



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DETROIT



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Volume 1, Issue 1

Christmas 2009



JOHN I:1-3

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. HE WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD. ALL THINGS CAME INTO BEING BY HIM, AND APART FROM HIM NOTHING CAME INTO BEING THAT HAS COME INTO BEING.

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Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Metropolitan Nicholas' Message...

Beloved Family in Christ,

It is with great paternal joy that I address these words to you as we prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord.

The celebration of Christmas is a unique expression of joy in the life of the Church specifically because it brings a new sense of reality and urgency to the prophetic words of Israel for the coming of the Messiah.

All of creation rejoices at the birth of God in the flesh: the heavens are ablaze with fiery stars which guide the Magi to the Christ child; the court of Herod is abuzz with the news of a 'new' King; and the shepherds hear the angelic message of "good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."

This message of God's love is so meaningful to us even now, despite every difficulty which we are facing as individuals, families, and a na-



tion.

In the midst of trying to 'save ourselves' from the loss of our home and jobs, God calls out to us to trust in this Child, this infant Christ, born in a cave.

In the midst of wondering what we should do and where we must go, God calls upon us to see this infant King, whose parents flee from their own land that He might

survive Herod's wrath.

In the midst of planning how we shall amass treasures for ourselves to secure our futures, God calls upon us to gaze upon this King of Heaven and Earth, and to recognize that for our salvation He empties Himself, holding nothing but us in the palm of His hand.

The true witness of Christmas is also found in the words of St. Paul, who reminds us that "neither height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Christ is Born!
Glorify Him!

With every paternal prayer and blessing for you and yours at Christmas 2009,

Metropolitan Nicholas



(Westland, MI)

AXIOS! Fr. Teodor!

At the conclusion of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated at the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church on Sunday, October 11, Archbishop Demetrios elevated Father Teodor Petrutiu to the rank of Ekonomos.

Fr. Teodor accepted the interim assignment to the parish in October of 2007 in order to assess



the status and needs of the community for the Metropolitan. Father Teodor was formally assigned as

the *Proistamemos* of the community in April of 2009.

In recognition of the hard work and leadership of Fr. Teodor, as well as the dedication and cooperation of the entire parish family, the Archbishop honored Fr. Teodor and the entire community through his elevation to the rank of Ekonomos.

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!



2009 CLERGY-LAITY AND PHILOPTOCHOS CONFERENCE



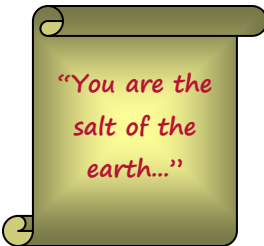
Metropolitan Nicholas and clergy.



Metropolitan Nicholas and the Metropolis Council.



Metropolitan Nicholas distributing spiritual salt to those attending his Thursday keynote speech.



(Westland, MI)

The 2009 Metropolis Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Assembly was held from October 8-10 at the Sts. Constantine and Helen parish in Westland, MI.

On the evening of October 7, prior to the formal opening of the Assembly, both the Metropolis Council and the Philoptochos Council met in preparation for the work ahead.

On Thursday, October 10, Metropolitan Nicholas opened the Assembly with his keynote address entitled: "You are the salt of the earth..."

Following the keynote address, which was given in the church proper, the Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Assembly was formally opened. Before leaving the church for the ensuing meetings, the 160 registered delegates were anointed with unction in preparation for the serious tasks which lay ahead of them.

All of the delegates then took part in an opening seminar which further developed the practical aspects of the Conference theme of "Salt." These seminar sessions were led by Frs. Cassis, Olecnowicz, and Pathenos.

After lunch, the regular program began: educational learning

sessions, Metropolis committee meetings, and the Philoptochos Assembly meetings ran concurrently.

Delegates who were not attending committee meetings or other sessions had the opportunity to attend learning sessions which were all centered around the Conference theme of salt. These learning sessions all dealt with ways in which to make our Christian witness more effective for ourselves as well as our communities.

