GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
Metropolis of Pittsburgh

2016-2017 Annual Report
TABLE OF CONTENTS

3. Message from the Metropolitan
4. Metropolis Council
5. Stewards of the Holy Metropolis of Pittsburgh
6. St. John Chrysostom Clergy Syndesmos & Sisterhood of Presvyteres
7. Philoptochos
8. Stewardship, Outreach, & Evangelism
9. St. Photios Awards Banquet
10. MEFGOX & Regional Archons
11. Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund & Registry Department
12. Youth & Young Adult Ministries
13. Summer Camp Ministry
14. Greek Education and Culture
15. St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival
16. The Camp at Mt. Tabor Project & Camp Nazareth
17. Regional Ministries & Parishes
18-19. New Metropolis Center & 2016-2017 Event Photos

Left: His Eminence poses with a number of the children present during one of the Camping Sessions, Summer 2017.

Below: A view of the record crowd present for the 2017 St. Photios Awards Banquet.
Beloved children in the Lord,

Five years ago, I greeted you at our Metropolis Assembly hosted at the Antiochian Village with the words “Behold, the Lord is doing a new thing: come and see,” taken from the Prophecy of Isaiah and the Gospel according to John.

In the time since, new things have indeed abounded to the glory of God! I have visited each of the 52 parishes entrusted to me multiple times. We have seen the growth and development of our Camping program. Regional cooperation and collaboration has increased. As of January of 2017, 13 parishes had celebrated the ending of their first and the beginning of their second century, and another seven will celebrate their centenary by the conclusion of 2018. We have reinvigorated our relationship with our Carpatho-Russian brothers and sisters and partnered with them in several serious projects at the beloved Camp Nazareth. We have piloted an Archdiocesan initiative to have a full-time Stewardship Coordinator in each Metropolis.

On the pages that follow you will find a summary of many of the things that have taken place during this past Ecclesiastical Year 2016-2017—reports from some of our active ministries and programs detailing their successes, challenges, and hopes for the coming year. I hope that in considering the progress made, you will also become a partner in what is to come—another year of growth and innovation. As we celebrate 62 years of our District/Diocese/Metropolis in Pittsburgh, and over a century of Greek Orthodox witness in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, it is as important as ever to engage fully in the life and Gospel of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ as witnessed in our homes, parishes, ministries, Metropolis, Archdiocese, Patriarchate, and the Church throughout the world.

With Archpastoral blessings and love in the Lord,

+ SAVAS
Metropolitan of Pittsburgh
**Metropolis Council**

The Metropolis Council is the advisory and consultative body to the Metropolitan and is concerned with the life and growth of the Metropolis, its ministries, institutions and financial condition.

The 2016-2017 ecclesiastical year marked the beginning of a new 2-year Council term. Its members began their tenure with a retreat in August 2016 hosted at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Pittsburgh, at which time the group discussed the structure of the Metropolis and Archdiocese, the responsibilities of the Council, and some of the goals and objectives for the Council and its committees.

Three council meetings took place during the year in September, January, and June. At each meeting, business related to the life of the Metropolis was discussed and reports were received from the ministries and working committees. Among the active committees: Administration, Building & Grounds, Clergy-Laity Assembly, Communications, Ecumenical & Inter-Orthodox, Finance, Greek Education & Culture, Joint Camp Committee (ad hoc), Legal, Metropolis Stewardship & Fundraising, New Metropolis Center (ad hoc), Religious Education Commission, Stewardship, Outreach, & Evangelism, St. Photios Awards Banquet, Youth Commission

**Executive Committee**

His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS – Chairman
Archon Peter Clyde Papadakos – Secretary
Mrs. Chrystal Thomas – Philoptochos President
Rev. Fr. Joseph DiStefano

Archon Dr. Nicholas Loutsion – Vice Chairman
Archon Steve Sellas – Treasurer
Rev. Fr. Nicholas Halkias—Clergy Syndesmos President
Rev. Fr. George Callos - Chancellor

Metropolis Council for the 2016-2018 Term

Stewards of the Holy Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Our God-kept Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh is known for its vibrant parishes, monasteries, and ecumenical outreach; for its dynamic youth programs, retreats, and summer camp; for its emphasis on religious education for both youth and adults; and for its excellent Greek education programs.

These efforts have been sustained and multiplied by the diligent work of its wonderful parishes and the generosity of its many stewards. The offerings of time, talent, and treasure have allowed our Metropolis to effectively reach its members through its various activities, committees, and the work of its staff.

Many of you have been a part of our team through your financial contributions, volunteer efforts, and the donation of your expertise for the work of our Holy Metropolis.

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh’s Ministries operate on:

- Hundreds of volunteer hours from many volunteers who donate their time and talent to:
  - Educate and supervise our children
  - Oversee the various ministries and programs
  - Advise us on legal and financial matters
  - Perform building maintenance and upkeep

- Income from three sources:
  - Parish National Ministries Allocations
  - Direct contributions and proceeds from Metropolis projects
  - Youth Ministries revenue

These donations of time, talent, and treasure support our many programs and initiatives, including Summer Camp, Retreats, regular parish visits by His Eminence and our staff, maintaining baptism, marriage, divorce, and death registries, and a number of tasks such as administrative work and travel which assist the ministries of the parishes.

