

SARBANES, TENET AND YANNI HONORED, ARTHUR ANTON RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN AT RECORD-BREAKING L100 CONFERENCE

New York, NY — The Leadership 100 Award for Excellence was presented to United States Senator Paul S. Sarbanes, CIA Director George J. Tenet and the famed contemporary instrumentalist Yanni at the 12th Annual Conference of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, held February 19-23, at The Ritz-Carlton in Amelia Island, Florida.



Archbishop Demetrios and L100 Chairman Arthur Anton present the Leadership 100 Award for Excellence to CIA Director George J. Tenet

Arthur C. Anton was re-elected to a third two-year term as Chairman of the almost 20-year old Endowment Fund, which has supported the critical ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. A record 360 members and guests attended the conference. Leadership 100 is fast approaching a record 700 members after a membership drive over the last three years and has raised almost \$40 million in new commitments.

The CIA Director, George Tenet, was the first to receive the Leadership 100 Award for Excellence after delivering a stirring

talk at the Forum on Hellenism on Thursday, February 20. The son of Greek immigrants, Tenet called the gathering his *extended family* and said he awoke each morning honoring his father and his mother.

The CIA Director described the current world situation as a *world in turbulence* where conditions of poverty, disease and human misery created a sanctuary and breeding ground for terrorism. He said that while the last 16 months saw success in combating terrorism, there is concern over other looming threats such as the spread of AIDS in Africa to Russia, China and Eastern Europe, creating unstable societies. He cited the cooperation of many Arab countries in eliminating the worldwide terrorist network. Tenet said his models for public service are the late Senator Paul Tsongas, Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes and former Representative John Brademas. He urged young Greek Americans to consider careers in public service.

Senator Sarbanes led the Business Forum on Friday, February 21, speaking on his pioneering legislation, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which addresses corporate reform and accounting standards and was passed into law last July. He described the intricate process of gaining adoption,

which was finally achieved when major corporate scandals continued to shock the nation. The Senator, a Democrat from Maryland, cited the necessity of maintaining confidence in America's capital markets as the major motivation for his actions in combating corruption in corporate management and in auditing firms, as well as in securities trading. He said that the scandals had seriously shaken confidence in a system admired around the world.

In response to his remarks, Peter Barris, a Leadership 100 member who heads a venture capital firm, led a panel consisting of Leadership 100 members Charles H. Cotros, recently retired CEO of Sysco Corporation, George Stamas, an international lawyer and Phil Angelides, the California State Treasurer. The panel challenged some aspects of the legislation, and Senator Sarbanes acknowledged that some changes would be necessary, especially regarding additions to his original bill. But all agreed that Sarbanes, the son of Greek immigrants and Maryland's longest serving U.S. Senator, had achieved great success in his legislative leadership.



Archbishop Demetrios and L100 Chairman Arthur Anton present the Leadership 100 Award for Excellence to Senator Paul S. Sarbanes

Yanni, best known for his groundbreaking concerts at the Acropolis, the Taj Mahal and the Forbidden City, whose albums have global sales of more than 20 million and has received 35 gold and platinum awards, was honored along with Sen. Sarbanes at the Grand Banquet on Saturday, February 22. He said his medium wasn't words, but music, and that he was stirred by the words acknowledging his achievements. After a temporary absence from performing, the unique musician will launch a 58-city U.S. concert tour in March.



Archbishop Demetrios and L100 Chairman Arthur Anton present the Leadership 100 Award for Excellence to Yanni

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, who joined Leadership 100 Chairman Arthur C. Anton in presenting the awards,

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Leadership 100's 12th Annual Conference in Amelia Island, Florida was a record-breaking success. Our theme, the ancient Greek Homeric ideal, **Excel Always**, came to life as we presented the Leadership 100 Award for Excellence to CIA Director George J. Tenet, Senator Paul S. Sarbanes

and Yanni, as featured on our front page. We were all thrilled with the talk and open questioning of Director Tenet and by the presentation of Senator Sarbanes, which was followed by an excellent panel moderated by our member Peter Barris who was joined by members Charles Cotros, George Stamas and Phil Angelides. Yanni thrilled us all at the Grand Banquet. All excellent sons of Greece and great Americans!

