

His All Holiness, Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople,
New Rome, and Ecumenical Patriarch

I am deeply concerned about the future of the Metropolitiss of New Jersey and the direction that it is heading under Metropolitan Evangelos. Our history dates back to 1768, when the first Greek colonists landed in America. There have been many generations of Greek Americans struggling and fighting for their rights ever since. The impacts of recent decisions made by Metropolitan Evangelos have been mostly negative. Many people have been leaving the church because they feel frustrated and helpless regarding the changes taking place in their own church communities. This is in contrast with how our churches operated in the past. We had more input and control over church matters. Now, a lot of that input has been replaced by a concentration of power. I do not see how this will lead to further growth in our church. The results seem to be an exodus of parishioners who feel alienated. We should be able to give an example to our children of a church where its members have meaningful input on all matters relating to our faith.

Sincerely,