



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO



## *Igniting the Flame*

# *A Culture of True Christian Stewardship and Generosity*

*(Part 1)*

**“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.”  
Luke 12:48**

**Bill Marianes**

**[Bill@stewardshipcalling.com](mailto:Bill@stewardshipcalling.com)**



**Stewardship  
Calling**

*Helping people and parishes discover and live their stewardship callings so that they may have a good account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ*

[www.stewardshipcalling.com](http://www.stewardshipcalling.com)



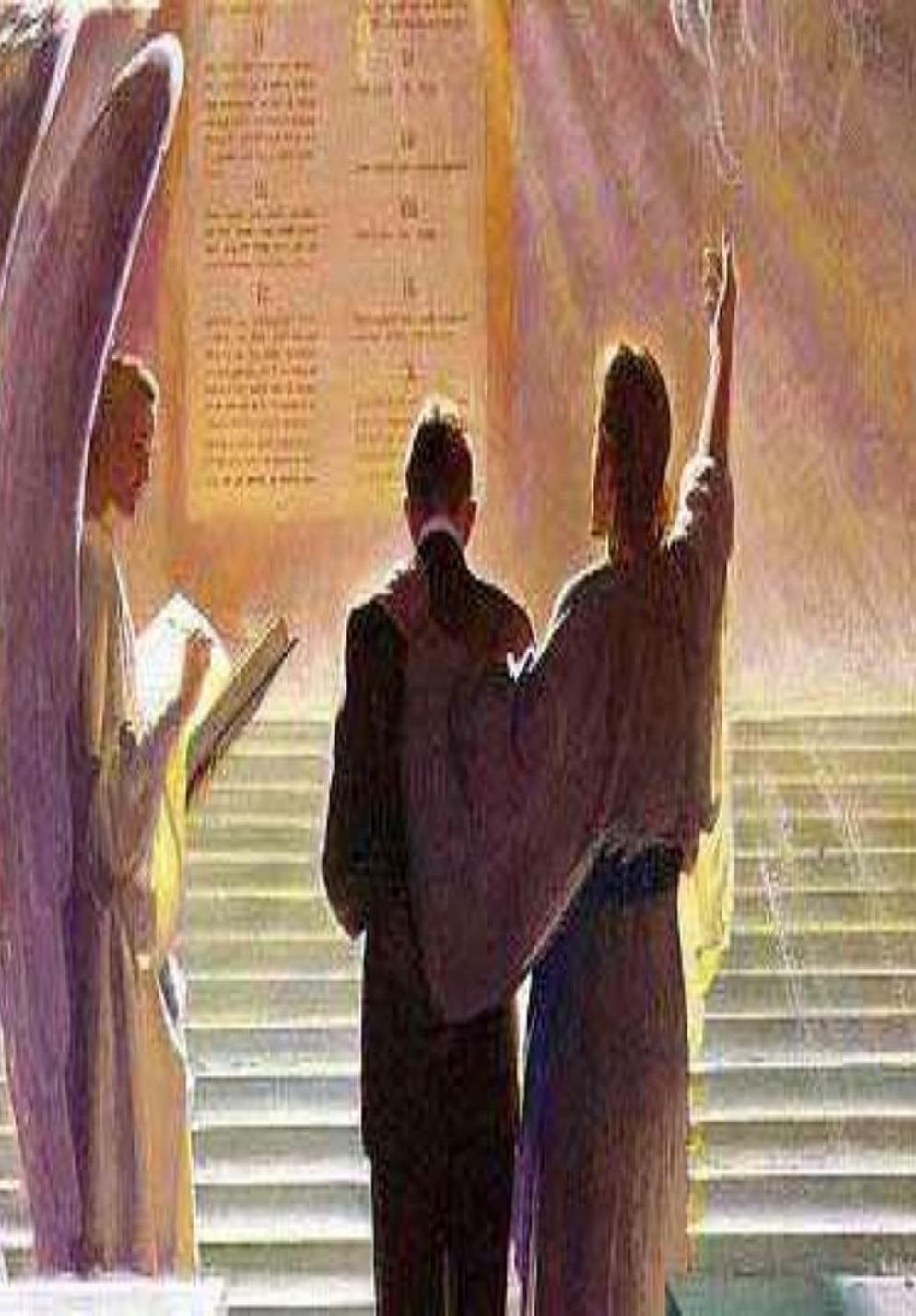
**ORTHODOX  
MINISTRY  
SERVICES**

*Helping transform and improve Orthodox Church parishes, organizations, and ministries in order to strengthen the Body of Christ.*

[www.orthodoxministry.org/](http://www.orthodoxministry.org/)

# WHY Are You Here ?





**“That the end of  
our lives may be  
Christian, without  
pain, blameless  
and peaceful,  
and for a  
GOOD ACCOUNT  
BEFORE THE  
AWESOME  
JUDGMENT SEAT  
OF CHRIST”**

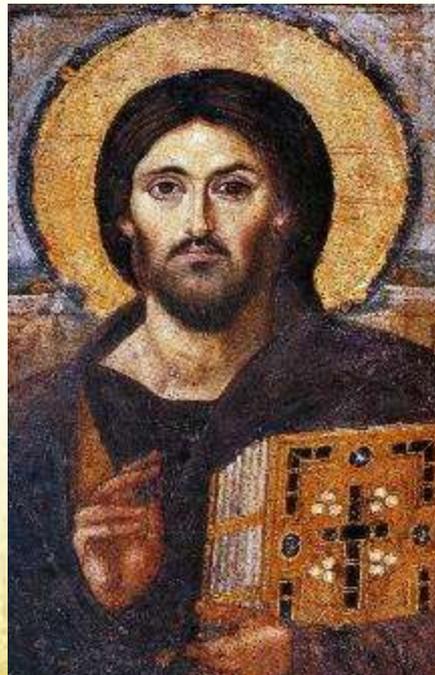
**2 Corinthians 5:10  
Orthodox Divine Liturgy**



# Christ's Possible Question To You



*“What did You do with MY Church under Your watch given all of the gifts I gave You?”*



You can download this presentation at:  
[www.stewardshipcalling.com](http://www.stewardshipcalling.com)

Stewardship Calling  
What are you doing with all of the gifts God has given you?

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with the following items: WHY ARE YOU HERE?, EFFECTIVE CHURCH MODELS, **STEWARDSHIP**, STRATEGIC PLANNING, INTERNET RADIO / PODCASTS, KEYNOTES & LEADERSHIP, BLOG, RESOURCES, STEWARDSHIP TRAINING VIDEOS, PERSONAL, HAGIA SOPHIA. Below the menu, there are logos for the Metropolitan of San Francisco and the Diocese of America. A red circle highlights the 'STEWARDSHIP' tab in the menu and the 'METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO - IGNITING THE FLAME OF TRUE CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM' link below it. Another red circle highlights the 'STEWARDSHIP TRAINING VIDEOS' link. Below the navigation, there is a section titled 'Stewardship Calling Culture of True Stewardship Best Practices' with a list of sessions:

- Session 1 - September 1, 2020**
  1. Facts & Figures
  2. Science of Generosity Studies
  3. Understanding True Stewardship
- Session 2 - September 15, 2020**
  1. Leadership Alignment
  2. Tithing and Percentage Giving
  3. Increasing Engagement
- Session 3 - September 29, 2020**
  1. Welcoming
  2. Thanking
  3. Youth Stewardship
  4. Small Groups
- Session 4 - October 13, 2020**
  1. Effective Messaging
  2. Campaigns (Stewardship, Capital & Planned Giving)
  3. Transparency & Accountability
  4. Stewardship Team
- Session 5 - October 27, 2020**

Questions & Answers

Under the Stewardship Tab go to the Metropolis of San Francisco - Igniting the Flame of True Christian Stewardship page <https://stewardshipcalling.com/san-francisco-metropolis-stewardship-program/>

Send questions to: [Bill@stewardshipcalling.com](mailto:Bill@stewardshipcalling.com)



# A journey ...

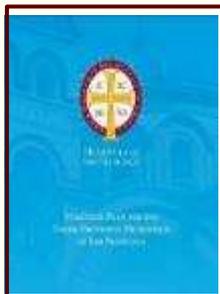
*...of over 325,000+ miles over 13+ years*

*...presenting to over 500+ Parishes of  
all major Orthodox Christian  
jurisdictions (plus other faiths)*

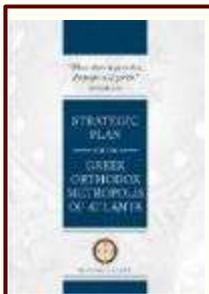
*...completing a financial stewardship  
analysis for over 250+ Parishes*

# Stewardship Calling Proven Strategic Planning Process

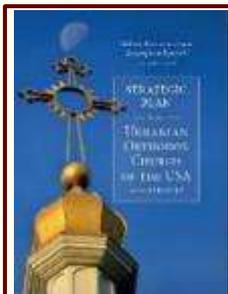
I have been blessed to use the Stewardship Calling process to complete Strategic Plans that now cover over 25% of U.S. Orthodox Christians



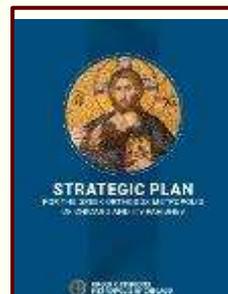
**GOA Metropolitan of San Francisco (7 Western States)**



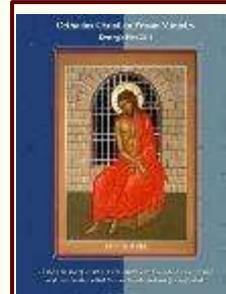
**GOA Metropolitan of Atlanta (8 SE States)**



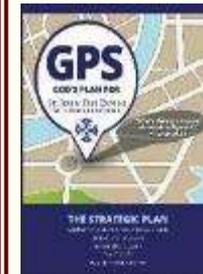
**Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (entire USA)**



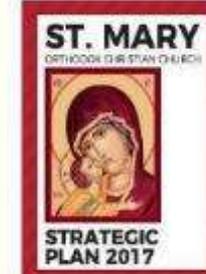
**GOA Metropolitan of Chicago (6 MW States)**



**Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry OCPM**



**St John The Divine (Jacksonville FL);**



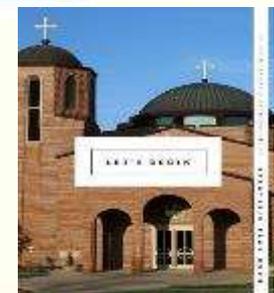
**St Mary (Wichita, KS);**



**St John The Baptist (Beaverton, OR);**



**Annunciation (Atlanta, GA);**



**St Nicholas (Ann Arbor, MI)**

## Parishes

**In Progress: 1. St. Mark/St. Mary & Philopater Coptic (Troy); 2. OCA Diocese of New England; 3. Christ the Savior OCA (Harrisburg); 4. St. Nicholas Antiochian (Grand Rapids); 5. OCA Diocese of Midwest; 6. St. Katherine (Naples) + several others just starting**

# Stewardship Calling Effective Church Model



Institutional



Effective  
Worship  
Experience

Consensus  
Vision and  
Strategic Plan

Engaged  
Disciples

Culture of True  
Stewardship

Individual

# Stewardship Calling

What are you doing with all of the gifts God has given you?

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EFFECTIVE CHURCH MODEL

STEWARDSHIP

STRATEGIC PLANNING

INTERNET RADIO / PODCASTS

KEYNOTES & LEADERSHIP

BLOG

RESOURCES

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

PERSONAL

HAGIA SOPHIA



Effective Church Model tab (with detailed presentations covering 3 of the 4 dimensions of an Effective Church)

## Effective Church Model



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# Stewardship Calling Effective Church Model



Institutional



Effective  
Worship  
Experience



Consensus  
Vision and  
Strategic Plan



Engaged  
Disciples



Individual



# Today's Key Message



**You will not have the most healthy  
and effective Parish until you:**

**Create a culture of true  
stewardship and generosity**





# Stewardship Calling 15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices



- 1. Stewardship & Generosity**
- 2. Leadership Alignment**
- 3. Tithing**
- 4. Time First**
- 5. It's personal**
- 6. Engagement**
- 7. Welcoming**

- 8. Thanking**
- 9. Youth**
- 10. Messaging**
- 11. Campaigns**
- 12. Estate Giving**
- 13. Transparency & Accountability**
- 14. Small Groups**
- 15. Team**



# Stewardship Calling Culture of True Stewardship Best Practices



## Session 1 - September 1, 2020

1. Facts & Figures
2. Covid/Crisis Strategies
3. Science of Generosity Studies
4. A Culture of True Orthodox Stewardship

## Session 2 - September 15, 2020

1. Leadership Alignment
2. Tithing and Percentage Giving
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4. The Personal Touch

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2. Campaigns (Stewardship, Capital & Planned Giving)
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## Session 5 - October 27, 2020

Questions & Answers



# Stewardship Calling Culture of True Stewardship Best Practices



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Questions & Answers

We are living in exponential times...

