



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY

REMEMBERING ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY BOARD MEMBERS



EULOGIES AND TRIBUTES
GEORGE MATSOUKAS



In this Pentecostal cycle of 2020, in the age of the coronavirus, it seems appropriate to remember the departed board members of Orthodox Christian Laity (OCL). The organization began in 1987, when a group of former active Council of Eastern Orthodox Youth Leaders in the Americas (CEOYLA) and Greek Orthodox Youth of America (GOYA) members gathered in Chicago. They were part of the greatest generation who had fought in World War II and returned home to live out professional and family responsibilities. During and after the war, they saw the need and worked diligently to bring unity to all the separate, fragmented groupings of Orthodox Christian people who were adherents of the Apostolic Church established in Jerusalem at Pentecost, and now found themselves living in the pluralistic society of the United States. They were the forerunners, calling for Orthodox Christian Unity, transparency, and accountability in church governance.

Time was running out for them to realize the dream of unity, but they were not giving up on their vision. They realized that for the survival of Orthodoxy in the United States, canonical administrative unity, represented by a synod of all canonical bishops who elected their own head, was the proper solution. The OCL organization that they helped establish, has been the foremost advocate of this unity through the last 30 turbulent years. These years have seen a decline in the number of Orthodox faithful according to the census statistics of each jurisdiction. The stewardship gifts of the faithful are wasted by the duplication of institutions, services, inefficiencies in personnel costs, insurances, pensions, etc. Overall, one of the richest faith-based groups is impoverished by its fragmentation. Where are its schools, hospitals, philanthropic endeavors? How is its Apostolic message heard in the public square? These are the issues that motivated the establishment of OCL, and these are the issues that board members address.

What we have compiled here, as best as we could, are the personal, anecdotal remembrances of the deceased board members, written at the time of their death.

(Continued)

From these remembrances, you can see their character, values and dedication and better understand the purpose of OCL. These individuals were our Sunday School teachers, cantors, choir members, parish council, diocesan and archdiocesan members, and leaders. They were all partakers of the sacramental life of the Church. They gave many years of their time and talent to making the vision of unity a reality. It is now time for a new generation, who shares their passion for unity, to take their place in the continuing march toward unity. You need to keep the vision alive. It is your destiny to make it a reality.

This overview can be viewed as a companion piece to the 25th Anniversary booklet which contained the history of OCL in the words of its presidents up to that time:

In Their Own Words: History of Orthodox Christian Laity – Reflections of the Presidents (1987-2012) [bit.ly/36M2Gtj]

George Matsoukas
Executive Director

Soterie Tsoutsoura

Soterios Tsoutsouras of Blessed Memory served the Orthodox Christian Laity (OCL) presidency during the years 1990-92. He brought great energy, vision, and dedication to the office.

Soterios had the idea to develop a study of the issues related to the renewal of the Greek Orthodox Church which eventually led to the publication, "Project for Orthodox Renewal," which was relevant to all Orthodox Christian groupings in the United States. It was a three year grass roots project.

There were seven topics approved by the membership at the Third Annual Meeting of OCL for project development. The topics and chairpersons/authors were:

- "Faith, Language, and Culture" – Charles Moskos;**
- "Spiritual Renewal" – George Matsoukas;**
- "Orthodox Women and Our Church" – Eva Topping;**
- "Mission and Outreach" – Father Mark Arey and Father Steven Vlahos;**
- "Selection of Hierarchy" – George Karcazes;**
- "Administration and Accountability" – Sotirie Tsoutsouras; and**
- "Orthodox Unity" – Andrew Kopan.**

The project was completed in 1993 and was presented to Patriarch Bartholomew at the Phanar in 1994. It has been reviewed in many journals. The findings and recommendations of the Project for Orthodox Renewal are relevant today, because the issues have not been addressed by the Institutionalized church hierarchy.

Van Livadas

1916-2000

We are here today to bid goodbye and to celebrate the life of Van Livadas, a special member of our community. He remains special, because his example shows us that even as we age and even as we endure so many tests in terms of physical health, we can remain young in spirit. With all that, Van endured these last few years with his mind always focused on the big picture. He remained a positive person. He leaves all of us who knew him and loved him with the example that with reason and faith, working together, all things are possible. Until the day before he died, he was suggesting to me ways to improve what is important to us. He wants us to stay focused on the big picture, to see the forest for the trees, to see the cup half full, to see each day as partly sunny. Let us take a minute and think a positive thought about Van or think of something positive that he leaves behind for you.

Now Van is in a transformed state. He is closer to God. He is indeed in God's presence. Our relationship to him is also transformed, and now for us, he is a blessed memory. We will remember his example at St Paul's in Hempstead where he leaves the legacy of a thirty-year-old publication that he established, entitled The Epistle. He will be remembered at Palm Beach AHEPA Chapter 18 as the member that was always trying to improve our image. He will be remembered at St Nicholas in Flushing as a founding member. He is remembered at St Catherine where he gave his time and talent and resources as a Christian steward who tried to get us to work together and to love one another.

His greatest love was his wife, Mary. It is she, who gives us the example of a loving and caring wife, daughter, mother, and sister. Her strong will and devotion kept Van going right up until the very last day of his life. We are here to support her at this time and to let her know that we love her. We are here to share this time of sadness and celebration with his children, grandchildren and with yiayia. I remember that Van and I shared a love for classical music, and as long-time subscribers, we would discuss the progress of the Florida Philharmonic as it grew from a mediocre orchestra to a great orchestra. We shared similar political interests and liked to discuss them, because we agreed with each other.

(Van Livadas Continued)

I will remember him for the wonderful Manhattans he made and the hospitality he and Mary always extended. I remember that he was a gentleman and a Renaissance man. But most of all, I will remember him for the 13 years that we shared as Orthodox Christian Laity board members. We traveled all over the country. We walked together from airports to hotels across this land discussing the role of the laity in the life of the church and the unity of all Orthodox Christians in America.

I want to share his words with you. They are carefully chosen words. Van was a word smith. He created images, pictures with words. This was his profession. He was in advertising, marketing, public relations. He was a communicator. Like St James/King James who had the Bible translated into English, he realized that "The work of language deserves our greatest care, for the tongues fire many devour the world, or may light the way." Here is what Van had to say.

"These long months of recuperation have given me the opportunity to reflect upon the direction of the Greek Orthodox Church n America. I see the new millennium as the opportunity for us to move our church ahead to meet the spiritual needs of those who choose to be Orthodox Christians. In reality, living in America, which is a free, open and pluralistic society, we all ultimately choose what we are. Yes, those of us who are Orthodox Christians are so by baptism and remain so, because we made a free choice.

