

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DETROIT



COME, RECEIVE THE LIGHT!

Metropolitan's Message

Beloved Family in Christ,

Have you ever thought about how difficult our lives would be if we did not have any light? Light is an amazing reality in our human lives: light allows us to walk outside even when the sun is not shining; light is something that we can use to signal to others that we need help; and light is something which causes us to focus our attention on it.

So it is no wonder that every year at Holy Pascha, the priest begins his call to the community with a statement about Light. From the Royal Gates of the church he proclaims with joy the sacred invitation: "Come, receive Light from the unwaning Light, and glorify Christ Who arose from the dead." And we all run forward to receive the light. We might receive the light from the candle held by the priest, or the altar boys, or the parish council members, or just simply from the people sitting in front of us.

But from that one flame of light – from that single candle – the entire church is filled with the radiance of our Easter light. As the Easter services conclude, we hurry home trying to take our Paschal light to enlighten our homes. It's a nice custom – but my friends, there must be more to the story.

And there is! You and I participate in this sharing of the Paschal Light because we are called upon to share this light with the world. What happens at the midnight service is not simply a cute custom: it is the reality of our call to share our light with our friends and neighbors; to talk about how we have been changed by the Truth of Christ. We are called upon to be the "light-bearers" in this world which is so overcome by darkness, despair, and evil. And when we share our Paschal light, we are certain that others can move from darkness to light; we can move from being blinded by a world of sin to having our eyes opened through the Light of the Resurrection of Christ which brings true freedom and liberation to all who call upon Him.

Come receive the Light! Remember that when we share the Resurrection Light of Christ, the brilliance of His presence on earth only increases! God bless you all – Kali Anastasi!



METROPOLITAN NICHOLAS OF DETROIT



Metropolitan's Schedule

Schedule updates at www.detroit.goarch.org/calendar

APRIL

3-7	Holy Eparchial Synod Meeting	Archdiocesan Center, New York, NY
8	Saturday of Lazarus Liturgy	Holy Trinity Church, Lansing, MI
9	Palm Sunday Liturgy 1st Bridegroom Service	St. John Church, Sterling Heights, MI Holy Cross Church, Farmington Hills, MI
10	2nd Bridegroom Service	Assumption Church, Grand Blanc, MI
11	3rd Bridegroom Service	St. Nicholas Church, Ann Arbor, MI
12	1st Holy Unction Service 2nd Holy Unction Service	Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, Westland, MI Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church, Plymouth, MI
13	Holy Thursday Liturgy Gospels of the Passion Service	St. Spyridon Chapel, Metropolis Center, Troy, MI St. George Church, Bloomfield Hills, MI
14	Epitaphion Visitations Lamentations Service	Metro Detroit parishes Annunciation Cathedral, Detroit, MI
15	Proti Anastasi Liturgy	Assumption Church, St. Clair Shores, MI
16	HOLY PASCHA Liturgy Agape Service	St. George Church, Southgate, MI Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, Westland, MI
18	Metropolis Clergy Syndesmos Meeting	Metropolis Center, Troy, MI
22	SJCOF Michigan District Finals Feast of St. George Great Vespers	Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, Westland, MI St. George Church, Southgate, MI
23	Feast of St. George Liturgy	St. George Church, Bloomfield Hills, MI
29	Metropolis Philoptochos Luncheon	St. Nicholas Church, Troy, MI
30	Enthronement of Metropolitan Nicolae	Romanian Archdiocese, Chicago, IL

MAY

3-5	Archdiocesan Council Meeting	Chicago, IL
6-7	Pastoral Visitation	Holy Trinity Church, Fort Wayne, IN
12-14	SJCOF Metropolis Finals	Annunciation Church, Buffalo, NY
14	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy	Annunciation Church, Buffalo, NY
16	Metropolis Clergy Syndesmos Meeting	Metropolis Center, Troy, MI
27-28	Pastoral Visitation	Annunciation Church, Dayton, OH

Youth News

BY EVA KONSTANTAKOS

ANNUAL YOUTH LENTEN RETREATS THROUGHOUT THE METROPOLIS

Thanks to the generosity of the **Friends of the Metropolis** and the hospitality of the host parishes, three successful Regional Youth Lenten Retreats were held throughout the Metropolis. We thank His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas for his presence at these retreats, the clergy who led workshops for the youth and adults, and all the countless volunteers who worked behind the scenes.

