Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Attends Papal Installation in Rome

Below is a letter from George E. Demacopoulos, PhD, who wrote on the extraordinary historical significance of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew’s presence at Pope Francis’ installation as Bishop of Rome.

March 19, 2013

Amid the crush of news reports in the past month that followed Pope Benedict's unprecedented resignation from the papacy, one of the most intriguing was the decision by His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, to attend Pope Francis’ installation as Bishop of Rome. The occasion is being presented in the media as something that has not happened since the ecclesiastical schism that separated Christian East and Christian West in the eleventh century. But, that characterization is almost certainly wrong—this is quite likely the first time in history that a Bishop of Constantinople will attend the installation of a Bishop of Rome. And, this is a profoundly bold step in ecumenical relations between the Orthodox and the Roman Catholics, one that could have lasting significance.

Prior to the sixth century, the election of a Roman bishop was a local affair. In most cases, the new pope was chosen from among the city’s clergy and was typically either the eldest priest or the eldest deacon. There were a few exceptions, but this was the typical pattern. News of an election would circulate throughout the Christian world but that news flow would have been too slow to enable high-ranking Church officials from the East to travel to Rome for the event.

During the sixth century, Byzantine armies conquered the Italian peninsula, returning the city of Rome to the imperial Roman government, now centered in Constantinople. In this context, which lasted from the mid-sixth century until the loss of Byzantine influence in Italy in the eighth century, the election of a new Roman bishop required the approval of the Byzantine emperor (the same, of course, was true of the election of a new Ecumenical Patriarch). Under such an arrangement, papal elections took longer, but there still would be no reason for an Eastern Patriarch to travel to Rome for the installation.

There are a few examples from this Byzantine period, such as the election of Pope Pelagius I in 556, where the man elected to be the Roman bishop was actually in Constantinople at the time of his election. While it is possible that the...
sacramental ceremony to install the new pope could have occurred in Constantinople—whereby the Patriarch of Constantinople would have been present—it is far more likely that the official ceremony would have occurred in Rome and, therefore, would have been conducted without the Patriarch’s presence.

At the conclusion of Byzantine influence in papal elections in the eighth century, the election of Roman bishops returned, again, to local considerations. And, as geo-political factors continued to push Italy and the Eastern empire in separate directions, relations between individual popes and patriarchs became more sterile and distant—and, indeed, between the ninth and fifteenth century there are only one or two occasions where a Roman bishop and an Ecumenical Patriarch ever met in person.

With all of this in mind, His All-Holiness' decision to travel to Rome for Pope Francis' installation as Roman bishop is an extraordinary event in the history of Christianity. And, it is significant for reasons far beyond its novelty. First and foremost, it is a powerful symbolic gesture for the cause of Christian unity. It demonstrates in unprecedented fashion the extent to which the Ecumenical Patriarch considers the relationship with the Roman Catholic Church to be a priority. For their part, members of the Vatican staff have responded to this grand gesture and have arranged for the reading of the Gospel at the installation to be sung in Greek (rather than Latin) in recognition of the fact that the Ecumenical Patriarch has taken this unprecedented step.

The Christian world has been divided for so long that the establishment of an authentic reunion will require courage, leadership, and humility. It will also require a foundation in common faith and concerns. Given Pope Francis' well-documented work for social justice and his insistence that globalization is detrimental to the poor, it would appear as though the Orthodox and the Roman Catholic traditions have a renewed opportunity to work collectively on issues of mutual concern. With our Lord's assistance, that common cause can be transformed into more substantive theological work. But, such work requires a first step, and it would appear as though Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is willing to take such a step.

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Photographs courtesy CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano

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Liturgical Services
Sundays – Orthros 8:45
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Weekdays (when scheduled) 9:00 am

Cathedral Clergy
Very Reverend Father Maximos Pafilis
FrMaximos@holytrinitycathedral.org

Chanters: Petros Demarinis, Demetrios Pappas

Choir Director: Alex Tiliakos

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Support: Secretary, Vickie Catsulis

Maintenance: Darrell Blunt
Address of His All-Holiness to His Holiness Pope Francis of Rome

On Wednesday, March 20, 2013, during a formal reception at the Vatican, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew represented the Christian and faith communities in a special address to Pope Francis. The Patriarch’s attendance at the papal inaugural mass was a historic initiative on the part of Patriarch Bartholomew inasmuch as it was the first time in history that an Ecumenical Patriarch was personally present at a papal installation.

In the name of the Lord of powers, we wholeheartedly congratulate You on the inspired election and deserved assumption of Your new high duties as First Bishop of the venerable Church of Senior Rome, defined by the primacy of love.

On this Throne, You succeed Pope Benedict XVI, who boldly retired for reasons of health and fatigue, a man distinguished for his meekness, theology, and love. The task and responsibility before You are immense before both God and humankind. The unity of the Christian Churches is surely our foremost concern as one of the fundamental prerequisites for the credibility of our Christian witness in the eyes of those near and afar. In order to achieve this unity, we must continue the inaugurated theological dialogue so that we may jointly appreciate and approach the truth of faith, the experience of the saints, and the tradition of the first Christian millennium shared by East and West alike. It should be a dialogue of love and truth, in a spirit of humility, meekness, and honesty.

