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Above: His Eminence with the assembled clergy at the conclusion of the ordination to the Priesthood of Fr. Aaron Gilbert at Holy Trinity GO Cathedral in Camp Hill, PA.

Below: His Eminence poses with the representatives of the Cleveland parishes at the Metropolis Assembly, Holy Cross, Pittsburgh, PA.
Beloved children in the Lord,

Our Lord, when speaking to his disciples as recorded in John’s Gospel, reminds us that whatever good we may accomplish in life comes through our connection with him, the nourisher of all things. We express his divine love for humankind by nurturing our comprehension of the Gospel, experiencing fellowship with him in the life of the Church, and then sharing that life-giving good news with those around us.

It is evident that the dedicated volunteers and staff, clergy and laity, of this Holy Metropolis do indeed treasure and cultivate their bonds with our Creator and Lord—for we “know them by their fruits.” And the fruits seen in the past year have ripened in abundance—children taught and nurtured, leaders trained and empowered, servants aided and supported. The vibrant ministries within the Holy Metropolis and its parishes continue to touch the lives of many, both within the fold of our Orthodox parishes and within the broader community in the tri-state area.

Our prayer is that, as you read in the coming pages just a glimpse of the immense amount of work done, you are inspired to continue the labors on Christ’s behalf in your corner of this Holy Metropolis—and that touching the lives of others, empowered by his grace, we may graft more branches onto the life-giving vine of Jesus. With Archpastoral blessings and love in the Lord,

+ Metropolitan Savas

+ SAVAS
Metropolitan of Pittsburgh
Metropolis Council—Vice Chairman’s Report

The Metropolis Council serves as an advisory body to the Metropolitan and is concerned with the life and growth of the Metropolis ministries, as well as, the management of the Metropolis finances and administration.

The 2018-2019 ecclesiastical year has been a productive one in the life of our Metropolis. Needed improvements have been made to our current Metropolis building in Shadyside. The new wall and landscaping project alone have given this stately building new life.

Final details are being worked on for our new Metropolis Center in Washington County at the intersection of Interstate 70 and 79. I can also report that a donation was made this year of another 9 acres which brings us up to a total of 18+ acres for our new home.

As you know, His Eminence made the decision to partner with the Carpatho-Russians at our beloved Camp Nazareth. This news was received with great joy by our children. As a result and in order to be fiscally responsible, the decision was made this year to sell the Butler property. This property was a great investment for our Metropolis. This sale will give us a nice profit on our investment. As a bonus, we are now beginning to see our first checks from the sale of the gas reserves beneath the property. This income should last for decades and in time allow us to further grow our ministries and better cover our expenses. As you can see, our Lord has bestowed many blessing upon us this past year.

We have a group dedicated volunteers who donate their time, talent, and treasure to insure that our ministries, administration, and finance committees are run in an effective manner and that our records are presented with 100% transparency. Up to this year we have been the only Metropolis in the country to have our records audited by an independent auditor. Also, I am happy to report that our ministries are healthy and growing. Even before the Archdiocese required that each Metropolis develop a youth safety plan, our Metropolis established youth safety guidelines following the rules in Pennsylvania which are the strictest in the country. These are only a couple of examples of how your Metropolis excels.

Serving on the Metropolis Council is truly a blessing, and as we dedicate ourselves to serve you at the Metropolis level, the support that you afford us is encouraging and most appreciated.

Executive Committee for the 2018-2020 Term
His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS – Chairman
Archon Peter Clyde Papadakos – Secretary
Mrs. Chrystal Thomas – Philoptochos President
Rev. Fr. Joseph DiStefano
Rev. Archdeacon Ryan Gzikowski
Archon Dr. Nicholas Loutsion – Vice Chairman
Archon H. Steven Poulos – Treasurer
Rev. Fr. Nicholas Halkias – Clergy Syndesmos President
Archon Steve Sellas—Co-Chairman, Finance Committee
Rev. Fr. George Callos – Chancellor

Metropolis Council for the 2018-2020 Term
**Metropolis Benefactors**

The Metropolis Benefactor program is the direct stewardship program for the benefit of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh ministries. Funds raised from Metropolis Benefactors help us meet the ministry needs of our faithful over and above our daily operational needs, which are provided by parish allocations.

