

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

Lenten Resources for Parents and Catechists

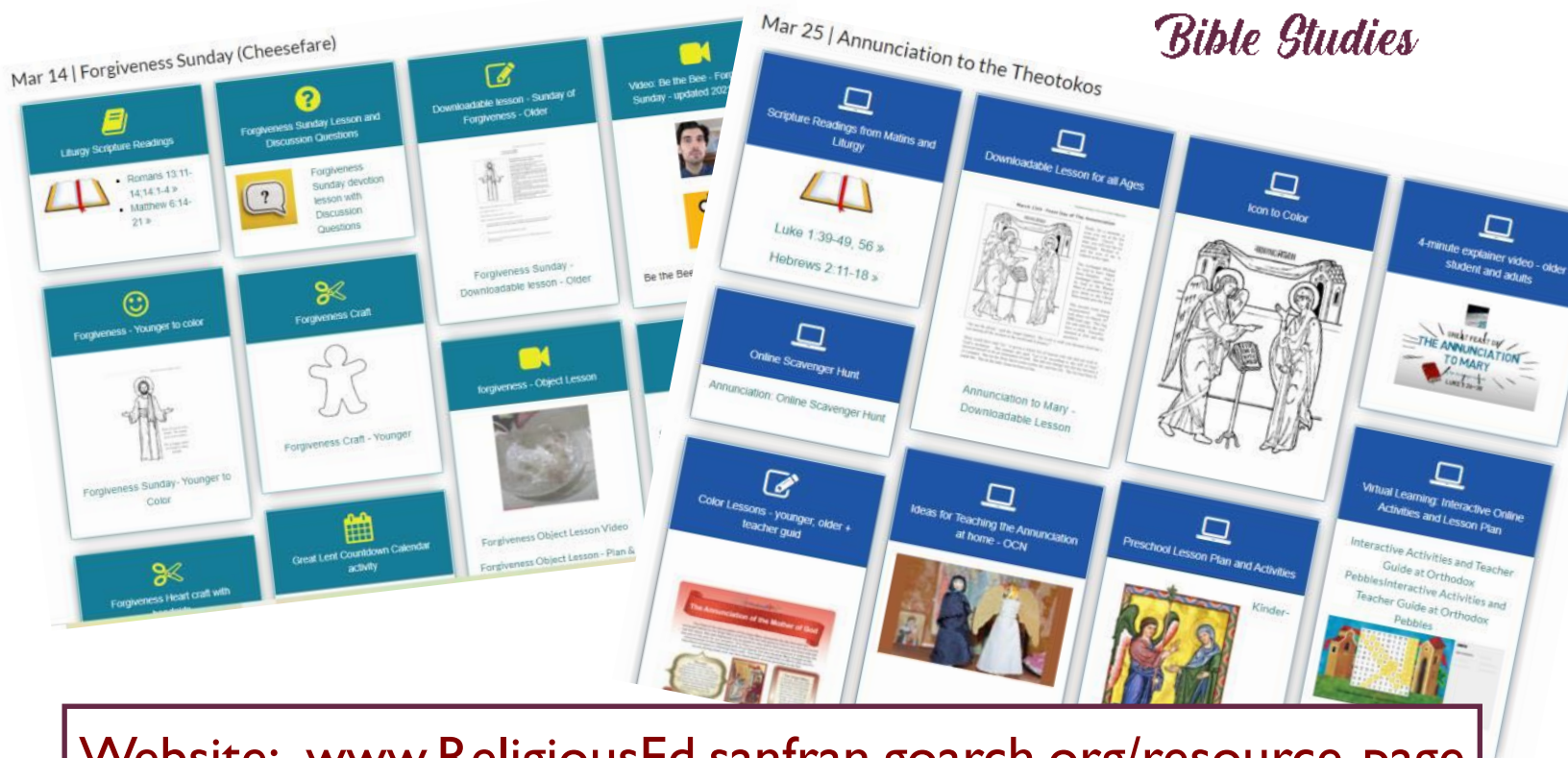
Videos

Lesson Plans

Crafts

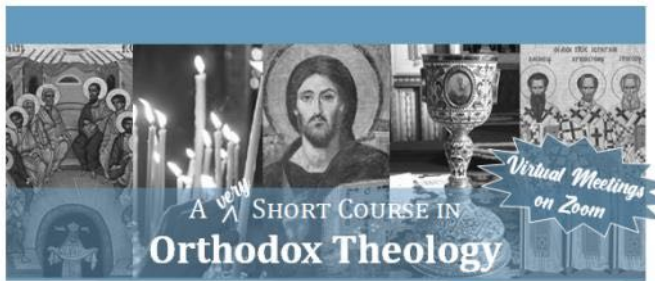
Activity Pages

Bible Studies



Website: www.ReligiousEd.sanfran.goarch.org/resource-page

Upcoming Adult Christian Education Opportunities

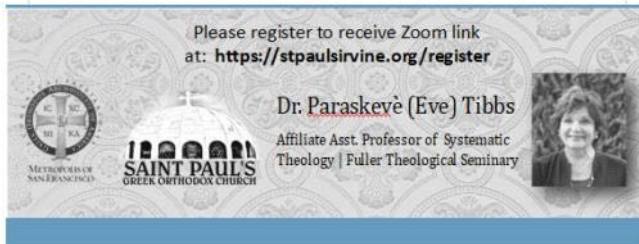


This free adult Christian Education course is offered by Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church together with the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. Each class session topic is independent. Attend when you are able—a series commitment is not required. The fast moving format is a combination of lecture, visual presentation, discussion, and occasional video. No homework. Supplemental readings will be provided by PDF at no cost. For more information, please email: info@stpaulsirvine.org

6 weeks beginning
**WEDNESDAY
MAY 11
2022**
7:00-9:00 PM
ONLINE VIA ZOOM



Scan for
Promo video



This spring, beginning just after Pascha, the annual **“Short Course in Orthodox Theology”** taught at St. Paul's will again be offered to participants within our metropolis. The course begins Wednesday May 11 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>

Father Angelo Maginas, the Assistant Priest at Saints Constantine and Helen in Cardiff-by-the-Sea, will reprise his informative three session (1 hour weekly) live online series entitled: **Christmas Unwrapped.”** 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 28, December 5 and 12 from 7:30-8:30 pm via Zoom. Look for registration information on the metropolis website in November.



Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival - 2022



The Saint Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is back in person this year! The Metropolis Oratorical Festival team includes myself, Mrs. Johanna Carter (Director of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries) and Mrs. Aristi Anagnos from St. George, Downey. The Metropolis-level festival has been scheduled for Saturday, May 14 at Saint Nicholas Ranch and retreat Center. Our robust dedicated website: SForatorical.net presents all the information needed by participants, parents, and oratorical festival coordinators. We hope that you will encourage your young people to participate in this worthy ministry that offers them an important platform for researching, writing, and speaking about their Orthodox Christian Faith.

www.SForatorical.net



This is the ninth year of regular face-to-face online meetings of Church School Directors throughout our metropolis. We typically meet on the 4th Monday of the month. Directors have expressed their gratitude at being able to share ideas and solutions with one another — especially in the wake of the many changes COVID has brought. Please let your parish Religious Ed Director(s) know about this in case word has not reached them. Participants should send an email to: religioused@sanfran.goarch.org to be included in the email notifications.



GOMSF Church Music Federation Ministry

www.sfchurchmusic.org
sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org



Metropolis Clergy-Laity Ministry Report

March 18, 2022

The music ministry of the Metropolis is grateful that we have been able to continually serve our Metropolis parishes, clergy, parish music leaders, and church musicians through a variety of initiatives and resources through another challenging year. Our Ministry Team Leaders work collaboratively in the Chair to provide the most relevant and accessible resources, workshops, and encouragement to our clergy and church musicians in small and large parishes.

Noted accomplishments from the past year as part of our year-long plan, "Returning Strong in Faith, Skill, and Purpose."

- Awarded \$1,500 in scholarships to support the church education of qualified church musicians.
- Supported 14 parish music leaders who completed the Liturgics I course in the Fall 2021 term of the St. John Koukouzelis Institute of Liturgical Arts.
- Presented a world class in-person and virtual event, "The Joy of Rehearsal: A Sacred Music Symposium" with acclaimed Orthodox music educators and composers Benedict and Talia Maria Sheehan at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Portland, December of 2021.

What's in store and ongoing in 2022 and beyond?

- **"Be, Do, Have: Planning the Best Music for Your Parish"**
An hour long mini-workshop introducing the ministry's service to assist clergy and their parishes to restore, enrich, or build music programs with a unified vision. **Saturday, April 2, 2020, via Zoom.**
- **"A Sacrifice of Praise: Singing in the Nave and Beyond." A one-day In-person workshop for exploring the benefits and effective practice of congregational singing.** Metropolis parish clergy and their church music leaders may now schedule this workshop for presentation after June 1, 2022.
- Completion of the youth/congregational hymnal project commissioned in 2019
- As many as eight (8) scholarships of up to \$500 each may be awarded to qualified applicants church to build their skills as church musicians.
- Enhanced outreach to parish clergy and music leaders to offer consultation and workshops suited to their needs and goals.
- Ongoing update of on-line library of music education videos through our website's YouTube channel.
- Keeping church musicians up to date and connected with monthly newsletters, on-line meetings and workshops.
- Building our website library with valuable resource links and stand-alone courses for clergy and church musicians.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Harkins, Ministry Chair

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME AT THE ABOVE E-MAIL ADDRESS SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR INITIATIVES AND RESOURCES OR TO SCHEDULE A PARISH CONSULTATION.



Family Wellness Ministry

Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of San Francisco

Family Wellness Ministry Report ~ 2021 / 2022

George Papageorge, M.F.T., Director

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Presvytera Pat Tsagalakis, Assistant Director

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Metropolitan Gerasimos
Spiritual Advisor

George Papageorge
FWM Director

Fr. Tom and
Pres Pat Tsagalakis
Assistant Director

Fr. James & Pres Donna
Pappas

Fr. Vasili
Hillhouse



Fr. Daniel &
Pres Michelle Triant

Fr. Timothy & Pres Victoria
Pavlatos

Joe
Borgonia

Fr. Nicholas
Mueller

Johanna Carter
Director of
Youth & Young Adults

OUR FAMILY WELLNESS MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM:

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos – *Spiritual Advisor*

George Papageorge – *Director*

Presvytera Pat Tsagalakis – *Assistant Director*

FWM Executive Team: Fr. James & Pres. Donna Pappas, Fr. Timothy & Pres. Victoria Pavlatos, Fr. Daniel & Pres. Michelle Triant, Fr. Tom Tsagalakis, Joe Borgonia, Fr. Vasili Hillhouse, Fr. Nicholas Mueller

Eight Dates Marriage Program

“Essential Conversations for a Lifetime of Love”

Our Family Wellness Ministry Team continues to partner with the Metropolis Youth & Young Adults Ministry successfully launching for the second time the 2021-22 **“Eight Dates Marriage Program.”** Our team has created an Orthodox Christian focused comprehensive curriculum to supplement the book *“Eight Dates”* by Drs. John and Julie Gottman. Each member of our FWM team has contributed to the production of powerful videos addressing important topics covered in this series. Over the last two years we have had over 400 couples throughout the country and across the globe register and participate in Eight Dates with great enthusiasm and positive feedback. In 2022, we look forward to launching **“EIGHT DATES PARISH EDITION”** - developing our FWM Ambassadors program bringing marriage enrichment directly to parishes.

All our Eight Dates Program videos and handouts are accessible to all through our [website](#) and on our Family Wellness Ministry [YouTube](#)

We have also created a separate series of [Reflection Videos](#) with the opening and closing remarks of our Eight Dates zoom sessions so couples won't miss out on any of the content.

EIGHT DATES PROGRAM VIDEOS Please **click on underlined links** to access the teaching videos:

- Oct 14, 2021 **[Eight Dates Introduction - Essential Conversations for a lifetime of love](#)**
Presenters: George Papageorge & Fr. Timothy Pavlatos
- Oct 28, 2021 **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, 11, 2021 **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 differences.
- Dec. 2, 2021. **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.



The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Family Wellness Ministry
and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
invite you to journey with us through

Eight Dates

Essential Conversations for a Lifetime of Love
by John and Julie Gottman, PhD.

held bi-monthly on Thursday evenings via Zoom

Each session is designed by our Family Wellness Ministry team to engage couples in essential conversations.
Topics include: Trust and Commitment, Addressing Conflict, Sex and Intimacy, Work and Money,
Family, Fun and Adventure, Growth and Spirituality, Hopes and Dreams.

“This series transformed our marriage and got us talking and connecting again.” – Jenn & Stavros

Eight Dates will be held Thursdays at 6:30 pm (Pacific) via Zoom

Oct. 14 • Oct. 28 • Nov. 11 • Dec. 2 • Dec. 16 • Jan. 13 • Jan. 27 • Feb. 10 • Feb. 24

Register online to receive links and handouts:
www.familywellnessministry.org/eight-dates



YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES

- Dec. 16, 2021 **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.

- Jan. 13, 2022 **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. 27, 2022 **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.

- Feb. 10, 2022 **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.

- Feb. 24, 2022 **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.

8 Dates Reflections / Conclusion (SPECIAL OUTREACH ESPECIALLY FOR CLERGY COUPLES)

Reflections and lessons - on our 8 Dates Journey.



FOCUS ON CLERGY COUPLE CARE - With the encouragement of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, our team continues to expand initiatives for Clergy Care.

Vision for 2022-23 Clergy Care:

- “Your Marriage Matters” Invitations to participate in 8 Dates with special clergy focused breakout groups, production of “Clergy Care” videos, messages, articles, and providing resources, counseling and support to our clergy.



• Clergy Couple's Mentorship Program

Intentional support shared with clergy couples. Our team will offer mentor training through our “Clergy Enrich Mentoring” Program

• **Confidential Clergy Counseling Support:** Provide confidential counseling and support by professional licensed Marriage and Family Therapist on our team for any clergy members facing crisis or needing support in their relationships or ministry.

• **NATIONAL Clergy Couple Retreat 2022** (October 3-5, 2022) Our FWM Team is actively involved in the planning and development of this important event for clergy couples around the country.



• **Metropolis of Sisterhood of Presvyteres Retreat:** This January, Pres. Pat Tsagalakis & Pres Donna Pappas and (Pres Michelle Triant virtually) were the guest retreat facilitators for this first in-person event following the pandemic. They continue to minister to all presvyteres through the Archdiocese through the “Prez to Prez” monthly outreach ministry. They also serve on the NSP Board and will be serving on the Sister to Sister mentoring program for Presvyteres through the Center for Family Care.

Serving as our FWM Metropolis Clergy Liaison is Fr. Vasili Hillhouse who offers FWM resources to our clergy and families during their regular Friday zoom meetings.



