### Archdiocesan Council and Metropolis Council Candidate Information



# Archdiocesan Council Nominees Note: Candidates in each category are listed alphabetically by last name



Current Archdiocesan Council Member

### **Biography**



Anthony Fred Chapekis, J.D., is a steward of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Des Plaines, Illinois, where he has served as President of the Parish Council and in various other Parish Council positions. In 1997, at the request of Metropolitan Iakovos, of blessed memory, Fred became a founder of The Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church in Lincolnshire, Illinois, and served as the first President of the Parish Council. Prior to the founding of the parish, Fred was a steward of St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church, where he served as an officer and board member of the Parish Counsel and was assigned as the Chairperson of the Outreach and Evangelism Committee.

Fred and his wife, Kristina, are founders of the Guardian Angel Orthodox Day School, and Fred is a founding Board Member of the St. Iakovos Retreat Center within the Metropolis of Chicago. He served as legal counsel for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago for numerous years. Fred is a member of the Archdiocesan Council for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America since 2004, serving on the Committee of Evangelism, Outreach and Stewardship. In 2003, he received his investiture as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle.

He is the President of the Board of Directors of the N. Demos Foundation, Inc., a charitable foundation which provides financial aid to philanthropic organizations and educational institutions within Greece. Fred and his wife, Kristina, serve as Governing Members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Fred is an attorney in Chicago, Illinois, practicing for over 40 years and is the founding partner of the law firm of Chapekis, Chapekis & Schmidt. I was admitted to practice by special motion of Federal District Court Chief Judge, Allen Sharp, for in court admission before the United States Supreme Court in 1997. I am also licensed to practice law before other state and federal courts within the states of Illinois and Florida. I served as President of the Hellenic Bar Association and am a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association.

Fred is married 40 years to Kristina M. Chapekis, also his law partner. Together, they have been blessed with two precious children, Anthony Gabriel Chapekis and Alianna Georgia Chapekis.

In stating why I wish to serve as a member of the Archdiocesan Council, ways in which I would strengthen the Archdiocese and the skills I would bring, it is difficult to address one's own qualifications without appearing boastful or prideful. Nevertheless, I humbly direct my comments regarding my qualifications being ever mindful of the trust which has been bestowed upon me by my parish council nomination for me to serve.

As a member of the Archdiocesan Council, I seek no honor or distinction. I seek only to serve God and the Holy Orthodox Church according to the mission of the Archdiocese. The mission is imperative and particularly critical in a world in which the faith appears to be diminishing among our youth and in a society where the concept of love itself seems to be fading.

As stated within the mission of our Archdiocese, we are called upon to "energize, cultivate and guide the life of the Church in our country according to Orthodox Christian Faith and Tradition." (Mission Statement of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.)

In order to vigorously achieve our mission, we must first solidly recognize our challenges. I believe that the greatest challenge facing the lives of Orthodox Christians if the systematic and pervasive growth of secularism within the culture of our nation. We must always honor and respect the constitutionally protected system of separation between church and state. However, secularism in modern society so often results in a separation between God and man and a withering of worship. Our contemporary Fathers of the Church proclaim that only by active participation in the Sacramental and Ascetical life of the Church can the growing separation between man and God be thwarted.

It is incumbent upon the leadership of our Holy Orthodox Church to focus on the words of St. Paul that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8.) It is not the sole responsibility of our Hierarchs and Clergy to carry out this mission, but the laity must assist and provide inspiration in seeking to prioritize the ministries of our Archdiocese so that our faithful can continue to grow in their desire to be "in the world but not of the world" and to do so with the love exemplified by our Lord.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Archdiocesan Council for a number of years and consider my experience to be an asset to my continuing service on the Council. I am personally aware of the many strengths that exist within our Archdiocese, as well as the many challenges. My love for God and the Holy Orthodox Church inspires my desire to serve and my zeal to protect and defend our faith and our people.

My love for our Holy Orthodox Church took me to Berlin, Germany to attend the International Human Rights Conference. I also attended the International Clergy-Laity Conference hosted by our Holy Patriarchate n Constantinople. In addition, I attended the Return of the Holy Relics of St. John Chrysostom and St. Gregory the Theologian and have made two other personal pilgrimages to our Patriarchate. I mention these trips not only because they personally enhanced my life, but also because they made me more keenly aware of the importance of the historical impact and relevance of the apostolic life of the Orthodox Church. Just as our Lord "is the same yesterday and today and forever," much the same can be said of the Orthodox Church.

Orthodoxy must forever be protected as it was imparted and entrusted to us. As Orthodox Christians in a modern world, the legacy or Orthodoxy must be guided and guarded in a way that recognizes a changing world and changing needs of our people. Orthodox lay leadership must never be judgmental. It requires love, compassion, charity, and respectful diplomacy. Experience gives an individual an awareness of yesterday and an enhanced vision for the future. I believe I have the experience, skills, and disposition to serve as a member of the Archdiocesan Council with love for God and my brethren and to serve the Holy Orthodox Church with respect, honesty, loyalty, and dignity. I would continue to protect and defend our spiritual inheritance and serve our Church and our people with honor.



### **Mark Dinos**

### **Biography**



Mark Dinos was baptized and raised in the parish of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Palos Hills, Illinois. He has served the parish community in a wide range of capacities throughout his life. At the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, Mark was an altar boy, a GOYA member, a YAL member and attended Sunday School.

Later, he took on more leadership roles beginning with volunteering for the Metropolis Junior Olympics where he has served for nearly 25 years, including as an assistant director for over a decade. In 2005 he began serving as a Parish Council member. Mark served as chairman of the parish's annual Fr. Byron Golf Outing, helped organize various dinner dances, and as chairman of the annual Palos Hills Greekfest from 2008-2016. In addition, Mark has served as a school board member for nearly a decade for Koraes Elementary School, a pre-K through 8th grade Greek Orthodox school that has been a part of the parish community for 109 years. Eventually his work as a Parish Council member was recognized, culminating in being elected as President in 2017 where he continues to serve in that office. Mark earned his undergraduate degree in Communication Arts from Benedictine University in 1999 and his Juris Doctorate from John Marshall Law School in 2002. He has worked as an attorney focusing primarily in workers' compensation matters throughout the state of Illinois.

He has been married to his wife, Olga, since 2007 and they currently live in Lockport, Illinois. He is the son of Youla and the late Michael, and has one younger brother, George.







Having been born and raised in the Sts. Constantine and Helen Parish (Palos Hills, Illinois) I am honored to be nominated by my parish. In January 2017, I was elected as Parish Council President. At the age of 39, I wasn't quite sure I had served my Parish long enough or established enough experience to serve in that capacity. My Parish, however, was again asking me to serve and I could not say no, and I would not say no. As the Parish Council President, I have had to wear many hats - Christian, friend, figure head, leader, counselor, customer service representative, listener and more. The experience has been second to none, and one for which I am grateful.

At this time, I find myself being asked by my Parish to take on a new role, that of Archdiocesan Council member. If selected, I will accept the responsibilities that come along with such and undertaking and will do so with a dedication to serve to the best of my abilities. The question that must be asked, however, is what are those responsibilities?

This is an exciting time for our Archdiocese with our new Archbishop. There are opportunities to take new steps to improve Church life on many levels. New ideas, new faces and new voices are ready to be heard. So many great people have gotten all of us to this point in time, and the next crop of leaders are ready to take the torch and take us in even better directions.

My wish is to be one of those torch bearers







### **Tom Kanelos**

Current Archdiocesan Council Member





Thomas (Athanasios) Kanelos, his wife Maryann, and daughters Maria and Amalia, life in Niles, Illinois. Tom is a steward of Holy Taxiarchai and St. Haralambos Church since 1987. He has been a Parish Council member at the Parish since 1994, serving 6 terms as President. Tom grew up at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Glenview Illinois. He earned a degree in Economics from the University of Illinois in Champaign. He owns and operates a small firm

specializing in residential and light commercial construction. In addition, Tom serve his community as the Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Plan Commission in the City of Niles, Illinois.

Tom is the founding President of the OCF on Campus at the University of Illinois, and the Founding President of the Orthodox Christian Alumni in Action. Since college, he has been committed to serving Christ and His Church both locally in his parish, but likewise on a Metropolis and Archdiocesan level. Tom has served as Diocese and then Archdiocesan President of YAL, and has served on the Metropolis Council (1988 - 2018) as well as an elected member of the Archdiocese Council (1992 - present). In addition, he served on the search committee which located and purchased the St. Iakovos Retreat Center and serves on the Board of the Retreat Center (2006 – present).





Why do I wish to serve on the Archdiocesan Council? Let me share an experience which has motivated me to work tirelessly my entire adult life for God's Church. I attended the University of Illinois in Champaign and like many Greek Orthodox young people away from home for the first time, I stopped attending Church unless I was at home. One Christmas break Fr. Scoulas, my parish priest, called me into his office and asked if I was going to Church regularly in Champaign. I honestly told him no but promised to try to meet up with some of the other students from our parish and attend more frequently. At his prompting, we formed an OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) Chapter in Champaign. There were hundreds of Orthodox Christian students but we had no connection to one another or the Church. This was the first time I became involved beyond my parish. As the first president of the OCF (1984), I and my fellow founders realized just how many young people began their drift away from Christ's Church during their college years. With the assistance of Fr. George Scoulas and later Fr. Chris Kerhulas, we worked hard to establish a strong base from which to reach out to those drifting away. The OCF at the University of Illinois exists to this day and is one of the largest and strongest in the nation.

This led to involvement in the YAL on a diocese and archdiocese level where I served as Diocese and Archdiocese Coordinator (president) successively. The work our Diocesan and Archdiocesan YAL boards carried out led to countless young adults staying close to the Church and assuming leadership roles to this very day. I have served the Church on all levels since my years in college. Over time, it became more and more clear just how important this ministry is.

To this end, a group of alumni joined together in 1994 and formed the Orthodox Christian Alumni Association, which later evolved into Orthodox Christian Alumni in Action. In 2001 we were incorporated and I was privileged to serve as its first president. Our goal was to provide assistance and resources to Campus Ministry. It had the further aim of establishing an Orthodox Student Center on campus which was realized a few years later and exists today as NIKA House, the only Orthodox Christian Student Center on a Campus in the United States.

As a result of my involvement, I have gained extensive experience regarding leadership on a parish, metropolis and archdiocesan level. This experience is crucial when helping to advise and carry out programs/policies which impact all levels, parish, metropolis and archdiocese. I have seen too many people over the years serve in Metropolis and Archdiocese councils with little or no parish experience. This disconnect makes it impossible to take into consideration how things will impact and be received by parishes. Working together is the only way to address the serious issues which face our Faith in America. Being open to new ideas and willing to put the time and effort into carrying out those ideas is crucial. Furthermore, speaking up in a respectful and honest way, without fear of what others may think, is the only way to avoid falling into a rut of just saying what others want to hear. This is always a struggle and one I have faced during all my years on the councils.

Contrary opinions are not always welcomed, but they are necessary. Being able to speak up even against popular opinion has been something I have always done. Having served under 4 Archbishops I have always done my best to do what is right for the Church, not any particular individual. I have served on the Saint lakovos Retreat Center Board of directors from 2006 until the present. Working with others to achieve one of the most significant ministries in our Metropolis today.

Being a part of the teams which established several significant and life changing ministries has taught me that vision is imperative to the future of our Faith. Bold efforts carried out by people who have vision is what is needed. My life has been dedicated to serving God's Church and I pray that I will have the opportunity to continue to do so.



### **Nick Millisis**

### **Biography**



Nicholas is the Chief of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Fraud Detection and National Security (FONS) Unit for the Great Lakes District. In this position he directs a group of investigators, intelligence officers and analysts based out of five field offices (Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Milwaukee and Des Moines) covering a six-state area who are responsible for combating immigration fraud and handling immigration cases involving national security and public safety concerns.

Prior to joining government service, he was an attorney in private practice concentrating in the field of immigration law.

Nicholas has served on the Parish Council of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Chicago, Illinois for more than seven years and has held various positions on the Parish Council ranging from Secretary to President. He has provided many hours of pro bono legal work to the Church and various other Hellenic - based charities. His entire family plays an active role in the Church and its ministries. They are stewards of St. John the Baptist Church in Des Plaines, Illinois and the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Chicago. His wife Lena serves as Secretary of the Philoptochos Board of St. John's, their son is an altar boy and their two daughters attend Sunday school at Annunciation Cathedral.

Nicholas has served as an elected Park District Commissioner and Alderman of the 2nd Ward of the City Park Ridge. During his six years (2013 - 2019) as Alderman, Nicholas represented 5,500 residents. He served as the City's Public Safety Chairman and worked closely with the Police Chief and Fire Chief to ensure the community's safety needs. During his time as Alderman he dealt with issues such as city-wide flooding, government debt and economic development.

Nicholas received his degree in Psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his Juris Doctorate from the Chicago - Kent College of Law. He has been admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court Bars of Illinois, District of Columbia and the Bar of the Northern District Court of Illinois. Nicholas graduated from the federal government's Executive Potential Program (EPP), received a graduate certificate in Strategic Organizational Management from Northwestern University and completed the Naval Postgraduate School's Center of Homeland Defense and Security, Executive Leaders Program. Nicholas is currently attending Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

I humbly seek to add my skills and talents to the preservation, expansion and furtherance of our beloved Church's ministries. I have always sought to share my knowledge and experience to serve the work of our Church. I have been a member and officer of my parish council for many years and have provided pro bono legal work and advice to my parish and Metropolis whenever called upon.

I have been inspired by Metropolitan of Chicago Nathanael's and Archbishop Elpidophoros' messages of community service, concentration on our youth along with an increase in transparency and accountability in our Church's workings. As such I wish to build and expand toward the vision they have set for our Christian community in order to safeguard and expand it.

I have dedicated my career and education to public service both professionally and as a citizen. I work for the United States government and in my spare time I have always volunteered to serve my community as an elected official and volunteer.

In addition to my legal knowledge I have extensive education and work experience in the management of large governmental organizations. As a government executive and as an elected official, I have managed large numbers of people and budgets by ensuring ethics, accountability and transparency while building efficiencies, eliminating waste and delivering results for taxpayers and customers. I have experience in managing a city's multimillion dollar budget while dealing with and reducing large amounts of municipal debt, ensuring a balanced budget and returning the city to financial health and development.

I understand our government's workings and how to navigate the bureaucracy when dealing with public organizations. I know how to communicate with legislators, elected officials and other government officials in order to accomplish the goals of an organization.

I also have extensive experience as a public safety and security professional. I have a background in assessing risks, protecting facilities and individuals and developing emergency management plans both at the local and federal level.

I offer my many years of varied experience, extensive network and expertise to the service of our Church and hope they can prove of value should I be selected to this position of national importance and responsibility.



### Bill Spell

### **Biography**



William Spell is an American entrepreneur based in Minneapolis. He is the Founder and current President of Spell Capital Partners. Bill started out his career as an investment banker, working for a Midwest-based regional investment bank, and the majority of his career has been spent in private equity buyouts, mergers and acquisitions. His experience includes serving as the CEO of the publicly traded company, PW Eagle capital, and other fundraising and business management expertise. In addition, Bill is the founder of Spell Estate Winery in Sonoma, California.

