

63 - SECULARISM / POLITICAL / SOCIAL ISSUES / ANTAGONISM TOWARD RELIGION / WOKEISM - Political

intolerance for the Orthodox Faith; Government restrictions; Bureaucratic friction locally and nationally; General state of the economy and politics; Government tends to be hostile towards religion; Onslaught of cultural secularism; Political climate; a culture of not asking enough questions when it comes to governmental and societal norms /prescriptions/solutions; political/social trends; pressure to change the focus to “social justice” and society-centric concepts is something against with the church must be on guard; Not to be a conspiratorial parishioner but the biggest threat I see to our parish is caving or being dragged into the Progressive Left’s agenda; higher education system is a threat that takes children away from God; I keep hearing rumblings about our GOARCH leadership having an agenda to merge with Rome and the Roman Catholic Church; We will need to be independent of anything the church has relied on or benefitted from previously from the government such as any tax breaks, or tax exemptions They may not always be available; New city and county board members that are not in line with our Christian values or that see things differently could potentially cause a threat to our festival each year; The relationships we have built in the county of Forsyth and city of Cumming could change in an instant and should be monitored closely; Political Leaders Values; Protests; Violence; Postmodernism; Wokeism; state of the nation; Woke culture; A changing environment and negative influences surrounding the younger generation; American popular culture; Current society threats aimed toward youth; Threats and misinformation that can hurt our youth; increasing number of converts can subtly (or not so subtly) put pressure on the Church to recognize woke ideologies and trendy cultural norms that the Protestant Church as a whole is caving on; Overabundance of “wokeness” in our news and schools. I believe in respecting all people, but many ideas are being supported as if that is the norm for all; The LBGTQ+++ issues in the country could become a problem; Physical Threats – There have been many churches attacked; Social pressure; Indoctrination of our children away from the Faith in Public Schools; Education system Progressive ideology in schools; Public education systems which are increasingly promoting anti-Christian values; Taking God out of schools; Social intolerance for the Orthodox Faith; People not understanding what we are as Orthodox Christians; Anti-religious culture and environment; The growing paganism and moral corruption in our society; The ever-growing attacks on the Christian faith and values in this country; Continual slide of culture away from the Faith and toward chaos; Indoctrination of our children away from the Faith in Public Schools; Declining church attendance by Americans; Younger generation not interested in church; Church has become counter-cultural; various “values” being instilled in the minds of kids, which are not necessarily beneficial or Godly, but so influential to them that they in turn spread it to others their age; Crafting messages of our church’s beliefs in a way that does not turn away young adults in society’s norms; For example: Creating a sermon towards young adults that tackles sensitive issues such as homosexuality and mental health in a way that creates an open dialogue; Culturally, being a Christian is taboo for many, in their workplace or even at neighborhood gatherings; It’s hard to say “we will pray for you” without get strange looks

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from coworkers or friends; I'm not sure if this is because US now has Hindi, Muslim, Buddhists, OR if it's same for other religions?; One threat our parish may face is the growing anti-Christian culture that affects our young people and making sure that the spirit of the age doesn't overcome the timelessness of Orthodoxy; This includes "alternative lifestyles" as well as other heretical teachings; Ideologies contradicting our fundamental Orthodox core values (risk to youth); A growing more Godless society, the church is becoming more of a threat to government and society than an ally; Asian population has increased more than 300% in the last 10+ years (almost 20% of Forsyth county population) which likely means the % of non-Christians is growing rapidly in the area; Concerns about the boundaries between humanity and divinity, and whether AI could replace traditional religious leaders with robots creating and giving sermons; We are not a "modern" religion; Orthodoxy includes long-practiced traditions and customs which does not appeal to the latest (and likely future) generations; Spirit of the age; Antichristian woke culture; Corruption in Washington; Corrupt media; Values are being compromised; Government hostility to religion; Scholl hostility to religion'; Indoctrination of children ; Winds of time is a threat to a traditional organization.

34 - ECONOMIC CONCERNS - Inflation; Recession effects on fundraising and budget; Loss of tax-exempt status; Economic recession; Inflation; Loss of charity-based pricing for software; Inflation; Economic hardship due to future pandemics etc.; External costs due to inflation etc. related to building and other costs; The economy and the inflation factors we currently face which are obstacles to our growth and development; Poor economy whereby parishioners would lose their jobs; donations for church's operating costs would be diminished; The economy and the inflation factors we currently face which are obstacles to our growth and development; inhibiting investment needed to grow; Economic difficulties; Unemployment; a sagging economy; Inflation; Inflation; Potential recession on horizon; Economic issues cutting into charitable giving; Changing economy; Economically, the longer we wait, the more at risk of rising prices for construction; parishioners not giving because of fear and the real rising costs to provide for the needs for their families; Downturned economy resulting in more expensive building materials and decreased giving; Interest rates to secure a mortgage may get lower, but in the current financial environment that doesn't seem likely; Inflation/strength of the economy; Inflation/strength of the economy; A downward economy is always a threat; The economy is a possible threat with uncertain economics on the horizon and just the nature of a cyclical cycle of up and down; Problems that any parish member has in his or her personal life (outside the church) can potentially become a threat to the church; Young community that are providing for their family and trying to make ends meet; When sudden trauma happens in a family and funds need to help; Inflation; Inflation; Building and construction costs are rising; can't serve good and Mannon – materialism and money.