Our FWM Team is committed to working and collaborating together with the Archdiocese **Center for Family Care**



FWM Strategic Planning Retreat – Anchorage AK 2021
Fr. Vasili • George Papageorge • Fr. Timothy

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

This powerful series for couples was shared throughout Great Lent taking time to reflect on our lives, our marriages and our relationship with God. The focus was intentional RECONNECTION with God, to our spouse and 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." Over 150 couples participated via Zoom.

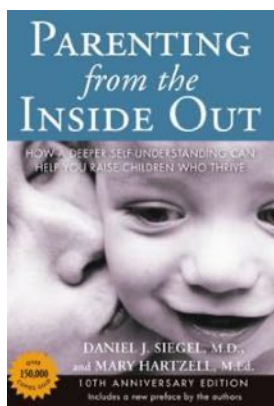
In the Pacific Northwest, Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church in Shoreline will be hosting **"Coming Home to A Better Marriage"** seminars each Sunday in May 2022



"Coming Home to a Better Marriage"

Spring / Lenten Series for Couples

			
Thursday, March 11 "How Couples Stay Connected" Presented by: George Papageorge & Fr. Vasil Hillhouse	Thursday, April 8 "One Fight, Two Winners" Presented by: Fr. Tom Tsagalakis	Thursday, May 13 "Stop the Insanity" Presented by: Fr. Timothy Pavlotos	



PARENTING:

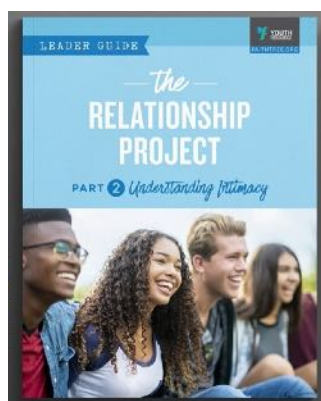
Spring of 2022 - We look forward to launching as similar series for Parents entitled: **Parenting from the Inside Out"**

"How a Deeper Self-Understanding Can Help You Raise Children Who Thrive"

MINISTRY COLLABORATION with YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Our Family Wellness Ministry team is committed to supporting

the social, spiritual and emotional health of our teens and young adults by contributing involvement in YAL workshops, FDF, zoom meet ups and retreats. We continue to partner with Youth & Young Adults Ministry, Faithtree Resources, in efforts to bring **"THE RELATIONSHIP PROJECT"** to teens and young adults throughout the Metropolis.





ORTHOTALKS

FOR ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL, JR. HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Dealing with Difficult People

EXTENDED FOR ALL TEENS! TUESDAYS, NOVEMBER 16 & 30
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join Father Gary Kyriacs, Metropolis Pastor of Youth and Young Adults Ministries, and members of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Family Wellness team for an in-depth discussion on Zoom! The gathering will focus on the Christian response to dealing and how to deal with someone that is mean.

Join the discussion to gain tools and ways to understand our human brokenness. We will take a look at ourselves too, and do a little self-awareness.

Visit the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Youth and Young Adults Ministry page at www.sanfrancisco-orthodox.org/youth

DATES

SESSION 1: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 - 6:30 p.m. (PST)

SESSION 2: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 - 6:30 p.m. (PST)

For more information, please contact program facilitator Rev. Father Gary Kyriacs, Metropolis Pastor of Youth and Young Adults Ministries (kyriacs@san-ortho.org)



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Family Wellness Ministry
Lead Minister: Margaret J. (Pat) Fawcett



We have held training seminars for clergy, youth workers / leaders, and informational meetings for parents. In 2021- 38 parishes in our Metropolis participated facilitating the "Relationship Project" either in person or through zoom. Members of our team have also supported Fr. Gary's efforts in the **"ORTHOTALKS"** series.

February 18-20, 2022, FWM Director, George Papageorge will serve as the workshop presenter for the 2022 **YAL conference** in Chicago sharing on the topic: **"Seeing God: Finding love everywhere you go"**

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.

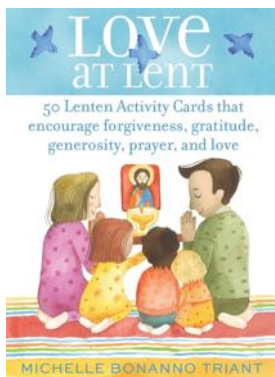
YAL - CONVO #4

Becoming the best version of yourself to find the one.



Presented by:
George Papageorge, M.F.T., Director
Fr Tom Tsagalakis M.F.T., M.Div.,
& Pres Pat Tsagalakis Assistant Director

Family Wellness Ministry
Metropolis of San Francisco



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. Love at Lent information is accessible through our website: [Family Wellness Love at Lent](#). Click on our [“Love at Lent”](#) video.

CONTINUING OUR SUPPORT OF FAMILIES THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

At the beginning of the pandemic, 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. We’ve continued to support parishes and families by sharing relevant information about the social emotional well-being addressing issues of stress, anxiety, and ways families can continue to be strengthened through these difficult times.



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

MEN’S MINISTRY

We are excited that Fr. Nicholas Mueller has joined our Executive FWM Team and will help support Men’s Ministry groups in parishes throughout the Metropolis

FAMILY FINANCIAL WELLNESS: Debt management and the stress of managing finances impacts the lives of families who are struggling in their financial wellness. There are several proactive ways families can address money issues and also teach their teens about financial responsibility. [Financial Peace University](#) has been an effective resource for participating parishes. Teen focused Banking Resource Apps such as [COPPER](#) helps teach teens how to budget, save and manage their money. Take the [Financial Literacy Quiz](#)

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 days after the pandemic where it is safe enough for our Seniors to join the “Senior Camp” at St. Nicholas Ranch.

EIGHT DATES AMBASSADORS AND OUTREACH: following our Eight Dates Program we will be mentoring couples and clergy to begin this **EIGHT DATES** series in their own local parishes.

Our FWM team is actively presenting workshops and retreats throughout the country Our Current Calendar of Events for 2022

Mon. January 10 - **Church Staff “Team Building Retreat”** with George Papageorge at St. Pau’s Greek Orthodox Church – Irvine

Thursday, January 16 - **FWM - Eight Dates** 6:30 pm (Session 5) with Fr. Daniel & Pres. Michelle Triant and FWM Team

Sat./Sun - January 28-29, 2022 – **FWM Marriage Retreat** @ St. Catherine (Denver, CO) w/ Fr. Timothy & Victoria Pavlatos

Fri. & Sat., January 20-21, **Sisterhood of Presvyteres Retreat** led by FWM with Pres Pat Tsagalakis & Pres. Donna Pappas

Thurs. January 28 - **FWM - Eight Dates** 6:30 pm (Session 6) with Fr. Tom and Pres. Pat Tsagalakis and FWM Team

Thurs. Feb. 10 - **FWM - Eight Dates** 6:30 pm (Session 7) with Fr. Vasili & Maria Hillhouse and FWM Team

Saturday, Sunday - February 18-20, 2022 **YAL Conference Workshops** – Chicago with George Papageorge

Thurs., Feb. 24 - **FWM - Eight Dates** 6:30 pm (Session 8) with Fr. Timothy & Pres. Victoria Pavlatos and FWM Team

Thursday, March 3 – **“Love at Lent”** Preparation Parents Meeting with FWM team - Pres. Michelle Triant & Pres. Pat Tsagalakis

Sat. March 19 - **FWM - Lenten Retreat** – @ Annunciation, Sacramento **“Our Journey Through Lent” – Life from the Heart** (George Papageorge, M.F.T.)

Thurs., March 3 - **FWM - Eight Dates** 6:30 pm Session exclusively for Clergy Couples – with George Papageorge & our FWM Team

April - **FWM Team Retreat** - TBA – Family Wellness Executive Team

April/May: **“Parenting from the Inside Out”** Series (Dates TBT)

Sunday, May 15 - “Coming Home to A Better Marriage” – Fr. Tom & Pres. Pat Tsagalakis, Holy Apostles Shoreline, WA

Sunday, May 22 - “Coming Home to A Better Marriage” – Fr. Tom & Pres. Pat Tsagalakis, Holy Apostles Shoreline, WA

May – Men’s Group Ministry Launch throughout the Metropolis – George Papageorge / Fr. Nicholas Mueller

Mon. – Wed. – October 3, 4, & 5th – **National Clergy Couples Retreat** with FWM Fr. Tom & Pres Pat Tsagalakis / Fr. James and Pres Donna Pappas

October / November/ Dec – **Eight Dates Marriage Program 2022-23** (Dates TBD) - Our Family Wellness Ministry Team



Eight Dates Marriage Retreat with Fr. Timothy and Pres. Victoria Pavlatos at St. Katherine’s in Denver, CO

January 28-29, 2022

St. Katherine’s has utilized our FWM Eight Dates videos and hand-outs during their bi-monthly in person Marriage Enrichment Meetings. They invited the Pavlatos’ for the weekend retreat celebrating the completion of Eight Dates!

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

www.familywellnessministry.org

Click on our **Facebook** page and join over 1,600 subscribers who follow us!

**“Connecting individuals, couples, families and clergy
through the heart toward healthy Christ-centered relationships.”**

~ Family Wellness Ministry Mission Statement ~





Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Metropolis Council and Clergy Laity Meeting

Begins: Friday, March 18 at 1:00 p.m. PDT

Comcludes: Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 3:00 p.m

Executive Board of Trustees

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos

Fr. Gary Kyriacou - **Chairman**

Spiro Beckas - **Vice Chairman**

Michael Syrengelas - **Director of Finance**

Christa Barbas - **Judge Coordinator**

Eleni Beckas - **Secretary**

John Buzas - **Legal Consultant**

Voula Contos - **Director of Competition**

Anthony John - **Competition and Livestream**

Manoli Rodarakis - **Director of Logistics**

Paul Mantas - **Director of Operations**

George Demos - **Director of Endowment**

Vicki Demos - **Scholarships Manager**

Johanna Duterte - **Metropolis Youth Director**

Fr. Christos Kanakis – **Ecclesiarch**

Kathy Loukatos Meck - **Choral Festival Coordinator**

Laurie Sahines - **Parent Representative Nor. Cal**

Anne Sirota - **Judge Consultant**

George Papangellin - **Judge Consultant**

Vacant - **Diakonia Project Coordinator**

Vacant- **Parent Repetitive So. Cal**

2022 Review

The 45th Annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival (FDF) took place February 17-20, 2022, at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown in Phoenix, AZ.

We hosted a FDF Welcome Social on Thursday, February 17, 6:00-9:00 PM, rather than a traditional Opening Ceremony. This welcome social provided a place for participants to reconnect and share excitement of the weekend. Participants could only access the social after they had checked in at Registration. The purpose of this was to ensure that each participant had checked in through the COVID protocols before entering a large gathering. It also enabled the Registration office to remain open all night (it is usually closed during the Opening Ceremony). Positive feedback of this style of event included: the elimination of speeches, relieving pressure of participants traveling to arrive to the site by 6:00 PM, and a space was created for people to socialize. We hope to evolve this event with the favored components of Opening Ceremony in the future.

Customary FDF events included: Dance Competition, Choral Competition, Division 3 exhibition, Chapel Services, Workshops and Awards Ceremony, which took place in the same venue, The Sheraton Phoenix Downtown. Positive feedback included: Events were of close proximity, the dance competition was hosted in one room, workshops were built for wider age ranges which enabled more flexibility for when participants could join them, the Awards Ceremony had no videos and few speeches.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros attended and was accompanied by Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzen and Archdeacon Dionysius.

FDF MANAGEMENT TEAM 2022

Christine Karambelas	Managing Director
Voula Contos	Director of Competition
Anthony John	Competition
Gregory Karapoulos	Competition
Elizabeth Keyser	Competition
Toni-Marie Koulos	Competition
Nick Metrakos	Competition
Alexis Rouches	Competition
Christina Vasilion	Competition
George Angelos Xidias	Competition
Christa Barbas	Judges Coordinator/Liaison
Panagiota Devekos	Judges
Manoli Rodarakis	Director of Logistics
George Mitsopoulos	Meals / Logistics / Security
Speros G. Mantas	Logistics
James Pallios	Logistics
Stavros Stathoudakis	Logistics
Anthony Stavrianoudakis	Logistics
Taki Vathis	Meals Lead / Logistics Coordinator
Elizabeth Kratsas	Director of Workshops
Alexandra Spirtos	Workshops
Angela Mead	Workshops
Christina Vavoulis	Director of Events
Sophia Pappas	Events
Katherine Rotas	Events
Konstantina Yantsides	Events
Angelica Whaley	Events
Anthony Bussa	Director of Registration
Anastasia Matiatos	Registration
Nicolas Pappas	Registration
Grace Paris	Registration
Viktoria Taroudaki	Registration
Paul Mantas	Director of Operations
Tonie Denae Bangos	Operations
Matthew Hoffman	Operations
Alexia Simitian	Operations
Nicole (Ossey) Freeman	Operations + Support

THEME

“MAZI” (Greek μαζί) was selected as the theme for FDF 2022, emphasizing the opportunity to come together and representing our community that shares a love of the Orthodox Christian Faith, Greek Dance and Fellowship. It proved to be an inspirational theme for the weekend and captured the emotion of the participants.

GROUPS IN ATTENDANCE

Primary Category		
Aetos	St. Basil	San Juan Capistrano
Kymatakia	St. Sophia Cathedral	Los Angeles
Ta Patriotakia	Holy Trinity Cathedral	Phoenix
Mikra Asteria	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Long Beach
Advanced Primary Category		
Enosi me Meraki	St. Nicholas	San Jose
Filia	Sts. Constantine and Helen	Cardiff by the Sea
Nea Zoe	St. John the Baptist	Anaheim
Aetopoula	St. John the Baptist	Las Vegas
Kyklonakia	St. Sophia Cathedral	Los Angeles
Junior Category		
Ta Angeloudakia	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Long Beach
Nea Elpitha	St. John the Baptist	Anaheim
Archangelos Hara	Archangel Michael	Port Washington, NY
Meraklides	St. Basil	San Juan Capistrano
Advanced Junior Category		
Thymosofi	Assumption and St. Katherine	Scottsdale and Chandler
Tharros	St. Demetrios	Camarillo
Yperifaneia	St. Katherine	Elk Grove
Vrondi	Holy Trinity Cathedral	Phoenix
Trikimia	St. Sophia Cathedral	Los Angeles
Choral Competition		
Effonia	St. Nicholas	San Jose
Aloha Youth Choir	Sts. Constantine and Helen	Honolulu
Division III Competition		
Opalakia	Sts. Constantine and Helen	Cardiff by the Sea
Seismos	Holy Trinity Cathedral	Phoenix
Ta Patriotakia	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Long Beach
Asterakia	St. Basil	San Juan Capistrano
Intermediate Category		
Armonia	Sts. Constantine and Helen	Cardiff by the Sea
Archangelos Neolea	Archangel Michael	Port Washington, NY
Patrida Tis Arhondias	St. Nicholas	San Jose
Delfinia	St. John the Baptist	Las Vegas
Junior Olympians	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Long Beach

Advanced Intermediate Category		
Meraki	Holy Trinity Cathedral	Portland
Paralia	St. Basil	San Juan Capistrano
Thiasos	St. John the Baptist	Anaheim
Triada	Church of the Holy Cross	Belmont
Spithes	Annunciation Cathedral	San Francisco
Senior Category		
Sinefakia	St. Sophia Cathedral	Los Angeles
Thiela	Holy Trinity Cathedral	Phoenix
Nea Ellas	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Long Beach
Hara	Annunciation	Sacramento
Enotita	St. John the Baptist	Anaheim
Advanced Senior Category		
Vroxi	Holy Trinity Cathedral	Portland
Periyali	St. Katherine	Redondo Beach
Aristofori	Assumption	Scottsdale
Erimos	St. John the Baptist	Las Vegas
Olympian Dancers	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Long Beach
Vrondi	St. Sophia Cathedral	Los Angeles
Sirines	St. Nicholas	San Jose

DIAKONIA

FDF Diakonia Project. For our Diakonia Project, we asked that participants help support local charities via online donation. This was to allow for more people to register on Thursday, and to eliminate having many people work closely to assemble kits. This also provided an opportunity for those who could not attend FDF in-person to participate in our Diakonia Project. Charities that we requested participants donate to included:

- [Andre House](#) serves to help the homeless communities in the downtown Phoenix area. [Andre House Wish List](#)
- [Sojourner Center](#) assists and supports women and children from domestic violence in Arizona. [Sojourner Center House Wish List](#)
- [Lost Our Home Pet Rescue](#) helps shelters pets that were abandoned but also provides a service to house pets who owners are temporarily displaced. [LOH-Pet rescue Wish List](#)

FDF 2022 LIVE STREAM PRODUCTION:

Our target audience is a global population of those who want to experience our event virtually. The livestream has the ability to archive all performances, which provides a library of content for people interested in learning more about our Greek Heritage and Culture.

