



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

CLERGY – LAITY ASSEMBLY MINUTES

February 29 – March 1, 2016

Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center – Dunlap, CA

CALL TO ORDER AND DESIGNATION OF PRESIDING OFFICER

The 2016 Clergy-Laity Assembly was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos who led the delegates in an Opening Prayer Service, assisted by Rev. Father Peter Salmas, and Rev. Father Christos Kanakis. Metropolitan Gerasimos welcomed all the clergy and lay representatives from throughout the Metropolis as well as special guests His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas of the Dardanelles and Rev. Father Vasileios Thermos, M.D., Ph.D.

Metropolitan Gerasimos nominated Fanis Economidis to be the Presiding Officer of the Clergy-Laity Assembly. This nomination was approved by acclamation of the Assembly.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS – HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS

Following the theme of the Clergy-Laity Assembly, the Keynote Address offered by Metropolitan Gerasimos focused on two main areas – *Looking Inward* and *Looking Outward*. In speaking about Looking Inward, Metropolitan Gerasimos spoke about our interior wellness and the importance of tending to one's spiritual wellness, especially with Great Lent approaching. This is an excellent time for introspection and focusing on enhancing one's relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer and fasting. Metropolitan Gerasimos also commented that this Assembly is also about Looking Inward on the wellbeing of our Metropolis including our ministries and financial operations. In Looking Outward, we will focus on the ongoing progress of our Strategic Plan. The impact of our more aligned and focused ministries including Missions and Evangelism, Family Wellness, and Continuing Education for Clergy. Part of looking outward also includes how we share our faith with others, how our churches are engaged in their local communities, and how we can better engage our faithful in the life of the Church. In closing, Metropolitan Gerasimos also talked about Looking Upward and Onward, emphasizing the importance of reliance on God, on Liturgical Life and prayer, as well as challenging the delegates in attendance to use these two days together as a source of inspiration and information to take back to your parishes to build up the Body of Christ into a healthy community – inward and outward.

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

Steve Tibbs and Gerry Kamilos discussed the progress of the Strategic Plan which began in 2012. Since that time, the Task Forces have been working very hard and realizing many of the

goals set forth in the plan. Some adjustments have been necessary along the way, but overall the progress has been very successful and met with enthusiasm by our parishes.

Presentations were offered by the following Task Forces:

- Missions and Evangelism – Thomaida Hudanish gave an update on their work, including the Mochas for Missions program, the Parish Mentoring Program for small communities, and new outreach resources that will continue to be made available to our parishes.
- Family Wellness – Father Timothy Pavlatos spoke about the work of their committee, preparing for various workshops being held in the Metropolis, and also introducing a new program “Reclaiming the Family Dinner”, encouraging families to share a designated meal, disconnected from electronics, and engage in meaningful dialogue.
- Website – Father Daniel Triant and Eve Tibbs presented an overview of the new Metropolis website. This will be a more comprehensive approach to communications, better organized, searchable, and even contains pictures of all our Metropolis parishes in the directory. The site uses current technology allowing it to be viewed on desktop/laptop computers, tablets and smartphones. Future plans include a password-access Clergy Portal to provide a place for communication and document-sharing from the Offices of the Metropolitan and Chancellor.

Three parishes offered testimonials on their personal experiences with the Strategic Plan:

- Fr. Aris Metrakos – Philanthropic Outreach (Holy Trinity, San Francisco, CA)
- Andrew Primis – Stewardship (Saint Nicholas, Tacoma, WA)
- Dr. George Koumaras – Parish Strategic Planning (Sts. Constantine and Helen, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA)

Metropolitan Gerasimos concluded this portion of the agenda by conveying his gratitude to Steve Tibbs and Gerry Kamilos, along with all our Task Forces, Captains, Coordinators and Advocates, who have worked for the past five years to bring this plan into full implementation and realization. Even when the original 37 goals are concluded, the plan will continue as new areas of growth will be identified and we will work to be responsive and proactive to the needs of our parishes, clergy and faithful.

SPECIAL REMARKS FROM METROPOLITAN NIKITAS

The Assembly was honored to welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas of the Dardanelles who spoke about the gift we have in the ministry of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. He credited Metropolitan Gerasimos’ vision with the excellent progress being realized on the west coast, and also remarked that our work and the message of the faithfulness of our people will be conveyed to His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, as Metropolitan Gerasimos will begin his one-year service on the Holy and Sacred Synod, requiring him to travel to Constantinople monthly for the next twelve months.

ALEX AND FAYE SPANOS FAITH AND HERITAGE CENTER

Fanis Economidis offered an overview of the Alex and Faye Spanos Faith and Heritage Center. The majority of this facility has been completed, with just a few minor areas still needing attention. The Thyranoixia (Opening of the Doors) will be scheduled for later in the year. The

majority of the funding came from the Spanos family, to whom we are very grateful. Additional significant support came from the Metropolis Philoptochos and the Elios Charitable Foundation. The beautiful iconography in the Saint Photini Chapel was recently completed by Dr. George Kordis from Athens, Greece. We look forward to working on the furnishings and putting this beautiful facility into full usage. The delegates will have the opportunity to tour this beautiful facility during the Assembly and enjoy a brief reception prior to Vespers and Dinner.

