of a Greek Army veteran who fought in World War II. Other members were Jerry Costacos, a World War II U.S. Navy veteran; Dean Lentgis, and Johnette Limantzakis.

"These heroes made the free and prosperous lives we are blessed with a reality," Chairman John Limantzakis said in addressing the large crowd gathered for the dedication. "The inscription on another veterans' memorial states it very well.

veterans' memorial states it very well. geant Pe

They courageously 'gave their todays for our tomorrows."

"Many times over the years, I have thought about Greek American soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I have long felt strongly that they should be recognized," Limantzakis noted, in explaining why he and his family donated the

monument. He also thanked many people involved including the VFW honor guard, Evergreen Washelli Cemetery that provided the plots on which it stands, Quiring Monuments who offered a discount on the monument as well as its design,

inscriptions, and installation, and all the family members and others who helped with the research and compilation of information.

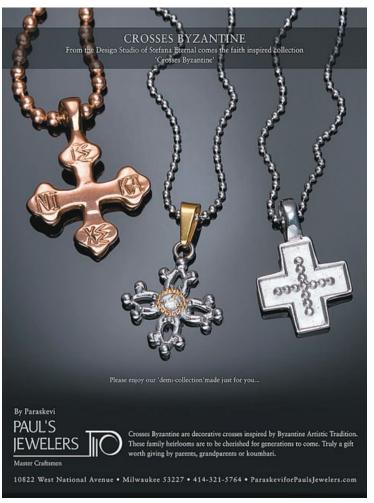
The servicemen whose names appear on the monument are: Private John P. Chemeries, Aberdeen, Wash.; 2nd Lieutenant Gust J. Damascus, Seattle; Lieutenant Junior Grade George Damaskos and Capt. James G. Droles, both of Yakima, Wash; Private Leslie V. Frink and Flight Officer Dimitrios Geranios, both of Seattle: Mai, John W. Katsonis, Hoquiam, Wash; Private First Class Denny F. Lagounaris, Tacoma, Wash.; Specialist 1st Class Christ Makos, Seattle; Private John Massouras, Ellensburg, Wash.; 2nd Lt. Nicholas C. Pantages, and Private 1st Class Tony T. Pappadakis, Jr., both of Seattle; Capt. John P. Prekeges, Spokane; 1st Lt. Paul P. Rockas, and Sergeant Perry Rogers, Seattle; Private Vlases

Stavropoulos, Wenatchee, Wash; Lt. Commander George P. Varver, Jr., Seattle; Corporal George Vellas, Roy, Wash.; Capt. Dan Victor (Fountoukakis), Tacoma; and Specialist 1st Class Nicholas P. Wells, Seattle.

to page 22

Elda Pantages Staats, 92, widow of 2nd Lt. Nicholas C. Pantages, U.S. Army Air Corps, places a flower at the base of the monument dedicated to 20 Greek American military men who lost their lives serving their country. Pantages' plane crashed in the sea off Holland on the way back to England after being hit by enemy fire on a mission over Germany in 1944.

(Photo by ImageTreeMedia.com)



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# METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY METROPOLIS OF THE PROPOLIS OF DETROIT METROPOLIS OF BOSTON METROPOLIS OF BOSTON METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH METROPOLIS OF DENVER

### **Boston Metropolis Clergy-Laity**

BROOKLINE, Mass. - More than 300 delegates and observers representing parishes gathered at the Maliotis Cultural Center for the Metropolis of Boston Clergy-Laity Conference. The theme was, "The Ministries of the Church: Archdiocese, Metropolis and

In his keynote, Metropolitan Methodios said, in part, "We gather in order to discuss the ways which we can effectively minister to the spiritual needs of the faithful entrusted to our care in the 62 parishes throughout New England...We need to constantly adapt to the new realities which we face as an Archdiocese, as a metropolis and as communities...We need to keep abreast with an ever-changing reality in our communities which affects attendance in our liturgical services, participation in parish programs and even interest in Orthodoxy itself..

Following the keynote of Metropolitan Methodios, various departmental heads of our Archdiocese and Metropolis addressed the delegates concerning the ways in which parishes are assisted by the National Church to meet the spiritual needs of New England parishioners

Presentations included the following: Archdiocesan Ministries: Information Technologies (Theo Nicolakis); Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism (Fr. James Kordaris); Religious Education (Dr. Anton Vrame); Marriage and Family Ministries (Dr. Philip Mamalakis); Philoptochos Ministries (Aphrodite Skeadas and Philippa Condakes); Parish Development (Jerry Minetos); Parish Management Software Initiative (Nick Sialmas); Archdiocese Administration (Anthony Stefanis); Archdiocese and Metropolis Finance Reports (Jerry Dimitriou, Ted Speros and Angelo Stamoulis)

Metropolis Ministries: Youth and Young Adult Ministries; Metropolis of Boston Camp; The St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center; The Retreat House; The Philoxenia House

Delegates elected the following three delegates to represent the Metropolis of Boston at the Archdiocesan Council: Fr. Dean Panagos, Mark Adam and Ted Speros; and 16 delegates to serve on the Metropolis Council, along with eight additional members appointed by Metropolitan Methodios. They were: Mark T. Adam, George Alexis, George E. Danis, Theodore Dimacopoulos, Stephen S. Kalivas, Theodore Menounos, Theodore Speros and Eleni Vidalis.

Clergy named were: Frs. George Dragas, Andrew George, Nicholas Krommydas, Dean Paleologos, Dean Panagos, Demetrios Tonias, Phillippe Mousis and the V. Rev. Makarios Niakaros.

Their term of office begins after the upcoming Clergy Laity Congress in Phoenix on July 1-4.

#### Draft of By-Laws

Demetrios Moschos, legal counsel of the metropolis, presented a draft of proposed parish by-laws for the individual communities of the metropolis. Many communities either did not have their own by-laws, or those that were outdated. They requested assistance in preparing legal documents that would address legal issues of the local parish. This draft of the local by-laws can be downloaded from the metropolis website www.boston.goarch.org.



Archbishop Demetrios gives keynote address at the Staff Development Seminar.

### **Direct Archdiocesan District Holds Staff Development Seminar**

by Jim Golding

ASTORIA NY - The Direct Archdiocesan District held its annual Staff Development Seminar that was attended by hundreds of day school and Greek afternoon school educators.

The event was organized by Maria Makedon, director of the Direct Archdiocesan District Education Office and Special Projects and held at St. Demetrios Parochial School.

The day's activities began with a motivational speaker and a keynote address by Archbishop Demetrios.

Several workshops took place in the afternoon along with a presentation by Dr. Christos Tsolakis, professor emeritus at the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki.

In his address, the Archbishop said the Church strongly supports the teachers and noted that it "has always been a very basic place for schools." He said that, following the Edict of Constantine the Great 312 that placed the Christian faith on a par with other religions, churches and schools followed soon after. (Byzantium saw its first university in the 5th century).

His Eminence said that, today, teachers face a "demanding and challenging task" with societal pressures and international uncertainty that affect children.

"We live in very hard times for children," he said. "We face a very difficult world. Children are more and more conscious of what happens. There are so many things that are negative.'

He cited financial crises, violence and exploitation that affect children in a negative context and contrasted the lives of children in the past, when households also included grandparents, with the situation today where, according to national statistics, 40 percent of families have only one parent.

Families do not spend time together and children "are not growing up under



Maria Makedon

the most favorable conditions," he said. "Children seem to be very serious. They don't smile as much," which the Archbishop said is a situation brought about by the conditions they face.

His Eminence also observed that modern technology also has its negative effects on children, in addition to benefits. "It cuts young people off from a real connection with others." He called the use of texting and telegraphic language "a primitive way of communication. It is rendering language to a very simplistic form.'

Along with the issues posed by technology is the "tremendous amounts of information that is available to children through the media, but that the information does not bring "real knowledge" or "real wisdom." He said that technology and the media should be used in a healthy and progressive way, but "not as the absolute authority.

The Archbishop concluded by saying that the Archdiocese and the Church "are conscious of the very, very demanding conditions of our teachers" and the contemporary cultural challenges they face. We are committed to the teachers in our schools.

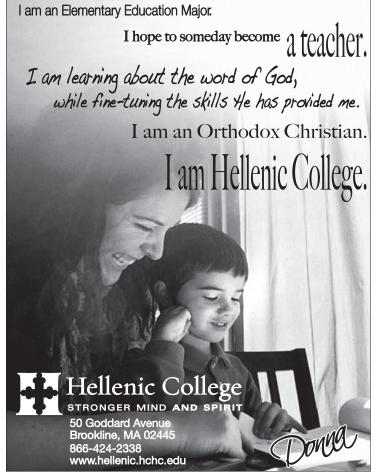
### Myrrh-streaming Icon Exhibited

OCEAN CITY, Md. - St. George Church welcomed the myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon of the Theotokos on Oct. 19.

With congregants singing the triumphant hymn of Ti Ipermacho, the icon was brought with much reverence and joy as it was placed on a floral stand. As the small canon to the Theotokos was sung, several hundred faithful of all denominations came to venerate the sacred image of the Panagia and be anointed with its myrrh after the Paraclisis service.

Fr. John Stavropoulos, pastor, welcomed visiting priests Frs. Demetrios Antokas (St. George, Bethesda Md.), Steven Gousios (Nativity of the Theotokos, Fredericksburg Va.), Vasilios Penteridis (retired clergy Ocean City), and John Parsells of the OCA parish Christ the Savior.

After being exhibited for several hours, a copy of the icon was presented to the parish. Congregants then sang "Tin Oraiotita" as its caretaker, Brother Nektarios, departed with the icon.



### **Human Dignity in Orthodox Theology**

by Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Clapsis

Human dignity is basic to many people around the world desperate for greater justice and freedom.

Respect of human dignity and recognition of human rights demand a culture of peace and justice. The Orthodox Church actively participates together with other Christian churches and communities of living faiths in building such a culture.

However, Orthodox theologians have not addressed - or at least do not consider it being crucial to their concerns - the issue of human dignity and rights. The Orthodox critique of the human rights tradition focuses on its reduction, especially in affluent western countries, to a basis that fortifies the self, leads to self-centeredness, and legitimizes self-gratification.

This contributes to social fragmentation that endangers human solidarity, love and communion - necessary elements and norms for a compassionate and just community. While the criticism of Orthodoxy against the philosophical and theological basis of the human rights tradition may be an important remedy to its current crisis, Orthodox theologians must also be critical of oppressive communal structures of dominance that do not allow people to be different or do not recognize their differences.

The turn to subjectivity as it has been developed in the West may be an important corrective to the totalistic inclinations of communal life. At the same time, the Orthodox emphasis on communal life and the primacy of relations is also an equally important corrective to western individualism and social fragmentation. The choice we have is not either/or, neither it is an issue of balance between human subjectivity and community, but of a continuous reflexive relationship of mutual enrichment.

Orthodox churches, as persecuted and oppressed minorities in oppressive societies, appeal to the notion of human dignity and rights for their survival and participation in the communal life with dignity and freedom.

Recognizing that the desire of and global discussions about human dignity and rights of people throughout the world is an invitation for Orthodox theology to contribute its spiritual resources and

The conversation on human dignity between Orthodoxy with other Christian traditions, and other religious and secular ideologies, may bring a certain freshness and clarity to theological anthropology.

Human dignity is based on the biblical and patristic tradition that people are created in God's image. Human existence has its origins, sustenance and maturation in loving relationships with God, significant others, and the material world. These relationships are not external, attached to an already existing human substance; they are internal and constitutive of human identity

People exist within a set of relationships necessary for their being. The crucial question is how we actively contribute to relationships that shape our identity. Do we, for instance, recognize the created sociality of all humans or do we contradict it by constructing our subjectivity as a denial of all sociality?

Given the fact that relationships can be either life-enhancing or dehumanizing, it is important to seek, develop, and sustain relationships that allow and promote the flourishing of life for all people.

Christian theological anthropology locates primarily the humanity not in the relationship of people to themselves (i.e., capacity for reflection, self-consciousness)

or in their relationship to the world, but in God, whose love as life-giving reality is extended unconditionally to all. Theologically, human dignity is a quality people possess apart from and independent of any relationship to themselves or to the

Each person's dignity originates in God's creating, redeeming and deifying grace that enables humans to transcend their self-existence and move towards the fullness of their humanity in life-sustaining and life-transforming relations.

It is only in communion that people can truly become what God destines them

Though both theology and secular thinking have a sense of dignity as universal, they handle this differently.

Human dignity in theology is mainly seen as God's unconditional gift to all people, while others see it as an inherent quality of each person's essential self. There are, however, different ways something can be experienced as a gift. It is possible for people to feel demeaned or patronized by being told that something is a gift when they feel it is a basic part of their nature or constitution, or something to which they are entitled.

For others, however, receiving a gift is a highly affirming experience and something very much welcomed. Seeing dignity as a gift carries tasks and obligations appropriate to good stewardship of the gift, whereas seeing it as a right carries no such obligation. When a Christian tradition speaks of something being a gift of God, though the latter is intended, sometimes, in the context of post-enlightenment thought, it is heard as being patronizing.

In Christian theology, everything appropriate for human beings are gifts of God. Thus, human dignity is not a selfgrounded possession enjoyed apart from a relationship to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

As Chrysostom writes memorably in a sermon on Philippians, "Humans possess dignity of rational nature, but this comes to them as a gift, not as something they have earned. Hence there is no natural preeminence amongst us, for no good thing is naturally our own.

Because God confers dignity, its measure and norm is to be discovered in God and in His action toward humankind in creation and redemption in Christ.

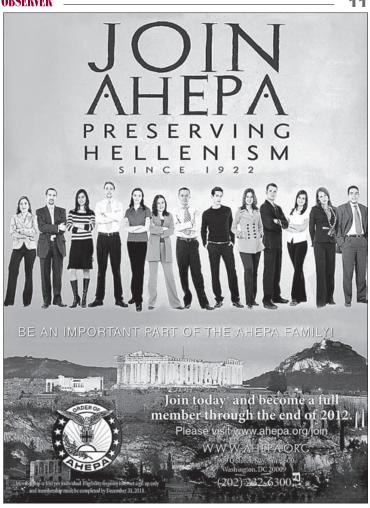
In response to critics of Christianity who found it ridiculous that "poor, unskilled people should dispute about heavenly things," Minucius Felix (late second or third century) replied, "let him know that all men are begotten alike, with a capacity and ability of reasoning and feeling, without preference of age, sex, or honor.

The perception that everyone has an inherent dignity is insufficient to embrace the totality of life and theologically is seen to be a static notion. It leaves no scope for a dynamic unfolding of God's purpose in relation to human dignity. A Christian theology of dignity needs an eschatological balance; creation is a continuing process and consequently it is inseparable from eschatology.

This requires that we distinguish different senses of dignity.

In one sense, we have dignity already, but in another sense, we do not have it in all its fullness. There is both a present actuality and a future potentiality about human dignity. Both are essential to an adequate theology of dignity and holding the doctrine of creation and eschatology together shows us how the absolute or universal concept of human dignity must







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Isla de Roatan, Honduras	10:00am	6:00pm
At Sea		
Montego Bay, Jamaica	8:00am	3:00pm
at Sea		
Ft. Lauderdale	8:00am	
	Ft. Lauderdale Key West, Florida Cozumel, Mexico Isla de Roatan, Honduras At Sea Montego Bay, Jamaica at Sea	Ft. Lauderdale Key West, Florida 7:00am Cozumel, Mexico 10:00am Isla de Roatan, Honduras 10:00am At Sea Montego Bay, Jamaica 8:00am at Sea





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Fr. Alexander and Presbyera Pearl Veronis.

### Fr. Alexander and Presbytera Veronis Honored for Their 50 Years of Service

by Clifford T. Argue

LANCASTER, Pa. – "A Legacy of Service, Faith and Love – The Veronis Ministry" was the theme as more than 540 relatives, parishioners, co-workers, and friends from far and wide gathered on Oct. 2 to honor Fr. Alexander and Presbytera Pearl Veronis on the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood and 50 years of service at the Annunciation Church.

Since 2004 he has been an assistant to Fr. Alexander Goussetis, the current proistamenos.

The gala celebration featured remarks by members of the community and his children; a stirring keynote address by Fr. John Manuel, one of many from the parish who had a calling to serve the church in some capacity and is pastor of Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Richmond, Va; a video presentation on the lives and ministry of Fr. Alexander and Presbytera Pearl, and a musical interlude including songs sung by their children and grandchildren and a surprise appearance by the Gospel choir from the Brightside Baptist Church, a tribute to Fr. Alexander's extensive work with all faiths in the Lancaster area.

All of the speakers and the video highlighted how blessed the parish was to have Fr. Alexander and Presbytera Pearl engaged in a cooperative ministry together, teaching Bible study groups, doing social outreach programs, and leading spiritual life and renewal retreats. As one parishioner was quoted in the local newspaper, "We got two for the price of one."

The parish experienced dramatic growth during the Veronises' tenure, increasing in size to some 550 families with diverse ethnic backgrounds. Fr. Alexander established a stewardship program which helped the parish retire its mortgage in 1975. He oversaw the addition of an educational building including classrooms, a gym, and youth room, and set up a library with more than 5,000 volumes. Meanwhile, Presbytera Pearl sang in the choir, taught classes, is a tireless worker for the bazaar, and participates in prison and nursing home ministries. They raised five children and now have 14 grandchildren.

