

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

A Report for the Metropolis Council and Clergy Laity Assembly

The Ministry of Christian Formation & Religious Education in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco serves as a hub for the dissemination of information and resources and a point of contact for parish religious educators. Since Christian formation is a lifelong process, the ministry strives to develop programs that support both adult and youth learners as well as classroom instructors and program directors. The Metropolis of San Francisco currently provides resources for catechists in a variety of forms, including a robust website containing educational links, lessons, articles, lesson plans and activities for teachers and parents, regular online gatherings of catechists, and Christian Education webinars for adults.

Paraskevè (Eve) Tibbs

Christian Education Ministry Lead

Contact: religioused@sanfran.goarch.org

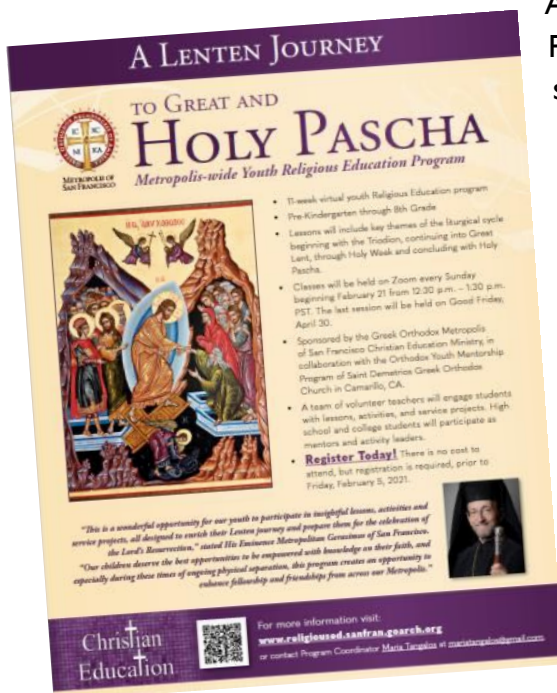


His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

"As Orthodox Christians it is important that learning be a life-long process."

~Metropolitan Gerasimos

"A Lenten Journey" Spring 2021

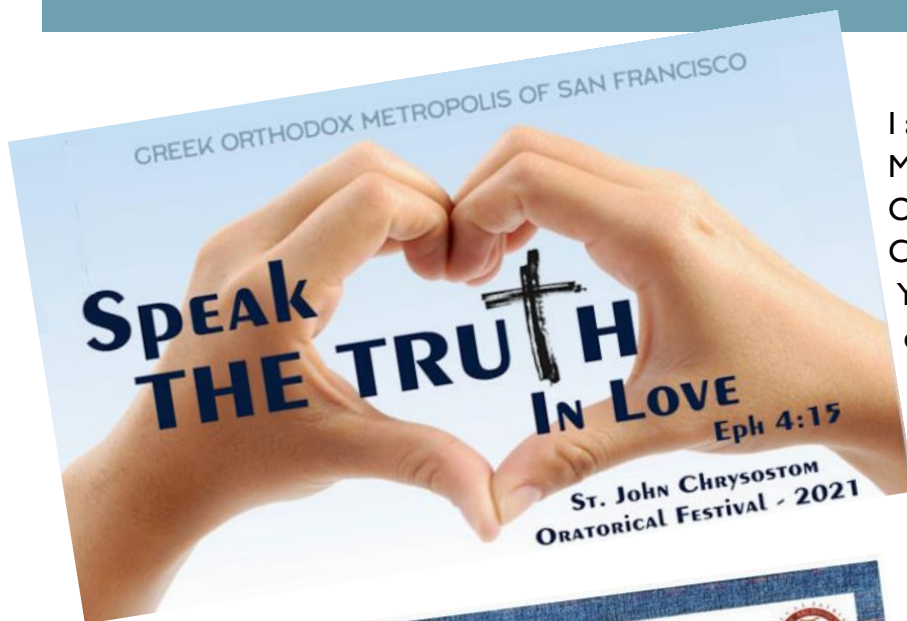


An exciting collaboration with **Fr. Gary Kyriacou** in his new role as Pastor of Youth and Youth Adult Ministries, has developed an eleven-session weekly online Church School program. The "Journey to Great Lent," facilitated each week by a visionary and energetic young adult, **Maria Tangalos**, began on the Sunday of the Triodion and continues through Holy Week. Hundreds of children have been participating each Sunday, with dozens of teen, young adult and adult volunteers leading the weekly lessons, songs, crafts, services projects, games and activities in break-out rooms. The Lenten Journey program is as much a mentorship program for the teen and young adult volunteers as it is a religious education experience for younger children. We thank God for the many experienced Church School teachers and clergy from throughout our metropolis who have come forward to develop this program and show Christ's love to our children, albeit from a distance. An important development from the Christian Education arm of this collaboration is that we have assembled something like a banquet table of curriculum resources for teaching the Tri-

odion, Great Lent, and Holy Week. Our metropolis can now offer lesson plans, discussion questions, printable activity sheets, videos, craft ideas, and more, categorized for each Sunday from Triodion through Holy Week to anyone who visits the Religious Education website:

www.religioused.sanfrangoarch.org

Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival - 2021

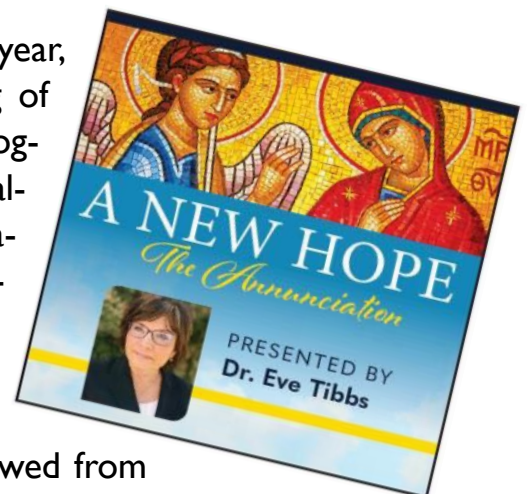


I am delighted to continue to co-chair the Metropolis-level Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival with Mrs. Johanna Carter, the Director of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries together with our co-chair, Mrs. Aristi Anagnos. We know that many of our young people look forward to speaking about our Orthodox Faith in this worthy festival. We are thankful that innovation has allowed us to not deny our youth of that opportunity this year. This year's metropolis festival is a video submission festival. We also have developed a robust new website: SForatorical.net that presents all the information needed by participants, parents, and oratorical festival coordinators. The world situation presented the necessity out of which this website developed, and will continue now to be an important resource for the oratorical festival into the future.

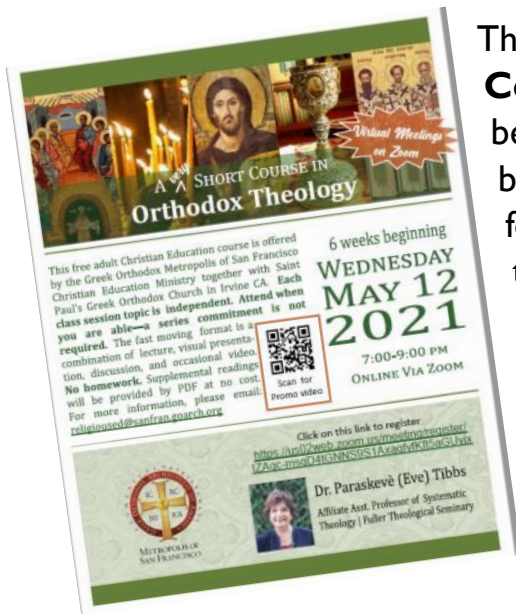


March 25, 2021

March 25 this year was significant for many reasons. This year, March 25 marked the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the Greek struggle to be liberated from oppression. Theologically speaking, March 25 was also the “beginning of our salvation” as the hymns of the Great Feast of the Annunciation proclaim. The Annunciation is event which sets in motion our liberation from oppression through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. One of the events commemorating this blessed feast was an adult education webinar entitled “A New Hope: The Incarnation.” (which, yes, was borrowed from Star Wars). offered via Zoom, on the evening of March 25.



Upcoming Adult Christian Education Opportunities



This spring, beginning just after Pascha, the annual **“Short Course in Orthodox Theology”** taught at St. Paul’s will also be offered to participants within our metropolis. The course begins Wednesday May 12 from 7:00-9:00 pm and continues for six weeks. It is a fast moving introductory theology course that is suitable for older teens and adults, with or without any previous theological background in the Orthodox Church. Each session is independent and no series commitment is required. Supplemental readings are provided free of charge by PDF. Participation is also free of charge, but registration is required through the parish: <https://stpaulsirvine.org/register>

This Advent, Father Angelo Maginas, the Assistant Priest at the parish of Saints Constantine and Helen in Cardiff-by-the-Sea, will reprise his excellent three session (1 hour weekly) online series entitled **“Christmas Unpacked.”** This is a fast-paced mini series on the theology, history and traditions of the Christmas season that you won’t want to miss. The three sessions will take place on November 29, December 6 and 13 from 7:30-8:30 pm via Zoom. Look for registration information on the metropolis website in November.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY WEBSITES

Catechetical Resources: www.religioused.sanfran.goarch.org

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival: <https://sforatorical.org>

Orthodoxy Adult Learning Portal: <https://orthodoxyou.com> (under construction)



Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Church Music Federation Ministry
Ministry Chair, Kay Harkins

Metropolis Ministry Council Report
2021 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly



2021 finds our Ministry at a point of tremendous opportunity. In many ways, the music programs of the parishes will likely take longer to fully recover from the effects of the pandemic than other ministries of the church. However, we have been innovative and resilient over the past year in making the most of our resources and strengths, on which we will continue to rely.

The following are *highlights of our past year's work*:

- Ongoing frequent educational communication with our church musicians through e-mail, Facebook, our website, our "Virtual Vitamin Open House" events, and our quarterly newsletter, The Quarter Note.
- Awarding of 8 individual music scholarships of \$500 to church musicians aged 12-55, over half under 19
- A growing library of educational videos found at our own YouTube Channel on our website.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-aeHxCuWfPePrVWB7kljmQ>

Looking ahead, we have developed a long range plan. Returning Strong in Faith, Skill, and Purpose: Reviving and Revitalizing Active Parish Church Music Ministries, which includes:

- Believing that everything we do must be grounded in the order of the Divine Liturgy, Vespers, and Orthros, we will be sponsoring enrollment free of charge to all interested parish music leaders (protopsaltis, adult and youth choir directors and aspiring music leaders) in a dedicated course in Liturgics through the Saint John Koukouzelis School of Liturgical Arts <https://www.koukouzelis.net/catalog>
- Once again offering scholarships of up to \$500 each to 8 church musicians to study with qualified private instructors, in approved college or university music courses, or at approved Orthodox schools.
- *As soon as regional restrictions permit*, we are ready to begin assisting parishes who wish to schedule and host in-person and/or hybrid regional one or two-day workshops and Church Music Institutes.
- Engaging renowned Orthodox composer and educator Benedict Sheehan to present his nationally sought after "One Heart, One Mouth" workshop in a 2 Day virtual format in the Fall of 2021.
<https://www.benedictsheehanmusic.com/> <https://www.benedictsheehanmusic.com/workshops>
- Coordinating with the Koukouzelis Institute for a possible week-long retreat for Metropolis church musicians at St. Nicholas Ranch in 2022
- Offering an All-Metropolis Annual Conference in the fall of 2022 at Assumption, Scottsdale, AZ.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Harkins, Chair

An overview of the ministry and its programs may be found on the ministry website sfchurchmusic.org.

