



Inside this issue:

Chicago, Detroit, and Pittsburgh Metropolis Features.....7

2010 Clergy-Laity Congress Report.....3

*Stewardship, Benevolent Memorial Fund,....4, 7
and Website Reports.....8*

“Through love be servants of one another ...” — Galatians 5:13

The National Sisterhood of Presvyteres

Fall 2010

From His Eminence

Archbishop Demetrios of America

Beloved Sisters in Christ,

It was truly a blessing and a joy to meet with you at the 40th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress in Atlanta. For all of us, our Congress was an uplifting time of fellowship and commitment as we shared in the grace and presence of God and in our mission to gather His people to His home, the Church.

Our theme for the Congress was focused on the invitation offered by Philip to Nathanael as recorded in the Gospel of John 1:46: *Come and See*. Just as Philip invited Nathanael to come to Christ and to see Who He is, so, too, we are called as our Lord’s disciples to go and invite all people to come to Him, to see His presence and power among us, and to believe in Him through faith.

Essential to the work of gathering and the invitation to *come and see* is how Christ is seen through our lives; in your case, it is how Christ is seen through your lives and service as Presvyteres. You are wives to clergy who have a vocation of service and sacrifice. You are mothers to children who need nurture and guidance. Many of you are participants and leaders in the ministry of the parish. Many of you have vocations where you apply your skills and abilities and provide for your families. In all of these areas of your lives one of the major chall

(continued on page 5)

From our President

Alice Noplos

*“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”
—Philippians 4:13*

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I would like to start out by saying thank you to all of you for putting your trust in me and electing me as your new President. Words simply cannot express my love for the Sisterhood. I have been so fortunate to meet many of you, and look forward to meeting so many more presvyteres. As I begin my term, I have decided to focus on a few goals. First and foremost is communication. I will strive to keep you informed on all occurrences within the Sisterhood. I have stressed to all the Metropolis Representatives to keep in contact with you. Please take some time out to contact your representative and get to know her. The representatives are interested in hearing your thoughts on what direction to take the Sisterhood in your Metropolis. I feel very humbled to be working with such a capable, loving and talented board. Please feel free to contact any of us with any comments, suggestions or news that you may have. I will always make myself available to a sister presvytera, and look forward to meeting many more presvyteres.

Another goal that I have is to “Go Green.” God bless Patriarch Bartholomew who has been dubbed “The Green Patriarch,” for he has realized the importance of preserving our earth for future generations. In keeping

(continued on page 6)

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National Sisterhood of Presvyteres
2010-2012 National Board

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**2010 Clergy-Laity Report
Atlanta, Georgia
July 5-8, 2010**



On July 5, 2010, over 100 presvyteres gathered together to meet for business and fellowship at the 40th Biennial Clergy-Laity held in Atlanta, GA. On entering the first NSP session, each presvytera was given a beautiful flower as a gift from President Cynthia Paleologos. The first meeting opened up with a wonderful icebreaker that afforded many of the Sisters to get to know each other. A cake was also enjoyed to help kick-off the “30-Year Anniversary” celebration. It was 30 years ago, at Clergy-Laity, also in Atlanta, Georgia, when many presvyteres came together and decided that a support system should be formed—an idea was born. At the conclusion of that conference, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory gave his blessings for a formation of such a group. During this year’s celebration, all former NSP Presidents were honored for their dedication to the Sisterhood. The former presidents include (from left to right) Presvyteres Mary Scoulas, Ellie Dogias, Margaret Orfanakos, Flora Chioros, and Cynthia Paleologos (not pictured: Presvyteres Angie Constantinides, Goldie Doukas, and Elaine Stephanides).



During the course of the week, the NSP had very productive meetings. Dispersed through the meetings were also very distinguished visitors and speakers: His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios; Archbishop Irenaios of Crete; Fr. Costa Sitaras (CAP Program); Fr. Michael Kontogiorgis (Tax Laws & Clergy); and NYLIM (Women & Investing). Workshops were offered to clergy and presvyteres on Tuesday and included the following topics: *Privileging the Between: Marriage as Emmaus; Keeping Christ Present in our Marriage and Family; Marriage Insurance: Safeguarding Your Investment; and The Golden Egg: Planning for Retirement.* The workshops were well attended by all.