In addition to his 43 years as proistamenos of Annunciation and various leadership roles in inter-faith and ecumenical organizations, especially as chair for over three decades of the local Church World Service/CROP Hunger Walks, Fr. Alexander gave his many talents to the Orthodox Church nationally and internationally. He was president of the National Presbyters Council, the Clergy Brotherhood of the Pittsburgh Diocese and, for 10 years, of the Orthodox Council of Churches of South Central Pennsylvania.

However, he is probably best known for his long-standing dedication to the

promotion and support of foreign mission work.

His interest began when he was a student at Holy Cross School of Theology in the mid-1950's.

Bishop Athenagoras (Kokkinakis), the dean, started a student missionary society and brought young men from Korea to study at the seminary.

Writing in the Dedication Book for the new Orthodox Christian Mission Center in 2009, Fr. Alexander stated "Seeds were planted in my heart at this time for promoting Orthodox missions."

Later, as he and his wife were studying at the University of Athens they met students from Africa, Spain, Korea, and the Middle East, further reinforcing their desire to follow Christ's commandment to "Go and make disciples of all nations...." (Mt. 28).

As they began their ministry in Lancaster in 1961, Father and Presbytera started a "Lenten Self-Denial Club." Members sacrificed meals during Lent and gave the money to buy and send religious books, icons, and other materials to the missions in Korea, Uganda, and Mexico. Fr. Alexander also set up speaking tours throughout the Archdiocese for missionary priests from those countries.

The 1966 Clergy–Laity Congress approved the formation of an Archdiocesan Foreign Missions Committee with Fr. Alexander as chairman. The committee and its work grew, and by 1984 became a Board with an executive director and offices at the St. Photios Shrine in St. Augustine, Fla.

In 1987, the Board acquired a house and in recognition of his many efforts, named the building the "Fr. Alexander Veronis Mission Center." He and Presbytera led a short-term team to Kenya in 1988 to build a medical clinic. The Archdiocese Mission Board was expanded in 1994 to be Pan-Orthodox and became the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). Fr. Alexander continues to serve on the board as president emeritus, providing valuable guidance and insight. He also was a founder of the Endowment Fund for Orthodox Missions which has established the Mission Institute of Orthodox Christianity at Holy Cross.

Their son, Fr. Luke Veronis, long-term missionary to Africa and Albania, is currently pastor of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Webster, Mass. In a sermon at Annunciation on the morning of the banquet, he reflected on life as a "PK" (priest's kid) as experienced by him and his siblings. "Each day we saw how much they loved God above all else and passionately wanted to serve Him as priest and presbytera," Fr. Luke noted. "Ultimately, as we honor my parents for their faithful service, we are ultimately honoring Christ, for my parents have strived to simply act as icons of Christ over these past 50 years!"



ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 2011

**ΕΤΟΣ 76 • ΑΡΙΘΜΟΣ 1270** 

### ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ



«Η Πρώτη Εορτή της Ημέρας των Ευχαριστιών στο Πλύμουθ» (Πίνακας της Jennie A. Brownscombe, 1914).

### Ήμέρα Εὐχαριστιῶν

Αἰνέσω τό ὄνομα τοῦ Θεοῦ μου μετ'ώδῆς, μεγαλυνῶ Αὐτόν ἐν αἰνέσει (Ψαλμός 69:30)

Πρός τούς Σεβασμιωτάτους καί Θεοφιλεστάτους Άρχιερεῖς, τούς Εὐλαβεστάτους Τερεῖς καί Διακόνους, τούς Μοναχούς καί Μοναχές, τούς Προέδρους καί Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τά Ήμερήσια καί Άπογευματινά Σχολεῖα, τίς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τήν Νεολαία, τίς Έλληνορθόδοξες Όργανώσεις καί όλόκληρο τό Χριστεπώνυμον πλήρωμα τῆς Γερᾶς Άρχιεπισκοπῆς Άμερικῆς.

Άγαπητοί Άδελφοί καί Άδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Τήν εὐλογημένη αὐτήν Ήμέρα τῶν Εὐχαριστιῶν, ἀκολουθώντας τήν παράδοση τῆς μεγάλης αὐτῆς ἐθνικῆς ἑορτῆς, προτρεπόμεθα νά εὐχαριστήσουμε τόν Θεό γιά τήν παρουσία Του στή ζωή μας καί γιά τά ἄφθονα δῶρα Του πρός ἐμᾶς. Ως Ὀρθόδοξοι Χριστιανοί, μοιραζόμεθα τήν εὐγνωμοσύνη μας αὐτή πρός τόν Θεό. Μέ τόν τρόπο αὐτό ἐκφράζουμε ἐπίσης τήν στάση μας ἔναντι τῆς ζωῆς, τῆς λατρείας μας πρός τόν Θεό καί τίς σχέσεις μας μέ τούς ἀνθρώπους.

Ή πρώτη μας μέριμνα ώς Χριστιανῶν εἶναι νὰ ἀνταποκριθοῦμε στήν χάρη τοῦ Θεοῦ διά τῆς λατρείας καί τῆς κοινωνίας μαζί Του. Ψάλλουμε ὕμνους δόξης καί εὐχαριστίας, προσφέροντας δόξα καί τιμή στόν Δημιουργό καί Προστάτη μας. Ἑορτάζουμε καί λαμβάνουμε

▶Σελίδα 16

# Εκπαιδευτικό Επιμορφωτικό Σεμινάριο της Αμέσου Αρχιεπισκοπικής Περιφέρειας

του Ελευθερίου Πισσαλίδη

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ – Το ετήσιο εκπαιδευτικό επιμορφωτικό σεμινάριο της Αμέσου Αρχιεπισκοπικής Περιφέρειας πραγματοποιήθηκε την Τρίτη, 8 Νοεμβρίου στο Ημερήσιο Ελληνοαμερικανικό Σχολείο του Καθεδρικού Ναού Αγίου Δημητρίου, Αστόριας, Οι Έλληνες εκπαιδευτικοί είχαν την ευκαιρία να παρακολουθήσουν φέτος ομιλία του ομότιμου καθηγητή του Παιδαγωγικού Τμήματος Δημοτικής Εκπαίδευσης του Αριστοτελείου Πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλονίκης, Δρ. Χρίστου Τσολάκη, με θέμα «Γλώσσα, Παιδεία, Διδασκαλία».

Το Σεμινάριο άρχισε στις 9.00 π.μ. με ομιλία του Σεβασμιωτάτου Αρχιεπισκόπου Αμερικής κ. Δημητρίου, στην αίθουσα εκδηλώσεων «Π. Πατρίδης» του Σχολείου Αγίου Δημητρίου Αστορίας. Οπως είναι γνωστό, οι διευθυντές των ημερήσιων ελληνοαμερικανικών σχολείων Νέας Υόρκης έχουν ορίσει την 8η Νοεμβρίου ως «ημέρα επιμόρφωσης των εκπαιδευτικών» και τα ημερήσια σχολεία

παρέμειναν κλειστά προκειμένου να διευκολύνουν τους εκπαιδευτικούς να παρακολουθήσουν το σεμινάριο.

Το σεμινάριο, το οποίο τελεί υπό την αιγίδα του Σεβασμιωτάτου Αρχιεπισκόπου Αμερικής κ. Δημητρίου, απευθύνεται προς όλους τους εκπαιδευτικούς, που υπηρετούν στα ημερήσια και απογευματινά σχολεία της Αμέσου Αρχιεπισκοπική περιφέρειας αλλά και των γύρω περιοχών και περιλαμβάνει σειρά διαλέξεων και ομιλιών καλύπτοντας τα μαθήματα τόσο του αγγλικού, όσο και του ελληνικού προγράμματος.

Ο καθηγητής Τσολάκης αναφέρθηκε σε συγκεκριμένα ερωτήματα και προβλήματα που αντιμετωπίζει τόσο ο δάσκαλος και καθηγητής της γλωσσολογίας, αλλά και ο έκαστος φοιτητής, απαντώντας στο «τιείναι η γλώσσα», για το πως διαμορφώνονται και επηρεάζονται αμοιβαία οι κοινωνικές και γλωσσικές δυνάμεις, πως η πιο στρατηγική και εποικοδομητική μέθοδος διδασκαλίας

Σελίδα 14

### Ο Επίσκοπος Τρωάδος Σάββας εξελέγη Μητροπολίτης Πιττσβούργου

ΝΕΑ ΥΟΡΚΗ – Η Αγία και Ιερά Σύνοδος του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου Κωνσταντινουπόλεως εξέλεξε σήμερα τον Επίσκοπο Τρωάδος Σάββα Μητροπολίτη Πιττσβούργου εις διαδοχή του Μητροπολίτου Μαξίμου ο οποίος συνταξιοδοτήθηκε την 1η Σεπτεμβρίου 2011.

Ο εψηφισμένος Μητροπολίτης εξελέγη στην Μητρόπολη Πιττσβούργου από το τριπρόσωπο το οποίο υπέβαλε στην Αγία και Ιερά Σύνοδο του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου η Ιερά Επαρχιακή Σύνοδος της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής.

Ο νεοκλεγείς Μητροπολίτης κ. Σάββας γεννήθηκε στην πόλη Gary της Indiana στις 11 Ιουνίου 1957, το δεύτερο από τα έξι παιδιά της οικογένειας του Σκευοφύλακος και της Σταματίας (Γεωργιάδη) Ζεμπιλλά με καταγωγή από την Κάλυμνο και από την Κύπρο. Απεφοίτησε από το Λύκειο Άντριαν της γενέτειρας πόλης του το 1975 και στη συνέχεια φοίτησε στο Κολλέγιο Colby στο Waterville του Maine από όπου απεφοίτησε το 1979 με πτυχίο ΒΑ στη Φιλοσοφία και στην Αγγλική Φιλολογία. Ενεγράφη στην Ελληνική Θεολογική Σχολή του Τιμίου Σταυρού στο Brookline της Μασαχουσέτης από όπου απεφοίτησε το 1984 με το πτυχίο Μάστερ Θεολογίας μετά ανωτάτων διακρίσεων. Υπηρέτησε ως λαϊκός βοηθός στον Ιερό Ναό της Αγίας Τριάδος-Αγίου Νικολάου στο Cincinnati του Ohio μεταξύ 1985-87 και ακολούθως συνέχισε τις ακαδημαϊκές του σπουδές στο Πανεπιστήμιο Öxford της Αγγλίας (1987-1994) υπό την καθοδήγηση του Επισκόπου Διοκλείας Κάλλιστου Ware, πραγματοποιώντας έρευνα σημαντικών μορφών και κειμένων στην ιστορία της πρώιμης περιόδου του βυζαντινού μοναχισμού.

Χειροτονήθηκε διάκονος στις 21 Νοεμβρίου 1992, και πρεσβύτερος στις 8 Ιανουαρίου 1995 στην οικεία ενορία του των Αγίων Κωνσταντίνου και Ελένης στο Merrillville της Indiana από τον τότε Επίσκοπο Σικάγου κ. Ιάκωβο.

Στο διετές διάστημα μεταξύ των χειροτονιών του υπηρέτησε ως διάκονος του Επισκόπου Διοκλείας κ. Κάλλιστου στην Αγγλία. Με την επιστροφή του στις Ηνωμένες Πολιτείες τον Σεπτέμβριο του 1995 τοποθετήθηκε ως προϊστάμενος



Φωτογραφία: ΔΗΜΗΤΡΗΣ ΠΑΝΑΓΟΣ

Ο νεοεκλεγείς Μητροπολίτης Πιτσβούργου Σάββας.

εφημέριος του Ιερού Ναού του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου στο Kalamazoo του Michigan. Ανυψώθη στο οφίκιο του Αρχιμανδρίτου στις 12 Νοεμβρίου 1996, από τον τότε Επίσκοπο Πίτσμπουργκ κ. Μάξιμο.

Τον Σεπτέμβριο του 1997 ο τότε Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Σπυρίδων τοποθέτησε τον Αρχιμανδρίτη Σάββα στον Ιερό Ναό του Αγίου Δημητρίου στο Merrick του Λόνγκ Αϊλαντ.

Τον Δεκέμβριο του 1999, ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος, διόρισε τον πρώην μαθητή του, Πρωτοσύγκελλο της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής, θέση στην οποία υπηρέτησε για δέκα χρόνια. Στις 11 Δεκεμβρίου 2001, εξελέγη Βοηθός Επίσκοπος του Αρχιεπισκόπου Δημητρίου από την Σύνοδο του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου ως Επίσκοπος Τρωάδος.

Ο Επίσκοπος κ. Σάββας υπηρέτησε ως Πρωτοσύγκελλος της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής Αμερικής έως το 2009, όταν τοποθετήθηκε στη θέση του Διευθυντού του Γραφείου Εκκλησίας, Κοινωνίας και Πολιτισμού.

#### ΕΠΙΣΚΕΨΗ ΤΟΥ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΟΥ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΥΡΥΤΕΡΗ ΠΕΡΙΟΧΗ ΤΗΣ ΒΙΘΥΝΙΑΣ

#### του Νικόλαου Μαγγίνα

Ημερήσια επίσκεψη στην ευρύτερη περιοχή της Βιθυνίας πραγματοποίησε το Σάββατο 5 Νοεμβρίου ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος, συνοδευόμενος από Συνοδικούς και άλλους Αρχιερείς του Θρόνου. Οι περιοχές που επισκέφθηκε ήταν η Νίκαια, η Κίος, η Προύσα και τα Μουδανιά. Υπήρξε έντονο ενδιαφέρον των τοπικών μέσων ενημέρωσης, τα οποία

ρωτούοαν για τον οκοπό της Πατριαρχικής επίσκεψης. Η απάντηση του Πατριάρχου ήταν ότι επρόκειτο για τουριστική επίσκεψη και ευχήθηκε καλό Μπαϊράμι στους Μουσουλμάνους κατοίκους της περιοχής.

Στις επίμονες ερωτήσεις σχετικά με το θέμα που προέκυψε τις τελευταίες μέρες με τον Ναό της Αγίας Σοφίας-Μουσείου να μετατρέπεται σε τέμενος, η απάντησή του ήταν «ουδέν σχόλιον».

▶Σελίδα 17

ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΠΑΡΑΤΗΡΗΤΗΣ ΝΟΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ 2011

### Εκπαιδευτικό Επιμορφωτικό Σεμινάριο Αμέσου Αρχιεπισκοπικής Περιφέρειας

της γλώσσας είναι η «επικοινωνιακή», ως δυναμική-δραστική-ενεργητική. «Δεν είναι γράμματα στον πίνακα η γλώσσα, είναι ζωή και δράση», τόνισε. Ο καθηγητής μίλησε για τη σχέση γλώσσας και σκέψης και την αμοιβαία συνύπαρξή τους καθώς «η γλώσσα και η σκέψη ασκούνται μαζί. Ούτε η γλώσσα σκείται χωρίς τη σκέψη, ούτε η σκέψη χωρίς τη γλώσσα». Αναφέρθηκε επίσης στους τρόπους διδασκαλίας της γλώσσας για τους εκπαιδευτικούς και το σκοπό της κάθε διαδασκαλίας. «Σκοπός του δασκάλου είναι να διδάσκει στο μαθητή πως να μαθαίνει, πως να δημιουργεί και να συνδημιουργεί με τους συμμαθητές του, σεβόμενος την Κτίση κι όλα της τα πλάσματα. Η γνώση, η σκέψη, ο λόγος, η τέχνηελευθερώνουν τον άνθρωπο και τον οδηγούν στην πληρότητα. Σε αυτήν την πορεία, ο πιο καλός δάσκαλος είναι ο ελεύθερος δάσκαλος, διότι αυτός ετοιμάζει τους πιο ελεύθερους ανθρώπους για τη ζωή. Αλλά ο πιο ελεύθερος δάσκαλος είναι ταυτόχρονα κι ο πιο υπεύθυνος».

Στη συνέχεια ο κ. Τσολάκης αναφέρθηκε στον ορισμό της παιδείας και στο ρόλο της. Αλλο πράγμα είναι η παιδεία κι άλλο η εκπαίδευση, τόνισε, καθώς δεν ταυτίζεται με αυτήν. «Εκπαίδευση είναι η οργανωμένη διαδικασία μέσα από την οποία η Πολιτεία προσφέρει στα τέκνα της τα μορφωτικά αγαθά. Παιδεία, κατά τον ορισμό του Πλάτωνα είναι 'το μέγιστον μάθημα ο ρητόν (διδακτόν) ουδαμώς έστιν ως άλλα μαθήματα'. Η παιδεία είναι το μεγαλύτερο όπλο του διδασκάλου. καθως, ο ίδιος, χωρίς αυτήν, δεν αποκτά διδακτική πληρότητα ακόμη κι αν έχει διαβάσει όλες τις διδακτικές θεωρίες. Ο δάσκαλος της παιδείας πραγματώνει την ανώτερη φύση του, την πνευματική-ανθρώπινη ουσία. Αλλωστε η διδασκαλία είναι η διαδικασία κατά την οποία δάσκαλος και μαθητής πραγματώνουν την πνευματική τους ουσία. Τα δε μαθήματα αποτελούν τα



οχήματα της παιδείας. Ιδού το μυστικό και ο προορισμός της διδασκαλίας και της Εκπαίδευσης: η Παιδεία».

