

This I command you, to love one another. If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.

JOHN 15: 17-18



St. Demetrios  
the Myrrhbearer

OCTOBER 26

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Bishop's Schedule	2
MEFGOX News	2
Youth News	3
Philoptochos News	4-5
Featured Article	5
Friends of the Metropolis	6
Clergy-Laitly 2011	7

## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

# THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Volume III, Issue 5

October 2011

### METROPOLITAN NICHOLAS' MESSAGE

*B*eloved Family in Christ,

I would like to take this opportunity to express to all of you my thanks for the success of the recent Clergy-Laitly Metropolis Assembly and the Philoptochos Conference which was held at the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Westland, MI from September 28 through Oct 1, 2011.

One of the important benefits of these meetings is our ability to sit together as representatives from throughout the Metropolis of Detroit. This year again, we had representatives from all of the seven states that comprise our Metropolis; moreover, the majority of our active parishes were also represented.

I express my particular appreciation for all of you who attended the dinner honoring the Clergy of the Metropolis with over 20 years of active parish service. While the Clergy did not expect this recognition coming to them, I am certain that your presence and best wishes made a difference in their

ministry. Thank you to our Clergy: AXIOI!

We thank Fr. Teodor Petrutiu, Mr. John Avdoulos (our new Archon) and all the people at Sts. Constantine and Helen for their hospitality and extra efforts in helping to assure the success of our meetings.

#### THANK YOU TO ALL!

While many of the usual administrative topics were covered in committee meetings, this year we introduced several new exciting program aspects for the benefit of our parishes and our families.

One of these new programs being developed for the welfare of our churches is the new Stewardship Program which has been developed by our own Stewardship Team, including Ron Harb, Lou Kircos, Fr. William Cassis, and Fr. Ciprian Streza.

You will see more about this program in the coming months as we share this program in the Metropolis.

Another new program is the Dave Ramsey Financial

Peace counseling seminars that will be led by Fr. Dean Hountalas, Vicar of the Metropolis.

This program helps people understand how their lives can be enriched firstly by HOW they spend and use money — regardless of how much or little they have. This seminar is ideal for young newlyweds as well as people who are experiencing greater economic concerns during these turbulent times. Please contact our Metropolis Office for more information on these sessions.

In concert with Archbishop Demetrios and the members of our Eparchial Synod, I will be attending the 20th year anniversary celebration of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's election as Ecumenical Patriarch. We will be accompanying the Archons on this trip during the third week of October, and will extend the best wishes of all of our clergy and faithful to His All Holiness. We pray that God grant him many years!

+ *Metropolitan Nicholas*

## BISHOP'S SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

For calendar updates, please visit our website at: [www.detroit.goarch.org/news/calendar](http://www.detroit.goarch.org/news/calendar)

### OCTOBER

8 - 9	<i>Consecration</i>	Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church - Victor, NY
10 - 14	<i>Holy Eparchial Synod Meeting</i>	Archdiocesan Center - New-York, NY
16	<i>Parish Visitation</i>	St. George Church - Bloomfield Hills, MI
19 - 24	<i>Visit at the Ecumenical Patriarchate</i>	Ecumenical Patriarchate - Istanbul, Turkey
25	<i>St. Demetrios Great Vespers</i>	St. Demetrios Church - Saginaw, MI
27	<i>Philoptochos Board Meeting</i>	Metropolis Center - Troy, MI
29 - 30	<i>Parish Visitation</i>	Annunciation Cathedral - Columbus, OH

### NOVEMBER

4 - 6	<i>Testimonial Reception for Metropolitan MAXIMOS</i>	Metropolis of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh, PA
12 - 13	<i>Parish Visitation</i>	St. John Chrysostom Mission - Nashville, TN
19 - 20	<i>Ordination to Diaconate of Edward Cassis</i>	Holy Trinity Church - Grand Rapids, MI
26	<i>Wedding</i>	New-York, NY
Dec. 1	<i>Holy Eparchial Synod Meeting</i>	Archdiocesan Center - New-York, NY

## MEFGOX NEWS

*By Irene Georgantas*

By now all of our Church Musicians have celebrated our annual church music Sunday, designated to be on the first Sunday in October, following the commemoration of St. Romanos the Melodist, the patron saint of church musicians on October 1<sup>st</sup>. It is the one time of the year that we take stock of our many blessings and gift of music. In my church of the Holy Spirit in Rochester, New York, while all of our people, young and old, involved with this sacred ministry are recognized, we are also asked to rededicate ourselves, recommit to our shared responsibility of spreading the "Word" in hymns.