After all, the global economic crisis urgently mandates the coordination of our humanitarian action, in which You are well experienced as a result of Your long and fruitful ministry as a Good Samaritan in Latin America, where You pastorally witnessed – like so few others – the bitterness of human pain and suffering. Those who “have” must be motivated to offer – willingly and gladly – to those who “have not.” In this way, peace will be secured through justice as the sole universal request and the basic expectation of all nations. We must feed the hungry, clothe the naked, treat the suffering, and generally care for the needy so that we may hear from our Lord: “Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you.” (Matt. 25.34)

The selection by Your beloved and esteemed Holiness of a lifestyle of simplicity has highlighted – and will continue to highlight – your priority for what is essential. This fills the hearts of everyone – Your faithful and all people in general – with a sense of hope. It is the hope that this priority will be applied broadly so that judgment and mercy, as the essence the law, may prevail in the Church.

Throughout the two-thousand-year history of the Church of Christ, certain truths of the sacred Gospel were misinterpreted by some Christian groups, resulting in secular misconceptions that have unfortunately spread in Christian circles today. Thus, the burden of our obligation and responsibility is to remind ourselves, each another, and the entire world that God became human in Jesus Christ in order that we may lead a divine way of life. Indeed, “God is the Lord and has appeared to us.” The one who created all things in the beginning, who guides and provides for all things, descended to the depths of death on the cross in order that, through His resurrection, He may demonstrate that “blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,” and in His name alone, to serve His people, so that we may all be united, and that Christ may be all things and in all things.

This world is the domain where we realize this spiritual way of life, where we achieve our integration into the body of Christ, and where we are brought through Him into eternal life. The Church consecrates this earthly life, although it does not consummate its mission in this earthly life. We all realize and recognize this truth, which is why – as pastors and faithful alike – we travel this way of truth, acquiring the heavenly through the earthly.

As the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the worldwide Orthodox Church of Christ, we are certain that Your venerable and dearly beloved Holiness, who commences this historical journey with such favorable auspices as Bishop of Rome, will – together with all those who are willing and able – exhibit special concern for the reparation of secular trends so that humanity may be restored to its “original beauty” of love. We fervently pray with all Christians, as well as with people throughout the world, that Your Holiness will prove effective in this deeply responsible and highly onerous task.

May our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed and glorified. Thanks be to God, who in every period of time raises up worthy leaders, deserving of their calling to lead and guide His people, for the adoration of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pope Francis embraces Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, spiritual leader of Orthodox Christians, at the Vatican March 20. The pope met with Patriarch Bartholomew before a meeting with the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh, and Jain delegations that had come to the Vatican for his inauguration. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)
Following the Lord’s Prayer with the exclamation of the Priest and the response of the people, we move into the climax of the Divine Liturgy, which is receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. After the response of the people the Priest turns and says, “Peace be with you.” And, the people respond, “And with your spirit.” The call for peace is given at this point so that we are totally, one hundred percent ready to receive Christ’s Body and Blood. Then, the Deacon or Priest says, “Let us bow our heads to the Lord.” And, the people respond with the phrase, “To You, O Lord.” Subsequently, the Priest reads the prayer, “We give thanks to You, invisible King. By Your infinite power You created all things and by Your great mercy You brought everything from nothing into being. Master, look down from heaven upon those who have bowed their heads before You; they have bowed not before flesh and blood but before You the awesome God. Therefore, Master, guide the course of our life for our benefit according to the need of each of us. Sail with those who sail; travel with those who travel; and heal the sick, Physician of our souls and bodies.” And, then, the Priest chants the exclamation, “By the grace, mercy, and love for us of Your only begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with Your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.” And, the people respond with “Amen.”

This prayer with its exclamation describes how we, who are unworthy with bowed heads, come and stand before Christ and ask Him to guide us in our life and according to our needs. We also ask Christ to be with those who are traveling and to heal them and us from all of our sickness.

Following the “Amen” by the people, we hear another prayer by the Priest, “Lord Jesus Christ, our God, hear us from Your holy dwelling place and from the glorious throne of Your kingdom. You are enthroned on high with the Father and are also invisibly present among us. Come and sanctify us, and let Your pure Body and precious Blood be given to us by Your mighty hand and through us to all Your people.” This prayer is a final request before we receive Holy Communion so that God will hear us and sanctify us as we are about to receive His Holy Body and Blood.

Next, we hear the ancient call to communion, where the Priest raises the Body of Christ and says, “Let us be attentive. The holy gifts for the holy people of God.” This call to Communion and the raising of the Body of Christ was a sign to the people to come and receive Holy Communion.

During this time the Choir or Chanters will chant the hymn known as the Koinonikon. This hymn appears to have been introduced in the Liturgy sometime in the 4th century. St. Cyril of Jerusalem mentions the Koinonikon being in the form of a Psalm, the last verse of which was sung by the people. Also, St. John Chrysostom reports that in Antioch the Koinonikon was a hymn to which the people responded by repeating a fixed refrain. Gradually, different forms of Koinonika developed in both the East and the West. The earliest Koinonikon, which is still used today in the Presanctified Liturgy is from Psalm 33, “Taste and see that the Lord is good. Alleluia.” Today, the Koinonikon varies according to the feast celebrated on that day. The most common is the one sung on Sundays, “Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the Highest. Alleluia.” (Psalm 148:1). The most celebrated Koinonikon is the one sung at the Resurrection Liturgy. It is a call to the faithful; “Partake ye of the Body of Christ, drink ye from the fountain of immortality! Alleluia!”