Στο χαιρετισμό του, μετά το πέρας του πρώτου μέρους της ομιλίας, ο Σεβασμιώτατος εξέφρασε τις ευχαριστίες του προς στον καθηγητή Τσολάκη «για αυτήν την εξαιρετική παρουσίαση που μας έκανε για τη γλώσσα, η οποία είχε θεωρητικά στοιχεία πολύ προχωρημένα και ταυτοχρόνως πολύ ακριβή, παρουσιασμένα με τόσο μεθοδικό τρόπο, αλλά ταυτοχρόνως και πολύπλευρο με πολλές εφαρμόσιμες πλευρές, όπως για παράδειγμα η ανάγκη να ομιλεί η έγκυος μητέρα στο αγέννητο ακόμα παιδί της, ένα πολύ πρακτικό, απλό κι ενδιαφέρον θέμα μεταξύ πολλών άλλων. Είναι η συσχέτιση της σκέψεως και της εκφοράς της γλώσσας που είναι επίσης πολύ σημαντικό. Ο κ. καθηγητής χρησιμοποίησε στην αρχή του λόγου του τη λέξη «γλωσσοπενία» για να κάνει τη διάκριση μεταξύ του πλούτου της γλώσσας που περιέχει 80.000 λέξεις, ενώ οι άνθρωποι χρησιμοποιούν κατά μέσο όρο γύρω στις 1.000 στο λόγο τους. Παίζει λοιπόν μεγάλο ρόλο στην παιδεία μας να ανεβάσουμε το ποσοστό χρήσεως των λέξεων. Οι διάφορες λέξεις δεν αποτελούν μόνο μια ποσοτική δύναμη, δίνουν στα νοήματα διαφορετική σημασία. Ειδικότερα αυτό συμβαίνει στη χρήση της ελληνικής γλώσσας με τη δυνατότητα των προθέσεων και των συνθέτων ρημάτων. Για παράδειγμα το ρήμα βάλλω, και από αυτό, εκβάλλω, αναβάλλω, υποβάλλω, κ.λπ. κάνοντας ένα τεράστιο κύκλο λέξεων με ένα μόνο ρήμα, αλλά με τη χρήση διαφόρων προθέσεων», τόνισε ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος, αναφερόμενος στη συνέχεια στα χειρόγραφα Ναγκ Χαμαντί, το σύνολο δηλαδή των Γνωστικών κειμένων που ανακαλύφθηκαν στην

Κοπτικά – το πιθανότερο είναι ότι μεταφράστηκε από τα Ελληνικά, ανάμεσα στον 3ο και 5ο αιώνα – κάνοντας σύγκριση ανάμεσα στα νοήματα των λέξεων της ελληνικής και της Κοπτικής γλώσσας. Στη συνέχεια μίλησε για τη σχέση Χριστιανικού Θεολογικού και Πα-

#### ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ

Στην ερώτηση ποια είναι η σημασία των ετησίων εκπαιδευτικών σεμιναρίων για την ελληνική παιδεία στις ΗΠΑ, ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Δημήτριος απάντησε πως «είναι ένα πολύ σημαντικό γεγονός και βοηθεί ουσιαστικά στην προαγωγή της ελληνικής παιδείας και ιδιαιτέρως της ελληνικής γλώσσης εδώ στην Αμερική, συγκεντρώνοντας τους δασκάλους μας σε μια ολοήμερη ευκαιρία μετεκπαιδεύσεως από την οποία οφελούνται τα μέγιστα, ανανεώνονται, φρεσκάρουν τις γνώσεις τους, αλλά επίσης δέχονται επιπλέον ερεθίσματα τα οποία προσφέρονται για περαιτέρω σπουδή και σκέψη. Είναι μια ευκαιρία προαγωγής του πολύ σημαντικού εκπαιδευτικού έργου το οποίο επιτελεί η Εκκλησία δια των σχολείων της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής. Και γιαυτόν το λόγο, είμαστε ευγνώμονες στους διοργανωτές αυτού του σεμιναρίου, το οποίο πραγματοποιείται επί σειρά ετών, την κ. Μαρία Μακεδών, κατ' επέκτασιν βέβαια τον διευθυντή του Γραφείου Παιδείας Δρ. Ιωάννη Ευθυμιόπουλο κι όλους όσοι όντως προσφέρουν συνεχώς και πολλές φορές με θυσίες για να δημιουργούνται τέτοιες πνευματικές κι εκπαιδευτικές ευκαιρίες», τόνισε.

- Ηταν αυτή και μια ευκαιρία για τους καθηγητές μας, για τους δασκάλους μας εδώ στις ΗΠΑ, να ξανακαθίσουν τρόπον τινά στα θρανία έστω και για μια μόνο ημέρα, να ακούσουν και να συζητήσουν με έναν κορυφαίο της ελληνικής γλωσσολογίας;

Σελίδα 15

### Συνέντευξη Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχου στη «Hurriyet»

του **Νικόλαου Μαγγίνα** 

Τη βοήθεια του Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχη Βαρθολομαίου για να βρουν δουλειά στην Τουρκία ζητούν αρκετοί Έλληνες με επιστολές που στέλνουν στο Φανάρι. Αυτό αποκάλυψε ο ίδιος ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης σε συνέντευξη που παραχώρησε στην τουρκική εφημερίδα Hurriyet, στο πλαίσιο της οποίας αναφέρεται στην εικοσαετή διακονία του στον πρώτο Θρόνο της Ορθοδοξίας, στα προβλήματα του Πατριαρχείου και της Ομογένειας καθώς και στις σχέσεις τους με την Κυβέρνηση και εν γένει με την πολιτική ηγεσία της

Ερωτηθείς από το δημοσιογράφο της εφημερίδας, Οκαν Κονουράλπ, τι έχει αλλάξει (Σ.τ.Μ. για το Πατριαρχείο) στα είκοσι χρόνια από την ανάρρησή του στον Θρόνο, ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης απαντά ότι πολλά έχουν αλλάξει προς την θετική κατεύθυνση. Η Τουρκία είναι σήμερα για όλους μας μια χώρα πιο δημοκρατική. Και από πλευράς μειονοτήτων μπορώ να το πω ξεκάθαρα ότι κατά την περίοδο διακυβέρνησης της χώρας από το Κόμμα Δικαιοσύνης και Ανάπτυξης, αισθανόμαστε περισσότερο άνετα. Δεν φοβόμαστε από το Κράτος. Ασφαλώς δεν μπορώ να πω ότι βρίσκουμε ανταπόκριση σε όλα τα θέματα, για παράδειγμα η Θεολογική Σχολή της Χάλκης παρόλες τις υποσχέσεις της Κυβέρνησης του ΑΚΡ παραμένει τα τελευταία 4ο χρόνια κλειστή. Σε άλλους όμως τομείς έχουν σημειωθεί σημαντικές εξελίξεις. Όπως για παράδειγμα η απόφαση να επιστραφούν τα ακίνητα που αφαιρέθηκαν από τα βακούφια (ευαγή ιδρύματα), η παραχώρηση αδειών για την τέλεση λειτουργιών στα Μοναστήρια της Παναγίας Σουμελά και της Καππαδοκίας.

Ο Πατριάρχης σημείωσε ότι παλαιότερα οι αντιπροσωπείες του Πατριαρχείου που μετέβαιναν στην Άγκυρα για επαφές με αξιωματούχους αντιμετωπίζονταν με ψυχρότητα, σε τέτοιο βαθμό μάλιστα που σε συναντήσεις δεν έλεγαν ούτε «καθίστε».

"Τώρα αντιμετωπιζόμαστε με πολλή ευγένεια και αυτό δεν είναι κάτι που συμβαίνει μόνο με τον Πρωθυπουργό Ερντογάν και το κόμμα του αλλά και όταν συναντήθηκα με τον Ντενίζ Μπαικάλ (σ.σ. πρώην Αρχηγός Αξιωμ. Αντιπολιτεύσεως) αντιμετωπίστηκα με την ίδια ευγένεια". Στο σημείο αυτό υπενθύμισε ότι με πρωτοβουλία του Πρωθυπουργού Ερντογάν παρέχεται η υπηκοότητα σε Ιεράρχες του Θρόνου από το εξωτερικό οι οποίοι θα έχουν τη δυνατότητα σε μια μελλοντική Πατριαρχική εκλογή να είναι εκλέκτορες και εκλόγιμοι. "Και δεν θα γίνει η εκλογή μόνο με 15 Ιεράρχες", είπε ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης αφήνοντας να εννοηθεί ότι σε μια μελλοντική εκλογή θα έχουν λόγο και ψήφο όλοι οι Ιεράρχες του Θρόνου και όχι μόνο οι εν Τουρκία διαβιούντες.

Ερωτηθείς εαν η βελτίωση των σχέσεων με την Πολιτεία αυξάνει τις ελπίδες του για την επαναλειτουργία της Θεολο-



γικής Σχολής της Χάλκης, ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης είπε ότι "κατά το παρελθόν έχουν γίνει πολύ μεγάλες αδικίες σε βάρος της Κοινότητάς μας. Ένα από τα σοβαρά θέματα που εκκρεμούν είναι η επαναλειτουργία της Θεολογικής Σχολής". Παρά το γεγονός ότι το Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχείο είναι πρώτο τη τάξει μεταξύ των Ορθοδόξων Εκκλησιών, είπε ο Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος, δεν έχει τη δυνατότητα να εκπαιδεύει το ίδιο τα στελέχη του. 'Δεν χάνω τις ελπίδες μου για την επαναλειτουργία της Σχολής", τόνισε ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης και επανέλαβε ότι το ζήτημα αυτό δεν εντάσσεται στις ελληνοτουρκικές διαφορές αλλά αποτελεί αντικείμενο σεβασμού των θρησκευτικών ελευθεριών.

"Δηλαδή περιμένετε κάποια έκπληξη από τον Πρωθυπουργό Ερντογάν όπως

έκανε με το διάταγμα για την επιστροφή των ακινήτων των μειονοτικών ιδρυμάτων;", ρώτησε ο δημοσιογράφος.

"Είναι στα πλαίσια των πιθανοτήτων διότι ο Πρωθυπουργός συνηθίζει τέτοια γενναία βήματα και εκπλήξεις. Κατά καιρούς ο Πρωθυπουργός μιλάει για τη λειτουργία Τζαμιού στην Αθήνα και το συσχετίζει με την επαναλειτουργία της Θεολογικής Σχολής.

Εμείς δεν έχουμε καμμία ευθύνη γι'αυτό το θέμα. Είμαι θετικός για το Τζαμί. Και η Ελληνική Κυβέρνηση έλαβε πρωτοβουλία προς αυτή την κατεύθυνση. Αλλά το να τίθεται ένας τέτοιος όρος για την επαναλειτουργία της Θεολογικής Σχολής της Χάλκης είναι αδικία", απάντησε ο Πατρι-

Ερωτηθείς για τις προσδοκίες του από τις προωθούμενες συνταγματικές μεταρρυθμίσεις ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης είπε πως "αρχίζουμε σιγά, σιγά να απομακρυνόμαστε από την αίσθηση ότι είμαστε πολίτες δευτέρας κατηγορίας". Έλπίζουμε πως στο νέο Σύνταγμα η αρχή ότι όλοι οι πολίτες είναι ίσοι θα εδραιωθεί ισχυρά και θα βιώσουμε την ισότητα όχι στα λόγια αλλά στην ουσία

Σελίδα 15

Σελίδα 14

- Αρχιεπίσκοπος: Πολύ σωστό αυτό, καθώς είναι ακριβώς ό,τι έλεγαν οι αρχαίοι Ελληνες «γηράσκω αεί διδασκόμενος». Αυτός που πάντοτε πρέπει να είναι πρώτος διδασκόμενος είναι ο δάσκαλος. Αυτός είναι και θα πρέπει να είναι ο αιώνιος μαθητής. Οσον αφορά τα Ελληνόπαιδα και όλα τα παιδιά που φοιτούν αυτήν τη στιγμή στα σχολεία μας, έχουν τη μεγάλη ευλογία να παρακολουθούν μαθήματα σε σχολεία πολύ προσεγμένα και με μηδενική έξοδο προ του τέλους των σπουδών τους (dropout rate), που είναι βέβαια με τη σειρά του ενδεικτικό του ύψους του επιπέδου και της ποιότητας της εκπαίδευσης που προσφέρουν κι ευχόμεθα αυτή η καλή δουλειά να συνεχίζεται με επιτυχία και να βρίσκεται συνεχώς σε ανοδική

#### Δρ. ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΤΣΟΛΑΚΗΣ

Για την επίσκεψή του στις ΗΠΑ και για τη σημασία της ελληνικής εκπαίδευσης, αλλά και της ελληνικής παιδείας, μίλησε στον «Ορθόδοξο Παρατηρητή» ο καθηγητής κ. Χρίστος Τσολάκης. «Είναι η πρώτη φορά που έρχομαι στις ΗΠΑ και στην ερώτησή σας πως βλέπω το επίπεδο της ελληνικής εκπαίδευσης εδώ, παρόλο δεν έχω ακόμη μιλήσει με πολλούς διδασκάλους, εντούτοις νομίζω ότι είναι πολύ καλό διότι όπως βλέπω εργάζονται πολλές ώρες στα σχολεία και από μιά ματιά που έριξα στις τάξεις χθες, τους είδα με πολύ ζήλο να φροντίζουν τα παιδιά. Ετσι, η πρώτη μου εντύπωση είναι πολύ καλή κι ότι έχουμε να κάνουμε με καλούς δασκάλους εδώ στην Ομογένεια. Οσον αφορά τους μαθητές, έχω να τους πω πως έχουν τη μοναδική δυνατότητα να κατακτήσουν δυο γλώσσες, την αγγλική και την ελληνική, και κατ' επέκτασιν να κατακτήσουν δυο πολιτισμούς, διότι, κάθε νλώσσα είναι κι ένας πολιτισμός. Τα

παιδιά βέβαια σε αυτήν τη φάση που βρίσκονται τώρα, κρίνονται κι αγωνίζονται να κατακτήσουν αυτό το αγαθό. Κι ελπίζω ότι θα πάνε πάρα πολύ καλά μάλιστα, καθώς τα παιδιά που είναι δίγλωσσα και διπολιτισμικά, έχουν τεράστιες δυνατότητες και υπερέχουν έναντι όλων των άλλων που είναι προσηλωμένα σε μια μονάχα γλώσσα. Αυτή η διγλωσσία που κουράζει τους δασκάλους και τους γονείς κι αποτελεί ένα πρόβλημα, αυτή θα είναι το μεγαλείο των παιδιών τους στο μέλλον. Αρκεί να γίνουν καλοί χειρισμοί στη οιδασκαλία της γλώσσας, κι από τους δασκάλους κι από τους γονείς. Έχουν μέλλον καλό τα παιδιά αυτά δηλαδή.

 «Τη γλώσσα μου έδωσαν ελληνική... Μονάχη έγνοια η γλώσσα μου στις αμμουδιές του Ομήρου», έγραψε ο Οδυσσέας Ελύτης.

- Χ. ΤΣΟΛΑΚΗΣ: Εγώ από τον Ελύτη πήρα τον τίτλο «τη γλώσσα μου έδωσαν ελληνική» κι έκανα μια σειρά στο ραδιόφωνο της Θεσσαλονίκης για μια σειρά 12 χρόνων και εκδόθηκαν πέντε τόμοι με τον ομώνυμο τίτλο.

 Εσείς πως βλέπετε το θέμα της ελληνικής παιδείας ανά τον κόσμο, καθώς όπως γνωρίζω έχετε ταξιδέψει αρκετά εκτός συνόρων;

- Χ. ΤΣΟΛΑΚΗΣ: Οι ξένοι σέβονται τον ελληνικό λόγο, την ελληνική παιδεία και φροντίζουν να τη μεταφέρουν στα παιδιά τους. Το κακό είναι ότι εμείς οι Ελληνες δε σεβόμαστε την παιδεία μας. Από έλλειψη παιδείας απειλείται και η γλώσσα μας στην Ευρώπη, κι όχι από την πολιτική, την τακτική, την πρακτική της ευρωπαϊκής ηγεσίας. Το θέμα είναι ότι εάν η γλώσσα μας βουλιάξει, θα ευθυνόμαστε εξ ολοκλήρου εμείς διότι δεν φροντίζουμε να αποκτήσουμε παιδεία.

#### ΜΑΡΙΑ ΜΑΚΕΔΩΝ

Η Μαρία Μακεδών, διευθύντρια του Γραφείου Παιδείας της Αμέσου Αρχιεπι-

Σελίδα 16

### Συνέντευξη Οικουμενικού Πατριάρχου

Σελίδα 14

του όρου. Θέλουμε ισότητα και θρησκευτική ελευθερία. Είμαστε Ρωμηοί με τουρκική υπηκοότητα". Στην συνέχεια ο Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος τόνισε με έμφαση: "Να μη μας αντιμετωπίσουν ούτε ως ξένους ούτε ως εχθρούς. Αυτά όλα να αξιολογηθούν λεπτομερώς στο νέο Σύνταγμα. Ούτως ώστε να μην σχολιαστούν λανθασμένα το Σύνταγμα και οι Νόμοι από μέρους γραφειοκρατών όπως συνέβαινε στο παρελθόν".