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 2018 Benefactors of the Holy Metropolis of Pittsburgh**


**Our 2019 Benefactors of the Holy Metropolis of Pittsburgh (to August 31, 2019)**

As clergy, we gather several times per year in different settings: retreats, seminars, meetings, and various feast days and social events, and for different purposes: for edification, education, and for communal support. Here is a list of the various Metropolis-wide events for our Syndesmos:

- A clergy Fall Retreat was held Nov. 13 – 15 at Holy Protection Monastery in White Haven, PA. Our Keynote Speaker was Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick from St. Paul Orthodox Church in Emmaus, PA. He spoke about “Orthodoxy in a Secular World.”
- This past March we gathered again at Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA for our annual Spring Clergy Family Lenten Retreat. For the clergy and their wives, the keynote speaker was Dr. Philip Mamalakis, who spoke about “The Sacrament of Listening.”
- 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 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 Feast 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.

Metropolis Clergy Wives Report: This past year brought some changes to our group; Presvyteres Kassiani Callos and Maria Gavrilos volunteered (and were accepted by our group) to be our Metropolis representatives to the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres (NSP). Plus, our own Pres. Nicole Keares was elected as President of the NSP! We had several formal gatherings, and many informal ones. At last year’s Metropolis Clergy Laity, there were 11 of us who gathered for a lunch meeting and social. “Where two or more are gathered in my name…” You will often find at least two clergy wives at the various feastdays celebrated at parishes and monasteries in the Metropolis. It is always a joy to celebrate these feasts together! Two of our annual gatherings, are the Metropolis Clergy Family Christmas Party, and the Clergy Family Retreat. The Christmas party was hosted this past year by the community of St George in New Castle PA. We had a large attendance and a wonderful time! Our annual Clergy Family Retreat in the spring was another success, and very edifying. There was good attendance, a wonderful speaker, time spent in worship, and fellowship. In the last 12 months, there have been five ordinations, giving us both Diaconissas and Presvyteres. Several Presvyteres were in attendance to witness and celebrate these ordinations, and to welcome these women to our group! AXIOI! There is a constant need and desire for connection amongst our sisters, and that has been the focus of our efforts, including monthly emails to our Metropolis Sisterhood announcing the birthdays and namedays for that month.
Ladies Philoptochos Society

Our annual Metropolis Daffodil Luncheon was held in Canton, Ohio on Saturday March 16, 2019. It was indeed an honor to have our beloved Hierarch, Metropolitan Savas join us, along with many of our respected clergy of the Metropolis. We were hosted by the most capable and dynamic leadership of our Philoptochos sisters of the Ladies Philoptochos Chapter of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church. Our gracious hosts were led by four extraordinary chair people: Helen Tsarwhas, Mary Trifelos, Mary Griveas, and Fran Armatas, along with their spiritual advisor, Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas.

Because of the generous support of the Daffodil Luncheon, the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Ladies Philoptochos Society Social Service Fund will continue to help those in need in our Metropolis. A portion of the proceeds also benefits the Ronald McDonald House of Akron. Since 1985, Ronald McDonald House of Akron has helped thousands of families stay close to their sick children during hospital stays and while undergoing medical treatments far from home.

In fact, our Philoptochos sisters from St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church in North Royalton, Ohio took on the 2018 National Philoptochos Chapter Challenge for our Metropolis and raised $15,000.00 for the completion of 3 new rooms at the Akron Ronald McDonald House. Ms. Aristea Trikkas Tzouloufis, Director of Development of the Ronald McDonald House of Akron was the featured speaker of the Daffodil Luncheon. Ms. Tzouloufis is a lifelong member of St. Haralambos.

We had a very productive year. We continue to dedicate our selves to 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.

