



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

## DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP, OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

### REPORT TO THE CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS 2020

**Presiding Hierarchy:** Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit

**Chairperson:** George V. Matthews

**Department Director:** Fr. Jim Kordaris, Stewardship Outreach & Evangelism

#### MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT

Our mission is to provide parish leadership with practical tools and training to engage active and inactive members, inquirers and those unaware of Orthodox Christianity personally in order that they learn more about the faith and ministries of the Greek Orthodox Church, leading them to become fully committed members of the Body of Christ, actively participating in and supporting the ministries of the local parish, the Metropolis and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Efforts are made to coordinate programs and initiatives with other departments and organizations of the Archdiocese.

#### INITIATIVES & UPDATES

##### NATIONAL STEWARDSHIP TRAINING INITIATIVES

Our training initiatives have been led by Mr. Stacey Stathulis, our on-staff training and resources professional.

Stacey offered individual parish consultations and training upon request. Recent consultations have included the following parishes:

- New Castle, PA - St. George
- Steubenville, OH - Holy Trinity
- Piscataway, NJ - St. George
- Elgin, IL - St. Sophia
- Oakmont, PA - Dormition of the Theotokos
- Canton, OH - Holy Trinity

**Stacey organized a number of video conferences and webinars on a variety of topics:**

<b>May 26, 2020</b>	So YOUR FESTIVAL HAS BEEN CANCELED: <i>Now What?</i> (96 participants)
<b>April 28, 2020</b>	CORONAVIRUS AND ORTHODOX PARISH LIFE: Fr. Steven Tsihchlis & Alexei Krindatch
<b>March 26, 2020</b>	KEEPING PARISHIONERS CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH AND TO THE FAITH IN UNCERTAIN TIMES (147 participants) in cooperation with Religious Education and Internet Ministries
<b>Feb. 20, 2020</b>	BEST OUTREACH & EVANGELISM PRACTICES IN YOUR COMMUNITY: Fr. Nicholas Louh:
<b>October 24, 2019</b>	STEWARDSHIP BEST PRACTICES: Joe Kormos
<b>June 27, 2019</b>	YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT STEWARDSHIP: Steven Christoforou

**The Department Participated in the following seminars offered with other GOA Departments:**

<b>April 9, 21 &amp; 23</b>	STEWARDSHIP IN THE CURRENT FINANCIAL CRISIS: A Three-part series in partnership with the Lilly School of Philanthropy at IUPUI initiated by the Office of Vocations and Ministry of Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology.
<b>May 20, 2020</b>	KEEPING THE CONNECTION TO YOUR PARISH IN THE SUMMER in partnership with Department of Religious Education

#### METROPOLIS PARISH STEWARDSHIP LEADERS VIDEOCONFERENCES

Efforts are underway to coordinate more closely with the various metropolises in order to support their parish stewardship efforts. An initial meeting was held this summer with the Chicago Stewardship team. We are in the process of setting up a monthly zoom meeting/webinar for metropolis stewardship chairs and clergy modeled on the monthly meeting of the Pittsburgh Metropolis Stewardship Chairs and the meetings recent initiated with the San Francisco Metropolis Stewardship Chairs.

We participated in the second San Francisco Parish Stewardship video conference with over 50 parish leaders participating. Metropolitan Gerasimos again joined the call and was very supportive of our department efforts. We have begun to familiarize the parish leaders with the resources available to them as they initiate their fall stewardship programs.

## **COORDINATION WITH THE TELOS TEAM OF THE OFFICE OF VOCATION & MINISTRY AT HC/HC**

We met with leaders of the Telos Team to share resources and coordinate efforts to serve parishes struggling to bridge Technology & Finance in the current pandemic. The Telos team is a group of well-educated and highly motivated Orthodox Christian young professionals inspired to serve Orthodox parishes throughout the United States. Our first joint effort has been to create a Tech/Finance QuickStart Guide for parishes.

## **COORDINATED EFFORTS AMONG REGIONAL OUTREACH, MISSIONS & EVANGELISM COORDINATORS**

Fr Jim Kordaris, Fr Theodore Dorrance (Metropolis of Denver), Thomaida Hudanish (Metropolis of San Francisco), Fr Luke Veronis (HC/HC Missions Institute) and Stacey Stathulis have been meeting by videoconference to coordinate efforts and complement one another's expertise and experience.

## **NATIONAL OUTREACH & EVANGELISM CONFERENCE II: *LEADING CHANGE TO A HEALTHIER PARISH***

Building on the success of the Portland conference in October 2016, this conference was held February 3-5, 2020 in Columbus, OH. We coordinated this effort with Fr. Theodore Dorrance of the Denver Metropolis Office of Parish Health and Church Growth, Thomaida Hudanish of the San Francisco Metropolis Missions and Evangelism Ministry, Fr Luke Veronis, Director of the HC/HC Missions Institute. We received a generous grant from Leadership 100 for this 3-day event. Speakers were Fr. Theodore Dorrance, Fr. Aris Metrakos, Mr. Steve Tibbs, Fr. Evan Armatas and Fr. Martin Ritsi. There were approximately 100 people in attendance.

