Department of Registry

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The Department of Registry is a separate department within the Archdiocese, which functions as a sub-division of the Chancellor's Office. The Department of Registry maintains a variety of records pertaining to the life and activities of the faithful of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. These records are often used to issue transcripts for the faithful who have lost original certificates (which are now required for legal or ecclesiastical purposes). The Department also issues ecclesiastical licenses to marry, divorce decrees (following a Spiritual Court hearing), baptismal and chrismation certificates (for use by the priests), and forms for reporting deaths and funerals. Below is an overview of how some of these responsibilities are handled:

Parish Level

All records of baptisms, chrismations, weddings, divorces and funerals are maintained in the Parish Registry Books. The local parish priest detailing the information recorded in his parish's Registry Books issues transcripts upon receiving a request from the individual involved. The priest who prepares them signs these transcripts. The Archbishop/Metropolitan then validates the authenticity of the priest's signature. These transcripts can be used as needed and serve the same function as those original certificates issued at the time of the Sacrament. In the case of a Church Divorce Decree, however, duplicate copies are not issued. The original, as issued, must be submitted when applying for an ecclesiastical marriage license.

Metropolis Level

As of September 1, 1979, each Metropolis at that time established a Registry Department, which processes marriage license requests, issues ecclesiastical licenses to marry, and maintains copies of the records for baptisms, chrismations,

marriages, and funerals, as the parish priests following the Sacraments submit them. The Metropolis Registry Department also maintains the petitions for divorces, the minutes of the Spiritual Court hearings that pertain to divorce petitions and copies of the divorce decrees issued. The Metropolis Registry Departments also issue to the priests certificates signed by the Metropolitan for baptisms and chrismations. (Prior to September 1, 1979, the Archdiocesan Department of Registry did all of this for all the parishes of the Archdiocese. Since then, this is only done for the parishes within the Archdiocesan District.)

Archdiocese Level

The Archdiocese Department of Registry maintains the records of weddings and divorces from 1923 until August 31, 1979, that took place throughout the Archdiocese. Since September 1, 1979, only those records that pertain to the parishes of the Archdiocesan District are kept at the Archdiocese Registry Department. Records of baptisms, chrismations and funerals as the parish priests submitted them are also archived at the Archdiocese.

The Archdiocese also coordinates the tabulation of the statistics from throughout the Archdiocese. This information is published annually in the *Yearbook* of the Archdiocese.

The Department of Registry will be seeking to utilize the latest technology to address the enormous task of sorting, indexing and cataloguing the paper records archived, as well as to investigate the possibility of processing certificates and documents electronically, in order to:

1) Make it feasible to access the documents that the faithful request in a timely manner;

2) Provide multiple copies of the archiving media for storage and safekeeping at secure locations across the country;

3) Provide the parish priests the ability to process affidavits and certificates in a more timely fashion; and,

4) Enable the Archdiocese and each Metropolis to have close to real-time statistics of Sacraments being celebrated across the country and in each Metropolis.

Accurate documentation and the ability to provide such documentation will become even more critical in the years ahead. The Department of Registry is committed to utilizing the resources at its disposal to ensure, as much as possible, that the faithful of the Holy

Archdiocese of America have access to the information and documentation that they require.

REGISTRY STATISTICS OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA 1979-2003

YEAR	BAPTISMS	CHRIS-MATIONS	MARRIAGES BETWEEN ORTHODOX	MARRIAGES INTER CHRISTIAN	DIVORCES BETWEEN ORTHODOX	DIVORCES INTER CHRISTIAN	FUNERALS
1979	8,293	890	2,512	2,412	430	210	4,175
1980	9,650	570	2,009	2,660	457	306	3,937
1981	8,238	405	1,781	3,104	405	339	3,410
1982	8,843	645	1,936	3,175	442	344	3,145
1983	8,690	725	1,960	3,287	366	364	3,137
1984	8,109	681	1,821	3,322	388	336	3,191
1985	7,934	655	2,200	3,387	360	456	3,154
1986	7,389	565	1,900	3,253	363	358	2,776
1987	8,472	796	1,850	3,673	382	332	3,036
1988	7,854	720	2,001	3,710	362	357	3,371
1989	8,799	978	2,144	3,904	389	384	3,911
1990	9,350	1,079	2,187	3,769	402	338	4,308
1991	9,142	1,072	2,191	3,520	409	331	4,090
1992	9,204	1,055	1,922	3,530	347	417	3,972
1993	9,427	1,209	2,032	3,429	354	395	4,041
1994	9,232	1,186	2,094	3,137	345	379	4,151
1995	9,172	1,127	2,045	3,575	364	358	4,223
** 1996 **	7,155	939	1,267	2,588	282	372	3,313
1997	7,394	974	1,400	2,499	288	361	3,601
1998	7,203	966	1,448	2,477	339	336	3,445
1999	7,438	995	1,497	2,542	278	349	3,620
2000	7,300	1,010	1,411	2,416	267	324	3,829
2001	7,132	1,117	1,298	2,341	287	313	3,668
2002	6,894	1,116	1,521	2,267	298	395	3,615
2003	7,083	1,111	1,526	2,198	281	373	3,692
			45,953	76,175	8,885	8,827	
			Total Marriages		Total Divorces		
TOTALS	205,397	22,586	122,128		17,712		90,811

*** In 1996, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America became the Archdiocese of America. As a result, statistics from Canada, Central America and South America were no longer included in Registry tabulations.*

