



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

NOVEMBER 2016



COUNTDOWN TO THE ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL GALA: SATURDAY, NOV. 5

A great evening is in store for you on Saturday, November 5. You will experience a glamorous dinner, paired with thrilling entertainment and a fabulous auction! Celebrity and **Iron Chef Cat Cora** will present her amazing culinary skill, assisted by **George Gavros** and his crew. Our own Iconic **Vicki Liviakis** of KRON 4 News will be Master of Ceremonies. **Alexander Agapiades** (who was married at the Cathedral earlier this year) will play pieces from his album, *Feeling Free*, along with, perhaps, a new composition for us as we celebrate 95 years of the Annunciation Cathedral. **Theodosia Roussos** will entertain

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with new songs, which she will debut at the Gala. Following the event, there will be dancing to the music of Mythos. It will be an unforgettable evening. This soiree is your chance to a sneak peek at our amazing Cathedral building itself, as you wine, dine and dance the night away. (A sneak preview to 2021, that is, when we celebrate our 100th and consecrate the new Cathedral to the glory of God!) You will enjoy extraordinary *parea* - definitely a night to remember! Most of all, you will be supporting your church and the rebuilding of the Cathedral. Yes, it is a donation of \$350 per person, but the donation is fully tax deductible, to the degree allowed by law. And you will be helping the Cathedral to move ahead with the rebuilding of our church. May we count on your support? The Gala is chaired by **Tessa Ambus, Irene Kyriacou and Paul Sogotis**. An amazing team of Cathedral volunteers has come together to create this memorable evening, including young family members and members of our Young Adults. How about our unique 95th Anniversary logo, featured above? It was designed by our own, very talented **Nick Balian**. We have lots of talented and dedicated people, which is what the Community is all about. For reservations please return your reply card, by November 1, or contact us at **CATHEDRALGALA2016@GMAIL.COM**. We, meanwhile, note that, prior to the printing of this Herald, upwards of \$100,000 was received in support of the Gala, and an additional six-figure gift to the Capital Campaign was made. All this in response to what the Lord said to Moses: *"Build me a sanctuary and I will appear among you."* (Exodus 25:8)

Contributors to the Building Fund Are Renewing their Support

As noted in last month's *Herald*, the Capital Campaign Committee sent a letter to its contributors who had made a pledge to the Building Fund and have completed or who are nearing completion of their pledge, as well as to those who made a one-time gift, with a view to making another gift once they could see the progress. The letter was sent so as to give everyone the opportunity to renew their support of this historic rebuilding of the Cathedral, which is shaping up to be a landmark, in the heart of San Francisco. All this came about because of you and your faith, in this community and in its future.

As noted in the above-referenced letter, a few parishioners—entirely on their own—approached the Capital Campaign Committee and said, "we're accustomed to giving so much per month. We like what we see, and we want to continue giving what we've been giving." In some cases, they doubled their pledge or their gift. In other cases, they even tripled it. There's something to be said about the adage, "Build it and they will come." It's even more meaningful when one considers precisely what it is we are building. We are not just *replacing* the facilities lost to Loma Prieta (the 1989 earthquake that irreparably damaged our church). We are *providing* for the future. As one of our parishioners said one day after parking his car, on the way to the chapel for services: "My God, I looked up and saw something reminiscent of the old Cathedral, only it resembled the Holy Mother of God, arms outstretched, inviting the entire City to enter and to worship the Lord Jesus Christ!" In a word, that's our mission—to bring people to the Lord Jesus Christ. To share in God's love. To live with the hope of eternal life. We hope you share this vision with us and that you are supportive of this sacred undertaking.



A magnificent view of the progress of the clay tile roofing being laid, the backdrop being the San Francisco skyline, looking northwest. Annunciation, literally, is in the heart of the City. The new Cathedral is shaping up to be the heart of the City.

The Past Informs our Future

Jim Loukas, head of the Greek Historical Society of the San Francisco Bay Area, recently forwarded a historical timeline of the Cathedral community from his own research. The dates cited were obtained were from copies of actual source documents such as a deed or a building permit. We thank Jim for his ongoing research and for providing us with the timeline. This timeline is being reprinted here, not as a trip down memory lane, but because the past informs the future. That is, it provides context for the future. The community, as is the case with the Church, always looks ahead, confident in him who is the "pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:12).

8/9/1907 - (Relating to the Valencia Street Theater)

Construction of the Valencia Street Theater Class "A" construction per plans. Retaining walls: Concrete, 9ft tall. Corrugated roofing. Passage ways at sides. Floor construction: concrete. Foundation walls: concrete. Contractor: Dineen Building Company, 913 Polk Street, San Francisco. Architect: O'Brien & Werner, 1683 Ellis Street, San Francisco.

9/12/1908 - (Relating to the Valencia Street Theater)

Valencia Theater grand opening featuring the play "The Great Ruby"

6/4/1921

Deed - Escrow closes on the sale of property at Hayes & Pierce Streets. Chris D. Katharios, James G. Glafkides, and C.D. Antoniadis (All 3 were St. Sophia founders) purchase property on Hayes & Pierce streets. They purchase all of the lots facing Pierce Street from Hayes to Fell streets.

6/26/1921

Ground was broken at Hayes & Pierce Streets. His Eminence Metropolitan Meletios Metaxakis lays the cornerstone of the Cathedral.

7/17/1921

Deed - Chris and Mary Katharios, James G. Glafkides, and C.D. Antoniadis deed the property they purchased to the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Sophia.

8/2/1921

Deed - Ernest and Ella M. Leigh purchase one of the lots for Fr. Philaretos Ioannides, St. Sophia's first priest, to use as his home.

9/22/1921

The St. Sophia community announces they raised over \$75,000 towards the new cathedral.

