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**Left:** His Eminence poses with Archbishop Demetrios and then-Metropolitan-elect Nathanael of Chicago.

**Below:** His Eminence participated in a Synaxis of Hierarchs at the Ecumenical...
Beloved children in the Lord,

Hearing Jesus’s sayings and doing them in our everyday life is now, as it has ever been, a great challenge. The Church’s mission in the world is always to teach His sayings in a way that resonates with us at each stage of our lives, and to model in its communal action the praxis expected of us individually. To this end, our Metropolis continues to work to promote the life-giving Gospel of the Lord in diverse ways, providing a robust ministry to the youth encompassing education, activity, and retreat, training its parish leaders and facilitating the continuing education for the clergy, and encouraging the vital philanthropic work of the Metropolis Philoptochos.

Our aim is to build at the Metropolis and within the parishes upon the strong foundation of the Orthodox Faith, not only in the literal sense—building a purpose built Metropolis Center and ensuring the longevity of our 51 active parish communities—but also securing the vital Christian communities that will pray in, serve from, and show forth Jesus’s love from those buildings.

On the pages that follow you will find a summary of many of the things that have taken place during this past Ecclesiastical Year 2017-2018—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 renew and increase your commitment to become a partner in what is to come—another year of growth and innovation. As we celebrate 63 years of our District/Dioceze/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—Vice Chairman’s Report

Your Metropolis Council is an advisory body to the Metropolitan. It consists of elected lay and clergy members as well as eight members directly appointed by the Metropolitan. The Metropolis Council represents you through its various ministries in the development of programs for the faithful including Religious Education, Greek Education, Youth Ministry to name a few. Your Metropolis Council also is charged with the Finances and Administration of the Metropolis.

I am happy to report that the state of our Metropolis is better than it has been in years. We have a dynamic Metropolis Council. Our committees and ministries are working in a much more efficient manner under the leadership of Metropolitan Savas and his appointed ministry Chairpersons. As you may know, the Metropolis has been divided into four regions administered by an appointed Vicar. This system allows for greater access to your Metropolis as questions and problems arise on the parish level with many of these issues now being able to be handled at the regional level.

The exciting news is that the plans for our new Metropolis Center have evolved into a beautiful and affordable Byzantine style building with easy access from the interstate. It will truly be the jewel of our Metropolis. We also anticipate the donation of another 10 acres of property adjacent to our current site which will give us 19 plus acres for our new Metropolis Center Complex.

Executive Committee for the 2016-2018 Term
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
Metropolis Benefactors

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 our many benefactors. The contributions from our parish communities have provided stable support for the day-to-day operational expenses (i.e. keeping the lights on).

The offerings of time, talent, and treasure from Metropolis Benefactors have allowed our Metropolis to dare to dream, to develop more effective ways of reaching our members through our various activities, committees, and the work of our staff.

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Ministries operate on:

- Many volunteers who donate their time and talent for:
  - Activities, Ministry, and Education for Our Youth
  - Training for Our Parish Leaders
  - Taking Care of Our Resources & Heritage

Income from three primary sources:

- A Portion of the National Ministries Allocation
- Direct contributions from the Metropolis parishes
- Gifts from the Metropolis Benefactors

Many thanks to the 2017 Benefactors of the Holy Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Our 2018 Benefactors of the Holy Metropolis of Pittsburgh (to August 31, 2018)
St. John Chrysostom Clergy Syndesmos
& Sisterhood of Presvyteres

As Clergy, we gather on several different occasions: for edification, education and for communal support of one another during the joys and difficulties of our ministries. We gather several times a year in different settings: retreats, seminars, meetings and various feast days and social events during the year.

Here is a list of the various Metropolis wide events for our Syndesmos:

- **Clergy Fall Retreats** – Around November we have a Fall Retreat for the Clergy. When it is a National Clergy-Laity year, our Fall Retreat is held at a monastery or facility within the Metropolis. Otherwise it is held nationally, and we encourage our Metropolis Clergy to attend the National Retreat offered by the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council (APC).
  
  Last year, 2017, our Fall Retreat was National. It was held Oct. 31 - Nov. 3 at the Landsdowne Resort in Leesburg, VA. Our Keynote Speaker was Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou from the Monastery of St. John the Baptist in Essex, England. He spoke to us about the subject of how we must be “Fathers, Brothers and Men of God” in our personal and pastoral lives. 199 of our National Clergy registered for this amazing event. It was wonderful!

