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FOUNDING FATHERS, THE PAST AND PRESENT CHURCH COUNCILS, THE
PHILOPTOCHOS SISTERHOOD, THE G.O.Y.A. AND ALL THE PAST AND
PRESENT MEMBERS OF ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY
OF SARNIA-LAMBTON, ONTARIO AND PORT HURON, MICHIGAN.

- THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

ΤΟ ΓΙΟΡΤΑΣΤΙΚΟ ΤΟΥΤΟ ΛΕΥΚΩΜΑ ΕΥΣΕΒΑΣΤΟΣ ΑΦΙΕΡΩΝΕΤΑΙ ΣΤΟΥΣ
ΙΔΡΥΤΕΣ ΠΑΤΕΡΕΣ, ΤΑ ΠΑΡΕΛΘΟΝΤΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΩΡΙΝΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΑ
ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΑ, ΤΗ ΦΙΛΟΠΤΟΧΟ ΑΔΕΛΦΟΤΗΤΑ, ΤΗ ΝΕΟΛΑΙΑ (ΓΚΟΥΑ) ΚΑΙ
ΟΛΑ ΤΑ ΠΑΡΕΛΘΟΝΤΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΩΡΙΝΑ ΜΕΛΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΥ
ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ ΣΑΡΝΙΑΣ & ΠΕΡΙΧΩΡΩΝ, ΟΝΤΑΡΙΟ ΚΑΙ
ΠΟΡΤ ΧΙΟΥΡΟΝ, ΜΙΤΣΙΚΑΝ.

- Η ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ ΓΙΟΡΤΑΣΜΟΥ ΤΗΣ 25ΗΣ ΕΠΕΤΕΙΟΥ

Table of Contents

St. Demetrios, Our Patron Saint.....	4
Letters	6
In Memoriam	29
History	30
The Greek Orthodox Faith	41
Diocese of Toronto: Life/Activities/Programs.....	43
Registry	45

Organizations

Past Church Councils.....	49
Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society	50
St. Demetrios Plato Greek School	54
G.O.Y.A.	61
Celebrating Canada	66
Charitable Donations.....	68
Soccer	69
Precious Memories	72
Friends, Sponsors, and Supporters	75



ST. DEMETRIOS OUR PATRON SAINT

St. Demetrios was a native of Salonica, Greece, where he was a well known orator and a man of good deeds. In the year 300 A.D. the Roman Emperor Maximilian visited Salonica. When he heard of St. Demetrios he sentenced him to prison for his Christian beliefs. With him on his visit the emperor had his favorite gladiator, Lyaeus, of whom he boasted that no man could overcome in combat. St. Demetrios had a young friend named Nestor who often visited him in prison. On one visit Nestor told St. Demetrios that he wanted to fight Lyaeus. Nestor then approached the emperor and put forth his bid for combat against Lyaeus. The combat was scheduled to be held the next day at the arena in Salonica.

On the day of the combat Nestor went to see St. Demetrios in prison. He asked St. Demetrios to pray to the Lord to help him win in the fight against Lyaeus. After praying, St. Demetrios assured Nestor that with the help of God he would be the victor. As St. Demetrios had said, Nestor overcame the gladiator and by doing so caused embarrassment to the emperor. Maximilian was enraged at Nestor's win and ordered that Nestor be beheaded. When the Emperor heard that it was St. Demetrios' prayers that had led to Nestor's victory he ordered St. Demetrios to be killed. St. Demetrios relinquished his soul to God in a painful death and our Church for his love and strong beliefs in Christianity granted him Sainthood.

St. Demetrios became the Patron Saint of the City of Salonica, Greece. A great church was built upon his tomb and His reputation increased due to the many miracles that have occurred at His shrine. St. Demetrios has become one of the most famous Saints of the Christian Church, which has elevated Him to the rank of Great Martyr.

IC XC
NI KA

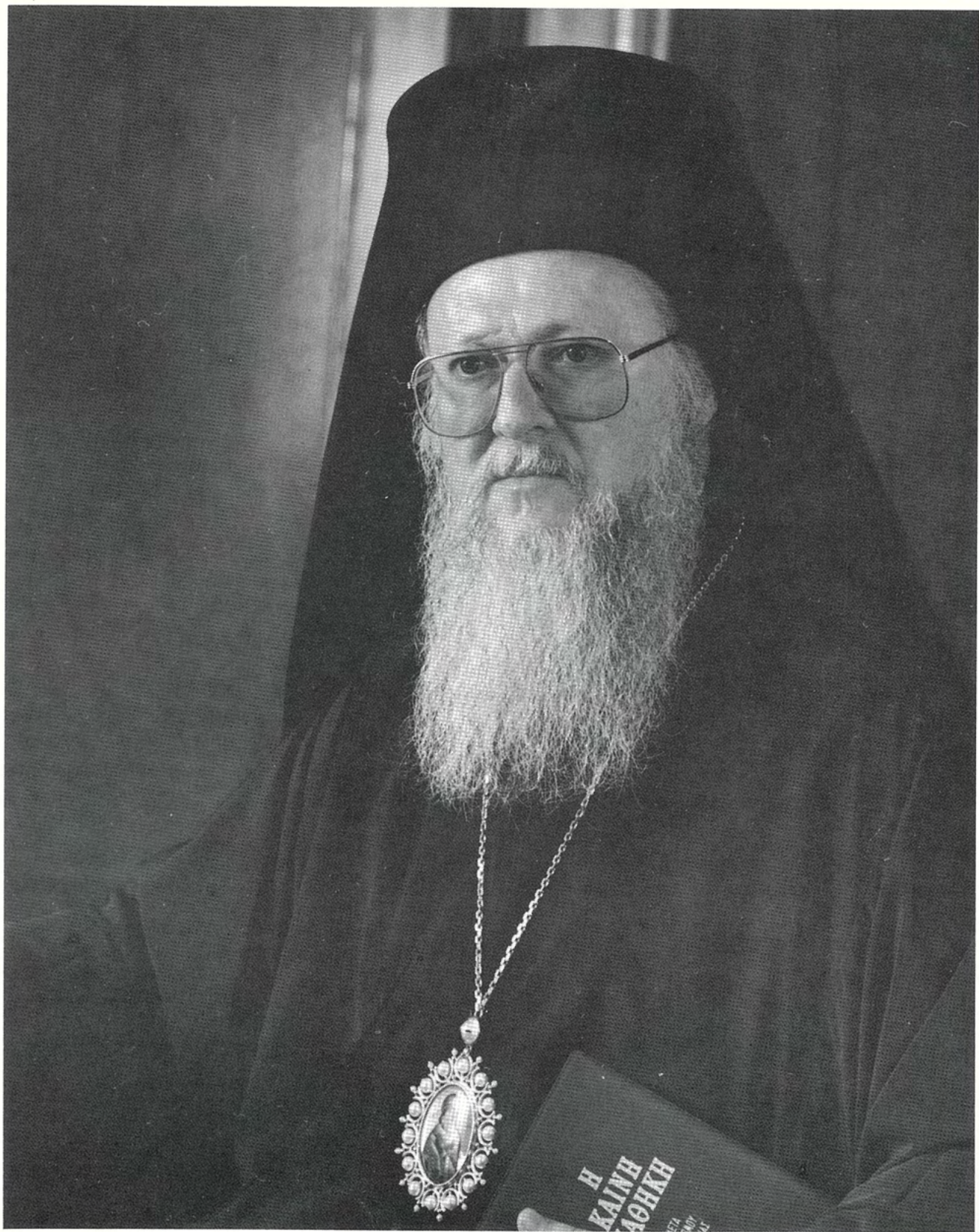
Ο ΠΡΟΣΤΑΤΗΣ ΜΑΣ ΑΓΙΟΣ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ

‘Ο Άγιος Δημήτριος καταγόνταν απ’ τή Θεσσαλονίκη και ήταν γνωστός σάν ρήτωρας και άνθρωπος πού έκανε καλά έργα. Κατά τό έτος 300 Μ.Χ. ό αυτοκράτωρας Μαξιμιλιανός, έπεσκέφτηκε τή Θεσσαλονίκη και άκουσε γιά τόν περίφημο Χριστιανό Δημήτριο, ό όποιός προσήλκυε τούς είδωλολάτρες στό Χριστό, και τόν έβαλε στη φυλακή. Κατά τή διάρκεια τής παραμονής του στη Θεσσαλονίκη δινανε πρós τιμήν του άγώνες πάλης και ξιφομαχίας. ‘Ο Μαξιμιλιανός είχε μαζί του ένεαν εύνοούμενο μονομάχο όνομαζόμενο Λυαίο, γιά τόν όποιο έκαυχάτο ότι κανέννας δέν μπόρεσε νά τόν νικήση.

‘Ο Άγιος Δημήτριος είχε ένα νεαρό φίλο πού λεγόταν Νέστωρας πού τόν έπισκεπτόνταν στη φυλακή. ‘Ο Νέστωρας είπε σχετικά γιά τό Λυαίο στό Δημήτριο και ότι σκέπτονταν νά τόν πολεμήσιν, άφοϋ κανέννας άλλος δέν τολμούσε νά τό κάνη. Έτσι τήν άλλη μέρα ό Νέστωρας παρουσιάστηκε στόν αυτοκράτωρα Μαξιμιλιανό και του δήλωσε ότι αυτός θά μονομαχήσιν τό Λυαίο στό στάδιο. ‘Ο αυτοκράτωρας γέλασε και συμβούλεψε τό Νέστωρα νά μήν τό κάνη αυτό γιατί ήταν κρίμα νά χαθῇ τόσο νέος. Μά ό Νέστωρας επέμενε νά παλαίψιν τό Λυαίο. Τήν άλλη μέρα όλα ήταν έτοιμα, ή μονομαχία θά γινόταν στό στάδιο τής Θεσσαλονίκης. Πρίν άρχίσει ή μονομαχία, ό Νέστωρας πήγε στη φυλακή και ζήτησε απ’ τόν Άγιο Δημήτριο νά προσευχηθῇ στό Θεό γιά νά τόν βοηθήσιν νά νικήσιν τό Λυαίο. Πράγματι ό Άγιος Δημήτριος όχι μόνο προσευχήθηκε στό Θεό νά τόν βοηθήσιν άλλα και τόν διαβεβαίωσε ότι θά νικήσιν τό Λυαίο μέ τή βοήθεια του Θεού. ‘Ο Νέστωρας κατενίκησε τόν παντοδύναμο Λυαίο και μπροστά στα μάτια όλου του κόσμου έντρόπιασε τόν αυτοκράτωρα μέ τό παλληκάρι του. ‘Ο θυμός του αυτοκράτωρα ήταν τόσο μεγάλος ώστε διέταξε τούς στρατιώτες του και έκοψαν τό κεφάλι του Νέστωρα επί τόπου γιά τή ντροπή πού τουδωσε. Σάν έμαθε ότι οί προσευχές του Άγίου Δημητρίου βοηθήσαν τό Νέστωρα νά νικήσιν, έστειλε τούς στρατιώτες του στη φυλακή, και μέ τά σπαθιά των σκοτώσαν τόν Άγιο Δημήτριο ως υπεύθυνο γιά τό θάνατο του Λυαίου και τή ντροπή πού πήρε.

*Έτσι μέσα σέ φριχτούς πόνους ό Άγιος Δημήτριος παρέδωσε τό πνεύμα και ή Έκκλησία μας τόν άνεκήρυξε Μεγαλομάρτυρα γιά τήν άγάπη και τήν πίστι του στό Χριστό. Στόν τάφο του χτίστηκε μεγαλοπρεπής Ναός και ή πόλις τής Θεσσαλονίκης τόν άνεκήρυξε Προστάτη της. ‘Ο χώρος του δελτίου μας είναι πολύ μικρός γιά νά γράψιν όλα τά θαύματα του Άγίου Δημητρίου. Λεπτομερής περιγραφή των ύπάρχει στό είδικο του Βίου του βιβλίο.





Τῇ Θεοφιλῇ Ἐκκλησιαστικῇ Κοινότητι Ἀγίας Δημητρίας
 τῆς πόλεως Sarnia, Ontario Καναδά
 Μετὰ πατερικῆς ἀγάπης καὶ εἰς εὐλογίαν
 τοῦ κυριεύοντος ἀδελφοῦ βασιλέως.

Ἐν ὁνόματι τοῦ Πατρὸς τοῦ Υἱοῦ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος ἡμῶν ἀμήν

Τῷ Αἰδεσιμολογιωτάτῳ Πρωτοπρεσβυτέρῳ κυρίῳ Ἀνδρέᾳ Καρᾷ,
Ἱερατικῶς Προϊσταμένῳ τῆς Ἑλληνορθοδόξου Κοινότητος τοῦ Ἀγίου
Δημητρίου Sarnia, Ontario, τέκνῳ τῆς ἡμῶν Μετριοτήτος ἐν Κυρίῳ
ἀγαπητῷ, χάριν καὶ εἰρήνην παρὰ Θεοῦ.

Ἐλάβομεν τό ἀπό τῆς κα' Ἰουλίου ἐ.ξ. γράμμα τῆς ὑμετέρας
ἀγαπητῆς Αἰδεσιμολογιότητος, ὑποβαλλούσης ὅτι ἡ κατ'αὐτὴν
Κοινότης τοῦ Ἀγίου Δημητρίου μέλλει ἵνα ἐορτάσῃ τῇ ε' Νοεμβρίου
ἐ.ξ. τὴν εὐτυχῇ ἐπέτειον τῆς εἰκοσιπενταετηρίδος ἀπὸ τῆς ιδρύσεως
καὶ ἀναγνωρίσεως αὐτῆς παρὰ τῶν Καναδικῶν ἀρχῶν.

Εἰς ἀπάντησιν, συγχαίρομεν διὰ τῶνδε τῶν Πατριαρχικῶν ἡμῶν
εὐχετικῶν Γραμμάτων καὶ ἐπευλογοῦμεν πατρικῶς τὴν ὑμετέραν
Αἰδεσιμολογιότητα καὶ τοὺς σὺν αὐτῇ, εὐχόμενοι ὅπως ἡ προσφιλεῖς
Κοινότης ὑμῶν, ὑπὸ τὴν σκέπην τοῦ προστάτου αὐτῆς Ἀγίου
Δημητρίου, συνεχίξῃ ἐπὶ μακρὰ ἔτη τό φιλογενές καὶ ἔνθεον αὐτῆς
ἔργον, πρὸς δόξαν Θεοῦ καὶ στηριγμόν τῶν ἐν τῇ ξένῃ
παρεπιδημούντων τέκνων τῆς ἀγιωτάτης ἡμῶν Ὁρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας,
καὶ ἐπὶ πατρικῇ ἐγκαυχῇ τῆς ἡμετέρας Μετριοτήτος, ὡς
Πατριάρχου καὶ ὑμῶν.

Ἐπὶ δέ τούτοις, συγχαίροντες καὶ αὖθις καὶ τὰ ἐπιτευχθέντα
κατὰ τὴν παρελθοῦσαν 25ετίαν εὐλογοῦντες, προσβλέπομεν ἐν ἐλπίσι
χρησταῖς καὶ προσδοκίαις πρὸς τὰ μέλλοντα καὶ εὐτυχῇ διὰ τὴν
Κοινότητα καὶ τοὺς προσφιλεῖς αὐτῆς πιστούς, καὶ ἀπονέμοντες τῇ
ὑμετέρᾳ Αἰδεσιμολογιότητι καὶ πᾶσιν ὁλόθυμον τὴν πατρικὴν καὶ
Πατριαρχικὴν ἡμῶν εὐλογίαν ἐπικαλούμεθα ἐφ' ὑμᾶς τὴν χάριν καὶ τό
ἄπειρον ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Ἐκ Σεπτεμβρίου ιη'

Ἐκ τῆς ἁγίας
Ἐκκλησίας
Ὁ ἁγιωτάτος Πατριάρχης
Ἰεροσολύμων
Ἰωάννης ΣΤ'



ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS
Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church
of North and South America
Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
in the Western Hemisphere



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA
UNDER THE SPIRITUAL JURISDICTION OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΒΟΡΕΙΩ ΚΑΙ ΝΟΤΙΩ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ

9 Αύγουςτου 1995

Εὐλαβέστατον Ἱερατικῶς Προϊστάμενον,
τὸ Διοικητικὸν Συμβούλιον, τὴν Φιλόπτωχον καὶ τὴν Νεολαίαν,
τῆς Ἑλληνικῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Κοινότητος τοῦ Ἁγίου Δημητρίου,
204 N. East Street
Sarnia - Ontario
C a n a d a.

Ἀγαπητοί,

Σκοπὸς τῶν διαφόρων ἐπετειῶν πού γιορτάζονται στίς εὐλογημένες Κοινότητες τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Βορείου καὶ Νοτίου Ἀμερικῆς, εἶναι νά σταθοῦν γιά μιὰ στιγμή Κλήρος καὶ Λαός, ὁ Λαὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ νά ἐξετάσουν μέ ἀγάπη, σύνεση καὶ εὐκρίνεια τὴν πορεία τῆς Κοινότητος. Ἀπὸ αὐτὴν τὴν κατάματα ἐξέταση μποροῦν νά ἐξαχθοῦν πολλὰ συμπεράσματα πού θά βοηθήσουν τὴν ἀνοδική πορεία τῆς Κοινότητος. Νά τελειοποιηθοῦν τὰ ἐπιτυχῆ σημεῖα καὶ νά καλλιερεῦσουν τὰ ἀσθενῆ.

Μέ αὐτές τίς σκέψεις καὶ μέ ἀπέραντη πατρική ἀγάπη χαιρετίζω τὴν πρώτη Εἰκοσιπενταετηρίδα τῆς εὐλογημένης Κοινότητός σας. Οἱ διάφορες ἐορταστικές ἐκδηλώσεις πού ἔχετε προγραμματίσει γιά τὸ χαρμόσυνο αὐτὸ γεγονός, εὐχομαι νά μὴν εἶναι μόνο κοινωνικές ἐκδηλώσεις, ἀλλὰ περισσότερο πνευματικές καὶ ἐποικοδομητικές, στηριγμένες στίς ἀλώβητες Ἑλληνορθόδοξες παραδόσεις μας, πού ἀποτελοῦν καὶ εἶναι τὸ ἀλάσθηστο χαρακτηριστικὸ τοῦ Γένους μας.

