Student Loan Program Set Up to Aid Parish Priests, Among New Grants Approved

The Executive Committee of Leadership 100 set aside $100,000 to initiate a new program to alleviate the student loan burden of active clergy. The committee created a Student Loan Committee under the chairmanship of Stephen G. Yeonas, a member of the Board of Trustees, to work out criteria for the payment of the loans and to set up a mechanism for such purpose in cooperation with the Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.

Other members appointed to the Committee include John A. Payiavlas and James A. Regas of the Executive Committee, and Jerry O. Lorant and Mark Stavropoulos of the Board of Trustees.

At the end of last year, the Executive Committee committed itself to a program of paying off student loans, which have become burdensome to many parish clergy. In reaction to a partial survey of priests, seminarians and religious workers with outstanding loans conducted by the Chancellor, Bishop Savas of Troas, the Assistant Chancellor, the Rev. Fr. Michael T. Kontogiorgis and the Rev. Deacon Nektarios Morrow, Deacon to the Archbishop, the Committee requested full information and a suggested plan of action.

The Student Loan Committee has already been in communication with the Chancellor’s Office to begin to design a program, which will include further funding requirements from Leadership 100 as an organization, as well as an internal fund-raising program among its members.

The Executive Committee approved a total of $1,599,203 in grants that was paid out in the first quarter of 2002, bringing total Leadership 100 grants and gifts paid out to date to $10,133,625. This included the $500,000 direct gift paid to the September 11 Relief Fund.

The new grant monies included $440,820 for the Hellenic College/Holy Cross Scholarships in Excellence program, $140,000 for Retired Clergy benefits, $108,000 for Home Mission parishes, $100,000 for the Archbishop Iakovos Library and Learning Resource Center, $100,000 for “Come Receive the Light” Orthodox Christian Network, $100,000 for “Primary Healthcare Services in Southern Albania”, $45,100 to Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute for the final payment on a grant for the Orthodox Campus Ministry program, $44,000 for final payment on a grant to the Department of Religious Education, and $34,500 to the Archdiocese Youth Department for the Camping Ministry.

In addition, the Executive Committee awarded a new grant of $33,983 for the first year of a three-year $260,040 program on “Orthodox Christianity in American Public Life” at the Institute on Religion and World Affairs at Boston University, $30,000 for the next to last payment of a $120,000 grant for the film “The Other Holy Land” concerning the origins of Christianity in Asia Minor, $19,800 for the first year of a new three-year grant to the Environment Office of Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology, and $3,000 for Retired Clergy in special need.

Charles Cotros to Head New Membership Drive

The Executive Committee approved the appointment of Charles H. Cotros, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Sysco Corporation of Houston, Texas as the Chairman of the Membership Committee. The new committee will organize a continuing Leadership 100 membership drive emphasizing Diocesan recruitment, fellowship events and fulfillment of pledges.

In recommending the appointment Arthur C. Anton, Leadership 100 Chairman, said Cotros showed exceptional enthusiasm and commitment to the growth of Leadership 100.

A graduate of Christian Brothers College in Memphis, Tennessee and Tulane University, Cotros started in the foodservice industry in his family’s business, Tri-State General Food Supply, which joined Sysco Corporation in 1974. From 1975 to July of 2000, when he was elected Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, he held numerous positions with the corporation, beginning with heading up operating companies in Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana. He was elected to the Board of Directors in 1986 and became President and Chief Operating Officer in 1999 and President and Chief Executive Officer early in January of 2000.

A member of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Houston, Cotros has served as President of the Board of Trustees at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Memphis. He was recently invested as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

He also serves on the Board of Directors of AmerisourceBergen and the Greater Houston Partnership, as well as the Board of Governors of Food Distributors International.

Cotros is married to the former Constance (Connie) Pappas. The couple has two daughters, one son and nine grandchildren.
Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends,

Christos Anesti!

Leadership 100 continues to enjoy the blessings of our faith as hope arises anew in every heart this Pascha. As you can see in our lead story, grants are being made in every aspect of our Church’s life, but with our major commitment to insure support for the priesthood. We first did this with our Scholarship in Excellence program that now is reaching record amounts of support with continued increases in enrollment at Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology.

