

2012

JW Marriott Hotel
Phoenix, AZ

July 1-5, 2012

CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS REPORT TO THE PARISH

A. REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION

Five resolutions were presented for consideration:

1. "That the National Clergy Laity Congress be convened every three years, as provided for by the Charter."
Proposed by: Metropolis of Boston, Metropolis of Denver
Disposition: Defeated
[Given the substantial discussion of expense attending the Congress, Archbishop Demetrios commented that the Archdiocese had heard these concerns and that they would be addressed at the next Congress]
2. "If the respective Hierarch determines ... that a Parish is nonviable, he may, after consulting with the Local Council, merge the nonviable Parish with another Parish.
Proposed by: Metropolis of Boston
Disposition: Referred to Archdiocese Council for study, amplification, revisit in 2014
3. a. "To assist those parishes having fewer than 50 families, the Archdiocese will provide the full cost of the Orthodox Health Plan (OHP) for the full-time pastor assigned to these parishes;
b. "To assist those parishes having fewer than 75 families, the Archdiocese will provide half of the full cost of the Orthodox Health Plan (OHP) for the full-time pastor assigned to these parishes;
c. "All parishes having over 100 families will fulfill the requirements of the Archdiocese Regulations, and the parish will provide the full cost of the Orthodox Health Plan (OHP) for the full-time pastor and any assigned assistant Priest(s);
d. "That the request for financial support be made at the discretion of the respective Hierarch based on the needs of parishes identified above."
Proposed by: Metropolis of Denver
Disposition: Referred to Outreach Department for study and implementation
Note: The original proposal was restated at presentation to clarify that it would apply to parishes having fewer than 75 families. The original resolution made reference to parishes under 75 families and those greater than 100 families, with no mention of relief for parishes that fall within the gap of 75-100 families.
4. The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta supports the current biennial schedule of the National Clergy Laity Congress and encourages the study of issues involved in increasing the attendance and overall success of the National Clergy Laity Congress.
Proposed by: Metropolis of Atlanta
Disposition: Included in discussion of resolution #1, passed
5. That the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America immediately make as a top priority for the Archdiocese to begin, by January 1, 2012, or as soon in 2012 thereafter as is possible...obtain[ing] the necessary financial support of a minimum of \$1M a year ... to cover the travel, printing, computer and other expenses and other resources, to help touch every parish every year with stewardship ... and support their stewardship ministry programs throughout the year.
Proposed by: Metropolis of Atlanta
Disposition: Referred to Stewardship Department for implementation

ARCHONS

There has been little progress on the “Halki Situation,” the re-opening of the Halki seminary in Turkey. The congressional Religious Freedom Initiative has produced tangible results, in both the House of Representatives and Senate, getting ‘sympathetic’ congressmen on board. Only five states remain to pass resolutions in favor of the Initiative, aimed at ensuring greater freedom to the Ecumenical Patriarchate. (see the GOTelecom section for additional resource information concerning the Archons & the Halki Situation)

COMMUNICATIONS

- Dec 2009, the department merged existing mail lists, increasing the number by 42,000, to 165,000 names and addresses
- GOA News Listserv is up and running, with over 17,000 e-mail addresses
- Over the past two years, the department has distributed 335 Encyclicals and News Releases in Greek and English, via fax, listserv and website postings
- Annual Archdiocese Yearbook is posted only during the first week of January, and then printed copies are mailed out to Archdiocese parishes and institutions. Yearbooks are also available for purchase.
- The Orthodox Observer – published 10 times a year – continues to be the primary communication medium for the Archdiocese. A massive online archive with a searchable database is being created. Once completed, users will be able to search for all published articles using a keyword.

• COMMUNICATIONS SEMINAR

A seminar was held to discuss the value and strategies to generate media coverage. While traditional press kits are rather passé, they can be replaced with email contacts of key people in the press, followed up with personal contact. The content of such emails should ideally include numerous photos and a short synopsis of the event being covered. The parish website can also provide additional information. Every contact with the media is an opportunity to share the faith. Media coverage of Greek Festivals traditionally focuses on the event as an ethnic & culture celebration. It is fine to showcase dance & food but we are not an ethnic lodge or club. The Greek Festival does not define us, our faith does. We should therefore strive to include statements of faith. In addition, we must create a media plan and set goals for coverage of church events. It is also important to find human interest stories around community service projects. Many parishes find it effective to invite film crews during certain holiday services as a way to welcome guests to the church. Each parish should create a Q & A document about the faith. Who are we? It is a good idea to advertise your service schedules in the newspaper. Online press release samples will be soon be available.

