

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Report to the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly

March 4-5, 2024

The Chancellor of the Metropolis of San Francisco assists His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos on issues affecting Clergy and their families, the Parishes, the Ministries, and general administration of the Metropolis.

The Chancellor's Office: 1) facilitates the ordination of candidates for holy orders and incardination of clergy from other Orthodox Jurisdictions; 2) process and monitor the requests of clergy travelling to other Metropolises or clergy entering the Metropolis; 3) assist clergy and parishes with hierarchical and liturgical protocols; 4) coordination of Clergy synaxes, retreats and continuing education opportunities; 5) assist Clergy with the proper protocol, registration and documentation of sacraments.

With respect to Parishes, this office: 1) processes the Parish Council Ratifications; 2) facilitates the approval of Parish Bylaws; 3) works with the Metropolis Finance Committee in monitoring parish contributions to the Total Commitment Program and Pension Benefits Obligation; 4) facilitate review of Parish Real Estate Transactions by the Metropolis Real Estate Committee; 5) facilitate the review of construction, renovations and iconography by the Metropolis Art and Architecture Committee.

The Chancellor, at the direction of the Metropolitan, administers personnel related policies and procedures in consultation with the Archdiocese Human Resources Department. The Chancellor prepares and submits corrections to the Patriarchal and Archdiocesan yearbook and maintains files and correspondence concerning clergy and parishes.

I thank the following Directors and Office Staff who assist the Chancellor in various ways: Mr. Paul Gikas, Director of Ministries and Administration; Ms. Kristen Bruskas, Director of Communications and Development; Presvytera Alikì Kyriacou, Registrar; Ms. Foula Vasilogiorgis, Office Assistant.

CLERGY UPDATE since March 2023:

-ORDINATIONS:

- Rev. Deacon John A. Nixon, July 30, 2023, at St John the Baptist, Las Vegas, Nevada by Archbishop Elpidophoros. Deacon John is assigned to St John the Baptist Church in Las Vegas.

- Rev. Emmanuel Aspiotis was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on November 12, 2023, at St Demetrios Church, Tucson, Arizona by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. Deacon Emmauel was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on December 17, 2023, at Holy Cross Church, Belmont, California by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and is assigned there as second priest.
- Rev. Deacon Gabriel Jeffrey Yepez was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on January 7, 2024, at Saints Constantine and Helen Cathedral of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. Deacon Gabriel assists. Fr. Alex Leong in the shepherding of the Maui Mission.
- Rev. Deacon Danilo Simich was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on January 14, 2024, at Saint Anthony Church in Reno, Nevada. Deacon Danillo will serve at Saint Anthony in Reno.
- Rev. Spyridon Aaron Rice was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on February 3, 2024, at St Nicholas Church in Tacoma, Washington on February 3, 2024, and to the Holy Priesthood on February 4, 2024 at St Demetrios Church, Seattle, Washington by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. Father Spyridon is assigned to Seattle as their second Priest.
- On March 9-10, 2024, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos will ordain Mr. Gabriel Cupsa to the Holy Diaconate and Priesthood in Stockton, California.

-ASSIGNMENTS

- Father James Kumarelas was appointed Proistamenos of Saint Nicholas Church in San Jose, California, effective January 1, 2024.

-RECEPTION

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the Parish of Saint Lawrence in Felton, California which was under the Palestinian-Jordanian Vicariate was transferred to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and designated as a parish under the Metropolis of San Francisco on December 15, 2023.

-DEATHS

Father Peter Leventis, a retired priest living in San Diego, California reposed in the Lord on November 2, 2023. May his memory be eternal!

ARCHEPISCOPAL VISITATIONS

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos welcomed His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros on several trips to the Metropolis of San Francisco:

- The Archbishop visited the Pacific Northwest on June 23 to 25, 2023 to celebrate the patronal feast of Saint John the Baptist Monastery in Goldendale, Washington and presided at the Divine Liturgy at St John the Baptist Church in Beaverton, Oregon.
- The Archbishop visited Las Vegas, Nevada on July 26 to July 20, 2023 for the AHEPA National Convention and for a pastoral visit to St John the Baptist at which time he ordained Mr. John Nixon to the Holy Diaconate.
- The Archbishop convened the Monastic Synaxis on October 9-11, 2023 at the Monastery of the Theotokos, the Life-giving Spring in Dunlap, California.
- The Archbishop came to San Francisco on October 27-29, 2023 for the Metropolis Gala and celebrated the Divine Liturgy at Ascension Church in Oakland, California honoring Fr Tom Zaferes's 35th Anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood.
- The Archbishop attended the National Presbyters Retreat held on October 31 to November 2, 2023, in Phoenix, Arizona.
- The Archbishop visited the Annual Folk Dance and Choral Festival held in Anaheim, California on February 15-18, 2024.

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos welcomed His Beatitude Patriarch John of Antioch and all East and Metropolitan Saba of the Antiochian Archdiocese to Saint Anthony Monastery in Florence, Arizona on July 24, 2023. His Beatitude who conducted a Trisagion Service for Geronda Ephraim and a Doxology was held in the Katholikon in his honor.

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, with several faithful of our Metropolis, attended the enthronement of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey on September 16, 2023. Metropolitan Apostolos previously served as Chancellor of the Metropolis for several years.

Other notable visits by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos include:

- Thyranoixa of the new Saint Anna Church in Roseville, California on July 2, 2023
- Annual YAL Conference held on Labor Day Weekend in Anaheim, California, September 1-4, 2023
- Southern California Archon Retreat held in Orange County, CA, September 8-10, 2023.

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos continues a robust schedule of parish visitation.


YOUTH SAFETY PROGRAM

The Archdiocese Youth Safety Program is wholeheartedly supported by the Chancellor's Office and supports and collaborates with our Metropolis Youth Safety Administrator, Mrs. Johanna Duterte Carter, to ensure that all our Clergy, Youth Workers and Parish Council members are fully compliant with their training and background checks.

In November 2023, the Archdiocesan Council enacted a bylaw change which requires all Parish Council members to successfully pass a background check. These background checks were conducted through the GOA Youth Safety platform. Successful background checks are required for the ratification of 2024 Parish Councils. I would like to thank Johanna for her diligence and patience in assisting with registration issues that came up during the ratification process. Occasionally, we needed the assistance of Ms. Rhea Ballas, the GOA Youth Safety Administrator, to assist with issues we were not able to resolve.

On January 1, 2024, California AB506 which requires Live Scan Fingerprinting of all employees and volunteers of Youth Service Organizations went into effect. The current interpretation of this law is that it does apply to Churches and Religious Institutions. The Metropolis of San Francisco is properly registered with the California Department of Justice to receive the results of the Live Scan fingerprinting. The Chancellor is the designated Custodian of Records. Archdeacon Justin Bosl has been on the forefront on the implementation of AB506 for the Metropolis and the Assembly of Bishops. Again, Ms. Rhea Ballas and Johanna Carter proved invaluable in their communication with Sterling Volunteers in establishing the process of Live Scan fingerprinting.

Thanking His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos for the privilege of serving the good people of the Metropolis of San Francisco, I respectfully submit this report.



✠ Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea
Chancellor