



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

PRESS OFFICE, NEWS & MEDIA RELATIONS

40th BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

July 4-8, 2010
Atlanta, Georgia

ARCHDIOCESE PRESS OFFICE, NEWS AND MEDIA RELATIONS
Stavros Papagermanos, Director/Press Officer

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America appointed Stavros Papagermanos in this position on July 15, 2008. He has served the Archdiocese faithfully since 1995, and immediately preceding his current post, he has served as the Director and Executive Editor of the *Orthodox Observer* and Press Officer for Greek language media.

❖ SCOPE

The Director of the Archdiocese Press Office, News and Media Relations is responsible for cultivating the relationships of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America with Press and Media organizations in the United States and abroad.

The Archdiocese Press Office is the daily conduit through which the Press gets information on the workings of the Archdiocese. Its major role is to explain how the ministries, offices, programs and policies of the Archdiocese have an impact on the parishes, the community, the clergy and the faithful. The role of the Press Officer is dual; on one hand is to deal with the Press and on the other is to keep the Archbishop and senior staff informed on press interests. The Press Officer often acts as the spokesperson.

For our Church, dealing with the Press is not simply a need, or a responsibility but rather a Christian duty. Informing honestly and truthfully the Press and through it the public, is and an important ministry which emanates from Holy Scripture.

❖ RESPONSIBILITIES / DAILY ROUTINES

The Press Office responds and answers journalist's inquiries, writes, edits and distributes press releases, media advisories, fact sheets, press packets or media kits. Initiates and develops feature stories in print and electronic media. Arranges and organizes and supervises press conferences, news briefings, media interviews, photo opportunities, visits and public events. Coordinates photo coverage and dissemination of photos and video to the Press. Cultivates new relationships and monitors and nurtures existing ones with national, ethnic and international media. Keeps up to date with current national and international issues, situations and public opinions. Monitors, researches and evaluates news and maintains press clippings. It coordinates media contact with the Metropolises, offices, departments and ministries of the Archdiocese, maintains media lists and databases.

The Press Officer often accompanies the Archbishop on visits and public events, informs and updates the Archbishop and key Archdiocese officials on press stories, interest and public sentiment and works closely and in coordination with other senior communications staff to develop and reassess clear goals, maintain a crisis plan and procedures and prepare for large public events. Develops and maintains relationships with other press offices (church, religious, governmental, organizational) and attends meetings of media professional associations and organizations. He also represents the Archdiocese in community

public interest organizations, develops pertinent community relations and monitors community events and activities and interfaces with various event organizers.

❖ MAJOR EVENTS COVERED in 2008-2010

2008

- 66th Commencement events of Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology
- Official Visit of Archbishop Demetrios to the Patriarchate of Moscow and All Russia
- Archbishop Demetrios' and Faith Endowment's Visit to the Vatican
- Second Official Visit of Archbishop Demetrios to Greece and AHEPA Annual Conference
- 39th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress in Washington DC
- Prayers offered at the Democratic and the Republican National Conventions
- Official Reception of the President of the Republic of Cyprus
- Synaxis of the Heads of the Orthodox Churches in Constantinople
- Archdiocesan Council Meeting, Chicago, Ill.
- Loyola Marymount University Honorary Doctorate to Archbishop Demetrios
- Archbishop Demetrios in Official Delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to the funeral of the late Patriarch Alexy II

2009

- Archbishop Demetrios participation in Presidential Inauguration and National Prayer Service
- Fordham University: Establishment of Archbishop Demetrios Chair
- Archbishop Demetrios' visits with the Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton
- Archbishop Demetrios Speaks at Brookings, meets with U.S. Senators
- Presidential March 25 celebration at the White House
- Visit to the Department of State (May)
- OCMC New Building dedication in Honor of Archbishop Anastasios of Albania and Archbishop Demetrios
- Archbishop Demetrios' Visit and Presentation to Camp St. Paul
- Tenth Enthronement Anniversary events for Archbishop Demetrios
- Apostolic and Patriarchal Visit to the U.S. of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
- Eighth Environmental Symposium in New Orleans
- Bestowing of Fordham University's highest honor to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
- "Tribute to Peace Makers" Concert
- Visit of Ecumenical Patriarch to Washington D.C. and the White House

2010

- Haiti Earthquake response
- Presidential March 25 celebration at the White House and visit of the Prime Minister of Greece
- Archbishop Demetrios' visit to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and Athens
- Archdiocesan Council Meeting in Atlanta
- First Episcopal Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Hierarchs in North and Central America
- Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's Official Visit to the Russian Orthodox Church
- St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival in New York

❖ **OTHER EVENTS COVERED**

- Major Holy Days, Christmas, Pascha, Epiphany etc.
- Communiqués, Messages and Encyclicals of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Archbishop Demetrios, the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Archdiocese, SCOBA and others.
- Visits of Church and Lay officials
- News and Information distribution on Archdiocese ministries, departments, activities and institutions
- Pastoral visits of Archbishop Demetrios
- Handling of crisis situations and negative press

