



MISSION NEWS-

Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco to Visit on 22 October

On Sunday October 22nd, we will have the honor of a visit from his Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco to our Mission. His Eminence presides over the Metropolis of San Francisco, which now has 57 fully chartered parishes, as well as eight missions in various stages of development. In addition to celebrating the Divine Liturgy with Father Costas, his Eminence will formally install Father Costas as our pastor in this Mission. This date will mark the first visit by a Metropolitan to our Mission. Please join us in wel-

About the Metropolis

Since the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America was established in 1927, the Diocese of San Francisco has been one of its most important components, although its boundaries has shifted from time to time, and likewise its Holy See has shifted between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The growth of this Metropolis has been continuous. In 1979, the Diocese of San Francisco numbered 47 parishes. Three vibrant monastic communities have also been founded in the Metropolis: St. Anthony's Monastery in Florence, Arizona; the Holy Convent of the Theotokos the Life Giving Spring in Dunlap, California (of which the official opening of the new Katholikon was held in August 2003); and the Holy Convent of St. John the Forerunner in Goldendale, Washington. A total of 68 communities (including missions) are established in seven states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

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Mission Statement

"To establish a Greek Orthodox Church in South Orange County which follows, preserves and continues our timeless religious beliefs and traditions and emphasizes our Hellenic heritage, customs

Metropolitan Gerasimos



Metropolitan Gerasimos was born in Kalamata, Greece to Nicholas and Anastasia Michaleas. Upon successful completion of his elementary and secondary school education in Greece, he immigrated to the United States. In 1970, he enrolled at Hellenic College in Brookline, Massachusetts, where he received his B.A. with High Honors in 1973. That same year, he was admitted to Holy Cross School of Theology, where he completed his M.Div. Degree in 1976 with High Honors.

In 1977 he joined the administration of Hellenic College/Holy Cross, serving as Registrar until 1979. During his tenure in this post, he organized and updated the Registrar's Office, creating the Office of Admissions and Records for the school.

He was ordained to the diaconate in 1979 and was called to serve as Archdeacon to His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, a position he held until 1996. Concurrently, he was appointed Dean of Students at Hellenic College/Holy Cross from 1980 until 1999. As Dean, he created the "Orthodox Actionline," the first Archdiocesan telephone ministry directed towards those who do not have substantive ties to the Church. Eventually, this ministry became an official part of the Office of Field Education at Holy Cross.

Also during his tenure as Dean of Students at Hellenic College/Holy Cross, he became centrally involved in the success of various programs benefiting future priests of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and their families. Specifically, he organized and monitored programs that evaluate and assist individuals at Hellenic College/Holy Cross with development in both their emotional and spiritual growth. These programs have been modified to suit the needs of the institution's current student population.

In 1984 he enrolled in the Master's Degree Program in Counseling and School Psychology at Boston College. After receiving his degree in 1986, he entered the doctoral program. He received his Doctorate in Counseling and School Psychology in 1993. His doctoral dissertation is titled, "Intellectual Deficiencies in a Substance Abuse Population."

While maintaining his position as Archdeacon and Dean of Students, he was appointed a member of the staff of the Outpatient Clinic of the V.A. Medical Center in Boston, a post he held until 1996.

In 1998, he became Director of Admissions and Records at Hellenic College/Holy Cross. In 2000, he became Administrative Assistant to the Rev. Nicholas Triantafyllou, President of Hellenic College/Holy Cross, a post he held until he was elected Bishop of Kratiea by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in December of 2001. He was appointed by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios as Chief Secretary of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. As Chief Secretary, he assisted the Synod in the promulgation and realization of its decisions.

In the area of academic achievements, he taught courses in Psychology at Hellenic College, as well as courses on Teleturgics at Holy Cross. Since 1985, he has been Senior Lecturer in the field of Personality and Psychology at Northeastern University, University College. The University Press of America published his dissertation in 1994. He is the author of a number of articles published in periodicals in the area of psychology, and is a member of the APA (American Psychological Association) and the ACA (American Counseling Association).

On February 22, 2005, the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate selected him to be the new Metropolitan of San Francisco. On April 2, 2005, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America will preside over the Enthronement Ceremony at the Ascension Cathedral, Oakland. Metropolitan Gerasimos celebrated his first Divine Liturgy the following day, April 3, 2005, at the Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they many have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the **Good Shepherd**. The **Good Shepherd** gives His life for the sheep."

