

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, June 10, 2012

Dome Installation

We are excitedly anticipating the installation of our new iconography in the dome of our Church, beginning Monday, June 11 through the end of the month.

We will begin worshiping within Tabor Hall, NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 17, and continue for the following two Sundays, June 24 and July 1st.

Not only will we be reliving the good ol' days within Tabor Hall, but we will also be able to see the iconography installation in its various stages on those Sundays. It is a very rare for someone to witness the installation process of the holy icons, especially the Pantocrator and the Host of Angels in worship surrounding Him. It is a blessing in the life of our Church.

Sunday School News - Register for Classes ONLINE!

You can now register on the Home Page of our website! Directly under the "Upcoming Events" area on the right side of our home page, you will see "Signups and Registrations". Just click on the 2012-2013 Sunday School Registrations and get your children signed up for next year!

Sunday classes resume on September 9th!

Don't Forget to Purchase Gift Cards from Philoptochos.

Walmart/Sams cards are increasing their non-profit contributions from 2% to 2.5%! You can get the cards in denominations of \$25, \$100, and now, \$250!

Great Lakes Scrip Center is thrilled to announce that **Coldwater Creek** has joined our list of retailers! Their Gift Cards are available in a \$25 denomination with an 8% non-profit contribution. The card is redeemable at participating Coldwater Creek locations, for catalog orders and online at coldwatercreek.com.

AMC movie theaters have increased, for a limited time, their non-profit contributions to 8%! Summer is a great time for movies!

Stop by the Philoptochos table to purchase your gift cards; or come by the office during the week to pick some up from Liz.

Thank you to today's Luncheon Sponsors:

The Colovas and Price families

Thank you to last week's Coffee Hour sponsors:

Sewell, Sgarbi, Shannon, Shotwell, Simbles

Next Week's Coffee Hour Sponsors:

Skevofilax, Skevofilax, Spanos, Spiropoulos, Stahlke

Thank you to today's ushers:

Marko Bjeletich, Harry Stamatis, Diann Dow, Maria Miller, Julie Wynn

Thank you to last week's ushers:

Shelley Ebeling, Dan & Gigi Appling, Nyda Glaros

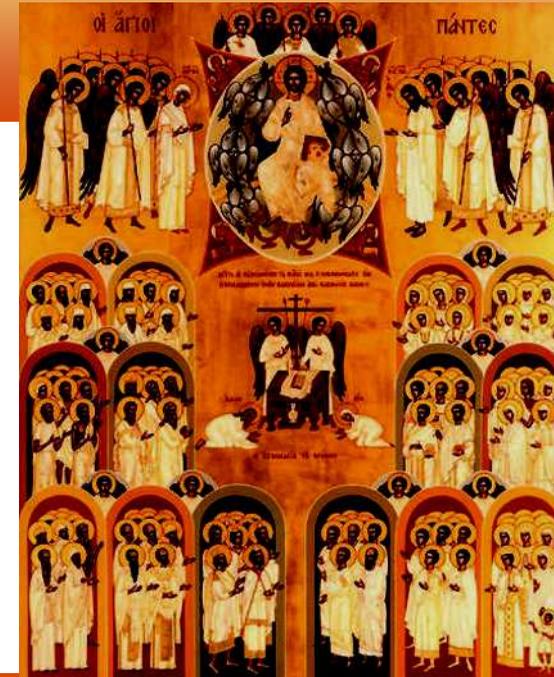
Next week's ushers are:

Judy Eagle, Allen Wynn, Liz Strong

SUNDAY BULLETIN

JUNE 10, 2012

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

414 ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL ROAD
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746

(512) 329-6363 WEBSITE - WWW.TRANSFIGURATION.ORG

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

ORTHROS 8:15AM; DIVINE LITURGY 9:30AM

Reverend Fr. Vasileios Flegas, Proistamenos

574-1972

Hymns for Today

Resurrection Hymn (Plagal 4thTone)

“From on high did You descend, O merciful Lord, for us did You endure, three days in the tomb that we may be, released from passions in this world, You who are our resurrection and our life Glory unto to You O Lord.”

