



PARISH PLANNED GIVING

An Offering of the



GREEK ORTHODOX
ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

Creating a Parish Vision

Illuminating the Path Ahead

OPL 10.20.25

*“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit
upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see
visions”*

Prophecy of Joel



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Creating a Parish Vision



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01

What is it?

02

*Why is it
important?*

03

*How can we
craft one?*

Values • Mission • Vision



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Values, Mission & Vision



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Values

- *How we live our mission and realize our vision*

Mission

- *What we do; who we do it for; what the impact is*

Vision

- *Aspiration of what we hope to fulfill*

Values, Mission & Vision



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Values

How we live out mission and realize our vision

- Anchor of Trust
- *Live our values or break trust*

Mission

What we do; who we do it for; what the impact is

- Measure of Greatness
- *How effectively we deliver on our mission*

Vision

Aspiration of what we hope to fulfill

- North Star
- *Inspiring action and commitment*

Inspire • Discern • Unite

The Value of Vision



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Inspirational Value of Vision



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01

Reflect faith
and values

02

Invites
expansive
thinking

03

Challenges
status quo

04

Cultivates
abundance ~
mindset &
resources

Discernment Value of Vision



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01

Focuses
priorities

02

Guides
decision
making

03

Eases “Nos”

04

Channels
energy &
resources

Unity Value of Vision



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01

Aligns parish
goals

02

Invites
collaboration

03

Centers focus

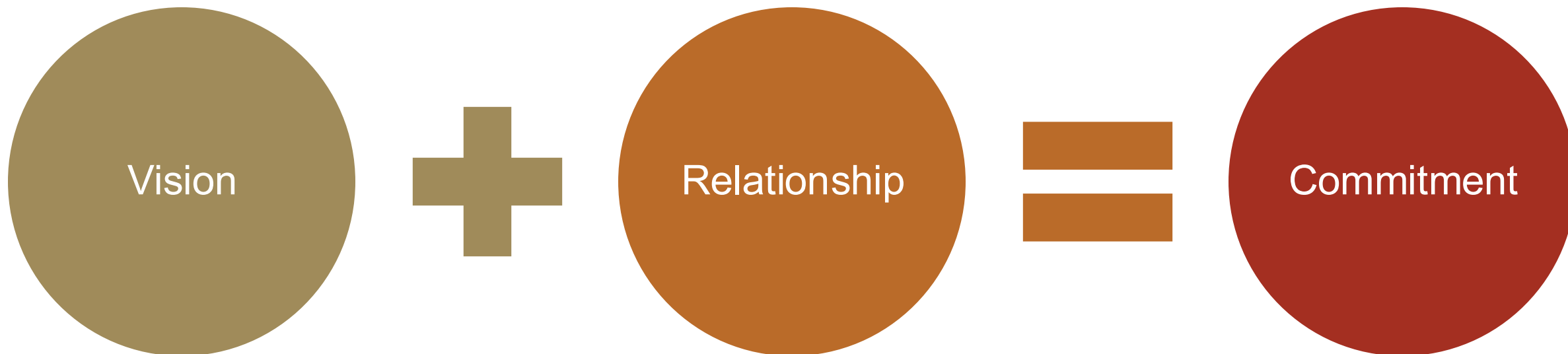
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Enjoins
celebrations

Value for Commitment



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“The study results, however, indicated clearly that the parishes encouraging members to be more generous because it will enhance church's mission and create more opportunities for spiritual growth receive MUCH HIGHER contributions from their members than the churches asking members to contribute more merely because various needs of a parish community should be addressed.”

SCOBA 2015

Vision Fundamentals



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- *Great Commission* ~ mission vs. vision
- *How to fulfill Great Commission* ~ from where and who we are
- *Don't overwhelm with content* ~ lead with vision – start with big picture
- *Vision shifts focus forward* ~ less time for negativity
- *Money/Engagement follows vision*
 - *Where there is no vision, the people perish: Where there is vision, the people flourish*
 - *Michael Hyatt*

How can we craft our vision?

Simple to robust opportunities



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Process Considerations



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01

Buy-in &
engagement

02

Strategic
Plan/Campaign
status

03

Current
Climate

04

Time &
investment

Key Steps



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Blue Sky

Ground
Assess

Map the
Pathways

Go a deeper . . .



