OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly
May 4-5, 2025

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! CHRIST IS RISEN!

The Office of the Chancellor functions under the auspices of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos who on April 2, 2025, celebrated the 20th anniversary of his enthronement as Metropolitan of San Francisco.

The Chancellors Office is the primary communication conduit between the Metropolis and its clergy and parishes. We support and promote the administrative goals and policies of His Eminence. It is my personal goal to continue enhancing the communication of the Chancellor's Office with clergy and parishes.

Since our last Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly, His Eminence appointed Fr Nicholas Metrakos as the Director of the Office of the Metropolitan, and he has been tasked with several projects that have been in the planning stages within the Chancellor's Office.

With the assistance of Mr. Paul Gikas, the Director of Administration, the Chancellor's Office oversees the applications of students and seminarians to Hellenic College/ Holy Cross; the applications of those entering the Diaconate program, and petition of candidates for Holy Orders.

CLERGY UPDATES since our last Clergy- Laity Assembly:

Ordination:

Rev. Father John (Marcelo) Souza: Ordained to the Holy Diaconate on April 6, 2024, at St Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA by Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos. Ordained to the Holy Priesthood on April 7, 2024, at St Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles CA by Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea.

Assignments:

Rev. Father John Souza as Assistant Priest to St Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles CA effective April 7, 2024.

Rev. Father Soterios Rousakis as Proistamenos to St George Church, Bakersfield CA effective September 1, 2024

Rev. Father Vincent Minucci as Proistamenos to Annunciation Church, Sacramento, CA effective November 1, 2024.

Retirement:

Rev. Father James Retelas, effective November 1, 2024.

Deaths:

Rev. Father George Manneh in Camarillo, CA on March 11, 2025. Fr Manneh served in the Metropolis for many years.

Visits by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros visited the burned areas of Los Angeles following the devastating fires in January. He was accompanied by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and me along with representatives of Leadership 100, National and Metropolis Philoptochos presidents and others. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros once again graced us with his presence at our annual Folk Dance and Choral Festival in Anaheim in February.

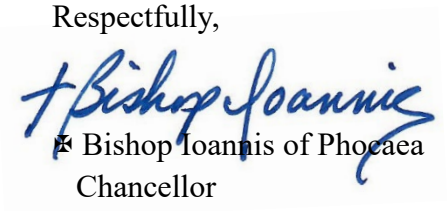
Other Episcopal Visitations to the Metropolis

At the direction of His Eminence, the Chancellor's Office offers support to visiting hierarchs from outside the United States and ensures that a proper welcome and our famous philoxenia is extended to them. We have welcomed His Eminence Metropolitan Myron of New Zealand who visited Washington State and His Grace Bishop Chrysostomos of Bokouba and Western Tanzania who visited the Greater Los Angeles area. Both His Eminence Metropolitan Myron and His Grace Bishop Chrysostomos visited parishes to inform them of the missionary activities in their areas.

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos continues his robust schedule of parish visitations. His Eminence visited parishes in Arizona for Holy Week and Pascha. I visited parishes in the North San Francisco Bay and Eastern areas of California.

It is indeed an honor and blessing to work with His Eminence, the staff of the Metropolis as week as our clergy and co-workers of the Metropolis.

Respectfully,



✠ Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea
Chancellor