

# GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH TAXIARCHAE



## COMMEMORATIVE ALBUM



FORMAL OPENING AND DEDICATION  
HELLENIC CULTURAL CENTER



OCTOBER 28, 1989

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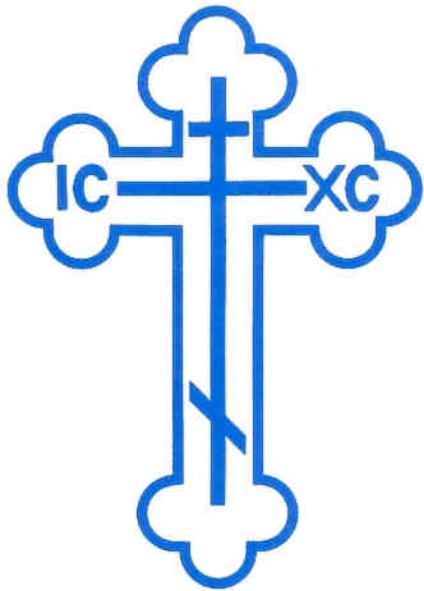
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## THE CROSS: OUR BEACON ON LIFE'S JOURNEY...

The Cross is the great symbol of the Christian faith; it serves an identification. When located on the top of a building it reveals that structure as a house of worship. When worn on a lapel or chain, the Cross identifies the wearer as a follower of Jesus Christ. From the moment we are reborn in the waters of Holy Baptism to the time when we fall asleep in Christ at parting from this world, the sign of the Cross is made a multitude of times over our bodies.

The Cross also represents a special philosophy of life, a particular style of living. In fact, it is the secret of triumphant, abundant life. Jesus said: "Whoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take of his Cross, and come and follow Me'."

"We,  
being many,  
are one body  
in Christ."

Romans 12:5

"For as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function, individually members one of another having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us" (Romans 12:4-6)





# DEDICATION

On behalf of the Building and Album Committee, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to all members of the Taxiarchae Church, friends, and neighbors of the community, for their input into the success of the new Hellenic Cultural Center. Upon reaching this momentous time, three decades from its conception, let us pay tribute to the people whose unfaltering faith in the realization of this project, to the many unsung heroes, from our 'protopori' to the current extremely dedicated workers who committed themselves to the ideals and loving service to church and community. We salute all who are responsible for reaching our goals and thank you for your determination to assist us in accomplishing the vital part of the Church's existence and growth. The expansion program will satisfy those essential needs of the church while benefitting the local community.

We will all profit extensively, particularly the important organizations of the Church: the Parish Council, the Ladies Philoptochos Society, the Taxiarchae Choir, the G.O.Y.A., the Altar boys, the chantors, the Sunday and Greek Language Schools and the Senior Citizens. "These groups will be able to administer and regulate their activities in adequate and comfortable quarters. The new classrooms for our Greek and Sunday School children will be adequate in every respect. It has been our dream for as long as we can remember to reach this threshold - and here we are!

We will continue to strive for a loving and harmonious environment, offer educational, spiritual, social and cultural growth, and enforce and maintain the Greek Orthodox tradition. We wish to reassure you that our efforts and commitments are reflected in the dedication and hard work of our entire membership, young and old, rich and poor, sung and unsung heroes. The Greek Church was born in history and our community retains a powerful historical consciousness. Without the guidance and leadership of our beloved spiritual leader, Father Emmanuel Metaxas, this goal could not have been accomplished.

The priest is the focal point of any church service; he is the honorary chairman of all church activities; his place in community life certainly deserves special mention. Whatever a community's expectations of its priest are, we can readily applaud our Father Metaxas for "top billing" in his four decades of dedicated service as a beloved spiritual leader. He is a great man in heart and mind; he is a devoted man to his Creator, his family, and his church. We are most grateful to Father for his spiritual guidance, understanding and cooperation, for his untiring efforts, both spiritually and physically, and for his inspiring words throughout his many years in the struggle he shared with all of us.

The old adage "behind every successful man, there is a woman" certainly applies in this case; our beautiful Presbyteria Penny is always at Father's side even when she is not there.

To our dear Presbyteria Penny:

Your splendid service to humanity in your natural quiet manner needs no praise from the world, but it is indeed a great pleasure to your many friends in the Taxiarchae community to be able to share this great realization with you and that you are taking care of Father for all of us.

God bless you Father Emmanuel Metaxas, your Presbyteria and your family; we thank them, but most of all we thank the Lord in heaven for bringing you and your family to the Church of the 'Archangels', The Taxiarchae Church of Watertown, Massachusetts.

WITH PRIDE WE SALUTE AND CONGRATULATE THE  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE 'ARCHANGELS'  
ON ITS MOMENTOUS AND CLIMACTIC OCCASION.

We hope that our descendants will look back at what we accomplished and praise us  
for our foresight!



## ANGELS: THE WORLD OF SPIRIT



**M**an has become increasingly familiar with the visible world about him. Secrets of land, sea, and air have been revealed to his inquiring mind. And the endless search goes on - higher into the heavens, deeper into earth and water, ever prying loose the wonders of God's creation.

But there is also an invisible, unseen world, which remains beyond man's grasp. The very first sentence of the Holy Bible points this out: "In the beginning God created heaven and earth . . ." And the ancient Creed of the Church says: "I believe in one God, Father Almighty, creator of all things visible and invisible . . ."

Heaven . . . things invisible - what is this unseen creation of God? Who inhabits the unknown regions? We do know of some invisible things: our souls, our minds, are invisible. The very air we breathe cannot be seen.

Both old and new testaments of the Holy Bible give witness to the existence of the Heavenly Host of Angels, spirit not clothed with flesh. Although countless numbers of Angels are referred to, we know the names but a few. There is the Archangel

Michael, captain of the angelic host that fought against those who revolted against God; Archangel Gabriel, sent as a messenger of the Lord to the Virgin Mary; and mention is made of St. Raphael who journeyed with Tobias.

The Church speaks of several functions of the Angelic Host:

They are involved with the unceasing praise of Almighty God. In our Liturgy, we join the Angelic Choir in singing "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth, heaven and earth are full of Thy glory . . ."

Angels are God's messengers to mankind. Not only was Archangel Gabriel sent to announce to the Holy Virgin, that she would become the mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ, but Angels proclaimed His birth to the shepherds of Bethlehem. Again, Angels announced the Lord's resurrection from the dead to those who came to the empty tomb.

Angels are guardians of nations, of churches, and of persons. In a special way they guard us from harm and guide us to our heavenly destiny. In the ceremony of Baptism, the Church prays that such a Guardian Angel protect the christened one.

Through the means of iconographic art, hymns, and prayers, the Church endeavors to make real for us the existence and presence of the Heavenly Host. Let us then not ignore the invisible portion of God's wondrous creation.

And so it is that each time the month of November comes, our Church focuses our attention on the world of pure spirits, reminding us of the work they do in guarding, praising, bringing God's messages, and ministering to all men and women in profound ways.

The Apolytikion or Dismissal Hymn is sung on  
The Archangels' Nameday

"O Leaders of the Heavenly Hosts,  
unworthy as we are, we implore you  
that by your prayers you will encircle  
us with the protection of your wings of  
unseen glory, guard us who bend low  
before you and fervently cry:

Release us from dangers, O Marshals of the Powers Above."



Ἡ ἁγιότης τοῦ ἁγίου Πατριάρχου Κωνσταντινουπόλεως καὶ Ἐκουμενικοῦ Πατριάρχου Διονυσίου τοῦ Πρώτου Ἰεροσολίμου, Ἡγούμενου τῆς Ἁγίας Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Καθολικῆς, ἡμετέρου ἁγίου Πατριάρχου Κωνσταντινουπόλεως καὶ Ἐκουμενικοῦ Πατριάρχου Διονυσίου τοῦ Πρώτου Ἰεροσολίμου, Ἡγούμενου τῆς Ἁγίας Ἐκκλησίας τῆς Καθολικῆς.



**His Holiness  
DIMITRIOS I  
Archbishop of Constantinople and Ecumenical Patriarch**







GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA  
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΒΟΡΕΙΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΝΟΤΙΩΝ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

10 EAST 79th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 • TEL (212) 570-3500 • CABLE ARCHGREEK, NEW YORK

July 13, 1989

Rev. Emmanuel S. Metaxas and Esteemed Communicants  
Greek Orthodox Church Taxiarchae  
25 Bigelow Avenue  
Watertown, MA 02172

Dearly Beloved:

It is with great joy that I congratulate all those who have labored so diligently towards the creation of your new Hellenic Cultural Center. Your Community has in the past and continues to be a light which inspires all those who approach it.

Your theme: "We being many, are one body in Christ" is most appropriate. The holy Apostle Paul sees the Church as one body which is comprised of the many members of the Community. Through faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ, we may come together in a spirit of love and unity to form this body.

In this body, the Holy Church, all of us play an important role. I may say that every soul in the Church family is irreplaceable and truly unique. Without the diversity of charisms which each person brings to the Church, the ministry would lack the vitality which is must have to do the work of Christ.

You gather today to dedicate the Hellenic Cultural Center of your Community. Come together as brothers and sisters being inspired by the superb expression of faith and culture which were the result of the fusion of the Christian Faith and the Hellenic Culture.

Again, I congratulate you and pray that the Lord bless you with every good thing.

With paternal blessings,

I A K O V O S  
Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church  
of North and South America



## MESSAGE FROM FR. EMMANUEL METAXAS

The opening and dedication of our new Hellenic Cultural Center is an occasion which calls for celebration and reflections. As a community of believers in our Orthodox Faith and in our Hellenic heritage, we celebrate today because, with the Grace of our Lord, we have completed, successfully, another very important phase in the development of our community. Today, the Taxiarchae Church parishioners and friends are very proud of this achievement.

Our forefathers entrusted us with our most precious heritage and we proudly carry the torch which they passed on to us. Today, congratulations are due to all those who diligently labored hard and with great love towards this goal. The Parish is indebted to all these faithful workers in the vineyard of the Lord.

Looking ahead, we realized that what we have accomplished up to this time, is only the means and not the ultimate goal. The ultimate goal is to put this edifice to good and constructive usage; to apply the means and conveniences that we now have in order to build souls; to help shape the lives of our youth and of the congregations in its entirety; to develop in our lives higher levels of spirituality and cultural dimensions; to cause the Center to become the reservoir of real nourishment where people may come and quench the thirst of their souls and minds.

As God today crowns our efforts, may He also guide us in the future in His path. May He give us the wisdom and strength to know how to put this edifice to better use and thus serve our people's real needs; to make it a living building, a building with spirit, and a building with substance and purpose.

