



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF BOSTON

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΒΟΣΤΩΝΗΣ

## **“And the Truth Will Make You Free”**

*(John 8.32)*

**Various stories are circulating in the Press and on the Internet, both here and throughout the world, dealing with the unfortunate developments in the St. George Parish in Lynn, Massachusetts. They are fraught with misinformation and crafted to seed division among the clergy and laity of our Archdiocese.**

**The Archdiocese never “demanded \$20,000 more than last year’s assessment of \$68,000.” The amount assessed to the Parish has not increased in four years. In fact, the Archdiocese forgave nearly \$50,000 due in past assessments dating back from 2007-2009. It did so in good faith in order to help the parish.**

**The Lynn assessment of \$88,000 for the year 2010 was not an arbitrary “demand” made by the local Metropolitan or someone sitting in an office in New York. The financial assessment which every community contributes to the national ministries is determined by a formula voted by the delegates who attend Biennial Clergy Laity Congresses. As you surely know, every community has the right to be represented by four delegates, its priest and three laymen. Article 4, Section 15 of the Uniform Regulations is clear: *“Following approval, the decisions must be faithfully and firmly adhered to by the Archdiocesan District/Metropolises as well as all Parishes, whether or not they were represented at the Congress and regardless of whether they voted with the minority or abstained.”***

**The parish council in Lynn was not represented at the Clergy Laity Congress because they claimed “it is too expensive.” Imagine, one of the largest parishes in the Metropolis cannot afford to send even one delegate! They also do not send representatives to the local Metropolis Conferences for the same**

**reason. At such conclaves, the parish leaders of Lynn would have had the opportunity to propose their own assessment formula for the consideration of the other parishes.**

**In accordance with Article 34 Section 8 of the Uniform Parish Regulations, every community has the right to request a review of the amount of its assessment. Several communities in the Metropolis of Boston went through this process. Lynn is the only one among the 63 that did not fulfill its obligation. The Priest and Parish Council were invited to the Metropolis by me personally to meet and resolve the issue. During the discussions, the Metropolis and Archdiocese finance committees could not understand why the Lynn Parish leaders who invested \$3 million on a construction project to build a new church entrance could not find \$20,000 to fulfill their commitment. The meeting was ended abruptly by the Parish Council which made it clear that they were not going to change their decision.**

**It is not the Archdiocese that “demands” unreasonable assessments. Rather, it is the leadership of the Lynn community that demands the Archdiocese “take it or leave it.” I think you would agree that, if every Bishop, priest or layman, whether a parish council member, an archon or member of Leadership 100 (no matter how powerful and influential he may think he is) ignored the provisions of the Patriarchal Charter and Uniform Regulations, our Church in America would be relegated to a state of chaos.**

**Prayerfully, the Lynn leaders will see the error of their decisions and not prove what is written in Holy Scripture: *“Seeing, they do not see and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand”* (Matthew 13:13). Hopefully, they will not prove that, *“stou koufou tin porta, oso thelis vronta—at the door of the deaf, knock all you want.”***

**+ Metropolitan Methodios of Boston**

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