

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
3131 NE Glisan St., Portland, OR 97232

DIRECTORY

All names without prefix are (503)
 Holy Trinity office (phone).....234-0468
 Gail Morris, Secretary
 Bob Shaffer, Maintenance
 Holy Trinity fax.....236-8379
 Fr. Paul Schroeder.....737-7349
 Fr. Demosthenis Paraskevaidis.....234-0468
 Fr. Deacon David Cole.....287-0475
 Parish Affairs Director, Gus Pappelis234-0468
 Parish Council President, Stephen Phoutrides232-6917

ALPHABETICAL LISTING

A.G.R.O., Saki Tzantarmas.....777-1415
 AHEC, American Hellenic Educational Center
 John Melonas282-0277
 AHEPA, Michael Kounavis.....693-6974
 AHRC, American Hellenic Retired Citizens
 Sophia Stamatis939-4180
 Altar Boys, Gary Palumbis869-5819
 John Anasis.....531-0402
 Camp Angelos695-5267
 Choir Director, Gus Pappelis234-0468
 Choir President, Dennis Constantine517-6188
 Daughters of Penelope, Vana Amanatidis521-0827
 Dynamis, Gail Morris234-0468
 Endowment Fund, Mike Diamond222-1988
 Ethos Bookstore, Christina Koutures234-0468 ext. 25
 Junior GOYA (ages 11-14)
 Dawn Damiani667-8844
 Senior GOYA (ages 15-18)
 Tom and Lori Avgerakis635-1087
 Greek Dance, Helen Tzakis.....629-9684
 Greek Festival, George Apostolou360-546-1224
 Greeters Ministry, Ann Mallos255-0609
 Catherine Lingas292-0451
 HACCM (Hellenic-American Cultural Center & Museum)
 Stefanos Vertopoulos360-883-6438
 Katherine Karafotias617-4838
 HOPE & JOY (ages 5-11), Nikki George.....360-834-2468
 Justice & Human Rights, Alex Christy636-8326
 Maids of Athena
 Philo House Thrift Shop.....232-3992
 Philoptochos, Paula Diamond697-1066
 Philoptochos Cookbook, Helen Stratikos666-8815
 Seniors Ministry, Dean Lampus292-7612
 St. Nektarios Ministry, Kim Miller329-0873
 St. Photios Fellowship, Dn. David Cole287-0475
 Stewardship Chairman, Don Ossey282-6219
 Sunday School, Lori Avgerakis ..635-1087
 Ann Davis.292-0191
 Joanna Mason526-2043
 Vacation Church School, Dina Khoury224-5524
 Young Adult League, Jacob Gorny449-7720

Dynamis is the monthly newsletter of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Portland, Oregon. Articles for the next month's issue of *Dynamis* are due in the church office on the 11th of the current month. Deadlines will be strictly adhered to.

Dynamis Editorial Guidelines

How to contribute: Email to: Gail@goholytrinity.org or on a CD with a hard copy to the church office. If you do not use a computer, please fax submissions to 503-236-8379 or bring a typed copy to the church office.

Content and length: Church-related organizations maximum 500 words; non-church related and articles by private persons maximum 300 words. We reserve the right to edit or decline a submission. All inserts must be approved by the church office and the postal service.

Announcements policy: Unpaid announcements for church-related events are limited to a half page. Non-church-related community event announcements are limited to a quarter page.

The back cover is reserved for paid advertisements, at these rates:

Full advertising section – half of back page\$400
 Half advertising section – ¼ of back cover\$225
 Quarter advertising section – 1/8 of last page\$125

From the Parish Council
Parish Finance Update

Holy Trinity finds itself in a reasonably solid financial situation through the first 10 months of 2009. This year's strong festival has helped push income ahead of where it was last year at the same time. In addition, expenses came in just under last year's level. So, as of the end of October our net income up as well.