.... What a wonderful opportunity the new millennium provides the church...and those interested in bringing all the Orthodox people of America together in one Church. Only a united Orthodox Church will fulfill Christ's command to bring the Good News to all.

....The great information technology, the freedom of our open society and the pluralism of America enables us to get back to our roots to rediscover the authentic elements of our faith....The limit to accomplishing this is our lack of love for the truth as taught by Christ.

We have the responsibility to use the new millennium to examine the faith of our forefathers and to make it relevant to our time, needs and place."

Michael Palmer

1926-2005

Michael Palmer was a founding member of Orthodox Christian Laity and for 16 years devoted his time and energy to building up the organization. He was retired from IBM and had considerable knowledge in computer programming and sales. He was a graduate electrical and industrial engineer from Carnegie Mellon Institute. Michael developed the financial management program that OCL still uses to track its donations and donor base. He worked closely for all those years with OCL treasurer Jim Koulogorge. They were the dynamic duo who provided oversight to the organization. He was a family man, and he and his wife Frances were avid bridge players. Michael was a great conversationalist. He was a devout Orthodox Christian, and his parish was Saints Peter and Paul in Glenview, Illinois.

Dr. Andrew Kopan

1924-2006

It is a time to mourn the passing from this life into everlasting life and to celebrate the life of Dr Andrew Kopan. He died July 1, and at this moment, I do not know the details of his funeral.

Dr. Kopan was truly a teacher. He was a devoted Orthodox Christian from his youth until his death. He was a founder of CEOYLA and GOYA in the 1940's and 1950's. As an active layman, he served the Greek Orthodox Church in many capacities on the national and local levels. He was an Archon with the title "Teacher of the Nation." This honor was bestowed upon him by the late Patriarch Demetrios in 1987. He was a prolific writer on the state of the Church for over 50 years. He developed curricular studies and religious education curricula for the diocese of Chicago under the late Bishop Ezekiel. He was a confidant of Archbishop Iakovos of Blessed Memory. He was a founder of Orthodox Christian Laity. He received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Hellenic College in Boston in 1985. Dr Kopan's professional life centered on his teaching career. He was a public school teacher and elementary and secondary school principal of Koraes School in Chicago for sixteen years, before he became a professor at DePaul University, Chicago in 1968.

(Dr. Andrew Kopan Continued)

He was appointed professor emeritus of Chicago's DePaul University in 1994. He served as a consultant to the Chicago Board of Education on ethnic studies and contributed to its publications of Ethnic Studies Process and the People of Chicago. He was a founder of the Hellenic Museum of Chicago.

He endured a long illness with dignity and forbearance. His devoted wife, Alice Orphanos Kopan, likened his suffering to that of the late Pope John Paul, in that Andrew viewed it as part of the journey through life and part of his personal struggle to become one with God in a state of theosis. She was at his side through this long journey every day. The members of OCL and the many friends of the Kopan family extend their condolences to her. May she too remain enriched by the memory of Andrew's life as all of us who knew him will be - as we continue to remember him in our own special way. We are grateful to the staff of physicians and nurses, therapists and caregivers who helped him in his last years. They too were inspired by his courage and his faith.

We are taught that to reach heaven, we are given the gift of life in the here and now to prepare for this passover. We feel that Andrew is prepared to meet his Lord, and that he fought the good fight and remained the Lord's good and faithful servant. May his memory be eternal. We too pray that Alice, his loving and loyal wife, continues to carry on.

George Coupounas

1929-2007

George Coupounas, a loving family man, prominent tax attorney, active churchman, founding board member of Orthodox Christian Laity and president of OCL, fell asleep in the Lord on the morning of July 5, 2007. His wake will be on Sunday from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at Faggas Funeral, 553 Mt. Auburn, Watertown MA 02472. His Funeral will be from the Annunciation Cathedral, Boston –Monday July 10, 2007.

He served as a steward of this historic Cathedral for many years. His stewardship of Cathedral affairs was guided by principles of transparency and accountability. His legal and CPA background helped him in administration of parish matters. He was instrumental in preserving the Cathedral, so that it could serve future generations of Orthodox Christians and remain a symbol of the sacrifices our immigrant grandparents made to bring Orthodoxy to America. He and Lynn were and are devoted supporters of Holy Cross School of Theology. George represented the parish community of the Cathedral at many Clergy-Laity Assemblies.

As the family prepares his funeral, we pray with them - for him. A funeral is praying the last prayers with and for the departed servant of the Lord, George. May his memory be eternal! We pray that God grant his devoted wife Lynn and son Demitri and his wife and all the family, good health and many years to remember George. We know that George will be with them forever, and that they will look at things now in a new way. They will not lose their own perspective on things, but somehow they can't help but factor into their view of things the influences he gave them.

George was a founding member of OCL. He grew up in the life of the Church and was part of GOYA before it was GOYA. He, Andrew Kopan, Alice Kopan and Minerva Stylianopoulos had a great vision for the Church in their youth and articulated it and created a movement to express it. It was a progressive view and movement.

(George Coupounas Continued)

They wanted to get all Orthodox Youth together at the grassroots level, and in time....now in 2007..... the youth, who would be church leaders, would have a unified Orthodox Church in America. Before GOYA, there was CEOYLA. But things do not always progress in a straight line. The reality of situations make things move in slow and in up and down cycles. But this core group of Orthodox Christians who came of age in the late 40's and 50's, never lost their vision of a united Church. In 1987, they gathered together to form OCL. George served as the 6th president in 1999. It was during his term that a meeting was set up with Metropolitan Theodosius and Metropolitan Philip and with the Patriarch of Antioch. In these meetings, Orthodox Unity was discussed. He was also an OCL liaison to the Greek Orthodox American Leaders (GOAL) Board. George and Lynn were hosts of the 10th Annual Meeting of OCL, which took place at the Maliotis Center in Brookline, MA on the campus of the Theological School.

We remember George's quiet voice and broad smile. But most of all, we remember him as an outstanding family man. His devotion to Lynn and Demitri was constant. But most of all, we remember his devotion to Sophia, his mother of blessed memory. She would accompany him to some of our meetings and just liven things up.

George, our prayers are with you...May your Memory Be Eternal.

-George Matsoukas, Executive Director of OCL

A Note from His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel, Archbishop of Detroit and the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America

I was sorrowed to hear about George Coupounas...your cameo of him was authentic as I am able to know; a broad smile, and intense devotion to the Church, a loving family man. I add my prayers for his family and give thanks to God for his blessings on George in his efforts to strengthen Orthodoxy in North America.

