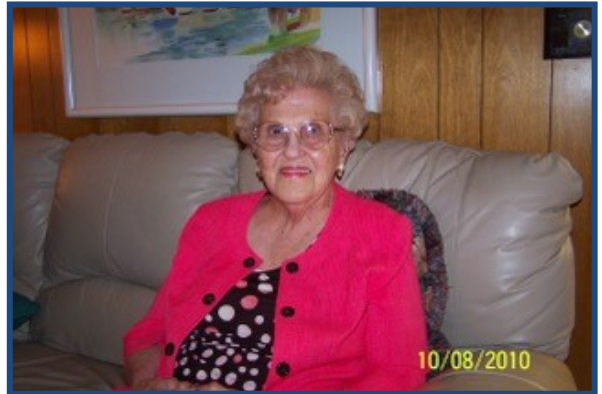


LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

Yiayia Lucille Vlahos

Lucille Vlahos was born in Denver, CO on July 3, 1919 and lived in Bridgeport, NE and Modesto, CA. She graduated from Fresno State College with an Elementary Teaching Credential. Later, at the age of 55 she earned her Masters Degree in Reading from Sacramento State College! In 1944, she married Elias Vlahos and moved to Sacramento where together they opened Kastorian Furriers on J Street.



Lucille, affectionately called “Yiayia Lou” in her later years, was a tireless advocate for children and their education. She taught elementary school in the San Juan School District for 25 years while raising two children and being incredibly active in various Annunciation activities. Her influence and devotion were particularly evident in the Church of the Annunciation Sunday School, which she began organizing in 1952 by translating Greek lesson plans into English. She served as a Sunday School teacher and Director for 40 years! She directed the Annunciation Summer Day camp, wrote curriculum for the proposed Elementary School and participated in educational retreats at St Nicholas Ranch.

Lucille supported many educational and philanthropic causes such as establishing the Annunciation Parish Library. She and her amazing team, which always included Dorothy Loris, Irene Compoginis, and others, devoted hundreds of hours to cataloging and archiving books, photographs and other church memorabilia for future generations. She was active in the Philoptochos Ladies Society for 55 years and served at the diocese level on the Women’s Board of the Patriarch Athenagoras Institute at UC Berkeley. Lucille has always supported Hellenic educational causes through AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope and other charities in the USA and Greece. Lucille and Elias helped establish the Annunciation Endowment Fund. She served on the Parish Council, Election Committees and represented the Parish Council at Clergy-Laity Conferences.

Lucille was very active in community activities through the Masons and Eastern Star, American Association of University Women and Crocker Art Museum Art Service Group. She had an amazing gift for maintaining lifelong friendships! She was an outstanding cook and gracious hostess and well-known for hosting her friends and family at fabulous holiday and name day parties with her husband Elias. She traveled extensively throughout Europe, Japan, China, Mexico and the U.S. She was a very talented seamstress creating beautiful stitchery, needlepoint and crocheted works. Her flower-arranging and artistic decorating skills were often displayed at Annunciation and community affairs.

In 2010, Lucille was honored as the sole recipient of the Metropolis’ Spirit of Stewardship award for a lifetime of dedication and service to the Annunciation Church that she dearly loved!

Lucille Vlahos’ life and legacy are best exemplified through her statement of Faithful Giving: “Our devotion to God and the Church compels us to give faithfully. We believe in giving faithfully with our time, financial support, talents, prayers and service to others. A life-long spirit of giving has at its source our gratitude for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. It is only natural and right to share these blessings to glorify His name!”