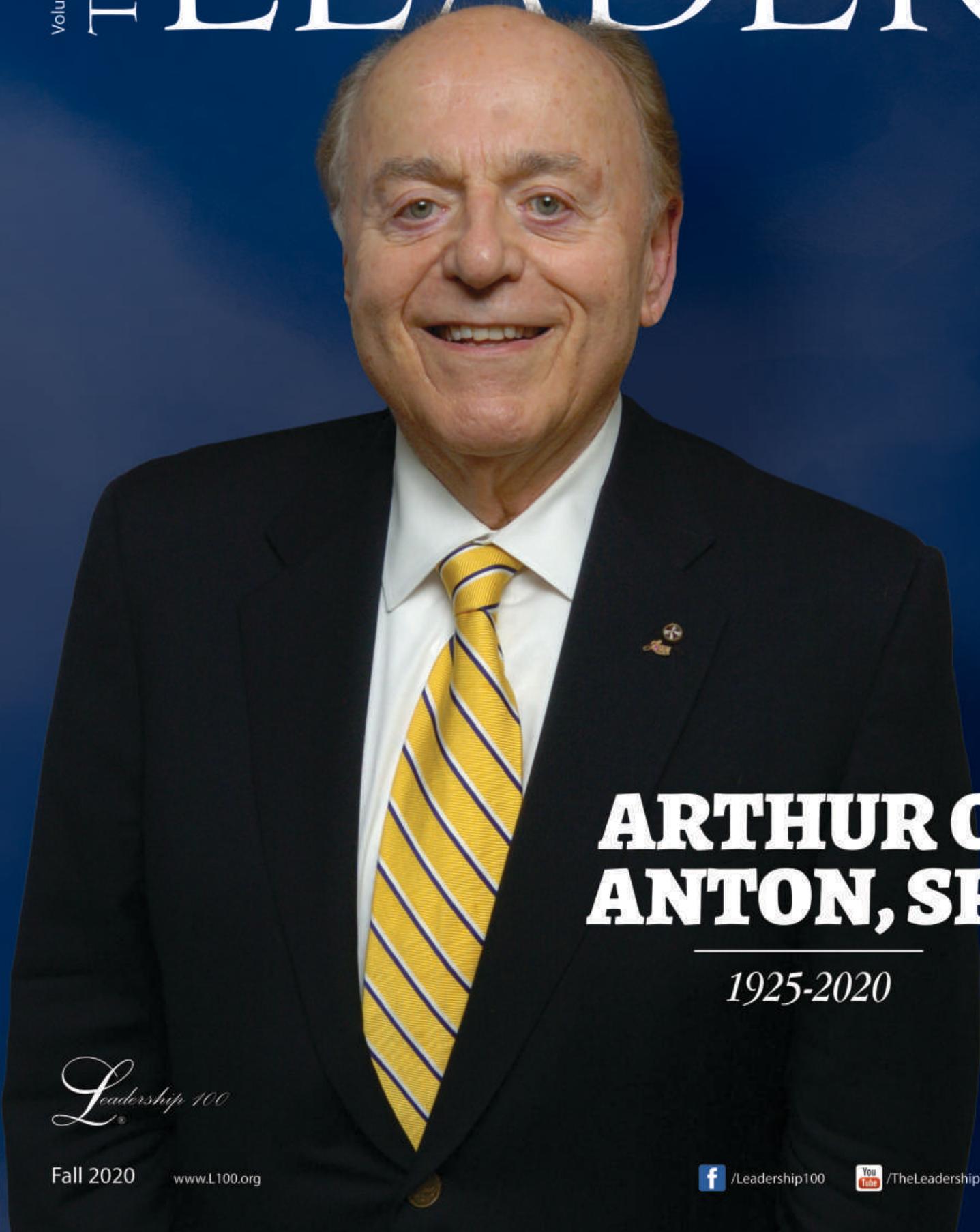


Volume 21 - Issue 2

# THE LEADER



**ARTHUR C.  
ANTON, SR.**

*1925-2020*

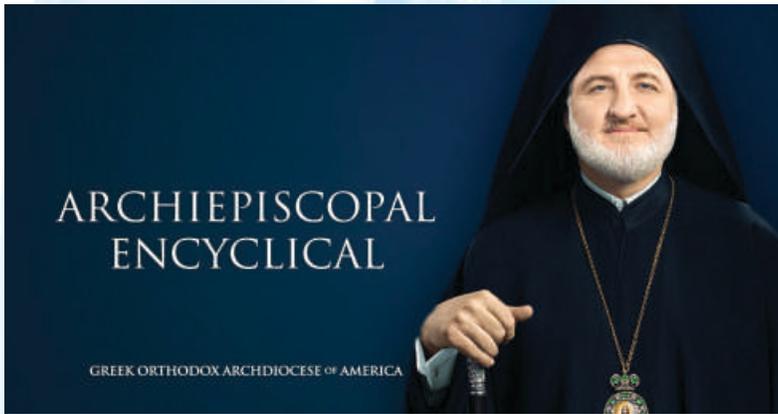
*Leadership 100*

Fall 2020

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October 25, 2020  
Prot. No. 186/2020

Ἰάκωβε θεσπέσιε, πρῶτόν σε ἀνέδειξε τῶν Ἱεροσολύμων, Ποιμένα καὶ Διδάσκαλον, καὶ πιστὸν οἰκονόμον, τῶν μυστηρίων τῶν πνευματικῶν· ὅθεν σε πάντες τιμῶμεν Ἀπόστολε.

O godly Iakovos, shown as the First Shepherd and Teacher of Jerusalem, faithful steward of the spiritual mysteries; wherefore we all honor thee, O apostle. (Kontakion of Saint Iakovos the Brother of God)

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Today, just two days after the feast of the “First Shepherd and Teacher of Jerusalem,” we celebrate one of the greatest legacies of the ever-memorable Archbishop Iakovos: the Leadership 100 Endowment Fund that bears his name. Now in its fourth decade of existence, we join together across our great Archdiocese for this twelfth commemoration, on the Sunday nearest to the Feastday of our late Archbishop Iakovos. We not only remember his visionary leadership that created the Endowment in 1984, but also the ongoing dedication and sacrifice of the founders and members of Leadership 100 that have enhanced and nurtured so many ministries throughout our Church.

Leadership 100 is more than an organization; it is a movement based on the dream of Archbishop Iakovos to create an extraordinary level of stewardship within our Archdiocese. He foresaw the possibilities of our community, and together with leading members of our Church, he founded this organization that had a simple principle – to endow the work of the Church for future generations.

Today, after thirty-six years of faithful service, nearly sixty million dollars has been distributed throughout the Archdiocese. Of this extraordinary amount, over twenty-five million dollars has gone to support Hellenic College and Holy Cross, to ensure highly qualified and educated candidates for

the clergy. This fact alone demonstrates the wisdom, value, and foresight of the mission of Leadership 100. Like the Saint whose memory is commemorated on October 23rd, Leadership 100 was established to help shepherd and teach, and provide abiding stewardship for our Church. Let us all give thanks this Leadership 100 Sunday for its continuing ministry that honors its unforgettable namesake.

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS Archbishop of America

# THE LEADER

VOLUME 21

ISSUE 2 – Fall 2020

*Editorial Content*

George Schira Associates, Inc.

*Graphic Design*

Adrian Salescu

info@neomagazine.com

www.NEOgraphix.us

*Photographer*

Dimitrios Panagos

dimitrios@panagos.com

www.panagos.com

THE LEADER

*is published by:*

The Archbishop Iakovos

Leadership 100<sup>®</sup> Fund, Inc.

Olympic Tower

645 Fifth Avenue

Suite 403

New York, NY 10022

Tel: 212.308.2627

Fax: 646.497.1794

web: www.L100.org

email: Leadership@L100.org

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## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



With the utmost love and respect, we dedicate this Fall 2020 issue of *The Leader* to our beloved Founding Member and past Chairman, Arthur C. Anton, Sr., who passed away due to natural causes, at the age of 95 on the 26th of July.

Arthur was the heart and soul of Leadership 100. He was our moral compass, always reminding us of our purpose to support our beloved Church, which he did personally throughout his entire lifetime. He witnessed the continuous struggle for adequate funding from the earliest days and stood by Archbishop Iakovos and his successors for more than five decades, always answering the call to serve and to lead.