+Nathaniel, Archbishop

Dr. Eva Topping

1920-2011

May the MEMORY of our founding board member and longtime supporter, Eva Topping, who departed this life on December 13, be ETERNAL. In July, she moved into an assisted living home in the town of her birth, Fredericksburg, VA. Eva Topping was 91 years old.

She was a devout and devoted Orthodox Christian. She was the author of one of the seven studies in the Project on Orthodox Renewal. Her topic was the role of women in the Church. She spent many years of her life writing on this topic and produced a number of books on the topic, including "Saints and Sisterhood: The Lives of Forty-Eight Holy Women". The University of Michigan created a special archive of her papers. Two years ago, she contacted me about including documents on OCL's website. She was married to the late Dr. Peter Topping who was a gentle man and scholar. She leaves a son John, and the pride of her life was her granddaughter.

I talked to Eva a few months ago, and she still had that strong authoritative voice. She wrote a note every year at membership renewal time. Her last note marveled at how OCL has survived these many years. She said OCL has accomplished much with so little funding. She prayed for our continued success. In 1989, Eva wrote a prayer which has come to be known as the OCL Prayer.

Gracious Creator of Light, We pray for our Holy Orthodox Church. Fill it with Truth and Peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it. Where it is in error, correct it. Where it is right, strength it. And where it is divided, restore its unity. We pray also for ourselves; daughters and sons of the Orthodox Church. Fill our minds with knowledge. Plant in our hearts, faith, hope and love. We ask for these blessings through the intercessions of all the saints, our holy mothers and fathers. AMEN.

Thank You, Eva, for a life well lived and for your love and devotion to the Orthodox Christian Church. Memory Eternal.

Dr. Angelo Creticos

1922-2011

Dear Helen and members of the Angelo Creticos Family,

It is with sadness and relief that I respond to the news of your father's falling asleep in the Lord. He has been in my prayers these few months, because I knew he was fighting the good fight. He has left us with so many memories of what a determined, hard working, individual can accomplish in this earthly journey. His legacy as a medical professional – administrator, visionary planner and builder, physician, teacher, will live on. He was a compassionate physician because of his great concern for the health of all of us, rich and poor. His clinic served all, because he knew instinctively that his work was holy and that all of us are created in God's image. Angelo had a very special sense of holiness. He was a scientist. He was analytical. He was a careful thinker. But he was humble, because he had faith in things he could not see. He knew that his work was sacramental. For this, he will be missed and remembered by so many people-professionals, people his clinic served and others in the Chicago area. But he was more than his work. He was a great family man. He loved your mother and was patient and understanding of her needs. Each one of you is his living legacy. I want to share part of his last e-mail to me which demonstrates his love for you. It was written on July 13, 2010.

"Fortunately I am still sound from the neck up and am able to work and contribute effective administration to the health center. I have a lot of help both at work and at home [DANI is full time and takes care of my household, meals and gives me personal attention as needed.] Also I am extremely fortunate to have all three of my children nearby who help out a lot and give me moral support. I do thank our GOD for seeing to it I am able to function and to have the opportunity to enjoy the development of our grandkids. They are an exceptional bunch."

He was involved in the civic, cultural, social and religious life of his community. I had the good fortune of knowing him for 23 years because of our involvement with Orthodox Christian Laity, which he helped establish and supported for all these years. I remember our meetings in Chicago and the occasions that he and your mom hosted the board of directors.

(Dr. Angelo Creticos Continued)

But he and I had a special relationship in reference to the work of OCL. He truly was my guide and advisor. He offered his thoughts and opinions on the direction of the organization for the 23 years that I knew him. I consulted with him on all matters that concerned OCL.

Why?

Because I knew he was such a good thinker. He analyzed things. I tend to react to things and can be emotional. I relied on Angelo for balance. He never failed me. Oh how I will miss his good counsel. In his July 13 e-mail to me, he said: "I have followed the UNITY issues and must say I have changed from a pessimist to a cautious optimist! I agree the climate has changed for the better and know the road is very long before a reality can occur. At least we do have reason to be more hopeful than ever before." These words helped reinforce the direction that OCL was pursuing on the matter of unity. We needed his encouragement. Oh I cannot tell you how much I will miss him. I hope that I will be able to try to incorporate his example, guidance and thought process in my work. He was my friend and guide.

I know that you will receive many tributes to your dad. Your family is blessed to have all these memories. You now must try to incorporate his thoughts into your lives. He will always be with us. He loved you all. As we prepare to pray his last earthly prayers – we know that he is now with God. The Lord has received him and is pleased with the work of His servant. May the memory of your dad Angelo be eternal!

With love to all of you in this, your hour of grief, remembrance, and celebration. . .on behalf of all the board and members of OCL.

Fr. Peter Guillquist

1938-2012

The Orthodox Christian Laity (OCL) Board was blessed to have Father Peter Gillquist as an advisor for more than 12 years. From day one, when I met him, he was bigger than life. Physically, he was tall, robust and exuberant in nature. He reminded me of Paul Bunyan. He energized our board when he attended meetings and was our featured speaker at open forums and programs. He truly transcended all the Orthodox Christian groupings that exist in America.

The Holy Spirit, present everywhere, and filling all creation, brought Father Peter and his brothers and sisters to Orthodox Christianity in 1987; and Orthodox Christianity in the United States has been nourished and nurtured by his sense of mission and outreach; and, it will never be the same. His vision and love for Orthodox Christianity is recorded in his written works. His work with assisting in developing the Orthodox Study Bible (Old and New Testaments) is monumental. He was dedicated to the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), because our college youth are our future. He was truly a missionary and evangelist.

In the character of Father Peter, the east truly met the west. No wonder the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, the forces of Hellenism in Greece and in the Archdiocese and the Patriarchate in Istanbul were taken aback by his optimism, sense of mission, Christ-centeredness and inquiring and open mind. But Orthodox Christianity transcends all these human elements, and he found his way into Orthodoxy. His legacy is that if we remain Christ-centered and live within the sacramental life of the Apostolic Church, we can move mountains. Father Peter believed that Orthodox Christianity is still the best kept secret in America, and that it is our challenge to bring the Light of Christ through the Orthodox faith to our brothers and sisters in America. May His memory be eternal. His work will continue.