As always, though, the Bible Studies led by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios were the highlight of our conference. His Eminence consistently brings us wisdom and insight into our Orthodox faith and Hellenic heritage. In addition, the whole Leadership 100 family was pleased that John and Marisa Payiavlas were our Host Chairpersons. They added their grace and elegance to all our events. We were also touched by the reception given to us by Father Nicholas Graff and the parish of St. John the Divine in Jacksonville. Their warmth and hospitality will always be remembered.

Our conference was also made exceptional by the stunning performances of our seminarians who gave us a tribute dinner to thank us for the Leadership 100 Scholarship for Excellence program that has brought record enrollment to Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology.

The many pictures in this issue will tell part of the story of this extraordinary conference. The visit to St. Photios National Shrine in nearby St. Augustine, our *Plymouth Rock*, was especially meaningful. His Eminence and Metropolitans Iakovos, Anthony and Alexios, joined by Bishop Dimitrios, former Executive Director of both the Shrine and of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, led a memorial service for Leadership 100 members. We all learned of the depth of our history in America in the stories of the first Greeks to come to these shores, before the American Revolution, and their hardships and flight to freedom.

In this vein, I wish to devote the balance of my column to the excellent priests that serve us, for on my return I received some 25 letters from priests who have benefited from our Leadership 100 Clergy Student Loan Programs. We are careful to guard their anonymity as we assist them. So I have chosen the following excerpted remarks that

will give you, as they did me, an abundance of blessings for what we strive to do as servant leaders of our Church:

Your generosity....makes the challenges of ministry and parish priesthood lighter.

It has taken me years trying to pay these loans off. I feel the burden has been lifted.

This act of Christian philanthropy has made a lasting impression on me and I am indebted to all of the families that have shared their God-given gifts to insure that their priests are unhindered in dedicating themselves fully to the care of the people of God.

Such generosity is an answer to prayers, for without your assistance, I would be even further awash in debt.

I am truly very thankful, honored and humbled at the extreme generosity of Leadership 100. The members of this fine organization constantly give of themselves whether it be through time, talents or resources to assist in making our Greek Orthodox Church in America a better Church.

Your love inspires; your generosity helps us focus on our ministries by removing burdens and distractions. We will never forget what you have done for us.

At my ordination into the priesthood, I willingly took on (in spite of my own unworthiness) the responsibilities of helping others on matters both spiritual and mundane. However, in this case, I find myself the humble recipient. It is a deep comfort to share in the compassion of fellow members of our beloved Church.

Leadership 100 has sent us a life raft once again.

This act of love that Leadership 100 has done reinforces the one thing that I endeavor to teach the faithful of our Archdiocese about, that the Lord takes care of His faithful servants.

Through the commitment of Leadership 100 and its kind efforts to support the clergy of the Archdiocese, our Lord has once again shown His everlasting concern and love for His servants.

Please know that you have my firm commitment to support and help in any way the dynamic ongoing work of Leadership 100.

Your act of kind concern shows that you appreciate what we do. It is a great encouragement to me. I thank God for you

You will always be in my prayers, especially when celebrating the Divine Liturgy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am filled with a renewed feeling of love and gratitude for my Church.

Thank you for your concern and seeing this, which at one point was a dream, become a reality.

Need I say more?

With love in Christ,

Arthur C. Anton, Chairman

Sarbanes, Tenet and Yanni... ♦ from page 1

said the three honorees were all agents of transformation in their respective fields, and he spoke of the Gospel message as one of transformation calling for the renewal of our lives and minds. The Archbishop led two Bible Studies, which have become the cornerstone of Leadership 100 conferences.