Arthur attended every Conference, Executive and Board meeting even during his advanced years, when he was physically weakening. Nonetheless, his voice maintained its strength, perpetual positivity and always commanded complete attention. There will always be an empty chair in our meetings and a warm place in our hearts. We rejoice in his eternal reward following a life lived in the example of Our Lord.

Our hopes and prayers are also with you and your families and friends. We mourn all the losses in our community and nation during the pandemic. However, resilient as we are, we are managing to adjust to these new realities. Churches are conducting

services, schools are functioning remotely or in person, or in combination, and many businesses are operating. Professional and college sports are even back on limited schedules.

Leadership 100 has managed to function efficiently during the pandemic, guided as we were by the wisdom of our spiritual leaders, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, by the practicality of our Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, by the dedication of our officers and staff, and, most of all, by the never-ending faithfulness of you, our members.

With the sage counsel of our Investment Committee, our portfolio has steadily recovered initial losses, and through the untiring efforts of our hardworking staff, our contributions have continued at a significant level. We have distributed \$5,374,558 in grants for 2020 and have worked with grant recipients on phased dispensation. Certain grants, while approved for this year, will be distributed next year due to delayed implementation of programs.

The Leadership 100 Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, at our conference this past February in a historic vote, approved a total of over \$8.4 million in grants, including a grant of \$5 million toward the St. Nicholas National Shrine, and \$3.4 million in additional grants, bringing the total of grants distributed since the founding of Leadership 100 to almost \$60 million, which speaks to the generosity of our extraordinary members.

With the approval of the Executive Committee, the Archdiocese was able to utilize recently unused grant funds, that could not be implemented due to changes in staffing and programs, and redirect some of these funds to the Archdiocese Covid-19 Relief Fund for the benefit of individuals and Parishes.

We have also included the letters of request and gratitude from His Eminence in this issue.

These timely actions proved to be of great assistance to the Archdiocese, to Hellenic College/Holy Cross, to our parishes and to our faithful at this critical juncture. Many of these grants, along with the 2019 grants, are already facilitating many National Ministries and other programs, as you have previously read in the spring issue of *The Leader*, distributed in April and in this current, fall issue.

As we have previously announced, our 30th Annual Conference, scheduled for February of 2021, at *The Phoenician* in Scottsdale, Arizona, has unfortunately been postponed and will be replaced by a Virtual Annual Meeting during the same period. We plan to hold the 32nd Annual Leadership 100 Conference at *The Phoenician*, February 9-12, 2023. We believe this is the right course of action as we hold the safety and well-being of our members as our highest priority during these uncertain times.

We look forward to coming together at our 31st Annual Conference scheduled for February 10-13, 2022 at *The Ritz Carlton* in Naples, Florida.

We want to assure you that Leadership 100 will continue to move forward, as will our Church, our Community and our Nation.

With prayers for our people, our beloved Church and our incomparable country, I remain,

*With Warmest regards,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Argyris Vassiliou'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Argyris Vassiliou**  
Chairman



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

April 21, 2020

Mr. Argyris Vassiliou, Chairman  
Miss Paulette Poulos, Executive Director  
Leadership 100  
Olympic Tower  
645 Fifth Ave, Suite 403  
New York, NY 10022

It is with sentiments of heartfelt gladness that I warmly embrace you in the ineffable joy and splendor of our Lord and Savior's most glorious, victorious and life-giving Resurrection, while merrily proclaiming: *Χριστός Ανέστη!*

I would like to thank you for your letter dated April 9, 2020, and, of course, for all the support that you and the Leadership 100 team provide the Archdiocese throughout each and every year. In particular, we appreciate Leadership 100's acknowledgement of the obligations thrust upon the Archdiocese as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for the authorization by the Leadership 100 Executive Committee for the Archdiocese to utilize certain unused grant funds distributed prior to 2019 for purposes that are consistent with the Leadership 100 Regulations.

Accordingly, we write to advise you that the Archdiocese will announce the formation of an Archdiocesan Emergency Relief Fund, intended to aid Orthodox Christians suffering as a direct result of the COVID-19 health crisis. The amount of this relief fund may be as much as \$500,000 — made possible, of course, through the utilization of these grant funds and the determination by Leadership 100 to allow us to do so.

In thanking you once again, I extend to you my archpastoral blessings and wholehearted festal wishes, and remain

With paternal love in the Risen Lord,

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America

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# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

August 12, 2020

Mr. Argyris Vassiliou, Chairman  
Ms. Paulette Poulos, Executive Director  
Leadership 100  
645 Fifth Ave, Suite 403  
New York, NY 10022

*Dear Mr. Vassiliou, Dear Ms. Poulos,*

I greet you in the grace and peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During this difficult time, I would like to thank Leadership 100 for its continued support of our Archdiocese and its ministries. I write to you because of an initiative that we are contemplating, but for which we need your support. We have seen the effects of COVID-19 on our faithful, for which we initiated a Relief Fund directly for their benefit, with your assistance. We now need to direct our focus to the Parishes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese as they are hit harder than we had originally anticipated due to the length of the pandemic.

In order to accomplish our goal, we need your support to re-direct \$450,000 that will be divided evenly amongst the eight Metropolises and the Archdiocesan District. Each will receive \$50,000 and will be responsible to formulate a committee that reviews and disperses the funds to the parishes with the greatest needs. Each Metropolis will be encouraged to raise funds on their own, whether by reaching out directly to the faithful and organizations or to parishes that are in a position to assist.

The purpose of the Parish Relief Fund will be to provide support to enhance revenue initiatives, due to the drop in parish income, technical assistance from the Archdiocese, affiliated organizations and others, and developmental support. We expect that this initiative will provide relief so that our Parishes can transition through this pandemic that has devastated their finances and sustainability.

In thanking you once again for the enormous assistance that Leadership 100 has offered over the years, I extend to all of you my archpastoral blessings and wholehearted prayers for a restful and spiritually prosperous remainder of summer, and remain

With paternal love in Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America

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*Arthur C. Anton, Sr.*

## A TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR C. ANTON, SR.

The Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund mourns the loss of a beloved Founder and esteemed former Chairman, Arthur C. Anton, Sr., who passed away on July 26 at the age of 95.

As one of the seven Founding Members and the Chairman who oversaw our phenomenal growth from 2000 to 2004, Arthur gave his heart and soul to Leadership 100. He served as Vice Chair and Chairman from 1994-2004.

With his beloved wife of 67 years, Madeline, who passed away in 2018, he presided over Leadership 100 with grace and wisdom, imparting his love to all.

Invested as Archon Depoutatos by Archbishop Iakovos of Blessed Memory, the Founder of Leadership 100, he was a dedicated Christian who unselfishly served his Church at every level for decades, with honor and dignity.

A legendary business leader, as President and CEO of Anton's Cleaners from 1950 to 2000, he developed the company into the largest dry-cleaning operation in New England and one of the largest in the United States. To this day, Anton's

Cleaners continues to be a family-owned, operated and nationally recognized dry-cleaning business.

Arthur proudly served his country in the U.S Army Air Force through the conclusion of World War II. After the war, he attended Boston University, where he graduated in 1950 with Honors.

A true gentleman, he was noted for his many philanthropic projects and activities driven by his compassion for others. He was revered by his native community of Lowell, Massachusetts, and in Boston, Chelmsford and North Andover, and wherever he lived or traveled.

Upon his passing, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros noted that Anton was legendary in the life of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese since he served the Church so faithfully for his entire life. He further stated:

“We have lost a true lion of the faith and an exemplar of all that is best in Hellenism and Orthodoxy. Arthur C. Anton, Sr. was not only an extraordinary Defender of the Orthodox Church and

the Ecumenical Throne, he was a great benefactor of our Holy Archdiocese for all his many years. His gifts are too many to enumerate, but it must be said that he stands among the very few who gave of themselves with a joy and devotion that is so very pleasing to the Lord. He joins his beloved wife Madeline now in the reward of the good and faithful servants that they were in every aspect of their lives. May their memory be eternal and may their family and innumerable friends find good comfort in the knowledge of such lives so well lived before God and man.”

Arthur Anton's life, as His Eminence implied, followed in the steps of his namesake, the fourth century saint, Athanasios the Great, known as the Defender of the Faith and Father of Orthodoxy.

Anton passed away peacefully due to natural causes at his home in North Andover. Prior to moving to North Andover, he resided in Boston, Chelmsford and Palm Beach, FL. He recently celebrated his 95th birthday with those who brought him the most joy, his children and grandchildren.

