



“Enhancing Parishioner Engagement: *Utilizing an Intergenerational Approach*”



Webinar Series

2025

Monday, September 15
6:30-7:45 p.m. PDT



The Orthodox Parish Leadership ministry of the Metropolis of San Francisco is offering a webinar on “Enhancing Parishioner Engagement Utilizing an Intergenerational Approach.”

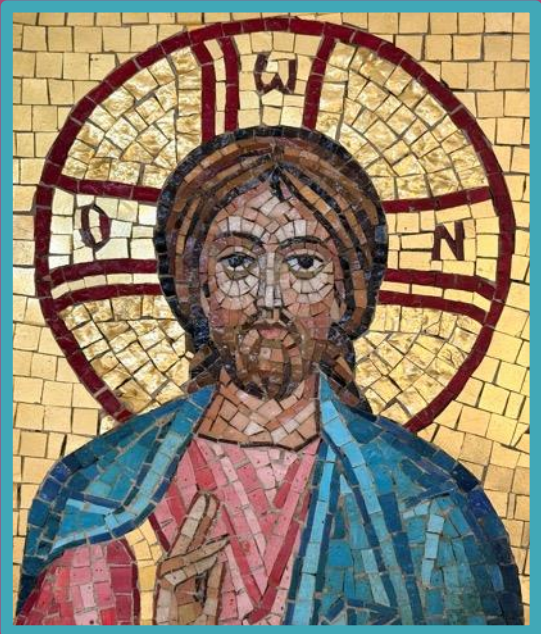
Our Session Leader

George Ekizian is a long-time parishioner of St. Paul’s in Irvine, CA. He is a former Parish Council President and currently leads St. Paul’s Welcome Ministry and, along with his wife, Karen, the parish’s “Parish Engagement Team.” He is also the OPL Ministry Leader for its “Welcome Ministry” and “Parishioner Engagement” offerings.





Topics for this Evening



- ❖ What is an Intergenerational Approach?
- ❖ Why Engagement Matters
- ❖ Key Benefits
- ❖ Experiences & Best Practices / Guest Speakers
- ❖ Implementation & Barriers
- ❖ Measuring Impact



Our Guests for this Evening

Christian Gonzalez



- Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist who holds multiple degrees from Wheaton College, Azusa Pacific University, and Luther Seminary.
- Developed “Effective Christian Ministry,” and podcasts: “We Are Orthodoxy” and “Pop Culture Coffee Hour.”
- Passionate about upbuilding of the Church as the Family of God: a household that forms young people into the likeness of Christ.

Priscilla Tedesco



- Along with her husband, Ron, parishioners at St. Paul’s Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine for over 28 years.
- Currently the President of Philoptochos, serving her second term.
- Sunday School teacher having taught 3rd grade for 10 years.
- Member of St. Paul’s Welcome Team.
- Former Co-Chair of two Parish Festival of Hearts Galas, raising funds for Kids ‘n’ Cancer and other charities.



Maria Gallagher

- Parishioner of St. Paul's since 2020, upon moving to California, along with her husband Kevin, from the East Coast.
- Currently serves on the Parish Council.
- Leads St. Paul’s Young Adult ministry.
- Sunday School teaching aide 11th and 12th grade class.
- Member of St. Paul’s Welcome Team.



