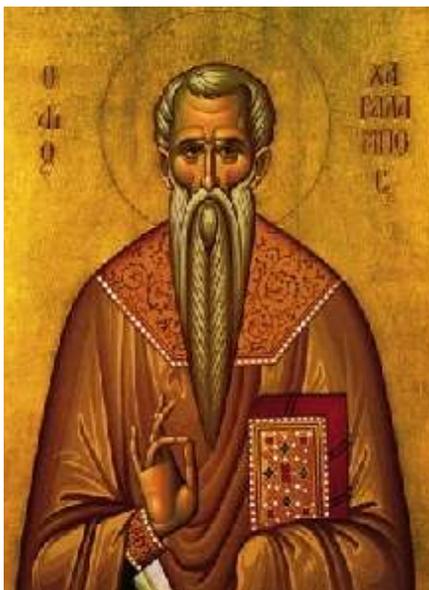


Christian Light

February 2020 — Vol. 32



February Message

A Wish for the New Decade

In this month's issue of "Christian Light," we host another significant message from the pen of Fr. Haralambos Papadopoulos:

I was considering what I could possibly write with the dawn of this new decade, now that the last decade has passed over our bodies and souls. There are so many stereotypical cliché-type niceties that people say. We've heard them all and have had enough of them. I felt it would be better to speak to you as a friend and a brother and to just say "glory be to God" that we are here and are alive. We are alive to the joys and bitterness of life and, most importantly, we are here, "on the job . . ." This is really the greatest gift. In truth though we don't appreciate this and we do whatever is in our ability daily to destroy this and make our lives miserable. The most phony meaningless greeting is that which comes from our mouths a thousand times these days: "good health to us," "health is first," etc. And yet we are not happy that we have our health, and this is why we do everything in our power to destroy it!

Why? Because we don't like the way we are, the way God made us, that which he has given us. We always desire whatever we don't have, never that which we already possess in our hands! We hate ourselves, and by extension we hate

our lives. We throw our life away like a murdered corpse here and there, disgracing it. And when is a life disgraced? When we don't live it and we leave it to merely subsist with no meaning. When we come home at the end of the day and don't say "glory be to God!" rather we say "what a relief another day has passed!" As if it is a burden, an annoyance, something we need to get rid of and not something we need to **experience**.

We need to understand that real time is not measured on clocks and calendars, but in our souls. Before our bodies age our dreams have gone gray and white. Before our bodies give up our desires have been bent over and disappointment reeks worse than death.

My wish then for the new decade is: let's **live!** Yes, precisely, let's live with whatever that brings us! In other words, let's risk things, let's repent subversively, let's bring change to our lives! Let's find what is correct without fearing making mistakes, let's desire virtue without the fear of sin! Let's seek God without the threat of hell. Let's love and let us hurt, let's dare even if we sometimes fail, let's appreciate and let's glorify! Let's cry and let's laugh! Let's pray and let us be silent, let's make the moment eternity, let's take back our time, let's make it our friend and not our enemy. That's what resurrected time really means!

Have a blessed decade, many blessed years to all of you!

*Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church
97 Walcott Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860*

Reverend Dr. Philip Zymaris
Protopresbyter



E-mail: pzymaris@hchc.edu
(401) 725-3127 Phone (401) 725-9270 Fax
(857) 204-9021 Emergencies
Web Site: www.assumptionri.org

SUNDAY SERVICES

Orthros at 8 A.M. and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 A.M.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.
Elizabeth Lazouras
secretary@assumptionri.org

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Vice President	Dr. Nicholas Nikolopoulos
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	Vasileios Papavasiliou
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PTO:	Ourlania Stefanopoulos, President
Visitation:	Tina Demopulos
	Sophia Balamas-Young
Seminarian:	James Harritos

Μήνυμα Φεβρουαρίου

Εύχή για την Καινούργια Δεκαετία

Στὸ τρέχον τεύχος τοῦ «Χριστιανικοῦ Φωτός» φιλοξενούμε μία βαρυσήμαντη εὐχή τοῦ π. Χαράλαμπος Παπαδοπούλου:

Σκέφτηκα τι θὰ μπορούσα νὰ γράψω μὲ τὴν ἀλλαγὴ μίας δεκαετίας ποὺ πέρασε πάνω ἀπὸ τὸ κορμί μας καὶ τὴν ψυχὴ μας. Πολλὰ τὰ κλεισὲ καὶ οἱ κονσερβοποιημένες εὐχές. Μᾶς κούρασαν κι αὐτές. Ἔνωσα ὅτι θὰ ἦταν καλύτερα νὰ σᾶς μιλήσω ὡς φίλος καὶ ἀδελφός. Καὶ νὰ πῶ δόξα τῷ Θεῷ ποὺ ζοῦμε καὶ ὑπάρχουμε. Ποὺ εἴμαστε ἀκόμη ζωντανοὶ μὲ τις χαρὲς καὶ τις πίκρες τοῦ βίου μας, ὡστόσο ὅμως εἴμαστε ἐδῶ, «στὴν σκηνή.....» Αὐτὸ εἶναι τὸ μέγιστο δῶρο. Ἡ ἀλήθεια εἶναι πῶς δὲν τὸ ἐκτιμοῦμε, καὶ κάνουμε τὰ πάντα ὥστε καθημερινὰ νὰ γίνεται ἡ ζωὴ μας βάσανο. Ἡ πιὸ ψεύτικη εὐχή εἶναι ἐκείνη ποὺ τις ἡμέρες αὐτὲς θα εἰπωθεῖ χιλιάδες φορές ἀπὸ τὰ χεῖλη ὄλων μας, «στὴν ὑγεία μας, εἰς ὑγεία, πρῶτα ὑγεία...». Κι ὅμως κανεῖς δὲν εἶναι εὐτυχισμένος ποὺ ἔχει τὴν ὑγείαν του, γι' αὐτὸ κάνουμε τὰ πάντα ὥστε νὰ τὴν καταστρέψουμε.



Γιατί; Μὰ γιατί δὲν ἀγαπᾶμε αὐτὸ ποὺ εἴμαστε, ἐκεῖνο ποὺ μᾶς ἔκανε ὁ Θεός, αὐτὰ ποὺ μᾶς χάρισε. Πάντα θέλουμε αὐτὸ ποὺ δὲν ἔχουμε. Ποτὲ ἐκεῖνο ποὺ κρατᾶμε στὰ χέρια μας. Μισοῦμε τὸν ἑαυτό μας, κατ'ἐπέκταση τὴν ζωὴ μας. Τὴν πετᾶμε ὡς δολοφονημένο πτώμα ἀπὸ ἐδῶ κι ἐκεῖ, ἀτιμάζοντάς

την. Και τότε ατιμάζεται μία ζωή; Όταν δεν την ζεις αλλά την αφήνεις να κυλά δίχως νόημα. Όταν την νύχτα κλείνοντας την μέρα σου δεν λες «δόξα τῷ Θεῷ», αλλά αντιθέτως «οὐφ, πέρασε κι αυτή η ημέρα». Λες και ἦταν βάσανο, βάρος, κάτι πού πρέπει να ξεφορτωθείς και ὄχι να ζήσεις.

Πρέπει να καταλάβουμε ὅτι ὁ πραγματικός χρόνος δὲν κυλά στα ρολόγια και τὰ ἡμερολόγια μὰ στις ψυχές μας. Πρωτοῦ γεράσουν τὰ σώματά μας, ἔχουν ἀσπρίσει τὰ ὄνειρά μας. Πρωτοῦ παραιτηθεῖ τὸ κορμί μας, ἔχουν κυρτώσει οἱ ἐπιθυμίες και ἡ ἀπελπισία μοιάζει πιὸ φοβερὴ και ἀπὸ τὸ θάνατο.

Εὐχὴ λοιπὸν γιὰ τὴ νέα δεκαετία: νὰ ζήσουμε. Ναι αὐτό, νὰ ζήσουμε μὲ ὅτι αὐτὸ σημαίνει. Δηλαδή νὰ ρισκάρουμε, νὰ μετανοήσουμε ἀνατρεπτικά, νὰ φέρουμε ἀλλαγές στὸ βίο μας, νὰ βροῦμε τὰ σωστὰ χωρὶς νὰ φοβόμαστε τὰ λάθη, νὰ ποθήσουμε τὴν ἀρετὴ δίχως τὸν φόβο τῆς ἀμαρτίας, νὰ ζητήσουμε τὸν Θεὸ χωρὶς τὴν ἀπειλὴ τῆς κολάσεως. Νὰ ἀγαπήσουμε κι ἄς πονέσουμε, νὰ τολμήσουμε κι ἄς ἀποτύχουμε, νὰ ἐκτιμήσουμε και νὰ δοξολογήσουμε. Νὰ κλάψουμε και γελάσουμε. Νὰ προσευχηθοῦμε και νὰ σιωπήσουμε, νὰ κάνουμε τὴν στιγμὴ αἰωνιότητα, τὸ χρόνο δικὸ μας, φίλο και ὄχι ἐχθρό μας. Αὐτὸ σημαίνει χρόνος ἀναστημένος.

