A fatherly moment

Father Demetri receives a congratulatory hug from his father-in-law, Anthony Ziagos Sr., after being installed by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios as the parish’s new pastor during a vesper service Jan. 4. Father Demetri is married to Gloria Ziagos, the daughter of longtime parishioners Anthony and Diane Ziagos of Dracut. See story, more photos on Pages 4-5. (Photo by Arthur Sparages)
How one ought to serve the church

By FATHER DEMETRI COSTARAKIS
Pastor

If we care about someone or something, we as human beings really take care of that person or object. We either keep the person or object from harmful hands or try to protect them/it as best we can. Our Church, your church, is no different. Yet how can we serve the Church? What does it mean to serve?

The word “serve” is defined as: to devote (part of) one’s life or efforts; work for or be a servant. The care of the Church is entrusted by the Lord to the faithful of the Church, i.e., to each Orthodox Christian. Our times call us all to a conscious and sacrificial stand for the Church, each with his or her talents and means.

However, the principal power of service lies not in this, and not in our knowledge, ability and calling. The principal power is in that “Infirmity” through which the power and strength of Jesus Christ comes to abide.

Each of us has a place in the ranks of the Church, and the forms of participation in the services of the Church are varied. St. Paul writes: “Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called.” (1 Cor. 7:20) This is telling each and every one of us that whatever good we can do, or bring, must also be brought to the life of the Church.

If one is great with tools at home, let them be great with tools at Church. If one is a great cook at home, let them be a great cook at church. If one is great at anything, be great at anything at church!

Christmas Card

The names of the following parishioners either were inadvertently omitted or arrived too late to be published in the Ladies Philoptochos Society’s annual Christmas Card. They are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Costa, Mr. and Mrs. Shawn and Laura Devaeu, Demi Flanagan and Jean E. Karcores.

– Nick Pappas
Editor
**Church Services**

**Schedule of Services**

Sunday Orthros .......................... 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Divine Liturgy ............................. 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Special Services**

Feb. 2 (Friday) ............................... Presentation of Our Lord
Divine Liturgy: 9 a.m.

Feb. 10 (Saturday) ......................... Saturday of Souls
Divine Liturgy: 9 a.m.

Feb. 17 (Saturday) ......................... Saturday of Souls
Divine Liturgy: 9 a.m.

Feb. 19, 26 (Mondays) ....................... Compline
Service: 6 p.m.

Feb. 21, 28 (Wednesdays) .............. Presanctified Liturgy
Divine Liturgy: 6 p.m.

Feb. 23 (Friday) ............................... Salutations
Service: 6 p.m.

Feb. 24 (Saturday) ......................... Saturday of Souls
Divine Liturgy: 9 a.m.

**Sacraments**

**Weddings:**

Conan Gill and Stephanie Pappas. Koumbara: Tina
Millsaps. (Dec. 30)

**Funerals:**

Theresa Kacavas of Lowell. (Jan. 2)

Nancy McCutcheon of Pelham, N.H. (Jan. 12)

**Monthly Trisagia**

Names of the deceased are read the first Sunday of each
month. Please send the names to be read in advance, listing
the month you would like them read. If you would like the name to be read in Greek, please include the Greek spelling along with the English. Questions? Please call Dyanne Mitropoulis at 978-256-2056.

**FEBRUARY TRISAGIA**

George Anastos .............................. Paraskevi Manolis
Leo Anastos ................................ Martin P. Martakos
Andrew Balamotis ......................... Thalia Milionis
Helen Berdos ............................... George Moskovites
Nicholas Bogis ............................. David Moulton
George A. Danas ........................... Donald Musgrave
Stephen A. Danas .......................... Georgia Nicholaides
Evangelina Daoulas ....................... Nicholas Nicholaides
Josephine DiPalma ........................ Vasilike Nicholaides
Aphrodite Douzanis ....................... George Nicholas
George Economou .......................... Thomas Poulios
Mary Economou ............................ Georgia Rodopoulos
Steve Economou ............................ George Sarantos
Georgia Gerovasilis ..................... Fr. John Sarantos
Diomedes Gickas .......................... Mary Sarantos
Demetrios Hondros ....................... Nicholas Savoley
Maria Hondros ............................ Andrew Skalkeas
Panagioti Hondros ....................... Eva Stavrou
Soultana Kapsouris ...................... Edward F. Sullivan
Katherine Kokas .......................... Anargiros Vekos
Theodore Kokas ............................ Maria Vekos
George Kourembis ....................... Mary Voulgaris
Helen Kourembis .......................... Steve Xifarisis
Crystal Laganas ........................... Fr. Steven Yankopoulos
Mary Lellos ............................... Bessie Zagorites
Peter Lellos ............................... Sophie M. Zamanakos