In our work as church musicians across the Federation we have encountered some "obstacles" in our

path to accomplishing this task. Sadly, this ministry is sometimes viewed as something frivolous and extra-curricular, not something that is vital to the life of the church. Those of us who have grown up in our church choirs can attest to the fact, that while learning the musical traditions of our church, we have also learned our faith more intently. On Sundays when we sing the special Apolitikia for the Saint of the day, we are learning very often about how he was martyred and became a witness for our faith. The Hymn of Justinian itself encapsulates our faith in just this one hymn. These sacred texts were put to music as a way for the faithful to assimilate the teachings of the church, to participate more actively in the Divine Liturgy. The music ministry of MEFGOX is working hard to preserve our musical

traditions and keep them as a living and breathing spirit in our lives. We share a common mission with the chanters, the youth programs of our Archdiocese, our Church Schools, of course under the guidance of our clergy. We pray that you will continue to support your church musicians who are involved in this serious task. It is not about displaying our individual talents or voices, competing with the chanters and Sunday Schools of our churches, or the ministry of the Acolytes. All of us are carrying out our respective service to our beloved church, each according to his or her ability. But we are driven by one goal and that is seeking communion with our God. We ask for your prayers so that we may continue this sacred responsibility ■

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS *by Eva Kokinos*

### METROPOLIS OF DETROIT ESTABLISHES ANNUAL CLERGY CERTIFICATION IN THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

The Metropolis of Detroit has consistently been at the forefront of compliance and implementation of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Youth Protection Policy. In fact, the Metropolis of Detroit was the first Metropolis in the Archdiocese to have all of its clergy trained when the policy was first released.

This year, the Metropolis of Detroit continues its efforts to keep parish, District, and Metropolis Youth and Young Adult Ministry programs prepared to protect the youth of the Metropolis. With the guidance and blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, the Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries has developed an annual Clergy Certification Program for the Archdiocese Youth Protection Policy.

Introduced at the 2011 Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Westland, MI, the Certification Program will be mandatory for all clergy of the Metropolis of Detroit. This Certification Program will consist of online Child and Youth Protection training, as well as a background check. The training will provide clergy with essential information regarding the screening and selection of youth workers, as well as necessary tips and tools for appropriate interaction between youth workers and the youth.

Upon completion of the mandatory requirements, clergy will receive a Certificate of Completion and additional resources to share with their parishes. The Certification and background checks will also fulfill the requirements for clergy to participate in any of the Metropolis Camping Ministries (MDSC, St. Nicholas Summer Camp, and St. Timothy Summer Camp) and Metropolis-sponsored youth events.

For more information regarding the Clergy Certification Program, please contact Eva Kokinos (Metropolis Youth Director) at (248) 823-2411 or [youth@detroit.goarch.org](mailto:youth@detroit.goarch.org). Also, you can view and download the Archdiocese Youth Protection Policy from [www.youth.goarch.org](http://www.youth.goarch.org).



#### STAY CONNECTED WITH THE METROPOLIS YOUTH OFFICE

Do you want the most up-to-date Youth Ministry news from the Metropolis of Detroit Youth Office? Here are a few ways you can stay connected:

Visit the Metropolis of Detroit Official Youth Office Website: <http://detroit.goarch.org/youth-office>

Find the Metropolis Youth Office Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/GOAMetropolisofDetroitYouthOffice>

Join the MDYM e-Update Listserv: <http://detroit.goarch.org/youth-office/join-listserv>

## ORDINATION OF FR. JOHN (HAYDEN) HABY



Saturday, August 27, 2011 His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas visited the Assumption Parish of Springfield, OH and ordained the new Proistamenos of this community, Fr. John (Hayden) Haby. Fr. John is a native of Fort Davis, TX and is married to Presbyteria Kandi. He is a retired U.S. Navy Engineer and an M.Div. graduate of the Holy Cross School of Theology.