Hymn for All Saints

*“Adorned in the blood of Thy Martyrs throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church, through them, does cry unto Thee, O Christ God:
Send down Thy compassions upon Thy people;
grant peace to Thy commonwealth, and great mercy to our souls.”*

Hymn for the Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

*“Metemorfothis en to ori, Christe o Theos,
dixas tis mathites Sou tin doxan Sou, kathos i dynando
Lampson ke imin tis amartolis to fos Sou to aidion,
presvies tis Theotokou Fotodota doxa Si.”*

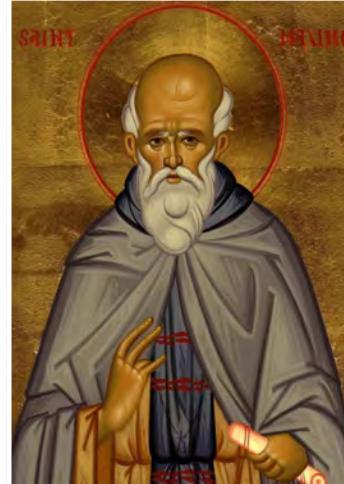
*“When O Christ our God Thou wast Transfigured on the mountain
Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy disciples in proportion as they could bear it.
Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners.
Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee.”*

Kontakion

*“As first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things,
the world presents the God-bearing martyred Saints in offering unto Thee, O Lord.
Through their earnest entreaties, keep Thy Church in deep peace and divine tranquility,
through the pure Theotokos, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.”*

Communion Hymn for the Sunday of All Saints

“Rejoice in the Lord, o ye righteous, praise is meet for the upright. Alleluia.”



“Growing in our Orthodox Faith” A New Discussion Series

The series topic on the table is entitled “The Cosmic Vision of St. Maximus the Confessor, and its Relevance for Our Lives Today.” St. Maximus is without question one of the greatest Fathers of the Orthodox Church, and is quintessential towards understanding our anthropology and how God has created us to relate with one another and this world around us. These table discussions promise to be both lively and interesting for everyone.

Our summer discussion series, led by Presbyteria Vasiliki Eckley, continues **THIS WEDNESDAY, June 13, after Paraklesis at 6:00 pm, and will continue every Wednesday evening through the month of June: June 20, and 27.**

The topic for the second discussion will be:

The First Bridge between male and female

The reconciliation between man and woman involves special questions:

1. How does Maximus understand the man-woman duality?
2. How is the first mediation (or bridge) carried out by Jesus Christ?

“There is not Jew nor Greek, there is not bond nor free, there is not male and female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” ~Galatians 3:28

Everyone is invited to attend.

We will meet every Wednesday in June beginning with Paraklesis at 6:00 p.m. followed by our study.

Sunday School Renovation Project Continues

Marko Bjeletich will need a team of handy parishioners to help him scrape the ceiling of all the popcorn, preparing the surface for further renovations.

Please plan on helping Marko on Saturday, June 16, from 9am to 2pm

FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE FORERUNNER

The Feast of the Nativity of the Forerunner is on Sunday, June 24, this year.

Fr. Aidan Wilcoxson and the community of St. John has invited us join with them in celebrating their feast day at Great Vespers on Saturday evening, June 23 .

(9th Hour at 5:45 PM and Great Vespers at 6:00 PM)

St. John the Forerunner is located in Cedar Park (800 W. Park)

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, June 10, 2012

This morning we welcome His Eminence Metropolitan ATHENAGORAS of Mexico and Deacon Christopher Grist.

His Eminence is ordaining Deacon Christopher into the priesthood today.

Services for this week - Weekly Paraklesis is back

Wednesday, June 13th: *Paraklesis - 6:00pm*

LUNCHEON TODAY!

Please join us in the fellowship hall after the Liturgy for our monthly luncheon, and to welcome and congratulate His Eminence Metropolitan Athenagoras, the newly ordained Fr. Christopher, and his family.

Thank you to the Price and Colovas families for sponsoring this luncheon!

The scrumptious menu includes:

- Chicken
- Mashed Sweet Potatoes
- Salad
- Dessert

GOLF (Greek Orthodox Ladies Fellowship)

The ladies' study group resumes this **Tuesday, June 12th, at 9:30am**, continuing our study of God's Path To Sanity.