Should you have any questions regarding our ministry please do not hesitate to contact us at sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org or phone me at 619 227-2622.

Clergy Continuing Education Clergy Koinonia Groups and the Diaconate Program

In 2018-2019 it was decided that we would form what Metropolitan Gerasimos has called Clergy Koinonia Groups throughout the various regions of our Metropolis to promote ongoing dialogue, fellowship and continuing education among our clergy. These Koinonia Groups would meet on a monthly basis at a host parish and be guided by a member of our clergy who had received training from Deacon Stephen Muse and Dr. Al Rossi to serve as facilitators for the group.

Meetings got underway and blossomed in Washington state, Oregon, Phoenix, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego.

Then in the middle of March 2020 the pandemic brought things to a halt as far as in-person meetings were concerned. Most groups, if they continued to meet, went online.

Father Tom Zaferes serves as the primary convener and facilitator of the San Francisco Koinonia Group which resumed meeting online in August, 2020 with 8 priests attending on a regular basis. He sends out an article or book extract in advance of the meeting to provide food for thought and promote discussion.

In the Phoenix area, the Koinonia Group facilitated by Father Andrew Barakos continued to meet online about once a month even during the pandemic. Attended by 10 priests on a regular basis, Father Barakos reports that discussions have “rotated between dealing with pandemic issues and how that has been affecting each of us and our parishes, as well as the stress of having our parish closed and our priestly ministry somewhat crippled by the situation.”

In Oregon, Father Jerry Markopoulos reports that meetings are back but online and that his group, normally attended by 8 priests, has taken a pan-Orthodox nature and includes clergy from the OCA, the Serbian Church and the Antiochian Archdiocese.

Additionally, during the pandemic Metropolitan Gerasimos has convened a weekly meeting of all the clergy of the Metropolis, normally attended by around 50 of the clergy of the Metropolis to better further communication among us during the constantly changing circumstances of the pandemic.

The Diaconate Program of our Metropolis had to cancel their annual retreat that had been scheduled for late October of last year due to the pandemic. However, a new retreat is being planned by Deacon Bill Callas, Deacon Daniel Cunningham and the soon to be ordained Deacon Justin Bosl for November of this year and will be hosted by St. Paul’s in Irvine.

Respectfully submitted,

Father Steven Tsichlis
St. Paul’s Greek Orthodox Church
Irvine, CA
father@stpaulsirvine.org



Family Wellness Ministry

Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of San Francisco

Family Wellness Ministry Report ~ 2020 / 2021

Leaders: George Papageorge & Pres. Pat Tsagalakis

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www.familywellnessministry.org

OUR FAMILY WELLNESS MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM:

George Papageorge, Pres Pat and Fr. Tom Tsagalakis, Fr. James & Pres. Donna Pappas, Fr. Timothy & Pres. Victoria Pavlatos, Fr. Daniel & Pres. Michelle Triant, Joe Borgonia, Fr. Vasili Hillhouse, Fr. Nicholas & Pres Dena Mueller



Sensible Psychology on an
Orthodox Christian Foundation
with **GEORGE PAPAGEORGE, MFT**
LICENSED FAMILY & MARRIAGE THERAPIST



FIRST SERIES TOPIC: **Getting Love Right**
EVERY WEDNESDAY: January 8, 15, 22 & 29

A creative look at how Jesus teaches us how to get "love right". This series will explore the healthy psychological principles found in the pages of the scriptures and how we can establish a healing community of faith and love.

• 6:00 PM: Evening Church Service • 6:30 PM: Dinner Provided by Donor
• 7:00-8:00 PM: Presentation & Youth Workshops Simultaneously

FREE TO THE COMMUNITY • ALL WELCOMED!

R.S.V.P. the Monday before you'll attend to: office@gosaintbasil.org or (209) 478-7564.

FEBRUARY SERIES TOPIC: *Boundaries and Insights into our Family Dynamics*



ST. BASIL GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH • 920 W. March Lane, Stockton, CA 95207

JANUARY 2020

Throughout January and Family, FWM Director, George Papageorge launched our **"Life from the Heart"** series, at St. Basil Family Nights in Stockton View: **"Getting Love Right"** Live sessions were recorded and videos available for all to view and share: <https://youtu.be/BkV6MupaMkM>



Our Family Wellness Ministry Team (George Papageorge, Fr. Tom Tsagalakis, Fr. James Pappas and Fr. Vasili Hillhouse presented several workshops for the **Center for Family Care**

Archdiocese Marriage Conference in Houston, Texas.

FEBRUARY 2020

Fr. Tom Tsagalakis & Josh Ensley presented a two day workshop for couples in the Pacific Northwest entitled "Created for Connection"

Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly 2020 ~ our Family Wellness Ministry leaders shared four featured presentations and small discussion group sessions were highlighted at the 2020 Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly.

Family Wellness Ministry Presentations:

- "A World-View from the Heart"
- "Being a Part of the 'Inn Crowd'"
- "Compelling Needs – A Compassionate Response"
- "How to Ignite a Family Wellness in Your Local Parish"

In preparation for the Clergy Laity, we created a number of new materials valuable resources and updates on our FWM website. [Agenda PDF](#)

MARCH 2020

The week following Clergy Laity, Pres Pat Tsagalakis and Pres Donna Pappas led a 3 day **Orthodox Women's Conference** in Norfolk, VA attended by 90 women throughout the Archdiocese.



Mid-March we were immediately impacted by the worldwide pandemic.



RESPONDING AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES, COUPLES and YOUNG ADULTS THROUGH THE PANDEMIC YEAR OF 2020-21



Our Family Wellness Team immediately responded, sharing updated information articles and resources on our website and Facebook pages. We created a special [Holy Week from Home](#) section on our website and shared many relevant articles especially focusing on families working and learning from home.

SUMMER 2020

As Pres Donna Pappas was formulating a curriculum to launch “8 Dates” in the Fall 2020, FWM partnered with Johanna Carter / Youth & Young Adults Ministry to launch “**Young Couples Summer Series.**” These engaging online zoom workshops for young couples with George Papageorge reached over 55 couples throughout the Metropolis.



JULY/AUGUST 2020 - We partnered with Youth & Young Adults Ministry, Faithtree Resources, & Fr. Gary Kyriakou to launch “**THE RELATIONSHIP PROJECT**” reaching out to teens and young adults throughout the Metropolis. Our Family Wellness Ministry team is committed to supporting the social, spiritual and emotional health of our teens and young adults.



We held training seminars for clergy, youth workers / leaders, and informational meetings for parents. Currently in 38 parishes in our Metropolis are participating facilitating in person or through zoom.

SENIOR OUTREACH -

Fr. James Pappas continues to focus on the physical, spiritual and emotional health of our seniors publishing the FWM “Senior Gazette.” We are looking forward to “Senior Camp” in 2022
[October 2020 Senior Gazette](#) [December 2020 FWM Senior Gazette](#)

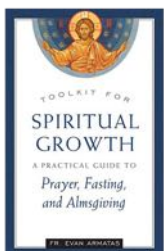


DIVORCE CARE

DivorceCare is a safe place where caring people come alongside you as you find healing from the pain of separation or divorce. At this 13-week, video-based support group program, you'll find helpful counsel to manage the emotional turmoil and practical tools for decision-making and moving forward in your life.

For more information, please contact our Family Wellness Ministry Divorce Care Coordinator: Joe Borgonia - jbee9703@gmail.com

CLERGY COUPLE CARE - Fr. Timothy Pavlatos is currently working towards initiatives to expand our involvement with Clergy Care. The “Prez to Prez” sisterhood email ministry coordinated by members of our Family Wellness Ministry team is once again connecting presbyteres throughout the Archdiocese.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH FOR FAMILIES Pres. Pat Tsagalakis served on Fr. Evan's team to develop a interactive book study and create video supplements designed for small group parish ministry. This book study is available to all for free. [Tool Kit for Spiritual Growth Book Study / and Supplemental Videos](#)



OCTOBER 2020 – FEBRUARY 2021

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES

"ESSENTIAL CONVERSATIONS
FOR A LIFETIME OF LOVE"



Join us and other couples in our Orthodox community for 1-hour virtual sessions twice a month, in a complimentary series featuring discussions from *Eight Dates* by John Gottman, Ph.D., designed to strengthen your commitment to one another and to God.

THURSDAYS AT 6:30PM PST

OCTOBER 15 NOVEMBER 12 DECEMBER 3 JANUARY 7 FEBRUARY 4
OCTOBER 29 NOVEMBER 19 DECEMBER 17 JANUARY 21 FEBRUARY 18

VISIT EITHER WEBSITE BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.gosfyouth.org
www.familywellnessministry.org



YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES



8 Dates

"Essential Conversations for a Lifetime of Love"

Our Family Wellness Ministry Team partnered with Youth & Young Adults Ministry to launch "**8 Dates Marriage Program**" We created a Orthodox Christian focused comprehensive curriculum to supplement the book "*8 Dates*" by Drs. John and Julie Gottman, and the members of our FWM team brought the curriculum to life by creating powerful session videos. **8 DATES PROGRAM VIDEOS**

Sessions are held bi-weekly from Oct-Feb with over 100 couples participating.

We have made all the videos and handouts available on our website for all parishes to use.

We will be relaunching the 8 Dates Series again in the FALL of 2021

• Sept. 16 • Sept. 30. • Oct. 14 • Oct 28 • Nov. 11. • Dec. 2 • Dec. 16 • Jan. 13 • Jan. 27

Oct. 15, 2020 Eight Dates Introduction **Essential Conversations for a lifetime of love**

Presenters: George Papageorge & Fr. Timothy Pavlatos

Oct. 29 Date 1 LEAN ON ME – **Trust and Commitment** Presenters: Fr. Tom and Pres. Pat Tsagalakis

Trust and Commitment. Trust is cherishing each other and showing your partner that you can be counted on. Choosing commitment means accepting your partner exactly as he or she is, despite their flaws.

Nov. 12, 2020 Date 2 AGREE TO DISAGREE – **Addressing Conflict** Presenter: George Papageorge

Conflict. Conflict happens in every relationship, and it's a myth to believe that in a happy relationship you'll get along all the time. Relationship conflict serves a purpose. It's an opportunity to get to know your partner better and to develop deeper intimacy as you talk about and work through your differences.

Nov. 19 Date 3 LET'S GET IT ON – **Sex and Intimacy** Presenters: Fr. James & Pres. Donna Pappas with Fr. Vasili Hillhouse

Sex and Intimacy. Romantic, intimate rituals of connection keep a relationship happy and passionate. Couples who talk about sex have more sex, but talking about sex is difficult for the majority of couples—it gets easier and more comfortable the more you do it.

Dec. 3 Date 4 THE COST OF LOVE – **Work and Money** Presenter: Joe Borgonia

Work and Money. Money issues aren't about money. They're about what money means to each partner in a relationship. Discovering what money means to both of you will go a long way in resolving the conflicts you may have around money.

Dec. 17 Date 5 ROOM TO GROW – **Family** Presenters: Fr. Daniel and Presvytera Michelle Triant

Family. Approximately two-thirds of couples have a sharp drop in relationship satisfaction shortly after a child is born, and this drop gets deeper with each subsequent child. To avoid this drop in relationship happiness, conflict needs to be low and you need to maintain your sexual relationship.

