



# ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



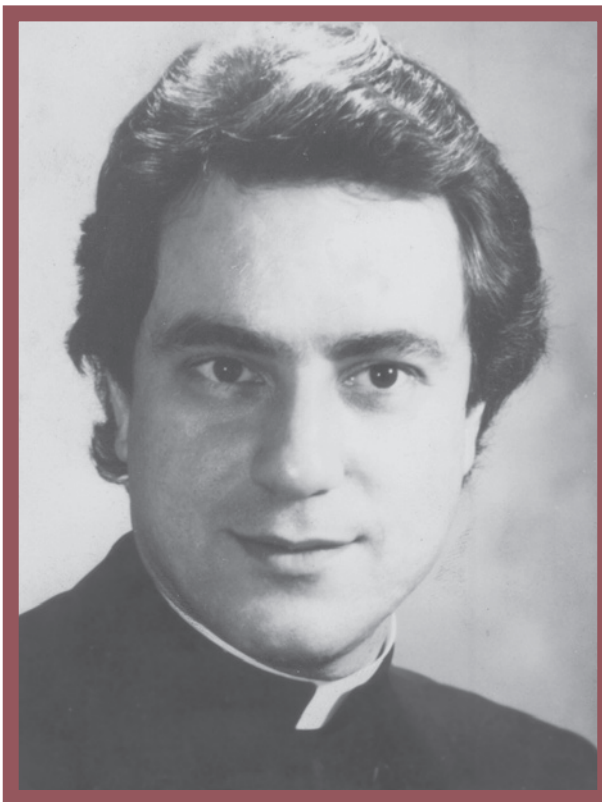
245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 · 415 864-8000 · FAX 415 431-5860 · WWW.ANNUNCIATION.ORG

SUMMER 2022

After 35 years of dedicated service to the Annunciation Cathedral of San Francisco and 50 years of service in Christ's vineyard, our Proistamenos, Father Stephen Kyriacou, has retired from active ministry. Words cannot express sufficient gratitude to our pastor who has given so much to this community for more than three decades. It takes a special commitment and a strong spiritual fortitude to serve any parish for so long, let alone a Metropolis Cathedral.

Over his years at the Cathedral, Father Stephen has become a mainstay in San Francisco and an active presence in countless families that call the Annunciation and San Francisco home. Though tasked

## FATHER STEPHEN RETIRES



with the daunting duty of serving a Cathedral undergoing a building campaign, Father Stephen was still able to personally and deeply connect with many, many people and share with them the love of God and the wisdom of the Faith.

Upon his retirement, the Parish Council lovingly and respectfully bestowed the title of "Dean Emeritus" upon Father Stephen because though he is retired, he will always remain part of the Annunciation Cathedral. We wish Father Stephen a peaceful and enjoyable retirement which he well-deserves.

*Thank you Father Stephen!*



**Acolyte  
Workshop**  
*see page 5*

**YAL Conference**  
*see page 6*





GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO  
ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΦΡΑΓΚΙΣΚΟΥ

June 28, 2022

✠ Finding of the Relics of the Unmercenarics Cyrus and John

Mr. Paul Sogotis, Parish Council President  
Esteemed Members of the Parish Council  
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
245 Valencia Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Beloved in the Lord,

*“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:11*


As you are aware, your dedicated pastor and Cathedral Dean for over 35 years, Fr Stephen Kyriacou, has asked to retire from active ministry due to ongoing medical challenges. While he had hoped to retire at the end of August, recent setbacks in his health compelled him to advance his retirement date to June 30, 2022.

The Cathedral must continue to sanctify the people of God. To this end, the Cathedral will come under my purview until a priest is identified and installed as your new Proistamenos. Until that time, I have directed the Chancellor of the Metropolis, His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea, to oversee the liturgical and administrative life of the Cathedral as *locum tenens*. I know that I can depend on each and every one of you to continue the good work of the Cathedral and to support His Grace as he shepherds your flock during this time of transition.

It is of vital importance that the Parish Council and ministry leadership honestly and critically assess the present needs of the Cathedral and formulate a long term vision for its future. To assist you in this process, I will ask Mr. Steve Tibbs, the chair of our Metropolis Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry, to provide guidance and direction for this effort.