Bill is a Minnesota native, and his parents were first generation Americans, after his grandparents had emigrated from Greece. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Minnesota, and an MBA from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. He served as an adjunct instructor at the University of Minnesota Carlson School, teaching a course on Leadership in Business Management (2006 – 2007).

Since 1997, Bill has been a member of the Young President's Organization and the World President's Organization. In the same year, he was part of the "40 Under 40" selection by the Twin Cities Business Journal. In 2010, Twin Cities Business Magazine named Bill one of "200 Minnesotans you should know."

Bill has been part of numerous charitable foundations including the Spell Family Foundation, which was founded by Bill and his wife, Tiki. Bill has also served on the Board of Directors for a number of philanthropic organizations including the Minneapolis Heart Institute at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, the Minnesota Zoo, the Center for the American Experiment, and the 1% Giving Club.

He is a member of the St. Mary's Church in Minneapolis and St. George Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, and has served as President of his local parish. He is involved with several organizations affiliated with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America .

Bill currently resides in Edina, Minnesota and Scottsdale, Arizona with his wife, Tiki. They have two adult children.







I would like to become a member of the Archdiocesan Council. As an Orthodox Christian, my life centers around my faith. Being on the council will allow me to further immerse myself in the workings of the Church. I would be pleased to support the Metropolis with my skills and talents.

My skill set is in business management, leadership, and financial matters. I have an MBA degree and was an Adjunct Lecturer at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. I own and run an investment firm based in Minneapolis, MN that oversees active ownership in over 50 operating companies and constitutes about \$ 700.0 million of invested capital. I believe that background and experience would be of benefit to the Metropolis.

In addition to my time, my wife and I actively financially support a significant number of Orthodox Christian organizations and other faith-based groups through our Spell Family Foundation.

Currently, I'm a member of the Leadership 100, the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and a member of both St. Mary's Church in Minneapolis and St. George Church in St. Paul, MN. I am a recipient of the Medal of St. Paul by Archbishop Demetrios of America.









### **Biography**



Billy Tabrizi is a steward at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago. I have been highly involved in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago for my entire life.

He served as an Altar Boy and attended Sunday School at Holy Taxiarchai and Saint Haralambos in Niles, Illinois. Billy had his "pivotal moment" when he attended the CrossRoad program. It was there that he realized that he wants to contribute

to the future of our Church. When he entered his undergraduate studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, he was highly involved in campus ministries (OCF), leading the group as President. Together with his OCF team, he worked closely with Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, where he taught Sunday School, and made an impact to help students grow their faith. Billy graduated from the University of Illinois in 2013 with a degree in Accountancy, and was named the Student Lincoln Laureate, recognizing him as the single most impactful undergraduate on a campus with 40,000+ students.

After graduation, Billy became part of the St. George community in Chicago, Illinois. Over the years, he has served the community in many capacities: serving as a member of the Parish Council, leading the GOYA program, teaching Sunday School, and participating in the Stewardship Committee's growing outreach efforts and in the Telos program in conjunction with HC/HC. Billy believes that this active involvement in the community provides him both a spiritual and social network that is of great satisfaction.

Billy is a management consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers, and a licensed CPA. He is currently an MBA Candidate at Harvard Business School with an expected graduation of May 2020.





I believe in, and am committed to, the future of our Church and know we are at important moment as support our new Archbishop. Caring deeply about our faith, this opportunity to serve our Metropolis in a national capacity is a further outgrowth from being an individual contributor in our local community and Metropolis.

My skillsets from advising corporate America as a young professional can enhance the vital work of the Archdiocesan Council. The words of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael that, although the church is not a business, "business principles help the Church realize her responsibility to care for the least of our brethren in our society" resonate with me.

Throughout my career, I have worked with Fortune 50 companies to help their leadership handle "digital transformation," scrutinizing the impact technology has, and can bring, in structuring, changing, and guiding how the organization executes on its goals. This requires thinking about what the company does - its strategy - and making sure the way customers experience the organization matches those goals. We analyze how the organization communicates, what its customers feel, and how its customers are supported. And, as in any endeavor, strong execution is key.

This approach can benefit the Church as well. One small example from our Parish - implementing online Stewardship - has had great impact in driving faster than ever Stewardship giving for this calendar year. While we know "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever," the context of our world is not, and how our Church supports our community in this world is critical to the future of our faith. I am passionate about using my professional and personal skills in helping the Archdiocese in a variety of financial or accounting roles that may be necessary.

My aim is to bring three things to any group: energy, optimism, and enthusiasm. I would be a highly energized committee member, channeling the same energy from the Telos program at St. George that has allowed me to work collaboratively across our parish. As a young adult, I know I would perhaps be atypical in my timing to join the Council and less experienced in the operational aspects of the Church than other members. I view this as an incredible asset and opportunity for the Archdiocese, and I would treat it as such. I would learn from those around me, contribute within the realm of my skillsets, and faithfully conduct the workof the Church.

Several friends and I were sitting in my apartment last year on a Friday evening, and our conversation naturally flowed to the Church. We felt an incredible passion in ways the Church could grow and also admiration at all our Greek Orthodox forefathers had done. I am proud to be a Greek Orthodox Christian and Greek-American. I would be forever grateful for the opportunity to grow as a leader and grow as an Orthodox Christian as I help our beloved Church grow through a role on the Archdiocesan Council.



Current Archdiocesan Council Member

### **Biography**



Bill Vranas is a steward of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Chicago, Illinois, Sts. Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Glenview, Illinois, and Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hills, Illinois. Bill serves as a member of the Archdiocesan Council since 1995, having been appointed by three Archbishops.

Currently, Bill serves our Metropolis as a member of the Board of Directors of Saint lakovos Retreat Center (2006 – present), where he is the Treasurer, and served as President for 8 years.

Bill is a member of the International Orthodox Christian Charities Chicago Metropolis Committee (1992 - present) where he has served as Chairman for 15 years. In addition, he is a member of the Board of The Hellenic Foundation (1993 – present), where he is the Treasurer, and served as President for 4 years. Also, Bill is a member of the Board of the National Hellenic Museum (1983 – present), where he is the Treasurer, and served as President for 2 years. He is a member of The Board of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Chicago (1972 – present), having served as President for 2 years. Bill also serves as a member of the Board of Advisors for Pan Hellenic Scholarship Foundation (2015 – present) and a member AHEPA Woodlawn Chapter #93 (1969 – present).

In 1994, he received his investiture as an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle, and in 1996 became the recipient of the Saint Paul Medal.

Bill has served as Treasurer and Director of The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, General Chairman Hellenic Parade, and General Chairman of AHEPA District Convention.

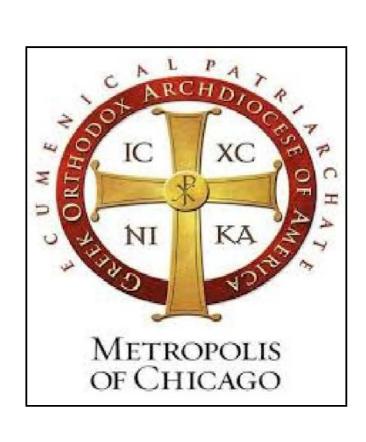
Bill is a graduate University of Illinois (Chicago Campus) - B.A. Accounting, and an partner in Vranas & Vlahos Accountants since 1969. He is a licensed Real Estate Managing Broker.

Bill and his wife, Peggy, reside in Skokie, Illinois. Their son, Jason, is married to Vasiliki Harrison.

As a young adult, I gave serious consideration to becoming a priest. After due deliberation and thoughtful prayer, I decided not to become a Priest but pledged and promised to my confessing Priest, Father Byron Papanikolaou, - that I would never forget my church and would work diligently for the Church.

In my efforts to fulfill this promise, I have committed my personal and professional time and energies to serving the Church as my life's vocation. My attached resume and the items below exemplify my efforts in fulfilling my vocation.

- Grew up at Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church presently in Palos Hills, Illinois
- Graduated grammar school from Koraes Elementary School, the school is at Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church.
- Served as Altar Boy at Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church through high school, and also became a Tonsured Reader.
- Served as President of Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church G.O.Y.A.
- Served as President of Ypsilanti Sons of Pericles (A.H.E.P.A)
- Married Peggy at her Parish of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. I became a Board Member, and I am still on the Board to this present day.
- Baptized my son Jason at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, and brought him up through Sunday school, Altar Boy, Tonsured Reader, and O.C.F. in the four Parishes where we are still Stewards of three.
- My son married Vasiliki Harrison from Saint Andrews Greek Orthodox Church, where they are presently Stewards. They are expecting their first child, and our first grandchild.
- Have served in many capacities on the Metropolis Board and the Archdiocesan Council.
- Have served on four different Parish Council Boards.
- Having been given a gift for numbers, I have always given this gift back to Parishes, Metropolises, and the Archdiocese on a personal and professional basis.
- Anytime there has been a need by any Parish, Priest, or Hierarch within our Metropolis or Archdiocese for an Accountant, I have always availed myself by services pro-bono.
- My wife Peggy Vranas served as President of Sts. Peter & Paul Philoptochos. She is still on the Board of Sts. Peter & Paul Philoptochos and Assumption Chicago Philoptochos. She is also presently on the Board of the Metropolis of Chicago, and on the Philoptochos National Board.
- My son is a Member of the IOCC Chicago Metropolitan Committee.



## Metropolis Council Clergy Nominees Note: Candidates in each category are listed alphabetically by last name



### **Biography**



Fr. Tilemahos Alikakos was born in Melrose Park, Illinois, in October 1972. Fr. Tilemahos graduated Summa Cum Laude from Loyola University Chicago with a B.S. in Mathematics and Statistics in 1994. He then enrolled at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, earning his Master of Divinity in 1997.

Fr. Tilemahos and Presvytera Georgia were married in June 1997, and together they spent over a year serving as lay missionaries at the Orthodox Metropolis of Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. Upon returning to the United States, Fr. Tilemahos was ordained to the Diaconate on February 28, 1999, and to the Priesthood a week later. Fr. Tilemahos was assigned as the associate priest of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, Illinois in March 1999. In June 2001, Fr. Tilemahos was assigned as the Proistamenos of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox in Sioux City, Iowa, and in August 2004, to the Saint Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church in Palos Heights, Illinois, where he is presently serving as the parish priest. Besides his parish duties, Fr. Tilemahos has also served as the OCF advisor at the University of Chicago, as a member of the Greek Education Committee of our Metropolis and as the spiritual advisor of the Midwest Hellenic Dance Festival.

Father Tilemahos and Presvytera Georgia currently live in Orland Park, Illinois, and they have four children: Konstantine, Demetra, Marina and Katerina.





With gratitude to His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago I am submitting my nomination for the Metropolis Council election at the 2019 Clergy Laity Assembly of our Holy Metropolis. I have served this Metropolis all my adult life, including the past twenty years as a parish priest. Church ministry is at the center of my life and I would be extremely honored if I can also serve within our Metropolis Council.

My background before seminary was numbers. I was a math and statistics student who made the transition to theology. God and numbers have in common the fact that they always tell the truth. Both God and numbers are incapable of lying. The Church, as the body of Christ, is the embodiment of Truth in all things. It is our moral imperative, just as it is the nature of the Church, to speak the truth always, even if it leads to our peril. As a Church, we are to defend and speak the truth in a world that is filled with spin, deceit, and subjectivity. Truthfulness may then lead to trust, which is the foundation of every relationship, including our relationship to our Church. Only in trust can faith and love abound and lead to salvation.

Therefore, if I am elected to our Metropolis Council, I will bring with me my relentless quest for honesty and truth in all our undertakings. The Metropolis Council, as a spiritual body of faithful within the church, is charged with overseeing and promoting ministries within our Metropolis, to worship, to educate, and to take care of those in need. At the same time, the council needs to ensure that each ministry operates responsibly and with good stewardship of the gifts of the faithful. The council needs to account for every dollar in its trust, to function within its means, and to plan responsibly in full consciousness of people's labor of love. In so doing, the council is charged with ensuring that each parish functions with the same sense of responsibility, planning and transparency, which is why it is imperative that the Metropolis lead by example.

Having read the audit report of the 2015-17 Metropolis finances, I feel the urgency to regain the trust of the faithful. In so doing, the goal is not only to retain hope that the faithful will keep donating to their parish and Metropolis, as much as it is to safeguard our Metropolis as the Lord's vineyard. We are all accountable to God and collectively we need to act with awareness of the presence of God in our midst. The Church is not a social or ethnic club, a jobs program, or a park district offering a variety of activities for its members. My generation wants a Church that is true to its nature as the Body of Christ. All of us within it, and especially the leadership, must act as members of that Body, to bear witness to the Truth and lead by example all those who are seeking to witness the presence of God in the world.

When Truth reigns in all our relationships, then we will thrive in our personal lives, in our families, and in our Church communities. I am so glad that His Eminence has instituted this goal since the first days following His enthronement. I am hoping, as a Metropolis Council member, to assist His Eminence to continue establishing an environment of trust and fiscal responsibility. I am not the best fund-raiser or the most innovative thinker. I know how to work hard, serve the good of the Church and to remain accountable to God for that service.

It would be a privilege to serve our beloved Metropolis and assist His Eminence in His leadership and vision for our faithful and for our Church.



Current Metropolis Council Member

### **Biography**



Fr . Stephen is the Proistamenos of the All Saints Parish in Joliet, Illinois. Born in San Francisco, California to Fr. Constantine and Presvytera Paraskevi Bithos, whose love for the church molded the spirit and character reflected in his personality. Therefore, the values they instilled in him, paired with his innate sense of spiritual yearning, compelled Fr. Stephen to devote his life to the church.

After working his way through college, he left for Greece to study at the Aristotelian University. His studies were cut short due to the falling asleep in the Lord of his mother. Upon returning home, one year later he entered Holy Cross School of Theology. Along with his studies at Holy Cross he spent three years working in hospital ministry. In June of 1982, he married Pearlann Nastav and on April 3, 1983 was ordained to the diaconate. Later that year on Pentecost Sunday, he was ordained to the priesthood by then Bishop lakovos at the Annunciation Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Fr. Stephen served as an assistant priest at the Annunciation parish in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and at St. Demetrios parish in Chicago, Illinois. After leaving St. Demetrios in 1987, he became the Proistamenos at the St. lakovos parish in Valparaiso, Indiana for five years. For the past twenty-eight years he has ministered to the All Saints parish in Joliet, Illinois. During his tenure at All Saints the community has seen a number of new parishioners of cradle Orthodox and converts to the faith. The community has also completely refurbished its house of worship with all new iconography and appointments for liturgical worship. Fr. Stephen was elevated to Protopresbyter on June 3, 2018 by Metropolitan Nathanael.

Fr. Stephen's fondest memories in our metropolis are his experiences with Fanari Camp. He is a product of Fanari, participating as a camper, counselor, and clergy staff member in the program. Fr. Stephen has served on the Steering Committee for Fanari Camp for the last 35 years. He is also a member of the present Metropolis Council.

Fr .Stephen and his wife, Pearlann, are the proud parents of two daughters, Angie and Katie (John Schieber). On July 10, 2019 Fr. and Presvytera became grandparents to a baby girl, Cecilia.

Once experiencing the mercy of God in my life I have only aspired to serve our Lord within His holy church. Therefore, the opportunity to be a part of our Metropolis Council would be an extension of my priestly ministry. Hopefully through God's grace and the collective body of our Metropolis church community I will be considered capable to serve for the good of our church.