... the speed of change is  
unimaginable and accelerating

**'The following is based on the pioneering YouTube video "Did You Know?" (with certain updated statistics).**

Did You Know? is licensed by Karl Fisch, Scott McLeod, and XPLANE under a Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial Share-Alike license. You are free to copy, distribute, remix and transmit the presentation as long as you give proper attribution to the original creators and share the resulting work under the same license. You may not use Did You Know? for commercial purposes without permission from the creators. (Selected statistics have been updated, as much as reasonably possible, from available sources.)

# Years it took to reach 50 million users:

Telephone - 75 years



Radio - 38 years



TV - 13 years



Internet - 4 years



Google Plus - 88 days



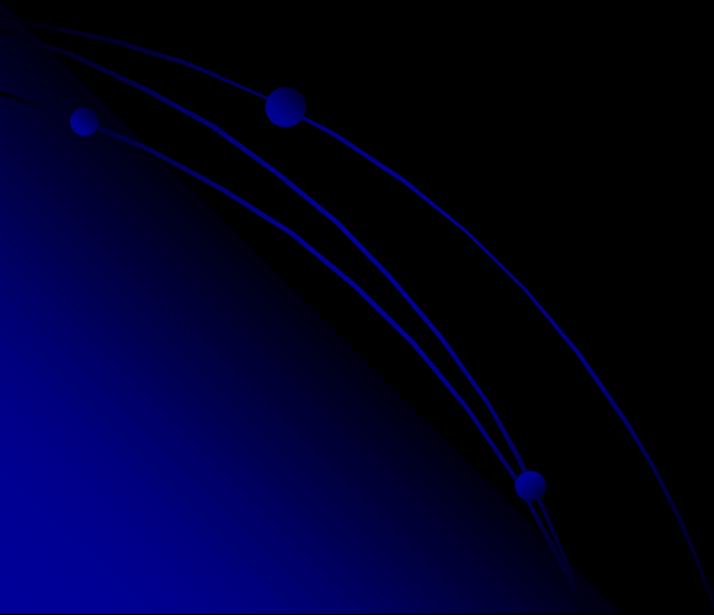
Angry Birds - 35 days



Pokémon GO - 19 days



1 hour of video is uploaded to  
every second



If Facebook's over 2.41 Billion active monthly users were a country...



...it would be the 2nd largest country in the world...

...behind only China, larger than India, and 7.3 times bigger than the U.S.

~ 97% of American adults text.



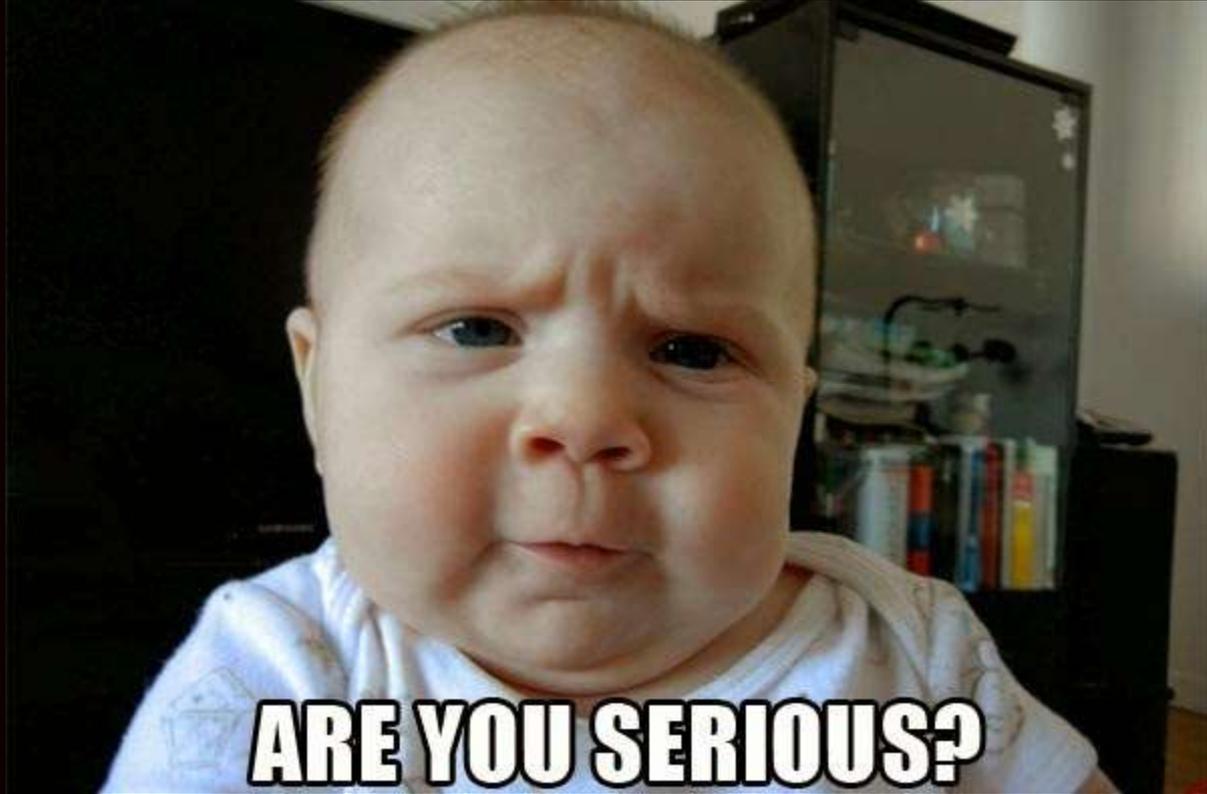
~ Text messages have a 98% open rate versus only 20% for email.

~ 95% of all text messages are read in under 3 minutes.



1 out of 8 couples married in  
the U.S. in 2005 . . .  
. . .met online

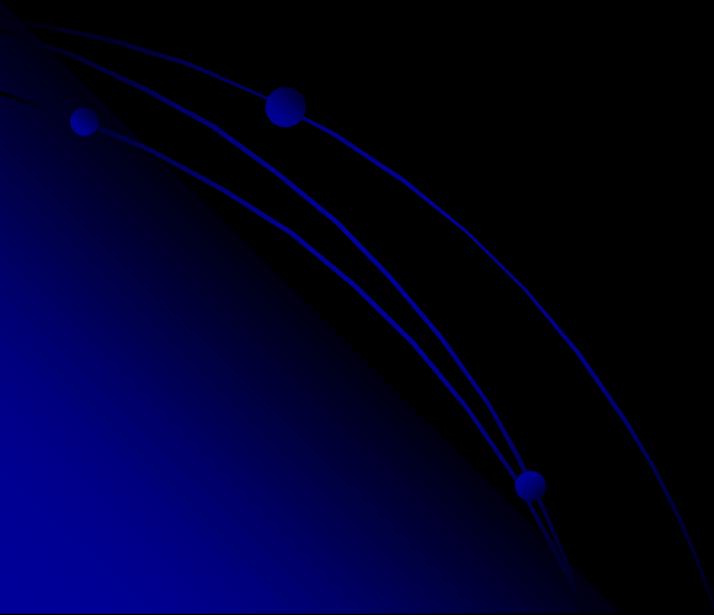
By 2013, 1 out of 3  
couples in the U.S.  
met online



**ARE YOU SERIOUS?**

We are living in exponential times...

So what does all this mean for  
your Parish and parishioners?







# What Is The Biggest Challenge Facing Your Parish?



$$\Delta S = S_f - S_i = \int \frac{dq_{rev}}{T}$$

$$\Delta S = \frac{q_{rev}}{T}$$

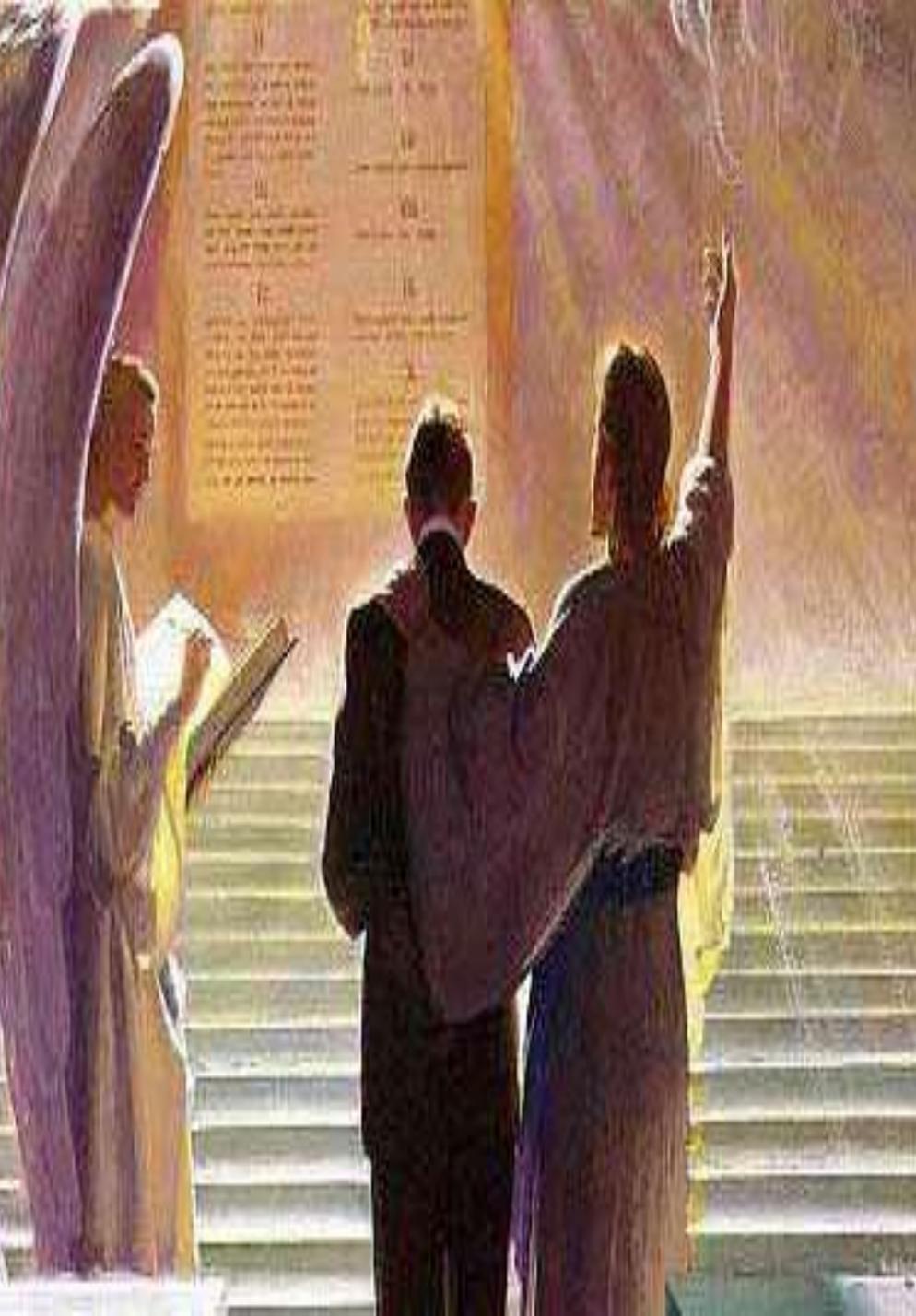
- Entropy
- Everything in the universe eventually moves from order to disorder (*entropy* measures that change)
- If you don't make positive changes you will get negative changes



