



The Herald

Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Archangels • 1527 Bedford St., Stamford, CT 06905

October 2013

Reflections on National Family Life Conference

This past week about 100 faithful from throughout our Archdiocese gathered for a conference on family ministry: “Rooting and Grounding our Families in Christ and His Church.” This was a historic event in our Archdiocese, as it was the first conference of its type ever hosted by the Archdiocese, through the Center for Family Care.

Priests, ministry leaders, mental health professionals, and faithful lay people concerned about the well-being of and the church’s part in ministering to the family had an opportunity to listen to several keynote addresses, participate in workshops and a panel discussion, pray and break bread together, and learn from representatives from “flagship” parishes throughout the Archdiocese about some of the vital and transformative ministries they are offering. Some of the workshop titles included: “The Intersection of Technology and Faith: Implications for the Modern Family”; “Making Your Parish a Family”; “The Church of the Home”; and, “Making Faith Real to Our Children.”

Thursday’s schedule featured a keynote address by His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios, who spoke about the family from the perspective of Ephesians 3:14-19, and several workshops led by Jim Burns, the founder and director of HomeWord an internationally recognized Evangelical ministry for youth and family ministry.

So much was said and shared in the three days of this conference; a brief reflection cannot capture what actually transpired. However, below you will find some highlights.

- Family ministry is first and foremost about people and relationships, not programs.
- Many ecumenical resources compatible with Orthodoxy are available for family ministry.
- The primary place in which family ministry takes place is the home, not the church. The place where children learn about God, faith, values and morals is the home. The church supplements what is taught, lived and modeled in the home; it can never replace it.

- Family ministry is about being in Christ 24/7, not just on Sunday mornings.
- As Christians who belong to the Church, the body of Christ, our family is found both in the home/blood relationships AND in the parish community.
- Family is a complex issue, even when seen through the eyes of the Bible.
- We are not alone, either as families or parishes, and we need to come together to support one another.
- Children are struggling with values, meaning, purposefulness, and identity.
- Families have many distractions that pull them away from Christ and the Church, and many families no longer consider regular worship and involvement in the Church to be a top priority in their lives. How do we draw them back into the Church? How does the Church best minister to our families, given our present cultural context? What are the reasons that younger generations are not as involved as in the past?

The keynote addresses from the conference will be made available for everyone in the coming weeks on Ancient Faith Radio (www.ancientfaith.com/). Additionally, for anyone interested, two other outstanding resources for family ministry and parenting can be found at: www.homeword.com and www.family.goarch.org/.

All of us who participated in this historical conference were blessed, challenged, inspired and charged to go back into our parishes to apply what we learned, knowing that parish families have unique personalities, and one size does not fit all.

— Presvytera Kerry Pappas

[Note: Presvytera is a graduate of our Seminary, Holy Cross, a licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, and has been working in the Archdiocesan Center for Family Care since October, 2011.

This entire Conference was only possible through the generous support of Leadership 100, our Archdiocesan Endowment Fund!]

Parish Council

The Parish Council voted to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$2,500 to repair the front stone walkway to the Church Hall. This was to correct a safety hazard. Contact: George Paparis

Treasurer's Report

Dennis Vanson, our volunteer accountant, has finished working on results for the first half of 2013, from January - June. Revenues were \$300,782, exclusive of contributions from the Foundation. The contribution to surplus was \$9,062 on the same basis. As mentioned last month, our cash position was very tight in the summer months and we had to borrow \$25,000 from the Foundation, which will have to be repaid this fall. The hope is that the Festival proceeds will enable us to do so. It remains important that pledges are paid evenly through the year to avoid cash problems. Contact: George Khouri

Stewardship Report

Phil & Elizabeth Costas did an incredible job preparing and serving the breakfast for the parish marking the beginning of the Church School year on Sept. 15! It was very much enjoyed and well-attended. Afterwards, many stayed to assist in the clean-up task. A large number of people have once again signed up to help at the Festival and the great results are provided below and put in many hours of their time and talents. As always, thanks to Festival Co-Chairs Margaret and Steve Fornaciari and their hard-working Committee for another amazing effort. 232 households have pledged so far this year, promising \$284,792. Thanks to all! Contact: George Khouri

Maintenance Committee

The flag stone sidewalk approaching the office entrance has been completely rebuilt, thanks to funds from the Foundation. New equipment has been purchased for the classrooms: 2 more white boards, 2 32 inch flat panel television monitors and 2 blue-ray video recorders (that also play DVD's). Contact: Gregg Demetros

