

A Place of Refuge Now Provides It Nationwide



A historic building in the heart of America's oldest city which once served as a place of refuge for this continent's first Greek settlers is now providing a different kind of refuge to every priest of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

St. Photios National Shrine in St. Augustine, Florida took the bold initiative to send a grey-colored, cloth face mask to more than 800 bishops, priests and assistant priests serving churches from Alaska to Florida and Arizona to Maine.

The project— to protect priests, as well as those they serve, is both symbolic and practical as states across the country begin their transitions to loosen up stay-at-home restrictions.

Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, the brainchild of the project and the hierarchical pastor of the Shrine wanted not only to provide the masks as protection to the nation's clergy— but to also thank them for their dedication during what he called a "spiritually challenging" quarantine period.

"First and foremost we wanted to protect our clergy during these challenging times but most of all, we wanted to recognize their dedication and perseverance during

these spiritually challenging times when they were forced to celebrate the holiest of days in empty churches and tend to the sick, sometimes risking their own lives in the process,” Bishop Demetrios told The Pappas Post.

The project was funded by “generous donors who support my various ministries and initiatives and repeatedly respond when called upon to support the Church,” the Bishop said.

Featured photo: Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos delivers 800+ masks to the U.S. Post Office in St. Augustine for distribution to all corners of the United States.



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