FAITH (Endowment for Orthodoxy & Hellenism)

“The core mission of *Faith* is to promote Hellenism and an understanding of the Greek Orthodox faith through a series of high quality educational programs and cultural initiatives through an endowment for the Archdiocese.”

- Grants from *Faith* funded many merit- and need-based scholarships. 2011 ensured expansion of the scholarship program, reaching more qualified students.
- *Faith* has also underwritten financial aid scholarships for young people to participate in Ionian Village.
- Approximately 25 scholarships to winners of the St John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival come from *Faith*.
- Funded through *Faith* since 2011, a series of Greek-language education books – Ta Ellenika Mou – has been developed.
- Grants from *Faith* have also supported the distribution of multimedia resources, including: *Pascha* (ABC TV), *The Journey: The Greek American Dream*, and a *60 Minutes Interview with Patriarch Bartholomew*.
- “*Faith* is about supporting projects that teach people about who we are as Greek Orthodox Christians. It’s about sharing our precious cultural heritage with others.”

FAMILY & MARRIAGE

The Department of Marriage & Family consists of the Center for Family Care and the Office of Interfaith Marriage.

Over the past 20 years, nearly 2/3 of all marriages in the Archdiocese have been so-called “inter-church” marriages. As a result, the department seeks to develop helpful resources to assisted inter-married couples and families address the unique challenges they encounter.

- **FAMILY CARE PROJECTS & RESOURCES**

Publications include: “Orthodox Family Study,” “Table-Top Prayer Guide,” “Family Gospel Lessons,” “Parish Family Night,” and more. Visit: www.family.goarch.org

- **OFFICE OF INTERFAITH MARRIAGE**

Current web projects include: Interfaith Marriage website, including information of divorce and remarriage; “When Orthodox Marry Non-Christians,” a sub-section of the website; “Intermarried Couples,” a sub-section for clergy and parish to minister more effectively for intermarried couples. The website is www.interfaith.goarch.org

Publications: “A Couples’ Resource,” for intermarried couples and families; “Resource for Clergy and Lay Leaders,” “Attending to Your Marriage,” written from engaged, newly-wed married and divorced couples.

- **Up-Coming Projects**

With funding from Leadership 100, the following are planned for the next two years: Marriage and Family website, Premarital Education program, Divorce and Remarriage resources, and more.

- **Suggested Activities**

Family Gospel Lessons are a complete series of Gospel readings, activities, discussion questions & stories focusing on Great Lent. Parishes will be asked to draw attention to this in their weekly bulletin. The online link is <http://lent.goarch.org/family/>

Parish Family Night is a monthly event designed to bring all members of the parish together for religious education and reflection. A 200 page 12 volume guide is available to download at http://goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/family/2011-website/fw-parishnight/parish_family_night

GREEK EDUCATION

The vision and work of the Department of Greek Education remains:

- a. Continuous communication with our Greek Schools and constituencies.
- b. On-going training and support to our teachers,
- c. Writing and production of new text books Ta Ellinika Mou for all levels of Greek schools . The new “Ta Ellinika Mou” series is aimed at a fresh and new methodological approach to Greek language instruction. The new program is made possible through financial sponsorship of FAITH. The new books correspond to the educational needs of both teachers and students. The Department of Greek Education will organize seminars from September to November 2012 in each Metropolis aimed at the most effective use of the new books.
- d. Developed a comprehensive in examination in Modern Greek.

Resources are available at www.education.goarch.com

GOTELECOM

- A GOTELECOM 24-hour channel will soon be available on WhereverTV. The channel will be the only Greek Orthodox channel offered. WhereverTV will be available online using streaming devices such as Roku, AppleTV & the I-Pad. This channel is also available online at <http://greek.wherever.tv>.
- ONN – Orthodox News Network is now in development.
- Parishes interested in contributing programming or live liturgical services to air on WhereverTV, can contact the Department of Communications at 212-774-0244.
- National Philoptochos Promotional/Fundraising videos were distributed online and through email, Facebook and Twitter. The pieces are designed to assist in the Capital Campaign for National Philoptochos for their new Center for Philanthropy.
- Parish Council Training Seminar - The Department is working on the recording and editing of the Seminar which was packaged for distribution and posted on our web site.
- The Department has worked with the Archons to package and distribute Apostle of Love, Hope and Reconciliation along with the 60 minutes special interview with His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and also the Charlie Rose interview with our Ecumenical Patriarch. DVDs were sent to more than 3,000 addresses. These interviews are being used in conjunction with an appeal to resolve the Halki Situation.

