

36th BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS
June 30 – July 4, 2002
Los Angeles, California

GREEK EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee of Greek Education met on Monday, July 1, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. The presiding Hierarch for this meeting was His Grace Bishop Alexios of Atlanta; the chairman of the meeting was Dr. Steven Gounardes, the resource person was Mrs. Maria Makedon, director of the Archdiocesan District Office of Greek Education, and Mr. Christos Vrettos was the secretary.

His Grace Bishop Alexios opened the meeting with an opening prayer and introductory remarks reflecting the importance of Greek Education in our communities. He stressed how we all have to come together to continuously improve and strive for excellence, while reaching out to the masses of people. Additionally, His Grace thanked His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios for this assignment as well as thanking Mrs. Makedon, Dr. Gounardes, and Mr. Vrettos for their participation in the meeting.

Dr. Gounardes, at this point, recognized Mrs. Makedon for her many years of dedicated service to the Archdiocese and asked her to give a brief welcome. Following the welcome, Dr. Gounardes read a report prepared by Mrs. Makedon for the Greek Education Department, which is part of your delegate package.

Highlights of the Greek Education Report included the following statistics:

- 18 parochial day schools function in the United States under the auspices of the Archdiocese with a total enrollment of 4,104 students.
- 302 afternoon schools with an estimated 25-30,000 students, ages 6-15, offering instruction in Greek language, history, and culture.
- Additionally, many parishes offer classes in Modern Greek for adults.

The Archdiocesan Department of Education provides day and afternoon schools with:

- School regulations
- Curriculum Guidelines
- Books and Audio/visual Materials
- Certificates, Diplomas, and Awards

The Department of Greek Education, because of its proximity to the 11 parochial day schools located within the Archdiocesan District, is involved with the in-service training of all their

teachers as well as the production of the New York State Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek, which is approved by the New York State Education Department.

Other highlight points of the Greek Education Report were as follows:

- A meeting of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios with the Minister of Education of Greece, Mr. Petros Efthymiou, and other government officials to discuss how the Greek Government could be of assistance to the Archdiocese with Greek Education.
- A meeting of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios with the President of the Hellenic American Union in Athens, Mr. Chris Spyrou, during which Mr. Spyrou offered the Archdiocesan Department of Greek Education assistance and professional advice in teacher training.

During the Committee meeting, those present had the opportunity to speak and address their concerns and ask any questions pertaining to Greek Education. The following recommendations were made:

1. The Archdiocese should encourage the parishes and the clergy to educate their parishioners on the importance of Greek Education.
2. The Archdiocese should encourage parishes to initiate early childhood programs, which would include teaching of the Greek language and culture.
3. The Archdiocese should create an advisory committee to assist the Department of Greek Education.
4. The Department of Greek Education should explore ways to promote Greek Education by use of the Internet, which may be helpful to the students living in the rural areas.

In addition, the following resolution was made and adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED: That the Administration Committee considers the insertion of the words “**parochial school**” in ARTICLE XVI, Section 3, of the UPR, so that it would read as follows: “*Each parish shall endeavor to have the following ministries and organizations: Sunday school, chanter, choir, acolytes, GOYA, YAL, Joy program, a Greek language school, parochial school, philoptochos... etc.*”

Respectfully submitted by

Dr. Steven Gounardes, Chairman, Greek Education Committee
 Mrs. Maria Makedon, Director, Archdiocesan District Department of Greek Education
 Mr. Christos Vrettos, Secretary, Greek Education Committee

PARTICIPANTS

Delegates

V. Rev. Kapsalis, Timothy,
 Rev. Antokas, Dimitrios
 Rev. Chioros, George
 Rev. Soteropoulos, Nicholas
 Rev. Papulis, Douglas
 Rev. Maginas, Andrew
 Rev. Stavropoulos, George
 Rev. Theophilopoulos, Tryfon

Holy Trinity, Lowell, MA
 Holy Trinity, Westfield, NJ
 SS. Constantine & Helen, Newport News, VA
 St. Demetrios, Jamaica, NY
 St. Nicholas, St. Louis, MO
 St. Catherine, West Palm Beach, FL
 Holy Trinity, Hicksville, NY
 St. Nicholas Cathedral, Tarpon Springs, FL

Kokkoris, Jordan
 Andriotis, Nick A.
 Vrettos, Christos
 Tzantarmas, Saki
 Garifalakis, Isidoros
 Kraras, Christ G.
 Spyraakis, Demetrios
 Randopoulos, Anthoula
 Pigeon, Andrianna
 Sepsis, Teo
 Zigouras, Andreas
 Vlahos, Ioannis H.
 Dr. Emmanouilides, Christos
 Dr. Carayannopoulos, Nicolas
 Dr. Gounardes, Steven
 Costaras, Demetrios
 Vasiliadis, Nick
 Papademas, Gregory
 Fassuliotis, George
 Canellos, Chris
 Vlahakis, Susan
 Popoff, Georgana K.
 Silva, Jane
 Anest, Sophia
 Levas, Frances
 Rigopoulos, Alex
 Dandalides, Des
 Gastouniotis, Georgia
 Antoniou, Nicky
 Rickman, Mary
 Fassuliotis, Helen
 Kraticos, Maria

St. Demetrios, Astoria, NY
 St. Demetrios, Astoria, NY
 Transfiguration, Corona, NY
 Holy Trinity, Portland, OR
 Holy Trinity, Portland, OR
 SS. Constantine & Helen, Reading, PA
 St. Demetrios, Chicago, IL
 St. Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA
 Holy Trinity, Columbia, SC
 St. Demetrios, Elmhurst, IL
 St. John Theologian, Tenafly, NJ
 St. Demetrios, Chicago, IL
 Three Hierarchs, Storrs, CT
 Holy Trinity, Dallas, TX
 Holy Cross, Brooklyn, NY
 Holy Trinity Cathedral, NYC, NY
 St. Nicholas, Baltimore, MD
 Assumption, Denver, CO
 Holy Trinity, Charleston, SC
 Holy Cross, Belmont, CA
 Holy Trinity, Lansing, MI
 Holy Trinity, Lansing, MI
 Ascension Cathedral, Oakland, CA
 St. George, Asbury Park, NJ
 Taxiarchae, Watertown, MA
 SS. Constantine & Helen, N. San Diego, CA
 Annunciation, Norfolk, VA
 St. Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA
 St. Nicholas, St. Louis, MO
 Holy Trinity, Columbia, SC
 Holy Trinity, Charleston, SC
 Holy Trinity, Charleston, SC

Observers

Stratakis, Mary
Vasilas, Anthony
Louggas, Marianthi
Price, Marcy
Eliakopoulos, Angeline
Prokopakis, Michael
Malatores, John
Hadjilogiou, Fran

St. Nicholas, Flushing, NY
Archangel Michael, Roslyn Heights, NY
St. Katherine, Melbourne, FL
St. Nicholas, Bethlehem, PA
St. Demetrios, Chicago, IL
St. Nicholas, San Jose, CA
Holy Trinity Cathedral, Charlotte, NC
St. Katherine, Melbourne, FL

July 2, 2002