

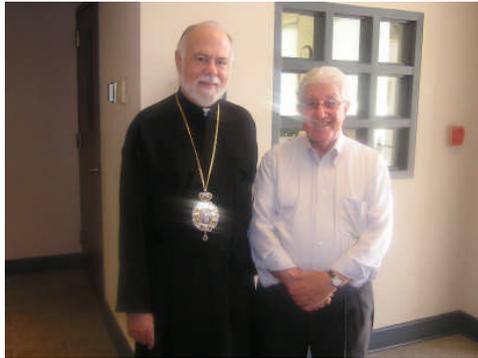


Notable Notes

The Electronic Newsletter of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians — October 2007

click on <http://www.sfgocm.org/news>

Spotlight on a very special person (shown here with His Eminence, Bishop Dimitrios (Couchell) of Xanthe



Church philanthropist Charlie Masterpolis

more than matched scholarship donations at this year's Federation Conference in Savannah to new record of \$5,950.00! Individuals donated \$2,950 and \$3,000 was received from Charlie! Words cannot thank him enough!

Mr. Masterpolis has been a great donor to the Church for his entire lifetime. For example, he gave a major gift to Hellenic College and Holy Cross of 388.67 acres of land in Dripping Springs, Texas, in August of 2004. That gift has become one of the largest cash gifts in the School's history as the sale of the land has recently been finalized, netting \$1.1 million to the School. The gift from Mr. Masterpolis came on the heels of major giving campaigns initiated by both the National Ahepa organization and St. George's Parish in Lynn, Massachusetts.

Upon finalization of the sale of the Dripping Springs property in September 2006, Hellenic College and Holy Cross President Rev. Fr. Nicholas C. Triantafilou stated, Mr. Charles Masterpolis is a Christian pilgrim of humility, dedication and firm resolve. He has been a faithful worshipper and student of God's word in his personal Christian life. His dedication to our Church has been marked by his assuming positions as Parish Council President for many years and as a member of the Metropolis of Atlanta Council. His firm resolve is expressed in the enormous financial stewardship he offers to every level of our Church, inclusive of our Archdiocese, Metropolis of Atlanta, St. Photios Shrine and Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology. This recent gift of 1.1 million dollars to our School is another expression of his selflessness.

A longtime friend of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos and Hellenic College and Holy Cross from its beginnings, Charles Masterpolis of Tybee Island, Georgia, was one of eight children whose mother came to America from Kalamata, Greece at the turn of the century with nothing but a dream of a better life. Mr. Masterpolis and his siblings eventually made their fortune both in real estate and in founding one of Georgia's most famous family-owned department stores, Christy's.

In 2006 he also pledged One Million Dollars to the Saint Photios National Shrine's Archbishop Iakovos Endowment/ Enhancement Fund. In accepting his monumental gift, Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit, representing His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, asked Mr. Masterpolis, "How does it make you feel to give such a generous gift?" Mr. Masterpolis replied, in his usual humility, "I only wish I had more to give." This expression of generosity, and Christian humility, brought the over 150 attendees of the Annual Saint Photios Pilgrimage Luncheon to their feet in applause.

"I've been single all my life, and my financial success has enabled me to put my energies and resources into supporting our Faith. I guess you could say I'm married to the Church," said a humble Masterpolis. "I'll do all I can for our Church as long as I'm able," he added.

Editor's note: These are just a few examples of his lifetime of giving to the Church. *He should be an inspiration to us all!*



Russian Patriarchal Choir Concert on November 8, 2007

If any of you can possibly make it to Miami on Thursday, November 8, 2007, there will be a concert at the Carnival Center (in the recital hall opposite the new Opera House downtown) of the Russian Patriarchal Choir.

An internet search found that there are busloads of folks coming from other denominations for the event. As Orthodox Musicians, it seems that this would be a very rare opportunity for us to be exposed to all kinds of Russian chant through the ages. They reportedly are also going to do some of Rachmaninoff's Liturgy, as well as the Tchaikovsky. Click the link below and get a big crowd together quickly — the tickets are going fast! <http://www.carnivalcenter.org/tickets/tickets/production.aspx?performanc>

Federation Trip to Greece, 2008

Please see the next page for forms and contact information.



Notable Notes

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FEDERATION CHOIR TRIP TO GREECE

As you may remember, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios has recently been encouraging the federation to organize a choir tour to Greece. We have accepted this challenge and have now begun making plans for this trip. We have confirmed with His Eminence a departure date of Thursday, June 5th, 2008, and a return on Monday, June 16th.

Traveling with His Eminence, we will be singing the divine liturgy at the church of St. Andrew in Patras, and also presenting a concert there. In addition we will visit Kalavryta, Zachynthos, Olympia, Delphos, and Meteora, presenting concerts of sacred and folk music. We will also sing the divine liturgy at a church in Athens.

While the cost of the trip cannot be confirmed at this date, based on this year's costs, plane fare will be approximately \$1000 to \$1200 per person, and the cost of lodging, food and local transportation is estimated to be approximately \$1000 per person. The federation will make every effort to keep travel costs low; for example, we are exploring the possibility of staying in homes while in Patras.

The core of the choir will be members of the Dormition choir from Greensboro, NC and the Orthodox Youth Choir of Tampa Bay, groups which were awarded gold medals in the Metropolis 2006 and 2007 Hellenic Dance Festival choir competitions. The group will be directed jointly by Kevin Lawrence and Joanne Kambouris. We are sure to have room for additional singers from around the Metropolis, especially tenors and basses. Since it is important to have some idea of how many are interested in taking part in this adventure, we ask you to fill out the brief survey and return it by the end this month.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Toula Chininis
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2LA@bellsouth.net.

CHOIR TRIP SURVEY

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

Federation Choir Conference (years participated) _____

Voice Part _____

Any musical training in voice _____

Any musical training in an instrument _____

Member of church choir (years) _____

Please submit survey only if you are truly committed towards this trip. Selection may be based on auditions and choir director's recommendations.