



# **A Church in Captivity: The Greek Orthodox Church of America**

*George Matsoukas*

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It is a disconcerting fact that decisions for Orthodox Christians living in North America are currently dictated by interests of foreign governments and patriarchates, all which contribute to spiritual indifference among the faithful. This collection of essays explores the loss of autonomy and unification within the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and offers ways to create an all-encompassing church that respects cultures and philosophies. George Matsoukas, Executive Director of Orthodox Christian Laity in West Palm Beach, Florida and an active member of his local parish, diocese, and archdiocese, chronologically presents personal essays that respond to regression in the life of the church during a seven-year period. He encourages constructive change through effective communication and a partnership between the church and the laity, ultimately resulting in a church that is able to meet the spiritual needs of all its members. Matsoukas provides insight on such topics as: Transitions within administrative structures Relationships with mother churches Parish life including the role of women in the church Matsoukas is passionate about creating a unified transformation and makes a well-informed case for a increasing the laity's role in the Orthodox Church in America and for the simultaneous liberation of this church from its historical oversight in various mother countries.

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