

THE LEADER



(L to R) Chairman Emeritus John Payiavlas, Archbishop Demetrios and Chairman Argyris Vassiliou (far right) present George Veras with the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Award for Excellence.



(L to R) Chairman Argyris Vassiliou, Archbishop Demetrios and Chairman Emeritus George D. Behrakis present Drs. Harry T. Anastopoulos and George Dangas with the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Achievement Award.

HONORING EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT AT LEADERSHIP 100 CONFERENCE



(L to R) Ann Vassiliou, Marcella and John Volandes, Archbishop Demetrios, Stellene Volandes receiving the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Award for Excellence from Chairman Argyris Vassiliou.

CHRISTOS ANESTI!



"IT IS THE DAY OF RESURRECTION, LET US BE RADIANT, O YE PEOPLES: PASCHA, THE LORD'S PASCHA; FOR CHRIST GOD HATH BROUGHT US FROM DEATH TO LIFE, AND FROM EARTH UNTO HEAVEN AS WE SING THE TRIUMPHAL HYMN."

(FIRST ODE OF THE CANON OF PASCHA)

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Advancing Orthodoxy
and Hellenism in America

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THE LEADER

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



Argyris Vassiliou

Dear Friends,

Christos Anesti!

As we look back to our very successful 28th Annual Conference in Boca Raton, Florida this past February, we are reminded of all the incredible achievements that marked the celebration of our 35th Anniversary. Attended by some 500 members and their guests, the Conference was livestreamed for the first time to a world-wide audience, demonstrating the vitality of our organization and its continuing advancement over three and a half decades. The diversity of our program was a great attraction and is covered in this issue.

Our anniversary celebration marked two other milestones that remind us of the importance of our dynamic growth. We now have exceeded 1,100 members and have distributed \$54 million in grants since our founding. Some of the new 2019 grants are featured in the following pages.

We must always acknowledge our debt for our achievements over 35 years to our memorable founding members who joined Archbishop Iakovos of Blessed Memory in 1984 in his innovative initiative to launch Leadership 100. However, we are also especially grateful for our beloved spiritual leader, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, who marks the 20th Anniversary of his Enthronement as Archbishop of America along with twenty years with Leadership 100. His Eminence has tirelessly attended all our Conferences and all the meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, offering his prayers, his comfort, his guidance and his wisdom. We have been truly blessed with the gift of his presence in our lives. Leadership 100 has flourished as a result.

All of this gives me great confidence that Leadership 100 will continue to thrive and to attract the best and the brightest of our Greek American leaders who will unite to insure the

future of our Church and the perpetuation of our Orthodox Faith and Hellenic Heritage.

Over this first year of my Chairmanship, I have been delighted to witness the commitment of our members to our mission, which has enabled us to strengthen the National Ministries of our beloved Church and support Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology. The dependability of Leadership 100 continues to be a source of hope and a guarantor for the future of both.

I am most grateful to our generous members who never tire of offering support, for the wise guidance from our Founders and Chairmen Emeriti and for the responsible governance of our Executive Committee and Board of Trustees. I look forward to working with them toward an ever more promising and productive future.

May our Blessed Pascha radiate its joy and hope to all of you and your dear families.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Argyris Vassiliou'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Argyris Vassiliou
Chairman



(L to R) Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos, Chairman Argyris Vassiliou, and Executive Director Paulette Poulos celebrate 20th Anniversary of Enthronement of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.

LEADERSHIP 100 CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY AT CONFERENCE



Leadership 100 concluded its 28th Annual Conference celebrating its 35th Anniversary on February 23, 2019 with the Grand Banquet presentation of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Award for Excellence. The recipients were George Veras, Chief Operating Officer & Executive Producer of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and Stellene Volandes, Editor-in-Chief of Town and Country Magazine, the oldest continually published magazine in the country, according to Argyris Vassiliou, Chairman of Leadership 100.

The Conference, livestreamed for the first time to a worldwide audience and attended by some 500 members and their guests, included a keynote address by Veras, a 10-time National Sports Emmy Award winner and Producer of seven Olympics, a forum led by Volandes, a Health and Wellness panel led by Chairman Emeritus George D. Behrakis with Dr. George Dangas of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York and Dr. Harry T. Anastopoulos of Harvard Medical School and

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, the Opening Forum led by the Director of The Center for Family Care, Rev. Fr. Alexander Goussetis, and Coordinator for Seminarian and Clergy Couple Care, Presvytera Kerry Pappas, and a program on Youth Ministry led by Dr. Ann Bezzerides, Director of Hellenic College/Holy Cross Office of Vocation and Ministry.

The traditional Bible Study and Lecture were conducted by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and an Anniversary Concert performed by Aphrodite Daniel's Synphonia Entertainment featuring renowned Greek vocalist, Dimitris Basis, Daniel as vocalist, Achilleas Wastor, virtuoso pianist, and Yiannis Sinanis, bouzouki virtuoso, with a full musical program that also featured guest vocalist Eric Nicolas.

Members and guests also participated in annual Golf and Tennis tournaments and a Walk/Run event.

GEORGE VERAS PRESENTED WITH ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS LEADERSHIP 100 AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



(L to R) Chairman Emeritus John Payiavlas, Archbishop Demetrios and Chairman Argyris Vassiliou (far right) present George Veras with the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Award for Excellence.

George Veras, Chief Operating Officer & Executive Producer of the Pro Football Hall of Fame (PFHOF), was presented with the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Award for Excellence at the Grand Banquet on February 23, 2019. He was presented with the Award by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Leadership 100 Chairman, Argyris Vassiliou, and John Payiavlas, Chairman Emeritus of Leadership 100, who had introduced him Friday at his keynote address.

A 10-time National Sports Emmy Award winner and producer of seven Olympics for CBS Sports and NBC Sports, Veras gave the keynote address at the Business Forum on Friday, February 22, 2019. He gave a multimedia presentation of the similarity of the mission of the Pro Football Hall of Fame and Leadership 100 that captured the history of the major sports and

entertainment television, documentary and live events that characterized his career, juxtaposing this with events in the life of the Greek Orthodox Church, the Greek Family and his own family and Greek heritage.

Veras joined the PFHOF in 2009 after 15 years with CBS Sports and time as owner of Veras Communications Production Company, and as Manager and Executive Producer for the world-renowned musician Yanni, for whom he produced shows including “Live at the Acropolis”, “Live at the Taj Mahal” and “Live at the Forbidden City”.

Veras was named to his current position in December 2016 by Hall of Fame President & CEO David Baker. As Chief Operating Officer & Executive Producer, he oversees marketing, sponsorships, ticket sales, hospitality,



The Mission
 Honor the Heroes the Game
 Preserve its History
 Promote its Values
 Celebrate Excellence EVERYWHERE

George Veras addresses Business Forum, pointing to Mission of Pro Football Hall of Fame.



George Veras speaks of his special relationship with his uncle, Dr. Jim Nicholas (on screen), who introduced him as a boy to professional football.

guest services, social media, events, media, content and television. He is contributing the programming, media, and event support for the \$886 M Johnson Controls Hall of Fame Village.

Veras came to the Hall of Fame in 2009 as President of PFHOF Enterprises, the for-profit arm of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He created the Hometown Hall of Famer

program, celebrating the community's support of the Gold Jackets, the US Army Award for Excellence and the Fan Vote, along with five one-hour television specials for NFL Network. He secured first time national sponsors Phillips Van Heusen, Allstate, Ford, Guinness, and the US Army, for \$20 million, with appearance fees for the Hall of Famers of \$4 million.



(L to R) Stephen Schott, Pro Football Hall of Fame Board Member, George Veras, Marisa Payiavlus, Anthony Payiavlus and John Payiavlus at Grand Banquet.



Chairman Emeritus John Payiavlus and Chairman Argyris Vassiliou with David Baker (center), President and CEO of the Pro Football Hall of Fame and Chairman of the Johnson Controls Hall of Fame Village.



(L to R) George Veras with Colleen and David Baker, Kimberly Veras and Stephen Schott.

Veras is an Adjunct Professor of Sports Business at Case Western Reserve University, a judge for the National Sports Emmys, an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Order of Saint Andrew, a member of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, Rocky River, Ohio and an Ellis Island Gold Medalist. Past associations include member of 1996 Athens Olympic Committee, Board membership for the Cleveland Pops Orchestra and Anatolia College, Thessaloniki.

Veras' wife, Kimberly (Gallas), has a B.A. of Journalism from The Ohio State University, worked for the New York Yankees in promotions and marketing, and currently is serving her second term on the City Council in Brecksville (OH). They are the parents of four sons, Dr. Dimitri Veras, Gregory, Alexander (Jennifer), Christopher, and granddaughter, Savannah Noel.

STELLENE VOLANDES PRESENTED WITH ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS LEADERSHIP 100 AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE



(L to R) Ann Vassiliou, Marcella and John Volandes, Archbishop Demetrios, Stellene Volandes receiving Award from Chairman Argyris Vassiliou.

Stellene Volandes, Editor-in-Chief of *Town and Country Magazine*, the oldest continually published magazine in the country, was presented with the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Award for Excellence at the Grand Banquet on February 23, 2019. Earlier in the day she had addressed the Saturday Forum to a packed audience on her rise to success in her career and the inspiration she received from her Greek Orthodox faith and Greek heritage. She was presented with the Award by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Leadership 100 Chairman, Argyris Vassiliou and his wife, Ann, a friend who had introduced her. Her parents, long-time Leadership 100 members, John and Marcella Volandes, were at the presentation.

Volandes became Editor-in-Chief of *Town & Country* magazine on March 8, 2016. Before her appointment, she had been style director at the magazine since March 2012, shaping the fashion and society features each month in a role that gave her a significant hand in developing the magazine's journalistic range and stable of contributors.

Prior to being named style director, she served as jewelry & accessories director since April 2011.

Previously, Volandes was style editor for *Departures* magazine, where she assigned and edited all fashion and jewelry features, having held increasingly senior roles since 2003. Before entering the magazine world, she taught high school.

A graduate of Vassar College, where she was attracted to its strong theatre program, she subsequently earned a master's degree in English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. Her book, *Jeweler: Masters, Mavericks, and Visionaries of Modern Design*, was published on September 20, 2016 by Rizzoli.

Volandes grew up in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn and went to high school at Poly Prep. While New York has been her home, she considers Los Angeles and Greece, where she goes every summer, as second homes. She currently resides on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, where she leads an



Stellene Volandes addresses Saturday Forum.



