

Metropolis of San Francisco

Report to the Ecumenical Patriarchate

From the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

FOR THE YEAR 2025



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

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METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

This report is respectfully submitted by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco to inform the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and all our faithful about the advancements and accomplishments of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco during 2025.

Metropolis Council

The Metropolis Council serves as the governing body of the Metropolis, in accordance with the Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Comprising both elected and appointed members, clergy and laity alike, the Council reflects the broad geographic and pastoral diversity of the Metropolis and represents the collective voice of its clergy and faithful. Meeting two to three times each year, both in person and virtually, with its Executive Committee convening monthly, the Council provides careful oversight of the life and ministries of the Metropolis, ensures full transparency and accountability in financial matters, and remains attentively engaged in assessing the impact and vitality of Metropolis programs and initiatives. In addition, Council members actively serve throughout the year on standing and ad hoc committees, including Arts and Architecture, Real Estate and Insurance, Fundraising and Development, and other areas essential to the responsible stewardship and ongoing mission of the Metropolis.



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Vice President

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James Eleopoulos
Chris Kalabokes
Paul Sogotis

Honorary

John Buzas
Steve Padis
Valerie Roumeliotes

Emeritus

Theofanis Economidis



Archpastoral Visits

The geography of the Metropolis is vast, encompassing more than 1.2 million square miles of land and water. This breadth, however, does not hinder regular and meaningful engagement with the faithful, which is sustained through frequent pastoral visits, online meetings and webinars, and regional gatherings.

Visitations included:

- **Arizona** – Chandler, Flagstaff, Peoria, Phoenix, Prescott, Scottsdale, Tucson
- **California** – Anaheim, Belmont, Castro Valley, Concord, Covina, Downey, Dunlap (Monastery), El Cajon, Elk Grove, Felton, Irvine, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Modesto, Novato, Oakland, Pasadena, Roseville, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco (2 parishes), San Jose (2 parishes), San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Stockton, Vallejo
- **Nevada** – Reno
- **Oregon** – Beaverton, Portland
- **Washington** – Goldendale (Monastery), Seattle (2 parishes)

Throughout 2025, 40 of the 69 parishes of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco were blessed with Hierarchical visitations, as well as two monastic communities, and His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and His Grace Bishop Ioannis participated in numerous ministry events across the regions of the Metropolis.

The travel of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos also included two visits to the campus of Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA - one for the Feast Day of the School, and one for the annual Commencement ceremony.

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos also had the opportunity to travel throughout the East Coast during the historic Apostolic Visit of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. This included visits to Washington, DC; New York, NY; and Southampton, NY.



Rev. Father Lukas Breen

Ordinations

- Rev. Fr. Lukas Breen was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on May 18, 2025, at Saint Demetrios Church, Weston, MA, and he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on July 25, 2025, at Saint Anna Church in Roseville, CA, both by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. Father Lukas is now assigned as the Assistant Priest at Saint Anna in Roseville.
- Rev. Fr. Alexander Karcher was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on August 3, 2025 at Saint Anthony Church in Reno, NV, and he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on August 15, 2025, at Ascension Cathedral in Oakland, CA, both by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. Father Alexander is now assigned as the Assistant Priest at Ascension Cathedral in Oakland.



Rev. Father Alexander Karcher

Clergy Assignments



Rev. Deacon Haralambos Ryburn is serving as a Deacon at Saint Nectarios Mission Church, Pasco, WA effective July 1, 2025.



Rev. Father Constantinos Economos was assigned as Dean of the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco, CA effective August 10, 2025.



Very Rev. Archimandrite Damaskinos Fylaktos was assigned as Associate Priest at Saint Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles, CA effective December 21, 2025.

Conferral of Clergy Offikia

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco conferred Offikia upon the following priests:



Rev. Father Simeon Corona was conferred the Offikion of Economos on January 10, 2025 at Saint Gregory of Nyssa Greek Orthodox Church in El Cajon, CA.



Rev. Father Michael Pallad was conferred the Offikion of Protopresbyter on Holy Saturday, April 19, 2025 at Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, Peoria, AZ.



Rev. Father Apostolos Hill was conferred the Offikion of Protopresbyter on Holy Pascha, Sunday, April 20, 2025 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ.



Rev. Father James Kumarelas was conferred the Offikion of Pnevmatikos on December 6, 2025 at Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose, CA.



Rev. Father Nikolas Bekris was conferred the Offikion of Economos on December 7, 2025 at Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church in Castro Valley, CA.

Registry Statistics



Total Baptisms: 1,044
- Adults: 440
- Youth (up to age 17): 604

Total Weddings: 268
- Inter-Orthodox: 151
- Interfaith: 117

Total Divorces: 30
- Inter-Orthodox: 23
- Interfaith: 7

Total Funerals: 496

Total Chrismations: 317
- Adults: 270
- Youth (up to age 17): 47





Faith Forward

The Metropolis Faith Forward stewardship program stands as a cornerstone of our life and mission, providing essential support for its ministries, infrastructure, and long-term vitality. Established in 2007, Faith Forward was envisioned as a prayerful and intentional stewardship effort, enabling the Metropolis to respond faithfully to pastoral needs, invest in ministry growth, and advance the archpastoral vision of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. Through Faith Forward, critical ministries have been strengthened, emerging initiatives have taken root, and the Metropolis has been equipped to serve its clergy, parishes, and faithful with greater depth, responsiveness, and care.

Over the years, Faith Forward has grown exponentially through the sacrificial generosity of devoted stewards who give with faith, gratitude, and love for the Lord and His Church. In 2025 alone, Faith Forward raised more than $485,000, a powerful testament to the shared commitment of the faithful to the mission entrusted to this Metropolis. With thanksgiving to God for all who support this sacred work, the Metropolis continues to invite the faithful to prayerfully consider becoming Faith Forward stewards, partnering in the ongoing growth and witness of the Church. More information is available at www.sanfran.goarch.org/donate.







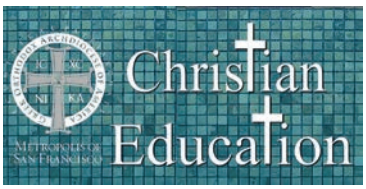





Metropolis Ministries

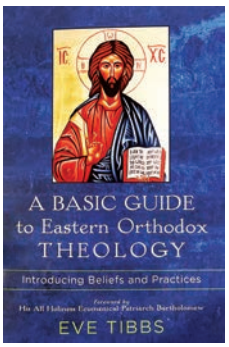
Christian Education

The Christian Education Ministry continues to offer robust theological formation for youth and adults, combining academic rigor, accessible online learning, parish-based education, and national-level leadership in Orthodox theological engagement.



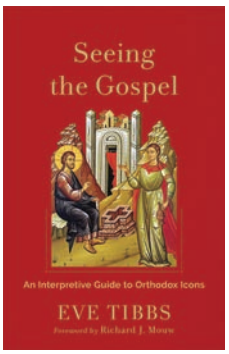
Adult & Theological Education Offered by Dr. Eve Tibbs

- Offered *A Very Short Basic Course in Orthodox Theology*, with over 460 registered and an average weekly attendance of nearly 250 participants for this online class.
- A webinar on how the Nativity Icon reveals the Gospel message through sacred imagery, symbolism, and theology. Held on Friday, December 5, 2025, this webinar helped participants deepen their understanding of Christ's Incarnation and the spiritual meaning behind this beloved feast and to bring the true meaning of Christmas to life!
- Featured speaker for the Metropolis Orthodox Parish Leadership series with the presentation "A Theology of Leadership: Love, Communion, Service" (May 19, 2025).



