

Hellenic Republic  
*the Holy Synod*  
**OF THE CHURCH OF GREECE**  
Special Synodic committee for pilgrims tours

(RELIGIOUS TOURISM)  
14 IOANN. GENNADIU STR., ATHENS 115 21  
TEL. 0030210-7272283; FAX. 0030210-7272210

.....

**PAN-EUROPEAN STUDENT COMPETITION**  
**THEME: APOSTLE PAUL – THE APOSTLE OF GREECE AND CYPRUS –**  
**THE APOSTLE OF EUROPE**

**SCOPE:** To promote the religious and cultural heritage of Greece and Cyprus, by means of a single thematic pilgrims cultural journey, based on Apostle Paul's historic presence in Europe.

**Goals:**

- ✓ To sensitize and encourage pupils of Greek origin that live abroad to get involved in the promotion of Greek religious, cultural and historical heritage, as this was formed through the presence of Apostle Paul in the areas he visited in Greece, Cyprus and Europe.
- ✓ To study and become aware of the important role Apostle Paul's multifarious activity had on the formation and development of Greek, Cypriot and European theological, cultural and historical thinking.
- ✓ To track down, promote and approach with a critical mind the fundamental aspects of Apostle Paul's thought that have a common timeless meaning and application in Greece as well as Cyprus and Christian Europe (previously and nowadays).
- ✓ To develop a truly inquiring mind in their approach of Greek and European history.
- ✓ For students to be productive, making full use of team-work, for the systematic and organized retrieval, research, evaluation and presentation, in the form of a written essay, posters, pictures, DVD, video, of the most important religious monuments that are directly linked to Apostle Paul, in Greece, Cyprus and Europe.
- ✓ To look for and critically approach the existing Greek and European historical sources, in order to shape the historical and cultural profile of the regions directly linked to Apostle Paul.
- ✓ To realize the usefulness of interview in the search for historic-graphical information, the competence to draw-up documents and to draft reports, making use of the Greek and European linguistic wealth.
- ✓ To become aware of the contribution of local religious and historical monuments, as well as monuments of pilgrimage, in the life of each region in Greece, Cyprus and Europe (older and contemporary) that are connected to Apostle Paul.
- ✓ To propose a substantial context and realizable profile for pilgrimage tours in Greece and Cyprus, making use of respective European experiences.

- ✓ To promote in a creative manner opportunities for pilgrimages-religious tours, outside the known destinations, or new alternate tours relating to the ones already existing, making use of respective European alternatives.
- ✓ To develop a feeling of honour and pride in the Christian, cultural and historical heritage of Europe, especially the contribution by Greece-Cyprus and Apostle Paul to this heritage.
- ✓ To become aware (the pupils) of the importance of Greek language in its capacity as a European and international communication medium in the age of the New Testament and to realize that the whole legacy of Apostle Paul and his Letters constitute important monuments for the Greek and European linguistic heritage.

#### **Anticipated multiple benefits:**

- ✓ The active, systematic and with vision mobilization of the community of pupils for the promotion of the local (Greek-Cypriot and even European) religious, cultural and historical heritage, as well as the contribution of Apostle Paul in its formation.
- ✓ The development of a modern spirit in the field of historiography for the shaping of the historical character of each area.
- ✓ To link the pupils with the local and supra-local society, but also with Greece and Cyprus.
- ✓ The cognitive, emotional and psychological-social involvement of pupils.
- ✓ The realization and appreciation of teamwork, of self-action, supervision and research in the field of historic-graphic research.
- ✓ The emotional connection with the national and European history.
- ✓ The realization of the importance of the Greek language as a means to express the noble ideas of Christian belief.

### **WHO MAY PARTICIPATE CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION**

Regarding primary education, pupils attending Elementary School in all school units that answer to the regional Education Coordinators of the Greek and Cypriot Ministries of National Education and Religious Affairs in the European Union (i.e. ethnic schools, European schools, departments for teaching the mother tongue), and even pupils attending school in Cyprus, **regardless of Christian denomination and confession.**

Regarding secondary education, pupils attending Lower Secondary Education (Gymnasio) and Unified Upper Secondary Schools (Genika Lykeia) that belong to the regional Education Coordinators of the Greek and Cypriot Ministries of National Education and Religious Affairs in the European Union (i.e. ethnic schools, European schools, departments for teaching the mother tongue), and even pupils attending school in Cyprus, **regardless of Christian denomination and confession.**