**Lenten Services**

All weekday Lenten services – Compline (Monday), Presanctified Liturgy (Wednesday) and Salutations (Friday) – will begin this year at 6 p.m.
His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios visited Transfiguration on Jan. 4 to install the parish’s new priest, Father Demetri Costarakis, during a special Vesper service. A reception followed downstairs in the church hall. (Photo by Lenny Proposki)

A new start
Father Demetri installed as new pastor of Transfiguration

By NICK PAPPAS
Trans-a-Gram Editor

Father Demetri Costarakis, who represents the sixth generation of priests in his family, was installed as the new pastor of the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church during a special Vesper service on Jan. 4.

More than 100 parishioners and 14 priests from around the region – including his father, the Very Rev. Peter Costarakis – attended the historic ceremony, which was presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston.

School of Theology in Brookline, previously served as the assistant priest at St. Demetrios in Weston. He replaces Father Christopher Foustoukos, who served as pastor for more than four years before his transfer to St. Vasilios in Peabody on Jan. 1.

“Today is a day of joy and gladness. It marks a new beginning, the opening of a new chapter in the history of this community,” Metropolitan Methodios said at the conclusion of the installation service.

“Dedicate your priesthood towards bringing about a spiritual renewal in

(Continued on page 5)
this community. Your every effort should be Christ centered. It is my prayer that every parishioner will heed these encouraging words of St. Paul to be transfigured by the renewal of their mind as they may do what is acceptable and perfect.”

Afterward, Father Demetri addressed the parish, asking for the prayers of Metropolitan Methodios, his fellow priests and the laity that he may serve his new community with love and patience in the glory of God.

Father Demetri, who once served as a camp director for the Metropolises of San Francisco and Boston, also made a point of sharing his philosophy about the role of children in a parish.

“Many people say that the youth are the future of the church. I disagree,” he said. “The youth are the present of the church. All of us are able to take part in all the services of the church, and it is through our involvement that one day when God so chooses each and every one of us will be called to be in some way, shape or form leaders of His holy church.”

At the conclusion of the service, Father Demetri and Presbytera Gloria were formally welcomed to the parish with a reception in the church hall.

On behalf of the parish, they were presented with an icon and a bouquet of roses by the Parish Council.

**Top photo:** Fourteen priests made the trip to Transfiguration to participate in the installation ceremony for Father Demetri. **Bottom photo:** Father Demetri poses for a photograph with Presbytera Gloria after being installed by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios as the parish’s new pastor on Jan. 4. (Photos by Lenny Proposki and Arthur Sparages)

**PEOPLE IN THE NEWS**

Cassandra Garibaldi, the daughter of Tony and Andrea Garibaldi of Dracut, placed in the Top 10 in the nation in an essay contest last fall for students in Grades 10-12.

Cassandra, a sophomore at Dracut High School, wrote a 250-word essay – "The Importance of Trust and Friendship in Our Society" – as part of her creative writing class.

Her essay is expected to be published in a book called “Celebrating What is Important to Me” later this fall.
Council election results nullified

Metropolitan declines to ratify results; new election March 11

EDITOR’S NOTE: On Jan. 3, the parish was notified by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios that he had decided not to ratify the results of the Dec. 10 Parish Council election. As a result, a new election has been scheduled for Sunday, March 11. What follows is a letter from Parish Council President Margo DiBenedetto that was expected to be mailed to all parishioners. She asked that it be published in the Trans-a-Gram as well.