Income and Expenses		
Period January 1 through October 31		
	2008	2009
Total Income	704,112	737,423
Total Expenses	596,904	587,028
Net Income over Expenses	107,208	150,395

As the year wraps up, the one area of concern we have is stewardship, which is down about \$16K so far. Historically, the last two months of the year are when we rely on stewardship to grow substantially. In this tight economic year, we will be challenged to maintain our giving at

high levels. We ask that each of us prayerfully consider what we can provide to support the needs of our Church during this important time of year.

Scholarship Fund News – Martin Estate bequests \$50,000

The Holy Trinity Scholarship Foundation received a significant gift recently. The Jerry A. and Mary D. Martin Scholarship Fund grew by \$50,000 with the receipt of a bequest from the Mary Martin Estate. With this gift, the Martin Fund scholarship's assets now stand at over \$70,000. The Martin Scholarship is awarded annually to students from the Holy Trinity community.

As a reminder, the Holy Trinity Scholarship Foundation manages several scholarship funds. They include the Jerry A. and Mary D. Martin Scholarship, the Lampros Educational Trust Fund, Carlene & George Sakelaris Scholarship, the James Thomas Mallos Scholarship, Mary Dussias and Penelope Manuel funds. The Foundation is run by a board comprised of seven parishioners, with John Anasis as its Chairman. John and his board scrupulously manage funds, review applications and make awards annually. With the addition of this latest gift, the six funds under the Foundation's oversight have grown to more than \$125,000. In 2009, the Foundation awarded \$4,250 in scholarships to six young people from our community.

Your Parish Council Nominees

Please remember to come for Parish Elections on Sunday, December 6 following church services (until 3:00

PM). Following are the five nominees for Parish Council.



Michael Rouches

Michael has been a Holy Trinity parishioner for 12 years and has been an active Sunday school teacher for eight years. He is a police lieutenant by day and has been involved in leadership and government in Hillsboro for the past 15 years. He has studied speech and theatre in college and management at Portland State University. He is a creative and progressive leader. Michael and his wife Christine have four children and are thankful for our Holy Trinity community and the opportunities to serve.

Vana Amanatidis



Vana is a proud supporter of many community events since she moved here from Toronto, Canada and has

made Holy Trinity her spiritual home. Vana is an active member and current President of the Portland Daughters of Penelope, and she contributes as co-chair of the Deli booth during the Greek Festival. She is currently employed as Directing Manager of the Portland office for a large multinational financial services corporation. Vana, married with two children attending college, enjoys travelling, baking and running marathons.

Dimitri Touhouliotis



My name is Dimitri Touhouliotis, and I've been a member of Holy Trinity since 1967, the year I emigrated from Greece to Portland. I have two grown daughters, and one grandchild, and live with my wife Lisa in Southwest Portland. For the past forty years I have owned a number of successful businesses in downtown Portland, most recently Demetri's Mediterranean, a Greek family restaurant since 1983. Since my retirement, I've chosen to rededicate time and energy to my church and our community. I look forward to deepening my involvement as a member of our Parish Council.

John Spathas



Dr. John Spathas was born in Portland, Oregon. He has been a lifelong member of Holy Trinity. He served as a teacher and school principal with Portland Public schools for 31 ½ years. He has previously served on the board and is presently a member of the maintenance committee. He also chairs the Northwest AHEPA Family Scholarship Committee and serves on the local AHEPA chapter board.

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Community has developed and implemented some outstanding projects that have impacted the community in a very positive way. He is interested in continuing to improve communications, maintain church membership, regain lost members, and motivate new members. Our church should be overcrowded every Sunday. The present board appears to have worked hard to balance budgets and are also planning some cost saving cuts next year. Every phone call and every need by any member should be addressed promptly at all times by the clergy

with the assistance of board members and/or volunteers to the satisfaction of the member. Improved communications should increase member involvement. Please show your support of the above comments by voting in the forthcoming election.

Demetrios Gatziolis, Ph.D.