Master Planning Committee

Mark your calendars for Sunday October 27th following Liturgy please. Jerry Minetos, our strategic planning advisor, will address the entire parish. Jerry will report his findings from the parish interview and questionnaire phase that took place the first half of this year. His report will answer many questions, chief among them - do we as a parish want to pursue a process of renewal - of campus, ministries, and staff? There will be opportunity for questions and answers. Please make every effort to attend. Contact: Jason Konidaris

Blessing of Animals

Our 2nd annual public Blessing of Animals will take place Sunday Oct 6 at 2 pm on the front lawn of the parish. Bring your beloved pet(s) and join us for worship in thanksgiving for all animals of God's marvelous creation, recognizing their blessed companionship in our lives. Open to everyone - invite your neighbors and friends to join us! Contact: Jane Vorvis 203-348-4216

Our 2013 Greek Festival was a Success!

***Enjoy some photos included
in this newsletter.***



Dinner line at the Festival

MINISTRIES

Greek Festival is a Big Success!

The Archangels annual Greek Fest was a wonderful show of fellowship and collaboration and the end result was a celebration enjoyed by all. The warm weather brought out many families to enjoy the carnival rides, fabulous food and lively Greek music over the four-day event. It was exciting to see so many parishioners and their families, as well as to welcome first-timers, many with young children. Co-chairs Margaret and Steve Fornaciari and their planning committee worked since January to pull together the festival and cannot be thanked enough for their long hours, creativity and hard work. Said Margaret, "Steve and I could not have done this without our committee and all the volunteers. It takes a church family to run a festival and every task was as important as the next. Thanks to everyone who helped out with their time and donations!" New features this year, especially the souvlaki grill outside, were big successes. The festival committee was pleased to donate two pans of leftover food to a Stamford-based residential program for boys in state care operated by Domus Kids, a local charity. Congratulations to the winners of the raffle – the 2014 Audi - Freda Stanton; the two \$500 Amex gift cards – Donut Delight; and the \$250 Amex gift card, Geri and Peter Poulos. We look forward to everyone joining our 2014 festival team!



Preschoolers watch Carnival set up for Festival (Sept 25)



Women bake Spanakopita (spinach pie)

Seniors

Returning from their summer vacations, the Archangels Seniors enjoyed a delicious luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 11, which included hors d'oeuvres of wine, meatballs, and cheese. For the luncheon meeting on Wednesday October 9, the featured speaker will be Consultant Dan Katz, who will give a slide presentation on Medicare and Obamacare. A commitment has been made to attend the matinee of "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Kveskin Theater followed by dinner at the Royal Green restaurant on November 17 at a combined cost (theater tickets and dinner) of only \$50/person. All Orthodox Christians who are 55 plus years old are welcome to come join the Archangels Seniors. Contact: George Hasapis at 203-966-2534.

Ladies Philoptochos Society

The Archangels Ladies Philoptochos Society is gearing up for an active fall season. We are soliciting donations of gift items for Turkey Bingo. Not sure what to donate? A list of great things to donate is up on the Philoptochos bulletin board. This year, the proceeds will be evenly split among Homes for the Troops, Family Reentry, Inc., The Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County, Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care of Fairfield County, and Alzheimer's Association. Plans also are underway for the annual Parish Feast Day Vesper service reception on Nov. 7. At our September meeting, we were pleased to be able to give some financial assistance to a terminal cancer patient who wished to return to Greece, and also

approved donations to the Hellenic College/Holy Cross Scholarship Fund, and to the Retired Clergy and Widowed Presbyteres Benevolent Fund. We sponsored the coffee hour on Sept 22 and want to thank parishioners who made donations towards humanitarian relief in Cyprus. Approximately \$125 was raised. Chapter members attended the Direct Archdiocesan District (DAD) Philoptochos event at Annunciation Church on Saturday, Sept 28. Our next meeting is October 1 at 7pm. All ladies of the parish are welcome to join Philoptochos and attend our meetings. We now have 102 members! Contact: Marion Vanson

Bible Study

The next cycle of Bible Study for adults continues on Monday evenings, focusing on Genesis, a key book of the Old Testament that helps explain the origins of our universe, human life & its purpose, our relationship to creation, and the many sides of family life. Fr. Harry will offer presentations on pre-assigned chapters and then lead an open-ended discussion.