* * *

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

As many of you already know, the Parish Council election that took place on December 10, 2006, was not ratified by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios.

The Parish Council was notified of this in a letter that was received on January 3, 2007. His Eminence would like us to conduct a new election within sixty days.

Obviously, many parishioners agree with this decision and many disagree. It is unfortunate that such a situation has occurred within our beloved church. As a result, it is necessary to provide a brief explanation as to how we got to this point.

From the time that parishioners were allowed to call in to request absentee ballots, the office was inundated with requests. The large volume of requests is highly unusual for our church, as well as any other churches in the area. The total number of absentee ballots received by election-day was 165.

Several complaints were received by Fr. Chris as to how these absentee ballots were attained. Fr. Chris and I could not ignore these complaints and wrote to His Eminence before the election took place to notify him of our concerns about a fair election.

The election took place and another 165 parishioners came to the church that day to vote. Fr. Chris refused to verify that the elections were conducted according to the Regulations of the Archdiocese and local Parish By-laws. Letters protesting the election were also sent to His Eminence. All this information was sent to the Metropolis attorney and after reviewing the documents, he advised His Eminence not to ratify the election.

Now under the direction of His Eminence and the Metropolis attorney, the special election will be held on March 11th with new guidelines for obtaining absentee ballots.

These new guidelines are as follows:

1. You must be incapacitated or ill and unable to come to church to vote.
2. You will be more than 100 miles away from the church on election-day.

The Election Board will be sending a letter to every parishioner explaining the new procedure for the March 11th election, including a timeline. This letter will let parishioners know when they will be able to contact the church secretary and request an application for an absentee ballot.

Once received, the voter will denote the reason he/she is requesting the absentee ballot, sign it, and mail it to the church. If the voter is ill, two members of the Election Board will hand deliver the ballot, allow the voter to vote privately, and then return the completed ballot, in a sealed envelope, to the church.

If the voter will be more than 100 miles away, an absentee ballot and a confirmation form will be mailed to the voter. The completed ballot must be put in a sealed envelope, the confirmation form has to be notarized, and then both items put in another envelope and mailed back to the church by the Saturday before the election.

I hope and pray that as a community we can move past this election and concentrate on the important ministries of the church. I also pray that God helps us during this healing process so that we can be a loving family once again.

Sincerely,

Margo DiBenedetto
Parish Council President

Candidate Withdraws

Parish Council member Christian Zouzas notified the Board of Elections in a letter dated Jan. 19 that he is requesting his name be withdrawn from the ballot of the new election on March 11.

Christian was one of 13 parishioners who ran in the Dec. 10 election, which His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios chose not to ratify after receiving complaints related to the high number of absentee ballots.

– Nick Pappas
Trans-a-Gram Editor
CHURCH NEWS

Judge issues ruling in building suit

By NICK PAPPAS
Trans-a-Gram Editor

A Middlesex Superior Court judge ruled Jan. 4 that the parish owes an electrical contractor $22,583.65 for work performed in relation to the construction of the building addition and renovations to the church.

The award – not including 12 percent in interest ($6,726.89) that is being challenged in court by the parish's attorney – is less than the $43,285.90 that Lowell Central Electric Co. Inc. claimed it was owed and less than the $25,000 settlement offer parishioners authorized at a Parish Assembly in October 2004.

“While I share your disappointment that Lowell Central Electric was awarded anything at all, clearly their award was less than half of the $43,000 that they sought. In that light, our disappointment dims considerably,” attorney Peter Lawlor wrote in a Jan. 7 letter to Father Demetri and the Parish Council.

“It is also important to remember that the amount awarded by the Court is still less than the $25,000 we had offered two years ago to settle this. The judge cited the ‘crucial testimony’ of Building Committee member Sam Zouzas as one of the factors that led to the Court’s conclusion that ‘the Church was justified in not paying other parts’ of the Lowell Central Electric invoices.”

While Judge Thomas R. Murtagh agreed the parish did have a “fixed-price contract” for work performed in conjunction with the new building project, Lawlor said, the judge also felt there were a number of “post-contract changes” – most related to the old church building – that were not covered under the original contract.

