

Volume 23 - Issue 2

# THE LEADER




Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, center, with predecessors, Archbishop Spyridon, left, and Archbishop Demetrios, right

## 46<sup>th</sup> Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress

*Leadership 100*

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**FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

THE PHOENICIAN  
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

# THE LEADER

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Members and Friends,

I was privileged to address the Plenary Session of the 46th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress on July 7, 2022, on the historic occasion of the Centennial of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. On July 4th, I witnessed the Consecration of St. Nicholas Church and National Shrine. Archbishop Elpidophoros officiated at a moving ancient ceremony that included the Metropolitans of our Archdiocese and those representing the Ecumenical Patriarchate, along with many officials, and that brought 1,300 people to the site at the World Trade Center.

In his remarks during the service, the Archbishop commented, “Today, we consecrate Saint Nicholas as a temple of peace and a house of prayer for all people. We placed the relics of Saint Nicholas in the Altar Table in solidarity with those who were denied their lives and even a decent burial on 9/11. We consecrate this Church and National Shrine to their memory, as a perpetual offering of love and reconciliation.”

Leadership 100 was among the major donors to the St. Nicholas Church and National Shrine, as were our members as individuals. I reminded my audience at the Plenary Session that Leadership 100 was established by men and women devoted to support and perpetuate the National Ministries of our Archdiocese and their successors have done so with generosity and creativity for almost 40 years.

These momentous events brought us together with deep faith and renewed hope in our future. They reminded us, I noted in my own remarks, that we are not simply individuals convening the meeting of an organization, but carriers of our faith, heritage and history, committed to our God, our Church and our Motherland.

Significantly these events took place as we celebrated the 246th Anniversary of the Independence of the United States and a year after also celebrating the 200th Anniversary of the Greek Revolution of 1821, reminding us that we are also the rich inheritors of democracy and freedom.

I noted in my remarks that our Founders were cognizant of these blessings. They committed to share their blessings for the benefit of their Church, their Communities and their Nation. Led by Archbishop Iakovos of Blessed Memory, who led the Archdiocese into the Modern

Era, they pioneered that unity into effective action, demonstrating the true meaning of philanthropy as the love of humankind.

While I was proud to report that since its inception in 1984, Leadership 100 has distributed \$70 million in grants toward the ministries of our Archdiocese, and to programs that advance Orthodoxy and Hellenism, I could not help but think of the diversity of our members, and the active love and unity they have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate.

In this Summer Issue of *The Leader*, we review those momentous events, along with the great honor given to our former Executive Director, Fr. Alex Karloutsos, who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Joseph R. Biden, our nation’s highest civilian honor, and the recognition of our current Executive Director, Paulette Poulos, who was given the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities by Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology. Leadership 100 and our Church have been blessed with these extraordinary individuals who, together, have made us one of the most significant charitable organizations in the nation.

*With warmest regards,*

**Demetrios G. Logothetis**  
Chairman

# Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Centennial Clergy-Laity Congress Concludes



*Leadership 100 Chairman Demetrios G. Logothetis addresses Plenary Session of the 46th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress.*

The 46th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, meeting in New York, concluded on July 7, 2022, after a packed final Plenary Session, during which various institutional organizations shared their progress and their vision for the next 100 years. Presenters included Hellenic College Holy Cross President George Cantonis, Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society National President Arlene Siavelis Kehl, Archon National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, on behalf of the Order of St. Andrew and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, and Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund Chairman Demetrios G. Logothetis. Archdiocesan Departments, including Inter-Orthodox, Interfaith, and Ecumenical Relations; Benefits Office; Youth and Young Adult Ministries; Camping Ministries; Ionian Village; the

Young Adult League (YAL); Religious Education; and Greek Education, among others, also presented.

In his remarks, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America said, “Some might say that the labor of this Centennial Clergy-Laity Congress has concluded. But I say to you that the endeavor has only just begun. We assembled in this Congress in a work of exploration: reflecting on the legacy of our past, engaging in renewal in our current moment, and forging even stronger bonds of unity for our future. As a community, we are as diverse as any other in the United States. We need to own this, and not allow it to own us.”



*Leadership 100 Executive Director Paulette Poulos addresses Clergy Dinner at the 46th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress.*

The Finance Committee also announced that the Archdiocese had achieved financial stability, with revenues exceeding expenses from 2018 to 2021, and budgetary controls in place and operating. Cost controls



*Ioannis Chrysoulakis, Secretary General for Greeks Abroad of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Leadership 100 Chairman Demetrios G. Logothetis, Congress Co-Chair Chrysanthy Demos, Archbishop Elpidophoros and Metropolitan Prodrimos Open Exhibit Hall of 46th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress.*

and CARES Act funding—an anticipated \$6 million of which was shared with Metropolises and parishes—allowed the Archdiocese to manage the pandemic while delivering on its priorities. Moreover, in response to the pandemic, a portion of the CARES Act funding was shared with parishes in 2020, and a portion of the CARES Act funding was shared with Metropolises in 2021. The Archdiocese Covid-19 Relief Fund provided over \$600,000 in financial assistance to 350 individuals and families, and \$450,000 in parish relief was provided based on Metropolis assessment of need.

The Committee also reported a total of \$1.1 million dollars raised by the Archdiocese as part of its 2021 Greek Fires Response, which, in

collaboration with the IOCC, supports the immediate and long-term needs of those affected. The GOARCH Ukraine Relief Fund, also launched by Archbishop Elpidophoros in March 2022 in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, has raised \$925,000 in conjunction with the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, which raised \$275,000 of the total funds.

A Grand Banquet followed in the evening, with over 1200 delegates and guests in attendance to celebrate a fruitful Centennial Congress, which saw the long-awaited Consecration of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, concurrent and historic national conventions for the Ladies Philoptochos Society and YAL, and a Special Plenary on the Charter of the Archdiocese.



*Centennial National Chairman and Chairman Emeritus of Leadership 100 Argyris Vassiliou and Leadership 100 Executive Director Paulette Poulos, center, with, left to right, Leadership 100 Chairman Demetrios G. Logothetis, George Patoulis, Regional Governor of Attica, Greece, Archbishop Elpidophoros and Metropolitan Prodrimos Open Centennial History Exhibit at 46th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress.*

Patriarchal Representatives, their Eminences Elder-Metropolitan Emmanuel of Chalcedon and Metropolitan Prodrimos of Rethymnon and Avlopotamos; the Ambassador of Greece to the US, Her Excellency Alexandra Papadopoulou; the Vice-Chair of the Archdiocesan Council, John Catsimatidis; the National Philoptochos President, Arlene Siavelis Kehl; and the Congress Co-Chairs, Chrysanthy Demos and Nicholas Karacostas, offered remarks. Also among the speakers was former Governor of New York George Pataki, who was honored by the Archbishop for his support in the rebuilding of the St. Nicholas Church as a National Shrine.



*Archbishop Elpidophoros recognizes Leadership 100 Chairman Demetrios G. Logothetis as Centennial Honoree at 46th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress.*



*Archbishop Elpidophoros and Metropolitan Prodromos recognize Leadership 100 Executive Director Paulette Poulos, center, and former Archdiocese Director of Archives Nikie Calles, left, as Centennial Honorees at 46th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress.*

at the Opening, as Centennial Honorees: "Having these two former Archbishops of America with us is a tremendous honor, as it offers us an even better glimpse into the history of our Church here in America. What I am trying to say is that their presence here at our Centennial Clergy-Laity Congress affirms the continuation of our unity, as well as the perpetuation of the spiritual bonds of our faith and leadership through the ages."

At the Opening Exhibits of the Congress, which were underwritten by Leadership 100, the Archbishop recognized as Centennial Honorees, Demetrios G.