March 11, 2017 – Michigan GOYA Lenten Retreat
GOYAnS from Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana all gathered at Assumption Church in St. Clair Shores, MI. Youth sessions were led by Fr. Anthony Cook, Fr. Angelo Maggos, and Fr. Mark Sietsema. GOYAnS discussed Technology and Faith, the importance and significance of Confession, and discussed In-Depth questions about God and their faith submitted before the retreat. Finally, GOYAnS split into teams for a scavenger hunt/quiz game. Using the icons of the Church and Holy Scripture, teams answered questions for a prize at the

end of the retreat. Chaperones and parents participated in their own education sessions on the same topics, led by Fr. Nicolaos Kotsis, Fr. Michael Manos, Fr. Teodor Petrutiu, and Fr. Michael Varlamos.

March 18, 2017 – Upstate NY GOYA Lenten Retreat
Youth from Upstate NY gathered at Holy Spirit Church in Rochester, NY for a full day of faith, service, and fellowship. Youth and parents/chaperones participated in discussions led by Fr. Michael Marcantoni, Fr. Jarrod Russell, and Fr. David Smith. Then, all participants contributed to the service project... assembling "Blessing Bags" and sandwiches for adults and youth in the shelters of Rochester, NY. His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas was in attendance and ended the retreat with a Q&A session for all the participants.

March 31-April 2, 2017 – Southern Youth Lenten Retreat
Youth ages 8-18 from the Central and Southern areas of the Metropolis gathered to travel the Lenten journey together. His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas and Fr. Gregory Hohnholt led discussions on Giving to God and Technology & Faith. Participants also created a beautiful icon to that will be gifted to the St. Sampson Medical Clinic onsite at Holy Trinity Church in Nashville, TN.

Visit <http://photos.detroit.goarch.org> for pictures from each of these retreats!



Upcoming Events

- APRIL 22** St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival – Central District Finals
(Assumption Church – Louisville, KY)
- APRIL 22** St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival – Michigan District Finals
(Sts. Constantine and Helen Church – Westland, MI)
- APRIL 22** St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival – Southern District Finals
(Annunciation Church – Memphis, TN)

- APRIL 30** St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival – Upstate NY District Finals
(St. Sophia Church – Syracuse, NY)
- MAY 12-13** St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival – Metropolis Finals
(Annunciation Church – Buffalo, NY)
- MAY 26-29** REAL Memorial Day Weekend at MDSC
(Hosted by St. Nicholas Church – Troy, MI)



Philoptochos News

BY MARGARET YATES

Midway on our journey through Great and Holy Lent and the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we wish everyone a Kali Anastasi

At this time of the year many Philoptochos Chapters are preparing Palm Sunday luncheons, baking tsourekia and koulourakia for those who are home-bound, and dying Easter eggs to be distributed following the Resurrection and Agape Services. Additionally, many are preparing Easter Baskets to be delivered through community social service agencies.

Preparations are winding down for our biennial fund-raising luncheon, Philoptochos with Love, that will be held at the St. Nicholas Community Center in Troy, MI. Our guest speaker is Betty Cantrell, Miss America 2016, a young Greek American woman of whom we should all be proud. The event is scheduled for April 29, 2017 with doors opening at 11:00 a.m. Tickets for the event are \$60 for adults and \$30 for those under the age of eighteen. The event is open to men and women and we hope you will join us.

Initially worried that our membership for 2016 would drop, we grew by seventeen members. This was due in part to the efforts of our chapter membership committees who are spreading the word of our good works and hands-on philanthropy.

As written in the Philoptochos by-laws, elections to the chapter boards are held in the month of May following the National Clergy/Laity Philoptochos Conference. This process begins in January with the selection of a screening committee to determine the eligibility of

those qualified to run. Following this, an election committee is formed to prepare a slate, with the size of the chapter determining the size of the board. "Paperwork" is then submitted electronically to both the National office and Metropolis for ratification by the Archbishop within 14 days of the election. Following the election, and upon the receipt of Ratification, the Parish Priest shall install the newly elected Chapter Board by administering the oath of office. Officers are then elected with results submitted to the National office. This is also done electronically. These procedures, as well as the necessary forms, are available on the Philoptochos website.

We were pleased, but also a little disappointed, that twenty-eight of our thirty-six active chapters paid 100% of their National commitments in 2016. This is a good number, but hope that number will increase this year. We are off to a good start.

We are in the very beginning stages of planning for our Metropolis Clergy-Laity Philoptochos Conference to be held in Buffalo September 28-30, 2017.