Registry Statistics: January 1st - December 31st, 2003

	BAPTISMS	CHRIS-MATIONS	MARRIAGES			DIVORCES			FUNERALS
			Greek Orthodox	Inter-Christian	Total	Greek Orthodox	Inter-Christian	Total	
Archdiocesan District	1,535	150	298	444	742	55	53	108	840
Metropolis of Chicago	707	130	273	218	491	46	54	100	395
Metropolis of San Francisco	985	203	298	408	706	41	61	102	524
Metropolis of Pittsburgh	579	110	73	143	216	15	21	36	376
Metropolis of Boston	786	122	111	255	366	30	29	59	649
Metropolis of Denver	427	75	91	101	192	12	9	21	141
Metropolis of Atlanta	528	68	148	216	364	36	30	66	138
Metropolis of Detroit	552	155	109	155	264	15	21	36	273
Metropolis of New Jersey	984	98	125	258	383	31	95	126	356
TOTALS	**7,083**	**1,111**	**1,526**	**2,198**	**3,724**	**281**	**373**	**654**	**3,692**

Registry Statistics - Wedding Comparisons 1963 - 2003.xls

Year	Orthodox/Orthodox Weddings	Inter-Christian Weddings	Total	% Inter-Christian
1963	2,890	1,135	4,025	**28.20%**
1964	2,885	1,190	4,075	**29.20%**
1965	3,124	1,259	4,383	**28.72%**
1966	2,788	1,405	4,193	**33.51%**
1967	2,245	2,145	4,390	**48.86%**
1968	2,245	2,145	4,390	**48.86%**
1969	3,745	1,755	5,500	**31.91%**
1970	2,633	1,743	4,376	**39.83%**
1971	2,802	2,388	5,190	**46.01%**
1972	3,253	2,401	5,654	**42.47%**
1973	2,633	2,476	5,109	**48.46%**
1974	2,638	2,541	5,179	**49.06%**
1975	2,910	2,568	5,478	**46.88%**
1976	2,537	2,201	4,738	**46.45%**
1977	2,521	2,438	4,959	**49.16%**
1978	2,295	2,445	4,740	**51.58%**
1979	2,512	2,412	4,924	**48.98%**
1980	2,009	2,660	4,669	**56.97%**
1981	1,781	3,104	4,885	**63.54%**
1982	1,936	3,175	5,111	**62.12%**
1983	1,960	3,287	5,247	**62.65%**
1984	1,821	3,322	5,143	**64.59%**
1985	2,200	3,387	5,587	**60.62%**
1986	1,900	3,253	5,153	**63.13%**
1987	1,850	3,673	5,523	**66.50%**
1988	2,001	3,710	5,711	**64.96%**
1989	2,144	3,904	6,048	**64.55%**
1990	2,187	3,769	5,956	**63.28%**
1991	2,191	3,520	5,711	**61.64%**
1992	1,922	3,530	5,452	**64.75%**
1993	2,032	3,429	5,461	**62.79%**
1994	2,094	3,137	5,231	**59.97%**
1995	2,045	3,575	5,620	**63.61%**
** 1996	1,267	2,588	3,855	**67.13%**
1997	1,400	2,499	3,899	**64.09%**
1998	1,448	2,477	3,925	**63.11%**
1999	1,497	2,542	4,039	**62.94%**
2000	1,411	2,416	3,827	**63.13%**
2001	1,298	2,341	3,639	**64.33%**
2002	1,521	2,267	3,788	**59.85%**
2003	1,526	2,198	3,724	**59.02%**
Totals	**90,097**	**108,410**	**198,507**	**54.61%**

*** In 1996, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America became the Archdiocese of America. As a result, statistics from Canada, Central America and South America were no longer included in Registry tabulations.*

Registry Statistics 2003

	Baptisms	% of Totals	Chrismations	% of Totals	Orth./Orth. Weddings	% of Wedding Total for Distr/Metropolis	Inter-Christian Weddings	Total	District/Metropolis % of Arch. Weddings
Direct Arch. District	1,535	21.67%	150	13.50%	298	40.16%	444	742	19.92%
Chicago	707	9.98%	130	11.70%	273	55.60%	218	491	13.18%
San Francisco	985	13.91%	203	18.27%	298	42.21%	408	706	18.96%
Pittsburgh	579	8.17%	110	9.90%	73	33.80%	143	216	5.80%
Boston	786	11.10%	122	10.98%	111	30.33%	255	366	9.83%
Denver	427	6.03%	75	6.75%	91	47.40%	101	192	5.16%
Atlanta	528	7.45%	68	6.12%	148	40.66%	216	364	9.77%
Detroit	552	7.79%	155	13.95%	109	41.29%	155	264	7.09%
New Jersey	984	13.89%	98	8.82%	125	32.64%	258	383	10.28%
Totals	**7,083**	**100%**	**1,111**	**100%**	**1,526**	**40.98%**	**2,198**	**3,724**	**100%**

	Orth./Orth. Divorces	Inter-Christian Div.	Total	% of Totals	Funerals	% of Totals
Direct Arch. District	55	53	108	16.51%	840	22.75%
Chicago	46	54	100	15.29%	395	10.70%
San Francisco	41	61	102	15.60%	524	14.19%
Pittsburgh	15	21	36	5.50%	376	10.18%
Boston	30	29	59	9.02%	649	17.58%
Denver	12	9	21	3.21%	141	3.82%
Atlanta	36	30	66	10.09%	138	3.74%
Detroit	15	21	36	5.50%	273	7.39%
New Jersey	31	95	126	19.27%	356	9.64%
Totals	**281**	**373**	**654**	**100%**	**3,692**	**100%**