Praying fervently that the Lord God will guide you and give you a spirit of discernment that all things are done for the glory of His Name and for the salvation of the people of God, I remain,

With Love in Christ,

  
✠ Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

cc: His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea, Chancellor  
Rev. Fr. Stephen Kyriacou  
Mr. Steve Tibbs



## His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea Named as *Locum Tenens* of The Cathedral

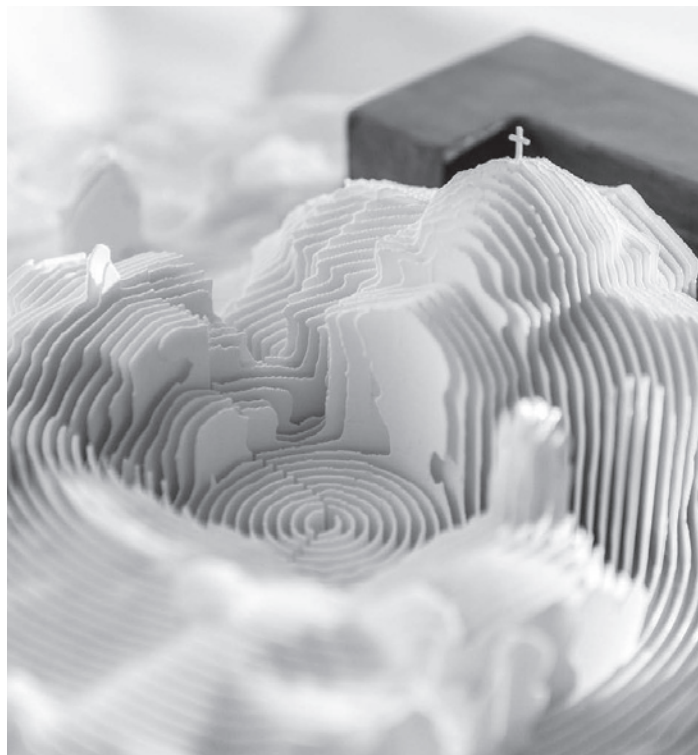
The Chancellor of the Metropolis of San Francisco, His Grace His Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea, has been assigned by Metropolitan Gerasimos as *Locum Tenens*, or Interim Proistamenos of the Cathedral following the retirement of Father Stephen. His Grace has many years of experience as a Proistamenos, most recently serving the parish of Saint George Downey, CA until his elevation to Bishop and assignment as Chancellor here in San Francisco. We are extremely grateful for His Grace's leadership and spiritual presence on Sundays as he is taking on the responsibility of our well-being on top of his already extensive list of Metropolis responsibilities and duties. Please be sure to introduce yourself to His Grace and extend a welcoming greeting when you see him on Sundays.



For God to help, one must have a desire to struggle. And when we say a desire to struggle, we mean that one must be willing to make some effort to overcome his particular weakness. If God sees even a little true will, He provides abundant help for man, He sends His Grace in great abundance.

Elder Paisios of Mount Athos  
Spiritual Counsels Vol. II  
Spiritual Awakening p.322

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## Anastasis Dimokas Creates Amazing 3D Model Of Annunciation Cathedral

Anastasis Dimokas is a young architect from Greece who has moved here to the Bay Area to continue his studies and work at the University of California, Berkeley. As you can imagine, expenses for studying in the United States are astronomical. Fortunately, our Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos offered Anastasis assistance to support his studies.

As a thank you for the generous support of our Philoptochos and for the warm welcome he received in visiting our Cathedral on several Sundays, Anastasis created this beautiful, awe-inspiring, futuristic model replica of our Cathedral. It can be seen on display in our conference room.

