

My Beloved Ones,

This week I have been blessed to take part in our Metropolis' annual fall Clergy Retreat at our very own beautiful Diakonia Retreat Center. Truly, to witness the brotherhood and love amongst all the clergyman of this Holy and God-protected Metropolis was a spiritual foretaste of heaven.

During the retreat, we had opportunities to discuss things related to the leadership in our churches and communities. We thought about ways, not only to better assist parishioners on an individual level, but also, our co-workers in the Lord's Vineyard: members of the Parish Council, Philoptochos, and other such volunteers.

Of course, as the leaders of our communities—the clergy and the laity must work together to create an environment in which there is trust, carefully considering how to best serve the faithful in our respective parishes, and throughout the whole Metropolis of Atlanta. In this way, both the leaders and the fellow members of the Body of Christ shall feel both proud of their communities, and most importantly, spiritually fulfilled.

For this reason, I would like to remind both the clergy and the laymen to continue thinking of ways to improve upon the relationship with their congregations. Furthermore, I would encourage these leaders to remember why it is they love to serve His Holy Church, and to continue to give 100% of themselves in whichever capacities they serve, so that the people will to feel even more spiritually uplifted, thanks to the programs and outlets provided by their communities.

If we give everything our truest and best effort, the rest of the job is up to our Creator, allowing us to reflect, not upon the glory of things we have achieved, but on His work.

+ALEXIOS

Metropolitan of Atlanta

