

**Final Words of Encouragement... The
Saint Nicholas National Shrine *at*
*Ground Zero***

Presbytera Marinda and I were married on June 29, 1980. During the Winter Olympics in February of that year, almost everyone expected that the Russian ice hockey team would defeat the United States team. Russia had won game after game against some of the

finest professional teams in the world, and the amateurs from the United States didn't seem to have a chance. The only thing uncertain was how big the Russian win would be. The United States' victory is recalled by many as one of the most exciting in American sports history. But most people don't know the words spoken to the United States team by Coach Herb Brooks just before the game - maybe one of the best "pep talks" in history. He simply said, *"Gentlemen, you were born to play this game!"*

My brothers and sisters in Christ, we were born to honor, praise, and worship our Lord. On Sunday, January 18, 2015, I began my fervent weekly appeals to you to support a once-in-a-





lifetime project. Having presented the extraordinary Archdiocese videos and shared my overwhelming support, I called upon you to help our parish be part of the rebuilding of the only Church destroyed on 9/11 and to assist in launching Orthodox Christianity into American consciousness at a level previously unimaginable. The Saint Nicholas Church of Lower Manhattan is

being resurrected as The Saint Nicholas National Shrine at Ground Zero and each Church of our Archdiocese is asked to support this critically important effort.

I thank each of you who have offered their donations to support this effort already. I am writing today to share that THIS Sunday, March 1st, we will conclude our appeal for each parishioner to join us by making

your donation check payable to Saint Nicholas National

Shrine. Your patronage of at least \$100 per adult can be dropped into the special collection bowl in the Narthex



this Sunday. After we collect all gifts as of March 1, we will mail them in

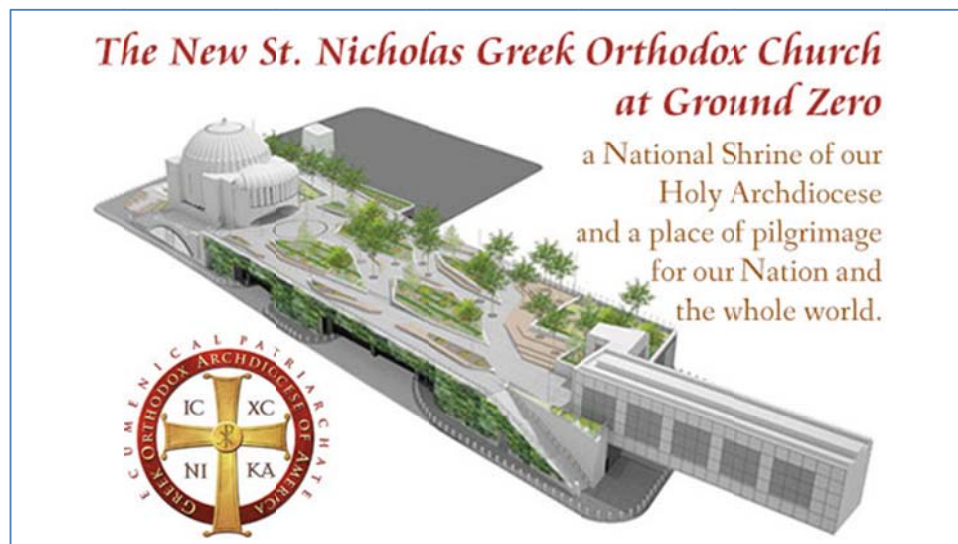
one envelope *as a group* to the Archdiocese so that our gifts can be individually recorded and tallied towards our overall parish goal of \$10,000.



We aim to help our Holy Archdiocese to complete and endow Saint Nicholas by 2016, marking the one-hundredth anniversary of the St. Nicholas Parish. This is an extraordinary moment for Orthodoxy in America, in which the nihilistic hatred and violence of 9/11 are visibly overcome by a positive act of love and peace. **Will you join**

us? If so, bring your payment to church THIS Sunday.

I thank all of you who have given to date. After March 1st, we will publish the names of all families who have contributed towards this effort. We thank you and want you to know we are deeply appreciative.





Our National Shrine at Ground Zero stands in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Just as Lady Liberty holds her lamp at the “Golden Door”, welcoming the “huddled masses” and “tempest-tossed”, so Saint Nicholas will be

our own light on a hill, offered to all, the only religious presence in the sixteen-acre site of the new World Trade Center. It will be a beacon of peace guiding millions of souls to the spiritual harbor of our Lord, Jesus Christ. What an opportunity for witness! Never before has there been such a Church on public land, in such a public place. In the next few years more than fifty million people will see The Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine at Ground Zero. It will truly be a place of pilgrimage for the Nation and the world.

Glory to God for the opportunity for us to be part of this extraordinary effort. I thank you for your encouragement, support, and trust!

Faithfully yours,

+Fr. George Tsahakis