In addition to the reelection of Anton, the Leadership 100 Board of Trustees reelected John A. Payiavlas, Vice Chairman, Bert W. Moyer, Treasurer and Constantine G. Caras, Secretary, all to two-year terms as well. Caras, George Behrakis and George Marcus were elected to three-year terms on the Executive Committee and 13 members of the Board of Trustees Class of 2003 were reelected to three-year terms on the Board.

Archbishop Demetrios, in his addresses at all the meetings and events throughout the Conference, praised Leadership 100, which has made more than \$13 million in grants since its founding in 1984, for its \$10 million commitment to scholarships for candidates for the priesthood at Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology, for its new program eliminating student loan debt for active clergy, for underwriting Internet Ministries and Information Technology at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and for assisting youth and family ministries.

Despite major disruptions in travel due to the severe weather in many parts of the country, some 360 members and guests attended the Conference, including Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago, Metropolitan Anthony of San Francisco, Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, and Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos.

Leadership 100 Members

New TOTAL MEMBERSHIP IS NOW AT 675

AHEPA Denver Chapter No. 145	Denver, CO
Leon W. and Robyn Andris	Potomac, MD
George and Bess Bilidas	Oakton, VA
Yianny and Annette Caparos	Northbrook, IL
Nick Cassis	Glen Clove, NY
Christopher Chimicles	Devon, PA
Nicholas and Dedie Coch	New York, NY
John Courembis and Family	Leonardtown, MD
Louis Courembis	New York, NY
Ellen Marie Demeter	Boston, MA
Dean Facatselis	Bronx, NY
Evangelos Gatzonis	Westbury, NY
Spyros A. Gavras	Wellesley Hills, MA
Nick and Sophia Geanopoulos	Pittsburgh, PA
Harry Giannoulis	Whitestone, NY
Nick and Christina Havoudis	New York, NY
Joanne and Peter Kakoyiannis	Yardley, PA
Thomas and Sandra Kazas	Canonsburg, PA
Frances Demoulas Kettenbach	Boston, MA
Peter G. Kokalis	Phoenix, AZ
George and Linda Kondos	Scarsdale, NY
Peter Kouvaris	Great Neck, NY
Karen Mehiel	New York, NY
George and Jennifer Michaels	Bronxville, NY
The Honorable Matthew Mirones	Staten Island, NY
Soterios Palmos, Esq.	Boulder, CO
Demetrios and Susan Papacostas	Bedford, NY
Arthur and Diane Pappas	Cotuit, MA
Christopher and Jennifer Pappas	Bronx, NY
Christopher J. Pappas	Houston, TX
Dean and Zoe Pappas	Salem, NJ
Gus Peter Pappas	Washington, DC
John Pappas	Bronx, NY
Anastasios and Georgia Parafestas	Boston, MA
Dr. Thomas Planzas	Brooklyn, NY
Rev. Fr. Aurel Radulescu	Astoria, NY
Stavros Soussou	Paramus, NJ
James and Sandra Stellos	Nashua, NH
Peter Tsakanikas	Tucson, AZ
Chris Tsamutalis	Upper Saddle River, NJ
Nick Tsapatsaris	Ridgewood, NJ
John Veleris Family	Wilmette, IL
Achilleas Venetoulis	Stamford, CT
Georgia Vlitas	Staten Island, NY
Athanasios Vulgaropulos	Waltham, MA
Andreas Zigouras	Tenafly, NJ

Fulfilled TOTAL FULFILLED MEMBERSHIP IS NOW AT 232

Alex Alexandrou	Plainview, NY
Eleni and Dimitris Bousis	Northbrook, IL
Anne and James Davis	Newton, MA
Melina Jaharis	Winnetka, IL
Michael Steven Jaharis	Winnetka, IL
Father Alex and Xanthi Karloutsos	Southampton, NY
Kalliope and George Koukounaris	Nahant, MA
Wanda and James Pedas	Washington, DC
Evangeline and Theodore Pedas	Washington, DC
James and Sandra Stellos	Nashua, NH

