

October, 2009

Georgia Gefteas and her committee blessed us with a fantastic 50th Anniversary Ball at the Radisson Hotel's beautiful ballroom - home of so many wonderful memories. Everything was perfect: the food, service, decorations, orchestra, cake, auctions, "As Time Goes Bye," everything - especially the feeling of community that was so deeply in evidence to all of us that wonderful evening. When we saw Father Blougouras and Father Manikas standing with Father Krommydas representing 50 years of leadership, prayer, joy, and comfort, we saw the reflection of the most significant moments of our lives. Thank you Georgia and your committee, simply amazing!

Another reason for gratitude became evident during the time Georgia allocated in the smartly brief speaking program. She graciously provided the opportunity for the Development Committees to keep their promises to the parish to announce two major milestones in their efforts to carry out the mandate of the General Assembly: the selection of the architect and the fund raising report.

With these two announcements, it is evident St. Demetrios has a glorious past and a brilliant future. Because of the early generosity of our parishioners, formal pledges in the amount of \$1,735,000 or almost 30% of the total required to build our new church were reported. This represents a very strong beginning. Even before any of a number of fund raising activities and events which are a necessary to complete such an effort have been planned or executed, many St. Demetrios parishioners have come forward with their formal pledges which enabled the inspirational announcement Saturday evening. Pledge cards are going to be printed so that we can continue to respond to the demand.

Although the Development Committee had no obligation to conduct a formal designer selection process, they evinced their willingness to spend countless hours establishing and executing a very professional bid process. The architects, engineers, lawyers, builders and developers – all St. Demetrios parishioners known to most of us – designed a process respectful of the bidders' time and resources in an effort to achieve broad participation. Why when all they had to do was just pick among the known talent did they choose this route? Talk to any of these volunteers and it is clear their pride in St. Demetrios and the unique place it has occupied in our Metropolis and Archdiocese, and their desire for us to continue as a leading parish, was among the greatest motivators of all.

Simply put, they were motivated by the desire to do something special for St. Demetrios' new Sanctuary. From parishioner feedback received during the well advertised and attended September 16th Design Charrette, to the extensive bid process they revealed their thoughtfulness. For their efforts they were rewarded with fifteen qualified responses. These were narrowed to five preliminary designs, all of which would have represented a wonderful new church. Finally in an extra day of deliberations, they unanimously selected Yervant Nahikian of Y Nahikian Associates. Congratulations to Yervant. The Development Committee is looking forward to working with you to take your preliminary design concept through to final design and architectural plans in the months to come. Obviously the parish will have a number of opportunities to see these evolve. As always, we continue to invite anyone who wants to participate in this heartwarming effort to simply volunteer.