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Archdiocese Committee Meetings Held During the First Official Day of the 2024 Clergy-Laity Congress

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The first full session day of the 47th Clergy-Laity Congress was packed with opportunities— often running concurrently—to engage more with the people and the ideas behind the Archdiocese's ministries. During these committee meetings, department directors reviewed their progress since the last Congress in 2022 and engaged in discussion with attendees about the strengths, challenges, and hopes for their ongoing and future projects. Among the department committees represented were those for Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Y2AM), Technology, Marriage & Family, Communications, and Religious Education.

Participants left with useful insights about strategy and infrastructure of Archdiocesan departments— as well as the way they inform relationships between national ministries and metropolis, sub-region, and local, parish level work. In the Greek Education session, for example, Director Anastasios Koularmanis emphasized the importance of the accessibility and communication of the plethora of resources developed by the Department, while also accounting for the particular, individual needs of each parish's education goals. Meanwhile, a fruitful conversation grew out of the Q&A portion of the Religious Education session, during which His Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos, Director of the Department, discussed the possibility of a virtual religious education curriculum with attendees who hailed from smaller parishes, often lacking the enrollment numbers for a full Sunday School program.

The Y2AM Department unveiled a number of fresh ideas— and new faces— for its programming, including for the Archdiocesan Council Youth & Young Adult Ministries Committee, the Y2AM ministry, Effective Christian Ministry, and Ionian Village and Metropolis youth camps. During the Technology session, one attendee, Renee Taylor, the Communications Coordinator at the Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church in San Francisco shared that "the presentation was very informative in terms of the cybersecurity issues that we need to be aware about at the parish level, especially being from a parish that was under attack with emails last year.

Great solutions for going forward.”

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