The Leadership 100 Conference will feature the New York Yankee third baseman and power hitter, Alex Rodriguez, who will lead the Workshop on Sports and an “All Star” roster of speakers, led by famed author Nicholas Gage and his daughter Eleni, who will jointly lead the Forum on Hellenism. John Catsimatidis, long-time Leadership 100 member and entrepreneur, will conduct the Business Forum, and Barbara Spyridon Pope, former high-ranking U.S. government official and businesswoman, will lead a Workshop for Women.

The highly popular Rodriguez is known for his ability to turn a game around with his powerful hitting or acrobatics as a shortstop. After playing with the Texas Rangers and being chosen Most Valuable Player in 2003, he went to the New York Yankees where he is widely admired. Born in New York, he grew up in Miami. In 2002, he married the former Cynthia Scurtis in Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Dallas, Texas.

Nicholas Gage, former New York Times journalist, is the author of the popular story of his mother, “Eleni”, and several other books. His daughter, Eleni, is being acclaimed here and abroad for her recent book, “North of Ithaka”.

John Catsimatidis is being honored by The Learning Annex, where he has held an acclaimed seminar on entrepreneurship, as the 2005 “Entrepreneur of the Year”. Barbara Spyridon Pope held high positions in both Bush administrations. She founded her own business and is a dynamic speaker on women as leaders.

The conference will convene February 9-12, 2006 at the 402-room, 13-story Ritz-Carlton Key Biscayne, situated on a

Register and Reserve Now!
Leadership 100 has negotiated a rate of $395 for single and double occupancy rooms. A limited number of rooms may still be available until January 7, 2006.

Members and their guests are urged to register with the Leadership 100 office and make their reservations now by calling the hotel at 305-365-4500.

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Alex Rodriguez and All Star Cast to Speak at L100 Conference

Nicholas Gage
Eleni Gage

Leadership 100 officially opened its new offices in the Olympic Tower at 645 Fifth Avenue in New York City November 3 with a gala celebration in the Olympic Atrium attended by more than 200 members and guests.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America presented a beautiful icon to mark the event to Chairman John A. Payiavlas, Vice Chairman George D. Behrakis and Executive Director Fr. Dimitrios Antokas.

After remarks by Ambassador Loucas Tsilas, Executive Director of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, which owns the Olympic Tower as part of the Aristotle Onassis legacy, the Chairman introduced a presentation of the new L100 DVD “Funding Our Future”, which was enthusiastically applauded by the assemblage. “Funding Our Future” is the theme for the Leadership 100 effort to increase its membership from 700 to 1000 and its assets from some $53 million to $100 million.

The Chairman then introduced Ernie Anastos, lead anchor at Fox Network WNYW in New York, who narrated the video. He presented Anastos and his wife, Kelly, new members of Leadership 100, with gifts of appreciation.

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Archbishop Demetrios presents Icon to L100 Chairman John Payiavlas and L100 Executive Director Fr. Dimitrios Antokas

Alex Rodriguez
Our move November 3 to the Olympic Tower in New York City was met with enthusiasm by more than 200 members and guests who attended and many who wrote and conveyed their best wishes. The opening ceremony in the beautiful Olympic Tower Atrium featured the showing of our L100 DVD “Funding Our Future”, which received high praise from everyone.

We were most pleased to have with us His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, who presented Leadership 100 with a remarkable icon, Loucas Tsilas, Executive Director of the Onassis Foundation, which owns the building and aided in our relocation, and Ernie Anastos, now lead anchor at Fox Network WNYW in New York. Ernie and his lovely wife, Kelly, are new members of Leadership 100 and Ernie donated his time and talent to narrate “Funding Our Future”. But the real hero was our Vice Chairman, George D. Behrakis, who negotiated the move and won us favorable terms.

Earlier in the day, the Executive Committee met for the first time at our new location, in the Olympic Tower Associates Boardroom, used by the Onassis Foundation. After the meeting, His Eminence conducted an “Agismos” ceremony or blessing in the Leadership 100 offices attended by the Executive Committee and other members of the Board of Trustees who had arrived to attend the opening and for the Board meeting the next day.

