



**Faith Community and City: Coming Together to Support
Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities**

St. Mary's Cathedral Conference Center
Monday, October 16, 2017

Remarks by Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director

On behalf of the San Francisco Interfaith Council and our partners at the San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), we welcome you to this half day workshop entitled *"Faith Community & City: Coming Together to Support Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities,"* at which faith communities will engage in a rich discussion with DAAS and its partner organizations on serving the needs of our older adults and persons with disabilities.

Realizing that faith leaders and congregations are on the front lines of serving these important sectors, as well as benefitting from the gifts and talents they bring to every aspect of community life, our goal today is two fold, to sensitize our civic partners to the joys and challenges particular to ministering older adults and people with disabilities as well as to learn of direct services, programs and

resources available through the City to better serve these congregants. We have a well-balanced and full program to offer you this morning and would ask your cooperation in helping us stick to the appointed schedule. We would also encourage you, during your free time, to visit the tables lined up against that wall, speak with the program representatives and exchange contact information. Each and every one of the agencies and programs represented today offers invaluable information that we hope you will take back to your communities for the benefit of those you serve.

There countless folk responsible for making today's convening possible. Their names and organizations can be found in your program booklet. Please allow me to lift up just a few unsung heroes, without whom we would not be meeting today. First and foremost, a special thanks to St. Mary's Cathedral for providing this amazing hospitality. I'd also like to say thank you to the SFIC's Administrative/Program Assistant Cynthia Zamboukos for handling the better portion of logistics for this workshop and her sister Mary for arranging for our continental breakfast. Finally, a great debt of gratitude is owed to my dear friend Tom Nolan from DAAS, who conceived of the idea for this workshop and whose gentle persistence enabled us to navigate our way here today. Let's give them all a hand!

Before we proceed, allow me to read the statement spoken before any convening of the San Francisco Interfaith Council:

“This is an interfaith community. Whatever our individual belief, it can be freely expressed here with no apologies. If we are invited to offer a prayer in this setting, it should be offered according to the tradition with which we identify. If we are invited to speak on a subject from the perspective of our tradition, we are free to do so without fear of offending those who come from another tradition. We come together as people of faith to learn from each other that we might better understand the multiplicity of faith traditions in our city and in our world.”

And now it is my great privilege and pleasure to present to you our incredible partner in this undertaking and dear friend, the Executive Director of the San Francisco Department of Adult and Aging Services Shireen McSpadden.