Many thanks to the 2016 Stewards of the Holy Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (MEFGOX), St. Xenia Philoptochos, Reading, PA

Our 2017 Stewards of the Holy Metropolis of Pittsburgh (to September 10, 2017)

Harry & Joyce Athanasiou, Fr. & Dr. Pres. Christopher & Filitsa Bender, Fr. & Pres. George & Kassiani Callos, Fr. & Pres. Stephen & Christina Callos, Mary Doreza, Fr. & Pres. Jim & Goldie Doukas, Mr. & Mrs. John (Foti) Frangakis, Sundy & George Gulu, George & Mary Halkias, George & Eleni Haralamos, Archon & Mrs. Michael & Maureen Kusturiss, Archon & Mrs. Nick & Kathy Lekas, Archon Dr. & Mrs. Nicholas Loutsion, Dn. & Dssa. Robert & Nikki Lykos, Paul Markos, John Mazias, Robert Moeller, Fr. & Pres. Matthew & Jennifer Moore, Venetia Moreno, Archon Peter Clyde Papadakos, Michael Passodelis, Archon Steve Poulos, Helen Rankin, Archon & Mrs. Steve & Irene Sellas, George & Elizabeth Spanos, Sam Spanos, Maria & Gus Stamoolis, Stacey Stathulis, Crystal & George Thomas, Peter & Carol Tsudis, Archon Peter Vatsures, Perry & Tulla Velisaris, Nicholas Veronis, Archon & Mrs. Philip & Dena Yamalis, and the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (MEFGOX)
St. John Chrysostom Clergy Syndesmos & Sisterhood of Presvyteres

The Metropolis Clergy Syndesmos & Sisterhood of Presvyteres promote the spiritual health of the parishes and their clergy families through continuing education, retreats, regional collaboration, and fellowship.

Two annual retreats occurred this past Ecclesiastical year: one in November and one in March. The Fall Retreat featured His Grace Bishop GREGORY of Nyssa, of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A. His presentation, titled, “The Mystery of Confession and Spiritual Fatherhood,” offered insights from the Church Fathers on the sacrament of repentance, the spiritual needs of the confessor, and the difference between hearing confessions and being a spiritual father. Both His Eminence Metropolitan Savas and the brotherhood agreed that this topic was a necessary one to cover, to support the ongoing work of parish priests and the spiritual lives of their parishioners.

The theme of the Spring Retreat was “Sacred Image, Sacred Marriage, led by Pres. Kerry Pappas of the Center for Family Care. The focus was on the imagery of marriage, and how the clergy couple’s marriage requires its own investment while at the same time must support the clergyman’s ministry to married couples, engaged couples, or struggling couples. A special session was devoted to ministering to divorcees and widows/widowers, and it highlighted the particular challenges they face and the missteps to be avoided while dealing with those groups of people.

The Syndesmos & Sisterhood continue to promote regional meetings to share information about parish events, best practices and to create common calendars of shared events within the region, especially events that can benefit the youth. They also promote common Parish Council training sessions, which allowed leadership from around their region to not only hear vital information necessary for those who take on the mantle of parish responsibility, but also allowed for closer collaboration and networking. This encourages the various parish leaders to lean on one another, in addition to their respective parish priests and fellow council members, for insight and inspiration.

The Syndemos also acts as the vehicle for Metropolis representation at a number of Archdiocesan institutions, such as the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council, the Archdiocesan Benefits Committee, and the Hellenic College/Holy Cross Alumni association.

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Fr. Dennis (Dionysios) Michelis
Rev. Fr. Leon (Leonidas) Pachis
Diaconissa Mary Christulides
Archon Nicholas Papadakos

May their memory be eternal!
Ladies Philoptochos Society

They keystone annual event for the Metropolis Philoptochos is the Daffodil Luncheon, hosted in 2017 by the Philoptochos Chapter of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Columbus, OH. The event is a beautiful witness to how the Metropolis Philoptochos Chapters come together to serving our Lord by easing the burden of those experiencing hardship of all kinds in their surrounding communities. St. Paul writes in his Epistle to the Galatians, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)

Over the past few years the Columbus chapter has partnered with Star House to serve homeless youths ages 14-24 years old, and for this reason this most worthy charity was highlighted at the Luncheon. It is estimated that 1,200-2,500 homeless youths and youths in transition exist in Central Ohio alone, and they are one of the most vulnerable populations worldwide. Many live directly on the streets, in abandoned buildings, or they “couch surf” among friends’ homes. Most are disconnected from their families and because of limited rights and privacy, and all are underserved by the services and supports needed to survive independently. Philoptochos contributions help Star House give these youths hope by providing a safe place for them to obtain every day necessities such as food, hygiene and other items needed to survive on the streets. By giving them a safe place to get supplies to meet their basic needs, youths are better equipped to make connections within their communities and build productive lives.

During the luncheon, attendees were blessed to have a young woman agree to share her experience on the streets and how Star House helped her to be able to attend and graduate from the Columbus State Community College. Imagine, how difficult it is for our own children to sometimes get through the responsibilities and pressures of their studies without having to worry about a safe place to sleep or food for nourishment.

Chapters from all over the Metropolis joined together (some as far as 6 hours away) in support of Metropolis Philoptochos Charities and Star House. Between the silent auction of over 20 beautifully donated and decorated gift baskets and original pieces of art and handiwork done by Annunciation Columbus parishioners ($2,700), ticket sales ($11,100), generous ads ($5,125) and sponsors ($6,150), Philoptochos raised a total of $18,352, of which $4,818 went to Star House.