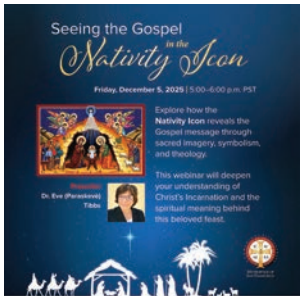
Lectures, Conferences & National Engagement

- Presented "Seeing the Gospel" lecture at Saint George Greek Orthodox Church, Prescott, AZ (September 24, 2025).
- Presenter at the Orthodox Observer Symposium, *Do the Divine and Digital Intersect?*, with the lecture "Windows or Mirrors: AI and Icons," held at the Maliotis Cultural Center, Brookline, MA (October 30–31, 2025).
- Served as CrossRoad West Coast Theology Instructor at Vanguard University (July 23–26, 2025).



Publications & Educational Resources

- Publication release: *Seeing the Gospel: The Nativity Icon* by Dr. Eve Tibbs, published by Baker Academic (July 2025).
- *Seeing the Gospel: An Interpretive Guide to Orthodox Icons*, authored by Dr. Eve Tibbs, featuring 90 full-color icons. The volume presents the life of Christ as a narrative theological journey through image and text, and serves as both a Bible study resource and an accessible introduction to Orthodox theology for inquirers and seekers.







Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

- The Metropolis Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival was held on May 10, 2025 at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center.
- Junior Division winner: Jack Choukalas (Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ).
- Senior Division winner: Nile Solomon (Saint Haralambos, Peoria, AZ).
- Nile Solomon went on to receive Third Place honors at the National Oratorical Festival.

Church Music



- The Metropolis Church Music Ministry awarded eight Desby Scholarships to deserving church musicians. These scholarships provide funds for continuing education in the areas of Byzantine chant, vocal music, conducting and organ.
- The Music Ministry also offered ***A Holy Week Primer***, a free series of seven webinars that focused on the service structure and music for Holy Week. This series was held twice weekly beginning on Tuesday, February 25 and concluded on Tuesday, March 18.
- Liturgical music instruction for the Metropolis Summer Camp was supported through a collaboration with the Metropolis Music Ministry and the Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.
- The Metropolis Church Music Ministry was represented at the Archdiocese level during the annual President's Meeting of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians in the spring, and during the annual Forum meeting in July.



- The ministry was also involved in the planning for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the National Forum, as well as the Saint Romanos Music Festival to be held in 2026.
- Dr. Tikey Zes, Archon Lambadarios, reposed in the Lord on May 7, 2025 at the age of 97. After years of faithful service as a leading composer and arranger of Greek Orthodox Liturgical music in the Archdiocese, Tikey was welcomed into the Lord's arms and has joined the angelic choir, ceaselessly praising God. Dr. Zes directed Greek Orthodox choirs across the country from 1950 onward and served as director of the Saint Nicholas Choir in San Jose from 1971 until his passing. He was a frequent guest conductor and clinician for Greek Orthodox choir federations nationwide and composed and arranged extensively for Orthodox liturgical services—including five complete liturgies, one in

English—as well as numerous choral and piano works inspired by Greek folk and Byzantine music. In recognition of his contributions, he was named an Archon of the Great Church of Christ by Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios in 1976. In 1993, he was appointed Music Minister for the Greek Orthodox Diocese of San Francisco, where he led many Church Music Institutes. In 2005 and 2006, he inaugurated the first-ever Conductor Training Academy for the Greek Orthodox Church in the United States. Dr. Zes was a devoted Greek Orthodox Christian, a passionate educator, a pioneering composer, a dedicated husband, a beloved father and proud papou. His contributions to church music continue to inspire and uplift congregations, with the beauty and depth of his work resonating in the hearts and voices of faithful communities everywhere.



Dr. Zes was a devoted Greek Orthodox Christian, a passionate educator, a pioneering composer, a dedicated husband, a beloved father and proud papou.

Clergy Continuing Education





- The Clergy Continuing Education Ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco hosted a retreat for Deacons and Diaconal candidates from January 31 – February 2, 2025 at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA. The theme of the retreat was “All things should be done decently and in order”, based on the scripture I Corinthians 14:40. There were 20 registrants who participated in this retreat which was led by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and offered a weekend of enlightenment, reflection, and mentoring. Additional presentations on Orthodox Liturgical Phronema were offered by Rev. Father Nicholas Metrakos (Assistant Priest, Holy Trinity Church - San Francisco, CA).
- The 2025 Metropolis Clergy Retreat was held immediately following the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA, Expanding on his presentation from the Assembly, guest speaker Rev. Father Martin Ritsi talked about sharing the message of the Gospel through his ministry and how it has brought more people to the Lord, making a correlation to the growth our parishes are experiencing with a large number of inquirers and catechumens.
- Regional Clergy Koinonia Groups continue to meet to discuss pastoral issues, share ministry resources and engage in discussion and fellowship with their brother clergy. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos participates regularly in the Bay Area Koinonia Group which meets monthly at the Ascension Cathedral in Oakland, CA.



- The annual Metropolis of San Francisco Sisterhood of Presvyteres Retreat was held January 24 - 26, 2025, Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center, Dunlap, CA. The retreat theme was “Biblical Women,” with guest speaker V. Rev. Fr. Dr. Chris Salamy. There were over 30 Presvyteres and Diakonisses in attendance at this retreat which began with an inspirational message from His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, and included the traditional cutting of the Vasilopita for the New Year.

Family Wellness

The Metropolis Family Wellness Ministry continues to support individuals and families across the Metropolis by offering faith-centered programs that strengthen relationships, promote emotional well-being, and encourage healthy family life at every stage.





- January 5, 2025: Hosted a *Young Married Couples Workshop* at Resurrection Church in Castro Valley, CA.
- January 18–19, 2025: Conducted a *Family Wellness Ministry Weekend* at the Assumption Church in Long Beach, CA, featuring the themes *"Cultivating Healthy Relationships"* and *"Raising Kids with Emotional Intelligence."*
- February 14–16, 2025: Presented *Parenting Workshops* during the Greek Orthodox Folk Dance and Choral Festival (FDF) weekend in Anaheim, CA.
- March 22–23, 2025: Led a *Relationship Retreat* with the theme "Created for Connection" at Saint John the Baptist Church in Las Vegas, NV.
- January–March and September–November 2025: Offered the *"Threshold" Grief and Bereavement Support Group* on a bi-monthly basis at Holy Apostles Church in Shoreline, WA.



- July 25–27, 2025: Participated in the *CrossRoad Summer Institute* in Costa Mesa, CA.
- August 29–September 1, 2025: Facilitated workshops for the Metropolis *Young Adult League (YAL) Conference* in Seattle, WA.
- October 26, 2025: Presented the *Prison Ministry Outreach* program at the Metropolis Philoptochos Fall Spiritual Conference at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA.

Folk Dance & Choral Festival

The 48th Annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival (FDF) brought together over 5,000 participants from across 21 U.S. states and 43 parishes, as well as Greece, Canada, and Australia, to celebrate Orthodox faith, Greek heritage, and community. With the theme *"Embrace, Empower, Elevate,"* FDF 2025 inspired attendees to embrace their faith, empower one another through dance and song, and elevate the Orthodox Christian community through fellowship and service.