The work prepared, either in groups or individually, can take the form of a written essay, a poem or novel (in printed or electronic form) or poster or photograph or artistic creation or theatrical play or creation, or DVD or VIDEO or any other juvenile creation in conformity with the educational reality of the country of residence. **All contributions are to be submitted in Greek or in any other official EU language.**

The school units that will participate in this Contest will have to complete the attached participation document and return it until the end of January 2007 by registered post: to the Synodic Bureau for the Development of Pilgrimages. (**To the hands of Archimandrite Spyridon Katramados, Address: Ioan. Gennadiou str. 14, P.O. 115 21 Tel. 0030210-7272283).**)

### **NOTIFICATION-PROMOTION OF CONTEST**

A big press conference will take place in Athens, addressed to all teachers and ecclesiastical tourism and other reporters of the written and digital press, in order to announce and present the project.

At the same time the Special Synodic Committee for Pilgrims Tours, in cooperation with the Office for Greece of the European Parliament, will organize daily briefing sessions, inviting the whole educational hierarchy, school directors and mainly teachers in school units that answer to the Education Coordinators of the European Union.

All issues, which are directly or indirectly linked to the notification and eventual conduct of the Pan-European Student Competition, will be placed under the auspices of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece and His Beatitude its Chairman, the Archbishop of Athens and All of Greece, Christodoulos.

➤ **The executive instrument of the Competition will be the Synodic Bureau for the Development of Pilgrims Tours. The Contest is placed under the auspices of the following ministries: a) National Education and Religious Affairs, b) Foreign Affairs (General Secretariat of Greeks abroad), c) Tourism Development, d) Culture and e) the offices of the European Parliament of Greece and Cyprus f) The Greek Tourism Organisation (E.O.T) and the Cyprus Tourism Organisation (K.O.T).**

The Ecclesiastical and other news media in Athens and the European Union, as well as any other appropriate means will be used.

### **EVALUATION – AWARDS**

The Evaluation Committee, appointed by the Holy Synod of Greece, will conduct the evaluation of school entrances. The Committee will also be entrusted with the organization and execution of the Pan-European Student Competition. The members of the Committee are:

**President:** The Honourable Director of the European Parliament office in Greece  
Mr. George Kasimatis

#### **Vice Presidents:**

- 1) The Honourable Chairman of the State Audit Court, Mr. George Kourtis
- 2) The Honourable Dr. Stamatis Paleocrassas, Councillor Emeritus of the Pedagogical Institute, of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs

#### **Members:**

1. His Eminence, The Bishop of Thermopili, Joannis,
2. His Eminence, The Bishop of Velestino, Damaskinos
3. His Eminence, The Bishop of Koronias, Panteleimon

4. His Holiness, Archimandrite Spiridon Katramados, Secretary of the Special Synodical Committee for Pilgrims Tours
5. The Most Learned, Mr. Alexandros Stavropoulos, Professor of Theology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
6. The Honourable Mr. Panayotis Kanelopoulos, Professor of European Law at the University of Pireaus
7. The Honourable Mr. Stavros Fotiu, Adjunct Professor at the University of Cyprus, Department of Educational Studies
8. The Honourable Mr. Theodoros Georgakis, Mayor of Iliupoli
9. The Honourable Mrs. Jasmini Kriari- Katrani, General Secretary of Education for Greeks abroad and Intercultural Education of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs
10. Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece
11. Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus
12. Representative of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs of Greece
13. Representative of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs of Cyprus
14. Representative of the Ministry of Tourism of Greece
15. Representative of the Ministry of Tourism of Cyprus
16. Representative of the Ministry of Culture of Greece
17. Representative of the Ministry of Culture of Cyprus
18. Representative of the Greek Tourism Organization
19. Representative of the Cyprus Tourism Organization
20. The Honourable Mrs. Eleni Maneou- Pedaru, Secondary Education Director for the 1<sup>st</sup> Athens district
21. The Honourable Mrs. Anastasia Pashalidou, Chief of Staff of Department A in the General Directorate for Secondary Education of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs
22. The Honourable Mrs. Polikseni Xronopoulou, Secondary Education Theologian and Philologist
23. The Honourable Mrs. Anna Patesti, Philologist, Psychologist, With postgraduate studies in the Science of Education
24. The Honourable Mrs. Evangelia Vamvaka, Theologist in Secondary Education
25. The Honourable Mrs. Afroditi Athanasatou, Secondary Education School Director, French Philology Teacher
26. The Honourable Mrs. Stella Zaharia, French Philology Teacher, postgraduate studies in the Educational Studies
27. The Honourable Mrs. Maria Georgiadi, English Philology Teacher
28. The Honourable Mrs. Despina Papangeli, School Advisor for English Language
29. The Honourable Mrs. Maria Hioni, English Philology Teacher
30. The Honourable Mrs. Irini Kafatou, Collaborator of the office of the Holy Synod
31. The Honourable Mrs. Damaskini Asimakopoulou, Theologian
32. The Honourable Mrs. Virginia Lopez Recio, Spanish Philology Teacher
33. The Honourable Mrs. Eleni Theodoropoulou, German Philology Teacher