His Eminence Metropolitan Savas punctuated the event with his blessings, prayers, and a reading of William Wordsworth’s poem, I wandered Lonely as a Cloud, which has immortalized the daffodil as a symbol of hope, and reminded us that, as Orthodox Christians, we use daffodils as a symbol of hope and perseverance during the Procession of the Holy Cross on the third Sunday of Lent. Philoptochos is often described as the charitable arm of the Church, lifting people up from oppression and hardship through prayer and support following Christ’s command to bear one another’s burdens. It is fitting, then, that Philoptochos uses this symbol when it gathers together in helping to share Christ’s love and give hope to those who are in need.
Stewardship, Outreach, & Evangelism

The 2016 Metropolis of Pittsburgh Clergy Laity was the beginning, in earnest, of the work of Stacey Stathulis who was selected for a two-year pilot program as Stewardship Program Manager. Upon completion of the pilot in June 2018, the intention is to have someone serving in this role in each Metropolis of the Archdiocese. Since last September, Stacey has visited 20 parishes and conducted more than a half-dozen stewardship training sessions.

No template for this work existed in June 2016 when Stacey began work on behalf of the Archdiocese and Pittsburgh Metropolis. Much of what he has done in the past 14 months has occurred under the guidance of Fr. Jim Kordaris, Director of the Archdiocese Office of Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism, Archdiocesan Council Members George Matthews and George Vourvoulias as well as Fr. Theodore Petrides, Fr. Jerry Hall and Fr. George Callos.

A letter from Metropolitan Savas to all of the parishes announcing the new Stewardship Program Manager position as well as participation in the 2016 Clergy-Laity Conference helped jump-start visits to parishes across the Metropolis. Oftentimes, Stacey would make a preliminary visit to a parish to meet with clergy, Parish Council and other lay leaders. That initial visit was followed by one or two stewardship training sessions that include:

Part One: Formalizing the ministry process by establishing a Ministry-Based Organizational Structure (a council of ministries) that have goals, objectives and its affects on the overall budget of the parish.

Part Two: Strategic planning that leads to the establishment of mission and vision statements for the parish that leads to short- and long-term goals and an implementation plan.

Below are the parishes Stacey has met with thus far:

Annunciation – Akron, OH
Annunciation – Cleveland, OH
St. John the Divine – Youngstown, OH
Evangelismos – Farrell, PA
St. Matthew – Blandon, PA
All Saints – Weirton, WV

Annunciation – Columbus, OH
Life-Giving Spring – Martins Ferry, OH
St. Nicholas – Youngstown, OH
Holy Cross – Stroudsburg, PA
St. Nicholas – Pittsburgh, PA
St. John – Charleston, WV

Archangel Michael – Campbell, OH
Holy Trinity – Steubenville, OH
St. Paul – North Royalton, OH
St. George – New Castle, PA
St. Nicholas – Bethlehem, PA
St. John the Divine – Wheeling, WV

In addition to working with parishes, Stacey also serves a variety of functions within the Metropolis and the Archdiocese.

• Manage monthly meetings for the Metropolis Stewardship Committee
• Manage summer stewardship interns from HC/HC
• Participate (and present) at Metropolis Council meetings
• Participate (and present) at the Metropolis Clergy-Laity
• Contribute regularly to the Metropolis newsletter

Stacey can be reached via email at staceys@pittsburgh.goarch.org.
**4TH ANNUAL ST. PHOTIOS BANQUET**

Over 775 people from around the Metropolis gathered on April 22, 2017 to honor dedicated volunteers from around the Metropolis at the 4th annual St Photios Awards Banquet. The record-breaking crowd enjoyed an evening of Dining, live Greek music, and good fellowship while holding up the examples of the various teachers, choir members, volunteers, and faithful stewards of their communities.


This year the Metropolis honored two dedicated volunteers for many years of service especially to our Youth and Young Adults.: Dr. James Kyros and Mrs. Maria Stamoolis. Dr. Jim has served as a basketball coach and advisor for his parish, and as the Chair of the Athletic Committee for many years. Maria has been the Director of Greek Education for the Metropolis, and the Greek School Director for St. Nicholas Cathedral in Pittsburgh.

The 5th Annual St. Photios Banquet will take place Saturday, April 21, 2018 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Cranberry Township, PA.
The Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (MEFGOX)

Since 1948, the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians has been working to serve the music ministries of its parishes. As the longest-serving Federation among all the Metropolises of our Archdiocese, it has grown from 3 states to 7 states and from 11 participating parishes to 65 parishes in the Pittsburgh and Detroit Metropolises.

MEFGOX offers workshops and Church Music Institutes that provide resources and improve the practices of choir members, chanters, and those working in children’s music programs. It also offers assistance and resources to clergy regarding their needs related to church music. The Federation publishes the BYZANTINE ECHO, a newsletter distributed to more than 1,200 church musicians and clergy. It also has a Memorial Scholarship Program, which is awarded to deserving young people who have served and will continue to serve their parishes in some area of church music.

Annually, Federation members gather for a Convention, to learn new music, attend workshops about their faith and ecclesiastical matters as well as vocal instruction, and sing together as a massed choir at the Sunday Divine Liturgy. This year’s 70th Annual Convention was hosted by the parish of St. Spyridon in Monessen on July 20th - 23rd. The theme was “Celebrating the Past - Working on the Future.” The choir sang the Doxology and Divine Liturgy in English, in a composition using the English translation recently approved by our Holy Synod for the first time at one of our Conventions. Two of our young people and past Scholarship recipients led the group: Thespina Christulides from Holy Cross in Pittsburgh was Guest Director and Nicholas Bodle from St. Paul in North Royalton was Guest Accompanist. Also at the Convention, Deacon Vasilios Leogas from the Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church in Oakmont, PA.

Next year, the Federation anticipates implementing a new Continuing Education Grants program for current church musicians interested in furthering their skills. Also on schedule is to re-establish a program of regional workshops to bring more knowledge and skill-building to the local level.

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

The Archons of our Metropolis participated in many important events this past year:

Nicholas Latousakis, a native of Weirton, WV, and an active member of his church of All Saints there, joined the ranks of the Order of St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle as the newest Archon in the Region. Archon Latousakis received the title of Hieromnimon, which recognizes outstanding service for the work and mission of the Church.

