

Archdiocese Supports the Thomas C. Zachos Chair in Mitochondrial Research



The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Canada has made a gift in support of the Thomas C. Zachos Chair in Mitochondrial Research. The \$1,000.00 contribution will go towards the first named chair to support mitochondrial research at the University of Toronto's Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology.

His Eminence Archbishop Sotirios was inspired to make this donation after meeting with Athanasios (Thomas) Zachos at the Archdiocese last month. Thomas is a young man who lives his life with this terrible disease and who has spearheaded the creation of this research chair held by Professor Ana Andreazza.

Despite his daily challenges, Thomas, who is the grandson of the former president of the National Philoptochos, Mrs. Vasiliki Zacharopoulos, conducts himself in a most exemplary manner. His patience, humility, dedication to persevere, and his trust and faith in Our Lord Jesus Christ, is an example for all. He has not allowed his

condition to define him; on the contrary, with the support of his family, he has embarked with enthusiasm to transform the latest research discoveries with the goal of treating and even preventing this disease in the future.

In addition to its own contribution, the Archdiocese and the National Philoptochos have written to all community chapters to support the Thomas C. Zachos Chair in Mitochondrial Research. As we find ourselves days away from joyously celebrating the Nativity of Jesus Christ, let us consider making a donation to the University of Toronto to help Thomas and this worthy initiative. Additional information and donation details can be found here: <https://donate.utoronto.ca/give/show/548>

Together with our financial support, let us also pray for Thomas, and for all individuals who suffer from mitochondrial disease. Let us be inspired by Thomas, by his dedication and commitment to help others. In this fashion, we will imitate the words from the Proverbs of Solomon: “A brother aided by his brother is like a strong and fortified city...” (Pr 18:19). Thank you to Thomas for providing us with the inspiration to always put the needs of others above our own, like St. Paul wrote to the Philippians: “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (Php 2:4).

A blessed and merry Christmas to all!

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