



**GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON**  
**ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ**

**July 27, 2017**

**Mr. Constantine Ioakimidis, President**  
**The Members of the Parish Council and the Stewards of**  
**St. Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church**  
**4 Appleton Street**  
**Arlington, MA 02476**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,**

**For the past few years, the Saint Athanasius Parish has been in a state of turmoil as a result of issues revolving, in large part, around the person of Fr. Kastanas. The spiritual environment in the Community has been severely damaged by behavior that is wholly contrary to Christian values, which has resulted in, among other things, the distribution of hurtful and destructive communications throughout the Community. While this turmoil is not totally Fr. Kastanas' fault, nevertheless, he bears the greatest responsibility. It is the parish priest who is expected to preserve the orderly life and unity of the parish, keeping it faithful to its divine purpose.**

**After much prayer and reflection, I have arrived at the painful decision to relieve Fr. Kastanas of his pastoral responsibilities at St. Athanasius effective immediately following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, July 30, 2017. Fr. Kastanas has been notified of this decision. This action is necessary, but only the first step on the path to restoring this Community into one of unity—one of “fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Eph. 2.19). It is now incumbent on each member of this Parish Council and each steward of Saint**



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**Athanasius Parish, to reflect upon their responsibilities to this Community and to each other, and so take the admonitions of St. Paul to heart — “let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear” (Eph. 4.29).**

**I pray each of you will, in furtherance of this restoration of your Community— “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). This is my fervent prayer now for the St. Athanasius Community.**

**With Archpastoral concern,**

*+ Methodios K. K. Metropolitou*

**M E T H O D I O S  
Metropolitan of Boston**