I. FDF Live Stream events in 2022 and Data since inception in 2017 as of 2/23/2022

- * Subscribers: 2,541
- * Total video uploads: 86 streams/archived events over the past 5 years
- * Total watching minutes: 2,874,000
- * Total views: 318,858

II. Top Viewed Events this year:

2022 Division 1 Semi-Final	70,026 mins	5,217 views
2022 Junior, Adv. Junior, Choral	50,622 mins	4,024 views
2022 Division 1 Final Interm	59,874 mins	3,868 views
2022 Award Ceremony	52,722 mins	2,921 views
2022 Adv. Senior Final	49,134 mins	3,054 views

III. FDF's geographic reach in 2022:

Country	minutes	views
USA	417,288	30,421
Greece	5,574	1,331
Canada	3,396	247

Our whole library of 86 livestreams are currently available to view. The back library provides the benefits to communities to review past

content to learn and understand what suites work. . It is a great way to research costumes and study timing etc. This year we sold several add on slides that were placed inbetween set-ups and on breaks. In the future this could help with sponsorship of the event and offset costs.

WORKSHOPS:

<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Workshop Title & Description</u>	<u>Age Group</u>
FDF Management Team	Come pick up an on the go arts & craft!	Elementary
Fr. Apostolos Hill	<i>Building your Daily Rule of Prayer</i> We're encouraged to pray by our parents and priests but how do we start? Do we simply recite a few familiar prayers or read them out of a book? What if we don't really feel like praying at all? Does prayer only count when I feel like it, when I'm into it? And if God knows everything anyway, doesn't He already know what I'm going to say when I pray?	Middle School
Holy Cross Hellenic College Fr. Alexander & Anna Teodosiadis	<i>Introvert or Extrovert?</i> In this workshop led by Fr. Alexander Eliades from Phoenix and Anna Teodosiadis from Castro Valley, we'll talk about the struggles and rewards of working and being alone vs. with others. We'll also touch on Hellenic College Holy Cross and see how it can help tie us together and bring us closer to one another and Christ.	Middle/High School
Fr. Alexander Eliades	<i>Better Together?</i> We live in a society that is focused on the individual and we have been forced to spend a lot of alone time recently. Is this good? What is the Church's thoughts on being alone vs. being together?	High School
Cross Roads Alex Demos & Angelique Myers	<i>From Memes to Meaning: A CrossRoad Session on Vocation & Purpose</i> How do Orthodox Christian high schoolers find their purpose? How do we go from being future-oriented human "doings" to present-oriented human beings? Come and see the CrossRoad approach to love for self, God, and neighbor. Come with your big questions about life and faith. Come for a taste of the CrossRoad experience!	High School
Fr. Niko Bekris	<i>Athletes for Christ</i> Many writings in our faith often refer to athletics as a metaphor for the spiritual life. Many challenges in our life call for us to have endurance, steadfastness and to be firm. This workshop will be about some athletes who have inspired me, personally, such as Patrick Mahomes, Russell Wilson, Saint Tryphon the martyr and others. My hope is that in each of their stories we will also be able to glean something that will inspire us for the contest of our own life.	College/YAL
Dr. Timothy Patitsas	<i>Knowledge and Faith Together: Orthodox Education at Hellenic College</i> An opportunity for parents to come together to learn about the importance of bringing both higher education and faith together.	Parents
Sam Herron & Gabriel Cremeens	<i>Do you want to learn to chant?</i> Come learn the skills, steps and commitment needed to learn how to sing Byzantine Chant	All

FDF 2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS:

CHORAL COMPETITION

Director's Award: Stelio Scordilis, Aloha Youth Choir, Sts. Constantine and Helen, Honolulu

DIVISION II

First: Effonia, St. Nicholas, San Jose

DIVISION I

First: Aloha Youth Choir, Sts. Constantine and Helen, Honolulu

DANCE COMPETITION

DIVISION II

Sweepstakes: Trikimia, St. Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles

Board of Trustees Special Achievement Award: Thymosofi, Assumption/St. Katherine, Scottsdale/
Chandler, for their Pieria suite

Director Award: Nicole Masterson, St. Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles

Instrumental Award: Mixalis Skyriotis, Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont

Primary

First: Kymatakia, St. Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles

Second: Ta Patriotakia, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix

Third: Mikra Asteria, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach

Fourth: Aetos, St. Basil, San Juan Capistrano

Founder's Special Achievement: Not awarded

Choral: Ta Patriotakia, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix

Costume: Ta Patriotakia, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix, for their Anogeia costumes

Advanced Primary

First: Enosi me Meraki, St. Nicholas, San Jose

Second: Kyklonakia, St. Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles

Third: Aetopoula, St. John the Baptist, Las Vegas

Fourth: Nea Zoe, St. John the Baptist, Anaheim

Founder's Special Achievement: Filia, Sts. Constantine and Helen, Cardiff by the Sea, for their Horos Sta Tria dance

Choral: Enosi me Meraki, St. Nicholas, San Jose

Costume: Enosi me Meraki, St. Nicholas, San Jose, for their Kozani costumes

Junior

First: Ta Angeloudakia, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach

Second: Nea Elpitha, St. John the Baptist, Anaheim

Third: Archangelos Hara, Archangel Michael, Port Washington, NY

Fourth: Meraklides, St. Basil, San Juan Capistrano

Founder's Special Achievement: Nea Elpitha, St. John the Baptist, Anaheim, for their Savlitsena (also known as Trite Pate) dance

Choral: Nea Elpitha, St. John the Baptist, Anaheim

Costume: Ta Angeloudakia, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach, for their Evia costumes

Advanced Junior

First: Thymosofi, Assumption/St. Katherine, Scottsdale/Chandler

Second: Vrondi, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix

Third: Yperifaneia, St. Katherine, Elk Grove

Fourth: Tharros, St. Demetrios, Camarillo

Founder's Special Achievement: Yperifaneia, St. Katherine, Elk Grove, for their Tatavlianos dance

Choral: Vrondi, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix

Costume: Vrondi, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix, for their Anogeia costumes

DIVISION I

Sweepstakes: Sirines, St. Nicholas, San Jose

Board of Trustees Special Achievement Award: Olympian Dancers, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach for their Prinianos dance

Director Award: Evangelia Daskalakis, Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont

Instrumental Award: Matthew Carroll, St. Katherine, Redondo Beach

Intermediate

First: Patrída Tis Arhondias, St. Nicholas, San Jose

Second: Junior Olympians, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach

Third: Armonia, Sts. Constantine and Helen, Cardiff by the Sea

Fourth: Archangelos Neolea, Archangel Michael, Port Washington, NY

Founder's Special Achievement: Archangelos Neolea, Archangel Michael, Port Washington, NY, for their Roditikos dance

Choral: Patrída Tis Arhondias, St. Nicholas, San Jose

Costume: Junior Olympians, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach, for their Evros costumes

Advanced Intermediate

First: Triada, Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont

Second: Spithes, Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco

Third: Paralia, St. Basil, San Juan Capistrano

Fourth: Meraki, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Portland

Founder's Special Achievement: Not awarded

Choral: Spithes, Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco

Costume: Spithes, Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco, for their Karditsa costumes

Senior

First: Nea Ellas, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach

Second: Sinefakia, St. Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles

Third: Hara, Annunciation, Sacramento

Fourth: Thiela, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix

Founder's Special Achievement: Enotita, St. John the Baptist, Anaheim, for their Ena Kai Ena dance

Choral: Thiela, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix

Costume: Enotita, St. John the Baptist, Anaheim, for their Chios costumes

Advanced Senior

First: Olympian Dancers, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach

Second: Vrondi, St. Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles

Third: Aristofori, Assumption, Scottsdale

Fourth: Erimos, St. John the Baptist, Las Vegas

Founder's Special Achievement: Aristofori, Assumption, Scottsdale, for their Vamvakofyto suite

Choral: Sirines, St. Nicholas, San Jose

Costume: Olympian Dancers, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Long Beach, for their Ikaria costumes

Metropolitan Anthony Humanitarian Award

His Grace Bishop Spyridon (Kezios) of Amastrias

Metropolitan Anthony Leadership Award

Anthony Bussa

Managing Director Award

Christine Karambelas

2022 FDF SCHOLARSHIPS:

Each participant received \$1,000 check.

Archbishop Demetrios Scholarship

Jasper Eerkens, St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Elk Grove

Cynthia Anderson Scholarship

Anastasia Beers, St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Los Angeles

Chris Papadimitrakis Scholarship

Alexis Rakos, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, San Francisco

Fr. Homer Demopoulos Scholarship

Stelios Kyriacou, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, San Francisco

Fr. Anthony Moschonas Scholarship

Nick Bozonelos, Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church,
Cardiff by the Sea

Dean Phillips Scholarship

Jimmy Georggin, St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, San Juan Capistrano

Gerry and Jeannie Ranglas Scholarship

Maya Sorkhabi, St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas

Dr. Bobby and Mrs. Nikki Papoulias Scholarship

George Skordi, St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Anaheim

Isidoros and Maria Garifalakis and Family Scholarship

Zoe Goetze, St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Elk Grove

Peter S. Beckas Scholarship

Sophia Louizos, St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, Elk Grove

Athanasios K. Syrengelas Scholarship

Miranda Karmos, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church,
Long Beach

Anna and Nicholas Kyriacou Scholarship

Thanos Syrengelas, St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Anaheim





Greek Language and Culture.

Metropolis Of San Francisco

COMPLETED Projects

January – April 2021

- **January 2021.** Organized & Executed Live From Alaska The Celebration For The 3 Hierarchs. The event was attended by his Eminence Archbishop Elpidoforos, his Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Archons, Clergy & Educators from across the US.
- **February 2021.** Created a 75 page Bi Centennial Curriculum Work Book for our Metropolis Greek Schools. The workbook was promoted from the Archdiocese's Department of Greek Education and was Distributed to Greek Schools across the US
- **March 2021.** We organized continuing ed workshops for the Metropolis Greek Instructors.
- **April 2021.** We contacted Surveys among the Greek School Teachers to access their needs and how we can best support them.



Completed Projects

June – October 2021

- **June 2021.** Organized & Executed a community Bi Centennial Celebration at St. George in Downey CA. The main street in front of the church was decorated with Greek Flags. The Mayor of Downey was a guest speaker and she also opened the ceremony. Dr. Elias Petrou presented on “How Rich Is The Greek Language.” Greek Village was also represented with a booth. The Greek School performed “Το Κρυφό Σχολειο,” followed by the Dance group and the Sunday School. Big display of the 2021 Heroes & Heroines and The “Lavara” Of The Revolution.
- **October 2021.** Our ministry was the driving force in organizing and executing the 3rd Annual Educational Conference titled “The Role & Importance Of Hellenic Padeia In Today’s World.”




OPEN Projects

November – December 2021

- **November 2021.** In Collaboration with The Greek Archdiocese of NY we secured Chromebooks and Projectors for our Metropolis Greek Schools. We are currently working closely with the Department of Education and we hope to get more Hi Tech equipment for our Schools.
- **December 2021.** We started a Survey of our Parish schools as to evaluate their student sustainability after covid and their model of operation. Physical Location vs Online. The survey was distributed via e mail to all the parishes and we followed up with phone calls. Unfortunately the 8 Schools that responded are the ones that are currently operating.
- In Collaboration with the Niarchos Foundation and the Archdiocese's Department Of Education we have secured 10 Partial Scholarships for a 10 month Certification Program in the Teaching of Greek as A Heritage Language.



