The Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, Incorporated will move to the Olympic Tower at 645 Fifth Avenue in New York City, taking possession of 9th floor offices in the 51-story building on September 20, 2005, according to John A. Payiavlas, Chairman of the more than 20-year old charitable organization.

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Leadership 100 will leave leased space in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese at 8 East 79th Street. The Executive Committee of the organization unanimously approved the move.

Originally founded in 1984 as an endowment fund of the Archdiocese, Leadership 100 became a legally separate corporation in 1998, but whose mission remains to support the National Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Church in America. The move, explained Payiavlas, clarifies the legal separation and provides critically needed space for the growing organization, while releasing needed space to the Archdiocese for its operations and programs.

George D. Behrakis, Vice Chairman of Leadership 100, who negotiated the move, said that the Olympic Tower houses the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation and has distinctive Hellenic themes. He said it is a unique mixed-use building with office space occupying the 3rd to 21st floors and residential space on the 22nd to 51st floors, with a landscaped retail arcade at street level that includes a Greek-style café and the Hellenic Museums Shop, and a public plaza featuring trees and waterfalls. There are separate entrances on East 51st and East 52nd Streets and a lobby attended 24 hours a day.

Father Dimitrios Antokas, Executive Director of Leadership 100, said that while the Archdiocese has been our home, Leadership 100 will bring an Orthodox presence into a Hellenic environment, reflecting its purpose to serve Orthodoxy and Hellenism in America.

Leadership 100 Gives $100,000 Emergency Grant for Hurricane Katrina Disaster

John A. Payiavlas, Chairman of Leadership 100, announced that the Executive Committee of Leadership 100, at an extraordinary teleconference September 6, decided to grant $100,000 immediately to the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) to provide assistance to people in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. Working with local Orthodox Christian churches and with national partners like the Red Cross, Church World Service and others, IOCC will assist in efforts to house, feed and otherwise assist the more than one million people temporarily displaced by this storm.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, as Chairman of the Standing Conference of Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), under which the IOCC operates, visited Baton Rouge on Friday, September 9 to observe the IOCC effort and present the Leadership 100 check, according to Fr. Dimitrios Antokas, Leadership 100 Executive Director.

During a visit to Second Harvest Warehouse, Archbishop Demetrios met with volunteer workers who have helped sort and disseminate materials to the victims of the Hurricane. Most of these workers are
Leadership 100 has responded with care and support to the catastrophic events in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast brought by Hurricane Katrina, just as we did to the national tragedy of September 11 four years ago.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios presented a Leadership 100 check for $100,000 to International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) on a visit to Baton Rouge on Friday, September 9 where he observed IOCC workers who had been dispatched to the hurricane devastated areas, as well as victims of the storm. He later conducted a prayer service at the Holy Trinity Chapel for the victims and relief workers, including parishioners of Greek Orthodox churches in the area. This issue of The Leader tells the story of our Church’s response.

In addition, we have appealed to you our members to add to this gift by sending their donations to our Leadership 100 offices for the Archdiocese Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Fund.

Leadership 100, always faithful in its support of the Church, has become a vital national presence, sensitive to the critical needs of our Archdiocese, our Community and our Nation. Over 20 years, it has been transformed from a handful of donors to 700 members, giving out $19 million in grants and building a portfolio of more than $52 million, supporting a wide range of projects, from scholarships for seminarians studying for the priesthood, removing the burden of student loans for active clergy and assisting clergy in need to developing a communications infrastructure for the Archdiocese, and supporting home mission parishes, religious and Greek education and youth and family ministries.

Symbolic of this growth and national presence is our move to the Olympic Tower in New York City, where the ministries of our Greek Orthodox Church and our special role in serving Orthodoxy and Hellenism in America will go into the public arena. (See pages 1, 4 and 5)

Yes, we have grown and we intend to grow further. Along with our move is our launching of Phase II of our Funding Our Future campaign, with the ultimate goals of reaching 1,000 members and $100 million in assets by 2010 as the critical needs of our Archdiocese grows and our Church moves into a new century.

