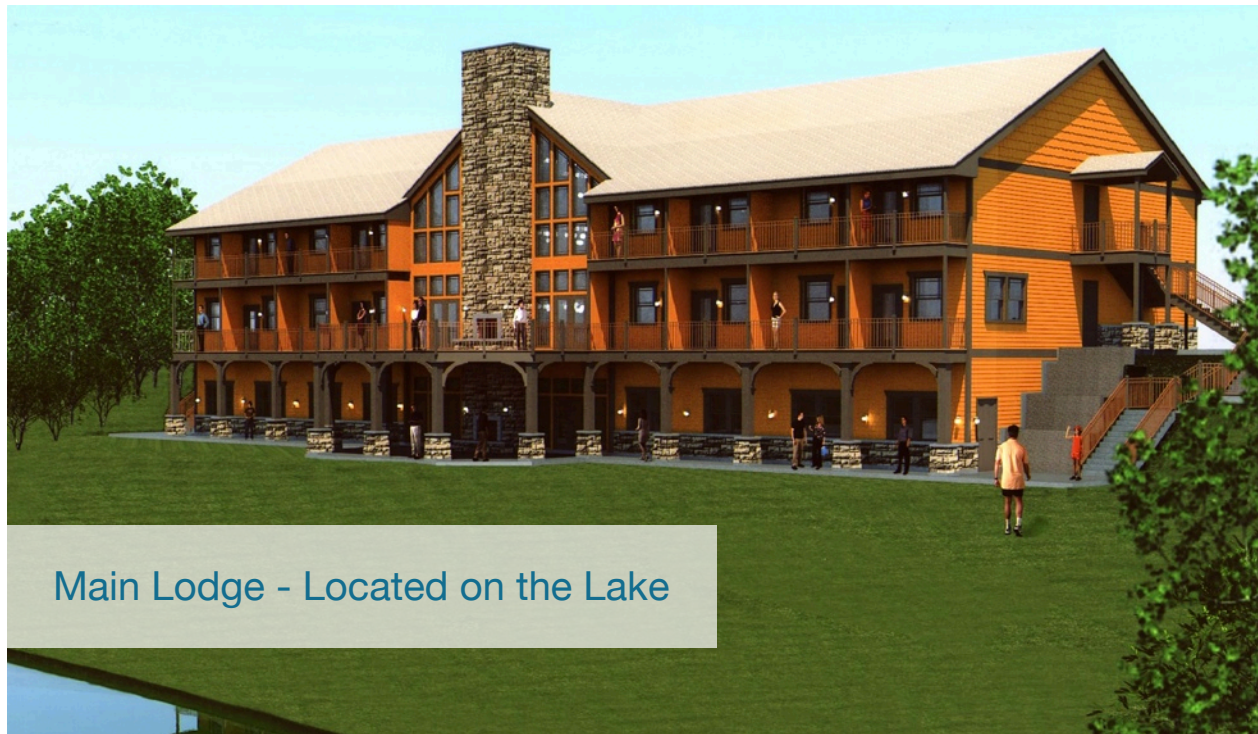


BUILDING PROGRAM PHASE 2

NOW IN PROGRESS



Main Lodge - Located on the Lake



Main Lodge - Lake View



Main Lodge - Front Entrance



Two Independent Cabins



Main Lodge - Great Hall

TOGETHER WE'RE BUILDING THE FUTURE

AT THE
SAINT
IAKOVOS
RETREAT
CENTER



For more information visit <http://saintiakovosconstruction.wordpress.com>

Gifting Opportunities Still Available

Contact - Father Michael Stearns, Development Consultant

frmichael@metropolisretreat.org

(817) 475-2145

Together, we will continue to build the future of the Retreat Center.

BEING BUILT

On the Friday after Pascha, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago celebrated more than just the Feast of the Life-Giving Fountain. Hundreds of both Clergy and Laity gathered together in order to participate in the Official Groundbreaking Ceremony of the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center. Despite the cold and rainy weather conditions in Southern Wisconsin, the flame of Christ's eternal presence both illuminated the souls, and warmed the hearts, of all the faithful in attendance.