Jan. 7 Date 6 PLAY WITH ME – **Fun and Adventure.** Presenters: Fr. Tom and Presvytera Pat Tsagalakis

Fun and Adventure. Play and adventure are vital components to a successful and joyful relationship. It's okay if you and your partner have different ideas about what constitutes play and adventure. The key is for you to respect each other's sense of adventure and what it means to that partner.

Jan. 21 Date 7 SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN **Growth and Spirituality** Presenter: Fr. Vasili and Pres. Maria Hillhouse

Growth and Spirituality. The only constant in a relationship is change. The key is how each person in the relationship accommodates the growth of the other partner. Relationships can be more than just two individuals coming together—they can be stories of transformation and great contribution and meaning to the world.

February 4 Date 8 - A LIFETIME OF LOVE – **Dreams** Presenters: Fr. Timothy and Presvytera Victoria Pavlatos

Dreams. When dreams are honored, everything else in the relationship gets easier. Honoring each other's dreams is the secret ingredient to creating love for a lifetime.

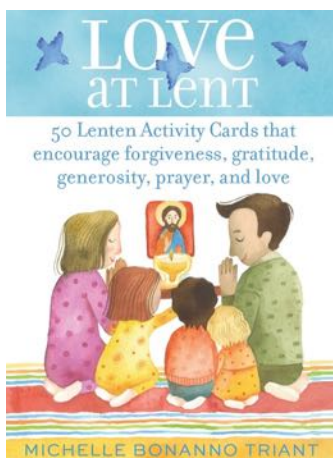
February 18 8 Dates Reflections / **Conclusion**

Our entire Family Wellness Ministry Team and participating couples share reflections and lessons learned on our 8 Dates Journey.



January 9 – 10, 2021. VIRTUAL YAL CONFERENCE “Becoming the Best Version of Yourself to Find the One.”

Our Family Wellness Team actively participated as presenters and small group facilitators engaging with over 350 young adults at the Virtual YAL Conference.



LOVE at LENT ~ Pres. Michelle Triant of our Family Wellness Ministry Team published “Love at Lent” interactive Lenten Activity Cards for families. Pres. Michelle and Fr. Daniel will be focusing on bringing resources and support to families as members of our Family Wellness Ministry Team.

Coming Home To A Better Marriage Spring / Lenten Series for Couples

This powerful series spans over the weeks of Great Lent as we reflect on our lives, our marriages and our relationship with God. All of these reflections give us an opportunity find RECONNECTION with God, to our spouse and even our own hearts. St John Chrysostom says:

“When you find the gate to the heart, that is when you find the gate to the Kingdom of Heaven.” Currently, we have over 150 couples registered!

MARCH 2021 “How Couples stay Connected”

Presenters: Fr Vasili Hillhouse - MDiv, M.A.
George Papageorge LMFT, M.A., Director of Family Wellness

APRIL 2021 “One Fight, Two Winners”

Presenter: Fr. Tom Tsagalakis - M.Div., M.F.T.

MAY 2021 “Stop the Insanity!”

Presenter: Fr. Timothy Pavlatos, M.Div., M.S., LMFT, CCTP

CURRENTLY OUR FWM Team is establishing **Vision & Mission Statements and 2021 Goals**

for each specific ministry area, e.g., couples, parenting, divorce recovery, et.al.

- Established an intentional **FWM liaison with Clergy** during their regular zoom meetings to stay in tune to their needs and offer FWM resources to them.

Main activities/events planned for 2021:

- Expanded implementation of “The Relationship Project” and “8 Dates” Program
- A Focus on Clergy Couple Care
- Recruit new FWM team member to establish and launch Men’s Groups in our parishes.
- Roll out (Zoom) Workshop Series in the various areas of FWM as described in our vision, mission & goal statements, e.g., couples workshops, parent workshops, Divorce Recovery introduction, mental health education, Clergy Couples Marriage Enrichment, etc.

Please view our website for presentation videos, handouts, resources and articles.

www.familywellnessministry.org

“Coming Home to a Better Marriage” Spring / Lenten Series for Couples			
Thursday, March 11 “How Couples Stay Connected” Presented by: George Papageorge & Fr. Vasili Hillhouse	Thursday, April 8 “One Fight, Two Winners” Presented by: Fr. Tom Tsagalakis	Thursday, May 13 “Stop the Insanity” Presented by: Fr. Timothy Pavlatos	



Prepared for Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of San Francisco
Metropolis Council and Clergy Laity Meeting
online April 16-17, 2021

Executive Board of Trustees

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos

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2021 Review

- **Cancellation** of an in person, 45th Annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival. After months of monitoring COVID-19 and health regulations across the states for events and gatherings, the FDF Board of Trustees and FDF Management Team Leadership made the decision that an in-person event could not be hosted in person February 11-14, 2021. We instead implemented a social media marketing campaign from January 2021 - February 2021 to engage with participants.
- **Monthly Meetings** with Year- Round Key FDF Management Team Leadership
This group includes Management Team members with 5+ years of experience, focusing on the upcoming event and evolution of the Ministry.
 - Monthly meetings prior to February 2021 focused on establishing a solution for a 2021 event
 - Monthly meetings since February 2021 focus on strategy for a 2022 event (whether in-person, hybrid, or digital), progression and transformation of the FDF structure, and programs that FDF can support this upcoming year.
- **FDF 2021 social marketing campaign.** We executed a light social marketing campaign for the month prior to February 11-14, 2021. The purpose of this was to build some positive sentiment and connect participants distantly, without overwhelming those who are engaged so much in digital activities at this time with Zoom calls or a streamed event. Some social activities included:
 - **Taking polls and sharing results such as:**
 - What do you miss most about FDF?
 - If FDF had a time capsule to open in 100 years, what would you put in and why?
 - What's a top essential to bring to FDF weekend?
 - Share your favorite FDF team shirt - We made a Tik Tok video of a participant displaying 10+ FDF and team shirts.
 - Resharing memories, photos, and videos posted by participants
 - Post a pic/video of your favorite dance performance. Tag us @Your FDF
 - Created memes to spark FDF humor
 - Shared a range of montages/video posts
 - Shared a video message from His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos about 2021 and 2022

- **We are actively** monitoring current and projected guidelines to inform whether and how and in person event could look like
- **Applications** for the 2022 Management Team were launched in mid-March
- **March 25, 2021** FDF unveiled a LOGO commemorating the Bicentennial Celebration of Greece
- **March 27:** FDF Judges and Directors Forum was facilitated by Fr. Gary Kyriacou on ZOOM.
 - The importance of Christian role-modeling was discussed by Fr. Gary and a number of the Judges.
 - This gathering provided an open dialogue for the Judges and Directors to discuss ways to enhance rehearsals and performance value
 - Highlights of the conversation:
 - Inclusion of all dancers in all performances: reduce the number of “sidelined dancers”
 - Reduction of live music for younger divisions
 - Best practices for research and development
 - Dance etiquette off stage
 - Dance Directors service as Youth Ministers
 - Finding ways to gather groups for fellowship while following COVID protocols



Year-Round Key FDF Management Team Leadership

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Anthony John | Holy Trinity: Portland, OR |
| • Christine Karambelas | St. Demetrios: Seattle, WA |
| • George Plumis | St. Demetrios: Seattle, WA |
| • George Xidias | St. Demetrios: Seattle, WA |
| • Christa Barbas | St. Demetrios: Seattle, WA |
| • Stavros Stathoudakis | Annunciation: Modesto, CA |
| • Vaso Rahimzadeh | Ascension: Oakland, CA |
| • Anthony Bussa | Assumption: Long Beach, CA |
| • Elizabeth Kratsas | Holy Trinity: Phoenix, AZ |
| • Alexandra Spirtos-Mantas | Holy Trinity: Dallas, TX |
| • Paul Mantas | Holy Trinity: Dallas, TX |

On the Horizon

- Scholarship applications to be announced
- Second FDF Judges and Directors Forum on Saturday, April 17, 2021
- Emphasis on a strong attempt to make FDF 2022 a reality
- Special gift to be offered to all FDF 2020 participants

METROPOLIS and ARCHDIOCESE MINISTRIES Supported by FDF:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate | • Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center |
| • Oratorical Festival | • Metropolis Ministries/ Strategic Plan |
| • Metropolis Philoptochos | • Church Music Federation |
| • Elios Society | • Missions and Evangelism |
| • Young Adult Lenten Retreat | • Hellenic Educational and Culture Committee |
| • Metropolis Youth Ministries | • Orthodox Leadership Development/Parish Strategic Planning |
| • Christian Education | • Faith Forward |
| • Summer Camp at Saint Nicholas Ranch | • Ionian Village |
| • Young Adult National Convention | • Project Mexico |
| • Greek Village | |
| • Family Wellness | |

GREEK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE MINISTRY

April 2020

Katerina Iconomou - info@katerinaonline.com

The purpose of the Greek Language and Culture Ministry (GLC) is to support and promote academic and artistic endeavors that cultivate interest in the Greek language and appreciation for Greek Arts and Sciences. We are an academic and cultural resource for Greek Schools and Greek Language instructors and we provide guidelines and assistance in the operations of Greek School within our Metropolis.

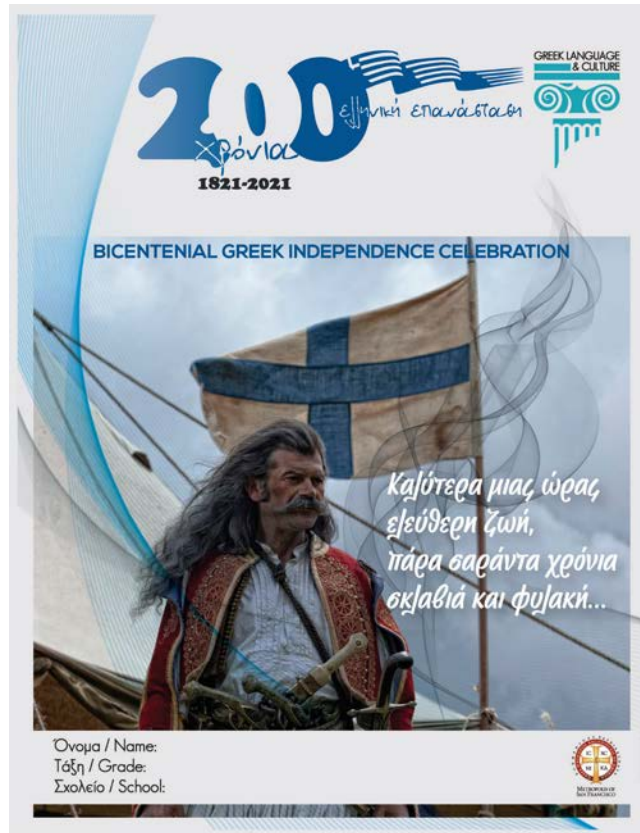
The pandemic forced many of our Greek Schools to close their physical locations and to find alternative methods to teach. In 2020, GLC turned the pandemic into an opportunity and organized three teacher training online seminars to prepare Greek language instructors for a smooth transition to online teaching. The seminars focused on various online teaching platforms and technologies available, online games and creating interactive experiences for the students.