3rd Annual Educational Conference




**THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF
HELLENIC PAIDEIA
IN TODAY'S WORLD**

Ο ρόλος και η σημασία της Ελληνικής Παιδείας
στον σημερινό κόσμο

Presented by the High Council for Greek Education

Saturday, November 13th
Virtual Conference



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF GREEK EDUCATION


30 JANUARY

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos
and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco
Greek Language and Culture Ministry invite you to a virtual celebration
of Greek Letters Day and the Feast of the Three Hierarchs

Saturday, January 30, 2021
2:00 - 3:30 p.m. PST


Special Guest:
His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

ΟΙ ΤΡΕΙΣ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΕΣ



LIVE STREAM

From ALASKA
Holy Transfiguration
Greek Orthodox Church



Participation is free.
Follow the link below to register:
<https://forms.gle/2iZGIYNHRRW73H4GA>
*Registration ends 8:00 p.m. PST on Friday, January 29, 2021


Alaska

METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

200 *Ελληνική Επανάσταση*
1821-2021

GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURE


BICENTENIAL GREEK INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION



*Καλύτερα μιας ώρας,
ελεύθερη ζωή,
παρα σαράντα χρόνια
σκλαβιά και φυλακή...*

Όνομα / Name:
Τάξη / Grade:
Σχολείο / School:


<http://taniamanasi-koukou.blogspot.gr/>



ΜΙΑΟΥΛΗΣ ΔΙΑΚΟΣ ΦΕΡΡΑΙΟΣ ΜΠΟΤΣΑΡΗΣ
ΤΖΑΒΕΛΑΣ ΝΙΚΗΤΑΡΑΣ ΜΑΚΡΥΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ

Συνδυαστικές κάρτες για την Ακροστιχίδα

<http://taniamanasi-koukou.blogspot.gr/>



ΜΙΑΟΥΛΗΣ ΔΙΑΚΟΣ ΦΕΡΡΑΙΟΣ ΜΠΟΤΣΑΡΗΣ
ΤΖΑΒΕΛΑΣ ΝΙΚΗΤΑΡΑΣ ΜΑΚΡΥΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ


Συνδυαστικές κάρτες για την Ακροστιχίδα

25η Μαρτίου - ΚΡΥΠΤΟΛΕΞΟ-02

ΟΝΟΜΑ: _____

Γ	Φ	Π	Ι	Θ	Ξ	Υ	Δ	Φ
Α	Ε	Λ	Λ	Α	Δ	Α	Λ	Ε
Λ	Α	Π	Δ	Ν	Ψ	Α	Ψ	Ο
Α	Π	Σ	Τ	Α	Υ	Ρ	Ο	Σ
Ν	Δ	Ο	Ω	Τ	Ξ	Ψ	Υ	Ξ
Ο	Υ	Α	Ι	Ο	Π	Ε	Λ	Ψ
Φ	Ω	Π	Ε	Σ	Φ	Ω	Ψ	Α
Ε	Λ	Ε	Υ	Θ	Ε	Ρ	Ι	Α

- ΕΛΛΑΔΑ
- ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ
- ΘΑΝΑΤΟΣ
- ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ
- ΓΑΛΑΝΟ



ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ



Μας στη νύχτα παρακαλώ,
στο Κρηφό Σχολείο να πάω,
τα τετράδια στο χέρι κρατάω,
κι όλα τίσω μου κοιτάω.

Κι όταν είμαι τραυματίω,
τραγουδάει τραγουδάει
"αγγαγάρικι μου λαμάρ",
φίγη, μου να περπατάω,
να περπατάω στο σχολείο,
να μαθαίνω τρέμματα,
τρέμματα, σπουδάζω,
τον θείο - τα πράγματα.

<http://taniamanasi-koukou.blogspot.gr/>



Με σκεπάζω το χέρι φοβά,
και πίσω μου στην καρδιά,
δενά δίσωμε βαρό,
με μια καρδιά, με μια φωνή

Στις 25 του Μάρτη,
μες στην Αγία Λαύρα τη μονή,
εκείλους είχε φέσει
του μεγάλου Αγίου η σελή.

<http://taniamanasi-koukou.blogspot.gr/>



GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURE



Katerina Ionomou, MBA-MPA
503-997-5459
info@katerinaonline.com

GLC Contact Info



Katerina Iconomou, MBA-MPA
GLC – Volunteer Chair
503-997-5459
info@katerinaonline.com

Greek Language & Culture is A Ministry
Of The Metropolis Of San Francisco



Join us for Greek Village Immersion Summer Camp 2022!

June 11-18, 2022

Saint Nicholas Ranch
and Retreat Center
DUNLAP, CA

Ages 8-15

Activities Include

Arts and Crafts
Music and Theater
Greek Folk Dancing
Archery • Greek Cooking
Campfires • Canoeing
Greek Language Classes
And more!

Our Greek Village immersion camp began from the vision of a handful of Greek families back in 2010. It started with 25 kids, a lot of hard work, and was primarily privately funded. Today our ministry is a big success. Our program now hosts nearly 100 campers, fulfilling the dream of preserving Greek Heritage in all its forms - language, astronomy, theater, dance, and cuisine started a domino effect. Finally, the torch has been passed to the willing hands of a new generation of Greek Americans.

Let your child experience the Greek Culture and Language in a fun, creative and engaging week-long camp environment at Saint Nicholas Ranch - an ideal place where rolling hills, ancient oaks, a small lake, an apple orchard, and an olive grove provide gorgeous natural surroundings.

**For more information, contact Katerina Iconomou,
503.997.5459 or email ourgreekvillage@gmail.com.**



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM MINISTRY

In 2021 the Missions and Evangelism Ministry continued its directive to Educate, Equip, and Engage clergy and faithful in Evangelism and Missions in the Orthodox Christian Tradition.



Since travel remained limited this year, the Ministry focused on participating in virtual events such as conferences and other speaking opportunities, providing parishes with online workshops specific to Evangelism, and collecting and sharing resources and best practices for our unique mission field here in America.

The ministry also continued to support the 6 established Missions of the Metropolis by utilizing the annual fundraising campaign for projects that would increase their capacity to hold services and welcome visitors:

- Holy Cross, Flagstaff AZ: New flooring and remodeling which enlarged their useable space
- Holy Cross, Roseburg OR: Built a portable iconostasis to utilize a larger meeting area, hired a professional photographer for website photos
- Holy Resurrection, Salem OR: Printed new Service books for weekday services, and created new welcome packets
- Lake Havasu City Mission, AZ: Hired an Orthodox Christian content developer for social media campaigns
- Maui Mission, HI: Partially funded a new online interface (created by parishioners) to increase meeting capacity.
- St. Nektarios, Pasco WA: Partially funded an extensive roof repair.



Holy Cross, Flagstaff AZ, in their expanded space.

Thomaida Hudanish resigned as Ministry Director in November of 2021. We are grateful for her faithful service to this vital ministry, and we wish her well in her new endeavors.

Father Jerry Markopoulos is acting as interim Director while the ministry team, consisting of Fr. Photios Dumont, Fr. Aris Metrakos, Fr. Andrew Barakos, Cliff Argue, Connie Contes, and Lisa Buck, develops a strategic plan for the future of the ministry.

Your parish's involvement in the Metropolis' Missions and Evangelism Ministry is an important part of its future! If you are interested in participating in the ministry or supporting the missions directly, please reach out to us.

The Missions & Evangelism Team

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

Orthodox Parish Leadership

“Supporting Parish Health, Growth and Revitalization”

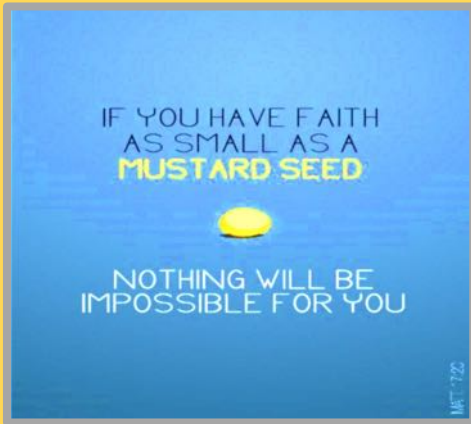
2021 Support Recap & 2022 Plan

Presented: February 2022

Steve Tibbs

714.345.1803

stibbs@bluevase.com





Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry

2021 Parish Support



Parish	Strategic Plan	Revitalization Plan	Stewardship & Fundraising	Leadership Development	Leader Coaching	Parish Org. Development
Assumption, Scottsdale, AZ					×	×
Assumption, Seattle, WA	In Process	×			×	
Holy Cross, Flagstaff, AZ						×
Holy Trinity, Portland, OR	Complete				×	
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	Complete				×	
St. Demetrios, Tucson, CA		×			×	×
St. Halambros, Peoria, AZ	×				×	
St. John, Carmel-by-the-Sea	Complete					
St. Nectarios, Covina, CA						×
St. Nectarios, Pasco, WA						×



Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry

2021 Parish Support



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



Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco



Additional 2021 Support & Potential Leveraging of Resources Outside of the Metropolis

1. ADDITIONAL 2021 METROPOLIS SUPPORT

1. Chair, COVID Parish Support Team -- 83 meetings over 87 week time span.
2. Meeting Chair, 3 Metropolis Leadership Town Hall Meetings.

2. ORTHODOX MINISTRY SERVICES

1. Parish Excellence Initiative Program to provide transformational support to 18 “early adopter” parishes spread across all GOA Metropolises.
2. Parish Excellence Assessment Tool (Level 1 & Level 2)
3. Parish Communication / Survey App - Assembly of Bishops
4. Parish Council Training Program
5. Web-based Learning Platform

3. ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

1. “Bringing Parishioners Back to the Fullness of Worship” Program delivered to 5 Metropolises; originated in SF Metropolis
2. “Bringing Families Back to Church” Program being sponsored by Family Life and Stewardship and Evangelism Ministries of Archdiocese of America. Currently in development stage; slated for February / March implementation.
3. “Have Parishioners Returned?” Archdiocese Clergy Survey; currently in development and planned for mid-January release.
4. “Effective Ministry Leadership” - Leader development presentation created and delivered to Alumni Board of Crossroads.



Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco



Orthodox Parish Leadership 2022 Plan

1. Parish Support Team

1. Lead the reframing and repositioning of this team within the Metropolis.

2. Metropolis Strategic Plan

1. Program Lead for the development of a new/revised Metropolis Strategic Plan.

3. Parish Support

1. Continuation of support being provided to current parishes.
2. Provide new or additional support to parishes seeking to improve overall Parish Health.
3. Respond to specific parish needs as directed by Metropolitan Gerasimos and/or Bishop Ioannis.
4. Focus of 2022 offerings: Parish Conflict Resolution, Capital Campaign Support, Strategic Plan Development, Parish Revitalization Planning, Healthy Parish Development or Specific programs designed to meet various parish requests.
5. Expand the OPL Ministry Team through the engagement of additional talent from within the Metropolis.
6. Explore key areas for leverage with the newly emerging “Orthodox Ministry Services” which can be deployed within the Metropolis.

4. “Achieving Parish Excellence”

1. Working with “Orthodox Ministry Services” lead a pilot program within selected parishes from within the Metropolis which will be used to benchmark parish effectiveness on a broader scale and implementation in 2023.

5. Ministry Infrastructure

1. Continue to expand awareness of Ministry through Communications and Marketing.
2. Complete website and/or e-delivery of key products.



PHILOTOCHOS

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly – Virtual via Zoom EQUIPPED: Building Up the Body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12) March 18 – 19, 2022

Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos President’s Report

*Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.
~ Matthew 6:33*

Your Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Your Grace Bishop Ioannis, Metropolis Council Vice-Chair Fanis Economidis, Metropolis Council, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is my honor to greet you on behalf of the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board today as we gather virtually for the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly. This is a wonderful time to 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.

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! Our way of providing hope is through our good works impacting many lives and serve 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 **45th Annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Folk Dance and Choral Festival**



will be held February 2022 in Phoenix, Arizona. We anxiously await the opportunity to gather with our youth for FDF and welcome His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros to our Metropolis. We will host the clergy family brunch following the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. We look forward to future co-ministry work of Diakonia in preparing meals for distribution world-wide in support of the fight against hunger at FDF 2023.

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 and distribute almost \$165,000 to our Students and Seminarians. 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!



A Kids ‘N’ Cancer Ministry, 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 and established a virtual format. 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! We continued our support by reimagining Camp Agape this year and hosted various in-person Christmas parties throughout the Metropolis offering holiday spirit, friendship and love. The tentative date for our next Agape Celebration is Sunday, May 1, 2022.

Light the Path 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

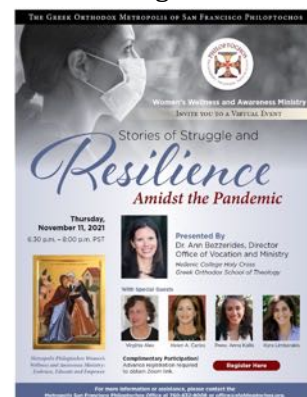
and holiday décor, Christmas carolers, and attendees enjoying a sumptuous luncheon and making donations to support this worthwhile cause. COVID-19 put an end to this in-person event, but it did not dampen the spirit of Philoptochos and their commitment to supporting the seminarians and students from the Metropolis of San Francisco. The goal is 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 at the virtual **Light the Path** gathering held on Saturday, December 11, 2021, which raised over \$120,000. Philoptochos women and men joined us for an uplifting, entertaining and informative program that featured videos and live presentations of students and past graduates sharing their feelings about the impact of Hellenic College Holy Cross on their lives.



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.

On November 11, 2021, this ministry held another session featuring Dr. Ann Bezzerides, along with other special guests, from whom we learned of “Stories of Struggle and Resilience Amidst the Pandemic.” This Zoom based seminar gathered over 80 women from across the Metropolis and Archdiocese. All in attendance were deeply moved through the honest and challenging experiences shared by the special guests and each other within breakout groups about their struggle during the pandemic and their resilience to overcome through strength and faith in our Lord!





The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos ventured into a new cross-ministry partnership by directly engaging and involving 618 young adults from 41 states. EXCLAIM was the theme for the **2021 Young Adult League (YAL) Conference** hosted by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco over Labor Day weekend in Phoenix, AZ. The strength of the YAL



ministry was demonstrated when the Metropolis brought back this annual conference in 2019 in Long Beach, CA with over 350 participants, and then in January 2021 with a virtual conference with over 400 participants.

This year, the first group activity to kick off the YAL Conference was Rise Against Hunger, where participants packaged 15,000 meals for those who are suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Rise Against Hunger is growing a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives and responding to emergencies. This Diakonia (Service) Project was entirely underwritten by the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos who collaborated with YAL and worked side by side with them to accomplish this goal. Metropolis Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas was in attendance for this event and remarked, "Serving others is a guiding principle of both Philoptochos and YAL. We are excited about this collaboration and look forward to working together to continue a tradition of service and to inspire the next generation of women – and men – as future Philoptochos members." At this conference a new initiative and innovation within the Metropolis of San Francisco is **YAL In Your Backyard (YALIYB)**, an opportunity to keep current and new members of the YAL family connected and maintain the enthusiasm of the YAL ministry in between conferences. The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos will continue to collaborate and work with the YALIYB to develop additional cross-ministry projects and future National Service Day Projects to demonstrate our responsibility to preserve the legacy of service through Philoptochos and the ministries of our Holy Orthodox Church.