1/26/1924

Deed - Fr. Philaretos Ioannides was elevated to (the first) Bishop of the Chicago Diocese on June 1, 1923. After his departure he deeded his home back to the people that purchased it for him (E. M Leigh). Fr. Pythagoras Caravellas becomes presiding priest.

4/9/1928

Deed - Escrow closes on the sale of property on Valencia Street. Foster & Kleiser Co. sells the Valencia Street Theater to the Saint Sophia community.

4/23/1928

Building Permit - Initial conversion of the Valencia Street Theater to a church. Remove the present balcony, make

lower floor level and construct 2nd floor as per plans and specification. Install towers on east side. Building to be used as a church. Cost: \$25,000 Contractor: Louis Sartoris, 616 Mission Street, San Francisco. Architect: Andrew H. Knoll, Hearst Building, San Francisco.

12/6/1934

Fr. Pythagoras Caravellas, the community's 2nd priest, passes away from a heart attack at age 44 leaving behind a wife and three daughters. He had been recovering from tuberculosis in a sanatorium in Belmont, CA.

7/29/1935

Bank of America files a notice of default and election to sell.

12/3/1935

Deed - Escrow closes on the sale of property. Bank of America purchases the St. Sophia church in a foreclosure sale for \$25,000.

12/30/1937

Deed - Escrow closes on the sale of property. The community reorganizes as the United Greek Orthodox Community of San Francisco (The Annunciation) and purchases the church back from Bank of America.

5/23/1938

Building Permit - Remodel interior. Metal lathe & plaster throughout. Cost: \$1,500 Contractor: M. McKenzie, 1106 Buchanan Street, San Francisco.

11/17/1938

Building Permit - Install church bell. Cost: \$45. (bell is noted as weighing 650 lbs.)

6/3/1940

Building Permit - Construct two rooms to be used by priests. Frame, lathe, & plaster. Cost: \$900 Contractor: M. McKenzie, 1106 Buchanan Street, San Francisco.

9/17/1941

Building Permit - Alter the back stage of the former theater with four Sunday School rooms. Cost: \$9,000 Contractor: M. McKenzie, 506 Buchanan Street, San Francisco.

8/5/1948

Building Permit - Install a play yard in rear of building. Cost: \$4,000 Contractor: Jacks & Irvine, 620 Market Street, San Francisco. License: 101762

9/2/1949

Building Permit - Remove existing concrete steps of lobby floor and install new terrazzo steps. Cost: \$2,500 Contractor: American Terrazzo Co., 36 Wood Street, San Francisco.

6/3/1954

Building Permit - Rip out all projections where necessary. Cement and plaster. Cost: \$7,300 Contractor: Salih Bros., 988 Market Street, San Francisco. Architect: Lloyd Conrich, 593 Market Street, San Francisco.

3/30/1962

The cathedral acquires the Colonial Apartments next to the cathedral.

7/14/1981

The cathedral acquires the Bausch & Lomb building

3/8/1987

Father Stephen Kyriacou's first Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Cathedral

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Building Update

The most visible progress last month was the laying of much of the clay tile on the flat roofs. The non-quite-completed roofs- and the rest of the building - received an unplanned test in mid-October when the first rain storms of the season came through San Francisco. Except for a few expected leaks where the roof and walls aren't finished, the building came through beautifully.

The other major milestone, although not as visible as the roof, was the arrival of the new elevator cab and equipment at the manufacture's Bay Area warehouse. It'll be kept there until the waterproofing the rest of the main slab and tying in its drains are completed, so that the garage will stay dry as the elevator is installed.

The next big milestone will be removal of the scaffold that's been up for over a year while the Cathedral's exterior was completed. This will open the way to completing the rest of the exterior and site work - trenching for and connecting the fire water and storm drain lines, completing the waterproofing, installing the rest of the cast stone details, tiling the new fountain and building up the exterior slab for the new pavers.

What people are the MOST curious about right now is when the new parking garage will be open. The original plans were to have it opened at the same time that the Cathedral was completed, but that's has been moved up. Besides the actual construction that needs to be completed, inspected, and signed off, we'll also need to get approval from the City - two different departments! With all of that, the construction team still hopes to have the garage completed and ready to use sometime in February.

Thank You
AMDG

*Ken Katen
Owner's Representative
Annunciation Cathedral*



Members of the Barker O'Donoghue team, which installed the windows and is preparing the elevator and elevator lobbies.



WHAT DOES MY GIFT TO THE BUILDING FUND REALLY AMOUNT TO OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD?

We've been hearing a lot about pledging to the Building Fund over a five-year period. What does that really mean? The chart below shows how, by thinking in terms of a per person/per day gift of a few dollars and cents, one can make a meaningful gift over a 5-year period. Please keep in mind that every cent given to the Building Fund is fully tax-deductible. And, every gift of \$1,000 and more will be acknowledged on the donor wall which will be placed in the new Cathedral. Meanwhile, if you would like to discuss donating something other than cash, something like stocks or bonds, or if you would like to learn about other donor opportunities, you may contact the Cathedral, office@annunciation.org, or speak with Father Stephen or Tom Nuris.

