

September 18, 2025

To the Reverend Clergy, the Parish Council Presidents, Philoptochos Sisters, and all the Faithful of the Metropolis of Atlanta:

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we prepare to welcome the coming Fall season, I am proud to announce an exciting and worthy opportunity: an evening to celebrate our Former Metropolitan of Atlanta, Alexios, on Friday, November 7, 2025, at 6 PM at The Kartos Ballroom in the Thalia N. Carlos Hellenic Center of the Metropolis Cathedral of the Annunciation. (RSVP details to follow.)

That evening will feature live testimony from our Metropolis co-workers, sharing heartfelt reflections on the profound impact that Metropolitan Alexios's leadership and love have had on each of us—both personally and collectively. It will be a night of gratitude, remembrance, and celebration of a legacy that continues to inspire. We hope you will join us.

Knowing that our beloved Geronda's humility prefers his Metropolis family not to make him the

center of attention, it is only fitting that this evening's celebration highlights one of His Eminence's most enduring legacies, the ministry he loves, which was renamed in his honor: the Metropolitan Alexios Diakonia Retreat Center. Among our first Metropolitan's many accomplishments, the DRC is a living testament to his vision, faith, and tireless dedication to nurturing the spiritual lives of generations, young and old alike, through the beauty of God's natural creation.

The crown jewel of His Eminence's vision for the DRC is a place of worship dedicated to our Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary. His Eminence understood that that dedication of this church to the Panagia Vimatarissa--the patron of his Athonite spiritual home, Vatopedi, would forever bond generations to their DRC. Already, we have seen the first fruits of His Eminence's dream, as our St. Stephen's Campers worship in the Chapel, and where couples have wed, or have had their children baptized.

By supporting His Eminence's joyful dream to see the completion of the Panagia Chapel in the very near future, we not only express our love and gratitude for his many years of tireless service, but we also help ensure that this ministry continues to bear fruit in the lives of countless faithful.

For this reason, I challenge each community, each family, and each faithful individual to do their part and demonstrate their love for His Eminence, by showing their support for his vision. Let us work to complete the mission he faithfully began by raising the \$500,000 we are lacking to complete the Panagia Chapel. With God's help—and the unwavering support of our Metropolis family, parishes, and clergy—we will fulfill this sacred task and complete the legacy of our beloved retired Metropolitan Alexios.

To that end, please note the following sponsorship opportunities that will ensure our families and parishes can contribute as they are able:

Patron

\$1,000

Silver

\$2,500

Gold

\$5,000

Benefactor

\$10,000

Grand Benefactor

\$25,000

I pray that your Metropolis can count on the participation of all our parishes to honor the work and the farreaching vision of our first Metropolitan.

In the love and service of our Lord

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