**“Leaders of a Church  
will either be risk  
takers, caretakers or  
undertakers.”**



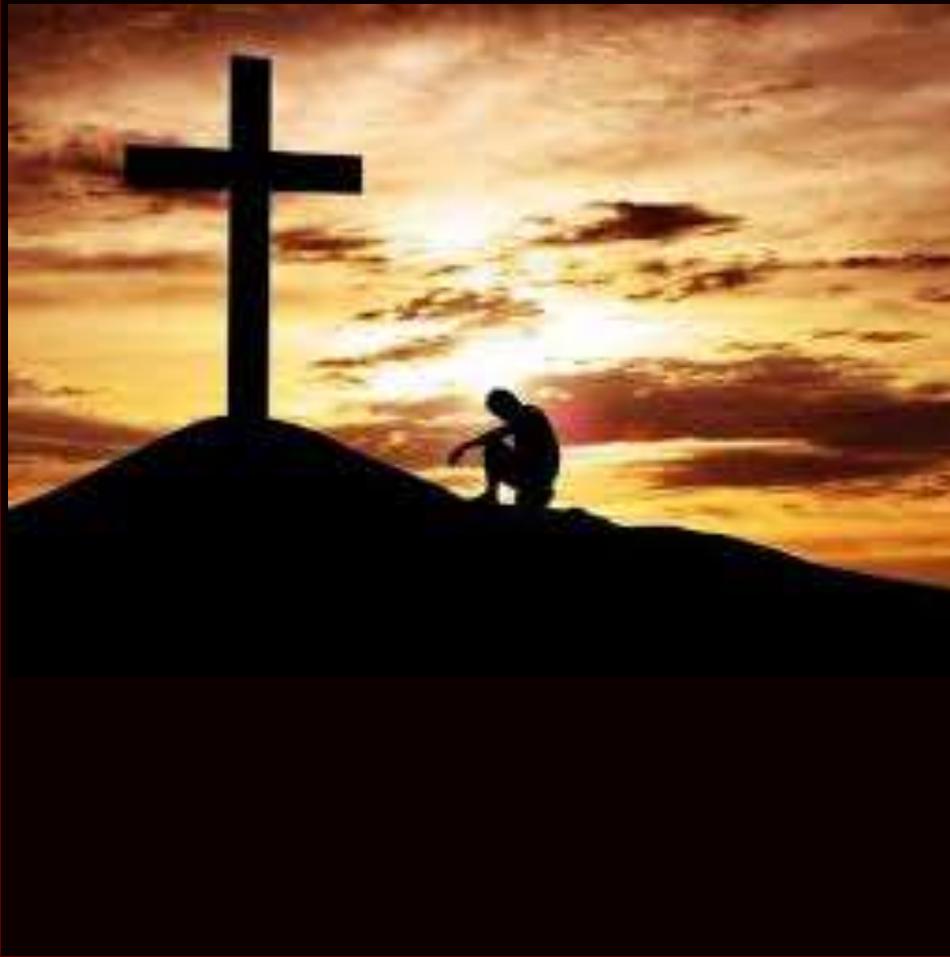
**Pastor  
Rick  
Warren**



**How are we doing  
at preparing for  
ourselves:**

**“A  
GOOD ACCOUNT  
BEFORE THE  
AWESOME  
JUDGMENT SEAT  
OF CHRIST”**

# How Are We Doing Spiritually?





# We Lost Our Adults



~ **47%** of adults who were raised in the Orthodox Church have left the Church<sup>1</sup>

## Cradle Orthodox Adults Who Are Still in the Church



# We Can “Kiss Our Youth Goodbye”

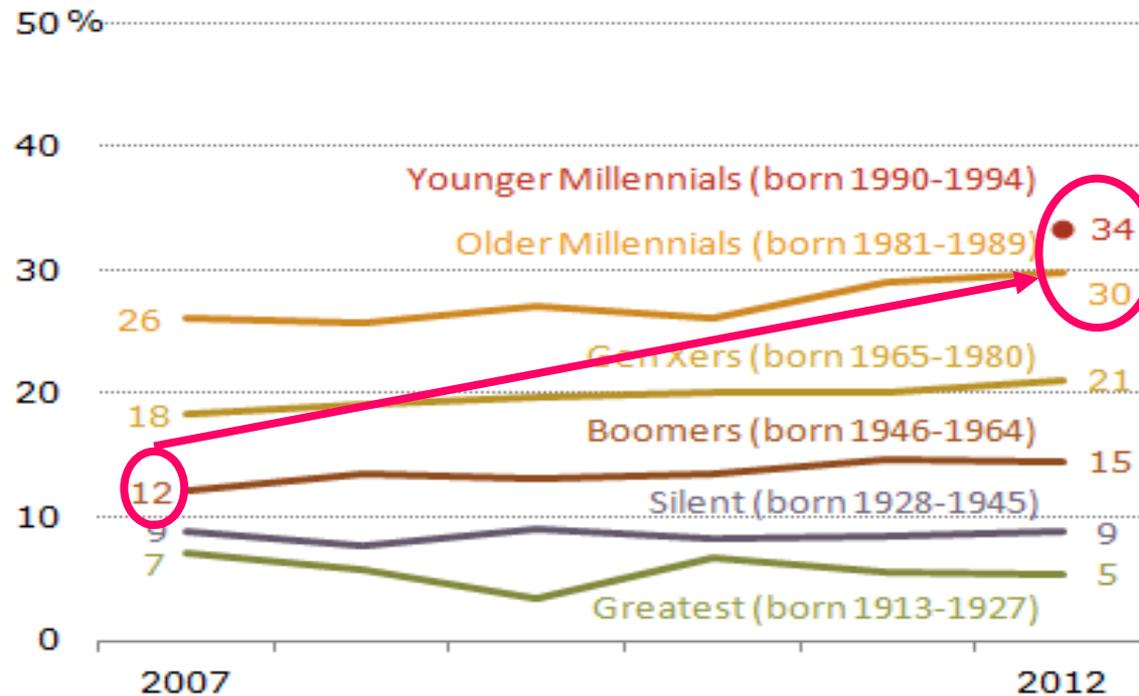




# We Can “Kiss Our Youth Goodbye”

## Recent Trends in Affiliation, by Generation

*% of each age cohort that is unaffiliated*



Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2007-2012.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

~ Millennials are over **2.8 times** more likely than their adult parents to be unaffiliated with the Church<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Religion in the Millennial Generation (2010) and U.S. Religious Landscape Survey (2007), Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life of the Pew Research Center.



# We Can “Kiss Our Youth Goodbye”

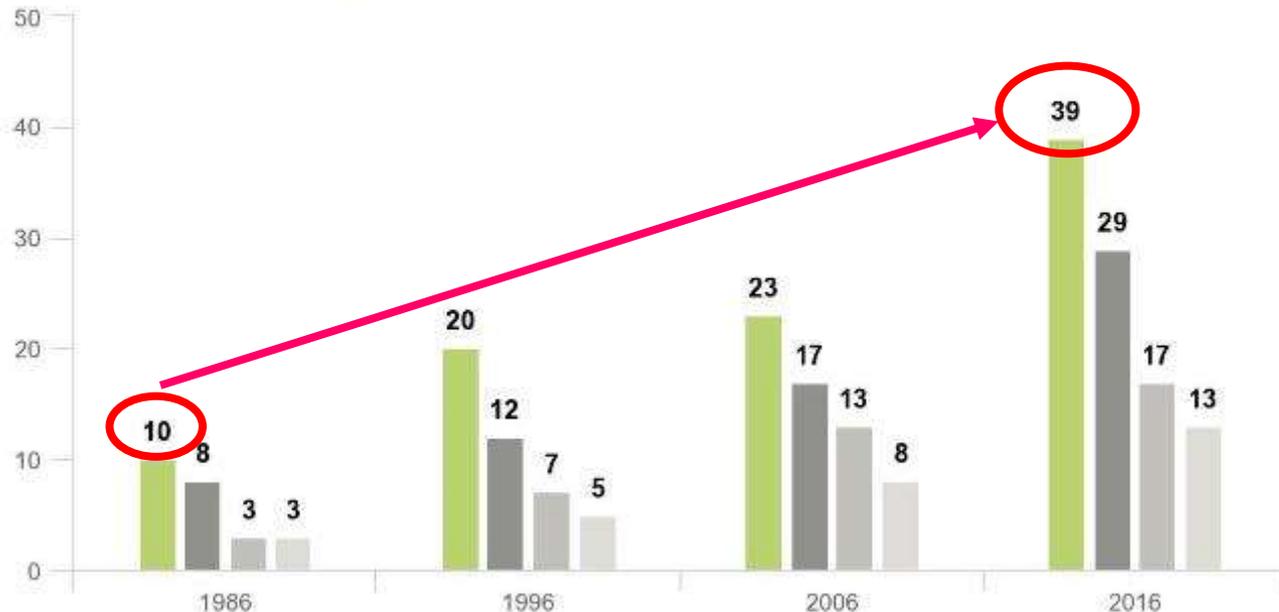
~ The nonprofit, nonpartisan Public Religion Research Institute data is worse reporting

39% Millennial youth are “NONEs”

More Young Adults are Unaffiliated than in the Past

Percent of each age group who are religiously unaffiliated, 1986-2016

● 18-29 ● 30-49 ● 50-64 ● 65+



Sources: General Social Survey, 1986, 1996, 2006; PRRI/RNS August 2016 Survey.

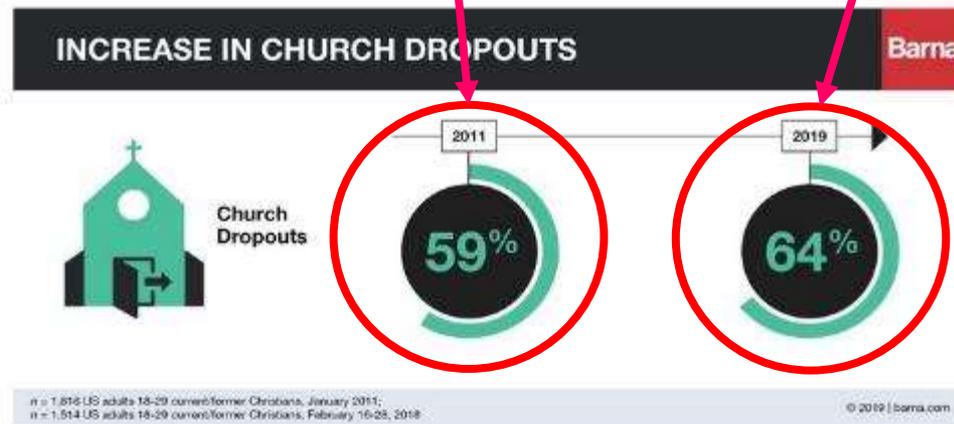


# We Can “Kiss Our Youth Goodbye”

Barna Research says church drop out rate has grown from a **59%** (2011) to **64%** (2019)

When Barna president David Kinnaman published his 2011 book *You Lost Me*, we heard from many people (especially church leaders) who were shocked to learn that 59 percent of young adults with a Christian background had dropped out of church at some point during their 20s—many for just a time, but some for good.

Eight years later, research for Kinnaman’s new book *Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon* reveals that the church dropout problem is still a problem. In fact, the percentage of young-adult dropouts has increased from 59 to 64 percent. Nearly two-thirds of U.S. 18–29-year-olds who grew up in church tell Barna they have withdrawn from church involvement as an adult after having been active as a child or teen.

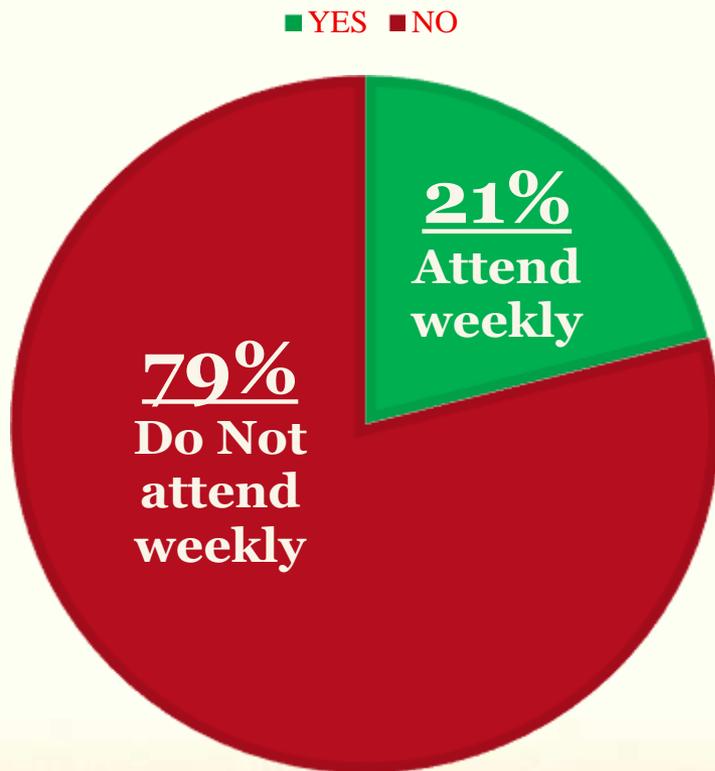




# Church Attendance Data



## ATTEND CHURCH WEEKLY



~ Only **21%** of all Greek Orthodox adherents attend church services regularly on a weekly basis.<sup>1</sup>

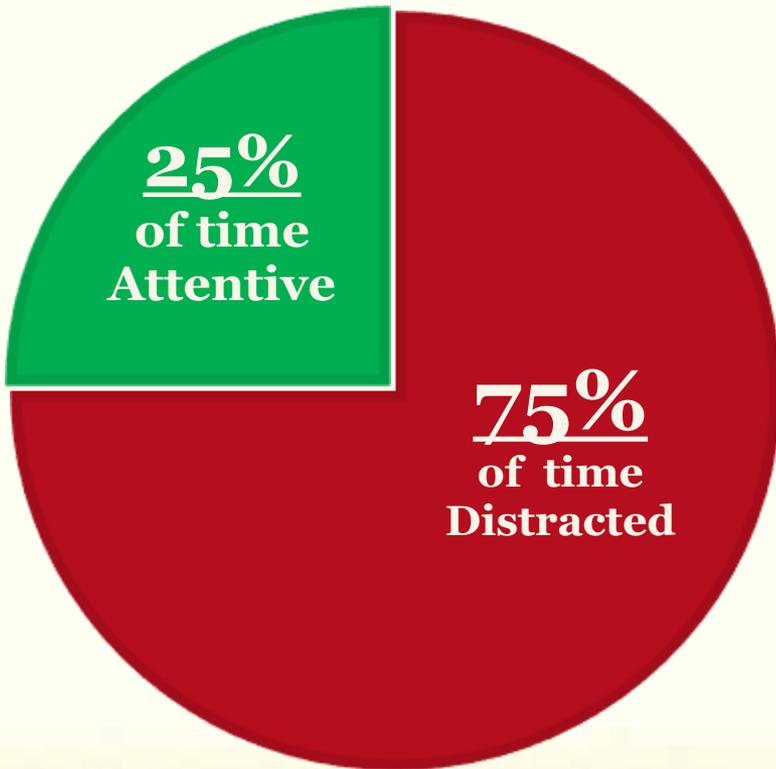
P.S. It averages:  
22 % in Serbian parishes;  
37% in Antiochian parishes;  
40% in OCA parishes; and  
48% in Carpatho Russian parishes

<sup>1</sup> Eight Facts about Church Attendance in US Orthodox Christian Churches (2010) Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America.