Key highlights and ministry impact from FDF 2025 include:

- Participants and Demographics:
  - Over 5,000 attendees over the weekend; 3,000+ pre-registered participants, including 425 first-time attendees.
  - Pre-registered participants included 238 under 8 years old, 961 ages 9–17, and 1,730 adults over 18.
  - 110 groups from 9 U.S. states (AZ, CA, HI, NV, IL, CO, OR, UT & WA) and 3 countries (Greece, USA, Canada) participated in dance and choral competitions.



- Scholarships and Giving: $31,000 in scholarships awarded, and $20,000 raised and donated to Metropolis and Archdiocese ministries.
- Diakonia:
  - FDF partnered with the Metropolis Philoptochos to host an on-site service project benefiting children affected by the 2023 LA fires.
  - Participants engaged in a “school supply scramble” to fill backpacks, fostering teamwork, creativity, and faith in action.
  - This marked the 8th annual on-site Diakonia project at FDF.
- Workshops: Nine interactive workshops engaged participants of all ages in dance, music, leadership, and Orthodox education, including sessions on Greek musical traditions and stories of faith through iconography.
- Leadership Development: The FDF Management Team provided practical leadership experience for young adults, training them in event coordination, ministry management, and operational planning—preparing the next generation of Orthodox Christian leaders.

FDF 2025 once again demonstrated the power of culture, creativity, and service as a platform for ministry, leadership development, and celebration of our shared Orthodox faith.

Greek Language and Culture

The Greek Language and Culture ministry supports and promotes academic and artistic endeavors that cultivate interest in Greek language and appreciation for the arts and sciences.

- Continue to serve as an academic and cultural resource for Greek Schools and Greek Language instructors
- Provided guidance for the operation of Greek Schools
- Suggested books and other resources for the classrooms



- Assist in establishing new Greek Schools
- Support the planning of parish, regional and Metropolis events for the observance of Greek Independence Day, the Feast of the Three Hierarchs, and OXI Day.
- Continue to coordinate with the Greek Ministry of Education in certifying more Greek Schools as Testing Centers
- Provide curriculum and information for the Greek Language Certification



Missions and Evangelism Ministry

The Missions and Evangelism Ministry works to strengthen the presence of the Orthodox faith across the Metropolis by equipping parishes and leaders with practical tools, guidance, and resources to engage their communities and grow their ministries. In 2025, the ministry continued to expand its reach and support for both clergy and laity.

- Conducted the first Evangelism Seminars in Pasco, Washington, providing hands-on training and strategies for parish outreach.
- Continued bi-monthly check-ins with mission parishes and quarterly evangelism





calls with vicariate groups to encourage progress, share best practices, and maintain connection across regions.

- Expanded Grow Orthodoxy's digital presence with updated resources, templates, and evangelism materials for parishes to use in outreach efforts.
- Completed Parish Spotlight Videos highlighting the life and ministry of the mission parish in Bend, Oregon, sharing inspiring stories of growth, community engagement, and faith in action.
- Evangelism Conference: Hosted the 2025 Evangelism Conference at Saint Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, California. The conference brought together clergy, ministry leaders, and laity from across the Metropolis for a full day of workshops, interactive sessions, and panel discussions focused on practical tools for parish outreach, youth engagement, and faith formation. Participants learned strategies for strengthening community presence, fostering connections with non-Orthodox neighbors, and inspiring parishioners to share their faith with confidence and creativity. The conference also included opportunities for networking and collaboration, helping parishes support one another in their evangelism efforts.
- Held quarterly evangelism discussions with vicariate groups representing the different geographic regions in the Metropolis, allowing leaders to share successes, challenges, and strategies for mission growth.

Orthodox Parish Leadership

The Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry continues to support parishes with practical training, guidance, and resources to strengthen parish health, leadership capacity, and ministry effectiveness. In 2025, OPL expanded its offerings through cohort programs, a robust webinar series, and broad engagement with parish leaders across the Metropolis and beyond. The ministry is meeting an increasing number of requests from parishes and other Orthodox jurisdictions, while remaining focused on serving the needs of the Metropolis of San Francisco.





- **2 x 2 Leadership Cohort:** Launched in June 2025 with 12 parishes participating in monthly sessions aimed at developing leadership skills, building community among participants, and generating insights to guide future OPL offerings. The program equips two parishioners from each parish to support leadership development and share learnings across their communities.
- **2025 Metropolis Monthly Webinar Series:** Began in April with approximately 300 attendees participating in monthly webinars on key parish leadership topics. The series included:
  - *Enhancing Leadership Capacity:* Nurturing existing leaders and planning for leadership succession.
  - *Theology of Leadership Rooted in Faithful Worship:* Exploring how worship forms the foundation for servant leadership.
  - *Becoming a Dynamic Parish Ministry:* Approaches for building, engaging, and serving through parish ministries.
  - *Nurturing a Healthy Parish:* Twelve core attributes that contribute to parish well-being.
  - *Expanding Your Volunteer Network:* Strategies for recruiting, training, and retaining volunteers.
  - *Enhancing Parishioner Engagement:* Using intergenerational approaches to deepen parish life.

- *Creating the Vision:* Practical steps for building effective parish planning.
- *Fostering Unity:* Aligning goals, collaboration, and managing disagreements.
- *Synergy:* Strengthening collaboration between the priest, parish council, and parish ministries.



- **Unprecedented Parish Support:** The OPL team's dedicated commitment has enabled the ministry to respond effectively to a growing number of parish inquiries. While the Metropolis of San Francisco remains the primary focus, OPL resources and insights are now being "exported" to other Metropolises and Orthodox jurisdictions, reflecting the strength and relevance of the ministry's work.

Our Greek Village

Our Greek Village is a language immersion camp that began in 2010 and provided youth with Greek language instruction and an opportunity to experience their faith, culture, customs and traditions while taking a virtual trip to a different region of Greece each year. The program was held annually at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center through 2023, including a few years as a virtual program during Covid restrictions.

Kids enjoy a relaxed, yet energetic approach to learning the Greek language with emphasis on cultural and conversational activities rather than traditional classroom work. With diverse and age-appropriate activities, students learn and practice speaking Greek, gain a greater appreciation of Greek heritage and culture under the direction of our experienced teachers and counselors.

Though this program gained popularity, it has become evident that since Covid, the structure of Our Greek Village needs to be re-envisioned and a committee is working on plans for 2026. We look forward to launching this again and welcome additional ideas and input.

Philoptochos

The Metropolis Philoptochos is an army of women dedicated to Philanthropy, Fellowship and Faith in Action. With over 4,000 members and under the inspired leadership of President Jeannie Ranglas, the Metropolis Philoptochos is a beacon of the Lord's love and the exemplification of living the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Light the Path – A Christmas Reception, benefitting the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund, was held on Sunday, November 16, 2025 at the Olympic Club in San Francisco. Over 300 supporters gathered in a beautiful and festive setting to honor and uplift our seminarians and students of Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (HCHC). Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas acknowledged with gratitude the individual and chapter participation of

this year's event that helped raise over $160,000. Hellenic College Holy Cross President Dr. Demetrios Katos addressed the attendees, providing an update on the school and conveying his gratitude for the overwhelming support of the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos to the over 45 students from our Metropolis currently enrolled at HCHC.

Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape

For more than four decades, the Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape Ministry has offered children battling cancer and their families something truly priceless: love, hope, and quality time together. Nearly 300 people gathered at four different Camp Agape locations throughout the Metropolis of San Francisco during the summer of 2025, along with over 90 dedicated Philoptochos volunteers who went the extra mile – and then some – to make sure each person was surrounded by love, support and friendship. This year's camps embraced a special theme: Mission Agape: Spreading Love Through the Galaxy. Across the Metropolis, families came together in four different locations to share stories, make memories, and find joy in simple moments. The camps were located in Orme, AZ (June 5 - 8, 2025), Ramona, CA (July 24 - 27, 2025), Portland, OR (August 2 - 7, 2025), and Dunlap, CA (August 7 - 10, 2025).