The Metropolis Committees which met during the Assembly included: Finance, Youth, Administration, Missions and Small Parish, Religious Education, Archdiocesan Commitment, Language and Culture, and Friends of the Metropolis Committee.

The Thursday evening Grand Banquet was centered around the 10 year anniversary of Metropolitan Nicholas as the head of the Metropolis. Navy Chaplain and classmate of the Metropolitan, Captain William J. Bartz, offered the keynote 'Salute' to His Eminence. Fr. Bartz began his talk with his first encounter of His Eminence while they were students, and concluded with his present work, especially his pub-

lic outreach in the American Bible Society.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios arrived Friday evening and participated in the Plenary Session on Saturday morning.

Vice-chair Gus Stavropoulos opened the Plenary Session and Lou Kircos was appointed as chair for the Assembly.

The Archbishop also attended the Philoptochos Conference and offered the new Board Members their affirmation of office.

This was the most well attended Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Conference in recent history. A review of the work of the Clergy-Laity will be communicated to the parishes in the near future.

The Sts. Constantine and Helen parish was an ideal location with ample meeting rooms and spaces for the work of the delegates. All of the delegates noted the friendliness of the community, its priest Fr. Teodor Petrutiu, the Parish Council and Philoptochos, and the volunteers who helped make this event successful. Marchiori catering provided outstanding meals during the entire event.

Bravo to all!

Metropolitan Nicholas' 10th Anniversary

This year's Clergy Laity Conference, held at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Westland, MI, was marked by a special occasion: His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas' 10 Year Anniversary.

Members of the clergy, Metropolitan Council, friends, relatives, faithful from all over the Metropolis were present to congratulate



their spiritual shepherd. With tears in his eyes, Metropolitan Nicholas expressed his gratitude to those

present, remembering also his mother for whom he had great respect. His joyful presence and smile along with his wit and great sense of humor created an unforgettable atmosphere.

For this and for the care he always has for us, we wish His Eminence Many Years in the Lord!

Εις Πολλά Ετη Δεσποτα!...





YOUTH NEWS

By Eva Kokinos

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE METROPOLIS OF DETROIT CAMPS

The Metropolis of Detroit is blessed to have three successful and thriving summer camp programs. Each one of these camps brings the youth of the Metropolis together in Christ, sharing their faith and building strong friendships. This year, each of the camps focused on the theme of being "Athletes for Christ."

Here are highlights from each of our camps:

MDSC : The Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp, located in Rose City, MI, enjoyed another successful season of Faith, Friendship, Peace, and Love. MDSC youth participation increased this year with over 350 campers in attendance during the entire season. Visit www.gomdsc.org for more information.

ST. NICHOLAS SUMMER CAMP: In 2009, the St. Nicholas Summer Camp moved to a new facility. The St. Nicholas Summer Camp is now located at the beautiful Camp NaCoMe facility in Pleasantville, TN. The St. Nicholas Summer Camp enjoyed its biggest year in 2009 with 104 campers in attendance. Visit www.southernrcamp.com for details.

ST. TIMOTHY CAMP: The St. Timothy Camp, located at the Oswegatchie Educational Facility in Croghan, NY, had a wonderful summer camp season. With 55 campers in attendance, the St. Timothy Camp continued its tradition of providing a safe and fun environment for youth to grow in Christ, build strong relationships, and to increase their appreciation for God's creation. Read more about this camp at www.sttimothycamp.org.

ST. NICHOLAS SUMMER CAMP CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The St. Nicholas Summer Camp was established in 2000 to serve the youth of the Central and Southern areas of our Metropolis. In 2010, the St. Nicholas Summer Camp will celebrate its 10th year of faith, fun, and fellowship. To recognize this milestone, there will be a St. Nicholas Summer Camp Reunion and 10th Anniversary Dinner/Dance in January of 2010.

The Dinner/Dance will be **Saturday, January 16, 2010** at the Doubletree Guest Suites in Lexington, KY. However, there will be activities throughout the weekend. So guests are encouraged to mark January 15-17, 2010 on their calendars. Dinner reservations must be made by January 2, 2010. For information regarding reservations or the Reunion weekend, please contact Pres. Harriet Wilson or Eva Kokinos at sncreunion2010@hotmail.com.

