



ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

WASHINGTON, DC - APRIL 4 – 5, 2003

REPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF GREEK EDUCATION

The Archdiocesan Department of Greek Education is pleased to report on the following areas and/or projects:

1. In response to the need for a unified curriculum for grades K-8, the Department has embarked on the development of a *Curriculum for the Kindergarten*, which will follow the standards on early childhood education of the New York State Education Department.

The *K-Curriculum* will be bilingual and will include Greek songs, poems, riddles, games, etc. – teaching material, which will add to it its cultural aspect. **It will be ready for distribution to the parishes, free of charge, at the beginning of the new school year 2003-2004.**

The Department plans to assign three additional teams of teachers, who will undertake the development of curricula for grades 1-2; 3-5; and 6-8.

2. Material appropriate for teaching Modern Greek to higher grades (6-9) is currently under publication in the form of two booklets: one for the *teacher* and one for the *student*. It is expected to be available for distribution **in May 2003.**

The teaching material for higher grades is a compilation of the *Comprehensive Examinations in Modern Greek (Years: 1991-2001)* – an examination that the Department develops and administers annually to students in New York as well as in a few other cities. An *appendix* of common words, phrases, basic grammar, and syntax will accompany the student edition.

The *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* is a foreign language achievement test that assesses student proficiency in *speaking, listening, reading, and writing Modern Greek*. Students who pass the examination are awarded *foreign language credits*. Moreover, the examination can provide teachers and administrators with objective information, which can

be used as a basis for evaluating the quality of instruction and the student learning that have taken place in their respective schools.

3. The Department is presently reviewing the *2003 Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*, which is scheduled for administration on *June 20th*.

As a result of collaboration between the Archdiocesan Department of Greek Education and the *Hellenic American Union, Athens, Greece*, this year's examination will be sent for field testing and final review to an editorial team of HAU's *Greek Studies Program*. After the Hellenic American Union's educators have validated the examination, it will be returned to the Archdiocese for publication.

4. The Department has been invited to participate in a *Teachers Seminar* that is sponsored by the Diocese of New Jersey and will take place on *April 12th*, at *St. Thomas Church in Cherry Hill, NJ*.

The Archdiocesan District Director, Mrs. Maria Makedon, will be representing the Department at the Seminar. Mrs. Makedon will make a presentation on the basic principles underlying foreign language teaching/learning. In addition, Mrs. Donna Kondilis-Geller, project director of the *K-Curriculum*, will present her team's work to the participants.

5. In an effort to update its *database* on the latest information regarding the parochial day schools and after school Greek programs that are currently in operation throughout the country, the Department has contacted all the Metropolises and requested that they furnish the Archdiocese with relevant information. Direct contact with the Metropolises and the parishes has produced, so far, positive results.
6. Creating an informative and viable web page has always been under serious consideration by the Department of Greek Education, which called up a meeting recently between the Archdiocesan departments of Greek education and Technology.

The department directors discussed the web page as regards to targeting a specific audience, outlining of ministries and products, short and long-term goals, and funding. They concluded that creating such a web page would require time, research and professional knowledge and skills.

The Department is presently seeking volunteers who could assist either by giving advice or working on this project. It is also looking for resources and ways to finance this project.

Respectfully submitted by
Maria Makedon
Archdiocesan District Director