

Dear Father Andreas,

“Do not infer judgment against anyone, until you hear both sides” («Μηδένα δίκην δικάσεις προτού αμφοίν μύθον ακούσεις»), goes the proverbial expression of wisdom from our ancient forefathers. In my case, in the span of just two years, Archbishop Elpidophoros has reached a negative judgment against me, twice.

In both cases he based his negative judgment on the false accusations of people – including clergy – who have been for decades violating ethical standards and have been exploiting the Saint Demetrios of Astoria Parish, committing various illegalities. In both cases, against any Christian values, against any sense of justice and, sadly, against common sense, I was not invited to respond. Neither you, personally, nor anyone in the Church leadership, bothered to hear my point of view.

In the first of these two times the Archbishop eventually saw his mistake and apologized to me, recognizing the maliciousness of the accusers and I was re-elected to the parish council from where I was unjustly removed.

I promise you there will be no second time. I have forever lost my trust in his leadership and to this Church organization.

Before I close I have to say this: GOARCH may have not given me a chance to state my positions but the relevant governmental authorities certainly will. I have witnessed misappropriations of funds and donations by others in the Parish. I have been scapegoated as part of a malicious campaign by persons who manipulated Parish employees to lodge false accusations against me to malign by good name.

Please convey to the Archbishop my sincere thanks for his fatherly love and also my heartfelt apologies in case I have hurt him.

Have no doubt, I will never lose my faith in Christ and in the values of Christianity.

Respectfully,

Gerasimos Asprogerakas,
Treasurer, St. Demetrios of Astoria