

**WHITE HOUSE SUMMIT ON INNER-CITY CHILDREN  
AND FAITH-BASED SCHOOLS**  
(APRIL 23 & 24, 2008)

A **White House Summit on Inner-City Children and Faith-Based Schools** was held in Washington, DC, on April 23 and April 24, 2008.

Main speaker was **President George Bush**, who emphasized the **No Child Left Behind Act**, which was signed into law in 2002 and has since formed the nation's education policy. **Ms. Margaret Spellings**, Secretary for Education, was the moderator at the Lunch Plenary.

Commenting on the faith-based schools, President Bush said the following "*...the future lies with faith-based schools, which offer solid academic foundation and moral character education.*" He pledged full support for the religious schools stating that "*...despite their success, are closing down at an alarming pace*" and that "*...the closing schools have imparted a burden to public schools who are already failing! It is in the country's interest to preserve these (faith-based) schools.*"

The Summit also featured four panel discussions and various presentations by distinguished educators, religious and lay leaders of education, and government officials. The presenters highlighted the importance of the faith-based schools and their great contribution to the American society.

250 representatives of religious and independent schools and institutions of higher learning were invited to attend the Summit. **Mrs. Maria Makedon**, director of the Archdiocesan District Office of Education, represented the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.