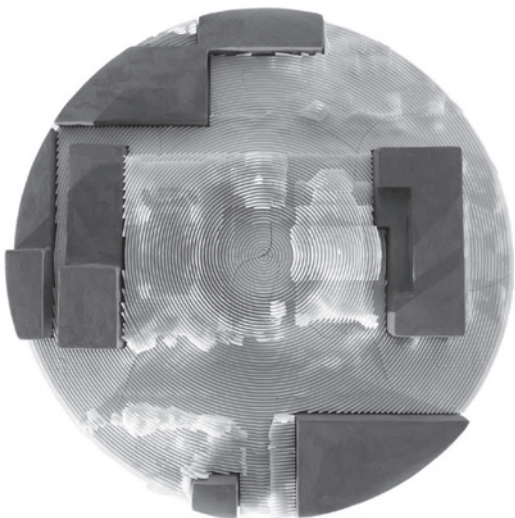
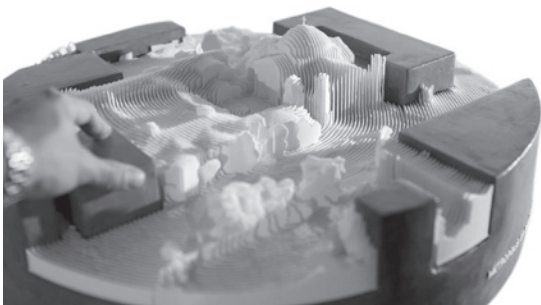
Anastasis Dimokas is a Greek architect and founder of Mediterranean Architecture. He brings 4 years of professional experience in mainly residential projects in Greece. His working experience in photography as an undergraduate student, helped him use the cinematic gaze and how the human eye perceives space, as a design tool to create compelling future spaces. He brings an artistic approach to creating living experiences with distinction to their surrounding built environment, and integration to the needs and unbuilt environment.

Anastasis' thesis and work as an architect in three architecture offices in Greece including the awarded Tense Architectural Network, has been published in Archisearch, Ek magazine, Designboom, and Architizer.

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Anastasis was born in Athens, Greece, and studied architecture at the National Technical University of Athens, and at the University of California, Berkeley with a scholarship from the Greek Archdiocese of America San Francisco. During his post-graduate studies, he had the opportunity to develop design methodologies with living materials and use bio-inspiration to design sustainable solutions in collaboration with HOK Architecture. Both his international high school and his post-graduate education taking place abroad in multidisciplinary learning environments, helped him integrate with groups of very different and highly skilled individuals, broadening design perspectives, thinking, and methodologies.



## Archon Paul P. Sogotis Appointed Regional Commander for the Metropolis of San Francisco

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, and in consultation with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, Dr. Anthony J. Limberakis, National Commander of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, has appointed Archon Paul P. Sogotis a Regional Commander for Order in the Metropolis of San Francisco.

“Regional Commanders are respected leaders in their local areas,” said Dr. Limberakis. “When a Regional Commander has the energy, the vision, and the love for our Holy Church that Archon Paul has demonstrated for years, he can accomplish great things for the Order in the region and for the Church at large. It is a great responsibility of Regional Commanders to organize their fellow Archons and energize them to be worthy Defenders of our Holy Faith. Archon Paul’s dynamism and devotion make him perfect to take on this responsibility.”

“I am humbled and honored to be appointed as Regional Commander for the Metropolis of San Francisco,” Archon Sogotis stated. “We must continue to promote and defend



## Memory Eternal Ted Sogotis

Theodore (Ted) P. Sogotis was a caring husband, father, son, brother, cousin, uncle and friend. His battle with serious medical issues in recent years showed his courage in facing life with great resilience. Despite the pain, Ted overcame the challenges and stayed strong until the end. He left this world suddenly on April 30, 2022 at age 67.

Born in San Francisco to Peter and Rose Sogotis, Ted was the eldest of their four children. Upon graduating from high school, Ted followed in his father's footsteps and pursued a career in the Shipping Industry which led him to the East Coast. He met his loving wife Thea through family friends and together had a daughter Irene. Ted was committed to his family and their happiness was his top priority.

Ted loved spending time with family and friends. He loved togetherness most of all and loved life to the fullest. Throwing parties at their family home for every occasion is what he did best. He was always the life of the party and everyone was always welcomed and treated as family.

Ted had strong roots in the Greek Orthodox Church and was an active member of the Greek American Community. He loved children, food, music, dance and sports. We will always remember his thunderous contagious laugh and larger than life personality that would light up the darkest rooms.

Ted leaves behind his devoted wife of 29 years Thea, daughter Irene, mother Rose, sister Francis, brothers Jimmy and Paul, brothers-in-law Dino, Tommy and Panayioti Eleftheriou, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and numerous family and friends across the globe. His sarcastic wit and contagious sense of humor will live in our hearts forever.