## PHILOPTOCHOS CONFERENCE 2011

By Eleni Zaferes

**M**etropolis of Detroit report to the Plenary Session of the 2011 Clergy Laity and Philoptochos Conference.

The Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Conference convened with 51 registered delegates. Over the last two years the Metropolis Board has donated \$82,000 to various charities and programs. Chapters of the Metropolis donated \$33,000 to the Metropolis Philoptochos commitments and \$222,000 to the National Philoptochos commitments. (see attached listings) This does not include the thousands of dollars distributed by the chapters to their local charities within their communities. The Metropolis Philoptochos Board also continues to distribute grants to those in need within our parishes through the Partners in Philanthropy Fund. This fund gave over \$8,000 in the past two years.

On Thursday during the deliberations, Mrs. Christine Karavites, National Board member, conducted and interactive SWAT (strengths, weakness, attributes and threats) analysis workshop on chapters concerns. She also spoke to the chapter Presidents on Leadership. Christine made a presentation at the joint

Clergy Laity and Philoptochos delegate's luncheon on the new National Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy and launched a new video for this endeavor. Metropolitan Nicholas presented Christine with a donation towards the Center. We are very grateful for Metropolitan Nicholas' continued support.

Miss Diane Tseckares, a National Board member, conducted a presentation on Membership to the delegates on Friday of the Conference. This presentation included an open forum in promoting the Philoptochos mission and other delegate concerns.

Special awards were given to chapters in recognition of their work in the following areas: Growth and Expansion; Commitments, Fundraising efforts; Outreach projects and Inreach projects. (see complete list of recipients)

A special award was presented to PresbyteraEva Paul of Ann Arbor, MI, the AGAPE AWARD, for her dedicated service to Philoptochos.

Elections for the Metropolis Board and officers were conducted as follows:

President: Margaret Yates, Ann Arbor, MI

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Florence Stefanou, Rochester, NY

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Theone

(Continued on page 5)

### SPECIAL CHAPTER AWARDS:

#### Growth and Expansion (increase in membership):

St. Nicholas- Troy, MI; Holy Trinity- Carmel, IN; Holy Cross- Farmington, Hills, MI; Holy Spirit- Rochester, NY; Assumption- Louisville, KY; Nativity of the Virgin Mary- Plymouth, MI

#### Commitments (100% participation):

St. Nicholas - Ann Arbor, MI; St. George - Bloomfield Hills, MI; Annunciation - Buffalo, NY; Annunciation- Chattanooga, TN; Holy Trinity - St. Nicholas - Cincinnati, OH; Annunciation - Dayton, OH; Annunciation Cathedral - Detroit, MI; Holy Cross - Farmington Hills, MI; Holy Trinity - Ft. Wayne, IN; Holy Trinity - Grand Rapids, MI; Holy Trinity - Carmel, IN; Panagia Pantovasilissa - Lexington, KY; SS. Constantine and Helen - Middletown, OH; Annunciation Memphis, TN; Holy Trinity - Nashville, TN; Nativity of the Virgin Mary - Plymouth, MI; Annunciation- Rochester, NY; St. Demetrios - Saginaw, MI; St. George - Southgate, MI; Assumption - Springfield, OH; Assumption - St. Clair Shores, MI; St. John - Sterling Heights, MI St. Sophia - Syracuse, NY; Holy Trinity - Toledo, OH; St. Nicholas - Troy, MI and SS. Constantine and Helen - Westland, MI.