- **Spring Clergy Family Lenten Retreats** – During the second week of Great Lent, we take some vital time with our wives and families to retreat, be educated and edified with our families, and prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Pascha. Additionally, the Presbyters have some meetings and discuss events and issues unique to them. To encourage more participation from Clergy and Families, we offer child care. This allows for more undistracted attention from the Clergy and their wives during the presentations and the discussions.
  
  This past Spring, as normal, we gathered at Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA. For the Clergy, the Keynote Speaker was Bishop Maxim of the Western Serbian Diocese. He spoke the Clergy about Great and Holy Council in Crete (2016). For the Presbyters, they once again had Pres. Kerry Pappas from the Archdiocesan Center for Family Care as a follow-up to her presentation last year when she spoke to both the Clergy and the Presbyters.

- **Clergy Syndesmos Meetings** – We have two Clergy Syndesmos meetings per year. One in the Fall and one in the Spring. When it is a National Clergy Laity year, our Fall Clergy Syndesmos Meeting takes place during the Fall Local Clergy Retreat. Otherwise it is held in conjunction with our Fall Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly. The Spring Clergy Syndesmos Meeting is annually held during our Clergy Family Lenten Retreat at Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA.

- **Other gatherings** – In addition to the event listed above, we have many more opportunities to gather, both Metropolis wide and locally. The St. Photios Annual Banquet and the specific Stewardship and Finance Committees are more ways we get together. Our regions have gatherings of the local clergy on parish and clergy name days and feast days. We also encourage local clergy to support each other with events that bring them and their families together for social and/ or religious purposes.

### 2016-2018 Syndesmos Officers & Representatives

- **President**: Fr. Nicholas Halkias
- **C Vice President**: Fr. Emmanuel Lillios
- **E Vice President**: Fr. Hector Firoglanis
- **NW Vice President**: Fr. Michael Ellis
- **SW Vice President**: Fr. Demetrios Tsikouris
- **Secretary**: Fr. Andrew Tsikitas
- **Treasurer**: Fr. Andrew Lentz
- **Archdiocesan Benefits Committee Rep**: Fr. Alex Goussetis
- **Archdiocesan Presbyters Council Reps**: Frs. John Touloumes & Nicholas Halkias
- **Hellenic College/Holy Cross Alumni Reps**: Frs. George Livanos & Michael Gavrilos

### 2016-2018 Sisterhood Officers

- **President**: Pres. Tina Gulgas
- **C Representative**: Pres. Kassiani Callos
- **E Representative**: Pres. Stephanie Petrides
- **NW Representative**: Pres. Goldie Doukas
- **SW Representative**: Pres. Cynthia Milanese

### IN MEMORIAM

- Fr. Photios Tomarakos
- Pres. Emilia Metallinos
- Fr. Dragan Filipovich
- Archon Nicholas P. Papadakos
- Archon Gus Krasas
- Archon Xenophon Zapis
- Archon Costa A. Sarantopoulos

*May their memory be eternal!*
Ladies Philoptochos Society

Our keystone annual event for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Ladies Philoptochos Society was once again the Annual Daffodil Luncheon held on Saturday March 3, 2018 in Canonsburg, PA. The Daffodil Luncheon was hosted by Philoptochos Societies of All Saints Greek Orthodox Church, Canonsburg PA, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Pittsburgh, PA, Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church, Aliquippa, PA and St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Pittsburgh, PA. Thanks to the dedicated leadership of our Philoptochos sisters from those parishes our luncheon was an overwhelming success.

Our next annual Daffodil Luncheon will be held in Canton, Ohio under the outstanding leadership of our Philoptochos sisters of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church on March 16, 2019. You are all welcome to attend.

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh continues the Philoptochos mission of serving our fellow man. We have actively engaged in the national projects and worked within the Metropolis with our own special projects. Through our staunch and steadfast participation in the National Philoptochos commitments the National Philoptochos was able to disburse a total of $1,737,511.00 in 2017 and we continue to support our National projects this year.

Our ladies have had a very fruitful year. We have dedicated ourselves to help those in need and to serve with humility. We try to aid all who come to us for assistance. Here are a few examples of what we have done in the past year.

- We helped provide Orthodox Christian burials in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh.
- We aided a family with limited resources due to severe medical issues
- We aided the St. Catherine Philoptochos of the Presentation of Christ Greek Orthodox Church of East Pittsburgh with their efforts to help families affected by the landslide.
- We supported efforts of the National Philoptochos to aid those so severely affected by the wildfires in Greece.

