



Clergy Initiative

# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

## CENTER FOR FAMILY CARE

Dear Father and Presvytera,

Thank you for your interest in the Clergy Initiative - *Ministerial Excellence Fund*.

The goal of the MEF is to have all of our clergy participate in financial literacy training and to provide grants for those having need to reduce or alleviate their financial challenges. By reducing these burdens, these grants will help enhance the effectiveness of you, our clergy and clergy families. Funds up to \$10,000 will be provided to grant recipients who fulfill the required activities taking place over the one-year grant period. Grant funds may be allocated for, but not limited to: paying down/off any non-mortgage debt (educational, healthcare, etc.), alleviating healthcare expenses and providing matching or seed funding for retirement.

All clergy are encouraged to participate in the financial education program regardless of financial need. Grant activities will be covered by the Clergy Initiative.

Attached you will find a worksheet for you to use to record your current financial situation. Please print it out and complete it prior to your phone consultation with a member of the Clergy Initiative team. You may also fill it out online at [surveymonkey.com/r/clergy-initiative](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/clergy-initiative).

The last page gives specific details of the one-year grant period including the required grant activities. Please contact us if you have any questions.

May God grant strength to you and your family as you embark on this journey towards financial wellness.

Me agape,

Fr. Constantine L. Sitaras, Director  
Director, Clergy Initiative



## CLERGY INITIATIVE GRANT PROPOSAL

Name:	Spouse Name:	Number of Children:

Address:	Phone Number:	Email Address:

*If you are seeking only the education element of the program, you do not need to fill out the information below. If you are seeking an alleviation grant of up to \$10,000, the information below will be used to assess your eligibility. The Clergy Initiative may ask for verification for some of the information described below. Alleviation grant funding is limited. Funds will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.*

### Income:

Approximate annual combined spousal income:	Years of service to the Archdiocese?

### Debt and liabilities:

List the types and amounts of your current debt and liabilities (aside from utilities) (student loans, medical bills, emergency expenses, credit cards, second mortgages, personal loans, auto-loans, etc.):

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

Approximate percentage of your monthly income going toward your monthly mortgage or rent payment:	
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**Budget:**

Do you have a budget?	
Do you have an emergency fund?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. less than \$1,000</li> <li>b. \$1,000-\$5,000</li> <li>c. more than \$5,000</li> <li>d. no</li> </ul>
Do you rent or own your own home?	

**Retirement:**

<p>Do you have any other accounts set up for retirement savings (such as a Roth IRA, 403 (b), or 401(k)) aside from social security and the Archdiocesan pension program?</p> <p><i>The Clergy Initiative officially recommends that all our clergy and clergy families participate in social security. Additionally, per the Uniform Parish Regulations, participation in the Archdiocesan Pension program is mandatory.</i></p>	
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**Taxes:**

Are you familiar with the various tax incentives available to clergy?	
Is your parish familiar with the various tax incentives available to clergy?	
Is your tax advisor familiar with the various tax incentives available to clergy?	

**Children education:**

Do you have an account for your child(ren)'s higher education?	
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**Life insurance:**

Aside from the archdiocese program, do you have any life insurance for you or your spouse?	
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**Personal grant proposal information:** *(at least a paragraph, use as much space as you'd like)*

In what ways do you think your family will benefit from the financial education part of the grant?

In what ways do you think your family will benefit from the potential alleviation grant of up to \$10,000?

**Comments:**

**Over the next year, you will participate in the following (*more info will be discussed on your consultation phone call*):**

1. Financial Wellness Checkup with a Financial Advisor
2. Attend a Financial Training Presentation
3. Complete Financial Peace University
4. Participate in Financial Coaching
5. Complete Follow-up Financial Assessment