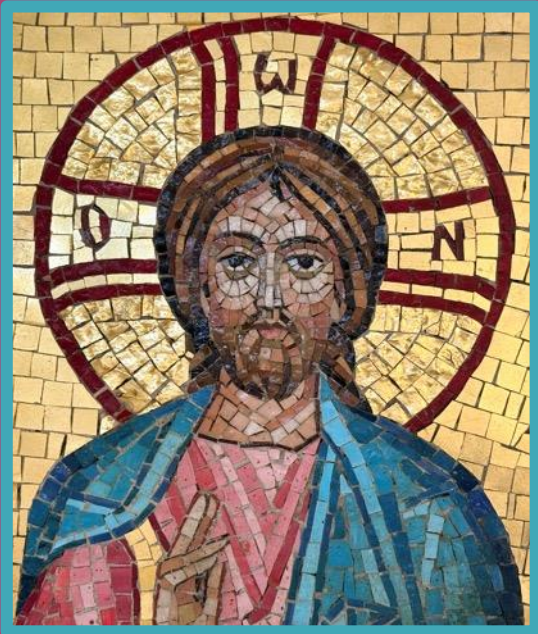
Kevin Gallagher

- Recently received the blessing of Metropolitan Gerasimos to enter the Holy Cross Diaconate Program.
- Involved with St. Paul’s Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry.
- Member of St. Paul’s Welcome Team.
- Co-Teacher, Junior High Sunday School class.





What is an Intergenerational Approach?

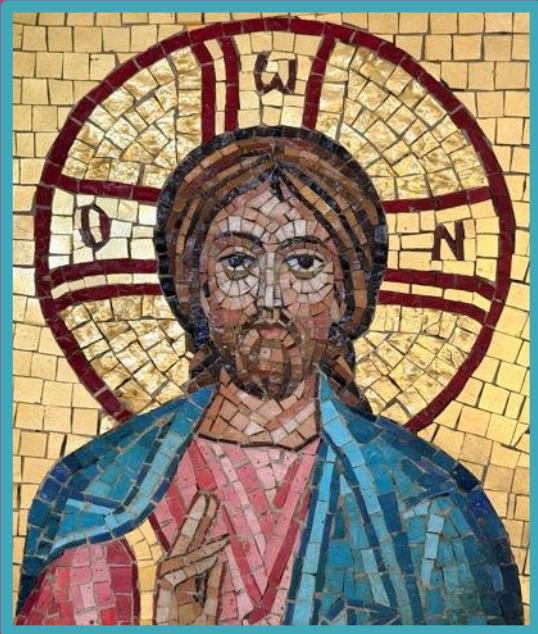


Definition: Shared faith experiences across age groups

- Goes beyond coexistence → creates collaboration
- Nurtures discipleship, empathy, and spiritual maturity across generations
- Emphasis on mutual learning and relationship sharing



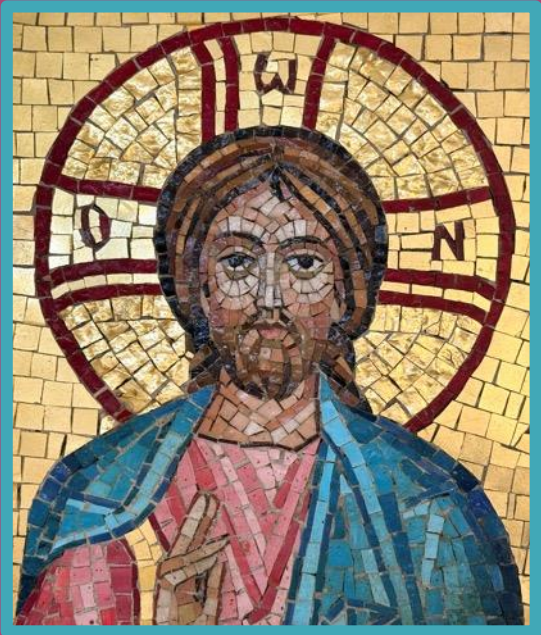
Why Engagement Matters



- Generational disconnect limits spiritual growth
- Parishioners crave community and belonging
- A vibrant church is one where all generations feel connected and valued



