

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011

Dear Members of St. Elias:

The year 2011 was very fruitful for the St. Elias Parish Council. We were, and continue to be, blessed with a devoted ministry and tireless commitment of all of our members. This year, the Parish Council terms for Albert Dagar, Stephan Rudawski, and David Schele expire. We humbly thank each for their unwavering dedication and service to the parish.

The Parish Council has been focused on many goals during 2011, many of which were achieved and some of which are long-term and continue to be pursued. Significantly, the Parish Council has been focused with the short-term and long-term planning for our parish facilities. With regard to short-term planning, one of the most immediate and recognizable efforts is the replacement of the carpet in the church temple. The Parish Council has also budgeted and approved plans to comprehensively renovate the parish hall bathrooms. Renovations are scheduled to be completed in February. Focus is also placed on space-planning initiatives and upgrades in the offices and educational building. With regard to long-term planning, David Schele, an architect and Parish Council member, has been preparing and updating conceptual designs and a master site plan for the Building Committee and Parish Council to utilize for future expansion considerations. The Parish Council recognizes the need for additional space and the economic and architectural analysis is accordingly in process. In the interim, the Council also recognizes that the most immediate method to expand the capacity of our parish facilities is through the continued utilization and promotion of our 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy. We are blessed to have such service.

The Parish Council continues to be focused on defining our role as a downtown parish and in defining our role in assisting Orthodox Charities. Accordingly, St. Elias has supported Caritas, a local downtown charity that aids the poor. Abroad, St. Elias has supported the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) as well as a sister parish.

Under the astute and detailed guidance of the Parish Council Treasurer, Stephen Rudawski, a financial audit was completed in 2010. Accordingly, in 2011, the Parish Council implemented accounting safeguards and procedures recommended in the audit. As well, focus and attention has been placed on Stewardship initiatives and cost control.

Together with my co-chair, Katherine Dagar-Albarado and with the unified efforts of the St. Elias membership, the 2011 Mediterranean Festival was a relatively successful financial success despite the rain experienced during the weekend. As we approach the upcoming 80th annual festival in 2012, the Parish Council recognizes the festival's ever-crucial success in broadening the exposure of Orthodoxy in central Texas.

As a lifelong member of St. Elias, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Parish Council Chairman.

Respectfully,

David M. Jabour
Parish Council Chairman