



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ

August 20, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with great joy that I write to express my gratitude to you for accepting my invitation to participate in the new chapter in the rich history of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago. I sincerely thank you for your desire to help us develop a new and comprehensive Strategic Plan that will guide our metropolis and its parishes well into the future. Together, and through the offering of each person's gifts and talents, we will work toward *a good account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ*.

We are now planning our fantastic initial strategic planning retreat that will take place **November 2, 3 and 4, 2018** at Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church in Westchester, IL. The exact schedule is still being finalized; however, we are currently planning to convene around 6:00 p.m. on Friday, November 2nd and work late into the evening. We will reconvene Saturday the 3rd at 9:00 a.m. and work all day and late into the evening. On Sunday the 4th, following the Divine Liturgy and a light lunch, we reconvene and plan on ending the retreat early Sunday evening. The detailed agenda and logistics will be provided to you before the retreat, but I ask you to please make your plans to be there the entire time.

To maximize our effectiveness, we all must complete some tasks in advance of the retreat. I have attached a 2-page description of what we need you to do, followed by 4 pages (pages 3, 4, 5, and 6) upon which you will complete these critical advance assignments. We need you to complete these final 4 pages (**with your name written legibly on each page**) and please either email them to SWOT@chicago.goarch.org or mail them to the Metropolis in care of: SWOT, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, 40 East Burton Place, Chicago, Illinois 60610-1612.

For your voice to be heard, your timely completion of this advance work is needed. These 4 pages must be received **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st**. If you have any questions about these assignments, you may email our facilitator, Bill Marianes, at Bill@stewardshipcalling.com.

As part of your assignments, please identify our Metropolis's **Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT)** and select which of these 4 categories you wish to focus on during the strategic planning retreat. I also ask you to: 1) Consider which **Core Values** should define our Metropolis 2) Bring forth critical strategic areas on which we should concentrate, and 3) Identify specific strategic goals our Metropolis should address in our Strategic Plan.

Finally, you are invited to choose a break-out group on which you would like to serve during the retreat (Clergy; Youth/Emerging Adults; Families and Seniors; and New/Non-Orthodox).

Our dialogue will help us establish a consensus. Together, we will confirm our metropolis's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT). We will also develop a "statement of why"; express our mission, vision, and core values; point out strategic areas of focus; and consider possible strategic goals. At the end of the retreat, you will choose the **Strategic Area Task Force** you wish to work on.

I am confident that your active participation and engagement in every step of this critical process will allow us to make great strides during this first retreat.

This is truly one of the most significant and historic undertakings for our Metropolis of Chicago, and you are an integral part of this new chapter!

I again thank you for your willingness to be a good steward of God's many gifts to you. Please either email the completed 4 pages to SWOT@chicago.goarch.org or mail them to: SWOT, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, 40 East Burton Place, Chicago, Illinois 60610-1612 by **NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 21, 2018.**

Wishing you a fruitful and restful remainder of the summer season, I remain

With paternal love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Metropolitan Nathanael".

+Metropolitan Nathanael