08/02/2020

Phidippides Award bestowed to Archbishop Elpidophoros of America



The 24th *Phidippides Award* was bestowed last night to His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America *for his passionate advocacy of Hellenism and Orthodoxy* during the 33rd Anniversary Gala Dinner of the Hellenic Public Radio COSMOS FM 91.5. The event was held at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadows, NY.

The program presented the Greek-American actor Anthoula Katsimatides who served as the Mistress of Ceremonies. Constantinos Vlassis, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Hellenes Abroad, offered greetings. Stelios Taketzis, the Chairman of GAEPIS (Greek American Educational Public Information System, Inc.), the parent organization of Cosmos FM, welcomed the Archbishop and all attendees to the auspicious evening. The Very Rev. Archimandrite Eugene Pappas offered thoughtful reflections as a tribute to the Archbishop. Archon Michael Psaros spoke about his appreciation of Cosmos FM, his enthusiasm about the work of the Church, the leadership of Archbishop Elpidophoros and the progress underway for the completion of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine in the World Trade Center.

His Eminence in accepting the *Phidippides Award,* expressed his gratitude and said:

Receiving an award such as this, for doing the things you love the most, and for doing your duty, always presents the recipient with difficulties. The program note says for a "passionate advocacy of Hellenism and Orthodoxy." But how do you accept congratulations for fulfilling your responsibilities? How do you welcome acknowledgment for the performance of your mission?

This is the full text of the Archbishop's acceptance remarks at the Phidippides Award Gala Dinner:

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros

Acceptance Remarks

24th Phidippides Award Gala Dinner

February 6, 2020 – 7:00 pm

Terrace on the Park – The Penthouse

Flushing, New York

Dear Friends,

I come before you this evening, humbled by the honor you bestow upon me. I would like to thank the Board of Directors of the Greek Educational Public Information System and the entire team at our beloved Hellenic Public Radio, Cosmos FM, for bestowing this Award on me in my first year as your Archbishop. Cosmos FM provides an immensely important service not only to the *Omogeneia*, but to the greater community as well. It opens a wide window on the affairs of Hellenes throughout the Tri-State area for our neighbors, and encourages them to become Philhellenes, friends of our culture and friends of our Holy Orthodox Faith.

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Only with much gratitude, my friends, and I am very grateful to you all for the generosity of spirit and openness of heart that you have displayed toward me since I first arrived on these shores as your Archbishop.

Yet, I should only accept this award—not only because of your love so manifest this evening—but because of the countless Faithful of our communities across America. Every day from coast to coast, priests, administrators, Greek School teachers, Sunday School teachers and Youth workers strive to instill in the next generation the very best of the Hellenic culture – our Παιδεία – our language, our faith and our deep spiritual traditions. They are the unsung heroes who struggle every day at the Marathon of education, scholarship, communication, and every aspect of cultural undertaking.

Everyone knows the name of Phidippides, the ἡμεροδρόμης, the long-distance courier, who announced the victory at Marathon over 2,500 years ago. But what of the nameless heroes who lie beneath the two burial mounds, the τύμβοι of the Athenians and the Plataeans who saved Greece and Western Civilization with it? Their names are not so much lost to history, but their courage and fortitude are exemplified in Phidippides. Thus, in the One, we know of the Many, and none is lost.

So it is tonight. In the ministry of one Archbishop, there are so many co-workers and fellow travelers, that they cannot be numbered or named. But you have honored them all and you honor yourselves, because you are part of the Marathon that we are all running to give the best and brightest of our faith and culture to our children.

I thank you again for this evening of celebration and remembrance. Celebration of our enduring faith and culture, and remembrance of those who made the sacrifices so that both of these gifts keep on giving to our children.

May God bless you all with health, prosperity and every success!



— Source: goarch.org