Now, we have made a major commitment to repaying the student loans of our clergy. Our young students and many of our priests have been financially burdened for too long. In terms of productivity, this also has been a burden for many churches, our Dioceses and our Archdiocese. Our Executive Committee has taken action and has established a Student Loan Committee under the able chairmanship of Steve Yeonas to address this concern. The Committee already has allotted $100,000 to the program.

The breadth of our grants is truly amazing, ranging as they do now from support of our seminarians, priests and retired clergy to healthcare services in Albania, a radio ministry and now a major study on “Orthodoxy in American Public Life” to be undertaken at Boston University. All of this has been made possible by committed members who continue to fulfill their pledges and to steadily increasing membership, now at 611.

In fact, payments on pledges (or contributions as we often term them) this year are $800,000 and over the course of our Millennium Membership Drive now exceed $9.3 million, representing 28.5% of total payments (or contributions) of more than $32 million. The significant fact, however, is that with 311 new members brought in by the drive we have actually raised $31 million, more than 50% of all monies ever committed to Leadership 100.

At our Executive Committee meeting in Laguna Niguel in February, we acknowledged the exemplary contribution of Steve Yeonas in leading the Millennium Membership Drive for some two years to unprecedented heights.

The Committee was enthusiastic about continuing this effort on a regular basis. We have appointed a Membership Committee, with Charles H. Cotros, chairman and CEO of Sysco Corp. of Houston, Texas, as chairman. We will also appoint co-chairmen in each Diocese and set incremental goals each year to continue to recruit new members. Our goal for the 2003 conference is to reach 700 members.

We all realized that new membership is the life-blood of Leadership 100 and of its continual renewal. We will also look at ways to encourage younger people to become members.

We have just completed a very busy cycle of work. With the completion of one of our most successful conferences ever, many of us moved on to support the Archons and the Archdiocese in the visit of His All Holiness. I was privileged to represent Leadership 100 at the Archons Banquet at which His All Holiness awarded former President George H.W. Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush the Patriarch Athenagoras Human Rights Award. Andy Athens and Michael Jaharis, as Executive Committee members, represented us at the White House this year for the commemoration of Greek Independence Day.

May God continue to bless all of you and your families during this Blessed and Joyous Pascha and may you continue to bless Leadership 100 with your support for the benefit of our beloved Church.

With love in the Risen Christ,

Arthur C. Anton

Chairman

Interchurch/Interfaith Marriage Ministries Makes Progress

One of the recent beneficiaries of Leadership 100 grants, the recently established Interchurch/Interfaith Marriage Ministries has developed into a valuable resource for couples and families of these marriages.

The department’s director, the Rev. Dr. Charles Joanides, has conducted the Interfaith Marriage Research Project to provide the Archdiocese with a clearer picture of the challenges that inter-Christian, intercultural couples face.

The project data offers general information on intermarriage, hundreds of observations by participating spouses, identification of unique challenges that intermarried couples face as spouses, couples and parents, premarital preparation materials for couples intending to intermarry and pastoral guidelines clarifying the Church’s rules as they apply to intermarried couples.

Additional resources being developed for clergy and lay leaders include a companion manual for clergy and lay workers that will be completed this summer; an interfaith marriage website, chat rooms, confidential e-mail, articles in the Orthodox Observer and other publications, and videos, radio programs and interviews in several newspapers.

Fr. Charles also has written and published several articles for academic publications and journals. Since last September, he has spoken at Holy Cross School of Theology, and the parishes of St. Basil in San Jose, Calif., Annunciation Cathedral in Baltimore; Holy Trinity Church in Tulsa, Okla., and Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Newport News, Va.

St. John Chrysostom: The Prophet of Charity

“Our warfare does not make the living dead, but rather makes the dead to live, because it is conducted in the spirit of meekness and humility. I persecute heresy, not heretics. It is mine more to be persecuted, than to persecute. So it was that Christ was victorious as a Crucified, and not as a crucifier.”

St. John Chrysostom

Newly Fulfilled Members

Total fulfilled membership is now at 220

Greek Orthodox
Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc. ............. New York, NY
Ike and Francis Gulas ................................Birmingham, AL
Dr. George and Penny Korkos ............ Waukesha, WI
Nicholas and Dorothy Pappas .............. Wilmington, DE
James and Angeliki Youlous .............. West Paterson, NJ

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St. John Chrysostom
Archpastoral Reflections

Building on the Foundation of Christ

The theme of the 11th Annual Leadership 100 Conference held in February in Laguna Niguel, California was Building the Church For Tomorrow...Today. Many of you not only attended this beautiful gathering, but you also actively participated in the planning and implementation of the on-going work of Leadership 100 as an organization that contributes significantly to the ministry and witness of the Church. In your presence and support you affirmed your commitment to Building the Church in a very substantial way.

