



the plan Strategic

Release Announcement

Effective September 7, 2015

Parish Mentoring



Holy Transfiguration in Anchorage, Alaska celebrates the opening of their new church, October 2014

Strategic Area: Missions and Evangelism

Goals: (a) Establish a Parish Mentoring Process and Team to help those Parishes needing mentoring; and (b) Assign the appropriate Clergy and Lay Mentors, to help every Parish in need

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Program Description: Parish Mentoring is the on-going process whereby the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco helps a parish in need to address certain areas of parish life in order to help them more successfully fulfill their mission. The Commission for Orthodox Missions & Evangelism, C.O.M.E., oversees this process. C.O.M.E. is currently working to improve the overall Mentoring Process by defining key elements of the program:

1. Assessment
2. Mentoring Plan Design
3. Mentor Selection and Assignment
4. Implementation
5. Follow-Up

In addition, C.O.M.E will soon commence in building regional teams of clergy and lay leaders to assist with the implementation of the program.

Current Status: The Metropolis currently has 15 parishes, including six missions, that are in various stages of the mentoring process.

Sample Parish Mentoring Areas

- † Stewardship
- † Parishioner Involvement
- † Finances
- † Effective Parish Ministries
- † Liturgical Worship & Church Music
- † Administrative Practices
- † Mission-Mindedness

Parish Mentoring addresses all aspects of parish health. C.O.M.E. will collaborate with other Task Forces to coordinate and use resources where they are available and ready to help. As can be seen to the left, many of the areas of Mentorship are also described in the other aspects of the Strategic Plan.

C.O.M.E. is also in the process of compiling materials which will guide mentoring teams in supporting parishes requesting assistance.

Recommended Parish Action: The Parish Mentoring process is active and available to all parishes in need. To request mentoring support, Clergy or Parish Council Leaders may contact His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, or His Grace Bishop Apostolos, to begin the process.

Anticipated Parish Impact: For parishes not being mentored, impact is low. For parishes requesting mentoring support, impact will be High and require a commitment on behalf of the Parish in order to participate.