Μέ ιδιαίτερη ικανοποίηση παρακολουθῶ τὰ ἐπιτεύγματά σας στὸν πνευματικὸ ἀμπελῶνα τοῦ Κυρίου. Σᾶς συγχαίρω καὶ σᾶς εὐχομαι παντοτεινὴ ὑγεία καὶ πρόοδο καὶ ὁμογνωμοῦντες καὶ ὁμοφρονοῦντες καὶ πάντοτε ὑπὸ τὴν φωτισμένη ἡγεσία τοῦ Θεοφίλ. Ἐπισκόπου Τορόντο κ.κ. Σωτηρίου, γιά νά ἀξιωθεῖτε νά γιορτάσετε καὶ τὰ 50 χρόνια τῆς Κοινότητός σας.

Μέ ἄπειρες πατρικές εὐχές καὶ ἀγάπη

Ο ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ

Ο ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΙΑΚΩΒΟΣ

ΑΙ:πθτ



HIS GRACE BISHOP SOTIRIOS OF TORONTO (CANADA)



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΤΟΡΟΝΤΟ (ΚΑΝΑΔΑ)

GREEK ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF TORONTO (CANADA) - LE DIOCÈSE GREC ORTHODOXE DE TORONTO (CANADA)
27 TEDDINGTON PARK AVENUE, TORONTO, ONTARIO M4N 2C4 - TELEPHONE (416) 322-5055 FAX (416) 485-5929

Ιουλίου 26, 1995

Ευλαβέστατον Ἱερατικῶς Προϊστάμενον
Ἀξιότιμον κ. Πρόεδρον
Ἐντιμότατα Μέλη τοῦ Διοικ. Συμβουλίου
Ἑλληνικῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Κοινότητος Ἀγ. Δημητρίου
Sarnia, Ontario

Ἀγαπητοί,

Τὴν Κοινότητά σας ἀπὸ κοντὰ τὴν παρακολουθῶ καὶ μὲ περισσὴ ἀγάπη τὴν φροντίζω. Ἐξῆσα καὶ ζῶ τοὺς ἀγῶνες καὶ τίς ἀγωνίες της. Εἶδα καὶ βλέπω τὴν πρόδοό της, τὸ ἔργο της καὶ τὰ ἐπιτεύγματά της. Ὅλα αὐτὰ ἔγιναν μὲ τὸν ἰδρώτα ὅλων σας καὶ τίς τίμιες προσπάθειές σας. Γιά 25 χρόνια ἀνάμεσα σέ προβλήματα καὶ ἀντιξοότητες ὄχι μόνο κρατήσατε τὸ λύχνο ἀναμμένο, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸν βάλατε στὸν λυχνοστάτη γιὰ νὰ φωτίζει ὅλους μέσα στὸ σπίτι. Καὶ αὐτὸ τὸ σπίτι εἶναι ἡ Κοινότητά σας. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία σας. Ἡ παροικία σας. Εὐχαριστῶ καὶ συγχαίρω ὅλους σας. Ἐκείνους ποὺ ἐδούλειψαν πολύ καὶ ἐπρόσφεραν πολλὰ καὶ ἐκείνους ποὺ ἐδούλειψαν λίγο καὶ ἐπρόσφεραν λίγα. Παρακαλῶ ὅλους σας κρατήστε στὴν ψυχὴ σας τὸ Χριστό καὶ τὴν Ἐκκλησία Του καὶ προχωρήστε στὸν τίμιο δρόμο, ποὺ ἔχετε προχωρήσει μέχρι τώρα. Παρακαλῶ τὸν τρισάγιο Θεὸ νὰ εὐλογεῖ καὶ νὰ ἀγιάζει σᾶς καὶ τὰ παιδιά σας καὶ νὰ σᾶς χαρίζει κάθε εὐτυχία. Ὁ προστάτης σας ἅγιος, ὁ μεγαλομάρτυς καὶ μυροβλήτης Δημήτριος νὰ σᾶς συντροφεύει καὶ νὰ ὁδηγεῖ τὰ βήματά σας στὴν σωτηρία σας.

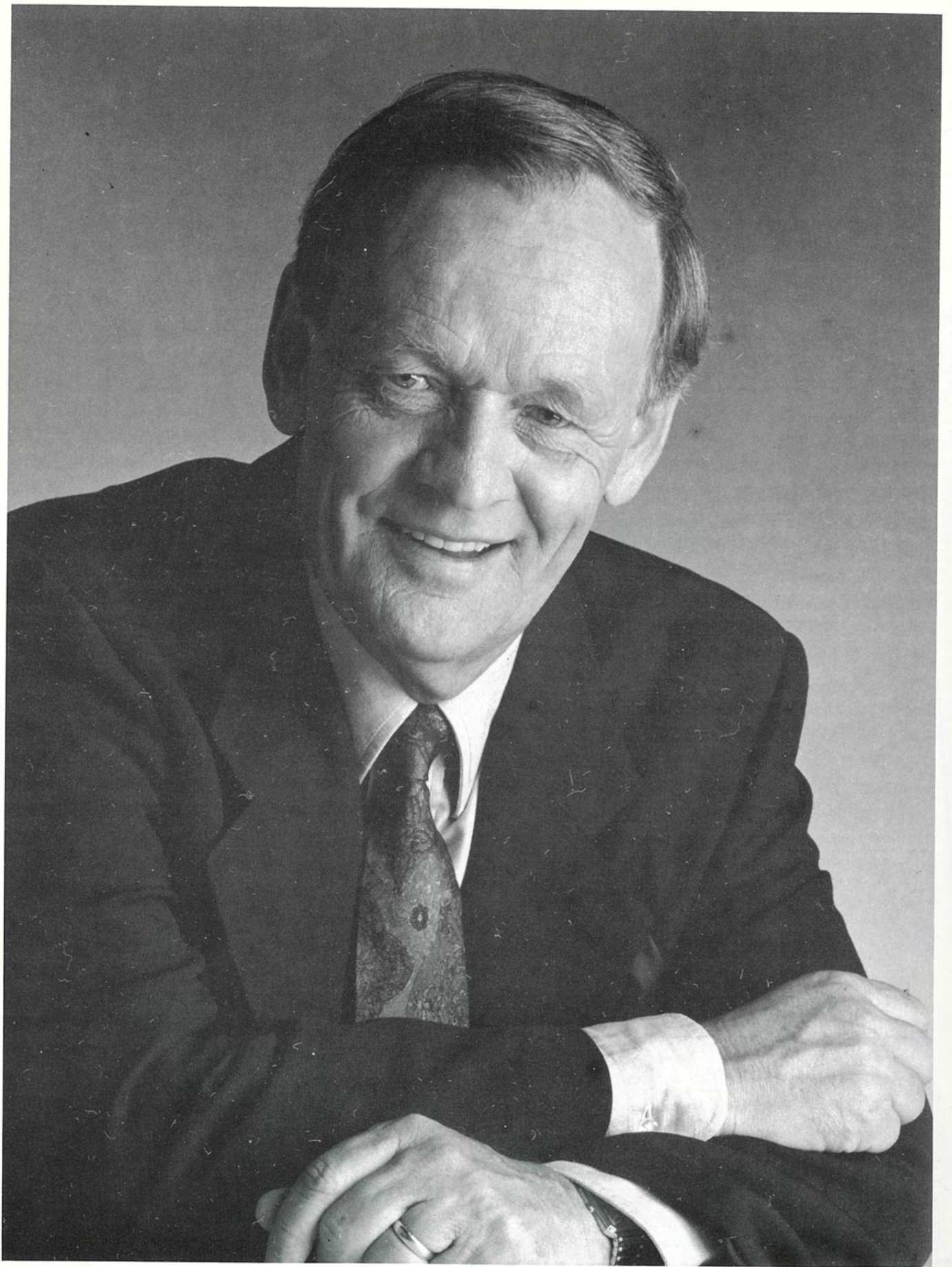
Μέ πατρικὴ ἀγάπη καὶ θερμὲς εὐχές

Ο ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ

for Toronto

Ο ΤΟΡΟΝΤΟ ΣΩΤΗΡΙΟΣ

ΤΣββ



PRIME MINISTER JEAN CHRÉTIEN



CANADA

PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

I am delighted to extend my greetings and sincere best wishes to the parishioners of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church on its 25th anniversary.

When such a venerated institution reaches the milestone of twenty-five years of dedicated community service, it is certainly cause for celebration. The Church has played an important role in the development of the community and has served as a focal point, both spiritual and social, for countless individuals from all walks of life. No doubt, this occasion will give you cause to reflect upon this Church's unique history and take pride in your spiritual heritage.

I would like to offer my very best wishes to the entire congregation for a joyful celebration. May the coming years be filled with peace and happiness for each of you.

Jean Chrétien

OTTAWA
1995



The Premier
of Ontario

Le Premier ministre
de l'Ontario

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

Hôtel du gouvernement
Queen's Park
Toronto (Ontario)
M7A 1A1

**25th Anniversary
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
November 5, 1995**

It is with great pleasure that I extend greetings to each of you as you celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Sarnia/Port Huron.

The Greek community of Sarnia can take great pride in this accomplishment. You've made a significant contribution to the economic and social life of Ontario, reinforcing the family and spiritual values which give Ontario its true strength. Through hard work and commitment to these values, your community has become vital to the Sarnia area, and enhanced the cultural richness shared by all Ontarians.

Congratulations once again on the 25th Anniversary of your parish. May the years ahead bring continued success and fulfillment.

Michael D. Harris, MPP



ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΞΕΝΕΙΟ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ
CONSULATE-GENERAL OF GREECE
365 BLOOR STREET EAST, SUITE 1800
TORONTO, ONTARIO M4W 3L4 CANADA
TEL: (416) 515-0133 FAX: (416) 515-0209

Τορόντο, 14 Σεπτεμβρίου 1995

ΜΗΝΥΜΑ

του Γενικού Προξένου της Ελλάδος στο Τορόντο

κ. Χρήστου Ε. Κοντοβουνήσιου

Αγαπητοί συμπατριώτες,

Με την ευκαιρία του αναμνηστικού λευκώματος που θα εκδώσετε θα ήθελα να απευθύνω τους πλέον θερμούς πατριωτικούς χαιρετισμούς μου σ' όλα τα μέλη και φίλους της Ελληνορθόδοξης Κοινότητας Αγίου Δημητρίου Sarnia-Port Huron.

Θα ήθελα να υπογραμμίσω ότι η διάρκεια ζωής των ελληνικών κοινοτήτων όχι μόνο στον Καναδά αλλά κι όπου αλλού υπάρχουν Έλληνες εξαρτάται από τη θέληση και την φλόγα της Ελληνικότητας των μελών και των φίλων της κάθε μιάς κοινότητας.

Τα εικοσιπέντε χρόνια ζωής της κοινότητας Αγίου Δημητρίου που γιορτάζετε, είναι οπωσδήποτε μια αναμφισβήτητη απόδειξη ότι έχετε θέληση η κοινότητά σας να ζήσει για πολλές ακόμα εικοσιπενταετίες.

Η Μητέρα Πατρίδα, μέσω του Γενικού Προξενείου, αισθάνεται ιδιαίτερα υπερήφανη όταν διαπιστώνει ότι οι ομογενειακές μας κοινότητες ζουν, ευημερούν και μακροημερεύουν και αποτελούν πραγματικές κυψέλες του Ελληνισμού και της Ορθοδοξίας.

Εύχομαι προκοπή και πολλές εικοσιπενταετίες ζωής στη κοινότητά σας και μια πολύ πετυχημένη εορταστική εκδήλωση την Κυριακή, 5 Νοεμβρίου 1995.

Με πατριωτικούς χαιρετισμούς,

Χρήστος Ε. Κοντοβουνήσιος
Γενικός Πρόξενος της Ελλάδος



Secretary of State
(Multiculturalism) (Status of Women)



Secrétaire d'État
(Multiculturalisme) (Situation de la femme)

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend warmest congratulations to the members of **St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church** as you celebrate the 25th anniversary of your parish.

Les valeurs familiales et spirituelles que vous prônez ont permis de renforcer les assises de votre paroisse et des communautés de Sarnia et de Port Huron.

As the face of Canada changes and our population becomes increasingly diverse, it is incumbent upon each of us and our institutions to maximize the advantages presented by a multicultural society. The members of the parish of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church have certainly shown their strong commitment to that objective in the Sarnia and Port Huron communities.

Please accept my best wishes for a most successful celebration and for the many years ahead.

The Honourable Sheila Finestone, P.C., M.P.



CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

The Kenwick Building
250 North Christina Street
P.O. Box 2671
Sarnia, ON
N7T 7B8

Tel. #: (519) 383-6600
Fax #: (519) 383-0609



HOUSE OF COMMONS
OTTAWA, CANADA

Roger Gallaway, M.P.
Sarnia-Lambton

PARLIAMENT HILL OFFICE

Room 473 West Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Tel. #: (613) 957-2649
Fax #: (613) 957-2655

November 5th, 1995

Dear Friends:

It is with great personal pleasure that I extend my congratulations to the community of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church on the occasion of your 25th Anniversary.

The formation of your parish community reflected a spirit of cooperation and service which has assisted and guided scores of families of Greek heritage.

Now twenty-five years later, your dedication has resulted in a lasting benefit to these individuals and to the quality of life of this community.

Congratulations!

Sincerely,

ROGER GALLAWAY, M.P.
Sarnia-Lambton





Dave Boushy, M.P.P.

Constituency Office
775 Exmouth St. Unit 2
Sarnia, Ontario
N7T 5P7
519-337-0051

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

Congratulations on the celebration of 25 years as a church
parish/community in the Sarnia area.

Your community is indeed a vital part of the Sarnia area. The
contributions and time you commit to the many activities in the Sarnia area make
you very valuable citizens.

Dave Boushy, M.P.P.
Sarnia



*Mike Bradley
Mayor*



City of Sarnia

*Office of the Mayor
255 N. Christina Street
Sarnia, Ontario N7T 7A2
Telephone (519) 332-0330
Fax No. (519) 332-3995*

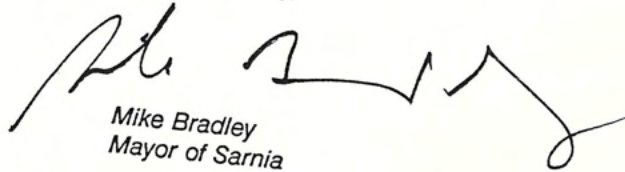
GREETINGS FROM MAYOR MIKE BRADLEY

On behalf of my colleagues on Council, I am pleased to have this opportunity to offer congratulations to the members of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church of Sarnia/Port Huron on your 25th Anniversary.

The contribution of the Greek community through their dedication and commitment, solid values, love of their heritage and Canada, has been a major factor in Sarnia's growth over the last 25 years.

I am honoured to recognize the 25th Anniversary and to join with you on this most important occasion to share your fellowship and friendship.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Bradley
Mayor of Sarnia

:jm



OFFICE OF MAYOR

(810) 984-9740

CITY OF PORT HURON
MICHIGAN

August 9, 1995

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
204 N. East Street
Sarnia, Ontario N7T 6X7

Greetings:

On behalf of the Port Huron City Council, it is with great pleasure that we extend this expression of our esteem and best wishes to the members of the St. Demetrios parish on the memorable occasion of your 25th anniversary.

We give pause, honor and praise for the deep and abiding Christian commitment of those in faith who began this work, and for all those who have given so unselfishly during these many years to help the work grow and thrive and provide valuable human services where the need was great.

Both the Port Huron and Sarnia communities have benefited from the fine Christian influence St. Demetrios has exerted through the years. We extend to the parish our highest regards for reaching this milestone.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

James A. Relken
Mayor



Liquor
Control Board
of Ontario

Régie
des alcools
de l'Ontario

55 Lake Shore Blvd. East
Toronto, Canada
M5E 1A4

Tel: 416/864-2519
Fax: 416/864-2476

CHAIR AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
PRÉSIDENT ET
DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

August 16, 1995

Mr. Louis Stathakis
Chairman
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
204 N East Street
Sarnia, Ontario
N7T 6X7

Dear Mr. Stathakis:

Thank you most kindly for the invitation to attend the 25th Anniversary of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Sarnia.

