



# The Shepherd's Staff

## Metropolitan Nicholas' Message...

*Beloved Faithful,*

*"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul." (Mark 8:36-37)*

With these two questions Christ asks each and every one of us, we are all called to take a look into the recesses of our minds and into the depths of our souls. We are forced to come to terms with the *meaning* of our lives. What *value* do we place on *eternal life*? *How important is the spiritual health of our souls to us?*

My friends, in the context of this passage, Jesus Christ is telling us that the ultimate meaning of life is based upon Christ's love for us and our response to that divine love. Christ's love is not selfish or vainglorious—it is altruistic and completely *self-giving*. If we truly value eternal life and if the health of our souls is of the utmost importance, then unselfish love, abounding *agape*, should be our response to Christ's love for us.

One manifestation of self-giving love has come, for many decades, through the tireless efforts and works of the Philoptochos. The Philoptochos societies have been our examples of love, charity, and beneficence for many years and continue to do so today.

On November 1, 2003, the Metropolis of

Detroit Philoptochos will host the National Children's Medical Fund Luncheon at the Ritz Carlton in Dearborn, MI. This event will help raise tens of thousands of dollars for five Children's hospitals within the Metropolis of Detroit as well as raise money for the National Philoptochos Medical Fund. This is truly a worthy and endeavor!

Even though all tickets have been sold and there is currently a waiting list, you can still help. Please contact your local parish Philoptochos and offer whatever assistance you are able to this beautiful act of Christian charity and love. This is a significant way each and every one of us can respond to the love Christ has shown us and it shows the great value and meaning Orthodox Christians place in unselfish acts of *agape*.

With Paternal blessings,  
 I remain,

*Metropolitan Nicholas*



### Inside this issue:

Youth News By Eva Kokinos, Youth Director	2
Staff changes at the Metropolis of Detroit	2
Nashville hosts Clergy-Laity Conference By Presbytera Thea Ballas	3
Philoptochos News By Katherine Kotsis, President	3-4
Choirs convene at 56th Annual Convention By Barbara Minton,	4

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE METROPOLITAN'S SCHEDULE

#### JUNE, 2003

- 6/1-Pastoral Visit  
Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Plymouth, MI
- 6/7-6/8-Pastoral Visit  
Holy Trinity Church, Nashville, TN
- 6/15-Pastoral Visit  
Holy Trinity Cathedral, Toledo, OH
- 6/16-6/20-Metropolis of Detroit Clergy Laity  
Nashville, TN

#### JULY, 2003

- 6/25-7/5-Member of Patriarchal Entourage  
His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's visit to Finland
- 7/12-7/13-Pastoral Visit  
Traverse City Mission Church, Traverse City, MI

- 7/14- Rose City Camp Visitation  
Rose City, MI
- 7/17-7/20-Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians  
Fifty-Sixth Annual Convention, Troy, MI
- 7/29- Southern Camp Visitation  
Louisville, KY

#### AUGUST, 2003

- 8/17-Pastoral Visit  
Assumption Church, St. Clair Shores, MI
- 8/18-8/19-St. Timothy's Summer Camp  
Oswegatchie Education Center, NY
- 8/21-His Holiness Pope Shenouda Visit  
Luncheon Reception, Troy, MI
- 8/24-Pastoral Visit  
St. George Church, Southgate, MI

**Youth News**

By Eva Kokinos-Youth Director

**Holy Trinity/Nashville Hosts Saturday of the Arts Event**

On Saturday, November 15, 2003, the Holy Trinity church of Nashville, TN will be hosting the *Saturday of the Arts*. This particular event is not only a celebration of Church music, but also a celebration of talent from the youth of the Metropolis. The Metropolis of Detroit Youth Office and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians are hosting *Saturday of the Arts*. All members of JOY and GOYA from the Southern region, including Kentucky and Southern Ohio, are invited to this special event. For more details about *Saturday of the Arts*, please contact the Metropolis of Detroit Youth Office at (313)864-7989 or at [detroityouth@hotmail.com](mailto:detroityouth@hotmail.com).