Led by His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago, and assisted by both His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos (Metropolis Chancellor), and His Grace Bishop Ilia of Philomelion (Albanian Diocese); these three Hierarchs, surrounded by dozens of Priests and scores of faithful, implored God to bless the work of their hands on the foundation of our Savior Jesus Christ. After blessing the sacred ground in front of the existing Chapel with Holy Water, the three Hierarchs led the Retreat Center's Major Donors in turning over the sanctified soil at the foot of the Cross with ceremonial shovels.

Honored participants in the Groundbreaking Ceremony included the Center's Great Benefactor Chris Tomaras, who has contributed more than \$1,000,000 to the project; as well as Major Donors Harold Anagnos, Arthur Labros, Kosmas Pablecas, and Steve Regopoulos, all contributing in excess of \$100,000. Parishes and Church Organizations were also recognized through individuals present, as sources of significant donations: Irene Arsoniadis, President of the Metropolis Philoptochos Society; Fr. James Greanias, President of the Metropolis Clergy Syndesmos; Fr. James Dokos, Pastor of Saints Peter & Paul (Glenview, IL); Fr. David Hostetler, Associate Priest of Annunciation (Milwaukee, WI); and Fr. Theodore Poteres of the Novak Foundation. Representing the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center Board were Bill J. Vranas, its current Chairman, and George Vourvoulis, past Chairman (under whose leadership the property was acquired).

At the conclusion of the Ceremony, several individual and organizational donors came forward to present sizable commitments to His Eminence, who was visibly moved by their generosity. All present were then invited inside the existing Log Cabin, where the Metropolis Philoptochos had prepared an elegant reception to honor the dedication of all donors to the Retreat Center. Those in attendance were reminded of not only the significance of this endeavor, but also of the important impact that the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center will have on ministry in the Metropolis of Chicago.

Construction has now begun on Phase II of the Retreat Center's development. A Main Lodge Building will be accompanied by two Independent Cabins, at a cost totaling approximately \$6,000,000. The project will additionally include significant improvements to the facility's infrastructure, in order to prepare the site to become the permanent home of the Fanari Camping Program (Summer 2015). The Saint Iakovos Retreat Center's current Capital Campaign is ongoing, with several significant gifting opportunities still available. In addition, the Board will be hosting the 1st Annual Fundraising Gala on Saturday, September 7th, at the Rosewood Banquets, in Rosemont, Illinois.



THE FUTURE

A SPECIAL PLACE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

On a hot summer day in early July a most exciting step on the road to the completion of our Saint Iakovos Retreat Center took place. At that time, our General Contractor, Delko Construction started moving earth. Since that time we have seen a tremendous amount of progress.

Not only has a majority of the site work taken place, but the all of the water retention and management has been completed and all of the roads are rough graded and the stone base has been installed. However, the most exciting occurrence of all is that all of the foundations are completed, backfilled and most importantly, blessed. And shortly after August 15, the work commenced on the masonry as well as underground mechanicals.

Now that the foundations are in and one can more easily see the orientation of the buildings, we begin to realize that the effort involved in site design as well as the building has resulted in a facility which will be a joy to all who visit and an expression of our Faith.

We are fortunate to have two construction superintendents on site who have demonstrated not only a superior level of skill but a love and respect for the project and the important role it will play in the future growth and development of our Holy Church.

Every Tuesday the Owners Representative and Building Committee Chairman meet on site with the superintendents and project manager to discuss ongoing progress and open tasks in order to keep the project running efficiently and on schedule. Twice each month we are joined by our architect. Additionally, the Owners Representative visits the site each Thursday. We are pleased to report that the project has had a tremendous start and we are on schedule for a summer completion.

With the prayers and generous contributions of our many donors, we will continue to completion of this sacred center for the Glory of God.

See photos of the construction at:

<http://saintiakovosconstruction.wordpress.com>