(L to R) Stellene Volandes, seated, is joined by Ann Vassiliou, seated, who introduced her at Saturday Forum, and Paulette Poulos, standing, in addressing young professionals.

active social life, and frequently attends the theatre on the West Side. Both, she says, give her sources for many of her *Town & Country* stories. She has been called “an all-knowing guide to the best of New York City.”

She travels widely for the magazine, representing it at sales events for merchandise, meeting readers and clients, many of whom she says have an attachment to *Town & Country*. In interviews, she has expressed her own intimate connection with the magazine and her feelings of responsibility to protect its legacy as it evolves. She has described the 173-year legacy of *Town & Country*, the oldest continually published magazine in the country, as one of its greatest strengths. She says that the legacy

consists of good values, philanthropy, good taste and the rules of civility. But she acknowledges the importance of changing at the same time. “Real etiquette and elegance come from knowing what is appropriate for the time,” she has said.

Volandes credits various mentors at *Town & Country*, *Vogue* and *Departures* for preparing her for her current role and her instructors at Poly Prep and Vassar for teaching her how to create and develop stories. She believes that magazines will have a future if they have a clear point of view and points out that *Town & Country* is growing in readership.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS PANEL LED BY CHAIRMAN EMERITUS GEORGE D. BEHRAKIS



(L to R) Chairman Argyris Vassiliou, Archbishop Demetrios and Chairman Emeritus George D. Behrakis present Drs. Harry T. Anastopoulos and George Dangas with the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Achievement Award.

Leadership 100 Chairman Emeritus George D. Behrakis led a discussion with two renowned medical specialists on the subject of “Health and Wellness: Improving our Quality of Life” at the Health Forum on Thursday, February 21, 2019. The participants included George Dangas, MD PhD, Professor of Medicine, Cardiology and Professor of Surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, and a leading authority in Interventional Cardiology and Harry T. Anastopoulos, MD, Gastroenterologist, Clinical Instructor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, who is affiliated with its teaching hospital at Beth Israel, Deaconess Medical Center.

Both Dr. Dangas and Dr. Anastopoulos illustrated their talks with graphic charts illustrating the major factors in heart disease and gastrointestinal disorders, respectively.

The presentation also included an overview on the major causes of death and disease by Behrakis, a prominent businessman and pioneer in the pharmaceutical industry and medical research, who has devoted his life to

philanthropy since his retirement in 1998. In recent years, he has provided funding and personal involvement along with Harvard University towards a national anti-smoking campaign in Greece, alongside the Hellenic Cancer Society and Panagiotis Behrakis, MD, a well-respected pulmonary physician there and Behrakis’ first cousin.

After an extended question and answer period, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and Leadership 100 Chairman, Argyris Vassiliou, along with Behrakis presented Dr. Dangas and Dr. Anastopoulos with the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Achievement Award.

With more than 25 years of medical experience, Dr. Dangas has worked in multiple roles for the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, including as a professor of vascular surgery since 2012, a professor of cardiology since 2010, and a director of cardiovascular innovation at the Mount Sinai Medical Center since 2010.

Prior to this appointment, he held the position of program director for the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship at



*George D. Behrakis
 addresses Health
 Forum.*



*Dr. George Dangas
 addresses Health
 Forum.*

New York-Presbyterian Hospital from 2004 to 2010, associate professor of medicine for the Division of Cardiovascular Disease at Columbia University Medical Center from 2004 to 2010, and the director of postgraduate training in the Division of Cardiology for the Center for Interventional Vascular Therapy at Columbia University Medical Center from 2004 to 2010. Additionally, Dr. Dangas served as an attending staff member for Cardiology and Cardiovascular Interventions at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital from 2004 to 2010 as well as the Cardiac Cath Lab for the New Milford Hospital of the Western Connecticut Health Network from 2005 to 2008.

Dr. Dangas previously held the roles of clinical associate professor of medicine at the NYU School of Medicine from 2002 to 2004, the associate program director for the Section of Interventional Cardiology and Endovascular

Therapy and attending staff for the Section of Interventional Cardiology and Endovascular Therapy with the Lenox Hill Heart and Vascular Institute in New York from 2000 to 2004.

Dr. Anastopoulos specializes in gastroenterology. He is a Clinical Instructor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and is affiliated with its teaching hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, in Boston, Massachusetts.

A graduate of Boston University School of Medicine, Dr. Anastopoulos completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in gastroenterology at the New England Deaconess Hospital, which merged with Beth Israel Hospital in 1996.

Dr. Anastopoulos is board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology by the American Board of Internal



Health Forum Panel takes questions.

Medicine and the American Board of Internal Medicine (Gastroenterology). His clinical interests include:

- General Gastroenterology
- Hepatology
- Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Colon Polyps
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)
- Celiac Disease
- Pancreatic Diseases
- Ulcerative Colitis

Dr. Anastopoulos, MD is primarily located in Boston, MA, with other offices in Boston, MA and Wellesley Hills, MA. He has 35 years of experience. Dr. Anastopoulos is also affiliated with Beth Israel Hospital-Needham, Mount Auburn Hospital, New England Baptist Hospital and Brigham And Women's Outpatient Pharmacy.



Dr. Harry T. Anastopoulos addresses Health Forum.

REV. FR. ALEXANDER GOUSSETIS AND PRESVYTERA KERRY PAPPAS OF THE CENTER FOR FAMILY CARE ADDRESS OPENING FORUM



Chairman Argyris Vassiliou introduces Fr. Alexander Goussetis and Presvytera Kerry Pappas at Opening Forum.

Prior to his appointment to the Center for Family Care, Fr. Alexander served more than twenty years as a parish priest, taught World Religion classes at the university level, and authored four books on Orthodox life and faith. His pastoral emphasis is making the Orthodox faith relevant for families in their everyday lives and encouraging participation in all facets of our Holy Tradition. He is the host of *Family Matters*, a podcast on Ancient Faith Radio. He is married to Presvytera Lisa, and they have three children – Julia, Nicholas, and Sophia.

Rev. Alexander Goussetis, Director of The Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, and Presvytera Kerry Pappas, the Coordinator for Clergy and Seminary Couple Care, opened the Conference on Thursday, February 21, 2019 with a presentation on the work of The Center for Family Care (CFC) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

The Center was founded in 2005. The ministry arose from a calling, in the words of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, “to affirm the importance of family as a blessed gift from God and to address the specific needs of families as they try to live in a very challenging culture and world.” In the ensuing 13 years the CFC has diligently worked to deliver a variety of multimedia resources and participate in numerous events throughout the Archdiocese, with most of those efforts funded by generous support from Leadership 100, for the spiritual formation of the Archdiocese’s faithful.

Fr. Goussetis is a graduate of Drexel University (B.S. in Accounting), Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (M.Div.), and Andover-Newton Theological School (D.Min. in Psychology and Pastoral Counseling).

Presvytera Kerry Pappas has been married to Fr. Harry Pappas for 37 years. They have three adult children and four grandchildren, with another on the way. Presvytera Kerry is a graduate of Gettysburg College (BA), Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (MA) and Adler Graduate School (MA). Hers is a ministry of the Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist and a trainer and facilitator for Prepare-Enrich, a pre-marital and marriage enrichment assessment and program.

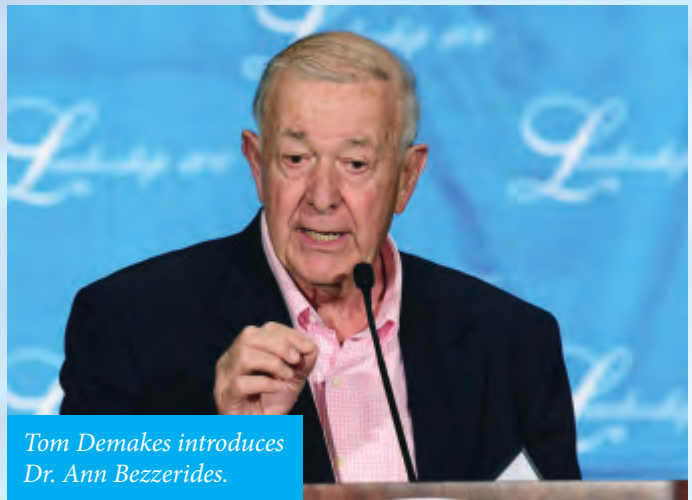


Presvytera Kerry Pappas and Fr. Alexander Goussetis Address Opening Forum.

DR. ANN BEZZERIDES OF HELLENIC COLLEGE/HOLY CROSS OFFICE OF VOCATION AND MINISTRY SPEAKS ON YOUTH MINISTRY



Dr. Ann Bezzerides Addresses Conference.



Tom Demakes introduces Dr. Ann Bezzerides.



Helen Carlos speaks on behalf of Dr. Ann Bezzerides.

Dr. Ann Mitsakos Bezzerides, Director of the Office of Vocation and Ministry (OVM) at Hellenic College Holy Cross (HCHC) for the last 15 years, addressed the Conference on Friday morning, February 22, 2019. She was introduced by long-time Leadership 100 member and former member of the Board of Trustees, Thomas L. Demakes. Helen Carlos, another longtime member of Leadership 100 also spoke in support of her ministry. The OVM is most well-known for its CrossRoad Summer for Orthodox high school juniors and seniors, which hosts two sessions on our HCHC campus and now a third in Chicago.

Dr. Bezzerides related her personal experience and that of her family in Church youth activities in giving a background to the mission and purpose of CrossRoad,

with personal testimonies to its effectiveness. The session went into overtime due to the interest of the audience.

The OVM also recently received a new \$1.5 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to work with 14 parishes across the country to research and pilot initiatives in young adult ministry. Dr. Bezzerides teaches Youth Ministry at Holy Cross and is an editor and contributor to two volumes of collected essays that inform the OVM work: *Christ at Work: Orthodox Christian Perspectives of Vocation and Eastern Orthodox Christianity and Higher Education*. She is a graduate of Middlebury College (BA), St. Vladimir's Seminary (MDiv), and Boston College (PhD). She and her husband Vassilios, a pediatric cardiologist, have three boys and live in Brookline, MA.

SYMPHONIA ENTERTAINMENT CONCERT CELEBRATED 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEADERSHIP 100



Dimitris Basis and Yiannis Sinanis perform at Synphonia Entertainment "Concert 35".

Aphrodite Daniel's Synphonia Entertainment presented "Concert 35" in celebration of the 35th Anniversary of Leadership 100 on Thursday evening, February 21, 2019, featuring renowned Greek vocalist, Dimitris Basis.

The Concert also included performances by Daniel as vocalist, Achilleas Wastor, as pianist, and Yiannis Sinanis on bouzouki.