The **Fall Spiritual Conference** presented by the **Ladies Philoptochos Society of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco** was held virtually on Saturday, September 18, 2021. Under the leadership of

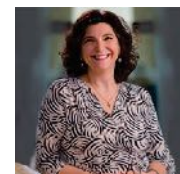


Metropolis Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas, over 130 Philoptochos members from throughout the Metropolis joined on the Zoom for a three-hour gathering that included ministry reports, elections and special presentations. The first presentation of the day was offered by Lea Christo,

MSW, LICSW, BCPA, who spoke on "Making Sense of Stress for Improved Well-Being". In her President's Report, Jeannie Ranglas reflected on the work of Philoptochos, and emphasized that this is not about who is doing the work, but rather recognizing that the Lord is using the members of Philoptochos as His instrument. Amy Kalogeropoulos, Director of the National Philoptochos Office, spoke about the importance of technology, and how it has been especially beneficial during COVID, and are ready to assist chapters in their



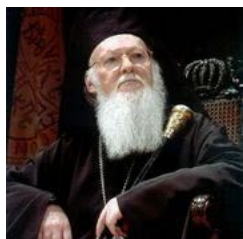
continued work for this transformative ministry. Several Metropolis Philoptochos ministry reports were presented which included: Kids 'n' Cancer/Camp Agape, Light the Path (Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund), Adopt-a-Student, Saint Nicholas Ranch-Philoptochos Lodge, Women's Wellness and Awareness, Social Services, Members and Youth Cross-Ministry Support. There were also National Philoptochos initiatives that were presented including: Operation Classroom, Feed the Hungry, and Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center. Elections were held for the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board for the 2022 – 2024 Board. Congratulations to those elected and appointed are: Judie Christopoulos, Kathy Connell, Stacia Counelis, Vickie Demos, Mari Lou Diamond, Agatha Felactu, Kathy Gabriel, Vicki Holloway, Cynthia Kezos, Genie Kontos, Maria Kypreos, Mary Lofton, Alexandra Mouzas, Mary Peros, Christine Psefteas, Jeannie Ranglas, Susan Valle, Elaine Wright, Lisa Xanthos, and Chrissie Zeppos. Honorary members include: Presvytera Evelyn Adams, Patricia Aleck, Sophie Mastor, Rose Sogotis, along with Honorary Past President Valerie Roumeliotes. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos conveyed his joy



for this opportunity to be with the members of the Metropolis Philoptochos, commended their good works, and encouraged everyone to reach out and bring more people into this ministry and bring God's love to those in need.

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.

We anxiously anticipated and welcomed **His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew** to the United States for an official visit which began on October 23, 2021 and continued through November 3, 2021 (His actual departure date was delayed due to a medical procedure.) The visit, originally scheduled for May 2020, was postponed due to the worldwide pandemic. The Metropolis Philoptochos Board presented a gift to His All-Holiness Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople - New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch on the occasion of the Apostolic visit. President Jeannie Ranglas presented a \$10,000 check in support of the Patriarchate. We also witnessed and celebrated the historic event on Tuesday, November 2, where His All-Holiness presided at the Thyranoxia (Opening of the Doors Ceremony) at **St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine**.



The **Social Services Ministry** embodies the spirit of Philoptochos by assisting those in need of caring, kindness and compassion. The need for such a ministry is paramount to our mission as Philoptochos women touch others both financially and spiritually in a manner which provides hope and preserves dignity. Our mission is to assist those locally, throughout our Metropolis, and on a National level, who are encountering crisis or in a position that is less fortunate. The continuation of such a ministry is essential to achieving our goal. This need was pronounced during the COVID pandemic and we remain vigilant in helping now more than ever in touching hearts.... and changing lives.

Love each other as brothers and sisters and honor others more than you do yourself.

~Romans 12:10

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.

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

Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center

Ministry Report

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

Overview

With the lowering of COVID restrictions the Ranch has reopened with some limitations. We are currently in level two of our reopening plan which allows for room rentals and for small group retreats and events. At this level we are limiting dining room and conference room usage to 50% capacity. The dorms are still not available for shared housing except for families or small groups traveling together. We anticipate reopening the dorms for shared housing in time for the summer camp season.

We are not yet at normal operations as many groups have either cancelled or rescheduled their events. However, groups are slowly beginning to return and most weekends we have a large number of lodge rooms rented by Monastery guests.

Both Summer Camp and Greek Village are scheduled for the summer of 2022. We anticipate limiting numbers to 50%.

Finances and Staffing

The Ranch Director and our Bookkeeper have been working with George Psefteas to meet the requirements of the Engagement Review. This has been both a challenging and rewarding experience. We are looking forward to continuing this process as we move forward.

The continued effects of the pandemic continue to present serious financial challenges. The Ranch Board is looking into options to address these challenges.

Due to our limited operations, our current staff is much lower than normal. In addition to the Executive Director, Office Manager, and Maintenance Manager, we currently have four Kitchen/Housekeeping staff. This reduced staff has been enough to maintain operations.

Renovations

During the past two years we have focused 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. Much of this work is complete or in the process of completion. 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: The expansion of the Saint Peter Conference Room has begun and will be completed in the coming weeks. This expanded room will accommodate more people and will include built-in audio-visual components for video presentations and a sound system.
- The swimming pool was resurfaced.
- We are repairing sidewalks and walkways.
- We continue to move forward on all the other items from the 40th Anniversary fund raising effort.



Forecast for 2022

The coming year does present some uncertainties as many Ranch activities in 2022 will depend on the status of the COVID-19 reopening. However, we are moving forward and anticipate that most of our regular groups and events will return for 2022.

We look forward to seeing all of you here at the Ranch soon.



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO



Stewardship Ministry Report to Metropolis Council & Clergy Laity Assembly

February, 2022



Extending Beyond Stewardship to Parish Support in 2022

- As COVID shutdowns upended our parishes, the need to create forums for discussion and experience-sharing became critical.
- Given 2021 Town Halls already went beyond the core subject of Stewardship and there is so much more to share beyond Stewardship, we are looking to **expand the aperture** on topics.
- With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and His Grace Bishop Ioannis, we plan to to evolve the monthly Town Halls to cover topics aimed at **equipping our Parishes** in this incredibly challenging time of re-birth and revitalization.

2022 Town Hall Series – “Equipping & Enriching Parish Life”



Stewardship Town Halls Presented in 2021

Date	2021 Town Hall Topic	Guest Speakers	Coordinating Groups
Monday, February 22	Youth Stewardship: Cultivating the Next Generation of Leaders	Dr. Ann Bezzerides	Metropolis Youth & Young Adults
Monday, March 22	Key Elements of a Successful Stewardship Campaign	Bill Marianes	N/A
Monday, April 19	Getting Parishioners Back to Church	Steve Tibbs & Fr. Barnabas Powell	Metropolis Orthodox Parish Leadership
Monday, May 24	Forming an Effective Stewardship Committee	Bill Marianes	N/A
Monday, June 28	Life After Festivals (As We've Known Them)	Steven Pappas & Bill Marianes	Metropolis Finance Committee
Monday, July 26	Fostering Community Outreach and Evangelism	Fr. John Kocolas & Thomaida Hudanish	Metropolis Missions & Evangelism
Monday, September 20	Creating an Ambassador Program & Visitations	Bill Marianes	N/A
Monday, October 25	Establishing a Planned Giving Program in Your Parish	Fr. Jim Kordaris, Bill Navrides & Maria Pappas	GOA Dept of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism
Monday, November 22	Welcoming Newcomers to our Church	Fr. Evan Armatas	Metropolis Missions & Evangelism
Monday, December 20	Implementing Donation Technologies & Year-end Giving Campaigns	Stacey Stathulis & Steven Pappas, Fr. Jim Kordaris & Bill Marianes	GOA Dept of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism



Planned 2022 Metropolis Town Hall Series

Date	2022 Town Hall Topic	Proposed Speakers	Hosting Ministry
Monday, February 28	Getting on the Road to Tithing & Percentage Giving	Bill Marianes	Stewardship
Monday, March 21	Building Stronger Families for Stronger Parishes	Presv. Pat Tsagalakis & George Papageorge	Family Wellness
Monday, April 11	Giving Thanks and an Attitude of Gratitude	Kristen Bruskas	Stewardship
Monday, May 16	Fostering a Culture of Lifelong Christian Learning	Dr. Eve Tibbs	Christian Education
Monday, June 20	Technologies for Engaging and Revitalizing our Parishes	Theo Nicolakis	Stewardship
Monday, July 18	Mission Work that Creates Stronger Parishes	Fr. Chris Flesoras & Fr. Jon Boukis	Missions & Evangelism
Monday, September 19	Leading Parish Revitalization: Impacting Six Critical Areas of Parish Life	Steve Tibbs	Orthodox Parish Leadership
Monday, October 17	<i>The Science & Art of Giving</i>	Meredith McNabb of Lake Institute	Stewardship
Monday, November 21	<i>Protecting and Embracing our Youth</i>	Steve Christoforou, Rhea Ballas, and/or Dn. Justin Bosl	Youth & Young Adult
Monday, December 19	Equipping a Stewardship Chair and their Committee	Fr. Jim Kordaris & Bill Marianes	Stewardship



Additional Plans for 2022 Stewardship Ministry

- ❖ Refresh Metropolis Stewardship Ministry **webpage** with additional content and resources
- ❖ Send out **announcement** to Parishes regarding availability of Metropolis resources for Stewardship, including in-person meetings and planning sessions
- ❖ Conduct vicariate/regional **roadshows**, in conjunction with Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry, to bring together parish leaders and share best practices on Stewardship
- ❖ Gather 2018-2021 **parish data** to determine macro trends on Stewardship giving across the Metropolis



2021 YAL Conference Ministry Report Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly - Online March 18 – 19, 2022

Submitted by:

Archon Hon. Steven & Stacia Counelis, Conference Advisors

Ms. Kristen Bruskas, Director of Development and Communications

Mr. George Anagnostopoulos, Conference Chair

On behalf of the 2021 YAL Conference Committee, we offer this report on the [2021 YAL Conference held Labor Day Weekend 2021 in Phoenix, Arizona](#). Many thanks to Kristen Bruskas for her authorship of the Metropolis Press Release which is an excellent summary of the Conference events and activities. Click the hyperlink to access photographs of the event with the Press Release.

Over 600 Young Adults Gathered in Phoenix, AZ to EXCLAIM their Faith!

By Kristen Bruskas, Director of Development and Communications

What happens when you bring together 618 young adults from 41 states? EXCLAIM! That was the theme for the 2021 Young Adult League (YAL) Conference hosted by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco over Labor Day weekend in Phoenix, AZ.

The strength of the YAL ministry was demonstrated when the Metropolis brought back this annual conference in 2019 in Long Beach, CA with over 350 participants, and then in January 2021 with a virtual conference with over 400 participants. Following strict COVID protocols to ensure the safety of all the participants, it was determined that an in-person gathering would be offered this year, and young adults turned out from across the Archdiocese for this opportunity to exclaim their faith through an interactive weekend of workshops, guest speakers, community service and social events, which was planned in its entirety in four months! The 2021 YAL Conference was the largest gathering of young adults in one place at one time in the Archdiocese in over 20 years.

The four cornerstones of the YAL ministry – **Witness, Worship, Service, and Fellowship** – were fully demonstrated throughout the Conference, and the young adults embraced every opportunity to be immersed in growing in their faith and finding their spiritual home in the Church.

In his video message to the young adults, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros stated, “You have gathered from across the country, representing every corner of the Archdiocese to exclaim your Orthodox Christian faith. I commend each and every one of you for your sense of urgency and for your heartfelt commitment to the Lord.” Archbishop Elpidophoros encouraged the young adults “to discover new and renewed ways of exclaiming the praises of our All-Loving God.”

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos shared with the conference delegates, “YAL is not just something that happens over Labor Day weekend. YAL is a way of life. YAL is your family. My beloved young adults, the future is not tomorrow – it is today! Reach out. Proclaim. Reclaim, Exclaim. Never underestimate that you have the power to make a difference, that your commitment to the Church can be even greater and deeper than those that came before you.”

A special video greeting from John Chrysoulakis, Secretary General for Greeks Abroad, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic was shared with the Conference attendees. His message of encouragement, hope and support for the young adults was warmly received and appreciated.

Witness

On Friday morning as the conference participants enjoyed breakfast on the lawn of the JW Marriott Phoenix Resort, a homeless man was seated nearby. Looking disheveled, unshaven, and covered in tattoos, most people walked by him. A few gave him some money, and others brought him food and drink. One even contacted hotel security to have him removed from the property. Little did these young adults know that this person was actually Keynote Speaker Bill Marianes, who later entered the ballroom speaking the words of Christ, “I was hungry... did you give me something to eat? I was thirsty... did you give me something to drink? I was a stranger... did you invite me in? I needed clothes... did you clothe me? I looked sick... did you care for me? I was in my prison... did you visit me?” “...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me.” Matthew 25:35 – 40.

What a powerful revelatory moment for the young adults, and what a teaching opportunity it was for Bill Marianes as he offered his address entitled “***WHY – LOVE – LIGHT – Being a Disciple of Christ In Your Jerusalem and Beyond.***” Bill challenged the participants to be prepared to answer this question from Christ, “What did you do with My church under your watch given all of the gifts I gave You?”

On Saturday morning, Rev. Dr. Nicholas Louh presented his Keynote entitled “***Exclaiming Your Faith by Renewing Your Life,***” a powerful and inspiring offering to all in attendance. He showed how the path to renewing one’s Faith, Mind and Purpose is clearly and practically found in scriptural and patristic sources. Father Nicholas called upon the participants to realize that each person is a miracle for whom God has a plan, while at the same time does the devil, resulting in constant spiritual warfare. As Father Nicholas said, “If you don’t know Why you are on this earth, the devil will show you his Way on this Earth.” Father Nicholas concluded with these encouraging three steps: “I decide to let the God who designed my life, be the definer who is guiding my life. I decide to fight harder for my soul, than the devil is fighting for my life. I decide that I am not going to believe in the devil’s lies, but I am going to fulfill God’s dream for my life.”

On Saturday afternoon, Bill Marianes served as moderator and interviewer for “Live with the Louhs”, featuring Father Nicholas Louh and his wife, Dr. Roxanne Louh. This talk-show style discussion was driven by questions from the audience about a number of topics, based on the Louhs’ new book “Renewing You” as well as real life concerns from the young adults. Dr. Roxanne Louh, a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice, shared her expertise and offered her special and unique insights to questions about interpersonal relationships, interfaith relationships and how to discern what kind of person is the “right” spouse. Dr. Roxanne’s most memorable advice was for young adults to identify from among their “top shelf” friends as those with whom a life-long relationship could be created.

Service

The first group activity to kick off the YAL Conference was Rise Against Hunger, where participants packaged 15,000 meals for those who are suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Rise Against Hunger is growing a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives and responding to emergencies. This Diakonia (Service) Project was entirely underwritten by the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos who collaborated with YAL and worked side by side with them to accomplish this goal. Metropolis Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas was in attendance for this event and remarked, “Serving others is a guiding principle of both Philoptochos and YAL. We are excited about this collaboration and look forward to working together to continue a tradition of service and to inspire the next generation of women – and men – as future Philoptochos members.”

Fellowship

The YAL Conference provided many opportunities for fellowship and networking, including a Welcome Reception on Thursday evening, and the “Desert Oasis” dinner and dance on Friday evening featuring DJ Bobby Karounos from New York. The Grand Banquet was held on Saturday night with dancing to the music of Synthesi from California. The final event for the weekend, “YeeHaw YAL”, transported the conference attendees to Rawhide Western Town where they enjoyed a barbecue, hayrides, a mechanical bull, table games, and dancing once again with DJ Bobby.

Worship

Daily worship was offered during the conference including morning Orthros services on Friday and Saturday, Paraklesis on Friday evening, and Great Vespers on Saturday evening. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral welcomed the YAL participants to the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos along with several clergy. Between the YAL Conference attendees and the local parishioners, the Cathedral welcomed over 800 people on this day for uplifting worship. A chant choir comprised of visiting young adults, offered their talented voices during the services. The Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish Council presented a delicious brunch for all the Conference attendees following the Divine Liturgy.

