

# OCL MOVEMENT: CATALYST & ADVOCATE

## PAN-ORTHODOX CLEVELAND



ADVOCATE ROLE  
LAITY-TRANSPARENCY  
ACCOUNTABILITY-AUTONOMY  
IN GOVERNANCE



MEETING HIERARCHS  
PATRIARCH & ARCHBISHOPS



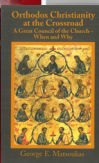
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# ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY

LAY ADVOCACY • TRANSPARENCY • ACCOUNTABILITY • UNITY

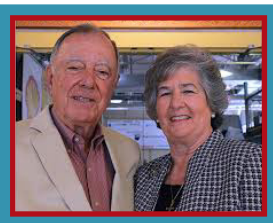
# FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

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Pan-Orthodox Cleveland  
OCL 31st Annual Meeting Program  
October 20, 2018

Living as an Orthodox Christian in Cleveland is so rewarding, because here, more than probably any other city in America, you live and pray in a pan-Orthodox church environment, with other Orthodox jurisdictions. First, the Orthodox community is large with twenty-seven parishes across the city. Of course, the collaboration begins with the Brotherhood of Priests who work together to enhance and oversee the Orthodox programs and experience. The Sunday of Orthodoxy annual program and the pan-Orthodox Choir Concert each December are two examples of how the Cleveland clergy work together. And now they have recently assumed the responsibility of the college OCF program to work even more closely with our college youth and keep them aware of their Orthodox faith. The members of the Eastern Orthodox Ladies' Guild, 56 years old and still going strong, never fail to amaze at their accomplishments and their support for Orthodox programs within the City. One Orthodox lady had an idea for supporting pregnant women who are considering abortion, and the program has grown into Zoe For Life, a program now known nationally. And while IOCC did not originate here, it has been avidly supported with fund-raisers and two Presidents from Cleveland. Finally, our best known charity in Cleveland which all the Orthodox churches and individuals support financially, and with clothing donations, and serving meals there, is the FOCUS St. Herman's House of Hospitality for homeless men. We are proud of its success.

All the above is made possible because of the pan-Orthodox environment in Cleveland. We all feel love and appreciation for each other's Orthodoxy, and thus we work together for the Church.



Sincerely,

Andy Kartalis, Chairperson

*Andy and Katherine Kartalis*



# FROM GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER

September 12, 2018

Mr. George D. Karcazes, President  
Orthodox Christian Laity  
PO Box 6954  
West Palm Beach, FL 33405-6954

Dear Mr. Karcazes,

I recently received the Fall 2018 issue of your periodical which I enjoyed very much. As I read the letter signed by you and Mr. George Matsoukas, the Executive Director, my mind went back many years in reading how our Church was established in the United States of America. Truly, it is an amazing history. The introduction of the laity into the administration of our parishes in our nation was introduced and established by Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras who earlier was the Archbishop of our Archdiocese from 1931 to 1948. The family or community spirit which he had established, was sustained by Archbishop Iakovos, of blessed memory, who was our archbishop from 1959 to 1996, when he retired from his holy ministry. Having served as the Chancellor at the Archdiocese from 1986 to 1992, I can assert to the fact that the Archdiocese was administered more as family rather than an impersonal corporation, as has appeared in recent years.

The problem with our Greek Orthodox Church today is that many cradle Orthodox have not experienced the Church as family as I did in my younger years. Fortunately, many of our converts to the Church who have recognized our Church as the uninterrupted continuity of the Church, which our Lord and God Jesus Christ established through His voluntary crucifixion, His burial, and His glorious resurrection, have a wealth of knowledge and sincere faith which they share with others. To them, the Church is seen more as a family rather than as an institution.

In stressing the fact that the Church is the spiritual family under God, this reality is in harmony with the fact that God is Agape (love). And wherever love exists, there is no need to stress constant rules and regulations, which were used during the time wherein the Old Testament was the guide to the teachings imparted by God for His people. With our Lord Jesus Christ coming into the world, we see that His sole purpose, aside from destroying the reality of death upon humanity, was to correct His distorted icons, His people, and make them ready for His coming Kingdom.

I stress these realities in order to suggest that certain words and expressions in the description of the Orthodox Christian Laity in your page, **1989 ORIGINAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**, can take away from the minds of some readers the fact that the only authority figure of our faith is our Lord and God Jesus Christ. This is why I would consider it more acceptable for those

cont.

## LETTER CONT.

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who read the description of the Orthodox Christian Laity, that today the words like independent, authority, and power, are not necessary. It is true that when your Christian fellowship began in the 1980's in Chicago, which I applauded as the then Chancellor of the Chicago Diocese, such words had to be used. I say these things for only one reason, and that is because I encounter some people even today who unfortunately have negative thoughts about the Orthodox Christian Laity, which they had from thirty years ago. I ask you for only one thing regarding your vital fellowship, and that is that it is not time yet to suggest any kind of administrative unity among the family of canonical Orthodox Christian jurisdictions in our country. As a member of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the United States, I can accurately say that there are several Orthodox hierarchs in the Assembly who feel that they are primarily responsible to their hierarchical leaders in Europe where they served before coming to this country. As a present member of your Advisory Board, I feel that I should share these thoughts with you.

May our Lord continue to bless you and your Fellowship, which is a vital and timely organization, as the Holy Spirit inspires and leads us to that holy occasion when all of our canonical jurisdictions will be living the oneness of our Lord's holy Church, which He established for our salvation.