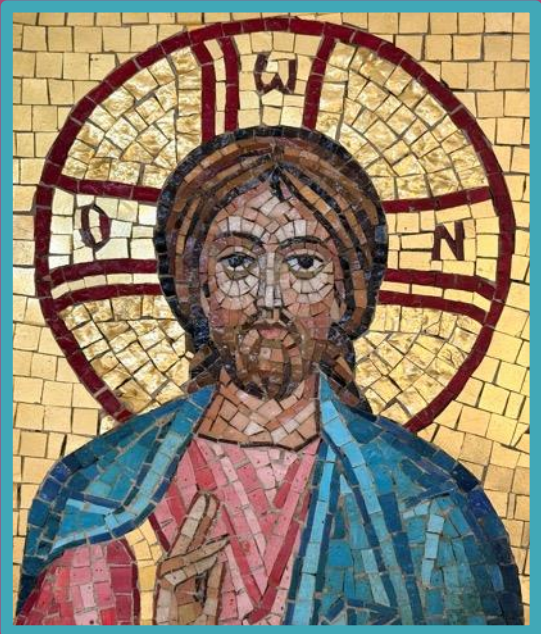
Key Benefits



- Builds meaningful relationships across generations
- Retains youth & re-engages elders
- Encourages mentorship and wisdom-sharing
- Unifies the church family
- Breaks generational stereotypes through connection



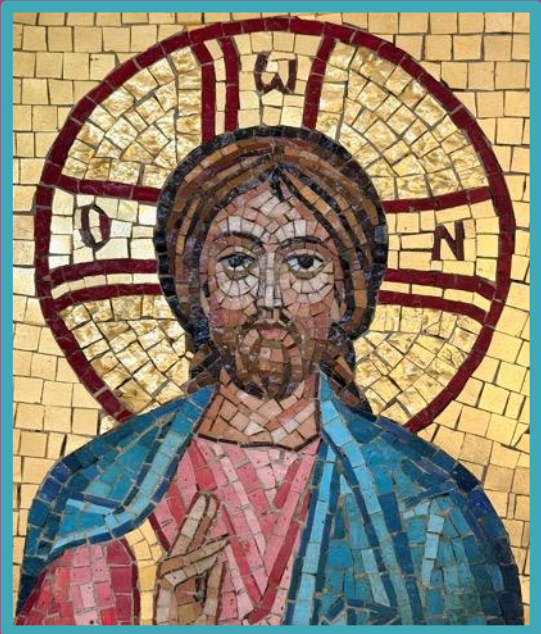
Considerations



- Family-oriented events and celebrations
- Joint service projects (all ages serve together)
- Intergenerational small groups or Bible Studies
- Shared worship experiences
- Mentorship through volunteer teams like greeters, ushers, and hospitality



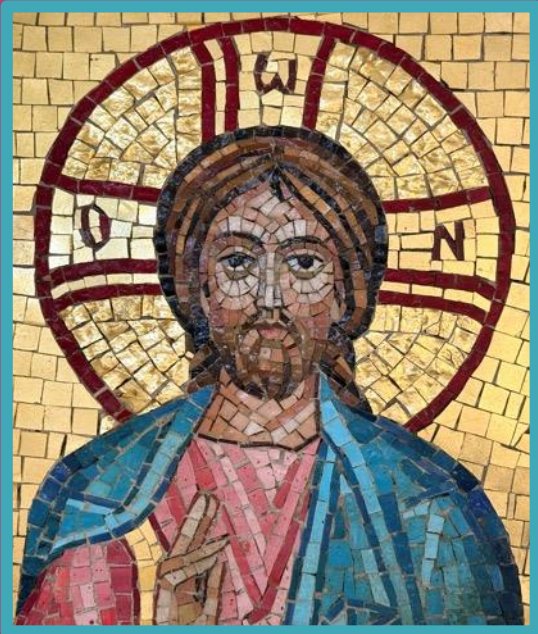
Implementation Plan



- Assess current ministry structure: are they age-inclusive?
- Invite feedback from teens, young adults, and seniors
- Invite mixed-age volunteers to ministry teams
- Plan one intergenerational event each quarter
- Try to use simple, accessible tech for all ages
- Mentor with purpose and prayer