Καλὴ νέα δεκαετία, χρόνια πολλὰ, καλὰ κι εὐλογημένα!



Congratulations to our 2020 Assumption Parish Council

The Oath of Office was given by Fr. Philip Zymaris to the 2020 Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church Parish Council at the end of Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 19, 2020.

Pictured are Fr. Philip Zymaris, George Foussekis (President), Dr. Nicholas Nikolopoulos (Vice President), Peter Papavasiliou (Secretary), Chris Limnios (Treasurer), Donna Gerace (Assistant Treasurer), Steven Taktikos, Nickolas Vellopoulos, Triantafillio Foussekis, George Karalis, and Eleni Katsios. Parish Council members not pictured are Vasiliou Papavasiliou and Brian Gerace.



STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

Please help the church meet its operating expenses by making your donation TODAY!!!

ΥΠΕΝΘΥΜΗΣΗ ΣΥΝΔΡΟΜΗΣ

Ἄν ἔχετε ξεχάσει νὰ στείλετε τὴν ἐτήσια συνδρομὴ σας γιὰ τὰ ἔξοδα και τὴ σωστὴ λειτουργία τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, παρακαλεῖστε νὰ κάνετε τὴν ἀπαραίτητη δωρεὰ σας ΣΗΜΕΡΑ!!!

Ο ΓΕΡΟΝΤΑΣ ΚΑΙ Ο ΣΚΟΡΠΙΟΣ

“Ένας Γέροντας είδε ένα σκορπιό να πνίγεται και προσπάθησε να τον σώσει τραβώντας τον από το νερό. Μόλις τον έβγαλε, ο σκορπιός τον τσίμπησε, ο πόνος ήταν όξυς και ο Γέροντας τον άφησε μονομιάς με αποτέλεσμα ο σκορπιός να ξαναπέσει στο νερό και να κινδυνεύει να πνιγεί. Ο Γέροντας ξαναπροσπάθησε και ο σκορπιός τον τσίμπησε ξανά. “Ένας ύποτακτικός που είδε τη σκηνή πλησίασε και του είπε: «Με συγχωρείτε γέροντα, αλλά δεν έχετε αντιληφθεί ότι κάθε φορά που προσπαθείτε να σώσετε το σκορπιό, αυτός σάς τσιμπάει;» Ο Γέροντας απάντησε: «Η φύση του σκορπιού είναι να τσιμπάει κι αυτό δεν θα αλλάξει. Η δική μου είναι να βοηθώ.» Στη συνέχεια ο Γέροντας με την βοήθεια ενός φύλλου, έβγαλε το σκορπιό από το νερό και τον έσωσε. Στράφηκε κατόπιν στο μαθητή του και του είπε: «Μην αλλάξεις τη φύση σου αν κάποιος σου προξενήσει πόνο, απλά πάρε τα μέτρα σου επειδή οι άνθρωποι είναι συνήθως άχαριστοι στο καλό που τους γίνεται. Άλλα δεν είναι λόγος να σταματήσεις να το κάνεις, να νεκρώσεις την αγάπη που ζει μέσα σου...»



THE ELDER AND THE SCORPION

Once upon a time there was a spiritual elder who saw a scorpion drowning in a puddle and he tried to save it by taking it out of the water. As soon as he put it in his hands to save it the scorpion stung him and the pain was so terrible that the elder inadvertently cast the scorpion off him and it fell in the water again and was once again in danger of drowning. So the elder took the scorpion out again and it stung him again. His disciple was nearby and happened to see this and he approached and said to him: “forgive me, geronta, but have you not understood that every time that you try to save the scorpion it will sting you?” The elder answered: “the scorpion’s nature is to sting and that can’t change. My nature is to help.” Then, with the help of a leaf the elder got the scorpion out of the water and saved it. Then he turned to his disciple and said: “Don’t change your nature if someone causes you pain, simply take the proper measures because people are usually ungrateful when we do them good. But that is not a reason to stop doing good; that is not a reason to kill the love that lives in you!”



*Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church
97 Walcott Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island*

ADULT CLASS SEMINAR

*Mondays February 24th to April 6th
6 to 8 P.M. Assumption Community Center*

*A 7-week class will be offered on Plato’s classical masterpiece, “**Phaedo**”. In Phaedo, Socrates, in a fearless and brave attitude – a few hours before he was put to death condemned by his fellow Athenians – discusses with his disciples his belief in the immortality of the soul. The class will be held on **Mondays from 6 to 8 P.M.** in the Community Center of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church.*

For further information, please call John Lyssikatos at 401-728-4452.