# Church Attentiveness Data

## % OF TIME DISTRACTED

■ Distracted ■ Attentive



~ Our minds wander and we are distracted between 70% to 80% of the time during Orthodox church services (excluding the sermon/homily)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Personal survey data acquired from interviews of hundreds of Orthodox Christians by Stewardship Calling

# How Are We Doing Financially?

GENEROSITY





# The Giving Facts<sup>1</sup>



- ~ People are giving a lower % of income to churches in the 2000's than they did either during the Great Depression or the 1920's
- ~ 37% of church goers give **\$0** to their church
- ~ 17% of American families have reduced the amount that they give to their local church
- ~ 7% of church goers have dropped regular giving by 20% or more
- ~ Parish median proxy tithe analysis shows GOA stewards typically only give between **0.5% to 0.8%** of their income (not 10%)

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<sup>1</sup> Christian Stewardship Association; Barna Research Group; Empty Tomb; Giving USA Foundation, <https://nonprofitssource.com/online-giving-statistics/church-giving/>, Stewardship Calling Financial Stewardship Analysis of over 250 parishes



# The Giving Facts<sup>1</sup>



**U.S. Orthodox Christians are in the:**

**(a) top quartile in annual income**

**(b) bottom quartile in giving to their churches in their annual stewardship**

---

<sup>1</sup> Pew Forum income data compared with analysis of several hundred Orthodox Parish financial statements (mostly in GOA) by Stewardship Calling



Stewardship  
Calling

# Financial Stewardship Analysis for Churches



A Special Free Service Available to Your Parish

- ~ How well is your church really doing from a financial stewardship perspective?
- ~ The Stewardship Calling FSA was developed over the last 12+ years using best practices and financial analytics adapted to Orthodox Christian parishes
- ~ It has been used by over 250+ churches to better understand what is happening with their financial stewardship and where they need to focus
- ~ It includes key performance indicator metrics and performance comparisons

Learn more here: <https://stewardshipcalling.com/financial-stewardship-analysis-fsa-for-churches/>

Or contact: [Bill@stewardshipcalling.com](mailto:Bill@stewardshipcalling.com)

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What are you doing with all of the gifts God has given you?

[www.stewardshipcalling.com](http://www.stewardshipcalling.com)

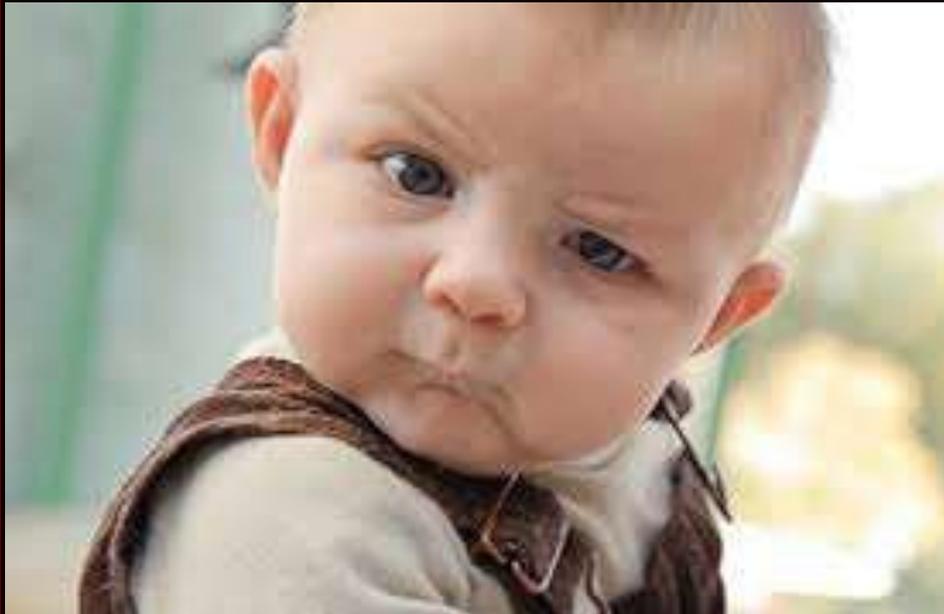
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Stewardship Tab and the Financial Stewardship Analysis drop down:

<https://stewardshipcalling.com/financial-stewardship-analysis-fsa-for-churches/>

If you are interested in a Financial Stewardship Analysis for your parish, please email: [Bill@stewardshipcalling.com](mailto:Bill@stewardshipcalling.com)

# How Are We Doing Numerically?

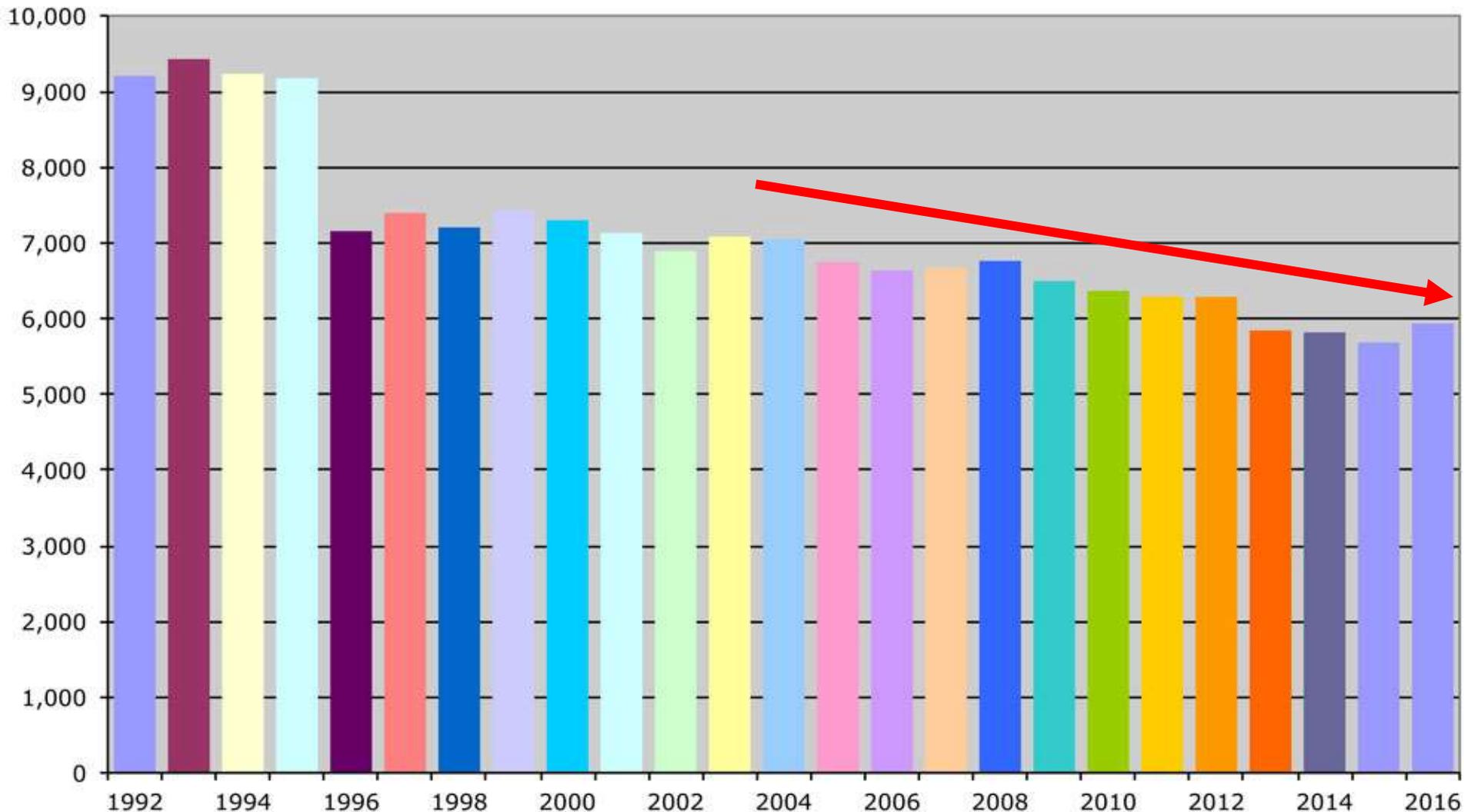




# **GOA Baptisms Are Generally Declining**

# Baptisms 1992 - 2016

*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

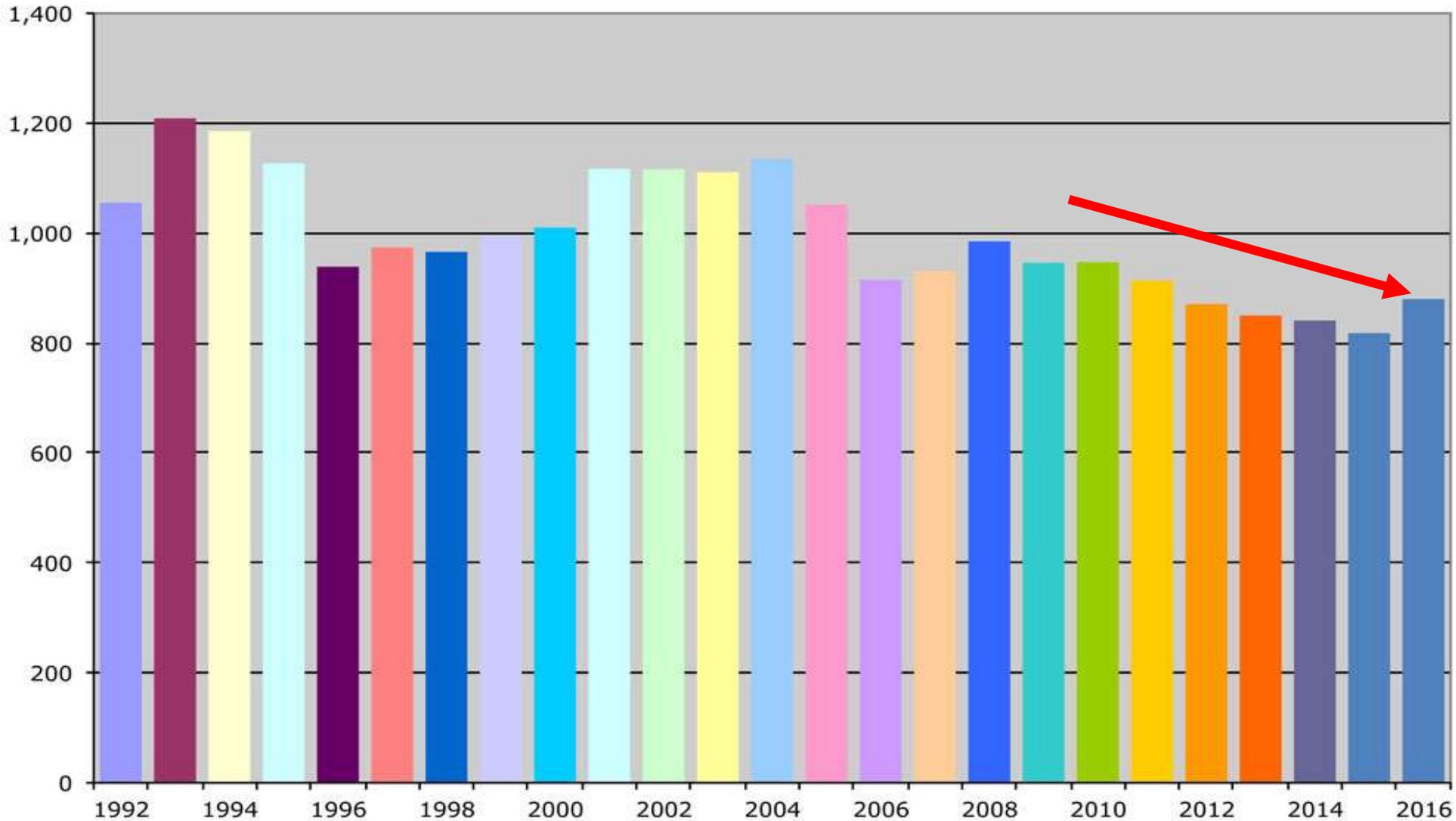


*Since 1996, statistics from Canada, Central America and South America were no longer included in Registry tabulations.*



