



METROPOLIS
OF ATLANTA

SAINT CATHERINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rov Father Andrew Maginas, Protopresbyter

February 22, 2022

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I am sure by now you have received the letter sent from the Metropolis in Atlanta regarding Father Andrew's reassignment. I would like all parishioners to know that the Parish Council does not condone the decision made by the Metropolis and that we disputed and fought to have language in that letter removed. Unfortunately, our request was denied and we were compelled to mail this correspondence to every Steward. In fact, we were not made aware of their decision to reassign Father Andrew until the 17th of February. We have known Father Andrew to be honorable and trustworthy in all his years of service to our parish and therefore doubt the allegation that he broke any promise. It is unknown where those conversations originated as news of an Atlanta meeting was being discussed before he even returned from the trip.

The assignment of a priest to a parish is strictly determined by the Metropolitan of that Metropolis, therefore, at this juncture in time we have really no say in the decision made by his Eminence. We need to continue our support and love for Father Andrew till the new clergy is brought into St. Catherine. These are tough and challenging times, but we cannot let these decisions derail us from our mission to stay united and in unison. Many of you may feel disappointment and anger, or may feel the need to communicate to the Metropolis your discontent with the situation. It is everyone's prerogative to do so, but we have to proceed with caution so as not to appear that we're starting a battle against the Metropolis that could result in the removal of the Parish Council as well.

This is not a pleasant situation we're faced with, nor was it Father Andrew's desire to be reassigned in this manner. We must keep our calm and just focus on what's ahead. We cannot afford anymore bitterness, anger and animosity towards others or the Metropolis. I am confident we'll overcome this hurdle and we'll come out stronger than ever. I ask for your patience and understanding, and your support for St. Catherine in this time of transition. Our Lord Jesus Christ said: "*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another*". There is no better commandment than that, so keep the faith and I'm sure that God will lead the way for us.

Respectfully,

Mark Habib
Parish Council President