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Blue Sky

- *Who are we in 3-5 years/?*
- *What are we known for?*
- *What impact have we made?*

Ground Assess

- *Who are we now?*
- *What are our gifts?*
- *What are our challenges?*

Map Pathways

- *Evolving who?*
- *Refining what?*
- *Expanding how?*

Process Considerations



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01

Buy-in &
engagement

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investment

Engagement Options

Any or all



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Engaging Parishioners



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Parish-wide Digital Survey

- *Full opportunity*

Facilitated Focus Groups

- *Broad Representation*

Representative Interviews

- *Key Stakeholders*

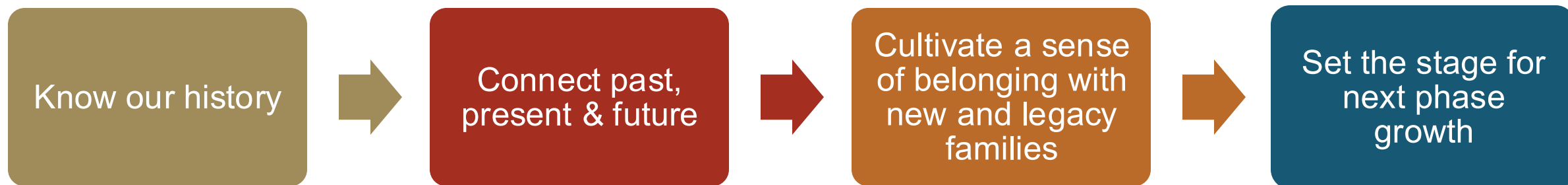
Clergy Discernment

- *70% alone or together*

Craft a Parish Timeline



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Past, Present & Emerging Ideas?

Photo Collage: *Ground*



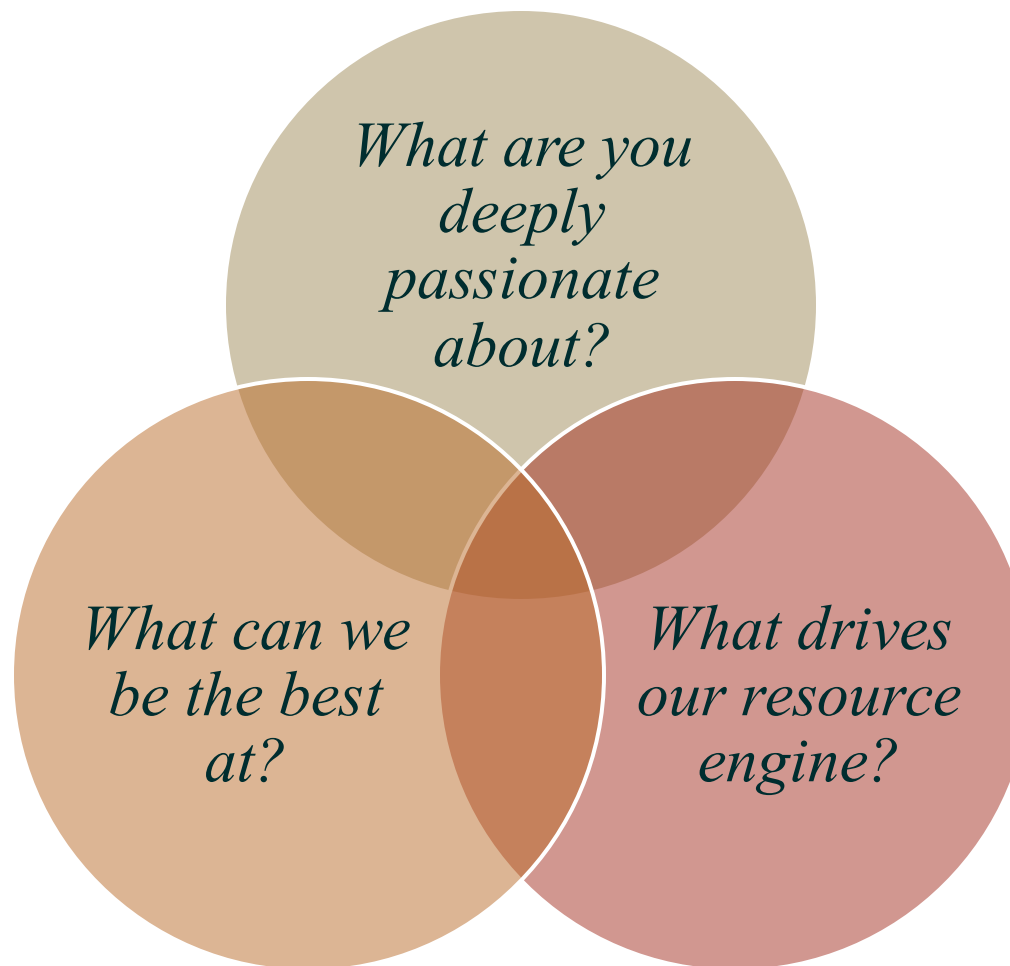
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Hedgehog* Vision