Deacon John Zarras

1939-2012

It is with a sense of sadness and celebration that I convey to you that OCL's loyal advisory board member and my friend and advisor, Deacon John Zarras, has fallen asleep in the Lord - Sunday, April 1, about 1:30 pm. Deacon John was a passionate supporter of the mission of Orthodox Christian Laity. He was a visionary planner for Orthodox Christian Unity. He joined the OCL movement formally as an advisory board member in 2000 and helped us plan the 16th Annual Meeting: "The Orthodox Christian Ministries Networking Conference." He also helped me with so many details as we worked to put together the 22nd Annual Meeting: "The Road to Unity-From Vision to Action." He was always a generous supporter of OCL's efforts with his time, talent and resources.

His professional career was in the aviation industry, and he retired as the executive at age 63. After retirement, he attended St Vladimir's Seminary to study theology. He was ordained to the diaconate in 2003. He was also a board member of the seminary and helped guide the building of its new library. He served on the strategic planning committee of St Vladimir's. He truly loved the seminary and helped make it a world class Orthodox Christian Theological School. He also served the Orthodox Church in America as a member of its Metropolitan Council and served on its planning committee. He was a Deacon of his local parish, Christ the Savior, Southbury, CT.

(Deacon John Zarras Continued)

For at least 15 years, Deacon John and I discussed Orthodox Christian Unity. We welcomed the 1997 OCL Resolution on building an Autocephalous Orthodox Church in North America. His Master of Divinity thesis at St Vladimir's Seminary was an essay on how to merge the various Orthodox Jurisdictions. As a professional executive in industry, he had acquired expertise on corporate mergers and applied some of these insights into corporate church life. He offered this study to the Assembly of Bishops after 2009 for their consideration.

Deacon John accomplished much in his life, but most of all, he enjoyed his family. He truly was devoted to his wife and helpmate, Evangeline, who was a source of strength for him – especially these past three years. Together with their four children and 11 grandchildren, they helped John make the transition to everlasting life. His family was with him these last days, singing and praying together. John died hearing the Triumphant Hymn - Christ Is Risen!

His family leaves us inspired at this holy time of the year to remember the memory of John with dignity, joy and love. He brought his son Peter to our advisory board, and we look forward to continuing our relationship with him. To all the Zarras family, immediate and extended, we pray that his Memory be Eternal! He will still be with me, edging me on, as he will be with you. May we all live long lives to remember John. He was a good and faithful servant.

Laura Jones

1931-2012

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted...”.

Laura was a member of the board of Orthodox Christian Laity (OCL) for a number of years in the mid 1990's.

I was on her extensive mailing list and received many of her letters to religious, political, cultural leaders until her death. OCL Board members remember her fondly. We were so happy to hear from her on May 1, when she informed me she was coming to our 25th Anniversary Meeting in Washington DC. I smiled, and was looking forward to seeing her; because I knew that she would be a breath of fresh air in our midst. I received her autobiographical note of June 28, 2012, which was quite informative. She sent me a birthday greeting on September 17. I was saddened to learn of her stroke and death before our meeting. May she rest in peace. May her memory be eternal. Laura was truly pure in heart. This state of being kept her young in heart. Her life was a quest for becoming one with the True Light. She kept up her search until the end. She had a colorful life. May her family and grandchildren and the rest of us live long lives to remember Laura. As we near her 40 day Memorial Service, we continue to pray for our departed sister with the assurance that she loved the Lord.

-George Matsoukas

Laura Mead Jones, age 81, died in Gardiner, NY on Thursday, October 4, 2012.

Born on April 4, 1931, in Bucharest, Romania, she was the daughter of Joseph A. and Laura C. (Mead) Morris. She married Gordon L. Jones, Sr. on June 9, 1952 in Washington, D.C. He predeceased her on July 29, 2003.

(Laura Jones Continued)

She was a member of the St. Tikhon's Russian Orthodox Church, Orthodox Christian Laity and The Mount Hope Foundation Community.

She is survived by her children, Martha and Richie Koenig of Gardiner, NY, Gordon and Cecilia Jones of Boise, ID, Laurie and Kevin Curry of Falls Church, VA, Huldah Jones of Westbury, NY, Mary Kay and John Snyder of Woodbridge, VA, John Jones of Ventura, VA, Liz and Bill McAteer of Fredericksburg, VA; Grandchildren, Nikki, Fritz, Maria, Mark, Johann, Joseph, Dominic, Ceci, Monica, Anna, Ruthie, Sophie, Raymond, James, Michael, Jessi, Donna, Angel, Brandi, Rachel, Dale, Jeffrey, Rose, Josie; Great-Grandchildren, Norah, Abigail, Eve, Finn and Dex.

The funeral was celebrated on Saturday, October 6, 2012 at St. Tikhon's Church, 175 St. Tikhon's Road, South Canaan (Waymart), PA. Burial followed in St. Tikhon's Cemetery, South Canaan (Waymart), PA.

Basil Foussianes

1922-2012

Basil Constantine Foussianes – Totally dedicated and always loving Husband, Father, Grandfather and Friend.

Basil “Bill” Foussianes cherished his family and his church, going to any length to serve both. He wanted nothing more than to see his children succeed, build their own families, and enjoy life. He loved lively conversation, had many lifelong friends and possessed a wonderful sense of humor and appreciation of life. He died peacefully with his wife of 57 years, Irene, and children by his side in Naples, Florida on December 12, 2012.

Bill Foussianes was born on July 4, 1922 in Toledo, Ohio to Constantine and Vasilike Foussianes. He lost his father at an early age, but not before he had been taught the value of education and a strong work ethic. He loved his mother very much and took good care of her until she passed in 1988.

Bill enlisted in the Air Force during WWII in October of 1942 while he was enrolled in the Chemical Engineering program at the University of Toledo. After his discharge from the service as a 1st Lieutenant, he finished his bachelor’s degree and enrolled in the University of Toledo’s Law School, putting himself through school by teaching and by working part-time in the laboratories at Owens-Illinois.

The Greek community in Toledo was relatively small, and although he was a few years older, he had known Irene Tokles for some time. They married on April 30, 1955 and moved to Detroit shortly thereafter, when Bill joined Barnes, Kisselle, Raisch and Choate as a Patent Attorney. He loved his work and stayed with the firm for over 40 years, eventually becoming senior partner.

Most important to Bill was his family. He was father to Dean (Lauana), George (Frances), Christine Lenz (Jeffrey), and Nicholas (Lisa). He was grandfather to Anne, Chloe, Jack, Quinn, Theodore, George, and Sophia. He had a brother, George, who died shortly after birth in 1924.

(Basil Foussianes Continued)

He talked often about the frequent visits his children and grandchildren made. He loved seeing his grandchildren and watching them grow. More recently, when he had trouble communicating, he would still look at them with the biggest smile on his face and loved it when they just sat near him and kept him company.