We will meet outside to enjoy the weather and to allow the children to play at the playground during the study. For this class, please come prepared by reading chapters 4 and 5 and bring any discussion questions/comments you might have.

All women are invited to attend this study!

YAL (Young Adult League)

Bible Study will continue our study on Tuesday, June 19; and will be meeting every other Tuesday with Fr. Vasileios.

Please arrive a little early to grab a snack so the study can begin at 6.30 pm.

Preparations continue for the 2012 Gala!

Please join us at the next planning meeting if you have any suggestions or are interested in contributing your time to one of the committees. The meeting will be held at 6:00 p,m on Thursday, June 14 at the home of Gala committee chair Judith Kountoupis, 14909 Spillman Ranch Loop, Austin, 78738. Contact Judith at judy@kountoupis.com, or 512-983-5839 for more details.

June 10, 2012 - Sunday of All Saints

Epistle - Hebrews 11:33 - 12:2

Brethren, all the saints who through faith struggled against kingdoms, wrought righteousness, attained to promises, stopped mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edges of the sword, were empowered out of weakness, became strong in battle, turned back encampments of aliens. Women received their dead by resurrection. And others were tortured, not accepting release, that they might attain a better resurrection. And others received trial of mockings and of scourgings, and, moreover, of bonds and of imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted; they died, murdered by the sword. They went about in sheepskins, in goat-skins, being in need, afflicted, ill-treated— of whom the world was not worthy. They were made to wander in deserts, and in mountains, and in caves, and in the holes of the earth. And these all, having been approved by testimony through faith, received not for themselves the promise, God having foreseen some better thing concerning us, that they should not be made perfect without us.

Therefore we also, having so great a cloud of witnesses which is set around us, and having laid aside every weight and sin that is easily circumvented, let us by means of patience be running the course which is set before us, looking to Jesus, the originator and accomplisher of our faith, Who, in exchange for the joy set before Him, endured a cross, having despised the shame, and hath sat down on the right of the throne of God.

Ἀδελφοί, οἱ ἅγιοι πάντες διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων. Ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπίρσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον· περιῆλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι - ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιός ὁ κόσμος - ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσιν καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὄραις τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες, μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως, οὐκ ἔκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσιν. Τοιγαροῦν καὶ ἡμεῖς, τοσοῦτον ἔχοντες περικείμενον ἡμῖν νέφος μαρτύρων, ὄγκον ἀποθέμενοι πάντα καὶ τὴν εὐπερίστατον ἀμαρτίαν, δι' ὑπομονῆς τρέχωμεν τὸν προκείμενον ἡμῖν ἀγῶνα, ἀφορῶντες εἰς τὸν τῆς πίστεως ἀρχηγὸν καὶ τελειωτὴν Ἰησοῦν.

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τοῖς ἑαυτοῦ μαθηταῖς· Πᾶς οὖν ὅστις ὁμολογήσει ἐν ἑμοί ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ὁμολογήσω καὶ ἐν αὐτῷ ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς. ὅστις δ' ἂν ἀρνήσῃται με ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ἀρνήσομαι αὐτὸν καὶ ἐμπροσθεν τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς. Ὁ φιλῶν πατέρα ἢ μητέρα ὑπὲρ ἐμὲ οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος· καὶ ὁ φιλῶν υἱὸν ἢ θυγατέρα ὑπὲρ ἐμὲ οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος· καὶ ὁς οὐ λαμβάνει τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀκολουθεῖ ὀπίσω μου, οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος. Τότε ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Πέτρος εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἰδοὺ ἡμεῖς ἀφήκαμεν πάντα καὶ ἠκολουθήσαμεν σοι· τί ἄρα ἔσται ἡμῖν; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ὑμεῖς οἱ ἀκολουθήσαντές μοι, ἐν τῇ παλιγγενεσίᾳ, ὅταν καθίσῃ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ θρόνου δόξης αὐτοῦ, καθίσεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς ἐπὶ δώδεκα θρόνους κρίνοντες τὰς δώδεκα φυλὰς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ. καὶ πᾶς ὁς ἀφήκεν οἰκίας ἢ ἀδελφούς ἢ ἀδελφὰς ἢ πατέρα ἢ μητέρα ἢ γυναῖκα ἢ τέκνα ἢ ἀγροὺς ἐνεκεν τοῦ ὀνόματός μου, ἑκατονταπλασίονα λήσεται καὶ ζωὴν αἰώνιον κληρονομήσει. Πολλοὶ δὲ ἔσονται πρῶτοι ἔσχατοι καὶ ἔσχατοι πρῶτοι.