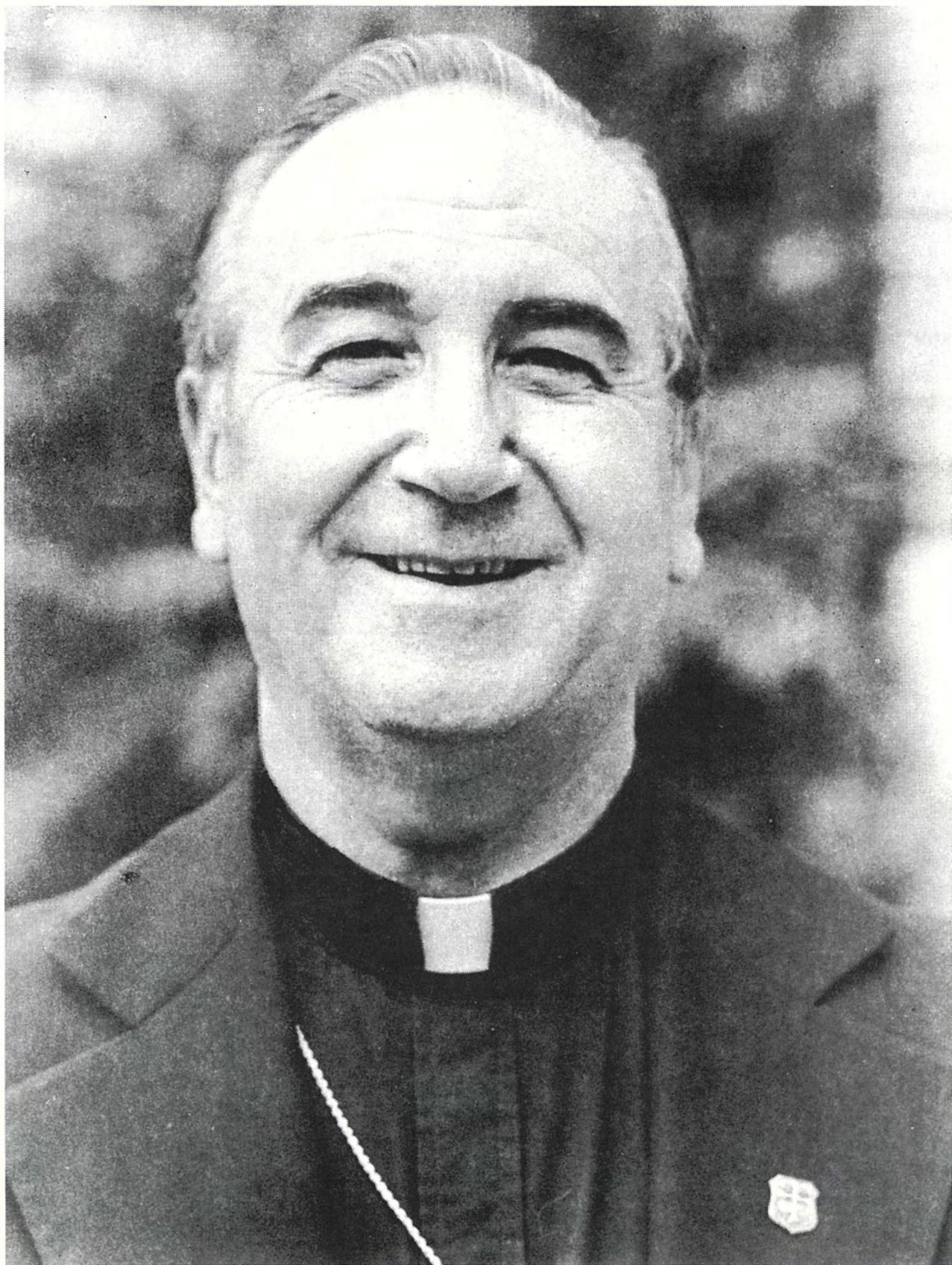
Regretfully, I am unable to attend due to commitments in Toronto. However, I do want to extend my congratulations and continued best wishes on this celebrated and happy occasion.

During the past 25 years, I have served on the Sarnia City Council, as Mayor and as the Provincial Member of Parliament. I have seen and experienced the contribution the Greek Community has made to Sarnia. Through hard work and determination, the Greek people of Sarnia have gained the respect and admiration of citizens from every walk of life. You have demonstrated love for your adopted home, while at the same time, preserving and respecting your spiritual values, your customs, and your traditions.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

Andrew S. Brandt
Chair and Chief Executive Officer



FATHER ANDREW KARAS



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA
ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΤΟΡΟΝΤΟ (ΚΑΝΑΔΑ) - DIOCESE OF TORONTO (CANADA)

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

204 N. EAST STREET
SARNIA, ONTARIO N7T 6X7 CANADA

(ONT. CORP. NO. 0336502 1)
REV. FR. ANDREW KARAS, PASTOR



CHURCH PHONE: (519) 336-1420

Ὁκτωβρίου 16, 1995

Ἀγαπητοὶ ἐν Χριστῷ,

Εἶναι πράγματι μεγάλη μου χαρά καὶ γνήσια ὑπερηφάνεια σὰν πνευματικὸς Πατέρας τῆς Ἑλληνορθοδόξου Κοινότητος Ἁγίου Δημητρίου, νὰ φέρω στὴ μνήμη μου τὸ γεγονὸς ὅτι ἡ εὐλογημένη μας Κοινότητα γιορτάζει ἐφέτος τὰ εἰκοσιπέντε χρόνια ἀπὸ τῆς ἐπιστήμου ιδρύσεώς της τὸ ἔτος 1970, γιὰ τῆς Θρυσκευτικῆς μας ἀνάγκης καὶ τὴν προαγωγή τῆς Ἑλληνοχριστιανικῆς μας κληρονομίας.

Ἡ ἐπέτειος τούτη, ἀπαίτησε μιά μακρὰ ἱστορία θυσιῶν, ἀγάπης, πίστεως, ἐλπίδας, ὑπομονῆς, ἀντοχῆς καὶ μερικὲς φορές διαφωνίες γιὰ τὸ ποιὸ εἶναι καλλίτερο γιὰ τὴν πρόδο τῆς Κοινότητάς μας, ἐφόσον αὐτὲς εἶναι ἐντὸς τῆς Θεοκρατικῆς Δημοκρατίας τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας που εἶναι Ἱερό Καθίδρυμα καὶ ὅπου ὁ νόμος τοῦ Θεοῦ ὑπερισχύει πάνω ἀπὸ τίς ἐπιθυμίες καὶ θελήσεις τοῦ καθενὸς μας, γιὰτὶ εἴμαστε λαὸς Χριστιανικῆς Κοινότητος κάτω ἀπὸ τὸ Θεό.

Δόξα, τιμὴ καὶ τίς εὐλογίες τοῦ Θεοῦ στοὺς πρωτοπόρους καὶ ὅλους ὅσους προσέφεραν ἐργασία, χρήματα καὶ τὰ ταλέντα τους στὴν Κοινότητα καὶ παρακαλῶ τὴ νέα γενναῖα εἰδικά, νὰ συνεχίσῃ τὸ θεάρεστο τοῦτο ἔργο γιὰ μιά καλλίτερη Ἑλληνορθόδοξη Κοινότητα στὸ μέλλον.

Πάντα προσευχόμενος γιὰ σας,

Fr. Andrew Karas

Πατήρ. Ἀνδρέας Καρὰς
Ιερατ. Πρσιστάμενος

Dearly beloved in Christ,

October 16, 1995

As the spiritual father of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, I feel great joy and genuine pride that our blessed community is celebrating the 25th Anniversary since its official founding in 1970 as a community to meet our religious needs and to perpetuate our Greco-Christian legacy.

This anniversary entails a long history of sacrifices, love, faith, hope, patience, endurance and sometimes disagreement on what is best for the progress of our Community. However, the goals of the Community have always been within the Theocratic Democracy of the Orthodox Church as a Divine Institution where God's Law prevails over our wishes and likes, for we are people of a Christian community under God.

Glory, honor and God's blessings to the pioneers and all those who have contributed to the Community with their time, effort, hard work and financial support. I especially urge the young generation to pick up and continue this God loving endeavour, for without them there cannot be a better Greek Orthodox Community in the years ahead.

Prayerfully yours,

Father Andrew Karas

Father Andrew Karas
Pastor



THE ACADEMY OF SAINT BASIL

Σεπτεμβρίου 4, 1995

R2, Box 8A
Garrison, NY 10524
TEL: (914) 424-3500
FAX: (914) 424-4172

Ευλαβεστατον Ιερατικως Προισταμενον
Αιδεσ. Ανδρεαν Καραν
Εντιμ. Διοικητικον Συμβουλιον
Ελληνορθοδου Κοινοτητος Αγίου Δημητρίου
Σαρνια, Ονταριο, Καναδα

Αγαπητοι μου:

Μετα πλειστης χαρας ελαβον την απο 24ης Ιουλιου επιστολης σας, δια της οποιας με προσκαλειτε οπως προσελθω και συμμετασχω μαζυ σας εις τον εορτασμον της 25ετηριδος απο της ιδρυσεως της ευλογημενης Κοινοτητος σας. Δια ποτε περασαν τα χρονια; Μου φαινεται σαν χθες που ερχομουν απο το Λονδον δια να σας βοηθησω εις την ιδρυσιν και δημιουργιαν της νεας Εκκλησιας.

Αξιοι ομως της μεγαλης παρακαταθηκης που παρελαβατε απο τους γονεις σας, ιδρυσατε με τον κοπον και την αγαπην σας και διατηρειτε εως της σημερον, δια να μεινη εις τους αιωνας, την ευλογημενην Κοινοτητα σας. Ας ειναι ευλογημενον το ονομα της Παναγιας Τριαδος. Σας συγχαιρω. Σας ευλογω και εκ της ταπεινης μου θεσεως, απο καρδιας σας ευγνωμωνω και ευχαριστω.

Πολυ θα ηθελον να ευρισκομαι κοντα σας δια να συνεορτασω μαζυ σας την επετειον ταυτην. Φευγω ομως δια ποιμαντορικα καθηκοντα εις Μεξικο οπου θα ευρισκομαι καθ ολον τον μην Νοεμβριον.

Αι προσευχαι μου ομως δια σας και ολα τα μελη της Κοινοτητος θα με φερουν κοντα σας δια να χαρω και εγω μαζη σας την δικαιαν υπερηφανειαν και ευλογιαν που αισθανεσθε. Βλεποντας προς το μελλον, συνεχισατε με τον αυτο παλμον και την ιδιαν θυσιαν και προσφοραν "τον αγωνα τον καλον". Τα παιδια σας και αι επερχομεναι γεννεαι θα σας ευγνωμονουν.

Ειθε ο Παναγαθος Θεος, πρεσβειες του προστατου σας Αγίου Δημητρίου, να ευλογη και να αγιαζη παντα, τα εργα των χειρων σας.

Μετα πλειστης εν Κυριω αγαπης και ευχων πατρικων,
Ο ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΣ,

Ο ΔΟΥΤΛΑΙΟΥ ΑΘΗΝΑΓΟΡΑΣ



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA



HELLENIC ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF THUNDER BAY
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΟΣ

651 Beverly Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada
P7C 5X1
Telephone (807) 344-9522

Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Church

Πρός ἅπαν τό Εὐλαβές πλήρωμα ἀγαπητης
Ἑλληνορθοδόξου Κοινότητος Ἁγίου Δημητρίου
Σάρνια, Ὀντάριο.

Ἀγαπητοί

Ὡς Ἱερατικός Προϊστάμενος τῆς Κοινότητος αὐτῆς κατά τό ἔτος 1989 (1979)
τῇ πανηγυρικῇ ἐκδηλωσιν σας ἐπὶ τῇ ἑορτῇ τῶν εἰκοσιπενταετηρίδα
ἀπὸ τῆς ἰδρυσεως τῆς Κοινότητος αὐτῆς μέ πολλήν χαράν χαιρετίζω
καί μέ τὴν εὐκαιρίαν αὐτὴν ἐρχομαι νά εὐχαριστήσω καί νά σας συγχαρῶ
διὰ τό θεάρεστον ἔργον τό ὁποῖον ἐπιτελεῖτε διὰ τὴν προοδὸν τῆς
Κοινοτητόξ σας.

Παρακαλῶ τὸν πανάγαθον Θεόν νά εὐλογῇ ἐσᾶς καί τὰ ἔργα τῶν χειρῶν σας,
διὰ τὴν διατήρησιν τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας μας.

Μέ πολλή ἀγάπη Χριστοῦ

Ἀρχιμανδρίτης Χριστοφόρος Δεκαβάλλας



HOLY CROSS - ST. NEKTARIOS
GREEK ORTHODOX PARISH OF BARRIE,
MIDLAND, ORILLIA AND DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 453, BARRIE, ONTARIO L4M 4T7 Tel.: (705) 726-9875

7 September 1995

To all of the Members of the
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Community
204 N. East Street
Sarnia, Ontario N2T 6X7

Dear Beloved Orthodox Christians:

It gives me great pleasure to greet you on the occasion of your celebration of the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of your Community. You have for these many years gathered together in loving fellowship and in service to our Lord, remembering His holy words:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John: 13-34-35).

May you continue to grow always in His Love so that this Love in you for all of His children on earth will forever bear more and ever richer fruit.

I wish you a joyous celebration. You have always my prayers for your continuing spiritual progress.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Stavros Moschos

Fr. Stavros Moschos



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA
ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΤΟΡΟΝΤΟ (ΚΑΝΑΔΑ) - DIOCESE OF TORONTO (CANADA)

St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

204 N. EAST STREET

SARNIA, ONTARIO N7T 6X7 CANADA

(ONT. CORP. NO. 0336502 1)

REV. FR. ANDREW KARAS, PASTOR



Dear Friends,

The twenty-fifth anniversary of our church is an event worth celebrating, and it is a great honour to be part of the Church council during this special year. Through many years of working together we have accomplished many things. The establishment of the church was a major step in planting lasting roots in our adopted community and country. Through the hard work of many individuals, it has provided us with an environment to practise our faith, as well as a gathering place for the community. It has provided a place to teach our children the language, culture and beliefs of their parents.

Our roots in Sarnia and Port Huron have grown along with the community. We have been supporters of many charities throughout the years through the Church council, the Philoptohos Society and G.O.Y.A.. We have established accredited Greek language courses and celebrate many yearly social events.

The older people within the community, who have been here for many years, can remind us what it was like to be without our own church and the sense of faith and community it fosters. We should ensure our achievements are not overlooked and that our community will continue to prosper as an important part of our cities.

It is clear we have a lot to celebrate this year. By working together we have accomplished much, and the only way to continue to accomplish our goals is through this unity. In this way, we can pass on to our children our faith, customs, history and sense of community which we hold dear.

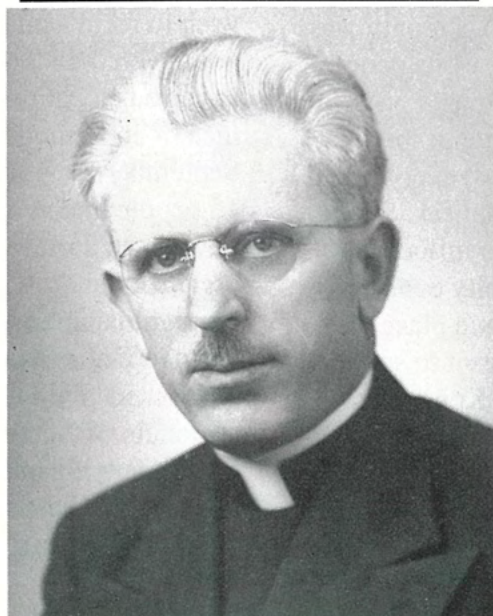
Sincerely,

George Padazis

George Padazis
President, 1995 Church Council



IN MEMORIAM



REV. GEORGE D. STATHIS

1906 - 1990

First Priest to Serve The Greek Orthodox Church Of Sarnia



JOHN STATHAKIS

1927 - 1985

Vice President of First Church Council & President of Church Council - 1985

A Brief History of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Community of Sarnia

The Early Immigrants (1910 to 1950)

Canada was founded more than 200 years ago by European settlers who came to this new land in search of a better life. Canada's strength was, and continues to be, the diversity of its people. Its multicultural heritage can be traced back to the 1800's and the cultural heritage of the Greek immigrants can be found in almost every community from Vancouver to Halifax. Sarnia, of course, is no exception and the influence of the Greek people in this community continues to make it a culturally rich and unique place to live.

The first known Greek immigrant to settle in the Sarnia area was Mr. Andreas Konagakakis (Kongas) in 1908. He was married to Maria and had seven children, and some of his grandchildren reside in Sarnia today. Two brothers, James and Michael George Harakas (Harris) from Arahova near Sparta in Greece came to Sarnia in 1910. Following the entrepreneurial spirit of many of the first immigrants, they opened the Prince Theatre on Front Street. Michael Harakas' son, James Harris, continues to live in the Sarnia area and has served the city as an elected member of the Sarnia Hydro Commission for many years.

In 1939, Spiros George (Spiros Simeonakis) settled in Sarnia and opened the Town Restaurant at the corner of Christina and George Streets. His daughter Christina Voikos currently resides in Sarnia and is a member of the St. Demetrios Church. Mr. Costas Stathis was also one of the first known Greek settlers, arriving in Sarnia in 1948. After a brief stay in Halifax where he married his wife, Anna Paros, he returned to Sarnia and opened the Cromwell Restaurant in 1950.

In the 1950's several other families settled in Sarnia, but the greatest influx of immigrants came in the 1960's. Most of these families were relatives of Costas Stathis and his brother, Father George Stathis, and were from Argitheia, Thessaly.

It Started With An Idea

In the late 1960's, a common topic of discussion amongst the Greek families was their wish to form a church community. Father Stathis volunteered his services and held church services at various locations in 1969 and encouraged the idea of an Orthodox community in Sarnia. On September 20, 1969, a group of approximately 15 people met at the Star Lounge Restaurant in downtown Sarnia and discussed the need to organize the growing population of Greek immigrants in Sarnia. At the time, the Star Lounge was owned by John Chelonis and Spiros Diavolitsis. During this meeting, Paul Maroukis spoke about the need to form a Greek Community. Inspired by this discussion, everyone at the meeting agreed to begin the process of organizing the Greek immigrants in the Sarnia area.

On October 5, 1969, a meeting took place at the Embassy Restaurant, which was owned by John L. Fraggis and Nick Frangis, on Christina Street. Over 30 people attended and the main item on the agenda was the founding of a Greek Community. This meeting resulted in the forming of a temporary elected board of directors who in turn asked the Greek people of Sarnia for their help to establish a church. Robert Kasparian was elected chairman of this meeting and an election committee was formed which included Nicholas Karavidas, Manthos Karamboulas and Dionysios Balatsoukas. With the help of this election committee, a temporary board for the community was formed with the following people:

- Mr. Louis Stathis, President
- Mr. Paul Maroukis, Vice President
- Mr. Christos Simeonakis, Secretary
- Mr. Christos Karatsoreos, Treasurer
- Mr. Panagiotis Economou, Member
- Mr. John Stathakis, Member
- Mr. Haralambos Tasiadis, Member

Following this first meeting, the priest from London, Ontario, Father Athenagoras Anestis (current Bishop of Dorilaion), together with Anthony Demakos, the president of the London community arrived to offer their congratulations and the assistance of the London Greek community in the building of the Sarnia community. During this time London became Sarnia's mother community with Father Athenagoras Anestis conducting the Divine Liturgy and other religious duties every Saturday until the end of 1970.

