



ORDER OF SAINT ANDREW
ARCHONS OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Defenders of the Faith

2019 REGIONAL COMMANDERS REPORT

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

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Theofanis Economidis, *Archon Ekdikos*

The Archons in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco continue to be devoted stewards of the Church and dedicated *Defenders of the Faith*, both within their respective parishes and in their efforts at the Metropolis level.

One of the largest gatherings of clergy and faithful in the Metropolis of San Francisco is the Folk Dance and Choral Festival (FDF), having just completed its 43rd Annual event which was held February 14 – 17, 2019 in Ontario, California. Over 4,000 participants and spectators attended this event at which we have been blessed with the enthusiastic presence of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, for several years.



The Archons in the Metropolis of San Francisco contributed generously to underwrite a formal dinner, “*An Evening of Gratitude*”, at which we honored the distinguished 20-year Archpastoral ministry of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America. This was a most uplifting evening at which over 150 people were in attendance including many of our Archons and their spouses, along with our Metropolis Clergy, Metropolis Council, Metropolis Philoptochos Board, and several parish council presidents and members from the southern California area.

Through the generosity of the Archons of the Metropolis of San Francisco, a gift of \$20,000 was presented to Archbishop Demetrios for the Christos and Georgia Trakatellis Fellowship Fund, which he and his brother established in 2011 in memory of their beloved parents. Archbishop Demetrios was visibly moved by this gift, and the value it will bring forth by supporting worthy Holy Cross students in their preparation for serving the Church.



Several Archons from the Metropolis of San Francisco also attended the Enthronement of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America along with their families. This was a joyous time to witness the vibrancy and vision of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros as he assumed the leadership of our Holy Archdiocese.

The Metropolis of San Francisco was also blessed with two visits by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros this summer. The first was to Arizona from August 4 – 7, 2019 during which he visited Saint Anthony Monastery in Florence, AZ, and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix, AZ. His Eminence was joined by Archon John Demetropoulos at the Paraklesis Service held at the Cathedral and shared in personal fellowship at the reception which followed.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros came to California from August 29 – September 2, 2019 for the Metropolis of San Francisco Young Adult League (YAL) Conference. The clergy from southern California met with the Archbishop and shared an open dialogue on issues facing the Church. Several Archons in the Metropolis provided financial support for the YAL Conference, and also attended the Grand Banquet.



The involvement of many Archons in the Metropolis of San Francisco has also been a great benefit to our work on the Metropolis Council, All Saints Foundation, Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center Board of Directors, as well as in many other areas of the Archdiocese. Their dedication to the Church at all levels – Parish, Metropolis, Archdiocese and Ecumenical Patriarchate – is exemplary and we are confident in their ongoing support, especially of our beloved Mother Church.

We had the opportunity to speak with the Order's Regional Commander Liaisons, Brothers Nicholas Loutsion, John Manos and Gus Pablecas where Fanis Economidis shared with them the leadership cultivation program being implemented by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. For both the Metropolis Council and the Board of Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center, we have instituted an additional level of participation with "Observer" members. These are younger professionals who show potential to be cultivated, not just as future members of these esteemed boards, but also as possible candidates for the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle. This provides us with the opportunity to get to know them better, witness the quality of their work, and share with them the needs of the Mother Church and assess their level of interest and support. This has proven to be quite successful for us, and we are confident in its effectiveness as evidenced by the caliber of people who are directly increasing their involvement at all levels of the Church.

During the past years, we lost six members of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle:

- Alex G. Spanos, *Archon Depoutatos* – October 9, 2018
- Hon. Theodore Laliotis, *Archon Hartophylax* – October 12, 2018
- Harry Pappas, *Archon Lambadarios* – December 30, 2018
- Dr. Peter Scamagas, *Archon Aktouarios* – February 20, 2019
- Dr. Theodore Bogdanos, *Archon Hartoularios* – May 6, 2019
- Gerasimos "Jerry" Costacos, *Archon Exarchos* – May 8, 2019

The families of all of these esteemed *Defenders of the Faith* were presented with the Archon Cross, and they were very touched by this gesture of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle and the remembrance of their loved ones and their devoted service to the Mother Church. May their memories be eternal!