

Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Thanks to Those Who Offered Photos and Stories for the Special Exhibit, Pioneering Priests in America

Curated by Dr. William Samonides and Dr. Regina Samonides

The special St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine exhibit, Pioneering Priests in America, has received multi-generational attention. Visitors have a personal connection to this pictorial essay of the early priests, those who prior to the 1922 incorporation of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, came to serve the faithful in the Western Hemisphere. The exhibit will continue through January 2016. There are many individuals, parishes, and institutions we must thank as we encourage you all to visit the exhibit in person or on line at www.stphotios.org.

First, thank you to Sophia Gregory and her daughters, Beth Gregory and Elizabeth Bisbikis who in 2005, donated the ecclesiastical items used by Sophia's father, the Reverend Father Gregory N. Eliades of White Cloud, Michigan when he came to America in 1900. This family and their story spurred historians, Drs. William and Regine Samonides to encourage the Shrine to work with them to procure a Leadership 100 grant to create the exhibit which continues to grow as more information is submitted from families and parishes.

The St Photios Foundation is ever grateful to this resourceful, energetic couple who have brought an excitement for family history to a new level. They were very thoughtful and thorough in providing the names of those who contributed to this effort. We recognize with gratitude Rev. Nicholas Verdaris, Holy Trinity Church, Little Rock, AR; Rev. James C. Pappas, Saint George Church, Fresno CA; Rev. Anastasios Gounaris, Saint Nicholas Cathedral, Tarpon Springs FL; Rev. Nicholas W. Jonas, Saints Constantine and Helen Church, Palos Hills IL; Rev. Athanasios DeMedeiros, Saints Constantine and Helen Church, Palos Hills IL; Rev. George Wilson, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, New Orleans LA; Rev. Cleopas Strongylis, Annunciation Cathedral, Boston MA; Rev. George D. Tsoukalas, Saint George Church, Lynn MA; Rev. Christopher Stamas, Saint George Cathedral, Springfield MA; Rev. Dean Paleologos, Saint Spyridon Cathedral, Worcester MA; Rev. Basil B. Arabatzis, Saint Demetrios Church, Saco ME; Rev. Mark Sietsema, Holy Trinity Church, Lansing MI; Rev. Elias (Lewis) Warren, Assumption Church, Bayard NE; Father Robert J. Archon, Saint Nicholas Church, Portsmouth NH; Rev. Conan Gill, Saint George Church, Albuquerque NM; Rev. Christos B. Christakis, Annunciation Church, Buffalo NY; Rev. Nicholas Gamvas, Saint Haralambos Church, Canton OH; Rev. Dean Dimon, Annunciation Church, Cleveland OH; Rev. Paul T. Paris, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Portland OR; Rev. Alexander Veronis, Annunciation Church, Lancaster, PA; Rev. Andrew G. George, Annunciation Church, Cranston RI; Rev. Aristotle W. Damaskos, Holy Trinity Church, Charleston SC; Rev. Stavros Ballas, Annunciation Church, Chattanooga TN; Rev. Dean W. Kouldukis, Assumption Church, Seattle WA; Rev. Photios Dumont, Saint Demetrios Church, Seattle WA and Rev. Peter N. Papademetriou, Saint Spyridon Church, Sheboygan WI.

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