What Is Your Vocation?

On Friday afternoon following the inspirational presentation by Bill Marianes, the conference participants divided into small groups based on vocation, an important innovation brought to the YAL Conference for the first time. These convos were led by professionals in the fields of Business (Irene Aviles – JF Real Estate Partners, Inc.; Christos Kyriazi – Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Hyperion Capital Partners); STEM (Andrew Contes – Intel Corporation, Engineering Manager; Alissa Koukourikos – Universal Studios, Engineer); Medicine (Dr. Gregory Papadeas, Dr. Peter Piperis); Law (Honorable Steven Counelis – Riverside County Superior Court Judge; Nancy Georgiou Chilimidos – Contra Costa County, Senior Deputy District Attorney); Education (Hon. James Mousalimas – Superintendent of Schools, San Joaquin County-Retired); Media/Communications (Frosene Phillips – Gumas Advertising, Director of Operations, and Executive Director, Elios Society); Non-Profit (Dr. John Moxen – FOCUS North America, National Program Manager), and Creative/Arts (Robert Krantz – Ellinas Multimedia). During these sessions, young adults learned how they can offer their professional skills into service and stewardship for the Church.

Clergy Connection

Maintaining a strong connection for young adults with clergy was an important component of the weekend, with clergy present throughout all the activities, leading daily worship, and also facilitating workshops to delve deeper and more personally into the content of Father Nicholas Louh’s Keynote Address. The clergy who participated were: V. Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostomos Gilbert (New York, NY); Father Andrew Barakos (Assumption – Scottsdale, AZ), Father Apostolos Hill (Holy Trinity Cathedral – Phoenix, AZ); Father Bob Fox (Saint Barbara – Santa Barbara, CA); Father Jacob Saylor (Assumption – Scottsdale, AZ), Father Nicholas Mueller (Ascension

Cathedral – Oakland, CA), Father James Kumarelas (Saint Demetrios – Seattle, WA), and Father Alexander Eliades (Holy Trinity Cathedral – Phoenix).

YAL In Your Backyard

A new initiative and **innovation** within the Metropolis of San Francisco is YAL In Your Backyard (YALIYB), an opportunity to keep current and new members of the YAL family connected and maintain the enthusiasm of the YAL ministry in between conferences. YALIYB co-chairs Eva Marie Kailas and Yianna Papadeas presented this program, and offered this organizational tool for other Metropolises to utilize as they wish. Suggested activities include local parish Young Adult events, regional gatherings, and community service projects. See the detailed report below.

Ministry Pavilion

A Ministry Pavilion, another Conference **innovation**, featured several Orthodox ministries. Conference attendees received a “Ministries Passport” which they had stamped for each booth they visited. The collaboration of these ministries with YAL was very valuable and favorably received. Featured guests in the Pavilion included: Orthodox Christian Mission Center, CrossRoad, Hellenic College Holy Cross, Project Mexico, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, and the National Hellenic Society/Heritage Greece. Representatives from these organizations also offered short verbal and video presentations during the conference to further highlight their work. Thanks to the generosity of the Phoenix-area Philoptochos chapters, the Ministry Pavilion also offered fresh baked Greek pastries for all to enjoy throughout the weekend.

Networking by Metropolis

Another Conference **innovation** was the Networking by Metropolis Convo, where young adults gathered with each other from the same Metropolis, perhaps for the first time! Young adults became informed of their own Metropolis YAL ministry activities, and organized themselves for future events and gatherings.

Keeping Our Young Adults Safe

The planning for this conference required special attention to providing a safe environment for a large in-person gathering. In consultation with medical professionals and the Metropolis COVID Parish Support Team, a rigorous protocol was established for all conference attendees, vendors, speakers and clergy. This included obtaining a negative PCR test for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, within 72 hours of arrival at the conference. We reached 100% compliance amongst all attendees, who completed a sophisticated and streamlined digital registration process.

The Village That Made It All Happen

With the spiritual guidance of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, the YAL Conference Committee was led by George Anagnostopoulos – Chairman, and Executive Committee members: Marissa Hondros, Eva Marie Kailas, Christiana Konugres, Christos Kyriazi, Penelope Kyriazi, Anastasia Matty, Niko Panagiotakopoulos, Yianna Papadeas, Christos Schwarz, Christine Scolinos, Marina Settelmayr, Costa Theodore, Stavroula Tsantilas, and Jennifer Walters. The Honorable Steven and Stacia Counelis serve as the Advisors for the YAL Conference ministry. Metropolis staff support was provided by: Kristen Bruskas (Director of Development and Communications); Johanna Duterte Carter (Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries); Paul Gikas (Director of Ministries and Administration); and Father Gary Kyriacou (Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministries). The 2021 YAL Conference was the recipient of a generous grant from the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund. This permitted the Committee to make this year’s event as affordable and accessible as possible. Additional contributions from several private donors demonstrated their commitment and vision for the growth of the YAL ministry.

In his closing remarks, chairman George Anagnostopoulos challenged the young adults with this message, “This weekend is all about EXCLAIMING - exclaiming your faith, your YAL family, your church, and your

community. But that doesn't have to end this weekend. This is your call to exclaim, because if you work hard enough, pray hard enough, and dream hard enough, you can create an incredible life story. Let's make the most of this life! Go back home to your communities, join your Parish Council, start a YAL In Your Backyard chapter in your region, join a YAL conference board, be a Sunday School teacher, sing in the choir. Get involved! It's never too early to make a difference, because a life well-lived is a life serving the church!"

YAL in Your Backyard, a Ministry by Young Adults for Young Adults



By George Anagnostopoulos

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco is pleased to announce a new Young Adult conceived, organized and led initiative, ***YAL In Your Backyard!*** Created out of the desire and need to continue the “specialness” of its signature YAL Conference year-round, YAL In Your Backyard seeks to connect current and new members of local YAL communities in fellowship, faith and fun!

How Does it Work?

This grassroots program is structured by young adult volunteers to organize, host, and implement YAL events in their own communities. The volunteers can organize these hang outs or events as small or large, simple or complex, as they wish, and for as many young adults who are in their area. An example is a bible study and dinner, a nature hike, or coordinated group Church attendance with brunch to follow, to name a few options. This is a great opportunity for creativity!

YALIYB will rely upon the leadership of local YAL volunteers to help organize a minimum of two regional events during the first two quarters of the year. This is a minimum, and the volunteers can organize more events as they feel inclined and their schedule allows.

The latter two quarters of the year will be organized by the YAL Conference Committee. The third quarter is the Metropolis of San Francisco YAL Conference Labor Day Weekend. During the fourth quarter we plan to host and organize a YAL National Day of Service where young adults can help the chosen philanthropic organization or ministry in their own communities, i.e., in their own backyards.

What does the YALIYB Committee Do?

As an organization, our goal is to provide the structure, mentorship and support needed for the volunteers to make sure these events are creative, cohesive, faith-based and promoted as best as effectively as possible. We are providing the young adults the following tools to be successful and inclusive in their good works.

1. One on one mentorship and guidance on how to structure and promote their chosen gathering or event.

2. YALIYB-branded flyers and marketing materials that are easily customizable for distribution to their parish, friends and on social media.
3. Utilize Metropolis of San Francisco YAL Conference app "DISCORD" (400+ users) to promote their activity/event. The app will have "channels" separated by region that all users can see and become informed about the event.
4. Connection to youth directors, local parish priests and parishes for support, outreach, integration and coordination.

YALIYB is the tool for year-round YAL ministry in our own Metropolis, and has been made available to Young Adults throughout the Archdiocese as an organizational tool.

YALIYB in the Metropolis of San Francisco

Metropolitan Gerasimos has blessed this ministry outreach within our Metropolis as a year-round extension of our YAL Conference Ministry and Event.

The YALIYB program will inspire and give young adults the forum to become involved locally with their fellow young adults, bring them closer to one another and the Church. A goal is to develop a self-sustaining ministry where participants will be inspired by the young adult volunteers and ask how they can become involved. We have witnessed this magnificent dynamic happen first hand with our own Metropolis YAL Conference. Many former attendees became part of the leadership team because they felt the call to serve the Church and the greater purposes of YAL; they yearn to be part of the movement which young adults are creating.

The YAL Conference Ministry formally launched the initiative to all attendees at our 2021 Labor Day Weekend Conference in Phoenix before all 620 young adults present, with clergy and youth workers present. As a result, a new movement was sparked throughout the Archdiocese!

YALIYB events held in 2021 included:

1. SoCal Beach Meet Up: Newport Beach, CA
2. Potluck at Father Photios Dumont Household: Shoreline, WA
3. Backyard BBQ: Palos Verdes, CA
4. An Evening of Wine, Cheese & Fellowship: Lincolnshire, IL
5. Visit to St. John's Place of Repose: Capitol Hill, WA
6. SoCal Greek Village Gala supporting the Festival of Hearts: Irvine, CA
7. Friendsgiving Potluck: Seattle WA
8. Pilgrimage to St. John's Chapel: Seattle, WA
9. National Service Project with FOCUS; St. Nicholas Sacks - Q4 2021. Please read the entire story about [YALIYB collaboration with FOCUS here!](#)

Local coordinators throughout the country are planning events for Q1 and Q2 of 2022.

To learn more or to start a YALIYB chapter at your parish, email yalinyourbackyard@gmail.com to learn more!

Follow us on Instagram: @yal.iyb or on Facebook: YAL IN YOUR BACKYARD



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Monthly Young Adult Online Forums

The Young Adult Forum is a casual, conversational ministry for young adults, ages 18-30's, which provides relevant, informed, and candid discussion of far reaching topics and themes relating to our Orthodox faith. Set-up in a relaxed, virtual environment, our goal is genuine interaction and fellowship, and through the exchange of ideas and perspectives, a deepening understanding of our ancient Orthodox tradition and a growing in genuine love for one another. Each month we would feature a special guest, and focus on different relevant topics.



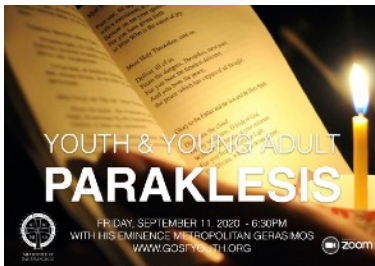
St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival - March - May

The Archdiocese decided to offer the Oratorical Festival this year after taking a break in 2020. Four out of the five Districts offered festivals and one of them was in-person, while the others along with the Metropolis Festival were by video submission. The Archdiocese offered a live Zoom Festival.

Congratulations to Kathleen Virsik and Maria Daniels for being selected as our Metropolis finalists. Kathleen Virsik took first place honors in the Senior Division, and Maria Daniels was named the first place winner for the Junior Division.



Monthly Youth & Young Adult Online Paraklesis Services



For the past two years, we have offered online Paraklesis services for youth and young adults throughout the year. The participants have the opportunity to sign up to help chant the parts of the service using a live google document. This ministry has been a blessing for all who participate, and an inspiration to the family members to get to witness the youth and young adults across our Metropolis and Archdiocese chant the service together.

“Coming Home to a Better Marriage” - March-May

In partnership with the Metropolis Family Wellness Ministry, we launched “*Coming Home to a Better Marriage*” series. This was three workshops that focused on integrating cutting edge marriage research with the cutting edge of the Word of God. Reflections from the Parable of the Prodigal Son allowed us to see how the Journey of Marriage fits beautifully into the Lenten Journey. The theme of “coming home” guided us toward the authentic love of God, the authentic self, and the authentic marriage that connects from the heart.



Metropolis Virtual Summer Camp, July 19-30, 2021

We offered a Virtual Summer Camp this past year again 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 50 youth and 20 staff members that continued the legacy of this exceptional ministry.

“*A Summer Like No Other*” emerged as a unique opportunity for youth to participate in a complimentary virtual two-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 two weeks, with two-hour sessions every morning and every evening.



In the blink of an eye, the two-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!



Regional In-person Summer Day Camps & Gatherings: June - August, 2021

In addition to our Metropolis Virtual Summer Camp, we wanted to offer regional in-person summer gatherings across the Metropolis for our youth, young adults, and families to gather. With the help of a grant from Leadership 100, multiple in-person gatherings across the Metropolis were able to happen.

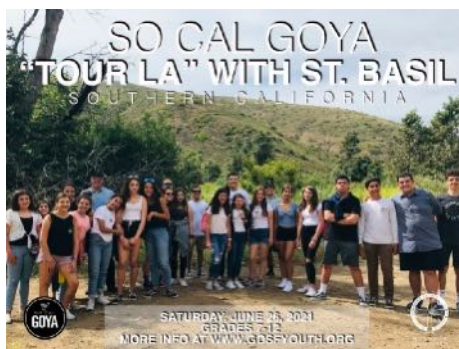


So Cal GOYA Formal Glendi- June 19, 2021



Organized by Southern California parents, an evening Glendi was held at St. John the Baptist in Anaheim, CA for all Southern California High School youth. Over 110+ youth attended the evening filled with dancing, discussions about the faith, fellowship and fun. Parent volunteers prepared and donated a delicious grab n' go heavy hors d'oeuvres and dessert menu. This collaborative effort was a true example of working together in Christian love in support of our parishes, families and youth. The money given to this event from the Leadership 100 grant helped to offset the program costs.

So Cal GOYA "Tour LA" with St. Basil - June 26, 2021



A Day Camp opportunity for youth in Southern California to attend the Orange County Food Bank and help distribute food, followed by an afternoon of exploring Los Angeles, having discussions about the faith, and an evening church service. The cost of the rental vans was covered by the Leadership 100 grant.



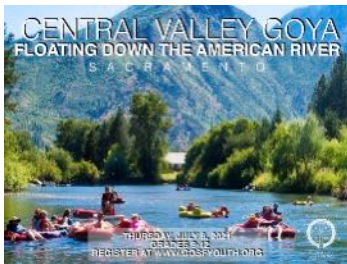
Bay Area GOYA Summer Kick Off - June 29, 2021



The Ascension Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Oakland, CA hosted a gathering of GOYA members from the bay area on Saturday, June 26, 2021. Over 60 youth from the parishes of Ascension Cathedral (Oakland), Holy Cross (Belmont), Resurrection (Castro Valley), Nativity of Christ (Novato) and Saint Nicholas (San Jose) enjoyed an evening of fellowship and rekindled friendships that had been relegated to Zoom and FaceTime for the past 18 months. Special guests for the evening included His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea.



Central Valley GOYA Float Down the American River - July 8, 2021



A Day camp in Sacramento, CA for High School youth to come together and explore the local American River while also having discussions, activities, meals, an evening Paraklesis service and Q& A session together with the local clergy. The cost of the rafting and meals was covered with the help of the grant.



