

# Festival

Our first annual Festival was initiated by the visionary, Father George Papadeas, soon after his arrival as our pastor in April of 1975. Motivating a tiny group of select leaders, he brought this momentous task to fruition on the first weekend in December of the same year. Thousands came to participate in the weekend event that set the format that is used today.

Daytona Beach Mayor Larry Kelly lit the Olympic-style torch at the steps of City Hall as the police escorted a relay of runners who ran to the steps of the Community Center for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The festival workers had prepared for months to provide food and pastry, plants and handicrafts, icons, etc. while groups of young Greek folk dancers entertained the appreciative guests with their tireless performances. Church tours gave thousands the opportunity to receive a guided explanation of our Orthodox religion and our church. Films of Greece were shown in the Educational Center in the basement of the church.

The Festival has become a yearly event, with the exception of the year that our church was consecrated in 1977. The date has fluctuated and the format has changed somewhat but the Greek Festival continues to grow and has become **the** festival of the Daytona Beach area. It is known for the high quality of Greek foods and pastry, for the beauty of the setting and friendliness of our church family. Each year we have been blessed with exceptional Festival chairpersons with the assistance of our Priests.





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**THROUGH A LONG, HOT SUMMER** — Food production at St. Demetrios was on almost an industrial scale as the distinctive national specialties were prepared by some of the finest cooks around. At one of the workshops, the women making pastries were, clockwise around the table, Mary Paspalakis, Mary Michaelos, Anna Pan-

tazis, Alexandra Macos, Despina Boulmetis, Spirides, Anne Costas, Katy Mamos, Mrs. Terry P. Xanthippe Vladenides, Maria Pargianos, E. Manousakis. Tina Stoumbos and Fr. George Papa pastor of the church, are standing.





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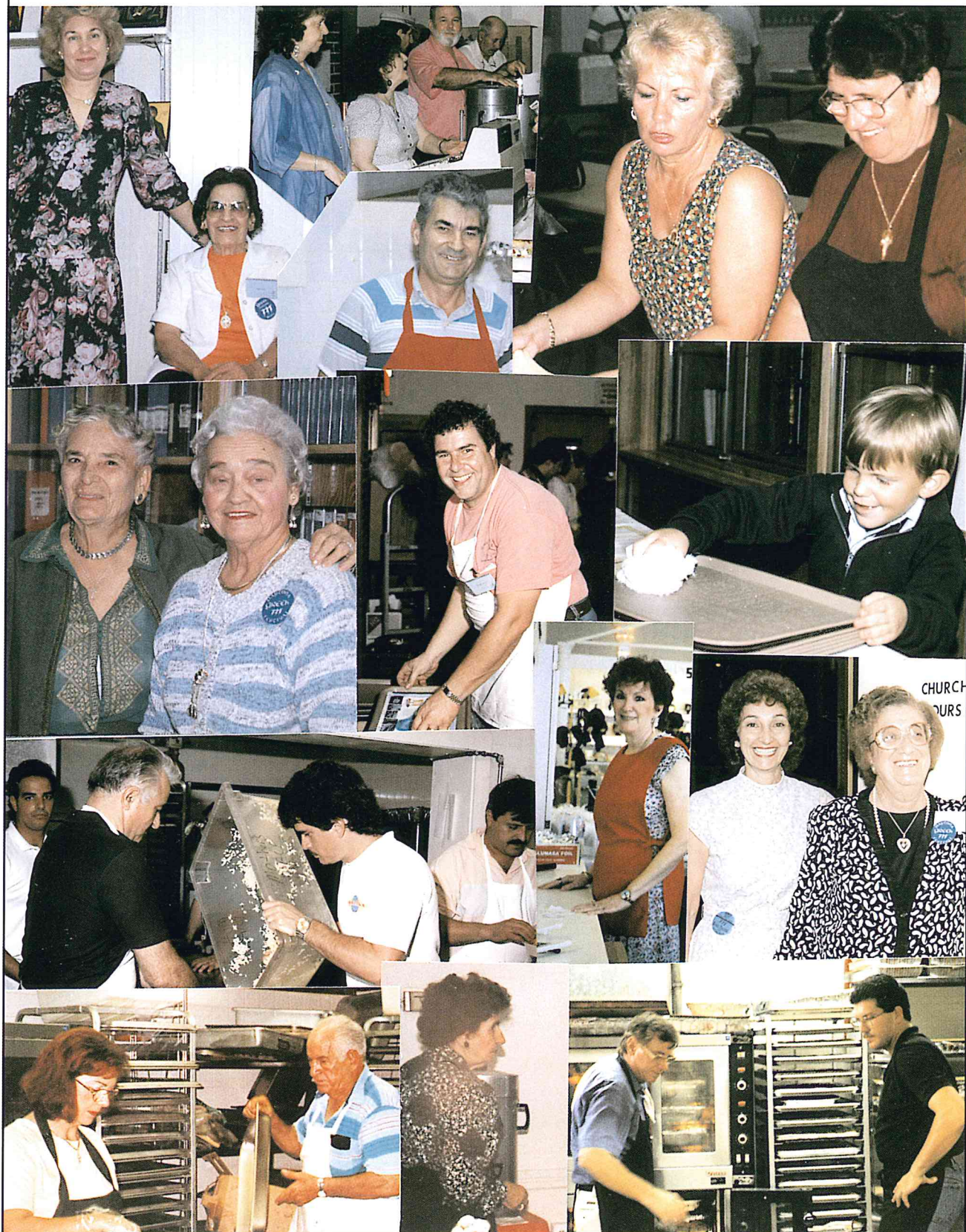