From the Heart of Father Costas

My dearest ones, Rejoice in the Lord.

I believe that the upcoming visit of our Metropolitan Gerasimos on Sunday, October 22, gives us an excellent opportunity to discuss the highest order of the Priesthood, that of Episcopacy.

First, we should clarify that the Greek Orthodox church is neither dictatorial nor democratic; it is a hierarchical church, which means that it is led by its bishops. The apostolic succession of bishops is the essential element in its structure.

Dositheos, Patriarch of Jerusalem, writes “the dignity of the Bishop is so necessary, that without him neither the church nor the name Christian could exist or be spoken of at all.” Our Church is also sacramental in nature because it is centered around the sacraments, especially that of Holy Communion. St. Ignatius of Antioch wrote in 107 AD that each local community as it celebrates the Eucharist with the bishop present is the church in its fullness. “Where the bishop is, there is the Church.”

A bishop represents Christ on earth and because of this he sits on God’s throne. He is placed there by God to guide and rule the flock committed to his charge and thus he is a “monarch” in his own diocese. However, in exercising his powers, the bishop is guided by the Christian law of love. He is not a tyrant but a father. We are his spiritual children. The bishop is also the divinely appointed “teacher and guardian” of the Orthodox Faith

and as such he is the successor to the apostles. At the very beginning of the ordination of a bishop, the candidate recites the Nicene Creed. This is to show that he holds the true and apostolic Faith, which he will have the responsibility of teaching and preserving. St. Cyprian of Carthage (who died as a martyr in 258 AD) makes it clear that “if any are not with the bishop, they are not in the church.” It is the bishop who guarantees the “unity of the Faith” – all of us holding the same Faith with the universal church now and through the ages.

The priests are the bishop’s delegates or deputies in a parish. The authority of the bishop is fundamentally the authority of the Church. The laity also play a key role in the Church. They are the “royal priesthood” and the “body of Christ.” The bishop and the people of the Church are joined in such a unity that neither of them can be considered apart from the other. St. Cyprian said, “The Church is the people united to the bishop, the flock clinging to its shepherd. The bishop is in the Church and the Church is in the bishop.”

It is an honor to welcome Metropolitan Gerasimos to our community for the very first time. I know that all of us are looking forward to his visit with great excitement.

**LET NO ONE STAY AWAY FROM CHURCH
THAT DAY. COME AND EXPERIENCE THE
DIVINE LITURGY IN ITS FULLNESS**

SERVICES FOR OCTOBER ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ

2006 2006

EVERY SUNDAY MORNING ΚΑΘΕ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΠΡΩΙ
9:00 AM: MATINS 9:00 ΠΜ —ΟΡΘΟΣ
10:00 AM: DIVINE LITURGY 10:00 PM – ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤ.

WEEKDAY SERVICES ΚΑΘΗΜΕΡΙΝΕΣ
Oct. 19 Thurs. night 6-8 pm 19 Οκτ. Πευπ. βραδυ 6-8
ST. GERASIMOS; Vespers and ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΓΕΡΑΣΙΜΟΥ
Evening Div. Liturgy at the βραδυνη Θεια Λειτ.
St. John Antiochian Church. We στην Αντιοχ. Εκκλησια.
Will have a pot-luck. MANY YEARS Θα εχουμε ποτ-λακ.
TO OUR METROPOLITAN, ΕΙΝΑΙ Η ΟΝΟΜΑΣΤΙΚΗ GERQASSIMOS.
ΓΙΟΡΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΜΗΤΡΟ-
ΠΟΛΙΤΟΥ ΜΑΣ.

Oct. 25, Wed. night 6-8:00 pm ΕΤΗ ΠΟΛΛΑ ΔΕΣΠΟΤΑ
ST. DEMETRIOS; Vespers and Div.
Liturgy at the Antiochian Church of 25 ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ ΕΟΡΤΗ
St. John the Theologian ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΥ
Τεταρτη βραδυ ΤΟ ΙΔΙΟ ΩΣ ΑΝΩ

Bible Class

We have started the study of the most important and most spiritual book of the Bible,

“THE HOLY GOSPEL OF
ST. JOHN”
According to
St. John Chrysostom

Join us Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. at the Church Office, where the Greek School takes place. Parents are welcome



October 18

Feast Day of Luke the Evangelist

The apostle was an Antiochean, physician by trade, and a disciple and companion of Paul. He wrote his Gospel in Greek after Matthew and Mark, after which he wrote the Acts of the Apostles, and dedicated his works to Theophilus, who according to some was Governor of Achaia. He lived some eighty-six years and died in Achaia, perhaps in Patras, the capital of this district. His emblem is the calf, the third symbolic beast mentioned by Ezekiel (1:10), which is the symbol of Christ's sacrificial and priestly office, Saint Irenaeus says.