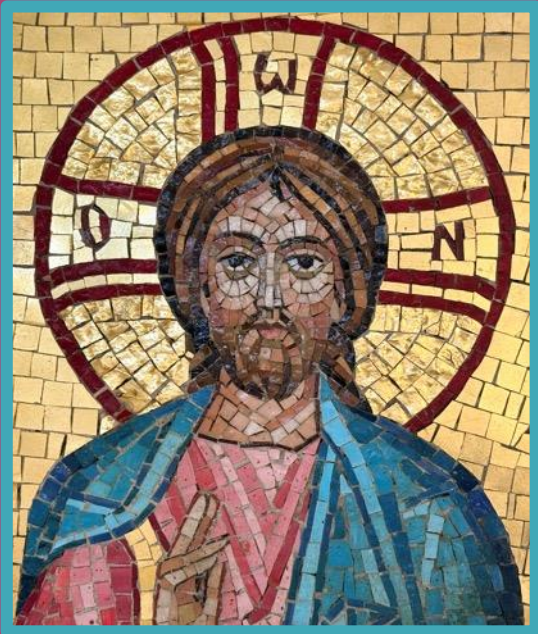
Common Barriers



- Age-segregated ministries
- Not understanding age needs
- Tech and communication gaps
- Lack of intentional planning and vision



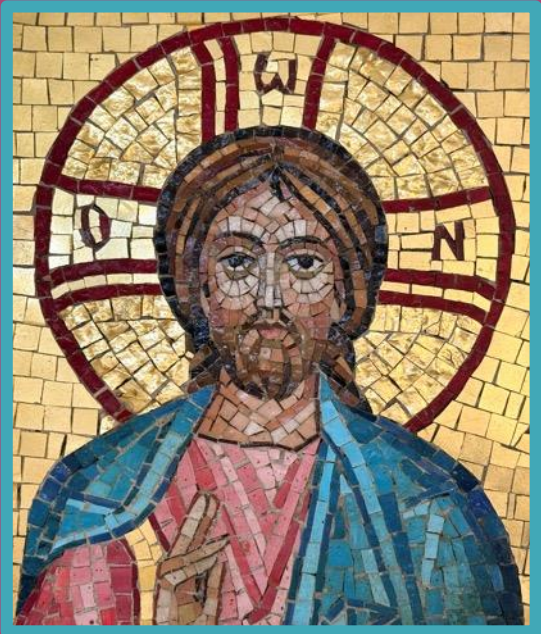
Measuring Impact



- Participation across age groups
- Friendships and mentoring relationships formed
- Feedback from greeters, newcomers, and parishioners
- Increased engagement in church ministries