February 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <u>PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD</u> 8 A.M. Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy 3 Hierarchs Program Sunday School GOYA Meeting PTO Meeting	3	4 4:15 Greek School 7 P.M. Parish Council	5 4:15 Greek School	6	7	8
9 <u>SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE</u> 8 A.M. Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy Triodion Begins Sunday School GOYA Event Pulled Pork/Chicken following Church	10 <u>ST. HARALAMBOS</u> 8 A.M. Orthros 9 A.M. Divine Liturgy	11 4:15 Greek School	12 4:15 Greek School	13	14 	15
16 <u>SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON</u> 8 A.M. Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy NO Sunday School	17 President's Day Office Closed	18 NO Greek School	19 NO Greek School	20 6 P.M. to 10 P.M. TSIKNOPEMPTI Gyro & Souvlaki Sandwiches in the Community Center	21	22 <u>SATURDAY OF SOULS</u> 8 A.M. Orthros 9 A.M. Divine Liturgy 7:30 P.M. to 1 A.M. APOKRIATIKO GLENDI (Mardi Gras) Dinner & Dancing in Community Center
23 <u>JUDGMENT SUNDAY (Meatfare)</u> 8 A.M. Orthros 9:30 Divine Liturgy Sunday School	24 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. Lyssikatos Class	25 4:15 Greek School	26 4:15 Greek School	27	28	29 <u>SATURDAY OF SOULS</u> 8 A.M. Orthros 9 A.M. Divine Liturgy 9:30 to 5 P.M. BeeTreat hosted by Annunciation 7 P.M. at Yoleni's Orthodoxy on Tap

THE ASSUMPTION PARISH COUNCIL PRESENTS ...

TSIKNOPEMPTI

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020 • 6 PM TO 10 PM
IN THE ASSUMPTION COMMUNITY CENTER



Sandwich (Gyro, Chicken Souvlaki
or Pork Souvlaki) \$8
Sandwich with Fries or Salad \$10
Sandwich with both Fries & Salad \$12
Tiganites 6 for \$5 (or \$1 each)

Assumption of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church
97 Walcott Street, Pawtucket, RI 02860 • 401-725-3127 • AssumptionRI.org

THE ASSUMPTION PARISH COUNCIL PRESENTS
ΑΠΟΚΡΙΑΤΙΚΟ ΓΛΕΝΤΙ



SATURDAY, 7:30PM-1AM
FEBRUARY 22

LIVE MUSIC BY:
ATHENIAN
ENTERTAINMENT FROM CT

FEATURING:
Georgios Karatzas



MARDI GRAS

FULL DINNER - DANCING - AND MORE

TICKETS: \$50 PER PERSON
\$25 AGES 12-17
AGES 11 & UNDER FREE

JEAN SOUKATOS 401-474-1833
SOPHIA AUGOUSTAKIS 508-570-1720
CHURCH OFFICE 401-725-3127

97 WALCOTT ST, PAWTUCKET, RI 02860 - ASSUMPTIONRI.ORG

GOYA News February 2020

For the month of December, our GOYA had its usual monthly meeting. Following that meeting, we set aside one Saturday to stuff our Christmas cards, so they would be ready to be mailed out. Lastly, we ended the month with a Christmas party. We brought food and desserts, we held a Yankee swap, and watched a Christmas movie. The party was a lot of fun and was a great success. Thank you again for supporting our GOYA.



Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Dafulas, Recording Secretary

Philoptochos

The season has been very busy for Philoptochos! We had a successful bazaar, meatball dinner, and our Christmas bread fundraiser. The Visitation Committee and Fr. Philip made visits to those unable to attend church. There was no December meeting. Rather, we celebrated the season at "Pub on the Won".

At the January meeting, we discussed a possible spring breakfast and ideas for future fundraisers. We would also like to start our cooking and baking for the festival earlier than usual. Dates to follow.

We would like to take this opportunity to remember many of our Philoptochos sisters who helped to build the foundation of our success. These ladies have worked tirelessly for our faith, church, and organization. They have all reached milestone birthdays — Eve Gouras, Sophie Ganosel, Marika Xifaris, Georgia Pappas Moretti, Virginia Skodras, and Tasia Stoukides who turned 100 last month. We wish her a very Happy Birthday! We thank all these wonderful ladies and send all of them our gratitude and best wishes.



