



THE VOICE

CELEBRATING CHARLOTTE'S GREEK COMMUNITY NEWS AND HISTORY

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ΤΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΟΣ

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HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



<https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityGreekOrthodoxCathedralCharlotte/>

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JAN/FEB 2020

The Passing of Father Tommy Vlahos, 1939 - 2020



January 8, 2020: The funeral service for Father Tommy Vlahos. He served Holy Trinity as Associate Priest for more than thirty years. The funeral was officiated by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios (center right), many area priests, Father Vasileios, Father Christian, and Deacon George (see page 8).

The Archbishops at Holy Trinity

January 28, 2020: His Eminence Elpidophoros Archbishop of America (left); His Eminence Alexios Metropolitan of Atlanta (center); and His Beatitude Chrysostomos II, Archbishop of Cyprus (right) meet in Charlotte. See pages 10-12 for more on their historic visit to Holy Trinity.



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THE EDITOR'S NOTE by George Zogzas voice@htgo.org



Welcome back. Two very extraordinary events occurred within the Holy Trinity Community in January. On the 28th, Holy Trinity and the Orthodox community of Charlotte hosted His Beatitude Chrysostomos II, Archbishop of Cyprus and His Eminence Elpidophoros, Archbishop of America. Archbishop Chrysostomos came to Charlotte for a medical procedure with a local doctor. He was accompanied by a personal physician. See page 10.

On January 3rd, Father Tommy Vlahos died after several trips into and out of the hospital recently. He celebrated his 80th birthday in November. For those of us who have come to this community since 1982, we have not known Holy Trinity without Father Tommy. He served as associate priest, wrote for *The Voice*, and advised various ministries. His was a life of service to others, and with Presvytera Iannoula always at his side, he ministered to the community celebrating the happiest moments, and consoling during the darkest of times.

My favorite memories are of Father at the chanter's stand. From there, his melodic and sweet voice boomed throughout the Cathedral. Too bad *The Voice* is a print publication and not a social media. I have been listening to the recording from the 1988 Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians Conference held at Holy Trinity. The climax of the conference is the choir members participating with the local clergy, Father Tommy and Father Phaethon Constantinides (Father "C"), celebrating the Divine Liturgy. You can hear Father Tommy's strong and full voice, filled with passion but under control. He switches effortlessly between the Greek and the English, the chanting never wavering. He will be missed.

Thanks for reading and see you next time.

GZ

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600 East Boulevard

Charlotte, NC 28203

704-334-4771

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The Voice is the bimonthly publication about Holy Trinity, its parishioners, their faith, and the community

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A LONG PATH TO UNDERSTANDING BIBLE PASSAGE (ANOTHER IN SERIES)*by Rev. Christian Siskos, Associate Priest and Youth Director*

There are certain verses in the Scriptures that make you cringe and really cause you to reevaluate if you're even reading the Bible at all. I have found a lot of these verses in the book of Psalms. The verses are usually shocking in nature — which I kind of like, actually. It shows the authors of these poems to be genuine and realistic — even if it can at times be a little scandalous.

One such verse that I'm sure you've heard of before comes to us from Psalm 137:9 and it reads as follows, "Blessed shall be the one who takes your infants and dashes them against the rock."

Shocking, isn't it? Kind of sounds like the author is advocating for the murdering of children.

Well, before we dive in, let's set up a guideline for ourselves when reading this verse — and really any verse in the Scriptures. First, let's try to understand the historical context. Second, let's see how the Church has incorporated this text into her life. Third, let's see how the Saints have embraced this verse. These three guidelines give us a better lens which to view Scripture passages in general.

So, historical context. Historical events obviously took place in a specific time and place. And these historical events are tied to a particular context. And taking an event outside of its context is just a recipe for misunderstanding.

It's kind of like high school prom. If we extract the context from prom,

then it's just another party where a group of people gather together, eat, and dance. But if we understand prom in its historical context, then we can see it as a coming of age gathering — a transitional shift into adulthood because of the looming responsibility of college.

Psalm 137 should also be read from its historical context. In this Psalm we find the Jewish people hurting, they are in deep pain and lamenting because they have been exiled from their homeland, following the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem.

This Psalm embodies the depth of those emotions — and like a people displaced from their homes, their yearning and cries are uncensored and unfiltered. Which is why we can have verses that showcase: (1) Grief, "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and we wept." (2) Nostalgia, "We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof." (3) Revenge, "O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed." (4) Loathing, "Blessed shall be the one who takes your infants and dashes them against the rock..." All in the same Psalm.

This historical context allows us to empathize with the Jewish people. They yearn to return back to their homeland and their only respite is in the hope that God will avenge them... which brings us to the Church's incorporation of this Psalm into her life.

In the Christian Orthodox tradition, this Psalm is chanted in the morning services for the three Sundays leading up to Great Lent. By incorporating this Psalm during this season, the Church reminds the faithful Christians that, like the Jewish people, we too are living in exile — not in exile of some temporal city, but in exile of a kingdom, sojourning the earth as foreigners

because our citizenship is in heaven. We commemorate this exile of Adam and Eve on the last Sunday before Great Lent begins. For such reason the colors in our Churches darken, the hymns take a repentant tone, and we embrace a 40 day period of fasting as we prepare for Holy Week and the Resurrection — as we look to the Gates of Paradise being reopened.

This still leaves us with the whole dashing infants upon rocks, bit. So what does it mean? Well, it has to do with negative thoughts. We encounter them daily. From the moment we rise from sleep, thoughts are constantly oscillating in our minds.

Negative thoughts can be interesting. They seem so powerful at times, but we know them to be ephemeral, incorporeal, like thin air. How could thoughts ever do harm? And yet some of us have struggled with thoughts for years. The Saints know this — they have come to understand that the majority of our struggles and addictions initially begin with negative thoughts.

This is where the interpretation for this particular verse comes in. When the Psalmist says that "Blessed shall be the one who takes your infants and dashes them against the rock," it means that blessed is the person that at the outset of a negative thought, at the very beginning, at the very inkling of a thought that can pollute our mind, they are dashed upon the rock, which is Jesus Christ, as Psalm 18:2 says, "The Lord is my rock."

Some of our thoughts generate filthy desires. Like Christ said in the Scriptures, "Out of the heart come evil thoughts — these are what defile a person." (Matthew 15:19-20) It is prudent, then, to be watchful of our thoughts and to cut them off at the start.

As St. Theodore the Great Ascetic wrote; "When assent [approval of the thought] persists it stimulates the passion [desire] in question. Then, little by little, it leads to the actual committing of the sin. This is why the prophet calls blessed those who dash the children of Babylon against the rocks."