AMOUNT	PER YEAR OVER 5 YEARS	PER MONTH OVER 5 YEARS	PER DAY OVER 5 YEARS	2 PERSON FAMILY- PER DAY (EACH)	3 PERSON FAMILY- PER DAY (EACH)	4 PERSON FAMILY- PER DAY (EACH)
\$100,000	\$20,000	\$1,666.00	\$54.80	\$27.40	\$18.26	\$13.70
\$50,000	\$10,000	\$833.00	\$27.40	\$13.70	\$9.13	\$6.85
\$30,000	\$6,000	\$500.00	\$16.43	\$8.22	\$5.48	\$4.10
\$25,000	\$5,000	\$416.00	\$13.70	\$6.85	\$4.56	\$3.42
\$20,000	\$4,000	\$333.33	\$10.95	\$5.49	\$3.65	\$2.74
\$15,000	\$3,000	\$250.00	\$8.22	\$4.11	\$2.74	\$2.05
\$10,000	\$2,000	\$166.66	\$5.47	\$2.75	\$1.82	\$1.36

Gift Giving to the Capital Campaign

For those parishioners or friends of the Cathedral who wish to make a donation, you may consider donating funds from your stock portfolio. If you were to sell this stock on the open market most likely you will pay capital gain taxes. To avoid paying capital gain taxes, you simply donate the stock to the Annunciation Cathedral, a non-profit 501(c)3 religious corporation.

The stock needs to be publicly traded on one of the exchanges (NY, NASDAQ, etc.) then you simply report it on your tax return as a noncash charitable contribution. You get the appreciated value for the donation and do not pay tax on the capital gain. Then all you will need for taxes is a letter of acknowledgment from the Cathedral, with the name of the stock, date of donation and number of shares received. For additional information regarding the transfer of stock to the Cathedral, please contact Father Stephen at fatherstephen@annunciation.org or Angie Leventis at aleventis3@comcast.net.

Parking during Construction (for a few more months-thankfully)

Parking for up to 70 cars is available in the lot behind the Cathedral, at 334 14th Street and on the street. Stewards of the Cathedral are charged only \$5 to park, by showing their discount card; the Cathedral will pay \$7 of the parking cost for Stewards. To pick up a parking pass or to discuss your stewardship, please see Gus Vouchilas, our Stewardship Chairman. If you are a supporting member of the Cathedral, in other words a Steward, you get the card. Street parking is also available on Sundays, especially along the 217' construction zone in front of the Cathedral. For your convenience, an attendant is on hand each Sunday to monitor the drop off zone and direct parking to the parking lot behind the Cathedral. We kindly ask our parishioners to be considerate of those with disabilities, giving them parking preference in the spaces on Valencia Street. This relationship with the lot behind the Cathedral will end as soon as our own parking structure is up and running.

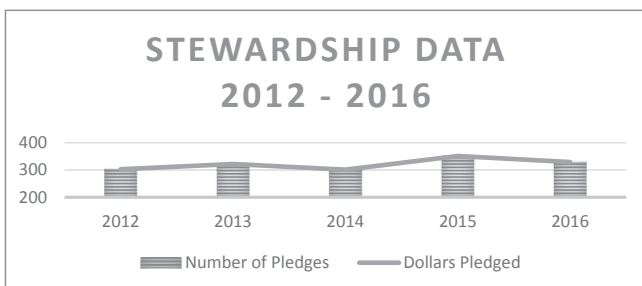
A Word About Stewardship: Good News!

We are pleased to share with you that financial Stewardship pledge income received in 2015 was the highest in recent history and 2016 continues this trend, hoping to surpass it. Currently, we list 329 Stewardship units (families, for the most part), pledging a total of \$284,347 for the support of the Cathedral's ministries. While this amount is essentially only about half of what it takes to keep the Cathedral operating, the level of support is promising. The average pledge amount has increased over recent years and that is a testimony to your support. The average pledge amount for 2016 is currently at \$870, a 13% increase over last year; with a little more effort, we can easily reach a \$1,000.00 annual pledge average. Our annual Stewardship pledge goal for 2016 is to make it to \$300,000. With your continued support, love for the Lord and His people, and willingness, we can easily reach our goal this year.

Stewardship Growth Speaks for Itself

Below is the most recent report submitted by the Stewardship Committee to the Parish Council. It is self-explanatory. It shows that stewardship (that is, the support of the Cathedral and its ministries by means of an annual pledge) is continuing to grow. The term "unique 2016 pledges," meanwhile, indicates that a number of individuals who are pledging in 2016 had either pledged to the Cathedral prior to 2012 or, in most cases, are new to the Cathedral. We welcome them and thank them for their support.

STEWARDSHIP DATA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016
						Last Month / This Month
Number of Pledges	303	322	301	351	329	316 / 329
Pledged Dollars	\$253,844	\$251,670	\$234,092	\$299,637	284,347	274,552 / 284,347
Outstanding Balances 2016					51,125	56,726 / 51,125
Average Pledge	\$838.00	\$782.00	\$778.00	\$854.00	\$ 864.00	869 / 864
Number of pledges at 1000.00 or above					112	109 / 112
Number of pledges between 601 and 999					29	29 / 29
Number of pledges at 600.00 and below					187	178 / 187*
Number of individual 2015 pledges that have not pledged for 2016					82	82 / 82



Report:

Need 22 pledges to meet LY - 2 months to go- **need push**

Need push for outstanding balances YTD

Slight decrease in Average Pledge

Sent letter to the 2015 but not 2016 pledgers

3rd Qtr reminders going out by Oct 19 to outstanding balances only

Working on online stewardship pledging with Nick rally

December 11, 2016 is Stewardship Sunday (Brunch offered by G&G)

Gregory of Nyssa

This great spiritual father of the 4th century was born as the persecution of Christians was coming to an end. Known as one of the Cappadocian Fathers (the other two were St. Gregory's brother, St. Basil the Great and their mutual friend, St. Gregory Nazianzos), St. Gregory has come to be regarded more and more as the most brilliant and profound mystical teacher of the three.