EASTER BREAD

*Philoptochos will be baking Easter Bread on
April 8th & April 9th*

*Please place your order by March 22nd • \$9 per loaf
Elaine Sioras • elainesioras@gmail.com
(401) 724-1031 • (401) 617-7950*

*Pick-ups will be on
Saturday, April 11th from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.
and after Church on Palm Sunday, April 12th*

All orders must be paid for at the time of pick-up

Greek School

Maliotis Celebration – Hellenomatheia

A ceremony took place at the Maliotis Cultural Center in Brookline, Massachusetts, on January 26, 2020, at which diplomas were received for the Hellenomatheia by the following young people from our community: George Mastin and Sofia Stefanopoulos (pictured to the right). Also receiving diplomas were Nikolaos Panagos and Evangelos Katsinas (not pictured). Congratulations on their achievement!!!



Many Thanks . . .

The Assumption Greek School Teachers and Students wish to thank Pawtucket AHEPA for their very generous donation of a television and computer for use in the classrooms.

Greek School – Maliotis Celebration – Greek Letters

Three of our Greek School students participated in the formal Greek Letters celebration which took place at the Maliotis Cultural Center in Brookline, Massachusetts on Sunday, January 26, 2020. They all did an excellent job!!! The names of the students who participated are as follows: Christos Stefanopoulos, Haralambos Papavasiliou, and Evangelos Dokos (pictured below). Pictured with the students is Kyria Panagiota Vastis, Assumption Greek School Principal. Also present was Kyria Sophia Augoustakis, Teacher, who was assisting with the Maliotis reception taking place at the time of the picture.



Stewards in Good Standing as of 1/31/2020

The Augoustakis Family
Ms. Stacey Aguiar
Dr. & Mrs. Vasili Amfilo
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Amoling
Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Andrikopoulos
Mrs. Vasiliki Andrikopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Ioannis Apostolakis
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Barone
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Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Bitsakis
Mr. & Mrs. Kosta Bitsis
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Boccelli
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brennan
Mr. & Mrs. George Cicma
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Colantonio
Mr. & Mrs. George Dionisopoulos
Rev. Fr. & Presbyteria George Economou
Mr. Leo Foussekis & Ms. Samantha Arredondo
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gallo
Ms. Nancy Georgitsis
Mrs. Laura Giannakas
Mr. Zackary Giannakas
Mrs. Zacharie Haseotes Vinios

Mr. & Mrs. George P. & Polyxeni Haseotes
Mr. Vasilios Haseotes
Ms. Athena Haseotes
Mr. Demetrios E. Haseotes
Mr. & Mrs. George & Kristen Haseotes
Mr. Ari Haseotes
Ms. Lilly Haseotes Bentas
Ms. Kelly Stocker-Haseotes
Mr. Vasileios Izanidis
Mr. Joseph Karalis
Mr. Michael Karavolis
Mr. & Mrs. Aleko Kimbouris
Ms. Barbara Kiras
Dr. & Mrs. Elias G. Koutros
Mr. Angelo C. Limnios
Mr. George Microulis & Mrs. Elizabeth Menges
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Mudge
Mr. Dimitri Nicolos
Mr. & Mrs. Vassilios Nicolos
Dr. & Mrs. Nicholas Nikolopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Nikou
Mrs. Alexandra Nikou
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Pagonis
Ms. Denise Panichas
Ms. Patricia Panichas

Mr. George Papadogiannis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Papavasiliou
Mr. & Mrs. Costa Perdikakis
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The Carlson / Vastis Family
Mr. & Mrs. George Vastis
Ms. Valerie Vastis
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas & Maria (Lascarides) Walsh
Mrs. Joanne Wright
Mrs. Mary Xifaras
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Zervas

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

In the name of Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit Amen. Lord Jesus Christ our God, accept our offerings as You have accepted the gifts of Your people throughout the ages. We offer these gifts to Your glory, for the support of the ministries of Your Holy Church, for the alleviation of suffering and hunger, and for the proclamation of Your Gospel to the whole world. Grant us Your blessing, Lord our Savior, that we may always be faithful stewards, continuing to share the gifts you have given us, by the power of Your grace, mercy and love. May Your name be glorified forever. Amen



Feast of the Holy and Glorious Hieromartyr Haralambos

The holy, glorious Martyr Haralambos lived at the time of the Emperor Septimus Severus (194-211) in the city of Magnesia on the River Meander near Ephesus. He was 107 years old and had ministered as priest to the Christians of the city for many years, devotedly instructing them in the way of truth and preaching Christ to all regardless of the threats of the pagans. When he was denounced as a dangerous mischief-maker and brought before the tribunal of the Governor Lucian, he responded to his threats in these terms, "You little know what is for my good and well-being. Nothing could be more pleasing to me than to suffer for Christ. So don't hesitate to put my old body to the tortures you deem the worst, and you will learn that the power of my Christ cannot be overcome." He was then stripped of his priestly robe by the tormentors who tore his flesh with iron claws without being able to elicit a single cry of pain from him. On the contrary, he said, "Thank you, brothers. In flaying my old body, you are renewing my soul and preparing it for everlasting blessedness."