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11 - SOCIAL MEDIA / TECHNOLOGY - Technology failure; compromise impacting ability to present digital content; ransomware; Social media influences on our youth that keep them from attending services and being engaged in the faith; Social media influences on our youth that keep them from attending services and being engaged in the faith; Social Media; “online orthodoxy”; Lots of more “hi-tech”; Social Media – There is a lot of misinformation on social media; Could there be misinformation on social media regarding the Orthodox Church?; Technology failure and cyberattacks Ransome wear.

11 - TIME / COMPETITIVE PRESSURES - Working parents availability – not enough time for additional involvement other than Sunday; Time; “Busy is the new badge of honor.”; Scheduled sport events on Sundays; Other public s?? that interfere our children; Youth sports; Competition with youth extracurriculars; Non-denominational churches have a strong pull in the community for teen programs (they make church ‘fun’); Lifestyles seem to become busier and busier (more work, more sports, more activities, etc.) which can be a threat for church attendance; It’s too easy to for churchgoers to attend other churches, within a 30-45 min drive (esp. Greek Orthodox); youth sports on weekends that conflict with church.

6 – ANOTHER PANDEMIC / COVID - Pandemic – as in recent COVID; Prepare for another situation like COVID (rainy day fund, continuation of church services, etc.); continued fear of Covid; Fear of covid or whatever else comes next, causing more unconstitutional government actions that are simply obeyed without asking questions; loss of attendance habit that’s made it difficult for parishioners to return to church; Children coming out of Covid – Socialization.

5 - LEGAL - Law suits; persons injured on property; food poisoning; Environmental laws limiting use of land; State and Federal mandates, orders, or future pandemics could be a threat for continued survival.

2 - DRUGS / SUBSTANCE ABUSE - drugs; substance abuse.

2 - SAFETY ISSUES - personal safety issues situation awareness given culture around us; society is becoming more violent.

ONE OFFS

Increasing need for clergy with a dwindling presence at seminaries;
Gun free zones;
Lightning;
Decline of what let means to be a mature adult;
Outside entities outside the control that impact the church;
Current mental health crisis in our culture;
Lack of understanding what Orthodoxy is;
Demographics of Forsyth county is changing other culture moving in;

INTERNAL AND NOT EXTERNAL THREATS

- ~ L'aissez faire/ Apathetic attitude from too many parishioners;
- ~ We see a large reduction in stewards; Not building bigger church for current and future stewards;
- ~ Mismanagement of money; economy and costs of construction that make it harder and harder to have enough money to finish our building;
- ~ Missing on large donation opportunities because we are not making the ask;
- ~ Not having a church hall/real building is detrimental (to some families) from attending RNI;
- ~ many Greeks associate having a Greek church as being a "real" church (yet they don't want to fund a building which is ABSURD);
- ~ Leadership seems committed to keeping the emphasis on the timeless truths or our faith;
- ~ Lack of direction and focus for the parish; But no interaction or engagement by pastor; ~ No process for new parishioners to be introduced to parish activities, processes or opportunities to support parish;
- ~ Not taking positive action in building a building soon could have negative implications for our parish image and standing in the surrounding Forsyth County community, within our outside Orthodox community and even to some individual parish members;
- ~ The single greatest threat to the goal of building a new building is the loss of enthusiasm and commitment because expectations have been raised too high for realistic conditions in an effort to motivate participation to accelerate progress when a more pragmatic plan could encourage measured success over time;
- ~ No major donors to help fund any major projects;
- ~ Membership becomes settled and complacent, a club not a church;
- ~ Because of this we need to stay away from all financial debt;
- ~ We need to grow at the speed of cash;
- ~ Conflicts between members could arise, communication could be affected;
- ~ certain ministries could be hurt depending on the person having the problem;
- ~ Church Leaders Values;
- ~ Leave small thing and hurtful talk;
- ~ Other churches (with actual church buildings) compete for existing, and potential, families to attend Sts. RNI.;
- ~ I've ignored it for some time, but I keep hearing about it. This would destroy our parish;
- ~ Our family would be forced to leave;
- ~ Changes in local population, roads, etc. that make attendance difficult;
- ~ We should not change ourselves to meet their needs if they are not in line with our values;
- ~ compromised bank accounts, etc.;
- ~The biggest threat is trying to stick with the way we have always done it;
- ~ Need security guard;
- ~ Too many Greek Orthodox in the area drive to Cathedral or Marietta to be part of a larger community;
- ~Other Orthodox churches are offering youth programs which we do not provide; also, for better youth programs;
- ~Young adult opportunities / activities in other Greek churches are drawing youth away from our church;