



ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING
PALMER HOUSE HILTON - *Chicago, Illinois*
May 10, 2002

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MISSION & SCOPE:

To implement the educational aims and goals as defined by the Charter of the Archdiocese and the decisions of the Clergy Laity Congresses in all types of community schools, which constitute the Archdiocesan School System.

AIMS & GOALS:

To instill in the minds and hearts of our youth the spiritual, moral, and cultural values of our Greek Orthodox Heritage through the systematic instruction of the Greek language, Greek cultural history, and Greek Orthodox religion.

MINISTRY:

1) ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL :

- Provides Curriculum Guidelines
- Books and Audio/Visual Materials
- Certificates, Diplomas, and Awards

2) ON THE ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT LEVEL :

- Develops and administers annually the *New York State Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*, which offers students the opportunity to acquire foreign language credit in the public schools;
- Organizes teacher seminars and workshops, in collaboration with state, city, and other educational authorities;
- Participates in meetings of state and other nonpublic school agencies;
- Holds regular meetings with the area day school principals;
- Coordinates the annual Spelling Bee Contest;
- Attends various school programs, graduation exercises and other events;

- Organizes annually festivities honoring Greek Letters and Arts.

ACTIVITIES

Since the last meeting of the Archdiocesan Council, in November 2001, the activities of the Education Department are as follows:

EVENTS

Greek Letters Day was celebrated, on **January 30th**, the Feast Day of the Three Hierarchs, with:

- *A Divine Liturgy & an Awards Ceremony* for students, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral;
- *A Vasilopita Reception* for Greek-American teachers, at the Archdiocese; and
- *A Lecture* for the general public, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral Center.

CONTESTS

Sponsored by the newspaper "DAILY NEWS" and coordinated by the Archdiocesan Department of Education, the annual **Spelling Bee Contest** was held on **January 8th**, at the Archdiocese.

MEETINGS

Three Principals Meetings were held: on **January 17th**, on **March 14th**, and on **April 22nd**. Representatives of the New York State Education Department were invited and addressed the area day school principals on several issues of mutual concern such as: state standards and assessments; scoring state examinations; training of teachers, etc.

TEACHER SEMINARS

The following **teacher seminars** were organized:

"Acting In The Classroom"	March 29 & March 30	Cultural Center, Astoria
"Changes on the Greek - Regents Examination"	April 5 & April 9	St. Nicholas, Flushing St. Nicholas, W. Babylon
"The 2004 Olympic Games"	April 16	St. Demetrios, Astoria

170 teachers attended the seminars and gave enthusiastic reviews regarding their quality and appropriateness.

THE 36TH CLERGY LAITY CONGRESS - Los Angeles, CA

At the direction of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, the Department of Education will organize *two special one-hour sessions* during the upcoming Clergy Laity Congress. The sessions will be devoted to the:

1. *Greek culture and heritage programs in the afternoon schools*
2. *A rise in parish early childhood programs*

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. THE 2002 COMPREHENSIVE

EXAMINATION IN MODERN GREEK

With the Examination scheduled for administration on June 24th, the writers are working intensely to finish its development. The Examination will be published in May and will be accompanied by a cassette for the Listening Part.

2. A COMPILATION OF THE EXAMINATION

IN MODERN GREEK OF THE PAST 10 YEARS

Funded by a *Niarchos Foundation Grant*, two books will be published - one for the student and one for the teacher. (*Expected time of completion: June 2002*)

3. A CURRICULUM FOR KINDERGARTEN

Funded by a *Niarchos Foundation Grant*, a Curriculum for Kindergarten is presently under development. It will eventually include a teacher's edition, a student's book, and posters. (*Expected time of completion: September 2002*)



Prepared by
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