An ice cream social for clergy families was enjoyed by all on Tuesday evening. This gave us a chance to come together for much needed family fellowship. During the course of the week, the Clergy Children Daycare was a huge success! Hours of planning went into this program and the younger children were greeted each day with crafts, songs, and fun. Our thanks go out to all the volunteers who cared so well for our children. Not to be left out, the PK teens were treated to a lunch at Chick-fil-A on Monday afternoon. They formed many friendships throughout the week and said their farewells at a pizza party on Wednesday evening.

Outgoing president Presvytera Cynthia Paleologos was honored with a gift from the Sisterhood. Presvytera Cindy has been an outstanding leader for the past four years. We thank her for all her support and love given to each sister.



Our NSP chairperson for this year’s Clergy-Laity was Presvytera Christine Salzman. Along with her dedicated committee, Presvytera Christine did an outstanding job in welcoming all of us to their Metropolis. That southern hospitality was evident with every detail they planned. We congratulate Presvytera Christine and all those involved in making the conference such a huge success. A big thank-you also goes out to all the donors who made this Clergy-Laity possible for clergy and presvyteres:

- Leadership 100
- Athen’s Pizza
- Chick-fil-A
- Diakonia Retreat Center
- Eikona
- Image & Likeness Iconography
- New England Coffee
- Tehva Baking Company
- V’s Card Box
- Zomma Enterprises

Fr. George & Presvytera Joanna Alexson
Presvytera Vassi Haros
Presvytera Cynthia Paleologos
Presvytera Christine Salzman
Presvytera Ranae Strzelecki
...and many thanks to the presvyteres of Clearwater, Florida, for their delicious baked goods!



Teen PKs enjoy a trip to the Aquarium.

NSP Current Stewards

Received as of 08/15/10

PAID THROUGH 2010

Evelyn Adams
Elaine Alexandres
Eleni Alexopoulos
Margarite Alfonso
Helen Andrews
Maritsa Andrews
Georgia Alikakos
Patricia Artemas
Sophia Athas
Janet Augusta
Lisa Avramis
Maria Bakas
Thea Ballas
Chrysanthe Bessinas
Peggy Bistolarides
Lisa Bobotas
Gloria Bratiotis
Joanne Cadieux
Kassiani Callos
Marilou Cambas
Emily Carter
Anastasia Cassis
Eleni Chakalos
Georgia Champion
Theodora Chelpon
Eleni Christakos
Barbara Cole
Jeannie Constantinou
Konstantina Dalianis
Eleni Demetri
Moscha Despotides
Melanie DiStefano
Stacey Dorrance
Kay Efstathiou
Angela Eugenis
Themmi Evangelatos
Kristi Fadel
Ione Filandrinou
Katina Gartelos
Connie Gialopsos
Stephanie Gill
Nasia Gordon
Athena Gousios
Shyla Hadzellis
Helene Hall
Mary Hallick
Emily Harakas
Mary Harbatis
Vassi Haros
Sofia Hohnholt
Olga Hountalas
Anastasia Jonas
Alexandra Kalina
Georgia Kastaris
Anthoula Katsoulos

Christine Kehayes
Bessie Kerames
Maria Kerhulas
Areti Khitiri
Eleni Klostri
Aspasia Kontinos
Vicki Kontogiorgis
Christine Kopsahilis
Louella Kostopolos
Valerie Kouldukis
Elaine Krommydas
Kay Kyriakos
Nicole Leong
Theresa A. Lillios
Katherine Lionikis
NormaJean Loulakis
Anne Macris
Georgia Magoulas
Katerina Sitaras Makiej
Stefanie Malamis
Vicky Maniudakis
Kostoula Manousakis
Haidee Marangos
Liza Marcus
Despina Massouras
Marusia Melackrinou
Irene Mentis
Georgia Metaxas
Penelope Metaxas
Magdalena Michalopoulos
Evelyn Mitsos
Jeannie Monos
Felicia Mot
Mary Mourikis
Sylvia Nicozisin
Kalliopi Nikokavouras
Alice Noplos
Joy O'Loughlin
Theodora Paleologos
Irene Palis
Stephanie Panagos
Katina Pantelis
Athanasia Papademetriou
Georgia Papadopoulos
Cynthia Papanikolaou
Tina Papanikolaou
Anne Pappalas
Evangeline Pappas
Kerry Pappas
Mary P. Pappas
Magdalene Paraskevaïdis
Vaso Paris
Georget Photos
Toula Poteres
Sherry Potter
Alexandra Poulos
Christine Poulos