**Christmas Pageant Update**

Please mark your calendars! The Annual Christmas Pageant will be Sunday, December 14, 2003 at 4 pm. The Metropolitan Christmas Pageant will be held at the Annunciation Cathedral in Detroit, MI. The event will include a scripted story by the children of the metro area parishes. The Pageant will also feature a beautiful selection of Christmas music that everyone has come to expect from this event. For these, and many other reasons, the Christmas Pageant has become a cherished and highly anticipated holiday event. For more information about the Pageant, please contact the Metropolis of Detroit Youth Office.

**Eva Kokinos begins work as new Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries**

On September 15, 2003, Ms. **Eva Kokinos** began work as the new **Director** of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Metropolis of Detroit.

Eva grew up in Anderson, Indiana and attended Holy Trinity Church in Indianapolis. After graduating from high school she attended Ball State University where she majored in Communication Studies, with an emphasis on campaign communications and vocal music.

After graduating from Ball State, Eva enrolled at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology where she earned her Masters of Theological Studies in May of 2003.

Eva has much experience in the field of youth and young adult ministry. For four years she helped as a counselor and as a director for the St. Nicholas Ranch (summer camp of the Metropolis of San Francisco). She helped create a camp program for the Me-

ropolis of New Jersey and also served as an intern for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry in Garrison, NY. She also attended the Detroit Diocese Summer Camp in Rose City, MI and was a co-director of the Metropolis of Detroit Southern Camp in Louisville, KY. Good luck Eva!

Eva's predecessor, Mr. Nick Kotsis, will now assume the responsibilities of Assistant to the Metropolitan.

**Youth Activities Calendar**

**September 26-28** – Annunciation Church— Little Rock, AR – Parish Youth Retreat

**October 4** – Saint George Church – Southgate, MI – 2003 Fall Youth Rally

**October 8-10** – Brookline, MA—Hellenic College/Holy Cross – National Youth Directors Meeting

**October 10-13** – Brookline, MA— Hellenic College/Holy Cross - National Young Adult League Retreat

**November 15** – Nashville, TN – Holy Trinity Church- "Saturday of the Arts" Music Festival

**December 14** – Metropolis of Detroit Annual Christmas Pageant—4:00 pm— Annunciation Cathedral, Detroit, MI

**December 26-28** Winter Retreat for Southern Region. Location to be announced, but hosted by the Annunciation Church in Chattanooga, TN.

**"Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture."**  
**Psalms 100: 1-3**

## Nashville Hosts Clergy Laity Conference By Presbytera Thea Ballas

The city known as "the Athens of the South" was the setting of the Metropolis of Detroit Clergy Laity and Philoptochos Conferences held June 17-20 in Nashville, TN. The hospitable community of Holy Trinity Church hosted the successful conference under the spiritual direction of **His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas**.

The Conference began on June 17th with meetings of the Clergy Syndesmos and Metropolis Council, and a gathering for clergy families with Metropolitan Nicholas. The morning of June 18 began with Divine Liturgy. Metropolitan Nicholas officiated. Words of inspiration were given by the Metropolitan in his keynote address with the theme of the conference being, "*But Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*" (2 Peter 3:18) The day also included the opening session of the Philoptochos conference, committee meetings, lectures and workshops, and concluded with a Vespers service at Holy Trinity Church followed by a picnic.

June 19th, the second official day of the conference, included numerous seminars and committee meetings in preparation for the plenary session. The day also featured the arrival of **His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios** as the conference was underway. **George Anderson**, Conference Chairman and Parish Council President of Holy Trinity Church, noted the importance of his visit since it had been sixty-eight years since an Archbishop visited Nashville. The delegates had the opportunity to meet the Archbishop at the Nashville Parthenon. The Parthenon is a full-scale replica of the original Parthenon in Athens and has been recently renovated to serve as the city's art museum.

## Philoptochos News By Katherine Kotsis, President

Philoptochos conferences offer delegates and visitors the occasion to celebrate the work accomplished and to plan for a better tomorrow. Conferences afford us the opportunity to meet our sisters from chapters throughout our Metropolis in order to communicate our concerns, establish new ideas for Philoptochos outreach programs, strengthen membership, and to share in fellowship.

The Philoptochos Conference held in Nashville, TN, in June was well-attended and productive. Forty-six Philoptochos delegates representing Michigan, New York, Indiana, Ohio and Tennessee participated in the legislative, ways and means, membership and finance workshops. Delegates attended the many presentations and learning sessions offered by the Clergy Laity Conference.

