

THE
SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
AND NATIONAL SHRINE
AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER



December 12, 2017 • #RebuildStNicholas



Tel: 212-774-0227 • rebuildstnicholas@goarch.org

Counting the Cost

*Dear and Beloved Friends
of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine,*

As many of you have learned from the Press Release of the Archdiocese on December 9, 2017, and from other media, construction on our National shrine has temporarily halted¹. I can assure you that this suspension of work will indeed be temporary, as the Archdiocese strives to make the necessary course corrections that have affected not only the Shrine, but the Seminary, and its day-to-day operations.

Just a few weeks ago, we laid to rest one of the great benefactors of Saint Nicholas, Peter J. Pappas, Sr. Peter and his beloved wife, Cathy, not only donated most significantly to the Shrine, but Peter was instrumental in developing the HVAC system for the Church, one that is saving hundreds of thousands of dollars and creating a more effective and quiet system. Believe it or not, Peter had to make a little noise in order to be heard with his brilliant solution, and perhaps the lesson for all of us is that the process of building should have been more open and included a wider set of advisors.

I have a deep and abiding commitment not only to this project – the most significant in the history of the Archdiocese – but also to you, the donors who have made this dream a reality. You have trusted me with your precious resources, your confidence, and your friendship. I will not let you down.

In the coming weeks and months, there will be investigations into how funds were transferred from the St. Nicholas account and let



¹ <https://www.goarch.org/-/archdiocese-remains-committed-to-rebuilding-of-saint-nicholas-and-continues-the-fundraising-efforts>



there be no doubt that they will be returned. We must also understand how the process surrounding change orders was conducted, for this has evidently increased the price of the building. As leadership evolves around the project, we will overcome any financial challenges and your commitments to the National Shrine will be honored.

In the meantime, you will hear many rumors

and even some disinformation. I want you all to know that my phone line is always open to you (917-453-0839), to answer any question to the best of my ability. As most of you know, my specialty has always been on the income side of the equation, not the expense side. I have dedicated myself wholly to the raising of the funds to complete Saint Nicholas, and I have trusted that the institutional structure would monitor the actu-

al construction. Although we have raised enough money to complete the church as originally envisioned, change orders and other modifications have complicated the situation, but the repair work is already underway.

As an Archdiocese, we have much to do to rebuild trust and confidence in leadership, lest we fulfill a solemn warning of our Lord:

Τίς γὰρ ἐξ ὑμῶν, θέλων πύργον
οἰκοδομῆσαι, οὐχὶ πρῶτον καθίσας
ψηφίζει τὴν δαπάνην, εἰ ἔχει τὰ πρὸς
ἀπαρτισμόν; ἵνα μήποτε, θέντος
αὐτοῦ θεμέλιον καὶ μὴ ἰσχύσαντος
ἐκτελέσαι, πάντες οἱ θεωροῦντες
ἄρξωνται αὐτῷ ἐμπαίξιν, λέγοντες ὅτι
οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἤρξατο οἰκοδομεῖν
καὶ οὐκ ἰσχυσεν ἐκτελέσαι;

“For who among you, wanting to
construct a tower, does not first sit down
and count the cost, to see if you have
enough to finish? For if you do not, and
you go ahead and lay the foundation
and cannot fully complete it, everyone
who sees it will take to ridiculing you
and saying, “That fellow made a start of
building it, but he could not finish it.”

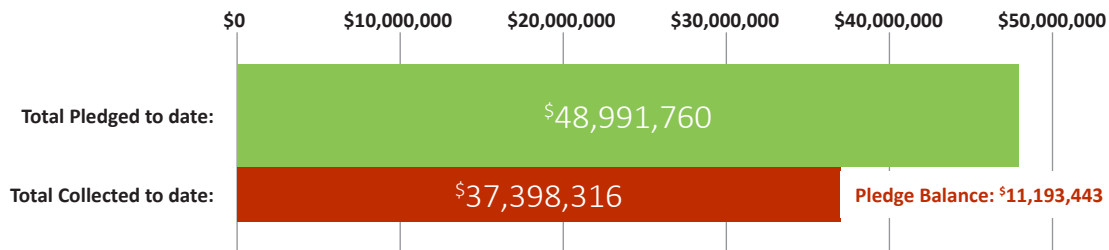
LUKE 14:28-30

Faithfully,

Father Alexander Karloutsos

Donations to Date

As of December 12, 2017, donations are:



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