His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh presided over a Great Vespers service for the feast of the order’s Patron Saint, St. Andrew, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Steubenville, Ohio on the evening of Tuesday, November 29, 2016. The Chancellor and local clergy assisted. The chanters were Archon Aktouarios Dr. Nicholas G. Loutsion, Theodore Cherpas, and Archon Ekdikos Peter Papadakos. A dinner, hosted by both Archon Ekdikos Nicholas Terezis and the newest member of the Order, Archon Hieromnimon Nicholas Latousakis, followed services. The Metropolitan and Archon Papadakos then offered a presentation on the issues confronted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The celebration made the front pages of newspapers in both Steubenville, OH and Weirton, WV. The next morning, the feastday celebrations finished with Orthros and Divine Liturgy at the Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church in Oakmont, PA.

Both Archon Latousakis and Archon Ostiarios Michael G. Psaros took leading roles in All Saints Greek Orthodox Church and Community of Weirton’s 100th Anniversary Celebration, which took place this past May. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America presided over the Divine Liturgy that Sunday, assisted by His Eminence Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh and local clergy. Archon Psaros gave a stirring keynote address at the Centennial Gala Banquet. Local archons also participated in that weekend’s festivities.

A report was given last year at the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Clergy Laity Assembly, which was held at the Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe, Canonsburg, PA from September 22-24, 2016, on the Order and the issues affecting the Ecumenical Patriarchate.
Registry Department

Parish Level: All records of baptisms, Chrismations, weddings, divorces and funerals are maintained in the Parish Registry Books. The parish issues certificates based on these official books verifying the authenticity of the sacrament and may issue transcripts upon receiving a request from the individual involved.

Metropolis Level: As of Sept. 1, 1979, each Metropolis established a Registry Department, which processes marriage license requests, issues ecclesiastical licenses to marry, and maintains copies of the records for baptisms, Chrismations, marriages and funerals as the parish priests following the Sacraments submit them. The Metropolis Registry Departments also maintain the petitions for divorces, the minutes of the Spiritual Court hearings that pertain to divorce petitions and copies of the divorce decrees issued. For more information, visit: https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/registry/

Archdiocesan Level: The Archdiocese Department of Registry maintains the records of weddings and divorces from 1923 until Aug. 31, 1979, that took place throughout the Archdiocese. Since Sept. 1, 1979, only those records that pertain to the parishes of the Direct Archdiocesan District are kept at the Archdiocese Registry Department. For more information, please visit: http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/registry/

2016 Registry Statistics - Metropolis of Pittsburgh
Metropolis of Pittsburgh sacraments represent about 7-8% of the total volume within the Archdiocese (Archdiocesan totals provided in parentheses).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Metropolis</th>
<th>Archdiocese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms</td>
<td>395 (5,933)</td>
<td>365 (4,591)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrismations</td>
<td>64 (880)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Orthodox</td>
<td>64 (931)</td>
<td>14 (169)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Christian</td>
<td>117 (1,442)</td>
<td>24 (183)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>181 (2,373)</td>
<td>38 (352)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorces:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Orthodox</td>
<td>14 (169)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Christian</td>
<td>24 (183)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>38 (352)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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The Archdiocese Leadership 100 Fund (“Leadership 100”) has distributed nearly $50,000,000 in grants to the Archdiocese and its institutions since its inception in 1984. Many of these grants affect the life of our Metropolis in profound ways. During the 2016-2017 Ecclesiastical Year, the Metropolis of Pittsburgh benefited from the following Leadership 100 funded initiatives:

- The Summer Camp ministry received a grant of $30,000 to support scholarships and other means of making the program more affordable for families. This marked the seventh consecutive year that the grant has been given by Leadership 100, totaling $210,000 for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh and nearly $1.9 million for all Archdiocesan camping ministries.
- We again received a grant of $5,000 to support the implementation and administration of Youth Protection guidelines and checks.
- Support for the Be The Bee retreats offered via the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (Y²AM), which travel throughout the country and work to bring an awareness of the beauty of our faith to children and adults. We have experienced multiple BeeTreats in our Metropolis in recent years.
- Leadership 100 continued their exceptional commitment to Hellenic College and Holy Cross, providing again a $1,000,000 grant which is largely used to support student attendance.
- A further grant was given to the Archdiocese for the Parish Software Initiative, which has developed an Orthodox-friendly version of a major database program for use in our communities, to streamline the organization of information at the parish level and allow for our communities to better serve their people.

These represent just a portion of the over $2.5 million in grants distributed in 2017 by Leadership 100. The fund is endowed by the contributions of its members, who pledge to give $100,000 over the course of 10 years (or less) to the corpus of the fund (There are also young professionals and junior membership tracks). There are now over 1,000 members in Leadership 100, many of whom reside within the Metropolis of Pittsburgh. To inquire about membership, or to find out more information about the grants and fund, visit www.L100.org.

We L100! -Metropolis of Pittsburgh Summer Camp 2017-
The mission of Y²AM is to introduce young people to Jesus Christ and to inspire them to live their relationship with the Lord and His Church on a daily basis. All our ministries must focus on meeting these goals through the events that we offer. This is not to say that basketball tournaments and other such events are not beneficial as-is, but instead to ask, “How do they enable our young people to grow in Christ?”

