EPISODE PASTING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Galatians, Chapter 2, Verses 16-20. It is found in our books, on page 121.

THE MARYS MARKIANOS & MARTYRIOS, THE NOTARIES

FATHER NIKO NAMED PASTOR OF THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION, CASTRO VALLEY; His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos has announced that, on November 15, 2015, Father Niko Bekris will take up his new duties as Pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Castro Valley. This is a bittersweet moment for the Annunciation Cathedral community, where Father Niko and Presbyteria Stella have served for the last seven years. In addition to mentoring our youth and, especially, our young adults, Father Niko began the Soup Kitchen and other urban church ministries. He has been a seminal part of our Capital Campaign, and was influential in the rebuilding of the Cathedral on our present site. While we will feel the loss, we nevertheless wish Father Niko Godspeed as he takes up his new pastoral duties. Asia! On November 8, when we welcome Father Metropolitan, the new President of Hellenic College/Holy Cross, we will also have the opportunity to congratulate and extend best wishes to Father Niko and Presbyteria Stella. A luncheon will be held following the Divine Liturgy, to which all are invited.

The donation is $20 per person, $10 for children 12 and under. Proceeds will go to the Building Fund, in honor of Father Presbyteria Stella and Baby Christo. To indicate your attendance, please call the Cathedral, at 415 864-8000.

40 DAY BLESSING: Today, we welcome 40 day old Sophia, daughter of Dennis and Amy Stefanitsis.

PHILOTOCHOS MEETING FOLLOWING TODAY’S LITURGY: The Philoptochos will convene in the second floor conference room, following today’s Divine Liturgy. Divine Liturgy tomorrow: Tomorrow is the Feast of St. Demetrios, Exouer of Myrrh. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated beginning at 10 a.m., preceded by Orthros, at 9 a.m.

LUNCHEON, BOOK SIGNING AND SALE NEXT SUNDAY, NOV. 1: Next Sunday, immediately after the Divine Liturgy, we will have a lunch in our community center, followed by a talk by Her Excellency Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis who served as U.S. Ambassador to Hungary. Following her talk, she will sign her new book, Modern Ambassador. Proceeds will go to the Annunciation Cathedral Building Fund. Do plan on attending. The presentation should be very informative. The Cathedral is very proud to present Ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis, the first Greek-American U.S. Ambassador, ever! And one of the very few Americans of Greek descent to have been named U.S. Ambassador. Recall, Her Excellency presided over the Cathedral’s 80th anniversary gala, which was held under the rotunda of San Francisco’s City Hall in 2006. We are very proud of her accomplishments!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8: HONORING THE TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN GEORGE: A Divine Liturgy will take place at the Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont. The donation is $75 per person. Proceeds will benefit the ministries of St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center. Vespers at 5, Reception & Fellowship at 6; Dinner & Presentations at 7. To reserve, please call the Cathedral at 415 864-8000. We note the Cathedral has already fulfilled one table and is in the process of filling a second table.

WELCOME OUR NEW Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology President: On Sunday, November 8, The Very Reverend Christopher T. Metropoulos, D.Min., newly named President of HC/HC, will consecrate the Divine Liturgy with us and offer the homily. The Divine Liturgy that day will be celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. 9:00 a.m. Orthros; 10:30 a.m. Liturgy; Luncheon to follow.

IOCC REMEMBERING HOME FUND RAISER SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8: The event will take place at the Ascension Cathedral, Oakland. The donation is $65 per person. This is a unique opportunity to show your support of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), and their work at home and abroad, especially in war-torn countries, those hit by famine or any number of natural disasters. For reservations, please call 510 531-3400.

2015 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD: Annette Chiappari, Kalipso Fousekis, and Annamaria Balian will be on today and throughout November, collecting names for this year’s Christmas Card. No doubt, you will want to be listed, as the community extends greetings and best wishes to one another on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year. The donation is, as it has been for years, $25.
DONE: THE EXTERIOR WALL! It seems like only yesterday that we began and, here we are, putting up the exterior wall, to be followed by the windows, the gutters, downspouts, the dome metal, and the clay tile roof. Then, the stucco will be applied; pavers, stonework, and doors will be installed. The outside will be virtually complete. The fountain will be working and we will have plants.

Excitement mounts as we watch this magnificent structure evolve, as it represents everything we are and everything we believe as Greek Orthodox Christians. It is also a symbol of the faith that our own generation has cultivated, and what we hope to leave behind, to inspire the generations to come.

We’ve noted on a number of occasions that we have raised $6 million towards this project, with another $4.7 to go. And we have explained how much has been spent and on what. (For specific information, please refer to the recent issues of the Herald.) Additionally, we have projected a timetable for completion of the exterior, the summer of 2016. This includes the normal functioning of the garage. At that point, we are planning to hold a Gala event, to celebrate a great accomplishment, as we turn to phase two, the completion of the interior. Work on the interior, including appointments and iconography, should take another year or so. Certainly, we hope to be able to plan for the consecration of the Cathedral well before our 100th anniversary in 2021. All this, of course, will depend upon your prayers and continued support.

May God bless our undertaking, for God is the one who spoke to Moses, then, and who speaks to us, today, saying: “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (Translated from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἁγίασµα, καὶ ὀφθήήσοµαι ἐν ὑµμῖν, Ἐκνοὺς 25:8). May we prove worthy of