A Church to Call Our Own

Fulfilling the dreams of the original Greeks of Sarnia, the Greek Orthodox Community of Sarnia and Vicinity purchased its first church at 207 Talfourd Street on October 21, 1969. The Greek-Canadians of Sarnia and Vicinity finally had a place to call their own. The original church was purchased from the Reorganized Church of

Latter Day Saints of Canada.

Following the rules of the Greek Orthodox Church, Father Athenagoras Anestis requested the registry books for baptisms, weddings and deaths from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America in March of 1970. The books arrived from Archbishop Iakovos on June 11, 1970 and are used to this day as the official records for our church. At the same time, the community board of directors commissioned Manthos Karamboulas to make the Iconostasis (Temple) of the new church and purchased the new icons from Greece.





First Elected Church Council - November 25, 1970

*Front (l to r): Rev. Apostolos Ananiadis, Bishop Theodosios, Tom Balatsoukas - President
Back (l to r): Pete Economou - Member, Vaios Kambouris - Member, John Stathakis - Vice President,
Mrs. Niki Bakos - Greek School Teacher, Kostas Stathis - Member, George Rigakos - Secretary.
Absent: Christos Karatsoreos - Treasurer*

On November 25, 1970, elections were held and the first official community board was established.

On January 2, 1971, the first meeting of the new board took place under the presidency of Athanasios Balatsoukas. At this time, it was announced that Father Apostolos Ananiadis would take over as the new priest of the London Community and would also service the needs of the newly founded Greek Orthodox Community of Sarnia and Vicinity. On March 6, 1971, John Stathakis was appointed chairman of the first celebration of Greek National Day to be celebrated on April 3, 1971 at the Polish Hall in Sarnia.

On April 3, 1971, the first Archieratical

Liturgy took place in Sarnia with Bishop Theodosios of Agonos from the Canadian Diocese officiating at the Thoxology for the Greek Independence of March 25, 1821. Father Apostolos Ananiadis assisted in the ceremony. This celebration was highlighted by the first Greek School Program which took place under the direction of Sarnia's first Greek School teacher, Mrs. Niki Bakos. Twenty-two students took part in that first celebration, reciting poems and historical dialogues. The event was attended by Father Ananiadis, the president of the London Community, Mr. Steve Giouroukos, the president of the London AHEPA chapter, the newly founded board of directors and the Greek community of Sarnia and area.

Naming Our New Church

October 9, 1971, marks one of the most memorable periods in our church's history. This was the date on which the new church was to be named after a Patron Saint in the tradition of the Greek Orthodox Church. An Archieratical Liturgy took place with Bishop Theodosios officiating with the assistance of Father Apostolos Ananiadis followed by a banquet in the evening.

It was during the banquet that the people of Sarnia had the opportunity to nominate patron saints. The final decision on the name for the new church was to be decided by lottery. At 7:00 p.m. that evening, a young girl drew number 856 from the basket of names. The new name for the Sarnia Church was "St. Demetrios" and was

picked by Mr. Costas D. Stathis who was declared the sponsor (Nounos) of the patron saint of our new church. Mr. Stathis chose the name Demetrios in memory of his father.

The next morning, October 10, 1971, Bishop Theodosios opened the Church (Thiranixia) and the alter table (Agia Trapeza) was placed in the church. The consecrated Agia Trapeza was donated by Father Gregory Economou, Pastor of the Saint Demetrios Orthodox Church of Saginaw, Michigan and transferred to Sarnia by Costas Stathis, Lazaros Stathis, and John Stergioulis.

Raffle Prize: Name Church

First prize in an Oct. 9 raffle will be the privilege of naming the new Greek Orthodox Church 207 Talfourd.

Only members of the new church now furnished, will be allowed to participate, however. Tickets cost \$1. Winning duet will be drawn at 10 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy Hall, London and Christina.

Anyone is eligible to buy a \$1 ticket on a second raffle to be held the same night. First prize is an expenses paid European trip, or \$300 cash.

More than 400 tickets for both raffles have been sold. They can be purchased at Olympia Restaurant.

At 10:30 a.m. Oct. 9, a church service will be held at the church, with Bishop Agknonos, of Toronto, and Father Ananiadis, of London, officiating.

Beginning at 7 p.m. a dance will be held at the hall.

Greeks Name Church

A church which went without a name for almost two years officially got one Saturday and in so doing became the 28th Greek Orthodox church established in Canada.

The church was named by means of a lottery conducted in Our Lady of Mercy Church. Costas Stathis, president of the Chipican Lodge Ltd., who held the winning ticket, named the building which has been used as a worship centre by about 50 Greek Orthodox families here since 1969. The church will now be called San Dimitrios Greek Orthodox Church. It is located at 207 Talfourd.

Rt. Rev. Theodosios Bishop of Ancona, Greek Orthodox Bishop of Canada, said SaniDimitrios was the newest of the 21 churches in his dominion. He said the relatively small Greek population of the area had done a remarkable job in building the church, which serves a congregation of about 200.

During the evening another draw was held for a trip to Europe. Winner of that draw was R. G. Ridealgh of 1527 London Rd.



A MOST UNUSUAL WIN

Costas Stathis, **LEFT**, - president of Chipican Lodge Ltd. in Sarnia, receives the congratulations of Rev. Apostolos Ananiadis, parish priest of San Dimitrios Greek Orthodox Church here, and the Rt. Rev. Theodosios, Bishop of

Ancona and bishop of the Greek Orthodox Church in Canada, **RIGHT**, after winning a most unusual draw. Mr. Strathis' winning ticket allowed him to name the Sarnia church, which serves the area's 50 Greek Orthodox

families and had been without a name since it was opened at 207 Talfourd in November, 1969. Proceeds from the drawing went to the church's building fund.

Staff Photo

The 70's

In February, 1974, Father Andrew Karas assumed the duties of pastor of the church on a weekend basis to serve the needs of the people of Sarnia and vicinity. He was welcomed by the board under the presidency of Chris Shinohoritis. Father Karas resided with the brothers George and Louie Perdakis of Sarnia, doing his best to promote the community of St. Demetrios.

In December, 1975, a General Assembly meeting was called on the advice of Father Andrew Karas. Father Karas presented the paper of the Archdiocese and urged the members of the church to allow the Church to become a charter member of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of North and South America under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the centre of world Orthodoxy. Sixty members

signed a petition for charter which was submitted on January 3, 1976, by Bishop Sotirios of Constandias (now Bishop of Toronto, Canada). On March 1, 1976, an Ecclesiastical Charter was granted and signed by Archbishop Iakovos, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America. Since this time, our community has been bound by the rights and responsibilities of the Archdiocese. Further adding to our church's official designation was the granting of Non-Profit Organization status by the Government of Ontario and Revenue Canada in 1976.

A Time of Expansion

By December 12, 1976, another General Assembly meeting had been called to discuss the purchase of a larger church to service Sarnia and

Vicinity. Father Andrew Karas reported that he had discussed the purchase of a Protestant Church on East Street with a minister who was looking to sell his church. Father Karas also reported that he had approached the Ukrainian Orthodox Church on Exmouth Street and offered the 10 families who belonged to the church the opportunity to transfer the church to the Greek Orthodox Community in return for life memberships to them and their families. The offer was rejected and the East Street location was selected as the preferred site for a new church.

In order to purchase this site, a committee was appointed to raise funds from the community to purchase the new church. The committee was chaired by George Savas with Nina Vacratsis, secretary, and Andreas Laskaratos, George Perdikis, Father Andrew Karas and Peter Economou as members. The committee worked hard and the community responded with generosity.

On January 19, 1977 the church, located on 204 East St., Sarnia was purchased from the Ontario District Missionary Church and became the property of our community. The Talfourd church was subsequently sold to the Calvary Gospel Church in February of 1977. From February 1977 until May, 1978 our community was occupied with the task of renovating the new church to make it into a Greek Orthodox Church.

In June of 1978, Father Andrew Karas announced that he was leaving the community for personal reasons. From July 1978 until February, 1979, Fathers George Stathis (deceased) and Gregory Economou served the community alternately until the Diocese



appointed a regular priest. On March 1, 1979, The Archimandrite Christopher Decavallas became Pastor of our Church and was welcomed by the Church Council and the people of Sarnia. Father Decavallas spoke often of the importance of community and Christianity and is fondly remembered by all those who knew him. In August of 1980, Father Decavallas was transferred to another parish.

In September of 1980, Father Constantine Kakabelakis assumed the duties of pastor for the Sarnia and Vicinity Greek Orthodox Community. Father Kakabelakis is the longest serving priest, and served the Sarnia Greek Orthodox Church until May of 1991. Father Kakabelakis is remembered for his service to the community.

The Growth of our Church

One of the strengths of our community has always been the hard work and dedication of the ladies of Philoptochos sisterhood which took the initiative to sponsor bingos at an outside hall because our financial resources were limited due to the size of our community and the financial situation of the new immigrants. Through the

hard work of dozens of volunteers over the years, this source of revenue has helped the Sarnia Greek Orthodox Church to grow. An excellent example was the purchase of vacant land which bordered the church property. This purchase, in November of 1982, allowed the church to expand its parking lot and eventually enlarge the church building.



On February 20, 1983, Mr. Emmanuel Vichos, an architect from Windsor, Ontario, volunteered to prepare the plans and supervise the expansion of our Church on East Street. Jim Stoukas, the president at the time, assisted Mr. Vichos by providing a description of the shape the new church was to take. Thanks to the hard work of all the members of the community, and especially the assistance provided by Philoptochos, the expansion of the East Street Church

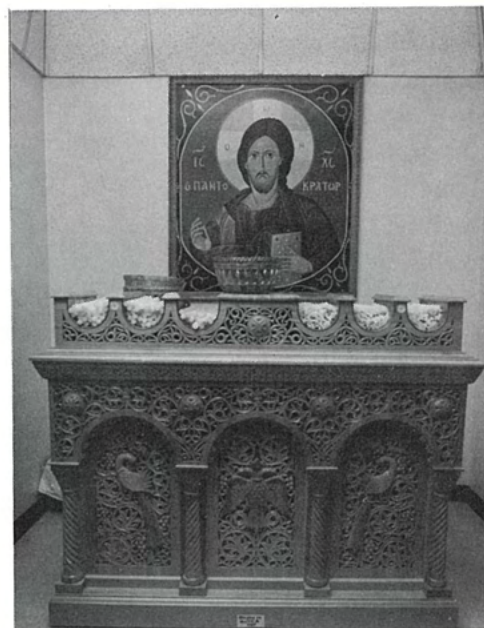
was completed in 1984.

On November 18, 1985, the Greek Community lost John Stathakis, a long standing member and president of the Church council at the time and one of the original workers who helped establish the Greek Orthodox Community of Sarnia and Vicinity.

Over the years, the church continued to grow and prosper through the hard work and dedication of the Greek Orthodox Community. Through the donations of time, hard work, money, each member of this community has done their part to



help the church grow and prosper. May God reward all those for their invaluable contributions to our church of our community.



The 1990s

In May of 1991, Father Constantine Kakabelakis was transferred to another parish. On September 1991, Father Stavros Moschos was appointed pastor of the Church by Bishop Sotirios of Toronto on a weekend basis and served the community until December, 1992. Father Moschos served our community and is remembered as a dedicated and loving pastor.

Several priests served temporarily until Father Andrew Karas was appointed pastor of the parish in August of 1993. Father Karas has been giving his best, together with the co-operation of God, to help this community and is credited with bringing the community together for its 25th Anniversary.

In conclusion, a special thank-you is extended to all who have served as members of the Church Council, the Philoptochos Sisterhood, GOYA, various committees and the members of our church for their support over the past 25 years. May the merciful God grant upon them all his spiritual gifts.

Sarnia, Ontario
Father Andrew Karas &
25th Anniversary Committee

November 5, 1995

PRIESTS WHO SERVED OUR COMMUNITY FROM 1969 TO 1995

<u>NAME</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Rev. Fr. George Stathis*	1969
Rev. Fr. Athenagoras Anestis (now Bishop of Dorilaion)	1970
Rev. Fr. Apostolos Ananiadis	1971-1973
Rev. Fr. Andrew Karas	1974 - 1978 (June)
Rev. Fr. George Stathis (substitute)	1978 (August-October)
Rev. Fr. Gregory Economou (substitute)	1978 (November) - 1979 (January)
Rev. Fr. Christopher Decavallas	1979 (March) - 1980 (August)
Rev. Fr. Constantine Kakabelakis	1980 (September) - 1991 (May)
Rev. Fr. Stavros Moschos	1991 (September) - 1992 (December)
Several substitute priests sent by the Diocese	1993 (January-July)
Rev. Fr. Andrew Karas	1993 (August - Present (1995))

* The late Rev. Fr. George Stathis was the priest who encouraged the formation of the community and volunteered his services until the community came under the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of London and their priest started coming to Sarnia once a month on Saturday to hold Divine Liturgy services.

PRESIDENTS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL 1969 - 1995

Louis Stathis	Peter Athanasopoulos
Athanasios Balatsoukas	Jim Stoukas
John Stathakis	Christopher Pozios
Chris Shinohoritis	Paul Tsaprailis
Peter Economou	Andreas Laskaratos
Chris Simeonakis	George Padazis
Tim Nassiokas	

THE FIRST (TEMPORARY) COMMUNITY COUNCIL October 5, 1969

Louis Stathis	- President
Paul Maroukis	- Vice President
Chris Simeonakis	- Secretary
Chris Karatsoreos	- Treasurer
Peter Economou	- Member
John Stathakis	- Member
Haralambos Tasia	- Member

THE FIRST REGULARLY ELECTED COMMUNITY COUNCIL November 25, 1970

Tom Balatsoukas	- President
John Stathakis	- Vice President
George Rigakos	- Secretary
Chris Karatsoreos	- Treasurer
Peter Economou	- Member
Vaios Kambouris	- Member
Costas Stathis	- Member

Statistics From The Church Registry 1970 to 1995

Marriages: 25

First Marriage: June 14, 1970

Performed by the Reverend Father Athenagoras Anestis (now Bishop Athenagoras of Dorilaion)

Last Marriage: November 20, 1994

Performed by the Reverend Father Andrew Karas

Baptisms: 185

First Baptism: July 11, 1970

Maria Simeonakis, daughter of Christor and Thomae, on July 11, 1970 with sponsor Ekaternis Fotopoulo. The service was performed by Reverend Father Athenagoras Anestis.

Last Baptism: October 15, 1995

Adam Reiger of Midland, Michigan, son of Patrick and Eleni, grandson of Paul and Katina Tsaprailis, with sponsor Helen Tsaprailis, on October 15, 1995. The service was performed by Reverend Father Andrew Karas.

Deaths: 19

First Death: March 24, 1973

Mr. Nicholas David Harakas from London, Ontario on March 24, 1973. The funeral was performed by the late Reverend Father George Stathis.

Last Death: November 16, 1994

Maria Economou from Vragiana, Greece on November 16, 1994. The funeral was performed by Reverend Father Andrew Karas.

The Observer

SARNIA, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1978



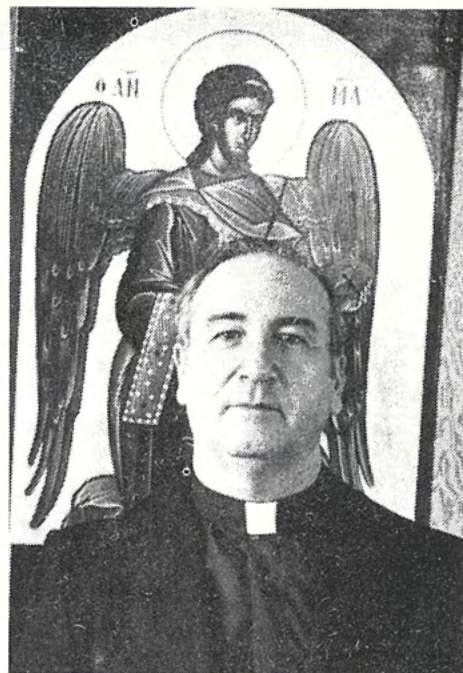
THE INTERIOR of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church on East Street

displays many fine icons despite the fact the church was only bought by the con-

gregation one year ago. "We feel more comfortable here than at the old church on

Talfourd Street," Father Andrew Karras said.

Observer Photo



FATHER ANDREW Karras of St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church conducts his services in Greek and English, to ensure that everyone at the church can

understand. "Anybody is welcome to come to our church," he said, "we'll do our best to give everyone proper hospitality."

Observer Photo

GREEKS IN NEW LAND, SAVE TRADITIONS OF HOMELAND

The Queen Frederica steamed out of the harbor towards the open Mediterranean Sea. A young man stood quietly, leaning on the railing of the ship carrying him towards a new life in Canada. He watched as the Grecian hills levelled off to a narrow line on the horizon, then looked away.

The emotions of leaving their homeland have been experienced by many members of the Greek community in Lambton County. But they, like George Rigakos, the young man on the Frederica, arrived on our shore full of optimism for the future.

In the late 1960's, members of the Greek community started phoning each other up to organize meetings and establish a church. St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church at 204 East St. N. There are an estimated 150 families of Greek origin in the Sarnia area.

"It is a necessity for the Greek people to get together and keep up to date on their costumes, religion, history and culture," George Rigakos of 967 Bond St. said.

The self-made restaurateur added: "The children should know about our heritage, and the wonderful culture. I am very pleased with the courses in Greek being taught at St. Demetrios so the children will know the language of their forefathers."

"I was one of the first people who helped organize the Greek community in Sarnia," he said. "I started phoning families up in November of 1969."

George, who owns the Olympia Restaurant on Christina Street, came to Canada in 1958. His climb from dishwasher to owner typifies the hard work which made the better life a reality for many Greek Canadians.

GEORGE'S STORY

"People don't realize what we've gone through to establish our own businesses," the 42-year-old said.

"As a boy in Greece, I played with toys: twigs and pieces of broken glass. My boys, Bill, John and Peter are growing up in another world."

George borrowed the money for his 12-day voyage to Canada. He arrived in London single and penniless on Nov. 24, 1958.

He was 25 then, the son of a farmer in the Sparta area of Greece.

"I didn't want to be a farmer like my father, and jobs were tough to get in 1957 in Greece. I couldn't see any future there."

