

## **2004 Metropolis of Pittsburgh Clergy-Laity Assembly**

### **Clergy-Laity Guest Presenter**

## **Fr. James W. Kordaris**

### **Director of the Archdiocesan Department of Outreach and Evangelism**

The Department of Outreach & Evangelism was established to renew and share the Orthodox Christian Faith in America by nurturing a deeper commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ within His Church, by reaching out to inactive Orthodox Christians and to the unchurched, by meeting the needs of those inquiring about the Orthodox faith, and by offering each community the tools for parish renewal and for the establishment of new parishes.

The Department of Outreach & Evangelism offers relevant resources for both clergy and lay leaders. Guidance is offered in the establishment of mission parishes, and grants are sought to support them. In addition, the Department is developing a catalog of ministries that are being carried out in Orthodox Christian parishes in America.

Fr. James W. Kordaris was born and raised in Minneapolis, MN. Married to Cally (Moraitis), he has BA (1979) and MBA(1983) degrees from the University of Minnesota. At the St. Mary Church in Minneapolis, he served in many capacities, including President of the Parish Council.

Following twelve years in the financial services industry, he was called to enter Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, receiving his Masters of Divinity degree in 1999. He was ordained to the Diaconate in 1998, and to the Priesthood in 1999. He has served at parishes in Jamaica, NY and Roslyn Heights, NY.

For more information, please visit: [www.outreach.goarch.org](http://www.outreach.goarch.org).

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### **Clergy Syndesmos Presenter**

## **Fr. Charles Joanides**

### **Archdiocesan Department of Marriage and Family / Interfaith Marriage Researcher**

The Department of Marriage and Family was established to consider issues relevant to the well-being of family life, our Church and society. A significant part of the department's work is concerned with the challenges presented by interfaith marriages in the Greek Orthodox Church. The primary purpose behind this work has been to assist the GOA at the Archdiocesan, Metropolitan and local church level in its efforts to reach out to intermarried spouses, couples, and their families. To that end, emphasis has also been made to positively impact GOA members' attitudes toward intermarriages, and to foster an environment of tolerance and acceptance for all individuals, couples and families who choose to worship in the GOA.

For more information, please visit: [www.interfaith.goarch.org](http://www.interfaith.goarch.org).

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**Philoptochos Honored Guest**

**Georgia Skeadas**

**National President, Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society**

In 2002 Mrs. Georgia Skeadas was appointed as National President of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. The Society, with over 475 chapters in the United States, is the official philanthropic organization of the Greek Orthodox Church in America and was established in 1931 by the then Archbishop and later Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras.

Mrs. Skeadas, with the Philoptochos Executive Committee, coordinates the work of the National Board in administrating the many philanthropic activities of the Society. These include assistance programs to Archdiocesan institutions such as St. Basil Academy and Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology, as well as programs on national and international levels including the philanthropic work of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, UNICEF, a Children's Medical Fund, and many other social service projects that address homelessness, substance abuse, and health issues.

Born and raised in Hartford, Conn., Mrs. Skeadas is a graduate of St. Joseph College in West Hartford. She was a member of the National Philoptochos Board in 1998-2000, a member of diocesan boards in Denver and New Jersey, and she has served in parish Philoptochos chapters in Hartford, Conn., Belmont, Calif., Denver, Col., and in her current parish of St. Luke in Broomall, Pa.

Mrs. Skeadas has been active in many civic organizations including school committees and boards and the Family Service Auxiliary, an organization that provides assistance for seniors, children, and families of abused children and adults. Together with her husband, Christos Skeadas, she co-chaired the 35<sup>th</sup> Biennial Clergy Laity Congress held in Philadelphia in 2000. Georgia and Christos have been married for twenty-five years and have two children, Peter and Mariana.

For more information, please visit: [www.philoptochos.org](http://www.philoptochos.org).