JOIN THE YOUTH OFFICE EMAIL LISTSERV TODAY!

Would you like to keep up with local, Metropolis, and Archdiocese programs for youth, young adults, and youth workers? Then join the Metropolis of Detroit Youth Ministries (MDYM) e-Update list TODAY!

The MYDM e-Update is an e-Newsletter sent out the first Friday of every month. For breaking news, we also send "NEWS FLASH" announcements throughout the month. To be added to our email list, please email youth@detroitgoarch.org and type "ADD ME" in the subject!

Thank you for supporting the Youth and Young Adult Ministries programs of the Metropolis of Detroit!



2009-2010 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING METROPOLIS AND ARCHDIOCESE YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

- **December 27-29, 2009** Holiday Hoops GOYA Basketball Tournament
Sponsored by St. John Church – Sterling Heights, MI
- **January 15-17, 2010** St. Nicholas Summer Camp Reunion and 10th Anniversary Dinner/Dance
Hosted by Panagia Pantovasilisa Church – Lexington, KY
- **January 28-30, 2010** Annual Orthodox Camp Director and Youth Worker Conference
Silver Springs, MD
- **February 12-14, 2010** Dayton Annual GOYA Basketball
Annunciation Church – Dayton, OH
- **February 27, 2010** NY Area GOYA Lenten Retreat
Hosted by Holy Spirit Church – Rochester, NY
- **March 5-6, 2010** MI Area GOYA Lenten Retreat
Hosted by St. Nicholas Church – Troy, MI
- **March 19-21, 2010** Fall Creek Falls GOYA Retreat



St. Nicholas Summer Camp - in Pleasantville, TN.



Eva Kokinos - Metropolis Youth Director, at the 2009 Clergy Laity Conference.

Sponsored by Holy Trinity Church – Nashville, TN

- **April 6-10, 2010** Tentative Metropolis GOYA Trip to Boston
- **April 17, 2010** St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival – District Finals
Locations: TBA
- **May 15, 2010** St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival – Metropolis Finals
Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Church – Cincinnati, OH
- **June 2-4, 2010** St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival – Archdiocese Finals
New York City, NY



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



Eleni Zaferes - Metropolitan of Detroit Philoptochos President.

By Eleni Zaferes

The Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos chapters joined in fellowship at the Metropolis Philoptochos Conference in conjunction with the Clergy/Laity Conference in Westland, MI October 8-10, 2009. Instructional "Back to Basics" workshops afforded the delegates an opportunity to review chapter procedures, officer responsibilities and ways to increase membership. National President Aphrodite Skeadas joined the delegates during the Conference deliberations.

Over 40 chapters were recognized for excellence in these categories: Growth and Expansion; Best Outreach and In Reach Projects; Commitments; and Cookbook Sales at the delegate's breakfast hosted by the Metropolis Philoptochos Board.

We thank Berdi Kakas, Penny Gryparis and Lisa Solon for their service to the Metropolis Board. New members are Presvytera Teri Maggos of Flint, Patricia Laddis of Mus-

kegon, and Perry Katsikas of Ann Arbor.

The Metropolis Board will continue the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Enthronement of Metropolitan Nicholas by hosting its annual reception in honor of our beloved Metropolitan Nicholas' Name Day on Sunday, December 6th from 1:00- 5:00pm at the Metropolis Center. The next week receptions will follow the St. Spyridon Vesper service on December 11th and the Divine Liturgy on December 12th. We invite everyone to join in these celebrations.

We welcome the newest Philoptochos chapter in Traverse City, MI. The ladies have always assisted in the ministries of the Church and now will be working for the Mission of Philoptochos. It is this devotion that helps sustain and better the lives of others.

On behalf of the Metropolis Board members and all Philoptochos chapters, we wish everyone a joyous Christmas season and a blessed New Year.