In his First Epistle to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul addresses the task of Building the Church and provides guidance for the work that we know is before us if we are to ensure the strength and vitality of the Church for tomorrow. First, the Apostle acknowledges that Jesus Christ is the only foundation upon which we build: “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ” (3:11). Second, he admonishes that “each builder must choose with care how to build” upon this foundation, knowing that such work will be tested and revealed (3:10,12-15). If the substance of what is built is good and “what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward” (3:14).

As members of Leadership 100, and, as builders of the Church through your participation in this organization, in your local parishes and Dioceses, and in the work of our Archdiocese, these words of the Apostle are a directive to plan carefully how we build and to be mindful of the quality of what we offer. To facilitate the establishment and growth of the work of the Church, we must establish specific and immediate plans for communicating a clear vision of what can be accomplished, for developing the ministries of the Archdiocese, and for enhancing the resources available that allow our Hierarchs, clergy, and laity to minister effectively in ever-increasing ways.

Please join with me in prayer and careful consideration as God leads us to new levels of service and commitment, so that we are not only Building the Church on the foundation of Christ, but we are building in true and substantive ways that will have eternal consequences in our lives and the lives of others. This is the way we build the Church for tomorrow—the Church for our children and grandchildren—today.

With paternal love in Christ and warm wishes for a blessed Pascha,
†DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America

Letter to Arthur Anton from Fr. Nicholas C. Triantafilou

Dear Mr. Anton and Esteemed Members of Leadership 100,

Great Lent is an invitation to a meaningful pilgrimage. We all here at Hellenic College and Holy Cross pray that your pilgrimage be one of special joy and personal edification.

Hellenic College and Holy Cross has infusions of love, encouragement and financial support coming from all of you so regularly. Please note that each and every gift is highly respected. Know further that the Leadership 100 scholarship support addresses centrally the life of our School, the life of our parishes in the Archdiocese and the life of all the student families who are recipients of your generosity. We are in receipt of your check of $440,820 and, again, we find ourselves indebted to you.

We look forward to His Grace Bishop Gerasimos arranging a consultative meeting with Mr. Mark Stavropoulos in relation to the Leadership submitting process and Leadership’s response system. We pray that you, your family, Fr. Alex and his Leadership 100 staff and all Leadership families enjoy a meaningful second half of Great Lent and blessed Holy Week.

In His Service,
Rev. Nicholas C. Triantafilou
President

Aristotle on giving money...

“To give away money is an easy matter and in any man’s power, but to decide to whom to give it, and how large, and when, and for what purpose and how, is neither in every man’s power nor an easy matter.”

(Aristotle, 384-322 B.C.)

Leadership 100 New Members

Total membership is now at 611

Betty Jean Alevizatos .............. Baltimore, MD
Peter M. Boosalis ................. Minneapolis, MN
Jerry and Eva Costacos .......... Seattle, WA
Peter and Helen Dameris ......... Houston, TX
Thomas and Carol Demery ... Alexandria, VA
Dr. John Eliopoulos .......... Swampscott, MA
Ted and Rachel Georgelas ...... McLean, VA
George and Anna Halkias ....... Warren, OH
Dr. John Eliopoulos .......... Rocky River, OH
Dr. Steven Jaharis ............... New York, NY
Gus and Lynn Kalaris .......... Ellicott City, MD
Steve and Mary Karas, Jr. ...... Aberdeen, MD
Nicholas and Lana Kontos ....... Warren, OH
Irene Ladas ....................... Astoria, NY
Vasilios Livanos .................. Manhasset, NY
Franklin and Mary Manios ....... Warren, OH
Harry and Sandy Nick .......... Great Falls, VA
George and Susan Pappas ...... Baltimore, MD
George and Angelike Perlegos ............ San Jose, CA
Gust Perlegos ................... San Jose, CA
Dr. George and Angelike Ploumbis ....... Warren, OH
James and Ingrid Prekeges ...... Redmond, WA
E.John Rumpakis ............... Portland, OR
James and Alethea Skefos ...... Memphis, TN
Manuel Stamatakis ............. Villanova, PA
Paul and Magdalene Vadevoulis .... Northlake, IL
John N. Vidalakis ............. San Francisco, CA
At the 11th Annual Conference in Laguna Niguel, California

Photo 1
Leadership 100 members (l to r): Tom and Beck Demery, Chris and Joan Panopoulos, Georgia and James Nicholas, and Irene and Gus Vratsinas.

