



St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Cathedral

REV. FR. DEAN N. PALEOLOGOS
DEAN

November 22, 2004

Dear Parishioners,

On December 5, 2004 at 3:00pm we will be hosting our last General Assembly this year. We have very important information to review including the Financial Report including the 2005 budget review and approval, Report by the building committee introducing the architect that will perform the master plan of our New Family Center, appropriations motions and Stewardship Report.

During the year I have heard many parishioners claim that one of the reasons why they don't contribute more for stewardship is because the cathedral has plenty of money almost implying that there are hidden accounts of cash held in reserve. I only wish that this were the case! At this General Assembly we will be reviewing each and every cathedral account, our budget and the very difficult choices your Parish Council had to make this year to lower the deficit.

We will also be reviewing our stewardship program and seeking your guidance on how we shall proceed going further. The reality is that unless we increase our stewardship from where it is today which averages less than \$160.00 per steward; we will need to make further cuts in programs and services. So that we can put things in perspective, in 1976, the average parishioner gave \$150.00 toward stewardship. In 25 years we have increased our stewardship by \$10.00 per parishioner, while the cathedral expenses have increased 10 fold. For nearly three years we have not had the \$80,000 from the Worcester Public Schools to subsidize our budget. I do not have to do the math for you. If we do not take seriously the importance of increasing our stewardship, we will have to make further cuts this year. One of the cuts we have had to make this year is with the Cathedral News. Due to printing and postage costs we will only be sending 4 issues instead of the 6 issues presently!

This general assembly is your opportunity to hear the details, ask your questions and understand the true facts...not the rumor!

Believe me when I say that your president and your parish council do not want to focus on the money!!!! I hear often that all we talk about is money! Have you ever asked yourself why? As the governing body of this Cathedral it is your Parish Councils' obligation to report the facts so that you are better informed. As parishioners of this cathedral it is your obligation to participate in the process and not rest on convenient rumor. Some parishioners have said to me that only handfuls of parishioners make the decisions at our cathedral. That is because at each general assembly only handfuls show up! I know your time is precious, but I believe our Cathedral is worth asking of your valuable time to come see and participate in the process of managing your cathedral.

We have a wonderful and generous community. I believe once our parishioners understand the facts, then each of us will do our part in continuing to make our cathedral a beautiful extension of our homes.

I hope and pray that I will see you at this meeting.

With love in Christ,

William Kiritsy
Parish Council President

