

Date: June 2023

Subject: Candidate Seeking Election to the Archdiocesan Board of Trustees

To the distinguished selection committee:

My name is Kameel Najjar, and I'm a parishioner in St. George Orthodox Church in Indianapolis, Indiana.

I was born in Bishmizzine, in the El Koura governate of North Lebanon on 12 December, 1953. I was raised in Lebanon and graduated from The American University of Beirut in 1976. I was raised in an Orthodox Christian family, attending every Sunday service, and participating actively in church teen activities. Chanting has been a family tradition from the days of my grandfather (who I'm proud to share was also the Metropolitan's personal chanter), through to my own father who also served as Treasurer on their Parish council for many years and chanted at the Bishmizzine church regularly until his passing. The chanting tradition was passed on to my uncle, myself, my brother, Salim Najjar, and to our respective families.

I started my business career in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in 1976, and I moved to Nigeria in 1982 to start my own business. Eventually became a Founding Partner, Executive Director and CEO of a maritime service company catering to offshore oil and gas operations in the country, where I spent over 40 years until I retired in December 2022.

During that time, my wife and children immigrated to the United States, becoming active members of St. George in Indianapolis, and eventually we all became US Citizens. In 1999, my son Jad won the North America Archdiocese Oratorical Contest. And throughout the construction and finalization phase of our new church in the Indy suburb of Fishers, my wife served faithfully on the Iconography committee. I have been a Knight member of The Order of St. Ignatius since 1998, and since April 2022 I have been interested in taking a more active role in raising awareness of The Order's Mission and Vision within our parish, and we were able to double membership in this time.

My desire to join the Archdiocese Board of Trustees is to exercise my faith while using my talents and resources to spread and grow the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to promote our diverse culture in order to build stronger bridges throughout society in these trying times of our life. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to any opportunity to discuss my candidacy in more depth.

Yours faithfully,

Kameel K. Najjar