Each spring, an "Agape Reception" is held in Southern California to raise funds in support of Camp Agape at which over $300,000 was raised through the generosity of the Philoptochos Chapters who have truly embraced this ministry with unconditional support and love. This year's even was once again held in beautiful Newport Beach, CA and featured representatives from Philoptochos chapters from across the Metropolis presenting their donations in support of the Kids 'n' Cancer ministry.

Philoptochos Fall Spiritual Conference

This year's Fall Spiritual Conference, "Gather, Reflect, Renew," was held on October 26 – 28, 2025, at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center under the leadership of Jeannie Ranglas, President of the Metropolis Philoptochos Board and His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.



This gathering was a special opportunity to come together in fellowship, to reflect on faith and our mission, and to renew our spirits for the work that lies ahead. The program included meaningful presentations, spiritual reflections, hands-on service, and time to share in friendship, love, and laughter. The guest speaker of the conference was Michelle Moujaes, Executive Director of Faithtree Resources, who presented our theme, "Relationships Affect Everything." Her message resonated deeply, for relationships truly lies at the heart of everything Philoptochos does.

Social Services Ministry

The Social Services Ministry embodies the spirit of Philoptochos by assisting those in need of caring, kindness and compassion. The need for such a ministry is paramount to the mission of Philoptochos as it provides hope and preserves dignity for those in desperate need of financial assistance for people who have fallen on hard times, those facing serious illness, and even providing for a dignified funeral for those with limited or no financial means.



Philoptochos Diakonia Projects

Philoptochos is a proud partner with the annual Metropolis YAL Conference and the Folk Dance and Choral Festival, sponsoring a Diakonia projects in conjunction with these events. The Diakonia project at the 2025 Folk Dance and Choral Festival involved participants completing fun challenges and filling backpacks with school supplies, personal necessities and gift cards to be donated to students affected by the tragic January Los Angeles Fires for the Southern California Boys and Girls Club. The Diakonia project at the YAL Conference held in Seattle, WA involved young adults helping pack 20,000 meals for @theoutreachprogram in the Seattle, WA area.

Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center

Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center remains one of the most vital and enduring ministries of the Metropolis of San Francisco. For more than 45 years, the Ranch has served as a sacred place of encounter, formation, and renewal, shaping generations of Orthodox Christians through transformative experiences rooted in faith, leadership, and fellowship.

- Continues to host cornerstone Metropolis programs including Summer Camp, Family Camp, Camp Agape, Young Adult Retreats, and the annual Clergy-Laity Assembly, providing meaningful opportunities for spiritual formation, mentorship, and leadership development across all ages.
- Serves as a central gathering place for Metropolis ministries, clergy, youth, young adults, and families, fostering collaboration and strengthening the bonds of our Church community.
- Implemented innovative fundraising initiatives, managed by the dedicated Ranch staff, to support long term sustainability and the expansion of ministry offerings, including the launch of an updated website and a new online donation platform.
- Completed recent infrastructure and beautification enhancements, including eco-friendly water filling stations, improved facilities, and increased attention to the grounds with additional flowers and trees, reflecting a commitment to stewardship, hospitality, and excellence.
- Undertook a comprehensive rebranding effort, including a new logo that reflects the natural beauty and spiritual character of the Ranch.
- Offered special programs and activities surrounding the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas, deepening the spiritual life of the Ranch community.
- Began the renovation and upgrading of the Saint Paul Conference Room to better support retreats, meetings, and educational gatherings. This is expected to be completed in early 2026.
- Honored the life and legacy of the Ranch's founder, Nick Kossaras, who reposed in the Lord on August 6, 2025. His vision, faith, and generosity made possible the donation of the land upon which the Ranch was built. He was interred at the Monastery overlooking the Ranch he loved, and a tree was planted in his memory following his funeral.



Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center continues to inspire and serve as a spiritual home where visitors encounter Christ, build lasting relationships, and return to their parishes and communities renewed in faith, service, and commitment to the life of the Church.







Young Adult League (YAL)

The Metropolis of San Francisco 2025 Young Adult League (YAL) Conference took place in Seattle, Washington from August 29 - September 1, 2025. The Conference theme - RENEW - offered participants the opportunity to deepen their faith, grow in fellowship, and live out the Four Pillars of YAL: Worship, Witness, Service, and Fellowship. Over 250 young adults from across the Metropolis and beyond participated in this exciting and uplifting weekend, joined by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea.





The keynote speakers were Archon Dr. Peter Tarhanidis, Ph.D. M.B.A. and Rev. Fr. Tom and Presvytera Patricia Tsagalakis. Dr. Tarhanidis offered Young Adults his deep insights into Orthodox Christian identity and how young adults may freely give of their time, talent and treasure to Our Lord, His Church, and our Community. As an expert in leadership development and an adjunct faculty member at Columbia University, his engaging content, entitled “Identity in Christ: Renewal Through Transformative Purpose” and presentation style challenged the audience to greater reflection and action.

Rev. Fr. Tom and Presvytera Patricia Tsagalakis inspired the Young Adults to “Authentic Connection: Renewing Relationships with Ourselves and Others” as leaders of the Metropolis Family Wellness Team. They were warmly welcomed back by the attendees, as Father Tom and Presvytera Pat have ministered to the YAL Conference year after year with their unique spiritual and interpersonal insights that ground the attendees in an Orthodox mindset.

YAL partnered with the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos for the Diakonia Project, to benefit The Outreach Program. Together, participants prepared 20,000 meals for individuals and families facing food insecurity in the local area. This initiative reflected the enduring generosity of young adults in partnership with Philoptochos and the transformative power of service when rooted in Christ.



Youth and Young Adult Ministries

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

The Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Metropolis of San Francisco continued to provide rich opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and leadership in 2025. Through retreats, summer camp, workshops, and regional programs, the ministries focused on nurturing faith, strengthening community, and equipping youth and young adults to live out Orthodox Christian values in their daily lives.









- Youth Safety: Continued oversight of Archdiocese Youth Safety Guidelines to ensure safe and secure environments across all youth and young adult programs.
- Young Adult Winter Retreat (January 17–19, 2025, Lake Tahoe, CA): Theme “Be Still and Know: Listening for God’s still small voice,” led by Rev. Fr. James Kumarelas. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos visited, and participants shared in the cutting of the Vasilopita.
- FDF 2025 Participation: Promoted Youth and Young Adult Ministries and the Office of Youth Safety at the Folk Dance and Choral Festival in Anaheim, CA.
- Young Adult Lenten Retreat (March 14–16, 2025, Saint Nicholas Ranch): Theme “Patient Endurance,” exploring Galatians 5:22, “But the Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience”.
- Metropolis Summer Camp (July 2025, Saint Nicholas Ranch): Over 200 campers (ages 8–18) participated, supported by 60 staff, 13 clergy, and many volunteers. Metropolitan Gerasimos visited to pray and fellowship with campers. Special recognition for Leadership 100’s support of Summer Camping ministries.
- Young Adult Fall Retreat (October 16–19, 2025, Saint Nicholas Ranch): Theme “Glory to Thee for Every Step of My Life’s Journey,” with guest speaker Rev. Archdeacon Justin Bosl.
- Pacific Northwest High School Lenten Retreat (March 14–15, 2025, All Saints Camp, Raft Island, WA): First retreat in over 10 years, hosted by the new PNW Youth Council. 40 high schoolers from seven parishes participated, with discussions on faith and connection, plus service projects and activities led by high school council members.
- Bay Area GOYA Lenten Retreat (March 14–16, 2025, Marin Headlands, CA): Theme “Trust in the Lord.” Middle and high school participants enjoyed worship, discussions, fellowship, and a visit from Metropolitan Gerasimos.
- Southern California GOYA Lenten Retreat (April 4–6, 2025, San Bernardino Mountains, CA): Theme “Take Up Your Cross.” Retreat included Akathist service, outdoor activities, arts and crafts, and community-building for GOYAns across southern California.
- PNW Youth Council: Comprising high school representatives from Washington and Oregon, the Council organized faith and fellowship events and elected its new board, under guidance from Rev. Fr. Paul Paris, Rev. Fr. Spyridon Rice, and Anna Teodosiadis.
- Young Adult Christmas Reception (December 13, 2025, Metropolis House, San Francisco): Evening of festive celebration, holiday refreshments, and Christmas carols to honor the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.