It's important to not engage with these negative and intrusive thoughts. Engagement with them, or any sort of conversation with them only causes the infant thought to mature and develop. Disregard them completely and turn to Christ.

Here are three alternatives to engaging with infant negative thoughts and dashing them upon the rock of Christ;

1. At the first appearance of a negative thought, turn to Christ and call on the name of the Lord by saying, "Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, save me." If the thought persists. Turn to step two.

2. Recite a verse from Scripture. I particularly like the verse "Satan, get behind." This is the method our Lord used in the desert. When confronted by the temptations of the devil, Jesus Christ recited passages from the Old Testament. Find your go-to passages, memorize them and recite them daily.

3. Change your environment. This is very helpful when we align with particularly challenging thoughts. This could mean taking a walk, taking a shower, calling a friend.

As the old saying goes, "Failing to plan is planning to fail." Have a game plan and implement it. Holiness is a grueling process and it begins with one thought at a time.

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DOGS AND SPIRITUALITY: SEEING OURSELVES THROUGH OUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

by Rev. Dr. Jonathan Mettasophia, Associate and Youth Priest



As many of you know, I am a great lover of animals, especially dogs. So much so, that I even chose my dissertation topic based on my desire to explore the relationship

between spirituality and the care for our pets. As part of this research I spent a great deal of time at the Communities at New Skete. Two Orthodox monastic communities in the Hudson River Valley of New York not far from the Vermont border. For the past few decades these communities have bred German Shepherd dogs and created a training program for dogs that is informed by the wisdom of the Eastern Christian spiritual tradition. I wanted to share a brief account of these communities and some of the wisdom I gleaned from my time there.

Set atop a hill, on narrow dirt road, is a beautiful, but sparse collection

of buildings. Upon entering the main property and to the right one can see a relatively small, barn shaped building named the Maurice Sendak Training Building. Outside the building is a large, grassy field, surrounded by a black metal fence, in which the dog sessions training takes place.

Further up the road, also on the right there is a smaller building, with a more industrial look with large kennels off to the rear right of the building, and additional kennels connected to the front of the building. This is the breeding program building. At different times of the year, the dogs are brought to this facility to breed. When they are ready to give birth, mother and puppies return for care and socialization.

Across the road is a large grassy area that leads further up the hill. Parallel to the road in an area of the front lawn is a monastery's cemetery, where one might see a small pack of puppies from the breeding program playing or being socialized. The prominent position of the cemetery speaks to the common monastic practice of remembrance of death. About this space the monks write,

"It is not as grim as it sounds: In addition to our monks and nuns, many of our friends wish to be buried at an Orthodox monastery, and the cemetery is a salutary reminder of mortality. The simple wooden crosses keep quiet watch over a peaceful landscape of rolling terrain filled with birds, bushes, trees, and ever-changing colors that follow the seasons. And the puppies don't seem to mind. We let them play in the open section of the yard, always respectful of the nearby graves, but also secure in the knowledge that our departed brothers and sisters would happily approve."

This passage speaks of the normalcy of the presence of the dogs in the life of the monastery and their prominent role in the community.

Further up the road is the main monastery buildings. In the center of a small circular drive is a modest chapel, dedicated to the feast of the Transfiguration, built by the monks when they arrived at this present location. It has a rustic look, with dark wood and burgundy coloring. Sitting atop the cruciform structure, are seven traditional onion domes—each crowned with an Orthodox three bar cross. Just across the circular drive is a small bell tower with several bells, which are melodically tolled together to signify the start of worship services. To the right of the bell tower in a concrete path that leads up to the larger church, dedicated to Holy Wisdom (Christ). The building, dark red with brown roof—also adorned with a few onion domes—is built in a basilica style, long and rectangular. Set just behind the bell tower and the church is the monastic cloister and the main monastery building. It is in this serene setting that I learned of the depth of spiritual wisdom that can come in the midst of raising dogs.

Dogs are keenly attuned to our interior state—as one of the nuns reported in conversation. This nun said that on the few occasions when a dog was assigned to her, she found it taking the role of a mirror. When she was sad, it comforted. When she was mad, it scurried. When she was annoyed, it avoided her. She claimed that if we pay close attention to our dogs, we will likely come to a better understanding of what is going on inside us—perhaps something we have not yet noticed ourselves. She recalled an instance where just that thing happened. She recounted that once, when she was quite frustrated about an email she had recently read, without being totally aware of it, the dog refused to come over. She said that the incident made her think about what might be happening inside her that the dog could sense, but she could not.

This sister is not alone in her experience. It is a common insight gleaned through the experiences that the monks and the nuns have had over the years. Through their relationships and interactions with their dogs, the monks have come to profound self-awareness. As in the lives and saying of the desert fathers and mothers the dog can speak a word of wisdom to the monk or nun, which perhaps is precisely what was needed in that instance for transformation. The monks write,

Our experience teaches us that relating to a dog can be profoundly spiritual...many of the ideas we hold about dogs have a philosophical and spiritual basis that can be a catalyst for personal change and transformation. Over the many years working with dogs, we have been struck repeatedly by how dogs mirror us back to ourselves in unmistakable ways. Because dogs are guileless and utterly themselves, they lack the capacity to deceive. If we take seriously the words they speak to us about ourselves, we stand face-to-face with our own truth. When we pay attention to these words inscribed on their bodies, in their expressions, in the way they approach and interact with us, they can stimulate a new level of consciousness.

The monks have spent many decades watching and learning from their dogs—often about themselves.

According to the Monks of New Skete "dogs mirror us back to ourselves in unmistakable ways" and "instinctively observe and interpret the slightest movements of the body and soul." *"Dogs find our soft spots, keeping us in touch with a more honest vision of ourselves that doesn't buy its own façade."* Through them, if one is willing, a deep self-understanding is possible. This self-understanding is the fundamental goal of authentic humanity—which as we saw above is nothing more than what a monk is striving to be. How does the dog help us to find our authentic humanity? The Monks reply,

Being authentically human means learning to give ourselves unselfishly and ungrudgingly. Isn't it surprising how the nature of a dog evokes this from us in unique and compelling ways? In the ordinary routine of a relationship with a dog, through the discipline and responsibility it entails, we learn about ourselves, about nature, about God and the spiritual path we are on, in way that would be otherwise unavailable to us.

As a result of all their years working with dogs, the Monks of New Skete are no longer surprised by what they can learn from their canine companions. More than what they have learned practically about breeding and training dogs, they have and continue to learn about themselves. They state,

It is hardly surprising that our dogs have taught us much about ourselves, in many subtle ways showing us how we ought to be, as well as how we ought not to be. Because of their association with humans, an association that the stories we mentioned above show to be as old as human consciousness itself, dogs are in a unique position to offer humanity a reflection of itself.