In November 2020, the Committee assisted the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Greek Education Department in organizing and executing its second nationwide teacher training webinar. The webinar was attended by over 250 Greek educators across the United States and our GLC committee played a significant role in its success.

In January, the Greek Language and Culture Ministry, with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, traveled to Anchorage, Alaska to organize the 2021 Metropolis Three Hierarchs Celebration. In cooperation with the local parish of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Anchorage, the team executed a live zoom program with over 200 attendees. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidoforos of America also honored us with his presence. The GLC team is grateful to Metropolitan Gerasimos and Archon Fanis Economidis for supporting its vision and allowing it to travel to and livestream from the northernmost parish of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and the only Greek Orthodox parish in the state of Alaska.



In honor of the 200 Year Celebrations of Greek Independence, the GLC committee created a 50-page book that consisted of worksheets, puzzles, lesson plans, songs and poems to assist our Greek Schools in preparing education lesson plans for their students with regards to the Greek Revolution. The Archdiocese Department of Greek Education also distributed this workbook to all the Greek educators on its listserv throughout the Archdiocese.



This year the GLC committee also assisted several Greek Schools in our Metropolis with submitting short videos of students to the Archdiocese Department of Greek Education for its bicentennial video project with the theme, “Why Am I Proud to Be Greek?” Additionally, GLC Committee members aided three Greek schools from our Metropolis to participate in another Archdiocese March 25 online celebration.

Moving forward, GLC is exploring various out of the box projects. So please STAY TUNED!!!

GREEK VILLAGE METROPOLIS REPORT 2021



The purpose of our Greek Village Immersion camp is To Preserve and perpetuate the Greek culture and traditions. To inspire curiosity and understanding of the Greek Heritage. To act as a bridge between the past and the future. To provide a safe environment where the Greek Village Campers can spend a week with positive role models while developing their social skills, make new friends and create fun memories. We achieve these goals by exposing the young minds to a different geographic region of Greece every year and by teaching them the local history, dances, music, arts, myths, geography, cooking and much more. All while incorporating fun camp and outdoor activities.

Regardless of the pandemic, GV in 2020 offered a 4-week interactive immersion program for campers across the United States. 2020 was the first year that campers from the West coast were able to interact and engage with other campers from other parts of the United States. The theme for 2020 was the **Ionian Islands**. The campers sailed to the islands of Kerkyra, Zakynthos, Ithaki, Lefkada and Kefalonia. They learned about Odysseus; attended a Lefkaditiko Wedding, watched “the Botides” in Kerkyra on Easter Day and witnessed the Varkaroles spectacle in Kefalonia.



Summer of 2021, we are planning on walking on the footsteps of our ancestors and learning about the important people, events, and places of the Revolution of 1821. Please join us for a historical journey to the past. Registration is now open, and you can register at

<https://ourgreekvillage.org/>



20^η ΧΡΟΝΙΑ
 αφορμή
 Εθνική Εξανάσταση
 1821-2021
 Ηρωίδες του '21

ACTIVITIES:
 ARTS AND CRAFTS, HISTORY-HEROINES AND HEROES OF 1821, GEOGRAPHY, COOKING, DANCING, GREEK LANGUAGE, THEATRE, MUSIC

JUNE 19-26 2021 AGES 7-15
 ENJOY A WEEK-LONG GREEK LANGUAGE IMMERSION CAMP LED BY A TEAM OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED GREEK LANGUAGE INSTRUCTORS.

OUR GREEK VILLAGE
 GREEK IMMERSION CAMP





Ηρωίδες του '21

Limited Space-Register Early

\$200 REGISTRATION
 (MARCH 25th-APRIL 17th)

\$250 LATE REGISTRATION
 (APRIL 18th- MAY 1st)

for more information call:
KATERINA IONOMOU
 503.997.5459
 ourgreekvillage@gmail.com
 ourgreekvillage.org

20^η ΧΡΟΝΙΑ
 αφορμή
 Εθνική Εξανάσταση
 1821-2021

Important People,
 Events and Places
 of the Revolution

JUNE 19-26 2021 AGES 7-15



Fiscally, we are proud to report that regardless of the pandemic and through prudent growth and financial management, our camp fees offset most of our operating costs. However, we still rely on countless volunteer hours and contributions from the community, the Metropolis and other Hellenic organizations for camper scholarships, stipends to attract the most qualified staff and other enrichment activities unique to our program.

Missions & Evangelism Ministry Report

March 26, 2021

Submitted by Director Thomaida Hudanish

thudanish@sanfran.goarch.org · 503-277-3928 · GrowOrthodoxy.org

Our mission is to educate, equip, and engage the clergy and faithful in Evangelism and Mission in the Orthodox Christian Tradition.

Ministry Goals

1. Understand the American mission field through research and missiology
2. Equip existing parishes with resources, ideas, and information
3. Offer workshops on Missions & Evangelism in the Orthodox Christian context
4. Minister to and equip the missions in our care
5. Plant new parishes in growing metropolitan areas

Team Members

Fr. Aris Metrakos
Fr. Dino Pappademos
Fr. Andrew Barakos

Fr. Photios Dumont
Fr. Gerasimos Markopoulos
Cliff Argue

Hon. Connie Contes,
Lisa Buck

Recent Activities

- **Annual Survey.** The Ministry will present results from our second annual 12-question survey, at the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly. Over 35 responses were received.
- **Mission to America 2021** launches from Pascha to Pentecost, again utilizing the online GoFundMe Charity platform, which gives each parish an easy way to create a team page and goal. New for 2021:
 - Funds raised (our goal this year is \$30,000) will finance mini-grants for specific tangible projects at our six parishes in Maui, Pasco, Salem, Roseburg, Flagstaff, and Lake Havasu City. Each project is meant to expand the capacity of the mission to serve its community.
 - The campaign will highlight individual journey to Orthodox stories, offering a new way to collect these stories via audio interviews at groworthodoxy.org
 - The annual online after-Pascha book study will meet on six consecutive Tuesdays to discuss *Growing Young* by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin. The concepts in this book are equally applicable to young adults and newcomers to the parish, of every age demographic.
- **HCHC Student Connections** – Fr. Aris Metrakos and Fr. Photios Dumont organized an online forum and fellowship with Metropolis of San Francisco students for early April 2021.
- **Planting New Parishes** – Fr. Andrew Barakos and Fr. Jerry Markopoulos researched 15-20 potential areas for planting new parishes and are determining which locations to prioritize.
- **Mission Parish Support** – Lisa Buck, who serves on the steering committee of the Roseburg mission, maintains monthly communication with leadership at the other five missions in our Metropolis.
- **Parish Visits and Presentations** – will resume as soon as possible! Several parishes are exploring the possibility of inviting the Ministry Director to offer workshops via Zoom in the meantime.
- **Collaborations** – We appreciate every opportunity to collaborate with other Metropolis ministries and inspire vital conversations about sharing the Gospel. Please reach out to share your vision.

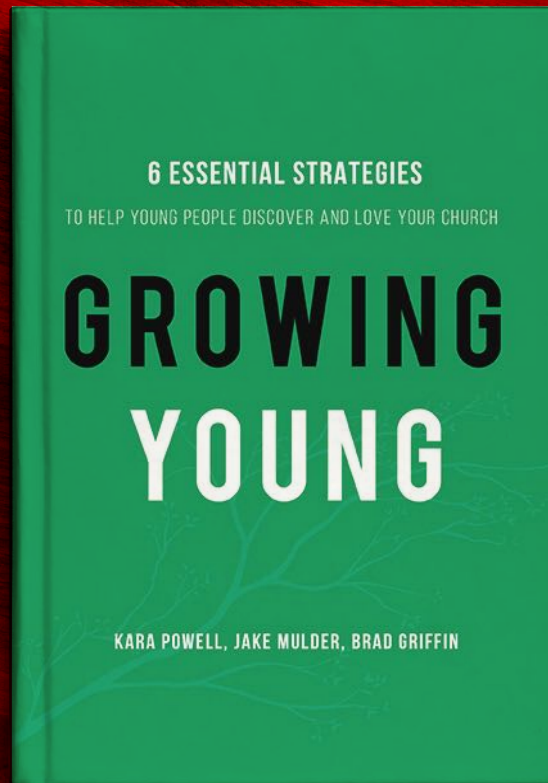
MISSION TO AMERICA 2021

AFTER-PASCHA BOOK STUDY

4TH EDITION

SIX TUESDAYS
VIA ZOOM!

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
JOINING EACH WEEK –
STAY TUNED FOR
THE FULL SCHEDULE



Join us for an online book study, nurturing conversation and community surrounding books that help us to understand our Faith and share it.

Together we will discover and discuss six strategies for engaging people who are longing to grow closer to Jesus Christ. The concepts presented in *Growing Young* are equally impactful for young adults and newcomers of every demographic. If you want to be a stronger greeter, mentor, parent, ministry-leader, and parishioner at large, this book is for you.

We will meet six Tuesdays: May 11th, 18th, 25th,
June 1, 8, 15, 6:30-8:00p Pacific Time



Discussions facilitated by Missions & Evangelism
Ministry Director Thomaida Hudanish



Register here at
GrowOrthodoxy.org
(Scan with your smartphone camera!)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME - COME READ WITH US!





THIS CAMPAIGN FUNDS OUR MISSIONS & EVANGELISM
MINISTRY TO EDUCATE, EQUIP, AND ENGAGE CLERGY
AND LAY PEOPLE IN EVANGELISM AND MISSION IN THE
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN TRADITION.

PASCHA TO PENTECOST 2021 • MAY 2ND - JUNE 20TH

This year we're funding tangible projects at each of our six mission parishes.

- Maui, Hawaii
- Pasco, Washington
- Roseburg, Oregon
- Salem, Oregon
- Flagstaff, Arizona
- Lake Havasu City, Arizona

You'll have a chance to learn about each project during the campaign.

SET UP YOUR
PARISH PAGE VIA
GOFUNDMECHARITY



Scan with your
smartphone camera!



Follow us on Facebook
and Instagram @groworthodoxy | GrowOrthodoxy.org



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

Orthodox Parish Leadership

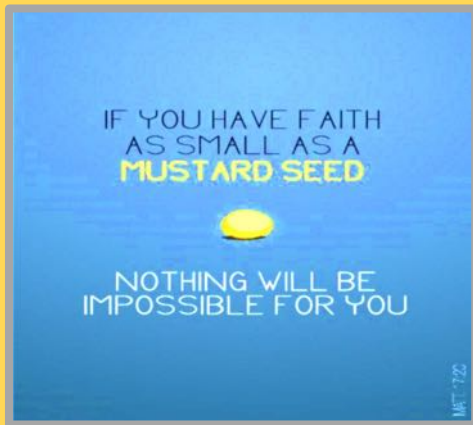
“Supporting Parish Health, Growth and Engagement through
Strategic Planning, Leader Development, Parish Revitalization,
and Capital Fund Raising”

April, 2021

Steve Tibbs

714.345.1803

stibbs@bluevase.com





Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry Update (4.1.21)



Provided for your review is a synopsis of the support provided to the Parishes and Ministries of the Metropolis of San Francisco by the Orthodox Parish Leadership ministry.

