

Reverend Nick Krimidas, Mr. Manny Miliias chairman of the spring general assembly, Mrs. Theresa Sampson president of the Philoptochos society, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the parish council, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to the spring general assembly and to thank you for the interest that you have shown for the cathedral. Before I say a few words about our community, I would like to thank some members that have really helped me for the past six months as president, it made my job easier. First of all, I would like to thank the two spiritual leaders of our cathedral, Father Dean Paleologos and Father Nicholas krimidas, for their advice, kind words, hard work, and the interest that they show for the future of the cathedral. Secondly I would like to thank all of the parish council members for their understanding, co-operation, and the countless hours that they devote to solve many problems that concern our community. Also I would like to thank our two secretaries, Theresa Sampson and Alexandra Economou for their hard work, understanding, and the behavior that they show to our parishioners. I would also like to thank our Greek school teachers, Mr. Tsombas, Mrs. Rubina Kiriakidis, and Ms. Maria Haresis, for their hard work to teach our children the Greek language and the Greek heritage. Last but not least, I would like to thank you all and all those who worked so hard for our Grecian festival.

As president of the parish council, my first responsibility was to organize and appoint different committees and appoint different members to serve for the year 1998. Other than the regular committees this year I decided to form two new committees for the needs of our cathedral. The first committee is the bi-laws committee, and very soon we should have the new bi-laws on our hands. The chairman for this committee is Mr. Steve

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Mamenakis. I would like to thank him and his committee and I hope that later on he will inform us of the progress of the new bi-laws.

The second committee is a committee called the long-term planning committee. They're responsibilities are to look out for the future of our cathedral and our community, and be able to tell us where we will be five or ten years from now. The co-chairman of this committee is Mr. James Bazoukas and Mr. Tom Fitzpatrick.

The end of January, we decided as a board, to have our famous festival once again this year. It was kind of late, but thanks to the two gentlemen, Mr. Steve Mamenakis and Mr. Nicholas Bazoukas, who volunteered to take over this responsibility as co-chairmen we are able to have a festival. The dates of the festival are June 26, June 27, and June 28. In addition Mr. Chris Liazos assumed the responsibility for the food. I would like to personally thank them all.

Right now things are going smoothly, and I hope that you all will volunteer some of your time to help our festival. Every two years that we have a new festival everybody wonders who is going to work to make the festival successful since all of the older members of the cathedral have worked in past very hard and now they don't know as to how much of their time they can devote to a new festival. However, they have once again responded, no one has reason to be worried, because if you could see all the young members of our cathedral that volunteered to take the responsibility for various committees for this year's festival, there will be no doubts in our minds that the festival will continue in the future.

In the month of March the parish council and our two spiritual leaders visited the society of Megas Alexandros, we were all very pleased for their understanding, their

cooperation, and their hospitality that they showed to us. Father Nick spoke in general about things that concern our church and our stewardship. At this time I would personally like to thank the administration of Megas Alexandros, and I hope that these meetings will continue in the future. The results of this meeting are very successful, because a big part of the members, that are all members of our church, volunteered to devote their free time to whatever we need them for.

In the beginning of April we received a letter from the city hall asking us to participate in the multi-cultural events for the 150th anniversary of the city of Worcester, and to show our culture and traditions to other nationalities. It took some time before we answered due to the fact that we had some difficulties finding the right people with the right talents to volunteer and take this responsibility. We were very, very fortunate that we found the most appropriate young ladies that we could ever possibly ask for. A young lady by the name of Dawn Georgadis, who is the director of the dance group of the Megas Alexandros society, volunteered to coordinate the events together with our tireless Rubina Kiriakidis, our Greek-school teacher. Even though Dawn Georgadis is not Greek herself, she is married to a Greek man, and she became more Greek than all of us put together, because she likes our culture and traditions very much. She spends all of her free time to help our community in many different capacities. The rest of the committee members are as follows: Eleni Foutsizis, Haroula Rapsomanidis, Roula Veligratli, Eleni Gianakis, Irene Savis, and last but not least Dino Haralambidis. The dates for the events were from the 15th of May until the 29th of May, and took place at the lady Mount Carmel's community center on Shrewsbury street. Many of our members participated in the different events. At this time it gives me great pleasure to take this

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opportunity to say thank you to all of them for their hard work. For all those that had the pleasure to visit our events, they were pleased with what we had to show. All of these ladies also undertook various committees and responsibilities for the upcoming festival.

There are three big projects that our community has to undertake in the near future, starting with the installation of air-conditioning in the church and the community center, that the general assembly had voted and passed in the spring of 1997. The second big project that appears in today's agenda and the we will have to vote on, which I hope that you all support, is the restoration of our church. As you all know the church was painted 20 years ago and needs to be re-painted. Mr. James Bazoukas will give us the details on this later. The third project, that is as important as the first two is our Cotsidas auditorium that you all know had never been restored before. It needs new lighting, and new sound system, painting, and many more things. A committee will be formed to undertake this project and at the next general assembly we will have a report and hopefully vote for it. At the last general assembly in January a request was made to have Father Dean's compensation reviewed and give us a report in today's general assembly. A committee was formed to review it and the board decided to have father Dean's compensation to remain the same.

The month of May our old custodian decided to resign and the house committee hired a new one who happens to be Greek. For the time being he seems to be very good, he does his work, and everybody is pleased with his performance. I would like to apologize that I took a little longer than I was supposed to, but I felt like I should share all of the problems that we have with you, so that altogether, like one family, we can resolve them. Once again I thank you very much and wish you all a good summer!!!! ☺