



**25-04-2024 Educational visit to Chalkida and awards ceremony for distinguished students
In the student competition “Memories of Asia Minor–Pontus: 1922–2022”**

On April 22-24, an educational visit to Chalkida was held for the twenty-two (22) winning students in the national student short film competition on the theme “Memories of Asia Minor–Pontus: 1922–2022”, organized by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports in cooperation with the Special Synodical Committee on Cultural Identity of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece, on the occasion of the completion of 100 years since the Asia Minor tragedy.

On Monday, April 22, the winners, accompanied by their teachers, visited the Archdiocese of Athens, where they were welcomed by His Beatitude the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece, Mr. Ieronymos, and received his blessings. Present at the meeting were His Grace Bishop of Talantion Mr. Epiphanius, the Most Reverend Archimandrite Theoklitos Mentis, Secretary of the Special Synodical Committee on Cultural Identity, Mr. Konstantinos Holevas, member of the committee, and representatives of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports. The educational visit of the winners to Chalkida began with the Archbishop’s blessing.

On Tuesday, April 23, the awards ceremony for the students was held in Chalkida, in the presence of His Eminence the Metropolitan of Chalkida, Mr. Chrysostomos, the First Secretary of the Holy Synod of the Church of Greece, the Most Reverend Archimandrite Damaskinos Petrakos, the Secretary of the Special Synodical Committee on Cultural Identity, the Most Reverend Archimandrite Theoklitos Mentis, and a representative of the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs.

Students of the 2nd and 3rd grades of High School created short films inspired by one of the following figures, who were either born and raised or played a significant role in Asia Minor

and Pontus: Saint Gregory the Theologian, the New Martyr Saint Helen of Sinope, Elias Venezis, and Philon Ktenidis.

Five (5) awards and three (3) honorary mentions were presented, as follows:

AWARDS to students of the following schools:

- 4th High School of Corinth
- Music School of Thessaloniki
- High School of the Athens College
- N. Zagorianakou Schools
- Model High School of the Evangelical School of Smyrna

HONORARY MENTIONS to students of the following schools:

- E. Mandoulides Schools
- High School of the Holy Metropolis of Piraeus Schools
- 3rd High School of Alexandroupolis “Domna Visvizi”

The General Secretariat for Religious Affairs warmly thanks all students who participated in the competition and congratulates the winners, the teachers who effectively supported the entire effort, and especially the children’s parents.

It also thanks the Special Synodical Committee on Cultural Identity for co-organizing the competition and for the excellent cooperation in its implementation.