During the 2016-2017 year, much of our focus was spent on Youth Safety and the new laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the policies of the Metropolis. In January, the Archdiocese provided more extensive training through Praesidium, Inc. to our Chancellor, Youth Director and Clergy Youth Safety Liaison. The intense training preceded the annual Youth & Camp Worker Conference that was hosted by the Archdiocese Y²AM. Our Metropolis encouraged its Youth Workers to attend to learn more from other Youth Workers. (The 2018 Conference will be held February 1st-3rd in Atlanta, GA.)

During the Fall and Spring each year, the Metropolis offers GOYA Retreats at Camp Nazareth in Mercer, PA. With the retreats, we look for Speakers who will engage our teens on topics that are relevant to their everyday lives. The themes for the last two retreats: “What’s Your Status? Exploring our Relationships in Christ” with Nitsa Kambouroglou and “What Matters? Exploring our Relationship with God’s Creation” with Fr. Alexandros Petrides.

In March, we joined the Carpatho-Russians to co-sponsor a Young Adult Retreat, its theme, “Navigating Life using your Spiritual Compass” with keynote talks given by Fr. Edward Pehanich and Nick Lionas, M.Div. In the coming year, we will have additional two co-sponsored Young Adult retreats. (November 3rd-5th and tentatively, May 4th-6th.)

Another family-oriented program is the Metropolis Folk Dance Festival. In its 27th year, the Festival is a non-competitive event. Dance Instructors are invited to teach dances from various regions of Greece. Holy Trinity, Camp Hill, PA hosted the 2016 event and Archangel Michael, Campbell, OH will host the 2017 event on November 11th – 12th.

During January and February, most of our energies are geared to the Metropolis GOYA Basketball Tournaments. This year, tournaments were hosted by: Holy Cross, Pittsburgh; Holy Trinity, Pittsburgh; St. Demetrios, Rocky River, OH and Holy Saints, comprised of the four parishes of All Saints, Weirton, WV; Holy Trinity, Ambridge, PA; Holy Trinity, Steubenville, OH and St. John the Divine, Wheeling, WV. For the first time in 10+ years, the final tournament of the season was a combined tournament with 22 parishes participating in the same tournament hosted by St. Haralambos, Canton, OH. On Sunday, Metropolitan Savas presided over Divine Liturgy with 1200+ GOYAns, Advisors, Coaches and their families, and recognized the 120+ graduating Seniors who were completing their last GOYA tournament.

Other tournaments included two Metropolis Volleyball Tournaments hosted by Holy Trinity, Canton and St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh. In the Eastern Region of the Metropolis, Soccer and an Olympics took place. The 2017-2018 Y²AM Calendar, including Summer Camp, Retreats & Oratorical Festival dates will be available in September. All dates are listed on the Metropolis website calendar as well to help you with your personal and parish planning.

One of the next exciting offerings is the **Y²AM Ministry Plan**. It is a new, comprehensive, and integrated set of resources for youth and young adults has been created. The resources are for parish, camp, and family use, they’ll help you lead great ministry in your communities that’s also supported in every home.

**Y²AM**
*Finding God in Everything, Every Day.*

The Youth & Young Adult Ministries of the Metropolis are served by the Metropolis Youth Director, the Camping Ministries Coordinator, and the Youth Commission. The Youth Commission is co-chaired by Fr. Alexandros Petrides (St. Nicholas, Bethlehem, PA) and Nicholas Chakos (Holy Cross, Pittsburgh, PA). Occasionally, a college intern assists part-time.

**Email:** youth@pittsburgh.goarch.org  
**Y²AM Phone:** 412.621.8543  
**Archdiocesan Resources:** https://www.y2am.org/  
**Instagram:** GOMoP Y²AM (gomop_y2am)  
**Facebook:** (Group & Page) Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh Youth & Young Adult Ministries
**Summer Camp Ministry**

This past Ecclesiastical Year, we completely revamped how our Summer Camp weeks are structured. Instead of just two JOY weeks and two GOYA weeks, this summer, we had a week devoted to each of the following: 2nd-4th graders, 5th-7th, 8th-9th, and 10th-12th. This change was based on numbers from of the last four years of our registration.

With those changes came the challenge of creating four different schedules while maintaining the same basic structure that people know and love as “Summer Camp.” Many campers, staff, and parents noticed that with this breakdown, our sessions were more age specific, which made such sense and was beautiful once they saw it in action. Our committee looks to continue moving toward a better and better Summer Camp Ministry, always learning, critically thinking, and adjusting to rectify the issues that present themselves, small or large.

In 2017, we had 469 campers, roughly 100 staff, and 22 members of clergy and several clergy families over the four one-week sessions. In the past, we have had a session sell out in 10 minutes because of the demand, but this new format allowed for a more peaceful registration process. We still eventually had two sessions that were sold out (Middle and Senior), which is both excellent and an issue. We will continue to try to give as many children the opportunity to be at camp as we can.

As part of a push for even more training for our staff, we were blessed to bring in Nate Folan, a professional trainer who has worked with other Orthodox camps, for a weekend of training sessions held at the home of Summer Camp Executive Committee Member and former Chair, Theanne Gagianas. Our weekend with Nate and roughly 50 staff members was engaging, fun, enthusiastic, and didactic. We look forward to having the opportunity to working more with Nate in the future.

Our 2017 Summer Camp theme was Let Us #GO! which was focused on the Divine Liturgy with the scripture quote from Isaiah 6:8, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? ... Here am I. Send me!” It was thought of as a way for our campers to increase their basic liturgical literacy, for increasing their participation and appreciation of the service, and for what that means in their everyday life. Our Camping Ministry also entered into the Digital World through our new concept of Live Video Cabin Talks, using the Zoom program to bring our people from around the Metropolis together for an evening of exploring their faith. We had two successful Cabin Talks with the 2017 Senior Class and a wonderful Alumni “College Edition” Cabin Talk.

