

TEACHER SEMINAR

MARCH 10, 2014

ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL, HEMPSTEAD

On **Monday, March 10, 2014** (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.), the Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education held a *Seminar* at St. Paul Cathedral in Hempstead. The purpose of the Seminar was to inform the Greek teachers – especially those who prepare students for the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek (at Checkpoint B)* – about the status of the foreign language examinations as well as the accreditation of foreign language studies in the State of New York.

The Office invited Ms. Vivian Selenikas, principal of the Long Island City High School in Queens and coordinator of the foreign language examinations for the New York City Department of Education to give a presentation on the *Strategies for Effective Instruction in LOTE* and do a review of the New York State Department of Education's Resource Guide on Languages Other Than English (LOTE).

Invited also was Mr. William Anderson, president of New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYSAFLT) and K-12 Curriculum Associate in LOTE & ESL for the Massapequa School District. Mr. Anderson spoke about the scope and efforts of NYSAFLT and invited the Greek teachers to become members of the Association, in order to benefit from their resources, workshops, and webinars offered.

Mrs. Maria Makedon, director of the Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education, presented an overview of the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*, while focusing on the safeguarding of its validity. She stressed the significance of the collaboration between her Office and the New York City Department of Education as well as with the Institute of Modern Greek Studies of the University of Thessaloniki.

In addition, Mrs. Makedon emphasized on the issuance of new documents that certify the Greek studies of the students taking the *Greek Examination* in an effort to secure its credibility. She also made a reference on the new edition of the *Modern Greek Language Curriculum – Checkpoint B*, which is currently under publication. The new *Checkpoint B Curriculum* will accompany the *Checkpoint A* one, which has already been published.

All in all, the Seminar was met with much success. It was attended by 32 principals and teachers serving in the Greek afternoon schools of Long Island, Flushing, and Brooklyn.