ELECTIONS

Every other year we are called to elect eight (8) clergy and eight (8) laity to serve a two-year term on the Metropolis Council, in accordance with the Regulations from the Archdiocese. The terms for those elected will commence immediately following this summer's 2016 Archdiocese Clergy-Laity Congress, and will continue through the 2018 Clergy-Laity Congress. Serving on the Election Committee were: His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia, Isidoros Garifalakis, and Jeannie Ranglas.

The following eight (8) clergy were placed on the ballot for election:

1. Rev. Father Andrew Barakos
2. V. Rev. Archimandrite John Constantine
3. Rev. Father Dean Kouldukis
4. Rev. Father Constantine Pappademos
5. Rev. Father Peter Salmas
6. Rev. Father Andrew Scordalakis
7. Rev. Father Peter Stratos
8. Rev. Father Tom Zaferes

Pictures and biographical information were presented on the following twelve (12) lay candidates:

1. Philippos Athanasiades
2. Spiro Beckas
3. John Buzas
4. Steve Counelis
5. George Demos
6. James Eleopoulos
7. Gerry Kamilos
8. Greg Kyritsis
9. Paul Sogotis
10. Michael Syrengelas
11. Dr. Eve Tibbs
12. Ted Vavoulis

Written ballots were distributed to all Assembly delegates and tabulated, from which the following results were obtained:

Clergy Elected

1. Rev. Father Andrew Barakos
2. V. Rev. Archimandrite John Constantine
3. Rev. Father Dean Kouldukis
4. Rev. Father Constantine Pappademos
5. Rev. Father Peter Salmas
6. Rev. Father Andrew Scordalakis
7. Rev. Father Peter Stratos
8. Rev. Father Tom Zaferes

Laity Elected

1. Spiro Beckas
2. John Buzas
3. Steve Counelis
4. George Demos
5. Gerry Kamilos
6. Michael Syrengelas
7. Dr. Eve Tibbs
8. Ted Vavoulis

In addition, three members (one clergy and two laity) were elected to be our Metropolis representatives to the Archdiocesan Council:

1. Rev. Father Aris Metrakos
2. Isidoros Garifalakis
3. Rocky Sisson

In addition to above named members of the Metropolis Council, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos will appoint an additional eight (8) members (comprised of both clergy and laity) to serve a two-year term.

A PRESENTATION OF GRATITUDE

Rev. Father Andrew Lesko from Saint Nicholas Church in Murrieta (Temecula) also serves a Chaplain for the San Bernardino County Coroner's Division. In December 2015 a mass shooting took place in San Bernardino and Father Andrew was called upon to assist the coroner's office and also provide support to the families who lost loved ones during this terrible tragedy. Father Andrew spoke about the care and concern extended to him from His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos whose regular phone calls and messages provided comfort and strength for him during this difficult time. He presented both Metropolitan Gerasimos and Bishop Apostolos with gifts of gratitude from the Sheriff's Department as a small token of appreciation.

GUEST PRESENTER – REV. VASILEIOS THERMOS, M.D., PH.D.

The featured presenter for the Assembly was Rev. Vasileios Thermos, M.D., Ph.D., a distinguished clergyman and scholar with degrees from Athens University, Harvard, Boston College, Boston University, and Andover Newton Theological School. Since August 2013 he has been Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Psychology at the University

Ecclesiastical Academy in Athens. Father Thermos' presentation to the Assembly was entitled "Addiction and the Person: A Psychological and Theological Approach". He offered that not all addiction are life-threatening but that all are harmful to the health and the integrity of the person, and all have spiritual consequences. Seeking professional and spiritual guidance to redirect one's life is imperative, increasing time spent in prayer, partaking of the Holy Sacraments, and instead seeking emotionally edifying ways to find fulfillment instead of through the use of substances and participating in other behaviors which are detrimental to one's health, relationships, and spiritual wellness.

At the conclusion of the presentation by Father Thermos, the Assembly recessed for the evening.

DAY TWO

Following the Divine Liturgy and a twelve-year memorial for Metropolitan Anthony, of blessed memory, the deliberations of the Clergy-Laity Assembly resumed at 10:30 a.m. with a prayer offered by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the 2015 Clergy-Laity Assembly was made by Father Stephen Kyriacou, seconded by Spero Tzathas. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE METROPOLIS COUNCIL