Knowing oneself is significant, but it is not the only task of the human being according to the rich Orthodox tradition of which the monks and nuns are representative. Loving God, neighbor, and the world around us is also of preeminent concern. The monks have claimed that this love is fostered in part through their relationships with the dogs. Perhaps in the midst of our spiritual journey, we can look more deeply into our own hearts to see how we might live this depth of wisdom.

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PLEASE return the "pre-filled" pledge forms that were sent to you in December. This allows us to keep our records updated. If you need another copy, please call the office or visit the Stewardship table at the Sunday coffee hours. We need 100% participation!

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTARY

by Peter Thomopoulos



Greetings to all Holy Trinity Cathedral clergy, staff and parishioners. I would like to begin by thanking the previous Parish Council President Dino Pappas for his time and talents

over the last decade. His leadership and insight will be missed by the board. Furthermore, I am humbled to be selected as the Parish Council President. A role for which so many more talented and experienced people have preceded me. I ask for your patience and support as I learn the intricacies of the job. To all those that have preceded me in this role I ask for your advice and feedback as we embark on this journey and I try to live up to the example you've set.

When I consider the current state of our Cathedral, I am encouraged and optimistic. We have accomplished so much over the last few years. We have nearly paid off the entirety of costs associated with the courtyard and Cathedral renovation. This has created an accessible and inviting facility for all inside and outside of our community. We have been blessed to be joined by our third full time priest. Additionally, our parish continues to grow and reaching numbers we haven't seen in over 20 years. I am encouraged to see so many new members joining our parish.

My sincere goal is to embrace this momentum and help our community reach even greater heights. The key to this growth is becoming financially independent of the festival. I firmly believe this is possible, as I've witnessed the continued growth of stewardship. To achieve financial independence, we need the full commitment of every parishioner of this church. We need everyone to decide they are going to hear the calling of Christ and offer up the gifts that we've been given. I encourage all of you to get involved in the many ministries of the church. The experience is eye opening and will help you understand these dollars are directly invested in enriching the services we all depend on and expect to be there in times of need.

To be independent from the festival is to be free to fully reinvest the profits of the festival into our facilities to better serve our youth. It means we can confidently commit to further development of our ministries and services provided. It means we can have genuine conversations about master plans and expansions of our facilities. I'm asking you to take just a few moments and dream about what we could achieve if we all hear the calling and commit to doing our part. I pray you hear the message and spread the word because with your help we can truly do incredible work to further the richness of our faith and cultural heritage. May God bless you and your family and may He be the guide for all we do in this world.

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PHILOPTOCHOS by Pam Bostian

Our annual Vasilopita fundraiser was held on January 5th and 6th. Thank you to all for your generous donations! Offerings collected were donated to St. Basil Academy. Saint Basil Academy is the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children in need. The academy provides a loving Christian environment where resident children are nurtured to adulthood.

A Baby Shower in celebration of Father Christian's and Presbytera Victoria's new arrival was hosted by Philoptochos and the entire community on February 1st. A light lunch of delicious hors d'oeuvres and cake was served.



Many gifts and comforts for the new-born were presented to the proud parents-to-be!

Our New Membership Drive was held at the Nordstrom Cafe on Tuesday, February 11th. Fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Seven new members were added to our Agia Elpis chapter.

Our Apokries Dinner - Dance was held on February 22nd at Father "C" Hall (see nearby). A buffet dinner was served. Live music was provided and a costume contest with prizes held. All proceeds collected will benefit Philoptochos' "Feed the Hungry" programs.



At top: Father Vasileios and Father Christian performing the Vasilopita cutting. Above, left: Presvytera Victoria and Father Christian at the Community Baby Shower. Below: Members at the New Membership Drive at the Nordstrom Cafe.



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SUNDAY SCHOOL: 3 TEACHERS TURN THE SPOTLIGHT ON THEIR CLASSES

9th Grade – by Stephanie Ross

The core curriculum for the 9th grade class is “The Way, the Truth, and the Life.” In this class, we strive to provide a basic understanding of our faith in lessons that both inform and inspire. In doing so, this class endeavors to plant the students firmly in the life-giving soil of Orthodox spiritual understanding and guide them on the path to spiritual maturity. Led by Stephanie Ross and George Ziozios, the daily classes begin with a prayer to bless the work of our students and then go on to read and discuss a chapter in the book titled *The Creed: Basic Teachings of the Greek Orthodox Church* by Rev. Constantine N. Leftheris, Rev. George Nicosin, and Presbytera Freida Upson. The book separates The Creed, as spoken in the Divine Liturgy, sentence by sentence and delves into the spiritual meaning, history, and significance of each line individually. In so doing, the students learn in more depth about, and participate in discussions regarding, the Ecumenical councils, the Holy Tradition, the sacraments, the differences between the Orthodox Church and other Christian and non-Christian religions, and dual nature of Christ as God and man, among other things. Further, the ninth graders have been actively involved in various projects as well. Outside of the classroom, they have participated in service projects, such as the Fall Service Project and donation collections. In class, the students are scheduled to participate in the preparation of a meal for the homeless of Charlotte.

2nd Grade – by Anna Pappas Georgalis

Our second grade students are having a great year learning and growing in our faith. Thus far, we have learned and discussed our beliefs that:

- All people need love
- God loves us all and gave us Jesus
- Jesus wants us to love God and each other
- God wants parents to love their children and children to love their parents
- Marriage is the sacrament of love
- Icons show our love for God
- Jesus wants us to show forgiveness to one another

Additionally, we have spent time discussing our Church’s special feast days, as they occur during the year. We will also be exploring the notion of love in our Orthodox faith, and how serving others, being respectful and following rules are acts of love.

I am very proud of all of the students, as they have been showing love, respect, and enthusiasm as we learn about God.

11th Grade Catechism – by Drew Dudley

This course calls students to learn from each other, through round table discussions, led by current events and the students’ personal questions. This class helps the 11th grade students apply Orthodox teachings to everyday life.

Each catechism teacher strives to provide our children with the building blocks of our Orthodox faith, which, at its core, is a love for our Savior Jesus Christ. Each year, from Pre-K through elementary grades, to middle and high school grades, our kids learn specific facets of our faith, which we hope will provide them with the spiritual armor they can wear as they move into adulthood.

Our younger students participate in more visual, aural, and tactile exercises that familiarize them with many of the stories of Christ and the Saints. This is like a farmer tilling the land to make it more fertile so that when it is time to sow, the seed will take root. By the time our kids are GOYA age, the subject matter is more mature, and we start to employ more verbal, logical action exercises to aid students in their catechetical journey. This age is starting to explore deeper relationships outside of their immediate family, and they are faced with an ever-broadening spectrum of ideas. If you observe TV shows they watch, social media they interact with, and friendships they form at school or within our community, it is quite different from what they were when our kids were in HOPE and JOY. Change will continue as our kids venture off to college or as they start their new vocation. In short, throughout this time, they are learning how to be adults, and like all, making mistakes along the way. Non-permanent mistakes are learning opportunities.