Lowell Central Electric was awarded the electrical contract based on a bid of $112,230.69 in June 2001. Over the course of the project, the parish

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St. Basil Ceremony

Father Demetri had the pleasure of presiding over the Ladies Philoptochos Society’s annual Vasilopita observance during his first Sunday as pastor on Jan. 7. Top left: Father Demetri presents George Murphy with a piece of the special bread on behalf of the altar boys. Bottom left: Philoptochos members Mary Nicholaides, left, and Daphne Zaralidis collect donations and distribute pieces of Vasilopita at the close of the Divine Liturgy. Top right: Father Demetri poses with the volunteers who helped package the Vasilopita in advance. The special gold coin was won this year by George Zaralidis, son of Ioannis and Daphne Zaralidis.

(Photos by Nick Pappas and Matt Blake)
Parish Council

By MARGO DIBENEDETTO
Parish Council President

The following discussions took place when the Parish Council met on Jan. 17:

**Budget surplus**: The treasurer’s report cited a surplus of almost $15,000 in the checking account at year-end.

**Saturday of Souls/Lenten camp**: The first Saturday of Souls service will be Feb. 10 at 9 a.m. followed by Lenten Church Camp from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Oratorical Festival**: On Saturday, April 21, our church will host the District Oratorical Festival in the church hall. A light lunch will be served.

**Maintenance**: The faucet on the large sink in the kitchen needs to be repaired or replaced; the vacuum cleaners need to be serviced; wireless video camera for front door to be investigated; repairs have started on the church ceiling.

**Greek School**: Greek School will start up in September of this year.

**Family Glendi**: The GOYA has several activities planned, including the Glendi on Feb. 10 at the Olympia Restaurant.

**Court suit**: Attorney George Malliaros was chosen to defend the church on Jan. 22 in small claims court against Lamco Heating and Air Conditioning. The council is disputing part of a $1,400 repair bill over some repairs it never authorized.

**Lenten services**: During Lent, services on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays will begin at 6 p.m.

**New copier**: We agreed to purchase a new copier for the office.

**Upcoming events**: We are hosting another Red Cross blood drive on Saturday, May 19; we are looking into possibly having a sports memorabilia auction in April.

**Absentee ballots**: New guidelines for absentee ballots were adopted for the upcoming Parish Council election.

**Next meeting**: The council is next scheduled to meet on Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. in the board room.

Stewardship 2006

By NICK PAPPAS
Trans-a-Gram Editor

While it’s not unusual to receive stewardship cards during the first few months of the new year, as of mid-January it appears the parish has experienced a decline of 16 stewards in 2006, which represents a decrease of 3 percent. Last year at this time, there were 509 stewards, a figure that rose to 515 by the time all the stewardship cards were received for that year. Here is a brief summary of how 2006 compared in other ways to the previous year:

- **Total amount pledged**: $166,984.16, an increase of $1,138.66 from the previous year or 0.7 percent.
- **Total amount collected**: $159,634.16, a nearly flat increase of $115.16. Twenty stewards paying on account represent $3,845.50 in outstanding stewardship money.
- **Average pledge**: $334.64 per steward, an increase of $8.82 or 2.7 percent, which represents a new all-time high for the parish.
- **Percentage of budget**: The $166,984.16 pledged for 2006 represented 58.6 percent of the parish’s annual budget of $285,146.96. That’s up slightly from 58.5 percent in 2005 and down from 60.4 percent in 2004.

Treasurer’s Report

Here is a summary of the operating budget as of Dec. 31 and how it compares to the same period last year:

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<th>Category</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>159,663.43</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
<td>137,628.08</td>
<td>133,181.63</td>
<td>+3.34%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>297,291.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>14,262.41</td>
<td>-5,150.76</td>
<td>+276.90%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Philoptochos Society

By CORRINE DUBAY
Philoptochos President

Note from the president: The 11 weeks of the Orthodox Easter season are now upon us. During this solemn journey toward Easter, Philoptochos sisters come together to participate in the traditions and customs of the church. There will be many opportunities for all members of Philoptochos to join us during this most solemn Lenten journey. Working with Father Demetri and the Parish Council, Philoptochos is available and ready to help prepare for Great Lent and Easter. Please contact me anytime during Lent if you would like to help. In closing, I would like to share a quote from Martin Luther King Jr.: “Ten cures for depression are to go out and do something for someone else and repeat it nine times.”