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Jim Collins: Good to Great

Three Samples



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Smaller Parish Example



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- Clergy Cohort Training
 - Metropolis of Chicago Leadership Accelerator
 - Michael Hyatt: *Vision Driven Leader*
- Clergy/Leadership
 - Parish Council & Ministry Leader input



Twelve Holy Apostles, Duluth, MN



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**Healing in Christ,
Together as One Body**

Our Core Values

H—humble love (humility)

E—eucharistic connection (worship)

A—active discipleship (ongoing learning)

R—repentant hearts (second chances)

t—cross-centered (all for Christ)

S—steadfast evangelism

Twelve Holy Apostles, Duluth, MN



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- Our Vision
- Our vision includes four major areas: *our team of ministry leaders, what we have to offer our community, how we reach out, and what impact we want to see.*
 - Team:** To **develop servant-leaders** who lead by example in all areas of church life.
 - Our Offerings:** To **offer transformative worship and ministries** that grow our parishioners into faithful Orthodox Christians.
 - Reaching Out:** To **love our neighbors** in tangible ways and **offer them the Good News** of Jesus Christ through organized ministry programs.
 - Impact:** All of this results in the **growth** of our parish so that it is sustainable and makes Twelve Holy Apostles a **relevant and meaningful partner** within the Northland community.

Vision Driven Leader Format



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Belong

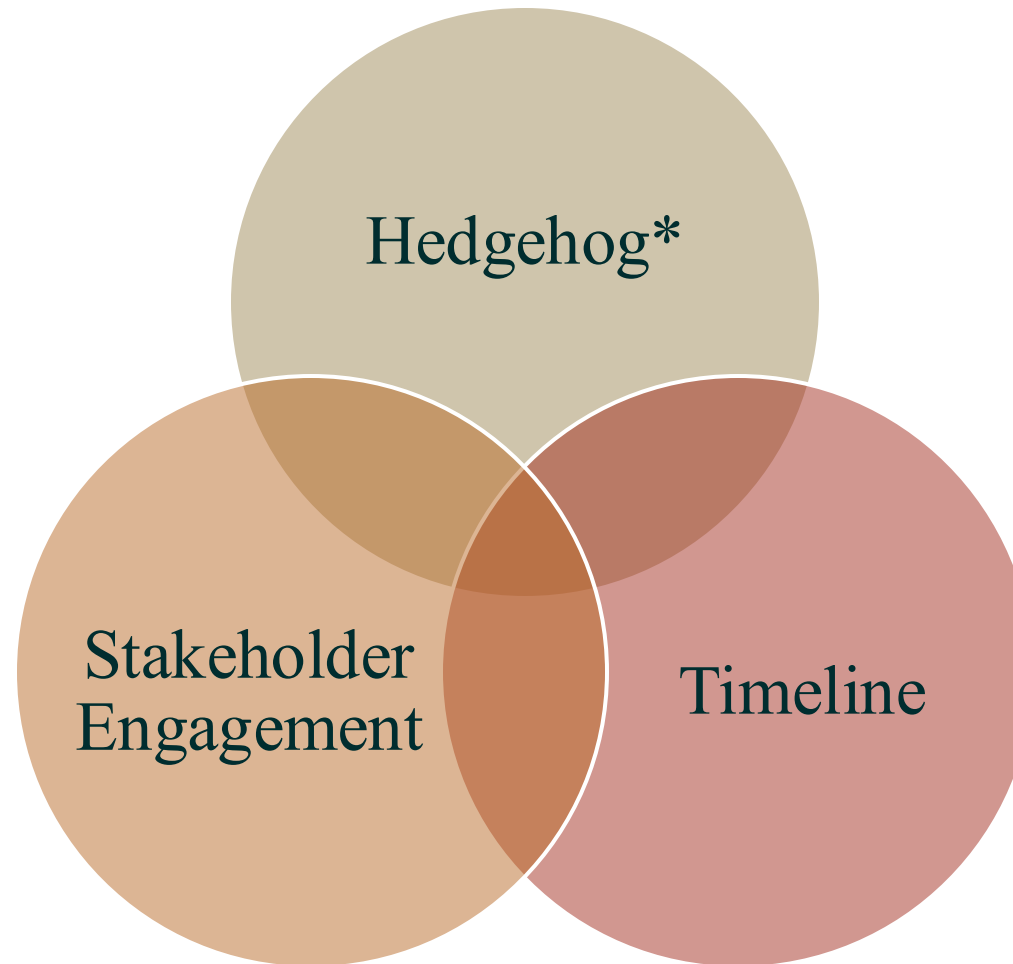
- *Inviting,
Building &
Supporting
Community*