In his Keynote Address, the Archbishop also recognized as Centennial Honorees the Vice-Chairs of the Archdiocesan Council, John Catsimatidis, George Tsandikos, Demetrios Moschos, and the late Michael

Logothetis, Leadership 100 Chairman, Paulette Poulos, Executive Director of Leadership 100, along with Nikie Calles, formerly Director of Archives of the Archdiocese. He also honored Leadership 100 Chairman Emeritus

Constantine G. Caras and Leadership 100 Vice Chairman James Pantelidis as Centennial Honorees at the AHEPA event. Other Leadership 100 Honorees follow.



*Centennial History Exhibit at 46th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress.*

A Centennial Honoree is a person who has contributed significantly to the life of the Archdiocese; who has served with distinction and on the front lines; who has given true stewardship of time, talent, and treasure to the Archdiocese; and who is the true Icon of a faithful member of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

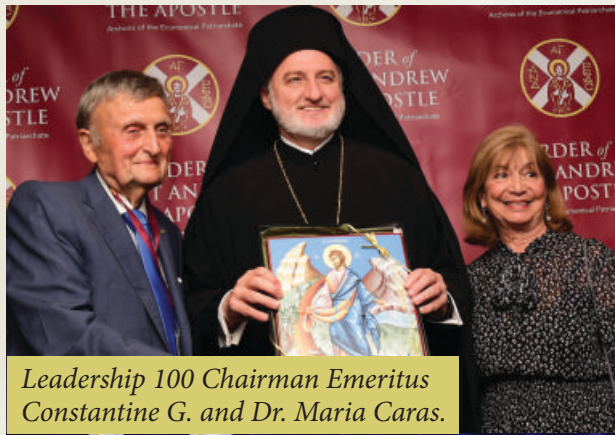
Jaharis, the longtime General Counsel of the Archdiocese, the late Emanuel Demos, the Centennial Congress Co-Chairs and their spouses, Chrysanthy and George Demos and Nicholas and Anna Karacostas, and four "intrepid workers" of the Archdiocese, Marissa Costidis, Maria Andriotis, Jamil Samara, and Theo Nickolakis.

His Eminence recognized the two living former Archbishops of America, Spyridon and Demetrios, in attendance



*Centennial History Exhibit at 46th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress.*

# Leadership 100 Centennial Honorees



Leadership 100 Chairman Emeritus Constantine G. and Dr. Maria Caras.



Vice Chairman of Archdiocesan Council and Leadership 100 Executive Committee Member John Catsimatidis.



46th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress Co-Chair and Leadership 100 Board Member Chrysanthy and Leadership 100 Member George Demos.



Leadership 100 Member and President of the Archdiocesan Cathedral Stella Pantelidis accepted the honor for her husband, Leadership 100 Vice Chairman James Pantelidis, and, at a later event, for herself.



Leadership 100 Member and Philoptochos Vice Chair Jeannie Ranglas.



Leadership 100 Board of Trustees Member and Vice Chairman of Friends of St. Nicholas Michael G. Psaros, at Consecration of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.



Leadership 100 Member and Chairman of Friends of St. Nicholas Dennis Mehiel, at Consecration of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.



Leadership 100 Member, Senior Advisor to the Archbishop, and Treasurer of the Archdiocesan Council Elaine Allen.



Leadership 100 Member Stephen Cherpelis.





# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER

THE CENTENNIAL OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA



As our Holy Church celebrates Her centennial this summer, it is natural for us during this celebratory year to reflect back to the beginnings of the Church in this nation. For us, it is not unusual to do so, knowing that the Church which our Lord Jesus Christ established with His Supreme Sacrifice on the Holy Cross was never to fade away. For it was He Who told His twelve Apostles that His Church would remain in the world even to the day of His glorious return to gather His people for His eternal Kingdom.

In this part of our Nation for the first immigrants from Greece to establish the Church was not considered impossible, since the Church remained alive and active even during the four centuries under the Ottoman Empire. This is why, even though our Orthodox Christian celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ was celebrated on the day of Pascha, as is done every year, it was on Pascha that Greek immigrants were killed in Colorado in 1920 at the Ludlow Massacre.

To this day, we recognize two Greek Orthodox cemeteries in this Metropolis where immigrants died in groups, one in Price, Utah, where railroad workers died in accidents and in Colorado where they died by orders of the then state governor.

Consequently, as we now celebrate our centennial anniversary, we do so also in honor of the first Greek immigrants, whose memory continues to impact us, in honoring the sacred American soil in which they are resting. Eight years ago I was blessed to conduct a memorial service at a small cemetery in Trinidad, Colorado on April 20, 2014 – our holy Pascha – exactly the same day on which many sacrificed their young lives, and also preparing our nation to remember our recent ancestors who established our permanent status, as the greatest democracy in human history.

+Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver

## St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine Consecrated



*Archbishop Elpidophoros of America officiates at Consecration ceremony at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.*

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center was consecrated in a historic and emotional ancient ceremony that drew over 1,300 on Monday, July 4, 2022. Numerous officials and guests filled the church, with outdoor seating areas set up for the many attendees to watch the services on screens via the live broadcast. Hierarchs, clergy and Greek Orthodox faithful from across the country attended, given that the opening ceremony also coincided with the 46th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress, which marked the Centennial of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and opened the day prior, late Sunday afternoon.



*Archbishop Demetrios, former Geron of America, joins Archbishop Elpidophoros in ceremonial signing at consecration of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.*

The consecration service was presided over by Archbishop Elpidophoros and involved ritual processions around the church building, the placing and sealing of holy relics in the altar and washing and anointing of the altar table itself. Above the altar, an icon of the Virgin Mary, called the Theotokos by Orthodox Christians, is depicted overlooking the city of New York.

Archbishop Elpidophoros, in his remarks during the service, commented, “Today, we consecrate Saint Nicholas as a temple of peace and a house of prayer for all people. We placed the relics of Saint Nicholas in the Altar Table in solidarity with those who were denied their lives and even a decent burial on 9/11. We consecrate this Church and National Shrine to their memory, as a perpetual offering of love and reconciliation.”



*Friends of St. Nicholas Chairman Dennis Mehiel, front right, and Vice Chairman Michael Psaros, far left, join Archbishop Elpidophoros in Consecration ceremony at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.*

The Thyranoxia of St. Nicholas Church took place last November in the presence of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. At the consecration on July 4, the Ecumenical Patriarchate was represented by the His Eminence Metropolitan Geron Emmanuel of Chalcedon, together with Metropolitan Prodromos of Rethymno and Avlopotamos. Archbishop Demetrios and Archbishop Spyridon, both former Archbishops of America, also participated, along with the Metropolitans of the Archdiocese of America. The terrorist attack of September 11, in which the original church was destroyed, took place and the process of building the new St. Nicholas Church as a National Shrine began during Archbishop Demetrios' tenure.

Other officials attending included Ambassador of Greece to the U.S. Alexandra Papadopoulou, Consul General of Greece in New York Dr. Konstantinos Koutras, Consul General of the Republic of Cyprus Michalis Firillas, Permanent Representative of Greece to the UN Ambassador Maria Theofili, Attica Regional Governor Georgios Patoulis, Central Macedonia Regional Governor Apostolos Tzitzikostas and Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ioannis Chrysoulakis.

Also present were Friends of St. Nicholas Chairman Dennis Mehiel, Vice Chairman Michael Psaros, who was also the keynote speaker, Archdiocesan Council Vice Chairman John Catsimatidis, Leadership 100 Chairman Demetrios G. Logothetis and Leadership 100 Executive Director Paulette Poulos, AHEPA Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas, AHEPA Chairman of the Board of Trustees Nicholas Karakostas, and EMBCA's President/Founder and AHEPA's National Cultural Commission Chairman Louis Katsos.

Following the consecration service, Dennis Mehiel referred to all those who contributed to the rebuilding of St. Nicholas at a time when the project was considered a secondary priority for the State of New York which was recovering from the terrorist attack, stating, "It has been more than 20 years since we embarked on this journey to rebuild a presence for Christianity on this Sacred Ground. We have had no shortage of challenges, but we are here today bringing to life the vision that has burned so brightly in our imaginations for these two decades."