#### Best Outreach Project:

- ⇒ Annunciation- Memphis, TN "Support the Spring Flood Victims"
- ⇒ Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas- Cincinnati, OH "Operation Christmas Stocking"
- ⇒ Holy Trinity- Toledo, OH "Madonna Homes Christmas Bags"
- ⇒ SS. Constantine and Helen- Middletown, OH "Trees for Tomorrow"
- ⇒ St. Sophia- Syracuse, NY "Be An Angel"

#### Best Inreach Project

- ⇒ St. Nicholas- Troy, MI "Agape Basket of Blessings- CD for Shut Ins"
- ⇒ Holy Trinity- Carmel, IN "Bridal Kitchen Shower"
- ⇒ Annunciation- Dayton, OH "New Member's Drive"
- ⇒ St. George- Bloomfield Hills, MI "Tree of Eternal Life"
- ⇒ **Best Fundraising Techniques**
- ⇒ St. Nicholas- Troy, MI "Thanks for the Blessings"
- ⇒ Annunciation- Rochester, NY "Next to New Sale"
- ⇒ Holy Trinity- St. Nicholas- Cincinnati, OH "Philoptochos Prayer Garden"

## THE WOODEN SPOON

By Fr. Stavros Ballas\*



I can still see in my mind's eye my mother chasing me down with her 'koutala' (wooden spoon) and saying in raised voice, "Didn't you hear what I said?" In other words, since you are neither devoid of actual hearing nor incapable of mentally understanding, why are you not obeying me?

Submitting one's will to a worthy authority figure is like wearing a brace to straighten out crooked teeth or a harness to maintain a straight path until one can walk it unbridled. Like wild horses, we buck authority.

"I thought this was a free country," is the clarion

complaint of every kid (at least in America) that equates obedience with slavery and longs for the perceived emancipation of adulthood.

Saint Paul writes about the Christians' "freedom in Christ" because they are no longer under the Mosaic Law: "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ that we might be made righteous by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor." (Galatians 3:24-25) This freedom did not mean that the Christians could do whatever they wanted or that there was no hierarchical order.

The phrase "fellow workers" (συνεργοί) implies a freedom of equality that did not exist. "We are God's fellow workers" (1 Corinthians 3:9) sounds like God and his fellow workers are on the same

level. The apostles are God's "fellow workers" (his συνεργοί) but God is never termed a "fellow worker" (συνεργός) with them. God is their Lord. Saint Paul refers to Timothy as "our fellow worker" (1 Thessalonians 3:2), but is never himself called a fellow worker of his spiritual charges. Saint Paul is their spiritual father: "Though you have myriads of instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I begat you through the gospel." (1 Corinthians 4:15) For Paul, Timothy and Titus are his sons (1&2 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4). Though a bishop and his priests may concelebrate together, the bishop, as the icon of Christ, is never technically a concelebrant. As the icon of Christ, the bishop is the only celebrant and his priests are his concelebrants.

As a faithful son in the Lord himself, Paul is a most excellent example of a father to his spiritual children, teaching them by his life that equality and freedom only come through the "obedience of faith" (Romans 1:5) and not through the rejection of it. In her wedding, Kate Middleton vowed to love, comfort, honor, and keep her husband Prince William but refused to promise to obey him because they "treat each other as equals." It is only in the humbling of ourselves in loving service to one another that we are truly free and equal. As the title of a book says, to love is to obey. "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15) or face the wooden spoon! ■

\*Fr. Stavros Ballas is the Presiding Priest of the Annunciation Church in Chattanooga, TN.

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

Dickos, Carmel, IN  
Treasurer: Patricia Ladas, Muskegon, MI  
Corresponding Secretary: Helen Torney, Carmel, IN  
Recording Secretary: Perry Katsikas, Ann Arbor, MI  
Advisor: Eleni Zaferes, Cincinnati, OH.

The Board members

are: Presbytera Thea Ballas, Pauline Biernacki, Cindy Crosson, Beck Demery, Anne Feles, Mary Kotsis Gaggos, Katherine Kotsis, Thalia Laventzis, Presbytera Eva Paul, Stephanie Storgion Poplos, Maria Stavropoulos, Harriet Stoukas, Evanthia Valassades, and Michelle Zois.