- Provided assistance for Orthodox Christian burials in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh.
- Aided a family with complex medical issues.
- Donated to The Tree of Life Synagogue of Pittsburgh, PA.
- Aided in the continued recovery of a young woman following extensive surgery.
- Continued to support all the commitments and projects of the National Ladies Philoptochos Society.
- Continued our new fundraising campaign to offer honorariums to the Seminary students from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh attending Holy Cross School of Theology of the Greek Archdiocese of America.

Our Chapters are working on increasing membership. Through the diligent effort of Despina Denny and her committee, our Chapters are following election and ratification requirements of our National Philoptochos. Our Philoptochos sisters are continuing with the Feeding the Hungry Initiative. We look forward to hosting our beloved sisters in Christ at the next biennial convention in Cleveland, Ohio in the summer of 2020. In closing, we would like to thank His Eminence Metropolitan Savas for his unwavering support of the Philoptochos and our fellow Philoptochos sisters who work each day for the betterment of others and a world filled with Christ’s love.
STEWARDSHIP, OUTREACH, & EVANGELISM

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh stewardship team continues to meet (via video conference) monthly and add to its numbers by welcoming stewardship chairs and clergy who want to learn best practices for their parish. These meetings have been enhanced by guest speakers, including Steven Christoforou, Fr. Vincent Minucci, Dr. Nicole Roccas, Steve Tibbs and others.

Every stewardship chair in the Metropolis is invited to participate in team calls which take place at 4:30 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month. If you are interested, please email Stacey Statthulis at staceys@pittsburgh.goarch.org for more information.

STEWARDSHIP MENTORING PROGRAM

Another initiative of the stewardship team is the Stewardship Mentors program. Many parish stewardship chairs often find themselves starting anew with minimal or no guidance from their predecessor. Many were also unaware of the resources available from the Department of Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism.

The Stewardship Mentors program gathers current and former stewardship chairs who are willing to advise those new to the role. In creating this program, we took into consideration the need to represent a variety of parish sizes (50-150 stewards, 151-250 stewards, etc., etc.) because the needs of each parish are different. We also have representatives from each region of the Metropolis.

Further, while some clergy have a gift for stewardship, outreach and evangelism, others could benefit from having a brother clergy with whom to consult.

We have amassed a library of materials (books, videos, etc.) best practices and online resources to share and we continue adding instructional videos that are available on the Metropolis YouTube page.

When ready, this program will be shared across the Archdiocese. Every metropolis can implement the Stewardship Mentors Program.

NATIONAL MISSIONS & EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

A National Conference Missions & Evangelism Conference is coming to our metropolis Feb. 3-5, 2020 at Annunciation Cathedral in Columbus. We anticipate hosting more than 200 people from across the Archdiocese for an event made possible by a Leadership 100 grant. The first such conference was held in October 2016 in Portland, OR.

The conference planning committee includes Fr. Jim Kordaris, Fr. Theodore Dorrance, Fr. Luke Veronis and Thomaida Hudanish. This working group created the event’s theme, “Leading Change Toward a Healthier Parish,” which will feature presentations by Fr. Evan Armatas, Fr. Dorrance, Fr. Aris Metrakos, and Mr. Steve Tibbs. The goal is for parishes to recognize that status quo is not acceptable; changes need to be made, and they will learn how to implement change with the guidance of clergy and lay leadership.

His Eminence Metropolitan Savas will welcome participants and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros is tentatively scheduled to attend the opening of the conference.

More information on the conference is available at www.goarch.org/evangelism2020. Registration is open now and our goal is to reach capacity by Dec. 15, 2019.
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.


This year the Metropolis honored two dedicated women for many years of service to the Metropolis Ministries: Rosemary Nikas and Dorothea Zikos. Rosemary rose to be a Metropolis Philoptochos Board member, and served on the Executive Board of the National Philoptochos for six years, while serving as President of the Metropolis Philoptochos. As our President, Rosemary reached out to each Philoptochos Chapter in the Metropolis to encourage them to participate in Metropolis events and activities, and travelled extensively to promote inter-chapter understanding, share information from the Metropolis and National offices, and guide the local chapters through turbulent times. The Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon which was held in our Metropolis for the first time under her leadership, raising more than $300,000 to be used for Children’s medical issues both within the Metropolis and around the country. Dorothea has participated actively in the ministry life of the Metropolis since her marriage to the late Peter Zikos, who served for many years as the Treasurer. For over 47 years she has been a tireless volunteer, services provider, donor, and warm friend to the hierarchs and staff of the District/Diocese/Metropolis, both in conjunction with her husband’s work and on her own. Both women have also distinguished themselves in their dedicated service to their local parishes and the greater Greek Orthodox community of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The 7th Annual St. Photios Banquet will take place Saturday, May 2, 2020 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Cranberry Township, PA.