Our high school kids are each their own person, yet they still live under their parents’ roof and are subject to their family’s rules and routines. They are trying to figure out who they are, with constraints, and a large part of their identity is still tied to their role as child of parent. As the constraints diminish, they will experiment with what works for them, which may manifest in small deviations from the things their families did, to what might seem like an outright rejection of any practice from their childhood. I am writing this on the Friday before the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. None of us want to see our kids go to extremes in an effort to realize who they are going to be as an adult, but this parable reminds us that God will always welcome us with open arms after finding our way back Home [Church].

In the eleventh grade, we encourage our students to interact, and share their ideas. I share my moments of ignorance and shortcomings from time-to-time to let them know we all started from somewhere and we all make mistakes. We read the daily Epistle and Gospel readings each Sunday and then we break them down so we get context about who is talking to whom, and what the underlying messages might be. We then take these ancient instructions and ask how they are relevant today, and to us individually. In many instances, we find passages that we read correlate to some aspect of the Divine Liturgy, Iconography, Church Architecture, Traditions and sayings of the Fathers. As a convert to the Orthodox Faith, I find it fascinating how interwoven Theology is throughout these aspects, and we try to show our students that the Faith is deep, thoughtful, ancient, tested, repeated, and above all, Truth.

Granted, it is not every Sunday that we have lively conversations with a lot of participation. Every now and then, though, we hit on a topic where many want to contribute to the conversation. When our kids venture off to the next phase in their lives, we want them to be prepared to have open discussions, and not to be embarrassed about their Faith, and not to be swayed. I fully expect each one will at some point go through such trials with varying intensity. Hopefully they will remember our conversations at an opportune time through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and will remember that Jesus and His Church loves us and will prepare the feast for their return.

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Father Tommy Vlahos His Passing and A Remembrance



Photos are courtesy of The Vlahos family, the Holy Trinity Archives, and The Voice staff.

Fr. Tommy Vlahos, 80, passed away on Friday, January 3, 2020. He was born in Stenoma, Evritanias Greece on November 17, 1939, son of the late Fotini and Deonisos Vlahos. Fr. Tommy was married on June 2, 1968 in Greece and moved to Fayetteville, NC shortly afterwards. He worked for a few family restaurants in Fayetteville before moving to Charlotte in 1972 where he eventually opened Sedgefield Restaurant. In 1977, Fr. Tommy moved back to Greece with his family to continue his education to become a priest. In 1981, he moved back to Charlotte to become the parish priest for Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral where he served until his retirement in 2006. After his retirement, he still spent most of his time at Holy Trinity assisting the other priests and chanting during the services. In his free time Fr. Tommy enjoyed fishing and spending time with his family and friends. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather who touched the lives of many in the Charlotte community.

Fr. Tommy is survived by his wife of fifty-one years, Presbyteria Ioanna Vlahos; children, Danny Vlahos and wife, Sandy and Fay Zaharopoulos and husband, George; grandchildren, Taxe, Panos and Demi Vlahos, Jenny and Kostas Zaharopoulos. He is also survived by his nieces, Kikie Manalis and husband, George, their daughter, Nasia, and Faye Kefalas and husband, Danny. He was

predeceased by his sisters, Maria Triantafillis and husband, Spero, and Nikie Delenikas and husband, Kostas.

Visitation was from 6:00-7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, with a Trisagion Service at 7:00 pm at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte. Funeral Services for Fr. Tommy were held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 beginning with Orthros at 8:45 AM followed by Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM. The Funeral followed at 11:00 AM officiated by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, Fr. Vasileios Tsourlis, Fr. Christian Siskos, local priests and Deacon George Politis. His grandson Taxe spoke after the service (His remarks are presented elsewhere on this page). Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery. The family greeted family and friends following the interment at Holy Trinity in Father "C" Hall.

Pallbearers were his grandsons, Taxe and Panos Vlahos, nephews, Giorgos Manalis, Danny Kefalas, Nick Ballas and Gus Pappas.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral or Panagia Prousiotissa Chapel at Elatos Park c/o Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203.



Taxe Vlahos is Father Tommy and Presvytera Iannoula's oldest grandson. He made these remarks at the funeral.

Hello Everyone,

Thank you for joining our family at my Papou's funeral. Although he has passed on to a better place, he will never be forgotten. My papou was a loving husband, father, uncle, grandfather, and an amazing priest who we are very proud of. He always loved to see the family together. I was so excited to see my yiayia and papou at my graduation party last year. I was so lucky to have him in my life. He is the reason that I love fishing because that was his favorite thing to do. I remember all of the times that I was in the altar and I could not wait to see him, he was so proud to see his three grandsons in the altar together. My Papou will always have a special place in my heart and I will always treasure those moments that I spent with him. When he was in and out of the hospital the last words he had told me were, Σε αγαπώ and I want him to know I love him and I always will.





***A Commemoration of the Historic Visit to Holy Trinity by Greek Orthodox Hierarchs
His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros (left) and His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos II
Tuesday, January 28, 2020***

by George Zogzas

IN THE EARLY EVENING OF Tuesday, January 28, 2020, the darkness on the street is broken up by the bright light beams of the two luxury cars pulling up to the curb at 600 East Boulevard. The cool evening is abuzz with excitement. Two rows of young people dressed in traditional Greek costumes form a path way leading to the double doors of the Cathedral. As the cars pull to a stop, there is much anticipation. Adults make their way from the steps to the curb to get the

attention of the young greeters making sure they know that the guests have arrived.

After a few moments, the doors of the vehicles open and the entourage assembles and begins its slow walk towards the Cathedral. The guests, His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos II of Cyprus, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, and His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta, make their way slowly forward stopping to meet *Continued on page 12*



*Photographs of the
Archbishops visit to Holy
Trinity are courtesy of
Mr. Nasios Georgalis and
Mrs. Linda Kakouras*



*The Archbishops at Holy Trinity
January 28, 2020*



*Photographs of the
Archbishops visit to Holy
Trinity are courtesy of
Mr. Nasios Georgalis and
Mrs. Linda Kakouras*

The Archbishops at Holy Trinity January 28, 2020

Continued from page 10 the children along the way, accepting flower bouquets, and respectful kisses on the hands accorded to the hierarchs of the Church.