I was born, raised, and educated in Thessaloniki, Greece. I graduated *summa cum laude* with a Bachelor's of Science degree from Aristotle University, Department of Forestry. After completing obligatory military service with the Hellenic Army as reserve officer, I was awarded the G. Bouyoucos fellowship from Michigan State University, where I received a Master's degree in Forestry and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Remote Sensing. I work as Research Analyst with the USDA Forest Service. My beloved wife Evagelia Baros and I moved to Portland and became members of Holy Trinity in 2003. Sixteen months ago we were blessed with our first child, Stella. I am currently serving a third yearly term as treasurer of AHEPA Mt Hood Chapter 154. I am thrilled by the prospect of participating more actively in the functions of Holy Trinity Cathedral as member of the Parish Council.

Our People

Funerals:

October 21, 2009:

Georgia Caris Kacouros, who passed away on October 14, 2009 at the age of 93 in Sequim, Washington. Born in Limnes, Argos, Greece on February 14, 1916, she loved handicrafts and made clothing and home goods for her dowry, and later as gifts for her family. Georgia came to America as a mail order bride, following World War II and the Greek Civil War. She told family of the dangerous and difficult times, and she prayed they would never see such suffering in their lives. In December 1950 she crossed the ocean from Greece to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in an ocean liner, then crossed Canada by grain to Vancouver, B.C. She remembers forests, deep snow and wild moose – sights so strange to her, coming from her Mediterranean homeland of southern Greece. She married Andrew Kacouros in January 1951 and raised their daughters in Port Angeles, Washington where she lived for 54 years. They had a happy life together. She is much loved and will be dearly missed by her daughters, Christina Siaterlis and Katherine Kacouros, grandchildren, Alexandra Kacouros-Perkins, Courtney Kacouros-Baldwin, Brittany Kacouros and Deanna and Andrew Siaterlis; great-grandchildren, Victoria and Sotiris Kacouros-Perkins and Lilian Kacouros, and her friends.

November 5, 2009:

Ruth Henrietta Kolias, who passed away on October 30, 2009 at the age of 78. Ruth was born in Lowell, Oregon on November 23, 1930 and was a homemaker. She is survived by her husband, James Kolias and daughters, Christine Krygier-Toman, Carol Middleton and Jamie Swain. Memorial contributions can be made to the American Brain Tumor Association or Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

GUATEMALA MISSION UPDATE

By Anthony Aivaliotis

There are still many opportunities to be a part of this upcoming mission trip to the orphanage (Trip dates are January 15th-22nd, 2010):

- Be a part of the mission team
- Gather high-need items as donations for the orphanage (Please see list below)
- Contribute financial support- With a monthly budget of \$35,000 at the orphanage, general monetary donations are always welcome and most needed
- Donate airline miles for transportation of missionaries (we would need to have these soon in order to book appropriate flights)
- Pray for the missionaries, the monastics, the staff, and especially the children of the Hogar

Donations Needed (Urgent needs donations are listed below, for a complete list: Contact Anthony)

Church

Charcoal

Incense

Saint John of Commandaria wine for liturgy

Administration

Brilliant photo paper, letter size

Blank printable CDs and DVDs

Bubble folders all sizes

Cartridges for printers

Canon 40 (PG-40 Black)

& Canon 41 (CL-41 Canon)

Masking tape

Tape transparent 3M

Clothing

Jeans & for teenagers sizes 14, 16, 1, 4, 6, 8, 10

Blouses for teenagers

Swim caps (hair-caps) for girls & teenagers

Dormitories

Plastic mattress covers – twin size

Shower curtains

School

Finger paints

Glitter

Toiletries

Diapers – large

Keri Lotion

Nivea cream

Toothpaste

Kitchen/Refectory/Nannies

Aluminum foil

Cloth cleaning towels

Disposable knives, forks, spoons

Egg dyes for Pascha

Jelly

For more information regarding the upcoming mission trip to the orphanage in Guatemala, please contact me via phone at 503.381.6093, or you may e-mail me at amaent1@gmail.com. Please mail monetary donations directly to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral located at 3131 NE Glisan St. Portland, OR 97232, Attention: Guatemala Mission Fund. For more information regarding the orphanage, please visit the website of the Hogar Rafael Ayau Orphanage at www.hogarafaelayau.org.

