



*“I will lift up my eyes to the hills . . . “*  
*Psalms 121:1a*

## **EVENT OVERVIEW**

**Saturday, October 26, 2019**

**6:00 p.m. Reception**

**7:00 p.m. Dinner, Entertainment and Program**

**Ascension Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
4700 Lincoln Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94602**

Celebrate the many accomplishments of the Ranch, recognizing those whose vision brought forth this wonderful ministry 40 years ago, as well as to look to the next 40 years and beyond so that the Ranch may continue to grow and flourish for the spiritual, educational and cultural edification of our faithful.



The event will feature a festive reception, seated dinner, and an engaging program to celebrate and honor the rich history of the Ranch and provide for 40 more years and beyond for this cornerstone ministry of our Metropolis.



*The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.  
Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

# SAINT NICHOLAS RANCH AND RETREAT CENTER



In 1979, His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony, then the newly-elected bishop of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of San Francisco, shared his vision for the creation of a retreat and conference center that could be used to provide spiritual programs for the faithful of the diocese, especially the youth. A young priest, Father John Bakas, hearing Bishop Anthony's words, thought of a friend who had a large parcel of land nestled in a beautiful valley in the Sierra Nevada foothills, just outside of Sequoia National Park. The property, owned by Nick

and Sandy Kossaras and family, had once been part of the huge Sally K horse ranch, which in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century had provided work horses that pulled wagons of ice to homes and businesses in the San Joaquin Valley. The Kossaras family enthusiastically embraced the Bishop's dream and donated the entire 180 acres to the Diocese.

Immediately, it became a center for retreats and a youth summer camp. In the early days, the old ranch buildings were utilized, the centerpiece being a two-story horse barn built in the 1890's in which a chapel dedicated to Saint Nicholas was built. Before long, a beautiful conference and retreat center took shape. The original 180 acres grew to nearly 300 as additional parcels were purchased. Metropolitan Anthony's vision was made complete with the opening of the Monastery of the Theotokos the Life Giving Spring, built on a hill overlooking the Ranch, offering a spiritual oasis of Orthodox Christian worship and spirituality.

His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony reposed in the Lord on Christmas Day 2004 and it was only fitting that a place he loved so much would become his final earthly resting place. He is interred behind the altar of the Katholikon at the Monastery, looking down on the Ranch and rejoicing that it remains a thriving ministry of the Metropolis which he lovingly served for 25 years.



## Today at Saint Nicholas Ranch

Under the spiritual direction of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Saint Nicholas Ranch continues to fulfill its original mission: To provide programs for the spiritual renewal and growth of the faithful, in an atmosphere promoting the wholeness of the individual, body, mind and spirit, and to be a resource center for parish needs, offering religious education, retreats, conferences and leadership development programs for all ages, reaching out especially to the youth.

Saint Nicholas Ranch operates throughout the year and is home to a wide variety of programs and events for our Metropolis faithful including: Family Camp, Adult Resort Camp, Elderhostel, Parish Retreats, Summer Camp, Greek Village Camp, Philoptochos Fall Spiritual Conference, Kids ‘n’ Cancer Camp Agape, Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly, and Clergy Retreats. The Ranch is also utilized by other faith based groups, schools, community organizations, and music ensembles for their educational programs and retreats. These include family reunions, parish retreats, high school retreats, marriage encounters, conferences, and music camps.



The vision of Metropolitan Anthony, of blessed memory, to expand the Ranch facilities has now been fulfilled with the completion of the Alex and Faye Spanos Faith and Heritage Center which officially opened on September 22, 2016. This beautiful new facility provides space for expanded educational programs, administrative offices, conference rooms, worship services in the Saint Photini Chapel, archives, and the Metropolitan Anthony Gallery.

## Tomorrow at Saint Nicholas Ranch

Countless opportunities are on the horizon for Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center. After 40 years of extensive use, the Ranch facilities could use some upgrades. We are grateful to the AHEPA family for the dedication to the renovation of the AHEPA Dormitory. The other buildings also need attention and the Ranch Board, under the leadership of Fanis Economidis, is actively exploring options for the facilities to accommodate larger meeting spaces, additional Lodge Rooms, expansion of the Dining Hall, and other outdoor activity areas that can be used for ministry development. Proceeds from “*A Nickel and a Nail . . . 40 Years Later*” will support these endeavors, and attendees at the event will also have the opportunity to explore an exciting *Book of Needs* and may choose to contribute funds towards a specific area. More details coming soon!

# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## ***Visionary Sponsor*** **\$25,000**

- Two (2) tables of ten (10) with prime seating
- Prime Recognition on 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Plaque at the Ranch
- Prime name recognition in program
- Large Commemorative Icon on Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra

## ***Believer Sponsor*** **\$10,000**

- One (1) table of ten (10) with premium seating
- Premium Recognition on 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Plaque at the Ranch
- Premium name recognition in program
- Medium Commemorative Icon on Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra

## ***Innovator Sponsor*** **\$5,000**

- One (1) table of ten (10) with featured seating
- Featured Recognition on 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Plaque at the Ranch
- Featured name recognition in program
- Small Commemorative Icon on Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra

## ***Guardian Sponsor*** **\$2,500**

- One (1) table of ten (10)
- Recognition on 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Plaque at the Ranch
- Name recognition in program

# MY CONTRIBUTION

- Visionary Sponsor**      **\$25,000**      Two (2) tables of ten at the dinner with prime seating\*, plus other exclusive benefits
- Believer Sponsor**      **\$ 10,000**      One (1) table of ten at the dinner with premium seating\*, plus other exclusive benefits
- Innovator Sponsor**      **\$ 5,000**      One (1) table of ten at the dinner with featured seating\*, plus other exclusive benefits
- Guardian Sponsor**      **\$ 2,500**      One (1) table of ten\*, plus other benefits
- Individual Seats**      **\$75 each**      Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Adult seats\*.  
**\$45 each**      Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Youth seats-under 18\*
- Donation**      Please accept this donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center

**Total Amount Enclosed**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please provide guest names on the next page.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(As you would like it to appear in printed materials for sponsors \$2,500+)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed (payable to: *St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center; Memo:Ranch 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*)

Please charge my credit card:       Visa     MasterCard     AMEX     Discover  
Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Reservation Deadline: October 4, 2019*

✧ Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco ✧ 245 Valencia Street ✧  
✧ San Francisco, CA 94103 ✧ 415.753.3075 Phone

*Sponsor Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Table Guests*

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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