CHAPLAINCY

Three Greek Orthodox Chaplains currently serve, two in the Navy & one with the Air Force. In Reserve units there are two with the National Guard & one with the Air Force

Cooperation exists among chaplains of all denominations as they work to provide spiritual guidance for those serving in the military.

IONIAN VILLAGE

Ionian Village is a Summer Camp that teaches youth about their Hellenist heritage and Orthodox faith. Participants travel across Greece, venerate the relics of the Saints, walk in the footsteps of the Apostles, and visit significant sites of Greek history and culture.

LEADERSHIP IOO

Purpose is to advance the Church and Hellenism, support Archdiocese finances through budgeting, scholarships, aid to Greece and other works.

OFFICE OF CHANCELLOR

- Coordinates the Taylor Scholarship which provides grants to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.
- Since the last Clergy Laity Congress:
 - 41 individuals were ordained to the Holy Deaconate
 - 12 were ordained to special deaconate programs
 - 28 deacons were ordained presbyters
 - 8 Clergy were accepted into the Holy Archdiocese from other jurisdictions
 - 18 priests retired
 - 21 clergymen fell asleep in the Lord

OFFICE OF PARISH DEVELOPMENT

- Purpose is to assist Parishes in growing, including:
- Fundraising Guidance, Strategic Planning (bringing in those who have “strayed” from the Church), Grant Seeking, Capital Fundraising, Stewardship Workshops (takes place at parish level, often increasing stewardship by 20-20%), Planned Giving (estate planning, legacies).
- A poster series was created focusing on “giving back”. These posters are available through the archdiocese.
- Information is available at the website: www.development.goarch.org
- Parish priests, council members & stewardship chairs are encourage to investigate this website link for more information.

REGISTRY

The Department of Registry of the Archdiocese maintains a variety of records including baptismal and chrismation certificates (for use by the priests), divorce decrees and forms for reporting deaths and funerals.

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- Asks parishes to review resources being used for religious education.
- “Zines”, educational magazines that are geared for young people, are now part of the curriculum: Recent “Zine” titles include: First among Equals, The Eucharist, Journey through Great Lent. This program has been very successful and additional titles will soon be available.
- There is a 3-year series from Vacation Church School programs
- Elementary level curriculum being revised
- The Archdiocese Religious Education Department wants each parish to give them contact information for religious education ministry directors & teachers. This contact information will allow them to provide parishes with the latest resources and information.
- Parishes are being encouraged to create Adult Religious Education program. Rather than creating a series of events, it is important to create a comprehensive, well planned program.
- Recommends a 45-60 minute long weekly Sunday School. Children should attend as much of the Liturgy as possible; use every parish event for religious education
- As of 2011 the Archdiocese permitted parishes to deduct the cost of religious education from their total commitment. There are a number of guidelines that must be met in order to qualify for this program. The overall goal is to incent parishes to expand their religious education programs.
- The Orthodox Christian Religious Educators Facebook generates considerable discussion based on questions from the members and themes or articles posted by the members. This is a good resource for Sunday School educators <http://www.facebook.com/groups/108487055285/>
- The Department of Religious Education Webpage – www.religioused.goarch.org – is continually being updated with resources and suggestions for teachers and supervisors.
- The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Facebook page is <http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-John-Chrysostom-Oratorical-Festival/131326533552689>
- A new Teacher Certification Program in fall 2012. At this same time they will roll out an introductory courses to the on-line learning platform, www.learn.goarch.org
- Each parish is being asked to hold a St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival.
- Praxis Magazine is available as a resource for religious education of all ages <http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religioused/praxis/>
- That parishes that do not have bookstores establish one.
- A revised copy of “Living Our Orthodox Faith” is now available.

ST MICHAEL'S HOME

St. Michael's is a Greek Orthodox adult care facility located in New York. It is self-sustaining and not funded by the Archdiocese, serving patients in the tri-state area (New York, Connecticut & New Jersey). Current capacity is 60 beds with 95-100% occupancy.

The facility is currently fundraising and plans to expand to between 100-150 beds at an upgraded facility.