Tables on the following pages show Parishes:

- Currently being supported by the OPL ministry
- Where work has recently been completed
- Which began initial discussions, but placed development efforts on-hold due to COVID-19

In addition, the OPL ministry, was asked by His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos, to lead the COVID Parish Support Team (PST), which today continues to provide guidance and tools to our Parishes and Metropolis Ministries in an effort to navigate changes brought about by this pandemic. To-date, the PST has held weekly meetings for 50 consecutive weeks and produced countless materials, typically well-ahead of the pandemic's curve and requests from our parishes.



Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry Update (4.1.21)



OPL Support Currently Being Provided

Parish	Strategic Plan	Revitalization Plan	Stewardship & Fundraising	Leadership Development	Leader Coaching	Parish Org. Development
Assumption, Seattle, WA	×	×			×	
Holy Cross, Flagstaff, AZ						×
Holy Trinity, Portland, OR	×				×	
St. Anthony, Reno, NV		×	×	×	×	×
St. Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA		×		×	×	×
St. Basil, San Jose, CA						×
Sts. Constantine & Helen, Vallejo, CA		×	×	×	×	×
St. Demetrios, Camarillo, CA		×			×	×
St. Demetrios, Seattle, WA	×				×	
St. Demetrios, Tucson, CA		×			×	×
St. Halambros, Peoria, AZ	×				×	
St. Nicholas San Jose, CA		×		×	×	×
St. Paul's, Irvine, CA	×			×		



Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry Update (4.1.21)



OPL Support Completed or Placed on **"Covid Hold"**

Parish	Strategic Plan	Revitalization Plan	Stewardship & Fundraising	Leadership Development	Leader Coaching	Org. Development
Holy Apostles, Shoreline, WA	×				×	
Prophet Elias, San Bernardino, CA		×		×	×	×
Resurrection, Castro Valley, CA				×		
St. Basil, Stockton, CA	×				×	
Sts. Constantine and Helen, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA	×					
St. George, Bakersfield, CA		×			×	×
St. George, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA		×				
St. George, Downey, CA		×				
St. George, Fresno, CA	×				×	
St. George, Prescott, AZ		×				
St. Gregory of Nyssa, El Cajon, CA		×				
St. John the Baptist, Las Vegas, NV	×					
St. Nicholas, Tacoma, WA	×					



PHILOTOCHOS

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

Metropolis Council and Clergy-Laity Assembly Report – April 2021

...And the light shines on in the darkness, never overcome by the darkness. (John 1:5)

Your Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Your Grace Bishop Ioannis, Reverend Fathers and Presvyteres, Archon Vice-Chairman Theofanis Economidis, Metropolis Council Members, Parish Members and Honored Guests,

It is my honor to greet you on behalf of the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board today as we gather virtually for the 2021 Clergy-Laity Assembly focused on ***Moving Beyond the Pandemic and Returning to Worship***. This is a wonderful time to spend in fellowship together as we share information and prepare for the upcoming year in service. Your Eminence, we are truly grateful for your continued blessing and spiritual guidance through our many endeavors to make a difference in the lives of others. Your support is paramount and we offer our gratitude for your pastoral love.

In March 2020, life as we knew it came to a screeching halt as the Novel Coronavirus spread worldwide at a blistering pace, from a cluster of cases in Wuhan, China to a pandemic affecting most of the world, every U.S. state, and throughout our Metropolis. On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a National Emergency and the severe lockdowns ensued. We slowly acclimated to living in a physically distanced world in isolation left with the only means of social interactions through technology. Live streaming and Zoom conferencing became essential to our lives. We were not able to pass the Light of the Holy Resurrection from candle to candle but rather from heart to heart as we were separated and remained distanced in our own homes with our immediate families. For most of the following months, the surge of the pandemic raised to unprecedented levels and life seemed to have paused with hope that light would soon shine ahead.

This past year has proven to be a challenge to engage our ministry leaders, servants and volunteers to continue our good works in the most difficult time while striving to meet the needs of our Philoptochos commitments and provide our unwavering support to those in need. I am pleased to report that even a pandemic will not keep Philoptochos from fulfilling our mission! We persevered with a sober and gentle, yet persistent approach in the most disruptive time by focusing our energies into the ministry initiatives of membership and fundraising in support of the many organizations and individuals that were in dire need and impacted by this altered reality of a “new normal”. I remain humbled at the severity of how our lives were altered and the many lives that perished as a result of this pandemic and pray for restoration of good health to all the world. Our way of providing “light” in “darkness” is through the sincere hope that our good works not only touch the lives of the many that need it, but that the work being done serves as a beacon to women (and men) within our Metropolis so that they feel moved to join us in this movement in Membership. As the needs of the world grow, so the does the need to increase in numbers to lead the way. Please accept this report as our Metropolis Philoptochos Ministry Year in Review.

The ***44th Annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Folk Dance and Choral Festival*** was held February 13 – 16, 2020 in Anaheim, CA. The theme for the weekend was “FOCUS”, which provided the opportunity for the participants to contemplate the priorities in their lives and practice and appreciate them more earnestly. It was an honor to have Archbishop Elpidophoros of American enthusiastically participate in all aspects of FDF and interact with the participants throughout the weekend. Metropolis Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas presented Archbishop Elpidophoros with a set of custom-embroidered vestments.





While FDF focuses on Faith, Dance and Fellowship, the attendees are also committed to serving others. As everyone arrived on Thursday, they had the opportunity to participate in a community service project ***"Feeding Children Everywhere,"*** joining together with the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos to package 35,000 meals. World hunger is an ongoing struggle, and FDF continues to address this each year by providing nourishment for starving children throughout the world.

The ***FDF 2020 Metropolitan Anthony Humanitarian Award*** was presented to the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos for its dedication to providing for the needs of

others. Whether it is children with cancer and their families, those who are hungry or homeless, or those merely in need of friendship, Philoptochos has been a shining example of philanthropy and faith in action. The Metropolis Philoptochos has also partnered with FDF for several years on an annual Diakonia project, providing an opportunity for collaboration through feeding the hungry, or packaging personal care items for the homeless. The support of the Metropolis Philoptochos has also been exemplary through the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund which has provided more than \$3 million in scholarships to our Hellenic College Holy Cross seminarians and students for over 34 years.



Each year, the students from the Metropolis of San Francisco attending ***Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology*** are invited to a dinner hosted by the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos to celebrate the graduates and honor their achievements. We were anticipating with great joy to attend the 2020 Commencement in person with His Eminence Metropolis Gerasimos and for the first time, to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros to distribute almost \$185,000 to our Students and Seminarians. With the Class of 2020 struggling through the limitations in place from the Coronavirus pandemic, the commencement festivities were postponed, but this did not diminish the energy and spirit of the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos. Continuing on with the "new normal" tradition of online gatherings, the Metropolis Philoptochos reached out to all our students and arranged for dinner to be delivered to each of their homes on Thursday, May 7 while at the same time everyone gathered on a Zoom call. It was a joyous celebration with the members of the Metropolis Philoptochos Board, under the leadership of President Jeannie Ranglas, joining with our students for a virtual dinner. Special guests for this event included His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, HCHC President George Cantonis, HCHC Board of Trustees Vice-Chairman Rev. Fr. Jon Magoulas, HCHC Dean of Students Rev. Fr. Antonios Papathanasiou, and Metropolis of San Francisco Lay Representative to the HCHC Alumni Council, Deacon Yianni Magoulas. We are grateful for the opportunity to support the future of our beloved church and are always humbled by the incredible generosity of our people!



Camp Agape. Two small words, yet they are full of power and love. For over 35 years, Camp Agape has been a signature ministry for the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos, and not even the Coronavirus pandemic could stop the love that is shared unconditionally with children who are battling cancer and their families. The Metropolis Philoptochos Board and Chapter members quickly mobilized so that these special families did not miss out on the opportunity to participate in Camp Agape in a virtual format. The circus themed program included reunion night with former Camp Agape families, a trivia

challenge, scavenger hunt, family puzzles, campfire songs, and sharing many memories of this life-changing camp. I am proud to be a part of this truly life-changing program. And while we have sadly lost many of our campers to cancer over nearly four decades, we also celebrate the survivors – the thrivers – who have conquered the mountain called cancer and continue to live life to its fullest. It is a privilege to work with the Philoptochos ladies and men (with many new faces!), over 100 volunteers strong, to serve, love and grow our Camp Agape family!

"No one ever made a difference by being like everyone else." - P.T. Barnum.

The goal was simple. Help the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos “Light the Path” from the west coast to east coast through the generosity of donors. So, what is “Light the Path”? It is an annual fundraiser presented by the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos to benefit the **Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund**, which



provides financial assistance to the seminarians and students from the Metropolis of San Francisco who are attending Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA. Usually, this event is filled with festive Christmas trees and holiday décor, Christmas carolers, and attendees enjoying a sumptuous luncheon and making donations to support this worthwhile cause. COVID-19 put an end to this in-person event, but it did not dampen the spirit of Philoptochos and their commitment to supporting the seminarians and

students from the Metropolis of San Francisco. A flurry of activity started in mid-October to launch an online crowd-funding platform to begin on November 1 in conjunction with the Feast of Saints Cosmas and Damianos, the Holy Unmercenaries and patron saints of Philoptochos, but these fabulous ladies did it! With a team of Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos board members who quickly immersed themselves in event planning, a virtual **Light the Path** gathering was created and held on Saturday, December 5, 2020. Nearly 400 Philoptochos women and men joined online for an uplifting, entertaining and informative program that featured videos of some students, sharing their feelings about the impact of Hellenic College Holy Cross on their lives. They expressed their gratitude to Philoptochos, how the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund has alleviated a significant portion of their financial burden, and how Philoptochos has truly embraced them and their families with love and compassion.

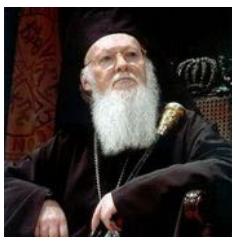
Every year during the **Christmas Open House** for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, people place gift cards on the tree, which the Metropolis Philoptochos has distributed to those in need – the homeless, fire victims, and children’s charities, to name a few. **The Annual “Giving Tree”** coordinated by the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos has become a way to help those less fortunate and share love and compassion during the Christmas season.

The pandemic may have limited the opportunity to gather in person, but it did not stop this festive event from happening in a virtual forum and providing assistance for a special Orthodox community. On the evening of Sunday, December 20, 2020, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos hosted a virtual Christmas Open House which welcomed His Grace Bishop Neofitos of Nyeri and Mt. Kenya as a special guest. His Grace shared with the nearly 150 guests that his Diocese has suffered greatly due to the pandemic, and resources are very limited. In addition to the 54 priests and 56 parishes which comprise his Diocese, he also oversees six orphanages and educational centers which provide food, shelter and care for over 600 children and young adults. His Grace Bishop Neofitos joined this event in the early hours of the morning from Kenya, after having baptized 115 children and adults on Sunday. The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos offered a generous gift of \$2,500 in support of the God-pleasing ministry of His Grace Bishop Neofitos.



On January 16, 2021, the **Women’s Wellness and Awareness Ministry** of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos held a one-day Zoom seminar focusing on “Stroke in Women: Across the Lifespan.” Presenter Dr. Christina Mijalski Sells, MD MPH, was the featured presenter, bringing with her an extensive background through her affiliation in the Department of Neurology at Stanford University Medical Center as Clinical Assistant Professor, Neurology and Neurological Sciences and Telestroke Program Medical Director. Dr. Mijalski Sells explained to over 125 women in attendance

that a stroke is a severe life-threatening medical emergency that can happen at any time across the lifespan of a woman, starting at infancy and continuing into old age. Awareness of the symptoms is critical in getting the proper care quickly. She also explained the different types of strokes including Ischemic, Hemorrhagic and Transient Ischemic Attacks, their signs and symptoms, and the impact of COVID-19 on strokes.