October 1st

St. Romanos the Melodist

(This Saint is beloved of Church Choirs. October 1st was designated as National Church Music Sunday)

He was born in Emessa in Syria, probably of Jewish parents. He served as a deacon in Beirut, then in Constantinople at the time of Patriarch Euphemius (490-496). He was illiterate, had no musical training, and was a poor singer; thus, he was despised by many of the more cultivated clergy. One night, after Romanos had prayed to the Mother of God, she appeared to



On the following day, the Nativity of Christ, Romanos went to the ambon and, with an angelic voice, sang 'Today the Virgin...', which is still sung as the Kontakion of the Feast. All present were amazed at the completely unexpected beauty of the hymn and of Romanos' singing. St. Romanos went on to compose more than Kontakia (which were once long hymns, not the short verses used in the church today). He is almost certainly the author of the sublime Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God, which has served as the model for all other Akathists. He reposed in peace, while still a deacon of the Great Church in Constantinople. Many of his hymns were inspired by the hymns of St. Ephraim of Syria.

(Many parishioners have noted the addition of a portable icon screen and processional fans and cross to our worship materials in the JSerra Chapel. The below account relates the circumstances under which these items came to be lent to our Mission. We are in deep debt to the St. John Chrysostom Society for the loan of the icon screen and to Fr. James Babcock of the Holy Cross Byzantine Catholic Melkite Church in Placentia for the loan of the processional materials.)

The icons are on loan from the Society of St. John Chrysostom. It is an organization that promotes understanding between Orthodox Christians, Oriental Orthodox (Copt, Armenians, etc.), Eastern Catholics, and Roman Catholics. Every year in June the Society hosts a conference known as *Oriente Lumen* (“Light of the East”) which invites speakers to address the issue which divide us. The conference is held annually both in Washington DC at the Catholic University of America and in San Diego at the University of San Diego. These conferences are sanctioned by the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Pope.

Next year among the speakers who will be making presentations are Bishop Kallistos Ware, one of the best known Orthodox theologians in the world, and Robert Taft, probably the leading expert on the history of the liturgy. Each morning of the three-day *Oriente Lumen* conference a different liturgy is offered—Orthodox, Byzantine Catholic, and Oriental Orthodox. The portable icons were made by an Eastern Catholic cabinet maker for the conferences since most service in San Diego are held in Founders Chapel at USD and there is no iconostasis there. Fr. Costas and Presvytera Jeannie went to the most recent meeting of the Society (Presvytera Jeannie is a member) and told the members of our need for the icon screen. They were delighted to lend them to us and said that they are happy that the icon screen will be used regularly by a parish. Occasionally, however, we may in turn need to lend them out if they are needed for another function.

The exapterika (processional fans) and the processional cross are on loan to us for the Holy Cross Byzantine Catholic Melkite Church in Placentia. The priest there, Fr. James Babcock, another member of the Society, was storing the portable icon screen for the St. John Chrysostom Society. When Fr. Costas went there to pick up the icon screen, Fr. James lent him their processional fans and cross as

What is Orthodoxy all about? Orthodoxia

Our faith is Orthodox in two different, yet interrelated ways. Our “Orthodoxia” is first of all a “correct belief.” The word “orthon” in Greek, means correct, or right. “Doxa” has two meanings, the first of which is “belief.” The Orthodox Christian Church holds that it has maintained the original, true and correct understanding of the teachings of Christ and the Apostles for the twenty centuries of its existence. To be “Orthodox” is to share in that unchanged affirmation of the truths about God, the world, man, salvation, the church and what is to come in the future

But “Orthodox” has another meaning, too. The Greek word “doxa” also means praise or worship. Our church sees itself as the “true worshipping Church.” True worship and true faith of necessity intermingle and enrich each other. A person who is truly an Orthodox Christian knows that faith without expression in worship is dead. And conversely, worship without faith is equally dead. The Lord taught that we are to worship in spirit and in truth. “God is spirit, and those who worship Him, must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24).