Anton was born in Lowell, MA, July 8, 1925, a son of the late Charles and the late



*Madeline and  
Arthur C. Anton, Sr.*

Paula (Vacass) Antonopoulos. He was a graduate of the Lowell High School Class of 1943, where he was the Class Valedictorian and a Carney Medal Winner.

While at Boston University, he was elected University Class President and Man of the Year. In 1950, he joined his father and brothers at Anton's Cleaners, in Lowell. In 1913, Charles Antonopoulos had launched a cleaning business, Highland Cleaners, in Lowell, MA. He built a more modern facility 15 years later along the Merrimack River in Lowell. When the 1936 flood destroyed it, he moved it to Broadway Street, also in Lowell.

During the 1950s, the company began to expand, first to Andover, then Wilmington. This set the stage for the rapid growth that followed. In 1957, the name Anton's Cleaners was officially born, and additional plants and dry-cleaning stores opened.

Starting in the 1960s, the three sons of our founder took over the leadership of the company. Arthur Anton, Sr., became president and the other members of the team included his brothers, Socrates and Alexander. Together, they guided the company's explosive growth throughout eastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire, while maintaining a passion for unparalleled customer service and clothing care excellence. In addition to setting the standard for customer service in the dry-cleaning industry, Anton's is a leader in environmental responsibility and community service.

Now, a third generation of Anton's operates over 40 locations throughout eastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire. Anton's sons, Charles A. Anton and Arthur Anton, Jr., entered the company in the early 1980s.

Anton set the tone for excellence and commitment not only in his own

business, but for the many charitable, religious, fraternal and business organizations in Greater Lowell, MA and New England, where he was a tireless leader, organizer and volunteer. He held many positions of leadership within the Church on both the local and national level. Among them were National Chairman of the League of Greek Orthodox Stewards (LOGOS), and Executive Committee member of the Archdiocesan Council (1972-1994). In one of the highlights of his life, Arthur was a member of the Greek Orthodox delegation that traveled to the Vatican, where he had a private audience with Pope John Paul II. He served as Chairman of many local, regional and national events for the Church.

Anton was an integral part of Lowell General Hospital's leadership team, serving as Chair of the Board (1981-1986) and as a trustee for 35 years. Over the years, he also served as President of: Chamber of Commerce of Greater Lowell, Lowell Rotary Club, United Fund of Greater Lowell, Community Council of Greater Lowell and AHEPA. A staunch supporter of education, Arthur was a Trustee of Boston University (1977-1980), Hellenic College, Brookline (1972-1982) and The American College of Greece, Athens, Greece (1972-1982). As a result of his dedication to the community, Arthur received several awards, among them the Greater Lowell Community Foundation Award (2014), the Lowell High School Distinguished Alumni Award (2013), the Religious Heritage of America Business and Professional Award (1989) and the "Aristotelian Award" by the Order of AHEPA (1979).

Many have noted that Anton's greatest achievement was the impact he had on the lives of the many individuals with whom he interacted. He met everyone with a smile and a readiness to listen, freely offering his support and advice. He



*(L to R) Founding Members Michael Jaharis, Andrew A. Athens and George K. Chimples, Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago, and Arthur C. Anton, Sr., all of Blessed Memory and Peter M. Dion, the sole surviving Founding Member. Not pictured are Founding Members Thomas A. Athens and George P. Kokalis of Blessed Memory.*

had an enormous zest for life and was extraordinarily generous with his time and attention. He loved his family, food, friends, visits to Greece, and considered every milestone as an opportunity to celebrate life and enrich his memories.

Anton is survived by his four children, Diane Wilmot and her husband Gunnar of Bronxville, NY, Susan Pasanen and her husband Wayne of Newburyport, MA, Charles Anton and his wife Tami of Lincoln, MA, and Arthur Anton, Jr. and his wife Nina of Carlisle, MA, ten grandchildren Gunnar Wilmot, Jr., Madeline Wilmot, Zachary Pasanen and his wife Alexandra, Christina Pasanen, Alexandra Pasanen, Arthur Austin Anton, Jacqueline Anton, Spencer Anton, Olivia Anton and Steven Anton, a great-grandchild Rosie Pasanen, and several nieces and nephews. He was also the brother of the late John Anton, Alexander Anton, Socrates Antonopoulos and brother-in-law of the late Joyce (Haley) Antonopoulos.

# OUR FATHER WAS LARGER THAN LIFE

BY DIANE ANTON WILMOT

It's so hard to describe our father in a few short paragraphs, as he was "larger than life", a role model who had an impact on my sister, my brothers and me in a profound way.

Let me start by saying that our Dad was "one in a million". He was full of life, energy and passion, always. He was a devoted family man, always. He was there for us with advice, encouragement, and praise, always. He made us feel extraordinary, that there was nothing we couldn't do, no challenge we couldn't meet, no mountain we couldn't climb, always. He was an ever-giving, ever-present gift to all of us; he made each of us the people who we are today.

Our Dad was an optimist, seeing the glass as entirely full, even when it was only half so. He always found the silver lining and

the good in everyone. He had almost a childlike innocence that is so rare, especially in today's world.

He was a philanthropist, sharing his good fortune with the many causes in which he believed, and the Church was always at the head of that very long parade.

He was inclusive; all were welcomed into our home with open arms, he had a genuine interest in everyone's stories and, of course, he and my mother were the consummate hosts.



*Arthur C. Anton, Sr., with his two daughters, Susan Anton Pasanen, left, and Diane Anton Wilmot, right.*

Finally, our Dad was a man of enormous faith. He had a deep love for the Church and its leaders and devoted enormous amounts of love, time and energy to supporting it and its teachings.

It's hard to believe that he is no longer with us. I can still hear his words: "When are you coming to visit? I can HARDLY WAIT to see you!!" He left such a legacy and countless memories that we will cherish forever!

Remember when he would say: "My treasure box is BURSTING!!!"? He meant it. We now can open that treasure box and relish in each of those joyful memories that made his 95 years on Earth one rich in meaning and deep love.

## ARTHUR C. ANTON, SR. WAS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL



Peter M. Dion

**By Peter M. Dion,  
Leadership 100  
Founding Member**

My heart was filled with such pain and sorrow when I heard of the loss of our beloved Arthur. I felt as if I had lost my own brother! We were blessed to be treasured friends for over 60 years and we worked side by side to help our Archdiocese, serving on numerous committees and boards. We traveled together to Greece every year and we shared special memories of our annual pilgrimage to Mt. Athos.

Arthur was a unique individual who only saw the good in all and treated everyone as if they were special. He will be

remembered for his genuine kindness, care, love, patience, philanthropy and great faith which guided his life. Arthur's greatest pride and joy was his beloved wife Madeline of blessed memory and their family. He always made a point to spend quality time with his children and grandchildren.

Arthur was an inspiration to all and his legacy will live on forever.

# The Great Honor of Succeeding a Great Man



By George S. Tsandikos,  
Chairman Emeritus

In early August of this year, during the stressful days of the pandemic we all are enduring, I received a notice of great sadness and joy. I was informed by the Chairman of Leadership 100, Argyris Vassiliou, who served as Vice Chairman when I served as Chairman of Leadership 100 from 2014 to 2018, that I would assume the position of Chairman Emeritus and Lifetime Member of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of Leadership 100 with the passing of our beloved and revered Founding Member, Arthur C. Anton Sr. on July 26, 2020, and in accordance with the Leadership 100 Regulations (Article XIII).

Like all the members of Leadership 100 and the untold number of people who knew and loved Arthur Anton, I was still dealing with the sad loss of such a great and humble man, an example to us all of what leadership really means.

As a fellow New Englander and Greek American, I had known of Arthur Anton from my youth. He was esteemed as an example of what a Greek American can accomplish, a leader in business and his community, a leader in his Church and humanitarian causes, who embodied the values of Orthodox Faith and Hellenic Heritage.

In later years, I would have the privilege of working with Arthur in the Church and at Leadership 100 and would witness firsthand his wise counsel and generous spirit.

He knew of the needs of the Church from the earliest days working with Archbishop Iakovos of Blessed Memory. He always put the Church first in all his deliberations and in his own considerable philanthropy, for he knew it was the font of all values, all meaning, and all blessings in life.

As a businessman with a sharp mind, he knew that financial resources must be wisely held and invested to preserve the ability to address future needs. For that reason, he became one of the seven Founding Members of Leadership 100. I knew and greatly respected them all, exceptional men of great presence, who were truly pioneers in our Community.