# GOA Chrismations Are Generally Declining

**Chrismations 1992 - 2016**  
*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*



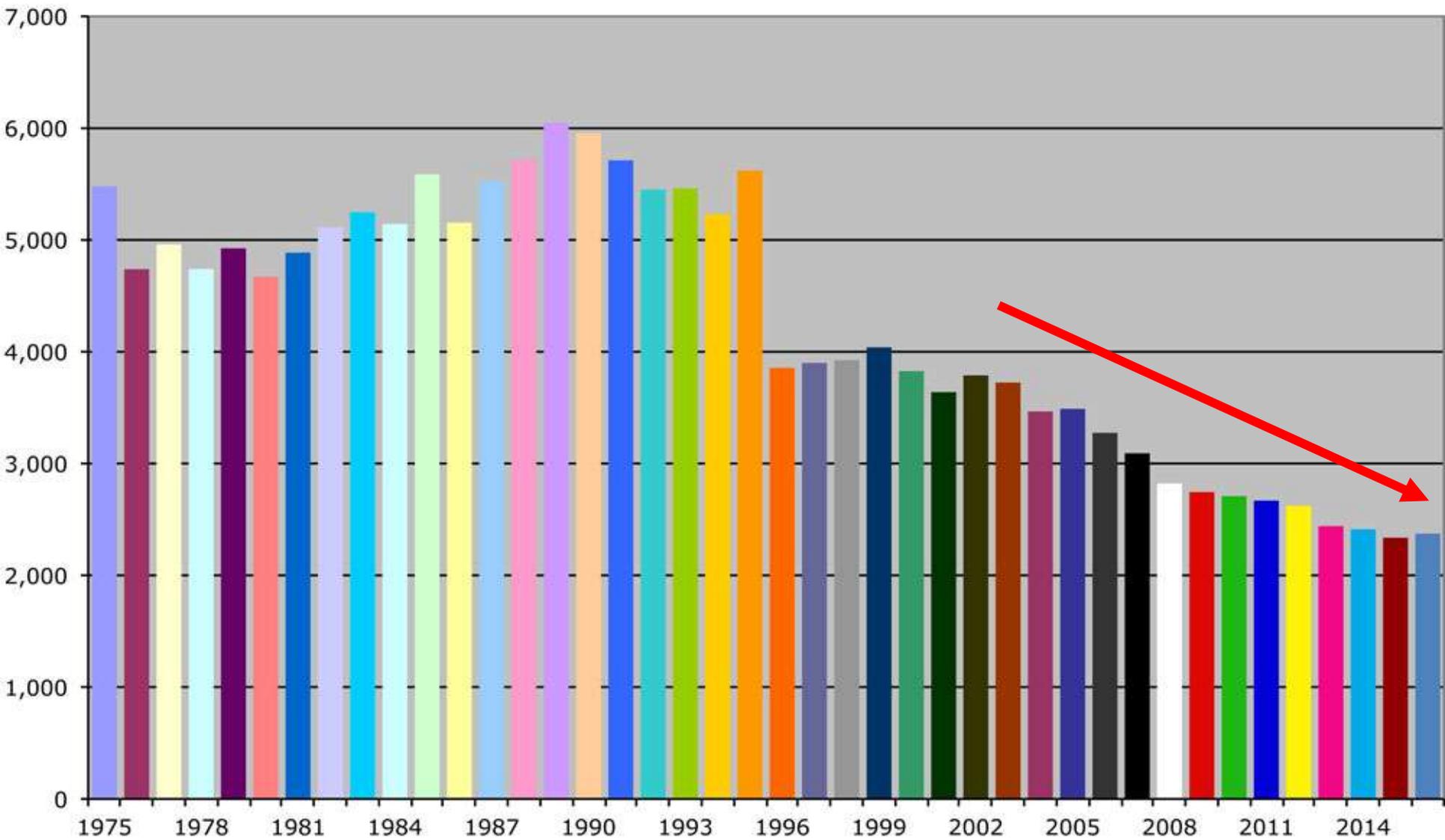
*Since 1996, statistics from Canada, Central America and South America were no longer included in Registry tabulations.*



# **GOA Weddings Are Generally Declining**

# Weddings 1975 - 2016

*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

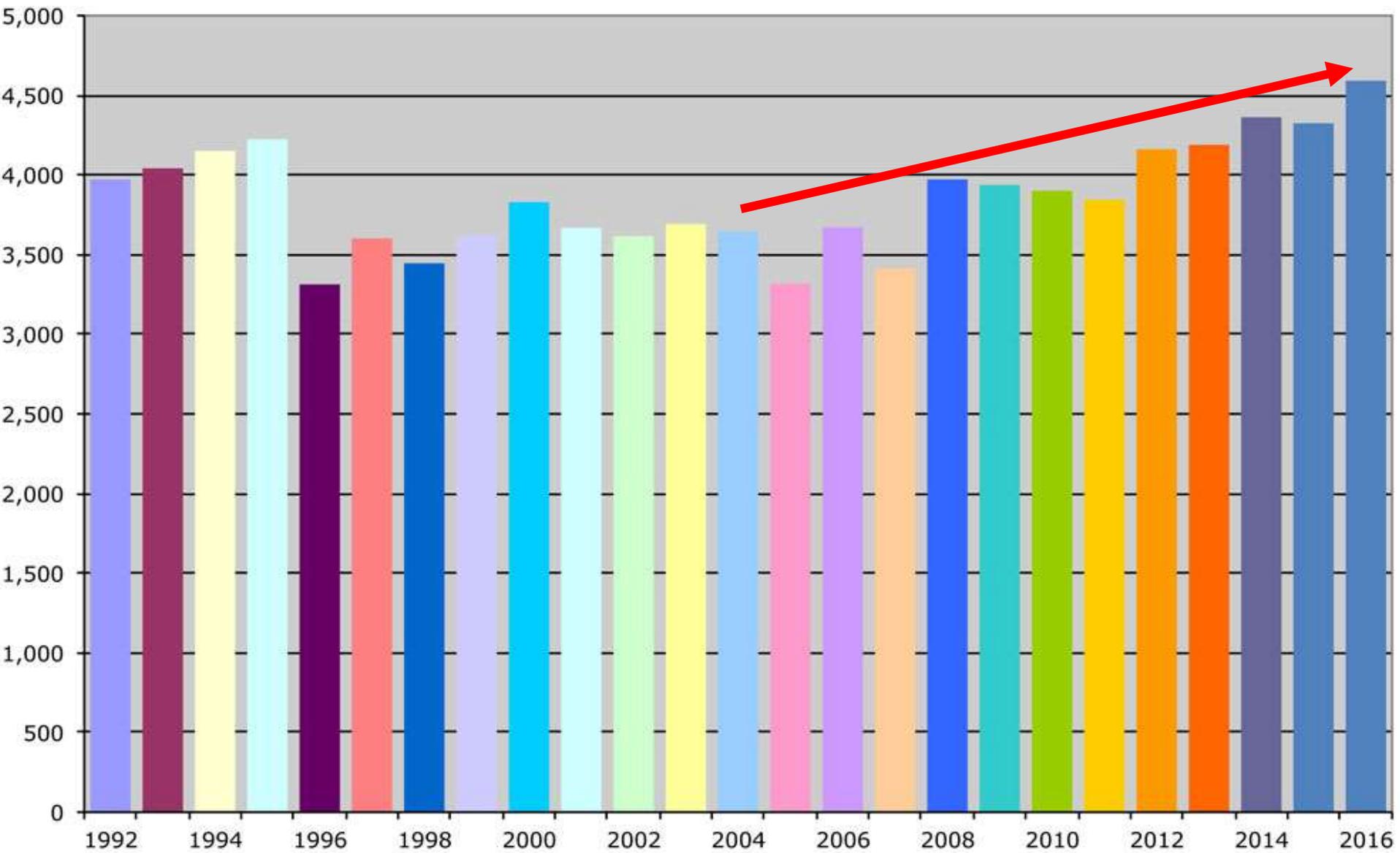




**And Finally, Something  
That is Generally  
Growing...**

# Funerals 1992 - 2016

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America





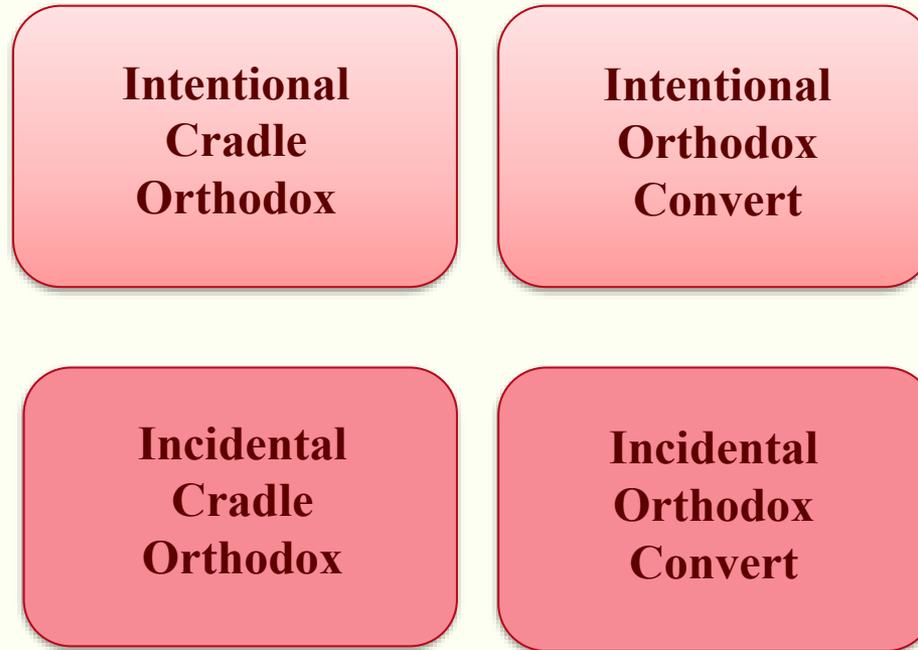
**The Stewardship Calling Model of the 4  
Kinds of Orthodox Christians in America**