Contributions

- The chapter in Sterling Heights had a very successful season of giving. They gave over \$7,000 in donations to MCREST, Friends of Foster Care and local needy families. In February they also packed boxes at FORGOTTEN HARVEST.
- In Ithaca, NY the Philoptochos and Parish Council teamed up to support those in need by ringing the Salvation Army bells. They sing carols in English and Greek for this intergenerational event. This year the carolers were accompanied by Valerie, a Sunday School student.

MEFGOX News

BY VICKI PAPPAS

CHURCH MUSICIANS PREPARE FOR PASCHA!

Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha bring special challenges for chanters and choir members, our church musicians. It is a time of much more preparation, intense rehearsals, new music, and services beyond their regular participation on Sundays. As Holy Week approaches, church musicians are in a period of heavy preparation for the 22 services that occur starting with Palm Sunday! A glimpse of only a few of their hymns and chants reveal the depth of spirituality and beauty found in these services.

On Palm Sunday, the Divine Liturgy contains two of the "signature hymns" of the day that the choir sings – the Festal Hymn, Your Resurrection (*Tin Kinin Anastasin*) and the special Communion hymn, Blessed is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord (*Evloghimenos O Erhomenon*). In the evening and during Monday and Tuesday's Bridegroom Services, the chanters sing the Troparion, "Behold the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night..." and the hymn commemorating the Noble Joseph. Many choirs will sing the magnificent Hymn of Kassiane, the repentance of the sinful woman, at the conclusion of Tuesday's service.

Wednesday brings the Service of Holy Unction, where the Canon is chanted, "asking God to show mercy upon us and cleanse our souls, to drive away all evil powers, to grant salvation to those who are sick or suffering, and to grant us the healing of our souls and bodies." On Holy Thursday, we hear the beautiful Communion Hymn... "Receive me today, Son of God, as a partaker of Your mystical Supper. I will not reveal Your mystery to Your adversaries. Nor will I give You a kiss as did Judas. But as the thief I confess to You: Lord, remember me in Your Kingdom" (*Tou Dhipnou Sou Tou Mistikou*). On Holy Friday evening, the entire congregation sings the Lamentations (*Ta Engomia*) around the bier (*kouvouklion*) of Christ, one of the saddest days of Holy Week.

On Saturday morning, The Hymn of the Three Youths is rendered, with the refrain, "Praise Ye the Lord and exalt Him forever" (*Ton Kyrion Imnite*) repeated over



and over. Then the first hints of the Resurrection appear, with chanters or choirs (even children's choirs and congregations) singing the exciting refrains, Arise O Lord! (*Anasta O Theos*), as the priest strews bay leave and rose petals throughout the church. And then Saturday night – first, from within the darkened church, we hear Come Receive the Light (*Dhefte Lavete Fos*) and finally, the joyful exclamation, Christ is Risen! (*Christos Anesti*), sung over and over again by all. The chanters sing the traditional, "Let every breath praise the Lord" (*Pas Pnoi*) and "It is the Day of Resurrection, let us be radiant..." (*Anastaseos Imera*). Also at this service, the festal Meghalinarion is sung, The Angel Cried Out to Her (*O Angelos Evoa*), as well as the special Communion hymn, Receive the Body of Christ (*Soma Christou*).

The tests and melodies of the hymns of Holy Week and Pascha are profoundly beautiful and instructive. Church musicians are privileged to sing, pray, and learn from them, and thus experience the services in an exceptional way. You, too, can access this opportunity - we hope this inspires you to join your choir or chanters group, to offer and use your interest, talents, and time, and reap the rewards of fuller participation in the services of our Church.

Pascha: A Reflection

BY FR. TOM PARTHENAKIS*

One of my earliest recollections of Pascha as a child, attending Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church (Cincinnati, Ohio), about 65 years ago, was the Resurrection Service. It was a memory I have relished my entire life. Earlier in the day, my mother (of blessed memory) tried to explain the significance of the service to me and my two brothers, but we had to experience the beauty of the service to attempt to fathom it. We had no liturgical books to follow and had to rely on our imperfect senses to take it in. We did not have to understand the Hellenistic Greek of the hymns to appreciate the meaning beauty of the service. Years later, even as a priest, I am still attempting to understand the mystery of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and I am learning something new every year, especially the significance of the opening hymns of the Resurrection Service.

“Δεύτε λάβετε φως εκ του ανεσπέρου φωτός και δοξάσατε Χριστόν τον αναστάντα εκ νεκρών” (“Come, receive the Light, from the unwaning light, and glorify Christ, Who has risen from the dead”).