Shared Experiences



Christian Gonzalez



Priscilla Tedesco



Maria Gallagher



Kevin Gallagher

The Church as Family

A Relational Mission for a Disenchanted World

Christian Gonzalez
Orthodox Parish Leadership Webinar
September 15, 2025









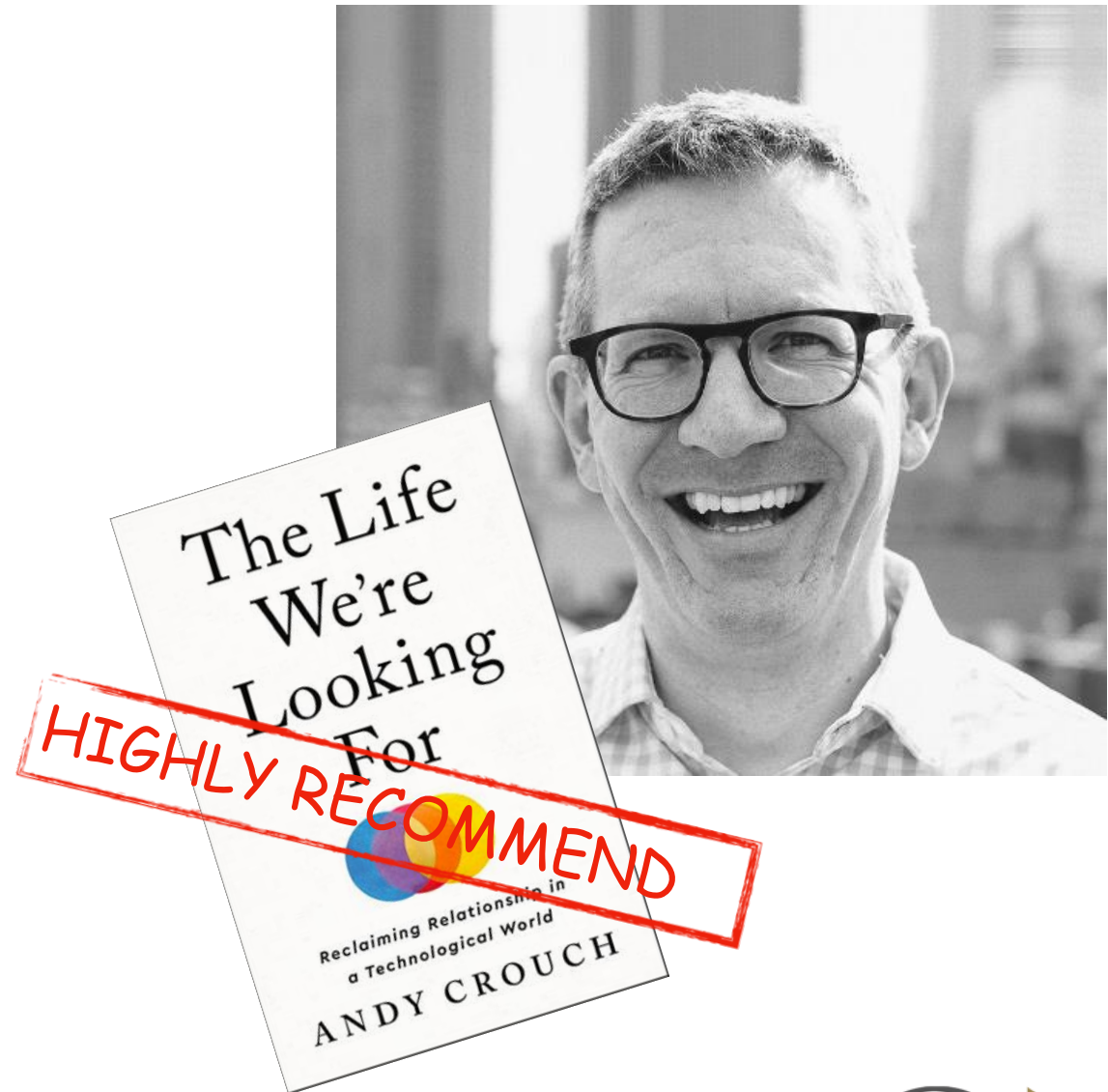


“We come into this world looking for someone who is looking for us.”



primary task of infancy.

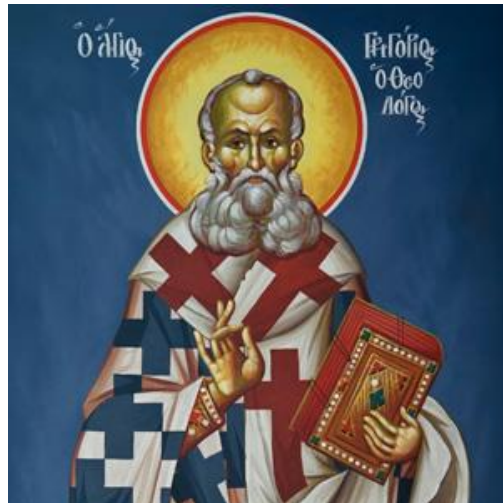
Feeding, crying, and even sleeping are just the support systems for this most essential work of figuring out who we are, and where we are, by making contact with other people, seeing them seeing us, gradually beginning to build our sense of self





“You are My beloved Son.”









