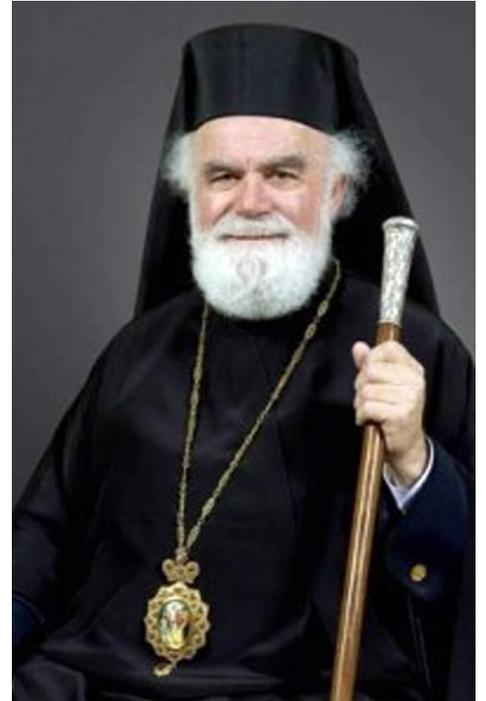


My Beloved Ones,

This weekend we are blessed to participate once more in our Spring Meetings, as we welcome our Vicars, Metropolis Council, Ambassadors, Archons, and Diakonia Deca Members. Together, we will come together for a productive series of dialogues concerning our Metropolis.

I would also like to thank Mr. Bill Marianes, Mr. Chris Mandelaris, Ms. Zoe Kafkes and Ms. Julia Moricz who have joined me in visiting the southernmos communities of our Metropolis. This coming week the “DYNAMIS” tour shall visit the northern cities, bringing with it, not only the vision of our Metropolis, but most importantly, to truly demonstrate that whatever the Metropolis does, it does so for the betterment of its communities. We want to you all aware of the resources we have developed to suit your various needs, both spiritual and temporal.



This Sunday also marks the celebration of the Holy Cross. One of purposes of commemorating the Holy Cross in the middle of Great Lent is so that we can receive the strength this symbol provides as we continue the remainder of the Fast; a moment of rest beneath the Tree, giving us the strength to fight the many adversaries that seek to make us stumble.

As St. Paul says in his Letter to the Ephesians, *“For we wrestle...against the rulers of the darkness of this word...”* The Cross is the means which provides us with the strength, inspiration, and wisdom to continue our struggle. Paul explains to the Hebrews that while the Cross is *“...a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles... the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”*

So this Sunday, as your priest processes with the symbol of the Holy Cross, pray for strength, for yourselves and loved ones, as you silently connect with God, through this instrument which has now granted salvation to all the world.

**+ALEXIOS**

Metropolitan of Atlanta