ARCHPASTORAL REFLECTIONS

Excel Always. Since classical times, these words have inspired countless athletes, heroes, and saints throughout the world. This exhortation, wisely chosen as the theme of your recently convened 12th Annual Leadership 100 Conference, beautifully and succinctly encapsulates your call to service as distinguished leaders of our Archdiocese. The call to *excel always* is a challenging, motivating, and inspiring call. Rooted in the Hellenic ideal of achieving human perfection, it possesses tremendous applications in the Christian life, particularly in our Christ-like task of leading others by and through service.

The call to *excel always* encourages each and every Christian to strive ceaselessly toward the perfect imitation of God in His inexhaustible love for humankind. You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48). Our Lord spoke these words to the multitudes during His sermon on the Mount, in the context of teaching wide-ranging ethical principles and ideals which guide human behavior. These words, in spite of the actual difficulties which they present, nonetheless set realistic expectations upon every human being desiring to have a life in communion with God and with one another.

Like the classical Hellenic exhortation, the above-cited words of our Lord have the same effect of inspiring, encouraging, and patiently urging us forward along the spiritual life. As leaders, your efforts to strive toward the perfection of mind, body, and soul—to cultivate the whole person—are absolutely important. You should be aware that within our Archdiocese, because of your leadership position, your words, actions and pursuits to *excel always* have a profound influence upon our people.

Over the years, your commitment to the virtue of excellence has provided significant assistance to the ministries of the Church. In particular, our faithful throughout the nation have

benefited from the fruits of your leadership in the following areas: 1) the development of information technologies and internet ministries, which introduce new means of preaching the Gospel to contemporary society, 2) the provision of scholarships to our seminarians, which reflects significant foresight to the future generations of our faithful, and the alleviation of outstanding clergy educational loans, and 3) the increased promotion of the riches of Hellenism and Orthodoxy, which serves our cultural and religious identity as Greek Orthodox Christians. We are beginning to see these fruits ripen and blossom as one family united in the love of Christ, in prayer, and in the striving to *excel always, to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect.*

In the days and years ahead, this exhortation continues to guide all the leaders of our Church as we sharpen our focus upon the critical areas of social outreach and evangelism, philanthropic initiatives, and the needs of the family. Our call to excellence urges us to establish programs, foundations, and centers in these areas that will be leading and premier institutions among all the Christian denominations of contemporary America. Only such a goal is worthy of the exhortations of our Greek Orthodox heritage and faith. I pray that you may always honor this heritage and faith, through continued commitment to perfect excellence, prayer, love, and thanksgiving to God in all things. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide your efforts for the progress of our society, the edification of our Holy Orthodox Church, and the glory of God.

† DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America



LEADERSHIP 100 MEMORABLE MOMENTS IN AMELIA ISLAND AND ST. AUGUSTINE



1- (l to r) Michael Jaharis, Archbishop Demetrios, George Tenet, Arthur Anton and Andrew Athens

2- CIA Director George Tenet addresses members at Hellenism Forum

3- (l to r) Arthur Anton, Sen. Paul Sarbanes and Archbishop Demetrios in a lighter moment

4- Archbishop Demetrios leads the Bible Study

5- Archbishop Demetrios and George and Candy Gialamas present award to Golf Tournament winners John Bendo, Dr. Peter Gazes, Peter Barris and Dr. Antoine Harovas

6- (l to r) Archbishop Demetrios, Chairman Arthur Anton, Vice-Chairman John Payiavlas and new Executive Committee member, John Catsimatidis at Executive Committee meeting

7- Arthur Anton recognizes Conference Host Chairpersons Marisa and John Payiavlas