Photo 2
His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios leading the Bible Study.

Photo 3
Leadership 100 Chairman Arthur C. Anton and Executive Director Fr. Alex Karloutsos.

Photo 4
Leadership 100 member James Galanos with Dr. Helen Evans, both speakers at the Conference.

Photo 5
Archbishop Demetrios presenting the crystal obelisk award to newly fulfilled members Penny and George Korkos.

Photo 6
Leadership 100 members Charles and Connie Cotros and Tom and Marrill Demakes.

Photo 7
Leadership 100 members from California (l to r), Elaine Camaras, Anne Cantonis, Carl Cantonis, Diana Jianas, Alex Jianas and Tykye Camaras.
During the visit of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

Photo 8
Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Demetrios with President Bush in the Oval Office; also shown (l to r) Metropolitan Apostolos of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Metropolitan Gennadios of Italy, Archbishop Leo of Karelia and all Finland, Leadership 100 members Alex Spanos and Michael Jaharis, and Fr. Alex Karloutsos.

Photo 9
Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Demetrios with Colin Powell; Also shown (l to r) Leadership 100 member Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Metropolitan Apostolos of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Leadership 100 member Andrew Athens, Archbishop Leo of Karelia and all Finland, Leadership 100 member Alex Spanos, Metropolitan Gennadios of Italy, and Leadership 100 members Michael Jaharis and Andy Manatos.

Photo 10
Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Demetrios in Boston with Metropolitan Methodios and (l to r) Leadership 100 members George Behrakis and Stephanie and Thanasi Liakos.

Photo 11
Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Demetrios with Archon banquet honorees President George HW Bush and Barbara Bush. Also shown are (l to r) Leadership 100 member Dr. Anthony Limberakis, Issam Fares, Leadership 100 members Alex Spanos, Michael Jaharis, and Nick Bouras.

Photo 12
Patriarch Bartholomew greets Leadership 100 member Andrew Athens.
ALEX G. SPANOS

One of the most successful businessmen, who is well known to several American presidents for his advocacy of Greek-American issues, is also a staunch supporter of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund.

Alex G. Spanos of Stockton, Calif., began his career as a $35-a-week baker in his father’s restaurant in the late-1940s.

In 1951 he launched his own venture with an $800 loan, buying a small truck to peddle sandwiches to migrant farm workers in the area around Stockton. With his wife, Faye, by his side, he soon transformed the enterprise into a highly successful catering business. From there he moved on to real estate investment and acquisition, then to the development of commercial property, becoming one of the most successful builders and real estate developers in the United States.

His company, A.G. Spanos Construction Co., has built more than 60,000 apartment units and other buildings across the United States and overseas.

He is an avid sportsman and for many years a top-ranked amateur golfer, winning the Bob Hope Pro-Am Desert Classic in Palm Springs and the British Bob Hope Pro Am Golf Championship. For some 20 years, Spanos and his friend Bob Hope have also played in tournaments throughout the world.

Since 1984, he has been the owner of the NFL San Diego Chargers pro football team, which in 1995 went to the Super Bowl for the first time in franchise history.

Over the years, Spanos has been a strong supporter of the Church and its humanitarian outreach. He has developed special relationships with both Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush, having been recognized over the years for his strong support of issues critical to the Greek-American community. In this capacity he has founded and led the US-Greece Business Council.

He is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and a former president of the Archdiocesan Council. He has been a major benefactor of both St. Basil Church in Stockton, where he is a member, and Annunciation Church in Modesto. He was instrumental in establishing the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif., and endowed the Alexander G. Spanos Chair in Orthodox Christian Studies.

Internationally, he has generously aided earthquake victims in Kalamata, and supported archaeological and cultural projects in Greece.

He also has given countless millions to numerous charitable, civic, and amateur and college athletic organizations over the years. He recently gave $15 million to Mercy General Hospital Heart Center in Sacramento, where he had undergone coronary artery bypass surgery in August 2000. The proposed Alex G. Spanos Heart Center will be the centerpiece of Mercy General.