While the Koinonikon is sung, the Clergy prepare to receive Holy Communion. First, the Priest breaks the Amnos, or Lamb of God, into four parts (see Article I) saying, “The Lamb of God is broken and distributed; broken but not divided. He is forever eaten yet is never consumed, but He sanctifies those who partake of Him.” Then, he takes the piece labeled IC (see Article I) and places it into the chalice.
saying, “The fullness of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” And, finally, he takes warm water known as Zeon and blesses it saying, “Blessed is the fervor of Your saints, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.” As he is pouring it into the chalice he recites, “The warmth of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Next, the Clergy will recite the Communion Prayers. The communion prayers were added to this part of the service much later. These prayers were meant to be read privately in preparation for Holy Communion; hence, the first person “I.” They were added here because people were not reading them, and thus it was a last chance for us to pray together the prayers. There are correctly eight different prayers that are read at this point, of which only four usually appear in most books. I shall not include the prayers here as they are meant to be read privately before coming to receive Holy Communion.

Once the recitation of the prayers has concluded, the Priest then proceeds to receive Holy Communion in the ancient way, first the body, then the blood. He says, “Behold, I approach Christ, our immortal King and God. The precious and most holy Body of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ is given to me (Name) the unworthy Priest, for the forgiveness of my sins and eternal life.” He partakes of the Body of Christ. Then, after this he takes up the chalice and says, “Again, I approach Christ, our immortal King and God. The precious and most holy Blood of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ is given to me (Name), the unworthy priest, for the forgiveness of my sins and eternal life.” And, the Priest drinks from the Chalice. Once he has finished he wipes the chalice and says, “This has touched my lips, taking away my transgressions and cleansing my sins.” If there was a Deacon present, the Priest would then give communion to the Deacon. Since the role of the Deacon is to administer the sacrament and not consecrate it as the Priest does, it is the Priest that gives communion to the Deacon in the ancient way, first the Body, then the Blood.

In the early life of the Church, the laity would also receive Holy Communion in this way. However, the practice of this was stopped because of abuse by the people. For example, Holy Communion was taken home, kept and used when the people felt it was necessary, and in many cases it was worshiped rather than consumed. It was not until the 8th century that the spoon was introduced to distribute the gifts so that abuses would no longer take place.

Once the Clergy have received Holy Communion, the Priest or Deacon proceeds to place all of the remaining particles from the Diskos (see Article I) into the Chalice. The Priest or Deacon recites hymns from the Easter Divine Liturgy, “Having beheld the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only Sinless One. We venerate Your cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Your holy resurrection. You are our God. We know no other than You, and we call upon Your name. Come, all faithful, let us venerate the holy resurrection of Christ. For behold, through the cross joy has come to all the world. Blessing the Lord always, let us praise His resurrection. For enduring the cross for us, He destroyed death by death.”

Once the Priest or Deacon has finished preparing the Chalice(s) we then hear the second call to communion, “With the fear of God, with faith and love, draw near.” We are called to approach the chalice with fear, which means in awe of God’s beauty; with faith, the belief that this is the true Body and Blood of Christ; and love, the love for our neighbor, the love that we have shown each other, the love that when we show we are true disciples of Christ. If we love each other and share the same faith, then we are with Christ. Christ says this to us in the Gospel of John 13:35, “By this they will know that you are my Disciples, if you have love for one another.” Hence, why we are asked to approach with fear, faith, and love!

It is also important to note that we should have fasted before we come to receive Holy Communion, including not eating anything that morning. Of course, there are those who are not able to fast or need to take medications. Those people should speak with the Priests, and, like a physical doctor, they will determine the right course of action.

With this we conclude the section on receiving Holy Communion. In Part XVII we shall examine the Prayer of Thanksgiving.
Thank you to the following donors for their memorial gifts:

- Kris and Richard McGee
- Juliette and Noris Balabanian and Family “May their memories be eternal.”
- Costas Pavlou and Pavlou/Sigala Families

Thank you, Toula Capetanos, for your continued support of the maintenance and storage needs of the Holy Trinity Historic Collection.

Viki and Nick Moustoukas recently donated a historic wooden icon that was gifted to Dr. Moustoukas by His All Holiness Jerusalem Patriarch Diodoros I, (1981-2000) after Dr. Moustoukas performed surgery on the Patriarch’s cousin. This very old icon of the Resurrection is similar to the iconography on the processional fan that is being restored now. Next steps are to have the icon assessed for age and conservation needs. Thank you, Viki and Nick, for this historic icon.

Holy Trinity mid-late 19th century processional fan. We are soliciting donations to conserve this artifact. The total cost is $2,400.

RAFFLE
25TH ANNIVERSARY
GREEK FESTIVAL POSTER
The Archives Committee is selling raffle tickets for the 1998 Michalopoulos poster that commemorated the 25th anniversary of our Greek Festival. With its archival frame, the signed and numbered limited edition poster has a value of $450. You can view the it in the foyer of the Hellenic Cultural Center. Tickets are one for $3 or two for $5. See members of the Parish Council or Archives Committee to purchase. Father Maximos purchased the first raffle tickets.

“Thank you, Father Maximos!”