Clergy-Laity Assembly

The 2025 Clergy-Laity Assembly for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco convened on May 5 - 6, 2025 at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA. The theme of the Assembly focused on “Our Faith Can Move Mountains”.



The Assembly began with an opening prayer service led by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, who also offered welcoming remarks, making special note of the 20th Anniversary of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos as shepherd of the Metropolis of San Francisco, presenting him with an engolpion to commemorate this occasion.



In his Keynote Address, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos reflected on his 20-year ministry in the Metropolis of San Francisco stating, “These 20 years together, I share with you, the faithful clergy and laity of this blessed Metropolis, have indeed moved mountains, but not because of me, but because of God’s unfailing love and grace and mercy. I have been blessed to have over 100 priests in this Metropolis who are laboring in the Lord’s vineyard. I have the support of our administrative staff who work tirelessly to keep the wheels of our Metropolis turning. We have dedicated ministry leaders who are creating, implementing and growing the work we do as a Metropolis. It is not ‘my’ anniversary to celebrate 20 years as your Metropolitan. It is the work of our entire Metropolis family, you and me together, blessed and guided by God that has made all this possible.”



The featured presenter for the Assembly was Rev. Father Martin Ritsi, Executive Director of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) who spoke on the theme “Our Faith Can Move Mountains”. He shared inspirational stories of his ministry with OCMC and addressed the growth of the Orthodox faith both internationally and domestically. An additional presentation was offered by Eva Konstantakos, National Director of the Office of Youth and Youth Adult Ministries on the vast array of youth programs and resources available from the Archdiocese.

A highlight of the Assembly was an interactive Ministry Pavilion where delegates engaged with Metropolis Ministry leaders who shared valuable resources for parishes and faithful, highlighting the diverse and vibrant ministries offered by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco.

Over 180 clergy and lay delegates attended this annual gathering that also included worship services at the adjacent Monastery of the Theotokos the Life Giving Spring, and an annual memorial for the repose of His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony, of blessed memory.



Honors to Lay Leaders

His Metropolitan Gerasimos awarded the Medal of Saint Paul to the following individuals during an Archpastoral visit to the community of Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Santa Barbara, CA for the Feast Day of their parish on December 4, 2025. Congratulations to: Helen Condon McGillivray, William Poulis and Rose Marie Towle for their dedication and service to the parish.

Pan Orthodox and Interfaith

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos maintains close and ongoing communication with his brother Orthodox hierarchs of the West Coast, fostering dialogue and collaboration across their respective archpastoral ministries. Together, they continue to explore shared opportunities for cooperation, including efforts toward the re-establishment of an annual Pan-Orthodox Clergy Retreat. The annual celebration of the Sunday of Orthodoxy remains a cherished gathering of hierarchs, clergy, and faithful from area parishes, offering a powerful and beautiful affirmation of the Orthodox faith at the outset of the Lenten journey.

National Prayer for Christian Unity Week

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos joined in prayer with His Excellency Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 23, 2025 at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Redwood City, CA. Archbishop Cordileone led Solemn Vespers and Metropolitan Gerasimos delivered the homily. The event marks the 19th year that the Archdiocese of San Francisco and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco have come together in prayer to pray for unity.



The prayers for Vespers came from the feast of the conversation of Saint Paul, the traditional end to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Using Saint Paul's transformation after Jesus' dramatic intervention in his life and the "I believe" statement of Martha in John's Gospel, Metropolitan Gerasimos spoke on the importance of faith in his homily, linking it to the Nicene Creed which has its 1700th anniversary this year.



Sunday of Orthodoxy

Pan-Orthodox Vespers were held on Sunday, March 9, 2025 at Saint Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA. His Eminence was joined in prayer by fellow

hierarchs His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin of the Diocese of the West of the Orthodox Church in America, His Grace Bishop Maxim of Los Angeles and the Western American Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and welcomed His Grace Bishop Anthony of the Antiochian Diocese of Los Angeles and the West for the first time to this Pan-Orthodox gathering, who also served as the homilist. His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea, Chancellor and Auxiliary Bishop of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco also participated in this service. This gathering also provided the opportunity for all Orthodox faithful to honor His Eminence Archbishop Benjamin upon his retirement after many years of distinguished service.



Salutations to the Holy Cross

For the 20th consecutive year, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and His Excellency Archbishop Cordileone of the Roman Catholic Church gathered at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Belmont, CA, for the annual Salutations to the Cross service during Great Lent. Held on March 20, 2025, the theme for this service is “Rejoice, O Cross Guardian of the World”. The service was presided by parish clergy and the guest homilist was Archbishop Cordileone.



Ecumenical Prayer Service

On December 2, 2025, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos was honored at an Ecumenical Prayer Service held at Saint Leon Armenian Cathedral in Burbank, CA, in recognition of his 20 years of distinguished ministry on the West Coast. The event brought together clergy and faithful from multiple Christian traditions to pray for unity and to celebrate the enduring witness of the Church. During his exhortation, Metropolitan Gerasimos reflected on the significance of the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, emphasizing that this milestone is a timely reminder of the shared faith that unites all Christians and the ongoing call to foster dialogue, reconciliation, and cooperation among the Churches. The service underscored both his decades of pastoral leadership and his steadfast commitment to ecumenical engagement and the strengthening of Christian unity in the region.

IOCC



On Sunday, November 2, 2025 His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco attended Great Vespers at the Saint George Orthodox Cathedral in Daly City, CA and then participated in the IOCC Bay Area Food and Wine Tour. Now in its 33rd year, this event is more than a fundraiser—it is a celebration of the richness of our Orthodox heritage and a reminder that, though diverse in culture and tradition, we are all one family in Christ. Funds raised support the important mission of IOCC and their extraordinary humanitarian efforts throughout the world.



Hierarchs Welcome Lunch

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and His Grace Bishop Maxim of the Serbian Orthodox Church hosted a luncheon to formally welcome His Grace Bishop Anthony of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese's Diocese of Los Angeles and the West and His Grace Bishop Vasily of the Orthodox Church in America's Diocese of San Francisco and the West, to the West Coast. The gathering provided an opportunity for the hierarchs to reaffirm the importance of ongoing dialogue and cooperation among their jurisdictions, including continued discussion toward the re-establishment of a Pan-Orthodox Clergy Retreat. The luncheon was held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at Saint Steven Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Alhambra, California.

Provided an opportunity for the hierarchs to reaffirm the importance of ongoing dialogue and cooperation among their jurisdictions ...