Georgia Pourakis
Connie Powell
Catherine Protopapas
Evonne Raptis
Barbara Retelas
Alexandra Rizos
Panagiota Rizos
Fotini Roll
Nikki Salmas
Christine Salzman
Laina Savas
Nancy Serviou
Stella Sfikas
Joan Simones
Georgia (Val) Sitaras
Chrisafie Sophocles
Mary Soteropoulos
Penny Stamas
Charlotte Staviski
Elaine K. Stephanides
Fotini Streett
Faye Stylianopoulos
Irene Supica
Joana Tagaropoulos
Argie Talagan
Catherine Tavlarides
Elizabeth Tervo
Sophia Thanos
Helen Theophilopoulos
Stephanie Thomas
Katherine Thornberg
Mary Ann Tonias
Rose Treantafeles
Demetra Trifon
Pat Tsagalakis
Joanna Tsandikos
Eleni Tsigas
Kathleen Tsitsilianos
Filia Tzortzis
Vasiliki Tzougros
Maria Varvarelis
Garnette Vasilakis
Betty Vlahos
Faith Veronis
Pearl Veronis
Bess Vieron
Mary Ann Wingenbach
Harriet Wilson
Athena Yachnis
Ann Yankopoulos
Celia Zaharas
Irene Zanetos
Anne Zervos
Claire Zinis

PAID THROUGH 2011

Maria Dalber
Mary Demotses
Marilyn Magoulas
Patricia Petropoulakos
Matia Prevas
Irene Rallis
Vasiliki Rousakis
Maria Sarolas
Panayiota Shiepis
Ranae Strzelecki
Becky Touloumes

PAID THROUGH 2012

Joanna Alexson
Cynthia Anctil
Vivian Bacalis
Joan Bogdan
Georgia Botsis
Colette C. Bourantas
Mary Christy
Mary Cowles
Eleutheria Dogias
Maria Hondros
Helen M. Kehagias
Diana Moskovites
Margaret Orfanakos
Cynthia K. Paleologos
Donna M. Falcinella Pappas
Pauline Pavlakos
Katherine Prassas
Eleftheria Recachinas
Diane Scordalakis
Mary Scoulas
Marina Tsahakis
Bessie Valasiadis
Sultana Volaitis
Harriet Wilson

PAID THROUGH 2013

Evi Kaplanis

*Thank you all
for your generosity!*

A reply envelope is enclosed.
Please submit your stewardship to
our Treasurer, Jeannie Monos:
P.O. Box 30608
Columbia, MO 65205

(Letter from His Eminence, continued from page 1)

enges is maintaining a strong spiritual life and a deep faith in Christ.

For your spiritual well-being, for strong relationships with God, and for your sacred calling as an Orthodox Christian and as a Presvytera, I offer to you the following suggestions. First, be a good steward of your time. You have many responsibilities, and you are asked to do many things. You live in a culture of endless activity and choices. Great demands are placed upon the life you share with your husband in the service of Christ. In the midst of all of this, you will offer a witness of Christ if you are able to attend to the most important aspects of your life, managing each day in peace and purpose.

Second, to do this you must be a good steward of your soul. You cannot neglect your relationship with God. He is the source of the strength, wisdom, and love that you need to be the person you are called to be. To tend to your soul and your spiritual well-being, you need regular prayer, worship, guidance, and fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ. For others to see Christ in you, your soul must be continuously transformed by His power and presence.