I just can’t say enough on what a good fit Leadership 100 makes in the Olympic Tower, which has a distinctive Hellenic character, is the home of many Greek organizations and firms, and, through the Onassis Foundation, promotes Hellenic culture with exhibits, the Museums Shop and a wonderful café offering Greek food and pastries. I urge you to stop in and visit our offices in Suite 906 and enjoy the distinctive atmosphere.

With regard to membership efforts, I must acknowledge George K. Chimpius for his tireless efforts in keeping us going for our goals. He has gotten firm commitments from 6 new members at an event in Cleveland December 12, despite the heavy snows. Bert Moyar and I attended and we were thrilled to hear our new Development Director, Paulette Poulos, inspire the audience.

In preparing our 15th Annual Leadership 100 Conference at the Ritz Carlton Key Biscayne in Key Biscayne, Florida February 9-12, 2006, Andy and Bill Athens, our co-hosts, have met with our staff and consultants to plan a dynamic program. Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees will lead a Workshop on Sports, renowned author and journalist Nicholas Gage and his daughter Eleni, will lead the Forum on Hellenism, our own John Catsimatidis will lead the Business Forum and Barbara Spyridon Pope who served three U.S. Presidents, will conduct a Workshop for Women.

While we have passed the deadline for registration (December 16), we still have a limited number of rooms available in our block. So I urge you to register and make your reservation now.

Marisa and I are looking forward to seeing the whole Leadership 100 family together.

Merry Christmas and A Blessed New Year to your family and friends.

John A. Payiavlas, Chairman
Archbishop’s Blessing

On this glorious celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, I greet you with love in the joy of the Good News that was received on that blessed and holy night by the shepherds of Bethlehem. After announcing the birth of the Son of God, the heavenly hosts filled the dark sky with light, rejoicing and proclaiming, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, good will among men” (Luke 2:14).

On that night in Bethlehem when our Savior entered this world as a human infant born of the Virgin Mary, the favor of God was upon all humankind and upon all of creation. Through the Incarnation, Jesus Christ became like us in every respect, except sin, so that He might know our condition, share in our sufferings, and redeem us from our sins (Hebrews 2:17). Into the darkness and the shadow of death that plagued all of humanity, the radiant “sunrise from on high” (Luke 1:78) broke through and became the path of peace, the way to salvation and eternal life.

As we commemorate the birth of our Lord on this day, we can be assured of the universal significance and relevance of this miraculous event. This is certainly true in terms of our redemption through the Incarnation, Passion, and Resurrection of Christ. But it is also true in terms of the conditions of our world, in times past, present, and future. Into a world that groans under the burden of sin, a world that is filled with the darkness of uncertainty and the shadow of terror and death, our Lord has brought us the peace of God. This coming of this peace was foretold by the Prophet Isaiah who announced that the “Prince of Peace” would establish His rule and an “endless peace” (Isaiah 9:6-7). St. Luke the Evangelist makes reference to the same idea when he speaks about Him who would come in order to “guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:79). It was also this peace that Christ Himself gave to His disciples and to those that would follow in their sacred Apostolic work.

It is this peace of God through Jesus Christ that is needed in our contemporary world. As we witness and experience the devastating effects of violence and suffering, so many people are searching for that peace which transcends the shadow of death and lifts their souls into the light of truth and understanding. So many people are searching for that peace that renews their spirit, gives them hope, and guides them toward greater fulfillment in life. This is why we must be living carriers of the peace of Christ, who through our faith and our love for God and one another, dwells in us. When we are the image of our Incarnate Lord, offering to others His tender mercy and a secure and eternal relationship with Him.

As we gather on this holy Feast and pray to our Lord “for the peace from above” and “for the peace of the whole world,” I invite you to open your hearts to His divine presence and allow Him to bring solace to our hearts and minds. We can be assured that the Prince of Peace has entered this world and our human condition, that He is in our midst, and that He is guiding us on a most sure and certain path of eternal peace and life. May His blessings be upon you and your families during this beautiful season, and may your worship and fellowship be filled with His joy throughout the New Year.

With paternal love in Christ,

Archbishop Demetrios

Archbishop’s Christmas Encyclical

L100’s New Offices

Leadership 100, founded in 1984, has leased space at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese prior to the move, but the Executive Committee decided to seek greater space and greater recognition for the growing staff and organization, which has given out some $20 million in grants to the Archdiocese and outside organizations that advance Orthodoxy and Hellenism in America.