I pray that the Lord will extend to our parishioners and friends many years of good health so that they will derive enjoyment of our beautiful Hellenic Cultural Center. Let us also honor the blessed memory of our protoporoi who paved the way for us, and that we respectfully uphold their legacy and inheritance by joining hands and hearts, thus maintaining the unity of their spirit.



# GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH TAXIARCHAE (ARCHANGELS)

Ἑλληνική Ὀρθόδοξη Ἐκκλησία - «Οἱ Ταξιάρχαι»

25 Bigelow Avenue – Watertown, Massachusetts 02172

WATERTOWN-WALTHAM-BELMONT

ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΑΙΔ: ΕΜΜΑΝΟΥΗΛ Σ.ΜΕΤΑΣΑ

Ἵστερα ἀπό τέσσερα χρόνια περίπου συνεχῆς προσπάθειας καί ἀγώνων, φθάσαμε μέ τήν βοήθεια τοῦ Θεοῦ στήν ἀποπεράτωση τοῦ Νέου μας Πολιτιστικοῦ Κέντρου.

Καθώς πενηγυρίζουμε σήμερα τά ἀνοιξιθήρια τοῦ Νέου μας Κέντρου, θά πρέπει νά ἀφίσουμε τήν καρδιά μας νά ἐκφράση τά πλέον εὐγνώμονα αἰσθήματα πρὸς ὅλους ἐκείνους πού κοπίασαν γι' αὐτό τό ἔργο ἀλλά καί πρὸς ἐκείνους πού εὐχαρίστως προσέφεραν τόν ὀβολόν των.

Ἐπίσης σήμερα θά πρέπει νά σκεφθοῦμε ὅτι τό Κέντρο αὐτό δέν εἶναι ὁ ἀπώτερος σκοπός. Ὁ ἀπώτερος σκοπός εἶναι νά χρησιμοποιήσουμε καί νά ἀξιοποιήσουμε τό κτίριο καί τίς εὐκολίες πού μᾶς παρέχει διὰ τήν ἐξυπηρέτησι τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Κάθε ἀνθρώπος ἰδιαιτέρως ἡ Νεολαία, νά βρῆ στό περιβάλλον αὐτό εὐκαιρίες καί προγράμματα πού θά τήν βοηθήσῃ νά ἀναπτυχθῇ πνευματικά, πολιτιστικά καί ἀνθρωπιστικά. Οἱ ἡλικιωμένοι νά βροῦν ἓνα γαλήνιο καταφύγιο, ἡ οἰκογένεια ἓνα γερό στήριγμα καί οἱ φίλοι μας γενικά νά ἔχουν εὐκαιρίες γιά νά γνωρίσουν καί ἐκτιμήσουν καλλίτερα τήν θρησκείαν μας καί τόν πολιτισμό μας.

Εὐχομαί ὅπως ὁ Μεγαλοδύναμος Θεός πού μᾶς βοήθησε μέχρι τώρα, νά μᾶς δείξῃ καί νά ἀνοίξῃ καί τό δρόμο γιά ἓνα καρποφόρο καί ἔνδοξο μέλλον.



# GREEK ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF BOSTON

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ

August 7, 1989

To the Rev. Fr. Emmanuel S. Metaxas  
and Parishioners  
Taxiarchae Greek Orthodox Church  
Watertown, Massachusetts

My dear spiritual children,

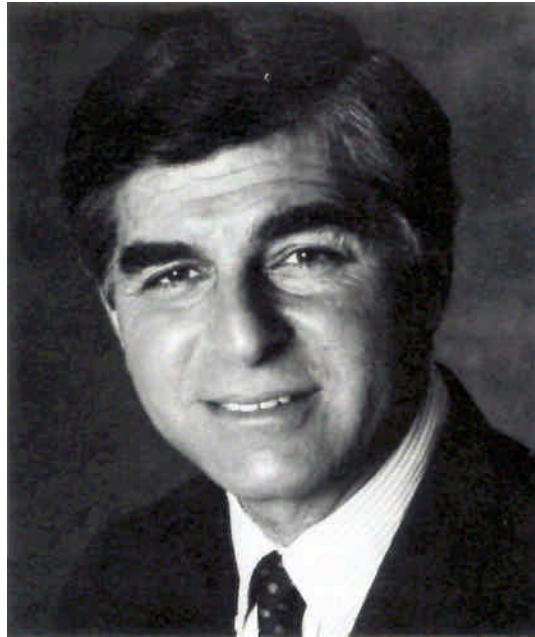
On the joyous occasion of the dedication of the new Hellenic Cultural Center of your Community, I extend to you my paternal blessings and best wishes. You are to be congratulated because your Parish is continuing to develop and serve the sacramental, educational, cultural and social needs of the community. As we approach the 21st century, we are called upon to be devoted, courageous and bold. If we are to be prepared and effective in our ministry now and in the century to come, we must work together as a Greek Orthodox family. Our religious and moral life is at stake. We need to marshal our spiritual forces to successfully meet the challenges of secularism, humanism and materialism.

I pray that almighty God shine the Radiant Light of His love into your hearts and minds and ever guide your steps.

With love in the Lord,

METHODIOS  
Bishop of Boston

MT/sn



MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS  
GOVERNOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

November 4, 1989

Greek Orthodox Church Taxiarchae c/o Dorothy  
Hoffman, Coordinator 25 Bigelow Avenue  
Watertown, MA 02172

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure that I extend the congratulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and my own personal congratulations, as you open the doors to your newly expanded quarters.

It is indeed a time for celebration when prayers are answered and dreams come true, and I am happy to add my voice to the many that are raised in

thanksgiving on this happy occasion.  
Me sevasmo kai agape!

Sincerely,

  
MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS  
Governor



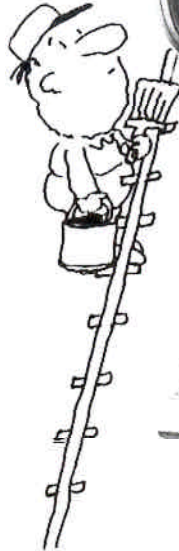
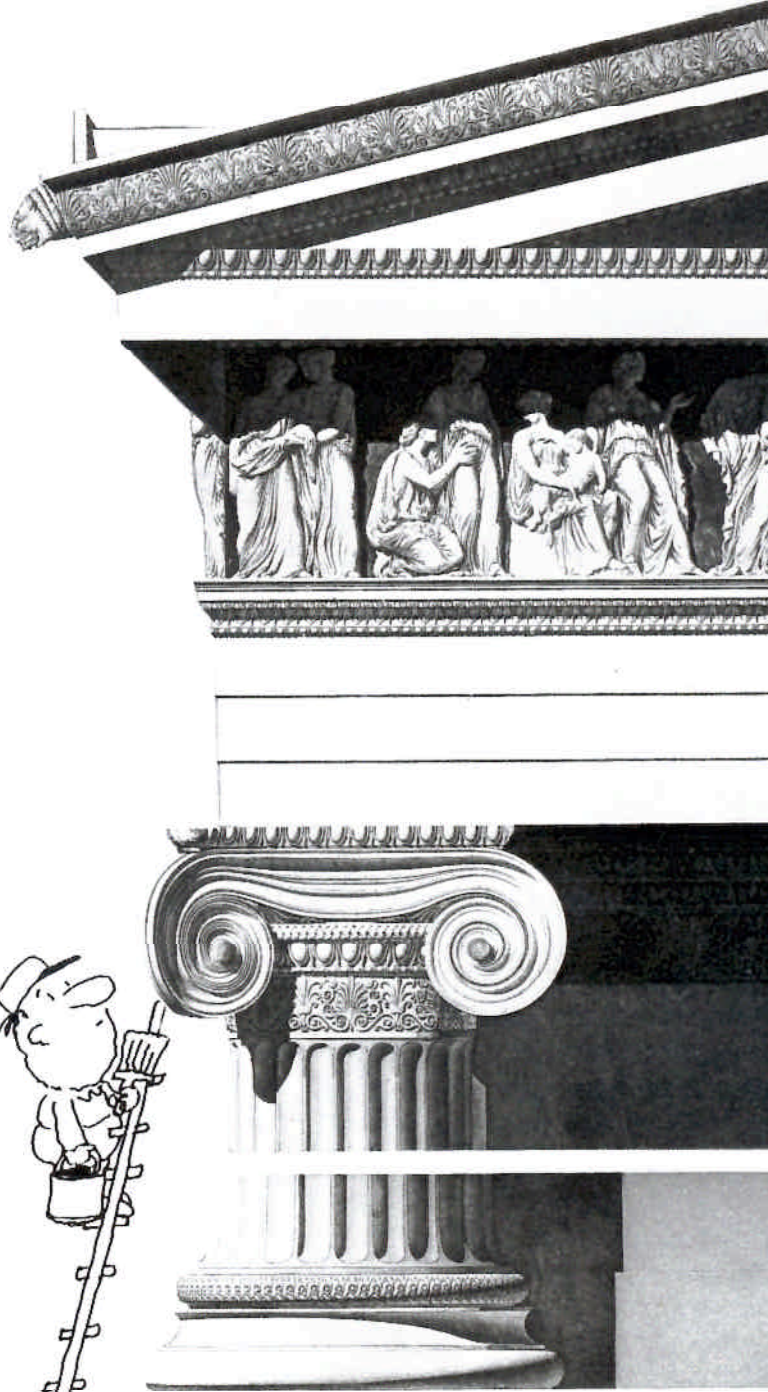
## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

The many people who served long and hard on the Building Committee to make the Hellenic Cultural Center a successful reality would be impossible to list. However, this may be well represented by giving the names of the Building

Committee Chairman and his staff:

Andrew A. Harris, *Chairman*  
Arthur Patsios, *General Interior*  
James Vafiades, *Engineer/Surveyor*  
Nicholas Christakis, *Electrical Contractor*  
Theodore Tsavas, *Plumbing and Heating*  
John, Fred, and George Varsamis,  
*Manufacturers & Installers of all cabinetry*  
Athansios Vularopoulos, *Engineer*

As "Andy" said, "We used the talents and professionalism of members of our church to insure us of fine quality and fair cost. We could not have done it without these dedicated fine businessmen. Arthur was my "right arm" It was blood, sweat, and tears all the way by the above individuals which made this possible - the miracle of the Taxiarchae Church. And for me, it was a labor of love" Chairman Andrew A. Harris brought new leadership qualities to the Parish Council, overseeing step by step each small or major decision regarding the structure of our new cultural center. This will surely be one of the finest hours for the Taxiarchae Community and Andy is one of the driving forces leading the project to such a magnificent conclusion.





## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF WATERTOWN "TAXIARCHAE" 1923-1989

The Greek community of Watertown, Massachusetts, traces its beginnings to a countless number of families. The new community grew to approximately 30 families by 1923, and was followed wave after wave by aspiring Greek immigrants. The immigrants, past and present, had a dream and burning desire to pass their heritage on to their children. They organized themselves into the Greek Society of Watertown, and elected Mr. Anthony Pappas as the first president.

The Society rented a hall on Crawford Street, Watertown, which was used for the Greek School and for a meeting place for the men of the organization, who met there socially Sundays and weekday evenings. It was there that the early immigrants inspired the group to preserve their language, culture, and religion. Hence, they provided the drive to build a church.

A continuous flow of families rapidly increased the Greek population and within a few years, larger quarters were needed. Land was purchased on Arlington Street, Watertown, and a contractor was engaged to build a new Greek School. With the help of the community, the building was completed in the early 1930's. It housed two halls; one was used to continue the teaching of the Greek language, and the lower hall was used as a social-cultural center.

Father Iovianos Lavrakas celebrated Divine Liturgy on a special occasion in the new building. This event gave the group needed stimulus to seriously think of forming a new church.

In 1937, members of the Greek Society of Watertown began to convert the upper hall into a small church, while Greek classes continued in the lower hall. The archdiocese approved the new church and appointed Rev. Efstratios Righellis as its first pastor. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees, names of various saints were submitted and dropped into a box. The name "Taxiarchae" was drawn and approved.

The women of the newly formed church were just as ambitious as the men. They were deeply interested in the well-being of the community. The first Philoptochos was established and joined the men breathing life into the church, Greek School, and social center.

During the 1950's the youth movement experienced wide support, organization, and achievement. Olympians, Goyans, and young adult groups reflected the religious values of family and church and formed a strong base for a new wave of Greek immigrants.

The Taxiarchae Church became a dynamic force and expanded its physical features to accommodate new as well as old Greek Orthodox parishioners. Three stages of development - the new church, community center, and community center extension - are now in place to face the present and future.

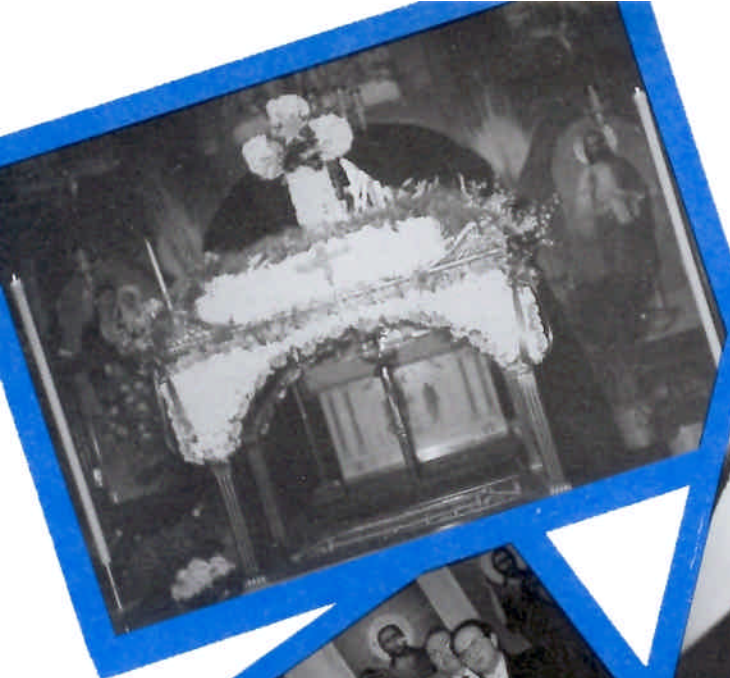
Recognition and commendation can be showered on many. However, two persons were and are in clear focus - Rev. Efstratios Righellis and Rev. Emmanuel Metaxas.

# Reflections....

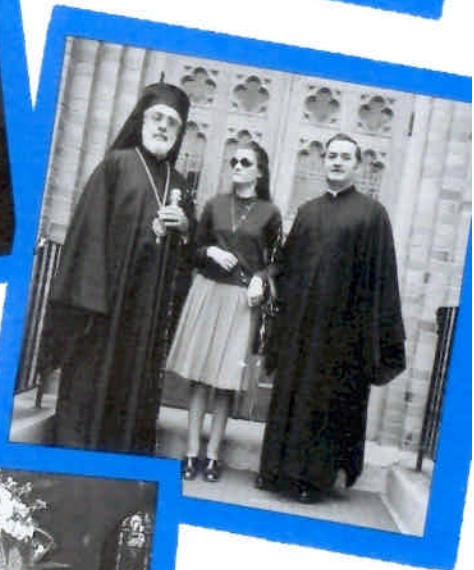
















# GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 'TAXIARCHAE' BOARD OF TRUSTEES



## PAST PRESIDENTS

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William Avtgis  
George Dossas\*  
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George Contos

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William Harris  
Zenon Zannetos\*  
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Theodore Vestinos  
George Zevitas  
Alexander Avtgis  
Andrew Harris  
Nicholas Faggas

## CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

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Peter Anthony, 1st Vice-President  
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Andrew Colivas, Asst. Financial Secy.  
John Abate, Treasurer  
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Steven Kokoros, Recording Secy.,

Arthur Patsios - Peter Lalooses  
Nicholas Sikellis - Nicholas Tsakmaklis  
Theodore Vestinos - Theodore Panagopoulos



# TRIBUTE

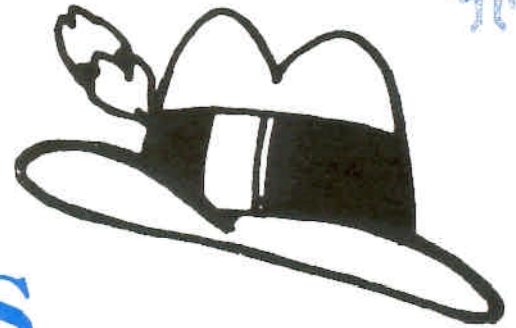
## PRESIDENT NICHOLAS FAGGAS



"Nick" Faggas, current Parish Council president, joined the Taxiarchae some 25 years ago and immediately became an active member. He was elected to serve on the Taxiarchae board and soon after was elected into office by his peers. Through the years he has served in the capacity of treasurer, vice president, and his present office, president, serving his second term. Nick exchanged his marital vows in the Taxiarchae Church 32 years ago with his beautiful bride Ann Marie. They were blessed with six children - Marcine, Dorothy, Adrian, George, Nicholas, and Christopher. They suffered greatly the loss of their son, Christopher, but with their deep faith in the Lord the great pain was lessened. Today both Nick and Ann are enjoying their role as grandparents. To know Nick is to like him, for he is kind, softspoken, genuine, and a very dedicated husband, father, and grandfather. And, of course, he is deeply committed to his church and role as Parish Council president. Nick is a prominent and successful funeral director. The Faggas Funeral Home, right here in Watertown, is well known because of the people who run it - Nick Faggas, his brother Charles, and his son George who joined the team several years ago. In his quiet and unassuming manner, Nick has served God and the church faithfully. In his inimitable style he manages to instill leadership to his board and the importance of getting the job done. Ann Marie Faggas, Ann to us, supports Nick all the way down the line. She, too, has been very active in church activities; serving on the boards of the P.T.A. and the Ladies Philoptochos Society for many years. The Faggas family picture above says it all - faith in God, caring, sharing, and loving are some of the ingredients which lead to happiness.



# HATS OFF TO ANDREW HARRIS



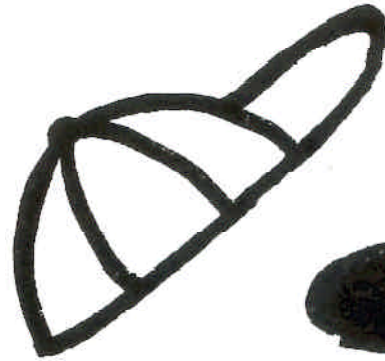
We are paying special tribute to Andrew A. Harris, not only as general chairman of the Building Committee and past president of the Parish Council, but as "Andy" Harris - "through the years:"

The son of immigrant parents - the late Evangelo and Antonia Hararis - Andy was highly motivated during his formative years and highly influenced by these two very religious and family oriented special people in his life. Andy says, "My parents were very instrumental in setting my goals throughout my life, in every aspect, religiously, morally, and eventually the familial traits that were present in my home at all times; home and church went together:"

In the 1940's Andy's father was president of the Taxiarchae Church at the Arlington Street address which was under the spiritual leadership of Father Righellis. This became a tradition in the Harris household through the \_years. Andy's brother Bill also served as president of the Parish Council at the current address and, of course, Andy served as president in 1971 and 1972. He was again elected and served this office 1979-1986 and has the distinction of being the first president of the Parish Council to serve seven consecutive years, when plans were being formulated for the new Hellenic Cultural Center.

Turning back the pages, Andy was baptized, served as an Altar Boy, was a choir member, attended Greek school under Mrs. Pepi Moschi, and exchanged his marital vows with the girl of his dreams,





his wife Sandra, all under the spiritual leadership of our very own Father Emmanuel S. Metaxas. "Father Metaxas was also very instrumental during the latter years of my life in many areas, and without his direction and concern for the Taxiarchae Church, all that we witness today would not have been possible," says Andy.

Andy resides in Waltham with his wife Sandra and son James. Their son Paul, recently married to Lisa, also resides in Waltham. Both sons were baptized at the church and both graduated from Babson College with a business management degree. As Andy puts it, "Our two wonderful sons, Paul and James, who make us very proud, are president and vice president of the Drew Management Companies. I hope they will continue with the family tradition and maybe some day become president of the Taxiarchae Church - that would be another dream come true."

"Another big highlight in my life came when I married Sandra, who has always inspired me and given our two children a solid home base in religious and moral principles:"

Sandra converted to Greek Orthodoxy and immediately became part of the Greek Orthodox Church as a Sunday School teacher for many years. She then served as a member of the original P.T.A., and was also, of course, a very active member of the Philoptochos Society board, on which she still serves.

Moving the clock back again, Andy

graduated from Northeastern University while holding a job and raising a family - 'where there's a will there's a way.' Andy was determined and being the dedicated person that he was and is today, had set some high goals for himself and his family. He founded the Drew Company and became chairman of the boards of Drew Realty\_ Trust, Drew Management Corp., and Lexington Realty Trust. He also served as president of Waltham Rental Housing in 1978 and 1979, and was chairman of the advisory board of directors at Guaranty Trust of Waltham for 11 years.

Andy as we all know him, is an exemplary and very active participant in the parish. His profound devotion and unselfish dedication to the Taxiarchae Church are examples worthy of emulation by members of the community. In 1984 he was chosen from many parishioners of our church to be awarded the Medal of St. Paul with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, in recognition of diligent service and inspiring contribution to his Parish Council and Taxiarchae community.