On behalf of the entire Metropolis Philoptochos we congratulate the 12 honored clergy for their years of service to the Metropolis and the Church. Panta Axioi.

The Metropolis Board and all the Philoptochos chapters thank and appreciate His Eminence Metro-

politan Nicholas, the clergy and parishes for the continued support they show to the mission of Philoptochos. Without this support Philoptochos would not be able to assist those in need locally in the parishes, at the Metropolis level or at the National and International levels ■

## FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS *(as of September 30, 2011)*

### +His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

#### Ann Arbor, MI - St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas Parish  
St. Nicholas Philoptochos  
Kotsis, Fr. Nicolaos and  
Presbytera Sandra  
Bekiares, Christopher and  
Margarita

#### Buffalo, NY - Annunciation

Annunciation Parish  
Annunciation Philoptochos  
Kallis, Fr. Perry and  
Presbytera Cassandra  
Alethea's Chocolates  
Blakeslee, Ronald and Maria  
Cervi, Brian and Vassilia  
Kalambukas, Andrew and Colleen  
Kouvutsakis, Paul and Donna  
Kuvshinoff, Boris and Barbara  
Manos, Margaret  
Mastoras, Spiros and Mary  
Pavlakis, Peter and Elizabeth  
Perfanis, Jerry and Athena  
Phufas, Ellene  
Scouras, George and Chrisoula  
Skaros, Nikolaos and JoAnn  
Tassy, Gust and Marian

#### Carmel, IN - Holy Trinity

Gounaris, Fr. Anastasios and  
Presbytera Maria  
Karas, Gus and Maritsa  
Kourmoulis, Mario and Karen  
Kyriakopoulos, Chris  
Lafter, Chris and Toni  
Pappas, Vicki  
Zeheralis, Gail

#### Chattanooga, TN -

#### Annunciation

Mousourakis, John and Donna

#### Cincinnati, OH

#### Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas

HTSN Philoptochos  
HTSN GOYA

#### Dayton, OH- Annunciation

Kakas, Berdi

#### Elmira, NY - St. Athanasios

Vardakis, Paul and Thea

#### Fort Wayne, IN - Holy Trinity

Doublas, Gregory  
Koulianos, Dionysios and Maria  
Maggos, Eleftherios and Voula  
Rongos, Christopher and Katherine

#### Grand Rapids, MI

#### Holy Trinity

Bogdan, Fr. James and Presbytera  
Joan  
Afendoulis, Chris and Phyllis  
Cassis, Edward and Vicki  
Gray, Mark and Alexis  
Jenks, Timothy C.  
Monoyios, Terry  
Nicholas, Jim and Georgia

#### Indianapolis, IN

#### Holy Apostles

Matsigas, Gerasimos

#### Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine

Parthenakis, Fr. Tom and  
Presbytera Cathy  
Bantuvanias, Ann  
Bezirgianian, John

#### Kalamazoo, MI - Annunciation

Annunciation Parish  
Annunciation Philoptochos

#### Lansing, MI - Holy Trinity

Mansour, George  
Mendoza, Mary  
Munk, Jerry and Jan  
Pascalenos, Olga  
Rahib, Margaret  
Willard, Steven

#### Lexington, KY

#### Panagia Pantovasillisa

Panagia Pantovasillisa Philoptochos  
Delvzizis, Thomas  
Hostetter, Christopher and Ericka

#### Lexington, MI

#### St. Panteleimon

St. Panteleimon Parish

#### Little Rock, AR

#### Annunciation

Verdaris, Fr. Nicholas

#### Memphis, TN - Annunciation

Bagatelas, Todd and Cyndi  
Poplos, Ted and Stephanie

#### Muskegon, MI

#### Annunciation

Mot, Fr. Catalin and  
Presbytera Felicia  
Yankopoulos, Presbytera Ann  
Afendoulis, Alexander  
Afendulis, Phyllis  
Afendulis, Ted  
Anton, Ted and Francine  
Bati, John  
Bouth, Michael and Sharon

