

GREEK ORTHODOX FOLK DANCE & CHORAL FESTIVAL

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OPEN LETTER TO THE GREEK ORTHODOX FOLK DANCE & CHORAL FESTIVAL

Dear Family & Friends,

As the FDF Ministry enters a new era, it is with great pride and hope that we write this farewell letter to you all.

Effective April 7, 2008, the undersigned were asked to step down from their positions on the Board of Trustees of the Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival. The released Board members are to be replaced by new people, appointed by Metropolitan Gerasimos, in an effort to bring a new perspective to this Ministry and to hopefully achieve the Metropolitan's new, soon to be revealed goals for the FDF program.

We are extremely proud of what has been accomplished with the FDF Ministry over the past 32 years and we are optimistic that this good work will continue as the Metropolitan has indicated that the perpetuation of this program is a priority for the Metropolis.

Over the past several years, we have devoted our heart and souls to the creation and perpetuation of the Folk Dance Festival. To recall memories of the past three decades is to marvel at a movement of people and communities coming together to celebrate and perpetuate our Greek culture as a part of the rich traditions of our Orthodox Faith.

From the countless precious visions of young children in costumes;

To the courage of Bishop Meletios who supported the San Diego St. Spyridon Jr. Parish Council in the pursuit of the original creation of the FDF;

To the Loving and gregarious Metropolitan Anthony whose love for the program became the catalyst for its growth and prosperity;

To all of the young men and women of the FDF Management Teams who faithfully donated their time each year to the enormous undertaking of putting on the annual event;

To the judges who have tirelessly and generously given of their time and talent each year to teach, challenge, and encourage our children to become the best they can be;

To the clergy who understood the advantages (and the limitations) of this program and chose to capitalize on the best of what this movement has to offer;

To the parents who have spent their hard earned money year after year to give their children the gift of participation in this annual event;

To all the current and past members of the FDF Board of Trustees who gave freely of their expertise and their time to the perpetuation of this great Ministry;

To the Directors who toil year after year to research, teach, and perfect their performances and serve as role models and mentors for their dancers and singers;

To the Parishes who supported, financially and in other untold ways, the efforts of these children;

It is a brilliant stretch across the fabric of time and a magnificent testament to what is possible and all that is good in this world, our culture and our Faith.

It is our sincere hope and prayer that this program will continue to survive and thrive for another 32 glorious years. We leave this program now as the largest and most successful Youth and Family Ministry in not only this Metropolis but in the entire Archdiocese of America. Moreover, in the worldwide Greek Orthodox community there does not exist another Ministry of the Church that brings together as many children, young adults, parents and families as successfully with the same proliferation and purpose of the Folk Dance Festival. We do not point this out for the accolades or recognition, but rather to express first, what a tremendous and fragile gift we all have in this Ministry and second, to imply how much more is possible when you consider from where it has grown. It is this legacy that we are most proud to impart.

It is important to us that this program continues to flourish. We pray for its continued success, we pray for its safety, we pray for the people who will care for it and we pray that the participants who have supported this program over the years continue to do so. FDF has produced countless dedicated, competent, and creative people over the years. We are certain that with everyone's continued support and love, the new people entrusted with the care of this Ministry will grow it into something that far surpasses anything we could have helped it become.

We have a tremendous amount of love for this program as each of us has been truly blessed to have been associated with this Ministry. We thank you all for the many opportunities that you have given us; we thank you for your passion, your support and your love; we thank you for the eternal memories that we will forever hold dear; and we thank you for allowing us to be a part of your lives these past many years.

Everything has its season and every day comes to an end. The sun has set on our tenure with the Folk Dance Festival. Tomorrow is a new day and as such will bring a new adventure. We don't know what we are likely to do with all of our new free time, but we do know that it will be fun to find out. Most importantly, we hope that whatever we do, we will be able to collaborate with the friends and family we have made over the years as a result of the Folk Dance Festival.

From an entire generation that grew up with it, always remember and never forget...

NO HANKY PANKY!

Sincerely,

Spiro G. Prevolos
Vice Chairman

Louis Kades
Operations Officer

Loula Moschonas
Treasurer

Eleni Constantine
Deputy Operations Officer

Nicholas J. Prevolos
Director of Technology

Patty (Diamond) Ladas
Past Managing Director

Thanasi K. Prevolos
Legal Counsel