The full musical program featured on Friday and Saturday nights also included the Synphonia Band with special guest vocalist Eric Nicolas.

Dimitris Basis is Greece's king of the "Laiko" song, as beloved as he is respected by composers, musicians, peers and fans alike for his ethos and excellence in performance. Beginning as a child chanting liturgy in his village church and followed by formal studies in Byzantine Music, Basis

was twenty years old when he was discovered by the composer Stamatis Kraounakis and the Warner Music company, which offered him his first recording contract.

In 1996 his career took off from a chance meeting with composer Christos Nikolopoulos. Eight months later the soundtrack of the T.V. series "Psithiri Kardias" sung by Basis became the number one hit on the charts. He has since worked with the giants of Greek music, Mikis Theodorakis, Stavros Xarhakos, and Christos Nikolopoulos. Over the years, he also has performed with great vocalists, Marios Frangoulis, Maria Farantouri, Giorgos Dalaras, Manolis Mitsias, Pashalis Terzis, Haris Alexiou, Glykeria, Eleni Vitali, Themis Adamantidis, Yiannis Kotsiras, Kostas Macedonas, Dimitra Galani, Eleni Tsaligopoulou and his mentor and dear friend Dimitris Mitropanos.



Dimitris Basis performs at Synphonia Entertainment "Concert 35".

Basis now travels the world with annual concert tours in the U.S., Canada, Australia, Europe, Israel and Cyprus. A Concert Tribute to his 20-year recording career was held in 2017 in Athens with guests Giorgos Dalaras, Thanos Mikroutsikos, Yiannis Kotsiras, and Melina Aslanidou. The live recording of this concert has just been released.

Aphrodite Daniel, vocalist, is the daughter of New York's beloved Greek band leader Mike Daniel. She is the owner and lead vocalist at Synphonia Entertainment Inc. After earning a Master of Arts at Queens College, Daniel created the Greek American entertainment company, Synphonia, with a vision of excellence and integrity in live Greek performances. Among countless past productions are the North American Concert Tours for celebrity vocalists Grigorios Bithikotsis, Manolis Mitsias, Yiannis Parios, Haris Alexiou, Dimitris Basis, Maria Farantouri and the live production of the "STIN YGEIA MAS" tour with Spyros Papadopoulos.

Achilleas Wastor, virtuoso pianist, studied piano at the Conservatory of Athens, where he graduated in 1996, unanimously placing first and with distinction. He then

studied under Vladimir Kraniev at the Hanover Academy of Music, Germany.

For the past 25 years, Wastor has performed his own arrangements-orchestrations of works of the most distinguished Greek composers, Manos Hatzidakis, Mikis Theodorakis and Stavros Xarhakos, as well as numerous recitals interpreting works from the Classical, Jazz to the Contemporary repertoire. For 17 years, Wastor was a lead member and arranger of the State Orchestra of Greece (K.O.E.M.) under Stavros Xarhakos with world-wide performances. He orchestrated the musical performances at the closing ceremony of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens.

Eric Nicolas is a singer, guitarist, bandleader and songwriter. He has toured as guitarist for Phoebe Snow, Taylor Dayne, and many other artists, released CDs and EPs of his original music, and performed solo and as the front man of his band ONE LOVE in venues all over the world. He is also a writer, librettist and lyricist. He lives in New York City and Watch Hill, Rhode Island.

**ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS AND
CHAIRMAN ARGYRIS VASSILIOU PRESENT
CHRIST THE TRUE VINE ICON TO NEW MEMBERS**



Dr. Peter and Christina Piperis

Leonard and Janis Banos

Fotios and Joyce Frangakis



Drs. Christopher and Marsha Zingas

Col. Michael and Chrysanthy Therianos

Antonios and Vasiliki Mistras



Peter and Ellen Constantinides

Nicholas Vassiliou

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit

**ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS AND
CHAIRMAN ARGYRIS VASSILIOU PRESENT
CHRIST THE TRUE VINE ICON TO NEW MEMBERS**



Joshua and Dr. Chrystan Skefos Leasure

George and Linda Moratis

Dr. Nicholas and Irene Rallis



Emmanuel M. Lagos

Elena Thomopoulos

Anastasios and Georgia Parafestas & family



Michael and Maria Kastrenakes

**ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS AND
CHAIRMAN ARGYRIS VASSILIOU PRESENT
OBELISK TO FULFILLED MEMBERS.**



His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit



Perry C. Siatis



Anastasios and Georgia Parafestas & family



Andrew Demakes



Elias Demakes



Fotios and Joyce Frangakis



Paul and Denise Skoutelas



Harry and Cathe Skefos

GOLF, TENNIS AND WALK/RUN



First Place Gross Award for Golf (L to R) John Aivazoglou, Nick Bapis, Thanasi Liakos and Nicholas Karalis.



First Place Net Award for Golf (L to R) Justin Katchis, Thomas Demakes, Marill Demakes, Thanasi Liakos (as Chair of Event) and Stephen Reardon.



Second Place Tennis Award, Thanasi Liakos presents to Michael Kastrenakes.



(L to R) George Safiol, George Behrakis, John Calamos and Christopher Pappas.



George Pantelidis and Kostas Alexakis.



(L to R) Mark Johnson, Arthur Katsaros and Damon Diamantaras.



(L to R) Alexander Kavourias, Demitrios Halakos, Leon Andris and Ted Argeroplos.



(L to R) Christopher, Dr. Stuart, Ellen and Derek Katchis.



Tennis Players gather for matches.



Mike Manatos (far right), Chair of Walk/Run, points out course.



Mike and Laura Manatos lead the way.

Leadership 100 Approves \$2.9 Million In Grants

At the annual meeting of the General Assembly at the 28th Annual Conference, the Executive Committee reported its approval of \$2,852,100 in new grants for the National Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. New grants approved and prior year grant commitments total \$2,973,000. The total includes \$1,000,000 for the Hellenic College / Holy Cross Scholarship Program, continuing Leadership 100's long-term support of our seminarians with its third 10-year \$1,000,000 annual commitment, as well as an additional grant of \$500,000 for this year.

The 18 other new grants included:

- The Small Parish Program - \$330,000.
- Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries - \$270,000 for the Metropolis Camping Ministries.
- Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries - \$62,000 for the Introduction to Orthodox Christianity Video Series.
- Office of Ionian Village "Next" Program - \$60,000.
- Archdiocesan National Ministries Survey totaling \$100,000.
- Department of Religious Education - \$47,500 for the Gospel Project to publish updated editions of two bilingual Gospel books for clergy use in the parishes.
- Direct Archdiocesan District – Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries - \$45,000 for the Pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
- Department of Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism - \$44,000 for the Home Mission Parish Program.
- The Center for Family Care - \$32,600 for the Clergy Peer Learning Groups (CPLG)
- Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations - \$100,000 for Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA 10th Anniversary meeting.
- Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations - \$25,000 for the Ecumenical Guidebook for Clergy.
- Department of Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism - \$25,000 for the National Outreach & Evangelism Conference 2019.
- Department of Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism - \$23,000 for the Reaching the Distantly Connected II.
- Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) - \$48,000 for the Prison Ministry Lecture Circuit grant to expand its training for Orthodox priests, deacons, monks, nuns, and interested laity to all eight GOA Metropolises and the Direct Archdiocesan District and to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.
- The AGES Initiative - \$100,000 for the Digital Chant Stand (DCS) Expansion & Improvement grant to expand and improve the Digital Chant Stand, which serves to promote and sustain the Church's liturgical and music ministry.
- The Liturgical Arts Academy (TLAA) - \$40,000 to preserve and teach iconography, chanting and liturgical textiles in Orthodox worship through a week-long immersion seminar.

Prior year commitments included The Small Parish Program - \$25,000 for the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Norwich, CT; Office of Ionian Village - \$15,000 for the IV On-The-Go program; Center for Family Care - \$8,500 for the Family Ministry Webinars project; The Orthodox Christian Studies Center at Fordham University - \$50,000 for the Affirming an Orthodox Christian Theology of Human Rights project; Retired Clergy in Need Program - \$7,900; and National Sisterhood of Presvyteres National Retreat - \$15,000.

Archdiocesan National Ministries Survey Funded by Leadership 100



A national survey of parishes and faithful concerning the effectiveness of the National Ministries of the Archdiocese will be funded by a \$100,000 grant from Leadership 100 at the request of the Office of the Chancellor. As confirmed during the

Open Forum at the recent Clergy Laity Congress in Boston, there are serious questions within the national Church whether the various departments and programs of the Archdiocese of America truly are of use to communities and thus the most effective use of the resources provided to the National Church by the parishes. The parishes will be canvassed to obtain an accurate picture of which offerings of the various departments/programs are being used, to what degree and to what end.

In the view of the Archdiocese, current trends indicating declining membership will mean a decrease in financial resources made available to the National Church and its ministries.

A nationally recognized firm which conducts such surveys especially for not-for-profit organizations and other religious institutions will undertake Phase 1, supported by the current grant. A Phase 2 next year would encompass assisting with the reorganization of the ministry departments based on the survey responses and program evaluations by the Archdiocese and consultants.

Working with the consultants will be a committee of volunteers from the Archdiocese headed by Elaine Allen, Archdiocese Treasurer, who has worked on similar undertakings with clients and the Chancellor, His Grace Bishop Andonios, as "chief operations officer" of the Archdiocese. A representative group of hierarchs, parish clergy and department heads will be invited to sit in on this committee which will work with the consultants in composing the actual survey with pertinent questions. Assisting will be members of the Chancellery staff.

Summer Camps Funded for Ninth Year



Leadership 100 funded the Summer Church Camps in all Metropolises and the Direct Archdiocesan District (DAD) for the ninth consecutive year. The grant of \$270,000 is administered by the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries' Office of

Camping Ministries and consists of \$30,000 for each Metropolis/DAD for the summer of 2019.

The summer camping ministries is considered the most intense, immersive, and engaging of all the Youth and Young Adult Ministry efforts. The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has summer camps across the country, in every Metropolis/DAD. Staffed by dedicated volunteers and administered by talented clergy and laity, these programs immerse participants in a Christ-centered environment wherein all activities, from daily chapel services to recreational activities, are manifestations of the life in Christ.

The Direct Archdiocesan District and eight Metropolises (Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Denver, New Jersey, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco), each operate at least one summer camp. These camps, which offer several sessions every summer to youth of all ages, collectively minister to thousands of youth campers per year (not to mention the young adults who volunteer their time as camp counselors and are likewise shaped by the experience).

