



ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

NEW YORK CITY – SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2003

GREEK EDUCATION REPORT

Ministry

Twenty three parochial day schools and more than 300 Greek afternoon schools opened their doors this month to thousands of young students, ages 4-18. All offer a program of Greek studies that includes the teaching of the Modern Greek language, Greek history and culture and of the Greek Orthodox faith and worship.

Parochial day schools and Greek afternoon schools have always played a vital role in the educational endeavors of the Greek Orthodox parishes by offering young people a better understanding and appreciation of the cultural heritage and traditions that underlie Greek Orthodoxy.

It is the objective of the Department of Greek Education to enhance the parish programs of Greek studies by providing them with curricula suitable to the needs of today's students and to facilitate the work of the teachers by offering in-service training to them. Within this framework, the Department of Greek Education has been working rigorously for the past six months, on the following projects:

Curricula

A *Curriculum for the Kindergarten*, in both languages (Greek/ English), has been developed with the purpose to teach the students of this age group the Modern Greek language, Greek culture and religious elements.

The *K-Curriculum* is presently under review and editing. **Dr. Maria Birbilis**, a professor of the University of Thessaloniki, who has studied in the United States and in Oxford, England, reviewed the *K-Curriculum* during the summer months. It will soon be available to the community schools, free of charge, thanks to a generous gift by the "*Niarchos Foundation*."

Other Publications

The **two** books (one for the teacher, one for the student) on the ***Comprehensive Examinations in Modern Greek*** are also ready for publication. They are currently being proofread.

The compilation of the examinations of the past 11 years into two books will be a good source of teaching material suitable to the needs of students in grades 6-8. The two books will also be available soon and offered gratis, to students and teachers thanks to a generous gift by the "*Niarchos Foundation*."

Teacher Training

With the blessings of His Eminence **Archbishop Demetrios**, the Department of Greek Education is organizing a two-week teacher-training program, in collaboration with the ***Hellenic American Union***, a nonprofit cultural organization based in Athens, Greece.

The *Department of Greek Studies* of the ***Hellenic American Union*** has been offering courses of Modern Greek as a second/foreign language to non-Greek speakers for many years. In addition, its faculty has been training educators that teach Modern Greek. In doing both, HAU uses its own textbooks and original training materials.

The teacher-training program aimed at training the teachers serving in the Archdiocesan schools will be launched, for the first time, in **November 2003**, at **St. Basil Academy**, Garrison, NY. Professors of the ***Hellenic American Union*** will introduce Greek teachers on subjects such as: *current methodologies on teaching Greek as a second language, computer education, class management, mixed ability teaching*, etc. Courses will be taught in Greek and are especially designed to meet the latest developments in foreign language education.

The teacher-training program will be offered, as a scholarship, primarily to teachers who possess minimal experience in the education field and lack professional training. Priority will be given to the teachers of afternoon schools from throughout the United States.

New Book Catalog

A big shipment of books from Greece was just received at the Archdiocese. Books include old and new titles available through the catalog of the Department of Greek Education. They may be used as resource material for teachers and/or for classroom use by students.

The Department is currently designing a new catalog, which will be mailed soon to day and afternoon schools along with other informative material.

Submitted by
MARIA MAKEDON