Mehiel praised George Pataki, who was governor at the time the Greek American community first raised the issue of St. Nicholas, and Andrew Cuomo, who also gave the "green light" for the church's new location on Liberty Street in spite of objections and the bureaucratic challenges the project faced. Mehiel also thanked the head of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Steven Plate and his Greek Orthodox wife, Nancy, for all their efforts.

In his keynote address, Michael Psaros stated, "Over 20 years ago, the only House of Worship at Ground Zero was destroyed on September 11th. That Church was the first place our immigrant forebears encountered after they passed through Ellis Island to the dream of America. Today, we consecrate a magnificent new House of Worship at Ground Zero, a breathtaking architectural masterpiece designed by Santiago Calatrava, the world's most famous architect."

"New York now has a National Shrine, a monument truly worthy of the greatest city in the world. May 'Our Lady of New York City,' holding this city in Her embrace, bless and protect New York and America for millennia to

come," Psaros said. He also spoke warmly about Fr. Alex Karloutsos, whose "sheer force of will, inspiration, love and eternally wise counsel over the past twenty years made this miracle possible." Archbishop Elpidophoros then honored Mehiel, Psaros, and Fr. Karloutsos, presenting them each with an Icon. His Eminence also presented Fr.

Karloutsos with the Golden Cross of Aghia Sophia.

Port Authority Executive Director Rick Cotton said, "Today's consecration of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine is an important and symbolic milestone in the reconstruction of the World Trade Center. The Port Authority is proud to have worked with the Archdiocese and Friends of St. Nicholas on this extraordinary project."

The St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center will begin a regular worship schedule following the installation of the full iconographic project. In addition to Orthodox services, the Shrine will also feature dedicated interfaith and nonsectarian spaces. The aim, according to the Archbishop on Sunday, is "to rebuild as both the original Greek Orthodox Church, but also as a space where a diversity of beliefs and respect for other faith traditions can be celebrated, taught and enshrined for all people."

The new church was designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, who also designed the nearby World Trade Center Transportation Hub, often referred to as the Oculus.

Calatrava's designs for the church are based on notable Byzantine-era structures, including the church of Hagia Sophia and the monastery church at Chora, in Turkey.



*Archbishop Elpidophoros leads procession in Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.*



*Archbishop Elpidophoros processes in Divine Liturgy in front of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.*

## Father Alex Karloutsos Receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom

In a ceremony at the White House on Thursday, July 7, 2022, the Rev. Alexander M. Karloutsos, Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from U.S. President Joseph Biden. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the nation's highest civilian honor.

According to a statement released by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew received the news of this extraordinary honor “with great joy and paternal pride.” His All-Holiness contacted Father Alex “and warmly congratulated him, as well as his blessed family, adding that this high honor reflects on the Ecumenical Patriarchate, of which Father Alexander was and is a worthy cleric, and imparting to him by Patriarchal pleasure his paternal good wishes and blessing.”

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America stated: “I am so very happy for Father Alex, Presvytera Xanthi, and their children and grandchildren. This is such an exceptional distinction that it practically leaves me speechless. That a son of the Church, the son of a priest, born in Greece and humbly serving His Church for over fifty years is to be recognized by the highest civilian honor of the United States, is a moment in which every Greek Orthodox and every Greek American should take tremendous pride, especially in this week when we celebrate the Centennial of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. This is a unique honor for Father Alex, whose decades of ministry in our Archdiocese and the Ecumenical Patriarchate cannot be summed up with any amount of words. Rather, I know that we all send him our warmest and most heartfelt congratulations, with our acknowledgment of this profound recognition by the President of the United States. ΑΕΙΟΣ!”

Jim Logothetis, Chairman of Leadership 100, said “Leadership 100 takes great pride that Fr. Alex has

received the high honor of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Fr. Alex served us as Executive Director for more than a decade. He served us with distinction, as did his wife and partner, Presvytera Xanthi. During his tenure, he worked with Archbishop Demetrios and Leadership 100 Membership Chairman Stephen G. Yeonas to build Leadership100 into national prominence. It is fitting that he and Archbishop Iakovos, our Founder, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Honor from President Jimmy Carter, share in this great honor. On behalf of our Board of Trustees, our members, and our Executive Director and staff, I send heartfelt

congratulations to him and his family.

According to the White House, the Presidential Medal of Freedom is “the Nation’s highest civilian honor, presented to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the prosperity, values, or security of the United States, world peace, or

other significant societal, public or private endeavors.”

President Biden noted that “America can be defined by one word: possibilities,” adding that the recipients of the award “demonstrate the power of possibilities and embody the soul of the nation – hard work, perseverance, and faith. They have overcome significant obstacles to achieve impressive accomplishments in the arts and sciences, dedicated their lives to advocating for the most vulnerable among us, and acted with bravery to drive change in their communities – and across the world – while blazing trails for generations to come.”

Father Alex was among seventeen prominent figures to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom this year. Others included actor Denzel Washington, gymnast Simone Biles, soccer star Megan Rapinoe, former Rep. Gabby Giffords (D-Ariz.), Khizr Khan, and three honorees who received their medals posthumously, Apple founder Steve Jobs, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and AFL-CIO leader Richard Trumka.



*President Joseph R. Biden bestows Presidential Medal of Freedom upon Fr. Alexander Karloutsos.*

## *Paulette Poulos Awarded Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities at 80<sup>th</sup> Commencement of Hellenic College Holy Cross*



*Paulette Poulos receives Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities from Archbishop Elpidophoros and Hellenic College Holy Cross President George Cantonis at Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology's 80th Commencement.*

Paulette Poulos, Executive Director of Leadership 100, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities at Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology's 80th Commencement exercises on Saturday, May 21, 2022, in the Pappas Auditorium, the first in-person ceremony since 2019 due to Covid restrictions in 2020 and 2021.

The citation read, "You embody the highest virtues espoused by our Faith, our Hellenic heritage, and the society in which we live." Paulette's achievements were further noted in a statement issued by the school, as follows:

Since her appointment as Executive Director of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund in 2011, Paulette Poulos, the first woman in that position, has worked tirelessly and with great success to advance the organization's philanthropic endeavors.

country. After His Eminence's retirement in 1996, Paulette established an office at his residence in Rye, New York, and remained at his side until his passing in 2005. She then became Development Director for Leadership 100, a position she held until her appointment as Executive Director. A constant throughout Paulette's long and varied career has been her

unwavering support of Hellenic College Holy Cross and its sacred mission to prepare men and women for vocations in the Church and society.

An honorary degree was also awarded to Constantine Triantafilou, Director and CEO of International Orthodox Christian Charities. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. Because he was unable to attend due to



*Paulette Poulos addresses Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology's 80th Commencement.*



*Leadership 100 Chairman Demetrios Logothetis addresses Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology's 80th Commencement.*

Hellenic Republic in Boston. Also congratulating the graduates and assuring all present of their organizations' continuing support of HCHC were Jeannie Ranglas, First Vice President of the National Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, who offered remarks on behalf of National President Arlene Siavelis Kehl, Demetrios Logothetis, Chairman of Leadership 100, and Dr. Diana Demetrulias, HCHC's Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Covid, his brother-in-law, Fr. Elias Villis, accepted the honor on his behalf.

In accepting the honorary degree, Paulette thanked the Archbishop and President Cantonis and congratulated the graduates. She said, "I am not a scholar or a celebrity but a worker in the vineyard, who has been blessed to be mentored by a great leader, Archbishop Iakovos of Blessed Memory, who set the course for our Church in the modern era. I have been doubly blessed to carry out his legacy as Executive Director of Leadership 100 and continue to enjoy the support of the exceptional men and women who have led us to the current day. It is for this reason that I accept this honor, for it honors the trust of my mentor and the legacy Archbishop Iakovos left behind. I thank our newly appointed Leadership 100 Chairman, Jim Logothetis and our past chairmen who have carried that legacy into the future. I congratulate my fellow honoree, Dean Triantafilou, acknowledging my long-time friend, Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou, who not only served as former President of Hellenic College but also as Executive Director of Leadership 100."