8- Leadership 100 members (l to r) Peter Dion, Peter Vlachos, Mary and Michael Jaharis participating in Bible Study

9- New members Zoe and Dean Pappas with L100 Chairman Arthur Anton and Membership Chairman Charles Cotros

10- (l to r) Jerry Dimitriou, Tim Maniatis, Fr. Alex Karloutsos and Mark Stavropoulos at Board meeting

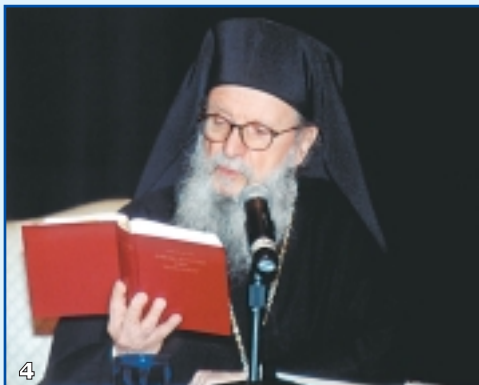
11- Members Marisa Payiavlas, Chris Fekos, Peter Dion, Marion Kusturiss and Dr. Antoine Harovas at Glendi



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Annual Conference



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12- Newly fulfilled members George and Jean Kaludis receive Leadership 100 Obelisk Award from Archbishop Demetrios

13- Vocal ensemble from Hellenic College/Holy Cross performs in Tribute to Leadership 100



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14- Members of Business Forum Panel (l to r) George Stamas, Charles Cotros, Philip Angelides, Peter Baris and Sen. Paul Sarbanes

15- New and newly fulfilled members Fanoula and Ike Gulas receive both Leadership 100 Obelisk and Icon from Archbishop Demetrios



15

16- (l to r) Metropolitans Alexios and Iakovos, Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Anthony, Bishop Dimitrios and OCMC Executive Director Fr. Martin Ritsi during visit to OCMC.



16

17- Tennis Tournament winners Alethea Bapis and John Payiavlvas with Archbishop Demetrios

18- (l to r) Arthur Anton, Metropolitan Alexios, Michael Jaharis, Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitans Anthony and Iakovos enjoy refreshments in the Constantine Sisters Courtyard of St. Photios National Shrine



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19- Archbishop Demetrios with Yanni, his sister Anda Allenson (l) and Louise Athens (r)

20- L100 member George Behrakis introduces Hellenic College/Holy Cross President Fr. Nick Triantafilou at Tribute Dinner



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12

Meditations on the Beatitudes

Fr. John Chryssavgis

What follows is a series of brief meditations on select Beatitudes of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew ch. 5).

In his Gospel, St. Matthew is addressing a community in transition, a people in crisis. The early Christians believed Jesus would indeed come again, and return very soon. Yet St. Matthew believed and proclaimed otherwise. For him, the kingdom of heaven is already at hand, even now in our hands. God is already present in those who live a life of restoration and resurrection in Christ.

Meditation I

The Authority of the Kingdom: *Blessed are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

God's kingdom is never reduced simply to a matter of rules and regulations. It is certainly not a reinforcement of worldly positions and secular institutions. God's kingdom is a reversal of attitudes, a metanoia, a conversion and reordering of values and behavior. It means becoming more and more a person who shares in the holiness, the beauty, and the perfection of God. It implies coming under the authority of God, rather than under the authority of this world. And living the beatitudes signifies our acceptance of this new authority.

Matthew often uses the word *perfect*. The Greek word for perfect (*teleios*) signifies reaching for a goal (*telos*). For Christians, this *end* is the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, Matthew is telling us that perfection is a process, a series of stages in a way of progress. It is less a condition of perfection, than it is a potential or possibility. And in order to become perfect, Matthew tells us we must become poor; in order to become complete, he tells us we must surrender, we must be incomplete:

If you want ... go sell all your possessions and give to the poor.