These past six years have been particularly difficult; many different and important decisions had to be made at a moment's notice. In order to complete this project successfully and effectively, Andy put both feet "in the ring" and wore many hats - from janitor when necessary, to builder, carpenter, decorator, architect, engineer, financier, and chairman. Andy, it is now our turn to take our hats off to you for a job well executed.

## A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" HARRIS PAST PRESIDENT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL



Twenty - Fifth Anniversary  
Testimonial Dinner Honoring  
Rev. Father Emmanuel Metaxas  
"Happy Faces"  
L. William Harris - R. Andy Harris



Ground Breaking Ceremony  
Community Center (1957)  
His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos  
Rev. Emmanuel Metaxas,  
William Harris, Demeter Kollias participating

William B. Harris has taken advantage of the opportunity of one of the greatest blessings (God has given to us Christians of the Orthodox church - to share in His beautiful creative world. Bill has been inspired toward this advancement by developing the many varied and wonderful attributes God has made available to him. He has learned all about God's teachings since he was a mere tyke, especially from the examples set by his parents, the late Evangelos and Antonia Hararis. They transmitted Orthodox spirituality to their children by living the sacramental life of the church in their home. They knew it was their responsibility to emphasize the importance of the children's commitment to Christ. Bill became very active in the church at a very young age and through his devotion and as a dedicated Christian he became one of the many fine presidents of the Taxiarchae Church. He played a significant role in the initial expansion of the church and community center back in 1957.

We thank you Bill Harris, for your dedication and commitment to the church these many years, and appreciate all you've accomplished during your tenure. You certainly started it way back then; you paved the way. Did you ever imagine, in your wildest dreams, that another Harris would take over the reigns and have the foresight to start another expansion project and complete this magnificent Hellenic Cultural Center?

Bill Harris, a prominent and successful businessman as owner and editor of *The Greek Sunday News*, always made certain that preferential treatment was given to any articles sent in by the Taxiarchae Church. Bill is now semi-retired and enjoying life with his beloved wife, Irene. "And I'm still enjoying her good cooking, the best cook in the world:" They are proud parents of two children, Van and Evan, and devote many hours to their grandchildren.

This is how Bill put it a few years ago:

*"Imagine starting a community center while still owing \$14 000 in mortgage money on the church. When I think back to those times, along with my counterpart Jim Kollias at the helm, I feel amazed which is how I'm sure Kollias felt, but somehow, some way, it all came about - the rest is history! The Center is up and functioning well. Well lets's say that none of these projects could be realized if we didn't have the faith, and this faith came from Father Metaxas, who managed to pull dollars out of his "spiritual bag: " Father Metaxas - the priest with a golden heart.*



## LOUIS CONTOS

### Louis Contos at the Celebration of his 100th Birthday



Nick Faggas, President of the Parish council presents Mr. Contos a plaque while Father Metaxas, Mr. Panos, Nick Contos, Irene Morris and a small part of Nicki Varsamis applaud this gentle centurion. We applaud you, too, Mr. Contos for your many years of dedicated service to the 'Taxiarchae' Church and the community.

The "Contos" name is one that is remembered when the Taxiarchae Church was born on Arlington Street, under the spiritual leadership of the late Father Efstratios Righellis. Mr. Louis Contos, a prominent businessman and benefactor in the Watertown community worked diligently with many of the Greek immigrants who settled in this town. His wife, the late Mercine Contos, a very dedicated Philoptochos woman and one of its past presidents, was known as the Florence Nightingale and Clara Barton of the Taxiarchae community and was influential in starting the first senior citizens group. With their giving nature, their children, George, Nick and Greg acquired their traits quite naturally and continued the tradition that Louis and Mercine Contos initiated so many years ago. George and Nick served on the Board of Trustees and their daughter, Irene served many years on the Philoptochos Board, keeping the tradition alive. She was also elected President of the Society in 1968 and served it well for many years.



## A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE NEOCLIS RALLIS



A few of the 'protoporoi' who made an impact of their dedicated service to their great love The 'Taxiarchae' Church. Neoclis Rallis is 2nd from right.

The name Neoclis Rallis was a very familiar one at the 'Taxiarchae' Church for many years; most people addressed him as 'Mr. Rallis,' young and old alike, out of sheer respect and justifiably so. Mr. Rallis was one of few educated men of 'his time'; his great love, was quite evident, for learning; he had a thirst for education and a great love for Greek culture as well as for his deep commitment to Church and family.

Mr. Rallis was the initiator for the building of the first Community Center. He was a hard worker, very optimistic in character and he had a unique way of passing on this optimism to others. For those who opposed his views, for the benefit of the Church, he had that special charisma to always promote peace, harmony and unity. He was endearingly called 'The Guardian of the Community Center' He held vigil as the Guardian - he was the 'keeper' of the keys.

No matter what the occasion he was the last one to leave to make certain that all doors of the Church were safely locked.

Most people reading this article will remember 'Mr. Rallis' and smile. The late Mr. Rallis - may his memory be eternal!



# A TRIBUTE TO PRESBYTERA P. METAXAS

## A Special Lady with an Air of Quiet Elegance



For years we of the Taxiarchae Church have been paying tribute to Presbyteria "Penny," each one in his/her way by our individual expressions of our admiration and love for this lovely lady, this exceptional Christian, who has played a major role in adding a special element to the success of bonded congregation, in her right as Presbyteria of the Taxiarchae Church.

She indeed has that special talent for listening to countless parishioners' tales of wee, always having the right response to extend comfort and solace. Her source of strength is her deep faith in God and living the life of a devout Christian, dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother.

After many years of deliberation as to how we could create the limelight to honor this great lady, we finally came up with the answer - to name her Our Mother of the

Year during the celebration of Mother's Day in 1981. It was a wonderful plan which worked with the assistance of Father Emmanuel, who was sworn to secrecy not to reveal our intention as we wanted the event to be a surprise.

We were ecstatic to be able to show our joy and gratitude to God for sending this gem, whose attributes cannot be described enough to justify her true fine character. These in attendance, including her family, smiled with pride and applauded her with a standing ovation when it was announced that she was selected Mother of the Year. Many showed their appreciation, congratulating her in various ways - hand shakes, hugs, tears of joy, presentation of roses, a poem written expressly for her by one of the Philoptochos Board members, Stella Kurkjian.

Special songs commemorating Mother's day sung by Arthur Peros and Steve Karidoyanes were the perfect ending in a special honor of Presbyteria "Penny:" May God bless you now and forever, Presbyteria, Amen.







## **HIS HOLINESS ATHENAGORAS I ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE FOUNDER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY**

This year marks the Eighteenth Anniversary of the death of His Holiness Athenagoras I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, spiritual leader of 250 million Orthodox Christians around the world, and the beloved Founder and Inspiration of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. Today we, of the 'Taxiarchae' Church and community pay homage to this Great Man of the Cloth, this Spiritual Shepherd, this towering Orthodox Christian Leader, a 'first among equals' with his soft expressive eyes and a flowing white beard, who looked like a Prophet out of the Old Testament. We commemorate the eternal memory of Patriarch Athenagoras, our spiritual leader who fell asleep in the Lord on the seventh of July, nineteen hundred and seventy two.

"IN MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED  
PATRIARCH ATHENAGORAS I:"

"I was hungry and you gave me to eat;

I was thirsty and you gave me drink;

I was a stranger and you took me in;

I was sick and you visited me;

I was in prison and you came to me:"

MATTHEW 25:35-36

# GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES SOCIETY PHILOPTOCHOS



Scores of pages have been written about the Philoptochos Society for almost six decades in all types of literature, stating over and over again who we are, our just causes, dates, dollars spent, recognition, and many more statistics. Yet one will constantly hear from other women, educated or not, what is Philoptochos? Isn't it amazing? Let's try it again!

Q. Who are we?

A. Dedicated church women.

Q. What does "philoptochos" mean?

A. "philo" means friend  
= the friend of the poor  
"ptochos" means poor

Katherine Pappas put it more aptly: "Women dedicated to church, and service to God and man:"

I would like to paraphrase an eloquent statement by Hubert Humphrey, The moral test of a religious organization is how that organization treats those who are in the "dawn of life" - the children; those who are in the "twilight of life" - the elderly; and those who are in the "shadows of life" - the sick, the spiritually, mentally, and physically handicapped.

We believe this identifies the work of Philoptochos to a "P."

It has also been said that Philoptochos is "the right arm of the church:" This statement was first expressed by His Holiness, the late Patriarch Athenagoras I and was seconded by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, the Primate of North and South America. These two prominent church people motivated the Philoptochos to seek new horizons, to undertake programs which were fruitful and productive during the past 60 years, which actually surpassed all expectations. During our fiftieth anniversary celebration, His Eminence expressed his gratitude by stating: "The blessed soul of His Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras would certainly rejoice and be filled with gladness on this occasion of the life and work of your



Philoptochos Society. In laying the groundwork of your organization a half century ago, the Patriarch, a churchman of deep insight and keen foresight, envisioned a well organized society of Greek Orthodox women striving with utmost determination to eradicate poverty and misfortune in a crusade to preserve all that is sacred and precious to our church and all our people. Looking back, we can say that Patriarch's hopes and expectations have been fulfilled. The Philoptochos outreach in the areas of philanthropy and moral social concerns has certainly been successful.'

Speaking of His Eminence, it comes to mind the year we celebrated the enthronement of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, commemorating the thirtieth year of his episcopacy and fiftieth year of his ordination to Diaconate. We were indeed very grateful to His Eminence for his guidance and wise counsel for we see today a united membership of Greek Orthodox women who proclaim their faith and devotion to the church. "Through the Philoptochos Society, we act, think, and uphold the finest ideals of American and Hellenic traditions, while fulfilling the philanthropic goals set forth by our "protoporoi." We were very fortunate to have His Eminence among us on that 14th of October so that the Taxiarchae family could show him our appreciation for his inspired leadership which brought the Philoptochos Society recognition as the largest Greek Orthodox women's philanthropic organization in the world. It was an exciting and rewarding experience.

Philoptochos today is looking ahead to new horizons and will take all opportunities as well as challenges as members of the Greek Orthodox faith. We will examine these opportunities and challenges and become more active, branch out, and reach out in unison to find appropriate ways to act and react most effectively. We will join hands in carrying out the church's mission and safeguard all its sacred traditions. His Eminence's proclamation of a yearly theme was indeed very helpful to our Society as we applied ourselves in carrying out each year's particular theme.