Having had the opportunity to be a part of the Metropolis Council during the course of this year has given me the knowledge to develop my understanding of the proper inner workings of professional individuals in leadership positions. This has been important for my own personal growth, but also for my ongoing growth within my own church community. Becoming a member of this council I have been able to give back my talents and personal opinions for the good of the church. One of the beautiful goals of any church is to make a difference in people's lives. I want to actively make a difference in the life of our parishioners throughout the Metropolis.

I have come to the realization that in order to bring about any changes that may be needed to take place in our church there must be a sense of urgency. Therefore, it gives us as a council the determination to get something done efficiently. A sense of urgency allows the church to manage its priorities. I believe that by being a member of this Council, I can offer help to determine where certain issues are more prominent than others.

It is my responsibility to be a good listener. Without listening carefully to others, how can I serve our Lord and His church effectively, because I would no longer be able to listen to God. If I can't listen to God, I will not be able to listen to the needs of our people.

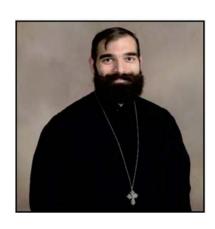
As a member of the Metropolis Council I would offer my sincere faith in following the Word of our Lord. Also, the integrity of confidentiality in my priestly ministry would extend itself while serving on the Metropolis Council.

Whether I become a member of the Metropolis Council or not, it is in the hands of our Lord. For the last year since the new Council has worked for the good of our church, I have had the blessing to take part in all meetings of the council. It has been encouraging to experience the dedication of the present members and of His Eminence.

I pray to be given the opportunity to continue my work on the Metropolis Council for the good of the Church.



### **Biography**



Fr. Panagiotis grew up in the suburbs of Chicago attending the Greek Orthodox parishes of St. Nectarios in Palatine, Illinois and St. Athanasios in Aurora, Illinois. He earned his BA with High Distinction (2008) from the University of Oklahoma with a double major in Religious Studies and Classical Greek. From there he proceeded to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, where he received his MDiv also with High Distinction (2013).

While at seminary, Fr. Panagiotis was assigned the position of Ecclesiarch, and was responsible for all administrative and liturgical facets relating to the Holy Cross Chapel. During his seminary studies, he met and married Presbytera Nichole, who also graduated from Holy Cross the same year with an MTS. Together they have four young children. Fr. Panagiotis was ordained to the Diaconate in June of 2013 and to the priesthood in July of 2013. In August of 2013, he began as the Associate Pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Glenview, Illinois, and has served that parish until the present.

In 2015, Fr. Panagiotis led the parish through a strategic planning process, the first and only parish in the Metropolis to do so. As a result, he has overseen an increased liturgical life in the parish, the creation of many new ministries, the expansion of the ministry staff to its current status of 2 full-time Priests, a Deacon with a lay profession, a fulltime Youth Director, and the hiring of a Parish Administrator (Operations Director).





As a clergyman who was born and has grown up in the Metropolis of Chicago, I am familiar with the ministries, traditions, and culture of our Metropolis . Our Metropolis is in a rare period within her life, as we are beginning to see the fruits of change which comes through new leadership. Capitalizing on the momentum of the past 18 months is key for a reinvigorated preaching of the Gospel of Christ and the ministry of the Orthodox Church here in Chicago. Yet, I believe that for any path forward to be successful and sustainable it must be walked with intentionality. This means reinforcing and enriching those aspects of our ministries, traditions, and culture which we do well and align with our vision of the future, while not being constrained by those which do not. I applied this understanding in my leadership of Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Glenview, Illinois, by leading the parish through a Strategic Plan in 2015. By means of that process, we were able to increase ministry staff, develop new ministries, and begin planning long term capital improvements to our facilities. Many of these are the same strategic goals that the Metropolis is presenting in its own strategic plan. These developments required patience, the ability to think and plan long term, analysis, organization, and an openness to hear and take feedback from any who wished to offer it. Having already tread through these waters, I believe that I am in a unique position to assist the Metropolis as we seek to implement our own plan across the Midwest.

I place a strong emphasis on administrative competence, because for me it is a spiritual endeavor. Our spiritual strengths are manifest in how we approach leadership positions, and our spiritual weaknesses cannot be hidden while we are placed in a position to oversee others. As a result, my desire to assist in the administration of the Metropolis is born out of my love for Christ, His Church, and the faithful people of our Metropolis. Thus, the most important thing I would wish to provide the Metropolis Council is my dedication and service. Over the past 6 years of ordained ministry it has been my joy to offer myself completely to Christ and His Church here in the Metropolis of Chicago. Regardless of the sacrifice required I have always striven to place the needs of the Church over my own.

A position on the Metropolis Council requires such a mindset and the ability to think about what is best for the Metropolis as a whole, beyond just a single community, parish, or even individual. For that reason, I desire to serve on the Metropolis Council, not seeking honor or a position of prominence, but rather pursuing another way in which I can attend to the needs of the faithful. Irrespective of whether I am elected to the Metropolis Council, this dedication and service will always be extended to our Church with the same vigor and enthusiasm, as we all seek to bring glory to our Lord Jesus Christ, His Beginningless Father, and The All - holy Life - creating Spirit.

### Fr. James Greanias

### **Biography**



Fr. Jim is the son of the late Fr. Louis T. and the Late Presvytera Harriet Greanias. While he grew up attending the Parishes his Father served as a priest, he has always called St. Nicholas Church in Oak Lawn, Illinois, his home. Fr. Jim is a 1979 graduate of Evergreen Park High School, and a 1983 graduate of DePaul University, with a degree in Political Science. Fr. Jim attended Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, graduating in 1988 with a Master of Divinity.

He served as the Pastoral Assistant at St. Demetrios Church in Elmhurst, Illinois (1988-1989). He then served as the Pastoral Assistant at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, Palos Hills, Illinois (1989-1996) under the late Fr. Byron Papanikolaou and Fr. Nick Jonas.

He was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Blessed Memory on Mother's Day (May 12th) 1996 at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Palos Hills, Illinois. On August 1, 1996 he was assigned to Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Merrillville, Indiana, where he served under Fr. John Artemas and Fr. Ted Poteres for three years. On August 18, 1996, Fr. Jim was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Metropolitan Iakovos at St. Nicholas Church in Oak Lawn, Illinois. On July 15, 1999, Fr. Jim was assigned to be the Proistamenos of St. Iakovos Church in Valparaiso, Indiana where he currently serves. On October 23, 2005, His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos bestowed upon Fr. Jim the office of Economos.

Fr. Jim is a past president of the Chicago Clergy Syndesmos. He is a former member of the Metropolis Council. Currently Fr. Jim serves on the St. Iakovos Retreat Center Board (from which he will resign if elected to the Metropolis Council). Fr. Jim has been a member of the Fanari Steering Committee since 1989.

Fr. Jim is the Clergy representative to the Archdiocese Benefits Committee, where he is the Chairman of the Administration subcommittee and Vice Chairman of the whole.

Fr. Jim and Presvytera Stacey (Manos) live in Valparaiso, Indiana, and are the parents of Louis and Maria. He is known to be a fan of the Chicago Cubs.

Having previously served on the Metropolis Council under the omophorion of His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos, I would be honored to rejoin the Metropolis under the Shepherding of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael. I find it a great blessing in my life to be able to serve our Lord as best that I possibly can. My past service to the Metropolis Council always left me feeling exhilarated and with a sense that I have given back a little to the Church and our Metropolis. This fails in comparison to all that She has given to me in my life by the Grace of God.

I would like to believe that, like so many worthier than I, that I bring a servant's heart and willingness to work for the common good of the Church and our Metropolis. I believe that I speak with an open and honest heart, unafraid to share my opinion but hopefully in a manner of humility. I believe in the unity of supporting any Council decision, once healthy debate has been offered. I have always believed and practiced that I should offer unequivocal support to any decision of the Metropolis Council even if I disagree, so that what is offered to the faithful is a united front. I do not believe that dissenting opinions should ever be quieted in a debate of honest issues - but that at no time should any debate become personal. These are the same qualities I have tried to follow my entire life serving on Committees in and outside of my service to the Church.

Among other qualifications, I believe I can bring a sense of the experience of the life of our Metropolis. As the son of a priest, I have experienced the life of different communities. As a former President of the Clergy Syndesmos, I have come to know and deeply respect my Brother priests and the talents they possess. I have served on the St. Iakovos Retreat Center Board since 2007. I have served on the Steering Committee of our Fanari Camp program since 1989. As the pastoral assistant at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church for seven years, I was able to serve as the assistant director of our Junior Olympics from 1989 until 1996. Currently I am blessed to be the Metropolis of Chicago Clergy Representative to our Archdiocese Benefits Committee on which I serve as Chairman of the Administration sub-committee and Vice Chairman of the whole Committee.

I also find my service to the greater Metropolis, beneficial to my Parish Family of St. Iakovos Church, as it energizes me and teaches me so many lessons about our Church and myself personally. I am, like so many, a child of this Metropolis. My late father, as a Priest, was often called on to serve on various committees and to represent the Diocese. It is from his example that I have learned, as well as from the examples of so many legendary Priests that I have been blessed to know and learn under such as Fr. Byron Papanikolaou, Fr. William Chiganos and Fr. Gabriel Karambis all of blessed memory. It would thus be a great honor to once more serve as a member of the Metropolis Council.



Current Metropolis Council Member

### **Biography**



Fr. Chrysanthos Kerkeres is the parish priest of Saint George Greek Orthodox Church in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois, and has served in that capacity since February 1, 2014. In addition to his parish responsibilities, Fr. Chris serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Fanari Camp.

He is the spiritual advisor to the Orthodox Christian Fellowship program of DePaul University, the spiritual advisor to the Hellenic American Veterans of the Metropolis of Chicago, the spiritual advisor to the Hellenic American Police Association, and a Chaplain for both the Chicago and Park Ridge Police Departments.

Fr. Chris is a member of the Metropolis of Chicago Spiritual Court, serves as the Vice President of the Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology Alumni Association. As the Vice President of the Orthodox Christian Clergy Association of Chicago, he serves on the Metropolis of Chicago Greek Education Committee. In addition, Fr. Chris serves on the Metropolis Council of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago.

Fr. Chrysanthos is married to Vasiliki Kerkeres and they live in Park Ridge, Illinois.







I am humbled to have been nominated to continue serving on the Metropolis Council. Over the past fifteen months I have had the blessing of serving on the Metropolis Council. During that time I was able to participate in a vital transitional period. Having completed much of the transition phase, we now have the opportunity to move forward together with His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael and advance the Metropolis mission.

I have been blessed to be involved in many boards, committees, etc. over the past twenty years. Whether it is serving on the Fanari Camp steering committee, serving as the spiritual advisor to the Orthodox Christian Fellowship program of DePaul University, serving as the spiritual advisor to the Hellenic American Veterans of the Metropolis of Chicago, serving as spiritual advisor to the Hellenic American Police Association, I have been able to learn much about the faithful of our Metropolis.

It is with great excitement that I look forward to the opportunity, if selected, to implement all that I have learned over the past twenty years and contribute in a small way to the Metropolis Council. Utilizing my passion for creating new ministries and bringing people together, I believe that I could be a valuable resource to the Metropolis Council.

Being fully aware of the awesome sacrifices made by so many before me so that we may have today Orthodox Churches to worship in and schools to be educated in, I understand the great responsibility we carry that we must work to continue to advance the treasure of Orthodoxy in our Metropolis. As the Greek proverb says; "A society grows great when men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit."

More than anything I firmly believe in our Church and our Metropolis and I am excited to continue working towards providing a healthy Metropolis for the current faithful and for future generations of Orthodox Christians.







### **Biography**



Rev. Fr. Sotirios P. Malamis Fr. Sotirios Malamis was born in Elmhurst, Illinois on August 6, 1978, the eighth of nine children to Fr. Panagiotis and Presvytera Theodora Malamis. After graduating York High School in 1997, Fr. Sotirios attended DePaul University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology.

Fr. Sotirios graduated with distinction in 2001 from Holy Cross School of Theology with a Master of Divinity. He continued his theological studies at the University of Athens in the field of Pastoral Theology and Religious Education. While in Athens, Fr. Sotirios continued to pursue his interest in Byzantine Music; his efforts enabled him to receive a teaching degree in Byzantine Music. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2008.

Fr. Sotirios' first assignment was at Holy Trinity Church in Chicago where he served for six years. Since September 1, 2014, Fr. Sotirios has been the Proistamenos at the Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church in Lincolnshire, Illinois. In that capacity, he provided leadership and spiritual guidance during a \$9 million, 21-month construction project, which culminated in the opening of a new church and community center on June 5, 2019. Concurrently, Fr. Sotirios has been teaching Byzantine Music to area students for several years.

Fr. Sotirios and Presvytera Stefanie have three children, Maria, Nikolas, and Aimilianos.





I consider it a privilege and honor to be considered to serve on the Metropolis Council. Being blessed to serve within the Metropolis of Chicago as a priest for the last 11 years, I feel that over this time period I have obtained the experience to understand the needs of our Metropolis. This also coincides with understanding the vision of our spiritual shepherd, Metropolitan Nathanael.

I have spent the past five years serving as Parish Priest at the Ascension of our Lord in Lincolnshire, Illinois. In these last 2 years, I have provided leadership and spiritual guidance during our \$9 million, 21-month construction project, culminating in the opening of a new church and community center. The 18,600 square foot building includes a new 11,000 square foot neo-byzantine Church and chapel, with facilities for a commercial grade kitchen, offices, meeting space for our ministries and a redesigned fellowship hall which was the former church. With God's grace and the love of our people, we were able to do this debt-free. This construction phase afforded me the opportunity to learn several new skills and enhance existing talents. Two I wish to highlight here are (1) communication, and (2) management.

Communicating with people is a critical component to any project, especially when you are working with donors and dedicated volunteers. Under my leadership and along with our Capital Campaign Committee, we developed a thoughtful message and renderings of our construction project and communicated it often through various written and technological platforms including brochures, parish-wide emails, presentations, and several group and one-on-one meetings. This proved to be successful because when the time for donor opportunities came, our faithful were well-informed of where their treasures were going and felt the vision of what was transpiring.

Communicating and managing the Construction Committee was another vital element to our success. With a visionary spirit, we provided guidance and support to every sub-committee that worked so tirelessly to complete this project. We held weekly meetings, accompanied with daily email updates about all of the happenings "in the field" as well as the major decisions we needed to make regarding the construction. Maintaining deadlines and diligent project management were key aspects that I feel I brought to this project and also enhanced through this experience.

Finally, ongoing, positive communication to the Parish through weekly emails which included an updated construction report as well as pictures kept all of our stewards informed and engaged about the project.

Managing a Parish of 320 families in the role of *Proistamenos* (Parish Priest), especially during a construction phase where we were displaced for 21 months which included two Holy Weeks, required for me to be organized, but also to motivate. I found myself at times searching deep into my soul in order to inspire our faithful to gather every Sunday at a rented cafeteria down the street from our Church in order to keep our community strong and connected.

By supporting each other through the various trials of our construction phase, our church attendance not only stayed the same, but it also grew during this time. We also experienced growth in participation within our ministries as well as added two new ministries to our Parish's platform. The momentum was there and we knew we needed to build off of this momentum. It took creativity, stamina, optimism, and prayer.