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, who is also Chairman of HCHC's Board of Trustees, opened the ceremony with an Invocation and HCHC President George Cantonis then offered a salutation. Greetings and congratulations followed from Rev. Fr. Jon Magoulas, Vice-Chairman of the Board, and Stratos Efthymiou, Consul General of the

Dr. Timothy Patitsas, Interim Dean of Hellenic College, and Rev. Dr. George Parsenios, Dean of Holy Cross, introduced the valedictorians of their respective schools. Both George O'Donnell, Hellenic College, and Nickolas Eliadis, Holy Cross, spoke eloquently (Nickolas in both Greek and English), expressing encouragement to their classmates for the future and gratitude to their professors for the academic and spiritual education they received at HCHC. Notably, Nickolas was also the valedictorian of his class when he graduated from Hellenic College three years ago.

Commencement concluded with His Eminence's Paterexhortatory and benediction. Addressing the graduates, he urged them "to constantly aspire to a deeper and deeper understanding of your faith, and of your place in the world...As you go forward, make sure that your ship is always the Church of Christ. Your sail is the Holy Scripture. And your mast is the Holy Cross."



*Graduates at Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology's 80th Commencement.*

# AHEPA celebrates its Centennial in Orlando, Florida

By Revekka Papadopoulou



*Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and AHEPA Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas, center, flank Centennial celebratory birthday cake at AHEPA 100th Supreme Convention.*

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) members from all over the U.S., along with their brothers and sisters from Canada and Europe, held their 100th Supreme Convention at Coronado Disney Resort in Orlando, Florida, July 16-22, celebrating a century of service to their Greek American community, their homeland Greece and the U.S.A.

Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and Greek Minister of National Defense, Nikos Panagiotopoulos, also an AHEPA member, as well as U.S. Congressman Gus Bilirakis, were the Centennial Guest Speakers at the Grand Banquet on July 21.

Panos Panay, Chief Product Officer of Microsoft, was the 2022 AHEPA Socrates Award recipient. The Greek Cypriot spoke with inspiration about the ideals of Hellenism and the importance of passing them on to future generations. "But in the words of Shakespeare, 'what's in a name?' It turns out, not much. What matters is what is in the heart. The mind. The soul", he said accepting the award.

In his remarks, Archbishop Elpidophoros praised AHEPA's contributions to Hellenism and Orthodoxy. "When our spiritual fathers and mothers – who made the journey across the great ocean to this blessed land, and were shut out, denied and even persecuted for being immigrants – AHEPA stood tall for their rights. And not only in confronting prejudice against Hellenes, but prejudice against anyone. You should take such great pride in the founding principles of this sacred brotherhood; for you uphold the traditions of what is

best in Hellas, and what is best in America", His Eminence noted.

Supreme President Jimmy Kokotas concluded the Centennial Banquet's program with a reflection upon a historic year of centennial celebrations for the community and the importance of preserving it for future generations. Before that he presented the AHEPA Century of Service Award to the

outgoing Grand President Kathy Bizoukas for her dedication and work to promote our Orders.

Remarks were also offered by Her Excellency Alexandra Papadopoulou, Ambassador of Greece to the US; His Excellency Marios Lysiotis, Ambassador of Cyprus to the US; Kathy Bizoukas, Grand President of the Daughters of Penelope; Carl R. Hollister, President of AHEPA Housing; Paulette Poulos, Executive Director of Leadership100; Basil Mossaidis, Executive Director of AHEPA; Maria Ana Pantelous, Grand President of the Maids of Athena; and Timothy Noitsis, Supreme President of the Sons of Pericles.



*Paulette Poulos addresses Grand Banquet at AHEPA 100th Supreme Convention.*

In her remarks, Paulette Poulos said, "Leadership 100 has partnered with AHEPA since our inception, for almost 40 years. Our founder, Archbishop Iakovos was a great supporter and collaborator of AHEPA. He was ever mindful of your great work in fighting the discrimination of Greeks, which he later executed in fighting the

discrimination of all minorities. We continue to share our common cherished Hellenic ideals, values and goals."

Mike Emanuel, Fox News Chief Washington Correspondent, served as the Master of Ceremonies.

Earlier that day, the Daughters of Penelope hosted the "Salute to Women" Award Ceremony, honoring Janet E. Petro, the Director of NASA's "John F. Kennedy" Space Center in Florida.

## Michael and Katherine Johnson and Family Gift Chapel of Saint Basil the Great to Assumption of the Theotokos Cathedral of Denver, Colorado



*Michael and Katherine Johnson with Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver.*

When Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver blessed the Chapel of Saint Basil the Great at Assumption of the Theotokos Cathedral, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis Cathedral of Denver, on May 21, 2022, the idea of Michael and Katherine Johnson to build a chapel in Denver became a reality. That idea began more than a decade ago, in July of 2010, when the Johnsons, active supporters of the Greek Orthodox Church for more than 60 years, took a trip to Columbus, Ohio to visit friends.

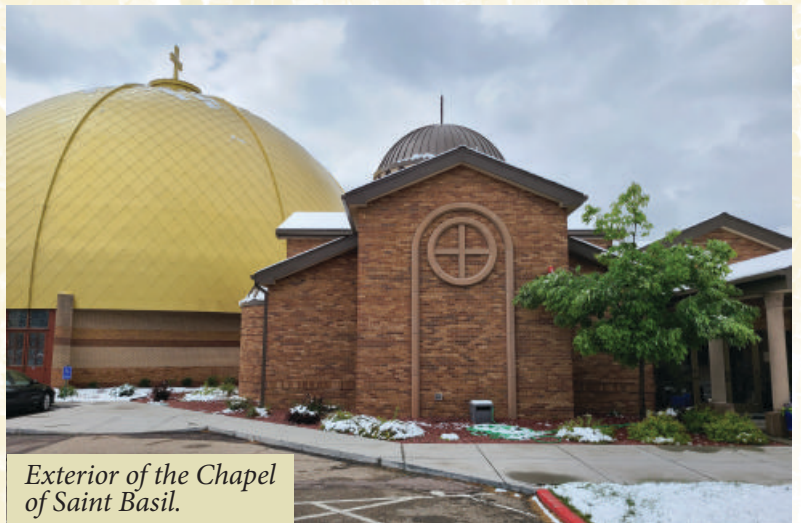
“They had just finished building a chapel in their parish in Columbus. We took the idea home with us and thought it over carefully and decided to go forward. Among items that we needed were structural plans, a good builder, an experienced iconographer, architect and chapel size and costs,” according to Mike. The Assumption parish granted them a very suitable building site. The chapel would be built next to and under the same roof as Assumption Cathedral.

“Early on, we decided that we would build a chapel unlike any existing Greek Orthodox Chapel in America.

All iconography would be done in mosaic-type. In searching, we found that completing mosaics is very costly and there are fewer iconographers that do mosaic,” added Mike.

Master planning of the entire site began in 2010 with the engagement of Eidos Architects of Greenwood Village, Colorado. After a lengthy study, the chapel location was selected, and the design process began. Construction of the building began in April of 2014 and was completed in July of 2015. The Johnsons then selected Bruno Salvatori as the iconographer. He was able to finish a part of the dome and chapel but

because of health issues had to resign. To find a replacement, Metropolitan Isaiah and Mike traveled to Nashville during the Clergy Laity Congress in 2018, looking for an iconographer. They found George



*Exterior of the Chapel of Saint Basil.*

Papastamatiou, were impressed with his work, and hired him. Progress in completing the chapel was slow due to health issues, previous commitments by the iconographer and the pandemic. The chapel was finally completed in 2022. Michael and Katherine Johnson and Family financed the entire project.