Encelewski, Christine  
Karis, Tom and Kristi  
Ladas, Paul M. and Patricia  
Lutz, Helen  
Micheil, Rich and Teresa  
Oravitan, Andre and Philip  
Soimar, Michael and Corina

#### Nashville, TN - Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Parish  
Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and  
Presbytera Sofia  
Billo, John  
Harman, Todd  
Miles, Eric and Scarlett  
Sherrill, Justin and Kiki

#### Nashville, TN

#### St. John Chrysostom Mission

Turner, Fr. Parthenios and  
Presbytera Marion  
Derrybery, Paul  
Dozier, Matthew  
Tickle, Jeffrey and Jackie

#### New Buffalo, MI

#### Annunciation/St.Paraskevi

Martin, Fr. Paul and  
Presbytera Nikki  
Lepeniotes, Anastasia  
Litznerski, Robert and Mariann

#### Plymouth, MI

#### Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Sarelis, Fr. Charles and  
Presbytera Angela  
Randall, Michael and Anne  
Szlinis, John and Thekla  
Takis, Gerald and Mary

#### Rochester, NY - Annunciation

Gines, George and Maria  
Stefanou, Constantine and Florence

#### Rochester, NY - Holy Spirit

Georgantas, Irene

#### Saginaw, MI - St. Demetrios

Cox, Fr. Irenaeus and  
Presbytera Alexandra  
Bazakis, Andrew and Ann  
Caldwell, Larry and Peggy  
Kookootsedes, Gust and Mary

#### Sault Ste Marie, MI

#### St. George

Gianakura, Peter and Georgia

#### Southgate, MI - St. George

Anonymous  
Kircos, Angelo and Sophia  
Kircos, John and Violet

Kircos, Lou and Paula  
Kontos, John and Marika  
Minton, Barbara  
Minton, Nicholas

#### Springfield, OH - Assumption

Assumption Parish  
Lagos, James

#### St. Clair Shores, MI

#### Assumption

Varlamos, Fr. Michael and  
Presbytera Tina  
Callas, Kalliopy

#### Sterling Heights, MI

#### St. John

Kotsis, Harry and Katherine  
Kotsonis, Steve and Angela

#### Syracuse, NY - St. Sophia

Smith, Fr. David and  
Presbytera Donna  
Boucounis, Andrew  
Ganotis, John  
Kazakis, Elaine  
Paul, James

#### Toledo, OH

#### Holy Trinity Cathedral

Damaskos, Fr. Aristotle and  
Presbytera Debbie

#### Traverse City, MI

#### Archangel Gabriel

Streza, Fr. Ciprian and  
Presbytera Sinziana  
Bemis, Steve and Pam  
Dalbo, Helen A.

#### Troy, MI - St. Nicholas

Demery, Beck  
Malis, Alexis

#### Vestal, NY - Annunciation

Annunciation Parish  
Michalopoulos, Presbytera Magdalena  
Yacalis, Vasili

#### Westland, MI

#### Sts. Constantine and Helen

Petrutiu, Fr. Teodor and  
Presbytera Roxana  
Stavropoulos, Gus and Maria

#### Other Friends

Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos  
Bartz, Fr. Bill and Presbytera Emily  
Demetris, Jack and Dolly  
Kartalopoulos, Stamatios and Anita  
Krekoukis, Flora  
Psaras, John  
Radulescu, Alexandru

# CLERGY-LAITY ASSEMBLY 2011 & PHILOPTOCHOS CONFERENCE

The Metropolis of Detroit held its Bi-Annual Clergy Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Conference on September 28—October 1, 2011 at the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Westland, MI. The debut of the Conference was marked by the His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas' Keynote Address "You Are the Light of The World" (Mt. 5:14). The official opening and anointing of delegates immediately followed. On Thursday Evening, the Grand Banquet honored 12 Proistamenoï of our Metropolis with 20+ years of service - Rev. Fathers: W. Cassis, A. Damaskos, S. Dorozenski, A. George, A. Gounaris, D. Hountalas, P. Karamanos, N. Kyritses, C. Mot, N. Pathenos, M. Varlamos and G. Zervos. Morning services were held every day during the Conference. This year's Assembly introduced new Stewardship Seminars as well as the "Finding Financial Peace" Program to be taught by Rev. Dean Hountalas who trained at the famous Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University". This program features a 13-week series of seminars held at the Metropolis Center, as well as focused presentations in the parishes.