Chairman John A. Payiavlas and Vice Chairman George D. Behrakis flanked the Archbishop during the ceremony, along with Presbytera Maria Antokas and Director of Development Paulette Poulos. The entire Executive Committee joined the ceremony after their first meeting in the Olympic Tower. Several members of the Leadership 100 Board of Trustees, who had arrived early for the Board meeting on November 4, also attended.

Special guests included Greek Consul General Catherine Boura and Loucas Tsilas, Executive Director of the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation.

On a traditional “Agismos” service November 3, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, accompanied by His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey and Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, blessed the new Leadership 100 offices in Suite 906 of the Olympic Tower. He was assisted by L100 Executive Director Fr. Dimitrios Antokas. His Eminence then went from room to room and person to person, blessing with the cross and holy water sprinkled from a branch of basil leaves.

“Archbishop’s Blessing”
Trustees Enthusiastic

The Board of Trustees of Leadership 100 applauded Chairman John A. Payiavlas and Vice Chairman George D. Behrakis for the move to the Olympic Tower at their meeting on November 4 at the St. Regis Hotel in New York, just blocks away from the new offices.

After reporting on the move, Payiavlas asked the Board to follow the example of Investment Committee Chairman and Board member Peter A. Vlachos who is underwriting the estimated $40,000 cost of putting in a technology infrastructure in the new offices. He said he was inspired himself to underwrite the cost of furnishings and urged each Board member to contribute at least $5,000 toward the cost of the move and the start-up of operations.

In other reports, Peter A. Vlachos said the Endowment reached $53,321,910, representing a gain of 5.7 per cent. Mark Stavropoulos said that grants totaled $2,473,082 in 2005 and grant monies available for 2006 are projected to be $2,443,873 with commitment already made to Hellenic College-Holy School of Theology, Retired Clergy in Need and Hurricane Katrina Relief.

Executive Director Fr. Dimitrios Antokas, reported on the relocation, accomplished over just four weeks, and thanked the staff and supporters, especially thanking Kimon and Barbara Thermos who contributed the services of their company, The Velvet Touch Moving and Storage. He further reported on new policies of bidding out costs that have reduced the cost of liability insurance and anticipated that this will save money on accounting, auditors and office equipment and payroll fees.

Development Director Paulette Poulos in her first report to the Board of Trustees reported on contacting 34 members who had pledged but not paid and reported that three had made payment and two were pending. She said the next priority was to call non-current members prior to the Leadership 100 Conference in February of 2006.

While traveling for new membership solicitation has been restricted in order to prepare the conference, there will, nonetheless, be a major membership event in Cleveland, where firm commitments have been made, she said.

George Schira reported on the production of the DVD, the technology infrastructure, plans for making the website interactive and the development of a new membership directory, an annual report and a 25th anniversary book for 2009. He acknowledged Vice Chairman George D. Behrakis for arranging for the donation of a state of the art video conferencing system with plasma screen and assisting with the development of the website.

Fitness Center Dedicated

What began as a celebration, official dedication and blessing of the newly opened Leadership 100 Fitness Center on the campus of Hellenic College and Holy Cross on November 17 became a day-long celebration honoring many selfless donors who have given their talents and resources to strengthen the School and advance its vital mission of educating the future clergy and lay leaders of the Church.

Fr. Nicholas C. Triantafilou, President of Hellenic College and Holy Cross, thanked the donors, together with Leadership 100, for their “continuous, sterling and loving generosity and their exemplary leadership.” He then introduced Mr. Stephen G. Yeonas, a member of the Executive Committee of Leadership 100, the catalyst for the new fitness center, who stated emphatically: “Hellenic College and Holy Cross is the cornerstone of our Church in America. As the only Greek Orthodox seminary in America, it is the West Point and Naval Academy of our Church. This is where our priests and leaders are educated and formed. What could be more important?” Mr. Yeonas added, “If we want to attract the best young people to become clergy and lay leaders of our church, we need not only the best teachers but the best facilities.”