1865 GREEK LITURGICAL MUSIC
Pictured right is the Service of the Greek Church written in 1865 to honor King George I of Greece. The service was presented to the Greek community of Manchester, England in 1865. According to a historian of the period, the chanter, John Chaviaras, was a native of Chios, who obtained a degree in philology, became director of the Vienna Greek school and choir master of the church of the Holy Trinity of Sina in Vienna. He immigrated to England in 1855 probably on invitation by local Chiotes. This liturgical document is in our possession, and we can surmise that it was brought to our first church by the earliest Greek settlers of New Orleans, who were from Chios.
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Collegians Visit New Orleans for Real Break Program

Orthodox Christian Fellowship organizes both domestic and international trips to give college students the opportunity to serve those less fortunate and to do something “real” for themselves and for God. The Real Break program is an alternative to the “traditional” Spring Break and exists to provide the most authentic full Christian lifestyle experience combining fellowship, prayer within community, witness, and service. The program has been running since 2000 with over a thousand students participating in life-changing trips to Mexico, Guatemala, Jerusalem, Constantinople, Raphael House, St. Basil Academy, Greece, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Romania, Buenos Aires, Alaska, and more.

With many families and individuals left without a home following brutal storms along the Gulf coast, the Real Break New Orleans team put love into action March 4 - March 9, 2013, and helped build hope by offering relief to those affected by these natural disasters. This trip combined OCF efforts with IOCC and Habitat for Humanity and enabled college students to change a family’s life by building a home. Christina Andresen, North American Chapter Relations Coordinator, made arrangements for the group to come to New Orleans, as well as visit Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Students spent four days outdoors working hard as a team to complete tasks like laying cement, building frames, roofing, and painting. The goal of this trip was to build a home, witness firsthand the damage done by natural disasters, interact with families who have lost their homes, and enter into a daily life of prayer and hard work with college students from across the country.

**Day 1:** The team visited the Lower Ninth Ward, where they compared pre-Katrina photos to what the area looks like today. They took in the reality that some homes have been rebuilt but that there is still much work to be done. They also visited the Musicians Village Park and noticed the markings still on visible on the houses. The evening ended with orientation and prayers after which Christina detailed some of the plans for the week.

**Day 2:** Once they picked up their gear at the Habitat Restore, the young workers unloaded the tools from the truck and promptly received instruction from staff member, Brenden, who taught the dos and don’ts of working with electric saws. After a long day on the job, they visited the French Quarter and the "Living with Hurricane Katrina and Beyond" exhibit before having dinner at Acme Oyster House.

**Day 3:** The team helped clear out the the Lambert Street Habitat site in preparation of pouring concrete to create a driveway. They moved lumber, painted trim, sanded the front deck, and dug a 1’x 2’ x 1’ hole in the ground to make way for future front yard gardens. Father Michael Ellis always brought the group together for some reflection after lunch. That evening Father Michael led them in a Paraklisis service at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, and after services they were welcomed by the parishioners at a small reception.

**Day 4:** Work progressed as the group mixed and poured concrete, assembled kitchen counter tops before nailing them into position, painted doors, and cleaned the area. The day concluded with a trip to Louis Armstrong Park and several art galleries in the French Quarter.
2013 Holy Trinity Parish Council Committees

The Parish Council members were given committees assignments in order to better serve various areas and organizations within the community. Please note the categories below and feel free to contact the appropriate liaison with your concerns and questions.

ALARMS: Costa Vennis
ARCHIVES: Fred Ammons
CHURCH SERVICES: Fred Ammons, Evangelia Bilalis, Pete Patselikos
COMMUNICATIONS: Costa Vennis
EDUCATION (GREEK SCHOOL, CATHEDRAL MONTESSORI, SUNDAY SCHOOL): Costa Vennis, Leftheris Toras, Evangelia Bilalis
GREEK FESTIVAL: Christ Kanellakis, Mike Kleamenakis, Leftheris Toras,
HALL RENTAL: Mike Kleamenakis, Socrates Toras, Elias Tsatalios
INVESTMENTS: Christ Kanellakis, Steve Psarellis, Leftheris Toras
MAINTENANCE AND CUSTODIAL SUPERVISION: Christ Kanellakis, Pete Patselikos, Elias Tsatalios
ORGANIZATIONS: Fred Ammons, Evangelia Bilalis, Elias Tsatalios
REAL ESTATE: Steve Psarellis, Christ Kanellakis
STEWARDSHIP: Mike Kleamenakis, Socrates Toras
WELCOME: Pete Patselikos
YOUTH (JOY, GOYA, YOUNG ADULTS): Leftheris Toras, Costa Vennis

JOHN PAUL II EXHIBIT OPENING

Father Maximos Pafilis, left, gives the blessing after New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond's, right, opening remarks during the opening of the exhibit “Portrait of Faith: John Paul II in Life and Art” at the New Orleans Museum of Art on Thursday, March 7, 2013. The exhibit, which includes photos and items from the pope's 1987 visit to New Orleans, as well as original artwork featuring the late pontiff, runs from March 8 until June 16, 2013. (Photo by Michael DeMocker, Nola.com/ The Times-Picayune)

PARISH REGISTRY

Celebrations, Milestones, Comfort, and Support

40-DAYS BLESSING
February 2, 2013—Matthew Carter Baer
Son of Elisabeth (Lorio) and Jason Baer

FUNERALS
March 11, 2013—Constantinos Sklepas
March 30, 2013—Dimitrios Spetsiotis

40-DAYS MEMORIAL
March 10, 2013—Peter Aneson

WEDDING
March 16, 2013
Martha Hyde and James R. Strain, Jr.
Koubaros—Nicholas Chronis
DAUGHTERS OF PENELlope

Initiations

Membership in the Daughters of Penelope continues to increase as two new ladies were initiated into Nestor Chapter #55 on Sunday, March 17, 2013. Miranda Webb and Vicki McCallef were welcomed into the DOP at a delicious St.Patrick’s Day themed reception following our March meeting.

