



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

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Mr. Constantine G. Caras, Chairman
Leadership 100
Olympic Tower
645 Fifth Avenue, Suite 906
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Caras,

Christos Anesti! Today, we were blessed to receive the press release announcing the Leadership 100 Grant for the Metropolis/Direct Archdiocese District Summer Youth Camps! On behalf of our Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for the grant assistance provided by Leadership 100. This generous donation will not only strengthen our very own Metropolis Camp Ministry, but will serve to enhance programs throughout the entire Archdiocese, bringing the light of Christ to Orthodox youth across the country. Your generous gift will allow us to continue our mission of leading young people to Christ in an Orthodox Christian environment where they can learn and experience their faith through education, recreation, worship, fellowship and fun.

As a Metropolis Youth Director and Summer Camp Director, I have countless accounts of the impact that the summer camp ministry has had on the lives of our participants. The significance of this important ministry can be best recognized in the words of our campers....*"Camp has saved my life."* *"Camp is my second home, it is my sanctuary."* *"Camp is life-changing."* *"I can now say that I am an Orthodox Christian and know what it means."*

Even church school directors have said that one week of summer camp can have the same impact as an entire year of Sunday school classes. This ministry has helped many of our young people decide to serve the Church in various capacities as they entered adulthood. This year alone, we have more than a dozen former campers and counselors from our Metropolis who are students at Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology.

Please extend to the entire Leadership 100 Membership, our deep and heartfelt appreciation for their generosity in providing this grant for the summer camp ministries across the Archdiocese. Please be assured that the monies will be used for scholarships and to strengthen our respective camps through more staff training and development.

May our Lord continue to guide and bless the work of Leadership 100!

Yours in Christ,

Rhea Ballas
Metropolis Youth & Summer Camp Director