*(Continued on page 15)*



# CHAPEL OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT

Gift of Michael and Katherine Johnson and Family  
to Assumption of the Theotokos  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis  
Cathedral of Denver



Michael and Katherine Johnson  
with Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver.

ICONS IN  
THE CHAPEL  
OF SAINT BASIL  
THE GREAT

*Leadership 100*

Summer 2022 [www.L100.org](http://www.L100.org)



# Icons in the Chapel of Saint Basil the Great

by John Johns

## Saint Basil the Great

As Saint Basil the Great wrote, “For this is the nature of the icon, to be the image of the Archetype.” In other words, as our Most Eminent Shepherd Isaiah, Metropolitan of Denver, has taught us, icons are, “reflections of the prototype.” In his book on the Holy Spirit, Saint Basil emphasizes that “the honor paid to the image passes on to the prototype.”



*Saint Basil Icon,  
George Papastamatiou*

For the believer, the icon is not simply a work of art or religious picture. As a window to heaven the icon is the point at which our soul encounters and unites itself to the depicted person. Saint Gregory of Nyssa described an icon as, “A tongue-bearing book which when read benefits the faithful and builds him or her up in various ways. For, the silent art on the wall knows how to speak and brings benefit for greater things.” There are specific techniques as well as particular rules by which the Byzantine icon is, “written” (iconography = Greek “icon” + “graphia” writing).

Mosaic icons raise us to another realm and speak to us with a “silent voice.” The mosaics’ clarity and brilliance

give such a strong sense that a divine concord permeates everything. The small glass components with their ability to reflect light make the colors shimmer. When the faithful enter a Church with mosaic icons they enter into a homogeneous environment where the deep and brilliant gold of the mosaics give the impression of broadening and dematerializing the area. In this way the mosaics match up to Byzantine art’s purpose of expressing man’s transcendence through represented events.

## The Holy Angels



*Archangel Michael,  
George Papastamatiou*

Saint Symeon of Thessaloniki explains the symbolism of the human characteristics given to the Holy Angels. He says the eye lashes and eyebrows symbolize the “guardianship of the God- revealing designs.” Their youth-like age is, “the flourishing and eternal life-giving vigor.” The wings manifest, “the elevating height and the heavenly.” Their staff is “the royal and sovereign and the divine end of all things.” In addition, Saint Symeon says the Angels are usually represented with dark hair that is tied with a ribbon whose ends hover in the halo. The ribbon represents the pure mind of the Angels; is regarded as a crown for their perfect innocence and signifies that their mind is concentrated only on the divine and essential.

The element of light, an iconographer introduces into an icon by means of bright colors and especially of gold. The concept of light expressed in an icon is not subject to physical laws, as in the case of Greek sculpture or Renaissance painting. On the contrary, it is a light that does not necessarily follow the law of direct illumination... This is the light which makes bodies, buildings and mountains seem weightless in Byzantine icons... In short, the light in a Byzantine icon introduces a sense of freedom, of nature's liberation from natural causality, it introduces, that is, the element of incorruptibility and eternal existence.



*Archangel Gabriel,  
George Papastamatiou*

Archangel Gabriel is depicted above as a person with priestly garments. He is depicted as a man, because as many times as Angels have revealed themselves to us, they have done so with a human form. "The 'en face' angle plunges the subject's gaze into the observer's eyes and establishes a direct bond of communication and love. The Archangels encounter the observer and impart their inward state of prayer. They are also shown at a three-quarter angle to the right to inspire the observer with the sense of communion and love. What is of value is the communication with the observer, the one praying, the unity through prayer. Orthodox iconography strives to create a loving relationship, a substantive relationship between the one depicted in the icon and those who will stand before it and be called by it.

## The Pantocrator Icon



*Pantocrator Icon of Christ,  
Bruno Salvatore*

The Pantocrator Icon in the dome has the meaning of Creator, and Savior, and Impartial Judge.

It is simultaneously both austere and kind. Christ wears an inner robe, chiton, which bares one side of His chest, and over which is wrapped a covering, himation, with many folds, reminiscent of Psalm 104 that says, "You covered it with the deep as with a garment." From His himation, which enwraps Him, as does a cloud hiding the sun, pours the majesty of all creation. His right hand is raised in blessing and the left hand holds the Gospel, the divine law, tightly to His breast, giving rest to those who are heavy laden. His neck and chest are thick and strong which express mercy and compassion. Blessing and uprightness are shown by His right hand. The Pantocrator is the True Sun, the Source of Life, the Giver of Life. In the light of the glory of Your face we proceed unto the age.

The gold background symbolizes the peculiar light of the icon that shows everything as illumined and recreated in a harmonious area and time that is figuratively expressed with the uniformity of the gold. Interpreters tell us that the light of the Byzantine icon is not of this present age. It is a light, "coming down from above" and radiating,

“from within.” The Byzantine icon presents not only the transfigured person, but all creation in its eternal perspective. In Byzantine iconography the people and all the world are spiritualized and illumined with the light that is not natural, but ageless and uncreated, that light which Christ radiated on Mount Tabor of the Transfiguration and that will shine on the Eighth Day in eternity.

### The Platytera Icon



*Platytera Icon,  
Bruno Salvatore*

In the apse of the Chapel the icon of the Theotokos is shown as supplicant with Christ in the icon known as Platytera Ton Ouranon, “Wider than the heavens.” The Virgin Mary unites the dome that symbolizes heaven, with the earth, which is symbolized by the floor, the place of the faithful.

The Theotokos is therefore represented as being between heaven and earth because She intercedes for our salvation and is the one who united things above with the things below through the Christ child who is between Her arms. As Saint Gregory Palamas writes, “the Mother of God is the prelude of the Church triumphant.”

### The Nativity Icon

In the Church, all the events of divine economy are ahistorical, “Today the Master is born as an infant... Today born from a Virgin...” Time is not perceived as past, present and future. The Church lives the event of the divine Incarnation as a continuous present.



*Nativity Icon replicated from the Monastery of Christ  
at Chora, George Papastamatiou*

In the icon of the Nativity of Christ different times are collected into one today, into a collective presence of events which took place at quite different and distinct places and times. For instance, in the center is the dark cave with the newborn Babe in swaddling clothes. Outside the cave the Theotokos is shown on a clearing, reclining. In the left corner is a multitude of Angels chanting the “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!” (Luke 2:14). In the right side of the icon is represented the Angel that evangelized the shepherds. In the lower part to the right the elderly Joseph, the betrothed, is represented in deep thought, while to the left is the scene of the bathing of the small Christ. The star shines from above and into the cave. The animals, the ox and ass bend over Christ’s manger warming Him with their breath (Isaiah 1:3). This copy of the famous Nativity icon from the Monastery of Christ at Chora which was in northwestern Byzantine Constantinople. The well-preserved mosaics and frescoes of the surviving Katholikon of the monastery are important examples of art of the Late Byzantine period dating to the early 14th century.

## The Baptism Icon

“And immediately, coming up from the water He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Mark 1:10,11)  
The Icon of the Baptism of the Lord is an exact reproduction of this Gospel testimony.



*The Baptism of Christ,  
George Papastamatiou*

The Baptism of Christ has two fundamental aspects: on this day, the full dogmatic truth of God in three Persons was revealed to men. This mystery of the three Persons in one Godhead, which is beyond all understanding, was here made manifest not spiritually but plainly, in sensory forms. John the Baptist heard the voice of the Father and saw the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, confirming this voice – both of them testifying to the appearance among men of the Son of God in the Person Baptized.

On the other hand, Christ established the New Testament sacrament of Baptism. As a sign of the fact that here the initiative belongs to Christ, that He, the Master, came to the servant and asked to be baptized, the Saviour is represented as walking or making a movement towards John the Baptist, at the same time His head is beneath John's arm. With His right hand He blesses the waters of the Jordan, which cover Him, sanctifying them by His immersion. From then on water becomes an image not of death but of birth into a new life.

