



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ

September 9, 2017

**To the Parish Council and Faithful Stewards of
St. Athanasius Greek Orthodox Church
4 Appleton Street
Arlington, MA 02476**

My Brothers and Sisters in the Household of the Lord,

Over the last few weeks the Metropolis has been subjected to a ceaseless, multi-pronged attack relying on aggressive social media and other forms of intimidation and misinformation. I wish to set the record straight concerning the removal of Fr. Kastanas from St. Athanasius.

My decision to remove him was only made after many months of thoughtful consideration, and made in what I firmly believe are the best interests of the St. Athanasius Community and the Church at large. In my thirty-three years as shepherd of the Lord's Church in this Metropolis, I have never before removed a priest unwillingly from a parish.

The decision to relieve Fr. Kastanas of his pastoral responsibilities may have seemed sudden or abrupt to some, but in fact was not. The St. Athanasius Parish has for several years been in a state of tumult as a result of issues revolving, in large part, around Fr. Kastanas. Every effort was made to resolve the turmoil so he could continue to serve the community. Those efforts were not successful.

This situation reached a crescendo when Fr. Kastanas filed a complaint against the Metropolis in the Middlesex Superior Court in Woburn. This is the first time that the Metropolis has ever been sued by one of its priests. As the litigation is pending, the Metropolis will not comment further. Nor will it respond to a letter issued by the attorney representing Fr. Kastanas relating his narrative of events, other than to state that I find its tone and content offensive, inaccurate, inappropriate and unprofessional.

The Court has issued an Order, and the Metropolis shall continue to respect and follow it. I will not comment further on Fr. Kastanas' lawsuit against the Church at this time.

I continue to pray that each of you will, in furtherance of the restoration of your Community abide by the admonition of St. Paul — “Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one-another, tender-hearted, forgiving one-another as God in Christ has forgiven you” (Eph. 4:31-32). Each of us as Greek Orthodox Christians owe to each other and our beloved Church this respect, humility and love that binds us together in harmony before God, and which is so sorely absent in the wider world around us. Let us move forward together, always in the light of our Savior Jesus Christ.

With Archpastoral concern,

Metropolitan Methodios

**METHODIOS
Metropolitan of Boston**