

METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO METROPOLIS OF DENVER METROPOLIS OF DETROIT METROPOLIS OF BOSTON METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH METROPOLIS OF DENVER METROPOLIS OF DENVER METROPOLIS OF DETROIT METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH METROPOLIS OF DENVER METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA METROPOLIS OF BOSTON METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH METROPOLIS OF DENVER

Metropolitan Alexis Opens Dining Hall, Kitchen at Diakonia Center

by Fr. George Savas

With the generous donation by Charlie (Anastasios) Masterpolis the Diakonia Retreat and Conference Center has opened the doors to its new dining hall and kitchen.

Metropolitan Alexis has been the driving force and inspiration of not only the purchase, but continued building of the property and programs hosted at the Diakonia Center, an integral part of the Metropolis of Atlanta. Situated along a lake on 210 acres near Salem, S.C., this dining hall will be used by the many groups who use the facility.

Already His Eminence's vision has become reality with use by all of the Church organizations including clergy retreats, parish council seminars, Philoptochos, GOYA, Senior Ministry, Summer Camp, and College OCF to name a few.

As has been the tradition hundreds attended the Pascha Glendi hosted the Saturday before the Myrrh Bearers Sunday. Lambs cooked on the spit, old and young alike enjoyed the many activities of the day which were highlighted by the special service of Agape and Blessing of the new building.

Honored guest included His Eminence Ignatios of Demetriados who spoke inspiring words to the faithful sharing the message of the Anastasis and making it a reality in our lives. Metropolitan Alexis also introduced the new executive director of the Diakonia Center, Fr. George Savas.

Fr. George who took residence on the property will oversee all of the activity of the Center as well as conduct liturgical services for visitors and residents of the surrounding area.

This center is open to everyone of the Metropolis as well as the entire Archdiocese. The proximity to Atlanta and Greenville invites easy access for retreats, conferences, meetings and summer camps.

When the weather in the north becomes too cold for outdoor enjoyment this South Carolina location is perfect for Advent and early spring Pascha retreats. Pan Orthodox participation is promoted and encouraged.

Recent additions to the Center have included three lodges which sleep 40 each. Already on the property are 10 cabins for more private stays and a pavilion that is used for larger groups. Hiking and boating are part of the regular activities. Buildings for meetings, arts and crafts, woodworking, and education are also found on the property.

Athletic activities are conducted in the lighted basketball courts, soccer and baseball fields. A sandy beach becomes the launching area for the canoes and docks for fishing. Area golf courses provide added perks for the visitors.

Already in the planning stages the new Church will become a focal point from every direction. Centered on the property as well as in our daily life, the church will be built in the traditional Byzantine style. The Retreat Center is a wonderful setting to further our Orthodox life and enjoy spiritual focus.

In its most natural beauty one cannot help but recognize the magnificent hand of God in creation and His blessings in our lives.

For more information visit our web page at www.diakoniacenter.org or email Fr. George directly at fgoholyspirit@yahoo.com



The Atlanta Metropolis Diakonia Retreat and Conference Center dining hall.

OUTREACH and EVANGELISM

Outreach is a Person-to-Person Process

by Fr. James Kordaris

Second of two parts

MINISTRY PROFILES

Research has shown that people are looking to serve others through their church. Ministry Profiles is a program designed to profile exceptional ministries carried out in parishes throughout the Archdiocese with a step-by-step plan of implementation.

The goal of Ministry Profiles is not to add to the workload of our parish priests.

Local clergy are encouraged to assess the gifts of lay leadership in the parish, empowering them to spearhead suitable ministries, always under the guidance of the parish priest.

Ministries highlighted include the Challenge Liturgy -- a special liturgy of physically & mentally challenged Orthodox Christians; a Grief & Bereavement Support Group, the Life Ministries Program to assist new mothers in need, and the Parish Nurse Program -- a multifaceted ministry serving parishioners and the surrounding community.

OUTREACH WEBSITE & LISTSERV

Over the past few years, this web site has grown quickly and includes many resources and ministry tools for outreach & evangelism, relevant articles, sermons, ministry profiles, photos and updates on developments from throughout the Archdiocese.

The Department also provides regular electronic communication with all those interested in outreach and evangelism through the Outreach email listserv.

PARISH VISITOR CARDS & RACK

Welcome visitors and collect their contact information for follow-up with this handsome Parish Visitor Card Rack for your candle stand, visitors' center, literature table or bookstore.

CLEARINGHOUSE

OF LITURGICAL ITEMS

Throughout the Archdiocese there are parishes in need of liturgical items such as censers, chalice sets, baptismal fonts, kouvouklia, and more.

There are also many established parishes that have several of these items, some of which are never used.

The Department is working with the parishes to match up those that have with those that need in order to provide these basic liturgical items for only the cost of delivery.

Through this program the needs of parishes are being met through the care and generosity of other parishes. Relationships are being formed between parishes across the Archdiocese to the benefit of all.

PARISH LOCATION ANALYSIS

A booklet outlining a process to assess the feasibility of establishing a parish based upon demographic analysis and projected population growth trends is available through the department.

This location analysis is useful for new parishes, for existing parishes considering a change of location, and for existing parishes wishing to determine the growth potential of their current location. Copies may be ordered by contacting the Department (Outreach@goarch.org).

LAY MINISTRY

Lay Ministry is a key element in the process of parish renewal. The parish priest is called to assess the gifts of his lay leadership and to empower them to spearhead suitable lay ministries under his guidance. In the words of St. John Chrysostom: "The most basic task of the Church leader is to discern the spiritual gifts of all those under his authority, and to encourage those gifts to be used to the full for the benefit of all. Only a person who can discern the gifts of others and can humbly rejoice at the flowering of those gifts is fit to lead the Church."

Department of Outreach & Evangelism
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