Our membership continued the national program “Feed the Hungry”. Our National President Maria Logus had challenged all the chapters across the United States to provide a total of 500,000 meals in the months leading up to the July 2018 National Convention. The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos Society has continued the Feed the Hungry program with remarkable success. Our ladies of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Akron, Ohio were honored at the 2018 Biennial National Philoptochos Convention with the distinction of serving the 1,000,000th Meal. Congratulations to all our faithful and committed members of our Metropolis Philoptochos who have heard the call to aid those less fortunate than themselves.

We successfully embarked on a new fund-raising campaign. The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Ladies Philoptochos Society granted honorariums for the seminary students from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh attending Holy Cross School of Theology of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. We continue to support our students—they are the future of our Church. We continue to dedicate ourselves to the Philoptochos Mission and Christ’s call to be his arms and legs on earth.
Stewardship, Outreach, & Evangelism

The pilot program that Stacey Stathulis began in 2016 in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh has been a success in the eyes of the Archdiocese, the Office of Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism and its director, Fr. Jim Kordaris. As of June 2018, Stacey continues working within the Metropolis of Pittsburgh but has expanded his scope to metropolises not currently served within the Archdiocese.

In the previous ecclesiastical year, Stacey continued visiting parishes of the Metropolis offering individualized guidance depending upon where each parish is in the life of their stewardship program. In short, there is not a one-size-fits-all solution. Stewardship is different in every parish. Some parishes implemented a stewardship program 25+ years ago while others are still in the process of moving away from a dues system yet today.

Whether in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh or elsewhere in the Archdiocese, sharing best practices is vital to Stacey’s work. At the 2017 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly, Fr. Jerry Hall, Fr. Alexander Goussetis and Fr. Demetrios Tsikouris each offered a 30-minute seminar about a practice that worked well within their respective parishes.

Sharing best practices continued in July 2018 when Fr. Tsikouris teamed up with his HC/HC professor, Fr. Luke Veronis, to present ‘Parish, Know Thyself’ to a standing room only crowd of delegates of the National Clergy-Laity Congress in Boston, MA. The presentation is a result of Fr. Luke’s seminary class entitled ‘Creating a Missions-Minded Parish’ and was well-received by all in attendance.

Other opportunities to tell others about the good work of the parishes came through videoconferences – one offered by Fr. John Touloumes and the members of the stewardship committee at Holy Trinity (Pittsburgh) and another by Thomaida Hudanish of the Metropolis of San Francisco. Holy Trinity discussed 17 stewardship lessons learned while Thomaida addressed the successful practices of a parish welcome ministry. Recordings of both are available on the Metropolis YouTube page.

Upcoming video conferences address ways to make financial stewardship more convenient for givers and how to overcome the distractions that keep us from sharing and advancing the Great Commission.

Under the direction of Fr. Jerry Hall and Helen Rankin, and with Stacey serving as coordinator, the Metropolis Stewardship team continues meeting monthly via conference call. It regularly welcomes clergy and laity alike from parishes that had not previously been represented. The team commiserates on stewardship practices within its respective parishes, benefits from the wisdom guests such as Fr. Barnabas Powell, Fr. Theodore Dorrance, Fr. Aris Metrakos and others.

As the end of the calendar year approaches, the Stewardship Team will be exhorting parishes to finish the year strong and begin 2019 with parish stewards energized by the possibilities. The 2019 theme is “All things are possible to the one who believes in Christ” and a copy of support materials was sent to each parish in September.

Stacey continues traveling around the Metropolis and the Archdiocese and is available to consult with your parish. You can reach him at staceys@pittsburgh.goarch.org or at 614.296.6351.

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
5TH ANNUAL ST. PHOTIOS BANQUET

Over 700 people from around the Metropolis gathered on April 21, 2018 to honor dedicated volunteers from around the Metropolis at the 5th annual St Photios Awards Banquet. The large 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.