So, it is with great honor and humility that I assume the seat of a great man, Arthur C. Anton, Sr., as the sixth Chairman Emeritus, succeeding, but never replacing, one of the six Founding Members of Blessed Memory. We are blessed to have the remaining Founding Member Peter M. Dion who worked alongside his lifetime friend Arthur Anton to nurture and promote our Greek Orthodox Church in America.

It was Dion, with the support of Anton, who first proposed Article XIII of our Regulations, to provide historical continuity in Leadership 100. Article XIII states that “upon the resignation, incapacity or death of any of the Founding Members, the past and immediate Chairmen of the Board Trustees, in descending order of service, shall be designated Chairmen Emeriti with the rights and privileges” of the Founding Members.

In my first year as Chairman, the 30th Anniversary of the founding of Leadership 100, three of the remaining Founding Members, Arthur and Peter, along with Michael Jaharis, signed a formal letter to me that was a plea to preserve the endowment and the original purposes of Leadership 100.

As Chairmen Emeriti, we take up their cause and cherish their legacy, and we have Peter Dion to remind us.

I am blessed in that I will have the perpetual reminder of Arthur Anton, in assuming his seat, as Arthur himself sits at the Banquet of Our Lord.

# NATIONAL LEADERSHIP 100 SUNDAY OBSERVED FOR TWELFTH YEAR



*Argyris Vassiliou, Chairman of Leadership 100, center, with Fr. Harry Pappas, Pastor of Annunciation Church in Stamford, Connecticut, left, and distinguished leaders of the Parish, at the twelfth annual observance of National Leadership 100 Sunday on October 25, 2020.*

The twelfth annual observance of National Leadership 100 Sunday took place on October 25, 2020, the Sunday nearest to the Feast of Saint Iakovos on October 23, in honor of the Founder of Leadership 100, Archbishop Iakovos of Blessed Memory.

Parish Priests throughout the nation read the Encyclical issued by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America on behalf of the Holy Eparchial Synod at the Divine Liturgy. Members of Leadership 100 addressed the support the organization provides for the

National Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, as well as for ministries in every Metropolis.

Argyris Vassiliou, Chairman of Leadership 100, who participated at his home parish of Annunciation Church in Stamford, Connecticut, stated: “National Leadership 100 Sunday demonstrates the unwavering support Leadership 100 continues to provide for the National Ministries of our Archdiocese even during these challenging times.”

Today, Leadership 100 counts 1,138 members from a broad spectrum of Greek Orthodox leaders, men and women of all ages from every field of endeavor. For more than three and a half decades, almost \$60 million in grants has been disbursed to support the National Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Metropolis Ministries, and humanitarian needs in the nation and around the world.

# THE CASE FOR THE HAGIA SOPHIA

## **Archbishop Elpidophoros meets with President Trump on Hagia Sophia**



**Archbishop Elpidophoros in Oval Office  
with President Donald Trump and  
Vice President Mike Pence.**

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros met with President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence at the White House on July 23 over the concerns of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese regarding the seizure and re-conversion of Hagia Sophia into a mosque.

Following the meeting with the President and Vice President, the Archbishop stated:

“I am grateful to have met with President Trump and Vice President Pence in the White House and communicated our grave dismay at the re-conversion of Hagia Sophia into a mosque, as well as ongoing security concerns for the Ecumenical Patriarchate and issues of religious liberty. In view of tomorrow’s day of mourning, we persevere in prayer but also bring our struggle to the highest levels of government for action and consideration.”

## **Archbishop Elpidophoros Meets with Secretary of State Pompeo**

Archbishop Elpidophoros of America met with United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on September 24 to discuss several issues important to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Greek American Community, and to the people of Greece, Cyprus and Turkey.

Archbishop Elpidophoros offered the following statement about the meeting:

“I would like to express once again my thanks to Secretary of State Pompeo, for our meeting today. I had the opportunity to articulate the deep distress of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and our own pain and that of the Greek American community, over the conversion of Hagia Sophia to a mosque.



**Archbishop Elpidophoros meets with  
US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.**

“I also had occasion to express the ever-increasing apprehension and deepest concern of the Greek-American community over an ever-increasing aggressive stance of Turkey against Greece and Cyprus. I sought from the Secretary of State the support of the American Government for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Greek community in Turkey and for all religious minorities in Turkey.

“It is our earnest desire that the United States government continue its work to ensure respect for international law, dialogue without threats from Turkey, and for peaceful relations between Turkey, Greece and Cyprus, and the entire Eastern Mediterranean region.”

## **Archdiocese Petitions United Nations on Conversion of UNESCO World Heritage Sites into Mosques**

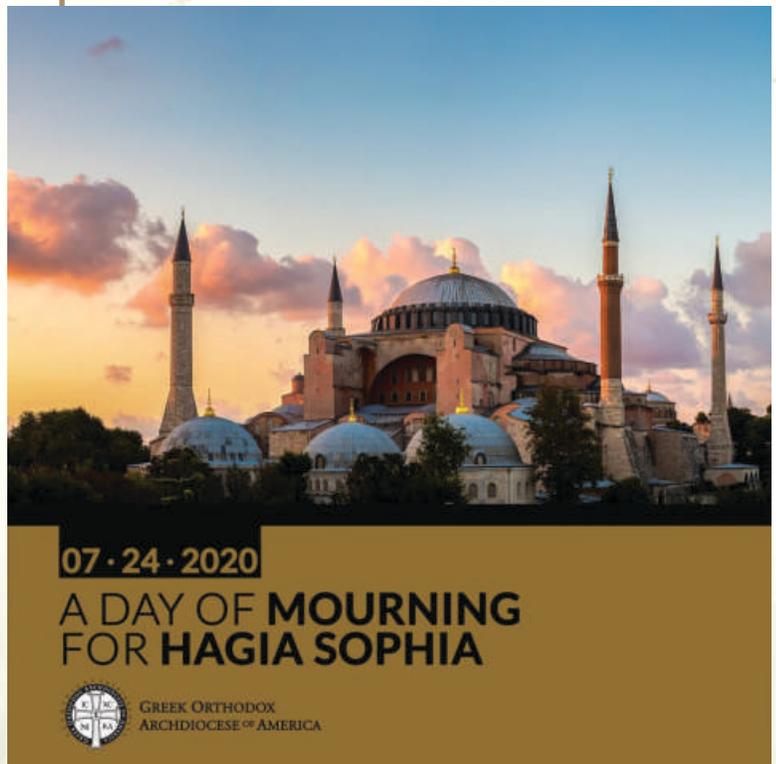
The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America announced on September 29 that it is petitioning the United Nations Group of Experts to hold the Republic of Turkey accountable for its deliberate policies to erase the cultural heritage of Orthodox Christians. The petition rebukes the recent unilateral decision of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to reconvert United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (“UNESCO”) World Heritage Site, Hagia Sophia (“Holy Wisdom”), into a mosque.

The Group of Experts was established by the UN General Assembly to carry out assessments within the framework of the Regular Process.

Commenting on the petition, Archbishop Elpidophoros of America said: “Turkey’s reconversion of the Hagia Sophia into a mosque is a radical misappropriation of the Orthodox Christian cultural heritage and living Christian communities in Turkey. The treatment and change in status of UNESCO World Heritage Sites is a concern for the international community.”

Built during the Byzantine era in the 6th Century AD by Emperor Justinian I, the Hagia Sophia has significant religious and cultural importance to Christians across the globe and to the international community. For the previous 86 years, the Hagia Sophia had been designated as a secular museum at the cultural junction of East and West. In 1985, the Hagia Sophia was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which recognized the Hagia Sophia’s status as a museum as worthy of protection and preservation under the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

UNESCO has expressed its concerns surrounding the change to Hagia Sophia’s status and called upon Turkish authorities



to prevent any detrimental effect on the universal value of this exceptional heritage. “States have an obligation to ensure that modifications do not affect the Outstanding Universal Value of inscribed sites on their territories. UNESCO must be given prior notice of any such modifications, which, if necessary, are then examined by the World Heritage Committee.” The unilateral conversion will be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its next session.

# Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine Resumes Construction at The World Trade Center



*Archbishop Elpidophoros with Governor Andrew Cuomo at St. Nicholas, flanked by Fr. Vasileios Drossos, far left, and Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, far right.*

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, with the leadership of the Friends of St. Nicholas and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, visited the World Trade Center on August 3 to witness the resumption of construction of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, the only house of worship destroyed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

In his remarks, His Eminence stated, “Nearly twenty years ago, our Saint Nicholas fell with thousands of our fellow human beings lost in the ashes of 9/11, and countless others wounded in body, heart, and soul by a savage act of hatred and terror. We cannot, we must not, and we shall not let this stand. We are going to open the Saint Nicholas Church and National Shrine as a sign of love, not hate; a sign of reconciliation, not of prejudice; and a sign of the ideals that exist in this great American Nation, where one’s religious

liberty and freedom of conscience never excludes, but only embraces.”

Governor Cuomo stated, “In the face of tragedy and destruction on 9/11, the St. Nicholas community literally held its ground against what was an inconceivable tragedy inspired by hate, instead relying on the power of love to restore what was lost and create a symbolism of faith and

tolerance.”

Kevin J. O’Toole, Chairman of the Port Authority said, “The church is a symbol of the continued resilience that has helped bring a rebirth to the World Trade Center campus, and today is a day to recognize those hard-fought achievements.” Rick Cotton, Executive Director of the Port Authority said, “Today marks a new chapter in the

historic rebuild of Lower Manhattan. The new St. Nicholas Church and National Shrine will be a source of inspiration and peace, while also helping to share the historical contributions of the Greek-Orthodox community to all who visit and worship.”

The Saint Nicholas reconstruction had been abruptly halted in December 2017 due to a financial shortfall. Archbishop Elpidophoros reset the stage for a new approach with the



*Leadership 100 Chairman, Argyris Vassiliou, right, and Leadership 100 Executive Director, Paulette Poulos, left, with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, at the construction site. Leadership 100 is among the major donors to the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.*

in December 2017 due to a financial shortfall. Archbishop Elpidophoros reset the stage for a new approach with the

formation of the non-profit Friends of St. Nicholas to oversee the project.

With the encouragement of Governor Cuomo and a group of prominent Greek Orthodox Christians and organizations under the guidance of the Archbishop and Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, and the leadership of Dennis Mehiel, Michael Psaros and John Catsimatidis, the necessary funds were raised to complete the construction of the Church and National Shrine, slated for completion in the fall of 2021.

## Arthur and Denise Katsaros Join the Million Dollar Donors to the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine



*Arthur and Denise Katsaros*

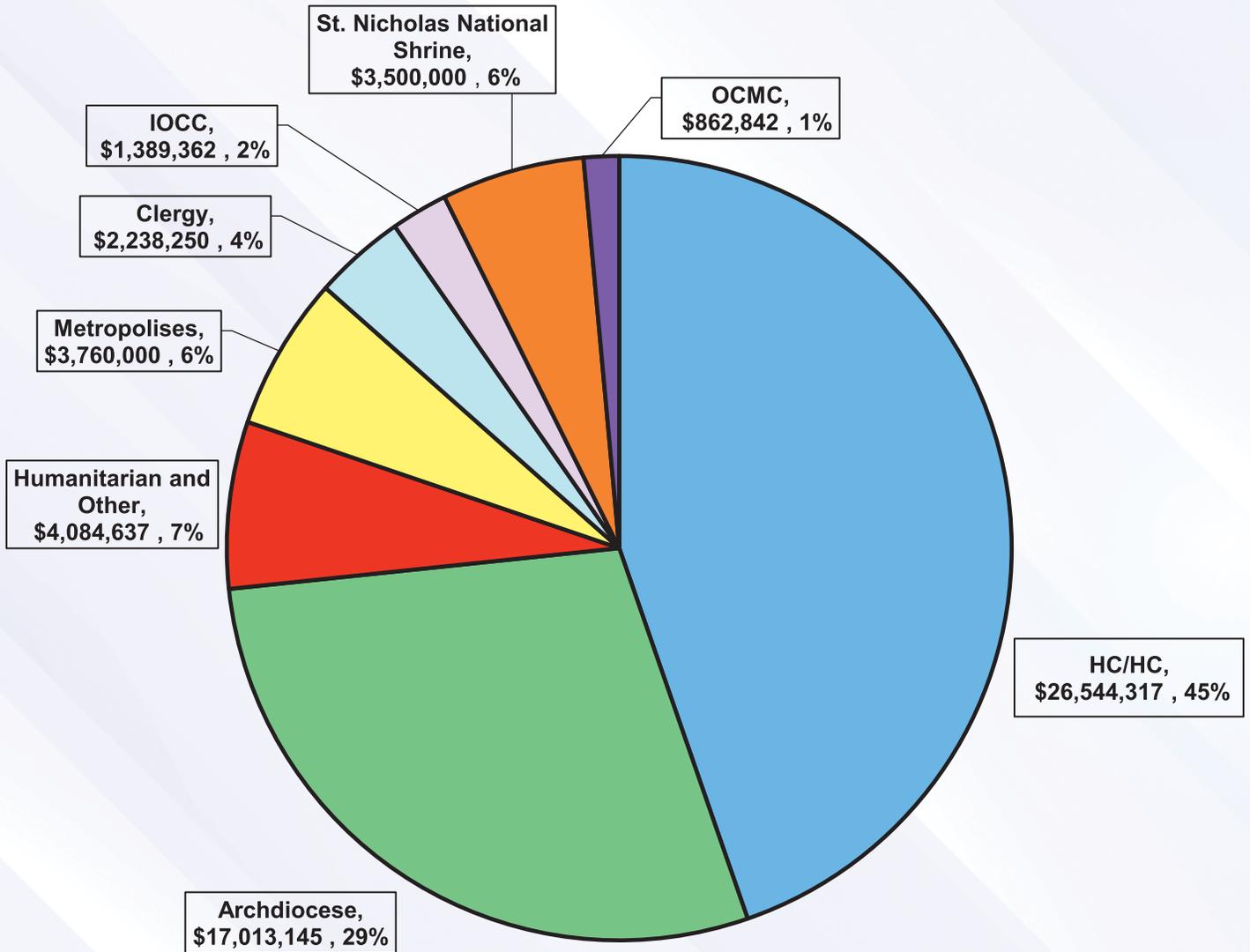
Our Faith and our Church have always played a vital role in our lives and, together with all Greek Orthodox Christians, we are anxiously waiting for the historic opening of our beloved St. Nicholas Church.

It is for this reason that we took the initiative, as Leadership 100 members, to reach out to Paulette Poulos to see how we can help to complete this project. God has granted us many blessings and it is time for us to respond to the mandate of St. Luke (12:48) “For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.”

We are so grateful that we are in a position to make this gift and we are honored to offer it in support to the St. Nicholas Church and National Shrine.



## GRANTS



**TOTAL GRANTS DISTRIBUTED SINCE INCEPTION: \$59,392,553.**



**ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS LEADERSHIP 100 FUND  
1989 - 2020 GRANTS**

**Hellenic College / Holy Cross School of Theology \$ 26,544,317**

Hellenic College / Holy Cross Scholarship Program *	22,903,617
Archbishop Iakovos Library Fund	1,000,000
Hellenic College / Holy Cross Technology Infrastructure	1,000,000
Hellenic College / Holy Cross (various grants)	733,600
Hellenic College - Office of Vocation and Ministry	406,600
Holy Cross - Certificate in Youth/Young Adult Leadership	250,500
Hellenic College Inc. - Real Estate Advisory Services	250,000

**Greek Orthodox Archdiocese \$ 17,013,145**

Archdiocese Administration, Management, and Leadership Training	2,348,386
Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations	2,069,700
Internet Ministry and Technology Infrastructure	2,061,700
Marriage and Family	1,851,590
Youth, Young Adult, and Camping Ministries	1,663,551
Outreach & Evangelism / Home Missions	1,601,730
Greek Orthodox Telecommunications	970,190
Communications and Radio Ministry	731,559
Religious Education	695,498
Parish Development and Stewardship	658,241
Digital Typikon Liturgical and Library Project	600,000
Department of Registry	575,000
Greek Education	416,700
Archives	400,000
Special Gift for the Restoration of Ionian Village	250,000
St. Basil Academy (Archpastorate of Archbishop Michael)	69,300
The Spanish Ministry Initiative - Clergy Conference for Spanish Ministry	50,000

**Humanitarian Assistance and Other Grants \$ 4,084,637**

The Ecumenical Patriarchate (Various Grants)	920,000
Orthodox Christian Network	450,000
September 11 Relief Fund	400,000
Various Ministries	375,835
Fordham University - Orthodox Christian Studies Center	283,000
Institute on Religion and World Affairs of Boston University	260,040
Video Documentaries	219,680
Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry	210,882
National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians	208,000
Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute	157,200
Greek Earthquake Relief Fund	100,000
Greek Fire Relief Fund	100,000
Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund	100,000
Primary Health Care in Southern Albania	100,000
AGES Initiative	100,000
Hurricane Dorian Bahamas Relief Fund	100,000

\* As of August 2020, 236 recipients of Leadership 100 scholarships are graduates that have been ordained, 44 are still in School and 96 recipients are working for the Church in some capacity.