We have been fortunate in having not only the spiritual leadership of Archbishop Demetrios, but in attracting new outstanding leaders as members of Leadership 100, of our Board of trustees and of our staff, foremost the addition of Paulette Poulos as director of development. Paulette brings not only her incomparable experience in assisting Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory, but also her direct experience in successful fund raising efforts at Logos and for the Archbishop Iakovos Library at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Graduate School of Theology in Brookline, MA.

Ms. Poulos has been associated with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese throughout her working career. She joined the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in 1965 and has served in various capacities of increasing responsibilities, including Director of LOGOS and Associate Director for Stewardship Ministry (1972-1984). From 1984 to 1996, she served as Archbishop Iakovos’ administrator and remained with him until his passing. She was the driving force in raising the necessary funds to complete the Archbishop Iakovos Library and Research Center in Brookline, Massachusetts. Her dedication and loyalty to the Church and to Archbishop Iakovos is widely recognized as helping him remain active in the ecclesiastical life until his passing in April, 2005.

The Executive Committee of Leadership 100 was unanimous in confirming the appointment. Chairman Payiavlas said the appointment brings a highly seasoned professional with substantive knowledge of the Church and the Greek American Community.

Paulette Poulos Named Development Director

With the blessings of His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America, and on behalf of John Payiavlas, Chairman of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, Fr. Dimitrios Antokas, Leadership 100 Executive Director, announced the appointment of Paulette Poulos as the Director of Development, effective September 1, 2005.

The Executive Committee of Leadership 100 has given us a vehicle not only for philanthropy, but also for recommitting our faith and expressing our hope as a family of Hellenes built on faith and friendship.

John A. Payiavlas, Chairman

Funds Fitness Center

The “Leadership 100 Fitness Center” will be dedicated in November at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Graduate School of Theology in Brookline MA.

Leadership 100, while not able to take on the project officially due to funding limitations, supported the efforts of Stephen G. Yeonas of its Executive Committee to spearhead the center’s fundraising among its members. As a result, the majority of donors to the center are Leadership 100 members and the center was named for Leadership 100.
The Faith Endowment was organized by 12 founding members, with a five-year program and tentative first-phase goal of raising $100 million from 50 founders, each pledging $1 million or more. The founders are George D. Behrakis of Lowell, Massachusetts, Nicholas J. Bouras of Summit, New Jersey, George Coumantaros of New York, Michael Jaharis of New York, Peter T. Kikis of New York, James H. Moshovitis of Washington, D.C., John G. Pappajohn of Des Moines, Iowa, John A. Payiavlas of Warren, Ohio, William and Regina Planes of Tarpon Springs, Florida, Alex G. Spanos of Stockton, California, and Angelo K. Tsakopoulos of Sacramento, California.

To date, approximately 32 million dollars has been pledged, including ten million from Alex Spanos, a renowned Greek American businessman and philanthropist from Stockton, California. Mr. Spanos, who is Chairman of Faith, expressed his confidence that the tentative goal of raising $100 million will be surpassed.

Our series of reflections on the family coincides this month with the end of the summer season and the beginning of the school year. This is a remarkable time of activity that naturally leads us to consider vital elements in the cycle of our family lives. Among these elements is the role of the family in maintaining a steady Orthodox Christian learning environment for our children in the midst of an advanced technological society.

Our careful consideration of this role is very important. Expanding information technologies and the growing presence of constant broadband internet stream in the home and workplace have saturated our lives. Our reliance upon online technology is redefining approaches to business, education, law, science, personal banking, news, entertainment, relationships, marriage, religious devotion as well as our very notions of security, property, and identity. Many of the effects of our technological age are welcome and positive, though we must acknowledge that some are confusing and, at times, even unsettling.

As we consider these unavoidable and reconfiguring aspects of our information age, there is a corresponding challenge in understanding the role of the Orthodox Christian family. In response to a perplexing and unfamiliar environment, some parents and guardians in our society advocate an extreme approach to child-rearing, one that aims at restricting unreasonably the social relations of the child with others and with any form of external stimuli. Such an approach may have the unintended result of blocking the growth and adaptability of the child. On the opposite extreme, some parents may neglect to place any additional and necessary safeguards upon their children as they are exposed to unfiltered information that is changing the world.

