



# A GOOD WORD—Λόγον Αγαθόν

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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## CELEBRATING GOD'S CREATION

On August 31, the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Columbus Ohio served its first Vespers Service for the World Day of Prayer for the Protection of the Natural Environment. Fr. Demetrios Gardikes, Cathedral Dean, along with the parish's Celebrating God's Creation ministry, sent invitations to 39 Catholic Churches in the Columbus area inviting them to join the Annunciation congregation in the Vespers Service.



As the service fell on the first day of the church's annual Greek Festival, many attendees had an opportunity to attend the service along with the parishioners and those invited from local

Catholic churches. Fr. Demetrios preached from the scriptures emphasizing the consistent Biblical message of caring for creation. Diane Chakalis from the Celebrating God's Creation ministry talked briefly about their website (*see below*). They stated that the website highlights parish events, initiatives and also provides important information from the Patriarchate and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese about global environmental concerns that affect all of us, such as climate change, clean air and water, and energy conservation. To close the service, a prayer written by Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis was read to demonstrate the shared message to the world about the importance of working together on these important issues.

To find out more about the Celebrating God's Creation ministry at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, go to [www.CelebratingGodsCreation.com](http://www.CelebratingGodsCreation.com) or to the main church's website at [www.greekcathedral.com/cathedral-ministries](http://www.greekcathedral.com/cathedral-ministries).

## PHILOPTOCHOS FEEDS OVER ONE MILLION

When the Feed the Hungry program launched in January 2015, National Philoptochos President Maria Logus challenged chapters across the nation to provide 250,000 meals for the needy by the 2016 convention. In an extraordinary demonstration of “can do” spirit, chapters not only met, but shattered, that goal by providing an amazing 750,000 meals! The success did not go unnoticed. In June 2017, the Feeding Children Everywhere organization honored National Philoptochos with its inaugural Hunger Hero Award in the Outstanding Faith-Based Organization category.



Refusing to permit chapters to rest on their laurels, President Logus issued a new challenge for chapters for the 2016-2018 term: **to provide 1,000,000 meals by the 2018 convention.**

Delegates arrived in Boston fueled by excitement and anticipation, eager to learn not only whether Philoptochos had attained the goal, but also the name of the chapter that had served the millionth meal. The result? Philoptochos served 1,343,734 meals

And which chapter can claim bragging rights for serving the millionth meal? That honor belongs to the **Philoptochos “Melissa” chapter at Annunciation Church, Akron, Ohio** in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh. This single chapter provided an astounding 263,000 meals. Congratulations not only to the Akron chapter, but also to every participating chapter for warmly embracing this most worthy ministry and helping Philoptochos to exceed its goal.



## SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND THE METROPOLIS MINISTRIES

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including His Eminence's pastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry (tracking marriages, baptisms, chrismations, and deaths), and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis. To contribute, visit <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support>

## ST. DEMETRIOS CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL RENOVATIONS

The community of St. Demetrios in Rocky River officially re-opened their Church with a ribbon cutting and prayer service on September 19. The sanctuary renovations, completed as part of their “Raise the Roof” campaign, were done as part of a larger set of necessary improvements to the Church building. Included in the project was the replacement of air conditioning units, ceiling renovation and lighting upgrades in the sanctuary, new pews and carpeting, and refurbished rooms beside the altar space for the use of the clergy and altar servers. During the period of work, the parish worshipped in the Community Center on Sundays, and in the St. Philothei chapel when appropriate.



## IOCC HOMEFRONT WORKSHOPS—COMING TO A REGION NEAR YOU!

Part of IOCC's U.S. program, the Homefront helps parishes prepare for regional emergencies, disasters, and parish critical incidents, enhances their capability to respond, and connects parishes with a network of organizations and agencies active in emergencies. Parish leaders are encouraged to attend — especially clergy, parish council members, and laypeople with expertise in emergency response, health and social services, etc. Free for all participants.



Southwest: Saturday, October 13 from 9:00am—12:00pm at Annunciation Cathedral in Columbus. Lunch included. RSVP by Oct. 5 to [secretary@greekcathedral.com](mailto:secretary@greekcathedral.com). (Limit: 3-5 leaders per parish)

Northwest: Sunday, October 14 from 2:00pm—5:00pm at St. Haralambos Church in Canton. Refreshments included. RSVP by Oct. 5 to [Haralambos251@stharalambos.com](mailto:Haralambos251@stharalambos.com). (Limit: 3-5 leaders per parish)

**November dates and locations in the Central and Eastern regions will be announced in the coming weeks.**

## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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