At the top of the stairs, area priests and local Archons are gathered to welcome the highly distinguished hierarchs. The Archbishops and Metropolitan are greeted inside the doorway of the Narthex by Father Jonathan. He is holding the gold covered Book of the Gospels from the Altar to be venerated by the hierarchs. Each does the sign of the cross and kisses the holy book. The procession moves past the glass wall towards the front of the church where the pews are filled with the faithful here to see special guests.

EARLIER, HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS led a small delegation at the Charlotte Douglas Airport awaiting the arrival of His Beatitude Archbishop Chrysostomos II from Cyprus. The delegation included His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, Father Vasileios, parish council members, and children in Greek costumes. They are holding a sign to welcome His Beatitude and attendants.

When his Beatitude and party arrive and meets the welcoming party, His Eminence Elpidophoros bows and kisses the hand of his Brother in Christ. Followed by His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, other introductions and welcomes, the Hierarchs are escorted to the cars that will transport all to Holy Trinity.

UPON ENTERING THE NARTHEX AT HOLY TRINITY, the procession advances down the center aisle towards the solea. Metropolitan Alexios and Father Vasileios are already stationed at the front of the church. The Archbishops walk slowly down the aisle, warmly greeted by the faithful that have filled the pews. Arriving at the steps of the solea, His Beatitude is escorted to the bishop's throne on the right side, next to the chanters stand. Archbishop Elpidophoros joins Metropolitan Alexios in one of two chairs positioned at the foot of the pulpit on the left.

The visiting clergy are aligned in two rows in front of the bishop's throne, forming a human connection between the visiting hierarchs. The clergy and chanters lead the congregants in the celebration of a short Doxology. The harmonious voices fill the entire Cathedral, adding to the joy and excitement of this special occasion.

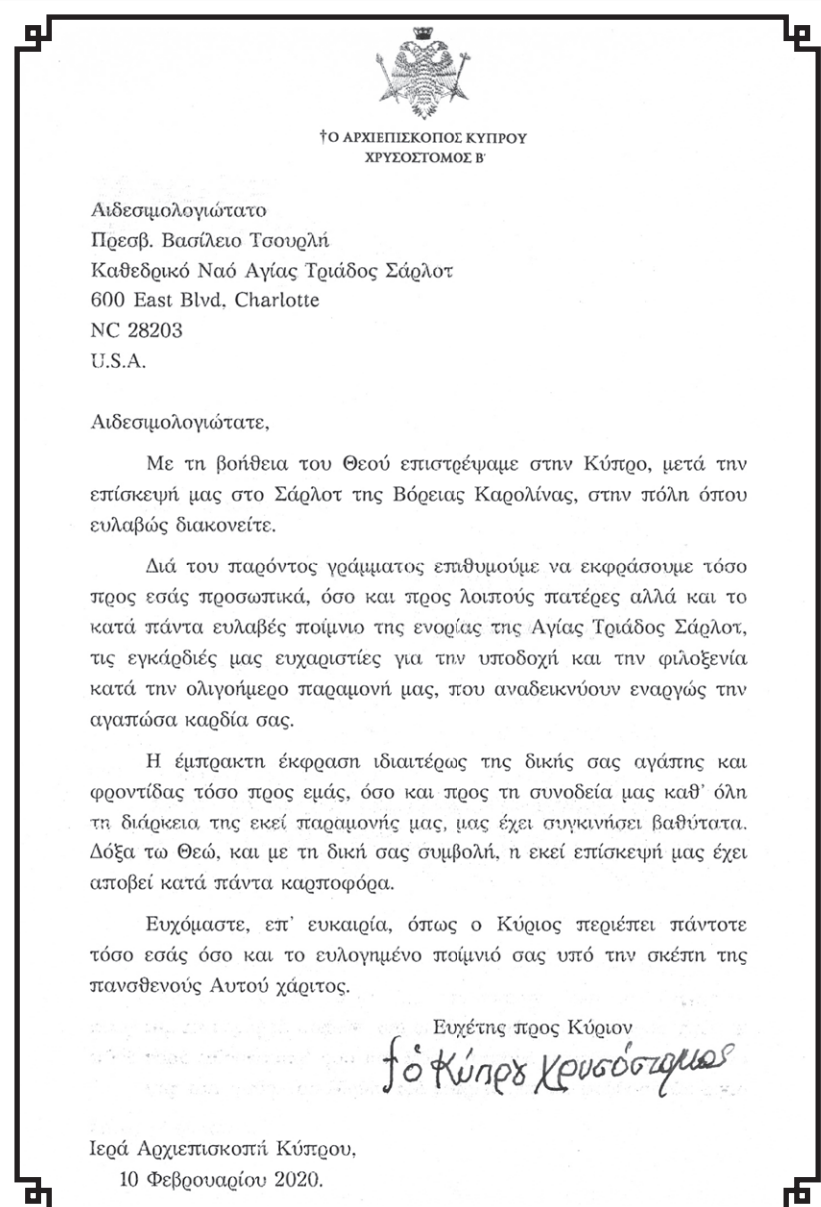
Archbishop Elpidophoros, with microphone in hand, stands on the top step leading to the entrance of the sanctuary and delivers remarks addressed to His Beatitude. Archbishop Chrysostomos then responds to the remarks and speaks for a few minutes on his trip to Charlotte and the welcome he has received.

Father Vasileios and Parish Council president Peter Thomopoulos welcome the Hierarchs and special guests. An Icon of the Holy Trinity is presented to Archbishop Chrysostomos and one to Archbishop Elpidophoros. Charlotte City Council member Mr. Edmund "Ed" Driggs takes to the lectern and welcomes the hierarchs to Charlotte. Mr. Driggs is Charlotte's District 7 representative.

Afterwards, His Beatitude is seated at the center of the solea and welcomes all to come forward to receive a small, personal icon from him. At the direction of the ushers, the line forms in the left aisle of the Cathedral and all in attendance make their way to the front to receive the icon and blessing of His Beatitude.

The Hierarchs are escorted to the Social Room for an invitation only dinner sponsored by the Charlotte area Archons. Attendees include the visiting clergy, the local Archons, the Parish Council, and other guests. After dinner, the Hierarchs will sign the Holy Gospel as affirmation of their visit to Holy Trinity.

The next day, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros returned to New York and His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios to Atlanta. His Beatitude remained in Charlotte for another week to undergo a medical procedure.



A letter from His Beatitude Chrysostomos II, Archbishop of Cyprus, to the Holy Trinity Community.

