



# ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

October 20, 2006 – New York Hilton Hotel

## Report of the Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education

### The Parochial Day and Afternoon Schools

The *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* has the privilege of serving the teachers and students of the 11 parochial day schools and 47 afternoon Greek language schools that operate within the Direct Archdiocesan District.

For the current school year (2006-2007), the parochial day schools reported a total enrollment of 1,986, which is slightly lower than it was the year before; in 2005-2006, the enrollment was 2,066. At present, there are 241 teachers serving in the day schools, 42 of whom serve in the Greek departments.

According to a recent survey contacted by the Office at the request of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, **43%** of the students attending a Greek Orthodox parochial day school in New York City are **non-Orthodox**. These figures do not represent the St. Demetrios School in Astoria and the “W. Spyropoulos” School in Flushing, since both schools accept only Orthodox students.

Information on student enrollment and teachers serving in the 47 afternoon Greek schools is currently being collected. For this purpose, a mailing which included statistical forms requesting pertinent information, was recently sent out to the parish priests and those responsible for the operation of the afternoon schools. It is our hope that we would be able to report in more detail on the operation of these schools at the next meeting.

### Projects and Activities

Acting as the *liaison* between the 11 parochial day schools located in New York City and the New York State education authorities for matters relating to the implementation of state curricula and mandates, the *Direct Archdiocesan Office of Education*

- Holds monthly meetings with the parochial day school principals;
- Attends meetings with state and other nonpublic school officials;
- Organizes workshops for the in-service training of teachers;
- Coordinates the annual *Spelling Bee Contest* (in English); and
- Develops and administers the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*, annually .

## Meetings & Conferences

- **Meetings:** Since the beginning of the 2006-07 school year, the Office has held **two** meetings with the area day school principals: the first on **September 19<sup>th</sup>** and the second on **October 18<sup>th</sup>**. The principals discussed matters of mutual concern and made recommendations on the appropriateness of the selected workshops for the annual Staff-Development Seminar scheduled to take place on **November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006** (Election Day).
- **Conferences:**

### The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Private School Leadership Conference

On **October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006**, the director of the Archdiocesan District Office of Education, Mrs. Maria Makedon, attended the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Private School Leadership Conference** of the *Office of Non-Public Education (ONPE)/Office of Innovation and Improvement of The United States Department of Education, Washington, DC*.

The Conference provided information related to the nonpublic school community and its efforts to enhance student achievement. The Agenda included presentations on a wide variety of topics. These are as follows: *Supplemental Education Services (SES); the American Opportunity Scholarship Awards; IDEA 2004 (Special Education/Handicapped Children in Private Schools; Crisis Planning: Emergency Response-Preparedness/Pandemic/Avian Influenza; 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers; and Civil Right Issues Related to Nonpublic Schools*.

The *Office of Innovation and Improvement* was created within the *U.S. Department of Education* in late 2002 to advocate private school choice and “equitable participation” of every student in the education process. The keynote speaker, **Mr. Morgan Brown**, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Innovation and Improvement, encouraged private schools to participate in the above mentioned programs and services and offered guidance and assistance.

Information regarding these programs was disseminated to the parochial day school principals at their **October 18<sup>th</sup>** meeting.

### The Conference of Administrators of Independent and Religious Schools

The *Conference of Administrators of Independent and Religious Schools* is organized annually by the **NYS Coalition of Independent and Religious Schools** and is held in Albany, New York. The Conference offers presentations and workshops for nonpublic school administrators, where they also will have the opportunity to meet with State representatives.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference will take place on **November 13 & 14, 2006**, at the Albany Marriott Hotel. And for the second year in a row, the **Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America** will be one of the sponsors of the event. Sponsors include: *the NYS Council of Catholic Schools Superintendents; the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York; Agudath Israel of America; the Lutheran Schools Association; the Islamic Schools Association; NYS Association of Independent Schools, etc.*

Headed by Mrs. Maria Makedon, director of the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education*, a team consisting of seven principals and three assistants representing the New York City parochial day schools will be attending the *Conference*.

### In-Service Teacher Training

The *Archdiocesan District Office of Education* organizes annually a *Staff-Development Seminar* with the purpose of offering in-service training to the teachers who serve the parochial day schools of metropolitan New York. The Seminar is held under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.

Preparations are under way for such a Seminar that will take place on **November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006**, at the **High School of St. Demetrios Cathedral, Astoria**. The Seminar will include a wide array of workshops that cover all areas of study and all grades (nursery to high school), which would help teachers integrate new knowledge and techniques into their practice. They are as follows: *Creating a Quality Early Childhood Classroom Learning Environment*; *Crafting Characters Using Picture Books*; *Literacy in the Classroom*; *Planning an Effective Classroom Lesson to Meet the State Standards in Math*; *Habitat Ecology Learning Program*; *Stress and Anger Management*; *Classroom Management*; *Evaluation and Treatment of ADD/ADHD Disorders*; *ESL: Teaching in the Multi-Level Classroom*; *Technology in the Classroom (Use of Power Point, Internet and Webquests)*; *School Safety/School Negligence and the Law*; and *Sexual Harassment*.

Please note that the principals of the *District's* parochial day schools have officially designated November 7<sup>th</sup> (Election Day) as "***Staff-Development Day***" and schools will be closed on that day.

### Assessment & Evaluation

A major project of the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* is the development and administration of the ***Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek***, a foreign language test that assesses student proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing Modern Greek.

The *Examination* follows the philosophy and standards of foreign language teaching of the ***New York State Education Department*** and has gained recognition in cities outside of New York State. It is administered annually to public and parochial school students in the State of New York and locally in other areas (New Jersey, Connecticut, N. Carolina, and Virginia). Students who successfully pass the Examination receive a "*Certificate*" issued by the Office that is accepted for foreign language credit by high schools and institutions of higher learning.

### The Spelling Bee Contest (English)

The *Spelling Bee Contest* is an annual event sponsored by the newspaper DAILY NEWS as a service to the New York City public and nonpublic schools. Students in grades 5-7 are eligible to participate.

The *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* coordinates and hosts the *Contest* for the students of the parochial day schools in metropolitan New York. The Contest for the District has been tentatively scheduled to take place on **February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007**. Materials for the preparation of the students will be distributed to the schools shortly.

**Visit Us On The Web: [www.greekeducation.goarch.org](http://www.greekeducation.goarch.org)**

The *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Greek Education* has updated the web page of the Department to make it user-friendly and provide resources to those interested in learning/teaching the Greek language and culture. The site also offers valuable information on the projects and activities of the Department of Greek Education.

The web page was designed by Dr. Andreas Karatsolis, a specialist in web design, in collaboration with the Direct Archdiocesan District Director, Mrs. Maria Makedon. The project was funded by a grant from “**Leadership 100.**”



Respectfully submitted by:  
MARIA MAKEDON

October 20, 2006