There is a cost involved here. How much have we sold? And are we in fact willing to give up everything? Are we prepared to sacrifice our preconceptions, our prestige, our positions, our possessions, our power?

Matthew is by no means romanticizing the condition of poverty. Sharing in the kingdom in fact depends on our effort to alleviate the various

forms of poverty in the world. Poverty is not good; it is not blessed; it is not a virtue. Poverty is miserable; poverty is a clear indication that the kingdom of God has not yet come.

However, poverty can also be voluntary; it may be embraced freely. This is seen in the case of monastics in the Church. Then poverty becomes a liberating way of sharing with the poor, a means of giving up whatever gives us security. So long as we justify our ways and our behavior, we shall not appreciate the need to change. We will not understand that everyone has a right to enough of the earth's resources: to sufficient water, energy, food, clothing, health, a safe environment, and peace. If God's purpose is for us to be more and more, then we must admit that to have more than enough is to be less than human.

Blessed, then, are the poor in spirit. Blessed are those who submit to God, who put their trust in God, who have confidence in God, who are neither controlled by their needs nor by the demands of this world. Blessed are those who know that they are poor in spirit. For they recognize the need for healing, they admit the wasting of goods, they work to remove conditions that contribute to world poverty, they are ready to change their lifestyles, they reflect on their ways and their attitudes, they work with others to overcome the fears and controls of society, they recognize they will not change (either themselves or the world) by themselves or indeed overnight, they trust that our heavenly Father knows all that we need. Therefore, [we should] seek first the kingdom of God, and all these things will be given to [us] besides.

Meditation II

The Way of God: *Blessed are the Meek; they shall inherit the land (earth).*

As the King of heaven and earth, Christ comes not with violence, but in meekness. *Blessed is He who comes; the Lord will inherit the earth and all*

its power, all its positions, all its prestige. St. Matthew is reassuring us that God is actually found at the very center of the world; God is with us in all generations. And this King



The parable of those who built on rock and those who built on sand from the Sermon on the Mount. Wall-painting from the western exonarthex of the Philanthropenon Monastery on the lake island at Ioannina, dating from 1560.

comes to assume authority over all of creation.

Now the average Jew during the life of Christ, and the average Christian disciple of Christ, had one of two ways of responding to Jesus: either in meekness or else with violence; either with peace or with indignation. The way in which we receive Christ's way reflects - or perhaps even depends on - the way in which we regard the earth. God and land, divine Word and created world must be integrated. The spiritual life brings God, the land, and the people together in a balance and integrated order.

This means, however, that the land or the earth must never become an end in itself. God is always the source of all worldly resources. Israel laid aside a Sabbath day of rest each week in order to remember this, in order to reflect on which *gods* it chose to worship and *where its treasure lay*. Worshipping the created land, venerating any false god whatsoever, is a dangerous form of idolatry. Yet on the other hand, worshipping God without assuming responsibility for the land is a dangerous form of spiritualism.

We may, for instance, pray for the environment, imploring God to do something about the crisis that we confront. Yet we may never in fact consider changing our lifestyle, which may be either directly causing or else indirectly reinforcing the problem. Or else we may be activists, leaving little or no room for prayer. Prayer is not a

pretext for the evasion of responsibility on our part. Prayer and action are equal dimensions of spirituality. We must understand how Jesus was as authentic when He healed the sick, as when He withdrew to be alone with God.

Our society, however, reveals and promotes a mentality that exalts the acquisitions of material possessions. It is difficult to criticize honestly our consumerism, to modify our established lifestyles, to manifest an attitude of meekness in the land. Once we are in *the land*, it is difficult to *seek first the kingdom of God*. It is easy to forget that this earth is inherited, received; it is not taken, nor snatched. It is never ours to own, but only God's to give.

Israel was trained to remember. As the *new Israel*, we too need to remember, to recall our roots. We must give thanks for the world. And if we are meek, we must be the ones to change the ways of the world, to ask ourselves if we really have a right to that which the poor may need. How else is this to be accomplished, except through meekness?

