

**February 15, 2017**

**Response from Fr. Nicholas M. Kastanas**

**To the Metropolis Finance Committee Financial Review dated February 8, 2017**

**Firstly, it is important to identify significant details that are missing from the MFC document.**

- 1. The St. Athanasius Homeless and Needy Fund was established in 1993 with the unanimous authorization and blessing of the parish council under the presidency of Demetrios Bouboulis of blessed memory.**
- 2. As guided by the Parish Council, the sole trustee would be Fr. Nicholas M. Kastanas who would use honorariums given to him to help the needy, homeless, and most vulnerable among us.**
- 3. The social security number of Fr. Kastanas was on the account. It was a simple passbook Savings account.**
- 4. For 21 years, there has never been a problem with this account. Only in 2014 did the issue come up by members of the parish council.**
- 5. To my knowledge, it is illegal to secure information from a private bank account without the authorization of the trustee of the account.**

**Furthermore, Fr. Nick didn't obstruct or delay; the reason for not sharing information was because it was a personal account to help others. The overriding principle was that it was under his care as authorized by the Parish Council in 1993 and reconfirmed throughout the years without problem until 2014.**

**For 27 years, people have been giving honorariums to Fr. Nick to help others. The trust factor has been exclusively evident.**

**Handing out monies for groceries, paying rents, paying bills, paying for people to go to camp, helping seminarians and families with their bills et al., were staples for the distribution of monies from this Homeless and Needy Fund.**

**I cannot remember any Parish Council member ever complaining to me or that he/she “resigned rather than continuously argue with Fr. Kastanas.” I request that the names be given to me. It is unfair and cowardly to make these types of accusations anonymously.**

**No checks were donated into the Homeless and Needy account that were designated for stewardship or for the general fund of the Church, or for any other purpose except to help those in need.**

**Checks made payable to individuals were signed over by the individual and deposited into the Homeless and Needy account per their request in order to help others in need.**

**Monies from checks deposited were used to help others in every way including paying bills, groceries, transportation, heat, electricity, et al.**

**The checks amounting to \$5,000 over the course of 7 years were designated to help those in need by the donors. In a few instances, the donor directed Fr. Nick to purchase an icon or other religious items for the Church.**

**For the 27 years (+ years) of Fr. Nick’s ministry to the St. Athanasius Parish as well as the 32 plus years of his Priesthood, he has established the reputation of trustworthiness throughout the Parish community as well as the community at large.**

**It is very hurtful to say the least that Fr. Nick’s good reputation is passing through defamation of character. This is unacceptable...**

**To put in writing that that there is an “appearance of impropriety and suspicion” is unfair and reckless.**