2009-2010 Philoptochos Board.



Metropolitan Nicholas at the Philoptochos Conference Awards Meeting.



The Philoptochos Delegates to the 2009 Clergy Laity Conference.

"It is this devotion that helps sustain and better the lives of others..."



By Barbara Minton

Church musicians from the Metropolis of Detroit, along with their sister singers and chanters from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh, gathered at Saints Constantine and Helen in Westland on July 16-18, 2009, for the 62nd Annual Conference of the Mid-Eastern



MEFGOX NEWS

Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. The four-day event featured a Church Music Institute and workshops on Orthodox Hymnology, teaching children hymns, and basics for singing. Federation President Irene Georgantas welcomed the participants and gave a report of accomplishments of the previous year which included launching a website.

At the Grand Banquet, four young adults were awarded scholarships. Mr. Dan Packis, Chairman of the Trustees of the Memorial

Scholarship Foundation, was awarded the National Forum's Patriarch Athenagoras Medal for Distinguished Diocesan Service.

The culmination of the conference came on Sunday. A group of seventeen singers chanted the Orthros, led by their instructor Nancy Takis. A choir of over 100 singers under the direction of Maritsa Kalasz sang the English arrangement of the Divine Liturgy composed by George Raptis. It was a very moving celebration of the Divine Liturgy with Metropolitan Maximos and

Metropolitan Nicholas co-celebrating Fathers Dean Hountalas, Nicolaos Kotsis, and Teodor Petrutiu.

The weekend was a time of fellowship, learning, worship and prayer with, the hard-working host choir and their conference chairmen Alex Skylakos and Connie Bogdanos. For more details (and pictures!) about the Federation and the conference, please visit our newly constructed website at:

<http://mideastern.churchmusic.goarch.org/>



FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS (AS OF NOVEMBER 15, 2009)

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Ann Arbor, MI

St. Nicholas

Guibert, Nellie

Buffalo, NY - Annunciation

Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Philoptochos
Annunciation Youth Council
Christakis, Fr. Christos and Presbytera Lisa
Alethea's Chocolates - Dean Tassy
Blakeslee, Ronald and Marie Cervi, Vassilia
Couvtsakis, Paul
Hatzipetros, George
Kokinos, Helen
Koutsandreas, Milton and Sophia
Kuvshinoff, Boris and Barbara Mastoras, Mary
Pefanis, Jerry
Pavlakis, Peter and Elizabeth Scouras, George
Spanos, Frances
Tassy, Gust and Marian
Tzimas, Jesse

Carmel, IN - Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity- Choir
Gounaris, Fr. Anastasios and Presbytera Maria
Belous, Alexandra
Douvis, Harry E.

Hershberger, Dennis and Dawn

Karozos, Gus
Paikos, Lazaros
Pappas, Vicky
Torney, Harry and Helen

Chattanooga, TN

Annunciation

Annunciation Choir
Berros, James and Sue
Bouloukos, Dino and Maria
Campa, Pedro
Demetry, Mrs. Danny
Dimopoulos, Dennis and Barbara
Ellis, George and Betty
Fairbanks, Bobby and Voula
Ford, Kevin and Allyson

Fotiadis, Nick and Lilly
Fox, Ann F.
Gaitanoglou, Takis and Jenny
Gulas, Pete and Ani
Gulas, Marion
Gulas, Venetia
Hopper, Richard and Chrisi
Kalanzis, Nicholas and Angela
Kouris, George and Politimi
Lee, Constance and Ronald
Petros, Kathy
Tigiros, Elias and Sharon
Trohanis, Bill and Jean
Tzavaras, Lena

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Parish
Holy Cross Philoptochos
Hountalas, Fr. Dean and Presbytera Olga
Alexander, Milton and Helen
Blough, Michael and Catherine
Boudouris, Tino and Mary Jo
Collias, Rosemary
Fekaris, Steve and Bettie
Gaggos, Angelo and Sophia
Kargilis, Alexander
Kreiar, Tad and Elisabeth
Liadis, John G.