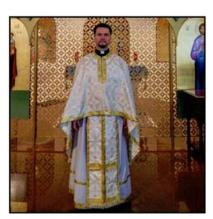
Based on this short reflection, I feel I can add value to the Metropolis Council using the renewed vision outlined by Metropolitan Nathanael. I consider it also a special time for our Metropolis as we open a new chapter and in a faithful mindset, look to the future to thrive on our ministries and expand to address the practical needs of our people today.



### Fr. Ciprian Sas

Current Metropolis Council Member

### **Biography**



Fr. Ciprian Sas, recently assigned to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has served All Saints Church in Peoria, Illinois for 7 years. Prior to moving to Illinois, Fr. Ciprian served at St. John the Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for 7 years. Prior to serving in Iowa, he served at St. Andrew's Church in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In addition to his theology degree, Fr. Ciprian holds a Masters degree in International Business and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. Prior to his ordination to the priesthood in 2002, he gained valuable experience working in the corporate setting and in academia (teaching & administration at the college/university level). Having lived through hardships of an oppressive regime and now fully immersed in the work of the priesthood, he is fully committed to never losing sight of serving God by serving people and tending to their needs.

Born in 1975, Fr. Ciprian and his family escaped communist Romania when he was 13 years old. He and his family immigrated to Sweden and then Canada before he moved to the United States for further studies in 1998.

He is married to Presbytera. Dr. Magdalena Sas and they have 3 children: Elijah, Emanuela, and Isaiah.







I, Fr. Ciprian Sas, perceive serving on the Metropolis Council as yet another opportunity to serve God through the ministries of His church for the benefit of His faithful children and those whom we reach. In addition, having been born and lived in a regime where the church did not enjoy its freedom, I feel extra motivated to devote time and effort to participate in the life of the church even beyond my own parish for which I feel fully responsible.

My experience growing up in a priest's family along a ill mother and four siblings while the church was persecuted by the civil authorities, escaping communism, living and studying in 4 different countries, and serving as a priest for almost 17 years I believe has contributed significantly to my attitude towards life in general, my appreciation for Christ's blessings, my interest in serving people in need, and ultimately my personality as whole.

Though my personal interest is to always serve God in a way that is pleasing to Him and my primary focus is often tending to people's spiritual and emotional needs, at the Metropolis Council level I can see myself putting to use skills I have acquired during my professional work experience as well. Prior to my ordination to the priesthood in 2002, I have: (1) taught college and university courses in the area of leadership, management, business mathematics and statistics, (2) served as the financial aid coordinator of a university campus, (3) provided statistical consulting and conducted research in the area of educational assessment and instruction, (4) taught and assisted university faculty to integrate various technologies and platforms into their online, hybrid, and classroom instruction and evaluation, and (5) conceptualized, designed, and tested an online assessment system meant to measure structural knowledge while using little language dependency.







### **Biography**



Fr. Timothy Sas was born in Romania, the oldest of five children in the family of an Orthodox Christian priest. Our family fled communism when I was a young teenager. After a brief stay in Sweden, we settled in Vancouver, Canada where I completed high school. I attended the Universities of Saskatchewan and Manitoba as well as St. Andrew's Seminary in Winnipeg.

Following undergraduate and seminary education I moved to Minnesota where I completed an MA at St. Mary's University. I continued with a Ph.D. at the University of Nevada Las Vegas but did not complete the program.

On August 8, 1999 Fr. Timothy was ordained by the late Archbishop Victorin at St. Stephen Church in South St. Paul, Minnesota. In March 2002, Fr. Timothy began his ministry in our Metropolis at St. Mary's Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In September 2004, he began serving Twelve Holy Apostles Church in Duluth, Minnesota, where he is blessed to still serve. Throughout his 20 years in the priesthood, Fr. Timothy has served in a number of national, regional, and local Orthodox and Inter-Christian organizations.

Fr. Timothy and Presvytera Gabriela were married on July 11, 1999 and are blessed with four daughters: Andrea, Casiana, Theodora, and Sofia. Their eldest daughter is a university freshman and the other daughters are in high school, grades 12, 10 & 9. Presvytera Gabriela is active in the parish, Twelve Holy Apostles Church in Duluth, Minnesota, in various capacities and is employed at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Fr. Timothy continues his personal study in the field of Organizational Behavior and Management. As time permits, he offers workshops and retreats in this field and other ministry topics at various parishes and institutions throughout the country. He enjoys soccer, biking, and reading.

May God be glorified for all things!

I am thankful to have received a nomination for the Metropolis Council. I have begun my ministry in the Metropolis of Chicago in March 2002 at St. Mary's Church in Minneapolis as assistant to Fr. Harry Pappas. For approximately two and a half years I was richly blessed to serve under Fr. Harry's leadership and with the mentorship of Fr. Anthony Coniaris and Fr. Theodore Filandrinos along with other diligent staff and volunteer ministers. St. Mary's Church is a large community with very diverse and engaging ministries. I have learned many of the finer points of pastoral practice and discernment during that time.

In September 2004, with the blessing of Metropolitan Iakovos of blessed memory, I began as Proistamenos at Twelve Holy Apostles Church in Duluth, Minnesota. My arrival in Duluth began due to the untimely passing of my predecessor. Although that situation presented some major challenges, in hindsight it gave me an opportunity to love the people of this parish through a tragedy. The parish has undergone some changes since I first arrived and thanks to many faithful and dedicated souls we have grown together into a functional and healthy community always seeking to near God by our worship and outreach. I consider it a great privilege to continue to serve at this same parish 15 years later.

In addition to my seminary education I have pursued graduate education in business. My main area of interest has been and remains Organizational Management and Behavior. I find it fascinating to observe and learn how people function in groups. I also find it important to understand the dynamics of groups and to learn tactics of group effectiveness. I firmly believe that the Lord God calls people to work together at all times. He calls us to willingly depend on each other and to offer each other trust along with helpful support. This is the approach I bring into all my work. This is the exact approach that I would use for the important work of the Metropolis Council.

I firmly believe the Metropolis Council is the governance ministry of our Metropolis. I have observed faithful and capable servants of our Metropolis every year. I believe there are numerous parishioners across our Holy Metropolis who are incredibly gifted who would serve well on the Metropolis Council.

We have an abundance of beautiful souls devoted to serving our Lord God and His people in such a position and I would welcome the opportunity to do so as well. My areas of interest on the Metropolis Council would be to find systems that improve our effectiveness as a group of servants of God tasked with providing healthy support and guidance to the 58 parishes of our Metropolis.

The Merciful Lord has rooted us to be servants and ministers in many cities throughout the six-state area that makes up the Metropolis of Chicago and I want to work with the abundance of gifts and resources the Lord has showered on us in order to be an evergrowing living icon of our Lord Jesus Christ to our neighbors and our communities!

### Fr. Stamatios Sfikas





Fr. Stamatios G. Sfikas is a first generation Greek-American. He was born to Stylianos and Anastasia Sfikas on May 12, 1987. The oldest of two siblings, both Fr. Stamati and his brother George, grew up at St. Demetrios Church in Chicago, Illinois. Fr. Stamatios was greatly involved in St. Demetrios Church being a student in the Solon Greek School where he completed 12 years of study, and also being active in St. Demetrios' youth groups, Sunday School program, and altar boy and athletic organizations.

He attended Stephen T. Mather High School and after graduating he went on to study at the University of Illinois Chicago, graduating in 2009 with a B.A. in Political Science. Upon graduating he enrolled at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, graduating with his Masters of Divinity in May of 2012. While in Boston he taught Greek School at the Annunciation Cathedral of New England, St. Nicholas Church in Lexington and was Director of the Greek School at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Church in Somerville, Massachusetts. In addition to teaching while in Boston, he was Ecclesiarch of the Campus Chapel and as also Class President of his graduating class.

He was assigned to serve as the Pastoral Assistant to Fr. John Kalomas at St. Andrew Church in Chicago, Illinois in August of 2012. Fr. Stamatios was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on February 24, 2013 at St. Demetrios Church in Chicago and then to the Holy Priesthood at St. Andrew Church in Chicago on September 15, 2013, all by the hand of His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago. Fr. Stamatios served the parish of St. Andrew Church in Chicago from August 2012 to December 31, 2014. His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of blessed memory appointed Fr. Stamatios as Dean of the Metropolis Cathedral of the Annunciation on January 1, 2015.

Fr. Stamatios married Presbytera Katerina, the daughter of Fr. Apostolos and Presbytera Sophia Georgiafentis, in 2012 at St. Demetrios Church in Chicago. Fr. Stamatios and Presbytera Katerina have three daughters, Anastasia, Sophia and Styliani.



As a devoted servant to Christ, I humbly ask for the opportunity to give more of myself to the Church by serving as a member of the Metropolis Council. As Dean of the Metropolis Cathedral I have had the opportunity to meet and work closely with members of both the clergy and laity from throughout the Metropolis, allowing me to achieve a better understanding of the various concerns and perspectives held by the faithful. I am ready to use this knowledge to help meet the needs of our people and better serve them.

My previous experiences within the parishes I have served can only aid the council in its work. I enjoy keeping an open communication style and working with people from varied backgrounds. I have a passion for administration and a strong attention to detail. All that I have to offer is in service to the Lord and His people.

Guided by His Eminence's vision for transparency and love, I am excited for the opportunity, if selected, to work on the Metropolis Council with the hope that we can achieve the ultimate goal of guiding His servants into the kingdom of heaven.







Current Metropolis Council Member

# **Biography**



Fr. Vasilios Smith was born in Jamestown, New York. He earned an AS Degree in Engineering from Jamestown Community College in 1978 and a B.Ch.E. from the University of Detroit in 1981. He has worked for The Dow Chemical Company, GE Plastics and he is currently an Account Manager for the Specialty Plastics division of Eastman Chemical Company in the Midwest Region.

On November 16, 1996, he was ordained to the Holy Diaconate by then His Grace Bishop Iakovos of Chicago. In 2009, in an effort to refine his knowledge of theology, Fr. Vasilios enrolled in the special 3-year program for the Diaconate at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. While studying, he assumed a leadership role and taught a series of classes. Since completing the program in 2011, Fr. Vasilios has served as Assistant to the Dean and as Instructor of Teleturgics for five annual summer sessions.

Fr. Vasilios has served the Metropolis of Chicago as a deacon for over 20 years. He has served the needs of Illinois parishes of Saint Athanasios Church (Aurora), St. George Church (Dekalb), St. Nektarios Church (Palatine), Sts. Peter and Paul Church (Glenview), St. Andrew Church (Chicago), St. Demetrios Church (Chicago) and St. George Church (Chicago). He currently serves on the Metropolis of Chicago Council and works on special projects for the Metropolis. In November 2018 he was elevated to the rank of Archdeacon by His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago.

Fr. Vasilios and his wife Argie have 4 daughters and 5 grandchildren and have lived in Aurora, Illinois since 1993.







It has been an honor to serve on the Metropolis of Chicago Council for the past 18 months. The experience has been eye opening for me, to say the least.

On the one hand, I have worked with many dedicated and gifted council members that give of their time and talent for the sole purpose of advancing the mission of our Metropolis without expecting anything in return. On the other hand, I been exposed to the numerous and dire needs of the Metropolis which often go unnoticed and therefore unaddressed/unsupported by the general Metropolis population.

The needs include financial support, ministry leadership, and other important needs that have been identified and documented by the Metropolis of Chicago strategic planning process. For me, the message is clear: we can't continue to rely on the few to run and plan the future of our Metropolis. We need the many to offer their unique talent and expertise so that we can drive change, expand ministries, revamp programs and ultimately meet the needs and expectations of our Metropolis, which belongs to each and every one of us. If selected, I am prepared to devote as much of my time as possible to serve the Metropolis beyond my current liturgical role as a deacon of the Metropolis of Chicago.









Born in December of 1981, the second of three brothers, Fr. Dimitri Tobias, pastor of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, Illinois (2017 - present). He grew up on military bases throughout his childhood as his parents served in the United States Airforce, which included Colorado Springs, Colorado; Omaha, Nebraska; Lakenheith, England; Shreveport, Louisiana; and Memphis, Tennessee.

From 1994 - 2000, he regularly attended Camp Nazareth, the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Summer Camp, while the Metropolis of Detroit was under Metropolitan Maximos' care. From 2000 - 2004, Fr. Dimitri served as a camp counselor to this camp, as well as the Detroit Metropolis Rose City Camp and Southern Metropolis Camp. In 2005, he served as a tour guide at the St. John the Theologian Monastery on the island of Patmos. From 2005 - 2007, he served in the Office of Internet Ministries of the Archdiocese.

Fr. Dimitri graduated Hellenic College with a bachelor's in religious education (2004) and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology with a Masters of Divinity (2007). In 2012, he married Presvytera Mary Sourounis. That same year, by the blessing of Metropolitan Iakovos of blessed memory and through the laying of hands by Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, he was ordained both to the Holy Diaconate and to the Holy Priesthood. He has served as Metropolis Registrar (2007 - 2009), Pastoral Assistant to St. Nectarios Church in Palatine, Illinois (2009 - 2012), Associate Pastor to Sts. Peter & Paul Church in Glenview, Illinois (2012 - 2013), Pastor to Holy Trinity Church in Sioux City, Iowa (2013 - 2017), during which time the 2013 Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly was convened in Sioux City, Iowa.







My desire to serve the Metropolis Council stems from the desire to be useful to my Metropolis and the Great Church of Christ. This is accomplished, I feel, through active liturgical life, ministries for the people of God, and proper administration of talent so that those with the zeal and drive can accomplish great things. In the 21st century this must be done in an apolitical way that embraces all people without alienating anyone who feels marginalized and without compromising our Orthodoxy. This must be done on every platform where people congregate, be it social media, websites, print, or television so that people will flock to the Hospital of the Soul: The Church.

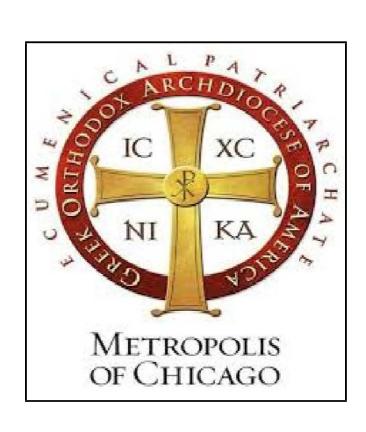
From my time as the priest of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, in preparation for the 2013 Clergy Laity Conference, I already knew the true adage that 10% of the population perform 90% of the work in most parishes. This often leads to burnout, resentment, and ultimately a precipitous drop in the quality of a finished product. To avoid this, we instituted a rule that no one within the parish could oversee more than one committee in the leadup to the conference. The difficulty often presented with this model is when a few people have such amazing talents that they could realistically chair any of the committees well and want to chair most, if not all of them. This does not allow for personal growth or the inclusion of new people. The reality is that when someone has ownership of anything, he or she is far more likely to ensure its success and will grow as a person. By following this model, every detail of the conference was met with care and professionalism. So much so, that even a city block power outage to the church and a tornado could not dent the church's willingness and readiness to address every eventuality.

Through service on the Task Force for Clergy Development, I have already seen the organizational model of the Metropolis and I am excited for its rollout this fall. I am eager to help in any capacity I can with working with the Metropolis Council to see that this Metropolis vision comes to fruition.