We thank Theodore Cherpas for his work as our first ever Camping Ministries Coordinator over the last 2 and a half years. Ted will be remembered for his “Welcome Home! It’s good to be Home!” quote; his deep faith and love for the Church and those who he worked with; and his tireless efforts to “Do good things in small ways.” Ted has returned to his home parish of Sts. Constantine & Helen, Cleveland Heights where he will be the Youth Director. His Eminence has appointed Mrs. Marina Papafil to serve as the second-ever Camping Ministries Coordinator beginning in September, 2017.

In 2017-2018, we look forward to our second year of the more age specific Summer Camp sessions, improving and retooling a successful first year, while addressing concerns of getting as many children to camp as possible.

**Summer Camp Dates for 2018 are the following:**

- Session 1: Elementary Week – June 17-23
- Session 2: Middle School Week – June 24-30
- Session 3: Junior High Week – July 1-7
- Session 4: Senior High Week – July 8-14

We also look forward to seeing the GOYAns at Camp Nazareth for the Fall Retreat from November 17-19 and the Spring Retreat from March 16-18.
Greek Education & Culture

During 2016-2017, the Greek Education Committee tended to Greek Schools’ day-to-day needs as well as sponsored important events to promote, enhance, and invigorate the teaching of Modern Greek. Most Greek Schools in our Metropolis use the *Ta Ellinika Mou* series of textbooks published by the Archdiocese. At the beginning of every school year, the Metropolis distributes these books to Greek Schools that have ordered them.

On February 25, the Archdiocese held a Metropolis Teacher Training Seminar at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Pittsburgh, led by the authors of the *Ta Ellinika Mou* series. About 50 teachers attended the seminar from all parts of the Metropolis.

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh’s 5th Annual Greek Language Festival was held April 22 at St. Nicholas Cathedral. The halls were filled with children, their families, and educators from various Metropolis Greek Language Schools as well as other schools who teach Greek. The theme of the festival was “Let the little children come to Me” (Matthew 19:14). A new feature of the festival this year was the Quiz Bowl, which covered topics such as history, spelling, music, Divine Liturgy, Saints, art, and vocabulary.

Winning teams earned individual trophies and a small icon of one of the saints that they studied, St. John Maximovitch. In addition, a large traveling cup was placed in their respective churches. Winners of the Advanced Level, Team “Μολών Λαβέ,” (“Come and Get It”) were Katerina Tsarouhas, Panagiotis Tsarouhas, and Dionysis Tsirambidis from Annunciation Greek School, Akron, OH. The winning team of the Intermediate Level was “Θεά Αθήνα,” (“Goddess Athena”), made up of Stefania Bounos, Yanna Mavrogeorgis, and Maria Sider-Rose from St. Nicholas Greek School, Pittsburgh. Every team that competed did a wonderful job and had worked hard to learn the material.

Students performed Greek songs vocally and instrumentally, some solos, some in groups. They also gave two informative presentations: one on the history of the bouzouki and another about Pontian History. This year we introduced an interactive activity in which a few students dressed as Byzantine historical figures and strolled among the crowd, holding scrolls on which they had written about the life of the person they were representing. An exhibition of beautiful artwork by the children was on display for all to see, including mosaics, statues, models, paintings, an eggshell map of Greece, and miniature replicas of a window in Chios, the Trojan Horse, and the Parthenon, among other handmade items. This exhibit offered an opportunity to gain and exchange artistic ideas.

The craft making/game area was quite busy throughout the festival. Crafts and games included making icons, crosses, jellyfish, an ancient Greek warrior plate, wall hangings, and more. It was a fun way for the children to learn more Greek vocabulary as well as take a memento home with them.

Maria Stamoolis traveled to present on the festival at churches around the Metropolis. After Divine Liturgy, children and teacher who participated in the festival were recognized in front of their communities, and students received icons from the Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery. These presentations took place at Sts. Constantine and Helen, Cleveland Heights; Annunciation, Cleveland; Annunciation, Akron; and St. Paul’s, North Royalton. More presentations at other churches are forthcoming.
St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

Introduced in 1983, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides Greek Orthodox teens the opportunity to write and speak about their faith. The Oratorical Festival Program begins at the parish level, then in our Metropolis goes to a District (Regional) level and lastly to the Metropolis for the finals before the Archdiocese Oratorical Festival.

There are three divisions: Elementary Division (local festival only) for students in grades 4–6, Junior Division for students in grades 7–9 and Senior Division for student in grades 10–12.

The top speakers in the Junior and Senior Divisions advance to the district level. Two finalists in each district division represent the district at the Metropolis Oratorical Festival. The top speaker in each metropolis division is then selected to participate in the Archdiocese Finals, which is hosted by a different metropolis each year. The Metropolis of Boston hosted in June 2017.

All eighteen finalists at the Archdiocese Finals participate in a weekend of activities, the highlight of which is the delivery of their speeches on Saturday morning. The Oratorical Festival Scholarship Fund provides college scholarships to the top speakers. In the past, the top three speakers of each division received college scholarships of $2,000, $1,500 and $1,000 and each Honorable Mention speaker was awarded $500.

Each Senior and Junior division first, second, and third place finalist at the parish, district, metropolis, and national levels of competition is eligible to receive a Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College. This scholarship has been amended to provide awards ranging from $2,500 up to $30,000 per year. Terms and conditions of the award structure are available on the Archdiocese website.

Special thanks to the Metropolis of Pittsburgh parishes of St. Spyridon, Monessen, PA (Central); Holy Trinity Cathedral, Camp Hill, PA (East) and Sts. Constantine and Helen, Mansfield, OH (West) who hosted the District (Regional) Festivals and Holy Trinity, Pittsburgh who hosted the Metropolis finals.