Seven days a week for 12 hours a day George toiled as a dishwasher.

A smile lit up between his grey sideburns when he said "for \$27.50 a week."

"After six months as a dishwasher, I started to understand a little bit of English. The English I know I learned through the people I met. During this time I stayed with my brother Theri, sleeping on a couch in the kitchen of his one-room apartment."

"It was hard to learn, not knowing a single word. When I heard a new word, I'd write it down on a serviette, take it home and look in a dictionary," he said.

George started learning the "skeleton of what makes a kitchen work", and how to prepare food, through his hard work.

"The boss promoted me to short-order cook, which was only six-days work with the same pay. After two years, I felt I knew my way around."

Over the next few years, he became a cocktail waiter and bartender. He worked in better restaurants with better pay. By the time George married his wife Stella, he was a supervisor at the Shorthorn Tavern in London. Stella (Frangis) Rigakos came from the same part of Greece as George in 1954.

"I started at the Shorthorn as fourth cook; and went from the bottom up to the top there," he said.

The time had come for George to tackle bigger assignments. He came to Sarnia in 1968 as part-owner of the Olympia Restaurant. He became the owner in 1971.

"I was anxious to build the place up, and I was scared whether I would meet with success," he said. "Now, I have established myself. I know and appreciate my customers."

"I feel I enjoy a good life here in Canada. I find it rewarding being on my own. Up to this day, I'm glad I came to Canada. The Canadian people and the living in this country are to be appreciated."

Would George ever return to Greece to live?

"I still love the beautiful old Greece, but I don't think I would ever return there to live," he said.

In 1976 he took his family back to Greece and showed them the place where he was born and what kind of life he lived.

PHIL'S STORY

Phil Vacratis, 43, of 1117 Salisbury St., only had \$1.50 in his pocket when he got off the train in Windsor in 1956. He was born in northern Greece, a short distance from Salonica, and near Pella, the ancient capital of the kingdom of Alexander the Great.

"I came by myself when I was 21. My brother Elef was already in Windsor. He came in 1951," Phil said.

Phil, who is now the manager and a part-owner of the Chipican Restaurant, had heard about Canada through his brother's letters.

"I decided for some adventure," the slim gentleman said. "I had a schoolteacher's certificate which means I could have taught in Greece; but it's true, jobs were hard to find then."

"I had borrowed the money to come over, which I later paid back. My first two jobs were in my brother's restaurant and as a busboy in another Windsor tavern."

For several years afterwards, Phil taught at a Greek school before entering Assumption College in Windsor, now part of the University of Windsor.

The extreme difficulty of the English language proved to be too much of a stumbling block.

"My English failed me. I stuck it out for two years, and attained good grades in other subjects—but not English," he said.

"I think the way to learn English is to get yourself to use the few words you know. The fear of saying something incorrectly is the greatest obstacle." Words with hard sounds like the 'ch'

in matches are hard to say."

Another reason that some new Greek-Canadians were slow to learn English is because "too many just stuck together, and very few took the night classes in English available."

"Most of them went right to work for a Greek restaurant, where the owners spoke Greek. They came here to make money, to survive, not to be educated right away," Phil said.

"Some sent money home to help out their families."

In 1964, he married Nina. They now have three girls.

Phil, through his determination, would not let his educational ambitions be thwarted by the English language. He went to Wayne State University after moving to Detroit, where he graduated with a BA in sociology.

"It was fun to do, I worked part-time in restaurants while I went to school," he said.

In 1961, Phil returned to Greece with the idea of staying, "but you can never go back home again, as they say."

"I'm part of Canada now; this is my home," he said. "I hope the Canadian government will give more Greek people the chance I was given more than 20 years ago."

Every person's experiences in Canada are different, Phil said, and "I'm just speaking for myself".



CHRIS SIMEONAKIS is president of the parish council at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. The council comprises seven members, of which four are

Members of the parish meet for a social hour each Sunday following the service to talk to each other and welcome visitors.

Observer Photo

THEIR OWN CHURCH

"I think St. Demetrios Church is a great thing," he said. "Every nationality should retain their old country traditions including religion."

"Deep down I feel like a Canadian, even though I am part of another culture. This melting pot theory where everybody tried to Americanize people in the United States is baloney," Phil said.

Many of the events at the church are geared to members of the Greek community getting to know one another in addition to the spiritual needs the church must meet.

Father Andrew Karas said some of the services are conducted in Greek, the language of the new testament, while other services are in English. This way everybody understands.

The Matins service of the church is held 10 to 11 a.m. Sundays. The Holy Eucharist Service is from 11 a.m. to noon. From 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., social hour is held.

Social hour is important to the community. Its members enjoy talking to each other and making up for lunch with the coffee and cookies available.

"We talk to each other and welcome visitors," Father Karas said. "Anybody is welcome to come to this church. We will welcome them with open arms. There are no restrictions, bigotry or anything of that nature here."

At one social a cup filled to the brim with boiled barley, a specialty dish, was doffered.

"This is boiled wheat," Father Karas said. "Since the ancient times the church has used it as a symbol of resurrection, because the Lord many times has used the seed of the wheat."

In addition to social hour, dances, meetings, and other gatherings are held. The ladies hold bazaars from time to time with pastries and other delicacies, the priest said.

The church maintains a school to teach the Greek language of their forefathers to the children.

"This part of their education is to perpetuate the Greek culture and heritage, which is so much a part of western civilization," he said.

The 120 families or so, which attend the church, bought the building on East Street about a year ago, Father Karas said. They are more comfortable there.

"The most spectacular and most venerated holiday of the year is Easter, which will be April 30," he said. "More than 200 million members of the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic church will begin celebrating their Holy Week on April 24. Only once every few years do the Eastern and Western Easter coincide."

People often wonder why the same Easter can be celebrated on two different dates. Father Karas gave his explanation.

"At the First Ecumenical Synod, the Pope of Rome was Pope Silvestros. He sent his representatives to the synod, Clergymen Viton and Vikention. The date for Easter was set. It was decided to be celebrated on the first Sunday after the Jews Passover of the first full moon of the Spring Equinox," he said.

The Christian church followed the Julian calendar from the time of this synod. Then in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII changed the calendar, and the method of setting the time for the Easter celebration without calling an ecumenical synod.

"These are the historical reasons for the different dates," Father Karas said. "We still use the original biblical calendar."

The patron saint of the church, Saint Demetrios, was of a prominent Salonican family in Greece. He was killed by the Roman Emperor Maximilian at the arena for his faith.

"A huge shrine and church is in Salonica dedicated in his honor," he said. "Saint Demetrios is the patron saint of the city of Salonica, the second largest city in Greece. He's on a list of great martyrs."

The interior of the church is nicely decorated with icons. It is a great improvement over the old church on Talfourd Street.

Chris Simeonakis is parish council president at St. Demetrios Church. This is his first year as president. He said he is happy with his year to date, and pleased with the progress the church has made.

CERTAIN SADNESS

"When you leave your country," Phil Vacratis said "you're always hoping for something to alleviate that certain sadness, but Canada is my home now."

George Rigakos spoke with his heart on his sleeve about leaving home.

"I left Greece full of hope for a better life and new opportunities."

"Whatever I was dreaming; with hard work, and still work 12 hours a day, I have found."

"I have accomplished my destiny—to have a fine family, a steady job and a good home to live in."

OBSERVER PHOTOS AND STORY by GREG KENNEDY



SUNDAY SCHOOL teacher Amelia Copilu studies church literature with students Anna

Wetten, 10, and John Wetten, 7. St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church at 204 East St.

also offers classes in Greek to keep their ancestors' language alive in Canada as

well as their history and heritage.

Observer Photo



GEORGE RIGAKOS is a familiar face to Sarnians who enjoy lunch at the Olympia Restaurant on Christina Street, which he owns. This restaurateur began as a dishwasher over 20 years ago.

Observer Photo



BOILED WHEAT is held in a serving dish by Tina Net-skos. Father Karras said that since the ancient times the church has offered this food as being symbolic of resurrection.

Observer Photo

THE GREEK ORTHODOX FAITH

The Orthodox Church is a most democratic body with comprises first, Churches founded by the Apostles themselves, or by the disciples of the Apostles, and which have remained in full communion with one another; and secondly, those Churches which have derived their origin from the missionary activity of the first Churches, or which were founded by separation from them, without loss of communion.

To the first class belong the four Patriarchates of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem, and the Church of Cyprus. The Church of Constantinople was founded by St. Andrew, the Church of Alexandria by St. Mark, the Church of Antioch by St. Paul, the Church of Jerusalem by St. Peter and St. James and the Church of Cyprus by St. Paul and St. Barnabas.

To the second class belong the Church of Sinai, the Church of Russia, the Church of Greece, the Church of Yugoslavia, the Church of Roumania, the Church of Georgia in the Caucasus, the Church of Poland, and the Church of Albania.

All these Churches are independent of each other in their administration but at the same time are in full communion with one another. And what is more important and must be strongly emphasized, they have the same faith, doctrine, Apostolic tradition, sacraments, liturgies and holy services.

There is no difference among the Orthodox people of all their Churches arising from the ecclesiastical authority to which they give allegiance. The only essential thing for them is the Orthodox Church and the Orthodox faith. For this very reason, if one goes to Russia, Roumania, Yugoslavia, and asks the people to which Church they belong, they will not answer that they belong to the Russian, Roumanian, or Yugoslavian Churches, but to the Greek Orthodox Church. The Churches are national, but these national Churches are in brotherly fellowship. Together they constitute Orthodoxy. Together they honor, as first among equals, the occupant of the Ecumenical Throne of Constantinople.

The Orthodox Church derives her teaching from two sources; the Holy Scriptures and the Sacred Tradition. These two sources, according to the Orthodox conviction, are of equal value and they complete each other. We regard the Sacred Tradition as an essential complement of Holy Scripture, because the Apostles wrote the various books which constitute the New Testament from different motives; consequently, it is impossible that the Holy Scriptures should contain all the teachings of our Lord and His Apostles, which at the beginning were transmitted orally. Therefore, Sacred Tradition is older than the New Testament.

We believe that God is One in Substance and Trinity in persons. We worship One God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance. The Creation is the work in time of the Blessed Trinity. The world is not self-created, neither has it existed from eternity, but it is the product of wisdom, the power, and the will of One God in Trinity. God the Father is the prime cause of the Creation and God the Son and God the Holy Ghost took part in the Creation, God the Son perfecting the Creation and God the Holy Ghost vivifying the Creation.

We believe that Our Lord Jesus Christ is truly God. He is Jesus, that is, the Saviour and Christ, and Lord's Anointed, a Son not created of another substance, as is the case with us, but a Son begotten of the very substance of the Father before all time, and thus consubstantial with the Father. He is also truly man, like us in every respect, except sin.

The denial either of His divinity or of His humanity constitutes a denial of His incarnation and of our salvation. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father. The Faith of the Church about the procession of the Holy Spirit was confirmed by the Second Ecumenical Council, which added to the Creed the following clause: "And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father."

The Church is the hold institution founded by our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of men, bearing His holy sanction and authority, and composed of men having one and the same faith, and partaking of the same sacraments. It is divided into the clergy and laity. The clergy trace their descent by the uninterrupted succession from the Apostles and through them from our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church is ONE because our Lord Jesus Christ founded not many, but only one Church; HOLY because her aim, the sanctification and salvation of her members through the sacraments, is holy; CATHOLIC because she is above local limitations; and APOSTOLIC because she was "built upon the foundation of the Apostles, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner-stone." (Eph. 2:20). The Head of the Church is our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We recognize seven sacraments; Baptism, Chrism or Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Confession, Ordination, Marriage, and Holy Unction. Baptism is the door through which one enters into the Church. Confirmation is the completion of Baptism. In the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist under the kinds of bread and wine, we partake of the very Body and the very Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for remission of sins and eternal life.

Both the New Testament and Sacred Tradition bear witness to the real presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. In the Sacrament of Confession, Jesus Christ, the founder of the Sacrament, through the confessor, forgives the sins committed after baptism by the person who confesses his sins and sincerely repents for them. In the Sacrament of Ordination through prayer and the laying-on of hands by a Bishop, Divine Grace comes down on the ordained enabling him to be a worthy minister of the Church. Apostolic succession is fundamental to the Church. Without it the Church is quite unthinkable. In the Sacrament of Marriage, Divine Grace sanctifies the union of husband and wife. In the Sacrament of Holy Unction the sick person is anointed with sanctified oil and Divine Grace heals both his bodily and spiritual ills.

At death, man's body goes to the earth from which it was taken, and the soul, being immortal, goes to God, who gave it. The souls of men, being conscious and exercising all their faculties immediately after death, are judged by God. This judgment following man's death we call the Particular Judgment. The final reward of men, however, we believe will take place at the time of the General Judgment. During the time between the Particular and General Judgment, which is called the Intermediate State, the souls of men have a foretaste of their blessing or punishment.

Further, we venerate and honor the Saints and we ask their intercession with God, but we adore and worship God the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Of all Saints, we honor exceedingly the Mother of our Lord, because of the supreme grace and the call which she received from God. Though she was not exempt from original sin, from which she was cleansed at the time of the Annunciation, we believe that by the Grace of God she did not commit any actual sin. We venerate the sacred ikons and relics. Yet this veneration, according to the decisions and canons of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, relates not to the sacred images as such, but to their prototypes, or to the persons whom they represent.



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΤΟΡΟΝΤΟ (ΚΑΝΑΔΑ)

ΖΩΗ • ΔΡΑΣΤΗΡΙΟΤΗΤΕΣ • ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΑ

ΛΙΓΗ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ

Το 1908 ιδρύθηκε η πρώτη Εκκλησία στον Καναδά, και ο πρώτος Βοηθός Επίσκοπος διορίστηκε το 1960. Η Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Επισκοπή Τορόντο (Καναδά) ιδρύθηκε το 1979. Περιλαμβάνει ολόκληρο τον Καναδά. Έχει 71 Κοινότητες και περίπου 300,000 πιστούς.

ΓΡΑΦΕΙΑ

Τα Κεντρικά Γραφεία στεγάζονται στο 27 Teddington Park Avenue, Toronto και συνδέονται ηλεκτρονικά με άλλα πέντε γραφεία. Είναι τεχνολογικά άριστα οργανωμένα και έχουν προσωπικό 21 άτομα.

ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΦΩΝΗ

Ημέρω, εβδομαδιαίο, θρησκευτικό Τηλεοπτικό Πρόγραμμα ελληνικά και αγγλικά. Από τον Μάρτιο 1990 προβάλλεται σε όλο τον Καναδά από τον Σταθμό Vision T.V.. Το παρακολουθούν μέχρι 75,000 τηλεθεατές.

ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΠΟΡΕΙΑ

Μηνιαία οκτασέλιδη εφημερίδα. Κυκλοφορεί στα ελληνικά και αγγλικά σε 12,000 φύλλα από το 1982. Έχει πλούσιο θρησκευτικό, κατηχητικό και πληροφοριακό υλικό.

ΚΑΤΗΧΗΤΙΚΕΣ ΟΜΙΛΙΕΣ

Τριάντα έξη Κατηχητικές Ομιλίες του Επισκόπου Σωτηρίου με όλα τα βασικά στοιχεία της Ορθόδοξης Πίστεως στα ελληνικά και αγγλικά σε μαγνητοταινίες και μαγνητοσκοπήσεις. Εξεδόθησαν και σε βιβλία. Αγγλιστί σε πεζό κείμενο. Ελληνιστί σε δεκαπεντασύλλαβα ποιήματα.

ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΕΣ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΕΣ

Δύο Γραφεία Κοινωνικών Υπηρεσιών με 9 Κοινωνικούς Λειτουργούς που ειδικεύονται στις βιοπραγίες που διαπράττονται μέσα στην οικογενειακή ζωή. Οι υπηρεσίες αυτές αποσπούν τα συγχαρητήρια του Υπουργείου Κοινωνικών Υπηρεσιών του Ontario.

ΜΕΤΑΝΟΜΕΣ

Έξη σπίτια που μπορούν να στεγάζουν για τρεις μήνες δωρεάν 48 αστέγους και συγχρόνως να τους βοηθούν να εύρουν μόνιμη στέγη.

ΥΠΟΤΡΟΦΙΕΣ

Υποτροφίες ύψους \$10,000 δίδει ετησίως η Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Επισκοπή σε φοιτητές.

ΤΑΓΜΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΩΝ ΚΑΝΑΔΑ

Ιδρύθηκε το 1987. Καθένα από τα μέλη του προσφέρει \$1,000 ετησίως και είναι κυρίως οικονομικά υπεύθυνο για το τηλεοπτικό πρόγραμμα ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΦΩΝΗ.

ΝΕΟΛΑΙΑ

Νέοι και νέες ηλικίας 16 ετών και άνω λαμβάνουν μέρος στις Επτά Ετήσιες Συνελεύσεις Νεολαίας της Ιεράς Επισκοπής μας. Το πρόγραμμα περιλαμβάνει: Διαλέξεις, Διαγωνισμούς, Αθλητικά, Χορούς, Θεία Λειτουργία, και Θεία Κοινωνία για όλους, και ανοιχτό διάλογο με τον Επίσκοπο.

ΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΩΝ

Η Ελληνική Ορθόδοξη Επισκοπή Τορόντο (Καναδά)

συμμετέχει στο Καναδικό Συμβούλιο Εκκλησιών. Δι' αυτού πολλές φορές εκφράζει τη γνώμη της για τα φλέγοντα κοινωνικά ζητήματα και γενικά συμμετέχει με τις άλλες εκκλησίες στην Καναδική ζωή.

ΜΟΝΑΣΤΗΡΙΑ

Το Μοναστήρι του Αγίου Κοσμά του Αιτωλού ιδρύθηκε το 1993 στο Ontario και έχει τέσσερις μοναχές.

Το Μοναστήρι της Παναγίας Παρηγορίτισσας ιδρύθηκε το 1993 στο Quebec και έχει τρεις μοναχές.

ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ

Συντονίζει το έργο της Ελληνικής Παιδείας. Ημερήσια Ελληνικά Σχολεία λειτουργούν μόνο στο Quebec χρηματοδοτούμενα από την Κυβέρνηση του Quebec. Η Ιερά Επισκοπή μας καταβάλλει κάθε προσπάθεια να συντονίσει τις ενέργειες των Κοινοτήτων του Ontario, να επιτύχουν το ίδιο.

ΘΡΗΣΚΕΥΤΙΚΗ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑ

Το άριστο κατηχητικό υλικό της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής χρησιμοποιείται από τις Κοινότητές μας. Έργο των Κοινοτήτων μας και του Γραφείου Θρησκευτικής Παιδείας της Ιεράς Επισκοπής μας είναι η εξεύρεση και κατάρτιση κατηχητών και κατηχητριών.

ΙΕΡΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗ

Το Γραφείον Ιεραποστολής της Ιεράς Επισκοπής μας σε συνεργασία με το Τμήμα Ιεραποστολής της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής μας κάμνει ουσιαστικά Ιεραποστολικό έργο εντός και εκτός Καναδά.

ΙΔΡΥΜΑΤΑ

Η Ιερά Επισκοπή μας βοηθεί οικονομικά όλα τα ιδρύματα της Ιεράς Αρχιεπισκοπής μας και του Οικουμενικού Πατριαρχείου.

ΣΧΟΛΗ ΒΥΖΑΝΤΙΝΗΣ ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗΣ

Ιδρύθηκε το 1991, και σκοπό έχει να καταρτίζει ιεροψάλτες.

ΦΙΛΟΠΤΩΧΟΣ

Οι κυρίες και δεσποινίδες, φίλες των πτωχών, οργανωμένες με Επισκοπικό Συμβούλιο Φιλοπτώχου και Συμβούλια στα 71 τμήματα της σε όλο τον Καναδά, κάνουν το μεγαλύτερο φιλανθρωπικό έργο της Ιεράς Επισκοπής μας και των Κοινοτήτων μας.

ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΑ

Για όλα τα ανωτέρω προγράμματα η Ιερά Επισκοπή μας δαπανά περίπου \$1,000,000 ετησίως. Το ποσόν αυτό, περίπου \$300,000 προέρχεται από τις οικονομικές υποχρεώσεις των Κοινοτήτων προς την Επισκοπήν. Το υπόλοιπον προέρχεται από παροχές των Κυβερνήσεων και από δωρεές ευσεβών Χριστιανών.

Ελληνορθόδοξε Χριστιανέ, προσευχήσου για την Ιερά Επισκοπή μας και τα Προγράμματά της. Είναι δική σου. Επισκοπή είναι ολόκληρος ο Ελληνορθόδοξος Κλήρος και ο λαός του Καναδά με αρχηγό τον Χριστό. Αν μπορείς και θέλεις, βοήθησέ την και οικονομικά. Γράψε την επιταγή σου στο όνομα GREEK ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF TORONTO και στείλε την στη διεύθυνση 27 Teddington Park Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4N 2C4.

Η δωρεά σου εξαιρείται από τους φόρους, και θα πάρεις απόδειξη για το σκοπό αυτό. Ο Θεός να σε ευλογεί πλούσια.



Greek Orthodox Diocese of Toronto (Canada)

LIFE • ACTIVITIES • PROGRAMS

A BIT OF HISTORY

The first church in Canada was established in 1908, and the first Auxiliary Bishop was sent in 1960. The Greek Orthodox Diocese of Toronto (Canada) was established in 1979. It includes all of Canada. It has 71 Communities, and about 300,000 faithful.

OFFICES

The main office is located at 27 Teddington Park Avenue in Toronto, and is connected by electronic communications systems with five other offices. The office has a staff of 21, with the latest in computer technology.

ORTHODOX VOICE

A half-hour weekly religious television program in Greek and English. It airs across Canada on Vision T.V. It has attained an audience of up to 75,000. It has been on the air since March, 1990.

ORTHODOX WAY

A monthly eight- page tabloid in Greek and English circulated in an issue of 12,000 copies since 1982. It contains substantial religious, catechetical and news articles.

CATECHETICAL TALKS

Thirty-six catechetical talks in Greek and English by Bishop Sotirios with all the fundamentals of the Orthodox faith, on audio cassettes and video tape. They are also published in book form; in English, as lessons, and in Greek in the form of poetry.

YOUTH

Young people ages 16 and over participate in the seven annual Youth Assemblies of our Diocese. The programs include: lectures, competitions, athletics, dances, open dialogue with the Bishop, Divine Liturgy and Holy Communion with everyone participating.

MONASTERIES

The St. Kosmas of Aitolos Monastery was established in 1993, in Ontario. It has four nuns. The Virgin Mary of Consolation Convent was established in 1993 in Quebec, with four nuns.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Two Social Service Offices function with nine social workers. They specialize in matters of family violence. They have been commended by the Ministry of Social Services of Ontario.

METAHOMES

There are six homes for the homeless. They have a capacity of 48 people. The homeless can live there for up to three months free of charge, and they are assisted in finding permanent residence.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Greek Orthodox Diocese of Toronto (Canada) grants scholarships worth \$10,000 annually to worthy students.

THE GREEK ORTHODOX ORDER OF CANADA

It was established in 1987. Each member contributes \$1,000 annually, and the members are all responsible for the support

of the televised program Orthodox Voice.

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Greek Orthodox Diocese of Toronto (Canada) is a member of the Canadian Council of Churches. Through it, our Church expresses its opinion on crucial current social issues, and in general participates along with other churches in Canadian Society.

OFFICE OF GREEK EDUCATION

This Diocesan Office coordinates the work of Greek education. Greek Day Schools are functioning in Quebec, subsidized by the Government of Quebec. The Diocese is making every effort to coordinate the Communities in Ontario to establish Day Schools funded by the Government of Ontario.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our Archdiocese and its Department of Religious Education has the best Orthodox materials and the Communities make good use of them. Recruitment of Sunday School teachers and their preparation is the responsibility of each Community as well as of the Office of Religious Education of the Diocese.

MISSIONS

The Diocese has a Missions Office and in cooperation with the Missions Department of the Archdiocese does substantial missionary work in Canada and abroad.

INSTITUTIONS

All of the Institutions of our Archdiocese and Ecumenical Patriarchate are supported financially by our Diocese.

SCHOOL OF BYZANTINE MUSIC

Established in 1991, its purpose is to train chanters for our Churches.

PHILOPTOCHOS

The Greek Orthodox Ladies' Philoptochos Society is the Ladies' Association of the Diocese and they are the friends of the poor. They do most of the charitable work of our Diocese and for our 71 Communities across Canada. It has a Diocesan Council and a Council for every chapter.

FINANCES

For all the above programs, our Diocese spends approximately one million dollars annually. From these funds, approximately \$300,000 is received by the financial obligations of the Communities toward the Diocese. The remainder is derived from Government grants and donations from the faithful.

Greek Orthodox Christian: pray for our Diocese and its programs. It is Yours. The Diocese is the totality of all the Greek Orthodox Clergy and Laity of Canada with Christ as its Leader. If you are able and willing, please help it financially. Please make your cheque payable to and send it to: Greek Orthodox Diocese of Toronto (Canada), 27 Teddington Park Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M4N 2C4.

Your donation is tax-deductible, and you will receive a receipt for tax purposes.

May God bless you abundantly.

REGISTRY

This Department keeps the vital records of the Greek Orthodox faithful. These records began in 1923 for marriages and for divorces.

Since September 1, 1979, a local Registry Department was established in every Diocese. All the records of these departments bear the title "GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA" and below the title "DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY, DIOCESE OF CHICAGO, ETC..."

The Affidavits of Marriage of the Dioceses are numbered by the Registrar of each Diocese. The Affidavits of Marriage and Marriage Certificates and Baptisms are signed by the Bishops and receive the seal of individual Diocese.

Only in the Archdiocesan area are the Affidavits of Marriage, Certificates of Marriage, and Baptisms signed by His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos and are sealed with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese seal.

The priests of parishes who are under the jurisdiction of the nine Dioceses, receive the Episcopal License for Marriage by the Bishop of each Diocese. After the ceremony of Holy Matrimony, the Episcopal Licence is returned to the Registrar of each Diocese who issues the Marriage Certificate.

The Registrar keeps a record for each marriage in order to facilitate the finding of the necessary information when required. This practically speaking, is very important for Social Security purposes and for all official documentation which is needed.

With reference to the Certification of Marriage Eligibility (Bans), a record has been kept in every Diocese, since September 1, 1979, in order to insure that the Certificate is used only once.

SPIRITUAL COURTS

Since September 1, 1979, there exists in every Diocese a Spiritual Court of the First Order. These Spiritual Courts adjudicate divorce cases. Divorce papers are under the jurisdiction of each Diocese.

The Registry Department is also in charge of canonical files. And, since 1979, prepares the

annual vital statistics in co-operation with Diocesan Registrars.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WEDDINGS, DIVORCES, BAPTISMS, FUNERALS AND MEMORIALS

Weddings

For the sacramental union of a man and a woman to be proper in the eyes of the Church, the marriage must be conducted in the Orthodox Church. For such an ecclesiastical marriage to be valid, the following must be adhered to:

1. No impediment to marriage may exist.
2. A civil marriage licence must be obtained from civil authorities.
3. An ecclesiastical marriage licence must be obtained from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese or Diocese.
4. The Sacrament of marriage must be celebrated by an Orthodox priest according to the liturgical tradition of the Orthodox Church.
5. The priest must belong to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. However, marriage performed in another Orthodox jurisdiction in communication with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese is also recognized as valid by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.
6. The priest must receive authorization for the marriage from his Diocesan Bishop.
7. Before requesting permission from the Bishop for the marriage, the priest must verify:
 - a. that the parties in question are not already married either in this country or elsewhere.
 - b. that the party or parties who are members of another parish obtain a certificate of membership from the parish to which they belong.
 - c. that if either or both parties are widowed, that he or she present the death certificate of the deceased spouse.
 - d. that if either or both of the parties have been divorced and/or have remarried, whether or not the remarriage was recognized by the Church, that they present the appropriate certificates.
8. No more than a total of three marriages will be allowed by the Church.
9. When one or both of the parties are divorced, they must obtain an ecclesiastical divorce as well in order to marry again in the Church.

10. In the case of a mixed marriage, the non-Orthodox partner must be a Christian who has been baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity. A marriage cannot take place in the Orthodox Church between an Orthodox Christian and a non-Christian.
11. In the case of mixed marriages between an Orthodox Christian and a non-Orthodox Christian, the marriage must be celebrated by an Orthodox priest in the Orthodox Church according to the Orthodox tradition.
12. The Sponsor (koumbaros or koumbara) must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing with the Church. A person who does not belong to a parish, or who belongs to a parish which is not in communion with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, or who if married, is not married in the Orthodox Church cannot be a Sponsor. Non-Orthodox persons may be members of the rest of the wedding party.

Days When Marriage is Not Permitted

January 5-6, Great Lent and Holy Week, August 1-15, August 29 (Beheading of St. John the Baptist), September 14 (Exaltation of the Holy Cross), December 13-25, the day before feast days, all Holy Days of Our Lord, and Holy Pentecost. A wedding may be conducted on these days only if absolutely necessary and then only by special permission of the Diocesan Bishop.

Mixed Marriages

It is a fact that the more things a couple holds in common, the more likely it will be that they live their married lives in peace and harmony. Shared faith and traditions spare newlyweds and their children many serious problems and strengthen the bonds between them. However, the Orthodox Church blesses mixed marriages under the following conditions:

1. The non-Orthodox partner must be a Christian who has been baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity.
2. The couple should be willing to baptize their children in the Orthodox Church and nurture them in accordance with the Orthodox faith.

The Orthodox partner should bear in mind that a married Orthodox Christian whose wedding has not been blessed by the Orthodox Church is no longer in good standing with the Church and consequently does not have the right to receive the sacraments of the Church, including Holy Communion, or to become a sponsor at an

Orthodox wedding, baptism or chrismation. An Orthodox Christian who has been married outside the Church and who wishes to be reconciled to the Church, is encouraged to request from his or her local Orthodox priest that his or her marriage be blessed in the Orthodox Church.

A non-Orthodox Christian who marries an Orthodox Christian does not automatically become a member of the Church, and is therefore not permitted to receive Holy Communion or other sacraments of the Church or a Church funeral. These are privileges of the baptized or chrismated members of the Church.

Prohibited Marriages

FIRST GROUP: Parents with their own children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren.

SECOND GROUP: Brothers-in-law with sisters-in-law.

THIRD GROUP: Uncles and Aunts with nieces and nephews.

FOURTH GROUP: First cousins with each other.

FIFTH GROUP: Foster parents with foster children or foster children with the children of foster parents.

SIXTH GROUP: Godparents with godchildren or godparents with the parents of godchildren.

Divorces

An ecclesiastical divorce may be granted after a civil decree has been given. However, the parish priest must exert every effort to reconcile the couple and avert a divorce. Should the priest fail to bring about reconciliation, he will transmit the petition of the party seeking the ecclesiastical divorce to the Spiritual (Ecclesiastical) Court of the Diocese. The decree of the civil divorce must accompany this petition. The petition must include the names and surnames of the husband and wife, their addresses, the familial surname of the bride and where, when and by which priest the ecclesiastical wedding was conducted. The petitioner must be in good standing with his or her parish and with the Archdiocese. Christian Orthodox members of the Greek Orthodox Church who do not have an ecclesiastical divorce when they are separated and have obtained only the civil divorce, may not marry in the Church until receipt of the ecclesiastical divorce. Members of the Church who have only received a civil divorce and not an ecclesiastical divorce are not permitted to receive Holy Communion or to be sponsors in weddings, and godparents in baptismal ceremonies.

Baptisms

A person who wishes to sponsor a candidate for Baptism and/or Chrismation in the Church must be an Orthodox Christian who is a member of an Orthodox parish and who is in good standing with the Orthodox Church. A person who has been excommunicated or anathematized by the Church or who, if married, has married outside the Orthodox Church may not become a godparent.

Baptisms may not be conducted on the following days unless it is absolutely necessary and permission is obtained from the Diocesan Bishop:

1. December 25 - January 6
2. Holy Week
3. Major Feast Days

Funerals

Funeral services are allowed any day of the year, except on Sundays, unless it is absolutely necessary and permission is obtained from the Diocesan Bishop.

Memorials

Memorial services may not be held on the following days:

1. From the Saturday of Lazarus through the Sunday of St. Thomas
2. All the Feast Days of our Lord
3. August 15

It is highly recommended that Orthodox Christians offer memorials for their loved ones on the several Saturdays of the Souls which are set aside throughout the year.

CHURCH POSITIONS ON CIRCUMCISION, SUICIDE, AUTOPSY AND CREMATION

Circumcision

It is known that Jews and Moslems practice circumcision for religious reasons. Some doctors deem circumcision necessary for reasons of health and cleanliness. The Orthodox Church does not prohibit circumcision as long as it is not practiced for religious reasons.

Suicide

Since no one is permitted to take the life of another, no one is permitted to take his or her own life, that is to commit suicide. Suicide is murder and consequently a grave sin.

Committing suicide signifies loss of patience, hope, and faith in God. A person of faith does not lose hope, no matter how great the difficulties he

or she faces. The Orthodox Church denies a Church funeral to a person who has committed suicide. Only when a doctor certifies that such a person had lost his or her sanity does the Church permit a Church funeral.

Autopsy

When the causes of illness have not been diagnosed before a person's death, the doctors with the permission of the next of kin, perform an autopsy. Often an autopsy leads to enlightening observations. Because of this, the Orthodox Church does not prohibit the autopsy of the dead, although a body may not be given strictly for medical research or experimentation.

Because the human body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Orthodox Church insists that those who perform the autopsies accord the utmost respect to the body.

Cremation of The Dead

Various Christian groups, instead of burial, prefer the cremation of the dead, which was customary among many ancient peoples. The Orthodox Church, however, mindful of the fact that the human body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit and inspired by the affection toward her departed children refuses to deliberately destroy the body, and has adopted the burial of the dead, as it appears in the Catacombs, and in the graves of the Martyrs and Saints.

Cremation, therefore, is contrary to the faith and tradition of our Church and is forbidden to Orthodox Christians. A Church funeral is denied to a person who has been or will be cremated.

FASTING IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Just as there are times for feasting in the Church, there are also times for fasting. Jesus Christ Himself often fasted and insisted that the people fast as well.

Fasting is not a set of dietary laws or legalistic requirements. Rather, fasting accompanied by prayer, is a spiritual aid which disciplines the body and soul and enables them to strive together to bring the whole person closer to God, especially during the preparation periods for the great feast days of the Church.

The following are fast days and seasons:

1. The day before Epiphany – January 5
2. The second Wednesday and Friday of the Triodion

3. The last week before Great Lent, although dairy products may be eaten even on Wednesday and Friday.
4. Great Lent
5. Holy Week
6. Holy Apostles Lent – Monday after the week following Pentecost through June 15, 1988. Since Pentecost falls on May 29, fasting period is June 8-15.
7. Dormition of the Mother of God Lent – August 1 through August 14.
8. Beheading of St. John the Baptist – August 29.
9. Exaltation of the Holy Cross – September 14.
10. Christmas Lent – November 15 through December 24.
11. All Wednesdays and Fridays, except those noted below.

The following are fast days on which fish is permitted:

1. Annunciation Day – March 25. If, however, Annunciation Day does not come during Lent, then the day is completely fast-free.
2. Palm Sunday
3. Transfiguration – August 6.

The following days are completely fast-free:

1. The first week of the Tridion, including Wednesday and Friday
2. Easter Week (Diakainisimos or Bright Week)
3. The week following Pentecost
4. December 25 through January 4.