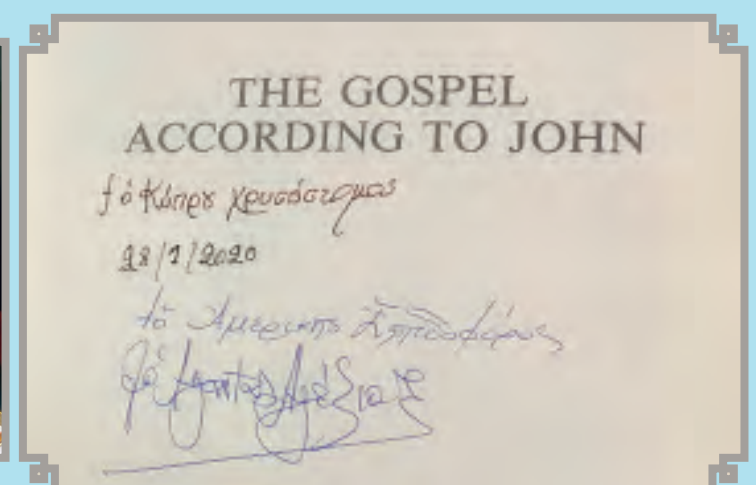
AS REPORTED in The National Herald, The Archbishop is accompanied by the neurosurgeon, Theologos Theologou, and the Director of the Archbishop's Office, Michalis Spyrou.

The Archbishop was admitted to a special medical center and underwent successful liver treatment by renowned Greek-American Doctor Dionysis Vrohidis from Thessalonica Greece.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew had a telephone conversation with Archbishop Chrysostomos during the trip and extended his heartfelt wishes to the Archbishop of Cyprus "for a speedy and complete recovery for the good of the Church of Cyprus and the inter-Orthodox relations".

On Sunday February 2 Archbishop Chrysostomos attended the Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Editor's Note: Reference to The National Herald is from the February 8-14, 2020 issue, page 13 of the English edition.



The Swearing in of the Parish Council Before the Visiting Dignitaries

On Sunday, January 12, 2020, the Parish Council members took the oath of office and were sworn in immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The swearing was witnessed by a visiting diplomat from Greece, His Excellency Mr. Theodoros Bizakis, charge d'Affaires, and his wife, Alexia Papadosifaki. The guests were seated at the front of the Cathedral on the solea for the entirety of the Divine Liturgy. His Excellency led the congregants in reciting the Nicene Creed.

In place of the priest's sermon, Mr. Bizakis spoke to the congregation and mentioned his delight in the extensive use of the Greek language during the service and by the individuals that he had met on his visit. He hoped that the community would continue to keep the "mother-tongue" alive in Charlotte.

The swearing in was conducted by Father Vasileios with the help of Deacon George, who held the Holy Gospel. The Parish Council members placed a hand on the Gospel, or on the shoulder of someone with their hand on the Gospel, as they recited the oath of office. Holy Trinity has 15 members of the Parish Council. Each is elected to serve a 3 year term with five seats up for election each year.



January 12, 2020: The new Parish Council after being sworn in. From L-R: Lucy Pappadakes, George Karres, Gus Pappas, John Tsumas, Peter Thomopoulos, John Mahairas, Alexia Papadokifaki, His Excellency Theodoros Kizakis, Drew Dudley, Deacon George, Nick Nixon, Father Vasileios, Maria Kotrotsios, Vaki Karampourniotis, Roula Skenteris, Nick Pistolis, Andre Harakas. Not present: Mitch Christenbury and Elias Elia. On the next day, during the Parish Council meeting, the members elected the officers for 2020. They are: Peter Thomopoulos, President; George Karres, Vice President; Vaki Karampourniotis, Secretary; Mitch Christenbury, Assistant Secretary; John Tsumas, Treasurer; and Andre Harakas, Assistant Treasurer.



***Dance Groups at Hellenic Dance Festival
Orlando, Florida***

Photos were posted by Fr. Christian on Facebook



In Memoriam



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." John 11:25

Mary Cleopatra (Michaelos) Demopoulos (1935 - 2020)

Mrs. Demopoulos, age 84, of Matthews passed away January 2, 2020 at her home surrounded by her loving family. She was born December 1, 1935 in New York, NY to the late Jenny Lagos Michaelos.

She is survived by her children, Celia (George) Nikopoulos, Billy Demopoulos, Tommy (Terry) Demopoulos, Jeanie (George B.) Nikopoulos, and George Demopoulos; she was blessed to have had grandchildren, Lena (Gus) Anthos, Steve Nikopoulos, Angelo (Bonnie) Nikopoulos, Evan and Katherine Demopoulos, Angelo (Kelly) Demopoulos, Kristina Demopoulos, Billy (Jill) Nikopoulos, and Maria Nikopoulos; great grandchildren, George, Olivia, Zach, Allie, Zoie, George, Anthony, George, Andreas, Lukas; brothers, George (Shela) Pourtokalon, Glafcos (Koula) Michaelos, Phivos (Dawn) Michaelos,

Christes Michaelos; sisters-in-law, Kaliope A. Triantafillo, Stella G. Mantekas, Irene Dias, and Effie N. Theodore, Eleni K. Demopoulos, Dina C. Demopoulos; godchildren, Steve Tingas, Dennis Margiotis, Eleni Gallis, and Laurel Bacogeorge.

Funeral service was held 11:00 AM Saturday, January 4, 2020 at St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church. Family received friends 10:00 AM. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Panagia Prousiotissa Chapel at Elatos Park, Saint Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church, or Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Interment was at Evergreen City Cemetery.

John Nick Dross (1934 - 2020)

John Nick Dross, 85, of Cornelius, NC, passed away on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at the Levine & Dickson Hospice House in Huntersville.

John was born in Charlotte on May 18, 1934 to the late Demetra and Nicholas Dross.

John is survived by his wife of fifty-three years, Frances Jane Dross; sons, Nicholas John Dross of Charlotte and Michael Warren Dross of Mt. Pleasant, SC; sisters, Koula Litchos of Statesville and Stella Matalas of Vienna, VA.

Funeral services for John were at 12:30 PM on Thursday, January 30, 2020 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd in Charlotte officiated by Fr. Robert Lawrence and Fr. Gregory Waynick. The family received friends one hour prior to the service. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery.

Christine C. Koutsogeorgas (1926 - 2020)

Christine C. Koutsogeorgas, 93, of Charlotte, passed away January 24, 2020. She was born May 7, 1926 in Laurens, SC, daughter of Chris George and Paraskevi Siarris Koutsogeorgas.

Christine is survived by her sister, Mary Koutsogeorgas; brother, George and his wife, Patsy; niece, Paula Durringer; nephew, Chris Fred Koutsogeorgas; and great nephews, Lucas and Wyatt Durringer.

The family received friends from 10:00 until 11:00 AM on Friday, January 31, 2020 with the funeral service following at 11:00 AM at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Mary Chris Koutsogeorgas (1922 - 2020)

Mary Chris Koutsogeorgas, 97, of Charlotte, passed away Monday, February 10, 2020. She was born July 31, 1922 in Chester, SC, daughter of the late Chris G. and Paraskevi Siarris Koutsogeorgas, natives of Arahova, Sparta, Greece.

