The Archdiocesan District Saint John Chrysostom Clergy Syndesmos is comprised of the Clergymen assigned to the parishes of the Archdiocesan District; Archdiocesan Headquarters and other Archdiocesan Institutions including Hellenic College Holy Cross; Saint Basil’s Academy; St. Michael’s Home; St. Photios National Shrine; and Saint Nicholas National Shrine at World Trade Center.

The mission of the Clergy Syndesmos is to support, enhance and promote the mission and brotherhood of the clergy of the Archdiocesan District on all levels of their ministry and diakonia, including spiritual and personal growth and educational development.

The Clergy of the Archdiocesan District gather for Syndesmos meetings at least twice a year (Fall and Spring) in parishes throughout the District. These meetings provide a wonderful opportunity for the Clergy of our District to hear from His Eminence, our Chancellor, and coordinate ministries of the Archdiocesan District.

Members of our Syndesmos also serve on the board of the National Archdiocesan Presbyters Council (APC); the National Benefits Committee (ABC); and the HCHC Alumni Board.

In addition, the Clergy of the Archdiocesan District gather with the Archbishop for an Annual Retreat that seeks to refresh, renew and recharge the Clergy of our Archdiocesan District and through them the Church, ministries and families they serve and love. This year’s retreat took place on March 11-13, 2024 at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Southampton, NY. His Eminence welcomed each participating clergyman and opened the retreat with heartfelt remarks and prayerful encouragement.

Under the theme: “The Orthodox Century” we were blessed to hear presentations by Hank Hanegraff, the “Bible Answer Man” and Ann Mitsakos Bezzerides. Both speakers brought unique perspectives and insights aimed at enriching the spiritual and pastoral capacities of the attending clergy, setting a tone of reflective contemplation and forward-thinking in anticipation of the Lenten season.

Hank is a world-renown author and radio talk-show host who was received into the Orthodox Church in 2017. In his first talk, “The Paradisiacal Transformation of the Cosmos,” Mr. Hanegraaff emphasized the transformative power of a “lived Orthodox Faith” and encouraged the clergy to promote awareness of the Paradise that can be lived now through participation in a Sacramental and Eucharistic life. He poignantly remarked, “through the Cross, Christ offers us the
Tree of Life, today,” highlighting the immediate and accessible nature of Divine Grace.

His second presentation, “The Photian Vision,” called for a mission-minded approach, urging clergy with the words, “We need to open our doors,” to actively engage the world with the message and life of Orthodoxy rather than withdrawing from it.

Ann Mitsakos Bezzerides is the Executive Director of the CrossRoad Institute and the Director of the Office of Vocation & Ministry at Hellenic College Holy Cross. Ann spoke on the impactful work of the CrossRoad Institute, particularly highlighting the CrossRoad Summer Institute for Teens. Her presentation not only showcased the transformative experiences of CrossRoad alumni but also delved into the urgent issues facing contemporary Orthodox communities, such as evolving parenting needs, engaging with young adults, and innovating active ministry approaches within the parish setting.

Ann also offered each clergyman a free copy of the newly released book: “Find Your Telos: Discover what Orthodox Young Adults & Parishes Can Create Together,” which is a wonderful resource designed to assist parishes as they strive to engage young adults in the life of their communities.

The retreat also provides the clergy with the opportunity to engage in collegial fellowship and a platform to discuss practical applications of their faith in ministry, thereby enriching their communal and pastoral work with renewed vision and vigor.

Other continuing education and support opportunities are also available for our clergy through the National Clergy Retreats (held every other year); Clergy Couple Marriage Workshops; local Vicariate Meetings; and Clergy Peer Groups that are currently taking place throughout our Archdiocesan District.

The extended Clergy Families (Presvyteres and Children) of the Archdiocesan District also gather with the Archbishop for an annual Vasilopita Dinner celebration.

We are very appreciative to His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros for his constant prayers and guidance and to the Chancellor of our Archdiocesan District, Rev. Fr. Elias Villis, for his support and love.

In an effort to foster greater fellowship and support of the local programs of the various geographical areas of the Archdiocesan District, Archbishop Elpidophoros has created seven Vicariates, who are ably served by Regional Vicars.

These Vicariates are:

**Region 1: Manhattan, Bronx, Washington DC Area, Bahamas.**

**Vicar: Rev. Fr. Elias Villis, Chancellor**
- Annunciation (Manhattan)
- Sts. Anargyroi (Manhattan)
- St. Barbara (Manhattan)
- St. Eleftherios (Manhattan)
- St. George – St. Demetrios (Manhattan)
- St. George (Manhattan)
- St. Gerasimos (Manhattan)
- St. John the Baptist (Manhattan)
- St. Spyridon (Manhattan)
- Zoodochos Peghe (Bronx)
- St. Petros (Bronx)
- St. Sophia Cathedral (Washington D.C.)
- Sts. Constantine and Helen (Silver Springs, MD)
- Annunciation (Nassau, Bahamas)

**Region 2: Brooklyn, Staten Island.**

**Vicar: V. Rev. Damaskinos Ganas**
- Holy Cross (Brooklyn)
- Three Hierarchs (Brooklyn)
- Sts. Constantine and Helen (Brooklyn)
- Kimisis tis Theotokou (Brooklyn)
- Holy Trinity – St. Nicholas (Staten Island)

**Region 3: Queens.**

**Vicar: V. Rev. Fr. Chrysostom Panos**
- St. Demetrios & Sts. Catherine & George (Astoria)
- St. Demetrios (Jamaica)
- Sts. Constantine and Helen (Jackson Heights)
- Transfiguration (Corona)
- St. Nicholas (Flushing)
- Holy Cross (Whitestone)
Region 4: Western Long Island.
Vicar: Rev. Fr. Nikiforos Fakinos
  St. Paul (Hempstead)
  Holy Trinity (Hicksville)
  Archangel Michael (Port Washington)
  Holy Resurrection (Brookville)
  Kimisis tis Theotokou (Island Park)
  St. Demetrios (Merrick)
  St. Markella (Wantagh)

Region 5: Eastern Long Island.
Vicar: Rev. Fr. Constantine Lazarakis
  St. Paraskevi (Greenlawn)
  St. Nicholas (West Babylon)
  Assumption (Port Jefferson)
  St. John (Blue Point)
  Transfiguration (Mattituck)
  Kimisis tis Theotokou (Southampton)

Region 6: Westchester and Connecticut.
Vicar: Rev. Fr. Peter Orfanakos
  Prophet Elias (Yonkers)
  Holy Trinity (New Rochelle)
  Church of Our Saviour (Rye)
  Sts. Constantine and Helen (West Nyack)
  Archangels (Stamford)
  Annunciation (Stamford)
  St. George (Norwalk)
  Assumption (Danbury)
  Holy Trinity (Bridgeport)
  St. Barbara (Orange)
  St. Basil (New Haven)
  Holy Trinity (Waterbury)
  St. Demetrios (Bristol)
  St. George (New Britain)
  St. George (Hartford)
  Three Hierarchs (Storrs)

Region 7: Upstate New York.
Vicar: Rev. Fr. Constantine Sitaras
  St. George (Schenectady)
  St. Basil (Troy)
  St. Sophia (Albany)
  Assumption (Windham)
  St. George (Kingston)
  Kimisis tis Theotokou (Poughkeepsie)
  St. Nicholas (Newburgh)
  Holy Cross (Middletown)