To: Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco
From: Billy Jack Sunday
Re: The emerging autocephalous Orthodox Church in the United States
Date: 01 Jun 18

An open letter response to Metropolitan Gerasimos’ public “Statement Regarding the Mother Church” letter that His Eminence issued due to a recent speech given at Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology; and concerning the emerging autocephalous Orthodox Church in the United States:

Your Eminence,

Greetings!

You recently published a letter (addressing those who are within your West Coast “Metropolis of San Francisco”) regarding some “unfortunate public statements” recently made during a commencement speech at Hellenic College Holy Cross Orthodox School of Theology.

The speaker was honorary degree recipient Mr. Efstatios Valiotis. He had expressed strong opinions regarding the nature of the relationship between the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Mr. Valiotis’ offending words:

“[The GOA must] become autocephalous or the Ecumenical Patriarchate must move to the U.S.”

Also said by Mr. Valiotis:

“We can’t be governed by a small group of people from Turkey without any flock or purpose, with no mission and with a different agenda.”

From your public “Statement Regarding the Mother Church” letter addressing those “inappropriate” words by Mr. Valiotis:

“We absolutely reprove and repudiate any call for separating our Holy Archdiocese from the Body of our Ecumenical Patriarchate and assure our faithful that this will not happen.”

Rats.

Sincerely,

Billy Jack Sunday