Fanis Economidis offered a summary presentation from the deliberations of the Metropolis Council which met immediately preceding the Assembly. He called to the attention of the delegates the FDF Oli Mazi publication which was included in everyone's packets. This included a two-page highlight about our Metropolis Strategic Plan, showing the wonderful progress that has been made over the past five years. Fanis took a moment to reflect on his 30 years of service on the Metropolis Council and the pride and joy of working with so many wonderful clergy and laity who inspire him to continue offering his leadership. He also commended His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos for his vision to expand the work of our Metropolis and remarked on the achievements of the Strategic Plan which have brought increased engagement in our ministries. Since 2007 the Metropolis Budget has virtually doubled, but Fanis cautioned that the increase has been carefully contemplated over the years and has been a wise investment in ministries and human resources to elevate the work of the Metropolis and ultimately for the benefit of our parishes and faithful. Fanis also mentioned the wonderful new landmark at the Ranch – the Alex and Faye Spanos Faith and Heritage Center. This facility was the dream of Metropolitan Anthony, of blessed memory, and it will now provide expanded facilities for the Ranch to offer specialized programs for the perpetuation of our faith and heritage. The existing Ranch facilities are nearing 40 years old and they also need attention. Gratitude was extended to AHEPA who is raising funds for the renovation of the lower dormitory – the AHEPA Lodge. He also expressed his gratitude to the Metropolis Philoptochos who led the way in raising funds for the renovation of the Lodge buildings. Ranch Board member and great benefactor Tom Stefanopoulos has come forward with a concept to expand the Ranch facilities with upgraded accommodations, additional meeting space, and larger dining facilities. This is still in the development stages, but Tom and his family have expressed an interest to fund this project in its entirety, including funding for the upkeep of these facilities. This is another example of the blessings that are coming forward when we work together, we when walk with faith, and when we dare to dream big things, all with our

focus on God. Fanis concluded his remarks by offering his gratitude for the support and collaboration of the Assembly, and encouraged everyone to take back to their communities the message of the vibrancy of the Metropolis.

SPECIAL REMARKS FROM METROPOLITAN NIKITAS

His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas of the Dardanelles offered his gratitude to Metropolitan Gerasimos for opening the doors of our parishes, allowing him to serve and interact with our communities. He referred to Metropolitan Gerasimos' previous reference to unity and expanded this thought to apply to our parishes. He cautioned that it is not "my parish" or "my Parish Council", but rather that everything belongs to Jesus Christ and we must come together in His Name, and always for His Glory.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Michael Syrengelas presented the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statements to the Assembly. He noted that the reduction in the Balance Sheet is tied directly to the expenses incurred for the Alex and Faye Spanos Faith and Heritage Center. The total Fixed Assets of the Metropolis are \$3,781,891. The total amount received by the Archdiocese from the National Ministries Commitment in 2015 was \$756,467. Gratitude was extended to our parishes for their exemplary fulfillment of this program to support our Archdiocese and Metropolis. It was noted that the revenue for Summer Camp reflects the registration fees paid by the campers and it offset by the associated camp fees and summer camp stipends offered to the staff.

Fanis Economidis presented the 2016 budget. This was developed by reviewing the 2015 actuals and taking into account any special considerations for the coming year. It was noted that the budget includes a provision for \$231,200 in revenue from Unrestricted Donations. Considerable discussion ensued about the feasibility of raising this level of funding and several motions were presented and defeated regarding this matter. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos urged consensus and stated we must come together as one Sacred Body in Christ with love and unity. Dr. Tanya Spirtos assisted with facilitating this matter according to Roberts Rules of Order.

The following motion was made by Rev. Father Aris Metrakos, seconded by Andrew Primis:

The amount of \$231,200 would be prorated across the parishes using the same formula to compute the National Ministries Allocation. At the same time, the cushion associated with the Metropolis National Ministries Allocation would be reduced so that the net increase to individual parishes' expenses would be lessened. So as to not further burden our parishes, the Metropolis Christmas and Paschal Appeals would be eliminated for 2016, and the Faith Forward annual campaign would be restructured to support the Metropolis endowment (All Saints Foundation).

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to approve the 2016 Metropolis Budget was made by Andrew Primis, seconded by Father Peter Salmas. Motion carried unanimously.

OVERVIEW OF CLERGY BENEFITS

George Caravakis from the GDC Financial Group offered a presentation regarding the benefits for our clergy. GDC Financial administers all the clergy benefits for our Archdiocese. George emphasized the importance of all our clergy participating in this program, as it is a national plan and allows for consistent coverage, even as clergy move from state to state. George and his staff also provide personalized assistance for our clergy and can be reached at 1-800-785-4432 and can guide our clergy families through any questions they may have to achieve full utilization of their benefits.

OFFICE OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

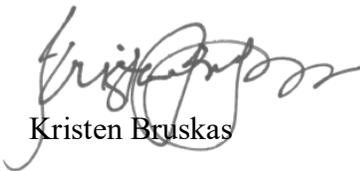
Johanna Duterte offered a presentation from the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. She highlighted the forthcoming regional GOYA Lenten Retreats, an increase in participation in Young Adult programs, and the success of the Summer Camp program which has been reaching maximum capacity in enrollment.

ADJOURNMENT

Metropolitan Gerasimos offered his sincere gratitude to Fanis Economidis for his untiring work and outstanding leadership on behalf of the Metropolis.

With their being no further business to be brought before the Assembly, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. and a closing prayer was offered by Metropolitan Gerasimos.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kristen Bruskas