## The Crucifixion Icon

One cannot glorify the triumph of God incarnate, His victory over death, without at the same time exalting the Cross of Christ. Christ Himself declares that He came, “for this cause... unto this hour” (John 12:27) The real victory of Christ was His apparent defeat, for it is by death that He overthrew the power of death. The Cross is then the concrete expression of the Christian mystery of victory by defeat, of glory by humiliation, of life by death.



*The Crucifixion of Christ,  
George Papastamatiou*

The architectural background behind the Cross represents the wall of Jerusalem. This detail not only corresponds to historical truth but expresses at the same time a spiritual precept: just as Christ suffered outside the confines of Jerusalem, Christians must follow Him and go without walls.

Christ is represented naked, having only a white cloth which covers His loins. The flexion of the body towards the right, the bowed head, and the closed eyes indicate the death of the Crucified. His face, however turned towards the Virgin Mary, preserves a grave expression of majesty in suffering, an expression which makes one think of sleep.

The gestures of the persons present at our Lord's death are restrained and grave. The Theotokos, accompanied by holy women is on the right of Christ. She holds herself upright, drawing closer the mantle on Her shoulder with a gesture of the left hand, while Her right

hand is raised towards Christ. Her face expresses a grief contained, dominated by intrepid faith. It seems that in addressing herself to St. John, the Mother of God calls him to contemplate with Her the mystery of salvation, which is accomplished in the death of Her son.

### The Resurrection Icon

As Paul Evdokimov has written, “All is joy since the Resurrection exists.” The Orthodox icon of the Resurrection of Christ also known as, “the Descent into Hades,” combines two events. The one event is the historical one and the other is the eschatological one: The Resurrection of Christ “in time” and our own resurrection, the general resurrection of us all on the last day.



*The Resurrection of Christ,  
George Papastamatiou*

In the center of the Resurrection icon reigns the Victor of death, Jesus Christ. He wears brilliant and glowing garments and is surrounded by bright blue glory of the mandorla, the almond shaped bright cloud. Simultaneously this represents His transfigured body and the never-setting light of the future age. His radiant garb and the triumphant expression of His all-holy face are harmonious with the significance of the feast of the Resurrection as it is expressed in the victorious Paschal Apolytikion: Christ is risen from the dead, by death

trampling upon death! And to those in tombs bestowing life! The destruction of the power of death is symbolized by the broken chains and locks beneath the doors of Hades, which are being victoriously trampled upon by our Lord and lay in the form of a cross. Adam and Eve depict the entire human race. The Lord delivers from the bonds of death all the righteous who await His coming as Redeemer and Messiah.

### The Philanthropy of Saint Basil the Great

In remembrance of the miracle wrought by God as a result of Saint Basil’s love and defense of his people, Orthodox Christians have observed the tradition of the Vasilopita each year on January 1st – the date on which Saint Basil reposed in the Lord in the year 379.



*The Philanthropy of Saint Basil the Great Icon,  
George Papastamatiou*

One year, during a time of terrible famine, the emperor levied a sinfully excessive tax upon the people of Caesarea. The tax was such a heavy burden upon the already impoverished people that to avoid debtors’ prison each family had to relinquish its few remaining coins as well as pieces of jewelry, including precious family heirlooms. Learning of this injustice against his flock, St. Basil the Great, the Archbishop of Caesarea, took up his bishop’s staff and the book of the Holy Gospels and came to his people’s defense by fearlessly calling the emperor to repentance. By God’s grace, the emperor did repent! He cancelled the tax and instructed his tax collectors to turn over to Saint Basil all of the chests containing the coins and jewelry which had been paid as taxes by the people of Caesarea.

But now Saint Basil was faced with the daunting and impossible task of returning these coins and pieces of jewelry to their rightful owners. After praying for a long time before the icons of our Master Christ and His All-holy Mother, Saint Basil had all the treasures baked into one huge “pita.” He then called all the townspeople to prayer at the cathedral, and, after Divine Liturgy, he blessed and cut the “pita,” giving a piece to each person. Wondrously each owner received in his piece of Vasilopita his own valuables. They all joyfully returned home, giving thanks to God who had delivered them from abject poverty and to their good and holy bishop, St. Basil the Great.

### The Four Evangelists

The role of the Evangelists in the Church is similar to that of the icon. “The icon,” says Iakovos Mainas, “is not merely a practical aesthetic method for approaching the mystery of faith. Icons are not simply books for the uneducated, as if the educated have no need of them. They teach us all not because they inform us, but because they lead us to Heaven.”

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*Evangelist Luke,  
George Papastamatiou*



*Evangelist Mark,  
George Papastamatiou*

In the Mirror, A collection of Iconographic Essays and Illustrations, Styamatis Skliris, Serbian Western America Diocese 2007.

Vasilopita story from Orthodox Church in America website.



*Evangelist John,  
George Papastamatiou*



*Evangelist Matthew,  
George Papastamatiou*

The Pendentives are the curved triangles of vaulting formed by the intersection of the dome with its supporting arches. Here we find the four Evangelists, Sts. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

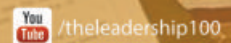
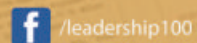
Their Gospels hold up the Orthodox Church as their locations hold up the dome.

Η ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ

ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ



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*Interior of Saint Basil the Great Chapel, Platytera Icon.*

The chapel, named after Mike's mother, Vasiliki, seats sixty people in cushioned pews and has a beautiful baptismal font. Highlights of the life of Jesus Christ are shown in 16 large mosaics accompanied by 69 other mosaic figures. All the figures in the chapel are the same scale.



*Interior of Saint Basil the Great Chapel, The Baptism of Christ Icon.*

Mike said he was not aware of any Greek Orthodox Chapels in the U.S. done entirely in mosaic style.

For additional information, a

report titled *The Icons in the Chapel of Saint Basil the Great* by John Johns, is inserted in the centerfold of *The Leader*.

Mike gives special thanks to Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver, Rev. Fr. Chris Margaritis, Rev. Fr. Dimitrios Kyritsis and Mr. John Johns for their love, prayers, and support, which made it possible for the Chapel of Saint Basil the Great to become the beautiful house of worship that it is.

Michael S. Johnson was born in 1926 in Maryville, Missouri, of Greek immigrant parents. His interest in the oil business began when his family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1931, then called the Oil Capital of The World. He graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.Sc. degree (1947) and a M.S. degree (1949), both in geology.

He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1950 during the Korean War. Because of his college background, he was assigned to The Armed Forces Special Weapons Project (AFSWP). While there, he experienced one of the most exciting times of his life. For the first time in history AFSWP, together with The Atomic Energy Commission, would detonate several atomic bombs at The Nevada Test Site. This program would provide the very first measurement data on the effects of surface and underground nuclear detonations. For the blast, his group stood nine miles away from ground zero. The flash heat from the blast was like opening an oven heated to 350 degrees F. The white, radiation-filled cloud moved away from them and dissipated.



*Interior of Saint Basil the Great Chapel, The Resurrection of Christ Icon.*

In 1958, Johnson became Rocky Mountain Exploration Manager for Apache Oil Corporation in Denver. He resigned from Apache in 1963 to become an independent oil and gas geologist. In 2008, he was awarded the Explorer of the Year Award by the oil industry for his part in discovering the Parshall Oil Field in North Dakota, one of the largest oil fields in North America.

He served on the Archdiocesan Council from 1979 to 1997. He is presently a member of The Board of Trustees of Leadership 100 and FAITH. He became an Archon in 1979. He currently lives in Denver with his wife, Katherine, of 63 years. They have two children, Alicia and Mark (wife is Judy), two grandchildren, Justus (wife is Bettina) and Hunter, and one great-grandchild, Katherine.

# Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis Addresses Joint Meeting of Congress



*Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Kyriakos Mitsotakis addresses Joint Meeting of U.S. Congress from House of Representatives, presided over by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Vice President Kamala Harris.*

Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi (CA-12) welcomed Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Kyriakos Mitsotakis to the United States Capitol on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Prime Minister Mitsotakis addressed a Joint Meeting of Congress and celebrated 200 years of partnership between Greece and the United States.

Speaking from the dais on the House Floor, Prime Minister Mitsotakis said, "I bring you here today the pledge of the Greek people: that we stand together with the people of the United States – whenever and wherever necessary – to ensure that the hopes our ancestors bequeathed to the world 25 centuries ago will endure, and the dream of freedom for every human being on this planet will never die."

Throughout his speech, Prime Minister Mitsotakis spoke about the shared relationship between Greece and the United States, as the founding of the American Republic drew from the ideals and philosophy of Athenian democracy.

"I come before you to celebrate a miracle that all free people cherish, but that binds Greeks and Americans in a unique way," he remarked. "That miracle, the Greek idea that would forever change the world, is that society functions best if all its citizens are equal and have the right to share in the running of their state."

Prime Minister Mitsotakis emphasized the importance of cooperation between the two nations in maintaining global peace, addressing climate change, and improving human rights. He highlighted a variety of global issues he found concerning, such as

the war in Eastern Europe and the territorial dispute in Cyprus.

In an official statement, Speaker Pelosi said, "When drafting our Constitution, our founders drew on the Ancient Greek ideals of liberty and democracy... Today, more than two centuries later, our nations are key allies on the world stage: advancing our mutual security and economic interests, as well as promoting our shared democratic values in the world."



*Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Kyriakos Mitsotakis addresses Joint Meeting of U.S. Congress with U.S. Senators and Representatives pictured.*

## Archbishop Elpidophoros Celebrates Bicentennial of Greek Independence with President Biden, Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis, and Speaker Pelosi



*Archbishop Elpidophoros at the White House with President Joe Biden, First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Kyriakos Mitsotakis, and Mrs. Mareva Grabowska-Mitsotakis, with their daughters, Dafni and Sofia.*

President Biden spoke next, stating that the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution is, “an opportunity to honor the history of our two nations and peoples and how we share so much together. A chance to look to the future that we are going to build again. I am incredibly proud that the first year of my Presidency was able to be the first year of the next 100 years of relations between Greece and the United States of America. It is no exaggeration to say that today our friendship and partnership and our alliance is closer and stronger than it has ever been.”

On Monday, May 16, 2022, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America participated in the Bicentennial Greek Independence celebration at the White House with President Joe Biden, First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Kyriakos Mitsotakis, and Mrs. Mareva Grabowska-Mitsotakis.

In his remarks the Archbishop said, “Our joy today – to be in the presence of the leaders of the Birthplace of Democracy and the world’s greatest Democracy – commences with our Paschal greeting.

“Because here at the White House, we are celebrating the resurrection of the Greek Nation. This special commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution plus one, in the Year of the Centennial of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America as the premier Eparchy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, is an unforgettable honor to the Greek American Community.

“And it is a sign to the world of the commitment to Democracy and to freedom, in a time of the rise of autocrats around the world, and the struggle to maintain national integrity against the unjust aggression in Ukraine.”

Prime Minister Mitsotakis also celebrated the shared history and strong cooperation between Greece and the United States, also acknowledging that, “Recent events make this celebration that much more pertinent. The fight of democracies against autocracies is the defining battle of our generation. And the proud moments from the history of our two nations give us confidence in what we can achieve in the future. We should never lose sight of what our ancestors fought for and that which we must now defend. All of us should draw great strength from their example.”

A reception followed at the White House.

The following day, Tuesday, May 17, as a guest of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Archbishop Elpidophoros attended a Joint Meeting of Congress, where Mr. Mitsotakis addressed members of both houses of Congress-- the first Greek Prime Minister to do so in history.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros offered the blessing at the Speaker’s reception that followed and an invocation and remarks at a dinner that evening at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in honor of the Prime

Minister and in celebration of the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution. The dinner was hosted by key organizations of the Greek American community, including AHEPA, AHI, Federation of Cypriot American Organizations, HALC, Hellenic American National Council of North America, The Hellenic Initiative, International Coordinating Committee Justice for Cyprus, Leadership 100, National Hellenic Society, Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle and the Washington Oxi Day Foundation.

Among the attendees were members of the Prime Minister's delegation; Ambassador of Greece to the US Her Excellency Alexandra Papadopoulou; Ambassador of Cyprus to the US His Excellency Marios Lysiotis; US Ambassador to Greece His Excellency George Tsunis; Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi; Lt. General Andrew Poppas; former Deputy Secretary of State and Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte; Lt. Governor of California Eleni Kounalakis; Senator Bob Menendez; and Members of Congress John Sarbanes, Gus Bilirakis, Nicole Maliotakis, Carolyn Maloney, Chris Pappas, Dina Titus, and others.

## Greek Heritage Reception at Gracie Mansion



*Archbishop Elpidophoros with New York City Mayor Eric Adams at Gracie Mansion.*

On June 2, 2022, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America offered a prayer at Gracie Mansion during the Greek Heritage Reception, hosted by New York City Mayor Eric Adams, on the occasion of the Greek Independence Day Parade. In his remarks, Archbishop Elpidophoros said, “As you know, Greeks have been a part of the fabric of New York City for generations – from the earliest immigrants, who passed under the shadow of Lady Liberty through the gates of Ellis Island, to the amazing band of entrepreneurs, who

have filled New York at every level of civil and social life.”

Archbishop Elpidophoros also thanked Mayor Adams for hosting the reception stating, “On behalf of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America I would like to express to you our deepest thanks and abiding appreciation for your recognition of our Greek heritage in this centennial year of our Sacred Archdiocese, as the preeminent Eparchy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.”

This year’s Parade included the Presidential Guard and Evzones from Greece. The parade celebrates not only Greek Independence Day, but also the 201st Anniversary of the Hellenic Republic and the 100th Anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Following the reception at Gracie Mansion, Archbishop Elpidophoros attended a meeting at Stathakion in Astoria where organizers of the Parade officially welcomed the Evzones.

The New York City Greek Independence Day Parade resumed this year after being cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

## Michael G. Psaros to Receive Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship



*Michal G. Psaros*

The Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate announced that Michael G. Psaros, Archon Ostiarios, has been named the recipient of the 2022 Nicholas J. Bouras Award for Extraordinary Archon Stewardship. The Award will be presented on Friday, October 7, 2022, at the Bouras Award Dinner during the Order's annual Archon Weekend, at the New York Hilton Hotel in New York City.

Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order, said, "With superlative dedication and energy, Archon Psaros has provided a premier example of what it truly means to give one's time, talent and resources in support of the Mother Church of Constantinople and the Orthodox Christian Church throughout the United

States. The breadth and depth of Archon Psaros' activities in service of the mission of the Order of Saint Andrew is truly remarkable; the National Council has most fittingly recognized his magnificent work by designating him to be the recipient of this prestigious Award, in recognition of the extraordinary service exemplified by the late Archon National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras of blessed memory."

Psaros has played a pivotal role in the completion of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. He serves as Vice Chairman of the Friends of St. Nicholas, where he is contributing abundantly of his time and financial resources to the project. Psaros stated, "The National Shrine is our American Parthenon, the most visible symbol of Hellenism in the United States. For our Orthodox Faithful, the National Shrine is our American Hagia Sophia of Constantinople – the daughter of our Mother Church."

The Psaros Family, in the presence of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on the occasion of his Apostolic Trip in October 2021, made a \$3.1 million gift in October 2021 to Georgetown University, to establish the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Endowed Orthodox Chaplaincy, Endowed by the Michael Psaros Family. This was the first fully endowed chaplain's position in Georgetown University's Campus Ministry program. Archon Psaros and his wife, Robin, also made a \$250,000 gift to the University in 2019 to the sacred space at Copley Crypt where Orthodox Christian vespers, liturgies and Catholic Masses are held. This gift funded Orthodox icons and iconostasis.