343 TIMES!

adelphoi
“brothers and sisters”



Acts 2 Church

- Devoted themselves to apostles' teaching
- Broke bread in one another's homes
- Devoted themselves to prayer
- Shared all things in common



Family Life

- Unconditional Belonging
- Mutual Care
- Shared Stories
- Natural Evangelism



New Testament “One Anothers”

Love one another (John 13:34, AND A BUNCH OF OTHER TIMES)

Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)

Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)

Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)

Accept one another (Romans 15:7)

Be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32)

Live in harmony with one another (1 Peter 3:8)

Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32)

Be hospitable to one another without complaining (1 Peter 4:9)

Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)

Belong to one another (Romans 12:5)

Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)

Speak truthfully to one another (Colossians 3:9)

Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)

Agree with one another (1 Corinthians 1:10)

Look out for one another (Philippians 2:4)

Worship with one another (Ephesians 5:19-20)

Lay down your lives for one another (1 John 3:16)

Do not provoke one another (Galatians 5:26)

Do not grumble against one another (James 5:9)



Philoxenia

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• philoxenia: (fil-ox-en-ee'-ah)

from *philo* (verb) "love" + *xenos* "a stranger"

hospitality, warmth, friendliness

shown to strangers







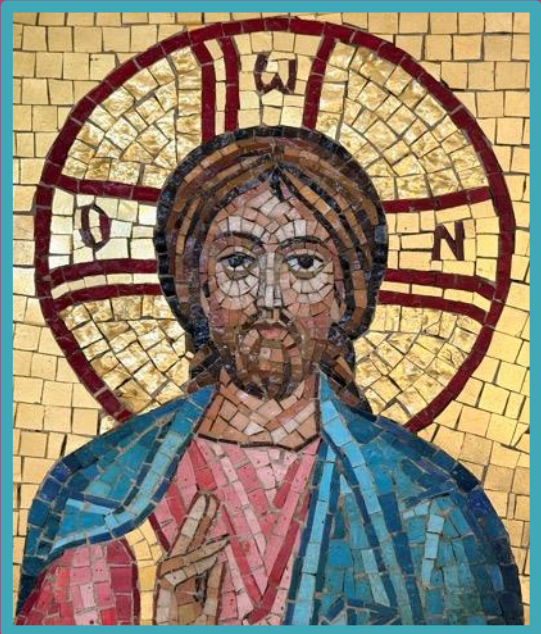








Our Vision

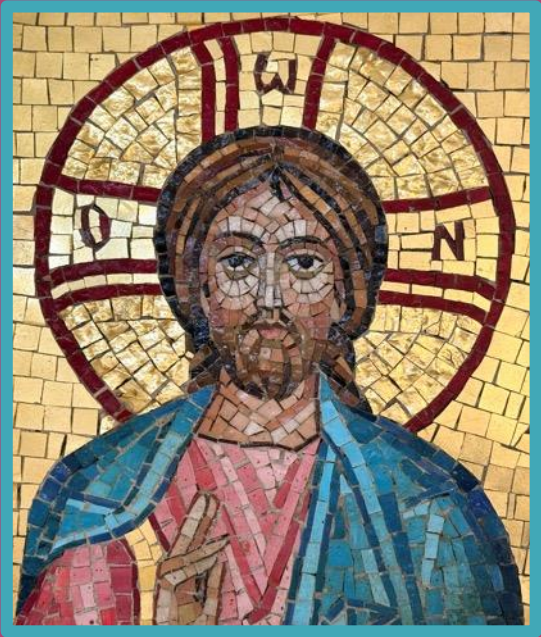


A unified, vibrant, faith-based parish family of all generations.

"One generation will commend your works to another." Psalm 145:4



Questions?



METROPOLIS

Sala



Saturday, October 11, 2025

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

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