Parish Centennials
20 parishes celebrated their 100th anniversary of founding before the beginning of the 2018-2019 ecclesiastical year, and more were added to the list by year-end. Celebrations were held in Altoona, Aliquippa, and Monessen, Pennsylvania. 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.
The Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (MEFGOX)

The Mid-Eastern Federation celebrated our 72nd year with a convention at St. Nicholas parish of Troy MI in July. Close to 70 singers were present at the Hierarchical Liturgy with Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit celebrating. Seven parishes from the Pittsburgh Metropolis participated: Akron, Columbus, Camp Hill, Monessen, Morgantown, North Royalton and Rocky River. This was the first year we sang the music for the Liturgy (Greek and English) composed by Nicholas Bodle of North Royalton. At our Scholarship Banquet, we announced two Scholarships: one to the Holy Trinity parish of Carmel IN and one to Andrew Theophanous of the Boardman parish.

During the year, we supported various area church music events:
- Akron, Composer Kevin Lawrence weekend retreat
- Southgate, St. George MI, Ypapanti Symposium All-Night Vigil for chanters
- Buffalo-Jamestown choir weekend retreat

As a Metropolis ministry, we made financial support to the Pittsburgh and Detroit Metropolises. We have began using Zoom participation at our meetings to widen participation to those who could not easily attend. We reinvested our Scholarship Fund into the Cleveland Investment Fund to generate higher interest than we were getting in the normal banking rates.

Our 73rd convention will be in Cleveland at the end of June 2020 just before the Clergy-Laity. One of the Cleveland parishes will be our host. We will meet from Thursday till the Sunday Liturgy. Our choir members will makeup the choir for the Clergy-Laity Hierarchical Liturgy.

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

The feast of our Order’s Patron Saint, Andrew the First-Called Apostle, was commemorated throughout the Metropolis with celebrations hosted by various Archons on December 2, 2018, including artoklasies for the health of the Ecumenical Patriarch and our members and mnimosyna in memory of our deceased brothers. Our Archons hosted the coffee hour following the Divine Liturgy and offered presentations to the faithful on the Order, its mission in defend the rights of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and major issues confronting the Patriarchate.

Celebrations were offered by: Archon Ostiarios H. Steven Poulos at Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Cleveland Heights, OH; Archon Hieromnimon Steve Sellas at St. Spyridon Church in Clarksburg, WV; Archon Proto Ekdikos Philip Yamalis at Holy Cross Church, Mt. Lebanon, PA; Archon Aktouarios Dr. Nicholas G. Loutsion at All Saints Church, Canonsburg, PA; Archon Eftaxias John Harbilas at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Camp Hill, PA; and Archon Notarios Howard West at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie, PA and Archon Ekdikos Peter Clyde Papadakos at Dormition of the Theotokos Church in Oakmont, PA.

Our Metropolis welcomed John Harbilas, Fotios Frangakis and Howard West, as the newest Archons in our Metropolis. Archon Harbilas, a parishioner of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Camp Hill, PA, received the title Eutaxias, a title bestowed on those who acted as master of ceremonies in ecclesiastical settings. Archon Frangakis, a member of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Farrell, PA, received the title Skevophylax, bestowed on those who guard and protect the sacred vessels of the Church. Archon West, a member of the Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Carnegie, PA, received the title Notarios, bestowed on those who managed church property and records.