STEWARDSHIP, OUTREACH, EVANGELISM

• PLANNED GIVING

Planned Giving resources have been developed outlining the practical importance of including the Church in one's financial and estate planning, as well as the Orthodox Christian perspective on general end-of-life considerations. Resources include:

- a. General Outline of the Various Ways to Make a Planned Gift,
- b. Tri-Fold Brochure for general distribution,
- c. Parish Implementation Plan for a Planned Giving Program,
- d. Planned Giving Poster for Parishes,
- e. Sample Documents for making Planned Gift(s);
- f. Article entitled "Practical Considerations" offering guidance from an Orthodox Christian perspective, and
- g. A legally binding (in most states) Living Will/End-of-Life Planning Document (in final stages of preparation).

In addition, the department is encouraging parishes to establish a parish Eternal Light Society, to include all those who have made arrangements for a planned gift to the parish

• ACCESSIBILITY/INCLUSION/OUTREACH

An important aspect of Inclusion & Outreach to People with disabilities will be encouraging parishes to make their facilities accessible. This begins with ramps and lifts to allow individuals access to the church building in a dignified manner and location. Additional enhancements would be:

- a. Wheelchair cut-outs in the pews that are interspersed throughout the Nave, rather than only in the front or back pews;
- b. Accessible restrooms and church facilities,
- c. Appropriate railings and ramps as needed.

• NATIONAL STEWARDSHIP TRAINING

The National Stewardship Ministries have created an educational program to offer parish leadership a new vision for stewardship, whose goal is to provide parish leadership with information and tools for the Orthodox Christian Stewardship in the local parish. Plans are being formulated and funds allocated to seek out, train and support additional individuals for this purpose.

• STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

An annual packet of resources is prepared and sent to each parish. The archdiocese has an array of materials available to support these efforts. Other support documents such as brochures, posters, sample commitment card & bulletin inserts are also available to each parish. For more information please visit the following link:

www.Stewardship.goarch.org .

• PARISH MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

In early 2010, National Stewardship Ministries established a Subcommittee on Parish Management Software, whose goals were to evaluate Parish Management Software programs currently available and to make recommendations to the parishes on the most suitable programs for their needs.

After rigorous testing and evaluation by qualified individuals on the committee, it was announced in fall of 2011 that the Archdiocese had chosen ACS Technologies' Parish Data System[™] (PDS) with the highest overall scores and the most cost-effective to provide software to our parishes across the US.

The software piloting began in February 2012 in a select number of parishes. A partnership with PDS will bring standardized recording and reporting to the financial, stewardship, pastoral and day-to-day operations and management of the parish.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SOFTWARE

- Reports and financial records created at the parish level are secured there and are inaccessible by the archdiocese.
- Database is not just financial but can be used to track sacraments, volunteer lists, Saint Days.
- Financial reports at your fingertip with stewardship reports extracted for parish votes within seconds.
- Priest can enter confidential information that is only accessible by him.
- Photos can be added to the parishioner's page.
- Stewardship records will track progress towards pledge amounts.
- Reports can be created quickly and easily.
- Support and training is available.
- Volunteer records can include non-parishioners such as volunteers for the festival.

• OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

To answer the need and question as to how to “grow” the parish, a program called Natural Church Development (NCD) has been identified. In use in over 50,000 parishes worldwide, the program assists the parish in assessing and measuring church health.

The program was piloted in the Archdiocese by two Long Island parishes, now in their second “cycle” of the program; positive results have been seen. With a grant from Leadership 100, there are plans to implement the program in an additional eighteen parishes of the Archdiocese.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO ASSIST IN OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

- The Parish Welcome Folder may be personalized and is meant to reach out to inactive or new member. A sample folder is available on request. Some 7,000 folders have been distributed to over 100 parishes.
- Brochures for Parish Outreach including:
 - *House of God*, explaining the symbolism of our Church
 - *Welcome to Great and Holy Pascha*, for distribution on Holy Saturday evening
 - *The Nativity: God Becomes Human to Show us the Way*
 - *As a Grain of Wheat...* Memorial Prayers in the Greek Orthodox Church
 - *The Historical and Personal Meaning of the 40-Day Blessing*
 - *Baptism: Uniting with Christ*
 - *Holy Communion: The Gift of Eternal Life*
 - *Our Lenten Journey*

- Visitor Cards & Display- display with personalized visitor cards is available through the archdiocese. These are cards are meant as a way to welcome visitors to the parish.

- **CLEARINGHOUSE OF LITURGICAL ITEMS**

Through this ongoing initiative, the department works with the parishes to match up those that have with those that need in order to provide basic liturgical items for the cost of delivery. The program connects parishes with one another to provide such things as Icon Screens, baptismal fonts, choir robes, chalices and more. Visit www.outreach.goarch.org.