Σε άλλο ερώτημα σχετικό πως βλέπει το μέλλον μιάς κοινότητος που ο πληθυσμός της μειώνεται ο Οικουμενικός Πατριάρχης απάντησε "Με την Λωζάνη εντάξει πραγματοποιήθηκε η ανταλλαγή των πληθυσμών. Όμως τα γεγόνοτα της 6/7ης Σεπτεμβρίου 1955 και τα γεγονότα των απελάσεων του 1964 μας κατέστρεψαν, πληρώσαμε το τίμημα του Κυπριακού, ο πληθυσμός από 120.000 μειώθηκε στις 3.000. Εμείς έχουμε ανάγκη από νέο αίμα. Τώρα λόγω της μεγάλης οικονομικής κρίσης στην Ελλάδα ορισμένοι πού έφυγαν απο την Τουρκία επιθυμούν να επιστρέψουν, ακόμη και Έλληνες που δεν είναι από την Πόλη θέλουν να εγκατασταθούν εδώ. Μας έρχονται επιστολές στις οποίες μας ζητούν "βρέστε μας εργασία και κατοικία".

Στην ερώτηση σε ποιό σημείο βρίσκονται οι συζητήσεις για την Οικουμενικότητα στο Νέο Σύνταγμα, ο Πατριάρχης απάντησε ότι "Είμαστε το αρχαιότερο ίδρυμα στον τόπο αυτό. Είμαστε ένα ίδρυμα 17 αιώνων, είναι μία ευκαιρία για την Τουρκία". Κατόπιν ο Πατριάρχης αναφέρθηκε στην απόφαση της επιτροπής της Βενετίας ότι το Πατριαρχείο είναι Οικουμενικό και ότι στην χρήση

του όρου αυτού δεν μπορεί να το εμποδίσει κανείς, προσθέτοντας μάλιστα, ότι δεν εμπεριέχει κανένα πολιτικό χαρακτήρα αφού πρόκειται για ένα όρο που η χρήση του ξεκινά από τον 6ο αιώνα και μαρτυρεί την θέση του στον Ορθόδοξο κόσμο του Πατριαρχείου. Επίσης εξέφρασε την επιθυμία του να υπάρχει αναγνώριση της νομικής προσωπικότητος του Πατριαρχείου.

Ο δημοσιογράφος της Hürriyet δεν παρέλειψε να ρωτήσει "τι εκφράζει για σας η Εργκενεκόν", και ο Πατριάρχης Βαρθολομαίος απάντησε: "Εμείς ζήσαμε προσωπικά την υπόθεση της Εργκενεκόν, εκείνη την σκοτεινή περίοδο υπήρχε μία εκστρατεία που κατευθυνόταν από πολλές πλευρές. Ο αοίδιμος Πατριάρχης Δημήτριος θα μετέβαινε στην Αμερική. Οπλισμένοι αστυνομικοί φύλαγαν μπροστά στην πόρτα του γραφείου του και μέσα στο γραφείο του με το πρόσχημα ότι «υπάρχει κίνδυνος». Μπήκαν μέχρι και στο σπίτι του. Ο Πατριάρχης Δημήτριος προσωπικά μου έλεγε: Βαρθολομαίε παιδί μου, έχω την αίσθηση ότι όταν κοιμούμαι θα έλθουν να με σκοτώσουν. Σκοπός δεν ήταν να προστατεύσουν αλλά να φοβίσουν για να αποτρέψουν την μετάβαση στις Η.Π.Α. Ένας σύλλογος με την επωνυμία Τούρκοι της Δυτικής Θράκης για αρκετές ημέρες εμπόδισαν τις εισόδους και εξόδους του Πατριαρχείου (σ.σ καθόντουσαν στα σκαλοπάτια του Πατριαρχείου εμποδίζοντας οποιαδήποτε πρόσβαση). Οι δυνάμεις ασφαλείας και η Νομαρχία δεν τους απομάκρυνε. Ο δικηγόρος Κεριντσής, η Σεβγκή Έρενερόλ και άλλοι ερχόντουσαν στο Πατριαρχείο κατέθεταν μαύρο στεφάνι και έβριζαν. Τώρα είναι όλοι στην φυλακή".

### ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ



### Έορτή Άγίων Άναργύρων Κοσμᾶ καί Δαμιανοῦ

Πρός τούς Σεβασμιωτάτους καί Θεοφιλεστάτους Άρχιερεῖς, τούς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καί Διακόνους, τούς Μοναχούς καί Μοναχές, τούς Προέδρους καί Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμ-βουλίων, τά Ἡμερήσια καί Ἀπογευματινά Σχολεῖα, τίς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τήν Νεολαία, τίς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὀργανώσεις καί ὁλόκληρο τό Χριστεπώνυμον πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

#### Άγαπητοί Άδελφοί και Άδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ,

Σ' αὐτή τήν ἑορτή τῶν Άγίων Ἀναργύρων Κοσμᾶ καί Δαμιανοῦ, τιμοῦμε δύο μεγάλους θεραπευτές καί κήρυκες οἱ ὁποῖοι προσέφεραν πιστή μαρτυρία τοῦ Χριστοῦ καί τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου. Όταν διαβάζουμε τήν Άγία Γραφή διαπιστώνουμε τίς πολλές ἀναφορές οἱ ὁποῖες γίνονται στή θεραπευτική καί διδακτική διακονία τοῦ Κυρίου μας. Στό κατά Ματθαῖον διαβάζουμε ὅτι ὁ Ἰησοῦς περιῆγεν τάς πόλεις πάσας καί τάς κώμας διδάσκων ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς αὐτῶν καί κηρύσσων τό εὐαγγέλιον τῆς βασιλείας καί θεραπεύων πᾶσαν νόσον καί πᾶσαν μαλακίαν (Ματθ. 9:35). Ὁ Εὐαγγελιστής Λουκᾶς γράφει ὅτι ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀποδεξάμενος αὐτούς ἐλάλει αὐτοῖς περί τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ, καί τοὺς χρείαν ἔχοντας θεραπείας ἱᾶτο (Λουκ. 9:11). Ἡ διακονία τῶν Ἁγίων Ἀναργύρων εἶναι ὅμιοια μέ αυτή τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Καθώς ἐκήρυτταν τό Εὐαγγέλιο καί ἐθεράπευαν τοὺς ἀρρώστους, διεπνέοντο ἀπό αἰσθήματα εὐσπλαγχνίας γιά τοὺς ἀνθρώπους σέ κατάσταση ἀνάγκης.

Έχαριζαν τά δῶρα καί τίς ἱκανότητές των ἄνευ ἀμοιβῆς, ἀποζητώντας μόνο τήν δόξα τοῦ Θεοῦ καί τήν ἀνταπόκριση διά τῆς πίστεως ἐν Χριστῷ. Οἱ λόγοι καί ή προσέγγισή των ἦτο πλήρης τῆς εὐσπλαγχνίας τοῦ Κυρίου μας, ἡ ὁποία γέμιζε μέ εἰρήνη, παρηγορία καί χάρη τίς ζωές τῶν διακονηθέντων.

Τό Οικουμενικό Πατριαρχεῖο μας προσφέρει τήν ἴδια διακονία εὐσπλαγχνίας μέσα ἀπό τά φιλανθρωπικά προγράμματα μέ ἀποδέκτες τούς χρήζοντες βοηθείας. Μέ τήν χάρη τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἱεράρχες, κληρικοί καὶ ἡ ἡγεσία τῶν ἐνοριῶν καὶ διακονιῶν ὑπηρετοῦν μέσα ἀπό τό Νοσοκομεῖο καὶ τόν Οἶκο Εὐγηρίας Βαλουκλῆ καὶ μέσα ἀπό ἄλλους θεσμούς καὶ προγράμματα τά όποῖα παρέχουν ὑπηρεσίες σέ ὀρφανά καὶ πτωχούς. Καθημερινά, ἀντιμετωπίζονται στοργικά οἱ ἀνάγκες ἡλικιωμένων, ἀρρώστων, ἐγκαταλελειμμένων καὶ ἀστέγων, οἱ ὁποῖοι θεραπεύονται σωματικά καὶ ψυχικά.

Καλούμεθα νά προσφέρουμε τήν ἴδια διακονία εὐσπλαγχνίας στίς ἐνορίες μας καί μέσα ἀπό τά προγράμματα καί τούς θεσμούς τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς μας. Εἴμεθα ἐπίσης εὐλογημένοι εὐρισκόμενοι σέ θέση νά στηρίξουμε αὐτό τό ζωτικό ἔργο τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου διά τῶν προσπαθειῶν τῆς Ἑθνικῆς Φιλοπτώχου Ἀδελφότητος Κυριῶν ἡ ὁποία κάθε χρόνο ἡγεῖται τῆς προσπαθείας ἀρωγῆς αὐτοῦ τοῦ φιλανθρωπικοῦ ἔργου. Καλοῦμε ὅλες τίς ἐνορίες μας στίς 30 Ὁκτωβρίου νά περιαγάγουν εἰδικό δίσκο γιά τή συγκέντρωση χρημάτων γι' αὐτό τόν σκοπό. Τό ἔργο αὐτό πού προσφέρει τό Οἰκουμενικό Πατριαρχεῖο μας καί ἡ ἡγεσία τῆς Ἑθνικῆς Φιλοπτώχου μας μαζί μέ τά τοπικά παραρτήματα προσφέρει πιστή μαρτυρία τῆς εὐσπλαγχνίας τοῦ Κυρίου μας καί μιμεῖται τό ὑπέροχο ἔργο τῶν Ἁγίων Κοσμᾶ καί Δαμιανοῦ. Ἐμπνέει, ἐπίσης, ὅλους ἐμιᾶς ν' ἀναλογισθοῦμε τά πλήθη τῶν ἀνθρώπων γύρω μας πού χρειάζονται βοήθεια, πνευματική καί σωματική, καί νά νιώσουμε στοργή διά τῆς παρουσίας καί τῆς δυνάμεως τοῦ Χριστοῦ στή ζωή μας. Ώς ἄνθρωποι τοῦ Θεοῦ, πού είναι ή πηγτής εὐσπλαγχνίας πρέπει νά προσφέρουμε τό θεραπευτικό καί λυτρωτικό ἄγγιγμα τῆς χάριτός Του.

Προσευχόμενοι, ἄς προβοῦμε σέ γενναιόδωρη προσφορά γιά τίς φιλανθρωπικές διακονίες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ μας Πατριαρχείου. Ἄς συνεχίσουμε τἡν ὑποστήριξή μας γιά τίς διακονίες τῆς Ἐθνικῆς Φιλοπτώχου Ἀδελφότητος Κυριῶν καί τῶν τοπικῶν παρατημάτων της, καί ἄς προσφέρουμε στοργή καί ἀγάπη στούς χρήζοντες βοηθείας, περιποιούμενοι τίς πληγές τους, προσφέροντας παρηγορία στίς ταλαιπωρημένες ψυχές των, καί όδηγώντας τους σέ όδούς ἀσφαλείας περιβάλλοντάς τους μέ τήν παρουσία καί τήν ἀγάπη τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Μέ πατρική ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπη,

+ δ Άρχιεπίσκοπος Άμερικῆς Δημήτριος

0Pθ0Δ0Ξ0Σ ΠΑΡΑΤΗΡΗΤΗΣ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ NOEMΒΡΙΟΣ 2011

### ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ

Σελίδα 13

τήν Θεία Εύχαριστία, θεῖο μυστήριο λατρείας καί πίστεως τό όποῖο μᾶς ἐνώνει μὲ τόν Χριστό καί γεμίζει τίς καρδιές μας μέ χαρά. Δείχνουμε ἐπίσης τήν εὐγνωμοσύνη μας στόν Θεό ἀπαντώντας στό κάλεσμά Του γιά διακονία.

Δίδουμε ἀπό τόν χρόνο μας, τίς ίκανότητες καί τά μέσα τά όποῖα διαθέτουμε γιά τό ἱερό ἔργο τῆς ἐπεκτάσεως τῆς βασιλείας Του καί γιά τίς ἀνάγκες τῶν συνανθρώπων μας.

Αὐτός ὁ πνευματικός καρπός τῆς εὐχαριστίας ὁ όποῖος παράγεται ἀπό εὐγνώμονες καρδιές ἔχει τή δύναμη πολύ μεγάλης ἐπιρροῆς. Λόγοι εὐγνωμοσύνης μποροῦν νά ἐπιφέρουν χαρά καί ἐκπλήρωση στή ζωή ἐνός ἄλλου ἀνθρώπου. Ἡ καλωσύνη καί ὁ σεβασμός μέσα ἀπό πράξεις εὐχαριστίας ἐπιβεβαιώνουν τήν ἀνθρώπινη ἀξία καί ἀξιοπρέπεια καί γεννοῦν τήν ἐλπίδα ὅτι ἡ φροντίδα καί ἡ εὐσπλαγχνία συνεχίζουν νά ἀποτελοῦν σημαντικές ποιότητες τῆς ζωῆς.

Ή ἔκφραση εὐχαριστίας ἀκόμη καί ἐν μέσφ δυσχερῶν καταστάσεων μπορεῖ ν' ἀποτελέση πηγή δυνάμεως γιά κάποιον

ἄλλον καί μαρτυρία τῆς δυνάμεως καί χάριτος τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Αὐτό ἀποτελεῖ ζωτική σύνδεση τῆς πίστεως μέ τή ζωή. Ή δική σας εὐχαριστία τήν ὁποία προσφέρετε στόν Θεό μετουσιώνεται σέ στάση εύγνωμοσύνης καί χαρᾶς σέ ὅλα τά ἐπίπεδα τῆς ζωῆς σας; Εἶστε ὅμως εὐγνώμονες πρός Ἐκεῖνον μέ τήν ἔκφραση καλωσύνης καί εὐγνωμοσύνης πρός τούς συνανθρώπους σας; Άποτελεῖ ἡ ζωή σας μαρτυρία εὐχαριστίας ἡ όποία μεταδίδει εὐλογία καί δύναμη στούς ἄλλους; Αὐτές τίς ἐρωτήσεις πρέπει νά ἔχετε κατά νοῦ τήν ἡμέρα αὐτῆς τῆς έορτῆς καθώς ἐπιβεβαιώνουμε τόν πνευματικό χαρακτήρα της καί τήν προτεραιότητα τῆς ἐκφράσεως εὐχαριστίας διά τῆς Χριστιανικῆς ζωῆς μας.

Εὔχομαι σέ σᾶς καί στίς οἰκογένειές σας νά χαρῆτε μία ώραία καί εὐλογημένη Ήμέρα Εὐχαριστιῶν, γεμάτη εὐφροσύνη, ἀδελφοσύνη, πάντοτε μέσα στήν παρουσία τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Εὔχομαι, καθώς συγκεντρώνεσθε στά σπίτια σας, καθώς μετέχετε στό ἴδιο τραπέζι καί προσφέρετε τόν χρόνο σας στήν ὑπηρεσία ἄλλων, νά δοξάζετε τό ὄνομά Του μέ ὕμνους καί ἀδές εὐχαριστίας.

Μέ πατρική ἐν Χριστῷ ἀγάπη,

ο Αμφιαη Σημήτριος + ὁ Άρχιεπίσκοπος Άμερικῆς Δημήτριος



Φωτογραφία: ΔΗΜΗΤΡΗΣ ΠΑΝΑΓΟ

#### του **Σταύρου Η. Παπαγερμανού**

Το θέμα «Ορθοδοξία: Μια απεριόριστη έκφραση», ανέπτυξε ο Σεβασμιώτατος Αρχιεπίσκοπος Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριος στη διάλεξη που παρουσίασε στις 9 Νοεμβρίου στο Πανεπιστήμιο Yale στο New Haven του Κονέκτικατ.

Η διάλεξη έγινε μετά από πρόσκληση της Θεολογικής Σχολής του Yale προς τον Αρχιεπίσκοπο με αφορμή την έναρξη του συνεδρίου με τίτλο «Ατενίζοντας προς την Ανατολή: ανοιχτό παράθυρο προς τις ανατολικές χριστιανικές παραδόσεις των Θεοφανείων» και σε συνδυασμό με την έκθεση τέχνης «Λαοί, Ευσέβεια και Ιερές Παραδόσεις της Ανατολικής Μεσογείου.

