



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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**TO:** Clergy, Parish Councils, and Philoptochos Chapters  
**FROM:** Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh  
**DATE:** September 8, 2009  
**RE:** Cancellation of Clergy Laity and Philoptochos Assembly

Dear Beloved Co-Workers in Christ,

During a recent meeting with representatives of our Clergy Syndesmos, I was informed that our Metropolis of Pittsburgh Clergy Laity and Philoptochos Assembly scheduled for October 8-10, 2009, was in conflict with the National Presvyteres Retreat.

Although I was reluctant, at their suggestion, I changed the dates for the Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly to October 5-7, 2009, to accommodate the clergy families.

Almost immediately upon announcing the new dates of the Assembly, I was inundated with calls from Committee chairpersons and other key leadership in the Metropolis, including the Philoptochos, informing me that the original dates were on their personal schedules for months, and attending the rescheduled event was not possible for them, given their family and occupational commitments.

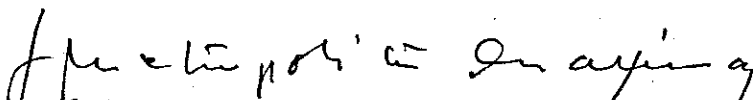
Without our committed laypersons, the ministry of the Church would not be possible. I am thankful to all of our lay co-workers for their contributions to the welfare of our Metropolis, and I know the difficulty faced by those in the business sector who often have to take time away from family and work to serve the Church.

After exhaustive consultation with many of my closest clergy, laity, chairpersons, and staff, we have determined that the rescheduled meeting would exclude too many of our laity to have a productive Assembly, and therefore, I have decided to cancel the 2009 Metropolis of Pittsburgh Clergy Laity and Philoptochos Assembly.\*

Our Metropolis Council will convene in the near future, and each Ministry Chairperson will present their reports at that time. All parishes will be provided with the committee reports, as well as Metropolis financial statements after that meeting. Similarly, our Metropolis Philoptochos Board will make plans to convene in a similar way by scheduling a meeting, and distributing their reports and information.

I ask your pardon in this matter, and pray that you understand that as your bishop, I strive to keep all of my active co-workers -- both clergy and laity -- involved in the life of the ministries of the Metropolis.

Paternally yours in the Lord,

  
+MAXIMOS  
METROPOLITAN OF PITTSBURGH

*\*Please note that any payments submitted to the Metropolis for the Assembly or Banquet will be promptly returned to you upon receipt.*