The following individuals, all members of Leadership 100, were Grand Benefactors to the Fitness Center: Arthur C. Anton, George D. and Margo Behrakis, Nicholas J. Bouras, Gus and Ann Chafoulias, Nicholas and Kathleen Chimicles, Mary and Michael Jaharis, Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis, George M. Marcus, John and Mary Pappajohn, George and Thelma Paraskevaides, John and Marisa Payiavlas, James and Theodore Pedas, James A. Regas, Alex and Faye Spanos, Nick and Nancy Vidalakis Family, and Stephen and Thelma Yeonas. Patrons of the Center were Dr. James Alex, Mr. George Alex, Mrs. Virginia Alex, John and Margo Catsimatidis, and Franklin and Mary Manios. The Catsimatidis and Manios couples are also members of Leadership 100.
I am delighted to address you for the first time through this column, “Funding Our Future”, named for our effort and our goal – to grow Leadership 100 into an even more effective presence in our lives, our communities and our nation in order to advance Orthodoxy and Hellenism. Leadership 100 launched 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 Church grow.

Already, Leadership 100 is off and running despite the pressures of our recent move to the Olympic Tower and our preparations for our 15th Annual Conference February 9-12, 2006 in Key Biscayne, Florida. One of our preeminent founders and leaders, George K. Chimples, made sure we kept our eye on the ball and organized a successful membership event in which six new members committed to Leadership 100.

The scene was Cleveland, Ohio where the snow was falling heavy and the wind was blowing strong. Honorary Chairman Chimples and Co-Chairmen Angelo Coutris and Lee Zapis hosted a recruitment dinner which opened with a stirring prayer written by Mrs. Irene Theodore whose husband Ted Theodore served as our toastmaster.

Our thoughts and prayers go to their family and friends. A memorial contribution on behalf of Leadership 100 has been given to the parishes of our beloved members.

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL
44-acre stretch of oceanfront property and bordered by a 1,200-foot golden sand beach, named one of the best in the United States. Key Biscayne, the southernmost barrier island in the United States, is just six miles from downtown Miami.

The hotel has the ocean-view Ritz-Carlton Ballroom that opens onto a spacious outdoor terrace, the Oceanfront Lawn with picturesque gazebo, a 20,000 square-foot spa, offering more than 60 treatments, a spacious fitness center and two pools, including the ocean front Ritz Kids pavilion and pool. Beach activities include water bikes, kayaking and snorkeling.

The hotel also features a 10-court tennis garden with one stadium exhibition court under the direction of Wimbledon legend and ESPN commentator, Cliff Drysdale. Crandon Park Golf Course is just five minutes away from the hotel.
### 15th Annual Conference Program and Schedule

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8:**
- 01:00pm-05:00pm: Conference Office/Registration
- 08:00pm-10:00pm: Board of Trustees Dinner

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9:**
- 09:00am-05:00pm: Conference Office/Registration
- 08:00am-09:30am: L100 Breakfast
- 09:45am-10:30am: Bible Study #1
- 10:45am-12:30pm: Business Forum
- 10:45am-01:00pm: Executive Committee
- 01:00pm-02:00pm: Board of Trustees & Hierarchs Luncheon
- 02:00pm-05:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting
- 05:00pm-06:00pm: L100 Workshop for Women
- 05:00pm-06:00pm: New Member Orientation/Reception
- 06:00pm-07:00pm: Young Professionals Social
- 07:00pm-10:00pm: Welcome Reception

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10:**
- 09:00am-05:00pm: Conference Office/Registration
- 09:00am-09:45am: Bible Study #2
- 10:15am-12:15pm: General Assembly
- 12:15pm-01:30pm: Lunch on Own
- 02:00pm-03:00pm: L100 Workshop on Sports
- 04:00pm-05:00pm: Forum on Hellenism
- 07:00pm-11:00pm: Glendi

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11:**
- 08:00am-02:30pm: Golf Tournament & Awards Luncheon
- 08:15am-01:00pm: L100 Fashion Program
- 09:30am-12:00pm: L100 Tennis Tournament
- 07:00pm-07:30pm: Obelisk & Icon Photo Presentation
- 06:30pm-07:30pm: Grand Banquet Reception
- 07:30pm-11:00pm: Grand Banquet (Black Tie)

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12:**
- 09:30am-12:00pm: Archieratical Divine Liturgy
Onassis President, Trustees
Visit New L100 Offices

Anthony Papadimitriou, President of the Onassis Foundation and its U.S. affiliate, the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation (USA), led a group of Trustees to pay an official visit in December to the new Leadership 100 offices in the Olympic Tower. They were greeted by Fr. Dimitrios Antokas, L100 Executive Director, and Paulette Poulos, L100 Director of Development.