Having served in youth ministries for the better part of ten years prior to my ordination, I have a commitment to the most vulnerable and precious of Christ's flock: the children. I have witnessed time and time again how the disintegration of the central family has led to the destruction of faith in the youth. This systemic problem is multifaceted and requires time and commitment to remedy. Through Metropolis programs such as Fanari Camp, Pick Up Your Cross, Family Synaxis, and Sunday School continuing education, we are striving to meet the children and their families where they are in an ever-changing and evolving world that is constantly redefining identity and purpose. Having cultivated successful ministries around this theme (Adult Catechism, Bible Studies, Family Nights, Healthy Body/Healthy Soul Fitness, Ask Father, Faith Lunch Groups, etc.) I would very much like to assist wherever appropriate in promoting Metropolis Ministries that affect family faith, unity, and care.

Working for the Department of Internet Ministries for the Archdiocese and the Department of Registry for the Metropolis of Chicago, I have developed skills in database creation/maintenance, website creation/maintenance, and utilizing technology to reach the faithful (phone/text blasts). I am happy to assist in any way I can with the technology of the Metropolis.

To reach the worker who cannot come to Feast Day Liturgies at normal times, I instituted Early Morning Liturgies at St. Basil so that the faithful can come at 6:30 a.m., worship, and still make it to work. Given the Liturgy is the greatest classroom, the greatest medicine, and the most critical offering of the Church, I would love to assist in creating avenues for the faithful to attend services.



# **Metropolis Council** Laity Nominees Note: Candidates in each category are listed alphabetically

by last name

#### **Anne Marie Adams**

## **Biography**



Anne Marie Adams is a senior administrator in higher education with expertise in the theories of teaching and learning. Her professional concentration has focused on both traditional questions concerning curriculum design and program evaluation and newer issues that have emerged in the field, including how curriculum is culturally, politically and economically situated.

In practice, her expertise provides organizations with evidence-based practices to determine the efficiency of a specific program or curriculum. She excels at providing detailed feedback that allows stakeholders to identify and replicate beneficial practices within a program as well as modifying methods for program or curriculum improvement. At Northwestern University, she is an adjunct faculty member in the Communication Studies Department and holds the position of assistant director of the Master of Science in Communication program, where she manages the academic programming and student affairs for 90-plus graduate students annually. Additionally, Anne Marie provides leadership in academic operations, where she is charged with fiduciary oversight of a multimillion-dollar budget.

Anne Marie holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in addition to a Master of Science in Communication from Northwestern University and currently is earning her doctorate in curriculum studies at DePaul University. Her current research study asks how Greek Orthodox women make meaning of their experiences at the intersection of religious and spiritual identity construction. The development of leadership and notions of womanhood are of particular interest to her.

Anne Marie and her husband, Evan, currently reside in Northbrook, Illinois, with their children Evelyn (6), Trifon (4) and John (2). Anne Marie grew up at Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church in Westchester, Illinois, and currently is a steward, parish council member and active parishioner of Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Glenview, Illinois.



Growing up in a spiritually nurturing parish positively impacted my identity and the way I have come to understand service, fellowship and love of Orthodoxy. Through my involvement in weekly workshop, Sunday School and youth ministries, I grew up watching older generations commit tirelessly to the preservation of the Orthodox Church and its traditions. I feel I have been blessed with the ability and skill set to serve in the same capacity on the Metropolis Council. As an active steward of Saints Peter and Paul in Glenview, Illinois, I care deeply about the future of the Metropolis. I understand the importance of the life and growth of the Metropolis, its ministries and financial condition.

I believe my background in higher education paired with my dedication to youth through adult ministries would make me a valuable asset to this council. I would bring with me the ability to offer my expertise as a higher-education and academic-program administrator, as well as the perspective of a woman, wife and mother of three young children.

As Orthodox parents, I believe my generation is faced with new and complex challenges of raising children in the church. I am experienced in formal program review and assessment, as well as designing and implementing programming for the purpose of increasing engagement through community building. I strongly believe the future of the Orthodox Church is dependent upon the engagement of all parishioners - both younger and older generations. My expertise provides organizations with evidence-based practices to determine the efficiency of a specific program or curriculum. I excel at providing detailed feedback that allows stakeholders to identify and replicate beneficial practices within a program as well as modifying methods for program or curriculum improvement. I am experienced in assessing, planning and implementing necessary changes within an organization and believe this skill set would benefit the Metropolis.









Harold has been a founding steward of Ascension Greek Orthodox Church in Lincolnshire, Illinois, since the inception of the community in 1989 and a leader in building the new church and community center. He has served in the Parish Councils of the Ascension Church, St. John The Baptist Church in Des Plaines, Illinois, collectively for over 30 years. He has held officer positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

He is an Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, a fulfilled member of the Leadership 100 National Organization and steward of neighboring communities and communities in Southwest Florida.

Harold was born in Athens Greece and is a graduate of the well-known 10th Gymnasium near the US Embassy with heavy emphasis in classical Greek, Latin, Philosophy, Orthodox Theology and Logic. He is a graduate of Northwestern University holding MBA and EMBA graduate and BPH and BA undergraduate degrees in leadership, management, finance and high technology hardware and software fields.

Professionally he has chaired the American Electronics Association for 14 Midwestern States and The Management Association of Illinois while managing and growing his own organization in the high technology field of Opto-Electronics on three continents over the course of 25 years, named Lumex Opto-components, Inc.

Has received recognition as Illinois High Technology entrepreneur of the year in 1996 and Alumni Merit award from Northwestern University in 2011.

He is currently involved in investing, consulting and has taught non-profit leadership and entrepreneurship at Northwestern University in Chicago.

He is a resident of Long Grove, Illinois for 25 years and a Florida resident since 2015.



Our church in general, and our Metropolis specifically, have experienced in the recent past challenges on many fronts with the net results being serious declines in active church participation and support. There is no time to seek those responsible or pointing fingers to people and events, without risking division and further deterioration of unity and recovery.

While you may label me of the old school because of age one must realize that we have old minds among the young and open minds among the older groups.

The greater community is in dire need of an extensive soul-searching research to identify the demographics, driving values and aspirations of the active faithful and the unchurched Orthodox across all ages, locations and economic strengths.

The research can produce an actionable growth plan with following steps:

- 1. Identify multivariable demographic characteristics of churched and uncharged orthodox population.
- 2. Develop a list of core deliverables the above population needs with inputs from Hierarchy and lay leadership across the area, ages and economic sectors.
- 3. Use all media to reach out to the faithful, unchurched orthodox and Easter and Christmas only church goers.
- 4. Train and educate community leadership as to how to handle new arrivals and teach them how to retain these folks with appealing new ministries.
- 5. Create programs, teachings and events at community and Metropolis levels to expose and teach true stewardship vs. transactional membership.

These steps will take time but within two or three ecclesiastical years we will see the reversal of present trends with the blessing and guidance of our Hierarchs and re-energized clergy.









As the CEO and Managing Partner for Eire Direct, Ellen is responsible for nurturing relationships with existing clients, new business development, and agency performance. She is a strategic marketer with over 35 years of experience with companies in the fields of energy, financial services, retail and professional associations.

Recognized for her expertise in strategic planning, research insights, customer experience, marketing communications planning and analytics, Ellen has operated her agency since 1997. She is proud that Eire is a WBENC-certified diversity supplier/woman-owned business.

"Integrated marketing success is driven not only by the marketplace's perception and demands, but through collaboration to deliver meaningful programs to customers so they can personally receive value." Ellen's client relationships include the American Dental Association, ComEd, Discover Financial Services, Exelon Utilities, FleetCor Technologies, Nisource and The Morton Arboretum. For these clients, Ellen focuses on developing strategic marketing and communications plans, annual and multi-year budgets as well as the brand elements and messaging to engage customers and stakeholders.

To fulfill a passion to engage in her community, Ellen dedicates time and talent to organizations focusing on education, cultural and religious heritage, and STEM education for your women. She serves as the Vice- Chair on the Executive Committee for the Board of Trustees at The Catherine Cook School, Stewardship Chair at the Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois, and is the Director of Development for the Women's Energy Network.







It is an honor to submit my candidate statement to serve as a member of the Metropolis Council, and I hope I am selected to join. The Metropolis of Chicago's strategic plan is the foundation we can build upon as we continue the path forward for positive change in our Churches, and with the leaders, stewards and prospective stewards we strive to strengthen in our Christ-centered communities.

Personally, I have been a participating steward of the Annunciation Cathedral my entire life. My paternal grandfather immigrated from Sparta and settled with his family at the Cathedral, and my father and mother continued that tradition when I was a young child. The Cathedral has always been my spiritual home. I participate regularly in services, Church sponsored functions and in cross-community events and fund raisers with other Metropolis parishes. For over 10 years I taught Sunday School which brought me great joy. And, most recently, I am the Director of Stewardship as we work to make our community aware and educated about what it means to be a steward and how it supports the ongoing operations and programs of our Cathedral. And now, I am proud to see my son embrace his faith as he participates by serving in the Altar and attending Fanari Camp and youth outreach events. We must not allow the chain to break between generations as we pass on our spiritual love for the Orthodox faith, coupled with the need to participate and be engaged - taking ownership and responsibility is the only way the Church will grow and flourish. Therefore, I would like to participate in the evolution of our Metropolis in support of the strategic plan.

As a professional, I have owned a successful agency for 25 years, with a focus on direct and data-driven marketing, strategic consultation and marketing/communication plan development. My firm is Eire Direct, a diversity supplier and you can see the results of our successful relationships at www.EireDirect.com. I would bring my industry knowledge and partner relationships to the council in support of the Communications & Technology goals. And, as an agency leader, I will be able to apply my skills of meeting facilitation, curriculum and training to the Lay Leadership Development goals. I serve on several Boards in my industry and in the community and participate regularly in internal/external mentoring programs and professional development.

I am the Vice Chair of the Catherine Cook School Board and have been a Trustee for 10 years. In this role, I have gained a great deal of knowledge about fiduciary responsibility and operational requirements for a non-profit organization. These experiences, professionally, personally and through Board service will prove to be valuable regarding the goals of the Metropolis Administration & Best Practices initiative.

As a parent of a teen, I am enthusiastic to participate in the Youth & Emerging Adults program as part of the strategic plan. Over the past few years, we have seen growth in our own Cathedral stewardship from young families and young adults attending Sunday services and engaging with our programs and ministry. Watching my own son and his peers learn about their Orthodox faith while serving in the altar, attending religious camps and meeting socially at festivals is a testament to the fact that our youth and young adults are embracing their faith and culture. They are connecting with one another and the clergy while adding a vibrancy to our services, fellowship hours and social events. We need to know what their unmet needs are from the church - education about the ministry, awareness of religious practices, traditions and sacraments, access to cultural events in the Greek community, safe places to have difficult conversations, community service opportunities, and more. The youth and young adults are the future; they will learn from us and we will most certainly learn from them.



# **Nick Boosalis**

Current Metropolis Council Member





Nick T. Boosalis was appointed by Metropolitan Nathanael to the Metropolis Council in the Spring of 2018. Upon joining the Metropolis Council, Nick was invited to serve as chair of the Metropolis Development Committee. Shortly thereafter, he was also asked to chair the St. Iakovos Retreat Center Task Force. Also, Nick was asked to join and serve on the Metropolis Executive Committee.

Nick is a serial entrepreneur and has been involved in real estate for over 40 years. His experience includes real estate development, property management, and real estate marketing. He owns and operates self-serve car washes and is actively developing a product called PooPrints, a DNA solution to ensure dog owners pick up their dog's waste. Nick is also developing two real estate projects in the Twin Cities.

Nick has a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering degree from the University of Minnesota. He is married and has a daughter Gina and son Theo. Nick and his family are lifelong members of St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Nick and his wife Katherine are both past presidents of St. Mary's Church. Nick has also chaired the St. Mary's Real Estate Committee for over 30 years and served as a co-chair of St. Mary's Stewardship Committee. St. Mary's has approximately 600 members and an operating budget of \$1.2 million.







As a lifelong Orthodox Christian who loves the Church, I hope we see the Greek Orthodox Church grow and thrive. Unfortunately, today the Metropolis and Archdiocese is in a weakened financial position and there are many disenfranchised Church members. This, along with societal changes and pressures reducing the population of Church attendees and the number of givers, has created a great sense of urgency to make changes and turn the tide. To succeed, it is imperative those of us with the gifts of time, talent and treasure step up and help.

It has been a great honor to serve on the Metropolis since Spring 2018. During the last 16 months, I have had a chance to better understand the areas of need and the priorities within the Metropolis. I hope I can continue to offer my time and talents over the next two years to the Metropolis and to Metropolitan Nathanael as there is still much work to do to address the priorities and strategic initiatives set forth over the last many months.

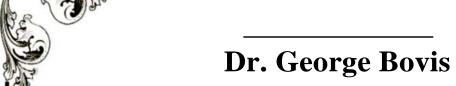
My depth of experience in real estate, stewardship and parish leadership gives me a unique set of skills that can benefit the Metropolis with several initiatives and priorities. My real estate expertise can help the Metropolis with strategic decisions related to its real estate assets. I can also share best practices that proved successful in growing stewardship at St. Mary's. As a member of one of the largest giving Churches in one of the more remote states of the Metropolis, I can provide access to resources and ideas left relatively untouched by the Metropolis over the last several years.

The Metropolis needs the voice of the Churches from all states and cities to generate the support needed to help the Church thrive.

I stand behind Metropolitan Nathanael and his leadership and believe that with the Holy Spirit, prayers, and the commitment and skills of the lay volunteers, we can and will become a stronger Metropolis. I welcome the opportunity to continuing in my service to His Holy Church in the capacity of a Metropolitan Council Member in the Chicago Metropolis.











Dr. George Bovis is an Illinois native, residing in Northbrook, Illinois with his wife, Raffaella Bovis. He is a steward and for the past 3 years, a parish council member of St John The Baptist in Des Plaines, Illinois. He is currently serving as the Parish Council Vice President.

Dr. Bovis is an accomplished physician, being Board Certified by the National Board of Medical Examiners (1994) and the American Board of Neurological Surgery (2004).

Dr. Bovis earned his BA in Neurobiology & Physiology (1989) and his MD (1993) from Northwestern University. He conducted his internship (1993-1994) and residency (1994-1999) at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He completed his fellowship in Cerebrovascular surgery at the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio (2000). He is licensed in Illinois, Ohio and Minnesota.

Dr. Bovis is the Vice Chairman of the Division of Neurological Surgery Department of General Surgery at AMITA Health, Co-Medical Director of the Illinois Gamma Knife Center at AMITA Health Neuroscience Institute Alexian Brothers Medical Center, and Medical Director Neuroscience Institute at AMITA Health, in Elk Grove Village, Illinois.

In addition, Dr. Bovis is an Assistant Professor for the Department of Neurological Surgery Rush Medical School, Chicago, Illinois.







Churchgoer - Churchgoer is a descriptor and a title which I am most proud to wear. It describes not only a weekly activity, but a deference to an ecclesiastical institution created by one's individual and a community's collective efforts and participation. To that end, I humbly submit my nomination for membership to the Metropolis Council in order to help maintain and foster the improvement of my region's churches and he Metropolis overseeing them.