With Love in Christ,



+Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Friends,

The past two years have been productive ones for OCL. Last year, we marked our 30th Anniversary with a Conference in Chicago at the Holy Resurrection Serbian Cathedral of Chicago and a Hierarchical Liturgy the following day at the historic 1903 Louis Sullivan-designed Holy Trinity Cathedral of the Orthodox Church in America. This year, we mark our 31st year with a Conference in Cleveland," the most Pan-Orthodox" city in America, witnessing "how good it is" for us to live our Faith together.

Our website continues to be the go-to resource for all Orthodox Christians interested in following the news and challenges facing our faith, not only in the US, but across the Orthodox World. Our mission and goals remain unchanged: (1) Transparency and Accountability in Church Governance; (2) The unification of the multiple, overlapping Orthodox "jurisdictions" in the US into a single, canonical "local", self-governing Church; and (3) Restoration of a meaningful role for the laity in the governance of the Church.

OCL remains the only independent lay ministry working to educate the faithful and advocating for those goals. Since its inception in 1987, OCL has advanced its educational and advocacy ministry by: publishing books, occasional papers, sponsoring Open Forums and conferences throughout the United States; supporting the Assembly of Bishops in the US, as well as the efforts of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in convening the Holy and Great Council in Crete in 2016.

As I complete my term as President of OCL, I look forward to the future with confidence in the experienced leadership team of OCL. I encourage those who share the Mission and Goals of OCL to join our ministry and advance the vision of a united Orthodox Church in the US, a Church that is welcoming, open, transparent, accountable and growing in outreach not only to those who are seeking the "One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church", but those who have left or withdrawn to the margins of the faith of "their fathers and mothers". The need for an informed and energized laity has never been greater.



In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "George D. Karcazes".

George D. Karcazes

**OCL**  
31<sup>st</sup>  
**ANNIVERSARY**





# PAN-ORTHODOXY

A FORUM SPONSORED BY THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY

## 31ST ANNUAL PROGRAM CLEVELAND, THE PAN-ORTHODOX CITY

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018**

**ST. MARY ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**

NOTE: ALL SPEAKERS EXCEPT FOR FATHER HATFIELD WILL BE LIMITED TO 10 MINUTES.

- 9:00am - 9:30AM Continental Breakfast**
- 9:30am Welcome & opening remarks:**  
**George Karcazes, President of OCL**
- 9:35am Invocation: His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel**
- 9:40am History or Pan-Orthodoxy in Cleveland:**  
**Father Remus Grama**
- 9:50am IOCC - Its Cleveland roots: Bert Moyar, Past President**
- 10:00am Zoe For Life - Unity in Action: Paula Kappos, Founder**
- 10:10am Cleveland Brotherhood of Priests:**  
**Father Alessandro Margheritino, President**
- 10:20am Eastern Orthodox Women's Guild: Karen Felon, President**
- 10:30am 15 minute break**
- 10:45am OCF - College Youth Program: Maribeth Lekas, Advisor**
- 10:55am St. Herman's House of Hospitality:**  
**Paul Finley, FOCUS Local Director**
- 11:05am "Pan-Orthodoxy - Truth or Fiction":**  
**Very Rev. Chad Hatfield, President**  
**St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary**
- 11:45am Questions & Answers**
- 11:55am Closing remarks: George Karcazes**
- 12:00pm Prayer: His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel**
- 12:05pm Lunch**
- 1:00pm Forum concludes**



**VERY REV. DR. CHAD HATFIELD**  
PRESIDENT OF THE SEMINARY,  
RECTOR OF THE CHAPEL

*Archpriest Chad Hatfield is the President of St. Vladimir's Seminary. Father Chad came to SVOTS from St. Herman Seminary in Alaska, where he was serving as the Dean. He also serves as a member of the Metropolitan Council of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA). His experience in various pastoral, teaching and administrative roles, spread over some 30 years of ordained ministry, is now blended into his ministry at SVOTS. Fr Hatfield was ordained to the priesthood by His Grace Bishop Basil of Wichita. His teaching interests are Missiology and Pastoral Theology. His D.Min., was earned at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and his D.D., Nashotah House.*

# OCL'S ANGELS PREFACE

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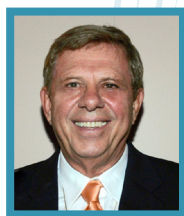
Dear Faithful Partners,

We cannot count the number of blessings Orthodox Christian Laity has experienced these 31 years.

Increasingly, faithful Orthodox Christians of all jurisdictions are aware of our movement. OCL is reaching further into the Orthodox Christian Community. We are an independent, educational and advocacy lay movement, with Hierarchs and Clergy among our Advisory Board. For more than thirty years, OCL has been a catalyst for transparency, accountability, unity and maintaining the voice of the laity in the administrative affairs of Church governance. More and more faithful people reach out to reason together with us on these matters.

Our ministry demonstrates that money alone does not define "Leadership." OCL's supporters witness leadership by their commitment, thoughtfulness, willingness to speak the truth in love, and contributing talent and resources to address these issues.

Supporting our mission all these years has helped more Orthodox Christians in America understand that we transcend our jurisdictions and are one in Christ. None of this would be possible without your support and partnership. We are thankful to you and your dedication to Orthodoxy in the United States.



You truly are angels.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George E. Matsoukas". The script is fluid and cursive.

George Matsoukas, Executive Director

*Special Thank You to the Pan-Orthodox Cleveland Committee, who helped make this program possible. OCL is especially grateful to Katherine Kartalis for her dedication to the details involved in making this meeting successful.*

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OF BRIDGEPORT, CT, MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL.**

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- 3. Publication of 5 books including definitive "Project for Orthodox Renewal"**
- 4. Publication of 9 "Occasional Papers"**
- 5. 65 "Open Forums" in various cities**
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