



The Saint Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine

2016 St Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine

Essay Writing Contest

Memorandum to all clergy and lay adults within our holy Archdiocese

PROGRAM NOTICE FOR ALL TEENS AGES 13-19



On behalf of the St. Photios Foundation Trustees and the Essay Committee, I invite the youth of your parishes and schools to participate in the 2016 St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Twelfth Annual Essay Contest. Katherine Bacalis, Renee Gahagan and Dr. Tony Tsitos are the standing Essay Committee members and the advisor is Dr. Constantine Santas.

Background: *In 2005, eight entrants from three Metropolises participated in a call for papers for an Essay Contest sponsored by St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Foundation. The three finalists were Nicholas Caros of Clearwater, FL, Nicholas Kostopoulos of Atlanta, GA, and Emmanuel Maginas of Aliquippa, PA. Emmanuel read his first-prize winning essay, 'THE COLONISTS' ODYSSEY, at the close of Divine Liturgy on June 25 at Greek Landing Day. His essay was published in the February program book of the 25th National Shrine Day anniversary.*

Over the past 11 years, 97 students have submitted an essay. Essay Committee members Katherine Bacalis, Renee Gahagan, Dr. Tony Tsitos, advisor Dr. Constantine Santas and spiritual advisor, Father Louis Nicholas are asking you to be ambassadors of the Essay program. Here are the details:

Essay Theme – Choose to write about one of the following premises

There are many historical and sacred sites throughout the world. What makes Saint Photios Greek Orthodox Shrine a site of historic and significant importance to Greek Orthodox Christians?

Every American born in the United States can trace their family's lineage to an ancestor who came to America before them. Compare and contrast your family's immigrant history with the history of the New Smyrna Colonists of 1768.

Submit a cover page with your name, address, phone number, home parish (where you worship) and email address. You may email your essay to phillier@stphotios.com or send it through the mail to:

Essay Contest
St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine
41 St. George Street
St. Augustine, Florida 32084

The Essay Committee accepts submissions throughout the year. The judges will receive, rank and return the essays by January 25, 2017. The results will be posted February 6, 2017. All essays become property of St Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine.

The Shrine awards \$500, \$250 and \$100 to the top three ranking essays. The Essay Program is made possible through the generosity of AHEPA Daytona Speedway Chapter #410 and in memory of its benefactor of blessed memory, Kathie Dakis D 'Anna.

Please call or visit the web for further information. God grant you all a year of abundance and joy! I remain

In Christ,

Pollexeni Maouris Hillier, Director
21 September 2016

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