Bill was actively involved in the organization and development of the Greek Orthodox Church, initially at a local level, and eventually at a national level where he worked actively with Archbishop Iakovos on various matters for over 30 years, and was named an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This work was deeply satisfying for him and allowed him to utilize his organizational and communication skills to bring different constituencies together. He was also a member of the General Board of the National Council of Churches, the Board of the Hellenic College, and the Michigan Patent Law Association – serving as President in 1971.

Bill was the first person to suggest that the University of Michigan Athletic Department consider registering the trademark for the “Block M” when his son George was playing baseball there. Bill donated his services to register the trademark for the school. As a token of the University’s appreciation, the school offered to fly him on the team plane out to Pasadena for the Rose Bowl in 1981. In his typical modest fashion and much to the disappointment of his children, he declined.

James Koulogeorge

1926-2015

James Koulogeorge, a founding member of Orthodox Christian Laity and the last living founding member of Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Glenville, IL, fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, October 29, 2015. Jim served as the first President of OCL from 1987-88 and as Treasurer until 2012. He was a passionate advocate of Orthodox Christian Unity in the United States. He was a devout Orthodox Christian. He and his wife Mary were the respected elders of the community. Jim and Mary represent the “great generation” of Orthodox faithful who cared deeply and actively participated in the life of the Church. They understood that its survival in this land and its relevance for their grandchildren depended on its moving away from its immigrant and colonial frame of reference. The church had to return to its missionary Christ-centered roots.

Joanne Nikides, OCL bookkeeper, and I had the great good fortune to work with Jim for over 12 years and interacted with him as treasurer of OCL. We enjoyed working with him. He used pen and pencil to record all transactions. He was a perfectionist. He would get so upset when things did not balance out. But finally, when we were able to have everything balance, he would settle down and be as sweet as anyone could ever be; and, we would breathe a sigh of relief! Our budgets and bookkeeping under his careful eye are clear and straightforward – just like Jim was clear and straightforward. He kept the organization on the straight and narrow. We have accomplished so much in outreach and activities and have been able to pay our way on a very prudent and cost-effective budget.

(James Koulogeorge Continued)

Details pertaining to his final arrangements appear below in the obituary that appears in the Chicago Tribune. We extend our sincere sympathy to Mary, his wife of 59 years, his three sons and daughter and their spouses. We also remember his last surviving sister and her husband. The pride of Jim's life was his family. He was a devoted husband and caregiver and a good father. All his children were his pride and joy. Jim was very measured in his words and demeanor – except when it came to his grandchildren.

He was proud of each one of them and knew what they were doing, where they were, and how they were progressing. He looked forward to their arrival home during the Christmas season, so that he and Mary could take a picture with all of them and send it to all of us each year.

With all of you, we celebrate his life. He was ready to meet the Lord and go home. We will miss him, and we all have a special memory of him. He was a man of principle and integrity. His memory will be eternal in the community of Glenview, for his family and for each one of us who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him.

Fr. Thomas Hopko

1938-2015

For many years, the Orthodox Christian Laity (OCL) Board has been blessed to have Father Thomas Hopko, of blessed memory, serve as an advisory board member. We have been enriched by his prayers and council. He never hesitated to express his views. He provided the organization with a perspective that was strong, clear and related to his convictions and integrity. From all that is being written at this time of his falling asleep in the Lord, we are overwhelmed by his service to the Orthodox Faith in the United States as pastor and teacher. He was an untiring servant of the Lord. Our prayers are extended to his family. May his memory be eternal!

In addition to the Bible, the two most valuable books about the faith for me are Father Thomas' *The Winter Pascha* and *The Lenten Spring*. Since 1983 and 1984, I revisit them yearly during these two liturgical cycles. They are written in clear, passionate, beautiful language to help me appreciate these two feasts that define our Orthodox Christian faith. They are the works of an inspired teacher and pastor. Now they will have even more meaning for me. What a legacy he leaves with these two works.

The Holy Spirit guided Father Thomas in his many roles, but for me his greatest gift was that of teacher. His words, thoughts and books will inspire generations to come as a Church Father of our Orthodox Faith in this land.

Anthony Andrikopoulos

1932-2015

Christ Is Risen! Our brother in Christ, Anthony Andrikopoulos, has gone to his eternal rest.

Andy's many accomplishments will be remembered and celebrated during these days to come. But for me, his devotion and commitment to the possibilities for Orthodoxy in America is tops. He had a missionary zeal to see the Church grow. He decried the static Church that we are becoming. One of the greatest achievements in the winding-down years of his life was to encourage the young families in the Cheyenne Community to embrace the missionary admonition of our Lord and recover what Fr Chad Hatfield calls the centrality of the Great Commission.

The Holy Saturday Morning Gospel of Matthew (28:19-20), read on the morning that our brother in Christ Andy died, records Christ telling his disciples to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you all days, even unto the consummation of the world." What a legacy and example of evangelization he leaves us. We remember him as a founding member of Orthodox Christian Laity and a board member and advisor for 28 years. He shared our vision that a unified, self-governing, autocephalous Orthodox Christian Church in the United States is the best way to do the work of our Lord. He was a benefactor and more importantly a guide for us. We are grateful for Andy's guidance. We know that his last days were not easy, but they were healing days; because he had great care from his soulmate Barbara and other family members. Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by His death, and restoring life to those in the tombs. May his memory be eternal.

Evan Chriss

1922-2015

It is with a sense of shock that I must relay to you that our devoted Orthodox Christian Laity board member, Evan Alevizatos Chriss, fell asleep in the Lord on Tuesday morning, April 28, 2015, while he was exercising in the gym of his residence. Evan was active until the last moments of his life. He was frail in body these past years, but he did all he could to keep his body, mind and soul together. The Lord took him in the way we all remember Evan – actively pursuing perfection. Evan's life is an example of excellence in the finest sense of his Hellenic heritage. He insisted on the truth. He told it the way he saw it. He was tenacious and opinionated. He loved discourse. He was an outstanding attorney, family man and citizen. Happiness for Evan was fully using his powers along the lines of excellence – just as Aristotle stated.

