

Visit to the Parish of Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

ON THE FEAST of the Fathers of the First Oecumenical Synod, Archbishop Chrysostomos, Bishop Auxentios, and Father Akakios visited our small Exarchate parish of Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. They were warmly greeted by the parish Priest, Father John Younan, a native Egyptian, with whom they concelebrated the Divine Liturgy. A group of some thirty parishioners were in attendance (*see some of them below, after Liturgy*), a significant number of



the sixty members—mostly first-generation Greek immigrants—having already departed for their summer vacations in Greece.

During the visit to the parish, Archbishop Chrysostomos met with Father John, the parish council, Themistocles (Sam) Papadopoulos and its able council president, who is an official of the Canadian tax administration. His Eminence and the council discussed the future growth of the Church, various parish problems and challenges, and plans for addressing these issues. On Sunday evening, the parish hosted a reception for the visiting Bishops and Archimandrite Akakios in the banquet room of the well-known Toronto Greek restaurant, “The Palace” (*see photograph above*), where they were served traditional Greek cuisine. Greeting the some twenty-five in attendance, His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos thanked the parish Priest and the faithful for “your kind reception, your love, and your beautiful reception,” conveying to them his delight at their decision to place their community under the jurisdiction of our Holy Synod.