The honorees from the parish communities were Vasiliki (Bess) Agapis, Alexander Alex, Elaine Andrianos, Joyce Athanasiou, George Avdellas, Alexander Barlamas, John Binikos, Greg Dimitri, Joyce Drane, John Fekos, Thomas Galantis, Panayiotis (Pete) Gentis, Gus Georgiadis, Phil Giavasis, Sr., Maria Gregorakis, Pauline Hadjis, Frances Hanna, Voula Isaklides-Pierce, Theresa James, John Janikis, Elaine Joaquin, Helen Kariotakis, John Karras, Andrea Kokales, Sotirios (Sotos) Kolocouris, Anna Kondos, Loucas Konstantinou, Robert (Bob) Kosko, Stamatia (Tommie) Kosko, Don (Andonios) Kronstein, Mary Lambert, Frank Langos, Gus Lewis, Debbie Lucas, Eugenia Lykos, Paula Macris, Dean Makricostas, Goldie Manos, Keith Martin, Joanne Martin, Helen Mays, Ann Megoulas, Bess Morris, Judith MESSIDES, Maria Panagopoulos, Lee Papadeas, Cheryl Papadeas-Minnigh, Sylvia Passas, Gust Pedos, Marianne Petrakis-Balakos, Theologia Regas, Athanasios Rontiris, Katherine (Katie) Sass, Patricia Soulakis, Jim Spanos, Regina Spanos, Evangelia Spanos, Katina Teffas, Theodora Stupakis, Mrs. Chris Theodore, Ilias (Louie) Tsiris, Beth Tsiris, Dr. Sotirios Vasilopoulos, Georgia Vasilopoulos, Nick Vlamis, Irene Vlamis

This year the Metropolis honored three dedicated volunteers for many years of service especially to our Summer Camp Program: Pres. Rozalia (Lia) Christulides, and Dr. Peter and Theanne Gagianas. Pres. Lia and Theanne served as long-time co-chairs of the program, overseeing all aspects of preparation and execution in cooperation with the Youth Director, and sometimes serving as on-site Director at transition times in the Youth office. They have opened their homes for staff training, guided and mentored numerous young adults who passed through the program as counselors, and have ensured that the Camping Ministries stayed true to its double-calling to be a spiritually rich and bountifully joyful experience for the campers. Dr. Peter has given his expertise as medical director, guiding the work of the volunteer medical staff, keeping abreast of changes to best practices for care at camping programs, and ensuring that the children receive the best quality medical service. Each of the three have also distinguished themselves in their dedicated service to their local parishes and the greater Greek Orthodox community of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The 6th Annual St. Photios Banquet will take place Saturday, May 11, 2019 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Cranberry Township, PA.

PARISH CENTENNIALS

16 parishes celebrated their 100th anniversary of founding before the beginning of the 2017-2018 ecclesiastical year, and 4 more were added to the list by year-end. Celebrations were held in Easton, Erie, and York (below left), Pennsylvania, as well as Clarksburg (below right), West Virginia. By the close of the 2022 calendar year, 28 of the 53 parishes will have celebrated their Centennial, and another 8 will be within 5 years of doing so themselves.
The Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (MEFGOX)

The Mid-Eastern Federation serves as the music ministry for the Metropolises of Pittsburgh and Detroit. This year marked the Federation’s 72nd year in existence, the longest continuous one in our Archdiocese. The purpose of the Federation is to serve as the church music resource to clergy and their parishes, including choirs, chanters, and youth music programs. This past year, MEFGOX assisted parishes in implementing the Divine Liturgy Hymnal for their congregations and/or their choirs and chanters. This new resource is based on the new standard English translation developed and approved by our Holy Synod. In addition, the Federation assisted parishes in selecting music, starting Church School hymnology programs or youth choirs, choir recruitment and development, and information about available chant resources.

The Federation also supports local parishes to present their own church music educational programs – for the fourth year in a row, the Annunciation, Akron Choir hosted a weekend retreat featuring Constantina Tsolainou, a noted choral technician originally from Sts. Constantine and Helen, Cleveland Heights. This October, Akron will host another weekend program featuring Kevin Lawrence, composer of a recent choral version for the Divine Liturgy Hymnal so choirs and congregations can sing the same music and words of the Divine Liturgy.

The Federation held its annual Convention at Annunciation Church in Dayton this past July, where 18 parishes were represented. Pittsburgh Metropolis participants were from Akron, Camp Hill, Columbus, Monessen, Morgantown, and Rocky River. Besides preparing the music for Sunday’s Divine Liturgy, participants gained new knowledge and resources to take to their parishes from well-received workshops about A Cappella Singing, Hymns for Use at Communion, Teaching and Learning New Music, and Clergy and Choirs in Harmony. The Federation also awarded four Memorial Scholarships to young church musicians active in church music endeavors in their parishes, two from the Pittsburgh Metropolis: Theodora Constantine from St. John the Forerunner/Boardman, OH and Nicole Tank from St. Haralambos/Canton. Federation priorities for the coming year include convening “Open Forums” in the Cleveland and Pittsburgh areas, designed to seek input and encourage participation in joint church music programs and inform church musicians about new developments and resources.