When the Governor saw the steadfastness of the old man, far from repenting and giving glory to God, he hurled himself at him in uncontrollable rage, tearing at his skin with his bare hands. Then, by an act of God, his hands were suddenly severed and remained claw-like and lifeless on the Martyr's body. Moved to pity by the tyrant's cries and supplications, Saint Haralambos gave himself to prayer and obtained his healing. This astonishing miracle and demonstration of the love of Christians for their enemies brought Lucian, as well as the tormentors Porphyrius and Baptus, to believe in Christ God

and to renounce the cult of idols. Three women onlookers also rushed forward and fearlessly proclaimed their faith. The grateful Governor was immediately baptized by the Saint and a great many inhabitants of the province of Asia were won for Christ. When the Emperor Severus learned that the inhabitants of Magnesia and the surrounding country were abandoning idolatry and receiving holy Baptism from the old priest who had been condemned to death; that the blind were recovering their sight at his prayer and the crippled were walking, he was very troubled indeed. He immediately sent 300 soldiers to Magnesia with orders to bring the Saint, nailed and chained, to Antioch in Pisidia where he was residing. The soldiers treated the old man very badly on the road, until the horse on which they had set him suddenly uttered a condemnation of the Emperor as an enemy of God, and of his soldiers as slaves of the Devil — to the great terror of the military, who for the remainder of the journey did the Saint no harm.

As soon as the venerable old man was brought before him, the Emperor had him thrown into a blazing furnace with a long skewer through his chest. However, the fire went out as soon as it touched the Saint who, to the Emperor's astonishment, remained insensible to what he suffered. What was the secret of his invulnerability, the tyrant wanted to know. "The power of Christ!" replied the Saint. Severus then put this to the test and presented him with a man possessed by a demon for thirty-five years. The Saint drove out the unclean spirit with a single word. Severus next produced the corpse of a young man about to be buried. After addressing a fervent prayer to God, Saint Haralambos gave the youth his hand and, to the Emperor's amazement, raised him from the bier as though from sleep.

Then the Prefect Crispus shouted, "Your Majesty should put this sorcerer to death straight way!" At this, the Emperor's hatred broke out again and he commanded Saint Haralambos to sacrifice to the idols. On his refusal, he ordered them to break his jaw with stones and to set his beard on fire. But God acted once again. The flames turned on the tormentors and the place where they stood was shaken by an earthquake.

Lifted up off his throne and suspended in the air, the Emperor was whipped for a good while by unseen angels. On learning of his predicament, his daughter Galinia confessed Christ as Almighty and came to implore the holy Martyr to release her father from chastisement. This he did; but the Emperor's amazement at the power of God was short-lived, and he soon returned to his idolatrous madness. Despite the remonstrances of Galinia, who reminded him of the divine blessings which had lighted on him, he kept Saint Haralambos in custody and had him tortured anew. He also turned on Galinia and threatened her with death unless she sacrificed. She made as if to obey but, on entering the temple, she threw the statues to the ground and broke them in pieces. Severus sent to the foundry to have new statues cast, but she shattered these too, so that he became a laughing-stock.

Severus then made a last attempt to break the instigator of his daughter's conversion. But Saint Haralambos withstood every device of his tormentors with adamant fortitude and all the onlookers were dazzled by the brilliance of Grace. He welcomed the death sentence with joy, and, on reaching the place of execution, he raised his hands and eyes to heaven. He thanked God for having brought him to the issue of his contest, and he asked Him to grant salvation of soul, health of body and abundance of good things in the name of His Martyr. A voice from heaven was then heard. "Come Haralambos, valiant in fight, to share in the joy and splendor of the Martyrs and holy priests!" His head fell beneath the sword on February 10 and his body was buried by the blessed Galinia.

The skull of Saint Haralambos is kept at the Monastery of St. Stephen at Meteora. The fragments of his holy relics, which are to be found in many places in Greece and elsewhere, accomplish frequent miracles and have made Saint Haralambos, the most aged of all the holy Martyrs, especially dear to the people of Greece.

