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Epiphany 2010 from New York to Florida to California

Several parishes across the country held their annual Epiphany events, with young people diving for the cross in many venues, braving cold weather in most places.

In the oldest celebration at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Tarpon Springs, Archbishop Demetrios presided over the festivities and tossing of the cross into Spring Bayou, where a record 71 divers participated in frigid conditions. A record cold snap in the area brought temperatures down to the mid-30s and turnout was small compared to other years.

Metropolitan Alexios, who would normally be co-celebrating with the Arch-

bishop, had to go to Greece because his father had passed away. The event included participation by several clergy from neighboring communities.

Elsewhere, cross diving events took place in Babylon and Merrick on Long Island, and at Battery Park in Manhattan where the parish of St. Nicholas at Ground Zero continued the tradition in New York Harbor. In icy northern Michigan and Spokane, Wash., clergy conducted water blessing services.

In sunny Southern California, parishes in San Diego and Long Beach held their ceremonies in a more comfortable environment.



Michigan

Fr. Iakovos Olechnowicz, pastor of Archangel Gabriel Mission Church in Traverse City, Mich., performs an outdoor blessing of the water of Grand Traverse Bay off of Lake Michigan from the pier of the Great Lakes Maritime Academy. The church has about 100 members.