THREE HIERARCHS STUDENT AWARD CEREMONY

Saturday, February 1, 2014 Holy Trinity Cathedral, Manhattan, NY

In conjunction of Feast of the Three Hierarchs (January 30th), the Archdiocesan District Office of Education successfully organized an festive event honoring the students who excelled in the Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek in June 2013 and celebrating the Greek Letters. The Students Award Ceremony took place on **Saturday**, **February 1**st, at 5 p.m., inside the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manhattan, and welcomed students from all over New York as well as from neighboring states.

The Consul General of Greece, Mr. George Iliopoulos and the Vice Consul, Mr. Manos Koumbarakis, honored the event with their presence. Also, in attendance were the priests, principals, and teachers of the honored students as well as members of their families.

Addressing the audience, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America referred extensively to the humble life and holy works of the Three Hierarchs - St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John the Chrysostom. He placed a significant focus on the writings of St. John the Chrysostom, which have impacted the writings of many contemporary thinkers. The Archbishop then congratulated the 72 honorees and presented them with the *Three Hierarchs Award of Excellence*.

The keynote speaker of the event, Ms. Yanna Darilis, production director and presenter of New Greek TV, used examples from her personal life to justify how the knowledge of the Greek language helped her advance in her career. George Papastefanou, a graduate of the Greek Afternoon School "Stephen & Areti Tserpelis" of St. Nicholas, Flushing, spoke about his personal experience as a student of an afternoon school leaving a lasting impression to the audience.

Mrs. Maria Makedon, director of the Archdiocesan District Office of Education, welcomed everyone and congratulated the honorees. She also expressed her gratitude to the parents and teachers of the awarded students. Mrs. Athena Kromidas, principal of "W. Spyropoulos" Greek-American Day School in Flushing, served as the Master of Ceremonies, commenting briefly on the importance of the Greek language.

Following the Ceremony, a beautiful artistic program and a reception were held in the adjacent Cathedral Ballroom. The program was "a dedication to the renowned Greek novelist, Alexandros Papadiamantis, the saint – as they call him – of Greek Literature," Mrs. Makedon stated. The Choir of the St. Demetrios Greek-American Day School, Astoria, performed songs based on A. Papadiamantis novels under the direction of Vagelis Chaziroglou, who along with actress, Martha Tomboulidou, were in charge of the whole artistic program.