pas
Rongos, Cristopher and Katherine
Toskos, Tom

Grand Rapids, MI

Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Bogdan, Fr. Jim and Presbytera Joan
Afendoulis, Chris and Phyllis
Afendoulis, Clark and Katherine
Gray, Mark and Alexis
Herweyer, John and Gloria
Kalyvas, Tim and Lina
Katsoris, Helen
Kontos, Katherine
Koukios, Constantine
Lange, Ginger
Neil, Chad Dimopolous
Nicholas, Christina A.
Nicholas, James and Georgia
Petricevic, Mark and Lili
Sarafis, Elizabeth
Triant, Linda
Van Kuiken, Ray and Marilyn
Zarafonetis, Stratton

Hot Springs, AR

Zoodochos Peghee

Delfos, Fr. Pierre and Presbytera Harriet

Indianapolis, IN

Holy Apostles Mission

Holy Apostles Parish
Kratsios, Emmanuel, Irene, and Barbara
Stevens, Georgia

Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine

Bantuvanias, George and Ann
Bezirgianian, John and Sophia

Jamestown, NY

St. Nicholas

Zervos, Fr. George and Presbytera Ann

Lansing, MI - Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Sietsema, Fr. Mark and Presbytera Katherine
Economy, R. George and Stella
Gavrilides, Nicholas and Dana

(Continued on page 6)



Vassilev, Mikhail
Xoinis, John and Stavroula

Cincinnati, OH

Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas

Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas
GOYA

Streza, Fr. Ciprian and Presbytera Lavinia
Carumpalos, Constantine

Dayton, MI - Annunciation

Anagnoston, Linda
Maxis, Ike
Trohatos, Peter

Detroit, MI

Annunciation Cathedral

Annunciation Parish

Farmington Hills, MI

Rafaill, Chris and Lynne
Sitaras, James and Bonnie
Stassinopoulos, Peter
Theodorou, Thomas and Paraskevi

Flint, MI - Assumption

Assumption Parish

Fort Wayne, IN

Holy Trinity

Bebis, Fr. Paul and Presbytera Theresa
Doublas, Gregory
Gogos, George and Eleftheria
Katsis, Maria
Maggos, Eleftherios and Voula
Makris, Antonia
Pappas Commercial Center
Athanasios Pappas
Pappas Furs, Athanasios Pap-



FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS (AS OF NOVEMBER 15, 2009)

(Continued from page 5)

Kosal, Curt and Leslie
 Mansour, George
 Nicolaou, Varnavas and Koula
 Perentesis, Stephanie C.
 Pogoncheff, Carl
 Smith, Richard L.
 Vlahakis, Louis and Mary

Lexington, KY**Panagia Pantovasilissa**

Wilson, Fr. George & Presbytera Harriet
 Annetts, Brett and Ruth
 Douglas, Katina
 Pepps, Mary S.
 Sawaya, Dr. Peter
 Smither, Eugenia and Steven
 Stefanis, Frances

Little Rock, AR**Annunciation**

Alley, Naimeh and Family
 Alley, Sam and Janet
 Vratsinas Foundation
 Vratsinas, Gus and Irene

Louisville, KY**Assumption**

Assumption Philoptochos
 Kapsalis, Stephen and Carol

Memphis, TN**Annunciation**

Annunciation Parish
 Annunciation Philoptochos
 Christy, Fr. Paul and Presbytera Mary
 Daughters of Penelope- Chapter #180
 Apalodimas, Chris and Constance
 Bagatelas, Todd and Cyndi
 Cotros, Charles and Connie
 Futris, Steve and Zoe
 Hoover, Ken and Vicki
 Jennings, Albert and Tina
 Nichols, Nicholas and Linda
 Obradovic, Milan
 Poplos, Theodore and Stephanie
 Semos, Vasili and Luane
 Taras, Loretta and Kosta
 Theodore, Sophie
 Tobias, Richard and Angela