Τον Σεβασμιώτατο Αρχιεπίσκοπο Αμερικής κ. Δημήτριο υποδέχθηκε και παρουσίασε στο ακροατήριο ο κοσμήτωρ της Θεολογικής Σχολής, Δρ. Harold W. Attridge. Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος παρουσίασε με πολύ ενδιαφέροντα τρόπο τη μεγάλη συνεισφορά της Ορθοδοξίας, στον πολιτισμό, στη ζωή των ανθρώπων και στον κόσμο εν γένει, διαμέσου των αιώνων. Απαρίθμησε με γλαφυρότητα και ιστορικά τεκμηριωμένα παραδείγματα τις εκφράσεις προσφοράς της Ορθοδοξίας σε τομείς όπως στο Λόγο, δηλ. στη γλώσσα και κατ' επέκτασιν στη διαμόρφωση και στην εκφραστικότητά της διά της λογοτεχνίας, της υμνολογίας και των πατερικών κειμένων, αλλά και στον τομέα της φιλοσοφικής σκέψης που αναπτύχθηκε παράλληλα και σε συνδυασμό με τη ορθόδοξη θεολογική σκέψη και γλώσσα. Αναφέρθηκε επίσης στους τομείς της τέχνης όπως στη ζωγραφική και εικονογραφία κάθε είδους, στην υφαντουργία, στη μικροτεχνία, μεταλλοτεχνία (λατρευτικά σκεύη, λειτουργικά άμφια), αλλά και στην αρχιτεκτονική διά της ναοδομίας ακόμα και στις δραματικές τέχνες. Επιπλέον ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος τόνισε την προσφορά της Ορθοδοξίας στην δημιουργία και καθιέρωση κοινωνικών θεσμών, στην προώθηση και πρόοδο του ιδανικού της φιλανθρωπίας και του φιλανθρωπικού έργου αλλά και του ιδανικού της παιδείας και της εκπαιδευτικής προσφοράς. Ο Αρχιεπίσκοπος είπε ότι η Ορθοδοξία παρέχει πολλές και απεριόριστες εκφράσεις προσφοράς, αλλά είναι και συγχρόνως η ίδια μια απεριόριστη έκφραση η οποία μεταμορφώνει το υλικό σε πνευματικό εις Δόξαν Θεού. Τη διάλεξη παρακολούθησε πολυπληθές ακροατήριο αποτελούμενο από ακαδημαϊκούς, καθηγητές, φοιτητές, κληρικούς και λαϊκούς που ταξίδεψαν μέχρι το Πανεπιστήμιο Yale για το σκοπό αυτό.

### ΚΛΗΡΙΚΟΛΑΙΚΗ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΩΣ ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ

ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗ.- Στο Μαλιώτειο Πολιτιστικό Κέντρο πραγματοποιήθηκε με επιτυχία, το Σάββατο 1 Οκτωβρίου, η ετήσια Κληρικολαϊκή Συνέλευση της Μητροπόλεως Βοστώνης. Οι εργασίες της συνέλευσης ξεκίνησαν με την εισήγηση του Σεβασμιωτάτου Μητροπολίτου κ. Μεθοδίου, ο οποίος χαρακτήρισε την εκδήλωση ως πηγή έμπνευσης για όλα τα στελέχη του εκκλησιαστικού έργου. Η εισήγηση περιελάμβανε μία κοινωνιολογική προσέγγιση φαινομένων που σχετίζονται με τον εκκλησιαστικό βίο, όπως η διατήρηση της ελληνορθόδοξης ταυτότητας σε μία πολυπολιτισμική κοινωνία, η βαθμιαία αποχριστιανοποίηση του αμερικανικού δημόσιου βίου, η ιδεολογία του ηθικού σχετικισμού κ.α. Ο Σεβασμιώτατος τόνισε την ανάγκη προετοιμασίας της Εκκλησίας προκειμένου να αντιμετωπίσει τις προκλήσεις της εποχής, να φέρει τους ανθρώπους πιο κοντά στον Θεό, χωρίς να εγκαταλείψει τα δόγματα και τις αξίες της. Τελειώνοντας την εισήγηση του ζήτησε απο τους συμμετέχοντες να ενημερωθούν σε βάθος για τα προγράμματα της Εκκλησίας, προκειμένου με τη σειρά τους να ενημερώσουν τα μέλη των ενοριών, τα οποία κάποιες φορές παραπλανούνται από όσους (ελάχιστους), για λόγους ευτελείς και ιδιοτελείς, επιδίδονται σε συστηματική αντιεκκλησιαστική προπαγάνδα.

Την ομιλία του Σεβασμιωτάτου ακολούθησε η παρουσίαση των προγραμμάτων της Αρχιεπισκοπής, με εκλεκτούς ομιλητές, ορισμένοι εκ των οποίων ήρθαν από τη Νέα Υόρκη. Ο κ. Θεόδωρος Νικολάκης αναφέρθηκε στις δυνατότητες που η Αρχιεπισκοπή προσφέρει στις ενορίες να χρησιμοποιήσουν το διαδίκτυο για βελτίωση της ποιμαντικής τους διακονίας. Εκτός από την τεχνική υποστήριξη όσων κοινοτήτων επιθυμούν να έχουν δική τους ιστοσελίδα και να εκτυπώνουν μηνιαία και εβδομαδιαία ενημερωτικά δελτία, η Αρχιεπισκοπή προσφέρει την δυνατότητα στα παιδιά να μελετήσουν την Αγία Γραφή στο ίντερνετ και επίσης παρέχει την δυνατότητα αναζήτησης ή προσφοράς εργασίας (ειδικοτήτων που ασφαλώς σχετίζονται με την κοινοτική ζωή και δραστηριότητα). Ευχάριστη εντύπωση έκανε, η προσωπική αναφορά του κ. Νικολάκη στα χρόνια που εργαζόταν στα γραφεία της Μητροπόλεως, η οποία προκάλεσε το παρατεταμένο χειροκρότημα των συνέδρων. Επόμενος ομιλητής ήταν ο π. Δημήτριος Κορδάρης, διευθυντής του Γραφείου Ευαγγελισμού της Αρχιεπισκοπής. Ο π. Κορδάρης παρουσίασε τις βασικές χριστιανικές αρχές διακονίας και ευαγγελισμού της κοινωνίας, τονίζοντας την ανάγκη εκ μέρους των εκκλησιαστικών στελεχών να ακούνε τις αγωνίες των συνανθρώπων και να αναπτύσσουν το όραμα τους για πνευματική προκοπή κατά τρόπο που θα επιτρέπει στον κάθε έναν να ξεδιπλώνει τα ιδιαίτερα χαρίσματα και ταλέντα του. Αξιοσημείωτο είναι το παράδειγμα που ανέφερε ο ομιλητής σχετικά με τους επιτρόπους που υποδέχονται το εκκλησίασμα στην είσοδο του ναού. Η φιλική τους συμπεριφορά είναι η αρχή του ευαγγελισμού και αποτελεί ένα καλωσόρισμα εκείνων που έρχονται στην εκκλησία για να πλησιάσουν τον Θεό, να νοηματοδοτήσουν τη ζωή τους και να αναπτύξουν αδελφικές σχέσεις με τους άλλους ενορίτες. Πέραν των επισημάνσεων αυτών, ο π. Δημήτριος αναφέρθηκε στα Ενημερωτικά Δελτία για τις θρησκευτικές εορτές που η Αρχιεπισκοπή διανέμει στις ενορίες, στα προγράμματα για τον ευαγγελισμό της οικογένειας και στην εξυπηρέτηση των αναγκών κάποιων ενοριών που στερούνται εκκλησιαστικών σκευών.

Ο Δρ. Αντώνιος Βρέιμ, διευθυντής του Γραφείου Θρησκευτικής Παιδείας, μίλησε για την ανάγκη μίας Χριστοκεντρικής παιδείας, που θα αγκαλιάζει όχι μόνο τα παιδιά του κατηχητικού σχολείου αλλά και τους ενήλικες της εκκλησίας. Ανέφερε στη συνέχεια μία σειρά προγραμμάτων θρησκευτικής εκπαίδευσης, όπως τα σεμινάρια για τους κατηχητές της κάθε μητροπόλεως, το φεστιβάλ χριστιανικής ομιλητικής, το φεστιβάλ γνώσης του Ορθοδόξου αγιολογίου, την έκδοση του περιοδικού ΠΡΑΞΙΣ και τις οικογενειακές κατηχητικές συνάξεις, οι οποίες -σε ό,τι αφορά τη Μητρόπολη Βοστώνης- πραγματοποιούνται στο Πνευματικό Κέντρο Αγίου Μεθοδίου στο Νιου Χαμσάϊρ. Ο Μητροπολίτης Μεθόδιος, σε παρέμβασή του, συνεχάρη το Γραφείο Παιδείας για την έκδοση περιοδικών που με περιεκτικό τρόπο αναφέρονται στη διδασκαλία της Εκκλησίας (για διάφορα θέματα) και προέτρυνε τους κατηχητές να συμμετέχουν πιο ενεργά στα επιμορφωτικά σεμινάρια που διοργανώνει κατά καιρούς η Μητρόπολη. Ο καθηγητής Φίλιππος Μαμαλάκης αναφέρθηκε στα προγράμματα υποστήριξης της οικογένειας. Συγκεκριμένα παρουσίασε το σεμινάριο προετοιμασίας για τους μελλονύμφους (το οποίο

▶ σελ. 17

### Εκπαιδευτικό Επιμορφωτικό Σεμινάριο

▶Σελίδα 15

σκοπικής Περιφερείας, διοργανώτριας αρχής του ετησίου εκπαιδευτικού σεμιναρίου, ανέφερε στον Ορθόδοξο Παρατηρητή: «Είμαι πάρα πολύ χαρούμενη για την επιτυχία που είχε το εκπαιδευτικό σεμινάριο που διοργάνωσε το Γραφείο μας. Και είμαι χαρούμενη για δύο λόγους: πρώτον γιατί η συμμετοχή των εκπαιδευτικών μας ήταν μεγάλη και δεύτερον γιατί οι επί μέρους εισηγήσεις ήσαν χρήσιμες και πολύ ενδιαφέρουσες.

«Ιδιαίτερα, θα σταθώ στο κομμάτι του σεμιναρίου που απευθυνόταν στους Ελληνες εκπαιδευτικούς, οι οποίοι ήρθαν από όλες σχεδόν τις περιοχές της Νέας Υόρκης. Ορισμένοι μάλιστα ήρθαν και από τη Νεα Ιερσέη και την Πενσυλβάνια.

Ήρθαν για να ακούσουν τον διακεκριμμένο καθηγητή της εφηρμοσμένης γλωσσολογίας του Αριστοτελείου Πανεπιστημίου Θεσσαλονίκης, κ. Χρίστο Τσολάκη, ο οποίος με το λόγο του τους ενθουσίασε και τους ενεψύχωσε. Και όλοι έμειναν κατενθουσιασμένοι, γοη-

τευμένοι, μπορώ να πω. Πολλοί μάλιστα ζήτησαν να παραμείνουν μετά το τέλος της εισήγησής του για να συνεχίσουν να τον ακούν και να μαθαίνουν. Θετικά είναι και τα σχόλια που φθάνουν στο Γραφείο μας, ενδεικτικό του ενδιαφέροντος των εκπαιδευτικών μας να μάθουν κάτι το ουσιαστικό, κάτι το ωφέλιμο για τη δουλειά τους.

«Θέλω να εκφράσω τις ευχαριστίες μου προς τους διευθυντές των ημερησίων σχολείων της περιοχής μας, που στήριξαν και στηρίζουν τις προσπάθειες του Γραφείου μας για την επιμόρφωση των εκπαιδευτικών των σχολείων τους. Έχει γίνει πια θεσμός το ετήσιο επιμορφωτικό σεμινάριο του Γραφείου Παιδείας Αμέσου Αρχιεπισκοπικής Περιφέρειας. Και η συνεργασία των διευθυντών μας ενδυναμώνει.

Ευχαριστούμε επίσης και τον Σεβασμιώτατο Αρχιεπίσκοπό μας κ. Δημήτριο για την εμπιστοσύνη Του και την ευλογία Του, που μας βοηθούν να κάνουμε το καλύτερο για τους δασκάλους και τα σχολεία μας», κατέληξε η κ. Μακεδών.

### ΚΛΗΡΙΚΟΛΑΙΚΗ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΕΩΣ **ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ**

σελ. 16

πρώτη η Μητρόπολη Βοστώνης εδώ και δεκαετίες υϊοθέτησε), το πρόγραμμα συμβουλευτικής και αλληλουποστήριξης για παντρεμένους, και τις οικογενειακές συνάξεις που πραγματοποιούνται είτε σε επίπεδο ενορίας, είτε σε επίπεδο μητροπόλεως.

Τα προγράμματα αυτά έχουν καταρτισθεί σε συνεργασία με το Κέντρο Οικογενειακής Φροντίδας και το Γραφείο Διαχριστιανικής Διακονίας της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής.

Η πρόεδρος της Εθνικής Φιλοπτώχου κ. Αφροδίτη Σκιαδά, αφού αναφέρθηκε για αρκετή ώρα στο φιλανθρωπικό έργο της Μητροπόλεως Βοστώνης, μέσω του οίκου Φιλοξενία, της κατασκήνωσης-πνευματικό κέντρο Αγ. Μεθοδίου και του συνδέσμου υποστηρικτών της (ΦΟΣ), μίλησε στη συνέχεια για τα νέα προγράμματα της Φιλοπτώχου (για όσους υποφέρουν από αυτισμό, για τα θύματα επιδημιών, φυσικών καταστροφών κ.λ.π.).

Με ιδιαίτερο θαυμασμό άκουσαν οι σύνεδροι, ότι η Φιλόπτωχος τα τελευταία 10 χρόνια διέθεσε το ποσό των 13 εκατομμρίων δολαρίων για φιλανθρωπίες. Τέλος κ. Σκιαδά ανακοίνωσε την πρόθεση της Εθνικής Φιλοπτώχου να αποκτήσει ιδιόκτητα γραφεία στη Νέα Υόρκη.

Η κ. Φίλιππα Κοντάκη, εκ μέρους της Φιλοπτώχου της Μητροπόλεως Βοστώνης, αναφέρθηκε επίσης στο πολυδιάστατο έργο της Φιλοπτώχου, ανακοίνωσε ότι στις 19 Νοεμβρίου η Φιλόπτωχος της Μητροπόλεως οργανώνει Ημερίδα και πληροφόρησε τους συνέδρους για τη σχεδιαζόμενη ιστοσελίδα, που θα ενημερώνει κάθε ενδιαφερόμενο για το έργο της Φιλοπτώχου της Μητροπόλεως.

Στη συνέχεια η Συνέλευση επικέντρωσε το ενδιαφέρον της σε θέματα που αφο-

ρούν την διαχείρηση των ενοριών, την ενεργοποίηση των ενοριτών για την υποστήριξη των κοινοτικών προγραμμάτων, με ομιλίες των κ. Γεράσιμου Μινέτου και Νικολάου Σιαλιά.

Μεταξύ των διαφόρων πρακτικών συμβουλών και παραδειγμάτων, αξιοσημείωτη υπήρξε και η αναφορά στις ιστορικές και κοινωνικές εξελίξεις που διαμορφώνουν το προφίλ των ενοριών και των ενοριτών.

Ο κ. Αντώνιος Στεφανής και ο κ. Γεράσιμος Δημητρίου αναφέρθηκαν στις εθνικές διακονίες της Αρχιεπισκοπής και στον οικονομικό απολογισμό περί των εσόδων και εξόδων της Αρχιεπισκοπής.

Οι εθνικές διακονίες αφορούν την θρησκευτική παιδεία, το γραφείο ενοριακής ανάπτυξης, το γραφείο για τους νέους ενήλικες, την διακονία για την οικογένεια, το γραφείο ευαγγελισμού, τον τομέα φιλανθρωπίας, την ελληνική παιδεία, το γραφείο επικοινωνίας, το Ελληνικό Κολλέγιο και τη Θεολογική Σχολή. την διακονία μέσω ίντερνετ, το γραφείο βιντεοπαραγωγών, την εφημερίδα Ορθόδοξος Παρατηρητής κ.α.

Σχετικά με τον οικονομικό απολογισμό της αρχιεπισκοπής, ήταν ιδιαίτερα χρήσιμα τα προβαλλόμενα διαγράμματα, τα οποία παρουσίασαν με απλό και κατανοητό τρόπο ποιά είναι τα έσοδα της Αρχιεπισκοπής και πως κατανέμονται για τις δαπάνες των εθνικών διακονιών και των μητροπόλεων της Εκκλησίας.

Εκτιμήθηκε ιδιαίτερα από τους συνέδρους ότι όλα τα στοιχεία των οικονομικών δραστηριοτήτων της Αρχιεπισκοπής παρουσιάστηκαν με τρόπο ανοικτό και διαφωτιστικό.

Η Συνέλευση ολοκληρώθηκε με αναφορές στις διακονίες της Ιεράς Μητροπόλεως, οι οποίες αντιστοιχούν με τις προαναφερόμενες διακονίες της Ιεράς Αρχιεπι-

σκοπής. Η Μητρόπολη Βοστώνης δίνει ιδιαίτερη έμφαση στην φροντίδα της νεολαίας και έχει αναπτύξει σειρά προγραμμάτων κατηχητικού, αθλητικού και κοινωνικού περιεχομένου προς όφελος των νέων. Διευθυντής της Κατασκήνωσης και του Μητροπολιτικού Πνευματικού κέντρου «Αγιος Μεθόδιος» είναι ο απόφοιτος της Θεολογικής Σχολής κ. Μιχάλης Σίντρος.