Plans for the 2018 Oratorical Festivals are underway. Complete Topic list, Tips and Resources are now available on the Archdiocese website. For more information, contact Metropolis Chairman, Philip G. Yamalis.

In September winners will be announced for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh’s Annual Greek Language Story Writing Contest, in which students interview elderly immigrants with Greek or Cypriot roots and record their life stories in Greek and English.

The date for the 6th Annual Metropolis of Pittsburgh’s Greek Language Festival is April 14, 2018 at a church still to be determined in the Cleveland area.
The Camp at Mt. Tabor Project & Our Relationship Camp Nazareth

Early in His Eminence Metropolitan Savas’ ministry in Pittsburgh, he was faced with the question regarding the status of the Camp at Mt. Tabor project. He spent subsequent months discussing the project with many who had involvement and investment in the project: donors, volunteers, supporters, and skeptics. Among the points that were raised:

- The economics of camping had changed drastically from 2001 (when the campaign began) to 2011 (when His Eminence was enthroned). Many camps had gone out of business because it was difficult to maintain the facilities and the utilization of the camps fell below the level needed for financial stability.
  - It would be difficult to market and operate a fourth Orthodox camp in Western Pennsylvania (besides the camps owned by the Carpatho-Russian, Antiochian, and Ukrainian diocese).
  - The Mt. Tabor property would require a very large investment in sub-surface infrastructure and wetlands management before any buildings could be constructed.
  - Interest in the Camp at Mt. Tabor project had waned over the previous years, with fundraising levels tapering off and general awareness in decline.
- While the relationship with the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the USA (ACROD), owners of Camp Nazareth, has seen its “ups and downs,” we had enjoyed at that point (2012) the longest period of stability and the best quality relationship between the two diocese.
  - This relationship would only improve with the election, ordination, and enthronement of His Grace Bishop Gregory of Nyssa to head ACROD
  - His Eminence has known His Grace for many years, and was able to be one of the ordaining hierarchs.
- For 40 years, our campers have identified most strongly with Camp Nazareth, which has been our home away from home for camp, and the site of miracles large and small (including the 1988 blessing of the weeping icons during our camping session).

With these considerations (and more), His Eminence announced at the Metropolis Assembly in 2013 (Pittsburgh) that the development of the Camp at Mt. Tabor would be permanently suspended. The monies would be held to explore options that fulfilled the priorities of the project (improved camping facilities for our children to use).

In 2015, the ACROD approached us with a proposal: to partner with them in a historic expansion and improvement of the cabin facilities, bringing them to the standards of need for our campers currently, and extending the useful season of the camp facilities through the winter season. The project would expand the cabins adding showers, insulation, HVAC, common space, emergency exits, and a covered front porch; with additional expansion of the electrical and water infrastructure.

The Council considered the proposal of the Diocese and agreed to make a donation in the name of His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos and the people of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh, in thanksgiving for the blessings of our relationship with ACROD and the historic use of Camp Nazareth. In return, the ACROD for the first time offered a long-term lease agreement, cementing for at least the next decade our ability to use the Camp facility that has been our home for three generations of campers. At the 2015 Assembly (Cleveland) this proposal was presented by Fr. Stephen Loposky, Director of Camp Nazareth, with His Grace Bishop Gregory in attendance. At the 2016 Assembly (Canonsburg, PA) we received the report of the completed project and the blessings and benefits that our children experienced through their first summer at the improved Camp Nazareth.
### Metropolis Staff

- **Chancellor:** Fr. George Callos
- **Assistant to Metropolitan & Registrar:** ADn. Ryan Gzikowski
- **Youth Director:** Rhea Ballas
- **Camp Coordinator:** Marina Papafil
- **Receptionist:** Pres. Eileen Sedor
- **Greek Education Director:** Maria Stamolis
- **Stewardship Coordinator:** Stacey Stathulis

### Metropolis Organizations

**Metropolis Council**
- Archon. Dr. Nicholas Loutsion
**Philoptochos**
- Crystal Thomas
**Clergy Syndesmos**
- Fr. Nicholas Halkias
**Sisterhood of Presvyteres**
- Pres. Tina Gulgas
**Regional Archons**
- Archon Peter Clyde Papadakos

### Northwest Region

**Central Region**
- **Vicar:** Fr. Christopher Bender
- **Syndesmos VP:** Fr. Emmanuel Lillios
- **Presvyteres Rep:** Pres. Kassiani Callos
- **Finance Committee:** Archon Philip Yamalis & Michael Passodelis
- **Stewardship Committee:** Michelle Kotsagrelos

**Metropolis Cathedral:**
- St. Nicholas Pittsburgh
- Holy Trinity Pittsburgh
- Holy Cross Pittsburgh
- Presentation of Christ East Pittsburgh
- Annunciation McKeesport
- Dormition Oakmont
- Annunciation New Kensington
- Holy Trinity Ambridge
- Dormition Aliquippa
- All Saints Canonsburg
- St. Spyridon Monessen
- Holy Trinity Altoona
- St. Mary’s Johnstown
- Nativity of the Theotokos Saxonburg

**East Region**
- **Vicar:** Fr. Alexander Goussetis
- **Syndesmos VP:** Fr. Hector Firoglanis
- **Presvyteres Rep:** Pres. Stephanie Petrides
- **Finance Committee:** George Mouhlas &
- **Stewardship Committee:** Fr. Theodore Petrides