Middletown, OH**Sts. Constantine & Helen**

Sts. Constantine and Helen
 Philoptochos

Muskegon, MI**Annunciation**

Annunciation Parish
 Annunciation Philoptochos
 Mot, Fr. Catalan and Presbytera Felicia

Yankopoulos, Presbytera Ann
 Encelewski, Christine Dault

Nashville, TN**Holy Trinity**

Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and
 Presbytera Sofia

Nashville, TN**St. John Chrysostom**

Turner, Fr. Parthenios and
 Pres. Marion
 Anonymous
 Bayers, Edward and Lynn
 Courington, Christopher and
 Shelley

Demmas, Constance

Demmas, Nancy
 Gordon, Thomas
 Hamm, Clinton and Elizabeth
 Kelley, Gillian
 Knox, David
 Marchetti, John
 Stein, Matt and Dana
 Tickle, Jeffrey and Jackie
 Wagner, Charles and Edith
 Williams, Heath

New Buffalo, MI**Annunciation/St.Paraskevi**

Stamas, Fr. Basil
 Martin, Fr. Paul & Pres. Nikki
 Arvan, John and Pitsa
 Arvanitis, Angelo
 Fillis, John
 Hahn, Herbert and Elizabeth
 Hilltop Café/George Bouzas
 Kerhoulas, Mike Properties
 New Nicholsons Restaurant /
 Nicholas Gellis
 Olympus Restaurant/Christos
 Lepeniotis
 Polymeris, Spiros and Donna
 Poulos, Louis

Stotis, Bill and Anna

Plymouth, MI**Nativity of the Virgin Mary**

Vaporis, Fr. George and Presbytera Kalliopi
 Kheir, Angela
 Takis, Gerald and Mary

Rochester, NY**Annunciation**

Annunciation Parish
 Markakis, Kathryn
 Stefanou, Dimitri and Maja
 Stefanou, Gus and Florence
 Stefanou

Rochester, NY - Holy Spirit

Lyttle, Douglas

Saginaw, MI**St. Demetrios**

Cox, Fr. Irenaeus & Pres.
 Alexandra
 Bazakis, Andrew and Ann

Southgate, MI - St. George

Galanis, Sam
 Golematis, Giorgios and Maria
 Hionis, Gust
 Kircos, Angelo and Sophia
 Kircos, John and Violet
 Kircos, Louis and Paula
 Kircos- Sophia's Bakery
 Minton, Charles
 Minton, Nicholas

Springfield, OH**Assumption**

Assumption Parish

St. Clair Shores, MI**Assumption**

Carson, Charles J.
 Genematas, Tula

Sterling Heights, MI**St. John**

Aretakis, John & Suzanne
 Burdaldas, Peter and Chrisy
 Kotsis, Harry and Katherine
 Lionas, James and Helene
 Patouhas, Spyros I.
 Salonikas, Georgios and Nicoleta Vekos
 Tangalos, Philip

Toledo, OH**Holy Trinity Cathedral**

Damaskos, Fr. Aristotle and

Presbytera Debbie

Traverse City, MI**St. Archangel Gabriel**

Archangel Gabriel Parish
 Fickling, Robert and Donellen
 Long, Stephanie
 Sobkowski, Nikoleta

Troy, MI - St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas Parish

Demery, Beck
 Feles, Gust and Anne
 Joanou, George M. and
 Frances

Kitakis, Sophie

Korstanje, Ingmar and Marlo

Lafter, Mary

Lavrakas, John and Catherine

Liakonis, Chris and Labrini

Papathanasopoulos, Demetrios

Partalis, Evelyn

Pervolarakis, Calliope

Sekles, Steven

Xydias, Spiros

Yanolaki, Peter

Vestal, NY - Annunciation

Annunciation Parish

Westland, MI**Sts. Constantine & Helen**

Sts. Constantine/Helen Parish

Sts. Constantine/Helen

Philoptochos

Livanos, Demetrios

Other Friends

Ahepa #374 - Henry and Edsel
 Ford Chapter, Livonia, MI
 Ahepa #371 Omega Chapter,
 I & II Inc. - Harrison Twp, MI
 Argue, Clifford and Theodora,
 Mercer Island, WA
 Bartz, Fr. Bill and Presbytera
 Emily, Dumfries, VA
 Daughters of Penelope, Dares
 Chapter #252, Grosse Ile, MI
 Metropolis of Detroit
 Philoptochos
 Retired Clergy Epistle Fund
 Sisterhood of Presbyteres -
 Metropolis of Detroit