“...And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.” –Mark 10:16

Philoptochos
We make a Difference

Philoptochos counts the Holy Trinity community as one of its many blessings. Thanks for all you do to support our work. Don't forget the 2nd annual **Christmas Tree Auction**, Sunday, December 6th during coffee hour. All trees are lovingly created by our Philoptochos Circles in a specific theme. Each spectacular tree is unique and ranges from 3 to 4 feet tall. All trees come with a tree stand and skirt and will range from tasteful and elegant to something fun for the kids. A unique gift for someone who can't decorate their own tree or special for those who enjoy a particular theme.

Proceeds from this silent auction go towards the many projects of Philoptochos.

Christmas Bread. Back by popular demand. Fresh and for sale after church **Dec. 20** thanks to the proficient Martha Circle bakers. Makes a perfect hostess gift or taste treat for your own holiday table!

Flavor It Greek! products and special “**Kernels of Love**” neck warmers also for sale Dec. 6, 13 & 20. Proceeds from these two projects fund community assistance, philanthropy & scholarship respectively.

PHILO BOARD EETING –Tues. Dec. 1 Small Hall 7:00 p.m.

As we enter the Holy month of our Savior's birth, Philoptochos is grateful for the health and generosity of our community.

With faith & love in Christ, Paula Diamond, Philoptochos President

Pennies and Prayers

Pennies and Prayers is all about growing and sharing our faith. By saving extra change in a jar we can help support our mission parishes. Pennies and Prayers annual collection usually begins during Lent. For those of you who are interested we will be assigning jars in December (as well as during Lent) to anyone who would like to begin collecting earlier. Pennies and Prayers has expanded to include all parishioners who would like to keep a jar in their home. This is a wonderful way to encourage children and family members to help grow our faith with this ministry.

Jars will be available in the church office for check out beginning December 5th. For more information please call or e-mail Kathy Melcher at (503)638-7236 or melchgka@hotmail.com

“How is Agia Sophia Doing????”

By Mary Triantafillou

This past September marked the start of the sixth year of operation for Agia Sophia Academy. I have been involved with the school since the inception, as a board member, a parent and now most recently as a part-time development director. Over these six years, I have been approached by many of you who have interest and questions about ASA. I appreciate having the opportunity to answer these inquiries. At the same time, these interactions make me realize that our community would benefit from some consistent, clear and correct information about this important school ministry. So with this month's edition of Dynamis I will begin a series of articles meant to supply some of that information. This month's article will focus on describing ASA, the objectives of the program, details of the educational program and a brief review of the school's staff.

What is Agia Sophia Academy?

ASA is an Orthodox-based private school. The academy is a stand-alone not-for-profit organization, recognized by the government as an independent private parochial school. It does not receive any direct financial support from any church. We have occasionally received donations from some church-affiliated groups, especially for scholarships.

The essence of ASA's Mission is to offer a high-quality, faith-based academic environment, AND to partner with parents to educate their children, mind, body and soul. Although we no longer identify ourselves as a “Classical School”, we provide an outstanding, faith-based education with:

Low Student to Teacher Ratio which provides responsive, personal attention for your child
Individualized, Child-Centered Instruction to help to discover, nurture, and stretch your child's abilities.

Highly Collaborative Teaching that brings energy, creativity, and collective wisdom to the classroom each day
Outstanding Specialists who deliver exciting explorations into music, physical education, languages and art

How is the ASA educational program structured?

This year, the school serves students from Pre-K through the 3rd grade. With appropriate planning and increasing enrollment we will offer a full Pre-K-5 program in the very near future.

The pre-school is an AMS-certified Montessori pre-school. This year we have 21 children, ages 3-6, in this classroom.