Η κατασκήνωση προσφέρει την ευκαιρία κάθε καλοκαίρι σε εκατοντάδες παιδιά των κοινοτήτων της Νέας Αγγλίας να δυναμώσουν την πίστη τους σε ένα περιβάλλον χριστιανικής αγάπης και ψυχαγωγίας.

Το πνευματικό κέντρο, που βρίσκεται στην ίδια με την κατασκήνωση τοποθεσία, λειτουργεί καθ όλη τη διάρκεια του έτους και φιλοξενεί σεμινάρια, εκδηλώσεις και πνευματικές συνάξεις διαφόρων εκκλησιαστικών οργανώσεων, τόσο της Μητροπόλεως όσο και ευρύτερα.

Την δραστηριότητα αυτή του Κέντρου -όπως σωστά επισημάνθηκε- πρέπει να την εκμεταλλευτούν όλες οι κοινότητες για την πνευματική οφέλεια των διαφόρων ενοριακών ομάδων.

Οι αναφορές στο έργο της Μητροπόλεως αφορούσαν βεβαίως και τον οίκο της Φιλοξενίας, ένα έργο με διεθνή αναγνώριση (στο οποίο θα εξακολουθεί να βοηθά η αφυπηρετούσα από γραμματέας της Μητροπόλεως κ. Σοφία Νίμπι) και σε άλλες διαστάσεις της Μητροπολιτικής διακονίας.

Μετά το τέλος των ψηφισμάτων (των αφορώντων και τους ομοιόμορφους κανονισμούς των κοινοτήτων), ο Σεβασμιώτατος Μητροπολίτης Βοστώνης κ. Μεθόδιος, αφού ευχαρίστησε τους συνέδρους, τον πρωτοσύγκελο π. Θεόδωρο Μπάρμπα και τα στελέχη της Μητροπόλεως, κήρυξε τη λήξη της Συνέλευσης.

Ακολούθησε δεξίωση στους χώρους του Μαλιωτείου Κέντρου και η ακολουθία του Εσπερινού στο παρεκκλήσιο της Θεολογικής Σχολής.

### ΕΠΙΣΚΕΨΗ ΟΙΚΟΥΜΕΝΙΚΟΥ ΠΑΤΡΙΑΡΧΟΥ ΣΤΗ ΒΙΘΥΝΙΑ

▶ σελ. 13

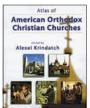
Ο τουρκικός τύπος και οι ιστοσελίδες αναφέρουν σχετικά με την επίσκεψη ότι: «Ο Πατριάρχης είδε την Αγία Σοφία από μακριά, χωρίς να κατέβει από το λεωφορείο στο οποίο επέβαινε με την ακολουθία του. Δεν σχολίασε, την είδε από μακριά. Είπε ότι ήταν μια προγραμματισμένη επίσκεψη εδώ και καιρό». Τον Πατριάρχη συνόδευαν οι Μητροπολίτες: Γέρων Νικαίας Κωνσταντίνος, Γέρων Δέρκων Απόστολος, Τρανουπόλεως Γερμανός, Καρπάθου και Κάσου Αμβρόσιος, Πριγκηποννήσων Ιάκωβος, Μυριοφύτου και Περιστάσεως Ειρηναίος, Ρεθύμνης Ευγένιος, Κορέας Αμβρόσιος και Προύσης Ελπιδοφόρος. Επίσης, η Α.Θ.Παναγιότης, ὁ Πατριάρχης, συνοδευόμενος ὑπό τῶν αὐταδέλφων Αὐτοῦ Νικολάου καί Άντωνίου Άρχοντώνη, μετέβη τό ἑοπέρας τῆς Κυριακής, 30ής Όκτωβρίου, είς τήν περιοχήν Gucek τῆς Νοτιοδυτικῆς Τουρκίας πρός βραχεῖαν ἀνάπαυσιν, κατά τήν διάρκειαν τῆς ὁποίας ἐπεοκέφθη τήν Μάκρην καί τό ἐγκαταλελειμένον Λιβίσι, ἔνθα προσεκύνησεν είς τούς μεγαλοπρεπεῖς άλλ' ἐν κακῆ καταστάσει σήμερον Ἱερούς Ναούς τῶν Ταξιαρχῶν καί τῆς Παναγίας τῆς Πυργιώτισσας, ὡς καί εἰς ἄλλα παρεκκλήσια τοῦ Λιβισίου, καί ἔψαλε τό «Χριστός Ἀνέστη» καί ἀπολυτίκια αὐτῶν, ώς συνηθίζει πάντοτε εἰς ἀναλόγους περιπτώσεις, δεηθείς και ὑπέρ τῶν κτιτόρων αὐτῶν καί τῶν διακονησάντων κατά καιρούς ἐν αὐτοῖς. Ἐπίσης, ἐπεσκέφθη τά έρείπια τῆς δυσπροσίτου καί δυσβάτου Ίερᾶς Μονῆς Άγίου Νικολάου-Άγίου Ἐλευθερίου (Γιάφκουλα-Afkula) καί έθαύμασε τήν πίστιν τῶν κτιτόρων αὐτῆς καί τῶν μοναχῶν πού ἔζησαν καί ἀγωνίσθησαν σωματικώς καί πνευματικώς διά τόν Χριστόν κυριολεκτικῶς «ἐν ὅρεσι καί οπηλαίοις καί ταῖς ὀπαῖς τῆς γῆς».



# HOLY CROSS

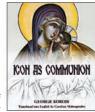
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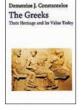


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### PROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY ME ERROPOF SINE



Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Gerasimos greet children of the Anaheim parish.

### Calif. Parish Marks 50 Years

by **Jamie Amerine** 

ANAHEIM, Calif. - St. John the Baptist Church marked its 50th anniversary with a weekend of events celebrating Christian love and service to their fellow man in Orange County on Oct. 8-9.

The parish was honored with the presence of Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco during this celebratory weekend. Under the local leadership of Fr. John Kariotakis, proistamenos; Fr. Nicholas Andrews; and 50th anniversary Chairman John Ohanian, the St. John the Baptist community planned a full weekend to honor the past, celebrate the present, and plan for the future.

The festivities began with a Youth Rally on Oct. 8 with nearly 100 youth lining the walkway outside the church to eagerly greet Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Gerasimos. The day's program included presentations by the Youth Choir, Greek school, Oratorical Festival winners, GOYA, and Greek Dance

Archbishop Demetrios also participated in a very engaging question-andanswer session where children and teens eagerly awaited the opportunity to personally address His Eminence and ask many in-depth questions about the Orthodox faith, Holy Scripture, as well as about the Archbishop's personal journey to the priesthood.

The Disneyland Hotel served as the site for the Grand Banquet on Saturday evening which was attended by more than 650 faithful who gathered to celebrate this important milestone for the St. John the Baptist parish. The community welcomed back two distinguished clergy whose leadership was pivotal to the parish's growth and development - Fr. Evagoras Constantinides and Fr. George Massouras.

Though he was unable to attend Fr. James Diavatis, who served the parish for 30 years until 2010, also received recognition.

The weekend concluded with the Archieratical Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning where Archbishop Demetrios led the faithful in worship. The Church was filled with prayerful and grateful stewards who joined together in prayer and fellowship giving thanks to God for the abundant blessings of the past 50 years, and honoring the founders who have fallen asleep in a memorial service following the Liturgy.

St. John the Baptist blazed the trail as the first Greek Orthodox church in Orange County.

Organizing meetings held in 1960 resulted in the incorporation of the Greek Orthodox Community of Orange County on Oct. 20, 1961, with the Archdiocese granting its charter in 1963.

### Mass. Church Celebrates 95th Year

SOMERVILLE, Mass. - Dormition Church celebrated its 95th anniversary with a series of events – a choir reunion, family garden picnic and the opening of an art exhibit and dinner-dance at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

The choir reunion took place in February and included a presentation of images from the past 50 years.

On May 22, a family garden picnic featured a ground-breaking ceremony for a multi-year landscaping project to which many parishioners donated and planted flower bulbs and plants.

The observation concluded on Oct. 29 with a daytime program open to youth from all parishes of the Metropolis of Boston. They participated in age-appropriate activities.

That evening, the celebration



included the opening of the "Art and Aphrodite" exhibit at the MFA, followed by a dinner-dance.

To view more coverage of the 95th anniversary, visit www.Dormition-Church.org or the parish's Facebook page - Dormition Church 95th anniversary

### Prison Ministry



Participants in the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry convocation held in Toronto.

### **OCPM Holds World Conference**

by Chaplain Patrick Tutella

TORONTO - Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry held its annual convocation in late June in conjunction with Prison Fellowship International. This cooperative effort with PFI greatly enriched OCPM's convocation, as it allowed for the inclusion of Orthodox prison workers from around the world.

This year's theme was "Welcoming home our brothers and sisters who have been in prison."

Seminars included several speakers including Metropolitan Paul of Glyfada, Greece, who spoke of his personal 28year involvement in prison ministry in Greece, and of prison ministry there in general.

Since his ordination to the episcopacy, he has continued to meet with ex-prisoners and to correspond with people currently in prison. He encouraged the convocation attendees to pray, because prayer is the power "which moves everything.'

With the increasing number of incarcerations in the United States, the issue of re-entry becomes more and more pressing. While the general unemployment rate nationally is around 9.2 percent, for those coming out of prison it is near 80 percent.

There are many barriers standing between prisoners and their successful reintegration into society.

Too often, government policies seem to be directed at putting people back into prison; thus, it is left to believing people to try to welcome returning prisoners home.

Fr. Cosmas, a monk at the Monastery of St. John of San Francisco in Manton, Calif., discussed corresponding with prisoners, and the centrality of honest self-revelation in building relationships with prisoners.

He noted that fear of abandonment and isolation dominates the lives of those in prison. Fr. Cosmas also discussed Christ's liberation of everyone from personal imprisonment to sin and selfishness and that the prison minister's revelation of his own liberation from the hell of self builds credibility with prisoners he ministers to.

Rick Wagoner and Sandra Anderson from OCPM Minnesota discussed the "Reunion Meals" they hold for people released from prison.

They emphasized that the meals' purpose is relationship-building, carrying on the theme of relationship that developed throughout the convocation.

A two-part presentation on the Lazarus Project highlighted a reintegration program developed by OCPM that matches people coming out of prison with a team of mentors. They meet on a weekly basis to help them successfully re-enter society.

#### Other prison ministries

Fr. Oleg Skomorokh discussed prison ministry in Russia. Fr. Oleg is the assistant to Archbishop Irinarkh, who directs the Orthodox Church's prison ministry in Russia. He spoke of the challenges prison ministers face in Russia; challenges that sound rather familiar to those of us in the United States: lack of funding, an exploding prison population, and societal indifference to the plight of those in prison.

Fr. Viktor Yatsenko made a presentation about prison ministry in the Ukraine. Fr. Viktor shared a series of pictures depicting the vibrant life of faith that exists even in the harshest prisons in Ukraine.

He said faith in Christ is the only thing helping a person remain intact through the hell of imprisonment.

The last presenter, Elena Yoncheva, discussed prison ministry in Bulgaria. There, the Church works closely with psychologists, social workers and others to bring a genuine change in the life of a person in prison, and their family.

Convocation attendees also visited St. John the Compassionate Mission, an Orthodox homeless ministry in downtown Toronto, Remarkably, the concepts of relationship and community were central to the description of the ministry at St. John.

Participants were reminded of the centrality of relationship in the Christian life: the primary relationship of the individual to God in Christ, and the human relationships which subsequently develop through the grace of that primary God-Man relationship. The attendees were enabled, not only to meditate on the gift of human relationships imbued with God's grace, but also to experience this gift as they formed relationships with one another, relationships that crossed barriers of culture, language and custom through the common and eternal bond of

Chaplain Tutella is executive director of OCPM.

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COMMUNITY ALL OVER THE COUNTRY SINCE 1972

### FILM & TELEVISION

### **MONEYBALL**

by Fr. Gary Kyriacou

I love baseball and going to the movies, so when the two experiences come together, I'm thrilled. The new Sony Pictures release "Moneyball," now joins "The Natural" and "The Sandlot" as a classic in the genre of baseball movies. Having read the book Moneyball, upon which the movie is loosely based, it is safe to say that there are no spoilers in this review.

Moneyball is based on the true story of Oakland A's General Manager Billy Bean. Bean moves into the GM position in 1989 and, finding his ability to recruit big players restricted by a tight budget, develops a revolutionary approach to assembling a successful team. He partners with an Ivy League graduate played by Jonah Hill to turn baseball tradition on

Although the movie is very different from the book, I was captivated on many levels. The theory Beane uses to create the team is fascinating, and the life lessons the characters learn along the way can be instructive to Orthodox Christians. The fact that I actually lived and served as a deacon in Oakland for three years from 2001 to 2004, may make me one of the few blue-blooded Dodger fans that closely followed the unfolding legacy of Beane and the Oakland A's with interest rather than scorn.

I'm not always a big fan of Brad Pitt, but he does a wonderful job portraying the oddities of Billy Beane, who suffers through self-doubt and ridicule as he champions the use of an obscure mathematical analysis of baseball to pick players that are undervalued by traditional powerbrokers.

Batting averages and home runs are the yardstick of choice until Beane and his associates begin using on-base percentage and other lesser statistics to ferret out players that fit their constricted budget.

But don't think you can only enjoy this movie if you are a baseball fan, because the film's greater message is about overcoming resistance to change and the benefit of strong leadership and believing in yourself and your message.

Although Moneyball's message is not overtly religious, it doesn't take much of a leap to see the same principles at work in Christianity.

In the movie, as in life, change creates

problems for people. The Disciples of our Lord experienced this first hand after Pentecost during the establishment of the Church. It's a good thing they were resistant to the persecution they endured as they spread the Good News, because they were not always met with acceptance and open arms. Change for the sake of change is not necessarily wise, but change for the sake of progress can challenge us to strive for better than the status quo.

Leadership is not an attribute best taught in a structured curriculum; the concept is more easily understood in the context of life lessons. Moneyball is a great tool to use as a session builder for leadership and discipleship. The implementation of Billy Beane's scheme to create a successful team can be likened to the disciples' establishment of the early Church in the Book of Acts. The traditional baseball scouts were accustomed to doing things a certain way, much like the Hebrews after our Lord's resurrection. Along comes a new way to look at an old structure (see Acts 9:2) and an identifiable conflict is born.

Early practitioners of Christianity could hardly have imagined what the Church would become. And though Orthodox Christians and others still experience persecution, we who practice in the western world enjoy a widespread acceptance of our faith and a deeply rooted tradition to sustain us in difficult times.

When Beane and the Oakland A's decided to embark on a new path, they probably didn't envision their method helping the Boston Red Sox win the 2004 World Series. Sometimes the changes we resist the most change the game for the better. It takes visionary leaders to champion big changes, and Moneyball's portrayal of leadership, baseball and life make it worth seeing.

The movie is rated PG-13, because of some strong language and "locker room" behavior. Adults should take care to make sure this film is only introduced to groups mature enough to recognize the unsuitable material.

Fr. Kyriacou, pastor of St. Demetrios Church in Camarillo, Calif., spent several years in the motion picture and television industries. From time to time he will offer an Orthodox insight into contemporary entertainment programming and films.

### National, World Leaders Learn the Oxi Day Story at Washington Event

WASHINGTON - Modern history's most consequential, yet forgotten, David vs. Goliath story - Greece's role in the defeat of Adolph Hitler and preservation of freedom and democracy - took a major step into public consciousness at the Washington Oxi Day Foundation's first annual celebration, Oct. 27-28.

Hundreds of high-level national and international policy makers and opinion leaders learned the Oxi Day story through the words of Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt and through the vocal advocacy of current day national and international leaders, including Vice President Joe Biden, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chris Matthews of CNN, former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and others. Washington Oxi Day Foundation President and founder Andy

Manatos and Executive Director Mike Manatos welcomed the involvement in these activities of the national leaders of the Order of St. Andrew, Leadership 100, AHEPA, AHI, SAE, the Pancretan, Pan-Macedonian, Pancyprian, Cyprus, Pan-Epirotic and Pan-Icarian Associations and Federations of America, PSEKA, American Hellenic Council of California, National Hellenic Society, Next Generation Initiative, Hellenic-American National Council, and Hellenic American Women's Council, among others. Dozens of Washington policy makers and opinion leaders, along with Archbishop Demetrios, participated in Foundation events including a National WWII Memorial ceremony that included a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

### Caring for the Poor and Homeless in the Nation's Oldest City

PARISH profile

Name: Holy Trinity

Greek Orthodox Church

Location: St. Augustine, Fla.

Metropolis of Atlanta

Size: about 95 families

Founded: 1973

Clergy: Fr. George Ioannou (HC 2005)

E-mail: holytr@netzero.com

Web: www.holytrinitygoa.org

Noteworthy: Emphasizes a strong

outreach to the poor and homeless

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – It is an irony of history that the first Greeks in the New World, brought to Florida as indentured servants to the New Smyrna colony in 1768, are not those who founded the Greek Orthodox parish in the oldest city in the United States.

Their story is a familiar one. After several years of a miserable existence in the mosquito–malaria infested colony about 70 miles to the south of St. Augustine, they eventually left and blended in with the Spanish inhabitants in St. Augustine where they attended Roman Catholic services in a building known as the Avero House on 41 St. George St.