Fr. Stanley S. Harakas, *Contemporary Moral Issues facing the Orthodox Christian*

Support your Mission Parish! There is so much that needs to be done and willing, helping hands are needed. Please look into your heart and see if there isn't something that you can do to help

Announcements

Volunteer Survey

Please remember to fill out and return the Volunteer Survey that was included in last month's Newsletter. There were many areas mentioned in the survey for you to consider offering your help. You will, absolutely, get much more in return!

Sunday School News

The Sunday School staff and Co-Directors Ariana Sfakianakis and Michelle Selberis welcomed their new classes on 17 September. They are enthused about their opportunity to teach the Word of God. We appreciate their contributions to the religious education of our youth. **Help...**We are asking parents for assistance in providing barnyard animal costumes for the Christmas Pageant being planned. The costumes will be worn by our littlest Sunday School students. Such costumes might be available at lower prices after Halloween. Please look for them at your favorite stores and consider donating them. Thank you!

Philoptochos News

The Mission Ladies' Philoptochos Society has scheduled the following meetings in the next several months to organize, inform, and coordinate the philanthropic efforts of its membership: 29 October, 3 December, and 28 January. Please circle these dates on your calendar and watch for further details on location and time.

The Philoptochos is always glad to welcome new members. If you are interested in joining or would like more information, please contact Chrys Cutrone at (949) 295-1256.

Farewell and Welcome Luncheon

The Farewell for Fr. John and Welcome for Fr. Costas Luncheon which was held on 24 September was a rousing success. Over 205 people attended this event, each in his or her own way adding their final best wishes to the departing priest, Fr. John and a big Mission welcome to Fr. Costas. Donations from many individuals were collected and a parting gift check was given to Fr. John. Mike Selberis and Steve Dafnis added the community's thoughts and their own reflections in stirring words. Irene Basdakis presented Fr. John with a wonderful collage reflecting many of the highlights of Fr. John's ministry at the Mission. Fr. John made clear his intention to always keep us in his heart as parishioners and to visit us when he can. Fr. John is being reassigned to a parish in Northern California. We also note the stupendous efforts of Sally Meyerhofer in organizing this event and all its multitude of details. It was a flawlessly run event, long on love and good food, and all too short on time to wish Fr. John a heartfelt goodbye!

Matins Services

Matins Services (Orthros) start at 9:00 am each Sunday prior to the Divine Liturgy. Presvytera Eugenia will teach Byzantine Music to those who are interested. Knowledge of the Greek language is not necessary, but it will help. You will be given tape cassettes to learn quickly. Do not miss this beautiful worship opportunity.

Bible Class

Bible Class will be held every Wednesday night from 7-8:00 pm. We will continue with the Gospel of St. John, as explained by St. John Chrysostom. Place: where Greek school is held.

Fr. Costas' Tentative Office Hours

Until further notice, Fr. Costas' office hours will be Monday and Wednesday from 4:00-7:00 pm and Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The office will be housed temporarily where the Greek school meets. Fr. Costas will be available every Sunday from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Volunteer secretaries for the above hours will be greatly appreciated. These hours are when you can be certain to find Fr. Costas in the office, except in case of emergency. During other hours, he will be visiting your homes and businesses, and visiting hospitals and convalescent homes, etc. Please give him the names and locations of those of your relatives who are shut-ins, or in the hospital. Also let him know if you would like him to come by and visit your home or business.

Friday Off/Contact Information

Friday is Fr. Costas' day off. Please refrain from calling him on that day unless it is an emergency. Fr. Costas' cell phone number

**Greek Orthodox Mission
of South Orange County**

P.O. Box 1214

San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

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**METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO**

Sunday Liturgies:

10:00 a.m.

JSerra High School Chapel
26351 Junipero Serra Rd.
San Juan Capistrano

Directions: From I-5 take the Junipero Serra Road exit. Go west on Junipero Serra Road. Just past the Shell gas station on your right, make a right into the next driveway (the sign says Sycamore Commons). Proceed to the north end of the property (signs are posted).

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