



# A GOOD WORD — Λόγον Αγαθόν

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH  
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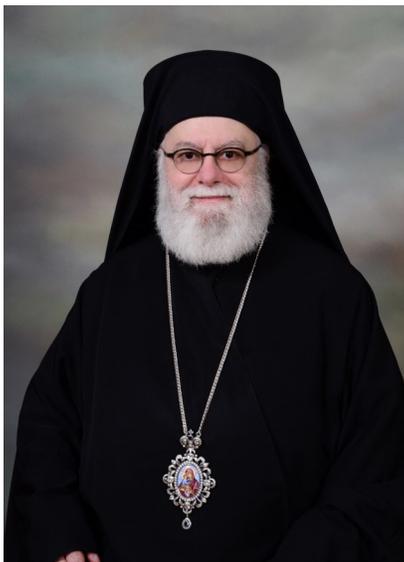


## ARCHPASTORAL REFLECTION: HOPE RISES FROM THE TOMB

As we bask in the glory of the resurrection and greet one another with a joy appropriate for this, the feast of feasts, we must always remember that our salvation is accomplished and completed when Christ rises from the tomb – but it is begun when He is lifted up on the cross. If it concludes in glory and triumph, our salvation originates in shame and pain. We should linger over this fact for a while, and not pass over it too quickly, because it reminds us that Christ has shared and endured all the worst of human suffering and has conquered death by dying Himself.

As we struggle to care for ailing family members who have no hope of recovery; as we endure in ourselves the habits of a lifetime that seem so hard to break; as we wrestle with the sins of the world that seem to lead inexorably to crime and to injustice and, now, even to war, we must remember that we believe in a God who has met us at our worst, and has turned our darkness into his light.

Our struggles and our sadness are not meaningless and they are not endured alone. Even if we stand in the pit of despair, we must seek for illumination in the shadows, and find Christ in valley of death. We do not believe in a God who ignores our suffering or who befriends only the mighty and the powerful, but in a God who promised us, “In this world you have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world (John 16:33).”



## MEFGOX 75TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION

Save the date for MEFGOX's 75th Anniversary Church Music Convention taking place **July 28 – 31, 2022** at **St. Paul Church in North Royalton, OH**. All church musicians are welcome to participate in the first in-person convention since the pandemic began.

There will be a variety of workshops featuring guest clinicians from our Metropolis and beyond. A tour of downtown Cleveland is scheduled and the Grand Banquet on Saturday evening is always one of the highlights of the conference. It will feature special presentations and recognition of our church musicians, an announcement of this year's MEFGOX Memorial Scholarship, and the **newly established Peter Vatsures Church Music Award** is being given in honor of members who have dedicated their lives to serving the Lord and His church through music.

Dr. Ann Marie Koukios of Ann Arbor is serving as guest conductor this year. She will be directing the Divine Liturgy music arranged by MEFGOX president Nicholas Bodle of that is based on the Byzantine third mode. Those interested can learn the music (using YouTube) and request a copy of the score at [www.orthodoxmusic.us](http://www.orthodoxmusic.us)

To register for the convention, or to submit an ad or page for your parish in the convention album, visit [www.mefgox.org](http://www.mefgox.org) and select the “Convention” tab at the top. We look forward to seeing you in Cleveland this summer.

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## HOLY UNMERCENARIES MEDICAL SOCIETY FOUNDED



The Holy Unmercenaries Medical Society (HUMS) of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh has been founded with the mission to “be a fellowship of healthcare professionals within the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh. Through the spiritual development and fellowship of its members, the society aspires to give freely unto others the love, mercy and healing ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through worship, education, service and philanthropy.”



Patron saints of the group include Sts. Panteleimon, Cosmas and Damianos and others, who as healers, received no payment for their service and who healed not only with medicine, but also with faith. Membership is open to healthcare professionals and students. HUMS of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh was modeled after the HUMS in the Metropolis of Atlanta.

The Annunciation Akron Chapter (<http://annunciationakron.org/hums>) is the pilot chapter in our metropolis. The Akron

Board of Directors currently also serves as the Board the Metropolis organization (which will expand with the founding of other parish chapters). Over the last three years, it has hosted annual HUMS parish retreats, conducted book studies related to faith and healing, sponsored webinars on COVID-19, and held a Blessing of the Hands Service.

We encourage those parishes interested in organizing a local HUMS chapter under the metropolis organization are encouraged to contact Dr. Costas Kefalas (Founding President) at [ckefalas3@gmail.com](mailto:ckefalas3@gmail.com). Our goal is to have parish or regional chapters all across the Metropolis—to support the vital work of all our healthcare professionals!



**SUPPORT HIS EMINENCE AND OUR METROPOLIS MINISTRIES:** It costs approximately \$1,000 per day to operate our Metropolis—including Metropolitan Savas’s Archpastoral visitations, preparations for Summer Camp and GOYA retreats, our vital registry, and more. Please consider sponsoring a day in the life of the Metropolis: <https://pittsburgh.goarch.org/support>



### GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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