Camping Ministries have played an integral role in the lives of both youth and young adults throughout the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for over 50 years. Young people who have participated in camping programs have gone on to become priests and hierarchs, professors and professionals, and successful members of the Greek Orthodox community. As His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios has attested, many are confident that a short experience at a summer camp can have a positive effect on a young Christian, perhaps even more so than other ministries throughout the year.

All funds are used exclusively for financial assistance, programming, and ministries for GOARCH camping ministries in each Metropolis/DAD. The following qualify as assistance, programming, and ministries:

- Financial assistance to those campers who would like to participate in a camping program but are not financially able to do so.
- Steps taken to lower the cost per camper for those who need financial assistance.
- In a situation where the Metropolis rents a facility and must pay a cost-per-head fee to that facility for each staff member to attend, payment of said fee for each staff member to be at camp.
- Payment for supplies for the camping programs, such as arts and crafts supplies, evening activity supplies or other program-related needs.
- Payment for costs associated with Youth Safety Training and Background Checks for all staff members. This process, while costly, ensures the safety of each of our campers and is crucial for continued success and security.

The Basics of Orthodox Christianity Video Series Funded



The Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Y²AM) was also awarded a grant of \$62,000 to create a video miniseries introducing youth, young adults, and catechumens to the basics of the Orthodox Christian Church.

The series, which will be available on the official Y²AM website and YouTube channel, will provide a series of twenty 8-10-minute videos outlining the basics of Orthodox Christianity, at a roughly high school level.

Each episode will explain a topic, beginning with the person of Jesus Christ and introducing people to key aspects of Church life and doctrine such as the Holy Trinity, clergy and Church hierarchy, saints, and so forth.

The series will be paired with (1) a companion book, each chapter of which will correspond to (and further develop) a video episode; as well as (2) a companion workbook, for classroom use. After a short introduction, the video series will offer twenty 8-10-minute episodes (with corresponding chapters in the companion book).

The new video project will offer:

- Teenagers, college students, and even older adults a thorough and clear explanation of the basic beliefs and dogmas of the Church.
- Parishes a discrete course that can be offered to youth and young adults as part of larger catechesis programs.
- Youth and young adult groups individual episodes that can be used to teach on specific topics and questions.
- Parishes a systematized and thorough course to introduce catechumens to the Orthodox Church.
- The Church at large a clear and simple set of dogmatic teachings that can be easily shared to raise awareness about the Church's core teachings and beliefs.

2018-19 BeeTreat Season Successfully Concludes



With a well-attended retreat at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in Bethesda, Maryland, Y²AM (Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry), has concluded another successful season of “Be the Bee” retreats, funded with a \$20,000 grant from Leadership 100.

Better known as “BeeTreats,” these events bring together youth (6th-12th grades) and adults for a day full of worship, fellowship, and connection. In all, roughly seven hundred people attended BeeTreats this past season in six cities across the United States: from Rochester, NY to San Diego, Calif.

“Rather than focus on abstract ideas or simple games and activities, BeeTreats help participants build the basic skills needed to be a Christian in the world,” said Steven Christoforou, Director of Y²AM. “We put theology into practice and teach people of all ages how they can open their hearts to God and neighbor.”

Feedback continues to be incredibly positive. Lydia, a youth worker and Church school teacher, praised BeeTreats for “how [they] change your perspective about ministry. It's not a ‘how-to’ with tricks, ploys or entertainment. It is about lived, relevant experience.” Elizabeth, a sixteen-year-old student, expressed gratitude for “the practicality” of BeeTreats, which offer a “safe space” in which to seek Christ. And Salome, a thirteen-year-old student, wrote: “Thank you SO much for being so kind and accepting and making us feel comfortable, like your equals, and not condescending to us.”

Christoforou said, “We wouldn’t be able to run this life-changing ministry without the generous support of Leadership 100. And we’re proud to be careful stewards of these funds; despite being a full day event, each BeeTreat costs less than \$20 per participant. This careful budgeting ensures that we’re able to reach many hundreds of people every year on a relatively small grant.”

Ionian Village IV Next Program Funded for Second Year



Ionian Village’s *IV Next Program*, begun in 2018 with a Leadership 100 grant, will continue to be funded for 2019 with a \$60,000 grant. For young adults across the Archdiocese, the program focuses on the young adult experience of the Greek Orthodox faith and their Hellenic identity.

With excursions and participation in the Ionian Village program, and access to mentors from Leadership 100, *IV Next* aims to assist its participants in their journey to becoming young professionals who grow as Orthodox Christians.

Dozens of colleges and universities offer study abroad programs in Greece, and many of the programs of the Diaspora offer similar opportunities. However, *IV Next* is the only travel-based program for young adults that has the Greek Orthodox Faith as a core tenet of the program. Only *IV Next* combines professional development, international travel, and the Orthodox Faith into one all-inclusive program.

The twelve-day itinerary includes time at the historic Ionian Village campgrounds, as well as excursions to the cornerstones of the travel program. Participants engage in discussions about career goals, the financial realities of being a millennial, and how to successfully incorporate their Orthodox Faith into everyday business life. These conversations and sessions provide not only a more solid understanding of vocation, but also serve as an excellent inter-community networking opportunity.

Through a varied schedule that includes visits to churches and monasteries, meetings with political and religious figures, and tours of museums and archaeological sites, *IV Next* participants become familiarized with all aspects of Greece, her culture and people.

Participants of the IV Next program are selected from an online application. Participants are required to get themselves to JFK for departure to Greece. The costs associated with this program (flights to and from Greece, meals, travel, lodging, sites and museums) are partially-subsidized through the grant from Leadership 100. Accepted participants are required to pay a fee of \$1,500 upon acceptance.

Ionian Village IV On-the-Go Continues for Second Year of Five-Year Grant



IV On-the-Go, the traveling retreat program offered by Ionian Village of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, will return this Fall after a successful 2018-2019 season.

Leadership 100 has awarded a five-year grant of \$75,000 to support the program and offer the parishes and young people of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese a sample of Ionian Village's unique and interactive approach to youth ministry.

The goal of Ionian Village is simple: to bring young people of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America into a closer understanding and love for both the Orthodox faith and Hellenic heritage. While the Ionian Village summer camping program aims to reach as many campers as possible each year, *IV On-the-Go* provides the opportunity for more people to interact with the Ionian Village Ministry here in America during the school year.

Each *IV On-the-Go* program is catered to the individual needs and availability of the host parish or community. *IV On-the-Go* can accommodate a variety of youth ministry retreat options: a one-day retreat, a lock-in, an overnight trip, or even a full weekend-long retreat. The only responsibility of the host parish is to provide a venue, food, and the participants! The *IV On-the-Go* team takes care of everything from creating a schedule, writing content, procuring supplies, and supplying experienced staff for

these exciting faith-centered events.

IV On-the-Go programs include a mix of energetic, athletic, and creative activities with engaging discussions, all designed to establish a level of comfort and trust with our staff members and to foster an environment of growth and reflection. Each *IV On-the-Go* event is supervised and led by experienced young adult members of our Ionian Village team from all over the country.

Leadership 100, in order to maximize participation and offer this opportunity to as many parishes as possible regardless of size or income, approved the five-year grant to fully subsidize costs for this ministry. The grant will allow *IV On-the-Go* to facilitate 10 retreats each year for a total of 50 retreats over the life of the grant.

IV On-the-Go is open to every parish and youth group across the Archdiocese. To sign up your parish for an *IV On-the-Go* or for more information about this exciting ministry please visit www.ionianvillage.org/iv-on-the-go.

Clergy Peer Learning Group Program Initiated with Leadership 100 Grant



Leadership 100 approved a grant to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Center for Family Care for \$32,600 to initiate a Clergy Peer Learning Group program. Clergy support programs are being studied and implemented by many Christian denominations across the

United States. Philanthropic organizations such as the Lilly Endowment have funded research and new programs for the benefit of clergy support finding that "Peer learning makes better pastors and better pastors participate in peer learning."

A substantial component of the Center for Family Care (CFC) is the Clergy Couple Care program, also supported by Leadership 100 and initiated in 2011. The program ministers to clergy couple and clergy family needs as well

as Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology seminarian couples.

A major study commissioned by the Center for Family Care, as well as one conducted by the Metropolis of Atlanta Strategic Plan Clergy Task Force produced compelling findings regarding the financial, physical, emotional, and spiritual condition of our clergy and presbyteres, indicating new strategies and initiatives are needed to solve the identified problems.

The current grant will address this through the Clergy Peer Learning initiative that will bring priests together on a quarterly basis in groups of six with trained clergy as facilitators. The current Director of the Center for Family Care, Rev. Dr. Alexander Goussetis, will lead the program. He is a qualified trainer of facilitators through the Lilly Endowment and has led a five-group pilot test of the programming.

The focus for the groups will be:

- to strengthen and sustain excellent pastoral leaders
- to promote peer learning to sustain pastors in every season of ministry
- to provide clergy with a sacred space for mutual care, support, and accountability
- to engage in theological reflection on pastoral identity and parish ministry

Clergy participation is voluntary and will be made available to those who wish to participate. We anticipate these groups to be of particular benefit to priests at every level of pastoral experience: pre-ordained, newly ordained, seasoned clergy, and retired clergy.

A successful pilot program of five groups already functions effectively. The groups meet quarterly. They pray together and learn from and support each other as they build friendships. This is accomplished through topical reflection questions, utilizing video and audio clips, case study examples, and other resources. Part of the pilot includes a group of non-ordained seminary graduates, which is viewed as an important link in maintaining a track toward eventual ordination.

Two facilitators each will be trained from the Direct Archdiocesan District and the 8 Metropolises. Each facilitator will lead two groups (18 total for the Archdiocese); each group will consist of six clergy. As a result, 216 clergy would be engaged, representing 20-25% of the total clergy population.

The group facilitators participating in the program will be clergy appointed by their respective hierarchs. This is in addition to their present pastoral assignment. Rev. Dr. Goussetis and another peer-learning group expert will train the facilitators.

Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism Receives Grants for Home Mission, Outreach and a National Conference on Outreach and Evangelism



The Archdiocese Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism received three grants, \$44,000 for Home Mission parishes, \$23,000 for Reaching the Distantly Connected and \$25,000 for National Outreach & Evangelism Conference 2019.

The purpose of the *Home Mission Parish Program* is to help establish new Greek Orthodox Parishes and to help support small Greek Orthodox Parishes which are striving to become self-supporting parishes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. With the generous support of the Leadership 100 Home Mission Parish Grant, the Home Mission Parish Program has aided mission parishes throughout the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in their critical first years of existence. In special situations assistance has also been provided to parishes that have declined but are in a period of renewal and outreach.

