

National Shrine Essay Contest Winners Announced

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Mrs. Katherine Bacalis, chair of the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine Essay Program, announced the results of the 14th annual event. This annual competition presents a choice of two topics for teenagers to research and write about. They were as follows: 1) There are many historic and sacred sites throughout the world. What makes St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine a historic and significant site for Greek Orthodox Christians? 2) Most Americans born in the United States can trace their family's history to an ancestor who came to America from a foreign country. Compare and contrast your family's immigrant history with the immigrant history of the New Smyrna Colonists of 1768.

Mrs. Bacalis reported that 10 teens, ages 13-19, responded to this competition with Noah Hays of Holy Trinity in St. Augustine, FL and Blake Boudouris of Holy Transfiguration in Charlottesville, VA placing first; Anthony Telis Assimenios of St. John the Divine in Jacksonville, FL placing second; and Gabriella Couloubaritis of Annunciation in Memphis, TN placing third.

The committee will send signed certificates from His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, to all essayists including Alexia Hulme of St. Mary in Painted Post, NY; Katherine Hoover of Annunciation in Memphis, TN; Dimitrios Vasillios Bikas of Holy Trinity in Charlotte, NC, Edward Dehelean of Sts. Constantine and Helen in Huntsville, AL; Domenica Pusic of Holy Trinity in Raleigh, NC; recognizing their efforts.