Gala

Celebrating Our Ministries
Honoring Extraordinary Leadership





Metropolis Gala 2025

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco hosted its biennial Gala, *"Celebrating Our Ministries and Honoring Extraordinary Leadership,"* on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at the JW Marriott, Anaheim Resort. The exquisitely decorated ballroom provided a fitting setting for an evening that combined elegance, heartfelt faith, and shared purpose. The Gala was co-chaired by Archon George and Vickie Demos and Archon Gig and Kathleen Kyriacou, whose leadership, together with a dedicated committee of faithful stewards from throughout the Metropolis, ensured an evening of exceptional grace and meaning. The Gala brought together 520 guests from across the Metropolis to celebrate the dynamic ministries that enrich parish life and to honor the faithful leaders whose dedication strengthens the Church's mission.



At the heart of the evening was the presentation of the 2025 *Theofanis Economidis Award for Extraordinary Leadership* to Nikiforos and Georgia Valaskantjis, whose unwavering faith, philanthropy, and devotion to the traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church have touched countless lives. Their remarkable journey, from humble beginnings as immigrants to respected leaders in the life of the Church, embodies the power of perseverance, stewardship, and love for family, faith, and community.



The Metropolis extends its sincere gratitude to the event's major sponsors, whose generosity helped make the evening possible. *Legacy Sponsors ($100,000+)*: Archon Nikiforos and Georgia Valaskantjis, Archon George and Georgia Valaskantjis and Family; *Illustrious Sponsors ($50,000)*: Archon Gerry and Jeannie Ranglas; and *Signature Sponsors ($25,000)*: Hugo and Irene Aviles, Archon George and Vickie Demos, Archon Isidoros and Maria Garifalakis, Archon Gig and Kathleen Kyriacou, and Archon Dr. Michael Patzakis in loving memory of his wife Susan Giokaris Patzakis. There were many other sponsors and table hosts, in addition to generous donations from parishes throughout Metropolis which all contributed to the evening's success with more than $900,000 raised to strengthen and expand the ministries of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco.

Devastating Fires in Southern California



In January 2025, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco welcomed an Archpastoral visit to Southern California communities devastated by regional wildfires. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco joined His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea in offering prayerful presence, pastoral care, and visible solidarity to those impacted within the Metropolis.

The visit underscored the Metropolis's ongoing response to the fires and was strengthened by the presence of national Church leadership and lay organizations, including representatives of the National Philoptochos Society, Leadership 100, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and Metropolis Philoptochos, reflecting the unity of the Church in supporting affected communities. The Consul General of Greece in Los Angeles also accompanied the delegation.

Throughout the day, the delegation visited parishes and faithful within the Metropolis who had been directly affected by the fires, witnessing local relief efforts, offering comfort to families who had lost their homes, and praying for first responders and all those suffering loss. A Blessing of the Waters was held at the Santa Monica Pier, offering prayers for healing, protection, and renewal for the entire region.

The visit concluded at Saint Sophia Cathedral in Los Angeles with an Evening of Hope and Healing, where clergy and faithful from across Southern California gathered in prayer, reflection, and mutual encouragement.



This Archpastoral visit affirmed the Metropolis of San Francisco's commitment to walking alongside its parishes and faithful in times of crisis, while also highlighting the care, support, and solidarity of the national Church as the region continues its path toward healing and recovery.

In response to the devastation, emergency funds raised through the Metropolis of San Francisco and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America were made available to those who lost homes, businesses, and personal belongings, as well as to individuals and families who were displaced or unable to work, with deep gratitude expressed to the faithful and benefactors whose generous support made this vital assistance possible.

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco joined His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea in offering prayerful presence, pastoral care, and visible solidarity to those impacted within the Metropolis.

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate
Protecting the Future of Faith™

Archon Investiture

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco is pleased to announce that three distinguished stewards were invested as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate The investiture service was held on Sunday, October 19, 2025, at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York, presided by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, along with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and other members of the Eparchial Synod, as well as Auxiliary Bishops of the Archdiocese.

"These three devoted stewards of our Church have shown steadfast faith, leadership, and love for the Lord," stated His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. "Through their investiture as Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, they are called to uphold and defend the sacred mission of the Mother Church. Their witness and dedication to preserving the future of faith will benefit generations of Orthodox faithful."

A total of 38 distinguished stewards were invested as the Archon Class of 2025, with three of the new candidates being from the Metropolis of San Francisco.



Hon. Stavros Anthony, Ph.D., Archon Referendarios, Las Vegas, NV (Lieutenant Governor, State of Nevada)



David Matty, Ph.D., Archon Eftaxias, San Juan Capistrano, CA (Principal, Computer Services Technology)



George Valaskantjis, Archon Orphanotrofos, Dana Point, CA (Principal, Food Services)



Pilgrimage of Discovery Presentation - Metropolis Young Adult League (YAL) Conference

Hon. Steven Counelis, Archon Regional Commander (Southern California) and Dr. Gregory Papadeas, Archon Regional Commander (Denver), participated in the YAL Conference, introducing three young adult alumni from the 2025 Pilgrimage of Discovery (POD). Lenie Tsakonas, Chris Benis, and Demetra Zouzas offered their own personal and moving reflections on the impact the POD had upon their faith, their respect and love for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and newly found connection to the lives of the dwindling Orthodox Christian Community that remains under constant governmental oppression.

Also introduced were the POD Alumni Network Members who attended the Conference, and those who supported its presence at the YAL Conference Ministry Pavilion: 2024 POD Alumni Sophia Looney and Eliana Davis.



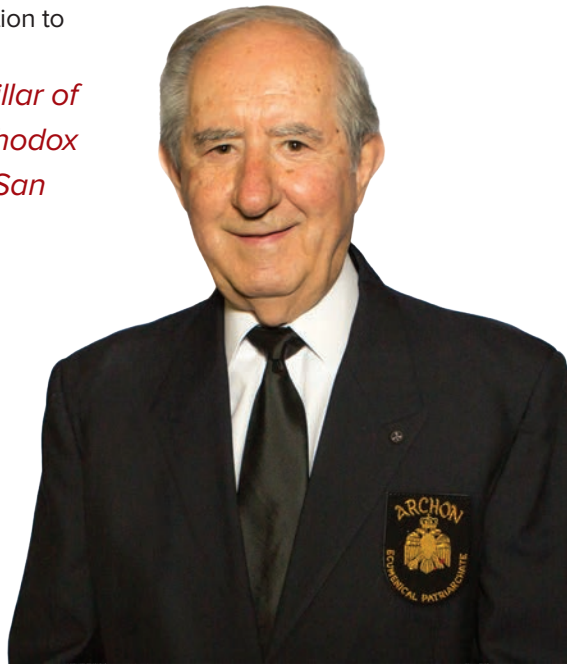




Falling Asleep in the Lord of Archon Theofanis V. Economidis

Archon Theofanis V. Economidis fell asleep in the Lord on November 29, 2025 at the age of 89. Born on August 14, 1936 in Dessylla, Messenias, Greece, Fanis lived a life shaped by faith, discipline, and service to others. After graduating from the Greek Military Cadet Academy in 1958 and serving a decade as an artillery officer in the Greeking Army, he immigrated to the United States where he excelled both academically and professionally. He earned degrees from UCLA and Stanford and became a respected leader in engineering and national security, contributing significantly to NASA programs and later serving as an executive at TRW Inc. His accomplishments reflected his sharp mind, unwavering work ethic, and devotion to excellence.

Fanis was a pillar of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco.