"The many philanthropic endeavors of the Taxiarchae Ladies Philoptochos Society are genuine expressions of Christian charity, embracing an enormous manifestation of love. This manifestation of love has been evident in the multitude of meaningful programs and activities undertaken during the many years of Philoptochos' existence. The history of our particular community tells us that the ladies of our Philoptochos played a major role in the growth and success of our church. The membership and participation in all its progress and activities was and is still given boundlessly.

Not to take anything away from our predecessors or the founders of Philoptochos, much has to be said for the current Philoptochos woman. We have come a long way since the organization's inception in 1931. The new Philoptochos woman with her advanced education and broader life experience is still entrusted with the task of keeping the Society a source of fulfillment, while creating new vistas for an improved Society. We are looking forward to the opportunity of assessing our goals, setting our sights higher, and marshalling our resources. Amid the enthusiasm and commonality of concerns, we will recount our evolution from a strictly parish philanthropic organization with Parochial concerns, and reach out to the four corners of the Earth to extend love, care, and grace to the lives of our brothers and sisters throughout the universe.

Here is a quotation from another prominent spiritual leader:

“With your great patience and unceasing efforts, the Philoptochos Society has developed a great awareness of and sensitivity to the many needs of our modern times and has reached out even beyond the boundaries of the Taxiarchae community. I admire the warm spirit of your congeniality and true sisterhood. You are the sustaining power of our church and archdiocese. I think of the Philoptochos Society, 'our Phioptochos,' as a living garden ("perivoli") which not only helps the church by ever growing and being fruitful, but also by the splendid blend of many "fruits" giving beauty and fragrance to the church environment. I am praying to God that through His divine providence, He will sustain you, give you strength and courage to proceed always forward, keep you together in His name and mission, give you satisfaction of spiritual fulfillment, and that He will keep your "perivoli" always safe, radiant, and flourishing:”

- *Rev. Father Emmanuel S. Metaxas*

Another quotation from a great leader of our country, the United States of America, addressed to His Holiness, the late Patriarch Athenagoras I before his escalation to the Patriarchate.

Most Rev. **Athenagoras, Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America** "I am glad to send my greetings through you to the members of the Philoptochos Society of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America. Together with my best wishes for the continued progress of the humanitarian work in which they are so successfully engaged. It is a happy characteristic of Greece that her sons and daughters who have become a part of the American nation have enriched our common life. Not only with their devotion to democratic ideals, but with true active concern for the welfare of their fellow man:"

- *Franklin D. Roosevelt*  
*President of the United States*  
*of America*

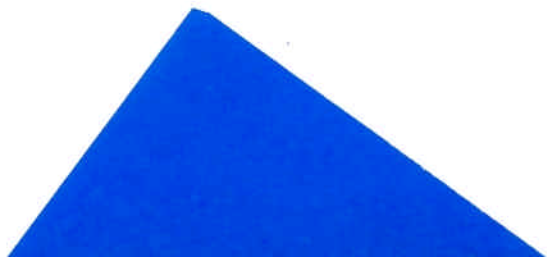
# Reflections....



With the spiritual leadership that we were fortunate to have "through the years" from men as His Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, Prelate of North and South America, and from our very own strong, influential, encouraging, spiritual leader Rev. Father Emmanuel S. Metaxas, as devout and dedicated Christians of the Taxiarchae community, we are inspired to continue our journey with renewed spirit, faith in God, and undying love for our fellow man.











# THE CHRISTENING

## FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF PHILOPTOCHOS THE TAXIARCHAE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS "THE GOOD SAMARITANS"

*The Godmothers of Nicholas Momtsios*

*Parents - Vasilios and Sandy Momtsios*

*June 9, 1984*

"NA MAS ZISI" chorused the proud godmothers of the Ladies Philoptochos Society of the Taxiarchae Church at the Christening of their godchild, NICHOLAS ALEXANDER MOMTSIOS. "PANTA AKSIES" were the beautiful and meaningful words of Father Emmanuel S. Metaxas, after he performed the sacred ceremony.

One hundred invited guests gathered to witness this Sacrament with the chants of Psalti James Mastrogiannis. Baby Nicholas smiled like an angel. The proud parents and grandparents beamed with joy throughout the entire day and evening.

A reception followed immediately at the Community Center where joy and laughter continued to prevail as everyone dined and danced to the eclectic music of the Greek

## REFLECTIONS...









# THE 'TAXIARCHAE' FAMILY'S PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Under the Spiritual Leadership and Guidance of  
Father Emmanuel Metaxas and our Presbytera Penny

## *REFLECTIONS...*









# REFLECTIONS...

## His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos' visit to the 'Taxiarchae' Church October - 1986

This officiation of His Eminence at Vesper Services  
honoring our youth.  
The celebration of the Divine Liturgy  
by His Eminence Iakovos  
followed by  
The ground breaking ceremonies for the new site  
of our new  
HELLENIC CULTURAL CENTER  
and a  
Testimonial Dinner in honor of His Eminence Archbishop  
Iakovos Twenty-Fifth Anniversary  
of His Enthronement as Primate of the  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese  
of North and South America.





## THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES

ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS and Father Emmanuel Metaxas get assistance from three 'Taxiarchae' Greek School children in the ground breaking ceremonies.



The HARRIS BROTHERS, Andrew, President and William, past President, of the Parish Council, extend a helping hand as His Eminence Archbishop looks on.

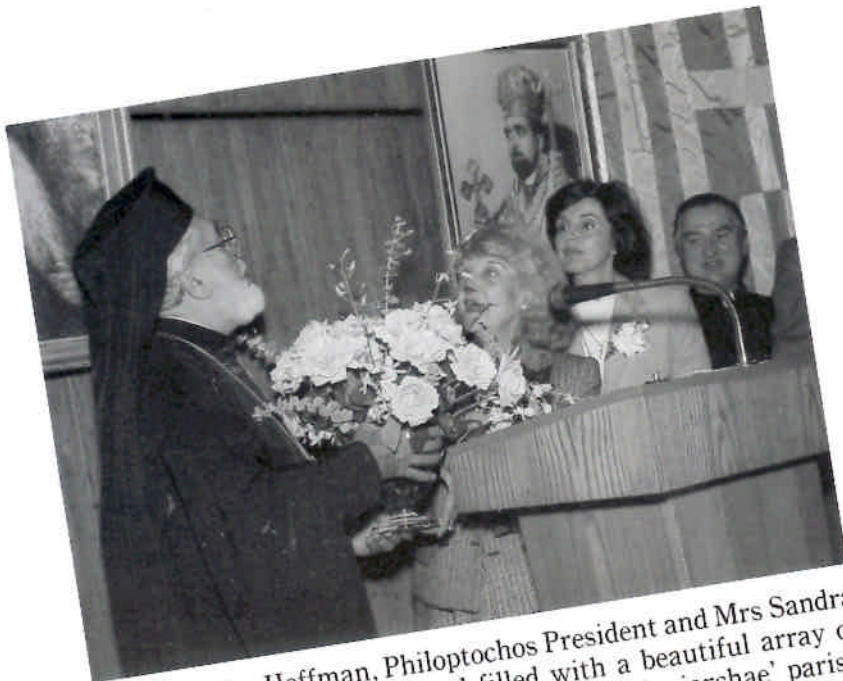




The ST. PAUL MEDAL was presented by Archbishop Iakovos to Mrs. Pepi Moschi for her thirty-seven years as a Greek school teacher.



Mrs. Dorothy Hoffman bestowed with the Medal of St. Paul, with the blessings of His Eminence, in recognition of diligent service of philanthropy and inspiring contribution to the Philoptochos Society and Taxiarchae Community.



Mrs. Dorothy Hoffman, Philoptochos President and Mrs Sandra Harris present a crystal bowl filled with a beautiful array of flowers to His Eminence in behalf of the 'Taxiarchae' parish family while Father Metaxas and Andrew Harris, President, look on.





## SAINT BASIL ACADEMY, Garrison, New York



The Academy of St. Basil, an institution of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, is a unique philanthropic center of the Church where young people can find not only a "home away from home" - but a "Real Home". Children in need are nurtured, educated and cared for according to our faith and traditions. The Academy strives to create a truly Greek Orthodox Christian Home for our children where they begin and end each day with a prayer. A place where they can grow spiritually, intellectually and emotionally.

The mission of Saint Basil Academy is to continue to be available to those young members of the Church who need protection, shelter, education and most importantly, the warmth of our Christian love and the security of a home.

The education program has been completely revised in recent years with a highly qualified teaching staff and a new educational concept emphasizing remediation and individualized instruction. The Library is a multisensory learning center with extensive use of films and video to aid in the total learning process.

When not in school, the children are the responsibility of the child-care workers and the recreation staff. They supervise and provide activities to promote individual growth and development.

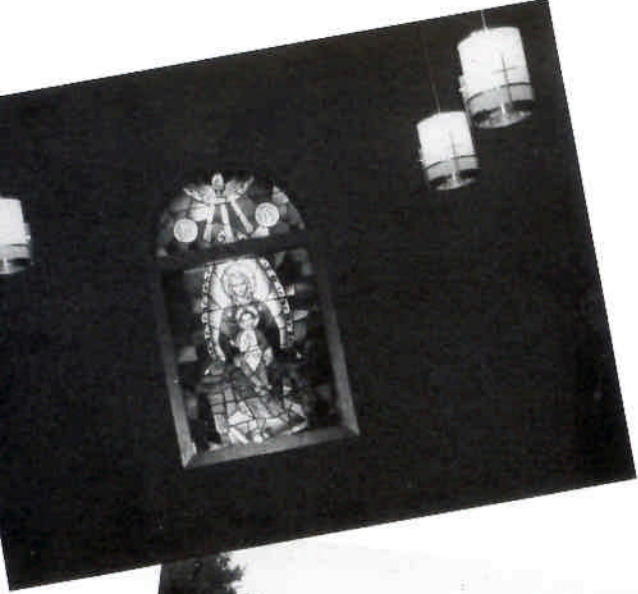
Within the house discipline is maintained, personal hygiene is taught and specific chores and tasks are assigned to keep the areas clean and neat. After school recreation includes a

variety of activities such as volleyball, soccer, softball, checkers, chess, arts and crafts, photography and much more. With such a variety of activities, each child has the opportunity to develop their own creative outlets.

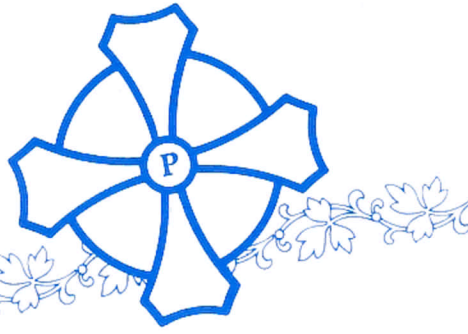
Throughout the course of a year, hundreds of people visit the Academy - Ladies Philoptochos Chapters, youth groups, GOYA, AHEPA chapters and many others come for a day or week-end. With exposure to so many people, the children have grown accustomed to socializing and feeling comfortable with people, not frightened and intimidated.