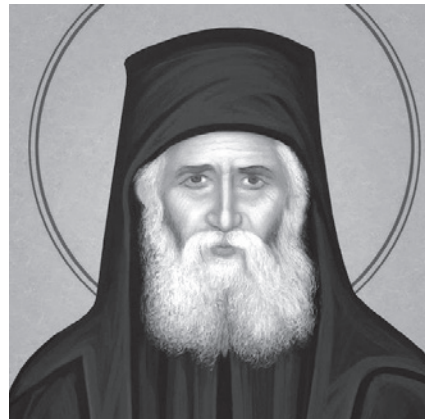
In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Ted's memory to the Annunciation Cathedral Building Fund.



## Acolyte Workshop

As the new school year approaches, we will be hosting a Saturday retreat and workshop for any and all young men who either are already Altar Boys or who are interested in becoming Altar Boys. This retreat will feature a morning session where we will go over basic rules and protocols of serving in the Holy Altar, followed by lunch catered by Nick the Greek, then will conclude with an afternoon session wherein we will run through a simulation of services.

If your son is interested in attending the Acolyte Workshop, please email Christo Pappademos at [Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org](mailto:Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org) for more details.



For God to help, one must have a desire to struggle. And when we say a desire to struggle, we mean that one must be willing to make some effort to overcome his particular weakness. If God sees even a little true will, He provides abundant help for man, He sends His Grace in great abundance.

Elder Paisios of Mount Athos  
Spiritual Counsels Vol. II  
Spiritual Awakening p.322

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our Mother Church the Ecumenical Patriarchate and our Holy Archdiocese and Metropolis. I look forward to working with my brother Archons in the San Francisco region and my fellow Regional Commanders in the Metropolis."

Archon Sogotis is president of the Parish Council for the Metropolis of San Francisco's Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. He has also served on the Archdiocesan Council since 2006 and the Metropolis Council of San Francisco for several years. The Metropolis of San Francisco has sent Archon Sogotis to the Saint Photios National Shrine as its representative. Archon Sogotis president and owner of Pacific Coast Maritime Agencies, Inc. with offices located in the Ports of California, Oregon, and Washington State. He and his beloved wife Evangelia have two sons, Panayioti and Yianni. Paul P. Sogotis was invested as an Archon of the Great Church of Christ with the offikion Orphanotrofos on October 26, 2008.

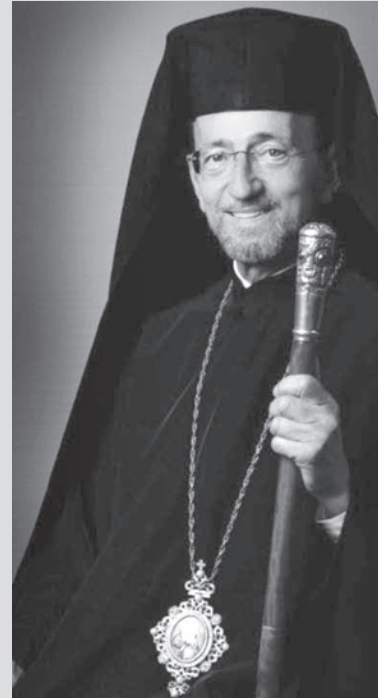
According to the Bylaws of the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Order's National Commander, following the election of the National Council officers, is to appoint Regional Commanders to serve for a period of one year. Each Regional Commander serves as the representative of the National Council in the region in order to carry out the purposes, objectives and principles of the Order.

An Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate is an honoree by His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for his outstanding service to the Church, and a well-known distinguished, and well-respected leader of the Orthodox Christian community.

Are you ready to COMMIT to your faith, your vocation, and your life? The League (YAL) Conference over Labor Day Weekend 2022 in San Diego, California you want to be! This will be the fourth YAL Conference since 2019 hosted by the Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, and promises to be bigger and better!

*"I am thrilled that the YAL movement has become an integral part of our Metropolis Minsitries and I look forward to the year's conference in San Diego. I have witnessed the transformation of our young adults these past few years as we have brought back this vibrant ministry, and I know that it will continue to have a positive impact on their lives and their involvement in the church. This is a wonderful opportunity to commit themselves to the Lord and live out their faith as exemplary Orthodox Christians."*

**– Metropolitan Gerasimos  
of San Francisco**



Conference attendees will enjoy a full weekend of events, workshops, worship, and relaxation from September 1 – 5, 2022 at the Wyndham Bayside Resort, in sunny San Diego, CA. Highlights of the weekend include engaging workshops, worship, dances, a Gala, and a special maritime event "Top Gun YAL" aboard the USS Midway aircraft carrier in the San Diego harbor. Diakonia is also an important part of the YAL ministry and will include a program to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project, an organization that helps veterans and service members who incurred a physical or mental injury or illness while serving in the military.

