



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF Η ΠΑΒΔΟΣ



Monthly Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Detroit

January 2001

A Message From Our Bishop....

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Typically during this time of year many of us make resolutions to change a part of our lives that we are not happy with: whether it is to stop smoking or to lose a few pounds, we try to make our lives a little better.

This year, as your bishop, I encourage each of us to strengthen our bond, with Christ and with His Church. It is my fervent prayer that we will make this coming year a year of prayer. Not just personal and private prayer - but a year where parents and grandparents, adults of Christian maturity and stature, will lead the family in prayer at home. With this new year let us all work together for the good of our Church.

Bestowing upon all of you my paternal prayers and blessing for a happy and healthy new year, I remain,

In the Service of our Lord,

Diocese Youth Office...

By Nick Kotsis

In order to make things more convenient for everyone, we are in the process of creating a website for the Youth Office of the Diocese. This site will contain information on youth ministry in general, a calendar of youth activities throughout the Diocese, and many other resources. Please also note that the new phone number for the youth office is (313)864-7989.

The Youth Office will continue to sponsor the "Greening of Detroit" project that began in honor of the visit of the Patriarch throughout the upcoming year. This is a beautiful way to combine the concern the Patriarch has for the environment with a service project for one of our communities in this Diocese.

There will be several retreats held throughout the Diocese in the coming Lenten and Paschal seasons - we hope to see you all there.



Diocese Philoptochos...

By Despina Nicholas

With the visit of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the Detroit Diocese behind us, the Diocese Philoptochos would like to thank all the chapters who helped underwrite the cost of the luncheon at the Compuware Arena. A heartfelt thanks goes to those who contributed to the luncheon centerpieces. Your continuous support is greatly appreciated. Also, a special thank you to those who helped decorate the Diocese Home for the holidays.

On behalf of myself and the Diocese Philoptochos, we wish you a Happy New Year!

Chanting CD Now Available...

The Diocese of Detroit proudly announces the release of "Lazarus Come Forth," a musical CD and book (with musicological commentary) featuring the Byzantine chanters Yioryos and Konstantinos Bilalis (both of whom chanted during the Patriarchal visit). This CD

features hymns from the Saturday of Lazarus. This special Diocesan Edition of "Lazarus Come Forth" can be purchased for \$30 plus \$5 shipping and handling by contacting the Diocese at (313)864-5433. All proceeds go to benefit the establishment of a Byzantine Music School.

Oratorical Festival News...

His Grace Bishop Nicholas has appointed Fr. Dean Nastos of the Assumption Church in Flint, MI as the Diocese Oratorical Festival Chairman. Fr. Dean will be working closely with His Grace and the Diocesan Youth Office to ensure a successful program for our Diocese.

Combined Choir Sings for Patriarchal Divine Liturgy

A combined choir of 142 voices sang for the Patriarchal Divine Liturgy at Compuware Arena on November 12, 2000. Choir members from Annunciation Cathedral, Detroit; Assumption, St. Clair Shores; Holy Cross, Farmington Hills; Holy Trinity, Lansing; Holy Trinity, Toledo; Saints Constantine & Helen, Westland; Saint Demetrios, Saginaw; Saint George, Bloomfield Hills; Saint George, Southgate; Saint John, Sterling Heights; Saint Nicholas,

Ann Arbor and Saint Nicholas, Troy rehearsed each weekend for two months in preparation for the visit of His All-Holiness. George S. Raptis, a church musician for more than fifty years and currently the assistant director at Saint John in Sterling Heights, was the conductor.

Choir friends from other parts of the Detroit Diocese - Grand Rapids, MI; Cincinnati, OH; Buffalo, NY; Rochester, NY and Indianapolis, IN joined us for the Patriarchal weekend. Guests from Los Angeles, CA; Monessen, PA; Columbus, OH and Falls Church, VA also joined the choir for the events of the weekend.

In addition to the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, the choir also sang for the Ecumenical Doxology Service held on Saturday at Annunciation Cathedral. A stirring rendition of Axion Estin echoed through the Cathedral as Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Demetrios, Bishop Nicholas and all the visiting hierarchs and clergy entered the Cathedral. An abbreviated Doxology and several other hymns were chanted during the service. The service ended with the jubilant sound of the Patriarchal Polychronion.

Many thanks to all of the choir members who gave many hours rehearsing and preparing for this most memorable occasion.



Diocese Summer Camp News...

By Dean Niforos

The Detroit Diocese Rose City Summer Camp recently announced the weeks for the 2001 Camp Season and also launched its new website! The weeks for this upcoming summer are:

- *week 1- July 8 - July 14, 2001
- *week 2- July 15 - July 21, 2001
- *week 3- July 22 - July 28, 2001
- *week 4- July 29 - Aug. 4, 2001
- *week 5- Aug. 5 - Aug. 11, 2001

The camp opened its new website in November 2000, which can be reached directly at <http://detroit.goarch.org/ddsc/> or by going through the Detroit Diocese site located on the Archdiocesan website (www.goarch.org). The camp website has pages explaining the opportunities and directions to the camp. By late winter, you will also be able to download camper pre-application forms from the website or apply directly for staff positions. The photo page, which has a few pictures on it now, will be updated with weekly pictures of each session starting next summer. Many thanks to Aris Lambropoulos, a camper and staff member for many years and a recent U-M graduate, for designing the website and maintaining it for the camp.