OIKOS Lecture Series Continues: Professor Klironomos, Professor Steven Harris, Ph. D. to speak

As announced in the Herald, as well as our weekly Sunday bulletins, OIKOS (Orthodox in Koinonia Outreach Services), under the direction of Dr. Katina Kostoulas, Ph.D., and the assistance of Dr. Tony Elite, sponsors a series of talks aimed at informing, engaging, and edifying our parishioners in any number of areas involving individual and communal spiritual growth, family dynamics, and parish life. The lectures take place the first Sunday of each month, during the coffee hour.

Future speakers include Martha Klironomos, Ph.D. Dr. Katina Kostoulas, Dr. Anthony Elite, Janine Economides, wife of Professor Nicholas Economides, and Steven Harris, Ph.D.

Our talk by Professor Martha Klironomos, which was scheduled for Sunday, September 11, is being rescheduled for Sunday, February 12, 2017, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, during the coffee hour. Professor Klironomos will speak on the Bloomsbury Group and how their travels to Greece and Italy inspired the integration of Byzantine motifs into their art. Professor Martha Klironomos has served as Director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies, the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair, at S.F. State University. She has been teaching courses in Modern Greek language and literature and Comparative and English literature, at S.F. State University, since 1996.

Meanwhile, Dr. Harris, a certified Jungian Psychotherapist and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist, will speak to us on Sunday, November 13 (the feast of St. John Chrysostom). A Clinical Psychologist practicing in Newport Beach, CA, he worships at the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos Serbian Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA. Dr. Harris is also the former Clinical Director for the Center for Individual and Family Therapy in Orange, CA and was Professor at the California Graduate Institute and Professor and Dean of Academic Affairs at the American Behavior Studies Institute, where he also edited the Psychotherapy Integration Journal.

Gregory of Nyssa continued...

Among his works is one entitled The Life of Moses. It is of special significance because it reflects St. Gregory's spiritual sense of the Scriptures. St. Gregory maintained that the ultimate purpose of Scripture was not its historical teachings, but its capacity for elevating the soul to God. In this work, of which we cited excerpts in the October Herald, the saint offers a synthesis of earlier Hellenistic and Jewish traditions, in the effort to understand and aspire to the Christian God. He describes the spiritual ascent as taking place in three stages, symbolized by the Lord's own revelation of Himself to Moses—first in light, then in the cloud, and, finally, in the dark. What is quoted here and elsewhere in this issue of the Herald are experts of the latter part of the work, namely, sections 305, 308, 317, and 318:



How About Serving on the Parish Council?

If you are reading this article, you are, in fact, giving thought to serving on the Parish Council. You may be wondering, what is the Parish Council? Or, how much time does someone have to give to serve on the Parish Council? These are good questions. The Archdiocese Regulations define the Parish Council as follows: "To serve on a Parish Council is a ministry and all those who serve are called to represent Christ and the Orthodox Faith to all whom they meet in all aspects of life. The Parish Council shall consist of the Priest, as the head of the Parish, and a number of elected lay members fixed by the Parish Bylaws or local statute according to the needs of the Parish. The Parish Council is responsible to the Parish Assembly and to the respective Hierarch for conducting all Parish affairs in keeping with the mission, aims and purposes as set forth in the Charter and these Regulations" (Article 24:Section 1).

So, to serve on the Parish Council is, first and foremost, a call to discipleship. "To represent Christ and the Orthodox Faith..." To be witnesses of the Faith. To be modern-day apostles. That's a high calling. It speaks of a sacred mission. In considering serving on the Parish Council, one needs to consider putting one's faith into practice "to all whom they meet in all aspects of life." At home, at work, at school, on the golf course and, of course, at church.

Secondly, to serve on the Parish Council is to be part of a team: "The Parish Council shall consist of the Priest, as the head of the Parish, and a number of elected lay members...." Yes, the Priest is the head of the Parish. This does not mean, however, that he can do things alone. He cannot. He works with the faithful people of the parish, for the purpose of proclaiming the good news of Christ, that is, the good news of our salvation, and for lifting up people both inside and outside the parish. Yes, by implementing parish programs. By involving parishioners both in the worship life of the parish and every other aspect of the parish...religious, social, educational. And, the sky's the limit when it comes to programs. Don't look at our current parish programs,

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like dance and basketball, like Sunday School and Greek School, like shut-in visitations, like festivals and Mother's Day luncheons and the like. Think out of the box. Think about bereavement seminars, think about senior ministry. Think about faith education for adults. Literally, the sky's the limit. And these can all be accomplished when everyone works together, in a united way, motivated by faith. The number of lay people who make up the Parish Council is 15. Seven are elected one year to a two-year term, and eight are elected the following year to a two-year term. In 2016, 7 parishioners in good standing will be elected on Sunday, December 11 to a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2017. In order to run, the prospective candidate "must be a parishioner in good standing of the Parish for at least 1 year immediately preceding the date of the election and must live his or her life in accordance with the Faith and canons of the Church" (Article 25: Section 1). "In good standing" means being a current steward that is, being a supporter of the ministries of the Parish, by means of a stewardship pledge, for at least a year prior to January 1, 2017. In addition, the prospective candidate must attend a seminar, which will be held at the Cathedral on Tuesday, November 15 at 7 p.m. (Article 25, Section 3:A).

Lastly, "the Parish Council is responsible to the Parish Assembly and to the respective Hierarchy for conducting all Parish affairs in keeping with the mission, aims and purposes..." In other words, it reports to the entire Parish, which meets twice a year, and also to the Metropolitan. It is answerable, as well, to the Board of Auditors, who examines the financial transactions of the Parish. For 2016, these auditors are: Bella Konstantinidis, Dr. Elena Lingas, and Denis Lappos.