In many areas of the United States, there are clusters of Orthodox Christians who, with the approval of the local hierarchy, would like to establish a parish. To do this requires the services of a priest. Often these communities are unable to afford a priest and the additional expenses that would be involved. Over the 15 years prior to 2008, such groups, as well as existing parishes struggling to become self-supporting, had been assisted with monthly grants from Leadership 100 to make it financially feasible for a priest to be assigned. The priest was able to offer much-needed consistency in leadership during the critical stages of parish formation and renewal, increasing immensely the likelihood of a parish becoming self-sufficient. This program was revived with a Leadership 100 grant in January of 2013, and received Leadership 100 grants in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

The entire amount of the grant is distributed on a monthly basis to each recipient (parish clergy) as a supplement to salary. Administration of this program has been assigned to the GOA Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism. No additional staff is required. There is no administrative expense charged to the grant. The Department seeks to support grant recipient efforts by providing resources for ministry and sharing best practices among all parishes. One program that supports small parishes is the clearinghouse of liturgical items through which established parishes share surplus items with smaller or newer parishes.

On the recommendation of the local hierarchy, the Home Mission Parish Program provides monthly supplemental support to full-time clergy assigned to parishes designated by the local hierarchy as mission parishes. This support declines over a period of three to five years during which time it is expected that the parish will become self-sufficient. These parishes are under the direct supervision of their local hierarchy.

The Reaching the Distantly Connected initiative will generate a forum through which this issue can be examined throughout our Archdiocese through focus groups, questionnaires, the Orthodox Observer and the Internet, resulting in a resource on which to base parish outreach to the distantly connected.

This initiative will:

1. develop and produce a resource that will systematically identify, catalogue and describe best practices used in churches to cultivate a culture of outreach and reach the distantly connected;
2. develop tried and proven outreach strategies and approaches that will be shared with clergy and lay leaders across the GOA;
3. produce deliverables which will be shared with seminarians of Hellenic College/Holy Cross in assisting to raise our future priests' awareness and competence regarding outreach;
4. educate present clergy and lay leaders about the need for outreach to the distantly connected;
5. illustrate the Archdiocese's pastoral concern for the distantly connected individuals, couples and families across our Archdiocese;
6. provide a stepping stone for additional discourse and research related to outreach; and
7. provide a launching pad from which to consider other issues that pertain to outreach and evangelism.

This research project would build in sophistication as the study progresses from one focus group to the next. By adopting a repetitive and circular approach to gathering information, a higher order of complexity will build and emerge as the study progresses. The result will be a rich description of many of the best outreach practices currently employed around the GOA.

To achieve this objective, four to six two-hour focus groups will be conducted around the GOA. A minimum of one focus group in each of the following regions of our Archdiocese is being proposed: The South, Northeast, Midwest, West Coast. Each focus group will include 5 – 8 clergy/lay leader participants, generating information from 20 -30 clergy/lay leaders who have demonstrated competence in outreach. After each two-hour focus group, interviews will be transcribed and analyzed. Results from each focus group will subsequently be shared with key members of each focus group. After this step is complete,

the next focus group will be conducted, following a similar pattern.

The *National Outreach & Evangelism Conference 2019*, modeled on the 2016 Conference held in Portland, Oregon, will address the current situation of sharing the Orthodox Faith with contemporary America in light of the falling away from Orthodox Christianity and offer practical ideas and programs for outreach and evangelization that may be implemented in parishes.

This grant will help fund a 3-day conference to be held at an easily accessible location in Midwestern or Eastern United States in the fall of 2019. It will feature 3 or 4 presenters and conclude with a panel discussion of the presenters.

The event is expected to include discussion groups and opportunities for interaction among participants. Focus will be on hearing from experts, sharing ideas, tools and resources for various aspects of outreach and evangelism in the United States. Attendees will be primarily clergy and laity of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to facilitate discussion of issues particular to the GOA.

Department of Religious Education Receives Grant for Gospel Project



The Department of Religious Education was awarded \$47,500 to prepare and publish two Gospel books for use in the liturgical life of the parishes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The two books will be 1) a Holy Week Gospel

Book with the readings for Holy Week and 2) a Gospel Book with the Sunday Readings, Eothina, Sacraments, and other select feast days. The publisher will be the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Department of Religious Education.

In 1978, Holy Cross Orthodox Press published a bi-lingual Gospel book containing the Sunday lectionary readings, the Sunday Resurrection readings (Eothina), sacraments, and other select feast days for use in the parishes of the Archdiocese. In 1993, Holy Cross Orthodox Press published a second bi-lingual Gospel book with the full daily lectionary, Holy Week readings, Sunday Resurrection readings (Eothina), Sacraments, and all feast days for use in the parishes of the Archdiocese. Both books have been out of print for many years.

Because these books were produced before the advent of computer-based book design, they are also nearly impossible to reprint. Both books also have errors in the readings, typographical as well as in content and the Greek text does not match the 1904 text of the New Testament in use by the Ecumenical Patriarchate (which was not available at the time to the Press).

This grant will allow the Archdiocese to publish updated editions of bi-lingual Gospel Books for use in parishes. To facilitate the development of the books and to make for ease of use in the parishes, the grant will create two Gospel books. The first will be a bi-lingual Gospel book with the readings of Holy Week, from Saturday of Lazarus morning to the Agape Vespers. The second will be a new edition of the Sunday Gospel book, with the contents nearly identical to that originally published in 1978. (Eventually, a Gospel book with the full daily lectionary, replacing the 1993 edition, would be created.)

This grant will allow the Archdiocese to handle the editorial work to bring the Patriarchal text into conformity with the lectionary and liturgical use. The grant will allow for the necessary editorial work on the English text, allow for artwork to be created in the books to enhance their appearance, and cover the design and printing of the books. The books are expected to be published in Fall 2020.

The Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations Receives Grants for Assembly of Bishops and Clergy Handbook



The Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations was granted \$100,000 for the annual meeting of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America and \$25,000 for an Ecumenical Guidebook for clergy.

The Assembly works on Orthodox Christian unity. This year's meeting marks its 10th Anniversary. It will connect with the local community of its meeting venue through liturgy and other events.

The Ecumenical Guidebook will provide clergy with practical information such as protocols for liturgical and sacramental interactions between the Orthodox Church and non-Orthodox entities. The guidebook will not only provide updated information but will also further develop the accessibility of this vital information through digital formatting.

In early 2017 the Department invited all clergy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America - indeed from all Metropolises - to participate in a webinar. The interactive webinar revealed that the foremost request was guidance on ecumenical relations at the parish level.

While two guidebooks exist - one from the 1960s and the other from 1977, clergy were having trouble finding these resources as well as using information that was over 40 years old. The ecumenical topography in the United States has vastly changed. With the growth of Evangelical Christianity, thousands of new denominations and non-

denominational churches have emerged. Therefore, inter-Christian and inter-faith interactions are increasing without clear guidelines for clergy on how to proceed and engage in this atmosphere.

The Department will bring together theologians and other experts to produce a succinct, practical, and accessible guidebook for clergy to reference when engaging non-Orthodox. The guidebook will include a brief summary followed by a series of protocols, including liturgics, sacraments, and civil engagement.

Liturgical protocols will include not only service templates for various occasions but also what to wear, where to stand, etc. Sacraments, particularly inter-Christian marriage and the reception of converts, are one of the more common issues for clergy. The sacramental protocols will provide clear instructions on how to handle situations involving Orthodox Christians and non-Orthodox.

Protocols on civil engagement will both encourage clergy to witness Christ's love in their local communities and explain "how" when doing so in partnership with other local faith communities.

The outcome will be a short book available in print and online. A graphic designer will create an attractive product that is easy to navigate. The print copies will be disseminated to the clergy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and be available on the Orthodox Marketplace. The digital copies will be available on the Department webpage.

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Receives Grant To Increase Training of Clergy and Laity



The Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM), the official prison ministry of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA, received a grant of \$48,000 to help bring OCPM and its mission directly to the Metropolises and Direct Archdiocesan District of the Greek Orthodox Church of America and help train clergy and laity in how to effectively conduct prison ministry. By initiating this dialogue and training, more clergy and lay people will be able to touch the lives of the incarcerated through the Word of God, bring the Sacraments to prisons, and perhaps even receive a few into the Orthodox Faith.

By the end of each training, at least one priest or deacon in the target city will have been trained and dedicated to making prison visits and providing the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confession to Orthodox Christians. Through training seminars, the objective is the establishment of strong prison ministries in each Metropolis and the Direct Archdiocesan District.

The goal is to have 18 newly dedicated clergy ministering to Orthodox Christians in prisons throughout the United States by the end of the year. By meeting with parishioners of the host church, OCPM will be able to provide a network of volunteers to help with the ministry. The long-term goal is to have priests or deacons in every area of the United States trained and available to visit prisoners, no matter where they are located.

A lecture and training session at Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology would be held to introduce prison ministry into the curriculum at the Theological School. By educating the seminarians and clergy at Holy Cross, the aim is to have the youngest clergymen already trained in prison ministry, and able to help the magnitude of people in prison.

Two experienced clergy chaplains, who are experts in Prison Ministry, and the Department of Corrections, will conduct the seminar and training program. Members of the clergy will learn how to behave, what to say and what not to say, how to get into the prison systems, what happens when they are in the prison, the mind games played by the prisoners, the reactions of the prison employees, security issues for personal safety, and a host of other important issues.

Training for the 18 target cities and the Theological School will be covered by the funding over the course of one year, which will also fund the travel and lodging expenses, as well as meals for the experts, and the required lecture materials. OCPM will coordinate with the local parishes in each target city to arrange each seminar.

The mission of Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry is to assist men and women who are living in the darkness of prisons across the United States with their journey in the Orthodox Faith. OCPM helps incarcerated Orthodox Christians, who are finding their way back to the Faith, as well as non-Orthodox people who have discovered the Faith while in prison and need its help.

According to the National Bureau of Justice Statistics, there are over 1.3 million Americans currently in prison. The nation's inmate population is spread across 1,719 state prisons, 102 federal prisons, 901 juvenile correctional facilities, and 3,163 local jails. There are more people per capita in prison in the United States than any other country. OCPM can make a difference in the lives of the incarcerated, as long as we can train clergy and lay people in each Metropolis and the Direct Archdiocesan District.