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, in his opening address to the Philoptochos delegates, spoke on the mission of Philoptochos in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. "Philoptochos is to be a philanthropist, to extend the mercy of God, to be people loving and people serving. Please think not only of your local parish but also the wider Church. We have inherited beautiful palaces of Glory to God; this generation has the opportunity to be healers of the broken heart."

Throughout the Conference sessions, we were honored to have as our guest, National Philoptochos President, **Georgia Skeadas**. In her opening address she emphasized the renewal of the spirit that Pascha renews in each of us the spirit of love and charity

That evening a grand banquet was held at the hotel ballroom. **Demetria Kalodimos**, a local anchorwoman in Nashville, served as the master of ceremonies. The mayor of Nashville, **Bill Purcell**, welcomed Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Nicholas to the "Athens of the South." Also present was State Senator **Douglas Henry**, who welcomed everyone by speaking Greek and presented a proclamation from the Tennessee State Senate. Greetings were also offered by **Fr. Nicholas Pathenos**, Metropolis of Detroit Clergy Syndesmos President; **Katherine Kotsis**, Metropolis Philoptochos President; **Joan Felts**, Holy Trinity Philoptochos President; **Georgia Skeadas**, National Philoptochos President; **Gus Stavropoulos**, Metropolis Council Vice-Chair; and **Fr. George Vapolis**, Holy Trinity Church parish priest.

The last day of the conference started with a Doxology and Artoklasia service. The plenary session commenced shortly thereafter and the committees presented their reports for discussion and approval. The plenary session was attended by the Metropolitan and Archbishop. **Thomas Demery**, Chairman for the plenary session, and **Gust Feles**, Council Treasurer, presented the financial committee report. The "Friends of the Metropolis Program" was explained in great length and pledge forms were distributed. Also in attendance was **Jerry Dimitriou**, Archdiocese Executive Director of Administration, who complimented the Metropolis of Detroit for presenting audited financial statements. All committees presented their reports and were approved unanimously.

Later in the afternoon, Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Nicholas visited the host parish, Holy Trinity Church, and spent some time with the faithful.

which has been given to each of us in the Resurrection. Mrs. Skeadas commended all the delegates and members for their willingness to be in the "circle of giving" which mirrors the heart of the Lord. Mrs. Skeadas congratulated the Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos for hosting the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon and enlightened the delegates on the vital assistance the Medical Fund provides for critically ill and disabled children.

Philoptochos board member, **Evanthia Valassiades**, presented the delegates with the "Project Bank" program which was established at the Buffalo conference as a resolution. This program creates a resource bank of activities and projects submitted by the chapters. The project encourages members to share their ideas with members as an aid to enhance the successful outcome of chapter programs and projects. This net-

(Continued on page 4)

## Philoptochos News, continued

work of useful information will be made available to all Philoptochos chapters.

Congratulations to the recipients of the Rotary Charity Drawing, Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Nashville, TN, and Abilities First (assistance to disable children), Middletown, OH. Each received an award of \$500 from the Bakeless Bake Sale fundraiser.

The Philoptochos Conference concluded with the heartfelt message and inspiring words of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.

Many thanks to Mr. George Anderson, Presvytera Stella Sfikas, Mrs. Joan Felts, and the Nashville Confer-

ence committee for their fine work. Everyone had a great time of renewed friendships and fellowship.

### National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon

The Medical Fund Luncheon is quickly approaching. We are anxiously awaiting this very special event. Sponsor letters, raffle tickets and invitations have been sent to all chapters and members. Everyone is welcome to attend—everyone is welcome to support. Anyone interested in assisting us with the sponsor program or if you would like to

purchase a raffle ticket of beautiful gifts, please contact your local Philoptochos chapter president or the Luncheon chairs.

We hope to see you on November 1!

**PLEASE NOTE: As of September 15th the Luncheon has been sold out and there is a waiting list—but you can still help! Please contact your local parish Philoptochos to find out how you can help us in this true act of Christian love and charity.**

## Choirs Convene at 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention By Barbara Minton, MEGOX Past President

Choirs from the Metropolis of Detroit, along with their sister choirs from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh, met at St. Nicholas in Troy, MI for the annual convention of the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians on July 17-20, 2003. **Patti Chalker**, Convention Chairperson, and the St. Nicholas Choir hosted approximately 200 singers. The combined choirs learned and rehearsed a new arrangement of the Divine Liturgy composed and directed by **George S. Raptis**. The guest accompanist was **Dr. Ann Marie Koukios**.