Now, does all this sound complicated? Yes and no. Yes, because it requires participation. And, yes, there are rules. By the way, the Parish Council meets monthly and, so, you would have to carve out a couple of hours a month for the meetings. That's besides meetings of subcommittees, on which the candidate would like to serve. So, yes, serving on the Parish Council requires time and commitment. But, no, it's not complicated. Not if you do what you do in life that has meaning, with passion. If you love to serve others. If you would like to see the Cathedral become stronger as it evolves into a community of service in these challenging times, now that we are building a landmark church in the heart of this most vibrant City of San Francisco.

If you've read up to this point, you are ready to serve as a member of the Parish Council. We invite you to contact Father Stephen (fatherstephen@annunciation.org) and tell him you're ready. He'll advise you of the next steps, which include the placement of your name in nomination at the October 23 Parish Assembly and, perhaps, your attendance at one of the regular meetings of the Parish Council, as an observer, to see what's going on. Welcome!

Father Stephen Invited to Constantinople

Father Stephen has been invited by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos to accompany him to Constantinople in November, when His Eminence attends meetings of the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Father Stephen will leave on November 23 and return December 1. As this falls during the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral November 24 (Thanksgiving Day), November 25 (St. Katherine's), or November 30 (St. Andrew's). Bishop Apostolos of Medeia will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral on Sunday, November 27. Meanwhile, His Eminence and Father Stephen will be joined by members of the San Francisco Metropolis Council, including Philoptochos President Jeannie Ranglas and husband Gerry. Jointly, they will host His All Holiness on Monday, November 28. On Tuesday, November 29, the group will attend Great Vespers for the Thronal Feast of St. Andrew, First-Called of the Apostles and founder of the Great Church of Constantinople. They will also be present for Divine Liturgy on November 30, the day of the Feast. It is a great honor for the Dean of the Cathedral to be included in this way, especially during this year of the calling of the Great and Holy Council, which met on Crete in June.

The Past Informs our Future

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10/17/1989

Loma Prieta Earthquake. Annunciation Cathedral incurs significant damage

11/22/1992

Groundbreaking ceremony & luncheon for ancillary facilities

11/6/1997

His All Holiness, Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox faith, visits Annunciation at 10am. Ecumenical Doxology at 11am.

10/9/2013

The Annunciation community signs a contract with McNely Construction to rebuild the cathedral.

10/17/2013

The city of San Francisco issues a building permit for rebuilding the Cathedral on the 24th anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake.

11/5/2013

The community celebrates 95 years since its founding. Pauses to rejoice at the rebuilding of the Cathedral, thus far. The rebuilding looks to the future, shaping up, as a landmark in the heart of the City. It anticipates its consecration in 2021, on the 100th anniversary of its founding. It anticipates, as well, being the expression of the most ancient Christian faith in the service of modern man or, in the prophetic words of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, when he broke ground for it on November 6, 1997: "A home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified."

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Every year our Philoptochos plans its calendar to reflect those in need.

As we work together our possibilities are endless. May this year be one of limitless possibilities! We need everyone to join us as we reach out to the needs of those in our communities and in the world.

In the months of October and November National Philoptochos announces the following programs. First is National Breast Cancer Awareness month to educate and empower one to be aware of this disease. You can go to the National Foundation for Cancer Research and find out what you can do to reduce the risk of this disease. Secondly, they announce National Domestic Violence Awareness months to educate on how we can help those in need and where they can receive help. We wear pink and purple ribbons to acknowledge these programs.

Make a Difference Day, a national initiative which encourages children to do their very own good deed was implemented by Philoptochos Chapters in 2015. We are asking our children at Annunciation to join us with good deeds to present to various organizations. One example is to make cards for children or veterans in hospitals.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Gala on November 5, 2016.

Upcoming Events:

Light the Path Luncheon sponsored by Metropolis Philoptochos will be held on November 19, 2016 at Church of the Resurrection in Castro Valley, CA

Annunciation Philoptochos Vasilopita

– Sunday January 8, 2017

Philoptochos Annual Crab Feed

– Friday, January 27, 2017

Philoptochos Membership Drive

– January thru March 2017

Gregory of Nyssa continued...

I think there is no need to prolong the discourse by presenting to the reader the whole life of Moses as an example of virtue. For to anyone straining to the higher life what has been said provides amply for true wisdom. To anyone who shows weakness in toiling for virtue there would be no gain even if many more things should be written than what has been said.

He was born when the Egyptians considered a Hebrew birth an offense. When the tyrant ruling at that time punished by his law everybody who was born, Moses triumphed over the murderous law, being saved at first by his parents and then by the very persons who laid down the law. And those who desired his death by law actually exercised great care not only for his life but also for his highly esteemed education by introducing the youth to all wisdom.

Community Christmas Card

Once again, Annette Chiappari, Kalliope Fousekis and Annamaria Balian are heading the Community Christmas Card effort. Each Sunday, through November 27, they will be on hand following the Sunday Divine Liturgy to invite your participation. For a donation of \$25, you will have the opportunity to have your name/your family's name listed. The card goes out early in December to about 1,000 families and is a wonderful way to extend greetings to your fellow parishioners and friends of the Cathedral. We thank you for your participation and for your support.

Community Link Continues Ministering to Those in Need

Community Link, going on its 10th year of existence, is a group of Annunciation parishioners who meet once a month on a drop-in basis to visit members of our community who may be confined due to illness or age. We travel to hospitals, nursing homes and private residences. Many of those we visit no longer have family or friends to support them and just need to know there is someone who cares. A short visit or phone call can lift one's spirits a great deal. If anyone in the community knows of any other home bound parishioners to add to our list or would like to join us for a visit, please contact Pauline Oetzel at poetzel@hotmail.com. Please keep Community Link and our home-bound brothers and sisters in your prayers! Meanwhile, the Cathedral takes this opportunity to extend its gratitude to Pauline Oetzel for heading Community Link since its inception. Under her leadership, Community Link has "linked" the church community with our home-bound parishioners, offering hope and the message of God's love. We urge more parishioners to get involved with Community Link, as we plan for its future in the service of our fellow parishioners.