In many states, Orthodox Christianity is not recognized as a legitimate faith option for inmates and, therefore, Orthodox clergy are not granted access. It is common for an Orthodox Christian priest to be turned away from a prison due to the lack of recognition of our faith as legitimate. OCPM has been making strides in our efforts to receive formal recognition state by state. OCPM has inquired why we are not recognized across the prison system, and the response received was that "no Orthodox Clergy ever visit here."

By expanding its training for Orthodox priests, deacons, monks, nuns, and interested laity to all nine Greek Orthodox Metropolises and the Direct Archdiocesan

District, as well as to Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, OCPM addresses this problem. The training will be on how to provide pastoral care to Orthodox Christians and those interested in converting to the Faith while in prison, and how to form a parish prison ministry for laity. This training will also provide opportunity for the clergy and laity to allay their fears about ministry behind bars and encourage parishioners to get involved in various forms of prison ministry.

Grant to “AGES Initiatives” to Expand Liturgical and Music Ministry



Leadership 100 has granted \$100,000 to AGES Initiatives, founded in 2012 as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, with the mission to promote and sustain the Church's liturgical and music ministry, to broaden and expand its offerings. Currently, by means of the *Digital Chant Stand*, a software platform that stores, organizes, and delivers Orthodox Christian liturgical texts and music, for the purposes of worship, study, and research, AGES provide more than 400 of the 534 parishes in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America with the materials necessary for Greek Orthodox parishes to celebrate a full liturgical life.

AGES gives the church musicians, clergy, and members of the congregation in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese everything they need in order to sing, serve, and follow along for every service, making available the materials they need to serve Vespers, Orthros and Divine Liturgy every week, and all services of Holy Week and Easter, as well as sacraments and other incidental services. To facilitate this mission, AGES has developed, and continues to improve, a digital library of bilingual liturgical texts and music, recordings, a rubrics engine, and applications for church, home, and classroom. In addition, it offers workshops to empower church singers and clergy in their music ministry and regularly fulfills individualized requests for parishes throughout the GOA that need texts and rubrics for special occasions.

The new grant will support the expansion and improvement of the AGES Digital Chant Stand (DCS). The AGES DCS, as it is currently implemented, is a website that hosts a library of liturgical texts, music, and recordings.

These services are indexed by date, and through the DCS they are available as discrete service booklets (pdf) for viewing and printing, and in web view (html) with integrated links to scores and music. The DCS generates a complete "script" for any given service on any given date based on the Patriarchal rubrics. In addition, these services are available in both Greek and English. There is at present a public library of service texts, music, and recordings available for free on the website; however, the DCS is content neutral, and it can be customized to accommodate any desired texts, in any language, translations, music (including choral music), and rubrics for any client, be that a parish, a Metropolis, or a jurisdiction.

The AGES DCS is also available for mobile devices, either via a mobile-responsive version of the website, or the app for iPhone and iPad. The app has all the functionality of the DCS website, with the added ability to download and cache texts and media for access offline. This is particularly useful, since many parishes do not yet have Wi-Fi. AGES also recently released the first app for Android, which serves as an electronic service book for worshippers.

The Digital Chant Stand currently enjoys wider use and recognition than ever before within the United States and abroad with a constant flow of requests. The purpose of the grant is to offer a full cycle of daily services for the entire year and address gaps and areas for improvement of the materials. The deliverables - texts, scores, and recordings - will then be accessible for free on any mobile device.

AGES will work in consultation with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese to ensure that it is leveraging previous efforts appropriately and following the desired norms and guidelines of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

The goal of maintaining and expanding DCS is to facilitate everyone's participation in the worship services of the Greek Orthodox Church throughout the entirety of the ecclesiastical year.

The Liturgical Arts Academy Receives Grant for Intensive Training in Liturgical Arts



The Liturgical Arts Academy

The Liturgical Arts Academy (TLAA) was granted \$40,000 to preserve, teach and disseminate the sacred arts of iconography, chant and liturgical textiles in Orthodox worship through an intensive week long immersion seminar. It is a unique first-of-its-kind project, which seeks to create a worshipping community of Orthodox Christian artists, musicians and artisans for a weeklong intensive seminar of lectures, training, worship and fellowship. In distinction to other sacred arts programs, the Academy brings together all the arts to form an artists' sacred community where inter-disciplinary presence, dialogue and the Holy Spirit can work synergistically to inspire and encourage the participants.

TLAA was conceived at Yale University in 2016 by its founders Fr. Anthony Salzman and Dr. Constantine Kokenes, who were the first Orthodox Christians to participate in the annual Congregations Project of Yale's 'Institute of Sacred Music.' The first TLAA took place in South Carolina in May 2018, with the blessing and presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, when 30 students participated in Byzantine Chant and Iconography.

Since TLAA draws students from across the United States, air travel and other expenses often make participation impractical for many deserving students. The first TLAA could not have taken place without generous financial assistance in the form of a Vital Worship Grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, underwritten by the Lilly Foundation. Based on the success of the inaugural seminar, new offerings are being added (liturgical textile arts) with additional classes and faculty, seeking to double the number of students.

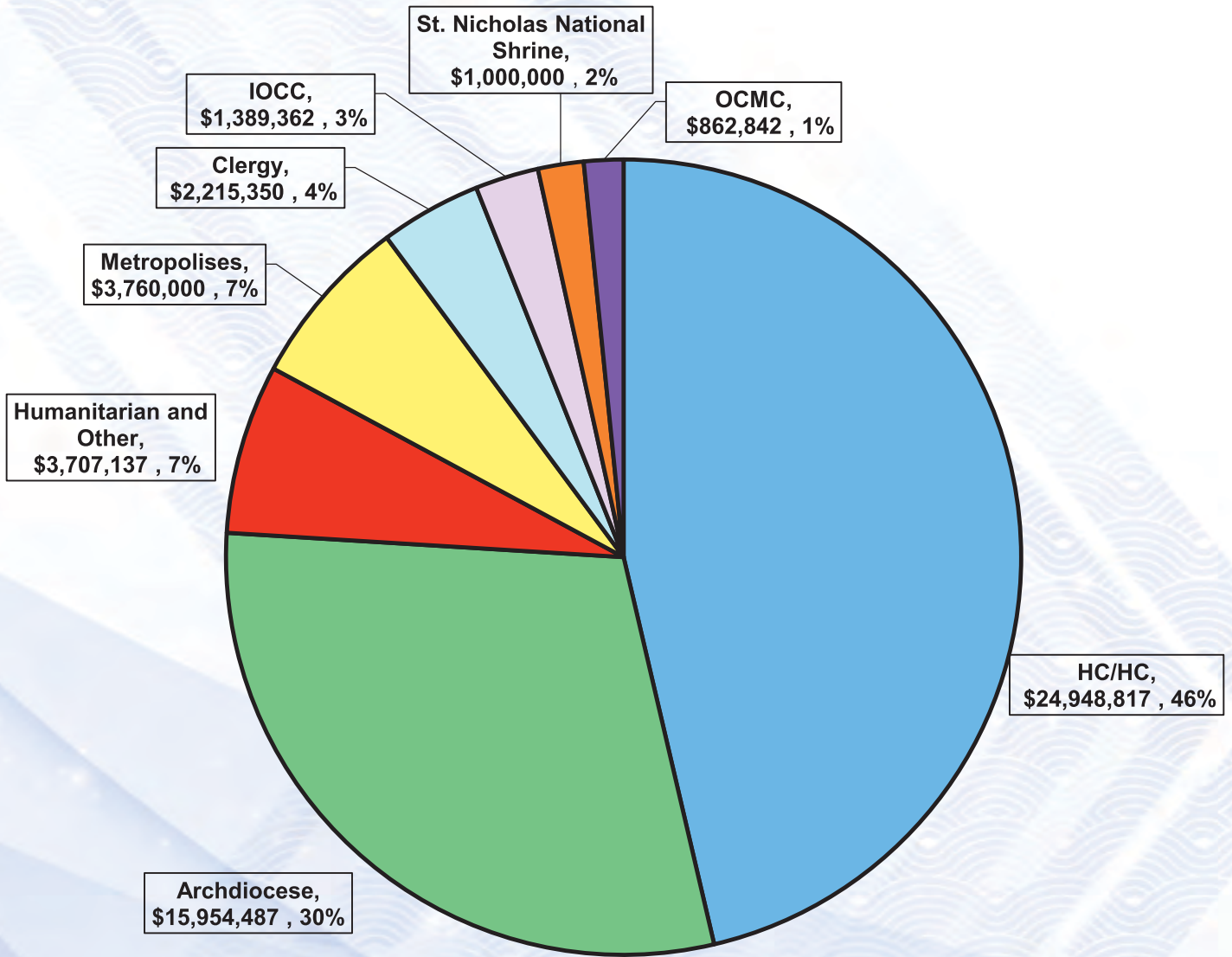
The first TLAA was held in May 2018 at the Diakonia Retreat Center of the Metropolis of Atlanta, with the blessing and presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios. 10 iconography and 20 chanting students attended.

As the Church transitions to the use of English in its services, the need for trained church musicians able to chant proficiently in English while maintaining the rich tradition of Orthodox chant has never been greater. The iconographic tradition of the Orthodox Church is a tool of salvation and an integral part of the spiritual foundation of the faithful.

Intensive immersion in these art forms provides a forum for rapid progress, whether a student is a beginner reticent to approach the analogion or pick up a paintbrush, or a more advanced student facing obstacles in their progress. The goal is for participants to return to their home parishes enhanced with a proper understanding and skills that they can then share with others.

The 30 students at last year's TLAA came from across the United States, from the Pacific Northwest (OR, WA), Midwest (MI, IL), Southwest (NV) and Southeast (TN, NC, SC, FL and GA). The response on social media has been tremendous and TLAA anticipates many returning students from 2018, as well as new students from other parts of the country. Most students at TLAA function as volunteers in their parishes, offering their time, talents and hard work to the Church.

Leadership 100 GRANTS



TOTAL GRANTS DISTRIBUTED SINCE INCEPTION: \$53,837,995.