Upcoming:

- Oct 7 – Genesis 3 – Ancestral Sin
- Oct 14 – No Class (Columbus Day)
- Oct 21 – Genesis 4-5 – From Cain to Noah
- Oct 28 – Genesis 6-9 – Noah & the Flood

New members are welcome at any time. Bring a Bible and join us! Contact: Fr. Harry



Women prepare Gemista (stuffed tomatoes)

Digital Recordings on Web Site

Hundreds of digitally recorded Bible Studies, Adult Education sessions & Sunday Sermons that have been re-mastered by a professional musician are now being gradually posted on our parish web site, www.archangelsgoc.org. These cover many topics – a survey of the Old & New Testaments; Church History, Worship & Doctrine; the Psalms as the Book of Prayer; specific topics (such as “Tradition & traditions”); along with Sunday sermons over the last 4 years. Check it out and share with others! Contact: Fr. Harry

Church School

The Church School year is off to a vibrant start! Many thanks to all families who helped to begin our program with tremendous enthusiasm and overwhelming participation! An additional heartfelt thank you to the Parish Council for starting our school year off with a lovely community breakfast celebration on Sept 15! Our Church School will be hosting its annual Open House on Sunday, October 6, 2013. Parents are welcome to receive their children from their classrooms after Holy Liturgy on this day. The Open House will conclude with a cake-cutting ceremony in the Church Hall. We are still welcoming new registrations ~ please contact Jane Vorvis at 203-348-4216 to enroll your child. Our school year promises to be the best one yet. Parents, please feel free to share your ideas as we begin planning for our upcoming special events and features. Also: remember to have each child bring 1 non-perishable food item every week to church. Contact: Evelyn Biliadis



Greek coffee station



Greek imports

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Archangels' Church School Program

Last year's Church School year afforded many successful accomplishments that were a result of the combined efforts of faculty, children, and their families. We are so proud of our community and its effort to develop and support the spiritual development of children and the adults who have a hand in raising and teaching them!

Some special highlights of the 2012-2013 Church School year include the following:

October: A successful Open House and Cake-Cutting Ceremony was held to initiate the year

December: Church School Christmas Exhibit provided a beautiful display of student work in the Church Hall throughout the holidays and start of the new year

March: Clean Monday Reception, co-hosted by the Greek School and Church School Ministries. Father Harry provided spiritual education to parents through a "Preparing for Lent" workshop while simultaneously Presbytera Kerry led a Lenten workshop for children on that day

March: Dr. Evelyn Biliadis was the invited keynote speaker at the Direct Archdiocesan District's regional workshop for Christian educators and youth ministry leaders from the New York and Connecticut region. 12-15 teachers and parents from our parish attended this full day workshop, alongside many others from the region

March: Joint celebration of the Great Feast of the Annunciation and Greek Independence Day sponsored by the Greek School and Church School ministries

April: Our Church School put forth Dina Haralabidis, one of our 7th grade students, to represent our Parish at the district St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

May: Our Good Friday Retreat was a tremendous success as close to 100 students, parents, teachers, and parishioners gathered together to observe and honor this sacred day

Ongoing: Our Music Ministry led by Emily Skoutelas taught our students various hymns and liturgical responses throughout the entire year and our students showcased what they learned during Holy Liturgy on numerous occasions

May God continue to bless our Church School program in its efforts, development, and mission!
Contact: Evelyn Biliadis

GOYA

On September 21, GOYAns enjoyed a fun-filled day at Holiday Hill in Prospect, CT. This regional event attracted hundreds of GOYAns from the tristate area, where they enjoyed canoeing, swimming, baseball, volleyball, and lots and lots of great food, including an array of ice cream choices. Thank you to the organizers from St. Barbara's Church of Orange. The next GOYA event is the dance to be hosted by Holy Trinity of Bridgeport on Friday, October 25th. If your teen missed the GOYA registration, please contact Bill Giantomidis at billgiant1@yahoo.com or call the church office at 203-348-4216 for a registration form. Teens between 7th and 12th grades are encouraged to join. Many thanks to the GOYAns who turned out to work at the Greek Fest – serving food in the dinner line, cleaning tables, selling hot dogs, chips & drinks at the carnival outdoors – and who enjoyed themselves!