Past Church Councils



Church Council - 1981

Left to right (front row): John Stathakis, Paul Tsaprailis, Chris Shinohoritis, Rev. Constantine Kakabelakis, Chris Pozios and Chris Simeonakis
Left to right (back row): Harry Tavabis and Louis Symeonakis



Church Council - 1991

Left to right: Paul Tsaprailis, Nick Skillas, John Frangis, Andreas Laskaratos, Bishop Sotirios, Rev. Constantine Kakabelakis, George Cavis, George Perdakis and Bill Rigakos



Church Council - 1992

Left to right: Bill Rigakos, Vaio Kambouris, John Frangis, Andreas Laskaratos, Rev. Stavros Moschos, Georgia Leventis and George Karauzas



Some of the 1994 Council members with Father Andrew Karas and Bishop Sotirios



Church Council - 1995

Left to right: George Cavis, Effie Janis, George Padazis, Rev. Andrew Karas, John Frangis and Larry Stathis
Missing: George Perdakis, Helen Brinkman

The Women Of Philoptochos . . . Living Their Faith

Philoptochos, the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Americas, is a non-profit organization functioning under the aegis of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, with over 50,000 members, making it the second largest women's philanthropic organization in the United States and Canada.

In 1902, at the Holy Trinity Church in New York, a small group of Greek Orthodox women banded together to form the first Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. Its objective was to help needy Greek immigrants in America. Modeling their society on the Ladies Philoptochos Society in Smyrna, the women enlisted the support of wealthy Americans and set out to help the immigrant Greeks.

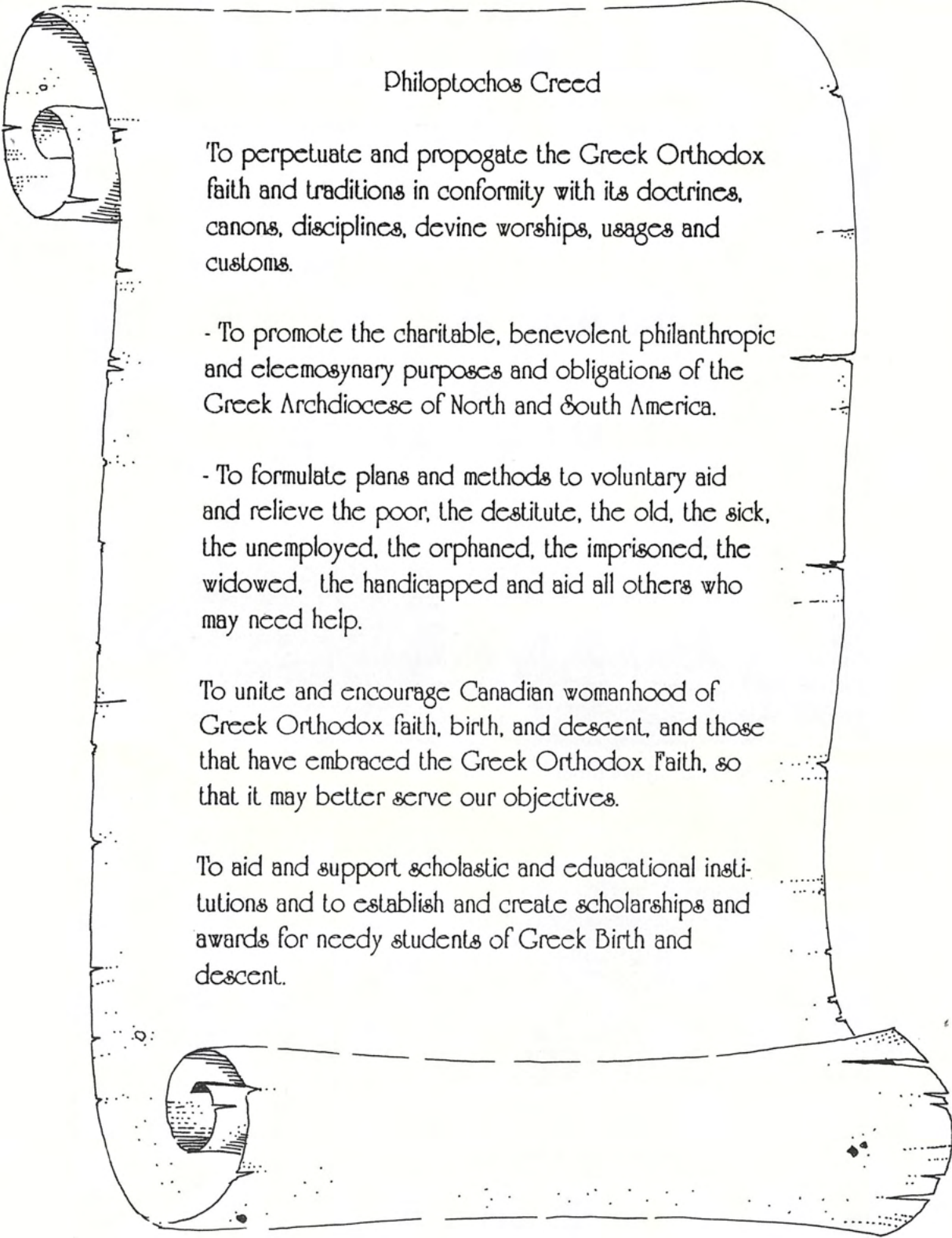
In the 1930's, Philoptochos was organized on a national level by Archbishop Athenagoras (later to become Patriarch) and has become the right-hand of every Greek Orthodox parish since that time.

In Sarnia, a chapter was organized in 1970 and today has 45 active members. In the 25 years since its inception, this chapter has given over \$100,000 to the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, including the money for the church renovations completed in 1985. Another \$150,000 has been contributed to such charitable organizations as the Salvation Army, Inn of the Good Shepherd, both local Sarnia hospitals, Easter Seals, Arthritis Society, Cancer Society, Autism Society, Children's Rotary Centre, Hellenic Home for the Aged, Holy Cross Seminary/Hellenic College, the Patriarchate, Missions, St. Basil's Academy, various programs and appeals of the Diocese as well as assistance to many individuals who were in need.

All the members have contributed willingly and worked hard to support the causes mentioned above and special recognition goes to the following ladies who have served as president:

Lily Ballas
Dina Economou
Eleni Gitsidis
Helene Laskaratos
Despina Maroukis
Vicki Pozios
Stella Rigakos
Stella Stoukas
Olga Symeonakis
Eleni Tsaprailis
Nina Vacratsis

The word "Philoptochos" means "friend of the poor" and what better way for Orthodox women to live their faith than to follow the words of Christ: "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me".



Philoptochos Creed

To perpetuate and propagate the Greek Orthodox faith and traditions in conformity with its doctrines, canons, disciplines, devine worships, usages and customs.

- To promote the charitable, benevolent philanthropic and eleemosynary purposes and obligations of the Greek Archdiocese of North and South America.

- To formulate plans and methods to voluntary aid and relieve the poor, the destitute, the old, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped and aid all others who may need help.

To unite and encourage Canadian womanhood of Greek Orthodox faith, birth, and descent, and those that have embraced the Greek Orthodox Faith, so that it may better serve our objectives.

To aid and support scholastic and educational institutions and to establish and create scholarships and awards for needy students of Greek Birth and descent.

Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society



Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society members - 1981



Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society members -
after church service on September 3, 1995



Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society Council
members - 1995



Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society Council
members - 1991



GREEK DELICACIES

HOMEMADE GREEK sweets and food will be featured at a booth in Lambton Mall through Saturday. The booth is sponsored by the

Greek Ladies Philoptochos Society of Sarnia. The funds raised by the sale will be used to aid St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and the

needy of the community. Pictured from left are Mrs. Maria Beveridge, Nina Vacratsis and Vicki Pozios. Observer Photo

First of its kind . . . St. Demetrios Christmas Bazaar



THE FIRST CHRISTMAS BAZAAR of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Saint Dimitrios on Talfourd Street was well patronized and provided quantities of Greek pastries, handicrafts and sewing. The ladies of the Church went to a lot of work for this, their first social event of a public

nature. Above, the group includes Kay Fotos, President Lilly Ballas, Mrs. D. Maroukis, Mrs. Kasparin, George Athanassiadis, Rev. Father A. Ananiadis the pastor and Robert Kasparin.



THE MEDITERRANEAN baked goods . . . delicious and different reflected hours of work on the part of the small parish group. Honey, almonds, shortbread and crushed walnuts in thin leaves of pastry were among the great selection of baked goods on sale.

St. Demetrios Plato Greek School

In September 1970, Niki Bakos of London, Ontario was appointed as the first Greek School teacher in Sarnia. This started a tradition of keeping the Greek language among the second and third generation children of the early immigrants.

Other teachers of the school have been the following:

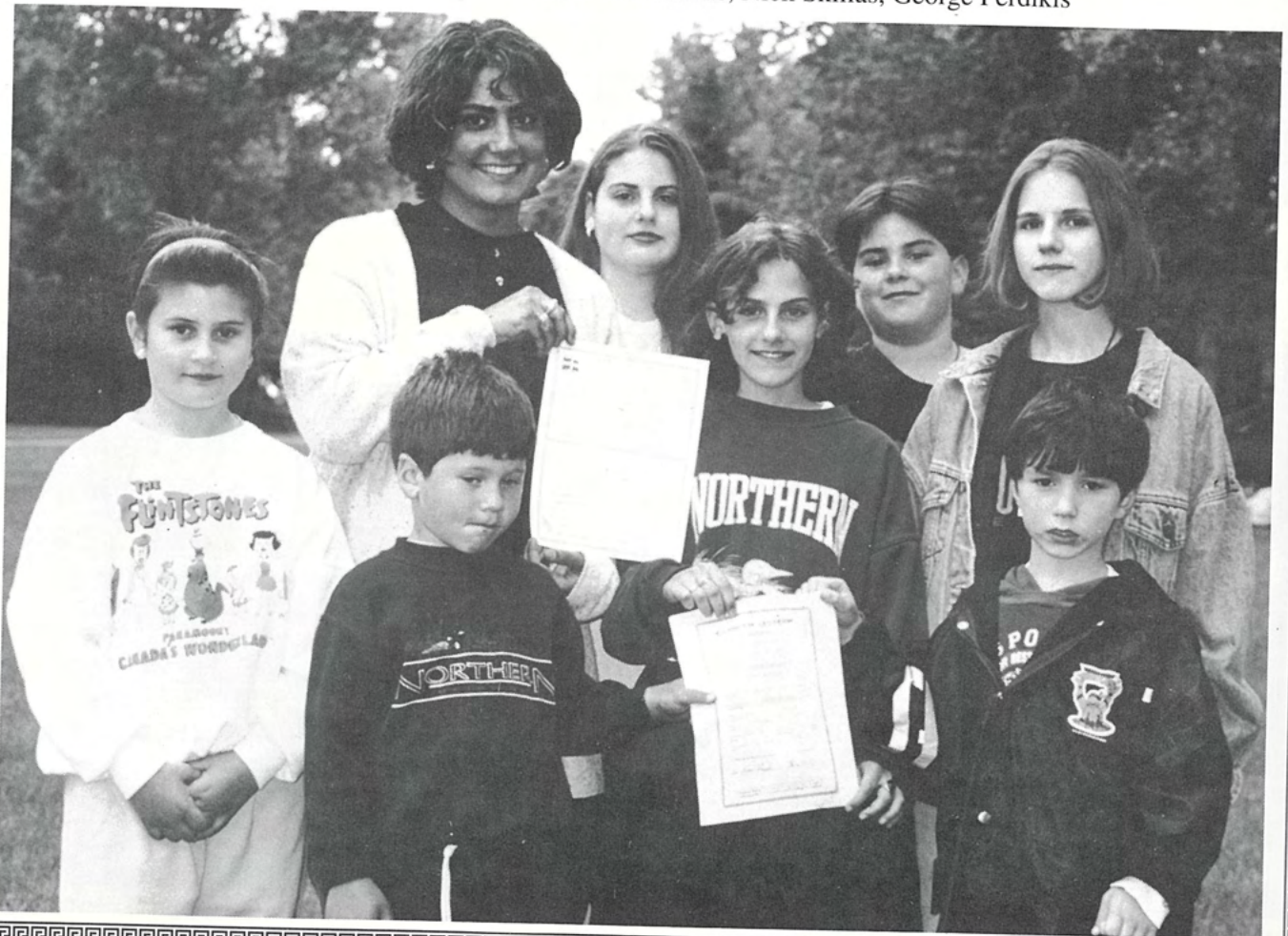
Constantine Mamalis	Meni Sakellis
Demetrios Karamboulas	Philip Vacratsis
Helen Gitsidis	Helene Tsaprailis
Presbytera Helen Kakabelakis	Fotini Stoukas
Nick Xourafas	Nick Manias
John Lefas	Steve Kotsipodas
Maria Lefas	

In 1976, the school came under the Language Heritage program of the Lambton County Board of Education and in 1993 it became known as the International Languages program. 1995 was a turning point for the St. Demetrios Plato Greek School. A Greek language credit course was introduced for the first time. After the hard work of the school committee, Steve Karaouzas, Nick Skillas and George Perdikis, the support of the parents and the dedication of the teacher Steve Kotsipodas, three credit courses were introduced: grades 11, 12 and O.A.C. This is a great opportunity for our young people to further their education in the Greek language which is not only our link to our Greek heritage but also to our Greek Orthodox religion.

Congratulations to St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox community on behalf of the Greek School.

The School Committee

Steve Karaouzas, Nick Skillas, George Perdikis





Greek School class of 1971 (first formal class picture)



Bluewater Festival Parade, Port Huron - 1982
Antoinette Kakabelakis, Stacy (Kasparian) Prins, Georgia Vacratsis
with Peter Athanasopoulos at the wheel



End of school year program - 1981



March 25, 1971 - Celebrating Greek Independence Day
Left to Right: Bill Rigakos, Louis Stathakis,
John Rigakos and John Fragis



Greek School Class of 1973
Mrs. Niki Bakos, teacher



Greek School Class of 1975
Jim Kalas, teacher



Poem recitals at Christmas time - Jim Makrigiannis at the microphone



Greek Dancing at the 1981 Lung Association Fund Raiser
Left to Right: Mary Simeonakis, Georgia Vacratsis,
Kanella Frangis and Athens Balatoukas



Greek School Christmas Program
Presbytera Helen Kakabelakis, teacher



March 25, 1986 - Greek Independence Day Program



Greek Independence Program with
Dino Mamalis, teacher



Greek School Class of 1972
Mrs. Niki Bakos, teacher



Dueling in their foustanellos!
Angelo and Peter Zervas



Peter Rigakos raises the Greek flag at Sarnia City Hall in March, 1977 to honour Greek Independence Day. Mayor Andy Brandt, kneeling, Manos Constandinidis and Peter Economou look on.





Jason, Thalia, and Stacy Kasparian wearing traditional costumes.



Greek community holds ceremony

Members of Sarnia's Greek community joined in a special ceremony at the cenotaph Saturday to celebrate Greek independence following 400 years of occupation by the Turks. Members from St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox School placed flowers on the cenotaph. Displaying the Greek flag from left are Mary Karaouzas, 7, daughter of Stacey and Steve; Varvara Laskaratos, 8, daughter of Helen and Andre; Maria Nassiokas, 6, daughter of Kathy and Nick and Angela Tsapraillis, 10, daughter of Helen and George of Corunna. Observer Photo





Greek School Class of 1982



Bluewater Festival Parade, Port Huron - 1982



Christmas, 1980 - Santa comes to class



GOYA . . . Working Together To Preserve Orthodoxy And Hellenism

GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth Association) is an organization which was founded in the 1950's by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America. Since then, chapters have been established in most communities across Canada and the United States of America.

In 1978, GOYA was founded in the Sarnia and Port Huron community of St. Demetrios by Father Andrew Karas and Youth Advisor, Nina Vacratsis, and has had an average of 35 active members annually.

The St. Demetrios GOYA has taken part in several annual events. We have attended St. George's Basketball tournament in Bloomfield Hills and 11 Youth Assemblies put on by the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Canada during the Victoria Day week-end. We have also supported many other chapters in surrounding cities by attending dances, retreats and tournaments.

Our GOYA has also worked hard to organize many events of its own including dances with the Philoptochos Society, Cedar Point trips, ski trips, lecture series with Professor Daniel Sahas and Father Demetrios Kavadas. We have also made donations to our church in Sarnia, our Diocese, charity groups, other church communities and individuals in need.

The GOYA chapter of St. Demetrios Sarnia-Port Huron has bonded the youth of Sarnia, but most importantly, it has brought us closer to our Orthodox faith and our Greek culture.





GOYANS at 1993 Youth Conference in Ottawa



Youth Conference - Kitchener, 1993

Left to right: Vivian Balatsoukas, Angela Tsaprailis, Vicki Nassiokas and Stacy Tsaprailis



Goyans - After church service - September 3, 1995



GOYANS at 1993 Youth Conference in Kitchener



1986 Youth Conference in Peterborough



G.O.Y.A. basketball tournament in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan



G.O.Y.A. basketball tournament
in London, Ontario - 1982



Bishop Sotirios with Sarnia group at Peterborough Youth Conference - 1987



Basketball tournament in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan



G.O.Y.A. Council - 1988



G.O.Y.A. basketball tournament in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan



University of Western Ontario, London - Youth Conference 1992



G.O.Y.A. Greek Dance group - January, 1988



University of Western Ontario, London
- Youth Conference 1992



Youth Conference in Peterborough - 1986

Celebrating Canada

July 1, Canada's birthday, is a time of celebration for all Canadians. Canada Day is a time for Canadians from different cultures and traditions to gather and celebrate this great country – and who knows how to celebrate better than the Greeks of Sarnia-Lambton and Port Huron!

To celebrate this day and this country, the Greek Orthodox community began a tradition of selling souvlakia and other Greek foods at Canatara Park every July 1. Over the years, our souvlakia have become famous and people have been known to wait in line for up to a half an hour to try one of these Greek delicacies.

Today, the Greek Orthodox community booth at Canatara is the most popular stand at Sarnia's Canada Day celebration, and each year thousands of souvlakia, as well as Greek pastries and desserts prepared by the ladies, are sold by the dedicated members of our Greek community. As well as being a major source of funding for the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, Canada Day is our way of saying "Thank You, Canada" and celebrating this wonderful country which we call our home.

The Observer

SARNIA, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1980



Canada Day - 1979
A trio doing the hasapiko!