During my years of living in the Midwest and my many years of training in my profession and travels, I have had the privilege of visiting many Greek Orthodox churches and communities of not only our country, but of Canada, Europe, and Asia. I have been an active participant in Greek Orthodox Churches from Rochester, Minnesota, Jacksonville, Florida, Cincinnati, Ohio, and not to mention the multiple communities in Chicago that I have served as a steward.

The knowledge I have gained from this peripatetic history has shaped my understanding of my church and what is important to individuals in their church community. I have realized during this time and all these travels that our individual spiritual experience is profoundly affected by the surrounding community and by its leaders. Leaders who are dynamic, engaging, empathetic, kind, forgiving, and caring create communities with the same values. In essence, our leaders are living examples of the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I would be honored, if selected, to be a member of the Metropolis Council to serve as an example of these values, with the goal of improving the spiritual experience of my community.







Current Metropolis Council Member

# **Biography**



Efrosine (Lori) Kotsonis Chiampas serves as a current member of the Metropolis Council and is on the Metropolis Council's Executive Committee. Lori grew up at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, Illinois where she and her family continue to be stewards and active parishioners.

Lori has her Doctorate degree in Pharmacy and is clinical pharmacist who has worked at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago for the last twenty years. She has held several leadership roles at the hospital including Hematology/Oncology Manager, Director of Pharmacy Operations and for the last twelve years has served as Medication Safety Coordinator where she has been integral in implementation of Computerized Physician Order Entry, Smart Pump Implementation and numerous other safety initiatives.

Lori's expertise is Safety and Quality, specifically Medication Safety. She is a contributor in McGraw Hill's 2015 edition of Pediatric Patient Safety and Quality Improvement. She is a member of the American Pharmacist Hospital Association and Hellenic American Leadership Council.

Lori attended Loyola University of Chicago for her undergraduate studies, and obtained her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy as well as her Doctorate in Pharmacy from Midwestern University-Chicago.

Lori is married to Dr. George Chiampas, has two children, Katia (16) and Athan (14) and currently resides in Wilmette, Illinois.





## **Candidate Statement**

After over one year of service on the Interim Metropolis Council and Executive Committee under His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael, I humbly submit my name and declare y hope to continue serving the Greek Orthodox Church on the Metropolis Council. Given the challenges our Metropolis faces, the faithful who will serve on the next Metropolis Council will shoulder special responsibility. I believe I have both the motivation and the qualifications to meet this responsibility.

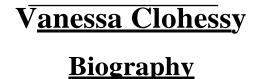
Being an active steward in this Metropolis has shaped me as much as any other experience in my life. As both an individual and a parent, I have experienced the full range of being part of the Church - from regular attendance of Divine Liturgy, to sacraments to Greek School, GOYA, basketball, Jr. Olympics, Fanari camp. I know how the Church can play a central role in one's life, and I want to be part of passing on such a Church to my children and grandchildren.

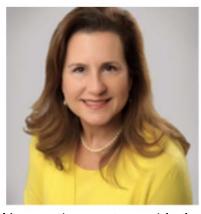
What inspires me to run most has been my recent service as a Metropolis Council member. We have worked hard to establish the hallmarks of transparency and accountability. This effort has been both disheartening and encouraging. Disheartening because of the absence up to now of transparency and accountability. Encouraging because of the commitment to establish it - no matter how difficult, how many fits and starts, and how long it takes.

This particular mission must be seen through, and my career as Medication Safety Coordinator at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, positions me to help that mission along. With twenty years of experience working at a major institution and the awesome responsibility of assuring medication safety and quality for our patients, every decision I make has to be transparent to assure accountability throughout the institution. I measure accountability on several levels - to my department, to physicians and nurses, to hospital administration, to parents and most importantly to the patients themselves. The experience I have on this front - and the procedures I have learned, implemented and constantly practice - can be useful in our effort to establish best practices. I hope to bring a sense of urgency to the process. In my workplace, transparency and accountability are not merely legal/ financial matters and they are certainly not words; if they are missing, lives can be lost.

I also represent a demographic that it quite underrepresented in our lay leadership. As a 40-something, working mom that is caring for elderly parent(s), while having raised my children in our Greek Orthodox faith with many competing responsibilities, I see and live first-hand the challenges and downstream implications that this has on our parishes, Metropolis and overall faith. It is a challenge that I take personally and would like to continue to tackle.

To me the Metropolis Council cannot lose sight of its core, which is its people, youth, ministry and its future place in the homes of our faith. Our Greek Orthodox faith is what has shaped me, my husband and our children, and it is very important to me that this Greek Orthodox faith and our Metropolis is viable and alive and sees growth, and sustainability in years and generations to come. This is something that I will work hard to leave behind for my children and my children's children and for this reason I would love, if selected, to continue to work toward the stability and growth of our Metropolis.





Vanessa Clohessy is a steward and active parishioner at Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church in Westchester, Illinois, the church where she grew up, was married, and baptized her two children. She serves as a Reader, is the parent advisor for Jr. GOYA, and an active member of Family Synaxis. She previously taught at Vacation Church School, The Way (a ministry for K-5 students), and assisted with TOTS. Ms. Clohessy is married to Jim for 23 years and together they have two children, James (15) and Joanna (13). They live in Elmhurst, Illinois.

Vanessa is a partner with the law firm of Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn LLP. She represents public and private schools through all phases of civil litigation in judicial and administrative proceedings. Vanessa has focused her practice on labor and employment disputes, with an emphasis on employee dismissal and defending against discrimination charges. She also counsels and represents clients in matters of civil rights defense, constitutional law, tax exemption disputes, personal injury defense, and student discipline as well as internal investigations and board policy. Ms. Clohessy has tried civil rights and employment cases to successful jury verdicts in federal court.

Vanessa is named by her peers as a Leading Lawyer in civil rights, constitutional law, employment law, and school law. She is an active member of the National and Illinois Council of School Attorneys, the Illinois State Bar Association, and the Hellenic Bar Association. She is past chairwoman of the Education Law Committee of the Northwest Suburban Bar Association, and former member of the Lake County Juvenile Justice Council's School Safety Committee. Prior to joining the firm in 1998, she practiced for seven years as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Illinois, representing the State, its agencies and employees.

Vanessa is an avid tennis player, a volunteer judge for the Hellenic Bar Association Law Day essay contest and is an Assistant Scout Master for Scouts BSA. Ms. Clohessy is a member of the parent organization, Partners in Education, at her children's school, Timothy Christian, and previously served as a trustee on the People for Elmhurst Parks Foundation. She graduated from Indiana University, Bloomington with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism and Spanish and received her law degree in 1990 from IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, where she was a member of the Moot Court Society.



A relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, love for the Orthodox faith, commitment to the Orthodox Church — these are my primary strengths that I would bring to the council as a lay member. The skill set that would make me an asset to the council includes: organized and deliberate in thought and action, excellent in verbal and writing skills, and collaborative and creative in problem solving.

As one of 17 equity partners in a law firm of 33 attorneys, I have worked for nearly 20 years to grow and improve our firm. In those years, we have more than doubled in size, growing from eight partners and a total of 15 attorneys to where we are now. I regularly tackle issues involving human relations, financial stability and growth, investments, and policy and procedure.

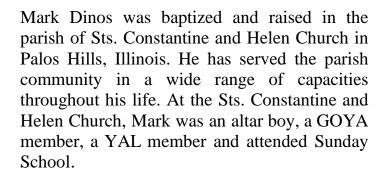
I have been an active member of the Metropolis Family Synaxis steering committee since its inception more than 20 years ago. With approximately five other committee members, I have planned, executed, and participated in more than 50 family and couples' retreats.

I have been blessed to have as spiritual fathers and father confessors Fr. William Chiganos, Fr. Apostolos Georgiafentis, Fr. Theodore Petrides, and Fr. John Rallis. Each has witnessed my struggles and contributed to my growth in the faith. I was raised in an Orthodox home by a cradle Orthodox mom and a dad who embraced our faith when I was in grade school; and I married a man who was baptized into the Orthodox Church as an adult. I am a godparent to two children, and a sponsor to two adults Chrismated into the faith. All of these relationships have provided me with the unique opportunity to see our faith and our Church from a broader perspective.

It would be an honor and a privilege to serve on the council — a responsibility that I would place as a priority and use my best efforts to fulfill.







Later, he took on more leadership roles beginning with volunteering for the Metropolis Junior Olympics where he has served for nearly 25 years, including as an assistant director for over a decade. In 2005 he began serving as a Parish Council member. Mark served as chairman of the parish's annual Fr. Byron Golf Outing, helped organize various dinner dances, and as chairman of the annual Palos Hills Greekfest from 2008-2016. In addition, Mark has served as a school board member for nearly a decade for Koraes Elementary School, a pre-K through 8th grade Greek Orthodox school that has been a part of the parish community for 109 years. Eventually his work as a Parish Council member was recognized, culminating in being elected as President in 2017 where he continues to serve in that office. Mark earned his undergraduate degree in Communication Arts from Benedictine University in 1999 and his Juris Doctorate from John Marshall Law School in 2002. He has worked as an attorney focusing primarily in workers' compensation matters throughout the state of Illinois.

He has been married to his wife, Olga, since 2007 and they currently live in Lockport, Illinois. He is the son of Youla and the late Michael, and has one younger brother, George.





## **Candidate Statement**

Having been born and raised in the Sts. Constantine and Helen Parish (Palos Hills, Illinois) I am honored to be nominated by my parish. Having served as an altar boy, and active within the Parish, when I finished my schooling, my Parish asked me to take on a bigger role. I was asked to be involved with organizing the Metropolis Junior Olympics. I was tasked to chair various events such as the annual Fr. Byron Golf Outing, dinner dances and the church festival. I was selected to be on the School B6oard for Koraes school, the 109-year gem of our Parish. I was also fortunate to become a Parish Council member and become a leader within the community. With each of these requests, I gladly accepted and worked for my Parish.

In January 2017, I was elected as Parish Council President. At the age of 39, I wasn't quite sure I had served my Parish long enough or established enough experience to serve in that capacity. My Parish, however, was again asking me to serve and I could not say no, and I would not say no. As the Parish Council President, I have had to wear many hats - Christian, friend, figure head, leader, counselor, customer service representative, listener and more. The experience has been second to none, and one for which I am grateful. As I grew, my Parish asked more of me - be a leader of the altar boys, volunteer with the Metropolis Junior Olympics, be in charge of certain parts of the Parish festival and take on various other projects that were needed. The experience has been second to none and one for which I am grateful.

At this time, I find myself being asked by my Parish seek selection as a Metropolis Council member. If selected, I will accept the responsibilities that come along with such an undertaking and will do so with a dedication to serve to the best of my abilities. The question that must be asked, however, is what are those responsibilities?

As this Clergy-Laity Assembly has shown, there is an immense amount of work that needs to be done throughout this Metropolis. What is the overall financial picture of the Metropolis? What is the status of the Saint lakovos Retreat Center? What is the status of the former Metropolis home on Burton Place in Chicago? What is the direction of the strategic plan for the Metropolis and what needs to be done to move it forward? How is the Metropolis going to work to implement the Archdiocese Youth Protection Plan? What support do parishes need from the Metropolis and how can the Metropolis provide that support? These are only a few of the questions that surround this Clergy-Laity Assembly, the parishes, the Metropolis and the faithful who comprise and support the Church. I find myself wanting to be a part of the Metropolis Council so that I can help to provide answers to these questions and to work for the overall improvement of the parishes and ministries of the Metropolis.

This is an exciting time for the Chicago Metropolis. Our Archdiocese has a brand new Archbishop. We find ourselves with a dynamic Metropolitan taking steps to improve Church life on many levels. Elections for new Metropolis Board members are truly open to the entire Metropolis with this new election process. New blood, new ideas, new faces and new voices are ready to be heard. So many great people have gotten all of us to this point in time and the next crop of leaders are ready to take the torch and take us in even better directions. My wish is to be one of those torch bearers.





Patricia Galanis is from Wisconsin and is a steward of Annunciation Church (Wauwatosa), Sts. Constantine and Helen Church (Wauwatosa) and Saint Spyridon Church (Sheboygan). Since 1990, Pat is the owner of Pat Galanis & Associates, a firm specializing in women's wear and wardrobe consultation.

Pat's professional experience include sales and wardrobe stylist for the Worth Collection, manager of an ophthalmology practice, manager of a conference call center.

Pat earned her Bachelor of Science in English with a Mathematics minor from Carnegie Mellon University.

Pat is active in the Annunciation Church, having served as Parish Council President (4 years), Parish Council Treasurer (1 year), and Co-chairman Annunciation Festival (3 years.). In addition, she served as President, Treasurer and Secretary of the Annunciation Church Philoptochos (8 years combined), Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Past Board Member, and National Philoptochos Past Board Member.

She is active in her community, having served the Junior League of Milwaukee Board (6 years), chairing the fund raising committee, being responsible for Resale Store, and investigating new projects.

Pat and her husband, John, have been married for 50 years and are parents to 4 adult children: Lia (Dean) Economou, Bill (Kelly) Galanis, Charles Galanis, and John J. Galanis.





#### **Candidate Statement**

To serve on the Metropolis Council would be an honor and a fulfillment of my passion for the Greek Orthodox Faith. I have spent 50 years serving in the vineyard of our Orthodox church and would like to bring this commitment and experience to the Metropolis Council. I have established my reputation built on accountability, transparency, and honesty. I am fully committed to donate as much time as is needed. My top priority will be to help implement the goals and objectives that have been shared by Metropolitan Nathanael. At these times, it is very important to continue to reach out to our Parishes to share in a personal way all the work of the Metropolis, both in ministries and financial need. Put simply, I am truly committed to our Metropolis and want to assist in any way the Council and Metropolitan Nathanael believe I can be of service. Some of the tools and skills, which I would bring to the Metropolis Council, are:

**Leadership** - I believe leaders show by example. If I am not willing to do the job, I cannot ask the volunteers to do it. When I have been asked to take on a task, I have pursued the best solutions and follow the best ideas to completion. An example is when as President of our Parish, I felt we needed better food serving procedures at our very successful Festival. After we adopted the recommendation from a local country club manager, the process was met with resistance and I volunteered in the tent myself to prove the method would work. This resulted in an over 50% decrease in wait time and an increase in profits. As a Philoptochos Board Member, I recruited new members to join, increasing membership by over 20%. Whether as a booth chairman or co-chairman of our festival, serving as President of our Philoptochos and Parish Council, serving as Treasurer, raising money for special projects, my focus has been to be an inclusive leader and make things happen.

**Parish Life Experience** - It is important to understand the challenges facing our Churches today, Working through the many positions in the Church, has helped me to understand how we can build and maintain a strong foundation. I have experienced the highs and lows. The best way to describe my Parish Life Experience is to say I understand the pulse of a parish.

**Financial Responsibility** - Whether it be in my volunteering in the Milwaukee Community, the Annunciation, my work-place experience, or my own personal business, I have always been fully aware of fiduciary responsibility. As Parish Council Treasurer, I always told the parishioners "I am a steward of your money" and will always be steadfast in protecting your money. I have never been afraid to confront issues and make corrections. I understand the financial workings of the Parish and have implemented best practices as treasurer.