The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos continues to support the ***Ecumenical Patriarchate*** in humble prayer and with financial gifts to help further the growth of our church by spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. The philanthropies of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, such as Balikli Hospital and nursing home, schools, shrines, and parishes are supported through this commitment.

The shadows we experience today are fleeting, cast out by the Light of our Lord who dispels every darkness, and to Him we raise up with His Everlasting Light and Life in anticipation of His Holy Resurrection! Thank you for the opportunity to serve this beloved Metropolis of San Francisco. I, and the thousands of women represented through our Philoptochos Chapters are thankful for your support and love, and most of all, your prayers as we continue our good works in Christ. ***Kalo Pascha and Kali Anastasi*** to you and your loving families.

Philoptochos: Philanthropy, Fellowship, and Faith in Action.
"For with God, nothing is impossible." Luke 1:37

With Love in Christ,

Jeannie Ranglas, President
 Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos

Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos 2021 Events:

- Kids 'n' Cancer – United in Peace and Love, A Virtual Celebration of Agape, April 11, 2021
- HCHC Commencement - Brookline, MA – TBD
- Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Virtual Retreat – September 18, 2021
- Camp Agape – Virtual Camp – Summer 2021
- Light the Path – TBD

Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center Ministry Report

Submitted by Michael A. Pappas, Executive Director
mikepappas@stnicholasranch.org

Overview

Due to the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, we have been closed since March of 2020. On a limited basis, we have been renting rooms for Monastery guests. Otherwise, we have not had any other groups or events. As the virus restrictions begin to improve, we anticipate that we will be able to accommodate small groups and events sometime in the late summer. Unfortunately, for now we remain closed to groups and camping programs.

Finances and Staffing

To cover basic operating expenses over the past year we have obtained two PPP loans. One in 2020 and a second in 2021. These loans are fully forgivable. In addition, we obtained an EIDL – Economic Injury Disaster Loan – which is offered through the Small Business Administration.

These loans have also allowed us to keep our core staff employed over the past year. This includes the Executive Director and our Office Manager, Maintenance Manager, and three of our Kitchen/Housekeeping staff.

A Day at the Ranch

As the closedown continues into a second year, the Ranch Board decided to launch a funding campaign entitled “A Day at the Ranch” to help us maintain the Ranch until we can fully reopen. The fact is that even closed, there are many expenses required to keep the Ranch in working order. Utilities, building and ground maintenance, insurance, payroll for core staff, water testing and treatment and much more, add up to \$1,000 a day simply to maintain the Ranch. Along with this campaign we have asked Ranch alumni to share with their favorite “Day at the Ranch”. These memories will be incorporated into future marketing efforts.



Ranch Website

The Ranch has a beautiful new website, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Tim McGuire from Saint Demetrios Church in Camarillo, CA, who kindly donated his services to redesign our website which now features many more details on our facilities, history, and a new online donation platform. Be sure to visit our website at www.stnicholasranch.org.



Renovations

The close-down has offered us the opportunity to focus on repairs and renovations of the Ranch facility. This work has been made possible by the generous support of many families, Foundations and Associations, as well as support received at the 40th anniversary event. This includes the following:



- Dining Hall: new flooring, lighting, windows, doors, restrooms, exterior siding and paint.
- Kitchen: new ovens, walk-in freezer box, lighting, paint.
- Laundry Rooms: new shelving, washers and dryers, tile floor.
- Girls Dorm: new restrooms, paint, flooring, bunk beds and windows.
- Conference Room: plans are being finalized for the expansion of the Saint Peter Conference Room to accommodate more people and will include built-in audio-visual components for video presentations and a sound system.
- The swimming pool and deck will be resurfaced.
- We are repairing sidewalks and walkways.
- Also, we are moving forward on all the other items from the 40th Anniversary fund raising effort.



Forecast for the remainder of 2021

- Currently we are closed for everything except room rentals.
- 2021 events will depend on the status of the COVID-19 reopening. So far, all groups and events have been cancelled or postponed through the beginning of May.
- All camp programs have been cancelled for the summer of 2021.
- We anticipate that in the late summer and early fall we will be able to resume more normal operations.
- We have been working with the Fresno County Health Department to make sure we will meet all re-opening requirements when that time comes, and have been reaching out to our clients, keeping them updated on our re-opening progress.



2021 Stewardship Ministry Update

Leader: Steven Pappas

Email: stevenpappas2@gmail.com

Tel: (310) 600-3798

2020 Activities & Accomplishments

- Collaborated with Archdiocesan Stewardship leaders Father James Kordaris and Stacey Stathulis to launch our Metropolis Town Halls.
- Created roster and email list of 2020 Stewardship Chairs across the Metropolis.
- Delivered “Stewardship in Challenging Times” presentation to Parish Council Presidents Town Hall (April 29)
- Initiated recurring Metropolis Stewardship Chairs Town Halls (July 1st, August 5th, December 14th)
- Hosted bi-weekly 5-Part Series on “Creating a Culture of True Stewardship” presented inspirationally by Bill Marianes (September 1st, 15th & 30th and October 13th & 27th)
- Provided individual coaching meetings and planning sessions with several Metropolis parishes seeking additional Stewardship assistance.

CREATING A CULTURE OF TRUE STEWARDSHIP
JOIN US FOR A FREE FIVE-PART SERIES

Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. (PST)

Session 1 - September 1, 2020

- Facts and Figures of What is Happening in Our Churches
- COVID/Crisis Strategies
- Lessons from the Science of Generosity Studies
- How to Create a Culture of True Orthodox Stewardship

Session 2 - September 15, 2020

- Leadership Alignment
- Tithing and Percentage Giving
- Increasing Parishioner Engagement
- The Most Effective Personal Touch

Session 3 - September 29, 2020

- Welcoming
- Thanking
- Youth Stewardship
- Small Groups

Session 4 - October 13, 2020

- Effective Messaging
- Campaigns - Stewardship, Capital and Planned Giving
- Transparency and Accountability
- Stewardship Team

Session 5 - October 27, 2020

- Questions and Answers

Registration
Participation is free, but we kindly request that you register in advance so that we can plan for your participation. We will provide you with the Zoom information to join either through computer or telephone 48 hours prior to the first seminar.

ABOUT OUR PRESENTER
Bill Marianes has been an evangelist and "The Orth" was a partner and in his book over 1000 parishes each, in the Atlanta office and parishes. He retired early so that through his Stewardship Committee he could live his stewardship gold account before the. He has presented his talk "The Flame Of True Church" 500 Orthodox parishes of Holy Cross and St. Athanasios church strategic plans that cover over 26% of Orthodox Christians on the Secretariat of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops (including its Legal Committee and Stewardship Committee). Bill received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from the Degree in Business Administration from Georgia Graduate School of Emory University and a Juris Doctorate from Emory University School of Law, all with honors. He lives at Lake Lanier in Gainesville, GA and has been married to his wife, Audrey, for 38 years and has two daughters, Dr. Alexia Marianes, a global researcher and Elena Marianes, a professional actress.

For more information, please call the Metropolis at 415-753-3075 or email metropolis@sanfran.goarch.org.

2021 Plans and Actions

- Schedule and conduct monthly Stewardship Town Halls, which are to be highly interactive and a forum for our parishes to share both successes and challenges, in order to learn from one another. Planned topics include:
 - Youth Stewardship
 - Key Elements of a Successful Stewardship Campaign
 - Getting Parishioners Back to Church
 - Forming an Effective Stewardship Committee
 - Life After Festivals
 - Fostering Community Outreach and Evangelism
 - Creating an Ambassador Program and Visitations
 - Welcoming Newcomers to Our Church
 - Establishing a Planned Giving Program
 - Getting on the Road to Tithing and Percentage Giving
 - Implementing Donation Platforms and Technologies

2021 STEWARDSHIP TOWN HALL SERIES
YOUTH STEWARDSHIP Cultivating the Next Generation of Leaders
 METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

COMING UP!
 Stewardship Town Halls will continue monthly through 2021
Great Topics!

- Developing new Stewardship Campaigns and Communications
- Getting Parishioners Back to Church
- Forming an Effective Stewardship Committee
- Life After Festivals
- Fostering Community Outreach and Evangelism
- Creating an Ambassador Program and Visitations
- Welcoming Newcomers to our Church
- Establishing a Planned Giving Program
- Getting on the Road to Tithing and Percentage Giving
- Implementing Donation Platforms and Technologies

Save these Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. PST

March 22
 April 12
 May 11
 June 10
 July 10
 August 24
 September 17
 October 20
 November 22
 December 20

Additional dates will be announced soon. Mark your calendar!

Monday, February 22, 2021
 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. PST

What does a "Steward in a Good Standing" of your parish mean? Start at the age of 18. It's never too early to start in our children and youth! The Stewardship of Tomorrow is now in the church. Perhaps it might be part of their allowance. Maybe they can volunteer for a good charity. Do they have a talent they can use to help others?

During this Stewardship Seminar, we will welcome Dr. Ann Williams-Bender who will share with us her insight into the importance of Youth Stewardship and how we can engage the volunteer generation in the important and transformative mission. You will also hear from parishioners in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco and their personal experience with Youth Stewardship, providing practical advice to begin implementing this in your community.

There is no cost to participate but we request that you please register in advance so that you can receive a secure Zoom link.

Registration deadline: Friday, February 19, 2021. REGISTER NOW!

About Our Guest Presenter
Dr. Ann Williams-Bender is the Director of the Office of Vocational Ministry (OVM) at Marquette College High School (MCHS). The OVM is a most welcome for its Cleveland Summer for Orthodox High School Juniors and seniors and the Taha Project which is working with parishes to integrate young adult engagement. She has just spoken at the Stewardship conference on sustainability of youth programs and is passionate about giving us guidance and generosity in our young people. She is a graduate of Marquette College (BA), St. Vladimir's Seminary (M.Div.), and Boston College (Ph.D.). She is also a licensed wedding, a pediatric occupational therapist and lives in Brookline, MA.

For more information, please email metropolis@sanfran.orth.org or call 415-753-9075.

Key Elements of a Successful Stewardship Campaign
 STEWARDSHIP TOWN HALL SERIES
 METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

COMING UP!
 Stewardship Town Halls will continue monthly through 2021
Great Topics!

- Getting Parishioners Back to Church
- Forming an Effective Stewardship Committee
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Save these Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. PST

April 12
 May 11
 June 10
 July 10
 August 24
 September 17
 October 20
 November 22
 December 20

Additional dates will be announced soon. Mark your calendar!

Monday, March 22, 2021
 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. PST

The Stewardship Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco welcomes Bill Marianes to our monthly Stewardship Town Hall on Monday, March 22, 2021. Ann Williams-Bender will share with us "Key Elements of a Successful Stewardship Campaign" including practical examples of how your communication strategy with your parish can help cultivate a community and a culture of giving and gratitude.

This will be an interactive seminar and will also include presentations from stewardship leaders in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco who will share their best practices with us.

Join us. There is no cost to participate but we request that you please register in advance so that you can receive a secure Zoom link.

Registration deadline: Sunday, March 21, 2021. REGISTER NOW!