Share this Link

Share this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2702215> and ask your donors, volunteers, employees, and friends to bookmark this link so all their eligible shopping will benefit Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

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Soup Kitchen: thank you for volunteering!

As noted, the Soup Kitchen operates the third Tuesday of every month. It involves food prep, hall setup, serving the meal and—so important!—cleanup. We also have a food pantry, so a few awesome volunteers come early to bag up canned/non-perishable goods for our guests to take with them. Some volunteers arrive earlier, but the typical timeframe is 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Won't you consider volunteering once in a while? All you have to do is show up. By the way, there's no age limit. We have teenagers volunteering and we have people "forever young" volunteering. It would be truly wonderful to expand our volunteer base, so we can do more. Please communicate your willingness to Father Stephen, fatherstephen@annunciation.org. He will put you in touch to those who've taken the lead and are coordinating this important ministry. Thank you.



"Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?" (Matthew 25:44) "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me...'" (Matthew 25:40)

Plus, it's great fun. What else does one have to do on a Tuesday night?

Community Kitchen (Soup Kitchen) Chef Sign-Ups

Please sign up to help provide a quality, home cooked meal for our community's most in need. Community Kitchen committee members will help you organize your menu to serve at least 50 guests. Volunteers will be there to assist in food preparation.

Community Kitchens are held every 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 p.m. until food runs out. Volunteers begin prep around 4:30 p.m.

Chef options include (but are not limited to):

- Provide a list of needed ingredients a week in advance for soup kitchen committee member to purchase the Monday before each Community Kitchen.
- Prepare the meal in advance and have ingredients or pre-made food laid out with instructions in the kitchen by the Monday before the Community Kitchen.
- You can make a donation to underwrite the costs for a meal to be determined and planned by Community Kitchen committee members.

Date	Chef Name	Email
October 18th:	Jedeiah Esteves; Joseph Stevens	
November 15th:		
December 20th:		

Thank you for your participation in this ministry. Your generosity is vital in serving those in need right here in our community. Thank you for putting God's love into action. A Community Kitchen Committee Member will be in touch with you shortly!

YOUTH NEWS

GOYA News

First things first. Everyone: a GOYA fall event will take place at the Kontonis home on Sunday, November 6. The address and directions were forwarded to all our GOYA kids and their families by e mail. We are very excited, as Matia Kostakis, our GOYA Advisor is calling the meeting together. She has an exciting program, going forward.

Next: The annual Volleyball tournament took place on October 16, at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose. Several of Annunciation's teams participated. We are excited to share with you that our **MIDDLE SCHOOL WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP!** Daphne was named MVP of the tournament. Thalia and Zoe were named MVPs of their team. Shown right are our proud champions—Daphne, Zoe, Taia, Thalia, Maria, and Giana—with Father Demosthenes, Pastor of St. Nicholas, and George Gavros, who generously underwrote expenses relative to the tournament. Kudos!



Meanwhile, our high school team, the "Greek Warriors" came in second, during a very close game. Shown below are our players—Gianni, Stelios, Niko, Dimitri, Katerina, Panayioti Yianni and Anna—together with Patty Rally, our Coach, and Father John of St. Nicholas. We are justifiably proud of all our young people. (As a matter of policy, we never list the last names

of children under the age of 18.) (Recall, the Herald is not only mailed to parishioners' homes; it is also distributed through our List Serv and is posted to Annunciation's web site, www.annunciation.org)



And the still young at heart! Shown here, one of our adult teams, the Setting Ducks, took second place in their division. All Stars for the team were Jim Cocolos and Dustin Novo. Team members include Nick Kontonis, Chrisoula Novo, Athena Stavrakaras and Ari Stratakis.

Dance Group News

As we enter November, and our directors have been very busy researching and compiling dance material for our groups' upcoming dance year. Our dance program, meanwhile, has resumed practice for two months now. Our kids danced at this year's Food Festival, September 16-18, and are now feverishly learning their songs and dances for the Folk Dance Festival, held over President's weekend. This year's FDF will take place in San Diego, CA. We are pleased to note that our groups have increased significantly this year. We take this opportunity to welcome parents and young people who are new to our program.

The Cathedral's award-winning dance program consists of experienced and dedicated directors, talented dancers, and supportive families and community. All groups are currently open to new dancers for a limited time. Our program encompasses everyone from four years old to young adult. Please contact Lea Lyberopoulos at karthia808@yahoo.com for more information.

To Mellon: Pre-K-K (must be at least 4 years old in Fall 2016)

Directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

To Mellon 2: 1st-3rd grade in Fall 2016

Directed by Katerina Sarikakis, Eleni Taptelis, and Trina Misthos

Thisavri: 4th-6th grade in Fall 2016

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Spithes: 7th-11th grade in Fall 2016

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Megalopolis: 18 and up

Directed by Michael and Nicole Garibaldi

Gregory of Nyssa continued...

When you destroy everything which opposes your worth...then you will draw near to the goal. I mean by "goal" that for the sake of which everything is done, for example: The goal of agriculture is the enjoyment of its fruits; the goal of building a house is living in it; the goal of commerce is wealth; and the goal of striving in contests is the prize. In the same way, too, the goal of the sublime way of life is being called a servant of God. Along with this honor is contemplated an end which is not covered by a tomb; it refers to the life lived simply and free from evil appendages.