**Outreach** - Outreach to the community is very important because by including many people in a project, they are invested in its mission and success. I am never afraid to ask for help, accept ideas, and fundraise. By listening to diverse ideas and by reaching out to our parishes in a personal way, we can help promote best practices from our Parishes and the success of our Metropolis. Once I engage the community, I will use my experience to encourage involvement. For example, I promoted the Hands of Mercy project to my Philoptochos chapter resulting in a \$ 5000 gift. This resulted in the Chapter understanding the need and donated another \$1500 to honor our Metropolitan's visit to Annunciation on his 1-year anniversary.





Born June 24th, 1965, Gregory P. Gerontes is a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Greek Orthodox Christian and raised in the Greek culture and Orthodox Religion emphasized primarily by my mother, Judith, a convert after she married my father, Petros Socrates Gerontes. He is a steward of All Saints Church in Peoria, Illinois, where is has served the Parish Council for 21 years, and is the current Parish council President.

Gregory earned his BS in Psychology from Illinois State University in December 1987. After graduation, he worked as a Personnel Manager with Peterson Harned von Maur in Iowa providing his unique experience in handling interpersonal relationships and managing conflicts.

Gregory returned to Peoria, Illinois, and started a career in the Property & Casualty Insurance industry as an agent when his wife was 7 months pregnant. He worked diligently and strictly on commission. Sixteen years later, Gregory purchased the agency, and later purchased the agency building. Through his hard work, he has grown the agency to a robust multi-million-dollar operation, and earned the distinction of "Best Insurance Agency" Dunlap, Illinois in 2017. In 2009, his agency was awarded "Best Neighborhood Business" by State Representative Jehan Gordon.

In addition to serving the All Saints Church, Gregory is involved in his Peoria area community, serving as a member of the Peoria Riverfront Museum Board of Directors, and a Troop Committee member for Boy Scout Troop 352. He has served as a member of the Board of the Peoria Symphony (2013-2019), Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellow (2010), and Cub Scout Master (2003-2006). Gregory was elected to "40 under 40" Entrepreneur/Civic Recognition Award (1999) and is a Graduate of Peoria Community Leadership Academy (1999 as a tuition scholarship recipient).

In his youth, Gregory was enjoyed 12 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School, served as an Altar Boy and as a Junior Choir member.

He has enjoyed visiting Constantinople and Jerusalem and the last two Bi-Annual Clergy-Laity Assemblies.

## **Candidate Statement**

I am fortunate to have been born into the original Christian Faith with authentic roots tied directly to Jesus Christ. I am fortunate to have been born at a time which can easily be viewed as a bridge between "Old World" Christianity and "New World" Christianity which thirsts for Traditional Worship not fully understood by the non-Orthodox. I am fortunate for the consideration as a servant/liaison to Jesus Christ by way of participating in the Metropolis Council whom fosters and promotes the Orthodox Christian ideals of our new Metropolis at a time when new ideas that do not diminish the values of traditional Orthodox Worship are needed.

While humility and humbleness are difficult when asked to explain what personal skill set I could bring to the Metropolis Council, I sincerely hope modesty can be detected in my description. For instance, I am an eternal optimist. I believe love always wins and anger never does. I look for the good in humanity and what good qualities each person can offer to help our parish.

I understand the importance of "the numbers" and "the bottom line", yet do not believe the Church should be run like a "business" or that these things ever outweigh the importance of "community", "fellowship" or "stewardship".

I believe I am seen as an entrepreneur by others in my community, but really think endurance, patience, creativity, compassion and listening (more than speaking) are the seeds of greatness in all endeavors. I believe I have been successful in my career, but view that success as a gift from God which is temporarily on loan.

Finally, I think the future of the Greek Orthodox Church in the United States hinges on getting fathers and especially young fathers to Divine Liturgy and engage in Church activities at least as much as their wives do. I believe children need to see their fathers and not just their mothers kneeling before Christ and praying especially by their side. Children need to know their own fathers are obedient to a force greater than themselves. Otherwise, we may risk children growing up to believe only their father was the greatest thing in their life, thereby, not fully understanding their own relationship with Christ.

Whether its money, cars, alcohol or Jesus Christ, we all end up worshipping something. Let that thing be the only thing worth worshipping, Jesus Christ; for we need a guardian for our thoughts and Christ is that guardian.

I believe being an Orthodox Christian is more important than being a Greek Orthodox Christian-if it is viewed as geographical or cultural barrier to the spiritual pathway of the original Church of Jesus Christ.

It is an exciting time in the Chicago Diocese for me. I have participated in many Diocese functions (Family Synaxis, Junior Olympics, Clergy-Laity Conferences, Stewardship Seminars) and can hardly wait to see what will come next and what role I may play!







Gus Kolyvas was born in Lefkada, Greece and immigrated to the United States at the age of 7 along with his parents, Peter and Sophia, and his brother, Chris. His family settled in the Roseland neighborhood of Chicago and became active members of St. Spyridon Church. Gus was enrolled and graduated from Sts. Constantine and Helen Church's Koraes Elementary School in Chicago Illinois.

His family then moved to Evergreen Park, Illinois where he attended and graduated from Evergreen Park High School. After graduation Gus attended the University of Illinois at Chicago studying Accounting while working on afternoons and weekends to finance his tuition.

Upon graduation from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a Master of Science in accounting, he passed the Illinois Uniform CPA Examination, becoming a certified public accountant. Gus joined Kemper Corporation, a publicly traded insurance holding company, as a staff accountant responsible for Kemper's Real Estate Ledger. After being given various responsibilities within the Kemper organization, Gus was ultimately promoted to Director of Corporate Financial Reporting responsible for all external reporting on a quarterly basis as well as all internal corporate reporting on a monthly basis. After 29 years with Kemper, Gus recently retired.

Gus is a dedicated steward and has served on the Parish Council of St. Spyridon Church in Palos Heights, Illinois, for over 30 years and as Treasurer or assistant Treasurer for most of that time.

Gus is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Illinois CPA Society.







I have served at the parish of St. Spyridon Church in Palos Heights, Illinois as an officer and Parish Council member for most of my adult life. The church has always been at the center my life and my family's life. If selected, serving on the Metropolis Council would be a great honor.

I have a financial background, specializing in financial reporting, with almost 30 years of experience as director of Financial Reporting for Kemper Corporation, a publicly traded insurance holding company. I have a Master of Science in accounting and I am a registered certified public accountant in the State of Illinois. In addition, serving for many years as the Treasurer of St. Spyridon Church in Palos Heights allows me to understand intricately the financial problems, operational and internal control issues, as well as opportunities encountered by many parishes of the Metropolis.

If selected, I will apply my accounting technical skills as well as my experience with parish operations to bring financial best practices, transparency and accountability to the Metropolis level. I can assist in implementing internal controls over expenditures, management of funds, contracts, reporting and compliance which based on the recently released 2015-2017 audit report of Metropolis finances' are clearly lacking. I believe these goals align with His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael's vision which was clearly stated on his initial review of Metropolis finances over a year ago. Once these goals are achieved, it will hopefully indicate to the faithful that church resources are being invested and administered properly so that trust in the Metropolis and its institutions can be reestablished.

I welcome the opportunity to assist His Eminence in executing his vision for our faithful and our church.









James G. Lakerdas was born to immigrant parents in a small town in Pennsylvania. He graduated from Duquesne University in 1975, with a Bachelor Degree in Philosophy and Psychology. In 1979, he earned a Masters of Degree in Social Work from Southern Illinois University.

Soon after that James was employed at Menard Correctional Center as a counselor. While there, he started a "Life's Club" for inmates that were

serving life sentences. The Life's Club raised money for various charitable endeavors. He then went on to work for the Illinois Parole Board, as a Parole officer, supervising inmates that were recently released into the Community. While working at the Parole office, he attended John Marshall Law School, graduating in 1984 with a Juris Doctorate Degree. Since, 1986, James has managed his own law office in Hyde Park.

James joined the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in 1984. He has served on the Parish Council, since 1997, in various capacities; Executive Secretary, Vice-President, and as President for 4 terms. He served on numerous committees and Chaired many projects.

James also is involved in a number of other charitable organizations, including the Pan-Ikarian Brotherhood a philanthropic organization that offers assistance to the Island of Ikaria, in Greece. In that organization he served as the Chicago Chapter President, District Governor, Legal Counselor to the National Board and most recently, he is serving as Director of the Pan Ikarian Foundation. In addition, James is a member of the Executive Board of the National Hellenic Invitation Basketball Tournament(NHIBT).

James was a volunteer at Chicago Legal Volunteer Services, offering pro-bono legal services to individuals that could not afford private attorneys. The organization honored him in 1995 by naming him one of the volunteers of the year.

Also, James is an avid Grateful Dead fan, having attended over 250 shows.



I feel that my 20-plus years of experience as an active member of a Parish Council and my experience as an attorney serving predominately a disadvantaged segment of our community has allowed me to develop the skills necessary to problem solve and to convince individuals with different perspective to compromise and find common ground, that moves the mission forward. I believe my past experiences have demonstrated my commitment to helping others and serving my community.

I see in my own family that the next generation is at risk of losing their connection to both our culture and our religion. It appears that we are not just losing our youth, but not making couples in mixed marriages feel welcome and allowing a lot of our members to drift away from the Church. I do not have the answer as to why that is happening but, if steps are not taken to address these concerns, we will face major challenges in the future. It is our duty to bring back all of our members to the Church and instill in them the basics of Orthodoxy. I would like to be part of the process to curb this trend and believe I could make a positive contribution.







# **Maria Meintanis**

## **Biography**



Maria Meintanis is the Clinical Director of the Continuing Care Program at Timberline Knolls, a Residential Treatment Center based in Lemont, Illinois, where she provides therapy and mental health treatment to women struggling with mental health, substance abuse, and eating disorders. Maria is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and a National Certified Counselor.

She earned an MS in Counseling from National Louis University and MED in Higher Education Administration from Loyola University Chicago.

Maria is a lifelong member and a steward of All Saints Church in Joliet, Illinois, where she is Vice President of the Parish council and an active member of the choir. She was the chairperson of All Saint's 100. Year Anniversary Celebration in 2016 and has served as the chairperson for multiple festivals and special events.

Maria also serves as Secretary of the Chicago Metropolis Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians and a Coordinating Committee member of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.







I am an active member of All Saints Church in Joliet, Illinois, where I am currently the Vice President of the Parish Council. Previously, I served for 10 years as the Parish Council Treasurer. These experiences have allowed me to build skills in budgeting and finance, as well as in speaking with my brothers and sisters in Christ about true stewardship of the church.

I have volunteered as chairperson for multiple fundraising and fellowship events, including All Saints 100th Anniversary in 2016, summer Festivals, and dinner dances. As a member of the All Saints Choir, I also believe in being an active participant in the liturgical life of the church in order to live my Orthodox beliefs every day.

In my role as Director of the Continuing Care program at Timberline Knolls, a residential treatment center based in Lemont, Illinois, I balance the skills of therapy and sitting with women in their struggles with the demands of managing a program and supervising employees.

My clinical specialties include trauma therapy, eating disorders and body image, and integrating Christian faith into therapy. I have a strong interest in wellness, especially mental wellness of our communities. I have also volunteered to serve as the coordinator for the safety of youth and children at All Saints Church, because I believe in the importance of protecting our children from the potential traumas I see in the clients I work with.

If selected to be a member of the Metropolis Council, I will use these skills and talents to serve the Metropolis of Chicago and my Orthodox faith.







#### John Mercuris

Current Metropolis Council Member

# **Biography**



John Mercuris serves as a member on the Metropolis Council. John is President and CEO of Mercury Investments and Mercury Ventures. John attributes his success to his parents. His father was from Niata, Greece, and his mother was from Rethymnon, Kriti. His parents offered John a strong work ethic and kindness, providing him example in his youth, and for his life.

John was born, reared, and educated in Iowa. He received his BBA in Business, Marketing and Finance from Northern Iowa University and his MBA in Marketing, Business and Finance from the University of Iowa. He was an entrepreneur at age 6 starting his own landscaping business, flourishing for 7 years.

He worked side by side with his father in the restaurant and confectionary business until 16. For 40 years he was involved in designing, building and leasing 118 new (from the ground up) shopping malls throughout the US and PuertoRico.

Early in his career, while starting in corporate retail, he founded the Greene Kangaroo Rock Band and produced 32 Midwest Concerts as founder of M-W Productions.

John is the founder of The Iowa Energy Foundation which helped in stopping future nuclear generation projects producing electric power in the US beginning in 1976 until present time. Over the last 7 years John helped develop Midwest hotels with 3 partnerships.

John is a member of AHEPA since age 19. He was Baptized at St. Demetrios Church in Waterloo, Iowa. He is a member of St. George Church in Des Moines, Iowa, having served on the Parish Council for 13 years. He served as President and Building Chairman during a major expansion and renovation during 1977-1980.

His proudest accomplishments are his 2 talented and ambitious children and 4 tremendously sweet grandchildren ages 13, 11, 6, and 2.

#### **Candidate Statement**

First of all, we love our Church unequivocally.

Secondly, I have served the Council unselfishly for the past 18 months and have seen and learned both the strengths and weaknesses of our Church in the Chicago Metropolis.

When our new Metropolitan Nathanael arrived he found problems nearing outright collapse of trust and disillusionment amongst the Churches along with the parishioners near and far; not to say finding a nearly depleted treasury.

So, we buttoned down the hatches and went to work spending many, many hours every week, traveling to area Churches, trying to resolve unsettling issues whether structural and/or spiritual in nature.

It definitely has been difficult to regain the trust. However, we should never ease up by allowing ourselves tobelieve the work is done.

Thirdly, much more must be accomplished by building on the improvements we've begun.

Even though new individuals will add diversity to the Church Metropolis Council, we also most definitely need to retain those rooted these past 18 months, so as to know how quickly we can advance, how carefully we go about doing it, and how much is needed.

Having seasoned individuals representing outlying States such as Iowa and Minnesota are imperative to continue setting balance between metropolitan Chicago and the smaller Parishes.

My work history and knowledge of real estate, coupled with common sense learning from missteps and turning projects to success, should insure the direction of the Church.

If selected, I will continue to work hard, intelligently, and not waver in piloting our Mother Church through troubled waters.









Dorothy Michalaris is employed with the Lemont National Bank and Trust Co., in Lemont, Illinois as the Teller Manager. She earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from St. Xavier University. Dorothy has been in the banking industry for over 35 years.

Dorothy, her parents and her sister resided in Oak Lawn, Illinois, for many years and were parishioners of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. She and her sister attended Sunday School and were involved in the various activities of the church. As Dorothy became older, she stayed active in the church as a Sunday School teacher.

Dorothy married, and she and her husband were blessed with two children. The family became parishioners of Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hills, Illinois. Her children attended Sunday School and became involved in the activities of the church. Dorothy remained active with the parish, becoming a Sunday School teacher for over 10 years. Growing up in the Orthodox faith, Dorothy felt it important to make sure her family grew up with the church.

While her children were in their teenaged years, Dorothy's husband passed away, and her family found their home at Assumption Greek Orthodox in Homer Glen, Illinois. For the last ten years being the sole parent to her children, Dorothy works even harder to make sure that her children pursue their dreams and become mature adults. And, as her children start their families, she is helping them to make sure that the church stays a constant in their lives.







I believe it would be a great opportunity to be a part of the Metropolis Council. Having the chance to voice an opinion or thought to help our Metropolis continue to grow and nurture is something I would accept.

There are many ways that I would or can contribute to being on the council, working in the field of finance, especially in banking I have worked in both the operations with loans, and with my experience know I could be a benefit to the Council. The understanding of finances is not easy when speaking with people. They do not understand most of time why there are money troubles. I do not think that people have an understanding of church finances. I remember back in the day, when families had their priorities. They took care of their household first and then the church. Now a day that is not as prevalent and that is why churches are finding hard times. People have to realize that besides giving what one can, we need to look outside of the box to raise money. I have been in charge of many fundraising activities to raise money not only for the church but when my children were in school I was involved in the Parent Teachers Association and headed many fundraisers. So I would want to make people of the diocese aware of the importance of such functions. I would have no problem coming up with ways to raise money for our parishes and diocese and working to achieve whatever goal is set.

I hear people all the time saying how long church is, more English, etc. I personal find it difficult to comprehend why that is being said. Growing up as I did, church started at 9:00 am and would not end till 12:00. And it was all in Greek. Sure as children we did not understand what was being said but we went and learned as time went on. Now, society wants to cut a lot of things from the church because of reasons that in my mind to not make any sense. I am a product of that generation where it is how it is and I came out OK. I would want to tell people that some traditions we have to keep. Those are the things that make up the church and are part of our religion. God's home is special and we should not try to make it like everything.

Being a Sunday School teacher for many years, I feel that this is one to communicate with the children and teach them about the church. These days it is difficult because parents do not take Sunday School seriously. I would like to see the parents get involved with the Sunday School, youth activities, etc., pushing and emphasizing to the parents how important this is. I feel if the children see the parents putting in the effort, then it would not be such a struggle for the children. Like everything, learning starts in the home. We at the church and including all the activities such as Sunday School, GOYA, etc. are here to enhance he teachings that should start in the home.

As a parent of children in the age range where most children re absent from the church, we need to find ways to get them back into the church. I would like to implement a plan where in each parish to start with and then maybe something diocesewide) have some kind of session, forum. Off the top of my head, something like a session where it is open to any topic, questions, and issues that one may have; something like this may give us the reasons why they are so absent from the church. In turn, we could also find solutions together with those individual's. People may say that there are things like that in place but I do not see as present as individual(s). The key is open communication and working to strive and find a common answer.



# **Harry Michas**

### **Biography**



Harry Michas is retired and living in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago. He spent almost forty years as a commodity trader at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Harry has a long history of working with the Church that dates back to my time at Plato School and The Assumption Church in Chicago, Illinois. He is a past president of the altar boys at The Assumption Church.

In addition, Harry is a past district officer of GOYA, and a past district secretary of the Sons of Pericles.

Since 1989, Harry has been a steward at St Basil Church in Chicago, Illinois. He has served as a Parish Council member the mid-1990's, having served as Parish Council President for 2 terms, Vice President for 2 terms. Harry is in the second term of serving as the Parish Council Treasurer. He was chairman of the committee to oversee the rebuilding of the St. Basil Church after the terrible fire experienced in 2013. Harry was on-site almost every day for three years during the rebuilding process, having extensive interaction with the insurance process, all of the contractors, architects and designers involved with the rebuilding project.

For almost 40 years, Harry was a commodities trader at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. He was associated with Jack Carl and Assoc., Shearson Hammill, E.D.F. Man, Index Futures and M.F. Global. During his career, he held the positions of floor manager, sales manager, and speaker.

He wore any other hats during his career at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and was a frequent guest on Bloomberg, CNBC, and Fox B usiness.







So much of what I have to say is contained in my biography. I have been a part of the church since I was a young boy and I feel compelled to continue to do so, since I am retired and have the time and desire. I have been fulfilled by this experience through much of my life. My experience in so many facets of the Church should be helpful in discussing the problems of modern day America compared to problems of the past.

I have been successful in my leadership roles of the past and feel I could contribute in a strong way. My bio talks about the many leadership roles I've had with the Church as well as the organizations that have been intermingled with the Church. I think my extensive experience with the St. Basil Parish Council for over 20 years, and especially with respect to the fire and the rebuilding of the Church over a three year period, has given me a unique understanding of business dealings on behalf of the church as well as the overwhelming task of raising money for such an endeavor. I think I have a lot to contribute to the Metropolis Council with all this history. St Basil Church is in a growing atmosphere with a young Parish Council that has been working together for quite a long time. I think I will help to do the same for the Metropolis. I thank you all for your time as volunteers and hope you will support my efforts to get involved.

If selected, my years of involvement with the Church and my marketing experience combined with my fast decision making experience will be a strong asset to the Metropolis Council.







#### **Rachael Pontikes**

Current Metropolis Council Member

## **Biography**



Rachael Pontikes is an attorney, a partner at law firm of Reed Smith, where her practice is focused upon representing health care companies in disputes against government agencies. In addition, she serves as regulatory counsel for health care companies in various transactions.

In addition to legal her practice, she is a mom, (one of her favorite roles). Rachael and her husband, with their seven year old daughter, Zoe Nora, belong to St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, Illinois. As a mom with a full time legal practice, she has limited herself to two volunteer boards. In addition to serving on Metropolitan Council this past year, she also serves on the board of Culture Reframed. Culture Reframed is an organization that combats the hyper-sexualized media (like pornography) that harms women, and is damaging our society and our youth.

Her pro bono legal work has focused on helping women, leading her to be the founder of a pro bono project to assist trafficked women vacate their prostitution convictions and assist abused women in obtaining political asylum.







I would like to continue my service on the Metropolitan Council to give back to the Greek Orthodox Community by offering my talents and my perspective. As a mom of a young daughter, I am very concerned about what the world will be like for my daughter, and I think it is important that a perspective like mine be voiced and considered in decisions made by the Metropolis Council. Integrity is one of my core values, and I will approach my service on the council, as I have this past year, with integrity and with the dedication to do the work that is required.

Candor is also one of my core values, and I will be candid and respectfully speak my mind on the various issues that the Metropolis Council faces. As an attorney, as I have this year, I will offer this skill set to the Metropolis Council and could continue as a member of legal committee to assist with legal issues that arise. If elected to the council, I will serve with dedication and humility.



## **John Siampos**

### **Biography**



John Siampos was born the son of Treefon Siampos, an American citizen, and Ekaterina Selimos, in Arcadia, Greece, in 1941. Five years later, he came to NYC with his mother on the USS Marine Shark. He was enrolled in the Chicago Public School system and graduated from Tilden Technical High School in 1959. In 1960, John returned to Athens and married Chrisoula Kariofilly from Drama, Greece.

The couple moved to America and were blessed with two sons, Treefon and George. Seven years later, John graduated from SIUE with a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education.

John made full use of his degree by teaching chemistry and math in Jerseyville, Illinois. He worked as a bench chemist and analyst at Industrial Testing Laboratories in St. Louis, Missouri, and also as an engineer and a quality manager in other locations. He has certified the quality of bulk shipments of crude oil and finished oil products as a chemist for the inspection companies SGS, Saybolt, and Inspectorate. Currently, John is a substitute teacher for the state of Illinois.

John is President of AHEPA Chapter 304, and Parish Council President at Sts. Constantine and Helen in Swansea, Illinois, where John has been a steward of since 1962. Though the church's Parish Council is small, the business we address is taken care of efficiently, and often hands-on. Taking out the trash after fellowship hour, is also one of my duties.





## **Candidate Statement**

I believe we need to get the work of our church done with everyone's input, and in short order. We can accomplish this by following Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Debate (Roberts's rules of order). I have many years of experience, conducting meetings economically. Being mindful of everyone's time and talent fosters good governance and a healthy esprit de corps.



### **Biography**



Antonis Theodorou was born and raised in Cyprus. He completed his military service as an officer and earned a naval engineering Masters degree from the TU Berlin, Germany in 1985. During his studies, he met his wife and they set up home in the Chicago area where they raised two children. Antonis went on to earn an MBA in General Management from the Executive Program at the University of Chicago in 1993.

Antonis began his professional life as an engineer and quickly advanced to positions including Engineering Manager, Vice President Engineering, and COO, of companies in the machine tool industry. In 1996, Antonis developed and patented several products, which led to starting a company in Intellectual Property licensing.

Today he is the Plant Manager and Corporate Engineer for a construction products company in Hampshire, Illinois.

Antonis was elected to the Board of Trusties of Elgin Academy. He organized and served on many committees and ultimately became chairman of the Board of Trustees. He played a significant role in a major school merger, large capital campaign, construction of new building, and many challenges in independent school finance management.

Since 1993, Antonis has been actively involved at St. Sophia Church in Elgin, Illinois. He chaired the Greek School Committee for several years and was principal of the school for two years. He has chaired and run the Gyros Booth for the Greek Fest for nearly 20 years. He chaired the Stewardship Committee and the Planning Committee for the new church. He is currently the Chair of the Capital Campaign Committee, Chair of the Construction Committee and is a member of the Finance Committee of the Parish Council.





### **Candidate Statement**

I am honored to have been nominated by our Parish Council President, and humbled that he felt I would be able to contribute to the Metropolis Council my skills, competencies and experiences that would add value to our Metropolis. I am encouraged that a thorough process of is being followed and believe that diverse representation will help to provide a level of governance, transparency and communication that will become the hallmark of this Metropolis.

Why me and what I can add: I will bring years of nonprofit governance experience, which I acquired both from professional training through subject matter expert organizations such as BoardSource, but also from practical experience gained from many years on the Board of one of the oldest PreK-12, independent schools in the country - Elgin Academy. I also bring financial management, budgeting, fundraising, endowment investment and project management experiences gained from significant involvement in business, as well as at both Elgin Academy and St. Sophia Church. In addition, I bring the judicial temperament and good judgment required from any board or council member who is serious about fulfilling the fiduciary responsibility required for such service. I will never know everything there is to know, but if I learn to apply good judgment, I will have a better chance of making the right decision. All well-functioning councils require Respect; Trust; Healthy Conflict Resolution; Commitment; and Accountability, in order to achieve Results. I have the experiences and temperament to fulfill those requirements.

In my present involvement with the St. Sophia Church building project, I committed myself and have worked continuously since early 2016, when I was first asked to lead the planning process, followed by other capacities since then. Blessed with amazing teammates, we have managed together through prudent planning, attention to detail, clear communication, and vision to anticipate opportunities and risks, to gain the trust of the community and the Parish General Assembly. The community not only believed in the vision presented, but they also supported it with their own money to propel the project forward to achieve the desired result of building a new church and admin/classroom section. We pray that Our Dear Lord will grant us the joy of completion and success, by the end of this year. I am grateful to be part of such an amazing experience.

Why me and what I will learn: It has been my practice to volunteer and share as much as I can. The more you give - the more you receive. My involvement with the Metropolis to date is very limited - I participated recently in the Metropolis Administration & Best Practices task force. I was impressed with the people I worked with and the ideas they brought to the committee. I am of the belief that a person's God-given abilities and acquired skills are to be managed and shared for the common good. If I am chosen as a member of this council, I personally will become a better individual from the people I meet, the conversations we hold and the results we are able to accomplish together. Learning from each other's passion and commitment to our Faith, is part of our improvement process in achieving God's Likeness.

The fact that the Metropolis is working on implementing comprehensive changes with transparency and accountability, gives me courage and excitement to join the effort and help as much as I can. The potential of joining the Metropolis Council is a privilege that comes with responsibility. A council member needs to work for the good of the organization and the mission it represents. The responsibility and obligation to advice the Metropolitan with honest feedback and intentions is paramount.





### **Chris Varones**

Current Metropolis Council Member





Chris A. Varones is the Founder and Principal of Aesop Communications Group, a communications consulting firm dedicated to the idea that clients with good stories can do great things. Chris has 22 years of experience supporting clients with reputation management, crisis communications, media relations and issues management.

While at Aesop, Chris managed client initiatives for Ford Motor Co., Merrill Lynch, Bank of America, Lockheed-Martin, Microsoft and CVS Health among others.

Before founding Aesop, Chris worked at a number of respected public relations agencies including the MWW Group, Hill & Knowlton and Burson-Marsteller. Prior to his agency career, Chris served as Assistant Press Secretary for the House Minority Leader in the Illinois General Assembly. In that role, Chris acted as spokesman for several state representatives and as the communications director for two highly competitive and successful State House campaigns.

Chris has a B.A. in political science from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a board member of HFS Chicago Scholars, a steward of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, Illinois, and a member of the Metropolis Council of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago. He also has been a regular guest commentator on WGN-AM, CLTV and the national syndicated radio program "Beyond the Beltway." He is a frequent guest lecturer of college students and communications professionals. He lives in Chicago.





#### **Candidate Statement**

In reflecting on the last 15 months of serving on the Metropolis Council, this one of my immediate reactions. Organizationally, the Metropolis is in a financially precarious position and both its ministries and stewardship are in need of rejuvenation. Individually, I've found that it's been difficult to run a business and support the Metropolis' needs given how heavily its board members are relied upon. And yet, through it all, I find myself in the place of asking the Clergy-Laity Assembly for their confidence to serve for another year on the Metropolis Council.

Throughout my time on the Metropolis Council, I continue to be struck by the many examples of selflessness I've witnessed: parishioners who possess a giving spirit; members of the clergy who lead by example; members of the Metropolis Council whose words with deeds are consistent, and a Metropolitan whose tirelessness is matched by his humility. These people all are united by a heartfelt desire to lend their talents to better their Church. They also recognize that the present moment is a rare opportunity to achieve change that is sorely needed.

It's been an unexpected blessing to be shaped by the people I've met throughout the Metropolis. In subtle and noticeable ways, I believe they have brought out the best in me and, whether they know it or not, made their own contributions to my spiritual journey as an Orthodox Christian. Just as I had no idea how the Metropolis' challenges would stretch me; I also didn't fully appreciate how working with likeminded people would motivate me to find a way to do Christ's work.

As a Metropolis Council member, my primary focus has been to improve the Metropolis' communications capacity and am pleased with what we've been able to achieve numerous successes, including (1) implementation of an email blast system able to reach more than 10,000 key contacts throughout the Metropolis; (2) development and implementation of a communications plan to create an open, inclusive dialogue regarding the potential sale of Burton Place; (3) planning, execution, support and promotion of the Listening Tour of the summer of 2018; (4) launch of the Roundtable initiative and development of a toolbox to sustain an ongoing dialogue among young adults; (5) implementation of internal communications systems to help the Metropolis develop, approve and disseminate announcements while ensuring quality, accuracy and consistency; and (6) promotion of the Metropolis' presence on social media including an 18 percent growth of followers since the enthronement.

To be sure, more work needs to be done so that more parishioners are hearing and seeing the Metropolis' messages and know what actions to take. If I am selected, my goals include: (a) redesign and launch the Metropolis website to provide richer content and offer ways for parishioners to get involved and support the Metropolis; (b) generate more word-of-mouth communication among parishes through an ambassador program; (c) design and execute a Metropolis opinion survey to establish baselines by which the Metropolis can track progress and improve performance; (d) support fundraising efforts through digital initiatives that harness reach and scale of social media; and (e) develop a social media strategy to engage more young adults.

There are other goals, priorities and initiatives that should be discussed and I welcome such a dialogue with my colleagues and fellow parishioners. With the collaboration and confidence of parishioners of the Metropolis, I believe these goals are entirely achievable. It's not often that an opportunity to improve Church and self avails itself.