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

The feast of St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle, patron of the Order, was celebrated with Great Vespers at the Holy Trinity in Pittsburgh on the evening of Wednesday, November 29, with Metropolis Members of the Order offering the Artoclasia and a Memorial Service for the repose of the members of the Order throughout the Metropolis, living and departed. A reception followed hosted by the parish, and National Board Member Dr. Nicholas Loutsion offered a presentation on the issues confronted by the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The next morning, Orthros and Divine Liturgy were celebrated at the Dormition of the Theotokos in Oakmont-Verona, Pennsylvania.

Our Metropolis also welcomed Harry Athanasiou and Peter Tsudis, as the newest Archons in our Metropolis. Archon Athanasiou, a member of the Metropolis Council and parishioner of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, North Hills, PA, received the title Eutaxios a title bestowed by Emperors and Patriarchs on those with recognized abilities to be master of ceremonies. Archon Tsudis, a member of the Metropolis Council and St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral, received the title Depotatos, a title bestowed on those who assist in organizing the worship services of the Church.

The Order hosted its 3rd International Conference on Religious Freedom in Washington, D.C., from December 4-6, bringing awareness to Congress, the State Department and Administration of the serious existential issues facing Christians throughout the Middle East which threaten to illuminate the Christian presence from its birthplace. The Order also hosted a Religious Freedom Summit in May 2018 in New York City to be updated on the status of religious freedom issues and human rights violations in Turkey and to form new strategies to assist the Ecumenical Patriarch in his mission from the Phanar to be the beacon of Orthodoxy to the world.
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/

*2017 Registry Statistics - Metropolis of Pittsburgh*

Metropolis of Pittsburgh sacraments represent about 6-8% of the total volume within the Archdiocese (Archdiocesan totals provided in parentheses).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Metropolis of Pittsburgh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms</td>
<td>349 (5,299)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrismations</td>
<td>77 (856)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages</td>
<td>52 (922)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Orthodox</td>
<td>97 (1,475)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Marriages</td>
<td>149 (2,397)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerals</td>
<td>390 (4,523)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce</td>
<td>24 (197)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter-Orthodox</td>
<td>23 (164)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Divorces</td>
<td>47 (361)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund

The Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund ("Leadership 100") has distributed over $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 2017-2018 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 eighth consecutive year that the grant has been given by Leadership 100, totaling $240,000 for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh and nearly $2.2 million for all Archdiocesan camping ministries.

- Support for the "BeeTreats" – traveling 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.

- Grants supporting small and mission-minded parishes continued through both the Department of Stewardship, Outreach, and Evangelism, and through the Finance Committee’s Small Parish Program subcommittee.

- 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 nearly $2.7 million in grants distributed in 2018 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 1,070 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 could list all the ministry events that have taken place since the last Clergy-Laity (retreats, athletics, folk dance, missions), but are they effective in leading a transformative and Christ-centered life for our Youth & Young Adults? What do we need to do differently in the coming year? The goal of Y2AM is to be about introducing young people to Jesus Christ and His Church and helping them live their relationship with Him on a daily basis.

Two ministries that will have a lasting effect on the participants are our Young Adult Retreats and Young Adult Mission Team to Project Mexico. First the Young Adult Retreats began again in 2017 after a long absence due to the joint efforts of the Carpatho-Russian Diocese (Camp Nazareth) with us. White working together, we have been able to split costs, offer a very reasonable weekend rate and offer a good weekend for Orthodox young adults from various jurisdictions to have fellowship and grow in Christ. A majority of the participants at the Fall & Spring Retreats are from our Metropolis. (The next Young Adult Retreat is October 5-7. Register today!)

And in 2018, we reinstated an organized Metropolis team to Project Mexico geared to Young Adults. The team participants gave of themselves, but received much more from the recipients of the home which they built. Special thanks to the individuals and communities that financially supported the team. (This will continue in 2019 as an annual mission outreach of our Metropolis Y2AM.)

In February, our Metropolis helped ensure that our Youth & Camp Workers attended the National Conference in Atlanta, GA at Annunciation Cathedral. The annual conference draws clergy and youth workers from various jurisdictions from US and Canada. With Keynote Speaker, Rev. Fr. Alexander Goussetis, the theme was “The Place of Gratitude in Youth Ministry.” In 2019, the conference will be held close to home at Antiochian Village, January 24-26 and should permit more of our Metropolis Youth Workers to attend. Registration and more info will be available here: http://orthodoxycc.org/ Special thanks to our donor family who provided funding to help cover costs for the 2018 conference.