Amongst the many national and Philoptochos obligations, our Philoptochos deems The Children at the Academy top priority - helping to repair the children's shattered lives and offering them this facility where they can be nurtured, improve the quality of their lives and help them to be healthy, wholesome, well rounded Greek Orthodox Christians, while developing to their fullest potential ... This is the challenge and the prayer of Saint Basil Academy.

The bread which you do not use is  
the bread of the hungry;  
The garment hanging in your wardrobe is  
that of one who is naked;  
The shoes you do not wear are those of  
one who is barefoot;  
The acts of charity you do not perform  
are so many injustices that you  
commit. -St. Basil the Great



# PHILOPTOCHOS



## George Alevizos honored ... Watertown Philoptochos salute to Anagnos attracts over 500

WATERTOWN — Over 500 persons were at the Perkins School for the Blind to honor and celebrate the memory of Michael Anagnos, second director of the school and founder of its kindergarten.

The celebration was sponsored on March 25 by the Philoptochos Society of the Taxiarchae Church and by George Alevizos. The day also commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Perkins School, the 160th anniversary of Greek independence and the golden anniversary of the founding of Philoptochos.

The program, highly cultural and ethnic in nature, obviously moved the audience, who applauded with tears in their eyes and smiles on their lips. Performances included musical scores by the Contemporary

Greek Ensemble, the Kariatides folk dancers, poetry readings by Evan J. Hoffmann and Drossos Bisbas, the blind students singing praises, and an address by Dorothy Hoffmann, president of the local Philoptochos chapter and coordinator of the program. Awards were presented to George Alevizos, the Rev. Emmanuel Metaxas of Taxiarchae, and Bill Momtsios, a protegee of Alevizos and Perkins alumni and staff member. A salute to Epirus, the birthplace of Michael Anagnos, was presented by Demetrios Tsoumbanos, president of the Epirotic Benevolent Society.

Greek pastries prepared by the Watertown Greek community were served to guests, who presented themselves as representatives of other Greek communities, of the Orthodox

church and in state and local politics.

*A Celebration  
to honor the late*

*Michael Anagnos*

*Second Director, Founder of the Perkins Kindergarten*

*An Evening Reception*

*under the joint aegis of*

*The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society*

*George Alevizos*

*and the patronage of*

*The Perkins School for the Blind*

*on their One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary*

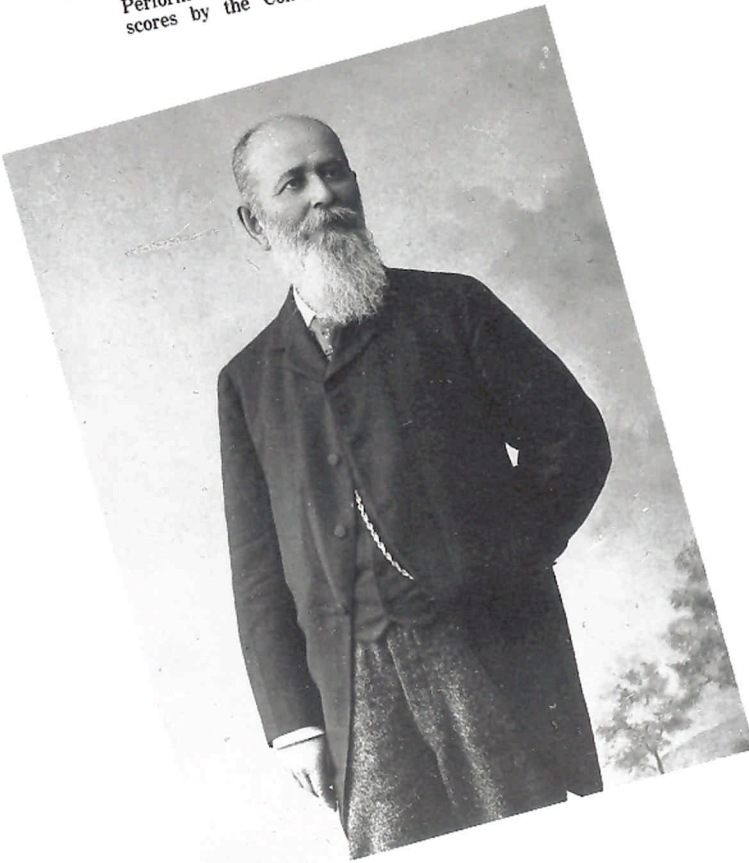
*Wednesday, the twenty-fifth of March*

*nineteen hundred eighty one*

*Dwight Hall, Perkins School for the Blind*

*Watertown, Massachusetts*

*to benefit  
The Perkins School*



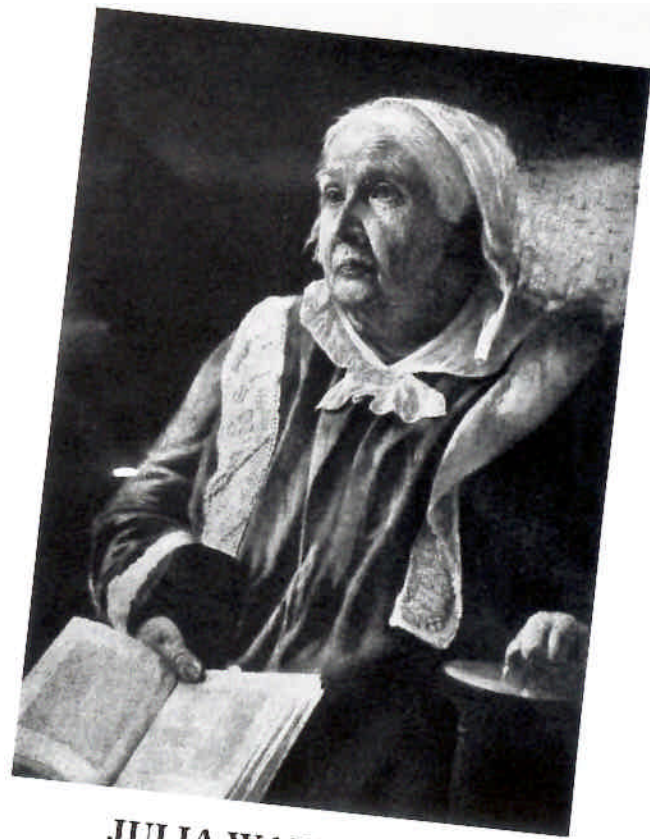
**MICHAEL ANAGNOS**  
**1837-1906**

*"A great-hearted lover of mankind,  
A true and far-seeing leader of the blind  
Along the higher paths"*



### **HELEN KELLER AND MICHAEL ANAGNOS**

Michael Anagnos was instrumental in the introduction of Anne Sullivan to Helen Keller, who with her unique education established standards of learning in the distant corners of the world.



### **JULIA WARD HOWE** Victoria Era American Queen and a true Philelene

"Study Greek, it is better  
than a diamond necklace."



With a smile on their faces, including Kenneth Stuckey's, the Perkin School Scouts are anxiously awaiting the day of departure to Epirus, Greece, their founder's birthplace. The trip included stops in Athens, Konitsa, Papingo, Tripoli, Corinth, Delphi, and other places of interest. On their return to the United States, Kenneth Stuckey, their Scoutmaster said "It was a trip we will never forget — everyone greeted us with open arms, the hospitality was unforgettable, this meaningful trip will linger in our memories forever."



ΝΟΣΕΜΒΡΙΟΣ  
ΤΩΝ ΑΡΧΑΓΓΕΛΩΝ. Ἀπολυτίκιον



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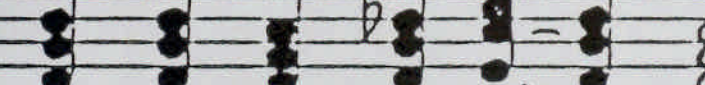
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**CHOIR**



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- pi ton pte - ri - - yon



1973 a - e - lou e - mon t



1979





## THE TAXIARCHAE CHOIR



There were many attempts to organize a choir in the early years in our community's history, the beginnings of a real choir made up of young adults were under the leadership of Choir Director, Charles Lavrakas. The choir continued to flourish with such talented directors as the unforgettable Andrew Poulimenos, who left us to establish a successful career in music. Two very fine young ladies who served as choir directors, were Maria Antoniadis and Stella "Tsolas" Pathiakis. David Ham is another person we will remember as an excellent choir master. I recollect seeing our Presbytera "Penny" behind the baton many times through the years directing the choir performing well in her inimitable fashion.

Stella Tsolas Pathiakis adds her comments descriptively:

"I remember Father Metaxas as the strong influence behind the choir. Under the directorship of Charles Lavrakas, I remember the performances for March 25th celebrations and other special occasions. What energy and excitement was generated when Maria Antoniadis, choir director, gathered the Taxiarchae young adults and selected seminarians for the most memorable of spring concerts at Jordan Hall, Boston. Many people in the greater Boston area and across the country have the recording of our "Aineite Ton Kyrion" when Andrew Poulimenos was choir master. There were many concerts during those years, many March 25th celebrations. When I became choir director in 1971, Father Metaxas and Presbytera "Penny" were most helpful to me. The choir began a new tradition with the Christmas concerts for family and friends. Through the years it was Father Metaxas' guidance and strong influence 'behind the scenes' that made things happen!"



## A TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR J. PEROS CHOIR DIRECTOR



For the past decade, plus some years, the Taxiarchae Church has enjoyed the great talents of our current choir master Arthur J. Peros. Arthur's warm, quiet but strong personality, his deep faith in and dedication to the church and music, his professionalism (he holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard University and M.B.A. from Boston University) and the genuine respect he enjoys in our community, are some reasons we are paying tribute to him at this time. It was very important to Arthur that the family name "Perivoliotis" be an integral part of the Greek Orthodox Church, as he says, "family life and the Church are one."

Arthur married Irene Lazarides, with whom he resides in Waltham. God blessed them with three beautiful daughters, Joanne, Virginia and Deborah - all three active members of the choir for many years - very talented young ladies indeed in the musical profession, and all three blessed in the sacrament of matrimony by our Father Emmanuel S. Metaxas at the Taxiarchae Church. Arthur and Irene have also been blessed with four granddaughters, Stephanie, Nicole, Jesse and Dana. Irene Peros has been a church organist both in Cambridge and at Taxiarchae for as many years as Arthur has been choir director with time out for family births. She has been a very supportive and devoted wife and mother and quite proud of her husband's and daughters' achievements through the years.