In 1964, St. Augustine residents and early parishioners of what is now Holy Trinity, Mr. and Mrs. George Fotiou, Mr. and Mrs. James Kalivas, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Sarris, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Xynidis, and Mr. and Mrs. Spiro Zepatos brought this fact to the attention of the Archdiocese, which purchased the building in 1966.

It was restored with a chapel and dedicated as the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine, named for the great Patriarch and missionary saint of Constantinople.

In addition to serving as the full-time priest of Holy Trinity, Fr. George Ioannou also the Shrine's chaplain, holds a paraklesis service on most Fridays and celebrates the Divine Liturgy every three months.

#### Historical background

According to information from Fr. George, those who established the Greek community began arriving in the 1890s and early 1900s and were American-born. There were no direct immigrants from Greece. Many of the local families relocated from Florida's west coast, where they had worked as shrimp boat builders. They followed the shrimping industry when much of its activity shifted to the estable agest coast.

The Greek Orthodox families would travel 40 miles north to Jacksonville to attend services at St. John the Divine Church from the early 1900s to the late '50s, when its priest, a Fr. Berris, would come to celebrate a monthly liturgy in St. Augustine at St. Peter's Chapel of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on St. George Street. He served the community until the early 1970s, when local families organized the Hellenic Society as a religious and philanthropic organization with the goal of establishing their own church. One of the Society's founders, Dr. Steve Poulos, originally came from Ohio.



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

In 1976, after many "Greek Nite" dinner-dances and bake sale fund-raisers, the society purchased an existing church building in the downtown area and established the St. Augustine Hellenic Center.

The Jacksonville priest at the time, Fr. John Hondras, celebrated the first Divine Liturgy there.

In the following 10 years, Fr. Paul Costopoulos, the next Jacksonville priest, served the St. Augustine community. Fr. George Gallos was assigned as the first permanent priest in 1992.

Under Fr. Gallos, who served until his death in October 1995, Presbytera Anna Gallos established the choir and became its first director.

A parishioner, Jack Hill, became ordained and briefly served as the pastor, followed by Fr. Nikitas Theodosian in early 1997. He left after 13 years and Fr. Ioannou began his ministry at Holy Trinity on March 1, 2010.

Fr. Ioannou noted that the parish demonstrates "a genuine concern for the poor and homeless of St. Augustine."

He said that St. Augustine has a large number of homeless, many of them living in camps in the woods and, under a program of the Philoptochos chapter, parishioners bring them food and clothing and also transport some to church to attend the Divine Liturgy, though they do not take part in the sacraments.

"To me, this sets the community apart from other communities," said Fr. George, who was born in New Jersey and grew up on Long Island. "This is new to me; I've never seen this in a church. It's year-round, every day."

He added, "The community is showing the love that the Lord commanded us to do."

Another key area of ministry is the Missions Program.

With the presence of Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, a member of the parish and the first director of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, and the new OCMC training center and headquarters near Interstate 95, parishioners strongly support the OCMC, especially in serving as missionaries. Nearly 20 individuals and families of the community have served or presently serve in the mission field.

#### Parish ministries

Holy Trinity pursues a strong youth ministry with the formation of youth groups such as JOY, GOYA and the Hellenic dance groups that take part each year in the Atlanta Metropolis' Hellenic Dance Festival.

Sunday school has about 70 students and there are plans to add more classroom space. While there currently is no Greek school, the parish has offered a Greek language program of about 10 weeks duration.

Fr. George has helped the community spearhead an iconography endeavor to further the worship at Holy Trinity.

This project will include icons on the dome and throughout the entire church interior.

Future plans also call for establishing an Orthodox cemetery.

The Stewardship program is the church's main revenue source, supplemented by other fund-raisers during the

year that include the annual Greek festival on Columbus Day weekend that draws more than 12,000 people in three days, the annual Philoptochos Fashion Show, the annual golf outing that draws participants from various states, a Greek Nite and an Aug. 15 paneyiri.

Rounding out the various ministries and programs are the altar boys, Bible Study, choir, Stewardship Committee, Planning and Building Committee, Communications Committee, Outreach and the Nisiotes Dance Group.

In January 2006, Holy Trinity Church moved from its downtown location west of the city to a 19-acre site the parish acquired several years before near Interstate 95. Many parishioners live over a wide area that ranges from the outskirts of Jacksonville, to Palm Coast to the town of Palatke about 25 miles to the southwest.

Fr. George, who said he had thought he would be coming to a retirement community when told of his assignment, said the parish is anything but that.

There are some 20 children under age 10 and many teenagers as well.

— Compiled by Jim Golding

### PEOPLE

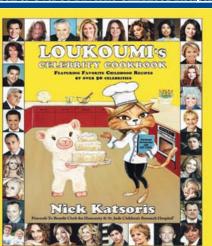
#### Faith award

Pave the Way Foundation Inc., an international non–sectarian public foundation that identifies and eliminates nontheological obstacles by enhancing relations between religions through cultural, technological and intellectual gestures, presented its "Defense of Faith Award" to Archdiocesan Council member and Archon John Catsimatidis at its 2011 Awards Gala Benefit on Nov. 14 in Huntington, N.Y. He was one of four distinguished persons to be honored.

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# Registration Now Open for 2011 College Conferences

BROOKLINE, Mass. – Registration for the 2011 College Conferences is now open at events.ocf.net. The conferences will be held during Christmas Break in three locations: St. Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, Calif.; Antiochian Village in Bolivar, Pa.; and the Diakonia Center in Salem, S.C., each centering on Orthodox Christian Fellowship's (OCF) theme for the year – "Raise Me Above This World's Confusion."

Annually, nearly 400 college students from across North America participate in College Conference to learn and grow closer in their Orthodox Faith in an exemplary display of Pan-Orthodox fellowship. Each four-day conference includes a prominent keynote speaker, along with workshops led by clergy and lay leaders who are experts in their related fields. Featured workshop topics will include Understanding Orthodoxy, Comparative Religions, Practicing Your Faith, Contemporary Issues in Orthodoxy, Dating and Personal Relationship, and Serving, defined as Seeing God in Others. OCF College Conferences are planned and executed by a committee of college students who desire to provide their peers with an enjoyable and edifying experience.

"College Conference is a great opportunity for college students to take time away from their busy academic and social lives and concentrate on developing their spiritual lives by learning from clergymen and great speakers, and by engaging with other Orthodox students from across the country. This year's theme, 'Raise Me Above This World's Confusion,' encourages discussion of how to live in today's society while living an Orthodox life," said Tanya Schillwaski, College Conference East coordinator and a sophomore at Northeastern University.

"Following Christ's example of taking time to retreat, OCF's College Conference provides a place for Orthodox Christian college students to refresh their worn down body and soul," said John Mahfouz, director of North American Programs.

"Students spend four days being nourished in a loving community through edifying lectures and discussions, Church services, and exciting activities."

A limited number of scholarships are available and offered, by each jurisdiction

on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call the North American Office at 1-800-919-1623. To register, visit events.ocf.net.

#### **College Conference West**

St. Nicholas Ranch
Dunlap, Calif. Dec. 27–30
Earlybird rate
until Dec. 15: \$215 Regular: \$240
Keynote speaker – Fr. Josiah Trenham,
pastor of St. Andrew Orthodox Church,
Riverside. Calif.

#### **College Conference East**

Antiochian Village
Bolivar, Pa. Dec. 28–31
Earlybird rate
until Dec. 15: \$240 – Regular: \$265
Keynote speaker – Bishop Michael
Dahulich of New York and the Diocese
of New York and New Jersey
in the Orthodox Church in America
College Conference South

Salem, S.C. Dec. 28–31
Earlybird rate
until Dec. 15: \$210 – Regular: \$235
Keynote speaker – Fr. Michael Nasser,
pastor of Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission
in Bowling Green, Ky.

Diakonia Center

### **Military Memorial**

> from page 9

While the 20 military men lost their lives in earlier times, the monument includes a very up-to-date high tech feature. On the front there is a small embedded target where if one points a smart phone, the biographies of each honoree can be downloaded. This data can also be found at www.washelli.com/wordpress/p=3380.

The monument is located in close proximity to the cemetery chapel of St. Demetrios Church, and will be maintained perpetually by the parish. A reception and further talks in the cemetery funeral home followed the dedication.

Clifford T. Argue of Seattle is a member of the Archdiocesan Council and chairman of its Communications Committee.

### Human Dignity in Orthodox Theology

from page 11

be kept always in relation to a relative or qualitative one.

A theology of creation gives an absolute concept that bestows dignity on all, without variations or exceptions.

However, this affirmation needs to be complemented by a qualitative concept that reflects the extent to which the potential that comes from being made in the image of God is or has been realized. The distinction between being made in the "image" of God and growing in his "likeness" has been used in this way. People differ to the extent they have realized the potential that comes from being created in the image of God.

Fuller dignity to which we all are called, and for which we can hope, is more completely realized in some people than in others. All, however, are called to a fuller realization of the dignity that is part of God's purpose. People can thus live in the space created between the basic dignity that is given to them and the fuller dignity to which they are called. It makes a crucial difference how this is experienced. The proper experience of dignity depends on keeping open the axis between the dignity that we have already as gift and

the fuller dignity that we are promised and toward which we are called.

To see dignity solely as necessary property of human beings, as Enlightenment thought tends to do, is to lose touch with the eschatological promise that the dignity of humanity can become more of a reality.

On the other hand, if dignity is seen entirely as something that might develop more fully, with no sense that it is already in some basic sense present, there would be no constraints on current indignities.

If the only concept of dignity in the political realm is the universal dignity of all as an inherent quality of every person, then it might be assumed that human dignity could be neither destroyed nor improved upon.

Only if there is a sense that human dignity could become more of a reality than is the case, people can be motivated toward a betterment of human conditions. This sense of dignity as something to be realized can be an invitation and promise, a possibility held out to people, and to which they are invited to respond.

Fr. Clapsis is the Archbishop Iakovos Professor of Systematic Theology at Holy Cross School of Theology.

# **Showing an Attitude of Gratitude**

by Eva Kokinos

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever!" (Psalm 107:1)

It is November... the month of THANKSGIVING! The Thanksgiving holiday is a time where all Americans stop to reflect on the blessings in their life and to give thanks. But what typically comes to mind when we think of Thanksgiving... turkey, football, family gatherings, Black Friday shopping, etc.? As a society, we have unfortunately adopted an attitude that Thanksgiving means excess, sports, and overindulgence. "Giving Thanks" for Orthodox Christians is a much deeper responsibility that goes beyond even the Thanksgiving holiday. In fact, it is a way of life.

So if "giving thanks" is an essential part of our Orthodox Christian lives but we focus on other things, maybe it is time we had an "attitude adjustment." Instead of having an attitude of excess and overindulgence, we should take steps toward having an attitude of gratitude. Here are a few ways that we can keep the true spirit of Thanksgiving in every aspect of our lives:

1) Attitude of Gratitude ... through words. "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal." (1 Corinthians 13:1)

We say a lot! We are texting, we are chatting, and we are constantly on the phone. Unfortunately, words can be used to gossip, to lie, to deceive, and to criticize others. This is a great time to consider whether or not our words are being used for the glory of God and for positive things.

Spiritual "Attitude Adjustment" Challenge: Make a specific effort to actually SAY thank you when people do things for you. Is someone opens a door for you, say "thank you." Take time to say "thanks" to your parents/guardians for being there for you.

Say "thank you" to someone who serves in our Armed Forces. You can even say thank you to a friend for just being a friend!

The point is... SAY it!

2) Attitude of Gratitude ... through actions. "Preach the Gospel always. When necessary, use words." (St. Francis of Assisi)

As the saying goes, "Actions speak louder than words." We do not doubt for one second that words have a strong impact on how we react and how we relate. But, our words are given meaning and dimension through "walking the walk" when we are "talking the talk" to others.

Spiritual "Attitude Adjustment" Challenge: Show your attitude of gratitude by

returning the favor. What does that mean?

Challenge yourself to appreciate the gifts that you are given by giving them to others. If you say "thank you" to your parents for all they do, make sure to show them by helping out a little more at home. If you feel truly thankful for the basic needs of food and clothing, show your appreciation by donating your time or items to food banks, homeless shelters and philanthropic organizations.

3) Attitude of Gratitude ... through worship." Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; Sing praises on the harp to our God..." (Psalm 147:7)

Worship is such a vital part of our Orthodox Christian lives. Worship is more than just praising God with our attendance. Since we encounter the living God through the Holy Eucharist, it is the perfect time to offer our prayers of thanksgiving.

Spiritual "Attitude Adjustment" Challenge: When you feel your attention starting to wander off during Divine Liturgy, offer a prayer of thanksgiving for different things in your life.

You can say "thanks" to God by offering your time and talents for specific aspects of the Divine Liturgy. For example, prepare the Prosforo or "blessed bread" with your family or youth group to be used for the

Holy Eucharist.

You can also join the choir and offer your voice in thanksgiving and praise. As the priest says during the Divine Liturgy, we want to offer God gifts out of the gifts that He has bestowed unto us.

Eva Kokinos serves as the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit. She received a Masters of Theological Studies from Holy Cross School of Theology in 2003. Contact Eva at youth@detroit.goarch.org.

#### Save the Date

Jan. 25-28: Inter-Orthodox Christian Camp & Youth Worker Conference "Presenting the Message of the Gospel to Today's Youth." All youth workers (youth directors, camp directors and staff, and OCF chaplains) are invited to attend the annual Orthodox Christian Youth Worker Conference. The conference offer resources and tools for youth workers to use in their ministries. In addition to a keynote presentation, there will be breakout sessions for youth ministries, camping ministries, and Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) College Ministry. This conference is being hosted at Antiocheian Village in Ligonier, Pa., by the Department of Camping Ministry and Department of Youth Ministry of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. Visit: www.orthodoxcamps.org.

### Witness Your Faith ... Even Online

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

There's no denying it...we exist in a digitally-driven society. Ten years ago, did you ever think you could speak to your friends from across the country via video conferencing? Can you believe that you can view a live presentation through a "webinar" (a web-based seminar)? Statistics tell us that at approximately 93 percent of teens go online.

With all of the headlines of cyberbullying, sexting, and other abuses of technology, it is hard to believe anything good can happen on the internet. But Orthodox Christians can shine the light of Christ through their own witness and positive use of technology and media. Here are a few ways that you can take a stand, witness your faith, and bring Christ the midst of our digital world:

#### **Social Networking Websites**

Social networking websites, like Facebook and Twitter, are growing larger every day. In fact, approximately 75 percent of teens who go on the internet have an online profile. Many people choose to use social networking websites for negative and destructive things, like bullying or gossip. But instead, we can really use our profiles to witness Christ. On Facebook, you can join groups for Orthodox Christians. You can add a daily Bible verses. You can even post a status update about how awesome

it was to go to your youth group meetings or to summer camp.

Consider this: How would YOU feel if someone was saying horrible things about you? Would you want someone to stand up for you? Are certain people really worth "friending" if they talk like that online? Another very important way you can witness your faith online is to take a stand against those who bully or post negative things online. Don't allow others to post inappropriate things on your Facebook page. If someone is picking on you or a friend, "defriend" the bully instead of responding.

Here are just a few Orthodox Christian groups, organizations or apps you can find on Facebook:

- Daily Readings App
- Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
- •GOYA Greek Orthodox Youth of America •IOCC International Orthodox Christian
- •OCMC Orthodox Christian Missions Center
- •OCN Orthodox Christian Network

#### Blogs

Do you have a lot to say? Why not blog? Talk to your parents about starting a blog about being an Orthodox Christian teen.

Your parents and other teens can offer their thoughts and ideas to add to your blog. Also, you can ask people like your parish priest and your youth group leader to offer an article or reflection so that people can discuss different issues. Want to see an Orthodox Christian blog in action? Check out The Ladder... the official blog of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. The Ladder Visit www.orthodoxyouthministry. blogspot.com.

### **Music and Podcasts**

Think about the music and other multimedia files you have on your favorite music player or cell phone. Would your music library give the right impression about who you are?

Witness through your technology by thinking carefully about the messages

music and media are sending you.

You don't have to delete your music library! But consider putting music that reflects who you are as an Orthodox Christian

Load up or download CDs of the Divine Liturgy, Paraklesis, or the Services of Holy Week. You can find CDs at your local bookstore or favorite online Orthodox Christian bookstore. You can also find Orthodox Christian music available on iTunes.

Also, OCN (Orthodox Christian Network) offers a variety of ways you can receive Orthodox Christian music, podcasts, and much more. Visit www. myocn.net to see what they offer. You can also subscribe to their podcasts through

#### FOR YOUTH WORKERS AND PARENTS

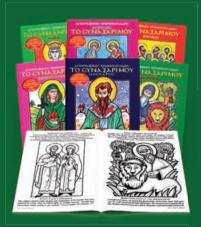
- Did you know about one of our newest resources, the Orthodox Teen Survival Guide Brochure Series? You can use theses brochures to help start a discussion regarding tough issues at home, in Sunday school, or in your youth groups. Order from Orthodox Marketplace or the Department of Religious Education!
- Don't forget to sign up for the Youth Worker Pulse! This is the weekly listserv of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Subscribers will receive valuable tips, tools, and resources for creating a successful and transformative youth ministry experi-
- ence. Sign up today at www.youth. goarch.org.
- Are you on Facebook? If you are a member of Facebook, you can visit us on our GOYA and Young Adult Ministries "fan pages!"

