



A GOOD WORD—Λόγον Αγαθόν

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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SUCCESSFUL GREEK LANGUAGE FESTIVAL

The sixth annual Metropolis of Pittsburgh Greek Language Festival was hosted by Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Cleveland Heights. Chairing the event was Maria Sikoutris. Hundreds of children and families who study Greek converged to perform, exhibit artwork, compete in a Quiz Bowl, make crafts, and have fun.

Performances from many Greek Schools included an original Karagiotzi skit by Annunciation in Columbus, a duet sung by a grandmother and her granddaughter from the host parish, songs and a Greek tragedy performed by St. Demetrios in Rocky River, songs, hymns, a lyra solo, recorder solo, and skit from Annunciation in Cleveland, a guitar solo from Holy Trinity, Canton, songs from St. Paul in North Royalton, and a clarinet solo from St. Nicholas Cathedral of Pittsburgh. An impressive Art Exhibit was on display made up of children's artwork from throughout the Metropolis. A variety of craft tables were available for children to make creative pieces.



For the Quiz Bowl, students studied material and vocabulary words for spelling in Greek, liturgical words and phrases, words from Greek roots, the lives of saints – St. John Maximovitch and St. Marina, Greek musical instruments, history of the Persian Wars and the Mycenaean, Minoan, and Cycladic Civilizations, and lives and artwork of the Greek artists Kostas Varotsis and Nikolaos Gyzis.

All teams this year competed on the Intermediate Level and every team did an incredible job! Winners were: First Place, from St. Nicholas in Pittsburgh, Ralou Benos, Toula Darakos, Konstantinos Karamalides; Second Place, from Annunciation in Cleveland, Konstantina Prinolakis, Gregory Sisamis, Georgios Sisamis; and Third Place, from St. Nicholas in Pittsburgh, Stefania Bounos, Yanna Mavrogeorgis, and Perry Velisaris.

All students who participated in the festival were given a certificate their academic school records denoting their participation in an academic foreign language activity. It was a fun day with much to share from each other, and each participant went home with a commemorative gift. This event is open to the public and we encourage you to come and enjoy the festival next year! Students interested in participating can study material from previous festivals online. New study material will be released in October, 2018.



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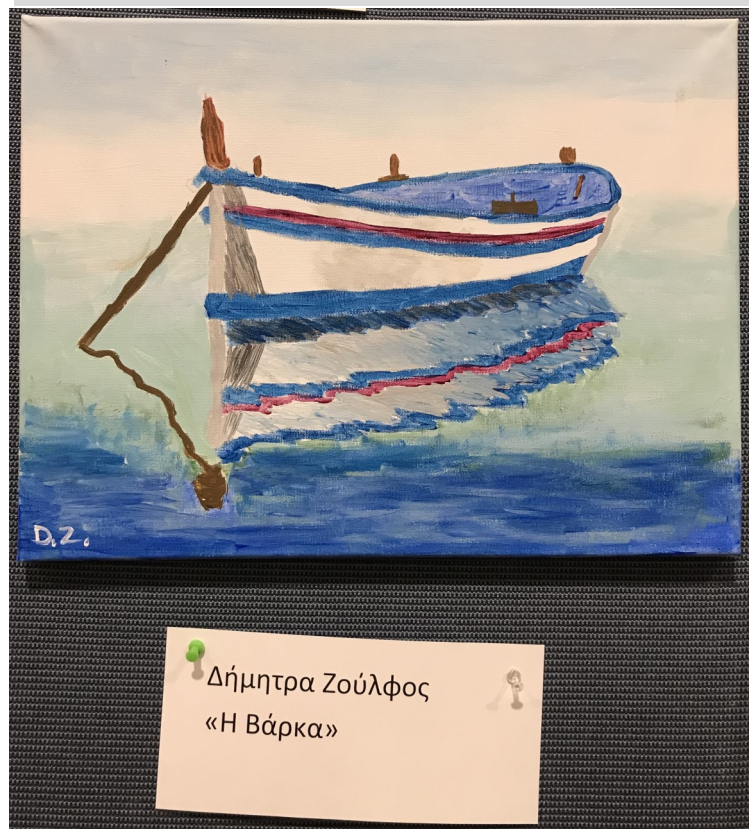
It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including His Eminence's pastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry (tracking marriages, baptisms, chrismations, and deaths), and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis.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

SUMMARY OF CLERGY-LAITY DECISIONS

The 44th Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America took place July 1-5 in Boston, Massachusetts. Among its decisions were:

1. **The adoption of a 2019-2020 Archdiocesan Budget.** The budget provided for increases in the National Ministries Allocation of 0% in 2019 and up to 3% in 2020 (based on potential need), and the re-introduction of “third leg” funding to the Clergy and Lay Employees Pension Program of the Archdiocese (leg one being the participant contributions and leg two the “employer” contributions from the parishes and Archdiocese). At the close of the Budget discussion the budget as presented showed a significant deficit for 2019 and 2020, and the Plenary Session directed the Archdiocese to make necessary cuts in other parts of the budget to bring it into balance by the October Council meeting.
2. **The adoption of new Policies for the Safety of Youth and Children.** Unlike the old Youth Protection Manual, which was designed specifically for Metropolis camp and retreat programs, the new Policies are intended to be implemented at all Youth Ministries of the Archdiocese, Metropolises, and Parishes. Included in the Policies are two major sections: the policies (rules), and a best practices section. The Policies were crafted to take into account the diversity of circumstances between parishes, so communities with 5 children and 150 children could all be able to apply the policies in a sustainable and responsible way. *(Thanks to our own Archon Peter Clyde Papadakos and Rhea Ballas for their work in assisting the Archdiocese in the crafting of this document.)*
3. **The adoption of over twenty amendments to the Archdiocesan Regulations.** There were three broad categories of amendments: those affecting the Archdiocese, Metropolis, and Parishes.
 - Archdiocesan Amendments: Provide for better separation of duties within the Executive Committee, require regular reporting of financial situation to the Council, audited financial statements prepared in a timely manner, better protection of restricted funds, and professional competence for certain committee chairs (among them Finance and Audit).
 - Metropolis Amendments: Provide for a functional Audit Committee on the Metropolis level, annual presentation of financial statements to the Assembly and Parishes, including Financial statements that have either been audited professionally or reviewed by professionals on behalf of the Audit Committee, and the adoption of a Whistleblower Policy.
 - Parish Amendments: Provide that the same restrictions to Parish Council membership provided in Article 24 also apply to the parish Audit and Election committees, and that the Parish must send its audited (whether done by a professional firm or by the parish’s Audit Committee) Financial Statements to the Metropolis annually.

Below: Student artwork displayed as part of the 6th Annual Greek Language Festival, hosted by Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral in Cleveland Heights.



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