Membership: By now, you should have received your stewardship letter in the mail for 2007. Please return your stewardship donation promptly so that we may forward the names to the archdiocese/metropolis on time. Please be aware that our per capita commitment to national and metropolis is $15. Anything above this amount will remain in our chapter for our philanthropic use. Contact membership chairperson Kathy Allen for further information. Thank you for being a part of Philoptochos. New members are always welcome.

Healthy heart brunch/meeting: The fourth general membership meeting is being held this month on Saturday morning, Feb. 3, at 10 a.m. I want to express many thanks and sisterly love to co-chairs Patricia Mahoney and Daphne Zaralidis for planning this gathering. Much more is being planned surrounding this critical women’s health issue. Please join us in friendship. Feel free to bring a friend.

National Philoptochos commitments: Here is a summary of our monthly commitments:

♦ January: St. Basil’s Academy ($2,000) and Social Services ($350).
♦ February: Children’s Cardiac Fund ($250).

House of Hope: Lynne Karagianes, Philoptochos chairlady for this local outreach program, is always looking for parishioners to volunteer to serve on the fourth Thursday of each month. If you are looking for a wonderful volunteer opportunity here in town, please contact Lynne. As always, Philoptochos is willing and ready to reimburse expenses incurred for food and dessert served.

Farewell presentation

President Corrine Dubay presents Father Chris with a farewell gift on behalf of the Ladies Philoptochos Society during a coffee hour in honor of his final Sunday at Transfiguration on Dec. 31. Also representing Philoptochos in the presentation of the engraved clock are, from left, First Vice President Debbe Daley and Second Vice President Olivia Sintros.

(Photo by Nick Pappas)

Men’s Guild

By FRANK STEVENS
Men’s Guild President

Previous meeting: On Jan. 9, we were privileged and pleased to welcome Father Demetri as our spiritual leader and as the newest member of our Guild. We wish him and Presbytera Gloria a long and spiritually prosperous ministry with us and look forward to watching their family grow and Transfiguration family grow together.

After enjoying another Guild feast, members approved a motion for a donation of $100 to the WCAP Christmas Radiothon for the Salvation Army. The donation had been pledged in emergency action.

Thank-you letters were received and read from Father Chris and Project Helping Hands.

Corinne Dubay, our Philoptochos president, has requested our assistance for the Family Dinner on Jan. 28. Please inform her as soon as possible if you are able to help.

Special guest speaker Michael Zymaris led us in a spirited presentation regarding financial planning. A hearty

(Continued on page 10)
Guild “thank you” to Michael.

Christmas raffle: On Sunday, Dec. 24, the Guild conducted its annual Christmas raffle. Forty-five prizes, including four for children, were awarded to lucky winners. The major prize winners were:

♦ Kourniotes: Hewlett-Packard digital camera and printer.
♦ Stella Couris: $200 cash
♦ Donna Spanos: $100 cash
♦ Helen Eliopoulos: $50

Our sincerest thanks to all of you who contributed the great prizes and to the hundreds of you who purchased raffle tickets. It is because of your generosity that the Guild is able to contribute to supporting our parish and many local charities. All prizes should be picked up at the church.

Next meeting: On Wednesday, Feb. 14, we will be hosting our second-annual Valentine Dinner. Last year’s event was attended by 58 parishioners who enjoyed an evening featuring a gourmet meal and romantic musical games and sing-alongs. This is an evening you won’t want to miss. Plan now to attend by completing the flier enclosed in this issue. Return the completed flier to me or to Marc Gulezian or leave it at the church office no later than Sunday, Feb. 11. We hope many more of you will join us for another memorable Valentine evening gala.

Remember this: We never realize ourselves so vividly as when our hearts are in the full glow of love for others.