34. The Honourable Mrs. Eleftheria Anagnostopoulou, French Philology Teacher
35. The Honourable Mrs. Mado Yianakoura, French Philology Teacher
36. The Honourable Mrs. Evangelia Balla, Teacher, postgraduate studies in Educational Science
37. The Honourable Mrs. Athanasia Tenente, Teacher
38. The Honourable Mrs. Ekaterina Papayoanou, Adviser on Agro tourism in the Ministry of Tourism
39. The Honourable Mr. Apostolos Papakonstantinou, Director of Secondary Education for East Attica
40. The Honourable Mr. Athanasios Raftopoulos, Secondary Education Philologist, postgraduate studies in Educational Studies
41. The Honourable Mr. Ilias Georgadis, former Lower Secondary Education Principal
42. The Honourable Mr. Konstantinos Xolevas, Journalist - Chief Editor in the Journals of the Church of Greece
43. The Honourable Mr. Spiridon Kroustalakis, Secondary Education Philologist, postgraduate studies in Teaching and Assessment
44. The Honourable Mr. Joannis Tsagas, School Advisor for Theology teachers
45. The Honourable Mr. Athanasios Goyolas, Theologian
46. The Honourable Mr. Panajotis Parlavatzas, Theologian - Collaborator of the office of the Holy Synod
47. The Honourable Mr. Andreas Karivalis, Theologian - Collaborator of the office of the Holy Synod
48. The Honourable Mr. Konstantinos Konstantatos, Hagiographer - Collaborator of the office of the Holy Synod
49. The Honourable Mr. Nektarios Mamais Hagiographer - Collaborator of the office of the Holy Synod
50. The Honourable Mr. Joanis Panajotopoulos, Theologian
51. The Honourable Mr. Dimitris Panajotopoulos, Theologian
52. The Honourable Mr. Konstantinos Goulas, Theologian
53. The Honourable Mr. Alexandros Tsikouros, Journalist
54. The Honourable Mr. George Logiotis, German Philology Teacher
55. The Honourable Mrs/ Mr..... , Italian Philology Teacher
56. The Honourable Mr. Athanasios Daskalothanasis, Musician, First Chanter of the Assumption Cathedral in Iliupoli, Director of the Byzantine Music Workshop in the Municipality of Iliupoli, Athens
57. The Honourable Mr. Stefanos Lagoutaris, Musician, Chanter of the Cathedral of Assumption in Iliupoli, Teacher in the Byzantine Music Workshop of the Municipality of Iliupoli, Athens
58. The Honourable Mr. Evangelos Sarandidis, Secondary Education Teacher of Music

The Honourable Evaluation Committee of the Pan-European Student Contest may seek the assistance of collaborators of the Holy Synod office or of experts on the subject, after securing the approval of the **Special Synodical Committee for Pilgrims Tours**.

**Three Sub-Evaluation Committees will be set up:** one for Primary Education school level, one for the Lower Secondary Education level, and one for the

Unified Upper Secondary Schools (Genika Lykeia). Finally, in Plenary, under the chairmanship of **the Special Synodical Committee for Pilgrims Tours**, the best works will be chosen. The work of the Committee will be continuous, since it will be in steady contact with the participants and will offer them as much help as possible. The Committee will hold sessions regularly at the premises of the Holy Synod, which will be indicated by the **Special Synodical Committee for Pilgrims Tours and with the essential and required presence of his Holiness, the Secretary**, as mediator between with his Beatitude and the Holy Synod.

The Honourable Evaluation Committee will have to decide on the best work, based on how the subject has been covered universally, through the study of historical monuments and sources, as well as how well founded are the presented arguments.

All interested schools should send special application forms to the Special Synodical Committee for Pilgrims Tours by registered letter **by 30 January 2007 at the latest.**

The official ceremony will be organized **around March 2007** at the Holy Synod premises in Athens, for the presentation of statistical data, emanating from the submitted application forms both to his Beatitude, The Archbishop, and the members of the Hierarchy of the Church of Greece Governing Board, as well as spokespersons of the Ministries and Organizations under the auspices of which the Contest will be placed.

