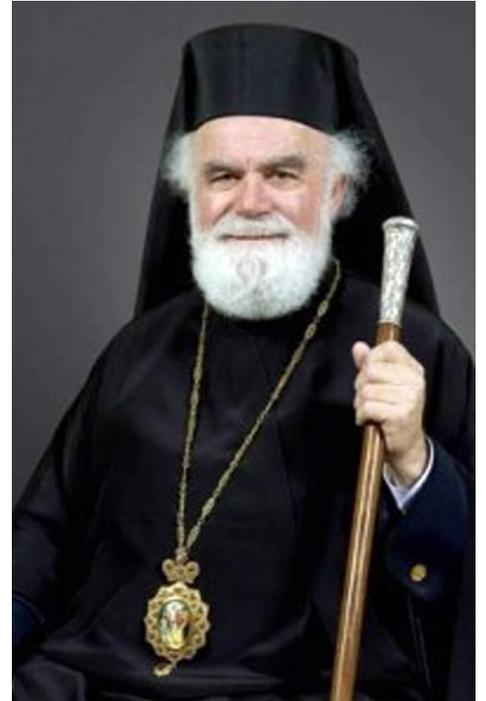


My Beloved Ones,

I am pleased to be able to share with you all important updates concerning the fall meetings of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, which took place at the Holy Archdiocesan headquarters in New York City last week, on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Concerning the progress of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine, the Archdiocesan Finance Committees have extensively discussed with Synod the plans to resume construction. The Holy Synod, with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, visited the Shrine, and I can report that a great deal has been accomplished in terms of the scaffolding and electrical work; what remains then is the sheetrock application and painting. The iconography for the Shrine is near completion, as it is being written in Athonite monastery of Xenophontos.



In discussing Hellenic College-Holy Cross, the Metropolitans are aware that the school is facing financial difficulties because of lower attendance figures. Naturally, this is of great concern to all of us, and so many different ideas were discussed with His Eminence to address this challenge by this year's end.

Lastly, and most importantly as it concerns our Metropolis of Atlanta, is the matter of the Auxiliary Bishops. There are four such Hierarchs, each of whom belongs to the Archdiocesan Headquarters, and, they report to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios. It was decided last week that His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela will be appointed as an Auxiliary Bishop to our Metropolis of Atlanta in early December 2018, where he shall assist myself and my coworkers.

To briefly summarize his curriculum vitae, *“His Grace Bishop Sevastianos was born in Ano-Zodia, Cyprus. He is a graduate of the Economic High School, Morphou, Cyprus (1973) and the Theological School of the University of Athens, Greece (1978). He received a Th.M. in Pastoral Psychology at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur Georgia (1982), and furthered his studies in Pastoral Psychology at Vanderbilt University, Nashville Tennessee and Middle Tennessee State University (1982-1984).*

*He was ordained Deacon on January 17, 1974, by the late Metropolitan of Morphou Chrysanthos and Priest on March 4, 1978 in England by the Bishop of Tropaïou Gregorios the current Archbishop of Thyateira and All England. He received the offikion of Archimandrite by the late Archbishop of Thyateira Athenagoras.*

*As a Deacon he served the late Metropolitan Chrysanthos of Morphou (1974), St. George Church, in Akadimia Platonos, in Athens (1975), St. Nicholas Church in Kato Patisia, Athens (1976-78), and as a priest in Nottingham England (1978-79), Holy*

*Trinity-Holy Cross in Birmingham, Alabama, U.S. (1980-82), Sts Constantine and Helen – Holy Cross, Huntsville, Alabama (1982-84, 1989-93), the Cathedral of Panayia Catholike, Limassol Cyprus (1984-88), Holy Transfiguration, Marietta, Georgia (1993-2004), and St. Nicholas Cathedral, Tarpon Springs, Florida (2004-06). He was appointed Chief Secretary of the Holy Eparchial Synod by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America on June 1, 2006, a position that he still holds.*

*Bishop Sevastianos, has been actively involved in the Administration of the Church in general, and in particular in our Holy Archdiocese, serving as a Council member on the Metropolis and Archdiocesan levels; in the Administration Committee of the Archdiocesan Council where he assisted in developing resources for the training of Parish Councils and in the Legal Committee of the Archdiocese. He has served as President of the Clergy Syndesmos of the Metropolis of Atlanta for several years and the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council.”*

This blessing of another Bishop in our Metropolis will allow even greater numbers of our communities to receive Hierarchical visits and blessings, more often! I know that longtime residents of our Metropolis will be very pleased to have a former co-worker with us once again in this beautiful region of the southeastern United States, and so I am certain you will all join me in giving His Grace Bishop Sevastianos a warm welcome.

In the same spirit of collaboration and dialogue that guided these decisions of the Eparchial Synod, I send all of you greetings, as we look forward to our Archangel Michael Honors weekend, November 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, where our Metropolis Council and Metropolis Philoptochos shall likewise gather together for our autumn meetings, to discuss and plan things for the future benefit of our Metropolis, which, with God’s Grace shall continue to grow in strength and love.

Until then, I greet you with love and joy in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

+ALEXIOS  
Metropolitan of Atlanta