**Online Registration is now OPEN**

**Registration includes all meals, events,  
workshops, transportation during the weekend,  
and much more!**

**GO TO:**

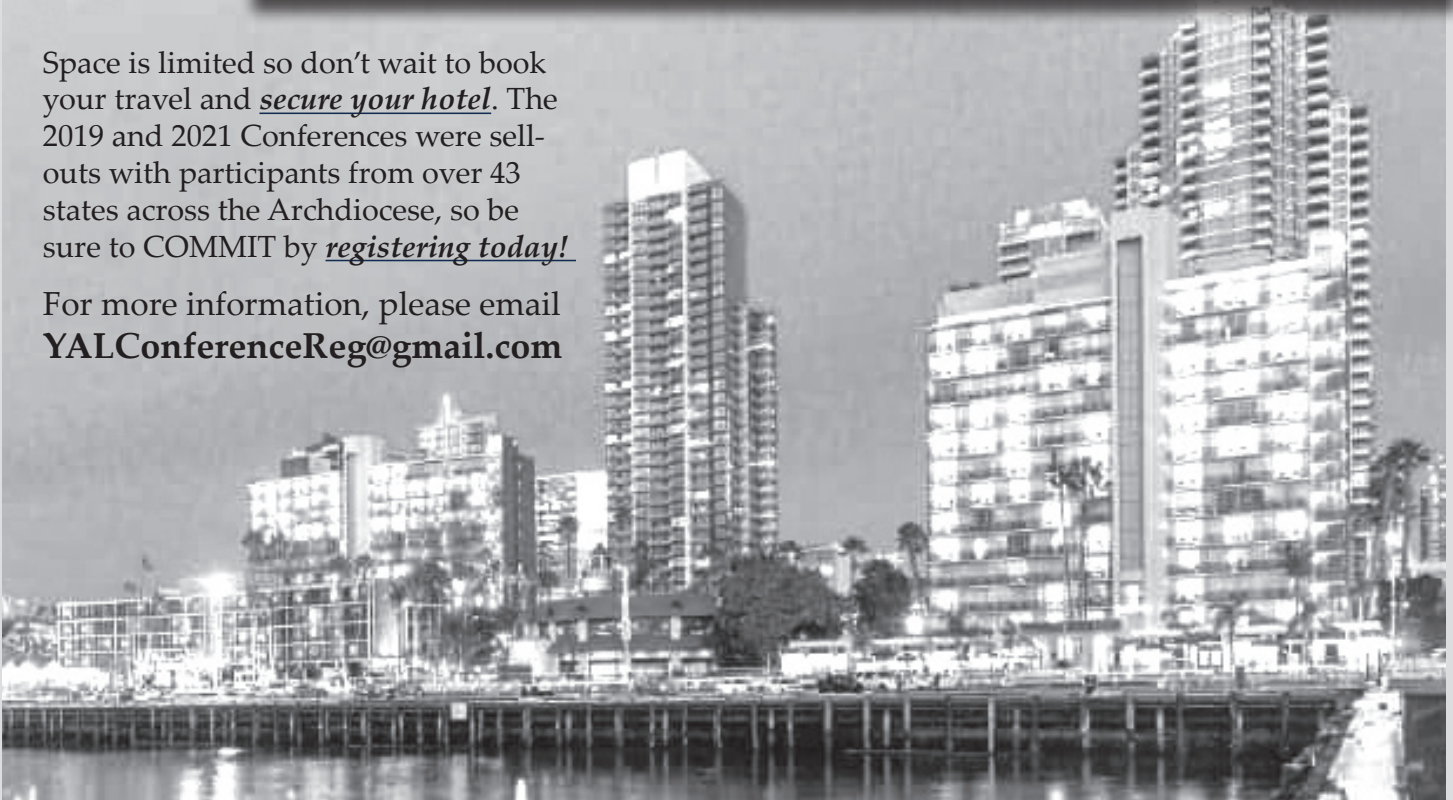
**[HTTPS://SANFRAN.GOARCH.ORG/EVENTS/YAL-CONFERENCE-2022](https://sanfran.goarch.org/events/yal-conference-2022)**

Young Adult  
California is where  
by the Greek  
than ever!