FAMILY OUTREACH SUNDAY

Based on research showing that 96% of unchurched individuals in America would attend church if invited, the Outreach Sunday program encourages parishioners to invite inactive family members and Orthodox Christian friends for a special day of fellowship and spiritual renewal. The program is designed to work in conjunction with the parish Philoptochos.

PARISH COUNCIL TRAINING

Recognizing that Parish Leadership is critical to effective ministries of Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism, the department continues to work on the development of national Parish Council training programs.

TECHNOLOGY & INTERNET

The Department of Technology Ministries oversees Internet Ministries & IT

Department of Internet Ministries is responsible include:

- www.patriarchate.org The official web site of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
- www.goarch.org The official web site of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese
- www.assemblyofbishops.org The official web site of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America
- www.scoba.us The web site of the former SCOBA.
- www.orthodoxmarketplace.com The official online store of the Archdiocese
- www.bulletinbuilder.org Bulletin Builder is a tool that enables users to create and publish their parish's Sunday bulletin online for the web, email.
- www.iconograms.org Iconograms is a free electronic icon greeting card service
- www.orthodoxjobs.com OrthodoxJobs is the premier online location for employment and other opportunities in lay ministry within the Orthodox Church.

All social media channels of the Archdiocese including:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/goarch The Archdiocesan Facebook page has over 10,250 fans as of June 4, 2012.
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/goarch The Archdiocesan Twitter feed has 4,592 followers as of June 4, 2012.
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/greekorthodoxchurch The Archdiocesan YouTube channel has 903 channel subscribers and has recorded 154,031 views as of June 4, 2012.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/ecumenicalpatriarchate
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/ecupatriarch
- YouTube: www.YouTube.com/patriarchate

Environmental Ministry for His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew:

- Twitter: www.twitter.com/greenpatriarch

Daily Readings App for Android, Apple iOS, and Nokia Devices. The free App called Daily Readings Lite includes information about fasting, daily scriptural readings and saint days with specific prayers and background of the saint. The new Daily Readings upgrade app is available for \$.99 and includes a number of enhancements which allows for users to view the app in either Greek or English. The upgrade also includes a calendar of moveable feasts and a search of saints.

- Visit www.mobileapps.goarch.org or visit or apps store to search for the key name “Daily Readings”
- Additional internet content available at the Online Chapel www.goarch.org/chapel

Archdiocesan School of Byzantine Music Byzantine Music and Theory Guide for Apple’s iBooks on the iPad available at:

- I-Tunes

Interactive Children’s Bible Reader Online

This online resource includes interactive readings & games. This will allow parents and Sunday School teachers to draw technologically savvy children

- Visit www.cbr.goarch.org to begin exploring and learning.
- E-Book Edition of the Children’s Bible Reader

Internet Safety Guide has been developed will soon be available. This resource will give parents information about how to create a safe online environment for their children.

Digital Publishing - Four publications now available through iTunes and two new Bibles coming soon. The Divine Liturgy, as well as the Orthodox Prayer Book will soon be available on the IPAD & e-readers.

Iconograms - content is continually being added to this popular online application that allows users to send electronic greeting cards using images of icons.

OrthodoxMarketplace – the online store of the, 10% of proceeds go to the Parish. The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese has an online bookstore that is linked to our church. When a parishioner clicks on the link prior to purchase, a percentage of that purchase will be credited to our bookstore. You can access the store by typing <http://www.goarch.org/freebookstore/> To locate the entry point, just scroll down to find our church name and then enter the bookstore. The direct link is: <http://www.orthodoxmarketplace.com/?partner=AF-4-053-HI>

OrthodoxJobs.com is an Orthodox job search site for employers and job seekers.

Bulletin Builder 2.0 creates publications that can be post and distributed online or through email. Parishes can also publish a print version for those who have no online access. The enhancements to this program simply the publication and print processes. New features will provide automatic updating.

Parish Websites - There a new application to create church websites that allows for links to social media, YouTube, Flickr as well as additional scriptural and religious content from the www.goarch.org website. Donations & online stewardship applications can be added to parish website using either the Facebook application www.causes.com or www.justgive.org.

TECHNOLOGY & INTERNET SEMINAR

At a seminary presented by the Department of Technology Ministries, featuring Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh, there was a discussion concerning the theological implications of technology.