About Our Presenter
Bill Marianes has been a member of "Stewardship calling evangelist" since the Orthodox 1970's. For 30 years, he was a pastor and a leadership training coordinator with over 1,000 people each year. He was managing partner of the Alaska office and practiced in the area of corporate law, mergers and acquisitions. He retired early so that he could "serve" his Lord. He has been a Stewardship calling evangelist in his parish and in his community. He has presented the fully researched and proven strategy "The Four 9's" for Orthodox Stewardship evangelism to over 1,000 Stewardship leaders at several conferences of Holy Cross and St. Ephraim communities and in cathedral church installations that cover over 200 of Orthodox Christianity in the United States. He speaks at the Stewardship of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops and on the Holy Cross Council (including its Lay Committee and Stewardship Committee). Bill received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Northwestern University, a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Gonzaga University, a Ph.D. in Business Administration from University of San Francisco, and a Juris Doctorate from Golden Gate University School of Law. He is a member of the Law Society of San Francisco. He and his wife, Judith, have three children and five grandchildren. Dr. Bill Marianes is a labor mediator and Stewardship professional advisor.

For more information, please email metropolis@sanfran.orth.org or call 415-753-9075.

- Update the Stewardship section on the Metropolis website to include additional self-service resources and links. Also, update the Stewardship Chairs roster.
- Establish a Metropolis Stewardship committee with representatives from each of our vicariates who can work locally with smaller groups of parishes.
- Adopt Bill Marianes' Financial Stewardship Assessment ("FSA") tools to help parishes better understand how they compare to other Orthodox and non-Orthodox parishes, and to identify opportunities for strengthening their Stewardship efforts.



**The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco
Young Adult League Conference Ministry Report**

April 2021

To: His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos, Chairman
Fanis Economidis, Vice-Chairman
Metropolis Council Members
Metropolis Assembly Delegates

From: Hon. Steven & Stacia Counelis, *Co-Advisors to the Young Adult Conference Committee*
George Anagnostopoulos, *YAL Conference Chairman*

Your Eminence, Vice-Chairman Economidis, Metropolis Council Members, and Assembly Delegates,

Our report to the 2020 Metropolis Assembly in late February, shared the outstanding success of the 2019 Young Adult Conference, Labor Day Weekend, in Long Beach, California. We also reported our plans for the 2020 Young Adult Conference, to be held Labor Day Weekend. Sadly, within one month, the Pandemic became a reality, and our Conference plans were halted with the blessings of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos.

By the time Labor Day Weekend came and went, the Conference Committee, led by Chairman George Anagnostopoulos, became interested in presenting a Virtual YAL Conference. With the blessings of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos, planning began in earnest.

We are pleased to report that the 2021 Virtual YAL Conference exceeded our expectations. The two-day event was presented via the Zoom platform on January 9-10, 2021. The theme for this gathering was “Reclaim” and over 300 young adults engaged in a thought-provoking and motivational program, inspiring young adults to pursue greater engagement in worship, service, fellowship and witness.

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos greeted the attendees and opened the Conference. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros offered a video greeting to the conference attendees.

The first convo (workshop) of the conference featured Rev. Father Barnabas Powell (Sts. Raphael, Nicholas and Irene Church – Cumming, GA) who spoke on the relevant topic of Maintaining Connection Amidst Physical Distance. Steven Christoforou, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America offered a practical and tangible presentation on How to Balance Your Faith and Career.

A speed networking session included breakout groups based on careers which included Law, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), Medical, Creative/Arts, Media and Communications, Education, and Business. Participants joined in conversation with other young adults, exchanging ideas and resources for their chosen career path.

Saturday’s virtual conference concluded with a musical performance by Greek-American singer-songwriter Stavro Piperis who released his first solo album, Chances, in December 2019.

Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Camarillo, California welcomed the virtual conference participants to Divine Liturgy on Sunday, with a special homily offered by Rev. Father Gary Kyriacou.

At the time of registration, young adults had the opportunity to submit questions anonymously for a Q & A session which featured three distinguished panelists: Rev. Father Paul Paris (Holy Trinity Cathedral – Portland, OR); Rev. Father Jordan Brown (Sts. Peter and Paul – Boulder, CO); and Dr. Ann Mitsakos Bezzerides (Director, Office of Vocation and Ministry at Hellenic College Holy Cross – Brookline, MA). The session was facilitated by Rev. Father Christopher Retelas (Saint John the Baptist – Anaheim, CA). Discussion focused on acknowledging the emotional pain brought on by the pandemic, staying strong in the faith while away from

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Young Adult League Conference Ministry Report

home, challenges facing young adults in the faith, and how can we reclaim our faith when there are so many distractions around us.

Service to others is one of the four components of the YAL ministry, and an inspirational presentation was offered to the young adults from the Saint Innocent Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. Rev. Father Demetrios Andrews, Executive Director offered a historical review of Project Mexico and Saint Innocent Orphanage. Chaplain and Associate Director Father Nicholas Andruchow led the boys in singing the Apolytikion of Saint Innocent, one young boy provided a tour of the church, and another young man shared how the orphanage has saved his life, giving him a chance to succeed through education, with compassionate and loving leadership.

Dr. John Moxen, National Programs Director for FOCUS North America proclaimed how we can overcome our own spiritual poverty by serving others before ourselves. He also provided some tangible examples of how young adults can get involved by assembling and distributing St. Nicholas Sack Hygiene Kits to those in need in their communities.

The final convo was presented by the Metropolis of San Francisco Family Wellness Ministry Team led by George Papageorge, MFT, and Rev. Father Tom and Presvytera Pat Tsagalakis, and focused on Becoming the Best Version of Yourself to Find the “One”.

Under the leadership of Chairman George Anagnostopoulos, the YAL Conference Steering Committee planned a spiritually uplifting, informative and interactive event that attracted participants from 41 states as well as Canada, France and Israel. In his concluding remarks, George thanked the members of the Steering Committee: Marissa Hondros (CA), Christiana Konugres (WA), Alex Krantz (CA), Yianna Papadeas (CA), Niko Piperis (NE), Christine Scolinos (CA), Christos Schwarz (NJ), Marina Settelmayr (CA), Costa Theodore (AZ), Stavroula Tsantilas (WA). The Chairman also acknowledged the YAL Conference Co-Advisors, the Honorable Steven and Stacia Counelis; Metropolis Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director, Johanna Carter; and Metropolis Director of Development and Communications, Kristen Bruskas, for their collective leadership and assistance in making this Conference possible.

The Young Adult League movement will continue to develop by the participants staying connected using the Discord app, and through the new “YAL In Your Backyard” initiative to foster friendships and regional activities throughout the year. Plans are presently being developed for an in-person conference over Labor Day 2021, as long as large group gatherings are permitted.

2021 Young Adult Conference

Preparations are underway since for an in person 2021 Young Adult Conference. As always, the Conference will offer an effective balance of Community, Service, Witness and Worship opportunities. Last year’s Conference Chairman, George Anagnostopoulos, will continue to serve as Chair, who will lead an experienced committee toward a successful event. This Committee will be under our continuing mentorship in 2021.

We have worked whole-heartedly to reestablish this Conference ministry. Starting from nothing in 2019 has been a blessed challenge. We pray this event will spark a new Young Adult movement and ministry to last for many years, and positively impact future generations of young adults.

In His Service,

Hon. Steven & Stacia Counelis, *Co-Advisors to the Young Adult Conference Committee*
George Anagnostopoulos, *YAL Conference Chairman*



OFFICE OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY 2020

Metropolis GOYA Winter Camp, January 2-5, 2020



This is the second time we've formally offered this event in the last few years, and it was a wonderful group of 35 youth from across our Metropolis. The campers had a blast, and said they really enjoyed the smaller group, compared to summer camp, and liked that they had more access to time with their counselors, myself, and our leadership team running the retreat. We took the kids on a field trip to visit Kings Canyon and go sledding in the snow. We also brought them to visit the Monastery and help with a work project. Our speaker was Cassandra Garibaldi from the Archdiocese Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, and he spoke on the theme "Marks of a true Christian" Romans 12:9-19.

We hope to offer this retreat again this coming winter if everything at St. Nicholas Ranch is able to open safely. It's a nice way to offer fellowship for our youth and young adults 6 months after they saw each other in the summer, and it's typically a smaller group than in the summer, so it will be manageable size to plan with COVID restrictions if needed.



Metropolis Young Adult Winter Retreat, Lake Tahoe January 17-20, 2020



This retreat sold out again with 60 participants from throughout the Metropolis and across the Archdiocese, as we celebrated the 14th Annual Young Adult Winter Retreat in Lake Tahoe. Fr. Nick & Pres. Dena Mueller were our speakers, and the theme was "Practicing the Presence of God". The business of our lives often distracts us from developing a relationship with God. We will explore how

we can practice prayerfully being present with God, so that, as St. James writes, we will not “in the midst of a busy life, wither away” (James 1:11) The young adults loved this theme, and were extremely inspired by the natural beauty of Lake Tahoe, the fellowship, the beautiful services we had throughout the weekend. Fr. Christian Burkhard was our Retreat Priest. Everyone has a wonderful time, and it’s always a refreshing way to begin the year, on a private beach in Lake Tahoe! This was the very official last in-person ministry our office was able to put on before the pandemic shut everything down.

MARCH 2020

Bay Area GOYA Lenten Retreat, March 13-15, 2020



Unfortunately we had to cancel this retreat a few days before it began due to precautions of the pandemic. It was a good time we made the decision to cancel it, because the week after everything completely closed. We thought we could reschedule it for the fall, but we still haven’t been able to open up in-person retreats to this day.

Young Adult Online Forum, March 19 & 26, 2020

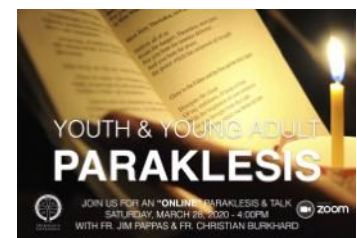


We decided to offer an online opportunity for young adults from across the Metropolis to come together as one community to openly share their thoughts, ask questions and process the change in the world that everyone was suddenly faced with.

This first gathering had over 80 participants, and everyone was so thankful for the opportunity to have community. We partnered up with Fr. Jacob Saylor from the Assumption parish in Scottsdale, AZ because he had started the first Young Adult Forum in San Francisco many years ago, and has continued to offer this ministry wherever he has been assigned. He did a great job of both ministering to the young adults, and also allowing them to share from their hearts.

Youth & Young Adult Online Paraklesis, March 28, 2020

Due to the pandemic, we decided to offer an opportunity for our youth and young adults to come together in prayer immediately. We created a google document for the participants to sign up to help chant the service, and then we all prayed together on Zoom. It was a beautiful experience, and led to many other future online Paraklesis services throughout 2020 with His Eminence joining us as well.



Metropolis Summer Camp Staff Devotional, March 31, 2020



We wanted to offer an opportunity for our past summer camp staff to gather as a group to digest what is going on, and to reflect on what we are thankful for during this time. This was a wonderful gathering, and our staff were grateful for the support and community.



APRIL 2020

Metropolis Young Adult Lenten Retreat, APRIL 3-5, 2020



We had originally planned to have Fr. Tom and Pres. Pat Tsagalakis be our speakers with the theme of "Let Your Light So Shine", but we had to cancel this retreat as well due to the pandemic. We decided to continue to offer the online Young Adult Forum every other week until June to be able to offer a place for our young adults to gather.

