



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

TO: The Faithful of the Pittsburgh Metropolis
FROM: Metropolitan Maximos
DATE: November 26, 2007

Dearly Beloved,

I have sent you my Christmas Encyclical, in Greek and in English. Let me just repeat my good Christmas wishes for all of you. Hopefully, I will be able to communicate with you upon my return from Istanbul. This will be my eighth meeting of the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. I have three more months to go. My term ends in February, 2008.

Let me tell you of a letter I sent to you many years back. It was regarding your participation in the life of your Christian community (parish), namely, your running for the parish council. I was telling you that regardless of what the U.P.R. and other Archdiocesan instructions may say or not say, it is my personal responsibility as your Metropolitan to tell you what is best for you, your families, and your Church community.

What is best for you is not to run in competition with your own spouse, your family people, your parents, or siblings. Let them run this time, and take your turn in serving in the years to come. This is in the best interest of you personally, your families, and your extended family, the Church community. If there is a reason why this may change, then, I should personally know about and make the exception myself.

Once more, wishing you a blessed Holiday season, a Blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2008, I remain, paternally yours in Christ,
Your Bishop,

Maximos
METROPOLITAN MAXIMOS



Ecumenical Patriarchate
DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

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TO: All Priests of the Diocese of Pittsburgh
FROM: Metropolitan Maximos
DATE: December 5, 2002
RE: Parish Council Election Ratifications

This memorandum is a follow-up to my most recent communication with you regarding Parish Council Elections and Ratifications of Elections, dated November 12, 2002. The memo contained several items that are needed *before* I ratify your parish's elections. In the past several years, policies such as these have not been enforced, and we have witnessed a sharp and sudden deterioration in priest-parish council relationships in many parishes. Therefore, effective immediately, we will once again enforce the policies and procedures that have been established.

The enclosed check-list will be helpful when requesting parish council election ratifications. Any further questions should be addressed to Deacon Ryan at the Diocese. Your prompt attention to this matter is requested.

Please keep in mind that the Diocese of Pittsburgh does not permit husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, and parents and children to serve together on the parish council. Any such cases, or cases of similar concern, should be discussed *before* elections take place, using pastoral sensitivity. Any concerns should be forwarded to my attention *before* requesting ratification of elections.

Also, my previous memo addresses cases in which insufficient numbers of candidates have been nominated for election to the parish council. The policy (UPR Article VIII, Section 11) clearly states that elections are to proceed in accordance with Archdiocesan procedures. Any vacancies are handled thereafter in accordance with the UPR directives. Elections and ratification of the elections are *not* to be postponed due to lack of participation.

Wishing you a blessed and joy-filled Nativity, I remain, paternally yours in Christ,

MAXIMOS
Metropolitan of Ainou
Bishop of Pittsburgh

MMA/tg