Mary is survived by her brother, George Koutsogeorgas and wife, Patsy; niece, Paula Durringer; nephew, Chris Koutsogeorgas; and great-nephews, Lucas and Wyatt Durringer. She was predeceased by her sisters, JoAnna and Christine Koutsogeorgas, and great-niece, Chloe Durringer.

The family received friends from 10:00 until 11:00 AM on Friday, February 14, 2020 with the funeral service following at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Interment

followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Sula Floros Morrow (1924 - 2020)

Sula Floros Morrow, age 95, passed away on February 17, 2020 at Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center. She was born in Macon, Georgia on March 14, 1924 to the late Gus and Maria Floros.

She is survived by her sister, Helen Fleggas, numerous nieces and nephews, and goddaughter, Olga Kleto, who each had a special place in her heart.

Funeral services was held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Charlotte. Interment followed at Evergreen Cemetery. The family received friends thirty minutes prior to the service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials be made to Holy Trinity Cathedral Foundation, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203.

Andrigoula Stathopoulos (1931 - 2020)

Andrigoula Stathopoulos, 88, of Charlotte, NC, passed away on Saturday, the 4th of January 2020 at Novant Health Matthews Medical Center. Andrigoula was born on the 8th of August 1931 in Milia, Evrytanias, Greece, daughter of the late Efthimios and Eleni Lainis.

Surviving are her daughter: Eugenia Hondros and husband, John; son, Spero Stathopoulos and wife, Meena; daughter, Eleni Lironis and husband, Pete; grandson, Dr. Takie Hondros and wife, Dena and their children: Evy,

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continued from page 14

Yanni and Gia; granddaughter, Sophia Thomopoulos and husband, Peter and their children: Adriani and Ioanna; granddaughter, Andrigoula Karanikas and husband, Dimitri and their children: Pano and Hrisanthi; grandson, George Stathopoulos and wife, Vicki and their children: Spiro and Amalia; grandson, Andreas Stathopoulos; grandson, Hristos Lironis and wife, Valerie; and grandsons: Thimios Lironis and George Lironis; two sisters: Maria Karagkiozi and Eirini Kalatzaki and a sister-in-law, Effie Lainis and many nieces and

nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Georgios Stathopoulos, a brother, John Lainis and a sister, Paraskevi Steiakakis.

The visitation was held at 10:00 AM on Thursday, the 9th of January 2020 followed by the Trisagion and the Funeral service at 11:00 AM at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery. The family greeted family and friends after the interment at Holy Trinity in Father "C" Hall. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Holy Trinity Foundation, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203.

AROUND CHARLOTTETOWN by Kathy Xyrafakis

Congratulations

Jimmy and Amanda Demopoulos proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Penelope Anne Demopoulos, on December 13, 2019. Penelope's grandparents are George and Elaine Demopoulos. Her great grandparents are Mrs. Anna Demopoulos, Gene Foret and Catherine Foret

Correction

In the NOV/DEC 2019 issue of The Voice we reported the wrong date of the wedding of Donna Judd and Demetrios Drosinis. Their wedding day was October 6, 2019, not the 16th. Our apologies to the couple and their families for this error. - TV

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WHOOO'S IN THE NEWS AT HTGO PRESCHOOL? by Maria Kleto and Cindy Balatsias

The preschool was back in session on January 6th. The students and staff quickly settled back into a daily routine ready to learn and be with their friends. January's curriculum included learning about cold weather, snow and ice, polar bears, penguins, and hibernating bears. We also had lessons on our bodies and health, how to take care of ourselves including going to the doctor. We also spent time learning about keeping our pets healthy and how veterinarians can help us do that. Our religious topics included the baptism of Jesus, Theophany and John the Baptist.

Our staff began the student evaluation process for the upcoming parent teacher conferences for our two, three and four year old classes. Those will be scheduled during the next few months. Through the evaluations, staff and parents jointly review the school year and spotlight where their children are excelling and in what areas they have room for improvement. By working together and keeping an open line of communication, everyone is focused on propelling our children to be successful, reaching their fullest potential.

In February, with Valentine's Day as a reminder, one of our many discussion topics was the importance of love, the selfless love towards family and friends and love for each other as God loves us, and directs us to follow His example. The classes enjoyed individual Valentine's Day parties eating sweets and exchanging cards with their friends. Classes also talked about Ground Hog's Day, good dental health and the importance of visiting the dentist regularly.

This February, the children got to learn

about and experience many different types of weather, even some that are not typically "winter" weather. We had cold temperatures, warm temperatures, sun, wind, rain, snow flurries, sleet and of all things... tornados. Who would have thought we would be doing a real tornado drill in February of all months? On February 6th as soon as a tornado warning was issued, we implemented our tornado safety procedures and moved all the children and staff into the restrooms. The children did a great job following instructions and moving quickly. We were in the restrooms for quite a while until the warning was over. Shortly after returning to their classrooms, a second tornado warning was issued and back to the restrooms we went. It was a very unusual experience but thanks to procedures that the Preschool has in place, everyone stayed safe.

On January 15th, registration opened for the coming school year for current students and siblings and kicked-off our annual World's Finest Chocolate candy bar fund-raiser. On February 1st it opened up to the Orthodox members and on February 15th to the Charlotte community. Fall registration is off to a great start. Please contact us if you are interested in our preschool program, to learn about class availability or if you have any general questions. (Contact information below)

Office:	704-333-4961
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Directors:	Cindy Balatsias
	704-502-3859
	Maria Kleto
	704-564-5842

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX FOUNDATION by George Zogzas

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Foundation (HTGOF) held its first meeting of 2020 on January 29 in the Nixon Archival Library at 600 East Boulevard. The Trustees traditionally meet quarterly with a fifth meeting in December.

Two significant accomplishments of this meeting were:

1. Approval to pay \$25,000.00 to Holy Trinity Cathedral's Renovations Fund. The Foundation had pledged \$300,000.00 towards the construction cost of the new chapel. Along with AHEPA Marathon Chapter #2 Foundation's donation of \$200,000.00, the two Foundations shared the naming rights for that part of the project. The Holy Trinity Foundation had made an initial donation of \$50,000.00 in 2016. That was followed by \$175,000.00 in 2017, then \$25,000.00 each in 2018 and 2019. This payment in February brought the total to the total pledged amount of \$300,000.00.