Third, be a good steward of your family. This is built upon your stewardship of time and your spiritual life. You have a sacred task to care for your husband and for your children, a vocation that can be a blessed witness of Christ. Together with your husband, you must labor to keep your home Christ-centered. Again, this is a tremendous challenge in our modern world in which prevalent influences are void of truth, love, and faith. However, we believe in and serve a Lord who has overcome the world. His power is yours to protect and nurture your family in the journey to eternal life.

Finally, be a good steward of your service. As stated above, the demands placed on you as a Presvytera are substantial. This is evident in the parish setting, where you are very visible and frequently asked to take on responsibilities. You are blessed with many gifts which can be offered in the service of God and His Church. You also must be a good steward of your soul, your family, and your time. Thus, choose your service in the parish prayerfully, remembering that it is not the amount or magnitude of your offering that leads others to Christ. It is the love, holiness, and wisdom in your life that invites all to *come and see* the One Who can give them healing, forgiveness, joy, hope, and salvation.

May our good and gracious Lord continue to bless all of you, giving you strength and grace as you serve Him and offer a beautiful witness of faith and love.

With paternal love in Christ,

+DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America



Dear Sisters,

It has been my extreme honor and pleasure to represent you and the Sisterhood as President for the past four years. I would like to thank the Sisterhood for the beautiful diamond heart necklace presented to me at Clergy-Laity. You are all such a treasure and I thank God that I was able to meet so many of you.

Love in Christ,
Presvytera Cynthia Palzologos



Please contact your Metropolis representative when...

- ...you would like to request prayers via the NSP listserv.
- ...you have new or updated contact information.
- ...you would like to be more involved in the Sisterhood.
- ...you have an announcement to share, such as a birth, a sacrament, or a death.

Check out the **Guidance Resources** website. This resource is made available to us by our Archdiocese, but is only used by approximately 2% of clergy and clergy families. Did you know CAP not only provides referrals for counseling, but can also provide referrals to lawyers, certified financial planners, childcare, and eldercare providers? Sign up for free emails; have great articles and helpful tips sent right to your email inbox. Log on and pick which types of newsletters you want to receive.



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(Letter from the President, continued from page 1)

with this goal, this will be the last newsletter that you will be receiving (if you have an email address). From now on, you will be receiving an email from the listserv with a link to future newsletters. If you do not have access to email, you will continue to receive this newsletter through the U.S. Postal Service. If you have email, but would still prefer to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, please contact our Corresponding Secretary, Magda Andronache, at magda.andronache@gmail.com.

Clergy-Laity last month in Atlanta, Georgia, was a remarkable experience. Being shortened by one day this year, the NSP still managed to meet for business and pleasure. A detailed report on Clergy-Laity is given in this newsletter. I would like to thank Presvytera Christine Salzman and her committee for their remarkable hospitality. Their hard work and efforts did not go unnoticed. *Brava!* The NSP is also grateful to Leadership 100 for their grant of \$15,000 to support our meetings, programs, and workshops at Clergy-Laity. Leadership 100 has always been a loyal supporter of our mission. A survey was recently emailed to all presvyteres asking for their opinions of this year's Clergy-Laity. If you were in attendance, please return your answers as quickly as possible, while it is still fresh in your mind. Your answers will be most helpful when planning the next one.

In the mail, you will be receiving a booklet titled *Guidelines and Procedures: When a Priest Falls Asleep in the Lord*. This booklet is the outcome of much effort by Presvytera Elaine Stephanides. I thank Presvytera Elaine for her foresight to help in a difficult time.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Presvytera Cynthia Paleologos for her awesome presidency to the Sisterhood. Presvytera Cindy served for two years as Vice-President, and then another four years as President. I have had the pleasure of working closely with her for the past two years as Vice-President. She is such a special and humble woman in that she truly cares for each and every presvytera. On behalf of the NSP, I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her service to the Sisterhood and look forward to working with her as she now becomes Past President/Advisor on the board.

