

My Beloved Ones,

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ often spoke of His ministry in healing terms. When the teachers and priests of the Law criticized Him for spending so much time with sinners, He, in all His wisdom, pointed out to them that, *"It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick."* (Luke 5:31). Our Lord naturally understood that sin was a condition which could be healed and relieved with loving care, as well as with sincere attention from the patient. Indeed, if we think about the vast majority of our Lord's miracles, most of them were concerned with healing the pains and sicknesses of humanity.

It is with these things in mind that I turn to thoughts of the medical profession. I am both proud and pleased to announce that this weekend, January 27th and 28th, marks the first official gathering of our newly formed Greek Orthodox Medical Society, at our Metropolis' beautiful Diakonia Retreat Center.

Bringing together doctors of all many diverse specialties, from all across our Metropolis, the Society intends to use its skills to help and attend to "the least among us." These limitless opportunities may include everything from volunteering time at the DRC for evaluations, to organizing community health fairs.

I am indebted to Dn. Paul Tsahakis M.D., for taking charge of this initiative, and for all my fellow Metropolis coworkers who are taking time to be with us this weekend. Most of all, I am thankful to all our medical professionals, who conduct their vocations with the same spirit of love and compassion that our Lord showed toward the blind man, the paralytic, the man with the withered hand, and countless others.

I ask that all of you, their Brothers and Sisters in Christ, please pray for them in their daily lives; as well as for the Medical Society of our Holy and God-Protected Metropolis of Atlanta. God willing, this meeting will bear good fruit, and we will have developments to share with you soon.

**+ALEXIOS**

Metropolitan of Atlanta