_left to right - Meeting Hostesses Deborah MacInnes and Barbara Stavis Wolf; Chapter President Adrienne Dabbs Owen; New Members Miranda Webb and Vicki McCallef; Meeting Hostesses Mary Ellen Grace and Vange Malachias

World War II Museum

On March 16 we had nearly twenty members of Philoptochos, AHEPA, and Daughters join us for a tour of the WWII Museum. The exhibition in the main building was not only enlightening but truly moving and poignant for all of us. We watched the extraordinary Tom Hanks narrated 4-D film “Beyond All Boundaries” and later toured the Boeing Center, where vintage airplanes are suspended from the ceiling. The Daughters of Penelope extend our gratitude to Barbara Stavis Wolf for organizing this educational and wonderful event!

Attention Community Members: The annual AHEPA Family Palm Sunday Luncheon will be held on Sunday, April 28 following Palm Sunday services in the Hellenic Cultural Center. Tickets will be available at the door for $10 per person and will include dessert and a drink. Please make your plans to attend this event and look for further information in the weekly Sunday church bulletins.
Philoptochos Ladies Weave Mats for Homeless

Maria Anastasiou and Diane Chronis are pictured at the left with the mats that they are crocheting for the homeless. Philoptochos is continuing with its recycle projects by recycling plastic grocery bags into mats for the homeless. Diane Chronis, group organizer, brought the idea to Philoptochos at the end of last year. Each mat uses 600 to 700 bags and takes about 40 to 60 hours to produce. The ladies stay after Philoptochos meetings and learn how to turn the grocery bags into plastic yarn that is used to crochet the mats. The bag is flattened and folded vertically in half before the top handles and the bottom seam are trimmed off. The remaining material is then cut into 3-inch-wide strips and knotted together in loops similar to how one might join rubber bands. After repeating the process for multiple bags, the “yarn” is rolled into a ball. Lemonya Chouzouri, Elaine Nugent, and Connie Tiliakos are also currently crocheting mats while other members are cutting the bags to prepare the plastic yarn. Elaine Nugent says, “Even if you know how to crochet, it takes a while to become comfortable with using plastic rather than fiber yarn.”

LEFT—Elaine Nugent crochets a mat. CENTER—Diane Chronis helps Koula Vennis with a crochet stitch. RIGHT—Ginny Zissis, Cathy Vial, Faith Kyame, and other Philoptochos members fold, cut, and loop bags into plastic yarn.

LEFT—Sandy Bouzon ties bags. CENTER—Gela Pembo and Argie Kleamenakis cut and tie bags. RIGHT—Kathy Tsatsoulis and Angie Krinas cut, fold, and tie bags.

ANNOUNCEMENT: 2013 Youth Choir Conference

This year’s Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians Conference will be held in Tampa, Florida, the weekend of July 26-28. Consider planning a family getaway to Tampa for the weekend and having your child participate in the youth choir! Enjoy plenty of fun activities and outings together, as well as offering your child the chance to spend time learning some of the beautiful hymns of the Divine Liturgy. On Sunday, all of the children in the youth choir will take part in the liturgy and present what they have learned. This is a fantastic opportunity to encourage your child to participate in our worship services! For more information, email tampayouthcc@gmail.com or contact Ewana Forde at 561-371-6192.
The children of HOPE & JOY had a fun filled afternoon on Saturday, March 9, 2013, as they participated in the Spring Pottery Painting activity staged at the Hellenic Cultural Center. The parents prepared a delicious pot-luck lunch, which was shared by all before the budding artists used their artistic talents and decoratively painted their own pottery bowls. Thankfully, there were lots of moms to help with this event and to ensure that everyone had a great time!

On Sunday, March 10, 2013, the GOYANS attended an exciting game at the "Hive," where they cheered on the Hornets in a thrilling victory over the Portland Trail Blazers 98-96. Pictured from left to right are Lawrence Labatut, Tony Pembo, Lenna Korominas, Eleni Korominas, Sophia Marathonitis, Jonathan Labatut, Pantelis Patselikos, Nick Stokes, Brian Stokes, and Pete Patselikos.

On Sunday, February 24, 2013, four young Holy Trinity members presented their speeches in the Cathedral for the Annual St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Introduced in 1983, this event provides Greek Orthodox teenagers the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. The presentations begin at the parish level with the top two speakers in each the Junior and Senior Divisions advancing to the district level. This year the Western Conference Oratorical Festival will be held in Pensacola, Florida, on Saturday, April 13.

The 2013 participants included Andrew Burin, Alex Korominas in the Senior Division and Nick Stokes and George Evangeloulis in the Junior Division. They did an excellent job and all will advance to the District Level. Congratulations Alex, Andrew, Nick and George. Job well done and we are very proud of you!