Elementary school – a multi-age classroom for 1st-3rd grades makes up this portion of the student population. We have 16 students in this classroom, which also has a teacher's aide who assists with language and math instruction. The curriculum is integrated, rich, and challenging. It includes:

Daily instruction in the Orthodox Faith and daily prayer services
Language Arts – reading, writing, spelling, phonics, handwriting
Mathematics – computation and problem solving (Singapore & Math-U-See curriculums)

Modern Greek Language – All students, including pre-schoolers, participate in Greek language instruction up to 3 times per week. We are the only elementary school in the NW to teach Greek.

Latin – 2nd and 3rd grade students are learning Latin

History, Science, Music, Art and Physical Education – integral to the educational experience at ASA

Describe the characteristics of ASA's administrator & teaching staff.

Elisha Lubliner is our school principal. She is an experienced, talented and energetic educator, with certification in the Montessori method, as well as state certification as an Early Childhood & Elementary Educator. She has been with Agia Sophia for four years. This is her

second year as principal. Nick Karafotias has graciously mentored her as a new administrator.

ASA has seven teachers on staff. All full-time staff are experienced, state-certified educators.

ASA has gotten off to a solid start in only six years. The school has worked hard to provide its students with a quality, Orthodox-based education. The results of student testing are evidence of this. Our students consistently score above grade level on the Stanford Achievement Test. In addition, the school is a provisional member of and has worked diligently to hit the standards established by Northwest Association of Accredited Schools, a well-known accrediting agency. ASA is on schedule to become members in full standing by early fall of next year.

If you have questions, or want more information, please contact me, Mary Triantafillou (503-484-5859) or our Principal, Elisha Lubliner (503-641-4600). marychios@comcast.net or elisha@agiasophiaacademy.org
Next Month: ASA's Budget
January: ASA's 5-Year Plan

The following article is submitted by Deacon David Cole. It is an essay by Fr. John Breck, former instructor at St. Vladimir's and a leading Orthodox ethicist whose publications are in our bookstore. It is a very timely article that our faithful will surely benefit from.

Disease and Holy Communion

A huge amount of controversy has arisen recently over the way Christians receive Holy Communion, particularly in the wake of what some are calling the "H1N1 pandemic".

The issue involves not only Christians. In July of this year, ministers of health from Muslim countries met with specialists of the World Health Organization and issued

a statement recommending that children under the age of twelve, together with the aged and the infirm, refrain from making the pilgrimage to Mecca during Ramadan (this after several cases of H1N1 appeared among Iranian pilgrims). Jewish leaders are debating whether the practice of touching the mezouza (venerating a symbol of the Law upon entering a pious Jewish home) should be abandoned. And Christians of many confessions are questioning traditional methods of distributing the Eucharistic bread and wine to their faithful.

For the Orthodox, this is a particularly sensitive concern, since we receive Holy Communion on a common spoon, dipped into the one chalice. Then, once the faithful have received, the deacon or priest consumes what remains. Little or no precaution is taken to wipe the spoon or to take other measures out of concern that the chalice and its contents might transmit some potentially lethal disease. This traditional Orthodox practice elicits no little dismay among many (non-Orthodox) medical professionals. Since the outbreak of the AIDS crisis in the early 1980's, even many of our own faithful have been raising the question, intensified by the present media focus on "Swine flu": "Can infectious disease be transmitted by our Eucharistic practice?"

The dean of the Romanian archdiocese in France recently published a document that brought this question to a head. Taking into consideration recommendations made by several medical professionals, he urged that communion be given without touching the lips of the communicant, who would simply hold his or her head back a little so the priest could drip the particle into the open mouth. The dean also recommended that the priest, with the deacon's help, wipe the spoon after each person had received.

Reaction to this proposal was swift and unequivocal. The French Orthodox theologian Jean-Claude Larchet published a letter, addressed to the local Romanian Metropolitan,

sharply criticizing the dean's proposals. They would, Larchet argued, sow worry and doubt in the minds of our faithful, and for no good reason. As support for his position, he quoted an encyclical recently issued by the highly respected (Harvard and MIT educated) Metropolitan Nicolaos Hadjinikolaou, founder of the bioethics institute in Athens.

