



the plan Strategic

Release Announcement

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Pan-Orthodox Communications Plan

Strategic Area: Communications



Goals: (a) Create a Western States Pan-Orthodox communications and technology working group to implement joint programs, particularly on social and life issues, and improve how we communicate with each other; and (b) Implement quarterly Pan-Orthodox clergy retreats and meetings.

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Captains: Fr. Panagiotis Sotiras, St. Basil, Stockton, CA and
Fr. Nebojsa Pantic, Sts. Constantine and Helen, Vallejo, CA

Program Description: In an effort to enhance communications and understanding amongst the Orthodox faithful, as well as the non-Orthodox, in the Western United States, a Pan-Orthodox working group is being formed. This working group will consist of one to three representatives, clergy or laity, with strong backgrounds in communications and/or technology, appointed by each jurisdictional hierarch on the West Coast. Hierarchs supporting this program, as shown in the picture above, from left to right: Bishop Maxim, Serbian; Archbishop Benjamin, OCA; Metropolitan Joseph, Antiochian; Metropolitan Gerasimos, Greek.

Currently, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the United States has an excellent communications organization with professional personnel who offer their time and talents to enhance the communications effort. Further, we have, in most metropolitan areas in the Western States, well-functioning and active Pan-Orthodox Clergy Associations. This working group is not meant, in any way, to overshadow or supplant the work of the Assembly or these local clergy brotherhoods. Rather, it is intended to supplement and enhance these laudable activities, and provide another level of support, on behalf of the bishops.

It is anticipated that this working group will meet, in person or by conference call, on a quarterly basis, or more often if necessary, to coordinate and distribute messages from the bishops, work with local clergy associations to promote speakers and other Pan-Orthodox events, develop a West Coast-wide Pan-Orthodox calendar, and cooperate on technology opportunities.

Current Status: Hierarchs are now in the process of appointing their respective members to the working group. Once all the Orthodox jurisdictions have designated representatives, a meeting will be convened by year-end to develop a more specific work plan and schedule.

Recommended Parish Action: None required at this time. Going forward, parishes will be encouraged to submit information on local Pan-Orthodox activities, and to disseminate messages issued by the bishops.

Anticipated Parish Impact: Improved communication of regional and likely more frequent Pan-Orthodox events, and of joint Orthodox positions on social and life issues.