Believe

- *Faith
Fundamentals,
Confidence &
Connection*

Become

- *Academic,
Faith &
Personal
Fulfillment*



Carmel Catholic High School



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Mail - m.murdakes@comcast.net - Xfinity Connect

Who We Are - Mission & Identity - Carmel Catholic High School

Belong.

At Carmel Catholic, we **Belong**.

We are known, valued, and supported.

We have the opportunity to participate, contribute, and connect through a myriad of academic, athletic, artistic, and spiritual pursuits.

We are a safe, close-knit community comprised of 1,100 students, 150 dedicated faculty and staff members, and over 16,000 alumni.

Corsairs share a strong tradition of achievement and a rich history of more than 60 years of service and citizenship in Lake County.

Believe.

At Carmel Catholic, we **Believe**.

Centered in Jesus Christ, we believe all students are beloved children of God.

Each student's unique potential to achieve and contribute can be realized through our exceptional academic and extracurricular programs. We back our belief with opportunities and resources to excel.

Our Catholic roots enrich our inclusive community, welcoming all to experience the values that inspire our students to cultivate kindness, honor one another, and live with purpose.

Become.

At Carmel Catholic, we **Become**.

Encouraging inquiry and discovery, Carmel Catholic provides the academic rigor, artistic exploration, and spiritual enrichment to prepare students for college and beyond. Our innovative programming guides and supports individual pursuits, challenging students to embrace all they can become.

Who We Are

Our Mission and Vision

Our Values

History and Founders

Campus Rosary Walk

Advent Reflections

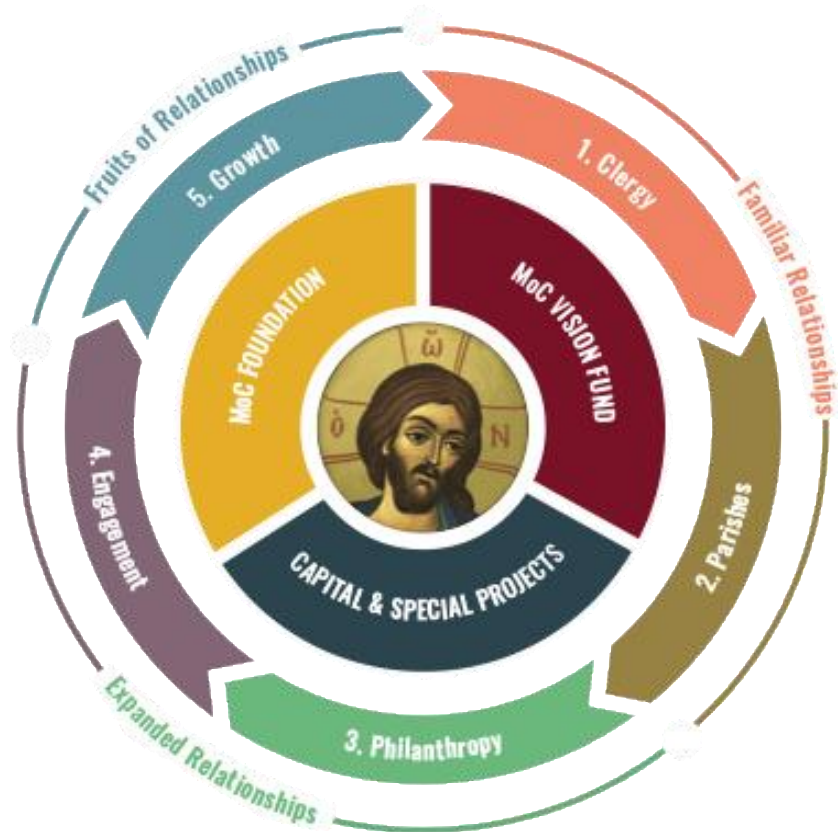
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Metropolis of Chicago Vision

OUR VISION. OUR OPPORTUNITY.
OUR GROWTH.