<b>Metropolis Ministries</b>	<b>\$ 3,760,000</b>
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Metropolis Youth Camps	2,520,000
Metropolis Ministries Outreach	540,000
Metropolis of Atlanta - Family Life Ministry	300,000
Metropolis of Boston - Emerging Leaders Ministry	200,000
Metropolis of San Francisco - Family Wellness Center	200,000

<b>St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine</b>	<b>\$ 3,500,000</b>
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<b>Clergy</b>	<b>\$ 2,238,250</b>
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Increased Retired Clergy Pensions	930,000
Eliminated Student Loans of Active Priests	885,000
Archdiocesan Presbyters Council - Clergy Retreats, Wellness, and Continuing Education	264,000
National Presvyteres Retreats and Workshops	90,000
Presbyters Council Benevolent Fund	69,250

<b>International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)</b>	<b>\$ 1,389,362</b>
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International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)	989,362
Attica Fires Relief Fund	200,000
Hurricane Katrina Relief	100,000
US Emergency Response Fund (Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria)	100,000

<b>Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)</b>	<b>\$ 862,842</b>
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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 59,392,553</b>
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<b>Additional Gifts from Leadership 100 Members</b>	<b>\$ 3,298,792</b>
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**(individual donations from Leadership 100 members not included above)**

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center	2,703,213
Greek Fire Relief Fund	200,029
September 11 Relief Fund	187,550
Leadership 100 Fitness Center at Hellenic College / Holy Cross	135,000
Attica Fires Relief Fund	52,050
Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund	20,950

## Archdiocese Announces COVID-19 Parish Recovery Initiative



Following the prolonged COVID-19 shutdown, many parishes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America have reported declines in weekly giving and long-term stewardship donations, significantly lowered attendance at holy services and ministries, and technological challenges associated with delivering services and ministries virtually.

Ever aware of the great strain that has been put on the parishes of the Archdiocese, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America announced on October 13 that he has launched the “COVID-19 Parish Recovery Initiative” to provide struggling parishes with monetary support to enhance revenue opportunities, technical assistance from the Archdiocese and other affiliated organizations, as well as developmental and educational support.

The Archdiocese has designated a previously received restricted grant of \$450,000 to be divided evenly amongst the eight Metropolises and the Archdiocesan District. Each Metropolis will be allotted \$50,000 from the Archdiocese and can raise additional funds to increase their giving capability as they see fit, thereby increasing their ability to help more of their parishes.

Applications are currently open and will remain open through November 15. Parishes can apply by visiting this link and submitting their specific parish information. Each Metropolis, through an appointed committee, is responsible for vetting the applications of their parishes.

## Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism Implements Five Grants



Fr. Jim Kordaris

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism implemented five grants: Home Mission Parishes funded for \$76,200 in 2020, for Reaching the Distantly Connected II funded for \$23,000 in 2019, for National Outreach & Evangelism Conference funded for \$25,000 in 2019, Baseline: Parish Leadership Series, a repurposed grant originally funded for \$65,000 in 2015, and Inter-Orthodox Missions, Outreach & Evangelism Roundtable funded for \$5,000 in 2020.

The purpose of the *Home Mission Parish Program* is to help establish new Greek Orthodox Parishes and to help support small Greek Orthodox Parishes which are striving to become self-supporting parishes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

On the recommendation of the local hierarchy, the Home Mission Parish Program provides a monthly supplemental to salary for full-time clergy assigned to parishes designated by the local hierarchy as mission parishes. This support declines over a period of two to five years during which time it is expected that the parish will become self-sufficient. These parishes are under the direct supervision of their local hierarchy.

Recipients over the period of March 2020 to February 2021 include parishes in the Metropolises of Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Pittsburgh, San Francisco and the Direct Archdiocesan District of New York.

The *Reaching the Distantly Connected II* initiative will generate a forum through which this issue can be examined throughout our Archdiocese through focus groups, questionnaires, the Orthodox Observer and the Internet, resulting in a resource on which to base parish outreach to the distantly connected.

This initiative will assist with:

1. developing and producing a resource that will systematically identify, catalogue and describe best practices used in churches to cultivate a culture of outreach and reach the distantly connected.
2. developing tried and proven outreach strategies and approaches that will be shared with clergy and lay leaders across the GOA.
3. producing deliverables which will be shared with seminarians of Hellenic College/Holy Cross to raise our future priests' awareness and competence regarding outreach.
4. educating present clergy and lay leaders about the need for outreach to the distantly connected.
5. illustrating the Archdiocese's pastoral concern for the distantly connected individuals, couples and families across our Archdiocese.
6. providing a steppingstone for additional discourse and research related to outreach; and
7. providing a launching pad from which to consider other issues that pertain to outreach and evangelism.

With the permission of each Metropolitan, designated, trained staff members from the Department of Outreach and Evangelism will be entrusted with developing workshops, webinars, podcasts to share this information and train parish leadership across the Archdiocese.

The *National Outreach & Evangelism Conference 2019* was held over a 3-day period with the theme *LEADING CHANGE TOWARD A HEALTHIER PARISH*. The conference was held at Annunciation Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio. Initially planned for fall of 2019, the finalized dates of the conference were February 3-5, 2020. The conference featured 5 presenters, concluding with a panel discussion. The event included discussion groups and opportunities for interaction among participants. Focus was on hearing from experts, sharing ideas, tools and resources for various aspects of outreach and evangelism in the United States.

The conference included a presentation from Fr Martin Ritsi of the OCMC. Fr Martin showed the relationship between overseas missions and domestic outreach & evangelism efforts. The other speakers were Fr Evan Armatas (DEN), Fr Theodore Dorrance (DEN), Mr. Steve Tibbs (SF) and Fr Aris Metrakos (SF). Metropolitan Savas was present to open the Conference. The presentations were filmed and are available online through various outlets to be managed by GOA Internet Ministries.

*BASELINE: Parish Leadership Series at HCHC*

The project was originally conceived to create videos that would put Orthodox Christianity in the mix of contemporary, engaging, high quality media, making the case for the historical, original Church, offering a deeper understanding of the faith. Due to a series of delays in staffing and other changes, funds approved in 2015 were repurposed for use in 2019. The approved plan is to produce a Parish Leadership Video Series to be filmed at Hellenic College/Holy Cross, providing training to future parish leaders on campus and to provide continued leadership training through video production and distribution of the Parish Leadership Series. Beginning in September 2019, speakers presented talks on various aspects of parish leadership.

In addition to the talks, the speakers have spoken in the chapel and visited Parish Administration and Preaching classes while on campus, providing additional leadership training to the seminarians.

The plan is to offer one seminar/talk in September & October and February & March of each year. The subject is to be a practical aspect of parish leadership. Sessions are recorded (video) and will be edited and made available in video and audio download and shared through our various internet & video outlets.

Fr. Jim Kordaris, Director of the Department of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism, and Mr. Stacey Stathulis of the Department, will spearhead the program in coordination with Thomaida Hudanish (SF Metropolis Missions & Evangelism Ministry), Fr Theodore Dorrance (Denver Metropolis Parish Growth & Health Ministry) and Fr Luke Veronis (Director of the Missions Institute at Hellenic College & Holy Cross) and others. The presentations on the

HCHC Campus are under the auspices of the Missions Institute at Hellenic College and Holy Cross.

### *Inter-Orthodox Missions, Outreach & Evangelism Roundtable*

The purpose of this initiative is to gather Orthodox Christian leaders from throughout the USA, serving in the areas of Parish Missions, Parish Health, Outreach, Evangelism and Stewardship to promote inter-Orthodox cooperation & coordination in these ministries. Administration of the Event will be in coordination with Fr Theodore, Fr Luke Veronis, and Thomaida Hudanish.

Approximately 25 individuals serving in the areas of Parish Missions, Parish Health, Outreach, Evangelism and Stewardship will be invited to join this 1½ day virtual roundtable discussion, due to the current pandemic.