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH

Dolly, Betty, Arlena, Sophie, Archie, Lou, Thomas, Kathy, Suzanne, Pat, Steve, Nina, Katheryn, Panayioti, Anna, Margaret, Sami, Ibrahim, Mary, George, Susan, Matthew, Ellen, Katina, Nelda, Nick, Elaine, Malone, Tracy, Richard, Lilly, Kimberly, Jamil, Dimitrios, Lisa, Maggie, Mindy, Joan, Nakis, Micky, Kiane, Lari, Ed, Sally, Mariana, Brian, Kaeley, Tristan, Matt, Jeff, Sophia, Angela, Jennifer, Romeo, Konstandinos, Elia, Rose Marie, Bilyana, Maria, Susan, Jane, Clara, Costa, Cindy, Philip, Barbara, Evangia, Michael, Jeffrey, Victoria, Nicole, Anastasia, Katie, Suzanne, Katie, Stella, Michael, Nicole, George, Katherine, Fr. Peter, Venton, Nick, Sandy, Caleb, Pete, Wendy, Lorraine, Tina, Anna, Michael, Anna, Pamela, Shawn, Megan, Leo, Christy, Glenn, Philip, Katelyn, Joshua, Jason, John, Julia, Nick, Maria, Carolyn, Betty, Ruth, Nicholas, Joyce, Connie, Deacon George, Ralph, Vana, Andreas, the Nun Elizabeth, Alexandra, Arsinoi, Sultana, Boyd, Argyre, Carol, Susie, Sultana, John, Eliana, John, Dimitrios, John, Nick, Cecilia, George, Ricky, Mackenzie, Leah, Cynthia, Georgia, Eudoxia, Mark, infant James, Ben, Michael, Rod, Nici, Phyllis, George, Helena, Kinley, Shiloh, Lili, Jacob, Bill, Albina, Allison, Nina, Kimberly, Madeleine, Michael, Dion, Harry, Vero, Trey, Paul, Clifford, Andriani, Katy, John, Nicholas, Jan

Synaxis of All Saints

The Sunday following Pentecost is dedicated to All Saints, both those who are known to us, and those who are known only to God. There have been saints at all times, and they have come from every corner of the earth. They were Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, Monastics, and Righteous, yet all were perfected by the same Holy Spirit.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to rise above our fallen state and to attain sainthood, thereby fulfilling God's directive to "be holy, for I am holy" (Lev. 11:44, 1 Peter 1:16...). Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate All Saints on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

This feast may have originated at an early date, perhaps as a celebration of all martyrs, then it was broadened to include all men and women who had borne witness to Christ by their virtuous lives, even if they did not shed their blood for Him.

St Peter of Damascus, in his "Fourth Stage of Contemplation," mentions five categories of saints: Apostles, Martyrs, Prophets, Hierarchs, and Monastic Saints (PHILOKALIA [in English] Vol. 3, p.131). He is actually quoting from the OCTOECHOS, Tone 2 for Saturday Matins, kathisma after the first stichology.

St Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain (July 14) adds the Righteous to St Peter's five categories. The list of St Nicodemus is found in his book THE FOURTEEN EPISTLES OF ST PAUL (Venice, 1819, p. 384) in his discussion of I Corinthians 12:28.

The hymnology for the feast of All Saints also lists six categories: "Rejoice, assembly of the Apostles, Prophets of the Lord, loyal choirs of the Martyrs, divine Hierarchs, Monastic Fathers, and the Righteous..."