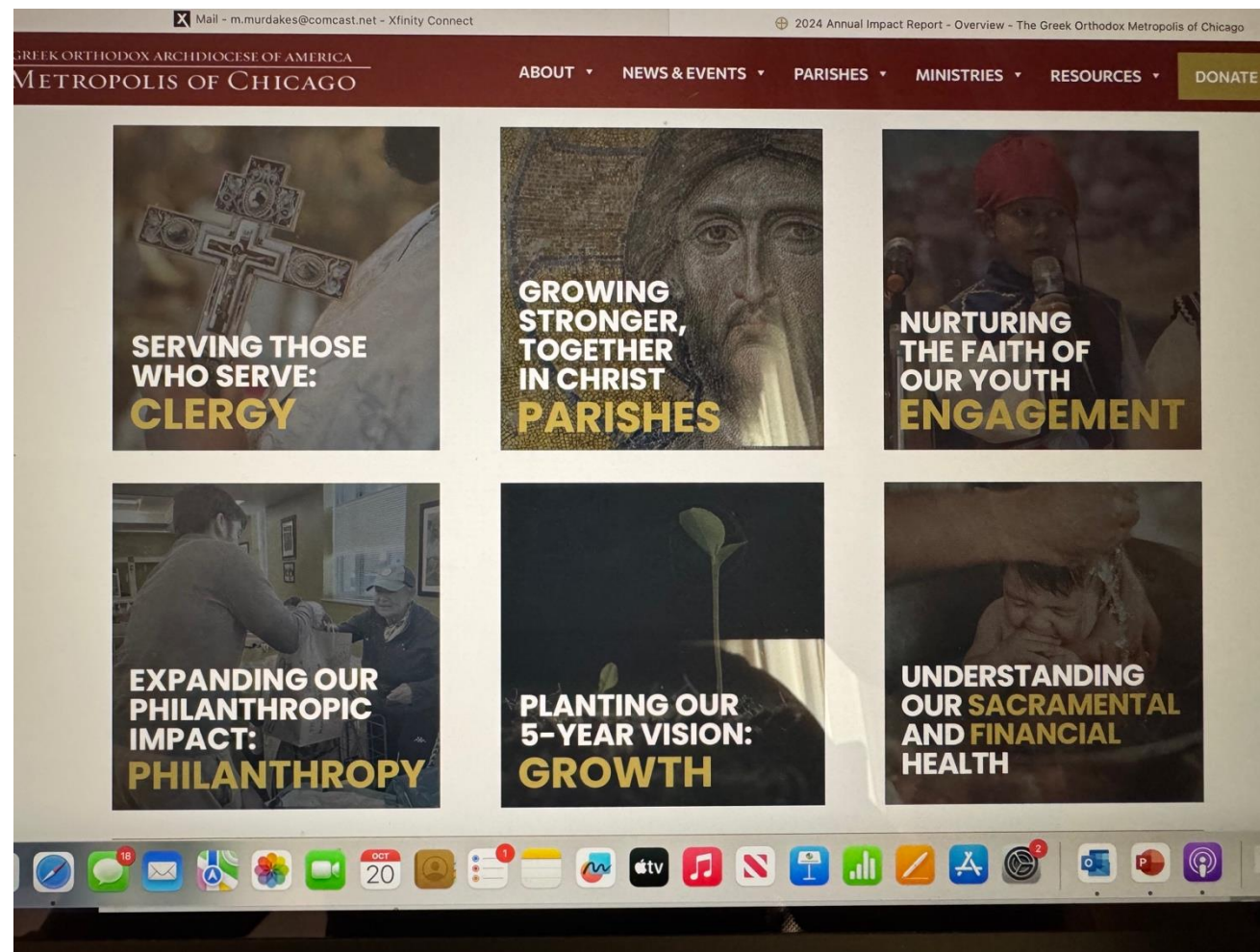


*Unity in Christ has deepened our
relationships with family,
friends, and neighbors.
We are a growing Church that bears fruit
in the world.*

Metropolis of Chicago



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Process



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Pray & Move Your Feet



Vision as a call to action



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Flywheel Essentials



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What will you bring back to your parish?



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Thank you.

Melpomeni N. Murdakes

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goarch.org/PlannedGiving