Fanis was a pillar of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. For more than 35 years he served on the Metropolis Council, including 25 years as Vice President, offering unparalleled leadership, wisdom, and dedication. He also served as President of the Board of Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center where his vision and steady guidance helped strengthen this vital ministry. His service extended far beyond the Metropolis to the entire Church. A devoted Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, he served as Regional Commander of the Archons of the Metropolis of San Francisco and was a respected representative of the Mother Church on the international stage, including several years defending religious freedom at the annual OSCE meetings in Warsaw, Poland. His global service reflected his deep love for Orthodoxy and his commitment to the mission of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

May his memory be eternal!



Inaugural West Coast Archon Lenten Retreat

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and the blessings and presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate hosted the John Halecky Jr. 21st Annual National Archon Lenten Retreat on the West Coast for the first time on Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29, 2025 at Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church in Pasadena, California.



Rev. Father Stavros Akrotirianakis (Tampa, FL) provided wisdom and insight in his capacity as the Retreat Master. Father Stavros spoke on the topic, “Renewing Our Call to Be Disciples: Understanding Who We Are Called to Be and Recommitting Ourselves to Our Sacred Charge.”

National Archon Commander, Dr. Anthony Limberakis offered a presentation on the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Foundation, following which Archon Nikiforos and Georgia Valaskantjis and Archon George and Georgia Valaskantjis offered their support of the Foundation by becoming Founders with their individual pledges of $100,000.

During the retreat weekend, Emeritus Archon Regional Commanders Theofanis Economidis and Dr. James Kallins were honored for their years of dedication and service to Mother Church and the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Clifford and Theodora have had a love of the church since childhood. In 2004 Cliff was invested as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with the Offikion Eftaxias.

Archon Clifford and Theodora Argue Honored with Metropolitan Anthony Humanitarian Award



During the 2025 Folk Dance and Choral Festival for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, the Metropolitan Anthony Humanitarian Award was presented to Archon Clifford and Theodora Argue from Mercer Island, WA. They have been faithful stewards of many parishes and involved at the Metropolis and Archdiocese level, including Cliff serving as Communication Committee Chair for the Archdiocesan Council for 14 years, and as Chairman of the Board for the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) for two terms.

When remarking on the selection of Cliff and Theo for this award, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, referred to them as “a couple whose unwavering dedication to the Church, to missions, to philanthropy, and to community service has left a lasting imprint on our Metropolis and beyond. Their tireless efforts span decades and continents and they have been unwavering supporters of Orthodox missions, parish life, youth programs, and charitable initiatives. Through their work, they have not only strengthened the institutions of our faith but have also inspired countless others to serve.”

Archon Dinner at Folk Dance and Choral Festival

On Saturday, February 15, 2025, the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in the Metropolis of San Francisco hosted a dinner in honor of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America as part of the 48th Annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival in Anaheim, California. Generously underwritten by Archon Gerry and Jeannie Ranglas, the evening was a meaningful time of reflection and fellowship held in the aftermath of the devastating Southern California wildfires.



As part of the program, Archon Constantine Boukidis offered a moving reflection, sharing that while his own home was spared, many in his neighborhood suffered great loss. In response to the fires, the Archons of the West Coast presented a $10,000 donation, given in honor of Archbishop Elpidophoros, to the Metropolis Fire Relief Fund, underscoring their commitment to compassion, solidarity, and support for those affected.

In addition to several Archons and their spouses, this event also welcomed the Consul General of Greece in Los Angeles, Christina Valassopoulou; and the Honorary Consul General of Cyprus, Archon Andreas Kyprianides.



Metropolis Ministry Pavilion - Clergy-Laity Assembly

As part of the overall Clergy-Laity Assembly held in May 2025 at St. Nicholas Ranch, the Ministry Pavilion featured the ministries of the Metropolis along with other affiliated organizations, including the Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Pavilion provided clergy and lay leaders with valuable insight into each organization's mission, purpose, and ongoing initiatives. For the Archons, it offered excellent exposure and an opportunity to share who they are and what they stand for, reflected in their guiding principle, **"Protecting the Future of Faith."**

Gala Honors Esteemed Archon Nikiforos and Georgia Valaskantjis

Archon Nikiforos and Georgia Valaskantjis were honored at the 2025 Metropolis Gala in recognition of their extraordinary leadership and longstanding philanthropy in support of the Church. Through their faithful service to the Metropolis, the Archdiocese, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate, they have exemplified stewardship, commitment, and love for the Orthodox faith. Nikiforos and Georgia have offered unwavering support that has strengthened ministries and advanced the life of the Church at every level. AXIOI!





Greek Independence Day

Consul General of Greece in San Francisco Hosts Annual Reception for Greek Independence Day

The Consulate General of Greece - San Francisco, The Honorable Grigorios Tassiopoulos, sponsored a reception for Greek Independence Day on March 27, 2025, at the War Memorial Opera House in San Francisco. In addition to His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, other speakers for this event included: Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, California Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis, and City of San Francisco Chief of Protocol Penny Coulter. This event brought together both Hellenes and Phil-Hellenes to celebrate the 204th anniversary of Greece's independence.



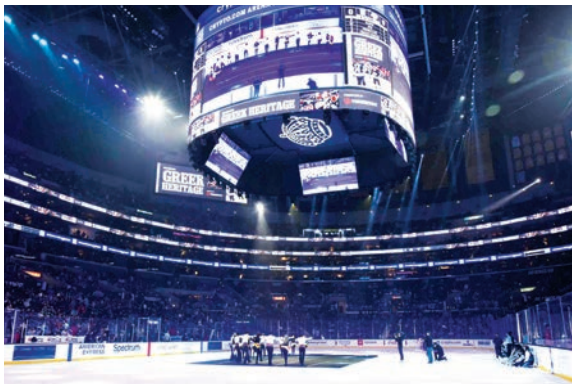
San Jose Greek Flag Raising Ceremony

On Friday, March 21, 2025, at 5:00 pm, the City of San Jose held a Greek Flag Raising Ceremony at City Hall Plaza to commemorate the 204th anniversary of Greece's independence. The event, hosted by San Jose Vice Mayor and District 9 Councilmember Pam Foley, brought together the Greek-American community and local leaders to honor this historic occasion.

Organized by the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) and the Daughters of Penelope (DOP), the event featured distinguished guests, including His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco and His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco; Dr. George Zioulas, AHEPA Supreme Governor Region 8; Linda Belba, Daughters of Penelope Grand Governor Zone IV; Athena Hallock, DOP District 21 Governor; Mark Hallock, AHEPA District 21 Governor; The Honorable Grigorios Tassiopoulos, Consul General of Greece in San Francisco; and Nicolaos Theophanous, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Cyprus.

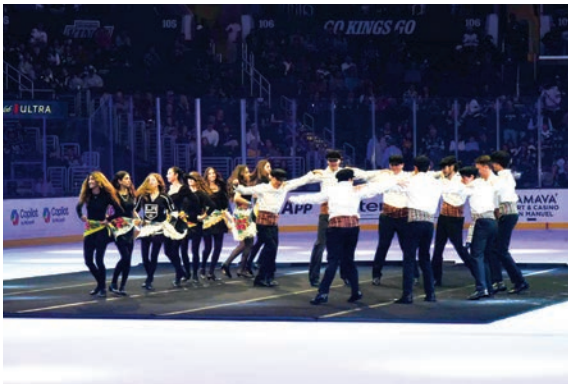


To commemorate the occasion, Vice Mayor Pam Foley presented a proclamation from Mayor Matt Mahan and the San Jose City Council recognizing March 25 as Greek Independence Day. As a further tribute, San Jose City Hall's iconic glass rotunda and tower were illuminated in the colors of the Greek flag for seven days. The celebratory atmosphere was enhanced by a traditional folk dance performance by the youth from Saint Nicholas Church in San Jose, CA.