**The Orthodox Church  
Makeup Has Changed  
Dramatically Over  
The Last 15 Years**

# 4 Kinds of Orthodox Christians

**Passion  
for the  
Faith**

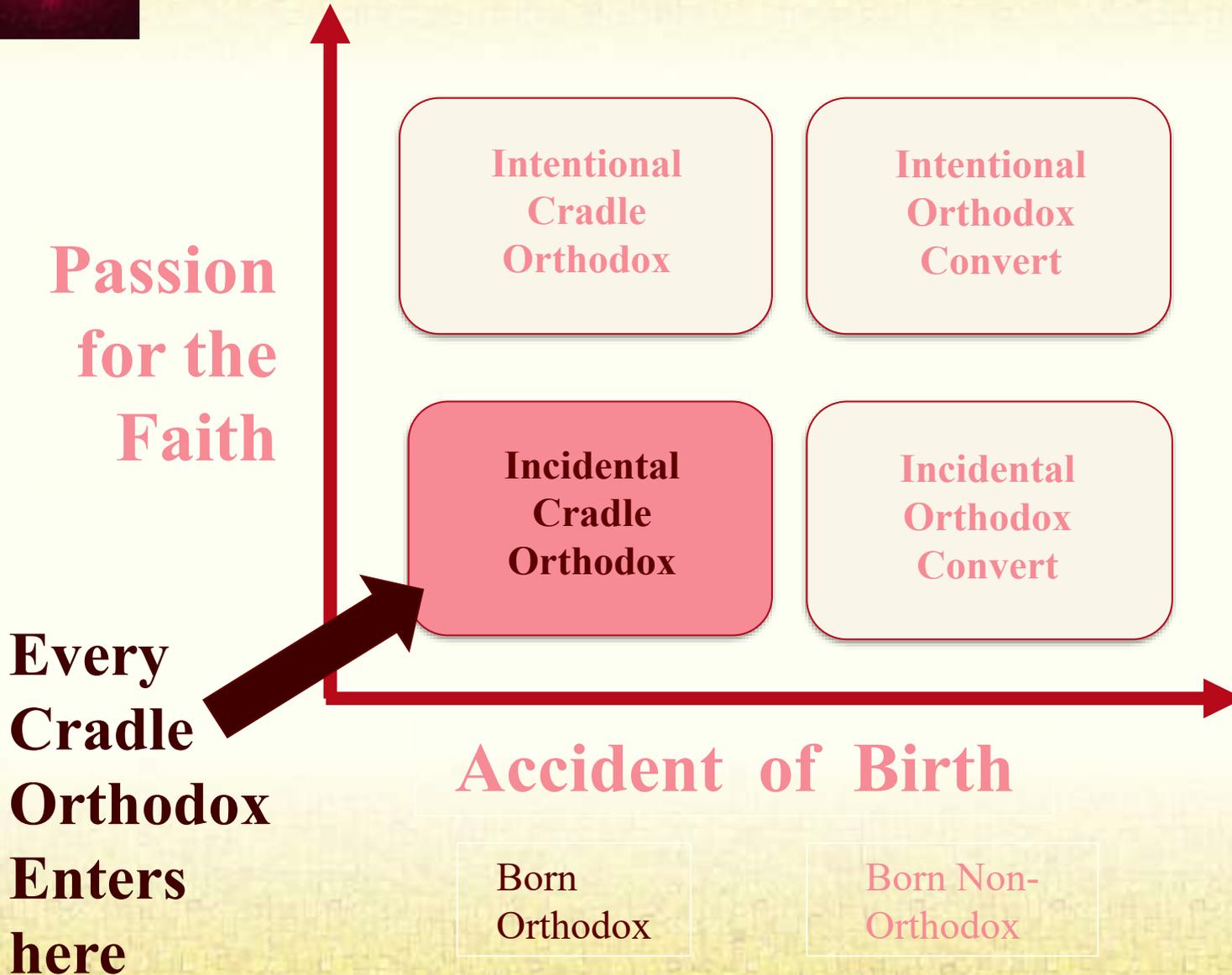


**Accident of Birth**

Born  
Orthodox

Born Non-  
Orthodox

# 4 Kinds of Orthodox Christians



# 4 Kinds of Orthodox Christians

Few Cradle  
Orthodox  
move here

Passion  
for the  
Faith

Intentional  
Cradle  
Orthodox

Intentional  
Orthodox  
Convert

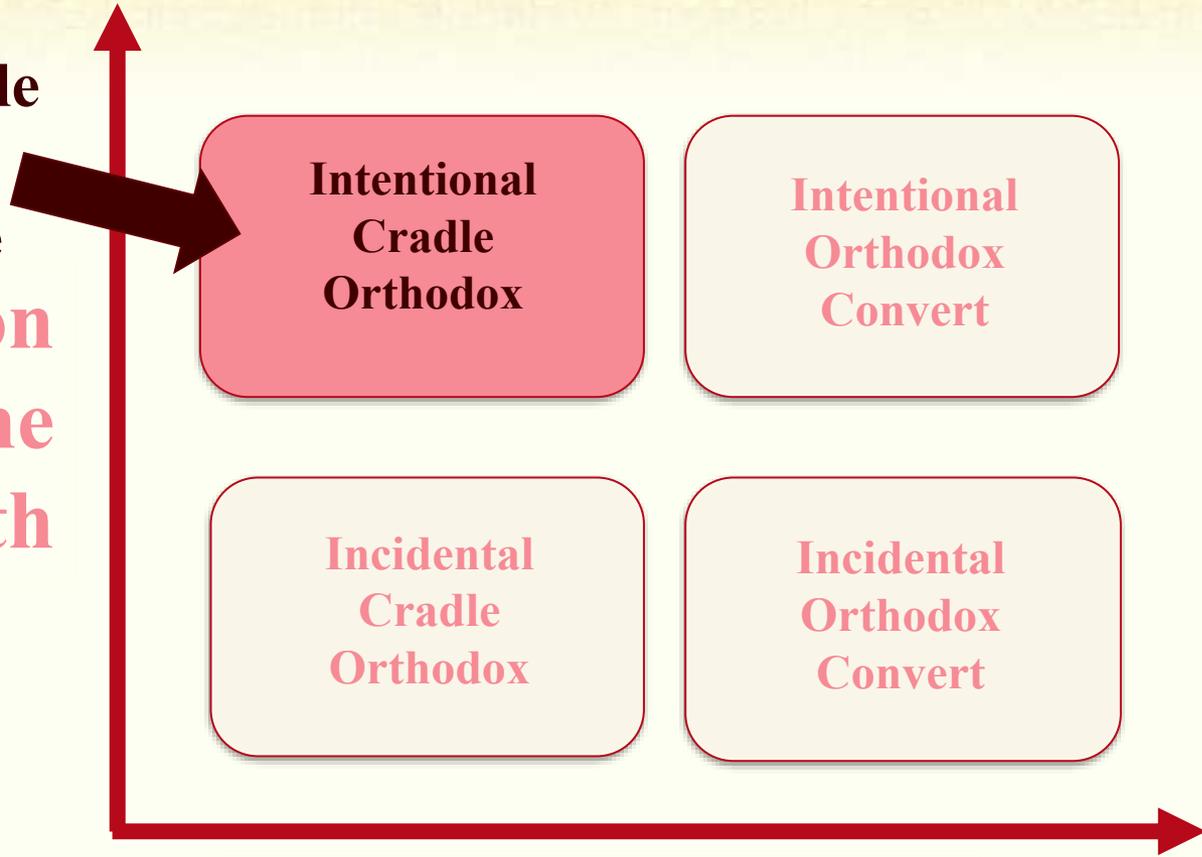
Incidental  
Cradle  
Orthodox

Incidental  
Orthodox  
Convert

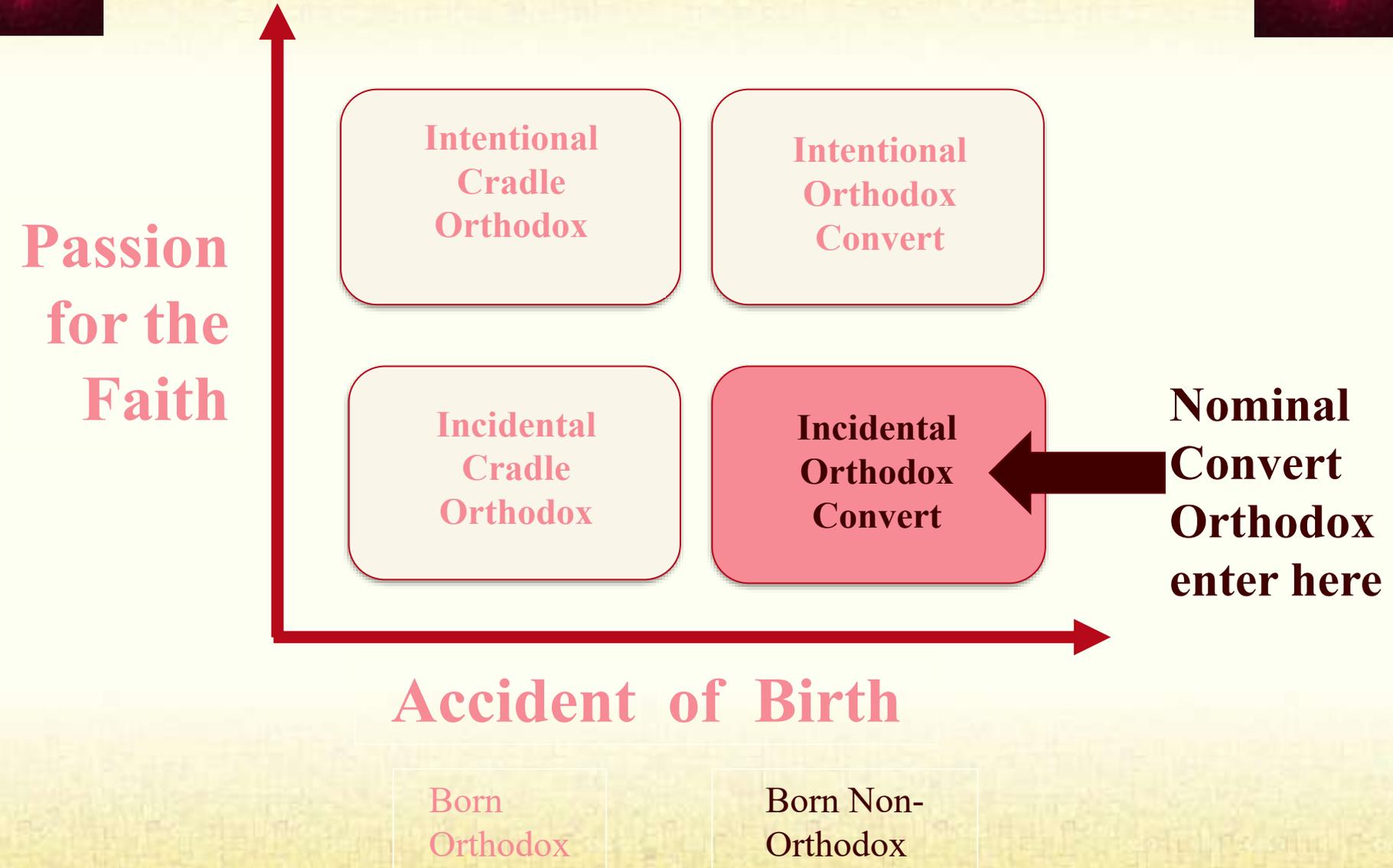
Accident of Birth

Born  
Orthodox

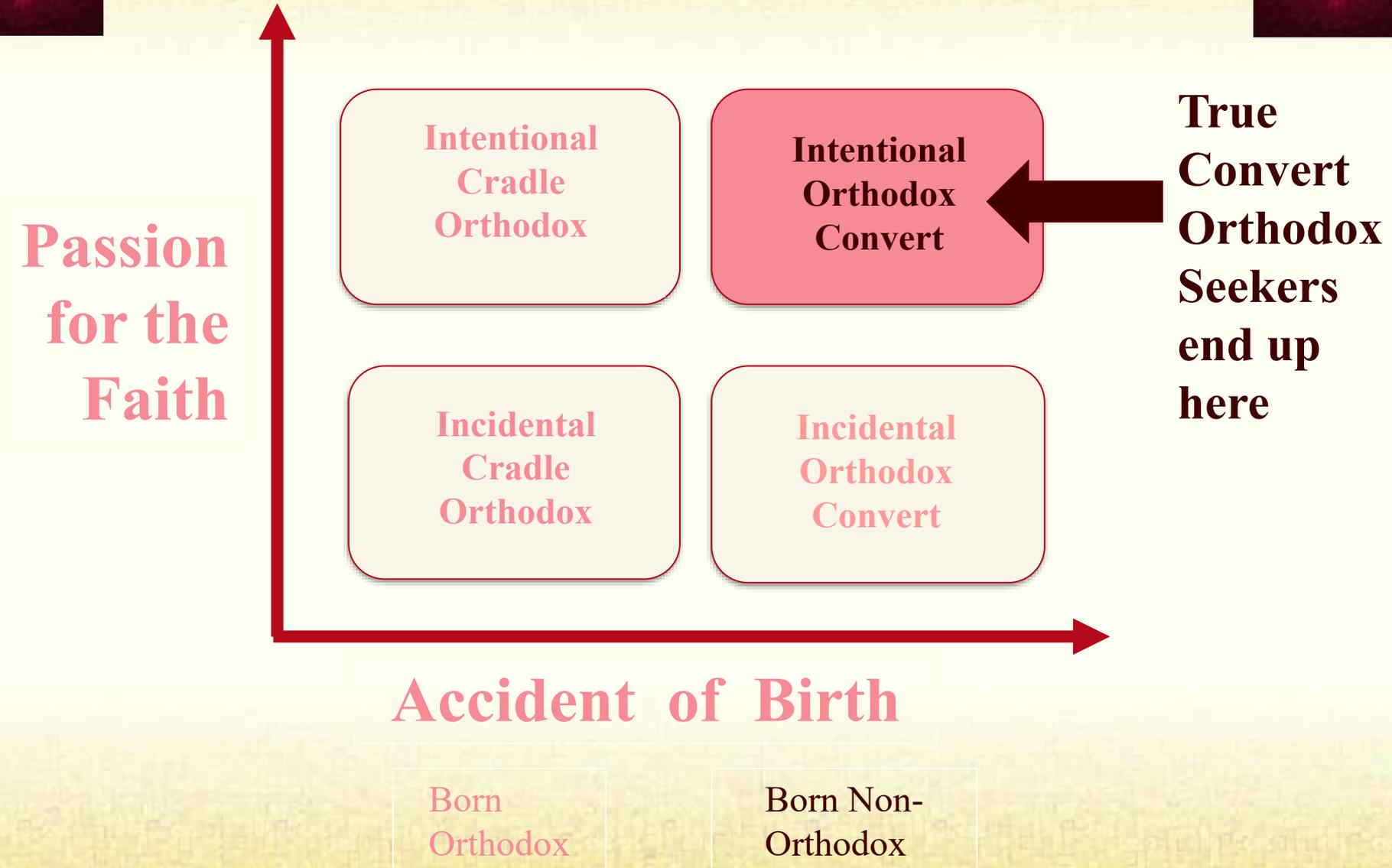
Born Non-  
Orthodox



# 4 Kinds of Orthodox Christians

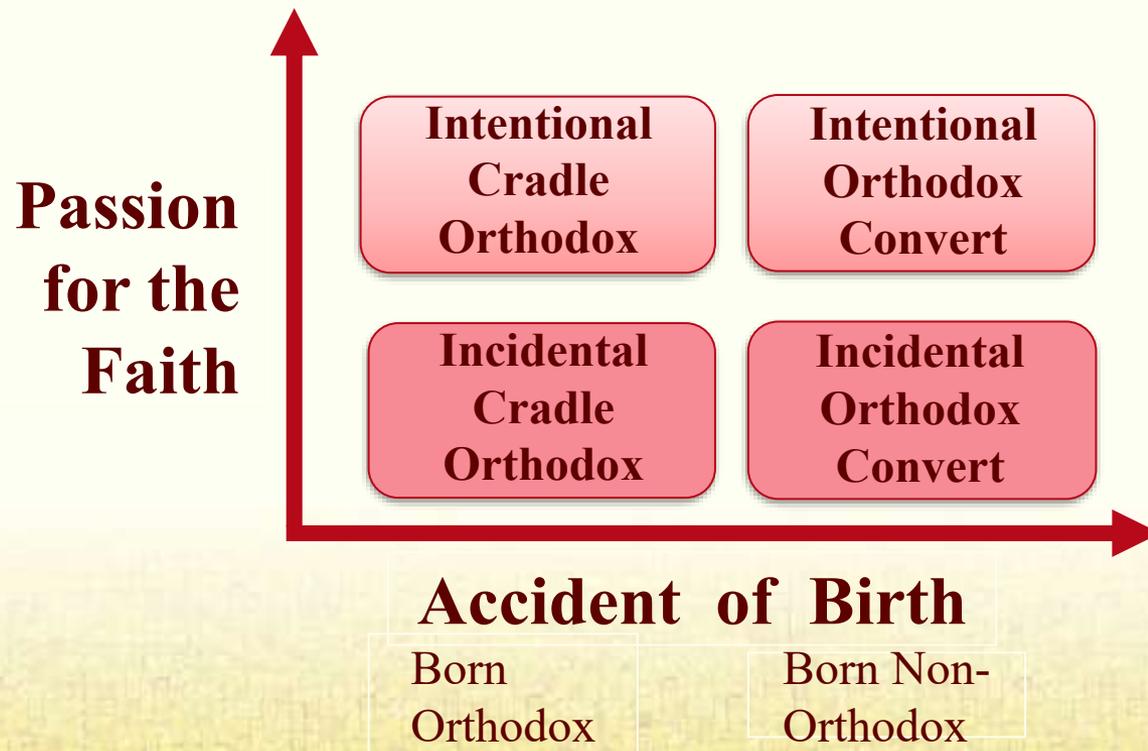


# 4 Kinds of Orthodox Christians



# 4 Kinds of Orthodox Christians

We now need different operational strategies to address the differing needs of each of the 4 categories of Orthodox Christians in our Parishes





# The Bottom Line



## DECLINING:

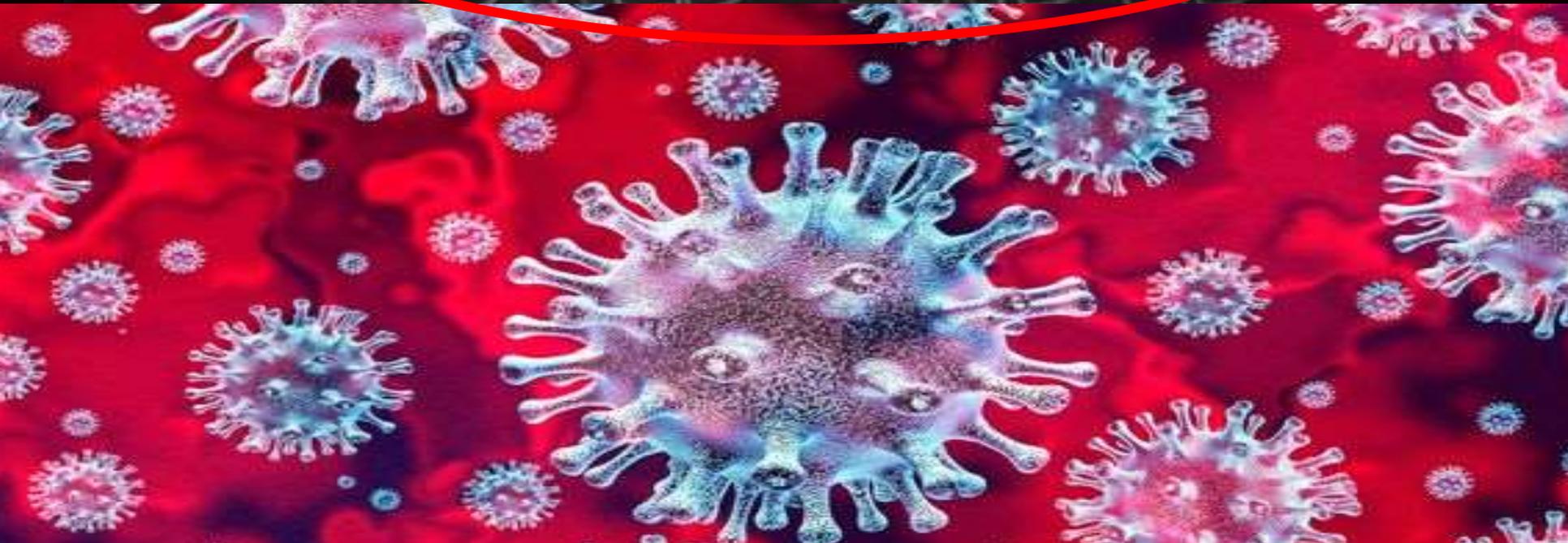
- ~ Church membership
- ~ Church sacraments
- ~ Church contributions
- ~ Church member spirituality
- ~ Church relevance in daily lives
- ~ Church stewardship
- ~ Church attentiveness during services

## GROWING:

- ~ Church disengagement by youth
- ~ Church member deaths
- ~ Church dependence on Festivals, raffles and fund raisers

JAMES H. NICHOLSON and SAMUEL Z. ARKOFF  
present

# DAY THE WORLD ENDED





**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION TIME!**

**Poll Time**





# Pandemic Empirical Data<sup>1 2</sup>



- ~ By early March 2020<sup>1</sup>, 59% of Christians who typically attended church at least monthly said they were going less often in person because of the virus, and 40% shifted to virtual attendance
- ~ By August, 2020<sup>2</sup>, 91% of Americans who watched services online were either “very” (54%) or “somewhat” (37%) satisfied with the experience
- ~ 92% of respondents who previously said they went to services at least once or twice a month said they will attend physical services at least as often as before once the pandemic is fully behind them

<sup>1</sup> “Most Americans Say Coronavirus Outbreak Has Impacted Their Lives” – Pew Research Center **March 30, 2020** <https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2020/03/30/most-americans-say-coronavirus-outbreak-has-impacted-their-lives/>

<sup>2</sup> Will the coronavirus permanently convert in-person worshippers to online streamers? They don't think so. - Pew Research Center **August 27, 2020** <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/08/17/will-the-coronavirus-permanently-convert-in-person-worshippers-to-online-streamers-they-dont-think-so/>

# Top 10 Lessons Learned From COVID-19 & Other Crises

**1. Crises out of our control WILL happen – so it's critical to have a comprehensive, written Crisis Preparedness Plan**

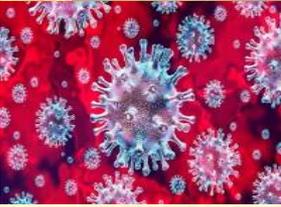