Sunday School News

*"Of all holy works, the education of children is the most holy."
~Saint Theophan the Recluse*

We continue to welcome new students to Sunday School and this is a great plus. Our Music Program has started and the children are enthusiastic and are showing quite the musicality as they learn the various hymns of our church.

October ended with a video presentation on Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF. For over 60 years, UNICEF has provided children around the world with medicine, nutrition, clean water, emergency relief and education. Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF is an easy, fun way to teach our kids the value of helping others and giving back to those who do not have the basic essentials that so many of us are blessed to have.

Sunday School Calendar for November/December:

November 6	Sunday School Giving Tree Project
November 13	Music Lesson – Lower Grades 1 st -6 th
November 20	Music Lesson – Upper Grades 7 th -HS
November 27	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Sunday School
December 4	Regular Classes – Christmas Program Rehearsal
December 11	Regular Classes – Christmas Program Rehearsal
December 18	Sunday School Christmas Program
December 25	Christmas Holiday – No Sunday School

Sunday School affirms the home as the center of our faith. Parents are the most important people in a child's life, and learning about our Orthodox faith starts in the home. Teaching children about God is a seven-day-a-week effort, not something that can be done just an hour on Sunday morning. We pledge to do our best to support you in your child's spiritual education but it is only with your active participation that we are able to share the importance and value of our Orthodox faith with your children.

"Please make every effort this year to get Sunday School and the children off to a good start by coming on time at 10:30 am."

Greek School News

Anthi writes us from Greece, where she has been vacationing, "We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer! Greek school starts Saturday, September 24th from 10 am - 12:15 pm. (Greek School, of course, has begun, as this issue of the Herald went to press.) Greek school meets every Saturday morning (excluding some Saturdays for holidays). If you are interested in enrolling your child to our program, please contact Anthi Janssens for more information including registration form and annual school calendar at anthigi@gmail.com or at 415-254-5458. We look forward to welcoming back returning and new families! "

'Like'
Annunciation
Cathedral Sunday
School!



"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord" (Psalm 98:4)



Sunday School children received their antidoron and then quickly assembled in the New Cathedral, for the first time.



"Look up," Father Stephen said, pointing to the magnificent dome. "What do you see?" he asked. "We see heaven," the children replied.

Serving in the Altar

Serving in the altar is a wonderful way for our young people to participate in the worship of our church, and learn more about our faith. For the present school year, we are very pleased to announce the altar leaders program! This year, three of the older altar servers have taken on the responsibility of coordinating the groups during services each week. We hope to add several more to their ranks in the coming years!

If any families are interested in their boys joining an altar group, who are above the age of 10, feel free to contact **Father Stephen** at fatherstephen@annunciation.org. Thank you also to **Nektarios McKnight** for guiding and instructing our altar servers each Sunday. As always, if anyone has any questions or suggestions, feel free to let us know. Thanks!

Our altar schedule for August is as follows:

November 6 – Group 2
November 13 – Group 3
November 20 – Group 4
November 27 – Group 1
(Bishop Apostolos celebrating)

Our altar groups are as follow:

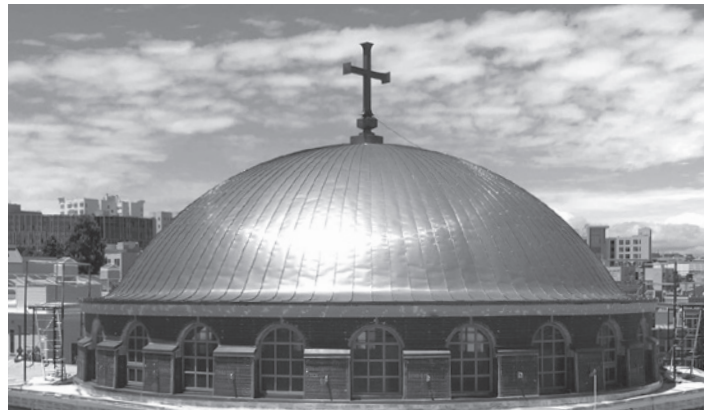
Group 1- Stelios Kyriacou, Kosta Lyberopoulos, Andrew Vellis, George Tsokas, Victor Nicolacakis, Justin Perez, Christian Kleinekorte (Dimitri Kontonis- Group Leader)

Group 2- Christopher Apostolos Percia, Panagiotis Sogotis, Yianni Sogotis, Steven Monolakis, (Niko Manetas- Group Leader)

Group 3- Niko Pezo, Demetri Rally, Steven Chiappari, Gianni Kefalas, Nicholas Shatara (Demetri Kontonis- Group Leader)

Group 4- Nathan Tesfai, Bobby Kontonis, Hari Manetas, Alexander Kasolas, Matthew Nuris (Jonas Tesfai- Group Leader)

Don't see your name here? Would you like to join us? We would like you to. Report for altar duty any Sunday morning, prior to 10:30 a.m., and Nektarios will make the appropriate arrangements. Meanwhile, it is also imperative that you attend Sunday School.



SACRAMENTS

Baptisms

DonAlejo Danilo, son of Danilo Ramos and Angelina Benicki, was baptized on October 23. His sponsor is Angelique Boutzoukas.

Na Mas Zisi! Long Life!

Funerals

Theodoros Ipsilantis, who fell asleep in the Lord September 19, was buried September 30. He is survived by his sister, Kyriaki Ypsilantou.

Pete Bozionelos, who fell asleep in the Lord October 13, was sent to Greece for burial. A Trisagion was held on October 18. He is survived by his children, Jim and Angelo Bozionelos and their families.

Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

Condolences

The Cathedral extends condolences to the family of **Mary Petrakis**, who fell asleep in the Lord on October 10. A Trisagion was offered on October 16. She is survived by her children, Helen Gehrett, James Petrakis, Sheila Petrakis, Mary P. Jones and Mariana Cunningham and their families.

Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

N O V E M B E R C A L E N D A R

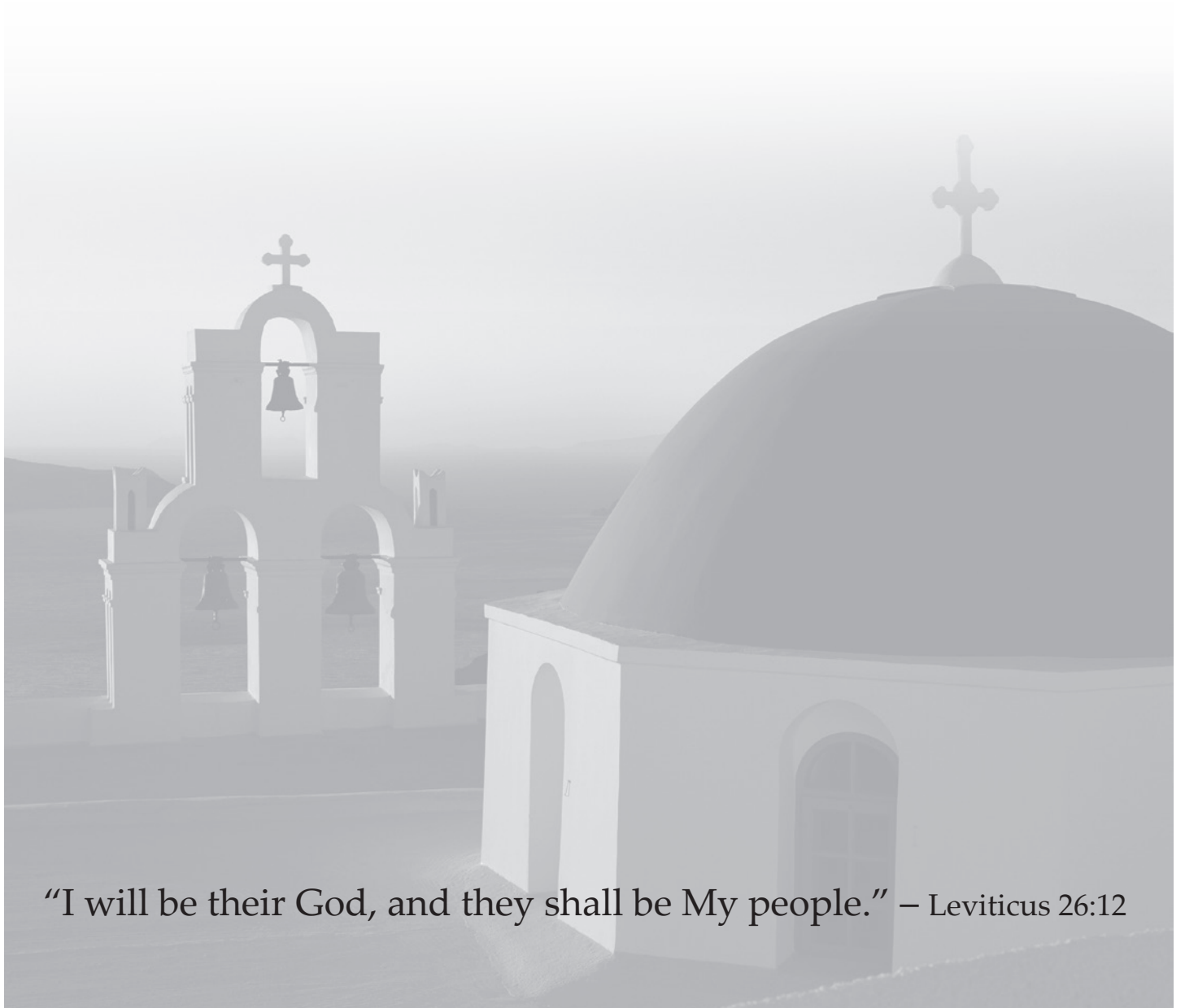
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
			7 p.m. Basketball practice	7 p.m. Basketball practice	Dinner for Major Donors at Metropolis House	Greek School, 10 a.m. Cathedral Gala, 6 p.m. Reception, 7 p.m. Dinner
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon Sunday School GOYA event at Kontonis home		Feast of the Archangels, Liturgy 10 a.m.	7 p.m. Basketball practice	7 p.m. Basketball practice		Greek School, 10 a.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon Sunday School		Community (Soup) Kithcen	7 p.m. Basketball practice	7 p.m. Basketball practice		Greek School, 10 a.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon Sunday School Parish Council, 12:30 p.m.	Presentation of the Theotokos, Liturgy 10 a.m.			Thanksgiving (No Liturgy)		
27	28	29	30	27		
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon.			7 p.m. Basketball practice	7 p.m. Basketball practice		Greek School, 10 a.m.

Gregory of Nyssa continued...

Scripture describes another characteristic of this service to God: the eye is not dimmed nor does the person age. For how can an eye which is always in the light be dimmed by the darkness from which it is always separated? And the person who by every means achieves incorruption in his whole life admits no corruption in himself. For he who has truly come to be in the image of God and who has in no way turned aside from the divine character bears in himself its distinguishing marks and shows in all things his conformity to the archetype; he beautifies his own soul with what is incorruptible, unchangeable, and shares in no evil at all.

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
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“I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” – Leviticus 26:12

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PRESENTS THEIR ANNUAL

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

A DAY TO GIVE THANKS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2016
12:00PM AFTER CHURCH SERVICES
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY HALL

DONATION: \$20.00 PER PERSON

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A FAVOR OF A REPLY IS REQUESTED:
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OR THE CATHEDRAL AT (415) 864-8000

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