

Office of Communications

Orthodox Church in America Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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His Grace, Bishop +Michael convened the first Strategic Planning Meeting for **Saints Cosmas and Damian Adult Home** in Staten Island on September 25, 2010. The meeting was held off-site at Saints Peter and Paul Church, South River NJ and sponsored by Thomson-Shore (a leader in the manufacturing of quality books). Attending the meeting with Bishop +Michael were the Board of Directors and key administration officials.



Saints Cosmas and Damian Adult Home is an adult care facility that provides highly affordable living accommodations, meals, health and personal care services, all for one reasonable monthly fee. The Home, located on three and a half acres in the Mariners Harbor section of Staten Island, is a six-story, 200-bed facility surrounded by lawns, trees, and gardens. As an official institution of the Orthodox



Church in America and licensed by the Department of Health of the State of New York, Saints Cosmas and Damian welcomes individuals of all faiths for whom maintaining a household has become difficult but yet who wish to maintain their independence, dignity and privacy. Residents must be ambulatory. On November 1st, the Home will celebrate its 33rd year of service to the elderly. Long-time member of the Board of Directors, Arlene Kallaur, commented that “one of the goals of the Founders of Saints Cosmas and Damian was to establish

a Home that could serve as a residence for Orthodox Christians in their later years. I think the founders would be proud that, after three decades, their mission continues as the Home serves not only Orthodox Christians but also all those in need of a warm, inviting place to lead a meaningful, productive life in their golden years.”

The future of Saints Cosmas and Damian Adult Home -- short and long term -- was discussed, including the role it should play within the Church. Discussions ensued as to whether attention should be given to expanding its services to include assisted living, as well as the location of the Home. Bishop +Michael spoke of his commitment to seeing the Home continue to succeed in its mission to serving the elderly and pledged the support of the New York and New Jersey Diocese. He stated that “Saints Cosmas and Damian Home is a very special institution of our Church. It is a unique incarnation of Matthew 25, where Our Lord instructs us to care for those in need -- to give food to the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, etc. This happens every day at Saints Cosmas and Damian. I support the holy work of this Home for the elderly! I encourage our clergy to present it as an opportunity for their parishioners to consider as an option for residence in the twilight of their life. And, I encourage our parish organizations and faithful who have been blessed by God to consider supporting by their contributions the work of caring for those “*of the brethren*” who are in need. Someday, we all will be in that situation. I pray that Saints Cosmas and Damian will always be there for those of us who will need it.”