The Onassis Foundation owns the Olympic Tower and was instrumental in assisting Leadership 100 in its move from leased space in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to the prestigious mid-town New York building.

President Papadimitriou officially welcomed Leadership 100 and expressed the delight of the Onassis Foundation in having Leadership 100 in the Olympic Tower, an organization that shared the mission of advancing Hellenic Culture in America and the world.

L100 Chairman Hosted by Greek Businessmen

Leadership 100 Chairman John A. Payiavlas was hosted by Captain Panayiotis Tsakos, a major Greek ship owner and International Membership Chairman of Leadership 100, and representatives of the Greek business community, at a luncheon at the Yacht Club on the Piraeus Peninsula in Greece last October.

Chairman Payiavlas was accompanied by his wife, Marisa, Evie Hasiotis, a member of the L100 Board of Trustees, and Fr. Alex Karloutsos, former L100 Executive Director, and his wife, Xanthi.

George K. Chimples, Founding Member of Leadership 100, who helped organize the meeting, has been working with Captain Tsakos and his son, Nikolas, also a member of Leadership 100 and International Membership Co-Chairman, on building relations between the Greek Community in America and Greece.

Nikolas Tsakos is President of Tsakos Energy Navigation. Both father and son had attended the Leadership 100 Conference in Phoenix, Arizona last February.
Leadership 100 Chairman John Payiavlas and his lovely wife Marisa were there to offer their support and to thank the dedicated stewards of the Cleveland area. John mentioned that George Chimples was one of the original founders of Leadership 100 and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to him for all the love and support he offered to Leadership 100 since its inception in 1984. In addition, he thanked our young Co-Chairmen, Coutris and Zapis, for their outstanding efforts in organizing this successful dinner.

Payiavlas focused on the move of our new offices to the Olympic Tower and cited it as a prestigious step forward for Leadership 100. He mentioned the example set by members Bert and Marjorie Moyar who presented their personal check that evening to enroll as members a most dedicated and faithful clergyman and his Presvytera, none other than Fr. Nicholas C. and Presvytera Diane Triantafillou.

Greetings and warm words of support were offered by the Co-Chairmen. Bert Moyar, who is Leadership 100 Treasurer and Chairman of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), touched on the valuable support offered to IOCC by Leadership 100.

Chimples reflected upon how Leadership 100 began in 1984 and the untiring efforts which were taken to recruit potential members and spread the word of the need for this new and unique Endowment program. He offered his full endorsement and reassured those in attendance that for as long as God grants him, he will continue to strive for increasing the membership of Leadership 100.

In my remarks, I stressed that Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory, whom I was honored to serve for so many years, was a visionary and it was his dream to establish an endowment program that provided additional resources for the Church and Hellenism. Through the untiring support of George Chimples, the first to step forward, and the other Founding Members of Leadership 100 this has become a reality.

In conclusion I assured the group as I assure you, dear reader, that through the continued paternal support of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, the Leadership 100 Program will continue its viable support of the National Ministries of our Church and devote its efforts toward the advancement of Orthodoxy and Hellenism here and abroad. I suggest that one way in which each member can do that is to take on the obligation of recruiting a new member and attending our 15th Annual Conference.

The snowy evening in Cleveland ended with the six new members coming forward to offer their commitment to Leadership 100. With God’s help and your participation we can repeat that scene, in sunshine or storm, across the country, in each Metropolis.

A blessed Christmas Season and Happy New Year,
Paulette Poulos,
Director of Development
Our New Look

With this special issue, Leadership 100 and The Leader have adopted a new look. The sign at the entrance of Suite 906 in our new offices in the Olympic Tower display our new logo and new “Hellenic blue” color. The logo was devised by Leadership 100 member and publisher, John Ledes, and his staff at BeautyFashion Magazine. John also publishes Cosmetic World and Boxing Digest. He has taken on the responsibility of underwriting and executing the layout of The Leader. He has also helped us reduce printing and mailing costs and, as an attorney, is helping us trademark the logo.

Leadership 100 gives special thanks to John Ledes, his assistant, Debbie Ward and graphic artist Jim McLernon for all their efforts.

The Editor