GOYA Athletics is a big part of our ministries, but should it be? Some would say “yes.” Even though we have six Metropolis tournaments during a season, the Metropolis Youth Commission has limited participation of parishes to three tournaments. Also, permission must be granted to participate in athletic events of other Metropolises. In the Metropolis Eastern Region, there are other day sport events like Dodgeball, Gaga Ball, Soccer and Olympics. It all comes down to having a good balance between FAITH and FUN. By the way, did you see us on the tv show, 60 Minutes? Two regions of our Metropolis have Greek Family Day with their local basketball teams, the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Philadelphia 76ers. Giannis Antetokounmpo met with his fans and sang the Greek National anthem. Kosta Koufos, a son of Holy Trinity, Canton has done the same in the past. If you didn’t see the story, you watch it here: https://www.nba.com/bucks/features/giannis-shares-inspiring-story-60-minutes

USEFUL LINKS FOR MINISTRY SUPPORT
- The Y2AM Ministry Plan can help you create Christ-centered, Kingdom-oriented ministry in your home or community. Monthly programs for JOY, GOYA, Young Adults and the family prepared: https://www.y2am.org/en/ministryplan

- Effective Christian Ministry is a new resource that launches this month. This course will help you as a Youth Worker or Clergy offer ministry that will help build faith that could move mountains. http://www.effectivechristianministry.org

- Our new Metropolis Youth & Young Adult Ministries website: http://y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org
**Camping Ministries**

The 2017-2018 year in Camping Ministries has been one of many blessings. Our 2017 GOYA Fall Retreat theme was Antidoron for the World: Taking the Liturgy outside of the Liturgy. We had 130 campers participate from all over our Metropolis, with a staff of over 30 experienced Clergy, Medical and Cabin Staff members attend as well. Our retreat keynote speaker was Mr. Dan Christopulos who is the U.S Country Representative for the IOCC, National Vice Chairman of the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NVOAD) and immediate past President of the Minnesota Chapter of Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). During the retreat weekend, our campers participated in a service project for IOCC Hurricane relief and assembled around 600 hygiene kits for Hurricane victims.

Our 2018 Goya Spring Retreat focused on the theme of Radical Compassion which was presented on by Mrs. Priscilla Callos, who received her Masters in Divinity from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, and is currently the hospital chaplain at the University of Vermont Medical Center. This theme challenged our 92 campers, and 20+ staff and Clergy to explore what it means to be compassionate in the interactions of everyday life. Our goal for the coming year is to increase our Goya Spring Retreat camper participation, while maintaining strong GOYA Fall Retreat numbers.

Summer Camp 2018 was all about being BOLD. Our curriculum used the passage from Joshua 1:9 "Behold I have commanded you, be strong and courageous. do not be cowardly, for the Lord your God is with you in all things, wherever you go." The goal of our theme this summer was to empower, and instill in our youth how to approach the world while remaining BOLD in their faith. Each day of camp offered a sub-theme that centered around synonyms of the word bold – Monday: true, Tuesday: fearful, Wednesday: faithful, Thursday: brave and Friday: mighty. Within each day, we explored the definitions of these words and how they directly related to our view of our Orthodox Christian faith.

We continued this summer with the new format of each week being broken down by specific grades. This did allow for us to tailor activities and messages within our curriculum and program specifically for each age/grade group. Our curriculum committee did a wonderful job of creating a deep and meaningful curriculum, which included media-based examples to show our campers during Orthodox Life sessions. Angeliki Constantine, who works for the Department of religious education lent her talents by adapting our curriculum for our joy aged weeks. In 2018, over four weeks of our camping program, we hosted 495 campers, along with 100 + staff, which included cabin staff, support staff, Medical Staff and Clergy. We were blessed to have six clergy families join us this summer as well. We also had 38 graduating seniors this summer! (pictured below)

From the time registration opened in March, our week 4, High School week, sold out for males in just three days, and week 3, the Junior high session, sold out for females a few months into registration. Session two, Middle School week, female registration was not far behind doing the same. Comparatively, from 2017 Summer Camp, our numbers were up!

**2018-2019 GOYA Retreats**

Fall Retreat: November 16-18th, 2018  
Spring Retreat: April 5-7th, 2019

**2019 Summer Camp Dates**

Session 1, Elementary week (grades 2-4): June 16 - June 22  
Session 2, Middle School week (grades 5-7): June 23 - June 29  
Session 3, Junior High week (grades 7-9): June 30 - July 6  
Session 4, High School week (grades 10-12): July 7 – July 13
Greek Education & Culture

During 2017-2018 the Greek Education Committee and staff of the Metropolis worked together to orchestrate and facilitate events to promote, enhance, and invigorate the teaching of Modern Greek as well as distribute books written by the Archdiocese (Ta Ellinika Mou) to Greek Schools who ordered them.