In regard to these and all matters, the way of our Orthodox Christian faith is a way of balanced discretion, prayerful reflection, and godly discernment. In this manner, the role of the family must be to provide children with moral instruction, shelter from harmful stimuli, and a prayerful environment that emphasizes faith in God and reliance upon Him. At the same time, a responsible family must work to equip children properly with the technological savvy they will need as emerging Orthodox Christian adults in a world that will indeed ask much of them. The responsibility of the Orthodox Christian family to function as a learning environment for our children that emphasizes the integration of faith with knowledge must remain clear, particularly in consideration of the ambiguities of our age.

Certainly, the role of the family in the midst of an advanced technological society is a subject that could command the devotion of an entire volume or series of volumes. This month, however, this subject can serve as an important centerpiece of discussion and reflection in your own families during an active and opportune time of the year. Our world is complex, fast-paced, and constantly changing, and the duties that are asked of parents and guardians today to safeguard and equip their children are no less challenging. As Orthodox Christians, we have the additional responsibility to perfect our children’s learning with the indispensable element of faith. It is my prayer that you may approach this responsibility with every confidence both as a sacred and welcome joy, and that your family may “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18).

Fr. Alex Karloutsos
Named Executive Advisor of Faith

Archbishop of America
IOCC Emergency Response Network Activated

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is providing assistance to people in the areas of the Gulf Coast ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. Working with local Orthodox Christian churches and with national partners like the Red Cross, Church World Service and others, IOCC will assist in efforts to house, feed and otherwise assist the more than one million people temporarily displaced by this storm.

IOCC, which was initiated with funding from Leadership 100, is a humanitarian aid agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA). In the current crisis, it has activated its emergency response network, and is focusing on areas most severely affected by the hurricane.

Donations for IOCC’s Hurricane Disaster Response Fund may be sent to IOCC, “Hurricane Relief,” P.O. Box 630225, Baltimore, MD 21263-0225. Donations may also be made online at www.iocc.org or by calling toll-free 1-877-803-IOCC (4622).

IOCC’s emergency response network, consisting of trained Orthodox priests and their U.S. parish communities, provides emergency services to people struggling to recover from natural or man-made disasters.

Orthodox Churches Respond

Following the devastating landfall of Hurricane Katrina on the shores of the Gulf Coast, Orthodox Churches throughout the United States and the world are responding to assist with the relief effort. The powerful storm hit portions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama on Monday. In response to the disaster, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America called on all Orthodox faithful to offer their prayers and resources to meet the needs of hundreds of thousands who have lost property and livelihoods.

Donations are being steadily received through the web site of the Archdiocese. A special donation site has been established to allow individuals to contribute directly to the Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Fund. Donations to this fund will be used to address the needs of the Greek Orthodox communities, as well as for assisting the general relief effort. Donations can be made at www.goarch.org/hurricane/.

Further assistance is being coordinated through the efforts of Orthodox parishes in the region. The Annunciation Cathedral in Houston, Texas is working with IOCC to determine immediate needs. The school of the Cathedral will be working with Houston area schools to assist with the educational needs of students who may be displaced through the end of the year. The Saint George Church in Shreveport, Louisiana is also working with IOCC and is coordinating an emergency hotline to help persons in the area locate family members.

New Orleans under flood waters

Holy Trinity Cathedral and Hellenic Cultural Center in flood waters in New Orleans.
The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has established a special web site to assist with information and resources during the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.

The site, www.goarch.org/en/special/hurricane_katrina/, features the latest news on the response, along with a link for online donations to the Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Fund, and message boards to assist with information on families, parishioners, and parishes affected by the disaster.

Also included on the site is a special bulletin insert that can be used by our parishes to inform and to assist with donations. The insert is in a pdf format and can be easily printed, reproduced, and distributed. The site also includes a section for prayer requests and a link to various services of the Church that guide in offering prayer and supplication during this difficult time.

The site also has a direct link to the web site of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), the humanitarian aid agency of the Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas. IOCC is working with other disaster relief agencies to coordinate the general relief effort. Already, response teams are confirming the extent of this tragedy and working to establish relief centers and direct supplies to people in the devastated areas and to the hundreds of thousands of refugees who are relocating to other areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas. IOCC is asking Orthodox parishes to assemble health kits to assist with the immediate needs. Information on the contents of the kits and where to send them can be found at http://www.iocc.org/kidspage/healthkit_frameset.html.