**Cathedral:**
- Holy Trinity Camp Hill
- St. Nicholas Cathedral—Bethlehem
- Annunciation Lancaster
- Annunciation York
- Sts. Constantine & Helen Reading
- St. Matthew Blandon
- Annunciation Easton
- Holy Cross Stroudsburg
- Annunciation Scranton
- Annunciation Wilkes-Barre Transfiguration Mission—Lititz
- Holy Protection of the Theotokos White Haven

### Southwest Region

**Central Region**
- **Vicar:** Fr. Frank Milanese
- **Syndesmos VP:** Fr. Demetrios Tsikouris
- **Presvyteres Rep:** Pres. Cynthia Milanese
- **Finance Committee:** Harry Ruska & Peter Alex
- **Stewardship Committee:** Lesa Vasiliou-Tustin

**Cathedral:**
- Annunciation Columbus
- All Saints Weirton
- Holy Trinity Steubenville
- St. John the Divine Wheeling
- Life-Giving Fountain
- Martins Ferry
- St. John the Baptist Charleston
- St. George Huntington
- St. Spyridon Clarksburg
- Assumption Morgantown
- St. James Mission—Belpre

### East Region

**Cathedral:**
- Holy Trinity Camp Hill
- St. Nicholas Cathedral—Bethlehem
- Annunciation Lancaster
- Annunciation York
- Sts. Constantine & Helen Reading
- St. Matthew Blandon
- Annunciation Easton
- Holy Cross Stroudsburg
- Annunciation Scranton
- Annunciation Wilkes-Barre Transfiguration Mission—Lititz
- Holy Protection of the Theotokos White Haven

### Cathedral:
- Sts. Constantine & Helen Cleveland Heights
- Annunciation Cleveland
- St. Demetrios Rocky River
- St. Paul North Royalton
- St. Nicholas Lorain
- Annunciation Akron
- St. Haralambos Canton
- Holy Trinity Canton
- St. George Massillon
- Sts. Constantine & Helen Mansfield
- St. Demetrios Warren
- St. John the Forerunner Youngstown
- St. Nicholas Youngstown
- Dormition Erie
- Annunciation Farrell
- St. George New Castle
- St. Gregory Palamas Perryville
- Entrance of the Theotokos Skete Hayesville
NEW METROPOLIS CENTER

In 2015, the Metropolis received a generous donation of 9.5 acres in South Strabane Township (Washington County) to fulfill the long-term goal of creating a Metropolis Center which could be more accessible to parishioners from the entire Metropolis and more useful for the core functions of the Metropolis.

During the 2016-17 Ecclesiastical year, the committee tasked with the project has worked diligently to hone the vision for the scope of the project and investigate the suitable sites on the property for full development.

Some Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:
Q: Does moving the Metropolis mean that St. Nicholas Cathedral is no longer the Cathedral?
A: St. Nicholas remains, and will remain, the Cathedral of this Metropolis. It is the oldest parish in the Metropolis, has been the Cathedral since our designation as an Archdiocesan District (1955), and is the only parish where any of our bishops was ordained (Bishop Polyeftos).

Q: How will the new center be funded? By increasing the Allocation?
A: The project will be funded by a traditional Capital Campaign. Contribution will be voluntary.

Q: What is your timeline?
A: We are working at a pace that is moving but deliberate, so as to make the best decisions for the benefit of the Metropolis.

Q: How can I help?
A: Prayer, promotion, and donation. Please pray for the project, the working committees, and the contractors who will work on the building. Please promote the work of our Metropolis and its various ministries. And please donate to our common work, and plan on contributing when the project is underway.

Q: Why move the Metropolis from Shadyside?
A: The move is less about “leaving Shadyside” and more about increasing accessibility and usability of the Center. The current historic facility does not meet the needs of the ministries, can be challenging to get to (especially for those who live further than 10 miles away), and has insufficient capacity once you arrive.

2016-2017 Events

His Eminence pictured with (left to right) Guest Director, Thespina Christulides, organist, Nicholas Bodle, and chanter, Demitri Apodiakos at the 70th Annual MOFGOX Convention at St. Spyridon in Monessen this past July.

All the dancers who participated in the Annual Folk Dance Festival in November 2016, posing while His Eminence takes a selfie, outside of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Camp Hill, PA.

Left: His Eminence at the Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of All Saints and the Feast of the Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas at the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. George at the Phanar in Constantinople.
Left: His Eminence Metropolitan Savas (center) hosted Their Eminences Archbishop Melchizedek (left, OCA), and Metropolitan Joseph (right, AOA) at the IOCC Fundraiser for Syrian Relief this past April at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh.

Right: Their Eminences Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Savas, pictured with everyone who came to celebrate Annunciation, Akron’s 100th Anniversary, November 2016.

Left: The St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh dancers pictured with His Eminence and Cathedral dean, Fr. Christopher Bender at the Cathedral’s food festival this past May.

Above: Their Eminences Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Savas look on as Fr. Frank Milanese greets the people at All Saints, Weirton’s 100th Anniversary celebration this past May.

Above: His Eminence outside of St. Nicholas Cathedral, Bethlehem, PA for their Centennial Celebration in October 2016. He is surrounded by Fr. Nicholas Palis, Fr. Alexandros Petrides, and Fr. Nicholas Kossis, as well as all the parishioners of the cathedral.

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2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

SAVE THE DATES!

ST. SAVAS FEAST & OPEN HOUSE: TUE. DEC. 5, 2017—METROPOLIS HQ

DAFFODIL LUNCHEON: SAT. MAR. 10, 2018—PITTSBURGH, PA

ST. PHOTIOS BANQUET: SAT. APR. 21, 2018—DOUBLETREE CRANBERRY

2018 METROPOLIS CLERGY-LAITY ASSEMBLY: SAT. SEP. 29, 2018—PITTSBURGH, PA