



March 26, 2026

Dear Co-Workers in Christ,

With profound gratitude to God, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to each of you, our families whose faithfulness ensured that we not only met, but exceeded, our \$5,000 goal to honor His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios through a gift toward the completion of the Panagia Chapel.

I commend each of you, our eleven families, whose generosity made this offering possible. The number itself offers a quiet spiritual reminder, calling to mind the eleven faithful disciples who did not abandon the Lord before His Passion and

Crucifixion. While the gifts offered were not all the same—and were never meant to be—each one was essential. Without every family's participation, the goal would not have been reached. This is not said to measure or compare, but simply to honor the truth of what was accomplished together.

On this evening—before the actual deadline—I am filled with joy and thanksgiving that God has blessed us with your presence, your prayers, and your generosity. This moment invites us to pause in gratitude and to reflect with hope.

Very often, when churches extend an appeal for assistance, only a small portion of the community is able or ready to respond. In that broader national experience, a response from even a modest share of families is considered a blessing. Against that backdrop, what you have offered is something quietly extraordinary.

From a national perspective, when roughly one out of every seven parish families steps forward, *it is considered above-average participation*. When a goal is not only met but exceeded before the deadline, *it is viewed as exceptional*. And when gifts are offered in the name of the Church, honoring a beloved Hierarch and the spiritual and physical legacy he left behind, *it is rare and deeply meaningful*. These observations

are shared not to elevate numbers, but to *provide perspective—so that we may more clearly recognize the grace God has shown through your response.*

What matters most, however, is not the comparison, but the spirit in which these gifts were given. Each family discerned prayerfully, gave freely, and trusted that their offering—whatever its size—would be received with gratitude. No one was compelled. No one was measured against another. This is stewardship as the Church intends it to be: an act of love, not obligation; participation, not pressure.

I offer special commendation to the family who initially gave, and then humbly offered to give more if needed to ensure that we exceeded our goal. Your selfless love and willingness to place the good of the Church before yourselves beautifully reflect the heart of Christ and quietly inspire us all.

Spiritually, this moment reassures us as we continue to look ahead to the vision of our new church complex. It reminds us that the future will not be built by extraordinary demands placed upon a few, but by the faithful willingness of many. Everyone has some time to offer. Everyone has God-given talents to share. And everyone has choices that allow for participation, according to their means, when the heart is moved.

If anything, this experience should give us confidence—not anxiety—as we move forward together. It shows us that when the purpose is clear, when love leads the request, and when unity shapes the response, God moves hearts. And when hearts respond, the Church is strengthened—not only in what is built with hands, but in who we are becoming together in Christ.

May God abundantly bless each of you and your families, and may this offering stand as a lasting testimony of unity, faithful stewardship, and love for His Holy Church. May we receive this moment not as a conclusion, but as gentle encouragement for the journey ahead, trusting that the same grace that guided us here will continue to lead us forward.

Faithfully yours,

+Fr. George Tsahakis