An online bulletin board is now available through the web site of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to assist with information in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. While recovery efforts continue, many are seeking information on family members, parishioners, and conditions of homes, neighborhoods, churches, and communities.

In cooperation with the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta, the Archdiocese is providing this bulletin board service to help those displaced by the disaster share information they may have or need. The bulletin board is available at www.forums.goarch.org. Sections are provided for general information, conditions of parishes, and locating family and friends in the areas hit hardest by the storm.

For those that do not have Internet access and have information they need or would like to share, the Metropolis of Atlanta is serving as a contact center. The Metropolis can be reached at 404-634-9345.

For more information on the relief efforts following this disaster and how individuals and parishes can help, visit the Archdiocese website at www.goarch.org.
Special Notice

The Executive Committee of Leadership 100 will meet on Thursday, November 3, 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm in the Boardroom of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, Suite 301, the Olympic Tower, 645 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY. The Board of Trustees will meet on Friday, November 4, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Versailles Room on the second floor, at the nearby St. Regis Hotel at 55th Street and Fifth Avenue.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios will bless the new leadership 100 offices at 5:00 pm on Thursday. A reception will follow in the Atrium of the Olympic Tower, at street level, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.
victims of the Hurricane who have also lost their homes and were extremely grateful to have His Eminence visit the Warehouse. At the conclusion of this special visit Archbishop Demetrios led the group in prayer and offered icons to the relief workers.

The emotional visit included a Prayer and Memorial Service at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Chapel in Baton Rouge. At the conclusion of the service, Archbishop Demetrios presented Mr. Dean Triantafilou, Executive Director of the IOCC, with a $100,000 donation from the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund and $100,000 from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Fund, which represents a portion of the funds currently being collected from the Greek Orthodox faithful of America in response to a special tray passing appeal. Relief funds still being collected will be distributed to communities and individuals in the affected areas through Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta.

Mr. Payiavlas said: “We have been witnesses to another great national tragedy, but we are comforted that our spiritual leaders, Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, as well as the Orthodox Bishops of SCOBA and the IOCC, have immediately responded.”

“Just as with the September 11 Relief Fund, for which we raised more than $500,000, Leadership 100 is ready to support this effort. We will ask our members to add to this initial grant in the coming weeks by supporting the Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Fund of the Archdiocese, established for that purpose.” said Mr. Payiavlas.

Funding Our Future: Phase II in Full Swing

Funding Our Future: Phase II is seeking 50 new members by the 15th Annual Leadership 100 Conference in February of 2006. Already 11 new members have joined. Phase I was responsible for bringing in 50 new members and ended with the 14th Annual Leadership 100 Conference in March of 2005.

The long-term goal of Funding Our Future is to reach 1,000 members and double the Leadership 100 Endowment to $100 million by 2010, according to Paulette Poulos, recently appointed Director of Development of Leadership 100. “We are more than halfway there with some 700 members and an endowment of $52 million,” she said.

“Our purpose is very clear”, said Fr. Dimitrios Antokas, Executive Director of Leadership 100, “not growth for its own sake, but to mobilize Greek American Orthodox leaders to assist the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in recruiting more priests, assist clergy and their widows in need, strengthen the Archdiocese in its home mission, parish development, youth and family ministries and communications, and to respond to the critical needs of our society.”

Each Leadership 100 trustee is being asked to recruit one new member. Ms. Poulos will be working with a new membership committee with chairmen in each Metropolis, who will assist her in identifying and calling on membership prospects.
Family Outreach Sunday Initiated

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Outreach and Evangelism, a recipient of Leadership 100 grants, announced the First Annual Family Outreach Sunday. This program encourages active parishioners to invite inactive family members and Orthodox Christian friends for a special day of fellowship and spiritual renewal. Many are aware of Orthodox friends and relatives that have fallen away from active involvement in the Church. Jesus Christ calls each one of us to engage in active outreach to these relatives and friends. Archbishop Demetrios of America refers to this calling as “…a particularly integral aspect of our Orthodox Christian identity that is worth our cultivating, cherishing and sharing.”

Information and Family Outreach Sunday posters have been sent to all parish clergy throughout the Archdiocese. Program materials are available on the website of the Department of Outreach and Evangelism at www.Outreach.goarch.org.