Arthur's love for music dates back to his elementary school years when he studied the violin at the New England Conservatory of Boston and also studied voice with some fine teachers, one being Professor William Hicks. His interest in liturgical music also dates back when he was a young lad at which time his father, John, was a very talented psalti of the Cambridge Church, St. Constantine and Helen where he served for 60 years.



ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS presents Arthur Peros the St. Paul Medal for his thirty-seven years as a church choir director.





ARTHUR PERUS as Roger Sherman  
Reagle Players Theatre

In 1947 Arthur J. Peros became the Choir Director of the Cambridge Church and served for 25 years; in 1972 he joined the Taxiarchae Church as Choir Director; in September he will be celebrating his 43rd anniversary in this position. The Taxiarchae congregation remembers the many concerts Arthur presented at our church whether it being a Christmas concert, a Special Concert for Jimmy Banacos or the late Michael Avtges Benefit Concert; they were all inspirational and very well executed. Some of his friends also remember attending the many performances of the Men's Chorale of Boston, in which Arthur and Steve Karidoyanes were very active players; this lasted for about seven years. "Today, Arthur says: "music has become almost my vocation instead of my avocation; I also enjoy being part of the Reagle Players' Theatre group of Waltham and have appeared in productions as - The Desert Song, Brigadoon, South Pacific and many others. My daughters are also very active and I'm really proud of them, they have appeared in Summer Theatre productions of the Reagle Players

Theatre - The Music Man, Oklahoma, Hello Dolly, 42nd Street, to name a few:"

It was very evident through the years that the "Peros" family was a closely knit one, all multi talented, but most importantly, devout Greek Orthodox Christians.

One of our psaltis, Arthur's uncle Leonidas, told me that back in 1821, Leonidas' grandfather (making him Arthur's great grandfather) was baptized at the age of 18 and was named John - since the scene was near a perivoli, consequently the name "Perivoliotis" was born.

Peros or Perivoliotis, Arthur, we salute you and we also remember in 1984 when you received a high honor for your contribution to the Church as Choir Director for 37 years, The St. Paul Medal, by his Eminence Archbishop Iakovos.

God Bless You Arthur and your family!



# ALTAR BOYS

The Altar Boy plays an integral part in the liturgical celebrations of the Greek Orthodox Church, one of prominence and distinction. He is destined, in a way, for the service of the Altar; he has to know, in a short span of time, all matters concerning the liturgical worship; he is committed and always strives to grasp the inner spiritual meaning, which eventually molds his life spiritually and morally. Boys, at a very young age, are entranced, and are in awe when attending Church, with the beauty surrounding them: the colorful icons, the priest in his colorful robes with his melodious voice. They pay particular attention to the young Altar Boys, performing their duties, carrying the lit candles, holding the Exapteryga, the Censer, the Cross, or the "Leon, and are completely captured by this beautiful sight. Their eyes are transfixed to all this motion and they are ever attentive and have dreams of their own that one day they, too, will hold the position of Altar Boy. Some young men, at the age of seven or eight, fulfill their dreams early. The Taxiarchae Church has seen many Altar Boys come and go through the years; some stay for one week and others to the extreme of several years. As we said, they are the destined ones.

Basically their duties are to attend to the needs of the priest before, during, and after the Liturgy, and on special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, and many other Holy Days when the Liturgy is celebrated. You have seen them bagging Koliva for the congregation after a funeral or mnymosyno service,

carrying icons, the Cross, the Censer, the Hxapteryga and as servers who assist at Holy Communion.

During the high Holy days of Easter, the Altar Boys are especially busy, sweeping and cleaning the church and religious articles in preparation for the celebration of Easter. At an older age, they are carriers, and very proudly so, of the Hpitaphio, during the procession on the church grounds on Holy Friday, as the younger ones walk behind the priest during the procession, carrying the Holy articles.

As you progress in your role as Altar Boy you come of age and are considered to have the prerequisites for the position of Captain or Senior Altar Boy, where the priest considers you for your (duel) faith and love for God and where your actions show those of dignity and respect. The priest must depend on the captains to uphold procedures and to be certain that discipline is maintained throughout the liturgy by the younger boys. The captain also makes sure that all the candles are lit, the lights turned on and the Censer is ready. As captain he is the first one in the Altar before the service begins, in preparation for his big task, and the last one to leave.

We of the Taxiarchae congregation have been very fortunate: to have such captains with the fine qualities mentioned herein, under the divine leadership of our very own Father Ernmanuel Metaxas.



# 'ANAGNOSTIS' or READER

When a young man is ready to accept the responsibilities of the higher obligations as an Anagnostis of the Holy Books and other entities of the Church, he is recommended by the Priest of the Parish; a ritual, including the snipping of a lock of hair, by the Bishop of the Diocese, symbolizing the young man's complete commitment to the Altar, is performed.

Stanley Metaxas — Anthony Kapadoukakis  
Evan J. Hoffmann  
have the title of 'Anagnostis'  
of the 'Taxiarchae' Church.





Captains of the Altar attending Father Emmanuel Metaxas' Twenty-Fifth Anniversary (left to right) Standing - Ted Leotsakos, Tony Kapadoukakis Seated - Bill Sarhanis, Nicholas Baretos, Peter Mastrogiannis, Evan J. Hoffmann

## CAPTAINS OF THE ALTAR AT LEISURE



Amongst the senior altar boys who have escalated to the position of 'Captain' through the years are -

- Stanley Metaxas
- Evangelos "Lucky" Mitropoulos
- Evan J. Hoffmann
- Anthony "'Pony" Kapadoukakis
- Speros Calivas
- Peter Mastrogiannis
- William "Bill" Sarhanis



## PSALTIS (CHANTORS)

The position of the psaltis (chantors) is an important one in the Greek Orthodox Church and normally a person with some training in Byzantine hymnology is selected; this was not mandatory. Through the years the Taxiarchae Church has been fortunate to have had such fine, dedicated church men with charismatic personalities to hold this position. They were the late Evangelos Tjanakakis, Eleftherios Atsiknoudas, and the unforgettable Alexander Avtges. On occasion we were honored by some experienced, talented and professionally trained psaltis from various parts of Greece and young men attending the School of Theology in Brookline. Tony Kapadoukakis was always available to assist when needed.

For many years, almost three decades, we have been fortunate to have with us the talented, dedicated, church-oriented James "Mitsou" Mastrogiannis. Mitsou, as he is known to his friends, was born in Samos, Greece, and now resides in Waltham with his beloved wife, Eleni. Their son Peter was born in Greece, came to this country as a very young boy, and attended the Greek Language School and Sunday School. At a very young age, he chose to serve in the Altar, and did so with dedication for many years. They were also blessed with a daughter, Anita, who runs a very fine business in Boston.

Mitsou, a very talented psalti, has very rarely missed a Sunday or church holiday or special ceremonies such as christenings and weddings. He loves and cherishes his role as a psalti and is deeply committed to it. Yiasou Mitsou!

The other talented psalti is Leonidas Perivoliotis. Born in Logganikos, Sparta, he came to this country and settled in Cambridge with his wife, Aspasia. They were blessed with two children, Athanasios and Maria, and enjoy their leisure moments with their grandchildren Eleni and Stavros. Leonidas first joined the church in Cambridge and has been with the Taxiarchae Church for ten years. He is proud of his association with our Church and also proud of his nephew, Arthur Peros, our Choir Director.

We salute you both for your dedication to the Taxiarchae Church. God bless you both and your families!





# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL



The continuity of any organization depends on the education of its youth in the tenets and traditions it desires to perpetuate. The continuity of the Church, therefore, depends on two institutions, which are closely associated with it: the Sunday School and the Greek Language School, one for the religious aspect and the other for the language and culture, both being synonymous in importance.

In the extreme past, the teaching of religion to the young was primarily the task of the priest, along with his other duties, which also included the role of teacher of the Greek language. The priest's duties lightened in this area when a regular Sunday School Department was organized. Although the priest continues to play a significant role, the Sunday School director was placed in charge, and in cooperation with the priest, was responsible for selecting teachers and organizing the school program.

Among some of the directors of the Sunday School we wish to mention the dedicated services of Steve Caloyanidis, George Haralampu, Drew Billilis, Tony Karamas, Christine Katsioules, and the current Anthony "Tony" Kapadoukakis.

Without the dedication of the Sunday School teachers, we could not have continued the work of the Sunday School. The service of our directors and teachers through the years deserves our expression of sincere thanks and particularly deserves a prominent place in the history of the Taxiarchae Church and community.

## **Sunday School Director**

Anthony Kapadoukakis

## **Teachers**

Nursery - Christina Asimacos

Kindergarten - Diana Parasirakis, Anna Thomopoulos

First Grade - Rena Papagiannis, Georgina Porvas

Second Grade - Patricia Asimacos

Third Grade - Elena Kolokythas, Christina Mahoney

Fourth Grade - Antonia Pergantis

Fifth Grade - Stephanie Tsoukalas

Sixth Grade - Peter Panagopoulos

Seventh, Eighth, Ninth - Pamela Therios





## THE GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOL



**T**he Greek Language School transmits the language, culture, and religious traditions of the Greek Orthodox family. It is also responsible for providing a variety of programs on special occasions throughout the school year in celebration of Greek Independence Day, Christmas, Easter, graduation exercises, and many more. These activities are under the direction of the Greek School teachers, the priest, and the P.T.A. The current P.T.A. president, who contributes highly to this cause, is Emily Gartaganis. The contribution of devoted teachers and others must be recognized by paying tribute to their dedicated service, patience, tolerance, and all those wonderful attributes a teacher must have to be successful and effective. The first teacher at the Taxiarchae Church was Mrs. Peter "Pepi" Moschi, who will be celebrating 40 years in this role in April, 1990. During these years, Mrs. Moschi has been instrumental, along with others, in initiating an organization for the senior citizens of our church. Upon its inception, she was elected president and still holds this office today. After the passing of her beloved husband, Peter, whom we all knew and respected, "Pepi" plunged deeper into church activities to ease the pain and void she felt at that time. We're paying special tribute today to this beautiful woman from Rhodes, Greece, this teacher and dedicated Christian.





**A TRIBUTE TO  
MRS. PETER "PEPI" MOSCHI**  
*Marking 40 years of dedicated service.*  
*April 1990*

**A TEACHERS'S DREAM**  
*(in appreciation)*

When we needed your direction, you were always there to help us.

Your thoughtful wisdom was a constant guide.

When we needed understanding, we could count on you to listen.

When we needed patience in learning, you showed the utmost tolerance.

When we neglected to do our homework, you found the time to explain the importance of this task.