Archon Architekton Dean C. Kamaras (St. Nicholas Cathedral Pittsburgh, PA) and Archon Aktouarios Dr. James P. Argires (Annunciation, Lancaster, PA), fell asleep in the Lord. Both Archons played significant roles in the life of their parishes and the Metropolis and were pillars of support for the Order. May their memory be eternal.
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/regstry/

2018 Registry Statistics - Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Metropolis of Pittsburgh sacraments represent about 6-8% of the total volume within the Archdiocese.

331 Baptisms
66 Chrismations
373 Funerals

Marriages:
66 Inter-Orthodox
79 Inter-Christian
145 Total Marriages

Divorce:
14 Inter-Orthodox
12 Inter-Christian
26 Total Divorces

Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund

The Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund (‘Leadership 100’) has distributed over $53,000,000 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 2018-2019 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 ninth consecutive year that the grant has been given by Leadership 100, totaling $270,000 for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh and just over $2.5 million for all Archdiocesan camping ministries.
- Grants supporting Mission 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.
- A grant was continued to the Center for Family Care to continue and expand its Clergy Peer Learning Groups program, which allows for clergy-to-clergy assistance and support.
- Grants to the Youth & Young Adult Ministries Department (Y²AM) to support an introduction to Orthodoxy video series being produced by the department.

These represent just a portion of the nearly $2.9 million in grants distributed in 2019 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 1,100 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.
Youth Safety for All Youth Workers

Register. Screen. Train. These are the three steps that all who work with children in our parishes must follow. More will be presented at the breakout sessions during the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly. The letters from our Hierarchs directing our compliance with the policies can be found on the Archdiocesan website by visiting http://www.goarch.org/safety

Young Adults to Project Mexico

There are few things in life that leave lasting impressions on my heart and genuinely alter my physical, mental, and spiritual states for the better. Project Mexico is among these few, if not at the top of the list. I registered for Project Mexico thinking I would solely perform manual labor for a few days and head back home. Within the first hours of the trip, I quickly realized these beliefs were completely false, and as cheesy as it may sound, this trip fully changed my life. I attended the trip as an 18-year-old about to begin college and had never before been in an environment with such a diverse age group. Not too long after arrival, I found myself entering friendships with individuals in the age range of 18 to 60. In relation to this, a home was not the only thing built over the course of the week. Countless memories were created, spiritual mindsets were heightened, and friendships were formed that I can assure will last a lifetime. I feel beyond blessed and grateful that I was able to take part in such an inspiring week, and my heart is beyond full. It is truly difficult to fully express the experience in words, but the closest way is to say: I was the volunteer, but the program gave so much more to me than I could have ever given. —Estee Carroll, All Saints, Canonsburg

Registration for the 2020 Young Adult Trip opens October 1!

Young Adult Retreats

Our Young Adult Fall & Spring Retreats continue to be sponsored with the American Carpatho-Russian Diocese and the Ukrainian Diocese. Dates are set for the 2019-2020 Retreats: October 25th-27th and March 20th-22nd.

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 January 1, 2020. 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 Metropolis Youth & Young Adult Ministries website: http://y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org
Camping Ministries

2018-2019 year in camping ministries began with our GOYA Fall Retreat, which was held November 16-18, at Camp Nazareth. It was very well attended with 132 campers, and focused on the topic of "Trusting in the Lord." Our keynote address was given by speaker Mr. Jason Catanese. As we know, many of our campers are facing serious challenges in today’s society. The weekend served as a reminder to our campers of where to turn when things get tough. Jason, a staff member during Summer camp, also created and runs a summer camping program in Phoenix, Arizona that aims at providing inner-city youth with educational opportunities.

Our GOYA Spring Retreat was held April 5-7 at Camp Nazareth. Our speaker was newly-ordained Deacon George Athanasiou, who presented on “Being made perfect through my weakness.” Deacon George has been a long-time camp attendee, initially as a camper, then staff member, and now as a Clergy member. Our Spring Retreat numbers grew from last year, with 105 campers in attendance, and a full staff. Deacon George spoke about the love we are given by our Lord, and urged our campers to continually strive to be close to Christ, even though we are flawed, unperfect people.