Space is limited so don't wait to book your travel and ***secure your hotel***. The 2019 and 2021 Conferences were sell-outs with participants from over 43 states across the Archdiocese, so be sure to COMMIT by ***registering today!***

For more information, please email [YALConferenceReg@gmail.com](mailto:YALConferenceReg@gmail.com)



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*Celebrating the Feast Day  
of the  
Dormition of the Theotokos*

*The Annunciation Cathedral  
Ladies Philoptochos Society  
Cordially Invites you to attend a Luncheon*



Monday, August 15, 2022  
Annunciation Cathedral  
Following Church Service

For reservations call Sophia Makras (650) 784-1775

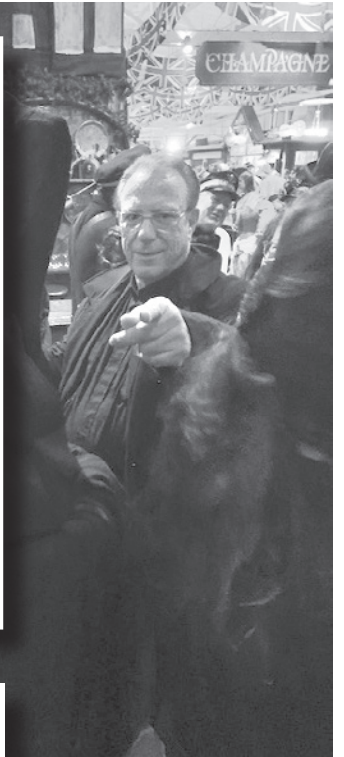
Pastitsio Luncheon  
(Includes appetizers, salad, dessert & wine)

\$20.00 Donation to support Philoptochos Ministries  
will be taken at the door

~Reservations are required~



# Thank You Father Stephen!



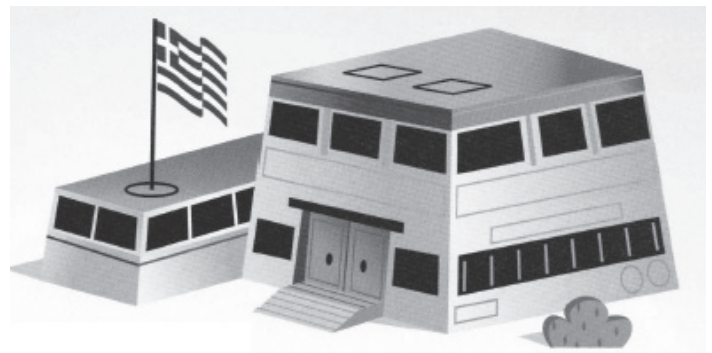
# Join Annunciation Cathedral's Greek School For The 2022-23 School Year!

2021-22 has been a great year for our Greek School and you can express your interest to join us in 2022-23!

In 2021 our teachers and students returned in-person to the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco to participate and flourish with their friends from our community!

- Classes offered for children and adults
- A well-rounded curriculum focused on language learning as well as Greek history, culture, traditions and customs
- Warm and caring teaching staff of native speakers
- An inclusive school welcoming all ages and all cultural backgrounds
- High instructor to student ratio – usually classes consist of 4 to 8 students
- All up-to-date Greek language materials used with online supplementary activities! (Geia Xara, Ellinopoula, Klik, Epikoinoniste)
- Performing arts class with plays written & directed by our staff
- Modern teaching facilities in the heart of the vibrant Mission district
- Access to safe parking for families during classes
- Program is supported by the Cathedral's Parish Council and the Metropolis of San Francisco!
- And much much more!

*Express your interest today!*  
*email [greekschool@annunciation.org](mailto:greekschool@annunciation.org)*



σχο-λεί-ο, το σχολείο, ένα σχολείο,  
το μεγάλο σχολείο, το σχολείο μου

# Greek School





## Condolences

The Cathedral extends condolences to Valerie and Stefanie Roumeliotes and their family upon the recent falling asleep in the Lord of their husband and father, Dimitri Roumeliotes.

May his memory be eternal!

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF  
SAN FRANCISCO, THE ANNUNCIATION  
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL  
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