Some of the saints are described as Confessors, a category which does not appear in the above lists. Since they are similar in spirit to the martyrs, they are regarded as belonging to the category of Martyrs. They were not put to death as the Martyrs were, but they boldly confessed Christ and came close to being executed for their faith. St Maximus the Confessor (January 21) is such a saint.

The order of these six types of saints seems to be based on their importance to the Church. The Apostles are listed first, because they were the first to spread the Gospel throughout the world.

The Martyrs come next because of their example of courage in professing their faith before the enemies and persecutors of the Church, which encouraged other Christians to remain faithful to Christ even unto death.

Although they come first chronologically, the Prophets are listed after the Apostles and Martyrs. This is because the Old Testament Prophets saw only the shadows of things to come, whereas the Apostles and Martyrs experienced them firsthand. The New Testament also takes precedence over the Old Testament.

The holy Hierarchs comprise the fourth category. They are the leaders of their flocks, teaching them by their word and their example.

The Monastic Saints are those who withdrew from this world to live in monasteries, or in seclusion. They did not do this out of hatred for the world, but in order to devote themselves to unceasing prayer, and to do battle against the power of the demons. Although some people erroneously believe that monks and nuns are useless and unproductive, St John Climacus had a high regard for them: "Angels are a light for monks, and the monastic life is a light for all men" (LADDER, Step 26:31).

The last category, the Righteous, are those who attained holiness of life while living "in the world." Examples include Abraham and his wife Sarah, Job, Sts Joachim and Anna, St Joseph the Betrothed, St Juliana of Lazarevo, and others.

The feast of All Saints achieved great prominence in the ninth century, in the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Leo VI the Wise (886-911). His wife, the Holy Empress Theophano (December 16) lived in the world, but was not attached to worldly things. She was a great benefactor to the poor, and was generous to the monasteries. She was a true mother to her subjects, caring for widows and orphans, and consoling the sorrowful.

Even before the death of St Theophano in 893 or 894, her husband started to build a church, intending to dedicate it to Theophano, but she forbade him to do so. It was this emperor who decreed that the Sunday after Pentecost be dedicated to All Saints. Believing that his wife was one of the righteous, he knew that she would also be honored whenever the Feast of All Saints was celebrated.



A PRAYER FOR OUR PRIESTS

**O Lord Jesus Christ,
enkindle the hearts
of all Thy Priests
with fire
of zealous love for Thee,
that they may ever seek Thy glory;
give them strength
that they may labor unceasingly
in Thine earthly vineyard
for the salvation of our souls
and the glory of Thine all-honorable
and majestic Name:
of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit:
now and ever,
and unto ages of ages.
Amen**



**THIS MORNING WE WELCOME,
HIS EMINENCE
METROPOLITAN ATHENAGORAS OF MEXICO
TO OUR COMMUNITY.**

**ATHENAGORAS, THE MOST REVEREND AND
DESIGNATED BY GOD, METROPOLITAN, OF
THE HOLY METROPOLIS OF MEXICO,
MOST HONORABLE EXARCH OF CENTRAL AMERICA
AND
THE ISLANDS OF THE CARIBBEAN,
OUR FATHER AND HIERARCH, MANY YEARS.**

His Eminence Metropolitan Archbishop Athenagoras was born George Angelo Aneste in Chicago, Illinois. On September 17, 1941. Upon completing elementary and High School education in Chicago, His Eminence entered Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary in Brookline, Mass. Following his first year of studies, he transferred to the Theological School of the University of Athens, Greece (1959-1965) where he received his Masters of Theology Degree. His Eminence also pursued graduate studies at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor Campus) where in 1973 he received a Master Degree in Russian Literature.

In 1965, His Eminence was ordained a Deacon at the Annunciation Cathedral of Chicago, receiving the ecclesiastical name, Athenagoras, (Dec. 19, 1965) and Priest at the Parish of St. George Toronto, Ontario Canada (July 21, 1967).