Summer Camp 2019 was another fun-filled season! Our theme was Mercy, based on the verse from Matthew 5:7, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” Each day of the week had a sub-theme that was created by our Summer Camp Committee, Monday: Mercy Defined, Tuesday: Mercy Accepted, Wednesday: Mercy Witnessed, Thursday: Mercy Lived, Friday: Mercy Realized. Each helped the campers absorb and really learn about the mission of mercy in our lives as Orthodox Christians.

Registration hit over 200 campers within ninety minutes of opening! With 62 seniors having graduated this year, our week 4 session was the first to sell out, with week 3 quickly following. Our four weeks of Summer Camp were enjoyed by 471 campers, with the help of 76 staff members, which included cabin staff, administrative staff, support staff and medical personnel. We were also joined by more than 20 Clergy during our sessions. Some Clergy stayed the whole week, some with their families, and some came to assist with the sacrament of confession on Wednesdays. We are very thankful for all of our Clergy and staff that were able to dedicate their time and resources this summer! Although our total numbers were down by around twenty campers from last year due to the numbers in the first two weeks of camp, we were very happy to see so many campers attend overall.

This past Fall, we introduced a #GiveThanksForCamp campaign, which asked current campers and alumni, or camp enthusiasts, to donate items needed for camp from an Amazon Wish List. In an extremely humbling response, over 75% of the items were purchased off the Wish List, totaling over $2,000! Items purchased includes walkie talkies, a portable speaker, a projector, spike ball sets, cornhole, various athletic equipment, games such as life-size Jenga and Connect four, cabin supplies, office supplies, and arts&crafts supplies. We are extremely grateful to everyone who donated items for our camping program! All the items were put to good use this summer and will continue to be an important part of growing this ministry.

This upcoming camping season, we hope to focus on Alumni involvement, and the possible integration of a new registration system to streamline the camp sign-up process.

2019-2020 Camp dates for your calendar

GOYA Fall Retreat: November 22-24, 2019
GOYA Spring Retreat: March 20-22, 2020
Session 1, Elementary week (Grades 2-4): June 21-27
Session 2, Middle School week (grades 5-7): June 28 – July 4
Session 3, Junior High week (grades 7-9): July 5 – July 11
Session 4, High School week (grades 10-12): July 12 – July 18
For the 2018-2019 year the Greek Education Committee and the Metropolis of Pittsburgh staff worked together to implement, strengthen, and vitalize the teaching of Modern Greek, as well as distributing books written by the Archdiocese (Ta Ellinika Mou) to the schools which had ordered them.

During the fall, a group of teachers and professors in Modern Greek met to write material for the 7th Annual Metropolis of Pittsburgh’s Greek Language Festival. The dates for the previous Greek Language Festivals had been held in the spring, but in an effort to accommodate a number of Greek schools’ requests to try changing it to the fall, the date was moved to November 2, 2019 at St. Demetrios, Rocky River, OH. All schools were notified of the change and flyers were sent with the link for students who wanted to study and compete in the Quiz Bowl event of the Greek Language Festival. Students from various schools, sing, play musical instruments, present their artwork in an exhibit, play games, and make crafts. The topics for the Quiz Bowl teams are spelling, vocabulary words, Greek root words, lives of Saints, Liturgical words and phrases, history, mythology, musical instruments, and artists. Students are quizzed and have access to all previous material as well as some new material being added to each of those topics with geography being added as a new topic.

In February a survey was sent out the churches and Greek schools to update information, receive an input on issues that challenge Greek Schools, to see similarities and differences of schools, as well as receive new ideas of projects to work on and improve our schools. Much knowledge was gained which the Greek Education Committee will be working on to make improvements. In May, a large group came to Pittsburgh from as far away as New Jersey to see a presentation made by the creators of the “Rebooting the Greek Language Project” from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies of Simon Fraser University in Canada. The presenters showed their multi-faceted digital learning program which targets four different age groups: pre-school (4-6), early elementary (6-8), late elementary and pre-teen (9-13), and teen to adult level (14 and up). A number of our Metropolis Greek Schools expressed an interest to participate in piloting the “Rebooting Greek” program. This learning resource is provided at no cost.