The effectiveness of this roundtable discussion will be felt in parishes throughout the country as our coordinated efforts and sharing of ideas and information results in the development of new and better ways of bringing the Good News of Orthodox Christianity to more people in this country.

## St. Photios Shrine Mounts Exhibit of Costas Balafas Photographs



More than 400 people in February and more than 200 people in early March of 2020 visited the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine to see a Special Exhibit of Costa Balafas – Photographic Hierarchy on Mt. Athos: 1969-2000. There was also extensive print and radio coverage of the

exhibit, which was funded by a grant of \$12,500 from Leadership 100.

The grant provided funding for the planning, preparing, and transporting of 49 images of monks of Mt. Athos, archived by

Aliki Tsigrialou of the Benaki Museum, Athens, Greece, and their installation in the museum of the Shrine.

The Annual Special Exhibit also included an evening program presentation of slides of post WWII Epirus with a narrative that raised the consciousness of all those present of what the people of that area endured in the aftermath of the German occupation.

The response from the local community of St. Augustine showed that witnessing the Orthodox faith, sharing Hellenic culture and Greek History, as well as honoring Greek immigration history in America resonates with all people, according to Poxeni Maouris Hillier, Executive Director of the Shrine.

Despite the limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the response to the exhibit has surpassed all expectations. The Chairs of the Department of Photography at the University of Central Florida and at University of Florida have referred their students to study the techniques of Costas Balafas, which was one unexpected result, according to Hillier.

Due to the pandemic, the Special Exhibit will remain in place throughout February 28, 2021.

## Grant Supports Revitalization of Orthodox Worship



Leadership 100 provided a grant of \$40,000 to The Liturgical Arts Academy (TLAA) in 2019 for the revitalization of Orthodox worship through the education and training in the traditional liturgical arts of Chant, Iconography and Textiles.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the funds intended for the “in-person” May 2020 Academy were redirected towards a revised program called “The Liturgical Arts Offerings” launched in the spring of 2020, as well as for development of a

website. TLAA 2021 is now scheduled for August 22- 28, 2021.

The liturgical arts education and resources offered to the faithful in digital form, included:

1. Chant: Three Chant instructors completed the service book for Holy Thursday evening: *All Creation Trembled: Byzantine Chant for the Passion of our Lord*. The book is comprised of the full English Liturgical Texts & Musical Scores in Byzantine Notation by John Michael Boyer, Samuel Herron, & Gabriel Cremeens, with Liturgical Translations by Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash) (+2016) and with metered translations by the composers.

2. Icon: Fr. Anthony Salzman painted a 10' x 10' wall icon of the Crucifixion of our Lord which was documented in 13 short videos. Each video included an inspirational message, technical instruction and a time-lapsed presentation painting for that day. He also completed an instructional video on how to hang and varnish large canvas for wall icons.

3. Textile: Presvytera Krista West completed a series of instructional videos she called "Mornings in the Workshop" which taught technique, tradition and theory of the liturgical textile arts of the Orthodox Church.

In addition, a new TLAA Website was completed in September and includes a resource library with competent instructional videos and materials. Please see: [www.TheLiturgicalArtsAcademy.org](http://www.TheLiturgicalArtsAcademy.org)

## Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Leadership Certificate Program Initiated by Office of Vocation & Ministry at Holy Cross School of Theology

The Office of Vocation & Ministry (OVM) at Hellenic College Holy Cross was awarded \$250,500 by Leadership 100 in 2020 to develop and pilot a one-year Certificate in Youth

and Young Adult Ministry and Leadership at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. The program is designed for students who have completed their bachelor's degree and wish to deepen their theological knowledge while developing their skills and understanding for ministry and leadership with youth and young adults. The certificate program consists of an academic year of study at the master's

### Youth and Young Adult Ministry Certificate 2020 Cohort



Pictured clockwise from top left:

- Katie Andrews (Pittsburgh, PA)
- Maria Chiarel (Lexington, SC)
- Spiro Costidis (Middleton, NJ)
- Angelique Myers (Solon, OH)
- Max Ramseyer (Costa Mesa, CA)
- Anna Reganis (Salt Lake City, UT)
- Demetra Zouzas (Fitchburg, MA)

level combined with an intensive practicum component. As part of the grant, full-tuition scholarships were available for the students accepted into the program.

Seven outstanding young adults from across the country were selected to be the first cohort of the certificate program and receive the Leadership 100 scholarships for their tuition, according to OVM Director, Ann Mitsakos Bezzerides, Ph.D.

Together with the Dean of Enrollment and the Dean of Holy Cross, OVM determined the best set of courses the students would take for the fall and spring semesters to provide them a well-rounded theological education. The OVM staff has trained and begun mentoring the certificate students in their placements and supporting them in their academic coursework. Furthermore, a special leadership series has been designed by the Director of the OVM, in conjunction with key Orthodox leaders across the country, to support the leadership development of the students in seven best leadership practices.

The outcomes of the program will be fully assessed by the end of summer 2021 when the students have finished their coursework and practicum work studies. However, almost two months into the program, the mentoring of the certificate students has shown clear markers of growth and impact, according to Dr. Bezzerides.

## Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising Program Initiated by Office of Vocation & Ministry at Hellenic College Holy Cross



The Office of Vocation & Ministry at Hellenic College Holy Cross (OVM) initiated the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising (ECRF) course in fall 2020 (online) and fall 2021, training a total of 50 priests, deacons, and Orthodox Christian lay leaders in best practices in religious fundraising, with funding of \$80,000 from Leadership 100 in 2020.

ECRF is a program offered by the Lilly School of Philanthropy's Lake Institute on Faith and Giving of Indiana University. The course offers an overview of fundraising for religious organizations that includes defining an organization's mission and vision, cultivating a culture of generosity, soliciting major gifts, and stewardship. Participants learn fundraising best practices through the course lecture component, and then are coached to design a project that applies course principles to a real-world situation. To receive certification they must propose, implement, and submit a report on this project (typically a parish or organization). Through investment in these projects, participants engage highly effective fundraising practices in their own work and will share this learning with those they work with.

Offering this course is an important step towards cultivating a culture of generosity and giving within the greater Orthodox world in America, according to Dr. Bezzerides, who stated:

"Each year, hundreds of Orthodox donors choose to make large donations to organizations outside the Church. Better fundraising practices have the potential to create donors based on relationships, which are mutually beneficial to the giver and the recipient and have a high chance of long-term sustainability."

During the fall of 2020, OVM is offering the course in an online format for leaders of 27 Orthodox parishes and organizations. The cohort includes leaders of various Orthodox metropolises and ministries.

The course garnered significant interest, speaking to the tremendous need for such training, and reached capacity within a matter of weeks; 27 participants were awarded scholarships through Leadership 100 funding. As of October 5, 2020, the 8-week course is underway, and will culminate November 23, 2020. Upon completion, the participants will be asked to complete a thorough course evaluation. Plans are in place for the course to be held again in Fall 2021 for a second cohort, although it remains to be determined whether this course will be held online or in person.

The Fall 2020 ECRF course was launched through a remote format due to COVID. Participants are gathering online weekly for plenary sessions as well as facilitated 60-minute peer group meetings. Lake Institute instructors are providing significant digital content, exercises, and resources for self-paced learning, as well as a robust set of resources for use during and beyond the conclusion of the real-time course.