Sunday School

By CONNIE GKOLIAS
Sunday School Director

Hearty thoughts: As we enter the month of February – also known as Heart Month – let us all open our hearts for our church, families and friends and love and respect each other.

Warm welcome: On behalf of the Sunday School staff and children, we would like to extend a warm welcome to Father Demetri and Presbytera Gloria, our former Sunday School student and graduate. We welcome you to our Transfiguration Church family and hope to enjoy many years of working together.

Three Wise Men

An appropriately attired Men’s Guild President Frank Stevens announces one of the 45 winners during the organization’s annual Christmas raffle on Dec. 24. Frank was ably assisted by fellow Guild members John Gkolas and Marc Gulezian.

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CHURCH NEWS

(Continued from page 10)

Choir

By TOULA SPARAGES
Choir Director

Welcome additions: It’s a pleasure to see the young students from Sunday School join us in the choir loft on Sunday mornings. I would like to remind them that they should follow the hymnals as closely as possible. Since they don’t attend rehearsals, they cannot join us in the special hymns of the day, but their voices are a welcome addition to the responses and more familiar music of the Liturgy.

Good start: At our first January Liturgy, there were 22 members present! Let’s keep up the spirit and continue to raise our voices for the glory of God.

Rehearsal schedule: Rehearsals for February are scheduled for the Thursdays of Feb. 1 and 8 at 9:30 a.m. There will be no evening rehearsals this month.

Pleasant surprise: At our first rehearsal in January, Father Demetri paid us a visit in the loft and thanked all of the choir members for their dedication to the worship services. It was such an inspiring moment for those who were present.

Lenten plans: We expect to begin reviewing the beautiful Lenten music, and it would be great to have more people attend the morning rehearsals. For those of you who are gainfully employed during the day and can’t attend rehearsals, however, may I suggest that on Sunday mornings you arrive a little earlier so you can organize your binders ahead of time? Special music is located on the large music stand in the back of the loft. This year, let’s make this the best choir in the Boston Metropolis!

GOYA

By GEORGE MURPHY
GOYA President

Special thanks: The GOYA would like to express a heartfelt warm welcome to Father Demetri and thank him for joining us during our meeting on Jan. 13. The GOYA is extremely happy to have Father Demetri as our spiritual leader of our group and parish.

Family Glendi: In the month of February we will be having our family dance, which will be held Feb. 10 from 7-11 p.m. at the Olympia Restaurant. The cost for the dance is $25 for anyone over the age of 11, $15 for children 5 to 10, and free for children under 5.

Pasta dinner: During our last meeting after a lengthy discussion, we decided to move our Pasta Dinner to Palm Sunday. We hope to see everyone at our dinner.

Please join us: The GOYA is still looking for anyone in Grades 7 through 12 to become a member. Please speak to one of the GOYA members or Jim Murphy, our advisor, for details.

Coffee Hour

By SUSAN PAPPAS
Coffee Hour Coordinator

Dec. 24: Sponsored by the Men’s Guild in wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Dec. 31: Sponsored by the Zaralidis family in honor of Father Chris.

Jan. 7: Sponsored by the Tavoularis family in memory of all deceased family members; and by the Ladies Philoptochos Society and Men’s Guild to welcome Father Demetri and Presbytera Gloria.

Jan. 14: Sponsored by Kathy and Elizabeth Economopoulos in memory of their mother, Lillian Economopoulos.

Like to help?: If you would like to sponsor a coffee hour for any occasion, or would like to help serve at one, please call coffee hour coordinator Susan Pappas at 603-886-4717, e-mail her at smpappas16@yahoo.com or see her any Sunday after the Divine Liturgy.

Mortgage Elimination

By JAMES MURPHY
Mortgage Elimination Chairman

As Jan. 14, only 111 parishioners had contributed to the 2006 mortgage elimination program, which represents only 21 percent of the total number of stewards in our parish. We need everyone to participate in some way and remember: no donation is too small. We obviously are hoping all parishioners are able to contribute the $300 annually, but we understand this is not possible for everyone. We have received $34,100 in pledges for the 2006 campaign, and we have collected $30,740 of this total. I am asking that any parishioner who has not made a pledge please do so as soon as possible.

