



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

## ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΥ

February 24, 2017

✠ Tarasius, Patriarch of Constantinople

Dear Reverend Clergy and Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

*“ . . . keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”*  
**Ephesians 4:3**

The clergy and lay leaders of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco will have the opportunity to come together at the 2017 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly to be held on April 26 – 27, 2017 at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, California. This annual gathering provides a forum for the leadership of our communities to deliberate on important matters for our Metropolis and engage in dialogue and fellowship to enrich our common ministry. The Assembly will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 26 and will conclude by 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 27.

The theme for our Assembly will focus on *“Building Unity Through Love.”* These qualities are paramount to our lives as Orthodox Christians. We will explore love as our guiding principle upon which we can build a foundation – as individuals, as parishes, as a Metropolis, and as an Orthodox Church – and work together to become unified messengers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We will also welcome V. Rev. Archimandrite Nathanael Symeonides, Director of the Office of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, as our featured presenter who will speak about the historic Holy and Great Council which took place in June 2016. This gathering of several world Orthodox leaders was the first of its kind in over 1,200 years and the opportunity to learn more about its historical context and outcomes will be enriching for all.

It is important that we have *full representation* from each of our parishes which includes:

- The Parish Priest
- The President of the Parish Council, and in his or her absence the Vice President, or in his or her absence any member of the Parish Council designated by it; and
- Two members of the Parish elected by the Parish Assembly.

**Your timely registration is requested by April 7, 2017.**

We have prepared an engaging agenda for this gathering which will also include a Ministry Pavilion at which our clergy and lay delegates can interact with our Ministry leaders and gather tangible information and ideas to take back and implement at your parishes.

As we prepare for our journey through Great and Holy Lent, may you be strengthened by the Lord’s mighty hand and be comforted by His grace and peace.

With Love in Christ,

  
✠ Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco