



METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO
2021 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



BEARING FRUIT FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

“Planted in good soil beside abundant waters, so it yields branches and bears fruit.”

Ezekiel 17:8

2021 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

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“Let my prayer be set
before You as incense;
the lifting up of my hands
as the evening sacrifice.”

Psalms 141:2





GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

Dear Friends,

Four years have passed since my enthronement as the Metropolitan of Chicago. Since that time, I have seen our communities grow considerably in their steadfastness and dedication to cultivating a more vibrant future for our Metropolis. While COVID-19 has periodically limited our ability to bear fruit at full capacity, I have nonetheless been incredibly pleased with the tremendous progress we have made together, especially in the face of the pandemic.

Looking back at these four years, I consider one of our greatest accomplishments to be the culture of solidarity, mutual respect, and dialogue that we have nurtured. Perhaps this—more than anything else—is the impetus for our success in the present and, potentially, for most of what we will accomplish in the future. Indeed, I believe it is through these spiritually cultivated gifts that we will realize growth, which is both sizable and sustainable in the long-term.

As Christians, we believe that the growth we make and the fruit we bear stem from our Lord Jesus Christ, the true vine that nourishes the branches with divine love. He is the source of inspiration for everything that we hope to establish and achieve for our Metropolis, our communities, and our families. Therefore, whether we reflect on the tireless work of the people who have labored in years past or those who will continue to build upon that legacy moving forward, all contributions of the past, present, and future are equally important—for together, we are all “God’s fellow workers” (1 Cor. 3:9).

The reader of this Annual Impact Report will observe greater participation in concrete initiatives during 2021. Over the past year, there was a clear emphasis on action throughout the Metropolis. Members of our community of faith offered their God-given gifts and talents to serve the needs of their neighbor. It is my hope and prayer that this report will continue to sow the seeds for an ongoing commitment and united mobilization within our communities to further build up the Body of Christ.

As the future unfolds, the Metropolis of Chicago will tend to the tree of faith by prayerfully introducing new programs that will enhance our collective religious literacy as well as initiatives focusing on leadership development. By further developing our devout clergy and laity—my beloved co-laborers in the vineyard of the Lord—we will better steward all that God has entrusted to our care.

I wholeheartedly pray that our loving God continues to direct and bless our individual and collective efforts, and that everything we do may always be carried out in a spirit of love and solidarity.

+NATHANAEL
Metropolitan of Chicago

Dear Friends,

The 2021 Annual Impact Report discusses the state of the Metropolis' finances, operations, and programs. It also reflects on our progress in advancing the goals, vision, and ideals of the Church.

During my two and a half years as Executive Director, we have strived collectively to be more creative, intentional, and thoughtful—especially about our growth. With this publication, we hope to convey just how hard our Metropolis has worked to serve our parishes, faithful, and neighbors over the past year. It is also critical to underscore just how much of our success is the result of the devotion and commitment of our people.

The sheer number of professional service hours benevolently offered by the faithful of our Metropolis over the last year is incalculable. During that time, we made fundamental improvements that helped put our Metropolis' finances in order, achieve operational efficiencies, optimize our communications, and provide more resources and assistance to our parishes. We were also blessed to receive a grant from the Hellenic Foundation to fund the hiring of a Communications Director. With our structural foundation in place, we are in a better position to carry out our shared mission to express God's love in our communities and in the broader world. It is a very exciting time for us!

Considering the changing landscape of the pandemic, we are grateful, above all, that our parishes were able to make necessary adjustments throughout the year to remain open, while at the same time keeping everyone in their communities safe and healthy. It is remarkable that during these difficult times we were able to hold a very successful Clergy-Laity Assembly with over 300 participants. Among the Assembly's many achievements was the official approval of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Foundation, which will provide long-term financial support for our Metropolis and parishes.

Overall, our Metropolis accomplished a great deal in 2021. We worked all year on marketing our former Metropolis Center on Burton Place, which culminated in quite an attractive sale in early 2022. We also advanced several of the goals of the Metropolis' Strategic Plan, most notably those designed to strengthen stewardship, lay leadership, and the spirit of welcoming in our parishes. To improve our internal and external communications, the Metropolis updated to a new donor management system and launched a new Metropolis website. Our new website offers a more intuitive, user-friendly experience with improved navigation, functionality, and resources to help and engage clergy, laity, and those seeking to join our faith.

The Metropolis has laid a solid foundation, upon which we will build an even better future for our beloved Church, our communities, and our families. As I did last year, I welcome and invite any business, community organization, or volunteer wishing to learn more about or support the ministries of the Metropolis to contact us directly. Please join us!

VICKI PAPPAS KARL
Executive Director

ADMINISTRATION



His Eminence Nathanael
Metropolitan of Chicago



His Grace Bishop Timothy
Chancellor



Vicki Pappas Karl
Executive Director



Fr. Kosmas Kallis
Director, Youth & Young Adult Ministries



Dn. Antonios Calash
Registrar



Gail Holguin
Office Manager



Cindy Atsaves
Accountant

Fr. Theofanis Rauch & Justin Glavanovits
Administrative Assistants

Fr. Stephanos Bithos
President, Metropolis of Chicago Clergy Syndesmos

Presbytera Pearl Ann Bithos
President, Metropolis of Chicago Sisterhood of Presbyteres

Chrysanthi Tiggas
Executive Director, Saint Iakovos Retreat Center

Very Rev. Dr. Simeon Johnson
Director, Religious Education

Nick Chimitris
President, Choir Federation

Alex Magdalinos
President, St. John Damascene League of Chanters

Fr. Chrysanthos Kerkeres
President, Orthodox Christian Clergy Association

Kosmas Pablecas and John Manos
Co-Commanders, Regional Archons

Marilyn Tzakis
President, Metropolis Philoptochos

Dn. Antonios Calash
Secretary of the Spiritual Court

METROPOLIS COUNCIL



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First Vice President



Nick Boosalis
Second Vice President



John Sotos
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Assistant Treasurer



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Lori Chiampas



Viki Conner



Mark Dinos



Perry Giannopoulos



Fr. Chrysanthos Kerkeres



Dean Kutrumanes



James Lakerdas



Fr. Sotirios Malamis



Fr. Douglas Papulis



Rachel Pontikes



Fr. Timothy Sas



Yanni Sianis



Archdeacon Vasilios Smith



Fr. Dimitri Tobias



Chris Varones

LEGAL ADVISORS



Joan Tolios Berg, Esq.

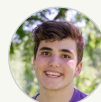


Georgia Loukas Demeros, Esq.



Harry Secaras, Esq.

2021 INTERNS



Stephanos Chiganos



Sotirios Gouriotis



Theodore Greanias



Catherine Greub



Tess Tryfonopoulos

JUNIOR BOARD

Demetri Vlahakis
President

Lainey Manos
Vice President

Georgia Danos
Recording Secretary

Deanna Kolas

Euthemia Shanley



2021 Financial Snapshot

GUS KOLYVAS, Metropolis Council Assistant Treasurer

2021 was a year of solid financial results for the Metropolis despite the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through careful budgeting, increased fundraising on behalf of its parishes, and the generous support of individual donors, the Metropolis was able to make significant financial gains over its 2020 results. The Metropolis ended 2021 with an unrestricted operating surplus of \$200,000, a 100% increase over 2020. The Metropolis received \$103,000 in general donations. In addition, as a result of a new effort to fund Strategic Initiatives in clergy and lay leadership, religious literacy, and humanitarian outreach, the Metropolis received several 3-year pledges totaling \$338,000, of which \$212,000 was collected in 2021 and the remaining \$126,000 will be collected in 2022 and 2023. (As required under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, the Metropolis recorded the \$126,000 as income in 2021 although the cash will be received in 2022 and 2023.)

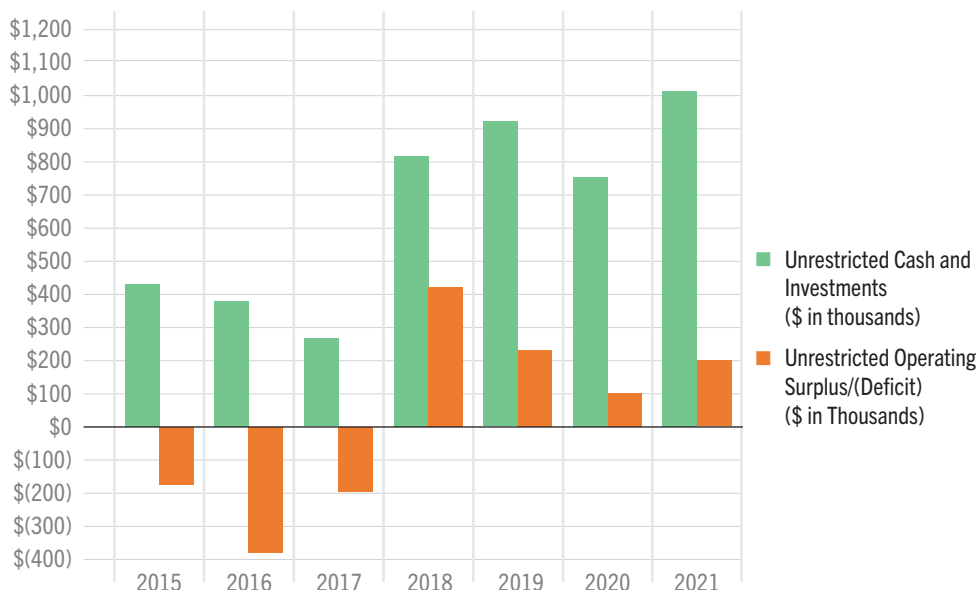
In 2021, the Metropolis distributed the remainder of the Coronavirus Parish Relief (CPR) funds to parishes in need. 100% of the CPR funds have now been distributed to parishes as promised. Following up on the

success of the CPR initiative, the Metropolis provided source funding for a new program to help its parishes—the new Mustard Seed Fund. This micro-grant program is designed to help parishes finance the cost of new ministries in the areas of welcoming, outreach, and evangelism. The Metropolis used the proceeds remaining in Bishop Timothy's ordination fund and the Parish Assistance Fund to seed the Mustard Seed Fund.

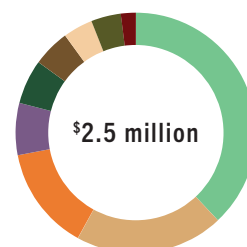
The Metropolis also continued to honor its pledge to put—and keep—its financial house in order. 2021 demonstrated financial discipline, improved accountability, and a new level of financial maturity. The Metropolis' efforts resulted in the receipt of an unmodified (clean) opinion on the Metropolis' 2020 audited financial statements, the second year that the Metropolis was able to realize that achievement. At the end of 2021, the Metropolis transitioned to a Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) basis of accounting as required by the Archdiocese.

The Metropolis of Chicago was in a strong financial position on December 31, 2021, and it continues to be well-positioned to support future growth.

UNRESTRICTED CASH AND INVESTMENTS AND OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) 2015-2021

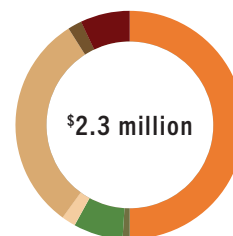


2021 REVENUES BY SOURCE



National Ministries.....	38%
Youth Ministry.....	20%
Donations for Strategic Initiatives	14%
Registry and Other	7%
Clergy Laity Assembly	6%
Donor Restricted.....	5%
General Donations	4%
Purpose Restricted Donations	4%
Fundraisers.....	2%

2021 EXPENSES BY FUNCTION



Operating Expenses	50%
Youth Ministry Expenses.....	31%
Clergy Laity Assembly	7%
Purpose Restricted Distributions	7%
Other Ministries and Programs	2%
Donor Restricted Distributions	2%
Fundraising Expenses.....	1%



The Metropolis Establishes a Charitable Foundation

EVONNE SEPSIS, Board Member, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Foundation

In 2021, the Metropolis received final approval to establish a foundation to support the long-term financial security of the Metropolis and its parishes. The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Foundation (Foundation) will be a separate Illinois not-for-profit corporation that will apply to be recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. The Metropolis first presented its intention to create the Foundation at the 2019 Clergy-Laity Assembly, where it received the approval to proceed with the concept. For the next two years, the Metropolis prepared the Foundation's governing instruments and obtained the necessary approvals from the Archdiocese. At the 2021 Clergy-Laity Assembly, the Metropolis presented the governing structure, purpose, and guiding principles of its proposed Foundation. After extensive discussion, the delegates unanimously approved the formation of the Foundation under Illinois law.

The Foundation will provide donors with stability and transparency, and the Metropolis with the necessary resources to share and advance the Orthodox faith for generations to come. The funds raised will be subject to spending restrictions

and the board will also develop policies for investment, gift acceptance, and conflicts of interest to ensure that the endowment is governed in accordance with its bylaws and applicable federal and state laws.

The Foundation will be operated by a seven-member Board of Directors that is comprised of two classes: 1) an Independent Class comprised of three directors chosen by an independent selection committee, and 2) a Metropolis Class comprised of three directors appointed by the Metropolitan subject to the advisement of the Metropolis Council. The seventh board member will be the Metropolitan himself. All directors must be Greek Orthodox Christians who are stewards in good standing from a parish in the Archdiocese of America. Metropolis Class members must be stewards of a parish from the Metropolis of Chicago, whereas Independent Class members must be stewards of any parish in the Archdiocese. All members are expected to have significant financial, wealth management, legal and/or business experience. The Foundation's first Board of Directors has been identified through this process and will begin serving when the Foundation is legally established in 2022.

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



His Eminence Nathanael
Chairman of the Board



Chris Dogas, CPA
*VP, Internal Audit, North America
IPL Group*



John Koudounis
*President and CEO
Calamos Investments*



Christos Linardakis, JD
*Associate General Counsel
Corporate Compliance Officer
Global Trade Compliance*



Peter Pantan, MD
*President
Pantan Eye Center*



Evonne Sepsis
*Founder and Managing Director
ESC Advisors*



Bill Spell
*Founder and President
Spell Capital*



**“A society grows great
when old people plant trees
in whose shade they
shall never sit.”**

–Ancient Proverb



The Buildings, Projects & Architecture Committee Helps our Parishes Develop Projects

JOHN MERCURIS, BPA Committee Chair

The Buildings, Projects & Architecture Committee of our Metropolis (BPA) may not be well-known to many people, but it offers outsized value to our parishes. Metropolitan Nathanael created the BPA in 2018 to help him review and approve parish campus improvement projects. The BPA is comprised of a team of commercial real estate professionals with experience in architecture and design, construction, property and project management, lending, and legal services. BPA members work on a volunteer basis and devote thousands of hours to helping our parishes develop projects. The BPA consults on any parish improvement project over \$10,000 involving ecclesial furnishings, campus improvements, such as roofing, HVAC, parking lot repairs and replacement, lighting, audio-visual installations, construction, environmental

matters, zoning and land use, and real estate transactions.

The BPA's process with parishes starts with a meeting to review the project aspects, such as scope, bids and costs, funding sources, insurance, potential conflicts of interest, and parish approval. Parishes are invited to discuss and develop their project aspects and methods with the BPA at no cost to the parish. Often, the BPA's involvement results in a cost savings for a parish or in project refinement, preventing future adverse facility issues. Once the BPA has completed its review, a recommendation is provided to the Metropolitan for his paternal blessing and hierarchical permission to proceed with the parish project. Since its formation, the BPA has enjoyed working with 32 of our parishes. The Metropolis thanks each of our BPA committee members for their time and talent.

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Milwaukee, WI



BPA COMMITTEE



His Grace Bishop Timothy
Chancellor



John Mercuris
BPA Chair



Joan Tolios Berg



Nick Boosalis



Dean Kutrumanes



John Manos



Gus Pablecas



Fr. Ciprian Sas





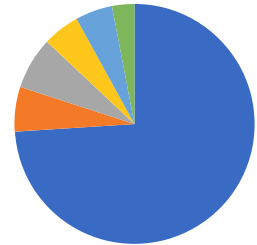
Metropolitan Nathanael Uses Metrics to Enhance His Efforts on behalf of our Metropolis

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN NATHANAEL

As the COVID-19 pandemic forced new norms for personal and professional life in 2020, like most people, I often found myself working longer hours and feeling burned out at the end of most days. Endless unanswered emails and a constant stream of calls began to wear me down, leaving little time for my loved ones and friends. On one chaotic day, I decided to jot down the things I was working on. I did this for several days and, as a result, I not only gained a better understanding of my daily work, but more importantly, a bird's-eye view of my impact on the broader community.

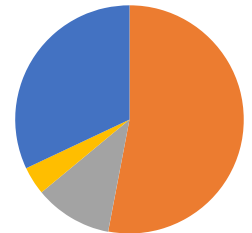
My direct work with the clergy and lay leaders of our parishes yields the greatest impact on our Metropolis. In this year's Annual Impact Report, I am including two pie charts that reveal where my time has been dedicated. Notwithstanding imperfections in this first attempt to keep track of time, this process has helped me reflect on my ministry. By sharing this with the public, I wish to remain accountable to you, the clergy and faithful of our Holy Metropolis of Chicago. I also invite you to provide me with your feedback; your perspectives will help me apply my time, energy, and focus more prayerfully and intentionally in service of Christ and people.

CONTACTS BY STATE

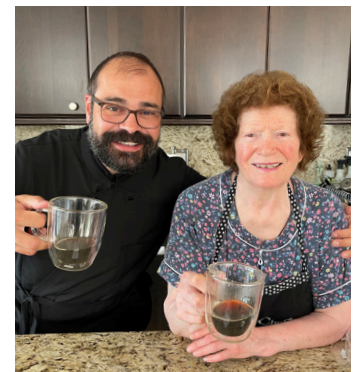


Illinois	74%
Indiana	7%
Minnesota	6%
Wisconsin	5%
Missouri	5%
Iowa	3%

VISIT TYPE



Clergy Meetings	53%
Worship	32%
Events	11%
Parish Meetings	4%





Metropolis Celebrates Historic Patriarchal Visit and Successful Clergy-Laity Assembly

HIS GRACE BISHOP TIMOTHY, Chancellor



Apostolic Visit

The Metropolis celebrated two historic events in 2021: the Apostolic Visit of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our Metropolis, and our Clergy-Laity Assembly. The planning and coordinating of both necessitated an exceptional amount of care and attention, especially considering that each event took place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Patriarchal Visit

It is with the utmost respect and thanksgiving that we welcomed His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to our St. Andrew Parish in South Bend, IN. This visit to our Metropolis strengthened our bond with the Mother Church of Constantinople and also provided us an opportunity to share with our fellow Americans the historic legacy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the global ministry of the Great Church of Christ. After a doxology service at St. Andrew's, His All-Holiness received an honorary degree from the University of Notre Dame. His powerful and timely address on climate change and COVID-19 certainly impacted those in attendance.



MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR

Clergy-Laity Assembly

More than 300 delegates, observers, and volunteers from across the Midwest traveled to St. Louis to participate in the work of the Metropolis. The delegates reviewed matters related to the Metropolis' finances, the marketing of the Burton Place property, the future of the St. Iakovos Retreat Center, the launch of the Mustard Seed Fund, Project Hope, and the Metropolis' new Stewardship Plan. Elections were held for the Metropolis Council, Archdiocesan Council, and Metropolis Audit Committee. Delegates approved the formation of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Foundation and the 2022 Metropolis budget. The Metropolis Philoptochos also held its business sessions and elections. In addition to their hard work, the delegates enjoyed fellowship, workshops, and a fun night of trivia.





A Sacramental Snapshot of the Metropolis 2009-2021

DN. ANTONIOS CALASH, Metropolis Registrar

It is evident to all that the sacramental life of our Church was greatly and negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We lost so many of our faithful to this horrific disease. National birth rates during this pandemic also declined. Most life celebrations were postponed until we could come back together in worship and fellowship. Considering this impact, as we present the sacramental status report of our Metropolis, we averaged out the 2019-2021 totals, so that we could assess the sacramental participation of our faithful in a more proper and consistent manner.

Based on the metrics that were utilized in

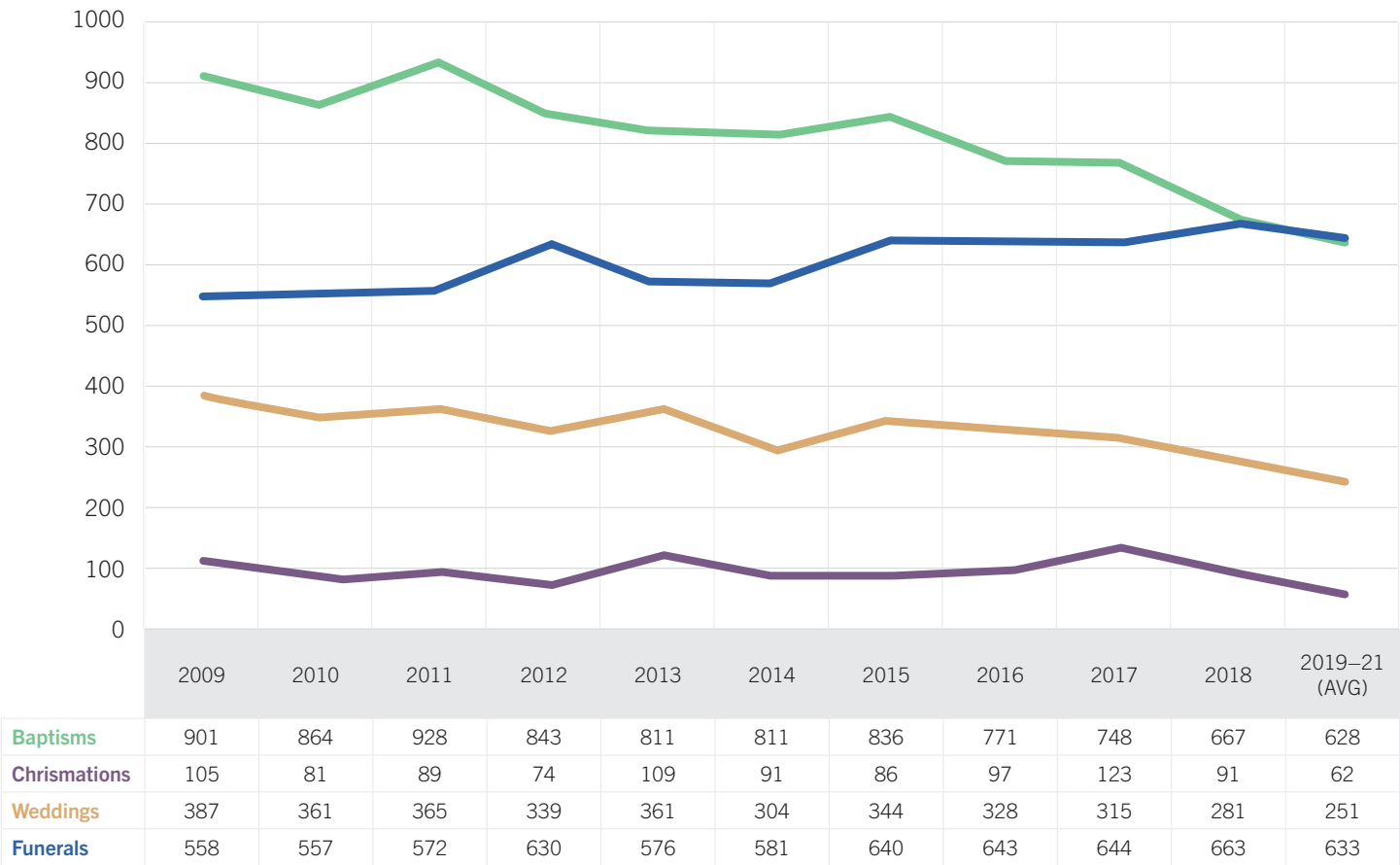
the 2020 Annual Report, our sacramental trends have not yet changed course. Looking over the 2009-2020 period, we saw an annual decline in the number of baptisms, chrismations, and weddings. Based on the latest statistics, our average annual decrease in sacraments were 3% for baptisms, 2% for chrismations, and 4% for weddings. Funerals increased at an average of 1%.

In our 2020 report, we mentioned the differential of baptisms over funerals as a rudimentary way of estimating parish growth. That decline in this differential has accelerated to an average of 12%, as it remained positive up to 2018. In averaging

out 2019-2021, the differential has flipped to the negative side, meaning that we had more funerals than baptisms on average over that three-year period. While the impact of the pandemic may still be partially responsible for this change, this trend is indicative of the hard work needed to change course.

As our world gets a better handle on COVID-19, we must remain hopeful that our people will reengage in the life of the Church. To achieve this, however, we must finally accept that the status quo is not leading to growth, and we must find the courage to explore creative ways of making our faith resonate with people.

SACRAMENTS
2009-2021





Project HOPE Scales Up in 2021

YANNI SIANIS, Project HOPE Chair and Member of the Metropolis Council

Although still in its infancy, Project HOPE scaled up its operations in 2021, proving to be one of the Metropolis' most impactful ministries. Staying true to its collaboration model, Project HOPE partnered with private entities, parishes, and volunteers from other Hellenic organizations to deliver over 125,000 meals, 2,500 nights of shelter, and 5,000 COVID-19 Care Kits to those in need in the Chicago area. Below is a monthly breakdown of HOPE's impact this year.



JANUARY

- Partnered with Simple Greek to distribute 100 hot meals and CARE Kits.
- Connected with the Humboldt Park Solidarity Network to distribute 100 hot meals and 100 CARE Kits to the Humboldt Park community.

FEBRUARY

- Donated groceries to St. James Catholic Church Food Distribution Center to prepare over 750 meals in its soup kitchen.
- Delivered 100 hot meals and CARE Kits to the Metropolis Philoptochos' Feed the Hungry Program.
- Provided Bessie's Table with 50 grocery bags, enough to prepare and distribute over 500 meals.

MARCH

- Partnered with Feed6 to distribute over 4,500 meals to the Humboldt Park community.

APRIL

- Donated funds to Northside Housing and Supportive Services to finance over 500 nights of shelter to 72 individuals and to procure a permanent housing solution for 4 individuals.

- Provided 100 hot meals and CARE Kits for the Metropolis Philoptochos' Feed the Hungry Program.
- Donated 100 grocery bags, enough for over 1,000 meals, to Primo Shelter for battered women.

MAY

- With the help of our clergy and HOPE parish liaisons, provided 38 parishioners in need with an Easter Care Package, comprised of a gift card and Greek goods.
- Donated 80 grocery bags for over 900 meals and 55 Mother's Day Gift Baskets and purses to Primo Shelter.
- Donated 10 baskets filled with toys for children, 30 CARE Kits, 7 Mother's Day Baskets, and over 100 feminine hygiene products to Maryville St. Monica Home Program for mothers in recovery.

JUNE

- Delivered groceries to St. James Catholic Church's Food Distribution Center to serve over 500 meals.

SEPTEMBER

- Delivered groceries to St. James Catholic Church's Food Distribution Center to serve over 1,000 meals.

NOVEMBER

- In collaboration with the Metropolis' Philoptochos Feed the Hungry program, helped feed 100 individuals.
- Distributed 40,000 meals that were donated by a group of 6 Metropolis parishes led by Sts. Constantine and Helen, Palos Hills.
- Received a \$11,528.44 donation from Sts. Peter and Paul, Glenview, representing proceeds from a fundraiser benefitting HOPE.
- In collaboration with RUSH and New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, distributed 150 Thanksgiving Meal Boxes and 150 prepared meal bags to feed 150 families for 10-12 days. This distribution was underwritten through a donation of \$7,500 from Annunciation Cathedral and its Angels of HOPE fund.
- Mailed 30-\$100 gift cards to parishioners in need for Thanksgiving dinner.

DECEMBER

- Mailed 46-\$100 gift cards to families in need for Christmas dinner.
- Distributed 100 CARE Kits at St. George, Chicago's soup kitchen.
- Provided baby formula and baby food, equating to about 2,000 baby meals to Maryville St. Monica Home Program. This distribution was funded through donations from guests of the Metropolis' Christmas Open House.



Responding to Christ's Commandment to "Love Thy Neighbor"

FR. TILEMAHOS ALIAKOS, Holy Taxiarchi & St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

In 2021, the parishes of the Metropolis of Chicago, following Christ's "Great Commandment," gave back to their communities in a profound way, surpassing their 2020 generosity. Collectively, the 58 parishes donated nearly 125,000 items of necessity, 464,000 pounds of food and groceries, and 182,000 meals to those in need. The number of parishioners who engaged in volunteer outreach increased by 40% from 2020, giving a cumulative 35,454 hours of their time. Moreover, almost \$1 million was invested in charity work, both locally and internationally, a 19% increase from 2020.

The Metropolis Philoptochos did not let the challenges of the pandemic interfere with fulfilling its humanitarian mission either. With the help of 452 volunteers, the women of the Philoptochos logged 16,003 volunteer hours, donated or served 5,202 meals, donated 2,068 items of clothing, bedding and personal necessities, and provided an amazing \$133,368.83 in support to charitable and community organizations.

The Metropolis is blessed to have you, the faithful of our parishes, as beacons of Christ's love. We are humbled by your example, grateful for your service, and look forward to continuing our journey together in Christ.

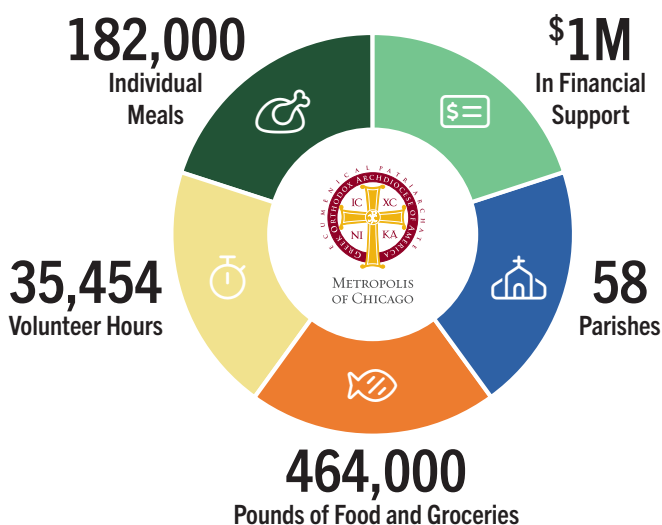
"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind ... [and] you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:34-40

PARISH IMPACT

125,000

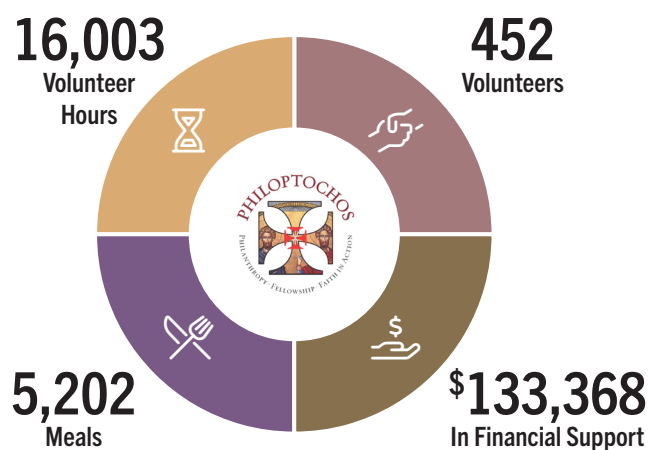
Items of Necessity



PHILOTOCHOS IMPACT

2,068

Items of Necessity





The Metropolis Advances its Strategic Plan

PAM ARGYRIS, First Vice President

In 2021, the Metropolis made great strides in implementing its Strategic Plan. Volunteer goal teams developed programs designed to help our parishes—most notably, in the areas of strengthening lay leadership, stewardship, and the way we welcome people into our churches. The Metropolis is deeply gratified by the steadfast commitment of our volunteers to this Strategic Plan.

Lay Leadership Team Develops Podcasts

The Lay Leadership Strategic Plan Goal Team unveiled its comprehensive—and unique—Orthodox Servant Leadership development program. The program will be used by the Metropolis and its parishes to train their parish councils and ministry leaders. After performing extensive research and surveying the Metropolis' parishes, the committee settled on a podcast format for delivering its leadership tutorials. The flexibility and on-demand nature of the podcasts will make it easier for our lay leaders, many of whom are busy professionals, to go through leadership training on their own schedules. Podcasts allow for people to tune in anywhere—whether at home, in the car, while going for a walk, or even during parish council meetings.

The podcast series, *Called to Lead: An Orthodox Christian Perspective*, has six episodes on the following topics: (1) Orthodox Christian Leadership; (2) Developing your Servant Leadership Qualities; (3) How to Develop Volunteer Teams; (4) Ethical Negotiations; (5) Dealing with Difficult Situations and Conflict Resolution; and (6) Basic On-boarding and Orientation to the Parish Council and Ministries. The podcasts will be made available on the Metropolis website in 2022.

The Metropolis Adopts a Long-Term Stewardship Plan

After nearly two years of research and analysis, the Stewardship Strategic Plan Goal Team presented a new, long-term stewardship plan entitled *Strengthen*

Stewardship Now and Forever. This plan was approved by the Metropolis Council and was unanimously embraced by the delegates at the Clergy-Laity Assembly. The plan builds on the success of the interim program developed by this Stewardship Team in 2020, and it is designed to pave the way to true Christian giving of time, talent, and treasure. The plan will add significant resources and training to help all parishes develop the skills necessary to implement strategies that will increase participation, volunteerism, and financial contributions. Parishes will be provided with stewardship best practices and encouraged to use technology and modern methods of communication to encourage people to be more actively involved in the life of the Church. A planned youth stewardship program aims to cultivate the spirit of giving in the next generation.

Task Force Develops Welcoming Program for Parishes

The process by which parishes welcome new people is vital to the health and growth of our Metropolis. The Welcoming Ministries Strategic Plan Goal Team began their work by defining a vision for welcoming people into our communities. After researching how other churches and faith-based organizations successfully welcome newcomers, the team developed a toolbox containing best practices, educational materials, and templates. Welcoming practices are organized by each step of the visitor experience, allowing parishes to choose where to focus their attention and efforts. The ready-to-use materials and templates will be available on the Metropolis website in 2022.

LAY LEADERSHIP TEAM



Demetri Fardelos

*Co-Chair
St. Demetrios, Libertyville, IL*



Harry Fournier

*Co-Chair
St. Demetrios, Elmhurst, IL*

STEWARDSHIP NOW AND FOREVER TEAM



Perry Siatos

*Co-Chair
St. Nectarios, Palatine, IL*



Dimitris Katsamberis

*Co-Chair
St. Demetrios, Elmhurst, IL*



Owen Field

*Co-Chair
St. George, Chicago, IL*



Myra Karegianes

*Co-Chair
St. George, Chicago, IL*

WELCOME MINISTRIES TEAM



Greg Gerontes

*Co-Chair
All Saints, Peoria, IL*



Eleni Lanzourakis

*Co-Chair
St. Haralambos, Niles, IL*



Angela Mejdrich

*Co-Chair
12 Holy Apostles, Duluth, MN*

Servant Leadership Awards are Bestowed

The 2020 Bronze Crosses were to have been bestowed on the recipients by Metropolitan Nathanael at the Inaugural Servant Leadership Awards Banquet on May 1, 2020. However, COVID-19 physical distancing restrictions prevented that Banquet from being held. As a result, His Eminence decided to personally take the Bronze Crosses to the recipients – either by visiting them at their homes or honoring them in their parishes. Below are photographs of some of the bestowals performed in 2021.



His Eminence makes a surprise bestowal upon Paulette Hastings of St. Mary's, Minneapolis, MN



THE SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARD
Recognizing Service, Leadership and Innovation



Steve and Minda Arsenault
St. George, Saint Paul, MN



Chris Atsaves
Sts. Peter & Paul, Glenview, IL



Kathy Beauchamp
St. George, Des Moines, IA



Helen Chioles
All Saints, Joliet, IL



Andrew Dimitriou
Assumption, Homer Glen, IL



Michael Ferretti
St. Nicholas, St. Louis, MO



Foti Georgopoulos
St. Athanasios, Aurora, IL



Photios Kutil
Three Hierarchs, Champaign, IL



Aristomenes Liyeos
Assumption, Town & Country, MO



Janice Novick
St. Sophia, Elgin, IL



Mary Helen Papachrisanthou
Sts. Constantine & Helen, Swansea, IL



Judge James G. Poulos
Annunciation, Milwaukee, WI



Ellie Regas
Twelve Holy Apostles, Duluth, MN



Mantea Schmid
St. Elias, Dubuque, IA



Colette Spurgetis
St. George, Rock Island, IL



Anita Travlos
St. Luke the Evangelist, Columbia, MO



Halina Woroncow, Holy Anargyroi
Saints Kosmas and Damianos, Rochester, MN



Metropolis Launches a Micro-Grant Program: The Mustard Seed Fund

ANNE MARIE ADAMS, PhD, Metropolis Council Secretary

The Metropolis launched the Mustard Seed Fund to encourage our parishes to innovate new ways of engaging the faithful and those seeking a closer relationship with Christ. The Fund will issue micro-grants to parishes and laypersons across the Metropolis seeking to create new ministries in the areas of welcoming, outreach, and evangelism. The Metropolis seeded the Fund with \$35,700

and raised money from the community to bring the Fund total to \$80,229. Grants will test and scale promising new ministries and programs, all with the goal of inspiring increased membership and participation in the Church.

In its inaugural year, over 20 grant applications were received. Grant proposals ranged from those wanting to find ways

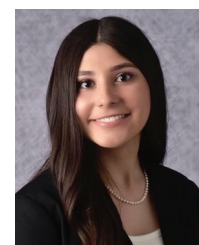
to welcome visitors and converts more thoughtfully into their parishes, to chanting classes and speaker series, and ways to engage current parishioners by teaching them the foundations of Orthodoxy. Grants will be awarded in the first quarter of 2022. At the end of the grant cycle, participants will be asked to share their ministries with the Metropolis, so that others may learn from them.



Metropolis High School Student Starts New Ministry Program

FR. KOSMAS KALLIS, Metropolis of Chicago Youth Director

A new mentorship program was launched last spring by Athena Demeros, a high school student from Holy Taxiarchai & St. Haralambos Church in Niles, Illinois. The St. Paul Mentorship Program pairs incoming college freshmen with students from the Chicago Metropolis already at their universities. By pairing together these students, who share similar cultural backgrounds and religious beliefs, this program is designed to help new college students navigate all aspects of college life. The Metropolis applauds Athena's initiative and demonstration of Orthodox Christian values. Axia!



Athena Demeros



Fr. Michael Monos of St. Luke's, Columbia, MO with newly confirmed/baptized families.



The Metropolis encourages greater liturgical engagement by women and girls. Shown here is Ann Chukhareva-Hudilainen of St. George, Des Moines, IA.



Clergy Synodos celebrates the Feast of St. Bartholomew at the Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago, IL.



Youth attending the Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos at Assumption, Chicago, IL.



ORDER of
SAINT ANDREW
THE APOSTLE
Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate



Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

In 2021, the Metropolis of Chicago Archons gathered to welcome Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during his historic visit to our Metropolis. They attended the national Archon events in New York honoring His All-Holiness, which included the presentation of the Athenagoras Human Rights Award. The Archons also began fundraising for two matching grant opportunities they secured, which will be used to spread awareness of the issues impacting the Ecumenical Patriarchate and to connect young adult leaders of the Metropolis with the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Archons' annual Fall of Constantinople event, hosted in conjunction with the Metropolis and the Hellenic Society of Constantinople, was streamed live to viewers around the globe.

Choir Federation

The Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians had a productive year. The Federation offered a series of on-line Church Music Institutes on a national level in partnership with the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. The three sessions were presented by Nancy and Stan Takis. The first session, entitled "Does Anybody Really Know What Tone It Is," focused on learning to identify the eight Byzantine modes visually. The second session, entitled "Post-Pandemic and Other Issues Facing American Greek Orthodox Choirs," addressed the pandemic and trends in our Church's music over the years. The third and final session was entitled "Name that Tone: How to Learn the Eight Byzantine Modes Aurally." Each session attracted over 30 participants and was funded by the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.

The Federation held its 2021 conference at St. Andrew's Church in South Bend, Indiana, during which it held business sessions and workshops, and sang at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy presided by Bishop Timothy, under the direction of Nick Chimitris. The Federation, in partnership with the National Forum, also developed the "Guidebook for the Greek Orthodox Church Music Ministry Director," a complete guide to directing a choir in our Church, including the training of new choir directors.

Clergy Syndesmos

The Metropolis' Clergy Syndesmos met monthly this past year, holding continuing education seminars aimed at enriching and strengthening the ministry of the priests. The culmination of these seminars was a spiritual retreat with Metropolitan Nathanael in June of 2021. The Syndesmos met its 2021 financial obligations to the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council, which helps assist clergy families in need throughout the United States. The Clergy Syndesmos also assisted families in need within the Metropolis, supporting many who suffered loss and hardship.



Family Synaxis

Family Synaxis offered two Lenten programs in 2021. The first was a video lecture presented by Fr. Tom DeMedeiros on the topic “The Clear Path to Christ.” The second was both an in-person and online retreat hosted by the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Oak Lawn, Illinois. The guest speaker was Fr. Chris Kerhulas, who presented on the topic of parenting. In the fall, Family Synaxis held two presentations in-person and online. The first presentation was held at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Homer Glen, Illinois. Following a Paraklesis service to St. John the Baptist, Fr. Sotirios Dimitriou presented on the parish’s icon of St. John. The second presentation was held at the St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in Elgin, Illinois, and was offered by Fr. Andrew Karamitos. Throughout the remainder of the fall, Fr. Dimitriou offered a series of parenting lectures on a variety of topics through the Family Synaxis Facebook page.

Greek Education

In 2021, the Greek Education ministry assisted the parochial schools and Metropolis leadership in the preservation and promotion of Greek education. The ministry coordinated the operational information about the Metropolis Greek schools and organized continuing education seminars for Greek language educators in collaboration with the Democritus University of Thrace. The ministry also served as a valuable Greek resource for adults interested in learning the Greek language and participated in the organizing committee for the celebration of the International Day of the Greek language. In addition to helping plan the annual Hellenic Letters celebrations, the ministry also distributed awards to students.

Greek Orthodox Athletic League

The 2021-22 Greek Orthodox Athletic League (GOAL) basketball season saw a return to pre-COVID participation levels. With the help of its board, GOAL was able to again navigate the complications of youth basketball during the pandemic and provide a COVID-safe and competitive season. The GOAL basketball season was capped off by the GOAL playoffs and annual all-star game. In total, over 250 players from 11 Chicagoland parishes participated in this year’s season. GOAL looks forward to continued growth in the 2022-23 season, including more athletics offerings for both young adults and adults.

Our Metropolis was also able to conduct the 40th Annual Junior Olympics, which were cancelled in 2020. Under the leadership of the GOAL board and Junior Olympics Committee, GOAL was able to engage over 1,500 individuals in its athletic activities.

Junior Board

Since its inception, the Junior Board has assisted in a variety of ministries, such as Project HOPE, Fanari Camp, the YAL Conference, and other young adult events. The Junior Board completed its first outreach project in 2021. Leading up to Palm Sunday, the Junior Board delivered Holy Week Kits across the Chicagoland area to the elderly and homebound faithful of our Metropolis. They delivered a total of 200 Kits to parishioners from multiple churches.

Philoptochos

The Metropolis Philoptochos successfully executed its humanitarian mission in 2021. Its main fundraiser, the September Luncheon, drew over 300 guests and raised over \$40,000, which was distributed to outside charities. With the assistance of its parish chapters, the Metropolis Philoptochos held its weekly Feed the Hungry Program at Annunciation Cathedral. The ministry held its Dress-a-Girl event at St. Basil’s in Chicago, where 92 dresses were made and distributed to schools and families of migrant workers in India, Guatemala, and Greece. To cap off the year, the Metropolis Philoptochos launched a video series entitled Men in Black: Priests Who Cook, featuring clergymen of the Metropolis preparing their personal recipes. The recipes, along with those from Metropolis clergy, children, and Philoptochos board members, were compiled into a cookbook. The Men in Black video series and cookbook raised over \$30,000 for humanitarian purposes.



Philoxenia Charities

Philoxenia Charities continues to provide free, temporary housing to Mayo Clinic patients in need. In 2021, two of the four Philoxenia homes remained closed for repairs, while the other two were fully operational. Throughout the pandemic, the Philoxenia House gradually increased guest capacities while being diligent about their prevention strategies. Overall, guests of the Philoxenia House saved patients approximately \$125,000 in lodging expenses.

Religious Education

The Religious Education ministry launched its first webinar, supporting the Metropolis' commitment to educating adults. The first webinar, entitled "Living Salvation," was an exploration of the Church's liturgical year and was presented by the Metropolis of San Francisco's Director of Religious Education, Eve Tibbs, PhD. The webinar was a great success with approximately 160 participants.

The ministry served both as a resource to religious educators and as a curriculum consultant for Sunday School religious education. The ministry assisted in the production of a brief video introducing the Orthodox Church for the new Metropolis website, which was narrated by Metropolitan Nathanael. The ministry is preparing several toolboxes for religious educators that focus on catechism, the liturgical year, the Theotokos, and the Saints.

Saint Iakovos Retreat Center

2021 was a rejuvenating time of growth and celebration for the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. The Retreat Center hosted a variety of retreats and camps. The summer camp season achieved a 60% capacity, which exceeded the original expectation of 25%. The Retreat Center received a generous grant from the Hellenic Foundation, which was used to construct a basketball court in its outdoor activity area. During 2022, the Retreat Center will be celebrating its 15th anniversary. All are invited to be part of the Center's legacy by purchasing a personalized brick paver to be installed in either the chapel patio or cottage walkways.

St. John Damascene League of Chanters

The League of Chanters had a productive year, gathering for practices and chanting at liturgical services throughout the Metropolis. The pinnacle of these events was the League's patron feast, the feast day of St. John Damascene. In December, the League members welcomed Archon Georgios Theodoridis to Chicago, who led the chanting and offered a presentation to the faithful. Also in 2021, the League successfully launched its new website and Facebook page. The League supported the International Orthodox Christian Charities fundraising walk in the fall of 2021 and the St. Iakovos Retreat Center's 15th Anniversary Brick Paver Program.

TEAM Belong

TEAM Belong (That Every Ability May Belong) aims to promote access and belonging for individuals of all abilities in houses of faith and religious schools. This ministry champions the view that people with disabilities not only belong in our communities; they are integral co-workers. In 2021, St. Andrew's of Chicago celebrated its 12th annual TEAM event—That Every Ability May Belong Day. Many families gathered from various parishes on this special occasion. A guest speaker shared her life experiences as the mother of a daughter with a disability. A sign language interpreter was also present and signed the entire Divine Liturgy.



Young Adult Ministry

The Young Adult League (YAL) made substantial progress in 2021, especially in terms of in-person gatherings. Although the 2021 Chicago Conference and Spring Retreat were cancelled due to COVID-19, the YAL ministry bounced back with its annual boat cruise in July, selling out with 300 young adults attending from across the United States. YAL kept the momentum going by selling out its Rooftop Party the very next month and having a successful Oktoberfest shortly after. In November 2021, YAL brought back the Fall Retreat with a strong showing and then followed it up a month later with the largest YAL Christmas Party to date. In addition, YAL hosted other smaller events, such as Orthodoxy On Tap, Virtual Bible Study, and Liturgy on the Streets. The 2022 YAL Chicago Conference registration opened in November of 2021 and sold out two weeks later with 750 registrants in total (plus a 200+ waitlist at the time of the event in February), which was nearly double the number who attended the previous conference. In 2021, YAL brought on five new board members and partnered with TelosGamma of the CrossRoad Institute to grow parish-level engagement for young adults.

Youth Ministries

Youth Ministries carried on its programs amidst the pandemic in 2021. Fanari Camping Ministries continued to grow, with Fanari Winter Camp (two sessions), Summer Camp (five sessions), and Fall Camp (three sessions). Especially noteworthy was the restart of Fanari Summer Camp, which returned after being cancelled in 2020. Summer camp ran successfully without any COVID-19 cases. 2021 also saw the launch of Lighthouse Camp, a new camp for graduating high school seniors. In total, camping ministries saw over 750 participants (staff and campers), even with COVID-19 capacity constraints. Also in 2021, the Archdiocese's Youth and Young Adult Ministries executed a hybrid St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. The winner of the National Oratorical Festival was our Metropolis' own John Vranas, a parishioner of St. Nicholas in Oak Lawn, Illinois.



Youth and young adults from throughout the Metropolis enjoy Fanari and Lighthouse camps.



METROPOLIS
OF CHICAGO

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

To receive and share unconditional love, mercy, healing, and peace, so that life has greater meaning and purpose.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago is a Christ-centered community that loves, guides, engages and serves all people.

CORE VALUES

Christ-centered
Integrity
Service
Humility
Love
Merciful
Spiritual development
Adaptable

VISION STATEMENT

In 3-5 years, we will grow our Metropolis family through greater:

Fellowship & Welcoming
Accountability
Ministries & Education
Innovation
Leadership
Involved Youth & Emerging Adults
Engagement on Critical Issues
Stewardship



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