28/05/2020

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey – Clergy Laity Assembly Cancelled



May 25, 2020

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy
Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils and Philoptochos Sisterhood of the Communities of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

Beloved in the Lord,

Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen!

I pray this letter finds you all well as we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The devastating effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic continue to wreak havoc on our communities and society at-large as tens of thousands have died and

more than a million people have contracted the virus in the United States alone. Therefore, I regretfully have decided to cancel the 2020 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy-Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Convention that had been rescheduled for October.

This was a difficult and painful decision to make, however, it was made for the protection and benefit of our faithful as it does not seem suitable to hold a gathering of this scale. Whereas some states have seen limited progress in recent weeks in their fight against the Coronavirus and may lift their gathering restrictions in the weeks and months to come, the safety of the Clergy and the devout faithful is of principal importance. The
next Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy-Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Convention will take place in May 2021.

Although we are temporarily separated from gathering together physically, we are forever united in faithful prayer. It is my sincerest hope and prayer that God will continue to grant each and every one of you and your families good health so that, when we are enabled to gather again, we may be ready to serve our Lord both spiritually and physically. Praying our loving Lord guards and guides each of you during these
tumultuous times, I remain,

With Paternal Love and Blessings in the Risen Lord,

† E V A N G E L O S
Metropolitan of New Jersey