But, we at OCL will remember Evan for the example he set for us as a devoted and passionate Churchman. He loved the Orthodox Christian Church and served his parish, Diocese and Archdiocese for his entire adult life. He was baptized at the Annunciation Cathedral in Baltimore. He attended the Divine Liturgy there, and he wanted to be buried there as a member of that parish community. He truly personified the role of Church Elder. He would write letters to the clergy and parish council to express his ideas of how to make our Church more inclusive, more missionary, and more friendly to youth. In his elder years, he also attended Holy Cross Orthodox Church, Linthicum, MD and came to love the Liturgy offered and chanted in English, because he could feel it in its entirety. He was always searching and learning. It should be noted that Evan Chriss served on the Archdiocesan Council during the tenure of Archbishop Iakovos. Evan Chriss, Peter Kourides – legal counsel for the Archdiocese for 60 years, George Chimples and Basil Foussianes, were advisors and confidants of Archbishop Iakovos and helped build up the Archdiocese. May their memories be eternal!

(Evan Chriss Continued)

Evan brought all these life experiences to us on the OCL Board, and we welcomed his guidance. He was also our best editor.

The love of his life was his wife Ceres. She always called him “the boss” when I called their home. But I knew that this wonderful, charming, upbeat helpmate made Evan the special person he was. We express our sincere love to his family – especially his grandchildren. He was always concerned about their well-being.

On a personal note, I must say that I have been enriched by knowing Evan; and I know that our entire board found his counsel wise and forward-looking. I will miss knowing he was there to call or email me to keep me in balance. His burial in this season of Pascha will be Friday, May 1. May his memory be eternal!

Fr. Gordon Thomas Walker

1932-2015

Orthodox Christian Laity is truly blessed to have had the gentle, humble and Christ-centered guidance of the Very Reverend Father Gordon Thomas Walker. He served on our advisory board for many years and spoke at many Annual Meetings and Open Forums. We were blessed to have been his guests in Franklin, TN, his home community, two years ago. He and Khouria Mary Sue were the founding members of this most dynamic Orthodox Christian Community of St Ignatius, and he served as the pastor for many years, and was Pastor Emeritus. They had the vision to purchase the land, and a whole community grew around the Church that they established with the help of many. This community is his legacy.

Father Gordon came to Orthodoxy with the Evangelical Christians who were seeking the roots of the Church. They were on a quest and studied for many years, and finally "came home to Orthodoxy" through the Antiochian Archdiocese in 1987. Father Gordon and Father Peter Gillquist of blessed memory were both on our advisory board and helped us grow in our faith and commitment to mission and outreach by conveying their journey to us. Father Gordon also supported the work of missionary priests around the world, especially Fr Daniel Byantoro in Indonesia. Through Fr Gordon, our perspective on the work of the Church as a mission throughout the world was expanded.

Fr Gordon always spoke in a soft tone and in a deliberate way. We always knew we were in the presence of a holy and exemplary churchman when we had fellowship with him. We knew that these last few years were difficult for him health-wise. But Father Gordon embraced his suffering and trusted in the Lord. He was positive and faithful in life and in accepting what the will of the Lord was for him.

We are saddened by his falling asleep, but we are enriched and blessed for and by his guidance. May his memory be eternal. We will not forget your example.

George Aravosis

1929-2016

George was a founding member of Orthodox Christian Laity and was a dedicated board member for 25 years. When his health started to decline, he became a member of the advisory board until his death on November 15. Members of the board learned of his death as they were about to begin their 29th Annual Meeting in Cottonwood, Utah. For me, I sensed a feeling of loss. George was my greatest supporter. He always encouraged me, and he always provided positive advice. He was a creative, soft spoken individual who could see the big picture. He knew OCL needed to have administrative structure, and he was OCL's strategic planner. He was the first one to advocate the need for an executive director. He felt the organization needed this kind of administrative organization so that someone could be responsible for keeping all the moving parts working together. Three staff members work as independent contractors from their homes in different parts of the USA. The board members and advisors are scattered throughout the country. OCL needed someone to pull things together and keep our efforts on track. He also wanted us to use the technology of the day to get our message out to the faithful. Marketing and planning were part of his professional background, and he freely shared his skills and knowledge with OCL.

George and Mary attended most all the Board meetings as long as they could. Mary and the spouses of the board members enjoyed each other's fellowship, and our informal board remains a sort of extended family. We extend our love and prayers to Mary who is the heart and soul of her family. She is stoic and indomitable. May God grant her good health and many years. Our love is extended to the Aravosis children, spouses and grandchildren.

On the occasion of George's falling asleep, we took the opportunity to remember all of our departed board members in a memorial service at St Anna. May the memory of George be eternal along with the memories of Michael Palmer, Evangelos Chriss, Fr. Gordon Walker, Fr Peter Gillquist, Minerva (Athena) Stergianopoulos, Dr. Andrew Kopan, George Coupounas, Anthony Andrikopoulos, Fr Eusebius Stephanou, Dr. Evangelos Creticos, Estell Kanakis, George Kappos, Deacon John Zarras, John Pappas, Fr Thomas Hopko, Eva Topping, Laura Jones, Jim Koulogeorge, Sotere Tsoutsoura, Basil Foussianes and Philip Siavallis.

Fr. Eusebius Stephanou

1924-2016

Orthodox Christian Laity (OCL) has received news of the death of Archimandrite Eusebius Stephanou on May 23, 2016. He was the father, dean and geronda of the Orthodox Christian Renewal movement in the USA and Greece. He was a brilliant and prolific writer and a powerful preacher and teacher. He filled a great void in the intellectual life of the Church. He was controversial. He was in love with Christ and His Church. No one can replace him. He was a supporter and board member of OCL and challenged us to stay focused on our mission of RENEWAL. He is at peace with the Lord in the place that the Lord has prepared for him. He has received his crown of victory. His influence and message and memory will grow. Rest in peace Fr Eusebius. Memory eternal.

—George Matsoukas, OCL Executive Director

Eusebius A. Stephanou was born on June 15, 1924 in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin to Fr. Alexander and Marika Papastephanou. Baptized with the name Agamemnon, Stephanou lived as a child in Detroit, Michigan and Lorain, Ohio where his father served as priest in the local Greek Orthodox Church. In 1942, Stephanou entered Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary, then located in Pomfret Center, Connecticut. Holy Cross relocated to Brookline, Massachusetts in 1946, Stephanou's senior year. In 1950, he was tonsured a monk in Cleveland, Ohio, receiving the name Eusebius. At this time, he also shortened his name from "Papastephanou" to Stephanou. On September 17, 1950, Stephanou was ordained a Deacon at St. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Detroit. In 1951, he travelled to Greece to study at the University of Athens. On February 10, 1953, Stephanou was ordained to the holy Priesthood in his father's hometown of Philiatra. He was the founder and director of St Symeon the New Theologian Orthodox Renewal Center, Miramar Beach, FL.

The life of Fr Eusebius is documented in an excellent biography by Maria Stethatos, *The Voice of a Priest Crying in the Wilderness*.