A big thank you to the Holy Trinity PTA for providing scholarships to the winners as well as hosting a celebratory cake and punch reception. Thank you also to Aki Christakis keeping time during the speeches and to Denise Ammons for offering tips and advise to the speakers for the next round of competition.
PTA INITIATES MONTHLY FAMILY DAY-BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Holy Trinity PTA initiated a new concept on Sunday, February 24, 2013. The organization invited the entire Cathedral family to participate in the first Family Day Pot Luck Luncheon and Birthday Celebration to which attendees were asked to bring a dish, break abread together, and celebrate birthdays for that month. January and February birthday honorees were spotlighted during the festivities. Chairpersons Suzanne Stratikis and Katerina Sutton were pleased with the turn out on the maiden voyage of this undertaking and look forward to seeing the event grow with future gatherings.
Music is a cornerstone of the Montessori Curriculum. Research has shown the close links between music and math, as well as music and linguistic intelligence. In light of the importance of participation in culturally valued activities, Cathedral Montessori School is proud to present a concert by local musician and international star, Johnette Downing. The award winning musician and author has been dubbed "the Musical Ambassador to Children" and presents workshops, interactive concerts, and author visits globally. Her twenty-one awards include six Parents' Choice Awards and four national Parenting Publications Awards. Ms. Downing is dedicated to cultural exchanges and fostering learning, language, and literacy through her music and books.

With her signature mix of Dixieland Jazz, Cajun, Creole, and Zydeco rhythms, her vocal and instrumental sophistication and all-embracing warmth, Downing creates an irresistible musical jubilee.—The Los Angeles Times

Johnette Downing will be performing on April 11, 2013, at 10:00 am in the Hellenic Cultural Center.

A book-signing will follow. We welcome all families and their young children from the Holy Trinity Cathedral to attend this concert as our guests.

You may contact Billie Andersson for more information—504-455-1210

Students visit the Cathedral each Friday. To the right is a picture of Father with the children after they discussed the story of The Prodigal Son.

NEA ΑΠΟ ΤΟ ΜΟΝΤΕΣΟΡΙ

Η μουσική είναι ένας από τους θεμέλιους ιόθους του προγράμματος του Μοντέσορι. Έρευνες δείχνουν τη στενή σχέση μεταξύ μουσικής και μαθηματικών, όπως επίσης και μεταξύ μουσικής και γλωσσομάθειας. Έχοντας υπόψη τη σπουδαιότητα συμμετοχής σε αξιόλογες πολιτιστικές δραστηριότητες, το Σχολείο Μοντέσορι με υπερηφάνεια παρουσιάζει τη συναυλία μιας τοπικής αλλά και διεθνούς φήμης μουσικής προσωπικότητας, της Johnette Downing. Η Johnette έχει ονομασθεί «Η ΜΟΥΣΙΚΟΣ ΠΡΕΣΒΗΣ ΤΩΝ ΠΑΙΔΙΩΝ», βραβευμένη μουσικός και συγγραφέας. Δίνει μαθήματα και σεμινάρια διεθνώς, συμμετέχοντας συγγραφέων, ενώ έχει βραβευθεί 21 φορές, εκ των οποίων 6 από την “Επιλογή των Γονέων” και 4 για δημοσιεύματα για γονείς.

Η κα Downing είναι αφοσιωμένη στην ανταλλαγή ηθικών και πολιτιστικών στοιχείων, εκμαθήσεως γλωσσών και επιμορφώσεως μέσω της μουσικής και των βιβλίων. Με το ιδιόμορφο μείγμα ρυθμών όπως Jazz, Cajun, Creole και Zydeco και την φωνητική της ικανότητα και δεξιοτεχνία προκαλεί ένα μοντέρνο και θερμό συναισθήμα στο οποίο είναι αδύνατο να αντισταθεί κανείς.

Η Johnette Downing θα παρουσιάσει το πρόγραμμα της στις 11 Απριλίου, 10:00 π.μ. στο κοινωνικό μας κέντρο. Θα ακολουθήσει υπογραφή-αφιέρωση βιβλίων. Προσκαλούμε όλους να συμμετάσχουμε μαζί με τους φίλους τους! Για πληροφορίες αποτελείτε στην κ. Billie Anderson, τηλ. 504-455-1210.
FROM PAGE 1:

**DATES FOR METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA JERUSALEM PILGRIMAGE II REVISED**

A few seats remain for the Metropolis of Atlanta sponsored trip to Jerusalem, Cappadocia, and Constantinople. Participants will leave New York on November 17 and return on December 1. The first leg of the journey will be an eight day tour of the Holy Lands in and around Jerusalem, followed by a three day visit to the magnificent biblical site of Cappadocia. The final two days will be in Constantinople, where the group will attend Divine Liturgy with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, celebrating the name day of St. Andrew, the first bishop of our church.

Please note that only 30 pilgrims can be accommodated for this trip, so seating is limited. As of today the Metropolis has an 80% filled capacity. Do not delay, if you intend on joining the pilgrimage. For those interested in registering, please email Gerry Clonaris at gbcmtkline@gmail.com (include your phone number) to hold a reservation for you. You may also call Gerry at 704-846-5245 with any questions.

**SPECIAL GRATITUDE EXTENDED TO PROSFORON COMMITTEE**

The Cathedral Family sincerely thanks the ladies and gentlemen, who meet on a regular basis to bake prosforon for the church services. We are grateful to Olga Christakis, Eleftheria Demarinis, Petros Demarinis, Eleftherios Ioannidis, Angie Kringas, Despina Moustoukas, and Irene Papazis for their devotion and unselfish efforts.

**FEAST OF FEASTS PASCHA DAY PICNIC**

**SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2013**

**ON THE CATHEDRAL GROUNDS**

following Agape Service and the Hope & Joy Easter Egg Hunt

approximately 12:30 pm

Water slide, games, and activities for the children

Seating will be available outside under tents and inside the Hellenic Cultural Center.