**LEADERSHIP 100 ENDOWMENT FUND
1989 - 2019 GRANTS**

Hellenic College / Holy Cross School of Theology		\$ 24,948,817
Hellenic College / Holy Cross Scholarship Program *		21,903,617
Archbishop Iakovos Library Fund		1,000,000
Hellenic College / Holy Cross Technology Infrastructure		1,000,000
Hellenic College / Holy Cross (various grants)		733,600
Hellenic College - Office of Vocation and Ministry		311,600
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese		\$ 15,954,487
Archdiocese Administration, Management, and Leadership Training		2,163,386
Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations		1,969,700
Marriage and Family		1,836,590
Internet Ministry and Technology Infrastructure		1,561,700
Youth, Young Adult, and Camping Ministries		1,543,993
Outreach & Evangelism / Home Missions		1,520,530
Greek Orthodox Telecommunications		970,190
Communications and Radio Ministry		723,659
Religious Education		695,498
Parish Development and Stewardship		658,241
Digital Typikon Liturgical and Library Project		600,000
Department of Registry		575,000
Greek Education		416,700
Archives		400,000
Special Gift for the Restoration of Ionian Village		250,000
St. Basil Academy (Archpastorate of Archbishop Michael)		69,300
Humanitarian Assistance and Other Grants		\$ 3,707,137
The Ecumenical Patriarchate (Various Grants)		765,000
Orthodox Christian Network		450,000
September 11 Relief Fund		400,000
Various Ministries		303,335
Institute on Religion and World Affairs of Boston University		260,040
Video Documentaries		219,680
Fordham University - Orthodox Christian Studies Center		233,000
Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry		210,882
National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians		208,000
Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute		157,200
Greek Earthquake Relief Fund		100,000
Greek Fire Relief Fund		100,000
Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund		100,000
Primary Health Care in Southern Albania		100,000
AGES Initiative		100,000

* As of January 2019, 224 recipients of Leadership 100 scholarships are graduates that have been ordained, 47 seminarians are still in School and 93 recipients are working for the Church in some capacity.

Metropolis Ministries **\$ 3,760,000**

Metropolis Youth Camps	2,520,000
Metropolis Ministries Outreach	540,000
Metropolis of Atlanta - Family Life Ministry	300,000
Metropolis of Boston - Emerging Leaders Ministry	200,000
Metropolis of San Francisco - Family Wellness Center	200,000

Clergy **\$ 2,215,350**

Increased Retired Clergy Pensions	922,100
Eliminated Student Loans of Active Priests	885,000
Archdiocesan Presbyters Council - Clergy Retreats, Wellness, and Continuing Education	264,000
National Presvyteres Retreats	75,000
Presbyters Council Benevolent Fund	69,250

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) **\$ 1,389,362**

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)	989,362
Attica Fires Relief Fund	200,000
Hurricane Katrina Relief	100,000
US Emergency Response Fund (Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria)	100,000

Special Gift to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center **\$ 1,000,000**

Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) **\$ 862,842**

Total **\$ 53,837,995**

Additional Gifts from Leadership 100 Members **\$ 3,298,792**

(individual donations from Leadership 100 members not included above)

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center	2,703,213
Greek Fire Relief Fund	200,029
September 11 Relief Fund	187,550
Leadership 100 Fitness Center at Hellenic College / Holy Cross	135,000
Attica Fires Relief Fund	52,050
Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund	20,950

AHI HONORS LEADERSHIP 100 MEMBERS AT 44TH ANNIVERSARY HELLENIC HERITAGE ACHIEVEMENT AND NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS DINNER



Eleni Bousis receiving the award from Nick Larigakis and Costas Galanis.

The American Hellenic Institute (AHI) hosted its 44th Anniversary Hellenic Heritage Achievement and National Public Service Awards Dinner, March 9, 2019, at the Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C.

AHI honored a distinguished set of awardees based upon their important career achievements and contributions to the Greek American community or community at-large. They were:

- Eleni D. Bousis, Philanthropist and a member of Leadership 100 Board of Trustees
- Nicholas E. Chimicles, Founder and Chairman,

Chimicles, Schwartz, Kriner, & Donaldson-Smith LLP and a long-time member of Leadership 100.

- Spiro Spireas, Ph.D., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, SigmaPharm Laboratories, LLC; and a long-time member of Leadership 100.
- Ambassador Patrick N. Theros, former U.S. Ambassador to Qatar and Strategic Advisor, Gulf International Forum.

AHI Foundation President Constantine Galanis offered greetings and introduced AHI President Nick R. Larigakis, who reviewed the Institute's initiatives and programs that are provided to the community.



Nicholas Chimicles receiving the award from Nick Larigakis and Costas Galanis.

“Tonight, we honor four outstanding members of the Greek American community for setting an example not only of professional excellence but of selfless service to others, which is the ultimate definition of the ideals of Hellenism,” AHI President Nick Larigakis said.

Philanthropist Eleni D. Bousis received the AHI Hellenic Heritage National Public Service Award in recognition of her faithful service to the vulnerable and marginalized populations across the globe.

In acceptance, Bousis stated, “I am very humbled, touched, and grateful to AHI for recognizing my efforts in making a difference for humanity. It is a very gratifying experience.”

Renowned Attorney and Legal Scholar Nicholas E. Chimicles received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award for his contributions to the legal profession and his commitment to justice and the rule of law.

In acceptance, Chimicles, who also serves on the AHI Board of Directors, stated, “I think this is a wonderful organization. AHI is a great spokesperson for Hellenism. I am proud to be a part of AHI. Being here today all started with my parents and education. It is simply a privilege to be here.”

AHI presented Entrepreneur and Scientist Spiro Spireas, Ph.D., with the AHI Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award for his outstanding achievements in the field of pharmaceutical science and for his leadership of, and service to, the Greek American community.

“We have to think about Hellenism comprehensively,” Dr. Spireas, who is a former AHI Foundation president, said. “Hellenism is not just for ethnic Greeks, but also Philhellenes. The Greek community should continue to be selfless in giving to good causes. AHI is a good lobbying group. Greek-Americans need to have effective lobbyists. We are giving something to a justified organization such as the American Hellenic Institute, and we need professionals to lobby for Greeks.”



Dr. Spiro Spireas receiving the award from Nick Larigakis and Costas Galanis.

Former U.S. Ambassador Patrick Theros received the AHI Hellenic Heritage Public Service Award for his distinguished public service to the United States and for his tireless pursuit of religious freedom.

In acceptance, Ambassador Theros said, “We must never underestimate the contribution of the Greek-American community in every aspect of life in the United States; we have produced great leaders in science, medicine, politics, finance, and academia. We need great organizations like the American Hellenic Institute to make our fellow Americans aware of our presence and importance.”

The honorees’ many accomplishments were celebrated throughout the evening and highlighted in congratulatory letters submitted to AHI from His Beatitude Theophilos III Patriarch of Jerusalem and All Palestine, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of

America; Ambassador of Greece to the United States Haris Lalacos and Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States Marios Lysiotis.

Special guests attending the event included: Ambassador of Greece to the United States Haris Lalacos, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States Marios Lysiotis, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, who attended the reception; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia Matthew Palmer; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Aviation and International Affairs David Short. The American Hellenic Institute is a non-profit Greek American public policy center and think tank that works to strengthen relations between the United States and Greece and Cyprus, and within the Greek American community.

ARCHDIOCESAN HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL HONORS STEPHEN CHERPELIS

By Revekka Papadopoulos



(L to R) Fr. John Vlahos, Dean of the Archdiocesan Cathedral, Stella Pantelidis, Cathedral Board President, Stephen Cherpelis, Archbishop Demetrios, Nicole Kontos Liakeas - Co-Chairlady, Dr. George Liakeas, Cathedral Gala Chairman

Stephen Cherpelis, a long-time member of Leadership 100, was honored by the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City at their 84th Annual Cathedral Gala on March 8, 2019 at the Pierre Hotel in Manhattan.

Cherpelis, joined by his wife, Areti, also a member of Leadership 100, was presented with the Holy Trinity Award for his unwavering commitment to his faith and his continuous and generous contributions to the Greek Orthodox Church, the Greek American Community, and numerous local, national and international causes.

Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, delivered the invocation, assisted by Archdeacon Panteleimon Papadopoulos. The nearly 250 guests were welcomed by Gala Co-Chairs, Dr. George Liakeas, First Vice President of the Cathedral Board, who served as MC, and his wife, Nicole Condos - Liakeas. Some 200 young professionals attended the Young Adults Reception next door.

"Stephen Cherpelis leads a life of service and generosity. He is a man of respect and humility; he is a gentleman, he is a churchman and a wonderful example for all of us", noted Fr. John Vlahos, Dean of the Cathedral, in introducing the honoree.

In expressing gratitude for the award, Cherpelis stated that he doesn't believe he is worthy of this honor. "What I am doing is what God created for us, that road, to walk on and I believe, as a steward of the Church, time, talent and treasure, that I am trying to walk that road for good works. That's the road we should follow", he said.

Cherpelis also noted that St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine in New York City reminds him of the Parthenon and Aghia Sophia. "All the eyes are on us now. If we fail to build the Parthenon and the Aghia Sophia of our time, we will be a failure. That's the road we should follow", he added. Referring then to a quote from St. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians, he told the Archbishop that "some of us, sometime, we became a thorn in your heart, because we as Greeks, we are the best and we can be the worst at the same time. But none of us here and the silent majority of the Greek Orthodox in the United States that you lead by example, are going to be a thorn in your heart".

Archbishop Demetrios conveyed to Stephen and Areti Cherpelis and their family a special blessing from His All Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and told the honoree "you are blessed, Archon Stephen, that you have been following Jesus as a servant, as a brother, as the Savior".

"Stephen Cherpelis is such a role model to all of us", said Stella Pantelidis, the first woman President of the Cathedral Board and also a member of Leadership 100, thanking the honoree for his contributions to the Cathedral and calling on the Cathedral family to support the Capital Campaign and make the Archdiocesan Cathedral great again.

Also in attendance were the Consul General of Greece, Dr. Konstantinos Koutras, the Ambassadors of Greece and Cyprus at the UN, Maria Theophili and Kornelios Korneliou, respectively, NY State Senator, Andrew Gounardes, the Cathedral Grand Benefactor, Eleni Chiotas, as well as Leadership100 Executive Director, Paulette Poulos, and Vice President of the Direct Archdiocesan District Council, Larry Hotzoglou.

ELENI KOUNALAKIS NAMED CALIFORNIA'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRADE CHIEF



Lieutenant Governor of California Eleni Kounalakis, a longtime member of Leadership 100, was designated by Governor Gavin Newsom as his top representative to advance California's economic interests abroad.

The executive order signed by Newsom creates the International Affairs and Trade Development Interagency Committee under Lt. Governor Kounalakis, a former United States Ambassador, who will serve as Chair of the committee in her new role as the Governor's International Affairs and Trade Development Representative.

Eleni Kounalakis was sworn into office as lieutenant governor of California in January, becoming the first woman ever elected to the post. Kounalakis worked as ambassador to Hungary under President Barack Obama. She decided last year to run for California's second highest office.

