



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
**GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DETROIT**

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Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros,

February 19, 2020

On Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020, I visited one of my parishes, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. As is my custom, I responded to questions from the congregation. In my response, I believe that I made two factual errors and I would like to set the record straight. I referenced certain costs associated with the forthcoming Patriarchal visit, that I believed were to be incurred by the Metropolis of Detroit. I have since learned that those costs have been reduced substantially, in large measure out of respect for the Ecumenical Patriarch, and that loving benefactors of our Archdiocese and Ecumenical Patriarchate will graciously cover these costs. Additionally, when asked about the costs and status of the St. Nicholas National Shrine, I incorrectly stated that \$23 million in change orders had been executed. The correct number is \$18 million. Furthermore, I know of no continuing or current wrongful practices regarding the finances of our Archdiocese. I apologize for any confusion that may have resulted.

Your Eminence, you have ushered in a new era of fiscal responsibility, transparency and genuine hope for our Archdiocese. In every way, from the reconstituting of the work on the St. Nicholas Shrine, support of Hellenic College/Holy Cross, concerns for the welfare of the priests of the Archdiocese, and the renewed financial stability of the Archdiocese, Your Eminence has shown leadership that can only be given through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

My conversations with my faithful share that same spirit of responsibility, transparency and hope. My goal is to assure them with as much information as possible that our beloved Archdiocese has turned a corner and is on a better path. I apologize for any words that have been, are being, or will be misconstrued.

I am grateful that during my recovery from colon cancer, Your Eminence took time out of your extraordinarily busy schedule to visit me. I was diagnosed in May of 2019 with cancer, underwent surgery in October, and for the past eight months have undergone chemotherapy. I am currently in full remission. I am grateful for Your Eminence's brotherly concern for my health and well-being. My oncologist has insisted during this whole time that I stay away from public speaking as I recover fully from the effects of chemotherapy. I regret not following that advice precisely.

My Metropolis and I are always in concert with both Your Eminence and His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. I, and the Metropolis of Detroit, have always supported the Archdiocese and Ecumenical Patriarchate with fervor and distinction and you have supported us.

So I apologize to Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and to His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for misunderstandings that may have arisen or any inaccuracies in my statements. I look forward to being with Your Eminence and His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew during the upcoming Patriarchal visit.

With deepest respect and love,

†NICHOLAS  
Metropolitan of Detroit