**PASCHA TSoureKIA AND MORE!**

The Greek Festival Pastry Committee is taking orders for the traditional Pascha Tsoureki. These delicious home baked breads will be prepared on Wednesday, May 1, and may be picked up at the conclusion of the Holy Unction service. Orders are welcome and will be filled by request. Koulourakia and several frozen items will also be available for purchase. Tiropites, Spanakopites, Almond Rolls, and Galaktobourika will be sold by the dozen and available for pick up on Palm Sunday, April 28. To place your order, complete the enclosed form and return to the Cathedral office.

**BASILE CONCERT POSTPONED**

The Greek Festival Committee regrets to announce that the “Basile Live — Growing Up in America” concert, originally slated for Sunday, April 14, 2013, has been postponed but will be rescheduled at a later date. Please check the weekly bulletin and The Flame for updates.
Thank you to everyone who has returned his/her 2013 Stewardship Commitment Card. As of March 27, the Cathedral office has received stewardship commitments of $77,470.00 from 170 of the roughly 270 families in our community. Of this amount $48,727.50 was paid with the average pledge being $455.70 per family/individual. If you have not done so yet, please consider your 2013 financial stewardship commitment. We continue to collect the 2013 forms. For your convenience additional copies are available in the Cathedral Narthex or the office. Thank you for your support. (NOTE: First Quarter Statements for 2013 will be mailed in April.)

Ammons, Denise and Fred
Andersson, Billie and W. Paul
Andres, Christine P.
Andrews, Bethlehem K.
Andrews, Chris and Gregory
Angelico, Jean
Angelico, Robert and Kathy Conklin
Angelus, Maria and George
Apostolidis, Marlene and Spyridon
Athas, Nancy
Baer, Elisabeth and Jason
Bakamitsos, Marion and Georgios
Barnett, Missy and Jac
Bell, Victoria and Jon
Benoit, Katherine and Chris
Bilalis, Evangelia and Petro
Bilalis, Markella
Bilalis, Mathoula
Bilalis, Michael
Bouzon, Nicholas
Bozinis, Ena and Theodoros
Bratsas, Dorothy
Cabali, Juanita
Catinis, Ana and George
Carsulis, Victoria
Chancy, Dena and James
Charalampidis, Panagioti and Dimitrios
Christakis, JoAnn S.
Christakis, Nektarios
Christidis, Georgia and Stylianos
Chronis, Diane and Nicholas
Cristoladas, Brille and Stephen
Craver, Mariellen and Marshall
Dabbs, Stella
Demarinis, Eleftheria and Petros
Dimitry, Victoria
Dongieux, Pam and Glenn
Doussia, Sandra
Fotiades, Joan
Fotiades, Julie
Fyssas, Despina and George
Gambos, Fortune and Andrew
Gattuso, Ioana and Roy
Georges, Anita
Georges, Constantine
Giannopoulos, Mary
Gioginis, Lazarus
Grass, Kalliope and Matthew
Halkias, Athanasios S.
Halkias, Feroniki
Howard, Jr., Homer
Howard, Stela
Howard, Stephen
Ioannidis, Eleftherios
Ioannidis, Emmanuel
Jeanfreau, Tricia and Troy
Johnson, Helen Maskas and Ben
Kambouris, Ermine and Antonios
Kanellakis, Christ and Sophia Pappas
Karmoukos, Stephanie and John
Kiriazis, Stavros
Kleamenakis, Argie and Nick
Kleamenakis, Evangelia
Kleamenakis, John W.
Kleamenakis, Jr. Nicholas A.
Kleamenakis, Jr., Michael
Kleamenakis, Stephen A.
Kleamenakis, Sue and Michael
Klein, Maria and Gary
Kloumasis, Niki
Koga, Vaughan and Sebastian
Koniditiotis, Cornelia and John
Konos, Marcella and Pete
Kontaxis, Athena
Kontos, Mary and Chris
Kontoudis, Despina
Kringas, Connie
Kyme, Faith
Kyrakides, Maria and Aris
Kyrakos, Kali M.
Labatat, Argeta and Lawrence
Labatat, Michael
LaCour, Alexandra
Lambousy, Katherine and Peter G.
Latour, Patrick
Levendis, Eleni
Levendis, John D.
Levendis, Nicki M.
Leyva, Helen
Lorio, Kathryn and Philip
Maag, Diana Sophia
Maag, Maggie and Richard
MacInnes, Deborah
Madonia, Arlene and Jason
Mailhes, Konstantina K.
Malachias, Helen and Charles
Mantikos, Rania
Mantis, Rosy and Thomas
McCallif, Vicki and Anthony
Miaoulis, Anita and Chris
Michailakis, Pam and Gus
Michailakis, Petroula and Pete
Moustacas, Maria and Constantinos
Moustaka, Dimitra
Moustoukas, Despina
Moustoukas, Viki and Nick
Munch, Andrea and Joseph
Naquin, Georgia and Lee
Neofotistos, Alexandre
Nicolaides, Kristen and Michael F.
Nicolaides, Maria
Nicolaides, Peggy and Frank
Nicopoulos, Sue and Constantinos
Nucent, Elaine
Owen, Adrienne and Greg
Padasis, Stavros
Padasis, Triantafillia and Nikolaos
Papadopoulos, Denise and Dennis
Papazis, Irene
Pappas, Christina and Nicholas
Pappas, Despina K.
Patselikos, Despina and Panagiotis
Patselikos, Maria
Pavlou, Fotine
Pelias, Marilyn
Pembo, Angela
Pembo, Dayna and Tony
Peters, Todd J.
Petkas, Mary and Dimitrios
Petratsos, Angelina and Demetrios
Popa, Maria and Vasile
Psarellis, Steve E.
Psillas, Andrew
Psilos, Gail and Tony
Ramirez, Anna and Jesus
Razza, Anna
Ricciardi, Chrysanthy
Rico, Anastasia and Roger
Skoufalos, Ofeliamanda and Dimos
Sotropoulos, Christine and Evangelos
Stokes, Maria and Brian
Strain, James R.
Stratikis, Suzanne and George
Stratis, Argyro A.
Stratis, Nicholas
Stratis, Stavros
Sutton, Katerina and Ashley
Tadros, Katherine and Daniel
Tiliakos, Connie and Alex
Tors, Emily and Eleftherios
Tors, Laura and Socrates
Tsacoussis, Haris
Tsatalios, Jeanette and Elie
Tsatalios, Peter
Tsatsoulis, Angela and John
Tsimboukis, Suzanne and Efthimios
Tsirefes, Panagiotis L.
Vatakis, Evangelia and Dimitris
Venis, Koula and Costandinos
Venturatos, Carol and Steve
Venturatos, Donna and Gregory
Venturatos, Evelyn and James S.
Voulgarakis, Claudia and Vassilios
Wisdom, Maria and Andrew
Wolf, William
Yiannopoulos, A. N.
Zannis, Marie
Zarganas, Glikeria and Aleandros
Zouboukos, Carol and Nick
SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