These fan pages have information about GOYA and Young Adult Ministries events from throughout the Archdiocese.

Also, fans are connecting and talking about different issues regarding faith and life! Just search for GOYA-Greek Orthodox Youth of America or Greek Orthodox National Young Adult Ministries and become a fan today.

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### Denver-Area Archons Hold First Religious Freedom Symposium

DENVER – Archons of the Order of St. Andrew hosted their first ever Religious Freedom Symposium at the Assumption of the Theotokos Cathedral on Sept. 17.

Nearly 125 Archons of the 10th District, local clergy, Metropolis Council members, Philoptochos members and Orthodox faithful attended the symposium, which was organized and moderated by Regional Commander Dr. Gregory G. Papadeas.

National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis M.D., was the featured speaker.

He presented a dynamic multimedia program that reviewed the religious freedom deficit of Turkey which is constricting the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the domestic and international initiatives of the Order of



Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver together with clergy, Archons and their spouses at the Religious Freedom Symposium at Assumption of the Theotokos Cathedral. (Photo by J. Mindala)

St. Andrew promoting religious freedom for the Mother Church and recent posi-

tive steps the government of Turkey has announced in addressing the religious freedom crisis that affects all religious minorities in Turkey



Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, joined by dignitaries and parish youth, co-officiate at the blessing of the new site of St. Anna Church.

### New Jersey Church Receives Matching Challenge Grant

FLEMINGTON, N.J. -- In conjunction with the groundbreaking ceremony of St. Anna Church held Sept. 17 at the future site of the complex in Raritan Township, the community received a matching challenge grant from an anonymous donor that will match up to \$200,000 of all funds raised for one year from Sept. 1. The Church is being built in commemoration of St. Anna and in memory of Anna Bouras, late wife of the parish grand benefactor, Nicholas J. Bouras, an Archon and noted philanthropist who has been supportive of many efforts throughout the New Jersey Metropolis, the Archdiocese, and Patriarchate over the years. Mr. Bouras could not attend but was represented by his niece, Pamela Kariotis, and his associate, Bill Crane. Among the prominent Greek-Americans in attendance was Fox News chief political correspondent, Mike Emanuel (also an Archon), who served as master of ceremonies. Many other Archons were in attendance including Jim Fountas, John Halecky, Ted Bozonelis, Peter Arbes, and Notis Kotsolios. (Shovels were sponsored by others who were not able to attend including Dr. Anthony Limberakis and James Speros). General counsel

of the Archdiocese Emanuel Demos, New Jersey Metropolis Philoptochos President Anastasia Michals, Congressman Leonard Lance and several elected officials from Hunterdon County and Raritan Township also participated in the ceremony. Since 2006, the community has been holding Orthodox liturgical services at the Allerton United Methodist Church in Annandale, N.J. The Methodist community has welcomed their Orthodox brethren to share their house of worship. Fr. Anastasios Kousoulas of St. Anna commented, "Our parish has been greatly blessed by the Christian love and support of Pastor Lynn Mears and the entire congregation of the Allerton United Methodist Church. We truly appreciate their kindness and outreach during these past several years and we pray that God continues to bless them for this truly heartfelt generosity and love." The celebration of St. Anna's groundbreaking continued on Nov. 12 at the annual dinner dance where the community honored Archimandrite George Nikas for his service as their priest from 2004-2011. For more information about the building efforts of St. Anna Church, visit www.StAnnaGOC.org.

### Illinois Parish Holds Annual Orthodox Charities Weekend

PALOS HILLS, Ill. – Sts. Constantine and Helen Church held its annual Orthodox Charities Weekend Sept. 24-25 that drew more than dozens of participants and raised over \$20,000 in donations and pledges. The event featured a bike/run/walk/skate-a-thon and blood drive. Bake sales and fund-raisers preceded the charities weekend. Proceeds

will benefit the Metropolis of Chicago St. Iakovos Retreat Center. This program is part of "Project Diakonia" ... a ministry which brings together all of the community's philanthropic programs. We welcome anyone interested in supporting this ministry to contact Fr. Nicholas Jonas at the church office at (708) 974-3400.

### **Boston Cathedral Accepts Major Donation**

BOSTON -- Annunciation Cathedral of New England has received a \$200,000 gift from Catherine Pappas in memory of her late husband, Stephen E. Pappas. The funds will be used for the renovation of the Upper Hall of the Cathedral, which is expected to begin shortly. Both Catherine and Stephen Pappas created a legacy of lifelong support and generosity towards the Church and many benevolent causes. Mr. Pappas was a grand benefactor and Archon of the Church, fully committed to the livelihood of its ministries. In 1990, the couple donated a significant amount to the Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline that led to the founding of The Stephen and Catherine Pappas Patristic Institute in 2003, which specializes in the writings of the Church Fathers and houses many rare

They are also listed as Fulfilled Members of the Archbishop IAKOVOS Leadership 100 Fund. In 2003, Mrs. Pappas gave \$1 million to the Archbishop Iakovos Library and Learning Resource Center, establishing the Stephen & Catherine Pappas Archbishop Iakovos Library Endowment Fund which continually aids the Archdiocese in

its educational and historical preservation goals. That same year, she presented an additional \$500,000 for the completion of Archives of the Archdiocese. Furthermore, she has also made many donations to the Philoptochos Society throughout the years.

In addition to her support of the Church, Mrs. Pappas has also made noteworthy contributions to hospitals in Boston. She made a major donation to the Children's Hospital Pediatric Advanced Care Team, which provides specialty care for terminally ill children and their families.

There, she established The Stephen E. and Catherine Pappas Palliative Care Fund, a challenge grant which has compelled others to respond in kind. At Mass General Hospital, she established The Stephen E. and Catherine Pappas Center for Neuro-Oncology, which specializes in cutting-edge neurological cancer treatment and research.

With Mrs. Pappas' recent contribution, the cathedral has collected the necessary funds to meet the conditions of the original anonymous matching grant that was made toward the renovation of the upper hall, raising \$729,194 in donations and \$483,334 in pledges, for a total of \$1,212,528.

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have continued to rise and have outpaced increases in the ORTHODOX OBSERVER'S income resources. Advertising revenue and donations contribute to our revenue, but an increasing shortfall exists because of these rising costs. The ORTHODOX OBSERVER, which will print 10

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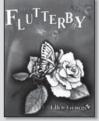
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### **DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS**

# **Equipping Teenagers to Navigate Life**

by Dn. Paul Zaharas

Over the past several decades the external pressures and challenges associated with parenting teenagers have been varied

Whether it was the introduction of rock and roll music, the "social scourge" of the 1950's, or the pervasiveness of today's social networking explosion, parents have faced the challenge of helping their children bridge the chasm that stands between childhood and adulthood. As Christian parents we recognize the importance of raising Godly-minded children and we must take appropriate steps to help them in their journey toward Him.

Society today, through media, peer influence, and accepted norms, can convey ideas that do not coincide with the teachings of Orthodox Christianity. In fact, oftentimes, the messages that our teen children receive from the world are in direct contradiction to the saving message of Jesus Christ. Experiencing sleepless nights worrying about their children falling into substance use/abuse, sexual promiscuity and perversion, "over-connectedness" to social media, materialism, and a myriad of other harmful behaviors, parents at times feel overwhelmed by the challenge of addressing all of these issues with their teens.

In the Book of Proverbs we read: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (22:6) This sounds simple enough, but given the variety of challenges that life throws at our young people, how can a parent successfully prepare their teen for every situation? The simple answer to this question is that you can't address each and every possible circumstance that your child will face. We know from our own experience, as well, that there isn't always someone standing by, watching our every move and steering us clear of mistakes and miscues. What we can offer to our children, however, are the tools which are necessary for them to address challenges on their own.

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

For more information about the center's ministries please contact the center at:
79 Saint Basil Road
Garrison, NY 10524
Phone: (845) 424-8175
Fax: (845) 424-8172
Email: familycare@goarch.org
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The Center for Family Care was established with a major grant from the Archbishop lakovos
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We are grateful for its support.



We are taught by the Church that each individual is created in the image of God, but what does this really mean? Without venturing into deep theological discussion, we can understand being created in the image of God to mean that we posses two of His specific attributes; intellect and free will. First of all, we have intellect, the ability to think

Ścientists will tell us that humans have the same type of "fight or flight" instincts that lower animals do, however, we also have the capacity for higher thought in the form of problem solving and comprehension. Likewise, God has granted to us free will, the ability to make conscious choices, rather than be subject to mere reflex reactions.

With this in mind, the challenge given by the directive found in Proverbs to "train up a child in the way he should go" is much more attainable. If we are able to teach teens to utilize their God-given intellect and free will to make decisions that are physically and spiritually healthy, we are training them up in the way they should go.

This being said, teenagers are notorious for making poor decisions. Certainly this can be attributed to many causes, two of which are that decision-making centers of the brain are not fully developed at this stage in life, and the fact that teenagers are still trying desperately to establish their own unique identities. For this reason, Christian decision-making is a skill set that needs some instruction and practice. Here are some steps that you can take with your teenager:

1. It is vital to impress on our teens the importance of making quality decisions. They need to be well aware that decisions have consequences, and that consequences have ripples. What is meant by this is that the choices they make generate real results, positive or negative, and those results affect not only the individual, but those people and things around them. An example that is easy to understand would be underage drinking. The decision to illegally drink alcohol can lead to health problems, trouble with the law, and physical harm to oneself or others. Likewise, those consequences spread and affect a teen's parents, family, and peers.

In a greater sense, sinful behavior separates us from God and this separation has a negative effect on our relationships with others and our overall well-being.

2. Together with your teenager, identify some decisions or conflicts that are applicable to their own lives or to your family.

These issues can range from relatively minor items with younger teens, such as what to wear to school, to more life-changing matters like moral questions or vocation/occupation choice. Through this exercise your child may recognize choices they did not otherwise realize that they had.

- 3. Help your child to carefully consider the options that are presented with each decision. Many times young people fail to look at the possible outcomes of their choices prior to making them. By making a conscious effort to weigh the potential positive and/or negative results of their actions, teens become better equipped in their decision-making process.
- 4. Clearly the most important point to remember in developing Christian decision-making skills is to make Christ the primary factor in every choice. A number of years ago "What Would Jesus Do?" (WWJD) bracelets were very popular and encouraged wearers to apply that question to their everyday actions. For us as Orthodox Christians, however, a much more basic and important question should be asked; does this particular action lead me closer to, or further away from God?
- 5. Now that your teen has considered the options and possible consequences of their actions, let them make their own decision. With your help they have used their intellect and educated themselves on important aspects of a choice, and now they are ready to exercise their free will to decide.
- 6. After the decision has been made and consequences are realized, speak to your teen about the decision they have made. By offering them constructive feedback you will enable them to better understand what has occurred and how them may repeat positive, or avoid negative outcomes in the future.

Ultimately, as members of the Body of Christ, we are called to seek after our Lord and His Eternal Kingdom. In sharing the Christian faith with our teenage children we, along with the Church, present to them the choice of this path. Enabling them to be good, Christian decision-makers gives them the opportunity and ability to successfully take steps in this journey.

Dn. Zaharas is the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the Metropolis of Denver. He lives in Littleton. Colo.

### On Raising Teenagers

- Our main goal for our teenagers is not financial, or educational, or even moral: it is spiritual. We wish them to enter adulthood prepared, as free persons, to love Christ.
- We cannot expect to bring up children today in a morally sterilized environment.
   We will try to direct our children's energy to decent entertainment and good company, but we will not be able to avoid every negative experience, especially as the children grow older, and it would not help our children if we could.
- We must accept any such negative experiences as "immunization" for our children.
   We can discuss these things with them and try to imbue them with their own sense of judgment, so that at least they recognize what causes spiritual and physical harm, and learn to reduce the danger to themselves
- Children need to exercise their freedom of choice while we are there to guide them. We must loosen the reigns gradually as our children grow up.

- People say that they talk with their children, but often they are really talking to their children. Teenagers need real dialogue with their parents.
- We must pray for our children to be protected, and inspire in them love for Christ, so that of themselves they have in their hearts an inner gauge. Only such protection will last and remain with them as they grow into independence and adulthood.
- The "ascesis" (spiritual exercise) of our teenagers is to preserve the ideals of the Gospel and at the same time to get along with people who directly and indirectly challenge it. At the same time they are struggling to sort out set of values for themselves; gradually the faith they have received must become their own conviction, and the process doesn't always take place smoothly. Our teenagers need all our understanding, attention, love and prayer.
  - Excerpts from Children in the Church Today:
     An Orthodox Perspective by Sister Magdalen.

### A Prayer of Children for Their Parents

Lord and Savior, You have taught us to honor our fathers and mothers, and to show love and obedience toward them. From the depth of my heart I fervently pray to You, sweet Jesus, my God, hear my prayer.

Bless my parents who have raised me up with the help of Your grace. Protect them from evil, harm and sickness. Grant them faith, health and joy. Bless all their works that they may give

lives. Amen.

- From My Orthodox Prayer Book by the Department of Religious Education.

You honor and glory all the days of their

ORTHODOX OBSERVER — NOVEMBER 2011

# A GUIDE TO THE NATIONAL MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

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\*(includes Philoptochos Society, retired clergy benevolence fund, other humanitarian assistance)

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Registry

**Religious Education** 

Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism

Youth, Young Adult Ministries\* \*(includes camping ministries and Ionian Village)

#### WHAT IT DOES

Gathers and records materials relating to the history of the Greek people, their culture and religion in the United States.

Addresses issues of contemporary American culture and society. Develops programs and ministries to help guide the faithful.

Provides information about the Church through electronic, social and print media.

Provides for the instruction of Greek and promotes Hellenic culture.

Responsible for Archdiocese's digital Ministries and strategic direction and coordination.

Promotes relations with other Orthodox Christian jurisdictions, other Christian churches and other faith groups in the U.S.

Addresses issues relevant to marriage and family life through the Center for Family Care and Office of Interfaith Marriage.

> Assists parishes with fund-raising guidance and development.

Develops and coordinates the philanthropic work, the Archdiocese special funds and also works with the Philoptochos.

Coordinates Archdiocese involvement in public and political issues affecting the Church.

Maintains records relating to the life of the faithful of the Church.

Develops and provides religious education materials to advance the metropolis and parish programs.

Works with National Stewardship Ministries Team and Outreach and Evangelism Advisory Board.

Coordinates the national youth and young adult programs with metropolis youth directors. Administers campus and camping ministries.

### **HOW IT AFFECTS YOU**

Provides information and photographs on request to scholars, researchers and authors.

Through social networking sites such as Facebook individual parishioners can engage in constructive dialogue with the department.

Connects parishioners to the National Church through print , social and electronic media. Informs the U.S. and Greek media and general public about Orthodoxy.

Provides textbooks and other instructional materials for all Greek afternoon and parochial schools; teacher training.

Provides online support to help parishioners connect to various Archdiocese services.

Through its efforts, parishes benefit through more meaningful contacts with such groups at the local level.

Provides assistance to families and individuals coping with problems affecting relationships and daily life.

Helps with strategic planning, capital improvements, grants, endowments and expanding stewardship.

Provides assistance for local catastrophes such as Hurricane Katrina, fires in Greece, aid to families of 9/11 victims.

> Works with local parishes in events such as Patriarchal visits.

Issues marriage licenses, divorce decrees, baptismal and chrismation certificates, replaces lost transcripts.

Sunday schools use materials and run programs including the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival.

Provides resources for parish ministry, support for parish leadership and stewardship activities.

> Provides opportunities for parish youth to participate more fully in the Church.

#### **RESOURCES**

Online, hardcopy data and photographs for hundreds of documents representing many categories of Church development.

Online connection to the Archdiocese and Orthodox Faith; provides lectures at young adult seminars, retreats and OCF Real Break.

Videos of religious television productions, Orthodox Observer, annual yearbook, ecclesiastical calendar, website, e–bulletin, listserver.

Textbooks and other educational materials for Greek schools; conducts teacher seminars and workshops and curriculum guidelines.

Offers Bulletin Builder, Orthodox Market Place, Interactive Children's Bible, Iconograms, Online store for parishes.

Establishes and maintains direct contacts between the Archdiocese and other Christian denominations and other Faiths, fosters ecumenical relations.

> Online and personal connections with Archdiocese clergy, publishes books and other resources.

Assists parishes through Capital Campaign Planing Studies, ongoing management programs, strategic planning seminars, stewardship workshops.

> Provides assistance for charitable causes in each Metropolis, at local level and worldwide.

Maintains direct contact with local, state and national government officials to increase information & knowledge about the Church.

Provides important documents for vital statistics and maintains records in parish registry books.

Creates and produces Sunday School texts and other materials, PRAXIS Magazine, oratorical festival information, resource catalog and teacher certification.

Evaluates parish management software programs; provides resources to help parish outreach programs, other materials.

Online and harcdopy materials to youth directors, workers; administers youth camps, including Ionian Village; maintains listserver and blogs.