Young Adult Online Forum, April 9 & 23, 2020

We continued to offer an online opportunity for young adults from across the Metropolis to come together as one community to openly share their thoughts, ask questions and process the change in the world that everyone was suddenly faced with. We offered this twice a month because everyone wanted to keep in touch.



Metropolis Summer Camp Talent Show, April 22, 2020



To celebrate the joy of the Resurrection, we decided to offer an online Metropolis Summer Camp Talent Show for our past campers and counselors. We had about 25 participants and many others who just logged in just to cheer their friends on and be a part of the fun. Some of the participants sang a song, some danced, did magic tricks, skits, and played instruments. This experience received such positive feedback, we decided to include it as part of our Virtual Camp program.

MAY 2020

Metropolis Oratorical Festival, May 8-9, 2020

After a lot of consideration, the Nation Oratorical Festival committee decided to cancel the festival for 2020.



Metropolis Summer Camp Brainstorming with Campers & Staff, May 6



There were so many unknowns about planning a possible Virtual Camp this summer, we wanted to open up the brainstorming and dialogue to all of our past campers and staff. We planned two different sessions for each group, and gathered a lot of valuable feedback from them about what they loved most about summer camp, and what they hope is included in a virtual format.

Young Adult Online Forum, May 13 & 27, 2020

We continued to offer an online opportunity for young adults from across the Metropolis to come together as one community to openly share their thoughts, ask questions and process the change in the world that everyone was suddenly faced with.



JULY 2019

Metropolis Virtual Summer Camp, July 13-31, 2020



We decided to offer a Virtual Summer Camp this past year due to the restrictions and the fact that St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center was not yet approved to open. Even though COVID-19 prevented campers and counselors from experiencing camp in person, the spirit of Summer Camp resonated through a virtual experience for 140 youth that continued the 38-year legacy of this exceptional ministry.

“A Summer Like No Other” emerged as a unique opportunity for youth to participate in a complimentary virtual three-week program that brought the Metropolis Summer Camp and Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center into their hearts and homes.

To prepare for an immersive experience, each camper and staff member received a Camp Box full of supplies to enhance participation in various activities and some additional surprise gifts that embodied the spirit of camp and the fellowship that would be cultivated during this program.

Virtual Summer Camp was held on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays for three weeks, with two-hour sessions every morning and every evening.

In the blink of an eye, the three week Virtual Camp came to a close, but not without some wonderful memories being created. We feel confident in this program that if we need to offer it again this coming summer, we would continue to build off of last summer, and add in some new surprises!

AUGUST 2020

Young Married Couples Summer Series, June, July & August, 2020



One of the ministries that has thrived over the last year was the creation of our Young Married Couples Ministry. We had been wanting to launch it for some time, but with the dynamics of the last year, we thought it was the perfect time to offer this ministry virtually to our couples who were quarantined together at home. The Youth Office decided to collaborate with the Metropolis Family Wellness Ministry and we launched our first Zoom **Summer Series** last June - August for young married or engaged couples to gain insight and helpful tools that will cultivate “wellness” in their marriages and family life.

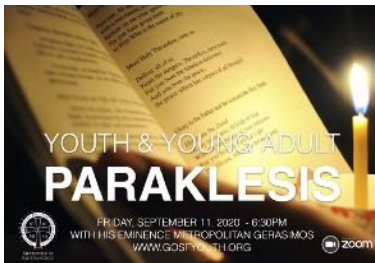
SEPTEMBER 2020

Young Adult Online Forum, September 9, 2020

We continued to offer an online opportunity for young adults ages 18-30's from across the Metropolis to come together as one community for conversational ministry which provides relevant, informed, and candid discussion of far reaching topics and themes relating to our Orthodox faith.



Youth & Young Adult Online Paraklesis, September 11, 2020



With the positive feedback from the past few months, we continued to offer these online opportunities for our youth and young adults to come together in prayer. We especially wanted to dedicate this day to prayer to the Mother of God as it was September 11.

Launching of “The Relationship Project” for Teens

In partnership with the Metropolis Family Wellness Ministry and Faithtree Resources, we launched *The Relationship Project* which is an all-inclusive program that engages teens in today’s most needed conversations.



OCTOBER 2020

Young Adult Online Forum, October 7, 2020



We continued to offer an online opportunity for young adults ages 18-30’s from across the Metropolis to come together as one community for conversational ministry which provides relevant, informed, and candid discussion of far reaching topics and themes relating to our Orthodox faith. We decided to open it up from just having Fr. Jacob Saylor as our guest to having a different guest each month. Our guest for October was Fr. Timothy Pavlatos.

Launching of “8 Dates” for Young Married Couples (Oct-Feb)

In partnership with the Metropolis Family Wellness Ministry, we launched “8 Dates” which was a ten week series during the fall and winter which led couples on eight dates dedicated to enriching their relationship, building Orthodox community, & strengthening their faith in God. We had over 200 registrations with couples from all over the Country!



NOVEMBER 2020

Young Adult Online Forum, September 9, 2020



We continued to offer an online opportunity for young adults ages 18-30’s from across the Metropolis to come together as one community for conversational ministry which provides relevant, informed, and candid discussion of far reaching topics and themes relating to our Orthodox faith. Our guest for November was Steve Christoforou from the Archdiocese Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries.

DECEMBER 2019

Young Adult Online Forum, December 2, 2020

We continued to offer an online opportunity for young adults ages 18-30's from across the Metropolis to come together as one community for conversational ministry which provides relevant, informed, and candid discussion of far reaching topics and themes relating to our Orthodox faith. Our guest for December was Fr. Seraphim Ramos from St. John the Baptist in Las Vegas, NV.



Bay Area GOYA Lock-In, December 4-5, 2020



Co-Hosted by the Church of the Ascension in Oakland and Church of the Resurrection in Castro Valley, we worked as a team to offer a Virtual Lock-In this year. We assembled Lock-In kits that each family picked up from the Ascension Cathedral, and then we met on Zoom on December 4 and 5 for a prayer service and some fun discussions and activities like a Christmas cookie decorating contest and a few games of "Among Us" through Zoom. It was a great success, and Goyans from throughout the Bay Area participated.

Metropolis Young Adult Christmas Reception Dec 11, 2020

This year we offered a virtual Christmas Reception, open to all youth, young adults, and families. We began with a Paraklesis service where the participants signed up to help chant the service, followed by a virtual tour of the Metropolis House and few words from His Eminence, and concluded with some virtual Christmas caroling. Families and individuals signed up to sing seasonal hymns and carols, and it was a wonderful time together!



JANUARY 2021

Young Adult Online Forum, January 13, 2021



We continued to offer an online opportunity for young adults from across the Metropolis to come together as one community for conversational ministry. Our guest for January was once again Fr. Seraphim Ramos from St. John the Baptist in Las Vegas, NV.

FEBRUARY 2021

Conclusion of "8 Dates" for Young Married Couples (Sept-February)

In partnership with the Metropolis Family Wellness Ministry, we concluded the "8 Dates" series which was a ten week series during the

fall and winter which led couples on eight dates dedicated to enriching their relationship.

Young Adult Online Forum, February 3, 2021



We continued to offer an online opportunity for young adults ages 18-30's from across the Metropolis to come together as one community for conversational ministry which provides relevant, informed, and candid discussion of far reaching topics and themes relating to our Orthodox faith. Our guest for February was Steve Christoforou from the Archdiocese Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries.



Youth & Young Adult Online Paraklesis, February 19, 2021

Our youth and young adults continue to love coming together in prayer virtually, so we will continue this ministry a few times a year.

MARCH 2021

Young Adult Online Forum, March 3, 2021



METROPOLIS YOUNG ADULT ONLINE FORUM

Join us monthly for an online Young Adult conversational ministry.

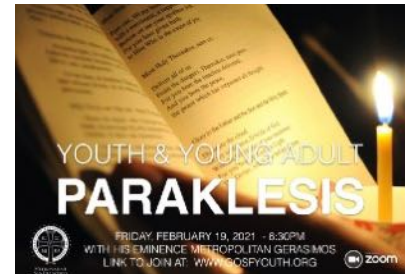
WEDNESDAY
March 3, 2021

SPECIAL GUEST
Fr. Nicholas Mueller
Associate Priest
Ascension Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Oakland, CA

All Young Adults, ages 19-30's are welcome to join!

More information:
www.gosyouth.org

We continued to offer an online opportunity for young adults ages 18-30's from across the Metropolis to come together as one community for conversational ministry. Our guest for March was Fr. Nick Mueller from the Ascension Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland, CA.



Launching of "Coming Home to a Better Marriage" (March-May)

In partnership with the Metropolis Family Wellness Ministry, we launched "8 Dates" which was a ten week series during the fall and winter which led couples on eight dates dedicated to enriching their relationship, building Orthodox community, & strengthening their faith in God. We had over 200 registrations with couples from all over the Country!

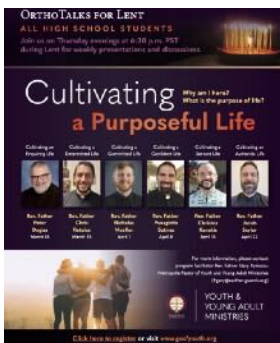
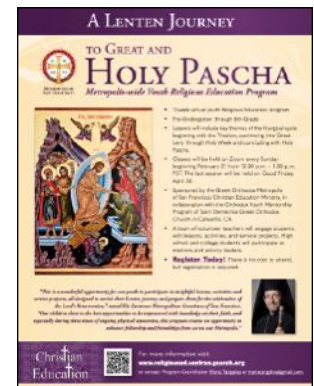


St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, March - May 2021

Thankfully the Archdiocese decided to offer the Oratorical Festival again this year. Most of the Districts and the Metropolis level are by video submission, and the Archdiocese is a live Zoom Festival.

The Lenten Journey Program- Virtual Sunday School - March - April

We teamed with the Church Education Ministry to offer a 10-week program taking our youth through the themes presented in Great Lent. This also served as a mentorship program, where our High School students were empowered to offer lessons and lead sessions with the guidance of experienced volunteers.



OrthoTalks for Lent, March 18-April 22, 2021

This program is providing high school students with an opportunity to engage in dialogue with their peers and have meaningful discussions on issues relevant to them, while empowering them on their lifelong journey as Orthodox Christians.

OFFICE OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

- More exciting and dynamic ministries for our Youth and Young Adults are being created.
- An App that can be downloaded into the IOS and Android platforms is in development.
- Armed with Faith is a Social Media feed, produced by our Young Adults, that can be found on YouTube, TikTok, InstaGram and Facebook.
- Regional events where connections with friends and, especially, to Christ, can be explored.
- Training, guidance, assistance to parish volunteer Youth Ministers will be provided.
- A Film Festival to showcase the talent of our Youth and Young Adults
- Collaboration between Metropolis Ministries, Church Education, Family Wellness, Outreach and Evangelism, Philoptochos and many more will be explored and instituted.
- An emphasis on our Youth and Young Adults is a top priority of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Fr. Gary and Johanna are thrilled to further advance our Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries towards creating, both fellowship and spiritual development for all involved.

SUBMITTED BY

Johanna Carter - Director - JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org

Fr. Gary Kyriacou - Pastor - FrGary@sanfran.goarch.org