Greek Heritage Night in Los Angeles

Greek Heritage Night, organized by Greek Consul General of Los Angeles Christina Valassopoulou, was a spirited evening of fellowship, cultural pride, and community outreach. Held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at the Los Angeles Kings hockey game in downtown LA, parishioners and fans who attended were entertained with an exciting hockey game and local parish youth Greek dancing on the ice to "Zorba the Greek,". Proceeds from this event benefited the Metropolis Philoptochos Kids 'n' Cancer ministry which was represented by Metropolis Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas.



Philoxenia House Blessing

On Sunday, February 9, 2025 Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Seattle, Washington celebrated its newest ministry, the Philoxenia House with an Archpastoral visit by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, accompanied by His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea and Rev. Archdeacon Justin Bosl. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, Metropolitan Gerasimos conducted an Agiasmos service followed by a procession to the Philoxenia House, where His Eminence blessed the residences.



The Philoxenia House was developed in a residential structure adjacent to the Saint Demetrios parish and offers two fully furnished two-bedroom apartments, thoughtfully designed to provide comfort and meet the temporary lodging needs of out-of-town patients and their families during cancer treatment in Seattle. Conveniently located near Fred Hutch Cancer Center and Seattle Children's Hospital, the Philoxenia House is managed as a ministry of Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church. Parishioners in the community are dedicated to supporting patients and easing their stay through acts of love and care.

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A luncheon with over 200 attendees continued the celebration which included remarks from four individuals who shared thoughts on this newest ministry as well as recognition of the many donors whose time, talent and treasure who made the Philoxenia House a reality. The leadership of this effort includes Archons John John, Paul Plumis, and Theo Angelis.



CrossRoad Summer Institute

CrossRoad Institute held its West Coast session at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, CA from June 20 – 30, 2025. This is a highly impactful national program for high school juniors and seniors, which firmly grounds teens in their faith as they prepare to embark on adulthood. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos spent a day with the participants and offered an engaging presentation on prayer.



This program was made possible through a three-year grant from The George and Judy Marcus Foundation. The Marcus' are faithful stewards of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco.



Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

For the 2025 - 2026 academic year, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco is blessed to have exceptional representation at Hellenic College Holy Cross. From full-time on campus students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, to those participating in the Semester of Faith, while others are distance learners, and yet others are in special Certificate programs, each of them are putting their faith into action through their studies and service.

Holy Cross – Master of Divinity

Seminarians (On Campus)

Gabriel Braskett
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
Scottsdale, AZ

Whitney Aaron Davis
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Sacramento, CA

Demetrius Dogias
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Sacramento, CA

Nickos Francis
Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church
Castro Valley, CA

Josiah Gilman
Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
Bellingham, WA

George Mille
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
Scottsdale, AZ

Jack McAfee
Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
Beaverton, OR

Matthew Mourad
Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Church
Stockton, CA

Nicholas Paris
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Portland, OR

Nicolas Shin
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
Long Beach, CA

Carter Stevens
Saint Lawrence Greek Orthodox Church
Felton, CA

Holy Cross - Master of Theological Studies

(On Campus)

Thomaida Hudanish
Saint John the Baptist St John the Baptist
Beaverton, OR

Hellenic College (On Campus)

Theology Seminarians

Joseph Bosl
Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church
Castro Valley, CA

Geoffrey Dyer
Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
Eugene, OR

Konstantine Prevas
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Northridge, CA

Nicholas Prevas
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Northridge, CA

Theology

Pavlos Blankenstein
Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
Beaverton, OR

Tyler Musser
Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Church
Stockton, CA

George Tzitzikas
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Sacramento CA

Josiah Wiesner
Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Church
Stockton, CA

Liberal Studies

Maria Daniels
Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
Beaverton, OR

Niko Rakos
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
San Francisco, CA

Peter Vagelatos
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
Long Beach, CA

Nonprofit Leadership and Management

Matthew Carroll
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
Redondo Beach, CA

Alexie Coman
Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
Carmel-by-the Sea, CA

Religious Studies

Andrew Moreno
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
Chandler, AZ

Literature & History

Athanasia Grigoriadis
Saint Fokas Archdiocese of Constantinople
Ecumenical Patriarchate, Constantinople, Turkey

Psychology

Varvara Dogias
Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
Redondo Beach, CA

Keo Kowalczyk
Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
Prescott, AZ

Holy Cross – Online

Master of Divinity

Photini Downie Robinson
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Portland, OR

Master of Theology

Rev. Father Constantinos Economos
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
San Francisco, CA

Master of Theological Studies

Christopher Hondros
Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church
Castro Valley, CA

Cameron Hoover
Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
Vallejo, CA

Jason Ioannides
Saint Paul Greek Orthodox Church
Irvine, CA

Maggie John
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
Seattle, CA

Anna Teodosiadis
Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
San Diego, CA

Deacon Gabriel Yepez
Maui Greek Orthodox Mission
Kihei, Hawaii

Open Learning

Athena Bourdaniotis
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Sacramento, CA

Michael Garibaldi
Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church
Castro Valley, CA

Miles Ormachea
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
Scottsdale, AZ

Holy Cross – Online

Master of Divinity

Liberal Studies

Justice Bjorke
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Portland, OR

Open Learning

Katerina Vlahopouliotis
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
San Jose, CA

Semester of Faith

Agamemnon Bourdaniotis
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Sacramento, CA

Constantine Flesoras
Saint Anna Greek Orthodox Church
Roseville, CA

Andrew Hadweh
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Modesto, CA

Yianni Kades
Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church
Pasadena, CA



Closing

It is with deep gratitude to God that I offer this report of the life and ministry of our Metropolis. Through the faithful collaboration of our clergy, lay leaders, ministries, and parish communities, we continue to serve Christ and His Church with dedication, humility, and love.

May the Lord abundantly bless this fertile vineyard and grant His grace, peace, and strength to all who labor within it, to the glory of His Holy Name.

With Love and Filial Respect in the Lord,

✠ Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

Metropolis Administrative Staff

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea
Chancellor

Rev. Father Nicholas Metrakos
Director of the Office of the Metropolitan

Kristen Bruskas
Director of Development and Communications

Paul Gikas
Director of Ministries and Administration

Presvytera Aliki Kyriacou
Assistant to the Metropolitan, Registrar and Bookkeeper

Foula Vasilogiorgis
Administrative Assistant

Presvytera Dimitra Dogias
Development and Communications Assistant

Rev. Father Daniel Triant
Webmaster

Metropolis Ministry Leadership

Christian Education | Dr. Eve Tibbs

Church Music | Christopher Hondros

Clergy Continuing Education | Rev. Father Gerasimos Markopoulos

Family Wellness | George Papageorge, MFT; Presvytera Pat Tsagalakis

Folk Dance and Choral Festival | Spiro Beckas; Michael Syrengelas

Greek Language and Culture | Katerina Chiotis

Greek Village | Rev. Father Nicholas Metrakos

Missions and Evangelism | Paul Gikas (Interim)

Orthodox Parish Leadership | Steve Tibbs

Philoptochos | Jeannie Ranglas

Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center | Stefan Metrakos

Young Adult League | Hon. Steven and Stacia Counelis

Youth and Young Adult Ministries | Johanna Duterte Carter; Anna Teodosiadis

Scan to view online

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