Therefore, all of the land, and by analogy all of our wealth, must be oriented to others in order to promote God's kingdom, to reorder the priorities of this world. Meekness is the blessed way of dealing justly with the land. The meek person reflects a reversal of attitudes toward power, possessions, and positions. Otherwise, the land becomes a territory of violence, a domain of division, a realm of mistrust.

Meekness is ultimately a way of caring. It should touch every aspect of our lives. It should teach us that God is God, that we are God's, and that the land too is God's. Thus, the land is ours only to use (or rather, to share) responsibly. Meekness is a blessed correction, a heavenly contrast to the violence that we have wrought upon the earth, a stark opposition to the desecration of God's plan for creation.

And if the struggle sometimes looks difficult, perhaps even seems impossible, the New Testament assures us in the words of Christ: *Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ... Learn from me; for I am meek (11.28-30).*

Lord of the Powers, Be with Us

Lord of the Powers, be with us. For in times of distress, we have no other help but You. (Hymn of the Great Compline Service)

Protocol 34/03

The Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America 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 Day and Afternoon Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, we address you at a critical time in the life of our nation and our world, assuring you of our deep concern and fervent prayers during this difficult and uncertain period of conflict and war in Iraq. We call upon all of you, as people of faith and peace, to gather in prayer in your homes and parishes so that we may be united in the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of our strength and solace.

Following the exhortation of the Apostle Paul, we pray unceasingly that the peace of God may abide everywhere on our planet Earth and that places of conflict may be transformed into places of life and freedom. We pray for the courageous men and women who serve in our armed forces and who face uncertain dangers and the threat of death. May God grant them and their families assurance and strength. We pray for the safety of all who peacefully inhabit areas of conflict, especially for the innocent children of our world, for their well-being, and for the realization of the beautiful potential of their lives as human beings created in the image and likeness of God. Further, we pray that the wisdom of God may abide in the hearts of the leaders of our nation as they make decisions that will undoubtedly affect millions of human beings. We painfully understand the enormous challenges and responsibilities they must face.

The Church affirms that war, terrorism, hatred, and intolerance are the tragic results of sin and evil in a suffering world, and that these place tremendous spiritual and physical burdens upon each and every person. Yet in the weariness of conflict and struggle in the world, we take solace in the comforting words of our Lord Jesus Christ: *Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest* (Matthew 11:28). Our Lord, the

Lord of the Powers, is embracing each one of us in distressful times such as these, so that we might find serenity and help in Him.

Our journey through the season of the Great Fast, one that coincides with the ordeal of war, leads us to the foot of the Cross where we become once again witnesses of the Crucifixion of our Lord. In His bruised and battered face we behold all of the sufferings of humankind, and our hearts are pierced anew with the violence and inhumanity of our world. However, we remain with every assurance that as He prevailed over sin and death, His promises of enduring peace, heavenly joy, and eternal life will be fulfilled. We look to the Life-Giving Cross, a *weapon of peace* and a standard of love, as a source of strength and inspiration. In the midst of violence, God's power and presence is with us, just as it was when His Son offered His sinless life for our salvation. May each of you know that the conflicts of our lives and our world can be resolved when the spiritual peace and sacrificial love of the Cross exist among nations and within the lives of people. Further, may you be strengthened with hope and assurance that the sad conditions of this world will pass away and all things will be made new within the reality of the Kingdom of God, wherein *nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more* (Isaiah 2:4).

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We call upon all Orthodox Christians to be steadfast in prayer and service during this Lenten season, offering our worship to God and our ministry to all those in need. Let us pray together for reconciliation among nations, for the establishment of justice, and for the restoration of peace. In faithful commitment to God and in love for others, let us bring solace and peace into the lives of our fellow human beings through acts of charity and words of kindness. May we be willing to offer sacrificially for the spiritual and physical needs of others. In the days before us, may His goodness and love for all humankind reassure, strengthen, and guide all of you, and may *the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:7).