Your Sister in Christ,
Alice

Clergy-Laity 2010, Atlanta, GA ~ Presvytera Survey

If you attended Clergy-Laity in Atlanta, GA, please fill out this survey and send your answers to Alice Noplos at anoplos@comcast.net or 11 Longbottom Court, Kingsville, MD 21087 Your participation will be helpful in planning for our next Clergy-Laity. Please do this as soon as possible, while the week is still fresh in your mind.

Your Sister in Christ,
~ Alice Noplos

1. Were you assisted financially by your parish to attend Clergy-Laity?
2. If yes, was it for the full registration and travel expenses?
3. Did you attend the NSP meetings?
4. Were the meetings kept to a minimal amount of time?
5. Is there anything you liked or disliked about the meetings?
6. Did you attend the Clergy/Presvytera Workshops?
7. Please give your honest opinions of the workshops you attended.
8. Would you recommend any workshops for next Clergy-Laity?
9. Did you attend the Clergy Family Ice Cream Social?
10. Any comments on the Social?
11. Did you enroll your child/children in Clergy Family Daycare?
12. Did your children enjoy the program? Is there any way the program could be improved for next Clergy-Laity?
13. Please rate your OVERALL experience at Clergy-Laity from 1-10.
14. Please express the reason for the rating you gave.
15. Please tell us how you think we could improve overall attendance of presvyteres at Clergy-Laity.



Congratulations to our newly elected
National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Board!

Metropolis of Chicago

We pray you all enjoyed a blessed summer and are gearing up for a new liturgical year! It was so nice gathering with so many at the Clergy-Laity Congress!

Our Sisterhood just sponsored our first "annual" clergy family picnic at our St. Iakovos Retreat Center in Kenosha County, Wisconsin, on August 16. We had over 50 people in attendance! The weather was outstanding and we had fun eating, riding bikes, skateboarding, playing sports, playing in the tree fort, riding horses, and fellowshiping! We are looking forward to this becoming an annual August event!

Katerina Kounavis is near completion of our directory! Our Metropolis is getting ready for our semi-annual Family Synaxis gathering Labor Day weekend. The theme is "The Church in the Home: Daring to Be a Christian Family" featuring Dr. Albert Rossi. More information is available at gocfamilysynaxis.org!

We have restructured our Metropolis Sisterhood so we have a president and a representative. Michelle Halekakis is the president of our Metropolis Sisterhood, Chrysanthe Bessinas is our NSP representative, Stefanie Malamis is the vice president, Maria Sarolas is our secretary, and Anastasia Jonas is our treasurer! We have also begun a concerted effort to raise stewardship awareness and are beginning to see the fruits of our efforts!

Our next gathering will be the Feast Day dinner in honor of our Metropolitan Iakovos in October. Many of our clergy and parish representatives gather to honor His Eminence on the occasion of his feast day! It is a lovely annual event of the Metropolis! We are looking forward to our Metropolis open house in December when His Eminence graciously hosts us. We have also begun planning for our annual clergy family vasilopita celebration with His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos!

—*Chrysanthe Bessinas and Michelle Halekakis*

Metropolis of Detroit

The Metropolis of Detroit Sisterhood has been busy planning and meeting during the summer months. At the Clergy-Laity in Atlanta those who could attend met for a lovely lunch at one of the hotel restaurants. There were about 10 ladies and we got to know one another better through great fellowship and discussed ways we

could minister to one another in the coming years. We thank Anastasia Cassis for serving as Representative for 2 years and during the Clergy-Laity, I, with Harriet Wilson, assumed this role for the Metropolis. Anastasia will stay on as our treasurer, and we look forward to great teamwork! We are also busy planning for the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres Retreat in 2011 and encourage everyone to save the date on their calendars!

—*Jennifer Legakis*

Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Greetings in the Lord, from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh presvyteres. Those of us who attended this year's Clergy-Laity enjoyed fellowship and activities with all of our sister presvyteres who had gathered in Atlanta. We thank the Sisterhood in the Atlanta Metropolis for their wonderful preparations and hospitality.