# Top 10 Lessons Learned From COVID-19 & Other Crises

2. A church that does not have a fully enculturated stewardship of generosity program will suffer more significantly
3. A tithing parish does not suffer as much
4. When a typical GOA parish is impacted or closed, it should budget losing between 40% - 50% of its income (assuming no material Stewardship income impact!) [ $\approx$  28% loss of Non-Orthodox income (e.g., festivals and rentals) +  $\approx$  20% loss of parishioner nickel and diming (e.g., candles, trays, fundraisers, misc. donations)]



# **Top 10 Lessons Learned From COVID-19 & Other Crises**



- 5. Having an easy online giving platform is essential**
- 6. Having a high percentage of stewards who give online substantially increases your yield and reduces your losses from the disruption (e.g., 49% of all church giving is made with a credit/debit card and 60% of parishioners are willing to give to their church digitally)**
- 7. You must offer as many online services, ministry events /activities, etc. as possible, so have the infrastructure, accounts and systems in place and tested well in advance**



# **Top 10 Lessons Learned From COVID-19 & Other Crises**



- 8. Staying in touch your parishioners, and their needs and situations is more critical than ever (and not just by email)**
- 9. The more your ministries can function during the crises, the more engaged your faithful remain, the more your church fulfills its mission, and the more the generosity will be reinforced and inspire even greater generosity**
- 10. You must always have a financial reserve and cushion for just such emergencies**

**(P.S. You might be able to do a drive-thru Greek festival)**



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# A STEWARDSHIP CALLING



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## COVID-19 BEST PRACTICES FOR PARISHES

When the COVID-19 pandemic is just the story that we tell, what will be the story you tell?

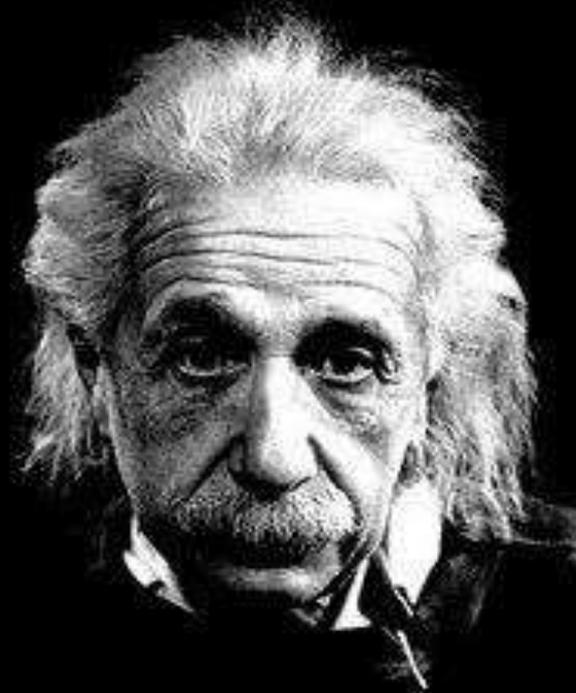
“Spread The Word, not the virus.”

[https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/stewardshipcalling/spread\\_the\\_word\\_not\\_the\\_virus](https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/stewardshipcalling/spread_the_word_not_the_virus)



April 1, 2020

"WE CANNOT  
SOLVE OUR  
PROBLEMS  
WITH THE SAME  
THINKING WE  
USED WHEN WE  
CREATED THEM"



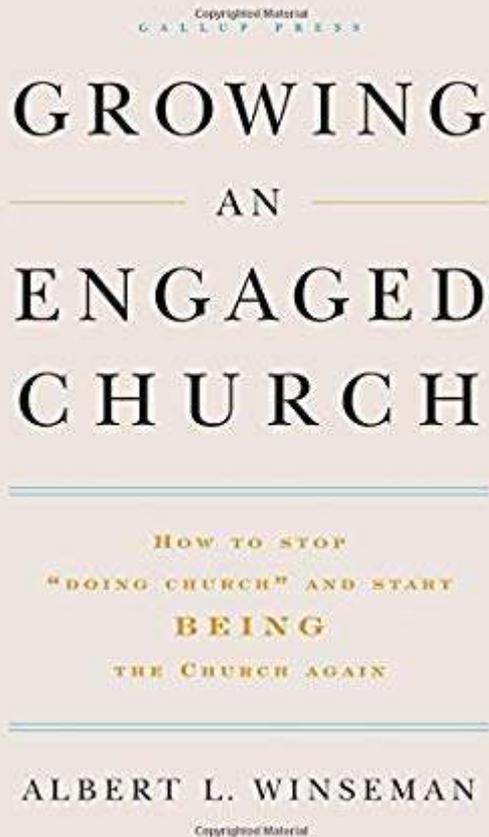


**The one comprehensive  
solution to many of your  
challenges is:**

# **ENGAGEMENT**



# A Must Read For Every Priest and Church Leader



## Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop “Doing Church” And Start Being The Church Again

**By: Al Winseman, Global Practice Leader for Faith-Based Organizations for the Gallup Organization**



# The Empirical Data Shows<sup>1</sup>



**“...congregations with engaged members are:**

- 1. spiritually healthier;**
- 2. better able to:**
  - (a) carry out their missions,**
  - (b) attract more new people,**
  - (c) fund new ventures; and**
- 3. have a higher percentage of spiritually committed individuals.”**