KENYA AND RUSSIA: TWO DIFFERENT CULTURES, ONE FAMILY IN CHRIST

By Eva Kokinos, Director
Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

With the blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, and the generosity of the faithful of this Metropolis, I traveled to two countries where was able to see Orthodox Christianity through the eyes of two distinct cultures. These two trips gave me some of the most profound experiences of my life. One was a trip to Kenya for an OCMC (Orthodox Christian Missions Center) teaching mission trip in January 2009. The other was a young adult pilgrimage to Moscow and St. Petersburg in April 2009.

It was an honor to be invited to participate in an OCMC mission. Our mission trip was from December 29, 2008 -January 12, 2009. Our team was hosted by His Eminence Archbishop Makarios at the St. Makarios Orthodox Seminary in Nairobi. The goal of our mission was to teach the youth and catechumens about Orthodox Christian faith. In addition, we provided teaching tools and ideas for the Kenyan youth workers and Sunday School teachers. Most importantly, our mission was to share the love of Christ with everyone we encountered... helping in any way we could.

The trip, the people, the culture, and the faith I witnessed were simply unforgettable. I was able to spend time teaching and playing with beautiful children at the St. Makarios Orphanage. We visited villages and worshipped with the locals. It is hard to deny or ignore the poverty and disease that affects Kenya. Our Kenyan brothers and sisters in Christ lack in material wealth. However, the wealth of deep faith and true joy that flowed from the people during the Divine Liturgy was unparalleled. And it is a wealth that I carry with me for the rest of my life.

In April 2009, I encountered Orthodoxy in a completely different setting.... Russia. Right after Pascha, from April 25-May 1, 2009, I joined 24 other young adults on a pilgrimage through the largest Orthodox Christian country in the world.

Our trip began in Moscow... We visited well-known historical sites such as Red Square, the Kremlin, Lenin's Tomb, and the Tomb of

the Unknown Soldier. We attended a Patriarchal Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral of Christ the Savior. One of the highlights of our trip was to receive a blessing from Patriarch Kirill, the Patriarch of Moscow and all of Russia. We also visited one of the most recognizable Russian Orthodox churches, St. Basil's Cathedral. We completed our trip by visiting the Holy Trinity/St. Sergius Monastery, where we venerated the relics of St. Sergius, St. Innocent of Alaska, and St. Maximos the Greek.

St. Petersburg was just as incredible. Among the many beautiful churches we visited, we saw Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan, St. Isaac's Cathedral, and the Church of the Resurrection (also known as the Savior on Spilled Blood). The Church of the Resurrection is decorated with 7,500 square meters of mosaic iconography. The most notable historical sight we visited in St. Petersburg was the State Hermitage Museum, holding more than three million works of art and artifacts.

Out of all the sites and beautiful churches we were able to visit in Russia, something stands out in my mind. People's faces changed when we would switch from speaking English to say "Christos Voskrese" (Christ is Risen). Most locals did not expect that from us, but it instantly connected us with anyone we encountered. While in Moscow, we were greeted by a woman who was a volunteer at one of the area churches. When she heard we were a group of Orthodox Christians from the U.S. visiting specifically to see the religious sites in the area, her eyes filled with tears. When we asked our tour guide why she was crying, she said that she was filled with joy that people could now "come to our country and be free to visit because of Orthodoxy."