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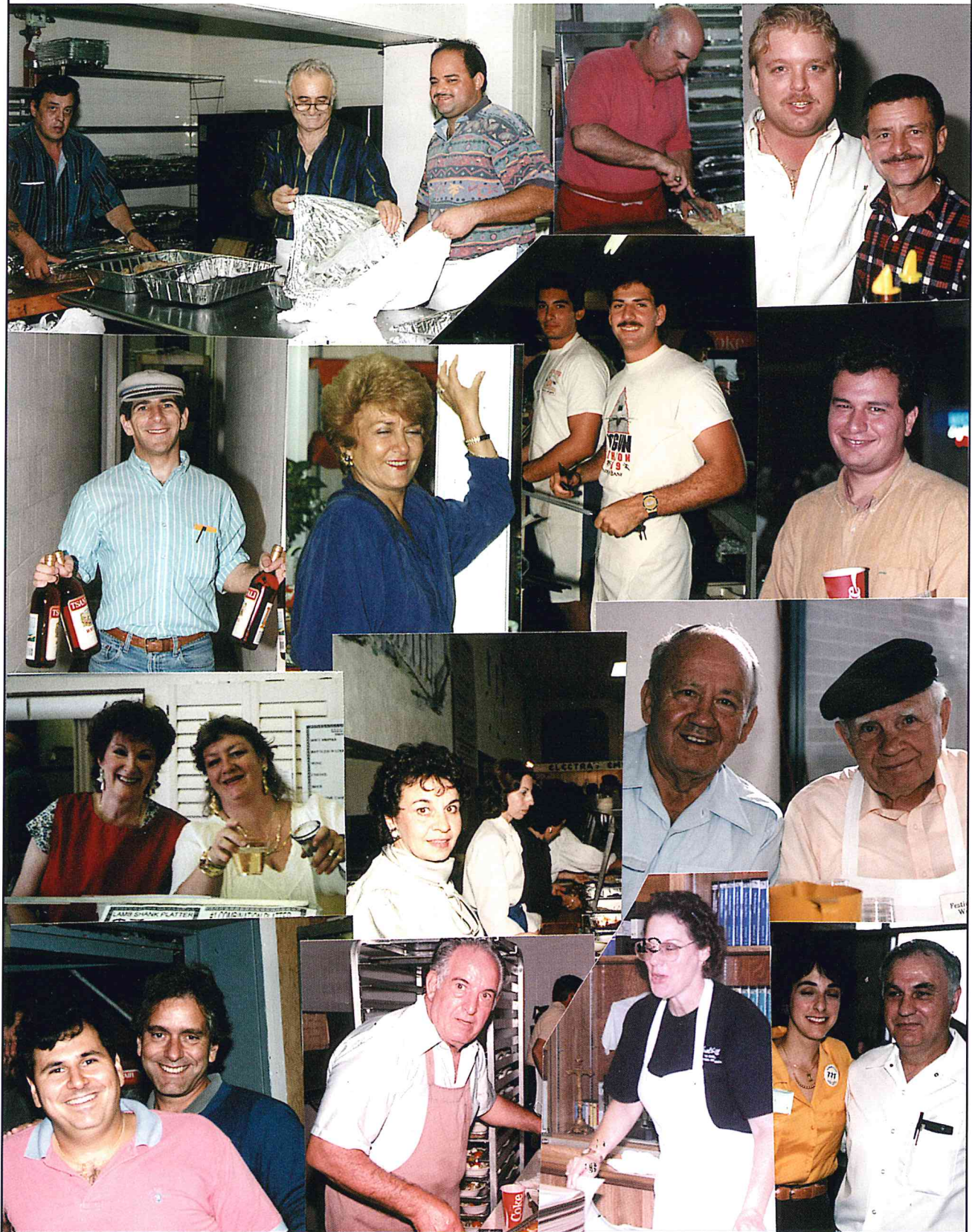


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