



# A GOOD WORD—Λόγον Αγαθόν

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

ISSUE 22 — JUNE 2019



## 6TH ANNUAL ST PHOTIOS BANQUET HONORS VOLUNTEERS

Over 700 attendees gathered on May 11 to celebrate the selfless contributions of 73 awardees representing 37 parishes as the Metropolis. Archon Peter Clyde Papadakos served as emcee for the evening, and the dinner hour featured comments by Fr. Joseph DiStefano of St. Nicholas GOC of Youngstown regarding the Metropolis Benefactors program and its impact on the ministries.

His Eminence Metropolitan Savas spoke of the beautiful layering of the awarding of selfless and dedicated volunteers on the weekend when we remember the most dutiful Myrrh-Bearing Women and Sts. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. The honorees were then brought forward by region and parish to receive their commemorative pin and certificate from His Eminence. After describing in summary the accomplishments of the 71 parish awardees, more extensive service commendations were read for the Metropolis honorees, Mrs. Dorothea Zikos and Mrs. Rosemary Nikas.

Many thanks go to the indefatigable committee made up of over 15 individuals working primarily under the direction of co-chair Ms. Mary Doreza of Ypapanti GOC in East Pittsburgh.

## ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS ELECTED

On May 11 the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate proceeded to fill the vacated seat of the Archdiocese of America following the voluntary retirement of



its shepherd, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America, and unanimously elected His Eminence Metropolitan Elpidophoros (Lambriniadis) of Bursa, Abbot of the Holy Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Halki and Professor of the Theological School of the Aristoteleian University of Thessaloniki.

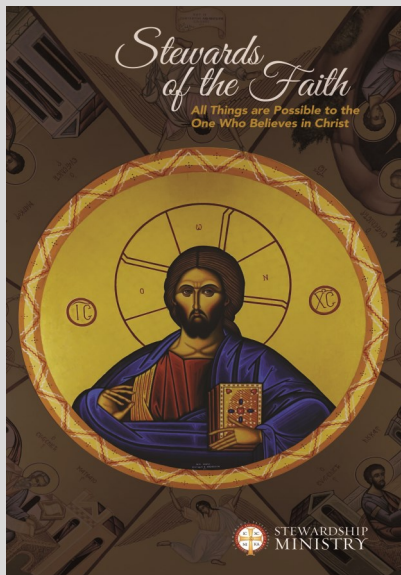
Archbishop Elpidophoros of America was born in 1967 in Bakirköy, Istanbul. He studied at the Department of Pastoral Theology at the Theological School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, graduating in 1991. In 1993, he completed postgraduate studies at the Philosophical School of the University of Bonn in Germany, and was ordained to the Diaconate in 1994 at the Patriarchal Cathedral and appointed Kodikographos of the Holy and Sacred Synod.

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## SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND THE METROPOLIS MINISTRIES

It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including Metropolitan Savas'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>



**YOUNG ADULT,  
YOUTH  
STEWARDSHIP**



Make plans to join the Metropolis Stewardship team on June 27 at 4:30 PM when we welcome Steven Christoforou (of Be The Bee and Y2AM) to our monthly video conference. Steven will be discussing stewardship strategies for young adults and youth in our parishes. **Please email Stacey Stathulis (staceys@pittsburgh.goarch.org) if you are interested in participating in the call.** The Metropolis Stewardship, Outreach, & Evangelism Committee is made of representatives from participating parishes around the Metropolis, dedicated to continuing education and the sharing of best practices across our communities.

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In 1995, he was appointed Deputy Secretary of the Holy and Sacred Synod. From 1996-1997 he studied at the Theological School of St. John the Damascene in Balamand, Lebanon. In 2001, he earned his Doctor of Theology from the Theological School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. In 2004, he was invited to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston, where he taught as Visiting Professor for a semester.

In March 2005, at the proposal of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, he was elevated by the Holy and Sacred Synod to the position of Chief Secretary and ordained to the priesthood by the Ecumenical Patriarch in the Patriarchal Cathedral.

In March 2011, he was elected Metropolitan of Bursa and in August of the same year was appointed Abbot of the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegial Monastery of the Holy Trinity on the island of Halki. He has served as Orthodox Secretary of the Joint International Commission for the Theological Dialogue between the Orthodox Church and the Lutheran World Federation and member of the Patriarchal delegations to the General Assemblies of the Conference of European Churches and the World Council of Churches. He was the Secretary of the Pan-Orthodox Synods in Sofia (1998), Istanbul (2005), Geneva (2006), and Istanbul (2008). He has been a member of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches since 1996.



**SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2019  
METROPOLIS CLERGY-LAITY ASSEMBLY  
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
CAMP HILL, PA—MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

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**His Eminence Metropolitan SAVAS of Pittsburgh, Presiding Hierarch**

Fr. George Callos, Chancellor

Pres. Eileen Sedor, Receptionist

Marina Papafil, Camp Ministries Coordinator

ADn. Ryan Gzikowski, Asst. to Metropolitan & Registrar

Rhea Ballas, Youth & Young Adult Ministries Director

Maria Stamoolis, Director of Greek Education and Culture

Stacey Stathulis, Stewardship Ministries Coordinator