Bay Area Family Beach Day in Santa Cruz - July 10, 2021



A beautiful opportunity for Bay Area families to gather for a day at the beach in Santa Cruz with organized activities like a sandcastle competition (with prizes), boogie boarding with Fr. Milutin, beach volleyball, and evening Vespers at Prophet Elias in Santa Cruz. The cost of activity supplies and snacks was covered with the grant.



All Saints Camp 1-Day Retreat — July 10, 2021



A Day Camp for youth in the Pacific Northwest at All Saints Camp in Washington with all the traditional camp activities. They used the grant funds to help support the one day retreat and to offer bus transportation for youth in the Pacific Northwest region. This year's theme was "Resiliency and Hope". Everyone was extremely thankful to be able to return back to All Saints Camp in Gig Harbor.

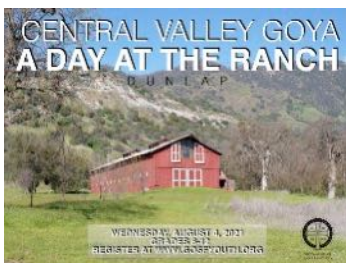
Bay Area Family Day of Service in San Francisco - July 24, 2021



A day of service for Bay Area families to organize and distribute goods from the Bay Area Food Pantry. Those present also participated in a short church service, discussion, and a meal together. The grant helped cover the cost of the food and activity supplies for the volunteers.



Central Valley GOYA "A Day at St. Nicholas Ranch" - August 4, 2021



A Day Camp at St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center was open to youth from throughout the Metropolis. The Goyans were able to take part in a typical day of camp from 10:30am - 6:30pm with Orthors to begin the day, followed by an OL session, arts & crafts, water olympics, flex time, Paraklesis and dinner to conclude the day. The grant money helped to cover the cost of program supplies and provide van transportation for the youth coming from many hours away.



Bay Area GOYA - End of Summer Celebration - August 21, 2021

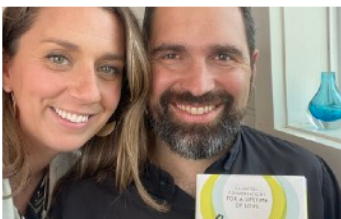


A Day Camp opportunity for the youth of the Bay Area to go on a hike, participate in discussions about the faith, attend a Paraklesis service together, and enjoy an outdoor meal with the entire family. The grant helped cover the cost of program supplies and the meal that was shared by the youth and their families.



“Eight Dates” for Married & Engaged Couples (Oct 2021 - Feb 2022)

In partnership with the Metropolis Family Wellness Ministry, we launched our second round of “Eight Dates” which is a ten week series during the fall and winter which leads 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!



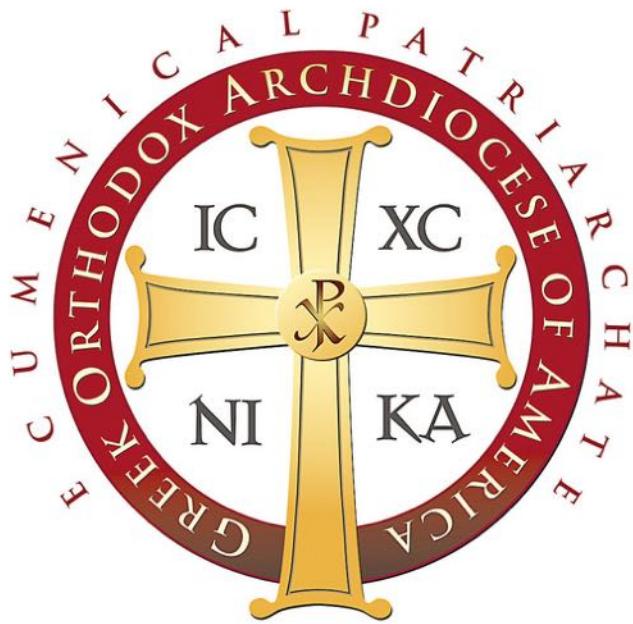
Metropolis Young Adult Winter Retreat in Lake Tahoe - January 14-17, 2022



We planned to offer the 16th Annual Metropolis Young Adult Winter Retreat in Lake Tahoe, January 14-17, 2022. Unfortunately the retreat center had to cancel on us two days before the retreat because one of the employees tested positive for Covid and the entire staff had been exposed to them. This retreat was also unfortunately during a high spike in Covid cases, and securing testing appointments and getting results back within 72 hours was extremely difficult. In fact, many participants told me that their results didn't come back until 96 hours after they tested. We hope to be able to offer this beautiful retreat again next year and in good health for all.

UPCOMING MINISTRIES

- Regional Youth Lenten Day Retreats throughout the Metropolis
- Metropolis Young Adult Lenten Retreat
- Parenting Ministry
- St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival 2022
- Metropolis Summer Camp at St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center
- Metropolis Young Adult Fall Retreat
- “Eight Dates Parish Edition” 2022-2023 series
- Metropolis GOYA Winter Camp



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

2021

Office of Youth and
Young Adult Ministries

Pastor, Youth and Young Adult Ministries

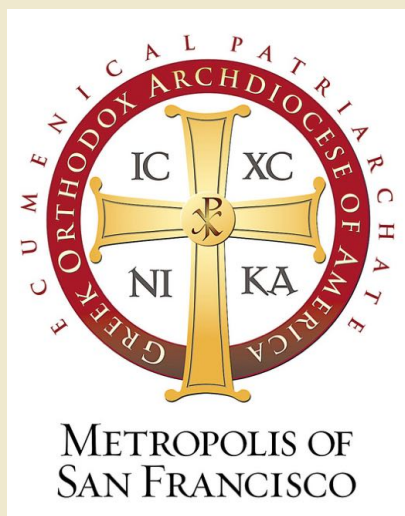
Progress Report

Submitted by
Fr. Gary Kyriacou

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PASTOR'S REPORT
FR. GARY KYRIACOU
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Acknowledgements

It has been a very active ten months of ministry. It is very fulfilling to visit parishes and assist clergy and youth workers in this new role of Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. The expansion of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries is a direct result of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos' love and commitment to the youth of our Church. I would like to offer my gratitude to His Eminence for his pioneering vision and continued confidence and trust as our Metropolis offers trailblazing programs for our youth. I am also thankful for the support shown by our Chancellor, His Grace Bishop Ioannis.

I appreciate the assistance and eagerness shown and offered by Johanna Duterte Carter, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of our Metropolis, Paul Gikas, Director of Ministries and Kristen Bruskas, Director of Communications. Presbytera Alikí Kyriacou and Foula Vasilogiorgis have offered remarkable and steadfast support at many levels.

The potency and strength of the role of Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministries is born from connections and support from our devoted and hardworking clergy and volunteers. Instrumental feedback, aid and collaboration has been graciously offered by Stacia Counelis, Christina Gilotti, Chrissie Zeppos and the entire Family Wellness Ministry Team.

Ultimately, none of this work would be possible without the conviction of those who have donated to support this new position. It is encouraging that the laity of our Metropolis share the pioneering vision of His Eminence and have invested precious resources towards the youth of our Metropolis. I appreciate the tireless efforts of Archon George Demos and the subcommittee of the Metropolis Council.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our blessed Metropolis in such a profound and distinctive way. Assisting our co-workers in the vineyard to bring our youth and young adults towards a greater connection to Christ and His Church is an immeasurable joy!

With Profound Respect,

In the Service of Christ,

Rev. Fr. Gary Kyriacou

Pastor, Youth and Young Adult Ministries

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

PURPOSE AND GOALS



The desired outcomes to be completed within the first 12 to 18 months:

1. Develop and create a Metropolis Youth Ministry Council comprised of representatives from all parishes, including clergy, youth workers, parents, and members of the youth programs to generate greater connectivity between the Metropolis Youth Office and the local parishes;
2. Create a baseline that measures the status and effectiveness of ministry programs currently offered by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, with the goal of building upon the foundation of currently successful programs;
3. Launch the production of educational material, programs/lessons/events to assist our clergy and parishes throughout the Metropolis;
4. Develop a Metropolis Youth Ministry App;
5. Travel to parishes to present the benefits of our Youth and Young Adult Ministry programs.

ENGAGE THE EMERGING GENERATION

KEEP OUR YOUTH CONNECTED TO OUR CHURCH

FURTHER DEVELOP EXISTING PROGRAMS

SUPPORT CLERGY AT THE LOCAL PARISH LEVEL

2021

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

3

FEBRUARY 1 APPOINTED PASTOR OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

FEBRUARY 2 LENTEN JOURNEY LEAD TEAM ASSEMBLED

FEBRUARY 15 ORTHOTALKS FOR LENT PRESENTERS ASSEMBLED

MARCH-APRIL THURSDAYS IN LENT ORTHOTALKS: CULTIVATING A PURPOSEFUL LIFE

MARCH-APRIL SUNDAYS IN LENT LENTEN JOURNEY TO GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

FRIDAY, APRIL 30 VIRTUAL GOOD FRIDAY YOUTH RETREAT

SATURDAY, MAY 15 PEER TO PEER FAMILY BIKE RIDE EVENT

JULY 15-AUGUST 12 IONIAN VILLAGE PROGRAM: IV NEXT 2021

AUGUST 19 PROJECT BASED LEARNING FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2-5 YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE IN PHOENIX, AZ

SEPTEMBER 19 METROPOLIS YOUTH COUNCIL INTRODUCTORY MEETING

SEPT-NOV. ORTHOTALKS: DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE

OCTOBER 6 - 8 VISIT TO SCOTTSDALE AND PHOENIX, AZ PARISHES

NOVEMBER 9-12 VISIT TO SEATTLE AND BELLINGHAM, WA PARISHES

NOVEMBER 19-22 VISIT TO BEAVERTON AND PORTLAND, OR PARISHES

ORTHO TALKS FOR LENT

ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Join us on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. PST during Lent for weekly presentations and discussions.



Cultivating

Why am I here?
What is the purpose of life?

a Purposeful Life

Cultivating an
Enquiring Life



**Rev. Father
Peter
Dogias**
March 18

Cultivating a
Determined Life



**Rev. Father
Chris
Retelas**
March 25

Cultivating a
Committed Life



**Rev. Father
Nicholas
Mueller**
April 1

Cultivating a
Confident Life



**Rev. Father
Panagiotis
Sotiras**
April 8

Cultivating a
Servant Life



**Rev. Father
Christos
Kanakis**
April 15

Cultivating an
Authentic Life



**Rev. Father
Jacob
Saylor**
April 22



For more information, please contact
program facilitator Rev. Father Gary Kyriacou
Metropolis Pastor of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
(frgary@sanfran.goarch.org)



YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

5

ORTHOTALKS FOR LENT
ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Join us on Thursday evenings during Lent
for weekly presentations and discussions.

Cultivating a Purposeful Life

Why am I here?
What is the purpose of life?



Rev. Father Peter Dogias
Thursday, March 18
6:30 p.m. PST

Cultivating an Enquiring Life

Register
Today!



YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES

ORTHOTALKS FOR LENT
ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Join us on Thursday evenings during Lent
for weekly presentations and discussions.

Cultivating a Purposeful Life

Why am I here?
What is the purpose of life?



Rev. Father Chris Retelas
Thursday, March 25
6:30 p.m. PST

Cultivating a Determined Life

Register
Today!



YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES

ORTHOTALKS FOR LENT
ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Join us on Thursday evenings during Lent
for weekly presentations and discussions.

Cultivating a Purposeful Life

Why am I here?
What is the purpose of life?



Rev. Father Nicholas Mueller
Thursday, April 1
6:30 p.m. PST

Cultivating a Committed Life

Register
Today!



YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES

OrthoTalks for Lent: Cultivating a Purposeful Life

PROGRAM: Conversation/discussion on ZOOM

AUDIENCE: Teenagers (13–18-year-olds)

CONTENT: Sunday Gospel readings in Lent

DURATION: THURSDAY EVENINGS: 60-90 minutes

DATES / PRESENTERS / TOPICS:

March 18- Fr. Peter Dogias: Sunday of Orthodoxy (John 1:43-51) Follow me/Come and See

March 25- Fr. C. Retelas: St. Gregory Palamas (Mark 2:1-12) Roof/paralyzed man

April 1- Fr. Nicholas Mueller: Holy Cross (Mark 8:34-38; 9:1) Pick up your cross

April 8- Fr. Peter Sotiras: St. John Climacus (Mark 9:17-31) I believe, Help my unbelief

April 15- Fr. Christos Kanakis: St. Mary of Egypt (Mark 10:32-45) Service/Serving the Church

April 22- Fr. Jacob Saylor: Palm Sunday (John 12:1-18) Hypocrisy

FORMAT: Weekly meetings using ZOOM on Thursday evenings in Great Lent

ORTHOTALKS FOR LENT
ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Join us on Thursday evenings during Lent
for weekly presentations and discussions.

Cultivating a Purposeful Life

Why am I here?
What is the purpose of life?



Rev. Father Panagiotis Sotiras
Thursday, April 8
6:30 p.m. PST

Cultivating a Confident Life

Register
Today!



YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES

ORTHOTALKS FOR LENT
ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Join us on Thursday evenings during Lent
for weekly presentations and discussions.

Cultivating a Purposeful Life

Why am I here?
What is the purpose of life?



Rev. Father Jacob Saylor
Thursday, April 22
6:30 p.m. PST

Cultivating an Authentic Life

Register
Today!



YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES

ORTHOTALKS FOR LENT
ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Join us on Thursday evenings during Lent
for weekly presentations and discussions.

Cultivating a Purposeful Life

Why am I here?
What is the purpose of life?



Rev. Father Christos Kanakis
Thursday, April 15
6:30 p.m. PST

Cultivating a Servant Life

Register
Today!



YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES

Lenten Journey to Great and Holy Pascha

PROGRAM: Lessons taught on ZOOM

AUDIENCE: Pre-School to Middle School Students

CONTENT: Sunday Lenten Themes

DURATION: SUNDAYS after Divine Liturgy: 60-90 minutes

LEAD TEACHERS:

Pre-K and Kindergarten	Presvytera Christie Kyriacou	Saint Demetrios, Camarillo
First and Second Grades	Elizabeth Syrengelas	Assumption, Long Beach
Third and Fourth Grades	Denise Canellos	Saint Paul, Irvine
Fifth and Sixth Grades	Father Jim Pappas	Saint George, Fresno
	John Strzelecki	Saint George, Fresno
Seventh and Eighth Grades	Christina Baglin	Saint John, Anaheim

FORMAT:

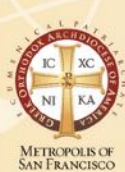
The pandemic forced parishes to conduct services online. This provided the opportunity for over 400 students to gather for weekly lessons following Divine Services. The ZOOM platform worked well and allowed students to be divided by grade level and assigned breakout rooms.

All students assembled for opening prayer, sermonette, learned a hymn, and were encouraged to participate in a service project.

KEY COMPONENT: Volunteer based High School Student Leadership / Mentorship model.