Goals of the Conference were:

- To Make Missions & Evangelism the priority of parish leadership throughout the country;
- Provide information, trends & tools for implementing & supporting change;
- Include Parish Leadership from around the country (every metropolis & NY District);
- Create personal connections between parish leadership from around the country; and
- Inspire & Equip Leaders to return to their parishes & metropolises to implement positive change

## **THE LEADERSHIP 100 HOME MISSION PARISH GRANT**

The Leadership 100 Home Mission Parish Grant administered by this department helps designated parishes afford a full-time priest by providing a supplement to clergy salary in the critical first years of his assignment. In special situations assistance may also be provided to parishes that have declined but are in a period of renewal.

## **REACHING THE DISTANTLY CONNECTED I & II**

An important ministry resource titled **Reaching the Distantly Connected: *An Urgent Ministry for the Orthodox Church***, by Father Charles Joannides (PhD, LMFT), was produced by this department in 2016.

Father Charles has made himself available to the Department to produce a follow-up to the original. This initiative has generated a forum through which to examine this issue throughout our Archdiocese with focus groups, questionnaires, the Orthodox Observer and the Internet, that will result in a resource on which to base parish outreach to the distantly connected. To-date, focus groups have been held in the Metropolises of Boston, New Jersey and Atlanta. The end product will be the documentation and sharing of many best practices in outreach and evangelism from around the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. This project is funded by a generous grant from Leadership 100.

## **PARISH LEADERSHIP SERIES AT HC/HC**

This Department in cooperation with the Missions Institute at HCHC, the Denver Office of Parish Health & Growth, and the SF Metropolis Office of Missions & Evangelism has received an L100 grant to produce the Parish Leadership Video Series at HCHC. This will be a series of talks on aspects of parish leadership intended for use in the parishes for ongoing training of clergy and lay leaders. These will be distributed and promoted through various channels. This initiative is made possible by a generous grant from Leadership 100.

By producing on campus, we have the added benefit of introducing concepts of parish leadership to students on campus, most of whom will eventually be serving in our parishes. In addition to the talks that will be recorded in the evenings, the speakers are made available to visit suitable classes, speak in chapel, meet with students and more.

## **Speakers to-date have been:**

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|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Wednesday, September 25:</b> | Joseph Kormos "What is a Healthy Parish & How Do We Assess Parish Health?" |
| <b>Thursday, September 26:</b>  | Fr Theodore Dorrance "What is Healthy Leadership/"                         |
| <b>Wednesday, November 6:</b>   | Fr Evan Armatas "Parish Identity and Culture: How Culture Eats Strategy."  |
| <b>Thursday, November 7:</b>    | Thomaida Hudanish "Identifying and Removing Obstacles in the Church."      |
| <b>Monday, February 24:</b>     | James Speros "Leading with Humility, Creativity and Strength"              |

## **2021 STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY PARISH RESOURCES**

The annual packet of resources is in preparation now. These resources are directed to parish leadership throughout the Archdiocese. Every effort is made to support the parish throughout the year in utilizing these resources to personally engage parishioners in the life of the parish. Brochures, posters, sample commitment card, bulletin inserts and more are provided for parish campaigns, with text and graphics included for those parishes designing their own materials based on the Archdiocesan theme. The Stewardship Handbook guides the stewardship teams. Updated letters, commitment cards and more are provided online to parish stewardship teams for training and support in their efforts to share the message of Orthodox Christian Stewardship.

The annual resources will continue to evolve through positive innovation and application of available technologies. One addition to the resources is the  Tech/Finance QuickStart Guide to accompany the Regular QuickStart which arrives in parishes early in the year to allow the parish stewardship team to begin to organize their efforts. The goal is to prepare the parish resources earlier in the year (ideally by mid-summer), to give parish stewardship teams additional time to implement their year-round campaign.

The 2021 Stewardship Resources will be formulated with a suitable theme fitting the unique challenges of this year.

## **CLEARINGHOUSE OF LITURGICAL ITEMS**

Through this ongoing initiative, the department works with the parishes to match up those that have with those that need. We are in the final stages of automating this program in a type of “Craig’s List” with the assistance of the staff of Internet Ministries.

## **ORTHODOXMARKETPLACE.COM**

Most of the print resources produced by the Department are now available for purchase or free download at [OrthodoxMarketplace.com](http://OrthodoxMarketplace.com), allowing us to recover the cost of the production of our many resources. All are available for free download.