

FR. JOHN STRATOS HONDROS



John Stratos Hondros was born in Los Angeles, California on October 8, 1958 to parents Christina Procalamos Hondros and Stratos Hondros. He attended elementary, junior high and high school in Southern California, graduating from Poway High School in June 1976.

He attended the University of California, San Diego, pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Sociology and graduated Cum Laude in 1981.

Fr. John attended the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, receiving a Masters of Divinity with Distinction in May 1986.

He met Maria Brogoli in Dallas, Texas at the Greek Orthodox Young Adult league (YAL) Conference in 1986. They were joined in Holy Matrimony on February 22, 1987 at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Ascension in Oakland, California in a ceremony officiated by Bishop Anthony.

Fr. John was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on March 8, 1987 by Bishop Anthony at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Ascension in Oakland.

Two weeks later, on March 22, 1987, Fr. John was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by Bishop Anthony at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Long Beach, California.

On April 1, 1987, Fr. John was assigned as Assistant Priest to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Phoenix, Arizona, serving under Fr. James Tavlarides. During Fr. John's tenure in Phoenix, Holy Trinity Church received Cathedral Status in February 1988; the parish hosted the Western Conference of the Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians in 1988, and also hosted the Diocesan-wide and National Young Adult League (YAL) Conference.

On September 1, 1991, Fr. John was assigned to the Greek Orthodox Mission of Eugene, Oregon. He was the first full-time priest supported by the Commission for Orthodox Mission and Evangelism and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. The church community of Eugene comprised about 35 families that were determined to formally establish an Orthodox presence. In 1993, the mission received parish status and was officially named St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

On May 1, 1997 Fr. John was assigned to the Church of the Assumption in Seattle, Washington and during his time there, he initiated planning and fund-raising for the new parish hall, which resulted in \$2.2 million in pledges and \$1.6 million in collected donations.

In September of 2002, Fr. John was assigned to St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Las Vegas, Nevada. Some of the many meaningful and blessed events that have taken place during Father's tenure at St. John:

- On May 10, 2003 the parish celebrated the grand opening of the St. John Community and Education Center
- On Sunday, May 11, 2002, Fr. John received the Offikion of Oikonomos from Metropolitan Anthony. The title is based on the New Testament Greek word "economos" meaning "steward" or "manager." The honor is given to the priest by the Metropolitan according to his years of ministry and the effectiveness of his service as he manages the spiritual life of the community
- In June 2004, St. John Church hosted the Western Conference of the Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians
- In June 2005, Metropolitan Gerasimos, Bishop Anthimos, Bishop Ilia and Fr. John officiated the Holy Consecration of our beloved Church
- Phases One and Two of the iconography project of St. John Church were completed in 2005 and 2006
- In 2009, the parish joyfully celebrated the 50th anniversary of its 1959 incorporation in the State of Nevada

In July 2008, Fr. John was elected President of the Metropolis of San Francisco Synodesmos, the Brotherhood of the Clergy in this Metropolis, and has served two terms. Synodesmos, in Greek, means *bond of unity*.

Also since 2008, Fr. John has represented the Metropolis of San Francisco on the Archdiocesan Presbyters Council whose purpose is to serve the needs of the Archdiocese of America; to support, enhance and promote the mission and brotherhood of our priests on all levels of their ministry and diakonia, spiritual growth and educational development, as well as their personal needs.

Fr. John and Presvytera Maria have two children, Christopher John and Marissa Joanna. Christopher, born April 10, 1988, is a 2010 graduate of Boise State in Idaho with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and is a graduate student at The University of California, Riverside, pursuing a doctorate in Chemistry. Before leaving for college, Christopher was a regular and faithful altar server at St. John. Marissa, born August 16, 1994, is currently a senior at Sierra Vista High School, Las Vegas, and is regularly seen at her mother's shoulder, learning and beautifully executing the chants of our beloved faith.

Fr. John and Presvytera Maria also celebrated their "Silver Anniversary" as husband and wife on February 22, 2012, and our dear Presvytera Maria serves regularly and tirelessly as chanter; a true and faithful helpmate to her husband of 25 years.

The parish of St. John the Baptist joins Fr. John's Presvytera, Maria; son, Christopher; daughter, Marissa; mother, Christina; father, Stratos of blessed memory; brother, Paul, sister, Catherine; and uncle, William Hondros, in honoring Fr. John Hondros, *a Faithful Priest who has done according to what is in God's heart and mind.*

AXIOS!