On August 26, 2017, a Metropolis of Pittsburgh teacher training workshop was held at St. Nicholas Cathedral with the topic – using TPR (Total Physical Response) and techniques within the classroom to engage students and promote facilitate in learning Modern Greek. Teachers were able to use attending this workshop towards teacher training acknowledgement in their American Schools.

In the beginning of the school year a group of professors and teachers of Modern Greek get together to write material for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh’s Annual Greek Language Festival’s Quiz Bowl which is held in the spring. History, spelling, music, the Divine Liturgy, Saints, art, and vocabulary are some of the topics covered in the Quiz Bowl. Once the material is completed, all the schools are informed and the material is available by a link to anyone interested in participating in the Quiz Bowl. All prior material is still available and will be quizzed along with some additional material.

In January, schools are informed about the proficiency exams which are available for students to partake in the spring of each year. This not only helps to bring students to a higher level in learning Greek but also to attest to their proficiency and receiving credit from their high schools and colleges. The “Seal of Biliteracy” can be given to students on their high school diplomas if they pass the Ellinomatheas B level and have taken the exam no more than 18 months prior to graduating from high school. This past year students have taken Ellinomatheas Exams at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh and St. Nicholas Cathedral, Bethlehem. St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh is the designated testing center for Ellinomatheas for the Metropolis. Annunciation, Cleveland, administered the “Comprehensive Exam for Modern Greek for Regents Credit.” They offered the test this past June. Schools are encouraged to participate in with proficiency exams.

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh’s 6th Annual Greek Language Festival was held on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Cleveland Heights. Maria Sikoutiris chaired the event. Hundreds of children with their families attended. There were performances from many Greek Schools. An impressive Art Exhibit, craft tables were all part of the festival along with a Quiz Bowl which tested the knowledge of many teams. All the material was available for them to download. Winners were from St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh, and Annunciation, Cleveland. The 7th Annual Greek Language Festival is scheduled to be held on March 2, 2019, at St. Demetrios, Rocky River, OH.
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 Chicago hosted in June 2018.

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. John the Divine, Wheeling, WV (Central); Sts. Constantine and Helen, Reading, PA (East) and Holy Trinity, Canton, OH (West) who hosted the District (Regional) Festivals and Holy Cross, Pittsburgh who hosted the Metropolis finals.

Plans for the 2019 Oratorical Festivals in the underway. Complete Topic list, Tips and Resources will be available late September. For more information, contact Metropolis Chairman, Philip G. Yamalis.

Metropolis Regional/District Oratorical Festival Finalists who presented at the Metropolis Festival on Saturday, May 12th at Holy Cross, Pittsburgh.

 SENIORS (Pictured right):
 Gregory Anstine (Annunciation, York),
 Antonia Hadgis (St Demetrios, Rocky River),
 Tino Kayafas (St John the Divine, Wheeling),
 Galena Lopuchovsky (St John the Forerunner, Boardman),
 Nektaria Palis (St Nicholas, Bethlehem),
 Yanni Pattitsas (Annunciation, Columbus)

 JUNIORS (Pictured left):
 Nicoletta Ariano (Holy Trinity, Camp Hill),
 George Papoutsis (Holy Trinity, Camp Hill, unable to attend),
 Steven Poulopoulos (St Demetrios, Rocky River),
 Kyria Riddle (St John the Divine, Wheeling),
 Stavros Spanakis (Holy Trinity, Canton),
 Zoe Tsikouris (St John the Divine, Wheeling)
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 fifth Orthodox camp in Western Pennsylvania (besides the camps owned by the Carpatho-Russian, Antiochian, Serbian, 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 dioceses.
  - 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.

In 2017, the ACROD again approached us about additional development on the property, this time to build a multi-purpose cabin which could be used as a meeting and presentation space in some seasons, or could house additional staff during the summer peak. The Metropolis was asked to be a minority partner in the project, and the Council agreed to do so. The finished product is pictured in this article.