"As the most diverse state in the nation and the 5th largest economy in the world, California's leadership on trade, combating climate change, social justice issues and

innovation has a global impact,” said Governor Newsom. “I cannot think of a better partner to strengthen our foreign relations and advance our interests abroad than Lt. Governor Kounalakis.”

“I am honored to work with Governor Newsom to amplify the voice of California on the world stage, and advance California’s interests and values internationally,” Lt. Governor Kounalakis said. “Our state’s leadership is needed now, more than ever, and sets a standard for democratic values, higher education, and economic innovation.

“As a former U.S. Ambassador, I know firsthand what California means to the world. It’s more important now than ever for our state to take a prominent place on the world stage, bring focus to our international priorities and build partnerships across our borders,” Kounalakis wrote on Twitter.

Kounalakis is a first generation Greek-American. Her father, Angelo Tsakopoulos, a prominent and longtime member of Leadership 100, came to the United States from Greece at 14 years of age. He had little money, and no English-speaking skills, but went on to become a prominent Sacramento real estate developer.

California’s economy is larger than all but four nations, with a \$2.7 trillion annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and is the second largest exporter by U.S. state, accounting for 11 percent of the nation’s overall exported products.

California is also home to more immigrants than any other state. Immigrants make up 27 percent of the state’s population – about twice the U.S. percentage. Of the 53 Fortune 500 companies that reside in California, 25 were founded by immigrants.

MARIANNE METROPOULOS FILM CLIFFS OF FREEDOM OPENS IN US THEATRES



Anna Christina (Tania Raymonde) and Tariq (Jan Uddin) in "Cliffs of Freedom".

Cliffs of Freedom, a true passion project for Executive Producer and Co-writer Marianne Metropoulos, a longtime member of Leadership 100 along with Dean Metropoulos also an Executive Producer of the film, was developed over several years as a story that would bring the Greek War for Independence alive for modern audiences. “As a proud Greek-American,” explains Metropoulos, “I wanted to produce a feature film depicting Greece’s fight for freedom after 400 years of occupation by the Ottoman Turks. This pivotal period in Greece’s history is less known to many, and it tells of the Greeks’ commitment and perseverance to achieve freedom or choose death rather than to live enslaved.”

The film opened in March in select theatres throughout the country. For current screenings, tickets and viewing, go to websites <https://tickets.cliffsoffreedomfilm.com/> and <http://www.cliffsoffreedomfilm.com/videos>.



(L to R) Dean Metropoulos, Simon Kassianides, Marianne Metropoulos, and Costas Mandylor, at London screening in February 2019.

Cliffs of Freedom is the story of an ill-fated romance between a young Greek village girl and a conflicted Turkish officer during the dawn of the Greek War for Independence against the Ottoman Empire in 1821. Twenty-year-old Anna Christina is smitten by Colonel Tariq, a rising star in the Turkish army who has growing doubts about his countrymen's brutal methods of governance, and who had once spared her life on a cliff-top when she was a child... but their budding romance brings tragedy to her family and her village. Swearing revenge against the Turks, Christina joins the Greek rebellion and inadvertently becomes a local symbol of the Greek resistance movement, inspiring her countrymen and attracting the ire of the Turks, who place a bounty on

her head. Having believed that she could leave her feelings behind, Christina must face off against the man who still loves her and wants to keep her safe, but who has now been tasked with her capture. Their encounters and skirmishes inevitably lead to a tragic confrontation during a pivotal battle between the Greeks and Turks that will change the course of history.

Starring in the film are Tania Raymonde, Jan Uddin, Raza Jaffrey, with Patti LuPone and Christopher Plummer. It is directed by Van Ling, written by Van Ling and Marianne Metropoulos & Kevin Bernhardt and produced by Casey Cannon and Marianne Metropoulos. It is an Aegean Entertainment Production.

During the Greek War for Independence against the Ottoman Empire, *Cliffs of Freedom* blends ageless themes of hope, love and sacrifice with a timely narrative about one

woman's struggle to overcome oppression and shape her own destiny. An epic adventure in the tradition of *Dr. Zhivago*, *Braveheart* and *The Last of the Mohicans*, the film leverages historical context to pose contemporary questions about the meaning of family, the limits of patriotism, the dangers of intolerance and the price of freedom. "The two most important elements of my story," says Metropoulos, "are the love and loyalty given to family; to honor their memory even at the cost of one's own future happiness, and to realize and accept that even historic enemies can bridge religious, cultural and language differences which separate and drive hatred and war."



Along with veteran producer Cannon, the production brought aboard co-writer and director Van Ling, whose over thirty years' experience in movies, including nearly a decade working with legendary filmmaker James Cameron, made him uniquely suited to translate Metropoulos' story into a compelling film narrative. "I was impressed with Van's command of storytelling," she says. "Along with his visual ideas and his many years of experience in the film industry, I appreciated his enthusiasm for the project and his understanding of how I wanted the story to be portrayed on film. I credit both Casey and Van with bringing my 'passion project' to life."

"One of the things that drew me to *Cliffs of Freedom* was the opportunity to do something different," says Ling. "When modern audiences think of Greek portrayals in movies it's usually in terms of ancient gods or Spartans battling it out, or as a family-centric comedy a la *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* or *Mamma Mia*. Other than a few pictures made specifically for the Greek cinema, the critical period of the nineteenth century hasn't been explored to any significant extent. As a filmmaker, it

was my goal to do so in a way that would be compelling and accessible to both Greek and international audiences."

Following the lengthy script development period, Metropoulos enlisted a seasoned team of entertainment industry talents to realize the sweeping story as a feature motion picture in the classic Hollywood tradition. "After meeting with various producers," says Metropoulos, "I found a producing partner in Casey Cannon, who had the experience, ability, determination, and shared the vision that I had, to bring this story to the screen."

Cannon agrees, pointing out that "our characters span both sides of the cultural divide between Greeks and Turks. To varying degrees, they struggle with the same issues we all do: innocence vs. naiveté, selflessness vs. selfishness, love vs. hatred, trust vs. suspicion, faith vs.



Billy Zane and Costas Mandylor.

superstition, loyalty vs. betrayal. Like in real life, our characters are layered with doubts and contradictions that make them vulnerable and human.”

Can a younger generation see with better eyes than their elders, breaking free of ingrained cultural fears and biases



Christopher Plummer and Patti LuPone.

in order to inspire those around them in a positive way? The filmmakers are optimistic. “At the end of the day, the things we have in common are more impactful than the things that drive us apart,” says Ling. “When you can find a common humanity between peoples, you can rise above the cultural hatreds that sometimes get passed down. It’s an enduring theme, and one that we hope resonates strongly with contemporary audiences.” Metropoulos agrees. “Appreciating those differences can ultimately enrich all of us.”

On a similarly timely note, *Cliffs of Freedom* features a strong, emotionally complex woman protagonist whose struggle to navigate a predominantly male-centric culture will seem particularly relevant to female audiences. “Although the #MeToo movement has raised important questions about the role of women in contemporary society,” says Cannon, “it was important to depict (protagonist) Anna Christina not as an anachronistic, post-feminist character, but as a real human being both bound and elevated by cultural traditions. She starts the film as one kind of icon in her Greek village and evolves into an entirely different kind of symbol through tragedy - but she refuses to be limited by those boundaries or to be a victim of her circumstances.”



Director Van Ling and Christopher Plummer behind the scene.

Equally important to the filmmakers was the diversity of the male characters and their reactions to the female characters as the latter grow and change. “We wanted to present a spectrum of male response,” says Ling, “from the men who stereotypically see women as property, to those who grudgingly treat women with traditional but unequal respect, to those who are secure enough to welcome a brighter, more balanced and inclusive future for Greek society at large.” Accordingly, *Cliffs of Freedom* features a diverse cast combining new talents like Tania Raymonde, Jan Uddin and Raza Jaffrey with legendary performers such as Tony-award-winning actress Patti LuPone (*Evita*) and Oscar-winning actor Christopher Plummer (*All the Money in the World*, *The Sound of Music*). In addition, the picture showcases several actors of Greek descent, including Billy Zane, Simon Kassianides and Costas Mandylor.

Although *Cliffs of Freedom* is a historical drama set in Greece, the film represents a uniquely American production. Shot almost entirely in New Mexico, it

features an international cast and crew. “The goal,” says Ling, “was to keep the bulk of the production work in the United States while portraying a relatively modern period of Greek history in a way that would be accessible to contemporary American audiences.” In its own indie-film way, *Cliffs of Freedom* is meant to be an homage to classic Hollywood epics like *Lawrence of Arabia* and *Gone with the Wind*. “The Greeks are a proud and passionate people,” Ling notes, “so it felt fitting to match that level of drama to capture the spirit of Greece in that period in history.”

As Cannon observes, “In our post-modern culture of self-reference, cynicism and irony, a more traditional ‘Hollywood’ approach distinguishes our story as something refreshing and unexpected.” Filled with romance, emotion, tragedy, epic battles and true patriotism, *Cliffs of Freedom* is a sweeping adventure that captures the spirit of Greece during a tumultuous time in its history.

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In Memoriam

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Bessi Dion – 1/8/2019
Long Beach, NY

Dr. Peter C. Gazes – 4/2/2019
Charleston, SC

Anastasia K. Michals – 2/21/2019
Manasquan, NJ

Nikos P. Mouyiaris – 1/5/2019
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James S. Nicholas – 1/15/2019
Grand Rapids, MI

Anargyros P. Sakellaris – 2/28/2019
Milton, MA

James K. Stellos – 1/20/2019
Nashua, NH

Irene C. Vratsinas – 10/17/2018
Little Rock, AR

Thelma S. Yeonas – 1/12/2019
McLean, VA

Thelma S. Yeonas



Thelma Yeonas, a longtime prominent member of Leadership 100, and beloved wife for 69 years of Leadership 100 Chairman Emeritus Stephen G. Yeonas, passed away peacefully at home on January 12, 2019. She was born in Washington, DC on July 10, 1926. She is survived by her husband; two children, Stephanie (Richard) and Stephen (Elizabeth); grandchildren, Rich, Jr. (Kim) Jason (Kristen), Victoria, Patricia, and Stephen; and great grandchildren, Mason, Abigail, Graham, Madison, Luke and William.

Thelma is remembered by the members of Leadership 100 for her warmth and grace, yet she had the spirit of her Spartan heritage; strong, independent, and loyal. Her love of family remains an inspiration to all of us.

Thelma and Steve were true partners in life, in their faith and in their philanthropy. They shared a special devotion to the needs of active and retired Clergy and seminarians and were tireless in their advocacy of causes on their behalf.

Leadership 100[®]

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