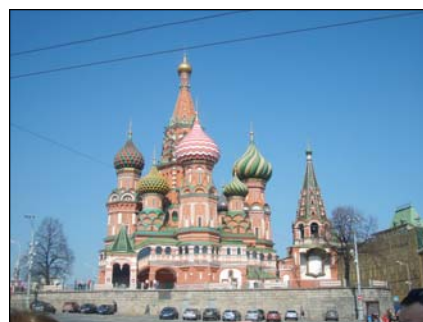
I am truly grateful to have these experiences from Kenya and Russia in my mind and heart forever. Although Russia, Kenya, and the U.S. face different cultural, political, and social challenges, the Good News of the Holy Gospel is the same. Ultimately, it binds us together as one family in Christ. As the Youth Director of our beloved Metropolis, I look forward to sharing these memories with our young people for years to come.



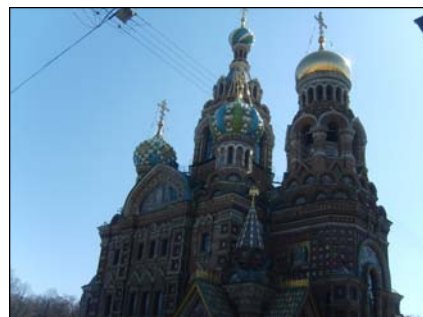
Moses, one of the children living at the St. Makarios Orphanage in Nieri, Kenya.

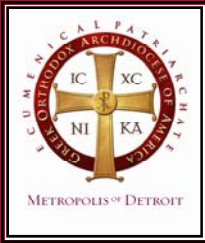


Archbishop Makarios with the local priests and team members who graduated from HCHC.



Moscow: St. Basil's Cathedral
St Petersburg: Church of the Resurrection





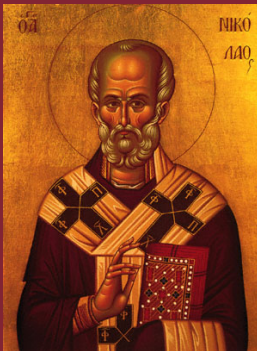
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THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF



FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS

What Does Friends of the Metropolis Support?

General: Fully fund the expenses of the Metropolis offices, programs and travels.

Education: Enhance scholarships and adult education programs, as well as support the Metropolis students at Hellenic College/Holy Cross.

Support: Develop and provide educational and instructional seminars and services to clergy and parishes.

Youth: Maintain and support the youth office and activities of a full-time Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director.

Outreach/Missions: Create opportunities to introduce our faith to society, participate in inter-Christian and inter-faith activities as well as provide quick responses to national disasters.

Hellenism: Develop programs for Hellenic Cultural Outreach, including language, history and arts.

Leadership: Organize Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conferences, Oratorical Festivals, Christmas Pageants and Adult Education Programs.

Special Programs: Website development, hospitality to visiting dignitaries and guests, Charity and Philanthropy.

Dear Friends of the Metropolis:

Dear Friends of the Metropolis:

God has called us to do mighty deeds for the glory of His name and for the love of His people.

You are called upon to join in this reality of "faith working through love" as we continue to manifest the love of God for His Church and His people.

When you support the Friends of the Metropolis campaign, you are part of a greater outreach that proclaims with one universal voice that God is truly our hope and our rock of salvation.

Because of your devotion and help to the Friends

program, ministries and programs are implemented on a Metropolis-wide basis which strengthen and enhance our faith and our joint ministry of service.

If you have not yet become part of the Metropolis-wide effort, I would like to invite you to join forces with the faithful throughout our Metropolis in support of the ministries which are part of the Office of the Metropolitan.

Thanking you for your kind and generous response, I remain, with paternal blessing and prayers,

+NICHOLAS
Metropolitan Of Detroit

I am pleased to support the work of Metropolitan Nicholas and the Metropolis through the Annual Metropolis Stewardship "Friends" Program

Send this card in an envelope to:
The Metropolis of Detroit
2560 Crooks Road, Troy, MI 48084

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other

Name _____ Parish Affiliation: _____
Address _____
City _____
Phone _____ Email _____

Check Enclosed (payable to the Metropolis of Detroit)

Please Charge My Credit Card Visa MasterCard

Account # _____ Exp. _____ Signature _____ Date _____