In an effort to help students gain credit in college for taking Modern Greek and to help set standards. The Department of Greek Education of our Metropolis had instituted more than a decade ago, St. Nicholas Cathedral, Pittsburgh, as a testing center for administering Ellinomatheas Exams from Thessaloniki, Greece, and the Comprehensive Exam for Modern Greek for Regents Credit from the Archdiocese. During the week of May 20th a number of students came to the Metropolis testing center to take the Ellinomatheas Exam. Information about registration was sent out in January with registration being done online at Ellinomatheas starting the beginning of February with their deadline near the third week of March. This exam is given all around the world on the same day and is recognized by many schools in Europe and other continents. Some high schools will give students a “Seal of Biliteracy” on their high school diploma if students pass the B1 level of the Ellinomatheas exam, but it must be taken no more than 18 months prior to graduation. There is a fee for taking this exam.

On June 24, 2019, a number of students took the Regents Exam at Annunciation, Cleveland, and there were a few students from Annunciation, Akron who flew to New York, on their way to vacation that had taken that exam. Information was sent out to the schools in March with registration for this exam beginning near the end of March and ending the beginning of May. There is no fee for taking this exam. There have been students who have received foreign language college credit for taking this exam with success. The Greek Education Committee and Metropolis of Pittsburgh continue to stress the importance of this as a ministry which places emphasis on integrating our Greek Orthodox faith.
St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

For Elementary Students’ (Grades 4-6), Junior Division (Grades 7-9) and Senior Division (Grades 9-12)

Every parish with an active Church School or Youth Ministry should have a local Parish Festival each year.
Find ways to encourage your youth to participate in a late Winter/early Spring Parish Festival.

Why encourage your Youth to Speak about their Faith?
• By speaking about their Faith, they learn about their faith. Simple.
• It helps them gain experience in public speaking & to overcome fears involved in presenting a speech.
• Through the experience, they will gain friends, have more self-confidence and possibly receive a substantial scholarship to Hellenic College.
• These are the future leaders in your parish!

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 two finalists in each region advance to District/Regional level and lastly to the Metropolis Festival for the finals. The top Junior and Senior Finalists head to the Archdiocese Oratorical Festival which in 2019, was hosted in New York City area. At the Archdiocese Festival, the Metropolis finalists participate in a weekend of activities.

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/region, Metropolis and Archdiocese level of competition is eligible to receive a Hellenic College Chrysostom Scholarship. This scholarship provides awards ranging from $2,500 up to $30,000 per year.

We are thankful to the Metropolis parishes of Holy Cross, Pittsburgh (Central); Annunciation, Lancaster (East) and Holy Trinity, Canton (West) who hosted the 2019 District/Regional Festivals and to the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, Pittsburgh for hosting the Metropolis finals.

2020 District Festivals - Saturday, April 4th
Central: All Saints, Canonsburg (tentative)
East: St. Nicholas Cathedral, Bethlehem
West: Sts. Constantine & Helen, Cleveland Heights

2020 Metropolis Festival - Saturday, May 16th

Pictured above is Chairman, Archon Philip Yamalis, our two Metropolis finalists, Stavros Spanakis and Peter Ariano and Fr. Christopher Bender at the 2019 Metropolis Festival.

Pictured left is one of the 2019 Parish Festivals hosted by Holy Trinity, Camp Hill with clergy, Fr. Michael Varvarelis and Fr. Aaron Gilbert.
The Camp at Mt. Tabor Project & Our Relationship with 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), Metropolitan Savas 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.
His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh

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<tr>
<th>Metropolis Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chancellor: Fr. George S. Callos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant to Metropolitan &amp; Registrar: ADn. Ryan Gzikowski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth &amp; Young Adult Ministries Director: Rhea Ballas</td>
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<td>Camp Ministries Coordinator: Marina Papafil</td>
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<td>Finance Committee: Archon Philip Yamalis &amp; Michael Passodelis</td>
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<td>Greek Education Director: Maria Stamoolis</td>
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<td>Stewardship Coordinator: Stacey Stathulis</td>
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<th>Central Region</th>
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<td>Vicar: Fr. Christopher Bender</td>
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<td>Syndesmos VP: Fr. Constantine Kokanos</td>
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<td>Holy Trinity, Ambridge</td>
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<td>Dormition, Aliquippa</td>
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<td>Holy Trinity, Altoona</td>
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<td>St. Mary’s, Johnstown</td>
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<td>Nativity of the Theotokos, Saxonburg</td>
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<td>Vicar: Fr. Alexander Goussetis</td>
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<td>Syndesmos VP: Fr. Andrew Tsikitas</td>
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<td>Finance Committee: George Mouhlas</td>
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<td>St. Nicholas Cathedral, Bethlehem</td>
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<td>Annunciation, Lancaster</td>
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<td>St. Matthew, Blandon</td>
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<td>Annunciation, Wilkes-Barre</td>
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<td>Transfiguration Mission, Lititz</td>
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<td>Holy Protection of the Theotokos, White Haven</td>
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<td>Vicar: Fr. Stephen Callos</td>
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<td>Syndesmos VP: Fr. Steve Denas</td>
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<td>Finance Committee: Archon Steve Poulos &amp; Elizabeth Bartz</td>
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<td>St. Demetrios, Rocky River</td>
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<td>St. Paul, North Royalton</td>
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<td>St. Nicholas, Lorain</td>
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<td>Annunciation, Akron</td>
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<td>St. George, Massillon</td>
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<td>Sts. Constantine &amp; Helen, Mansfield</td>
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<td>St. Demetrios, Warren</td>
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<td>St. Gregory Palamas, Perrysville</td>
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<td>Entrance of the Theotokos, Skete, Hayesville</td>
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<td>Vicar: Fr. Frank Milanese</td>
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<td>Syndesmos VP: Fr. Demetrios Tsikouris</td>
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<td>Finance Committee: Harry Ruska &amp; Peter Alex</td>
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<td>Life-Giving Fountain, Martins Ferry</td>
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<td>St. John the Baptist, Charleston</td>
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<td>St. Spyridon, Clarksville</td>
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<td>Assumption, Morgantown</td>
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<td>St. James Mission, Belpre</td>
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NEW METROPOLIS CENTER

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 Metropolis serves parishes and faithful in three states and the current facility is not able to keep up with the demands of the Metropolis.)

The new center will allow the Metropolis to:
- Improve capacity to build ministries.
- 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.
- Host functions and gatherings.

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 to the intersection of Interstates 70 and 79. This location makes it highly accessible to all points in

(Continued on page 19)
the Metropolis. The new location will have ample parking, meeting, and event space.

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 donated an adjacent piece of property of approximately 9 acres, providing a buffer against an encroaching development and allowing for cost-reducing site development options.

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 in Pittsburgh will continue as the Metropolis Cathedral!

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Above: His Eminence is joined by the clergy and lay delegates to the 2018 Metropolis Clergy-Laity, Philoptochos, & Youth Worker Assembly, hosted by Holy Cross GOC in Pittsburgh.

Below: The joyful group gathered for the 2019 Metropolis of Pittsburgh Daffodil Luncheon, hosted by St. Haralambos GOC in Canton. Proceeds benefit the Metropolis Philoptochos Social Services Fund, which provides assistance to those in need and, among other things, provides dignified burials for those who cannot afford it.

Left: At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday, His Eminence elevated Fr. Costas Keares to the dignity of Protopresbyter at the St. Paul GOC of North Royalton.

Below: His Eminence with some of the members of the Metropolis Youth Commission following one of their 3 meetings during the year.
2018-2019 Annual Report

Save the Dates!

St. Savas Feast & Open House:
Thu. Dec. 5, 2019  Metropolis HQ

2020 St. Photios Banquet:
Sat. May 2  Cranberry, PA

2020 Archdiocesan Clergy-Laity:
June 28 - July 3  Cleveland, OH

2020 Metropolis Clergy-Laity:
Sat. Sep. 26,  Pittsburgh, PA