## Learning Sessions Highlights...

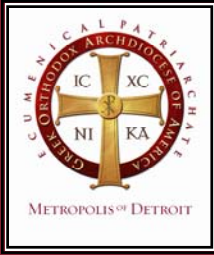
**1. Fr. David Smith: *The Light of Christ Enlightens All. Moral Clarity in the Age of Me.*** Based on an article in The New York Times by David Brooks which describes a Notre Dame study of 233 American youth, Fr. Smith pointed out that most of our youth do not have any framework or vocabulary to engage in meaningful moral/ethical reflection.

**2. Fr. Mark Sietsema: *50-100-150 How Bright is Your Light?*** There's a big difference between the light cast by 50-watt and 150-watt light bulbs. Orthodox Christians differ too in their ability to radiate the light of our Faith to others. In the first half of this session the delegates were given a diagnostic test to gauge their "wattage" in illuminating common questions about Orthodox beliefs and practices. In the second half the participants discussed the answers and graded themselves on their responses. Many delegates found this session to be a helpful refresher in presenting the Faith.

**3. Fr. Nicolaos Kotsis: *Turn on the Lights! Recharging Your Parish's Christian Witness.*** This session concentrated on three major points: 1. increase the spirituality of the parish through divine services; 2. set up ministries and organize them properly; 3. bring people along and teach them how to fulfill the ministries and get new blood involved in them.

**4. Fr. Anastasios Gounaris: *Your Word is a Light to My Path. Scripture and Our Christian Life.*** The presentation attempted to impress listeners with the importance of inscribing the words of Scripture in one's heart rather than attempting to simply memorize a formal collection of words and rule. This is important due to the fact that - once inscribed in one's heart - the love of God that is the guiding principle behind Scripture will guide the faithful person onto the paths of God's will.

**5. Fr. Gregory Hohnholt: *Candlelight Dinner: Sharing the Light of Christ in a Mixed Faith Household.*** Shining the light of Christ in a household of mixed faith has two aspects to it: valuing all that is positive and good in other faiths while maintaining the practices of the Orthodox Church such as fasting and celebrating feast days in the household and practices that make for a good marriage. All marriages encounter difficulties, disagreements and differences, which sometimes can lead to conflict. The key is to handle the conflict as Christians filled with the Holy Spirit which creates more oneness, while avoiding the four Horsemen of the Apocalypse in marriage: Destructive Criticism, Contempt, Defensiveness, and Stonewalling (cf. Dr. John Gottman)■



2560 CROOKS ROAD  
TROY, MI 48084

Phone: (248) 823-2400  
Fax: (248) 823-2401  
office@detroit.goarch.org  
www.detroit.goarch.org

### THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Editor:

Alex Radulescu

Phone: (248) 823-2414

E-mail:

editor@detroit.goarch.org

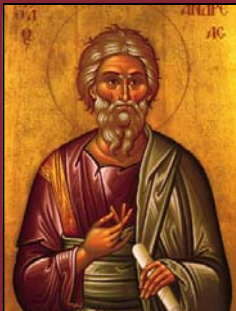
To subscribe to the Shepherd's Staff e-mail list, please send us an e-mail at [editor@detroit.goarch.org](mailto:editor@detroit.goarch.org) typing in the subject line:

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBE

JOIN US ONLINE



[www.youtube.com/user/metropolisofdetroit](http://www.youtube.com/user/metropolisofdetroit)



St. Andrew  
the Apostle

NOVEMBER 30

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_