We will always be thankful for the support you have given us, the inspiration that learning and education is an important part of one's life; you said "what you learn today will be the initial climb up life's ladder of success in all of your endeavors.

You have given us a special meaning for learning, and the opportunity to strive forward, to build bridges and cross them at the right time.

You have given us the kind of advice that's built on special caring. That is why when we think of caring, understanding, patience, and all of the wonderful attributes that a teacher possesses,

We think of you.

Your pupils,





# THE FRIENDLY LADIES SOCIETY

## “HOPE”

## “ELPIS”

This Society was born approximately 15-20 years ago by the late Mrs. Mercine Contos as a social group of ladies in their silver years 'getting together' for a cup of coffee and dessert and sharing the events of the day; the important word 'sharing'. Of course, the meeting place at the Church was a very important part of the growth of this organization in the years to come.

Father Emmanuel S. Metaxas plays an important role in the expansion of this organization and the ladies would not have it any other way. They eventually elected officers, dues were initiated and new diversified programs and events were born. They meet on the first Wednesday of each month, hold an official business meeting planning their schedule in advance. They plan bus tours, usually for one day; dining out is a real treat and visiting places of historical and cultural value, as well.

Recognition of their club is an important factor to them. A booth under their official name at the Bazaar was a beginning and what else but the best mouthwatering home made Greek pastries were served with pride, baked in their own kitchens.

Mrs. Peter (Pepi) Moschi holds the title of President since its birth and everyone likes it that way. May God Bless our Senior Citizens for many years to come!

President  
Vice-President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Pepi Moschi  
Jennie "Yiannoula" Zevitas  
Caliope Racheotes  
Lillian Katsikas

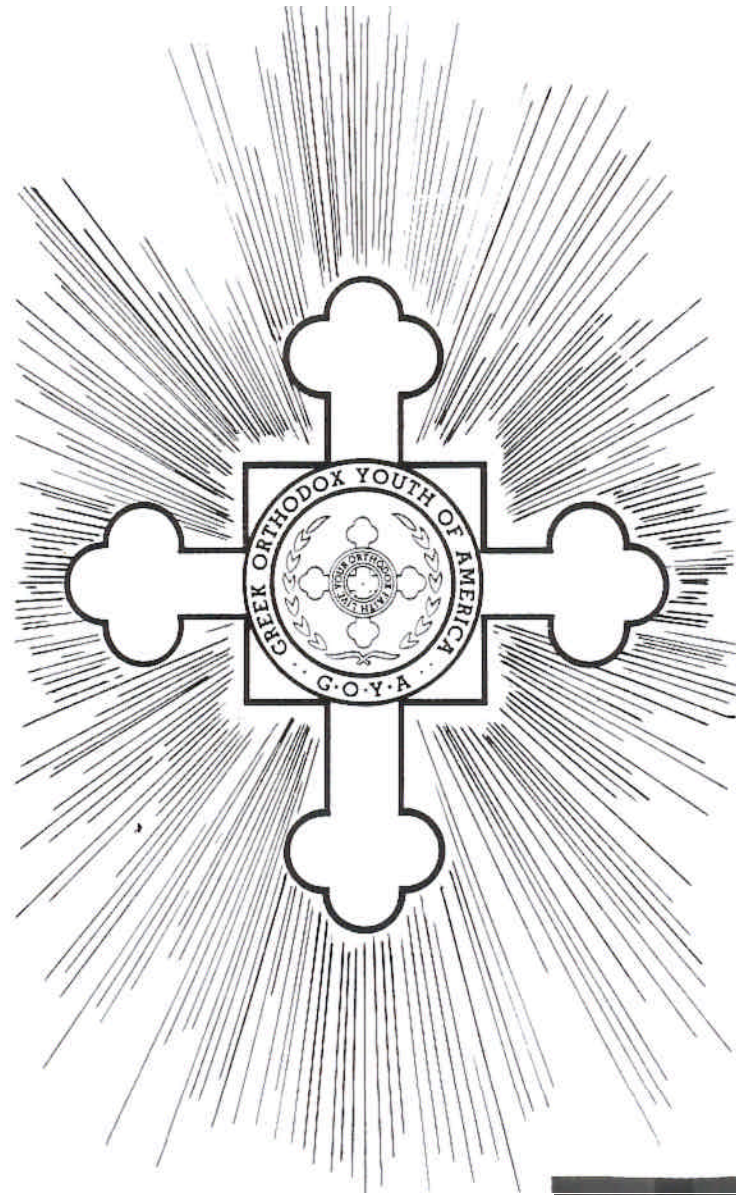
Antigone Andrews  
Olympia Antoniou  
Irina Avtgis  
Anthi Bibilas  
Christina Caramanis  
Evangeline Couris  
Andromache Emmanuel  
Rena Kokoras  
Vasiliki Gistis  
Stavroula Karalekas  
Caterini Koulouriotis  
Angeliki Perivoliotis

Efterpi Rigopoulos  
Katherine Sagris  
Helen Sampanis  
Olga Simoglou  
Efterpi Sofronas  
Mary Sarelis  
Mary Soumbasakos  
Yiannoula Stathakis  
Lambrini Tsacoyeanes  
Aglaia Tsoumas  
Vasiliki Varkas  
Vasiliki Vasiliou





# G.O.Y.A.



**T**he Greek Orthodox Youth of America (G.O.Y.A.)

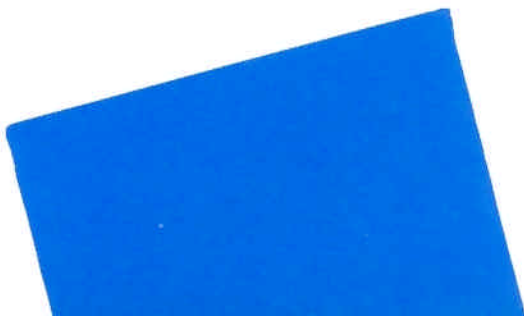
was organized in 1951 as the official organization for young men and women of the Greek Orthodox Church. Its membership was composed of young people over 18 years of age from all walks of life - students, professionals, businessmen, young married couples - all participating in a program of religious, educational, cultural, social, and athletic activities. Uniting in a program of high purpose and sharing fellowship with other young people from all corners of the Archdiocese form the core of G.O.Y.A.'s organization.

Since its birth, G.O.Y.A. has expanded to bring in younger people (ages 13-18) and the birth of Jr. G.O.Y.A.; those over 18 were the Sr. G.O.Y.A. The program was versatile but their golden rule was to serve members by offering opportunities of education, inspiration, and service which will create better Greek Orthodox Christians dedicated to the G.O.Y.A. motto: "Live your Orthodox faith!"

Through the years, many leaders passed through these portals using his/her techniques and individuality to uphold and carry through the cause and progress of the young of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Americas.











## THE SECOND ANNUAL FESTIVAL — BAZAAR A HUGE SUCCESS

Thousands of Taxiarchae parishioners, out-of-towners and local residents flocked to the two day European Festival and Bazaar. Because of the first Festival's huge success, inspired by the Senior G.O.Y.A.'s President, the late Paul Christo, and with the cooperation and hard work of the entire G.O.Y.A., it was the birth of an annual festival bazaar to this day.

As usual, the doors of the Community Center were opened bright and early to permit shoppers to invade the decorative booths. The evening ushered in the wonderful sounds of the Grecian Keys Orchestra. The following afternoon the Cadet Drum and Bugle Corps of Watertown (some 50 members strong) marched to the Church grounds. The Swedish Folk Dance Club, the Scottish Country Dance Society of Boston and the Grecian Folk Dancers of Somerville gave a full-costumed dance performance in front of the huge crowd. Rumor had it - the hit of both days was the special \$.99 pastichio luncheon and the Greek Coffee Shop where bazaar shoppers could stop for a delightful coffee break and that delectable Greek pastry. And these are just some of the highlights!





## A TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY (TONY) KAPADOUKAKIS

Aside from his religious activities and interests, Tony excelled scholastically in spite of the language barrier he experienced in his early childhood years. A graduate of Watertown High School - received his Bachelor Degree in Biology from Northeastern University. Tony's initial aspiration was to become a doctor, with the thought of helping those in need. Although not a doctor, he remained in the field of medicine escalating from technician, special procedures tech, to his current position - Radiographer at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Anthony Kapadoukakis' visit to the State House at the invitation of Governor King representing the Greek Orthodox youth.



Tony Kapadoukakis' name has been seen throughout the commemorative album and justifiably so - this tribute is long overdue! Tony has served his church well through the years; from Altar Boy, Advisor to Senior G.O.Y.A., General Manager of the Basketball team, Psalti, Church photographer, and currently Sunday School Director. This is a perfect time to recognize this dedicated young man for the significant role he portrayed through the years at the Taxiarchae Church.

Tony was born in Mitilini, Greece, to the late John Kapadoukakis and Ourania Kapadoukakis with whom he resides at Melendy Ave., Watertown, MA. The death of his father was a tremendous shock to Tony and his mom Ourania. This sad event deepened his Faith in God, and the Church became an integral part of his life.

Turning back the pages - Tony was raised and received his formal education in his formative years in Athens, Greece. The Kapadoukakis family came to the United States of America; settled in Haverhill for two years; moved to Watertown, a stones throw from the Church, where they reside today. Being very devout Greek Orthodox Christians, the Church became their `second' home - following suit 'Pony immediately became very involved by entering the Altar at the age of twelve. Within a few years he progressed to Captain of the altar boys, filled in as Psalti, when necessary, was ritualized as an Anagnostis of the Holy Books.

Between working hours he would deliver the weekly or special newspaper articles to the greek newspapers to meet the deadline. He could also be seen any time of day or night at an airport picking up or dropping off top dignitary officials - like we said - just ask Tony and it was done!

The outer appearance of Tony was timid and shy to some people who did not know him well; he is of a mellow disposition but strong in character, serious in nature; however, whimsical, witty and has a dry sense of humor.

It was common at the Taxiarchae Church to hear the expression "has anyone seen Tony?" when you were in doubt or "where's Tony?" when one needed an immediate answer about anything or everything - amazing! Everyone, without a doubt, respects him and loves him; Tony is indeed special in every sense of the word, and his service and dedication to the Taxiarchae Church has been exemplary.

We salute you Tony and may God Bless You!

Here's how Tony feels about his Church and Spiritual Leader: (1978) *For the past eight years, I have been an Anagnostis in the altar and a faithful servant to God and Father Metaxas; I consider Pater and love him as a second father. My association with Father Metaxas has taught me to have faith in God, to love and respect older people. Father Metaxas loves all the members of our church, both young and old, and tries to guide them, as he has me, spiritually in our Greek Orthodox heritage. May God bless him, our Presbytera and his family."*