The Southwest Region includes Vicar Fr. Frank Milanese, Syndesmos VP Fr. Demetrios Tsikouris, Presvyteres Rep Pres. Cynthia Milanese, Finance Committee Harry Ruska & Peter Alex, and 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.
The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh will build a new Metropolis administrative center to improve the Metropolis’ capacity to better serve parishes and the faithful spiritually and administratively. This new Metropolis center will be a beacon, to bring people to Jesus Christ and to support the Clergy and the faithful volunteers at the Parishes.

Mission
The mission of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh is to proclaim and live the Orthodox Faith by producing a Christ-centered ministry through service, teaching, and transparent administration.

Vision
The vision of this initiative is to construct a new and efficient Metropolis Center that is easy to access, and will allow the Metropolis to grow all of the ministries and services that it provides. A new Metropolis Center will also facilitate greater interaction between the Metropolis and its parishes deepening the ties among the parishes and their spiritual and administrative headquarters.

The new center will allow the Metropolis to:
- Improve capacity to build ministries. The Metropolis serves parishes and faithful in three states and the current facility is not able to keep up with the demands of the Metropolis.
- Look into the future and establish facilities to serve generations to come.
- Provide regular continuing education for clergy.
- Improve communication between the Metropolis, parishes, clergy, and faithful.
- Offer ample parking and ease of access from all points of the Metropolis.
- Furnish Philoptochos and other ministries with office space.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is a new Metropolis Center necessary?
A: The current Metropolis Center building is over 100 years old and, as such, it has structural limitations that make it a difficult place to meet and work. Simply put, the building is outdated and it is not financially feasible to maintain or renovate the property. And, as the Pittsburgh area continues to grow, accessing the current Metropolis Center by car is a growing challenge.

Q: How is the Metropolis Center being funded?
A: A capital campaign that will seek donations from supporters and stakeholders of the Metropolis.

Q: What is the amount of money that needs to be raised? When will we break ground?
A: The Building Committee and Capital Campaign Committee are still finalizing the timeline and the amount of funding needed to cover the costs of construction. In addition, the campaign will raise funds to cover building operating costs as well as funds to place in an endowment to support the ongoing work of the Metropolis.

Q: Where will the new Metropolis Center be located?
A: The new center will be located at the corner of Enterprise Road and Fairway Drive in South Strabane Township (Washington) in proximity...
Q: How was the site chosen for the new Metropolis Center?
A: A search committee was formed to explore options to either purchase an existing office building (or school or similar structure) or build a new center, using various criteria focused on improving functionality for the staff and the parishes (easier accessibility, parking, space for meeting and training, room for neglected ministries like Philoptochos, possible expansion of office space, chapel area, etc.). After researching scores of options in Pittsburgh and to the North, West, and South of the city, a generous steward offered 9.5 acres of undeveloped land to the Metropolis in a prime location that will allow the Metropolis to better serve the parishes and faithful of the Metropolis. In recent days, another generous donor has made progress on acquiring an adjacent piece of property of approximately 10 acres, which he will then donate to the Metropolis for this project.

Q: What offices/ministries/activities will be housed at the Metropolis Center?
A: All current Metropolis staff will be housed in the new Metropolis Center and additional spaces will be available for Philoptochos, youth, and other ministries.

Q: Does this mean that the Cathedral will move from Pittsburgh to Canonsburg?
A: No! Many of the Greek Orthodox Metropolises in America (e.g. Atlanta, Denver, Detroit) are not located within their respective city limits. The official see of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh will always be Pittsburgh, regardless of where the new center is located. St. Nicholas parish in Pittsburgh will continue as the Metropolis Cathedral.

Above Left: His Eminence poses with two published works in honor of esteemed predecessors in Pittsburgh: His Grace Bishop Gerasimos of Abydos, and His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh.

Above Right: Young adults participating in the Metropolis-organized service trip to Project Mexico. (The 2018 Summer Camp t-shirt is making a cameo appearance.)

Above: His Eminence with the clergy of the Eastern region and the newly ordained Dn. Aaron Gilbert, his wife Dssa. Kyriaka with their son Matthew, and his mother Pres. Denise.

Left: His Eminence poses with the brotherhood of St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in the middle of their newly enlarged Church.
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Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Save the Dates!

St. Savas Feast & Open House: Wed. Dec. 5, 2018—Metropolis HQ
Priests/Presidents/Treasureres Meeting: Jan. 19, 2019—Canonsburg, PA
Daffodil Luncheon: Sat. Mar. 16, 2019—Canton, OH
St. Photios Banquet: Sat. May 11, 2019—DoubleTree Cranberry, PA
2019 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly:
Thu-Sat. Sep. 26-28, 2019—Camp Hill, PA