As he states in his recently completed autobiography, “Sharing the Wealth: My Story” “I believe I have a sacred duty to share my good fortune with my church, my community, my fellow Greek-Americans and my family… Giving just does my heart good.”

“Mr. Spanos exemplifies the Alexandrian pursuit of excellence and success,” said Leadership 100 Executive Director Fr. Alex Karloutsos, reflecting on his accomplishments. “Alex’s story is the story of every Greek American who seeks to reach beyond the stars. And now the stars are in his hands. God bless Alex Spanos and his family.”

Sept. 11 Fund Committee Approves Distribution Plan

Under the leadership of Archbishop Demetrios, the committee members of the Archdiocesan “September 11th Relief Fund” recently met to review a plan for the distribution of the monies collected by the Archdiocese and the Dioceses for those tragically affected by the events of Sept. 11.

To date, more than $2.15 million has been raised with most of that amount restricted to assisting the children of those lost in the attacks. Leadership 100 has donated more than $500,000 to the Fund.

The committee agreed to an initial distribution of the Fund to children of Greek Orthodox victims based on a graduated scale, taking into consideration the age of each child.

It was also decided to present grants of at least $100,000 to the various funds that assist the children of firemen, policemen, emergency response personnel and Port Authority police who fell in the line of duty. Additional grants to other funds will be considered as other donations and uncollected pledges become available.

As per an earlier decision of the Committee, no administrative costs will be deducted from the Fund and all monies will be distributed to those for whom the Relief Fund was established.

Since some contributions were presented to His Eminence to be distributed at his discretion, it was decided that those monies could be awarded to the needy elderly parents of those lost and to those individuals who may be experiencing severe hardships as a result of lost income and other dire circumstances as a result of the tragedy.

Within the World Trade Center and the surrounding area, there were a number of businesses owned by Greek Americans who have either lost their source of livelihood or who have been dramatically impacted economically because of the destruction of the towers.

As an expression of concern and love, a $5,000 grant was sent in December 2001 to each of the Greek Orthodox families, as well as to a number of Russian Orthodox families who had lost a loved one in the World Trade Center.

On Sunday, Dec. 30, 2001, the families were invited to a special Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service celebrated by the Archbishop in the Archdiocesan Chapel of St. Paul. Following services, His Eminence hosted a private luncheon at the Archdiocese for those in attendance.

Members of the Committee include Archbishop Demetrios, Bishop Savas (Chancellor), Bishop Andonios who as director of the Department of Philanthropy is directly overseeing the Fund, Rev. Alex Karloutsos (director of Leadership 100), Michael Jaharis (vice-chair of the Archdiocesan Council), Emanuel Demos (legal counsel of the Archdiocese), Peter Dion (treasurer) and Jerry Dimitriou (executive director of administration).

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family and friends of our beloved member

John G. Thomas of Scottsdale, AZ, who died April 5, 2002

May his memory be eternal.

In Memoriam
Archbishop Demetrios looks on as President George Bush speaks at the Greek Independence Day Celebration.

President George Bush addresses Greek Americans, including several Leadership 100 members at Greek Independence Day Celebration at the White House.

Archbishop Demetrios looks on as President George Bush speaks at the Greek Independence Day Celebration.
“Now that the wars are coming to an end, I wish you to prosper in peace. May all the mortals from now on live like one people, in concord and for mutual advancement.

“Consider the world as your country, with laws common to all and where the best will govern, irrespective of tribe.

“I do not distinguish among men, as the narrow-minded do, both among Greeks and barbarians. I am not interested in the descent of the citizens, nor their racial origins. I classify them using only one criterion: virtue.

“For me every virtuous foreigner is a Greek and every evil Greek worse than a barbarian. If differences ever develop between you, never have recourse to arms, but solve them peacefully. If necessary, I shall be your arbitrator.

“You must not consider God like an autocratic despot, but as a common father of all, so that your behavior may resemble the life siblings have in a family.

“On my part, I shall consider you all equal, whites or blacks, and I wish you would be not only subjects of the commonwealth, but participants and partners.

“As much as this depends on me, I shall try to bring about what I promised. The oath we made over tonight’s libations, hold onto like a contract of love.”

Oath of Alexander at Opis in 324 BC