2. Assignments to the Permanent Committees. The Foundation established three permanent committees in 2017. The purpose was to allow the trustees to focus on an area of interest to them personally and that has a big impact on the work of the Foundation. The committees and this year's members are:

Benefactors & Grantees: Watson (Chair); Hondros; Thomopoulos; Ziozios

Finance & Investments: Zogzas (Chair); Andrinopoulos; Cavalaris

Executive & Governance: Ziozios (Chair); Watson; Zogzas

The Foundation was established in 1973 as an endowment fund and is a 501c3 not-for-profit entity. All funds received as memorials or donations are added to the fund and are not available to be spent by the trustees. Only the gain from the investment of those funds (for example, dividends and interest, capital gains) can be disbursed by the trustees for causes specified in the original establishing documents (the indenture).

The Trustees are elected by the members in good standing of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Charlotte, NC. They serve for a five year term. This year's trustees (last year of term) are: Dr. George Andrinopoulos (2024), James Cavalaris (2022), John Hondros (2020), Peter Thomopoulos (2021), George Watson, III (2023), Andreas Ziozios (2021), and George Zogzas (2024). The members elected Andreas Ziozios, Chairman, George Watson, Vice Chairman, and George Zogzas, Secretary-Treasurer.

Note: The writer is editor of The Voice

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ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ, ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΩΝ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΩΝ
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ΜΕ ΛΑΜΠΡΟΤΗΤΑ ΓΙΟΡΤΑΣΘΗΚΕ ΣΤΟ ΣΑΡΛΟΤ Η ΗΜΕΡΑ ΤΩΝ
ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ, ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΩΝ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΩΝ
ΚΑΙ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΓΛΩΣΣΑΣ

Μεγάλη επιτυχία είχε η τριπλή λαμπρή γιορτή της Ημέρας των Τριών Ιεραρχών, των Ελληνικών Γραμμάτων και της Ελληνικής Γλώσσας που πραγματοποιήθηκε από τους 106 μαθητές του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδας, τους 740 μαθητές της Ακαδημίας Σωκράτη, τους Έλληνες εκπαιδευτικούς των δύο αυτών και με τη συμμετοχή ενός μεγάλου αριθμού γονέων και φίλων της ευρύτερης περιοχής του Σάρλοτ.

Την προσευχή έναρξης και την πανηγυρική ομιλία για τη δράση, το πνευματικό και κοινωνικό έργο και τις αρετές των οικουμενικών διδασκάλων των Τριών Ιεραρχών έκαναν ο προϊστάμενος του Καθεδρικού Ναού Αγίας Τριάδας π. Βασίλειος και ο π. Ιωνάθαν. Για τη σπουδαιότητα της γιορτής των Ελληνικών Γραμμάτων μίλησαν ο νέος πρόεδρος του Εκκλησιαστικού Συμβουλίου κ. Παναγιώτης Θωμόπουλος, η πρόεδρος του Συλλόγου Γονέων και οι εκπαιδευτικοί από τα δύο σχολεία. Όλοι τους εξήραν τη διαχρονική αξία των ελληνικών γραμμάτων, της ελληνικής γλώσσας και του συγγραφικού έργου των Τριών Ιεραρχών. Οι μαθητές διάβασαν αποσπάσματα από τα αξεπέραστα συγγραφικά έργα των Τριών Ιεραρχών καθώς και βραβευμένων με Νόμπελ Ελλήνων ποιητών, απήγγειλαν ποιήματα και χόρεψαν με υπερηφάνεια ελληνικούς παραδοσιακούς χορούς καταχειροκροτούμενοι από γονείς, παππούδες, γιαγιάδες και πλήθος κόσμου που κατέκλεισε τη μεγάλη αίθουσα εκδηλώσεων.



Τέλος, ο διευθυντής του σχολείου συνεχάρη τους μαθητές και γονείς για την αθρόα και ενθουσιώδη συμμετοχή τους και έδωσε ιδιαίτερη έμφαση στη διαχρονικότητα της ελληνικής γλώσσας και του υπέρλαμπου ελληνικού πολιτισμού.

Κατά τη διάρκεια της θαυμάσιας αυτής εκδήλωσης απονεμήθηκαν τα Πιστοποιητικά Ελληνομάθειας στους μαθητές που πέτυχαν στις Εξετάσεις Ελληνομάθειας 2019, τιμήθηκαν οι ιερείς μας και οι καταξιωμένοι εκπαιδευτικοί.



Αναμνηστικό στιγμιότυπο από την απονομή των Πιστοποιητικών Ελληνομάθειας 2019 στους επιτυχόντες μαθητές της ευρύτερης Ελληνοαμερικανικής μας κοινότητας, η οποία πραγματοποιήθηκε στην αίθουσα «Φαίδων Κωνσταντινίδης» του Καθεδρικού Ναού Αγίας Τριάδας.



Στιγμιότυπα από την εκδήλωση απονομής των Πιστοποιητικών Ελληνομάθειας 2019 που πραγματοποιήθηκε στην Ακαδημία Σωκράτη. Οι επιτυχόντες είναι μαθητές της Ακαδημίας - Ελληνόπουλα και παιδιά διαφόρων άλλων εθνικοτήτων.

Ο ενεργέτης αλλά και χορηγός του καλοκαιρινού εκπαιδευτικού ταξιδιού των μαθητών της 7ης τάξης στην Ελλάδα, κ. Δημ. Τάσιος, ήταν ο κύριος ομιλητής της και δέχεται τις ευχαριστίες αντιπροσώπων των μαθητών που πήγαν στην Ελλάδα.



Στη συνέχεια, προσφέρθηκαν, εκ μέρους της κοινότητας, τα ελληνοβρετανικά λεξικά στους μαθητές της Β' Τάξης και με την ευχή «Αιέν Αριστεύειν».



Τέλος, ο π. Βασίλειος, ο πρόεδρος του Δ.Σ., ο διευθυντής και η νέα πρόεδρος του Συλλόγου ανέειμαν Τιμητική Πλακέτα στην κ. Μαρία Πάπα, ως ελάχιστο δείγμα αναγνώρισης των πολύτιμων εθελοντικών υπηρεσιών της τόσο προς το Σύλλογο Γονέων και Διδασκάλων, στον οποίον υπηρέτησε ως πρόεδρος κατά τη σχολική χρονιά 2018-2019, όσο και προς τους μαθητές και εκπαιδευτικούς του σχολείου γενικότερα. Επίσης, εκφράστηκαν θερμές ευχαριστίες προς τον κ. Κώστα Ελ. Περούλα για τη συνεχιζόμενη ετήσια δωρεάν προσφορά του θαυμάσιου γεύματος καθώς και στους μαγείρους αλλά και σε όλες εκείνες τις οικογένειες που ενεργά υποστηρίζουν το σχολείο με τις αφιλοκερδείς τους υπηρεσίες αλλά και τις χρηματικές τους δωρεές για την εκπλήρωση των θεάρεστων στόχων του.

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