Greek School

Greek School is officially in session! Open House is October 8. Please sign up to meet with your teachers. On that evening, we will be making spanakopita with the children in the Church Hall with Kiria Nikki. All children are welcome; there is a \$10 per person donation towards the materials needed and for the dinner. All are welcome to attend – please RSVP to Rebecca@Kelesidis.com. Please join us on October 20 after the Divine Liturgy; we will commemorate Kiria Agathi Makrides for her dedication to our school for over 30 years. Contact: Rebecca Kelesidis, Kiria Kiki Bellos, and Dr Evelyn Biliadis

Hope/Joy

Hope & Joy, (for pre-school children through 6th grade), is excited to kick off the year with our first event coming up on Saturday, October 5, at 12:00pm (rain date 10/12). We will meet for a picnic and a hike as we renew our ministry and celebrate the beauty and wonder of God's creation at the Stamford Museum and Nature Center (39 Scofieldtown Road in Stamford). We will meet at the picnic area adjacent to the playground. Admission for non-members of the museum will be discounted to \$3 for children and \$6 for parents. Grandparents are welcomed and encouraged to attend as well. Please RSVP to Chris and Luisa Nanos at cnanos@optonline.net or 203-609-0749. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there!

IOCC

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) supports one of the largest established networks to deliver life-saving humanitarian aid inside Syria where more than 7 million people are currently in need of assistance. In addition to its work inside Syria, IOCC staff is working regionally to address the growing needs of more than 1.8 million refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Armenia, as well as people in need in those host countries. Responding to one of the worst humanitarian and refugee crises in history, IOCC is one of the few international non-governmental organizations (NGO's) working on the ground in Syria to provide aid to people who have been displaced inside the country by the civil war. In providing this aid, IOCC works in close partnership with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Antioch and All the East. Since February 2012, IOCC has provided relief to more than 840,000 people affected by

the crisis through programs that include emergency aid, health and nutrition services, shelter, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, economic recovery, aid to infants and children and psychosocial support. Your support can help even more families get the food, shelter and other services they need to survive this crisis and others around the world. IOCC is urging the public to pray for our neighbors in need, and to assist by assembling personal hygiene kits and infant kits for distribution to displaced families. Instructions for preparing Emergency Kits may be found at: www.iocc.org/kits. Contact: Nick and Christine Chivily

Little Angels

Contact Anastasia Valassis (avalassis@gmail.com, 203.594.1309) if you are interested in joining parish parents of infants and toddlers. An email list is being compiled for communication about our meetings and other pertinent topics.

Wishlist

Preschool is in need of woodchips for the playground. Contact: Kiriaki Yoranidis.

Food Collection

Please remember to bring non-perishable food items with you each time you come to worship: canned tuna, pasta & sauce, macaroni & cheese, soup, peanut butter, rice & beans, juice, cereal, pancake mix & syrup, jelly, applesauce, fruits & vegetables, milk, meats, stew & chili, and instant coffee, tea bags, and hot cocoa. Everything goes to the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County. Thanks! Contact: Penny or Debbie Nanos



Carnival rides



Raffle drawing



Taking a well-deserved meal break



Making Souvlaki (shish-kebab) and Gyros



Making Loukoumadhes



Greek dancing was enjoyed by all

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

AHEPA

Our next chapter meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, October 9th at the Church of the Annunciation. Please make reservations for our “Passing the Torch” fundraiser on October 26th, a dinner-dance at the Norwalk Inn for the benefit of our Greek Schools and the Greek Relief Fund. It will be very similar to the very popular event we had last year. We plan to honor the Father/Son or Father/Son-in-Law pairs who are AHEPAns in any chapter. Prospective honorees include but are not limited to George Adamis and John Skoparantzios, Arthur and Nicholas Kiratsous, Jack and John Louizos, Peter and Chris Nanos and

Nick Soulios, Theophilos Nikolis and Angel Muniz, Stelios and John Petsagourakis, George Psathas and Vasilios Diakogeorgiou, John and Peter Ramoglou, Evans Stergianis and Tim Hartch, Alkis and Steven Valassis, George and Aris Crist, Van and Tom Hatzis, Fr. Constantine and Nikiforos Mathews, Fr. George and Peter and Paul Poulos, and Nicholas and Alex Nikas. Members who get their son or father to join by October 10 will be honored as well. For reservations, contributions (album ads) or membership applications, contact Nicholas Nikas 203-554-5570 or niketes@yahoo.com.



Grandparents gather on Solea for Blessing on Grandparents Day (Sept 8)



Church tour

Seniors enjoying lunch (Sept 11)