BATON ROUGE GREEK FESTIVAL
Don’t miss the festivities on Saturday, May 11, 2013, from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm, Town Square, 222 North Boulevard. Plenty of Greek cuisine; live music performed by “Alpha Omega Sound” from Atlanta, Georgia; arts; crafts; and a 5K Toga Run/Walk/Roll to mention a few. For updates, please check www.brgreekfest.com or www.facebook.com/batonrougegreekfestival.

EXPERIENCED SEAMSTRESS/TAILOIR AVAILABLE
Parishioner Toula Hatzioannidis is an experienced seamstress/tailor with years of experience in alterations, embroidery, and knit repairs. Please consider contacting her at 504-831-7601 for your clothing and textile needs.

“FEAST OF FEASTS” PASCHA PICNIC
The Second Annual Holy Trinity Cathedral Pascha Picnic will follow the Agape Service on Sunday, May 5, 2013. (See details inside.) Any donations of lamb, side dishes, salad, desserts, drinks, and water are appreciated. Please notify the Cathedral office of your donation and an estimate of how many will be attending so that enough food will be prepared by the picnic committee.

FESTIVAL UPDATE
Festival pastry workshops are in full swing. Please join us 9:30 am to 2:30 pm every Tuesday and Wednesday. No baklava experience is necessary. All ages are welcome to help. A delicious lunch is always served.

Also, call Stacy if you and your friends would like to volunteer for day/evening workshops. Early festival volunteer sign up is now available. Help us make our 40th year a spectacular event.

NORTHSHORE BIBLE STUDY AND CATECHISM
The next Northshore Bible study and catechism session at the Louisiana Heart Hospital, First Floor Classroom, will be MONDAY, April 15, 2013, at 6:00 pm.

FREE CHILDREN’S CONCERT AND BOOK SIGNING
Cathedral Montessori School invites the children of Holy Trinity and their parents to attend a special concert in the gymnasium of the Hellenic Cultural Center on Thursday, April 11, at 10:00 am. Local musician and international star Johnette Downing will be performing. Please see article inside for details.
Calling all 18 to 30 Somethings!!!

OCF Alumni & Young Adults

Friday, August 30-Sunday, Sept. 1, 2013

Presented by The Metropolis of Atlanta Orthodox Christian Fellowship Alumni and Young Adult Ministry

Hosted by St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church
5108 Kuykendall Rd  Charlotte, NC 28270

For a weekend of faith, fun, and featuring a day at the U.S. National Whitewater Center

a world’s premier outdoor recreation sports facility featuring Zip Lines, Ropes Courses, Rock Climbing, and more!

www.usnwc.org
Over the weekend we’ll be exploring “Walking on Water” How Faith Impacts our Daily Lives

Schedule of Events

Friday, August 30 at St. Nektarios
5:00 Welcome & Registration Opens
6:30 Vespers and Opening Remarks
7:30 Reception, Dinner and Comedy Show by Basile
   www.opabasile.com

Saturday, August 31, 2013
10:00 - 3:00 Whitewater Center Activities
7:00 - midnight Reception, Dinner Dance at Charlotte Motor Speedway
   Speaker and Surprise Special Presentation

Sunday, September 1, 2013 at St. Nektarios
8:15 Matins
9:15 Divine Liturgy
11:30 Panel Discussion and Farewell Brunch

For More Info: Email to -- charlottewhitewaterweekend@gmail.com
   Find us on FaceBook -- Charlotte White Water Weekend

Reservations: www.regonline.com/CWWW2013
Weekend Package: $200.00 by July 15th (excluding accommodations & travel)
   $225.00 after July 15th
Can’t be here for the whole weekend? Individual event registration available on line.

Hotel: Aloft Charlotte Ballantyne --
Reserve By August 9th: $109.00 (plus tax)
group rate code: CWWW
13139 Ballantyne Corporate Place, Charlotte, NC 28277
866-932-7672
www.Alofthotels.com/CharlotteBallantyne
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<td>Hellenic Dancers 6:00 pm</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Holy Monday</td>
<td>Festival Workshop</td>
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