

# Metropolitan Athenagoras of Mexico Visits Haiti

By NEOMagazine

Metropolitan Athenagoras of Mexico visited Haiti recently, in order to be on the side of the clergy and Orthodox faithful at the earthquake stricken island. He arrived to Port au Prince from Greece where he was visiting for official Church business, aboard a Greek Government plane, with the Assistant Foreign Minister of Greece and the Executive Director of the NGO "Solidarity" of the Church of Greece. The plane was carrying 50 tons of food, medicine and other aid, a gift from the Greek Government and the Church of Greece for the people of Haiti.

Metropolitan Athenagoras immediately visited the homes and schools of Greek Orthodox faithful in Haiti to assess the damage done by the earthquake. Deeply moved by what he saw, "this is a disaster of immense proportions" he noted. "All of the buildings where our Church and schools are presently housed, were seriously damaged and will need major repairs, or even worse will need to be demolished and rebuilt." His Eminence further visited the property owned by the Holy Metropolis where plans to build a complete complex, comprised of a Church, a school, a clinic and housing for cler-



gy, had been approved. "Since our property is presently vacant, families whose homes were destroyed and who had no place to live, are presently using our property for temporary living quarters," he said. About 3000 people live on the Church property, 1000 of whom are children. Initially they lived out in the open until last week when the Metropolis received a donation of 500 tents, which were given to these families for more humane living conditions.

Along with two Haitian Greek Orthodox clergy, Metropolitan Athenagoras performed Divine Liturgy in a small open area of the property.

The Liturgy was attended by many hundreds of Haitian Greek Orthodox faithful and by all of the families living there. Upon the completion of the Divine Liturgy His Eminence brought the people the blessings and concern of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and offered words of comfort to Haitian faithful and all those present, asking them to keep hope alive. "We will not abandon you, we are here and will remain with you, for as many years as it takes, until you can return to your homes or until new homes can be built. We will rebuild our Church, we will rebuild our schools and we will do every-

thing possible to help you rebuild your lives and your future," Metropolitan Athenagoras stated.

Following Liturgy, the clergy distributed rice, flour, raisins and other food aid, which was part of the aid given by the Greek Government and the Church of Greece, to the families present.

On his way to the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Metropolitan Athenagoras passed through New York and visited with Archbishop Demetrios of America. Upon assessing the present situation, together they determined a plan of action which Metropolitan Athenagoras will present to Patriarch Bartholomew, so that, with the help of IOCC and the financial aid and assistance provided by the Church of America, positive measures can be pursued in helping the people of Haiti meet their immediate needs while working towards a long term and more permanent solution in rebuilding the lives and future of the Haitian Greek Orthodox Community.

Metropolitan Athenagoras was expected to return to Haiti the first weekend of March when he was to meet with President Rene Preval to discuss various options available for a cooperative effort with the Haitian Government for the benefit of the people of this devastated island nation.

## TINA KALIVAS

# Greek Nomination for 2010 Asian Film Awards



On March 22nd 2010, the Hong Kong International Film Festival Society will hand out honors at the Asian Film Awards taking place at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The AFAs are a fairly new addition to the HK Film Festival, with its inaugural run taking place in 2007. This year's will be only the 4th annual AFAs but judging from the list of nominees, they have the selection process down to a perfect science.

This year Tina Kalivas (foto), a

Greek designer from Sidney, is nominated for "Best Costume Design" for the film "Goemon" (Japan), along with Christian Lacroix, Anne Dunsford, Chia-Hui Wang for the film "Face" (Taiwan), Dora Ng for the film "Bodyguards and Assassins" (Hong Kong/China) and Hyun-sub Shim for "The Sword With No Name" (South Korea).

"Goemon" is based on the legend of a Robin Hood-like hero and was directed by Kazuaki Kiriya, who was responsible for 2004's popular "Casshern."

Kaliva's costumes feature an ancient-Orient-meets-Europe



decadence, and her work shows imaginative use of embroidery, pleating and texture in her breathtaking interpretations of kimono, ninja suits and samurai armor. The collaboration is the first between an Australian designer and such a large Japanese production, and Kalivas took the opportunity to present her eponymous noncostume label in Tokyo in late March.

"If I were to choose between normalcy in fashion and fantasy, I would go with fantasy, definitely," she said at the time.

Kalivas worked under creative powerhouse Alexander McQueen before establishing her own line in Sydney in 2002.

## A few words about Tina Kalivas

Tina Kalivas made her debut at Mercedes Australian Fashion Week during the Spring 2002 season. Kalivas who trained in London for 8 years by working under Alexander McQueen, Clements Ribeiro, Russell Sage and J. Maskrey has a very European influence in her designs.

She studied period underwear and corsetry at the London College of Fashion and also worked on costumes in the film industry. A master of draping and fit, Tina Kalivas combines historical references to the cut and design of the clothes and keep it modern and contemporary. The highest accolade given to the designer was when she was asked to create eight high-fashion evening gowns for James Bond 007's Die Another Day.

The Tina Kalivas label is currently sold at Blonde Venus and Husk in Queensland, Australia.