The gist of their argument, which I believe is accurate and very much to the point, is that Orthodox life and faith are essentially "Eucharistic" and that we commune in the very Body and Blood of the glorified Son of God, the true Physician of our souls and bodies. Metropolitan Nikolaos stressed the point that today's society is militantly anti-Christian and, throughout Europe and in the United States, is using the H1N1 scare to further undermine the faith and traditional liturgical practices of the Church. Do not let 2000 years of experience, he urged, be put into question by "the rationalism and superficiality" of the present times. For there is no evidence at all that illness has ever been transmitted through Eucharistic communion. (Were that the case, we might add, there would have been throughout history a much higher death-rate among clergy, who consume the chalice after all the people have had communion, than there has been among the general populace or among Christian faithful. Empirically, this is simply not the case.)

The Metropolitan concluded with a pertinent observation; the real problem is not the virus H1N1, nor is it world-wide panic; it is rather "the virus of impiety and a lack of faith," for which the best remedy is precisely frequent communion.

Several people who have written on this subject have pointed out that a fundamental problem, too, is the fact that we have radically separated faith and medicine, care of the soul from cure of the body. The ultimate blessing that may come from the spread of infectious diseases—AIDS, "Swine flu," the ebola virus that is now devastating parts of Africa, and others—could be a conscious and

active return to the attitude of Scripture and patristic tradition regarding the mystery of sickness and suffering. To declare that disease cannot be transmitted via Holy Communion is an article of faith; it cannot be proved to the satisfaction of everyone (it would in fact amount to proving a negative). Yet as Orthodox Christians, we have two millennia of experience that goes a very long way to confirm what we believe to be true regarding the "real presence" of Christ in the Eucharist, a presence that is actually and ontologically real, true and accessible.

Our life in Jesus Christ is nourished and sustained by our sacramental participation in his sanctifying, life-giving Body and Blood. In so far as we dwell in his presence, fortified by the traditional faith of the Church, our communion will be not to our judgment or condemnation—nor to our physical detriment because of some transmitted disease. It will be to the healing of our soul and body as a "medicine of immortality," venerated and received as the "bread of heaven" and source of eternal life.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Once again Sunday School will put on our annual Christmas Nativity Play that has become a beautiful tradition at Holy Trinity. Our Nativity Play will be performed in Church, following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 13th by our students in preschool through 6th grade.

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
3131 N.E. Glisan Street
Portland, OR 97232

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 64
PORTLAND, OREGON

Change Service Requested

We share the same vision



It is a great honour and joy to be joining you officially in my ministry to this parish. My family and I feel blessed to be part of your Holy Priesthood family and to have Metropolitan Gerasimos as a spiritual father and mentor. It is with God's grace and the blessings of his Eminence, but also with the consent of both the clergy and the laity of this Holy Metropolis that we finally arrive -- not as visitors or guests as we did almost a year ago --but as active members of this blessed parish.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we are very happy, not only because we have come to the end of this long road of many obstacles, but mainly because this is the start of our new and significant ministry to our Church.

We are taking our first steps to meet the glorious Greek Orthodox Church of America and especially the blessed Metropolis of San Francisco. We are invited to follow the path that many remarkable priests and bishops have engraved since decades ago. They left us with a valuable inheritance. We want to be worthy workers continuing what was left to our hands. We feel a special bond with all the priests and their families who have served this parish. At every Holy Liturgy we will be standing together as concelebrants before God's Holy Altar, even with those who have reposed in the Lord and are now serving the Heavenly Holy Altar.

I am aware that my role is not only to cover the assistant priest ministry but to help this community flourish. We have come to understand from the Holy Trinity Cathedral history that this community has distinguished itself and has written a brilliant page in the history of the Greek Orthodox Church of America. It is over 100 years that passed from its founding and many dedicated priests with their coworkers have served. All shared the same faith, the same anxieties, the same love for Greek Tradition and customs. Moreover, apart from the faithful of Greek origin, this parish has embraced all our convert brothers, proving the ecumenical role of Orthodoxy. It is why this parish is always open to anyone who seeks shelter in God's arms.