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Hellenic Dancers

The Hellenic Dancers have scheduled two practices for the month of February: Feb. 4 and 28 from 1-3 p.m. in the church hall.

Oratorical Festival

By YIOTA SIMOGLOU
Oratorical Festival Co-chairperson

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival for Transfiguration students will take place Sunday, March 4, following the Divine Liturgy. Our parish will be hosting the Northeast Oratorical District Festival, which will take place on Saturday, April 21, at 10 a.m. Orthodox students from Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts (Andover and Lowell) will participate in the district festival. The highest-ranking students in each division will move on to the Metropolis Oratorical Festival on May 12 in Brookline. The Archdiocesan Oratorical Festival is scheduled for June 16-17 at St. Sophia Cathedral in Miami, Fla. Volunteers and donations are needed for the day of the district festival. Please contact Yiota Simoglou or Patricia Mahoney to offer your assistance.

Youth Winter Camps

The Metropolis of Boston Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries is accepting applications for its two winter camps this month at the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center in Contoocook, N.H. The JOY Winter Camp is scheduled for Feb. 9-11, while the GOYA Winter Camp will take place Feb. 16-19.

Metropolis Adult Camps

The St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center of Contoocook, N.H., will present two programs next month during the weekend of March 16-17. Father Nick Kastanas will lead an “Adult Chant Retreat” where participants will sing praise to God in Byzantine-style chanting. The retreat includes liturgical services, music sessions, meals, lodging and time to enjoy the beautiful grounds of the center. No experience necessary. The center also will host “Living Life from Creation to Resurrection: A Scriptural Journey for Adults,” a 24-hour retreat in silence. Each hour will have a different reading from Scripture and will follow the liturgical cycle, including the hours. Participants will be able to continue their Lenten journey with a focused retreat for adults as they prepare for the feast of feasts on Easter. Participants may choose to engage in one or both of the retreats, which will run concurrently. For an application or for more information please e-mail Michael Sintros at smfhcenter @boston.goarch.org or call the center directly at 603-746-4400.

Running for Effie

Susan Sintros of Milford has been selected as a member of a team in training by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to run in the 111th Boston Marathon in April. She will be running the 26.2 mile race in memory of her cousin, Effie Sintros Economou, who died on Dec. 18, 2005, from non-Hodgkin's small cell lymphoma. If you would like to donate, please make out a check payable to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and mail it to her at 3 Dewey Circle, Milford, MA, 01757. Or you can go online to her Web page at www.active.com/donate/tntma/tntmaSSintro and follow the instructions.

Orthodox Radio

The National Orthodox Christian Radio Program's “Come Receive the Light” radio program can now be heard in this region over Boston radio station WROL (950 AM). The radio show, which can be heard in more than 100 cities across the country, began airing Dec. 9 on Saturday mornings at 8 a.m. For more information visit the organization’s Web site, www.receive.org, write to P.O. Box

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Ecumenical Pilgrimage

By METROPOLITAN METHODIOS
Metropolitan of Boston

I am happy to officially announce that His Eminence Cardinal Sean O’Malley and I will lead an Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Rome and Constantinople from Sept. 16-23, 2007, with an optional excursion to St. Petersburg, Russia, from Sept. 23-26, 2007. Cardinal O’Malley and I look forward to this Pilgrimage as yet another manifestation of our shared commitment to advance along the road toward the re-establishment through God’s Grace of full communion between our two Churches.

This is the second such Orthodox-Roman Catholic Pilgrimage jointly sponsored by our two Churches here in Boston. Those brethren who participated in the first pilgrimage in 1996 have fond memories which they will cherish for the rest of their lives. The itinerary for the Pilgrimage is presently being formulated and will be announced shortly.

I cordially invite you to consider joining this historic pilgrimage.

Tuesday Morning Group

The Tuesday Morning Ladies Group would like to invite other ladies of the parish to come join them on Tuesdays from about 9:30 a.m. until noon. It’s a great place to meet, socialize, enjoy a cup of coffee, bring your ideas for crafts or whatever and enjoy new or “old” friendships.