The climax of the convention, of course, was the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. **His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas** was the celebrant assisted by **Fr. Dean Hountalas**, Chancellor of the Detroit Metropolis and Priest of Holy

**Fr. Stratton Dorozenski**, Priest of St. Nicholas, Troy, MI; **Fr. Michael Harmand** (retired) of Syracuse, NY; and **Deacon Teodor Petrutiu** from the Metropolis of Detroit. After the Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Nicholas called George to the solea where His Eminence said a special prayer for George and gave him a gold cross in honor of his most recent offering to the Church—his arrangement of the Divine Liturgy. Also, for his many years of dedication and his many contributions to the hymnology of the Church, His Eminence conferred upon George the honorary title of Doctor of Church Music, a title by which he will be referred within the Metropolis of Detroit.

Other highlights of the convention included several very special presentations. **Dr. Vicki Pappas** of the

Cross, Farmington Hills, MI;



National Forum of Greek Orthodox

Church Musicians presented the Patriarch Athenagoras Medal for Distinguished Diocesan Service to **Fr. Michael Harmand** of Syracuse, NY and **Dr. George Georgantas** of Rochester, NY. **Nancy Chinonis** from Assumption, Flint, MI and **James Kazakis** from St. Sophia, Syracuse, NY received Memorial Scholarships in memory of **Mike Hadgis** of Akron, OH and **Steve Bournos** of Canton, OH. **Chris Zervos**, Federation President, presented **Peter Phillips** with a gift from the Federation in honor of his retirement as a choir director. Peter has directed for over 50 years—43 years as choir director at Assumption, St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

### 2003 Friends

Annunciation Church, Little Rock, AR; Fr. Demetrios & Pres. Maryann Tonia, Keith & Linda Danckaert, Gregory Doublas, Millennium Development, Inc., and Arthur & Mary Spirou, Fort Wayne, IN; Dr. Vicki Pappas, Indianapolis, IN; John & Catherine Lavrakas, Bloomfield Hills, MI; In Memory of Vasili Inempolidis, Detroit, MI; Holy Cross Church, Holy Cross GOYA, and Ladies of Mehas, Farmington Hills, MI; Fr. Stavros Ballas, Flint, MI; Holy Trinity Ladies of Philoptochos, Fr. Jim & Pres. Joan Bogdan, Chris & Phyllis Afendoulis, James Nicholas and Johnny & Mary Theodore, Grand Rapids, MI; Douglas & Catherine Hattrem, Lansing, MI; Annunciation Ladies of Philoptochos, and Christine Dault Encelewski, Muskegon, MI; Fr. Philemon & Pres. Helen Karamanos, Georgios & Maria Golematis, and Vasiliki Nanos, Southgate, MI; St. Demetrios Festival, Saginaw, MI; Thomas Jordan, St. Clair Shores, MI; St. John Church, St. John Senior Citizens, St. John GOYA, Fr. Nicholas Kyritses, Dr. Mike & Betty Raptis and Bernice Souris, Sterling Heights, MI; St. Nicholas Church, and James C. Carson, Troy, MI; Michael & Tasia Stavropoulos, Westland, MI; Iphigenia Tyler, Ithaca, NY; Lea Georgantas, Rochester, NY (Holy Spirit); Chris & Eugenie Calender, Watertown, NY; Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Church, Cincinnati, OH; Annunciation Ladies of Philoptochos, Dayton, OH; Fr. Christos & Pres. Lisa Christakis, Middletown, OH; Assumption Ladies of Philoptochos, and Alex P. & Terri Anderson, Springfield, OH; Dr. Richard & Chrisi Hopper, Angela Kalanzis, and John & Stavroula Xoinis, Chattanooga, TN; Fr. Paul & Pres. Mary Christy, Memphis, TN; Holy Trinity Church, George J. Anderson, Angelia Duncan, Lawrence Kamm & Helen Rogers, and Sonny & John Mooney, Nashville, TN.