ETHNIC PERFORMERS will be appearing at the Canada Day celebrations in Canatara Park during the weekend. Among those who will be performing are from left: Rima Rizkallah, 10, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Rizkallah of 547 George St., representing Lebanon; Peter Rigakos, 9, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Rigakos of 967 Bond St., representing Greece; Dina Sikorski, 11, daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. Andrzej Sikorski of 648 Highbury Pk., representing Poland; Philip Apter, 6, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Apter of 733 Wellington St., representing Scotland; and Daria Eliaswych, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Eliaswych of 914 Simpson St., representing the Ukraine.

Observer Photo



The late Mayor of Sarnia, Marcel Saddy celebrating Canada Day with the Greeks!



Canada Day - 1992



Canada Day - cooking up souvlakia!
Left to right: Louie Perdakis, Bill Rigakos and Jim Frangis



Philotochos ladies at their busy booth on Canada Day



Grilling the souvlakia - Canada Day - 1979
Left to right: Father Christopher Decavallas,
Philip Vacratsis and George Rigakos



Canada Day - 1979
Dance group performs at the Band Shell



CANADA DAY CELEBRATION

THANK GOD I'm Greek seemed an invaluable slogan for George Perdakis, of Sarnia, (left) at Canatara Park on Canada Day, particularly at the Greek souvlaki booth. His buddy John Brodimas, Sarnia, points to the key word, while John Stathakis, of Sarnia, holding a souvlaki, and a hungry

gentleman, grapple for the souvlaki in the background. The souvlaki booth experienced long lineups Tuesday. See more photos on page 25.

Observer Photo by Greg Kennedy

Charitable Donations

12—THE OBSERVER, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 1991



Children's ward helped

The children's ward at Sarnia General Hospital will be redeveloped at least partially with the help of a \$1,118 cheque from the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and the local Greek-Canadian community. Shown here at a cheque presentation ceremony

are, from left: Jim Wales, chairman of the hospital foundation, John Athanassopoulos, Elpida Gitsidis, Helene Tsapralis and George Padazis, all of the Greek-Canadian community.

Observer Photo



Donation made

A donation of \$500 has been made to the Sarnia General Hospital Foundation cardiac care monitor fund raising effort by St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church from funds raised through an elimination draw. Helping with the presentation are from left;

council member Paul Tsapralis, president And Laskaratos, foundation president Jim Wales, treasurer Bill Rigakos and council member John Frar

is. Observer Photo



Greek organizations present funds

The local Greek organizations recently held a dinner dance to raise funds for two charities, the Autism Society of Ontario, Sarnia Lambton chapter, and the Leukemia Research Fund. Each group received \$775. At the presentation are, from left, Gus Derlis, Robert Kasparian, Autism

chapter member Marsha Pattenade, Paul Tsapralis, John Athanassopoulos, George Padazis, Gus Pantazis and Judy Acton, of the Leukemia Research Fund.

Observer Photo



Donation made

The St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox community contributed \$1,000 towards the parental relief program of the Sarnia-Lambton Chapter of the Autism Society Ontario. From left are community president Andre Laskaratos, community treasurer Bill Rigakos,

community vice-president Vios Kambouris, chapter secretary Michele LeLange-Davey and chapter member Anne Goulden. With Ms Goulden are her sons Josh, standing, and Michael, who is autistic.

Observer Photo



Church donates to Autism Society

A donation of \$500 has been made to the Autism Society of Ontario Sarnia-Lambton Branch by the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. Helping with the presentation are from left, board member Paul Tsapralis, secretary Nick Skillas, president An

dreas Laskaratos, chapter member Melissa Murray, chapter vice president Norm Cokey and treasurer Bill Rigakos.

Observer Photo



Fund boosted

The Sarnia General Hospital building fund receives a \$500 boost thanks to a raffle held by members of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. From left, making the donation are Gus Shinohoritis, John

Frangis, Bill Rigakos and Andre Laskaratos. Accepting is Nick VanHoorn, chairman of the community division of the hospital fund drive while Mayor Marcelle Saddy looks on.

Observer Photo

The Soccer Tradition

One of the traditions carried over from Greece by the residents of Sarnia and vicinity is the national sport of Greece, Football, or Soccer as it is known in North America. John L. Frangis, Mike Mingos, Demetrios Toufexis and Fotis Dontas loyal soccer fans, started a team of Soccer players of Greek descent in the Sarnia area. This team, known as the "Panathenians", was together from 1969 until 1975 during which time they won the Sarnia league trophy.

From 1975 to 1980, the team "Hellas" was formed by Robert Kasparian, George Papanagiotou, Kostas Stathis, Sotirios Loukas, Costas Papanastasiou, John Brodimas and John Chelonis. Hellas Soccer Club quickly became one of the powerhouse teams of the Sarnia Men's Soccer League. This team, captained by Andreas Laskaratos, provided their fans with many exciting and competitive matches, winning two league championships along the way.

In 1980, Mike Mingos, John Athanasopoulos, Nicholas Skillas, Eleas Perdikis, Tim Nassiokas and Bill Rigakos started the youth soccer program for children 6 to 15 years of age. This youth soccer program helped develop an interest in the national sport of Greece among many of the Greek Orthodox Youth in the Sarnia area. In addition to the players, John Athanasopoulos, George Perdikis, Mike Mingos and Petro Mingos have also contributed to the soccer program as referees.



Panathenian Soccer Club Team - 1972



1973 Panathenian Greek Soccer team members.
Left to right: Louie Perdakis, Mike Mingos, Andreas Laskaratos and Bill Telegadas

Hellas Takes Soccer Event



Tony Savo, Domenic Colucci, left present Lambton Ornamental Trophy.

EXECUTIVE, REFEREES TROPHY

Partalas Leads Hellas To 3-0 Win Over Dante



PETER MATUZICH, left, president of the Sarnia and District Soccer League presents the Executive and Referees Trophy to captain Andreas Laskaratos of the

Hellas team after Hellas shut out Dante "B" 3-0 in the final, Wednesday night in Norm

Perry Memorial Park. On the right is the Hellas netminder Frank Chrapko. Observer Photo



Awards Night, 1981



Panathenian Soccer Club Team - 1970



Panathenian Soccer Club members
at Annual Dance - 1973

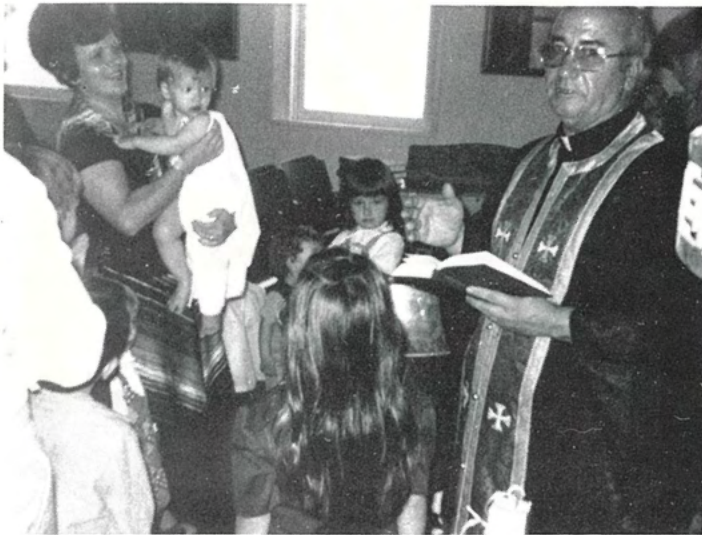


Awards Night, 1981



Precious Memories







ERASMIA KASPARIAN, the new Miss Teen Sarnia 1986, walks down the center stage at Lambton Mall last night after beating out 71 other girls to win the title. Observer Photo



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Congratulations and Best Wishes on the 25th Year Anniversary.

*May our community continue
strong into the future, propagating
our most Holy Greek Orthodox
faith and our glorious
Hellenic culture.*

*Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society
of Saint Demetrios
Sarnia*

We, the Youth of Sarnia, salute all who have contributed to the formation of the St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Community & congratulate you for all your contributions and hard work during the last 25 years. We know that this torch will soon fall into our hands, and we pray that we may be able to follow in your worthy footsteps.

G.O.Y.A.

**Greek Orthodox
Youth Association**

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Effie Janis

*Congratulations & Best
Wishes to our Community*



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Katina
Gus, Paul, Ellen, Theo

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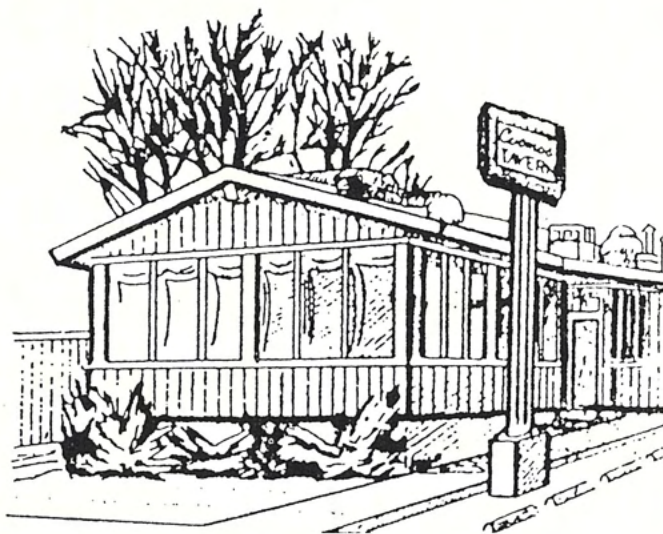
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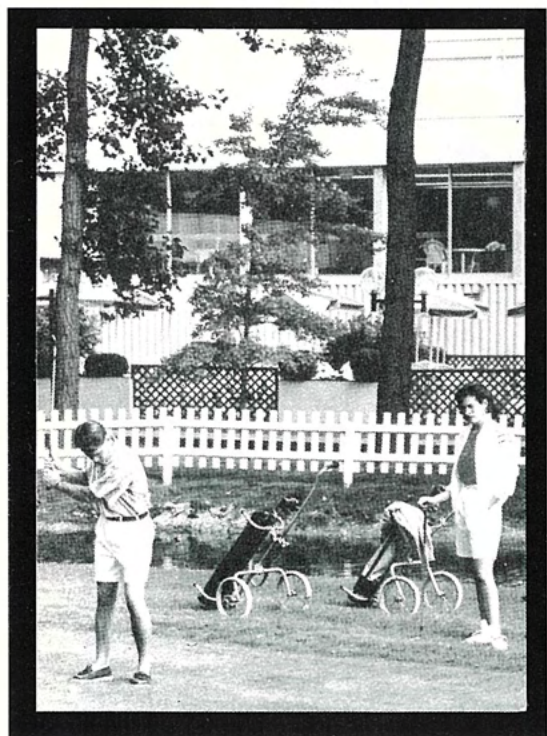


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Bill and Peter Rigakos**



*Tony Cavis and Family
would like to congratulate
St. Demetrios Church
and the Greek Community
in recognition of its
25th Anniversary.*

Congratulations on 25 Years of Success!

*May the church continue to give the community
faith and happiness!!*



**Larry, Stacy, Foti, John
Liriotakis**

*Congratulations On
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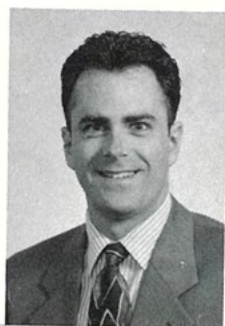
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Best Wishes
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Gebran Rizkallah
and Family*

*Best Wishes & Congratulations
on our church's
25th Anniversary*



Dennis, Sophia, Dino & John
Balatsoukas

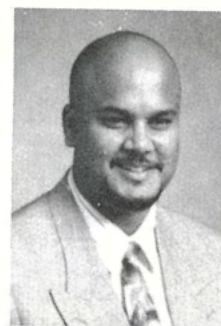
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*Best Wishes From
George, Antonia, Metaxia, John Perdakis Family*



Best Wishes From Louie Perdakis

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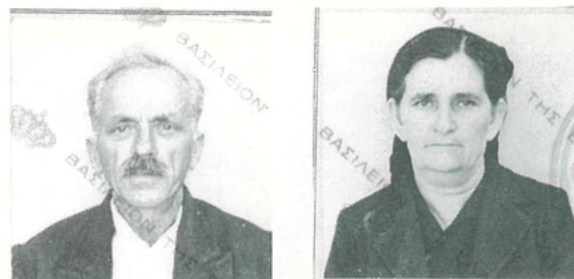
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and
Congratulations*



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Economou*



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Harry and Eleni
Makrigiannis and Family*

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**Jim, Greg & Chris
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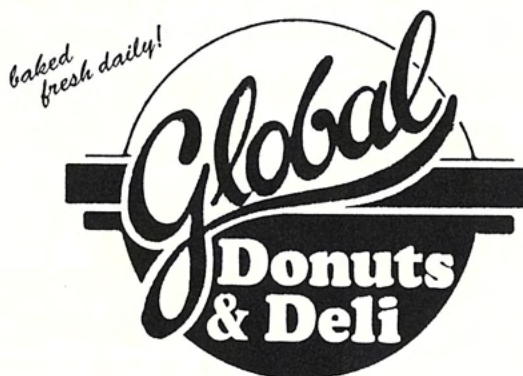
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*With St. Demetrios'
help, the Pantazis
Family wish everyone
Health, Happiness &
Wisdom.*



We should like to take this opportunity to wish a "happy birthday" to the clergy and members of Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church.

As well, we wish to express our deepest gratitude and thanks to all the participants, regardless of how small or how large their contribution, for establishing this church.

As Greek-Canadians, we are proud and, looking back, we have every right to be, because a small group of persons of the same ancestry, spirit, expectation, and hard work succeeded in building a church twenty-five years ago and, ten years later, a community hall.

As an association, we always will stand for unity, ready to promote:

Family, Patriotism, Democracy, Honour, Wisdom, and Belief with clarity of mind, knowledge, and purpose to seek the re-establishment of the vitality of the ***Hellenic Golden Era***, as exemplified by its ***Culture, Language, Education, Integrity, Compassion, Philanthropy*** and other ***Historic Achievements***, through the ***Acceptance of, Friendship with, and Hospitality*** towards ***Those Philhellenic Persons*** who display an affinity or love for the ***Continued Propagation and Renaissance*** of what scholars still recognize as the ***Wonders of the Hellenic Spirit, Culture, and Civilization.***

R. Kasparian

Robert Kasparian, President

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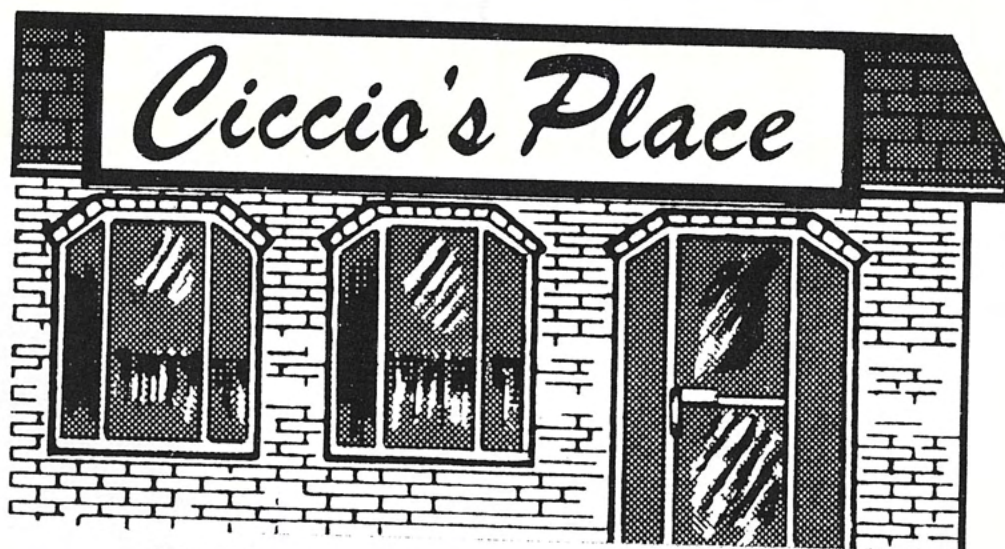
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to our
Community
on its
25th Year*



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*Congratulations & Best Wishes
To Our Greek Orthodox
Church & Community*



**Mr. & Mrs. Louis & Olga
Symeonakis**

*Congratulations on
25 Years*



TELEGADAS FAMILY

Lambros, Katina
Christina, Georgia, Louis

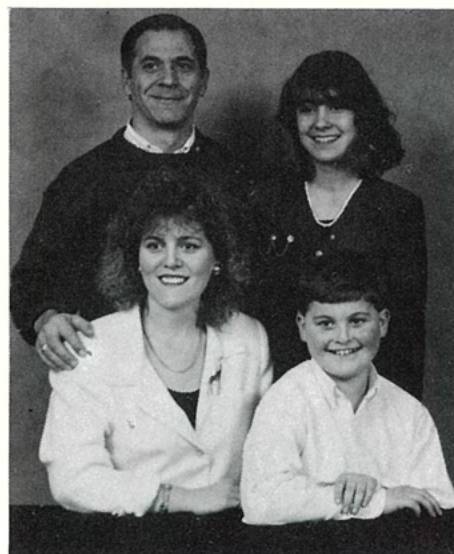
*May God Bless
our community on its
25th Anniversary
& Grant
Peace, Health and
Happiness to everyone.*

**Christopher & Vicki Pozios
& Family**

*Best Wishes & Congratulations
On
25 Great Years!*



Vicky, John
Jim, George and Peter Brodimas



*Congratulations on the 25th Anniversary of our
church. We hope the future holds Peace,
Happiness and Prosperity to our community.*

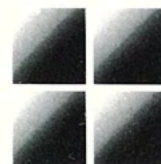
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**John, Anthoula, Vivi, Dina
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and Family*

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on our church's
25th Anniversary*

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and Family**

*We've Come A Long Way
In 25 Years Sarnia
And We're Proud To Be
Part Of It!*

**Andreas, Eleni, Varvara, &
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The 25th Anniversary Committee

*Our sincere thanks to all those
whose generous support
has made this
commemorative album possible.*

The 25th Anniversary Committee

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