---

<sup>1</sup> Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop “Doing Church” And Start Being The Church Again – By Al Winseman, Global Practice Leader for Faith-Based Organizations for the Gallup Organization



# The Empirical Data Shows<sup>1</sup>



**“Spiritual commitment is usually a result of one big – and often overlooked – factor: congregational engagement.**

**Focus on improving engagement and increased commitment will follow.”**

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<sup>1</sup> Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop “Doing Church” And Start Being The Church Again – By Al Winseman, Global Practice Leader for Faith-Based Organizations for the Gallup Organization



# The Empirical Data Shows<sup>1</sup>



**“How much members give financially, how many hours they volunteer in community service, and how often they invite others to their congregations are more dependent on engagement than on any other factor.”**

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<sup>1</sup> Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop “Doing Church” And Start Being The Church Again – By Al Winseman, Global Practice Leader for Faith-Based Organizations for the Gallup Organization



# The Empirical Data Shows<sup>1</sup>



**“Your job as a leader is not to placate the actively disengaged. It is to create and grow disciples.”**

**“One reason United States congregations are in trouble is that they have a low percentage of engaged members.”**

**“So the very first thing you, as a leader, must do to ensure congregation effectiveness is to clarify ‘membership’ expectations.”**

---

<sup>1</sup> Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop “Doing Church” And Start Being The Church Again – By Al Winseman, Global Practice Leader for Faith-Based Organizations for the Gallup Organization



# The Empirical Data Shows<sup>1</sup>



**“ ... those who are engaged give more to their congregations than anyone else does...”**

**“Each year, engaged members give a median of 5% of their annual income...”**

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<sup>1</sup> Growing An Engaged Church: How To Stop “Doing Church” And Start Being The Church Again – By Al Winseman, Global Practice Leader for Faith-Based Organizations for the Gallup Organization



# **# 1 of 15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices**



## **1. Stewardship & Generosity**

**What is Stewardship and what does Holy Scripture teach about Stewardship?**



# Science of Generosity Studies



<https://generosityresearch.nd.edu/>

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COLLEGE of ARTS and LETTERS



SCIENCE of GENEROSITY

*exploring an essential human virtue*

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Sci-Port Museum's Sci Gen Exhibit

Generosity and Marriage

Generosity, Catholicism, Islam

Current studies of generosity come from many different and often disconnected disciplines and focus on various terms, such as philanthropy, volunteerism and altruism. The Science of Generosity initiative aims to bring together diverse approaches in order to create a field for the study of generosity in all its forms.



Why the Science of Generosity?

## Generosity in the News

15 March

Wisconsin Public Radio: Just How Generous Are Americans Really?

22 February

"American Generosity Who Gives and Why"

+ More News



Generosity & Attachment



# Science of Generosity Studies



## 5 Big Summary Ideas From The Science of Generosity Studies





# Science of Generosity Studies



- 1. Each person usually decides whether or not they will be generous, and a giver, at a fairly early age (usually influenced by their parents)**
- 2. After they form a personal generosity opinion, people look for easy and routine ways to be generous (so parishes must make giving easy)**
- 3. Reinforced by years of generosity, it becomes a habit, and being a good steward is cemented in their adult behaviors and DNA (and what they teach their children / grandchildren)**



# Science of Generosity Studies



- 4. A Parish should create and communicate a culture of generosity, and social networks that support generosity, for parishioners (including youth) to see themselves as a part of that generous culture**
- 5. Parishes need to cultivate an attitude of abundance and gratitude, not scarcity, since most of us are blessed, and attitudes of abundance have been shown psychologically and biologically to cause people to reframe their reality and become more generous**



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## The Generosity Challenge – The Top Issue Facing Parishes and Parishioners

How to Create a  
Culture of Generosity  
in Your Life & Parish:

Sunday,

December 30, 2018

[https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/stewardshipcalling/how to solve the biggest challenge in our parishes today](https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/stewardshipcalling/how-to-solve-the-biggest-challenge-in-our-parishes-today)



# **Definitions of Stewardship**





# Today's Life Changing Idea



INY IG

# Today's Life Changing Idea

It's Not Yours  
It's God's

**“You received without paying,  
give without pay.”**

Matthew 10:8





The Stewardship Calling  
Stewardship Definition



Stewardship...

...what you do with ALL  
the gifts God gave you



# The Parable of Generosity



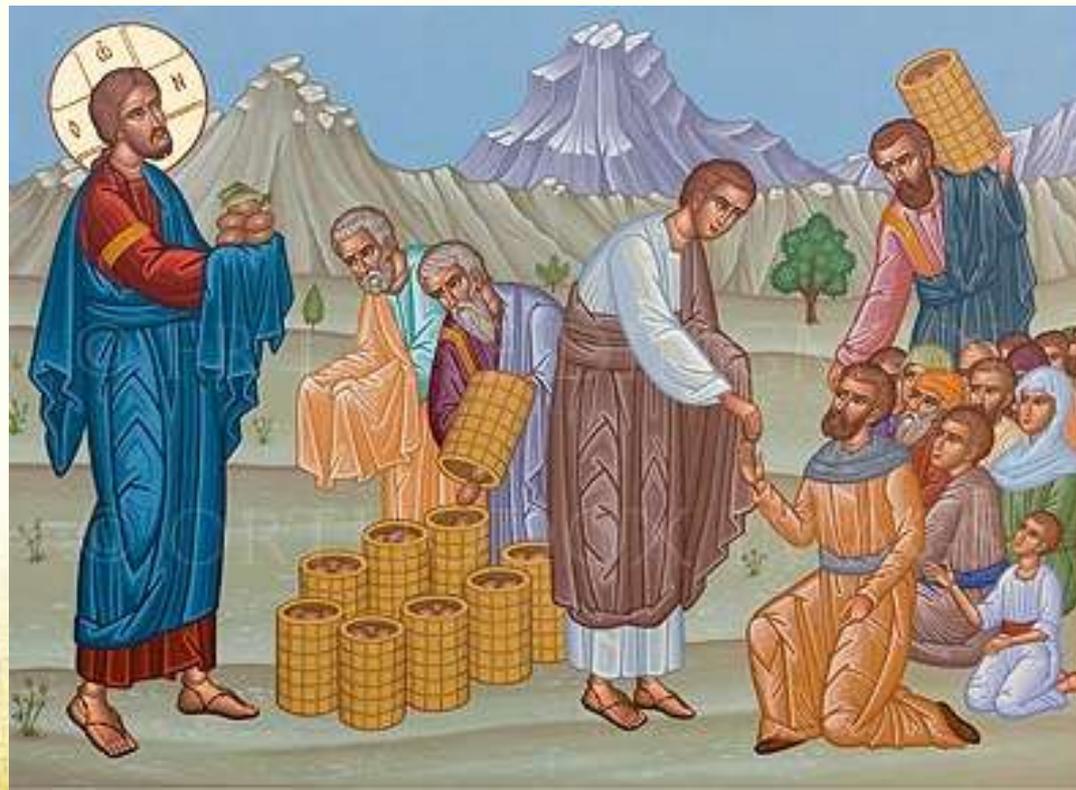
The parable featured in all 4 Gospels

**Matthew 14:13**

**Mark 6:31**

**Luke 9:12**

**John 6:1-14**





# The Parable of Generosity



**“There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many.”**

**John 6:9**



**“But this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. *(2 Corinthians 9: 6-8)***





**“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”**  
*(Luke 12:48)*

**“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessings the Lord your God gave you.”**

*(Deuteronomy 16:17)*

**Message:**

**Proportional giving**



**“On the first day of the week  
(i.e., Sunday) let each one of you  
lay something aside, storing up  
as he may prosper ...I will  
send... your gift to Jerusalem”  
(i.e., the Church center at that time)**

*(1 Corinthians 16:2-3)*

## **Message:**

**Weekly giving**

**Proportional giving**

**Giving for the work of the Church**

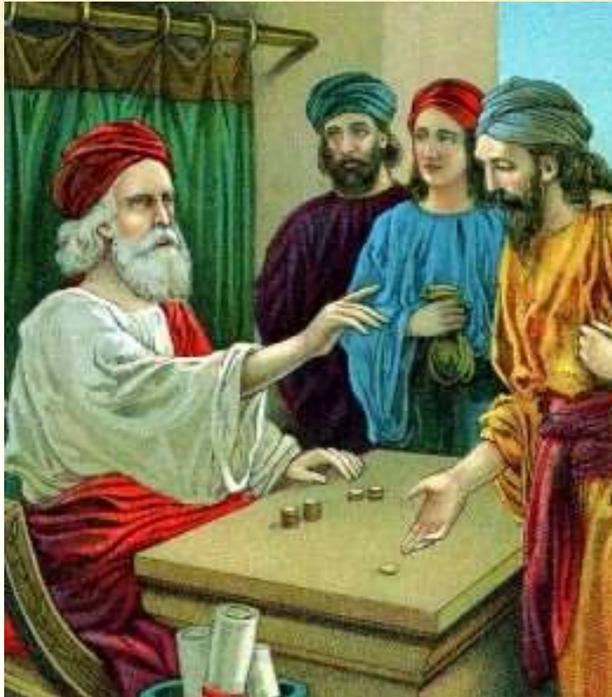


**“Command those who are rich... not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches... Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”** *(1 Timothy 6:17-19)*

**Message:**

**Basis for link between stewardship, spiritual growth and ultimately salvation**

# The Parable of the Talents



**“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much.”**

*(Matthew 25:14-30)*



**Scripture Discusses Money  
Frequently  
(i.e., it's OK to properly  
ask for money for God's  
house and Christ's church)**



# Matthew 19:16-26



~ The question asked our Lord was: “What good deed must I do to have eternal life?”

~ “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me.”

~ Are you prepared to go ALL IN?



# Luke 16:11



**“And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth,**



**...who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?”**





# A Possible Stewardship Question from our Lord



- **What did you do with the money over which I allowed you to be a steward?**
- **PERSONAL SUGGESTION #1: Each week, fill out an accounting to God of what you did with His money this past week**
- **PERSONAL SUGGESTION #2: Give your parishioners some money and ask them to explain what they did to cause it to multiply in God's Kingdom**



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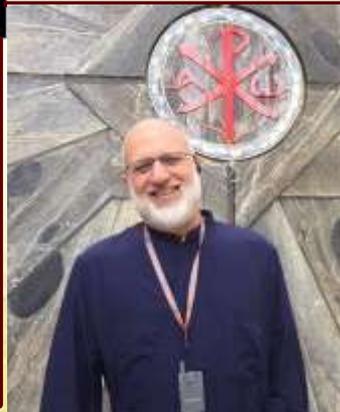
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## The Good and Faithful Servant Challenge

Did you hear the one about the church that gave its parishioners \$30,000 and told them to give it away? And all they had to send back was a post card about who they helped and how it felt?

**May 6, 2020**

[https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/stewardshipcalling/who\\_gives\\_away](https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/stewardshipcalling/who_gives_away)



**Fr. Luke Veronis**

Saints Constantine and Helen  
Greek Orthodox Church in  
Webster, MA



# Stewardship Calling Culture of True Stewardship Best Practices



## Session 1 - September 1, 2020

1. Facts & Figures
2. Covid/Crisis Strategies
3. Science of Generosity Studies
4. A Culture of True Orthodox Stewardship

## Session 2 - September 15, 2020

1. Leadership Alignment
2. Tithing and Percentage Giving
3. Increasing Engagement
4. The Personal Touch

## Session 3 - September 29, 2020

1. Welcoming
2. Thanking
3. Youth Stewardship
4. Small Groups

## Session 4 - October 13, 2020

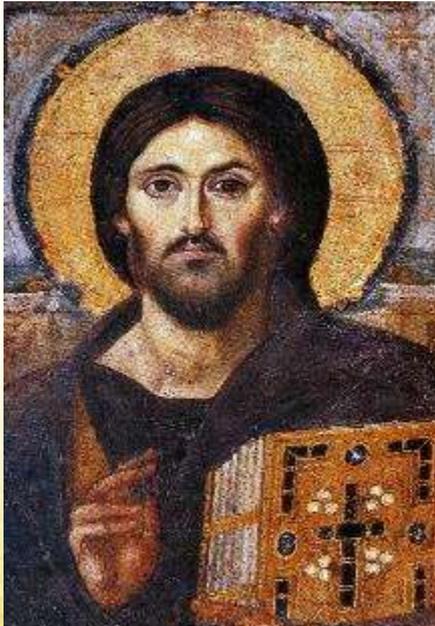
1. Effective Messaging
2. Campaigns (Stewardship, Capital & Planned Giving)
3. Transparency & Accountability
4. Stewardship Team

## Session 5 - October 27, 2020

Questions & Answers

# Christ's Possible Question To You

*“What did YOU do with MY Church under YOUR watch given all of the gifts I gave YOU?”*





GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO



## *Igniting the Flame*

# *A Culture of True Christian Stewardship and Generosity*

“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.”

Luke 12:48

**Bill Marianes**

**[www.stewardshipcalling.com](http://www.stewardshipcalling.com)**

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