In 1966 His Eminence was appointed as Deacon and Secretary to His Grace Bishop Timotheos of Rodostolon, in Toronto, and upon his ordination to the Priesthood he served the Parishes of:

- Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, London Ontario Canada (1967-1970).
- St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan (1970-1963)
- St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, Niles, Illinois (1976-1978).
- St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Flushing, New York (1979-1982).

In August of 1973, His Eminence was appointed as Chancellor of the Diocese of Chicago, where he served until January 1979. In his capacity as Chancellor of the Diocese, His Eminence represented the Greek Orthodox Church in the midwest in a number of capacities, assisted in administering the vast region of the Diocese, and served as General Secretary of the Clergy Laity Congress of the Archdiocese of North and South America, which convened in Chicago in July of 1974.

Upon the direction of His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, the then Fr. Athenagoras chaired a Committee of Clergy and Young Adults and restructured the Senior GOYA (Young Adult program) of the Archdiocese, establishing in 1975 the YAL (Young Adult League) and writing the YAL Manual which defines the work and activities of the YAL to this day. In that same year, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos appointed Fr. Athenagoras to be the first National Director of the newly established Young Adult League. In this capacity Fr. Athenagoras convened the first YAL Conference in Philadelphia, July of 1976.

On August 22, 1982, Metropolitan Athenagoras was consecrated at the Holy Trinity Cathedral of New York as an Auxiliary Bishop to His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, assuming the title of Bishop of Dorylaion. In his capacity as an Auxiliary Bishop to the Archbishop, Metropolitan Athenagoras represented the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese at numerous civic and religious functions. He served as General Secretary of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas; he was the Official representative of the Archdiocese to the National Council of Churches and also served as national coordinator of the three major dialogues between the Orthodox Church in America and the Roman Catholic, the Anglican and the Lutheran Churches. In 1987 and in the presence of numerous Cardinals and Roman Catholic Hierarchs and many of the Orthodox Hierarchs in America, Bishop Athenagoras was the guest speaker at St. Patrick's Cathedral of New York, on the occasion of the celebration of the 1200 anniversary of the 7th Ecumenical Council. As an Auxiliary Bishop to the Archbishop, Metropolitan Athenagoras also administered the Greek Orthodox Parishes of Connecticut and Up-State New York and served as the Overseer for St. Basil's Academy.

In 1996, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew asked Bishop Athenagoras to go Hong-Kong and in behalf of the Ecumenical Patriarchate to pursue the establishment of a new Metropolitan Archdiocese of Hong-Kong and all of South East Asia. In November of that year, Upon accomplishing this task, Metropolitan Athenagoras was directed by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to officially enthrone the newly elected Metropolitan Nikitas as the first Metropolitan of this newly established Metropolis.

On December 2nd, 1996, Bishop Athenagoras was unanimously elected by the Holy and Great Synod of Constantinople to the newly established Metropolitan Archdiocese of Central America and the Caribbean. He was enthroned on January 25, 1997. The jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Archdiocese includes the Countries of Mexico (where His Eminence resides), Venezuela, Colombia, all the Countries of Central America (Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Guatemala, Costa Rica, El Salvador) and the Islands of the Caribbean, including Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Cuba.

Since then, His Eminence travels unceasingly to the various Countries of the region, bringing the message of the Orthodox Church to an ever growing number of individuals and groups, seeking to embrace the Orthodox Faith.

REVEREND FATHER CHRISTOPHER GRIST

Christopher Grist currently resides in San Antonio Texas with his wife Liliana Maria Grist, whom he met, and married in Bogota Colombia. They have two beautiful daughters Sophia (5), and Giuliana (1).

He is the son of Baptist Pastor Rev. Nelson Grist, and Kim Grist of Griffin Georgia, and the proud spiritual son of Protopresbyter Fr. Peter DiLeo of San Juan Puerto Rico.

Christopher answered the call to full-time ministry while attending St. Gregory Nazianzen Orthodox Institute, an academic unit of Universidad Rural de Guatemala. Soon following Christopher's diaconal and presbyteral ordinations, he and his family are set to travel to Greece, where he will be studying, and serving Divine Liturgy in a local monastery. Christopher looks forward to serving under His Eminence Metropolitan ATHENAGORAS of Mexico, and looks forward to helping out in any way he can.