With paternal love in Christ,

Archbishop Demetrios
† DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America

Metropolitan Iakovos
† IAKOVOS
Metropolitan of Chicago

Metropolitan Anthony
† ANTHONY
Metropolitan of San Francisco

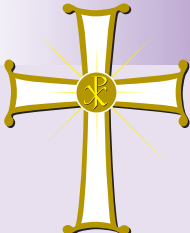
Metropolitan Maximos
† MAXIMOS
Metropolitan of Pittsburgh

Metropolitan Methodios
† METHODIOS
Metropolitan of Boston

Metropolitan Isaiah
† ISAAH
Metropolitan of Denver

Metropolitan Alexios
† ALEXIOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta

Metropolitan Nicholas
† NICHOLAS
Metropolitan of Detroit



In Memoriam

MICHAEL C. CARLOS
of Atlanta, GA
died on December 14, 2002

MICHAEL H. CHAKERES
of Springfield, OH
died on December 9, 2002

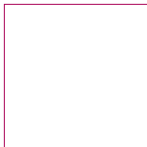
ALKIVIADIS VASSILIADIS
of San Diego, CA
died on December 8, 2002

*Our thoughts and prayers
go to the family and friends
of our beloved members.*

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL.

8 EAST 79TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10021

Leadership 100



Leadership 100

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Arthur C. Anton
Chairman

John A. Payiavlas
Vice-Chairman

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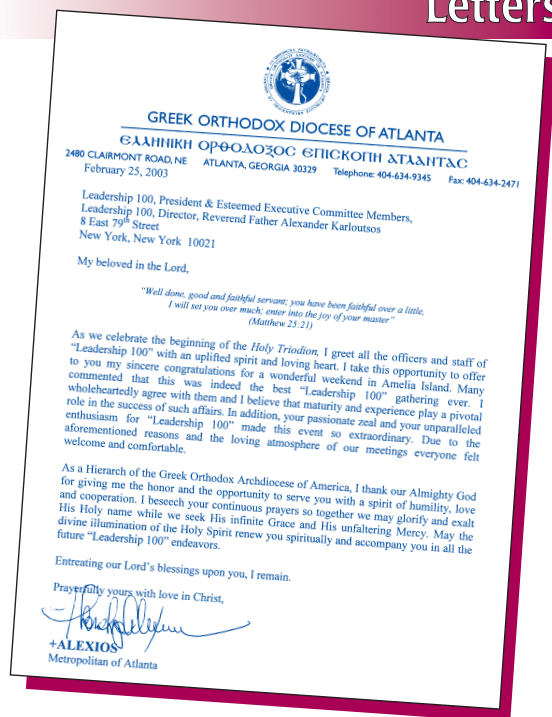
Executive Director
Fr. Alex Karloutsos

Staff

Fran Karivalis
Dina Theodosakis

The Archbishop Iakovos
Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, Inc.
8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10021
Tel. (212) 570-3570 • Fax (212) 570-5260
E-mail: Leadership@L100.org

Letters



(Top) Archbishop Demetrios, along with Metropolitans Anthony Iakovos, and Alexios and Deacon John Vlahos (at far left) walk down historic St. George Street in St. Augustine, FL.

(Bottom) Archbishop Demetrios, assisted by St. Photios Shrine Director V. Rev. Nicholas Graff offers the Memorial Service for L100 members in the St. Photios Chapel with (l to r) Bishop Dimitrios, Rev. Nicholas Triantafilou, Metropolitans Alexios and Anthony.

the Leader

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THE LEADER is published quarterly by the Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, Inc. Members are encouraged to submit material pertaining to Leadership, Orthodoxy, Hellenism, and Philanthropy. All material should be typed, signed with name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication. Send to: Editor, THE LEADER, Leadership 100, 8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10021. © 2002