In the Cathedral, Kavala



Greek American parishes have the great honour to embrace those to whom the Holy Spirit was mystically revealed and gave birth to their true faith. This indeed explains why our church has flourished like a bunch of various, beautiful and fragrant flowers.

← In Constantinople with His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew and Presvytera Magdalini

“through your beautiful eyes we imagine all your ancestors...”

This is a very special time for us. It is now that through your beautiful eyes we imagine all your ancestors that had immigrated and built your first church with their own hands. They struggled to build this church stone by stone. This image is very vivid to our eyes and we never want to erase it from our memory. We hear their breath, their heartbeat as they struggled to build this church stone by stone. It is like we sense all the agony about what they will pass down to their descendants, meaning you all. We want to prove worthy of inheriting their valuable treasure, their faith and tradition, all they managed to preserve in those hard times. Thus, we are able nowadays to enjoy the fruits of their effort.

Then, we feel the agony of the next generations, your grandfathers and fathers. Their main goal was to teach you how to love the Church and develop your community. This is because in our faith we follow our Lord's example that teaches not only through words but through actions.

Finally, we consider your dreams about the future of this parish. From our first visit we were impressed by your eager voluntary work and self-denial for the benefit of this community. You, too, share the same anxiety as to what your children will inherit, how much they will be inspired to love as much, and yet, to discover and preserve their identity in this pluralistic society.

We share the same vision. I have many plans in mind for my own ministry and those will be revealed in time. We now belong to this vibrant and dynamic community and are very proud.

Our dream is to support and build it up in a way that could exceed even its own borders, and - why not?-- lead other parishes as well.

My first priority is to assist the Proistamenos, finding ways to lovingly direct our people, especially the youth, towards Christ our Lord. I ask you all to help me so I can help you and share my plans with you. To start, I will need to study the English language in order to communicate with you, understand you and meet your needs. I am certain that you will give me all the guidelines as to how the community operates and that you will help us adjust smoothly. I ask of you patience and understanding throughout the time of our transition.

What would comfort us is to see you all united, not having any dispute and divergent goals. We must all consider that we have the same goal: the treasure that is our faith and its preservation. Only by God's Grace and with one heart will we contribute to the progress of both the community and the Metropolis. We are all members of the One Family. Even with this precious inheritance, we will accomplish nothing unless we keep united.

I thank you all for accepting us to be members of your beautiful society. I thank Archbishop Demetrios of America for his approval, Fr. Paul Schroeder, your expert and skilled Proistamenos so far, and the members of the Parish Council for their consent to my appointment.



“Rise, O Christ!”

I thank all who stood by our side during the delay: the Garifalakis family, Metropolitan Council Vice President Fanis Economides, Attorney John Marandas Jr., our President Steve Phoutrides and my compatriot Christos Efthimiades. I would also like to thank the U.S.

Government for the religious worker visa approval. We assure the American authorities that we do love the U.S. and that we will do our best to improve not only our Greek-American community but also the local neighborhood, city and region. Lastly, I thank the man who conceived my vision, valued my potential and encouraged my will – His Eminence. We hope to live up to his expectations, not only because he trusts us, but because he carries the heavy, yet joyful responsibility of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the Pacific Northwest.

“as if we have known you for years and years...”

As a last word, I tell you that we kissed our families good bye, having in mind that from now on, you will be our parents, our brothers, our children. We were told that we are taking a big step. In reply, we told them that this is something that our heart indicates for many years, thus we think of it as our personal fulfillment. We believe the U.S. as our homeland. We consider you as if we have known you for years and years. Now is the time to strengthen this bond. When we visited last year, I told you of this feeling even though it was the first time we met each other. This is not inexplicable. We are just a part of the same body, the body of Jesus Christ, even if we have never met before.

We hope and pray that the Holy Trinity will guide our way, strengthen our faith and bless our whole community.

With love in Christ,

Fr. Dimosthenis



Greece wins soccer's 2004 Euro Cup!