METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Office of the Chancellor

Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly

January 2026

The Chancellor of the Metropolis of San Francisco assists His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos on issues affecting Clergy and their families, the Parishes, the Ministries, and general administration of the Metropolis.

The Chancellor's Office: 1) facilitates the ordination of candidates for holy orders and incardination of clergy from other Orthodox Jurisdictions; 2) process and monitor the requests of clergy travelling to other Metropolises or clergy entering the Metropolis; 3) assist clergy and parishes with hierarchical and liturgical protocols; 4) coordination of Clergy synaxes, retreats and continuing education opportunities; 5) assist Clergy with the proper protocol, registration and documentation of sacraments.

With respect to Parishes, this office: 1) processes the Parish Council Ratifications; 2) facilitates the approval of Parish Bylaws with assistance of the Bylaws/ Legal committee; 3) works with the Metropolis Finance Committee in monitoring parish contributions to the Total Commitment Program and Pension Benefits Obligation; 4) facilitate review of Parish Real Estate Transactions by the Metropolis Real Estate Committee; 5) facilitate the review of construction, renovations and iconography by the Metropolis Art and Architecture Committee.

At the direction of the Metropolitan, personnel related policies and procedures in consultation with the Archdiocese Human Resources Department. The Chancellor's Office prepares and submits corrections to the Patriarchal and Archdiocesan yearbooks. The Chancellor also maintains files and correspondence concerning clergy and parishes.

I thank the following Directors and Metropolis Staff who assist me in the execution of these responsibilities: Mr. Paul Gikas, Director of Ministries and Administration; Ms Kristen Bruskas, Director of Communications and Development; Presvytera Aliki Kyriacou, Registrar; and Ms. Foula Vasilogiorgis, Office Assistant.

CLERGY UPDATE since May 2025:

ORDINATIONS:

- Rev. Father Lukas Breen to the Holy Diaconate on May 15, 2025, at St Demetrios Church in Weston, Massachusetts and to the Holy Priesthood on July 25, 2025, at St Anna Church in Roseville, California by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos.
- Rev. Father Alexander Karcher to the Holy Diaconate on August 3, 2025, at St Anthony Church in Reno, Nevada and to the Holy Priesthood on August 17, 2025, at Ascension Cathedral, Oakland, California by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos
- Rev. Hieromonk Markos on January 17, 2026, at St Anthony Monastery in Florence, Arizona by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos
- Rev. Hierodeacon Theokletos on January 17, 2026, at St Anthony Monastery in Florence, Arizona by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos

- UPCOMING ORDINATIONS:

- Rev. Archdeacon Justin Bosl to the Holy Priesthood on February 1, 2026, at St Paul Church in Irvine, California to be assigned as Assistant Priest
- Mr. Joshua Rognstadt to the Holy Diaconate and Priesthood on February 21-22, 2026, at Assumption Church in Scottsdale, Arizona to be assigned as Assistant Priest
- Mr. Jack Basil McAfee to the Holy Diaconate and Priesthood on March 7-8, 2026, at St John the Baptist Church in Beaverton, Washington to be assigned as Assistant Priest

ASSIGNMENTS:

- Rev. Deacon Haralambos Ryburn (received from the Metropolis of Denver) as Deacon, St Nektarios Mission in Pasco, Washington effective July 1, 2025
- Rev. Father Lukas Breen as Assistant Priest, St Anna Church. Roseville, California effective July 25, 2025
- Rev. Father Alexander Karcher as Assistant Priest, Ascencion Cathedral, Oakland, California effective August 17, 2025
- Rev. Father Konstantinos Economos as Proistamenos, Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco, California effective July 15, 2025
- Rev. Archimandrite Damaskinos Fylaktos (on Loan from the Church of Greece) as Associate Priest, St Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles, California effective December 15, 2025

UPCOMING CLERGY RETIREMENTS

- Rev. Father Theofanis Degaitas, St Paul Church, Irvine, California on February 16, 2026
- Rev. Father Theodore Pantels, Saint Church, Palm Desert, California on February 28, 2026

MAJOR EVENTS

On July 12, 2025, His Eminence hosted a reception for His Grace Bishop Osios of Sasima who serves in Guatemala (Metropolis of Mexico) and was visiting the Guatemalan Orthodox communities on the West Coast. In December 2025 His Eminence welcomed Father Alexios Sosa, who came from Guatemala to minister to the nascent communities.

On August 16, 2025, His Eminence and I attended the celebratory luncheon for the newly consecrated and installed Bishop Vasily, OCA Diocese of the West. His Eminence hosted Bishop Vasily and his Chancellor, Fr Kyril Sokolov at the Metropolis house three weeks later.

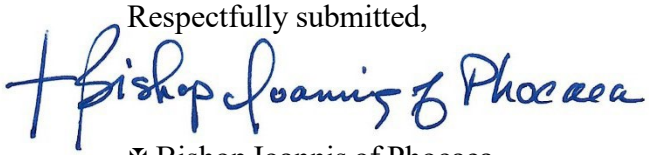
On September 15 to 26, 2025, His All-Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch made and Apostolic visit to the United States to receive the Templeton Prize. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos was present at the events in Washington, DC and New York. I participated in the New York portion of the Apostolic Visit.

His Eminence and I also participated in the 14th Assembly of Bishops on November 6-8, 2025, in Denver, Colorado. Among the topics discussed was the new influx of people to the Orthodox Church.

On November 20, 2025, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos attended a luncheon at the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Alhambra, California hosted by His Eminence Archbishop Maxim to welcome the two new Bishops: His Grace Bishop Anthony of the Antiochian Orthodox Diocese of Los Angeles and the West and His Grace Bishop Vasily of the OCA Diocese of the West. The Luncheon was also attended by their respective Chancellors.

On December 2, 2025, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos was honored by the Armenian Apostolic Western Diocese at their 15th Annual Ecumenical service for Christian unity. His Eminence delivered the keynote address.

Respectfully submitted,



✠ Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea
Chancellor