Mommy and Me

The Mommy and Me Group meets regularly for a variety of activities. All mothers and children through age 4 are welcome to join the group. If you would like more information, please call Susan Mitchell at 978-453-4551.

Prayer List

The Orthodox Life class will continue to pray for the names on our current prayer list. Please continue to submit the names of those who are in need of prayer. You may do so by contacting George Tsoukalas by e-mail at georgeandjoni@verizon.net or by placing your prayer requests in the can that is located in the narthex.

Newsletter Deadline

Transfiguration organizations are asked to submit entries for this newsletter as early in the month as possible and no later than the 15th. If at all possible, please submit your material by e-mail to Editor Nick Pappas at npappas05@comcast.net. Entries also can be faxed to the church office at 978-458-8726 or dropped off in the office during normal business hours. It is important that all church organizations be represented in the Trans-a Gram, so please make an effort to participate.

Judge issues ruling ...

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paid Robert Maria, the company’s principal and chief executive, a total of $137,786.78 through December 2002 for materials and labor – which included $25,538.09 above the bid price for either additional work or work not foreseen under the original contract.

Nine months later – on Sept. 16, 2003 – Lowell Central Electric submitted a final bill of $43,285.90, which the parish’s construction managers refused to pay because they felt they had paid sufficiently for all the work.

That action prompted the suit brought by Lowell Central Electric on June 5, 2004, against the church and Construction Resources Inc. of Westford, which served as construction manager for the parish.

“Based upon a thorough review of the Lowell binding contract proposal, Lowell’s time slips and approved invoices, and the critical testimony of witnesses but particularly of Mr. Zouzas and Mr. Maria, the Court rules that portions of Lowell’s final invoice should have been paid by the Church but that the Church was justified in not paying other parts,” the judge stated.

After the ruling, on Jan. 9, the parish’s attorney submitted two filings in court: one opposing Lowell Central Electric’s motion for interest at a rate of 12 percent dating back to Sept. 16, 2003, and a motion to award post-trial costs.

Under Massachusetts law, defendants are entitled to pursue these actions when the court judgment is less than the settlement offer rejected by the plaintiff.

As such, the church is arguing that it shouldn’t have to pay interest up through January 2007, given that Lowell Central Electric contributed to the delay by not accepting the parish’s original $25,000 settlement offer 2 1/2 years earlier.
Ionian Village, the travel abroad camping program of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, is now accepting volunteer staff applications for the summer of 2007. Ionian Village staff members have a unique opportunity to play an important role in the spiritual, cultural and social development of Greek Orthodox teens from all over the United States of America as they travel the most significant religious and cultural sites in Greece. Destinations include the Islands of Zakynthos and Kefalonia, Meteora, Ancient Olympia and the Acropolis.

Ionian Village is an ideal opportunity for college students, teachers, social workers, medical professionals and other faithful Orthodox Christian adults to make a meaningful contribution to youth ministries of the Archdiocese. Staff members are mentors for the campers in their care, supervise daily activities and excursions, execute the camp curriculum and assist in camp administration.

Responsibilities include assignment to a cabin of 12-18 campers with one or two other staff members, leading educational or athletic sessions and supervising excursions. A summer of service at Ionian Village is also a great thing to place on a resume or a graduate school application.

Staff members must be Orthodox Christians at least 21 years of age by June 28, 2007. Greek language skills are not a requirement.

Ionian Village staff will volunteer from June 20 to Aug. 13. (Medical staff can make shorter time commitments.) Staff members will have a four-day break in between sessions and the opportunity to extend their stay in Greece when the program has finished.

The Ionian Village Office offers round-trip airfare from New York to Athens and full room and board for the duration of camp. Days off, shopping and travel between sessions or after camp are at staff members’ own expense.

Applicants can download and print a staff application form from our Website, www.IonianVillage.org. They may also e-mail or call the Ionian Village office (646-483-5378) for more information or request a hard copy application, which is due Jan. 31. The mailing address is as follows:

Ionian Village
83 St. Basil Road
Garrison, NY 10524

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