Greetings to all! I hope that this letter finds you well. We have many activities planned for this year. The Fall Glendi, scheduled for November 18th, at St. Catherine's in Astoria, as well as some other new activities.

I look forward to a year for rebuilding. I’d like it if all of us could bring in one new member or a past member back to our family. I’d also like to try to bring back some local churches that have gone astray. Perhaps we can help them find their way back to our family.

I hope to see many of you at the Fall Glendi and look forward to seeing more of you at our Council Meetings. Understand that this is your organization. You need to be present to voice your opinion or idea!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving to you and your families, and remember how truly lucky we are!

Marcelle

Demetrios Pappas Honored!

By Anna Dounelis

The National Religious Music Alliance, a multi-denominational organization whose purpose it is to encourage all places of worship to celebrate and honor the ministry of music, has recognized one of our Federation’s most outstanding conductors, Demetrios (Jimmy) Pappas, Choir Director at the Church of the Resurrection in Brookville, Long Island.

In both 2005 and 2006, there were five recipients nationally among all Christian denominations, and two of the five each year were from Greek Orthodox parishes. Demetrios Pappas, Dr. James Maniatis, Constantine Limberakis, and John Douglas.

These longtime church musicians of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America joined an elite group of church musicians from many religious jurisdictions who have been recognized by the National Religious Music Alliance for developing outstanding religious music programs.

Jimmy Pappas received his recognition at the Resurrection Church on Sunday, October 1, 2006 following the Divine Liturgy. Fr. Manny Gratsias expressed his appreciation to Jimmy for his five years of dedicated service to the Resurrection parish, shared some stories with the congregation about Jimmy’s work at Holy Cross Seminary when Fr. Manny was a seminarian, and spoke of how Jimmy’s Y’assou Sing and Dance along record album was instrumental in helping him with his Greek when he was a young man. Vicki Pappas, Chairperson of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, presented the award on behalf of the National Religious Music Alliance.

Choir Director Leah Pappas, daughter of Jimmy Pappas, and members of the Holy Trinity Hicksville choir, along with Vicki Pappas and other members of the Jimmy Pappas family, added their voices to the Resurrection Choir that day. Afterwards, a reception was held in Jimmy’s honor in the church hall and Leah led us in a Greek sing-a-long after the luncheon. It was a pleasure for those of us who had the opportunity to be part of such a joyful occasion!
Demetrios Pappas began directing church choirs at the age of 17, and has continued his work in church music for more than sixty years, particularly in the New York City area. Over the years, he has served as director and chanter for churches in New York City, Corona, Jamaica, Hempstead, and now, since 2001, at the Church of the Holy Resurrection in Brookville (Glen Cove), NY.

A graduate of New York City’s specialized High School of Music and Art, he majored in voice and conducting. He then attended Columbia University where he received his B.A., M.A., and Professional Diploma in Music. He was a member of the Robert Shaw Collegiate Chorale for 13 years. During his church music career, Demetrios has trained more than 15 other choir directors who have conducted, or currently conduct, their own church choirs. He is always ready to give very generously of his time and expertise to assist others, thereby making a significant contribution to the establishment of a much-needed pool of church musicians.

Demetrios inherited these skills from his father, Constantine, an accomplished chanter in Greece, who gathered his sons around him at an early age and taught them how to read and chant Byzantine music. As a father himself, Demetrios passed this rich church music legacy to his own daughters. Both his daughters, lawyers by profession, are active and well-trained church musicians by avocation.

He has been a chanter and conductor of the cantorial society originally founded by his father, then known as Romans O Melodos, whose primary objective is the preservation of Byzantine music in the United States. Today, this group of chanters continues to perform at Greek Orthodox Vesper services in twelve churches throughout Long Island and Manhattan every year, led by Demetrios.

Demetrios is also a prolific composer of Greek Orthodox liturgical music and has published a full-length hymnal of several complete liturgical settings that are used in many churches today. He was one of the early composers to incorporate English into his liturgical works.

He has served as guest conductor at three national conferences, in Cleveland, Boston, and Queens, performed Greek music at Carnegie Hall and Town Hall, and appeared in concert with Greek troubadour singer, Nikos Gounaris. He also formed Helios Records and produced eight recordings, including the famous Y’assou series of Easter Hymns, Christmas Carols in Greek, a Greek Dance-Along, and Greek Patriotic Songs.

In 1988, he was among the first group of choir directors to receive the Archbishop’s Years of Service Medal, at the time having served as a choir director for 40 years. In 1980, he was among the first five Greek Orthodox Church musicians to receive the prestigious St. Romanso Medallion, given to church musicians who have made exemplary contributions in Greek Orthodox Church music.

Demetrios Pappas has served, and continues to serve, as a very talented, humble, and dedicated church musician of the Greek Orthodox Church in America and has made significant contributions as choir director, teacher and mentor, guest conductor, chanter, composer, and performing artist. He is certainly worthy of special recognition as he has enlightened, encouraged, and inspired many, extending a sphere of influence beyond his own realization.

Sing and Praise the Lord

By Vasso Patrikis

For more than 20 years the choir of the Transfiguration of Christ of Mattituck L.I. was singing every Summer. For the past two years we didn’t have choir. On Sunday, July 16, 2006, twenty-two voices in harmony started to praise the Lord again. The Transfiguration of Christ has choir during the summer until the middle of November under the direction of James Talas who has been our director and organist for more than 20 years. We welcome choir members from other churches to visit us and praise the Lord with us.

Holy Trinity Hicksville Choir News...

- Leah Pappas and Jerry Monias recently announced their engagement! Best Wishes!
- Anna and John Doumelis are proud to announce the birth of their two new grandsons, Joseph John born in June and Alexander John born in July!
- Get well wishes to Terri Macris who is recovering from surgery.

UPCOMING EVENTS of the ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT FEDERATION

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

- Join in the fun by attending the FALL GLENDI on Saturday, November 18, 2006 at Ss. Catherine & George Church in Astoria. See enclosed Flyer.
- VISIT TO ST. MICHAEL’S HOME on Saturday, December 9, 2006
- Federation COUNCIL MEETING on Saturday, December 16, 2006
- Plan to attend the ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Archdiocesan District Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians on the last weekend before Great Lent, Saturday, February 17 & Sunday, February 18, 2007! More information to follow!