Discussions included:

- Are online icons or books worthy of veneration? Would you kiss your kindle?
- Are streaming broadcasts of the Divine Liturgy proper from an orthodox perspective?
- Does this technology diminish or enhance the sacramental life since sacraments cannot be administered online.
- What are disruptive technologies? (ones that intrude – like cell phones being on during church)
- How can technologies help to enrich the spiritual life of the faithful?

It was determined that any icon whether an original, reproduction, prayer card, or electronic representation, would be worthy of veneration. The broadcast of the Divine Liturgy should never replace going to church, but in cases where someone is physically unable to attend services, it would be preferable to not attending at all. For example these services would be a comfort to patient in a hospital or a soldier serving abroad. The danger of course is that parishioners may use streaming videos because of the convenience and miss not only the sacraments, but the sense of fellowship and community that is available at church.

Metropolitan Savas pointed out that we must look at ways to make church relevant on our daily life and not just for a few hours on Sunday. Online recordings of music or services, along with engaging parishioners online with thought provoking information should be given a priority for all parishes. A Facebook account should not be for posting photos and announcements but could be a place of learning & inspiration. We must look for places where religion and culture meet and engage people in discussion. Parishioners should be encouraged to add content. The opportunity is to engage people to look at the world through their faith. Parishes could post article and ask for discussion. Thoughtful posts could include links from the Orthodox Wiki.

It is critical that all social media materials and websites be under the guidance of the parish priest in conjunction with the parish council. No individual should link these sites to their personal accounts because if the administrator passes away or leaves the community it would create more issues.

Parishes should address cyber-disinhibition, that is aggressive communication online. Because of the lack of social cues online, people do not understand the impact that online comments have to others. This can be on social media site but is also frequently more common in emails. Parishioner need to be cognizant of how their words will be received.

Online contact should reflect their faith and must be tempered in this way. Social media posts remains online for perpetuity and people should be aware of this. The parish must beware of trolling, that is negative ranters that attack church sites online. These individuals should be blocked and their comments deleted.

Throughout history, people have mistrusted technologies. Socrates opposed the alphabet because he feared this technology would lead to forgetfulness. We must not fear technology but looks for the positive and fruitful uses to draw people closer to their faith.

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Archdiocese personnel meet regularly with directors from each Metropolis. Mission is to develop and enhance programs designed to keep youth in the Church.

- Produces Teen Survival Guides, 10 titles currently available.
- New resources for youth workers at www.youthworker.goarch.org
- Creating a series of hot topic item for teens – how to approach issues such as bullying, sexual purity, peer pressure, body image etc. Free pamphlets will be created on these topics.
- The website “The Wellspring” is geared toward youth workers and can be found at the following link. <http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/youth/youthworker/about>

HELLENIC COLLEGE / HOLY CROSS

To commemorate the 75th anniversary, a “75 for 75” campaign was established to raise funds for Hellenic College and Holy Cross. Parishes are being asked to support Hellenic College and Holy Cross participating in fundraising events

PHILOPTOCHOS

Philoptochos leadership presented a report regarding fundraising and philanthropic activities.

B. BUDGET

Challenges: take Archdiocese from a “substance” budget to a budget that is more “acceptable” for a major Faith. This is being accomplished through Stewardship with help from Leadership 100 subsidies.

Operating expenses have been reduced significantly; Notes payable have been reduced; obligations to Holy Cross and the Patriarchate were in arrears, this is no longer the case.

Assessment is now 98% of allocated, versus 92% in 1996. Metropolises are rewarded with ‘bonus’ when Assessment contribution reaches 100%. Further, “major gift-giving” has increased by 700%.

Proposed Budget is essentially flat, at the Archdiocese level, aside from an increase of approximately 2% (cost of living). This does not mean no change in individual Parish Assessments, as this is determined by the Metropolis. Budget Committee has attempted to look for other sources of funding, beyond Parish Assessments.

C. RESOLUTIONS

Five additional resolutions were presented as follows:

1. Supporting the people of Greece and their hardships
2. Offering support of Christians in Syria.
3. Offering support of Christians in Egypt.
4. Urging all parishes to make all facilities accessible to all people with handicaps.
5. Thanking Patriarch Bartholomew for sending Metropolitan Soterios of Toronto to represent him, to Archbishop Demetrios for his guidance, and all those in the Archdiocese and locally who worked to put on the Clergy-Laity Congress.

All five resolutions were passed by majority.

Respectfully submitted by:

Fr. John Kuehnle

Julie Ličina

Date