High School students met with adult volunteers during the weekdays to assist in lesson preparation. During Sunday classes these High School student volunteers led discussions, taught lessons, prepared worksheets, and crafts, taught liturgical hymns, programed online games, and encouraged the younger students to participate in service projects for the less fortunate.

A LENTEN JOURNEY



TO GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

Metropolis-wide Youth Religious Education Program



- 11-week virtual youth Religious Education program
- Pre-Kindergarten through 8th Grade
- Lessons will include key themes of the liturgical cycle beginning with the Triodion, continuing into Great Lent, through Holy Week and concluding with Holy Pascha.
- Classes will be held on Zoom every Sunday beginning February 21 from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. PST. The last session will be held on Good Friday, April 30.
- Sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Christian Education Ministry, in collaboration with the Orthodox Youth Mentorship Program of Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Camarillo, CA.
- A team of volunteer teachers will engage students with lessons, activities, and service projects. High school and college students will participate as mentors and activity leaders.
- **Register Today!** There is no cost to attend, but registration is required.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to participate in insightful lessons, activities and service projects, all designed to enrich their Lenten journey and prepare them for the celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection,” stated His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.

“Our children deserve the best opportunities to be empowered with knowledge on their faith, and especially during these times of ongoing physical separation, this program creates an opportunity to enhance fellowship and friendships from across our Metropolis.”



Good Friday Youth Retreat

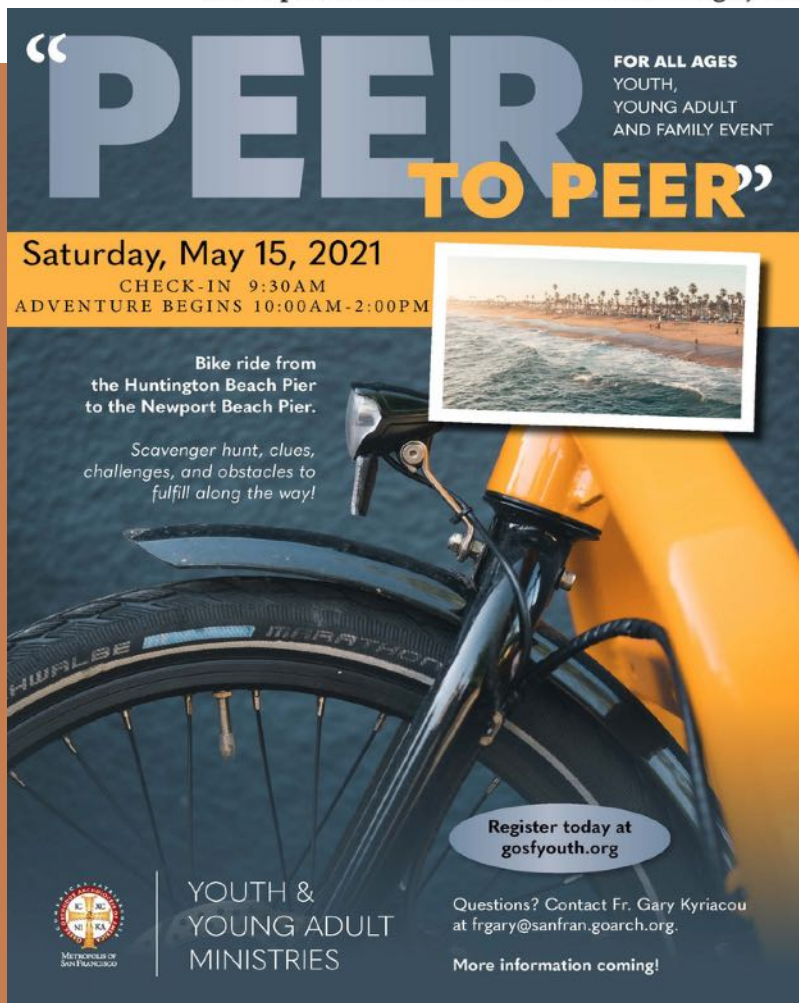
PROGRAM: Individual Parish Curriculum used for Youth Good Friday online retreats
AUDIENCE: Pre-School to Middle School Students
CONTENT: Great and Holy Pascha
DURATION: Some parishes met online for two-four hours, while others did a brief 45-minute lesson
DATE: Friday, April 30, 2021

Peer to Peer Event

PROGRAM: Bike Ride from the Huntington Beach Pier to the Newport Beach Pier
AUDIENCE: Family Event
CONTENT: *Influence and Role Models*
DURATION: Activity last three hours
DATE: Saturday, May 15, 2021
CONCEPT: Scavenger hunt to allows kid, parents, and young adults the opportunity to gather and keep social distance. Clues, tasks performed along the way that breaks up the ride and creates an opportunity to learn a lesson. Calling it PEER to PEER to give it both the parallel of riding from ONE PIER to the OTHER and helping your peers succeed. It was not a competition, but a means to show support for the entire group

The four stations along the path were broken up by ministry leaders from St. Sophia Camp, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Long Beach and St. Basil Church in San Juan Capistrano

Participants from Santa Barbara to San Diego joined for a day of fun



“PEER TO PEER”

FOR ALL AGES
YOUTH,
YOUNG ADULT
AND FAMILY EVENT

Saturday, May 15, 2021
 CHECK-IN 9:30AM
 ADVENTURE BEGINS 10:00AM-2:00PM

Bike ride from the Huntington Beach Pier to the Newport Beach Pier.

Scavenger hunt, clues, challenges, and obstacles to fulfill along the way!

Register today at gosfyouth.org

Questions? Contact Fr. Gary Kyriacou at frgary@sanfran.goarch.org

More information coming!

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Metropolis of San Francisco





IV NEXT 2021 APPLICATION

LEARNING *Through* Serving

Learning Through Serving

Project Based Learning for Religious Education

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Project Based Learning for Religious Education

EVENT: Zoom Workshop on "PROJECT BASED LEARNING" for Religious Education

DATE: Thursday August 19, 2021

AUDIENCE: Church/Sunday School Directors, Teachers, Religious Education Teachers

CONTENT:

- An online zoom workshop for clergy, religious educators, church/Sunday school directors and teachers, parents, or anyone interested in the implementation of PROJECT BASED LEARNING for Religious Education.
- Participants discussed
 - the essential elements of Project Based Learning and how to apply it to their work with Orthodox youth
 - how to use Project Based Learning strategies and activities to increase engagement and ownership in Orthodox middle and high school religious education and Youth Ministry programs
 - specific Project Based Learning lesson ideas that can be used in their classrooms and youth programs
 - their own lesson ideas for 2021-2022 Religious Education/Youth Ministry grounded in Project Based Learning and received coaching and feedback on the lessons they created
 - GOALS of PBL in Orthodoxy in Religious Education in general:
 - Facilitate learning that makes Orthodoxy relevant.
 - Build real-world skills needed for active participants in the Orthodox Faith in America.
 - Help students guide their own learning and connect with Christ more deeply in Religious Education.
 - Provide experiences that benefit student growth and development outside of the classroom as future stewards of our Church



PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

10



Young Adult Conference in Phoenix, AZ

DATE: September 2-6, 2021

AUDIENCE: Young Adults from 41 states in our Archdiocese

THEME: EXCLAIM



YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES

Metropolis of San Francisco Youth Council Introductory Meeting

DATE: Sunday evening, September 19, 2021

AUDIENCE: Clergy, parents, youth workers and youth advisors

GOAL: Create a Metropolis wide Youth Council that represents each vicariate of our Metropolis.

Along with the Parish Priest, each parish would have an adult advisor and GOYA President to represent them on this new council

OBJECTIVE: Offer our Youth the opportunity to develop leadership skills Give the Youth a voice and position in the administration of the life of the Church.

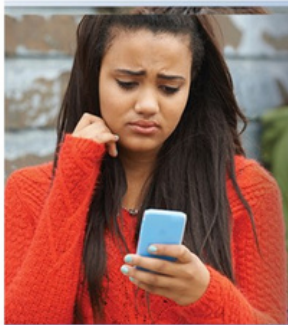
PURPOSE: To promote and advance the Youth initiatives, ministries, and programs of our Metropolis.

MISSION: To support a regional GOYA ministry to lead our young people into experiencing the Holy Orthodox Faith. By developing a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and becoming active sacramental participants of the living Church, our young people will be equipped with the tools necessary to assist them in their journey toward salvation using the basic principles of GOYA Ministry: WORSHIP, SERVICE, FELLOWSHIP, WITNESS



ORTHO TALKS

ALL MIDDLE/JR. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS & PARENTS



Dealing with Difficult People

Register Now

Visit the Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of San Francisco
Youth and Young Adult
Ministry page at
www.sanfran.goarch.org/orthotalks

EXTENDED FOR ALL TEENS!

Tuesday, November 30 6:30-7:30PM



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES



Family Wellness Ministry
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

FEATURING



DR. PHILIP MAMALAKIS

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
PASTORAL CARE
HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

OrthoTalks: Dealing With Difficult People

EVENT: Zoom Workshop

DATE: Thursdays, September 30, and October 7 (then repeated)
Tuesdays, November 16 and 30 for all teens

TIME: 6:30 PM

AUDIENCE: All teens

CONTENT: Participants will learn what Christ says about our enemies and what our response should be

Participants will learn strategies to dealing with difficult people and difficult situations
To discuss and apply real life examples so that each participant can benefit

MINISTRY SUPPORT: Dr. Phillip Mamalakis and Metropolis Family Wellness Ministry

SCOPE/BACKGROUND: As the new school year is beginning our children are going to endure difficult situations. This series is an opportunity to aid their social development by re-enforcing the teaching of our Lord and His Church.

PARISH VISITS

OCTOBER 6, 2021
**ASSUMPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
SCOTTSDALE, AZ**



FEATURES:

- GATHERED 22 YOUNG ADULTS
- DISCUSSED THE CHURCH IN THEIR LIVES
- TALENTS THEY OFFER THE CHURCH
- ISSUES THEY FACE



OCTOBER 7, 2021
**HOLY TRINITY
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
PHOENIX, AZ**

FEATURES:

- GATHERED 37 GREEK DANCE DIRECTORS, PARENTS, AND YOUTH VOLUNTEERS
- THE EFFECTS OF STRESS AND ANXIETY ON OUR KIDS
- DISCUSSED THE UPCOMING FDF IN PHOENIX
- WAYS THE FDF MINISTRY CAN SERVE THE SOUTHWEST





FEATURES:

- GATHERED OVER 40 YOUNG ADULTS FOR A PILGRIMAGE TO THE SITE OF ST. JOHN MAXIMOVICH'S REPOSE
- DISCUSSED THE WAYS THE ADDITION OF THE PASTOR OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES CAN SERVE THE NORTHWEST
- SOLICITED IDEAS FOR FUTURE EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER 9, 2021

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SEATTLE, WA



NOVEMBER 11, 2021

ST. SOPHIA GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH BELLINGHAM, WA



FEATURES:

- MET WITH
- FR. MICHAEL TERVO
- ADDRESSED CHALLENGES DURING THE PANDEMIC
- WAYS IN WHICH THE YOUTH IN BELLINGHAM, WA COULD BE SERVED BY THE METROPOLIS YOUTH MINISTRIES
- SOLICITED IDEAS FOR FUTURE EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

PARISH VISITS

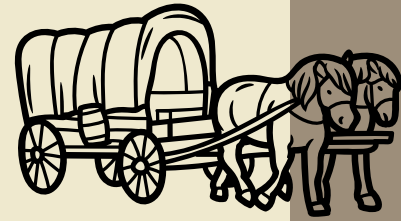
NOVEMBER 20, 2021

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH BEAVERTON, OR



FEATURES:

- FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY OVER 75 ADULTS, YOUNG ADULTS, TEENS, AND ELEMENTARY STUDENTS GATHERED FOR PRESENTATION
- PRESENTATION EXPLAINING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF GENERATION Z
- LIVELY DISCUSSION ENSUED
- DISCUSSED INNOVATIVE MEANS TO ENGAGE OUR YOUTH
- ADDRESSED CHALLENGES TO PARENTING MODERN DAY CHILDREN



FEATURES:

- PARTICIPATED IN AN ALL DAY RETREAT HOSTED BY PARISH YOUTH DIRECTOR, BETH PERLMUTTER
- 11 ELEMENTARY KIDS DURING THE FIRST PART OF THE DAY
- 8 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DURING THE SECOND PART OF THE DAY

NOVEMBER 21, 2021

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL PORTLAND, OR



WHEN WAS GEN Z BORN?



**BORN LATE 1990'S
TO MID 2000'S**

WHAT TO KNOW:



- They don't remember September 11
- They always remember using Wi-Fi enabled technology
- Mass shootings are not unusual for them
- Grew/grow up faster – but staying younger longer
- They are confused about God and leaving the Church
- Strong-willed, creative, and independent
- Desire authentic, supportive relationships and good role models

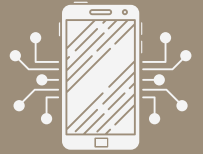
CHALLENGES



Mental Health

Our Youth and Young Adults are reporting higher and higher levels of loneliness, stress and anxiety. They are least likely to report "fair" or "excellent" in any mental health survey. On the brightside, they are championing the issue of mental health.

Technology

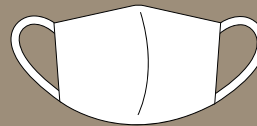


Their dependence on technology affects their intimacy with God. When the answers are one or two clicks away, sitting quietly in prayer can be difficult. This is something to address.

Intimacy



No, not that kind! They have a tough time with face-to-face connections. There is difficulty understanding nonverbal clues. Technology has made communication easier, but the lack of physical collaboration gives one a greater sense of loneliness.



COVID-19

The pandemic has taken a toll on all of us, for our youth it has stripped them of some especially important life milestones. Homecoming dances, the prom, and the forfeiture of other social engagements has left them further dejected. Topics that concerned us as kids impose bigger fears for this generation. Death and dying is a lot more real for them at this age than it was for some of us.



ON THE HORIZON

- The success of OrthoTalks, and the way it has engaged our youth around the Metropolis and Archdiocese, has proven to be an effective way to interact and connect with our young people. There will be more of these programs both online and in person.
- The need for social engagement and physical interaction indicates a need to develop programs that can bring our youth together, safely, for much needed fellowship.
- Inter-Parish programs such as the upcoming *Southern California Dive for the Cross* and the continued development of the Metropolis of San Francisco Youth Council.
- Further support for our parish leadership: clergy, youth workers and youth volunteers.



Metropolis of San Francisco



Southern California Youth Dive for the Cross

Hosted by the Assumption Parish of
Long Beach

Saturday, January 8, 2022

11:00 am

Blessing of the Waters & Dive
at Mother's Beach

Luncheon to follow at the church hall
5761 E. Colorado Street, Long Beach, 90814

*All Southern California communities
invited & encouraged to attend*

Divers needed!

Please contact

Father Gary Kyriacou at
FrGary@sanfran.goarch.org

