

An Open Letter to His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston



The first anniversary of the events beginning with the dismissal of Reverend Father Nicholas Kastanas, the presiding priest of the Saint Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church, Arlington, MA, by your Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston is fast approaching on July 27, 2018.

The predictable alienation of the vast majority of parishioners from the once thriving Saint Athanasius parish followed Father Nicholas Kastanas's removal.

Further actions, condoned (if not rubber stamped) by your Eminence, have resulted in an unprecedented division between the faithful stewards of Saint Athanasius and a faction of the parish council that has hijacked and disregarded the established Archdiocesan Uniform Parish Regulations governing parish life through elections, general assemblies and financial transparency.

The St. Athanasius parish is now facing alarming spiritual, financial, educational, leadership and trust crises.

Objecting to your actions, over 2,300 people signed a petition and hundreds of people approached Your Eminence Metropolitan Methodios. However, the courtesy of reaching out to your flock to listen to their pain and anguish has NEVER taken place. Dead silence! 800 families have left the Saint Athanasius parish, many of which no longer attend church services. What happened to Christ's resounding guiding light? "The good shepherd lays down His life for his sheep". John 10:11

In response to these crises, we, the vast majority of long-time stewards and friends of the Saint Athanasius parish, have formed "Community In Unity". This grassroots organization gives voice to our concerns, and provides emotional support to each other and the former parish priest and his family who faithfully dedicated their lives to serve the community for 28 years.

Multiple letters and documents, containing the facts behind these crises, have been addressed to Your Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, and shared with the hierarchs of the Greek Orthodox Church, His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew and His Eminence Archbishop of America Demetrios. All of these actions were met with collective silence.

Your Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, 1,000 or more parishioners and former parish council presidents reached out to seek a meeting to discuss the crises facing our community, yet you ignored our cry.

Is this how a spiritual leader responds to his people? You are supposed to be a Shepherd of the Lord, a peacemaker. "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8.

Your Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, you hold the key to the resolution of the crises that now plague the Saint Athanasius parish. We urge you to accept the "Community In Unity" request sent to your office to meet face to face and discuss a just, compassionate and speedy resolution to the crises and painful issues that currently face our beloved parish, Saint Athanasius.

Such a gesture would bring healing, reconciliation, and a return to a Christ-centered community of the Orthodox faithful. "So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow up into salvation- if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious." 1 Peter 2:1-3