Adapted from The Synaxarion: The Lives of the Saints of the Orthodox Church, Vol. 3, compiled by Hieromonk Makarios of Simonos Petra and translated from the French by Christopher Hookway (Chalkidike, Greece: Holy Convent of the Annunciation of Our Lady, 2001) pp. 463-466.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of Saint Haralambos

The feast and commemoration of Saint Haralambos is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom which is conducted on the morning of the feast and preceded by a Matins (Orthros) service. A Great Vespers is conducted on the evening before the day of the Feast.

Scripture readings for the feast are the following: At Vespers: Isaiah 43; Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9; Wisdom of Solomon 5:15-6:3. At the Matins: Luke 21:12-19. At the Divine Liturgy: II Timothy 2:1-10; John 15:17-16:2. (If the feast falls on a Sunday the Gospel readings may vary.)



**Our CASA Project (Coats and Sweaters from Assumption)
was a great success thanks to your help!**



Our 2019 CASA (Coats and Sweaters from Assumption) clothing drive for the urban poor was a stellar success! Brother Dr. Thomas Walsh and his wife Marie delivered on behalf of our AHEPA Chapter and our Assumption parish five large boxes and six bags of clothing, all of which were filled to capacity and weighed nearly 300 pounds to Providence Rescue Mission (<https://www.providencerescuemission.org/>).

Providence Rescue Mission is a Christian-based mission (open 24/7) in Providence that provides food, clothing, and temporary shelter for the urban poor. They were met by several people at the Mission who expressed deep gratitude for this important contribution. In our Brother's words:

"Congratulations and may God bless you for your compassion and generosity."

American Jewish, American Hellenic Organizations Welcome Trilateral Pipeline Agreement



WASHINGTON (January 2, 2020) — The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), American Hellenic Institute (AHI), B'nai B'rith International, and Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations issued the following joint statement:

Our organizations welcome today's agreement between Greece, Israel, and Cyprus to proceed with the EastMed pipeline. The agreement demonstrates the significant progress the trilateral alliance has achieved in energy cooperation and the three countries' leadership in the region to provide energy security. We also are pleased the three countries are meeting for a seventh summit in Athens and that bilateral meetings also will occur between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades, respectively. We anticipate the summit will yield further prospects for advances across a multitude of sectors.

We applaud the commitment to fostering peace, security, stability, and shared democratic values and ideals, in the region by all parties. We will continue to lend our broad diaspora support and encouragement for advancing the trilateral alliance.

FY20 Funding Package Includes Wins for AHEPA Family Priorities



The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (Order of AHEPA), the leading membership-based service association for the nation's millions of American citizens of Greek heritage and Philhellenes, applauds the inclusion of AHEPA family policy priorities in two bipartisan FY2020 appropriations bills, or "minibuses," that Congress has passed, announced Supreme President George G. Horiates. The White House has indicated President Donald J. Trump intends to sign the legislative package into law before the current temporary funding bill expires December 20, 2019.

“The legislative package that funds the federal government is a win for enhanced United States relations with Greece, Cyprus, and Israel, in addition to AHEPA family’s community service programs, especially affordable housing for the elderly and resources for survivors of domestic violence and for medical researchers,” Horiates said. “We commend Congress, and especially thank congressional appropriators, congressional leadership, and our champions, for significant investment in federal programs important to the AHEPA family’s mission and vital to U.S. engagement in the eastern Mediterranean. We also thank the community for its advocacy on these myriad of policy priorities.”

Investment in U.S.-Eastern Mediterranean Partnership. One of the minibus bills, the domestic priorities and international assistance appropriations minibus, H.R.1865, includes The Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act (Senate version S.1102, as amended), comprehensive legislation which provides the framework for enhanced United States relations with Greece, Cyprus, and Israel; and counters Russian influence in the Eastern Mediterranean. AHEPA applauds the Act’s inclusion of a provision to authorize funding of the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program for Greece, and for the first time, Cyprus. The authorization of appropriations is sustained over three fiscal years, 2020 to 2022, with meaningful increases in authorized investment each of those fiscal years – an AHEPA priority.

“A strong and sustained IMET program with Greece will ensure relationships are cultivated and enhanced, and further, it will have a lasting beneficial impact toward the strengthening of United States-Greece military-to-military relations among longstanding NATO allies,” Horiates said. “In addition, the introduction of sustained IMET funding for Cyprus speaks to the elevated level of importance the United States places on Cyprus as a strategic security partner. Taken together, they contribute to the groundwork for a more enduring, lasting U.S. partnership in the eastern Mediterranean.”

We Must Preserve the Legacy We Inherited!

We need you to join our AHEPA A121 (Pawtucket) Chapter!

We ask all of you to join and support your AHEPA Pawtucket chapter. You can get as much involved as you have time or desire. Please keep in mind, that just by becoming a member and through your yearly membership fee you help us to . . .