# Leadership 100 Members

Follow up list from Spring 2020

## New Members

### METROPOLIS

#### DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

Arthur Darby

### CITY, STATE

New York, NY

### SOLICITOR(S)

Alexandra Lambiris

#### HOLY METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Andrew and Joanna Pastrikos

Fort Myers, FL

Nicholas Pappas and  
Kassandra L. Romas

#### HOLY METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

Matthew and Melissa Ferrari

Pittsburgh, PA

Nick and Kathy Lekas and  
Paulette Poulos

George and Crystal Thomas

Rocky River, OH

Louis Frangos

#### HOLY METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Ann Chafoulias

Phoenix, AZ

Gus Chafoulias, Argyris Vassiliou and  
Paulette Poulos

#### HOLY METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

Mark A. Latsios

Arlington, VA

Fr. Konstantinos Pavlacos and  
Paulette Poulos

Anastasia S. Michals

Manasquan, NJ

Jeffrey Michals

## Fulfilled Members

### DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

Hercules Hanjis Astoria, NY

### HOLY METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

†Arthur G. and Vaia Koumantzelis Lincoln, MA

### HOLY METROPOLIS OF DENVER

Damon and Cynthia Diamantaras Houston, TX

### HOLY METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Theofanis Economidis Los Altos, CA  
AKT Communities Fund Sacramento, CA  
*Rev. Dr. Anton C. Vrame*

### HOLY METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

Thomas L. and Karen Kalaris Summit, NJ  
Dr. Stavros J. and Zoe Paragioudakis Ocean, NJ

### HOLY METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

Michael and Verna Bousis Highland Park, IL  
Novak Family Foundation/SS. Constantine and Helen Merrillville, IN

## In Memoriam

Stella L. Adamopoulos -7/10/2020  
Salisbury, MD

Damyra Kamberos – 6/13/2010  
Skokie, IL

Nadia A. Allega – 8/7/2020  
New York, NY

Frank S. Kamberos – 10/5/2020  
Skokie, IL

Arthur C. Anton Sr. – 7/26/2020  
North Andover, MA

Evripides “Evris” Kontos – 5/20/2020  
Franklin Lakes, NJ

Nicolaos P. Bissias – 5/5/2020  
La Canada, CA

Arthur G. Koumantzelis – 10/8/2020  
Lincoln, MA

Peter M. Boosalis – 6/2/2013  
Edina, MN

Anna Keliher Lemonias – 11/27/2019  
Jamaica Plain, MA

Peter Constantinides - 5/6/2020  
New York, NY

Eugene “Gene” T. Rossides – 5/16/2020  
Washington, DC

G. Peter J. Coroneos – 8/7/2020  
Los Angeles, CA

Harriet Z. Sioles – 5/11/2020  
Paradise Valley, AZ

Donald Franchilli – 4/11/2020  
New York, NY

Ann Souvall – 9/20/2020  
Phoenix, AZ

Alexander Hadjilogiou – 8/30/2020  
Indian Harbor Beach, FL

Bes Zourdos – 6/5/2020  
Bethesda, MD

Dr. S. Sue Horner – 4/10/2020  
Athens, Greece

# Gene T. Rossides, Greek American Leader and Prominent U.S Government Official

Gene T. Rossides, a leader of the Greek American Community, who served two U.S. Presidents, passed away on May 16, 2020. He was 92. Rossides became widely known for his advocacy for the struggles of Cyprus in Washington. He was the founder of the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) and a member of Leadership 100.

Rossides was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1927. He studied at Columbia University where he was a legendary quarterback on the University's football team. He was drafted by the NFL's New York Giants in 1949 but declined the offer to attend Columbia Law School, stating that, "law presents more of a challenge for me. I hope to get into politics."

Rossides had a distinguished legal career, retiring as a senior partner of the law firm of Rogers and Wells, now Clifford Chance, LLP, where his career spanned nearly 40 years. He started his legal career in the New York County District Attorney's office as Assistant Attorney General in New York (1956-58) after serving in the US Air Force at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio. He was appointed Assistant to the Undersecretary of the U.S. Treasury Department in the Eisenhower Administration (1958-1961) and Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department by President Richard Nixon in 1969, concurrently serving as the U.S. Representative and Vice President of Interpol.



*Gene T. Rossides*

As Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Rossides was in charge of the Customs Service, the Secret Service, the US Mint, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, the Tariff and Trade Office of Law Enforcement, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the IRS law enforcement operations.

In 1970, he successfully enforced landmark anti-dumping laws. In 1972, he established the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Notably, in 1972 he appointed the first women to be Federal Law Enforcement Officers, inducting them into the US Secret Service. He was also the first American of Greek descent to be confirmed by the US Senate to an Executive Branch office.

Rossides returned to practice law privately in New York in the 1970s and became a leading activist for Greek and Turkish issues on an international scale.

Rossides also authored numerous articles on international tariff and trade, the rule of law, and the book "Kissinger & Cyprus – A Study in Lawlessness" (2014). He was also a founding member of the Eisenhower Institute.

Rossides founded the American Hellenic Institute (AHI) in 1975 with the goal of making the American public aware of what happened in Cyprus and to lobby Congress against Turkish actions, which he did effectively, garnering bipartisan support for the embargo on transfers of US arms to Turkey, which took effect on February 5, 1975 and remained in effect until 1978. AHI was the first "think tank" devoted exclusively to the study of policy issues involving the Greek American community and contemporary Hellenism. He was serving as a director on the board of the AHI Foundation at the time of his passing.

An Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America of The Order of Saint Andrew, Rossides received numerous high honors from Greece, Cyprus and the United States. He is survived by his wife, Aphrodite Rossides, a member of Leadership 100, his brother, Daniel Rossides, four children, and seven grandchildren.

## *Nicolaos Peter Bissias*

Nicolaos Peter Bissias, formerly a member of the Leadership 100 Board of Trustees, passed away on May 5, 2020. He was 88 years old. Bissias was born on September 10, 1931 in the village of Zeli, Tripoli, Greece and emigrated to the United States at the age of 18, building a long and successful life.

Settling in Chicago in 1951, where he married, he moved to California where he had relatives, buying his first restaurant, Nick's Coffee Shop, on Wilshire and Doheny. Conrad's Family Restaurant followed in 1968 in La Canada as the first of many locations and continues to this day.

Bissias was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Saint Sophia Foundation where he served for over 25 years. He was recognized for his dedication to the Greek Orthodox Church earning him the highest honor awarded to a layperson, Archon Depoutatos of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Order of Saint



*Nicolaos Peter Bissias*

Andrew. He received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, "given to those who have made it their mission to share with those less fortunate, their wealth of knowledge, indomitable courage, boundless compassion, unique talents and selfless

generosity." He was a member of the Archdiocesan Council, and AHEPA, as well as a benefactor of the Holy Monastery of the Theotokos. He was a life member of Saint Sophia Cathedral.

The Bissias family philanthropic commitments include The Philoptochos Society, Saint Sophia Cathedral, Kids and Cancer, City of Hope, Saint Jude Research Hospital, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of America, Assistance League of Southern California and the National Disabled Foundation. Bissias has supported local schools, churches and Little League within his community for over 50 years.

Bissias was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Frances Bissias and his brother Dimitri. He is survived by his son Peter, daughters Elaine and Diane, granddaughter Taia of La Canada Flintridge, his brother George and sister Athanasia of Athens, Greece.

# Gus Perdikakis Recognized as one of *Cincinnati* 300 Most Powerful Business Leaders



Gus Perdikakis

Gus G. Perdikakis, longtime member of Leadership 100 with his wife, Jo Ann, with whom he founded Gus Perdikakis Associates, Inc., has been recognized as one of the *Cincinnati* 300 Most Powerful Business Leaders in October, 2020, reflecting 41 years in the staffing service industry.

*Cincinnati* 300 is a compilation of the city's top 300 business leaders—the most influential, most powerful, and most impactful forces shaping Cincinnati today. It is a publication by Cincinnati Magazine.

Perdikakis is the CEO & President of Gus Perdikakis Associates Inc (GPA), headquartered in Cincinnati with a regional location based in Los Angeles. He has over 50 years of experience in the engineering solutions and professional staffing services industry. He and Jo Ann founded GPA in 1979 with a staff of 3. GPA has grown to over 350 employees. The firm specializes in quality technical and human resources.

Perdikakis earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Cincinnati and is an active alumnus and supporter of UCATS. He served as National President of the American Staffing Association (ASA), formerly National Technical Services Association (NTSA), and was one of only two individuals to serve as National President of NTSA for two terms. He also hosted a business radio program "Gus Perdikakis On Line" on WING radio in Dayton, Ohio from 1995–2000.

A lifelong member of the Greek Orthodox Church, he served as a

member of its Archdiocesan Council. He was elected to an unprecedented six-terms as president of Holy Trinity St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, his most recent term concluding in 2010. He was invested as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarch at the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul, Turkey in 1982. He has served as member of the Metropolis of Detroit Metropolis Council for many years and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Perdikakis is a founding board member of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center as well as a former committee chair on the Smale Commission of the City of Cincinnati. Individual awards presented to Gus have included NTSA Industry Leadership Award, recognizing Lifetime Achievement and Cincinnati Business Courier's "Executive of the Year" award.

Born in Cincinnati to Greek immigrant parents, Perdikakis has lived in Cincinnati his entire life. Jo Ann has served as his partner in life and partner in business, as Treasurer of GPA since its inception. They have three children, Lynn, Mandie and George and three grandsons, Gus Constantine, William Milo and Henry Apollo.

# Leadership 100<sup>®</sup>

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