January 30, 2020

*Synaxis of the Three Great Hierarchs: Saints Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom*

We urge you, beloved, to recognize those who labor among you... and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. (1 Thess 5:12-13)

Reverend Clergy and Presvyteres, esteemed Metropolis and Parish Council members, dedicated members of Philoptochos, the Order of St. Andrew, and Leadership 100, and beloved faithful of the Holy and God-Protected Metropolis of Pittsburgh,

In the spirit of thanksgiving for the dedicated work rendered by the faithful of this Metropolis in service of their Lord through their dedicated stewardship to the parishes, the Metropolis of Pittsburgh will recognize the volunteers of our parishes at the

**Seventh Annual St. Photios Awards Banquet**

on Saturday, May 2, 2020 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh-Cranberry, in Mars, PA.

Each parish is invited to name two *living* individuals to receive this award (*i.e. no posthumous recipients*). Some parishes have held open nomination periods, publicizing the criteria throughout the communities, with the nominees being submitted to the Council and then narrowed to the final 2 awardees; some communities have had nominations informally forwarded to the priest, who then consults with the Council and Philoptochos to select the honorees. Speak with your parish priest and council regarding the nomination process within your community.

I encourage you to consider men and women who have served your community in previously unsung ways, *not choosing those who have already been honored for their Church service* (such as Archons, St. Paul Medal recipients, or prior St. Photios awardees).

Awardees should be designated through the parish priest (or the interim pastor) to our offices by March 15, 2020. Please include with your official nomination contact information for the individual (name, address, email address, and telephone number), one digital photo (“head-shot” only, please, in .jpg or .tiff format) of each awardee and a one-paragraph summary of their service to the Church (i.e. not a professional resume, but rather a volunteer service testimonial) – this should be drafted by the priest or a
designated person in the parish (*not the awardees*) and should be between *100 and 150* words.

*The awardees will attend the Banquet as our guests* (i.e. *gratis*). We encourage the parish communities to assist them with the cost of transportation to and from the event, and to facilitate the attendance of a loved one.

All the faithful are invited to attend the banquet, which will serve as a *synaxis* of our clergy and faithful in a spirit of celebration and will also honor those who have served our Holy Metropolis's various ministries. Each of the first six events have been permeated by a spirit of joy and thanksgiving which was contagious, and we pray that this year’s event enjoys the same energy and enthusiasm.

With Archpastoral blessings and love in the Lord,

+ SAVAS
Metropolitan of Pittsburgh