- ***Support AHEPA activities and publications***
- ***Support our Chapter’s activities and representation***
- ***Give strength to our Pawtucket chapter though membership counts***
- ***Provide academic and athletic scholarships***
- ***Make our voice heard for things that matter***
- ***Make a difference in every community and in the country as well***

This is an invitation to everyone – we need all of you! Your opinion will always count, whether you are attending our meetings in person, or you are submitting your ideas via email, phone, text or personal conversation. For membership information, applications please see Yianni Apostolakis, Tom Andrikopoulos or Nick Bitsakis

For more information, please visit www.ahepa.org.



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At IOCC, we've helped people in more than 60 countries across the world.

We have achieved a lot; We still need to do more!

Dear friends, nothing is too small or too big to help IOCC's mission, which is the mission of our Church. Even if we can help just a single person or family, this is still far better than not helping at all. I urge you to become monthly registered donors to IOCC. For every dollar you donate, 92 cents go to help people in need or very challenging situations. It is the one of a kind gift that keeps giving back. The more people registered to support monthly IOCC, the more government funds it can collect to accomplish its mission. Here's last year's summary from the IOCC's executive director:

Your Gift Is Changing Lives

Thank you for being a faithful supporter in 2019. Below are just a few examples of how your generous gift is making an impact on lives around the world:

- More than **890** microloans were disbursed in Bosnia and Herzegovina—creating **75** new jobs and supporting higher education for over **150** people.
- Almost **100** health professionals were trained to treat podoconiosis, and they in turn trained more than **7,500** of their colleagues in Ethiopia.
- In Greece, more than **400** families received prepaid grocery cards, allowing them to purchase about **22,000** pounds of fresh food per month.
- At Azraq Camp in Jordan, IOCC has reached nearly **400** refugees with health and well-being support.
- In Gaza, more than **560** people completed vocational training, increasing their chances of employment.
- At least **640** families in Lebanon received more than **44,400** fresh, hot meals through IOCC's community kitchens.
- Supporting long-term recovery, more than **130** US volunteers worked over **4,100** hours rebuilding homes damaged in natural disasters.
- In Syria, more than **51,000** children and adults received psychosocial support through Dream Centers and other programming.

None of this is possible without you. Thank you!

Constantine M Triantafilou
Executive Director & CEO



A Special Thank You from Olga

This time last year, we were humbled by Olga and her family's resilience after losing their family home to the fast-moving fires in Mati, Greece. Only because of your support were IOCC and Apostoli able to provide Olga's family with a prepaid card so she could afford new school supplies for her children, helping them restore a sense of normalcy.



"I Can Now Fix Things Myself"

IOCC's community kitchens across Lebanon are part of a long-running initiative to improve access to nutritious food in underserved areas of the country — serving both Lebanese and refugee families. As part of these efforts, IOCC recently offered **vocational training to 45** Syrian and Lebanese women, most of whom had received meals from the kitchens, and some of whom had worked in them. Women who participated in these courses received sewing machines and supplies to help support their continuing endeavors.

"I can now do things myself, such as fixing my children's clothes," said Soraya, a 35-year-old mother of five from Syria. **"Most of the time we receive donated clothes that don't always fit them . . . I want to start helping my neighbors fix their clothes, too, and I hope I can earn some income."**

Here is How YOU Can Help More!

- Become a monthly donor to IOCC
- Send a donation to IOCC for a cause that touches your heart!
- Give a donation to Ioannis Apostolakis, payable to IOCC, for any occasion you would like to make a difference!

Help Us Provide for Those in Need!

And remember, 92 cents of every dollar you give goes to our humanitarian work. The other 8 cents is for administration and fundraising costs. Charity Navigator gives IOCC a 4-star rating (highest possible) for financial health, accountability and transparency. Plus, every dollar you give helps us secure \$7 more in support from governments, foundations, and other sources.

IOCC is the official humanitarian aid agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. Since its inception in 1992, IOCC has delivered more than \$580 million in relief and development programs to families and communities in more than 50 countries. IOCC is a member of the ACT Alliance, a global coalition of churches and agencies engaged in development, humanitarian assistance and advocacy. To learn more about IOCC, please visit our website at iocc.org

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Help beautify our church grounds. Donations towards our church grounds are always much appreciated. Please bring any donations to the Church Office so that our grounds will remain beautiful year round. Many thanks to Roula Vellopoulos, Nick Vellopoulos, and Ioanna Wright who are our church gardeners spending endless hours planting, watering, and trimming our beautiful flowers and shrubs surrounding our premises.



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