



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

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## OFFICE OF IONIAN VILLAGE

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**REPORT TO THE 40<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CLERGY LAITY CONGRESS**  
July 4-8, 2010 ■ Atlanta, GA  
Rev. Fr. Jason C. Roll, *Director*

### MISSION

Ionian Village aims to enrich the lives of its participants with a living, vibrant experience of Greek Orthodox Christianity and a rich, textured immersion into their Greek heritage, culture and language.

This touchstone program serves the Greek-American community and the Nation of Greece in its aim to bond the youth of the Omogenia to Greece fostering within them a life-long appreciation of Greece, Orthodoxy, and Hellenism. The principles embraced in this program bring the fabric of our Greek culture into the heartland of America. The cultural treasures, vibrant contemporary culture and intoxicating natural beauty of Greece capture the hearts of all participants.

### GOALS

The goals of Ionian Village are to:

1. Cultivate a deepened sense of Greek Orthodox Christian Faith by gaining a better understanding of the sacraments, worship, fellowship, teaching, traditions, and customs of the Greek Orthodox Church.
2. Enrich participants' knowledge and experience of Greek civilization, Greek language and Greek culture; including music, dance, art, and architecture within the framework of the principles of Hellenism through interactive workshops and visits to cultural treasures and historical sites, in the natural beauty of their fatherland.
3. Bring its participants into meaningful contact with the people, customs and culture of contemporary Greece.
4. Ignite a life-long love for Greek Orthodoxy and Greece.

### OBJECTIVES

The current objectives of Ionian Village are to:

1. Renovate and upgrade the Ionian Village Facility, bringing it into compliance with European code and preparing it for the present and future needs of its programs allowing for the substantive expansion and enrichment of those programs.
2. Increase the number of participants annually through increased enrollment and expanded use of the facility.

3. Make the programs more affordable for participants from middle and low-income families.
4. Enrich the existing programs with more formalized and results-oriented curriculum in the areas of Greek language, history, and the principles of Hellenism.

### **2009 SUMMER PROGRAM RESULTS**

Enrollment for 2009 was higher than that of recent years. This past summer welcomed 290 campers (174 in Session 1; 116 in Session 2). In the years since 2004, there appears a trend of greater registration: in 2005, 231 campers registered; in 2006, 178 campers registered; in 2007, 251 campers registered; in 2008, 225 campers registered.

### **2010 SUMMER PROGRAM OUTLOOK**

Enrollment for 2010 is officially closed and the number of campers is as follows:

- Session 1: 151 registered.
- Session 2: 113 registered.

### **2010 STAFF POSITIONS**

This year, Ionian Village had another high number of staff applications received by the deadline of April 16, 2010. The selection committee was challenged in filling the 30 spots. To view a brief biography of our 2010 staff members, please visit our website at <http://www.ionianvillage.org/team/summer-staff>. We have enhanced our website to offer parents and campers a snapshot of our summer staff.

### **ONLINE REGISTRATION**

Again this year, Ionian Village participants are registering for camp using our online registration feature. This system dramatically reduces the amount of data entry required of the Ionian Village office, reduces paper waste and postage, allows registrations to be tracked in real time, and also offers a variety of data management features.

### **FAITH SCHOLARSHIPS**

For the third year in a row, Faith: An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism, offered scholarships to Ionian Village. These monies will assist financially challenged families and allows the opportunity for qualified candidates to participate in the unique summer experience. This summer, Faith's generosity is allowing 37 campers to attend.

### **NATIONAL HELLENIC SOCIETY**

This year the National Hellenic Society has agreed to donate \$20,000 to the Ionian Village program to sponsor our trip to Athens. This donation will help offset the costs of our admission into the new Acropolis Museum, and general admission to visit the Acropolis.

### **RENOVATION OF IONIAN VILLAGE FACILITY**

Every building, structure, and system within our facility has been evaluated, and plans have been drawn to bring Ionian Village up to current EU standards remedying a variety of problems with the physical plant.

The Special Committee on Ionian Village is supporting the Archdiocese in matters regarding funding, acquiring permits and future plans for the use of the facility. We are still in discussions with the Greek Government to secure the necessary funding to complete the renovation.

### **NEW WEBSITE**

The Ionian Village website has been redesigned and displays a fresh, new look. The new site went live on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 on the feast day of St. Dionysios (one of the patron saints of the camp). This

project was completed as a joint effort with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Internet Ministries.

#### **40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

June 2010 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first full session of Ionian Village held in 1970. We are in the initial planning stages for an event to promote this historical landmark. The event will be publicized and we look forward to the opportunity to promote the program, reunite alumni and supporters, and fundraise for the needed property renovations.

#### **REUNION FOR 2009 PARTICIPANTS**

Ionian Village's yearly reunion was held on April 9-11, 2010, in Boston, Massachusetts. It was a great success that hosted over 160 campers and staff, a number double than that of last year's participants. Some highlights that Campers and Staff enjoyed were a Duck Tour, a trip through the New England Aquarium and lunch at Quincy Market. The weekend concluded with the group celebrating the Divine Liturgy at the Holy Cross Chapel at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.

#### **ALUMNI EFFORTS**

Plans are underway to use our Social Networking and other outlets to reinvigorate the Alumni of Ionian Village. With the help of some current active alumni, we are creating an e-Newsletter to send to the alumni that will not only be available on these sites, but our main website as well. Alumni have their own "tab" on the new website where they can view upcoming events, make a donation, or be added to our email database.

#### **SOCIAL NETWORKING**

Adhering to the guidelines set by the Youth Department of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, we have been utilizing Social Networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter as a means to reach out to our followers to advertise, promote, and inform supporters of Ionian Village.

#### **TESTIMONIAL ADVERTISEMENTS**

Advertisements to promote Ionian Village are being created using some of the many testimonials we receive from camper's experiences.

#### **PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS**

We have created a master calendar of major youth events across the country with hopes of sending representation to promote Ionian Village. Over the past few months, Ionian Village has been represented at various youth related events throughout the country including FDF in the San Francisco Metropolis, The Denver Metropolis Basketball Tournament and the Atlanta Youth Rally.

#### **NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

On April 20<sup>th</sup> we welcomed our new Administrative Assistant, Vicky Yotides, to the New York office. Vicky brings a great amount of enthusiasm, professionalism and experience to the office. Her husband, Dino, and their two daughters, Catherine and Christina, are alumni of the program.

Respectfully Submitted by:

†Rev. Fr. Jason C. Roll, *Director*  
Office of Ionian Village