Presvyteres Retreat, Recharge

By Pres. Maria Gavrilos

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” (Matthew 18:20)

What a blessing it was to be able to gather with our sister Presvyteres from across the country in Delray Beach, FL, during the long weekend of October 11-14. Every other year, the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres hosts a national retreat for our clergy wives, with a guest speaker to edify us, as well as plenty of time for fellowship and relaxation. Our topic this year was “Self-care for the Mind, Body, and Soul” presented by Pres. Dr. Roxanne Louh, and we learned about the connection between the three, how important each of them are to the other, and how to help maintain our physical, emotional, and spiritual health. We also enjoyed morning and evening prayers with each other, a paint night, some local excursions, and a trip to the beach. Liturgy was such a joy to worship all together. This is such a vital event for clergy wives! Ministry is a 24/7 calling, and it permeates every aspect of clergy-family lives. This retreat gives us time to recharge, reconnect, and revive, so that we can be more present and more fully support our husbands in ministry! Thank you to all the parishes who support our clergy wives to be able to attend this wonderful retreat!

Pittsburgh Metropolis Presvyteres in attendance (left to right): Eileen Sedor, Nicole Keares (National President), Eleni Kallaur, Kassiani Callos, Stephanie Petrides, Jennifer Moore, Maria Gavrilos, Evangeline Pappas, Vasiliki Constantine, and Goldie Doukas

Key Documents on Metropolis Website

2019 Metropolis Assembly documents: https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/2019-assembly
Administrative documents and policies: https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/administrative
Allocations, Financial Statements, and other Finance documents: https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/finance
Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Camping, and Youth Safety Information: https://y2am.pittsburgh.goarch.org/

Support His Eminence and the Metropolis Ministries

It costs approximately $1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including Metropolitan Savas’s pastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry (tracking marriages, baptisms, chrismations, and deaths), and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis. To contribute, visit https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support
Missions & Evangelism Conference

The next National Conference on Missions & Evangelism is being held Feb. 3-5, 2020 in Columbus, OH at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral - an event made possible by a grant from Leadership 100. The conference theme is: "Leading Change Toward a Healthier Parish" and features presentations by Fr. Evan Armatas, Fr. Theodore Dorrance, Fr. Aris Metrakos and Mr. Steve Tibbs.

The conference will offer insights, tools and strategies for parish leaders to fully engage active parishioners, re-engage those distantly connected and to share the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith with those searching for a spiritual home. It will also provide opportunities for sharing ideas and experiences among parish leadership and is open to clergy and laity alike. Attendance is limited to 200 participants, ensuring that discussion is plentiful and productive. Each Metropolis is being offered two complimentary registrations in an effort to guarantee participation across the Archdiocese.

“This conference, like the one held in Portland, Oregon in 2016, will inform, prepare and inspire parish leaders to return home with useful tools and strategies for meaningful change toward parish health and growth,” said Fr. Jim Kordaris, Director of the Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism. “We are convening a panel of experienced parish leaders, trained in the concepts and strategies needed to implement positive change.”

Please contact Stacey Stathulis (staceys@goarch.org) with any questions you may have.