Dr. Peter Haikalis

1934-2017

I have the sad responsibility to inform you that our beloved board member, Dr. Peter Haikalis, fell asleep in the Lord suddenly, March 20, 2017. He and Susan were out shopping. Susan went into the pharmacy to pick up an item and returned to the car, and Peter was experiencing a heart attack. With state of the art, immediate emergency care, he could not be revived. The sudden death of Peter is a shock for his family and friends, his OCL extended family and his parish community of Ascension Cathedral, Oakland, CA. But I know that the Lord called him home in a way that Peter wanted. His earthly pain, sorrow and suffering was sudden and quick. His family and friends are coming to grips with his death. We realize that this beloved life force - Peter, is at peace in the Lord. May his memory be eternal and may Susan, Ioanna, George, Cecilia, William and his brothers George and Chris, and the rest of us, live long and healthy lives to remember him.

There is so much to remember. Peter and Susan lived a wonderful life together - 50 years this coming May. They were both educated in the best schools. Peter had a Ph.D in Russian History which he taught at the University level, and later completed a Master's in Library Science. The latter part of his career was spent at San Francisco State University, where he was part of the information technology transformation as a librarian. In the Armed Services of the USA, he worked with encrypted information, which is a specialized skill. He was a Fulbright Scholar and helped establish library science in Northern Greece. He was a board member for many years at the American College of Thessaloniki.

He was a true intellectual who valued education. He was a prolific reader. He was an amazing storyteller, conversationalist, raconteur. I so enjoyed talking and listening to Peter. He could elevate ordinary gossip into an art form. We shared so many stories and laughs. His interests were wide-ranged. He could talk on any subject. I have so many positive and pleasant memories of Peter and Susan. Just this past September, I was a guest at their Kauai, Hawaii time share, and we had such a wonderful time. As a side trip, Peter and I spent early morning until late evening in Honolulu. We did three days of touring within a 12-hour period, and he kept up with me. He was my guide and navigator. I treasure this memory.

(Dr. Peter Haikalis Continued)

Peter and Susan were world travelers. He was planning trips for this year that were amazing. They have been everywhere. He enjoyed cooking, eating, good wine and bourbon. He lived life to the fullest. He was generous to many good causes and was a change agent. Peter and Susan personify philoxenia/hospitality. They made strangers guests and welcomed. They were active together in parent teaching, civic and social causes, Church life and devoted members of Orthodox Christian Laity. Both Peter and Susan are former OCL Presidents. Peter's tenure was 2002-2004. These were turbulent times in the life of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, and Peter guided and stayed true to the OCL advocacy mission of transparency and accountability.

Peter sat on numerous boards, many related to Greek American Cultural and Religious Interests. He served the Greek Orthodox Church as a choir member for over 40 years. He loved many different varieties of music. They were members of the San Francisco Philharmonic Community for many years. He served the Church as a board member of his parish and on diocesan levels. He was a member of the Athenagoras Institute at Berkley University. He organized Greek Film Festivals in the San Francisco area. He will be remembered as a fundraiser in his parish community of Ascension.

His life is a story of living well and enjoying life, because it is a blessing from our Lord. He was a devoted family man. He and Susan were a team, and he loved Ioanna, George, Cecilia, William and his brothers. All of us who knew him were enriched by his zest for life. May his memory be eternal! Good-bye, good friend.

Nicholas Nicholau

1931-2017

Nick peacefully departed this life at 10:00 am Saturday, December 9, 2017, after a long and brave struggle with several increasingly debilitating strokes. The funeral was held on Friday, December 15th, at Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Palos Hills, IL, his home parish which he served selflessly in so many capacities: Altar Boy captain; Parish Council member; Youth Advisor; Sunday School teacher; Festival assistant, etc.

Nick was a U.S. Army Veteran having served in Korea during the Korean War. An ardent supporter of OCL, he served as an early editor of OCL's Forum newsletter before OCL's message went "on-line" with websites, blast emails, etc. Nick was a devout and committed Orthodox Christian who loved and served the Church.

May his memory be eternal!

A few years ago, the OCL Board honored Nick for his service to OCL with a roast toast event. I was asked to present some insights on his life and work. He was a perfectionist. He had tunnel vision. Things were done according to his old fashioned editorial ways. He made the final cuts, and looking back, he produced a wonderful, informative newsletter with the teamwork of his long-time friend, Steve Stamatis, who worked with Nick to print the final copies. I ended my remarks by reciting the lyrics of the song written in 1967 by Paul Anka...My Way.

(Nicholas Nicholau Continued)

These lyrics best describe Nick, and they are how I remember him:

I've lived a life that's full
I traveled each and every highway
And more, much more than this, I did it my way.

Regrets, I've had a few
But then again, too few to mention
I did what I had to do and saw it through without exemption
I planned each charted course, each careful step along the byway
And more, much more than this, I did it my way.

Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew
When I bit off more than I could chew
But through it all, when there was doubt
I ate it up and spit it out
I faced it all and I stood tall and did it my way.

I've loved, I've laughed and cried
I've had my fill, my share of losing
And now, as tears subside, I find it all so amusing
To think I did all that
And may I say, not in a shy way
Oh, no, oh, no, not me, I did it my way.

Nick was blessed to have been home-cared by his daughter and her family for many years. Our prayers are extended to his family and may they live long and healthy lives to remember this decent, strong-willed, independent, good-hearted man.

Paul Cromidas

1931-2017

Paul Paul Cromidas, 86, departed this life August 20, 2017, in Dallas, Texas, after months of declining health. He was born in Worcester, MA, to Astor and Caliope Cromidas. He later lived in Bucks County, PA, and has been a resident of Dallas since 1975. Paul earned an undergraduate degree from Clark University, and master's degrees in social work and journalism from Boston University. He loved learning and encouraged others to pursue higher education. He retired from a position as Executive Director of Family Guidance Center in Dallas. In his retirement, he wrote prolifically, speaking out against the darkness of institutionalized child abuse. His campaign to raise public awareness and to bring healing to those who suffered was passionate and steadfast and was one of the countless ways he helped others throughout his career and lifetime. Paul was also a passionate photographer, responsible for cataloging many wonderful memories for his family throughout his life. He considered his family to be his greatest achievement. His wife of 61 years, Betty Regan Cromidas, originally from Marlborough, MA, survives him, along with daughter Cynthia Fox and husband Arthur Fox, their daughter Tiffany Regan Smith and husband Riley, son Paul Cromidas and wife Theresa Cromidas, and beloved grandchildren Nicholas Cromidas and Madalyn Cromidas. He is predeceased by his brothers Anthony and Arestotales (Telly).