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew also visited and blessed "Evyenia's House of Hope" in

Weirton, West Virginia. Psaros explained: “I donated my grandmother’s house, that I bought after she fell asleep in the Lord, to the Weirton Christian Center.” Since 2015, “Evyenia’s House of Hope” has become a place for families to repair their lives. Under the umbrella of the Weirton Christian Center, the House is now a place for supervised visitations for children and the parents from whom they are separated. During a reception at All Saints Greek Orthodox Church, in the presence of His All-Holiness, the Psaros Family announced it was creating a \$3 million endowment, in the name of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, to endow the salary of the parish priest.

Michael Psaros of All Saints Greek Orthodox Church in Weirton, WV, The Church of Our Saviour in Rye, NY, The Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York City, and The Dormition of the Virgin Mary in Southampton, NY was invested as Archon in 2014 and conferred with the offikion Ostiarios. He currently serves on the Order’s National Council.

Psaros previously served as the Treasurer of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America where he led a successful financial, administrative, and organizational restructuring, and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Archdiocesan Council. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Leadership 100, is a founding member of FAITH: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism, serves on the Executive Board of The Hellenic Initiative, and is a member of AHEPA. Psaros also serves in the leadership of The Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation.

Psaros serves on the Board of Directors of Georgetown University and as Vice Chairman of the Executive Board of Advisors of Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business. Psaros and his spouse created “The Michael and Robin Psaros Endowed Chair in Business Administration” at Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business in 2013.

Psaros and his Family created the Georgetown University Psaros Center for Financial Markets and Policy in 2022. The Psaros Center convenes leaders across private sector, the global capital markets, legislators, and regulators to solve problems for the common good.

Michael Psaros is a Co-Founder and Co-Managing Partner of KPS Capital Partners, LP a leading global private equity firm with \$13.4 billion of assets under management. KPS’ portfolio companies have aggregate global revenues of approximately \$20 billion and operate over 233 manufacturing facilities in twenty-seven countries.

The National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew unanimously voted in 2010 to establish the Nicholas J. Bouras Award. The Award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary and incomparable stewardship to the Order, empowering Archons to vigorously pursue securing religious freedom for the Mother Church of Constantinople.

The Award is named after the late National Vice Commander Nicholas J. Bouras, Archon Depoutatos, who demonstrated remarkable leadership as a faithful son of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and exemplary steward of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Past recipients of the Award have included George D. Behrakis (2011), James C. Fountas and John Halecky, Jr. (2012), Stephen J. Yallourakis, M.D., D.D.S. (2013), Christopher Stratakis, Esq. (2014), the Hon. Nicholas Tsoucalas (2015), Theofanis V. Economidis (2016), John A. Catsimatidis (2017), George E. Safiol (2018) and John S. Zavitsanos (2019).

## Hellenic Hearts Honors Mike Manatos with First Philotimo Award



*Mike Manatos, recipient of the first Hellenic Hearts Philotimo Award, pictured with Hellenic Hearts founder and President John Aivazoglou and Andy Manatos.*

Hellenic Hearts held its 4th Annual Golf & Gala Event at the Waynesborough Country Club in Philadelphia on June 13 and presented its first Philotimo Award, granted “to honor someone who shared its vision and believed in making a difference”, to Mike Manatos, President of Manatos & Manatos in Washington, D.C.

Attended by Ambassador of Greece to the U.S., Her Excellency Alexandra Papadopoulou and other dignitaries, the event is estimated to have raised \$100,000 that will go toward Hellenic Hearts’ mission.

Also attending were Andy and Tina Manatos, Mike’s parents, and his children, Sienna, Lucas and Andrea. Mike Manatos is a member of the Executive Committee of Leadership 100, while Andy and Tina are long-time members.

John Aivazoglou, President, and also a member of Leadership 100, said Hellenic Hearts “had the idea two

years ago that we wanted to honor someone who shared in our vision, someone who believed in making a difference. Mike is a most worthy recipient. He cares about people, and those who know him know how special he is. He has done so much nationally in the Greek and Greek American community.”

Founded by President John Aivazoglou, Vice President Nick Karalis, Director of Scholarships Tim Vlassopoulos and Board Member Kostas Mikropoulos, Hellenic Hearts provides for emergency needs and conducts an Educational Guidance Program, offering mentoring, scholarships, and financial assistance to individuals and institutions in the Delaware River Valley Tri-State area.

Hellenic Hearts has also supported the OXI Day Foundation in Washington, D.C., the Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia, Hellenic College-Holy Cross, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Ukraine Relief Fund established by Archbishop Elpidophoros.

## John G. Manos Represents the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle at Notre Dame's New Religious Liberty Initiative in Rome



*Regional Commander John G. Manos with His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, OBE, the Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London, during the Notre Dame Religious Liberty Summit, held in Rome.*

John G. Manos, Member of the Leadership 100 Board of Trustees and one of the Order's Regional Commanders for the Metropolis of Chicago, represented the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, at the Second Annual Notre Dame Religious Liberty

Summit, which was held in Rome July 20-22, 2022. conversations about the future of religious liberty in the U.S. and around the world. The theme of this year's Religious Liberty Summit was *Dignitatis humanae*, taken from the statement of the same name promulgated by Pope Paul VI on December 7, 1965, at the end of Vatican Council II.



*Archon Manos with Dean Marcus Cole, Founder, and organizer of the Notre Dame Religious Liberty Summit.*

Summit, which was held in Rome July 20-22, 2022.

"I was incredibly honored," said Archon Manos, "to be able to Represent the Order at the Notre Dame Law School's remarkable new Religious Liberty Initiative. The summit brought together people from different faiths and professional backgrounds to work together to protect and advance religious liberty for all faiths here at home and around the world."

The panel on Interfaith Service consisted of speakers, including Imam Dr. Nader Akkad; His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, OBE, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London; Fr. John Paul Kimes of Notre Dame; and Grandmother Polacca.

The Notre Dame Religious Liberty Summit brought scholars, advocates, and religious leaders to Rome for

Highlights of the Rome Summit included a keynote speech at the Dinner Awards Gala by Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr., Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the Grand Banquet Reception at the Palazzo Colonna in Rome, as well as a tour of the Vatican. Also present were, among others, former Ambassador Suzan Johnson Cook, United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom from April 2011 to October 2013; Imam Dr. Nader Akkad; His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, OBE, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London; Grandmother Polacca of the International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers.



# NEW AND FULFILLED MEMBERS

Follow up list from Spring 2022

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Nicholas C. Sideridis	Salem, MA	Costas and Allyson Sideridis
<b><u>METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA</u></b>		
Nicholas Adams	Palm Harbor, FL	The Hon. Gus Bilirakis and Paulette Poulos
Spiro J. Verras	Tampa, FL	Mike Manatos and Ryan Hamilos
<b><u>METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH</u></b>		
Elizabeth Bartz	Akron, OH	Paulette Poulos
<b><u>METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO</u></b>		
Michael and Mia Connolly	Long Grove, IL	Markos and Sevasti Lagos
Anthony B. Contos	Joliet, IL	Paulette Poulos
Samuel T. Souleles	Chicago, IL	Demetrios G. Logothetis

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William and Christina Martin

George and Nitsa Mortis

Little Rock, AR

Rochester Hills, MI

#### METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Andrew J. and Rula Eliopoulos

Santa Clarita, CA

## In Memoriam

Marjorie G. Allan – 6/7/2022

New York, NY

Barbara Ferentinos – 6/25/2022

Smithtown, NY

Harry Siafaris – 5/27/2022

Los Angeles, CA

Anastasia Vardopoulos – 6/12/2022

Newburgh, NY



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