All interested Schools should send their contribution to the Special Synodical Committee for Pilgrims Tours **by registered letter until 30 April 2007 at the latest.**

The Hon. Evaluation Committee will forward to the Special Synodical Committee for Pilgrims Tours **until 30 May 2007** the outstanding contributions, the names of the student groups, as well as an attached text, which will state the reasons for the selections.

The Special Synodic Committee for Pilgrims Tours of the Holy Synod will publish the Assessment results and the interested parties will be notified **until the 1st of June 2007.**

The Chairman of the Hon. Evaluation Committee and his Holiness, the Secretary of the Special Synodical Committee for Pilgrims Tours should inform at a regular basis His Beatitude, the Archbishop of Athens and All of Greece, Christodoulos and the members of the Holy Synod Governing Board on the progress of the Pan European Contest and to receive relevant instructions.

The Final Awarding Ceremony **will be held during the Enthroned Celebration of the Church of Greece (WEEK OF APOSTLE PAUL) on Sunday, 1st of July, 2007,** at the Athens Cathedral or the Holy podium of Apostle Paul in Pnyka or at the premises of the Holy Synod of Greece, or in any other official central Hall in Athens. The Special Synodical Committee for Pilgrims Tours of the Holy Synod will be charged with the organization of the awarding Ceremony.

**His Beatitude, the Archbishop of Athens and All of Greece, Christodoulos, will, in any case, bestow upon all the participants honorary certificates.**

The Ceremony it is expected to be attended by: The Members of the Permanent Holy Synod, the Head Chief Secretary of the Holy Synod, the Chairman and the members of the Evaluation Committee, spokespersons of the Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Parliament, the European Commission Office for Greece and Cyprus, his Holiness the Secretary and the

members of the Special Synodical Committee for Pilgrims Tours of the Holy Synod and other VIPs. Therefore it is important to extend the invitation to all mass media and participating schools, the country's political leadership, to teachers, children, parents, MEPs, writers, MPs and cultural institutes.

**All participating schools, except the selected ones, will receive certificate of participation in the contest, on behalf of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece and the Ministries of National Education of Greece and Cyprus.**

There will be a weeklong pilgrimage, from Monday, June 30 until Monday, July 9, 2007 (travel dates can be altered under the exclusive responsibility of the Office), titled *Following the footsteps of Apostle Paul in the Greek land*, under the auspices and the participation of his Beatitude, the Archbishop of Athens and All of Greece, Christodoulos.

This pilgrimage is also under the Auspices and Financial Assistance of:

- a) The Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs of Greece and Cyprus,
- b) The Ministry of Tourism of Greece and Cyprus,
- c) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR GREEKS ABROAD) of Greece and Cyprus,
- d) The Ministry of Culture of Greece and Cyprus,
- e) The Greek Tourism Organisation and the Cyprus Tourism Organisation and their Offices in the EU Member States,
- f) The NGO 'Allileghii (Solidarity)' of the Church of Greece, and
- g) The EP offices of Greece and Cyprus,

Invited will be: a) the distinguished students, b) the supervising teachers (Primary and Secondary Education), who worked for the success of the Competition, c) the members of the Permanent Holy Synod, d) the Head Chief Secretary and the Secretaries of the Holy Synod Committees, e) the Chairman and the members of the Hon. Evaluation Committee, f) Their Excellencies the Ministers or Representatives of the Ministries of National Education, Tourism, Foreign Affairs of Greece and Cyprus, as well as the European Parliament and European Commission representations in Greece and Cyprus, g) his Holiness the Secretary and the Members of the Special Synodical Committee for Pilgrims Tours of the Holy Synod, as well as h) other distinguished guests from Greece, Cyprus, the EU, and representative office heads of other Orthodox Churches.

The exclusive scope of the Pilgrimage Tour will be: a) the presentation on board of all student contributions from the Pan-European Contest and b) the presentation of potential developments in the field of pilgrimage tours and their promotion in Greece and Cyprus.

The Evaluation Committee, his Holiness the Secretary and the Members of the Special Synodical Committee for Pilgrims Tours of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church of Greece will be charged with the entire co-ordination, supervision, final presentation, and the whole management of the Pan European Student Contest, the related events of the promotion, the awards ceremony, the receptions, the tour etc.