Paul's contribution and concern during his tenure on the OCL board was clergy abuse issues. His social work background sensitized him to issues related to child abuse and abuse of adults by clergy. He worked with committees set up by the different archdioceses on these issues. He connected with the Pokrov group and was involved with Resources for Survivors of Abuse in the Orthodox Church.

Chris Xeros

1927-2019

Upon learning of the death of Chris Xeros on October 7, George Matsoukas informed the board members of Orthodox Christian Laity with this remembrance of Chris:

May the memory of a unique individual, Chris, be eternal. He was part of OCL for 32 years. He always had ideas, energy, and much to say. He was a colorful character. He served OCL in HIS way. We will all miss him. He was totally committed to the mission of OCL. He missed very few meetings in 32 years. I will miss him. We talked frequently, and he always made me laugh.

His family was a pioneer Greek American Family in Dallas over 125 years ago. His father was a haberdasher. He specialized in cowboy hats. That is why Chris had so many hats and always wore them. After Katina passed away, he was lonely. Following her death, both his children, one son and one daughter, passed away. But he was resilient and lived his life as best he could. He carried on.

He delighted in being a psalti....it was his passion. He was chanter at Holy Trinity for over 50 years. He always went to the Psalterio whenever OCL attended vespers or liturgy in the many cities that we held meetings. He was an entrepreneur and inventor with a patent. He invented the holder for the bottom piece that sets on the floor of bass string instruments. His profession was symphony orchestra conductor, and he was honored within the last two years for his contribution to classical music appreciation by the Regional Music and Arts Community where he directed.

These past three years were difficult for Chris, because of failing health, but this did not deter his spirit. He made generous contributions to his beloved Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, helping them with beautification and building maintenance programs. His church community was his extended family. He looked for fellowship within that community.

I am sure he was greeted by a choir of angels singing the Holy Hymn of the Trinity. May he rest in peace.

Susan Haikalis

1941-2019

Dear Joanna, George, Cecilia and William, I am at a loss....what can I say.....Her memory will be eternal!

I called her phone on Monday, having just arrived home on the weekend from a trip to India and Uzbekistan. She had been on my mind during my trip, because she loved to travel. Your dad, mom and I had such a wonderful trip, to Argentina and Brazil together.

Just exploring and gossiping and shopping. She bought some beautiful jewelry in Brazil. We also had so much fun in Hawaii at the time share. Your dad and I got up one morning and caught a flight of Honolulu. We rented a car. Your dad gave me a whirlwind tour of the city....maybe a two day tour in 8 hours. We saw everything. We even had arranged a tour of Pearl Harbor. We flew back in the evening and almost missed our flight, because we stopped to feast in some noted Chinese Restaurant. We couldn't find the drop off station for the rented car and just made the flight. Your dad kept up with me to his surprise. This was six months before his death.

I miss your dad so much. We talked every week for years. We talked about everything....He was so colorful, so gregarious, so well read, so informed. He loved his family, and Prince William was his favorite. He is a chip off the old block. I have a picture of your family history in a colorful, folksy way that your dad drew - with love - in words - that only he could use to paint and express this unique family picture. I miss our conversations.

On my return this past weekend, I had received and processed a check for the OCL Angel fund from Fr Paris. I pulled his envelope aside so I could write to him and inquire about your mom. I am just taken aback with the announcement of her falling asleep in the Lord. It comes out of the blue.

(Susan Haikalis Continued)

She and I talked occasionally when I could reach her. She was trying her best to cope. She was suggesting ways to the staff on how to better serve the clients. She had some responsibilities with some activities.

She was always the social worker. She wanted to be helpful. But truly, she was not happy with her situation. She missed your dad. They were a special couple. They had a special relationship. They were meant for each other. Theirs is a special love story. When your dad left us, the void was too great for your mom. It is so sad that she is gone, but you are right. She has gone to dad. They are complete again. Your memories of mom and dad will enrich your lives. They, like you, Ioanna, remain bigger than life. You are all so lucky to have this Haikalis experience as part of your development.

Your parents gave much of themselves to OCL and the Orthodox Church. They were so involved in the Athenagoras Center, Greek Studies, Cinema, Schools in Greece. Your mom so much loved the dance group that Cecilia enjoyed. They loved working at the Church festival. All of these experiences that they shared with you enrich your lives and make you special. Hopefully, somehow in your ways, you can make these experiences relevant for us in this time and this place in a new way. Please keep in touch.

Harry Spell

1923-2020

Orthodox Christian Laity mourns the falling asleep of Founding Member Harry Spell of Edina, Minnesota. May his memory be eternal. He served on the OCL board and advisory board from 1990 until 2017. He joins his good friends of blessed memory, Dr Andrew Kopan, Anthony Andrikopoulos and his brother-in-law John Pappas, all founding members. Harry and his surviving gracious wife of 65 years, Angie, are dedicated to the Orthodox Christian Church in the USA and have spent a lifetime working to advance its missionary outreach and publications of books explaining the faith. In 2011, Mr. Spell was recognized for his philanthropic contributions and service to the Church and was inducted as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. His example inspires us to work together for the good order of the Orthodox Christian Church.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

“O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who are in all places and fill all things, Treasury of blessings and giver of life: come and dwell in us, cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O gracious Lord.”

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Remembrance of Orthodox Christian Laity Board Members



Soterie Tsoutsoura	
Van Livadas	1916-2000
Michael Palmer	1926-2005
Dr. Andrew Kopan	1924-2006
George Coupounas	1929-2007
Dr. Eva Topping	1920-2011
Dr. Angelo Creticos	1922-2011
Fr. Peter Gillquist	1938-2012
Deacon John Zarras	1939-2012
Laura Jones	1931-2012
Basil Foussianes	1922-2012
James Koulogeorge	1926-2015
Fr. Thomas Hopko	1938-2015
Anthony Andiakopoulos	1932-2015
Evan Chriss	1922-2015
Fr. Gordon Thomas Walker	1932-2015
George Aravosis	1929-2016
Father Eusebius Stephanou	1924-2016
Dr. Peter Haikalis	1934-2017
Nicholas Nicholau	1931-2017
Paul Cromidas	1931-2017
Chris Xeros	1927-2019
Susan Haikalis	1941-2019
Harry Spell	1923-2020

OTHER MEMBERS REMEMBERED:

ESTELLE KANAKIS, MINERVA STERGIANOPOULOS,
SPIRO BOUDOURAS, PHILIP SIAVALLIS AND JOHN PAPPAS.