Parish President Honored Toronto, Ontario, Canada

In February of 2011, His Excellency, the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, announced that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II had approved the creation of the "Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal," in honor of the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the British throne in 2012. The medal is designed to recognize Canadian citizens who have made significant contributions bringing credit to their local provinces or communities and to Canada in general.

Our Exarchate takes immense pride in the fact that the President of our parish of Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene in Toronto, Ontario, Mr. Themistocles ("Sam") Papadopoulos, was presented with this prestigious medal at a ceremony on December 13, 2012. Themistocles, a graduate of McMaster University (which ranks among Canada's top colleges and universities), serves as the Senior Public Affairs Advisor and spokesman for the Canada Revenue Agency (the equivalent of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service) in the Province of Ontario.

We proudly congratulate Mr. Papadopoulos, his family, and the parish community that he serves, since this award ultimately reflects well, not only on him and his parish and family, but also on the American Exarchate of our Church.