For the past two years our Metropolis Sisterhood has continued to gather periodically for fellowship and support. We gather yearly as a clergy family during Great Lent at a retreat with our Metropolis Clergy Syndesmos at which we have the opportunity to share in services, workshops, and discussions with the clergy as well as time to meet as a Metropolis sisterhood to share fellowship, concerns, and ways to stay in touch. At the latest retreat 14 presvyteres were present. One evening was spent in competitive fellowship as three teams of sisters played "Orthodox Jeopardy." In appreciation of our Metropolitan, we gather each year at the Metropolis for a Clergy Family Christmas party. We are so grateful to our Metropolitan for all his love and support for his clergy families.

Goals for the next two years include having the entire Metropolis Sisterhood on an updated email list, creating regional lists of home-bound clergy for others to visit and support, meeting at one of our Metropolis monasteries twice a year for spiritual renewal and peaceful time. We are establishing a private chat group for anyone interested in participating. We gather as regional groups, and aim to have each of the six regions gather 2-3 times a year for "Pres Only" nights for events such as dinner out, a day at a local monastery, or afternoon tea.

We are looking forward to hosting the 2010 Fall NSP board meeting this October, participating in an annual Pan-Orthodox clergy wives' gathering in October, and our NSP Retreat in 2011. A special thank-you to Dianthe Livanos for emailing the "Ortho Meditation for the Day," a daily inspiration from the Church Fathers.

—*Becky Touloumes*



Presvytera Stella Constantelos

Memorial Fund

This fund was established in July 2010 by Fr. Demetrios, Christine, John, Eleni, and Maria Constantelos in memory of their beloved wife and mother, Presvytera Stella Constantelos, to assist widowed presvyteres who are in financial need. The initial grant and any additional monies collected for this fund are to be used to provide emergency aid up to \$1,000 per gift to widowed presvyteres in financial need.

Gregory Paleologos Memorial Fund

This fund was established in July 2004 in memory of Gregory Paleologos. Gregory was the son of Fr. Nicholas of blessed memory and Presvytera Theodora, and brother of Fr. Dean and Philip Paleologos and Neia Rhodes. He worked diligently for the Church and all people as he was a dedicated social worker. Gregory requested that memorial gifts in his name be used to help widowed presvyteres who are in financial need. He saw this as a way to provide some emergency assistance to these widows who have given so much of their lives to the Church and the community. The monies donated to this fund are to be used to provide emergency aid up to \$1,000 per gift to widowed presvyteres in financial need. By capping the gifts at \$1,000, the fund will be able to aid more widowed presvyteres for a longer period of time.

Donations to either of these funds can be sent to: Presvytera Pauline Pavlakos, 6315 Wilmington Drive, Burke, VA 22015. *Please make checks payable to APC/NSP Benevolent Fund, and put the designated memorial fund in the memo section. We thank these families for remembering our widowed presvyteres through their loved ones. May their memories be eternal!*

NSP Web Site

Our NSP website, www.nsp.goarch.org, is updated immediately upon receipt of information. We would like more current information on the website, so please send your information, including pictures, to Pauline Pavlakos (see page 2 for contact information).

NSP Going Green!

If you are part of the NSP listserv (bulk email system) and are already receiving our emails, we will begin using the listserv to notify you when the next newsletter becomes available online. This is to help us reach our goal of becoming greener by the end of 2010. Please help us by keeping your email address current. If you would rather continue to receive a paper copy in the regular mail, please notify us. Please contact Magda Andronache to let her know that you would like to continue receiving the newsletter through the mail. If you do not have access to email, don't worry; you will continue to receive the newsletter through regular mail. You do not need to contact Magda; this is only for those on the listserv who would rather continue to receive the hard copy in the regular mail. Thank you!

Fall 2011 NSP Retreat

Please mark your calendars now for the Seventh Biennial NSP Retreat, to be hosted by the Metropolis of Detroit. The dates are October 7-10, 2011. It's never too early to save the date, and you don't want to miss it, so mark it down today!

Want to take a peek at where the event will be held? Visit the Wooded Glen Retreat center at www.woodedglen.com



NATIONAL SISTERHOOD OF PRESVYTERES
Magda Andronache
Corresponding Secretary
5901 Promenade Court
Bradenton, FL 34203

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Visit us online at: www.nsp.goarch.org