



A GOOD WORD—Λόγον Αγαθόν

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH
SPECIAL CLERGY-LAITY ISSUE —OCTOBER 2017

METROPOLITAN CONVENES 36TH METROPOLIS ASSEMBLY

Following a moving invocation service, His Eminence Metropolitan Savas called to order the 36th Metropolis Assembly at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Columbus, OH. The two-day conference featured presentations by His Eminence, Fr. Evan Armatas, Mr. Jamil Samara, and Fr. Theodore Dorrance, all on the theme of Outreach and Evangelism, and drew 109 delegates and observers from throughout the Metropolis, with nearly 40 additional delegates for the Philoptochos Assembly. This attendance was the highest seen in more than a decade for a full Assembly (Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos).



His Eminence presiding at the Invocation of the Metropolis Assembly, hosted by Annunciation G.O. Cathedral of Columbus, OH, assisted by Archdeacon Ryan and Archons Peter Clyde Papadakos and Dr. Nicholas Loutsion.

2017 ASSEMBLY DOCUMENTS & NEWS

Important 2017 Metropolis Assembly Documents, including the Resolutions of the Assembly, have been posted on the Metropolis website

For more information, visit:

<http://pittsburgh.goarch.org/2017-assembly>



ELECTION OF LAY MEMBERS FOR 2018- 2020 METROPOLIS COUNCIL

On Saturday of the Assembly, the voting delegates had a chance to elect eight laypersons to serve on the Metropolis Council for the 2018-2020 term. The following will begin their term at the conclusion of the Archdiocesan Congress in Summer, 2018:

Harry Athanasiou, Archon Nicholas Chakos, Mary Doreza, Archon Nicholas Lekas, Archon Dr. Nicholas Loutsion, Archon H. Steven Poulos, Archon Steven Sellas, Archon Philip Yamalis

The election of eight clergy members will be conducted by the Metropolis Syndesmos at their Spring meeting (membership going to the President, four regional Vice-Presidents, and three additional at-large clergymen). After the election of clergymen, His Eminence will then make his appointments to complete the Council's membership.

CHARITABLE DISBURSEMENTS OF THE 2017 PHILOPTOCHOS ASSEMBLY

Metropolis of Pittsburgh Good Samaritan Fund	\$ 3,000
Nativity of the Theotokos Monastery	\$ 2,500
Metropolis Youth	\$10,000
\$ 5,000 Youth Ministries	
\$ 5,000 Camp Ministries	
Holy Cross Graduate Students from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh	7 @ \$1,000 each = \$ 7,000
FOCUS Columbus - Jonah House Project	\$ 1,000

Philoptochos also collected \$3,886 in donations for Hurricane Relief at the Assembly, to be forwarded to the National Philoptochos where they will collect the funds from across the country and send them to IOCC.



SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND THE METROPOLIS MINISTRIES

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including His Eminence's pastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry (tracking marriages, baptisms, chrismations, and deaths), and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis. To contribute, visit <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support>



Annunciation G.O. Cathedral, Columbus, OH choir singing responses during the Sunday Hierarchical Liturgy. Photo by Diana Synadinos, used with permission.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR 2017-2019 METROPOLIS PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD

During their Friday, September 29 session, the assembled Philoptochos delegates elected the new Metropolis Board to serve the term beginning with the end of the Philoptochos Assembly and ending at the conclusion of the 2019 Philoptochos Assembly. After the conclusion of the meeting, the newly constituted Board elected their officers.

Executive Committee

President	Crystal Thomas
1st Vice President	Thea Martin
2nd Vice President	Elaine Andronas
Recording Secretary	Helen Bardos
Corresponding Secretary	Michelle Kotsagrelou
Treasurer	Barbara Pasalis
Asst. Treasurer	Paula Makris Lawrance

Board Members:

Demetria Danielides Abde, Despina Denne, Mary Doreza, Silvia Kazas, Mary McElhanney, Alexandra Melonas, Rosemary Nikas, Stephanie Ocker, Despina Sarantopoulou, Irene Sellas, Mary Trifelos, Helen Tsarwhas, Thana Ward, Sharon Whitman

Appointed Positions – Ex Officio

Regional Liaisons

Eastern PA Liaisons:

Despina Denne & Thana Ward

Pittsburgh Area Liaisons:

Demetria Danielides Abde & Rosemary Nikas

Ohio Liaisons:

Stephanie Ocker, Despina Sarantopoulou & Mary Trifelos

Southern Ohio and West VA Liaisons:

Mary McElhanney & Irene Sellas

Social Services Committee:

Northeastern PA	Barbara Panaretos
Pittsburgh Area	Mary Doreza
Ohio	Stephanie Zavatchen
Southeastern OH and WV	Alexandra Melonas

RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID ADDICTION CRISIS

Whereas, opioids – prescription and illicit – are the main driver of drug overdose deaths, which have quadrupled since 1999; and

Whereas, the highest rates of death due to drug overdose are in our Metropolis. West Virginia death rates are 41.5 per 100,000 (the highest in the United States) Ohio death rates are 29.9 per 100,000 (the 4th highest in the United States) and Pennsylvania has seen significant increases in drug overdoses death rates over the past few years, qualifying our Metropolis as the epi-center of this epidemic; and

Whereas, our Christian witness to love our neighbor call us to recognize in sorrow this epidemic which is ravaging lives and destroying families and needlessly ending the lives of so many and to become engaged to support recovery and rehabilitation efforts and to commend the efforts of our own Metropolis Philoptochos and FOCUS for their continuing efforts to reach out and minister to the victims of substance abuse;

Therefore, Be it Resolved that this Clergy Laity Assembly commend, support and join the efforts of the Metropolis Philoptochos and FOCUS in their efforts to reach out and minister to victims and the opioid crisis and also to recognize the need to pray and to find ways to help the victims of the opioid crisis, both the substance abusers and their families, so that they may be restored to health.



Question and Answer period during the 1st Presentation at the Metropolis Assembly, hosted by Annunciation G.O. Cathedral of Columbus, OH. Photo by Diana Synadinos, used with permission.