This hymn is chanted when the priest exits with a lighted candle through the Royal Doors. He shares the light (taken from the eternal vigil light over the altar) with the eagerly awaiting acolytes, choir members, chanters, and congregation. The once pitch dark church now blossoms in the glowing of Christ’s Light, until everyone is bathed in this light. Hundreds of millions of Orthodox Christians from all over the world replicate this rite, which symbolizes the Light of the Resurrected Christ piercing the powerless darkness of the sinful world. This light, described by John the

Evangelist (1:1-5), entered the world through the Incarnation of the Word, in which God humbled Himself by becoming man for our salvation (and in turn, man striving to become divine-like). This light was not extinguished by the darkness of the sinful world into which it had entered. Nor was it extinguished by Jesus Christ’s Passion and death in the flesh on the Cross. Nor were the gates of Hades able to contain Christ Jesus. By the grace of God, Jesus was raised from the dead, and once again He permeated the world for our sake, granting us the promise of our own bodily resurrection. By the grace of God, Jesus sent the Light of the Holy Spirit upon His disciples and ordaining them as Apostles to preach and teach the Good News to all nations and baptizing them in the name of the Father the Son and Holy Spirit. His Light through the holy Spirit continues to sanctify us today as we commune in and renew ourselves with Him in the Body of Christ (His Church) through the Eucharist.

As we receive the unwaning light of Christ this Pascha, as brothers and sisters in Christ, let us also take the Light of Christ to the world, beyond the confines of our church building and our friends and relatives. We are called to be His disciples and take the Good News everywhere. Most importantly, we must live the Faith and live in His imitation every moment, every day, as best as we can, in every way that we can. This must be a priority throughout the ecclesiastical year, and not just during the Great Lent through Pentecost seasons. Prayer, fasting, and charitable works, punctuated by serving The Church: we not only receive the Light, but also are called to share the Light with everyone, all of God’s children. In this way we can do our part in pushing back the darkness of this sinful and tragedy-filled world.

** Father Tom Parthenakis is the Priest of the St. Catherine Church in Ithaca, New York.*



Pascha 2013 • Holy Trinity Cathedral, Toledo, OH

Thank You Letter for \$5,000 Metropolis of Detroit Donation to Restore the Ionian Village



MARCH 6, 2017

Dear Metropolitan NICHOLAS and the Metropolis of Detroit Metropolis Council,

Every morning at Ionian Village, we celebrate Orthros. In this service, we chant a verse that has been in my head constantly these past few days: "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes." Since the tornado first touched down at Ionian Village and word spread, I have indeed seen marvelous things happen.

The damage done to our beautiful Ionian Village campgrounds is extensive. Each day as I walk through the camp, surveying the damage, I keep this verse in my head. Almost fifty years ago, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos had the vision for a camp in Greece for Greek Americans. He started with a piece of land on the sea. A piece of land that was nothing more than sand – no pine trees, no flowers, no grass, no Chapel. On this sand, he planted trees, constructed buildings, and made a camp. He created a paradise, a home away from home for thousands of future campers, a place of faith, friendship, and spiritual rejuvenation. "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

Over 18,000 people have passed through the front gates of Ionian Village. All came to intimately know the grounds during their time here. Now, the grounds as we knew them will change. Many of the trees planted in those first years that witnessed the miracle of the camp take place year after year have been ripped from the ground, falling into buildings or breaking apart walkways. There is much work ahead of us: first, to clear the land, and then to repair and rebuild.

The landscape of the camp will forever be changed.

But these changes are merely cosmetic, because as I have said so many times, Ionian Village is more than just a summer camp. A camper recently wrote on Facebook "I will never not love Ionian Village." I know that's how so many of our alumni, friends and supporters feel. I know this because of the massive and heartwarming response we have had to our emergency fundraising campaign. In this difficult time, it is encouraging and reassuring to think that the new landscape of the camp will be a reflection of this outpouring of love and support by our Ionian Village family. "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

You are a part of this amazing effort, and I want to personally thank you for your donation of \$5,000.00 to the Ionian Village Emergency Disaster Fund. Your donation will go directly towards the huge task we have in front of us to not only restore Ionian Village but to make the campgrounds better and more beautiful than ever.

I pray that Saint Dionysios guide, guard and protect your family, as he continues to watch over Ionian Village, and I again thank you on behalf of the entire Ionian Village Family, past, present and most especially future.

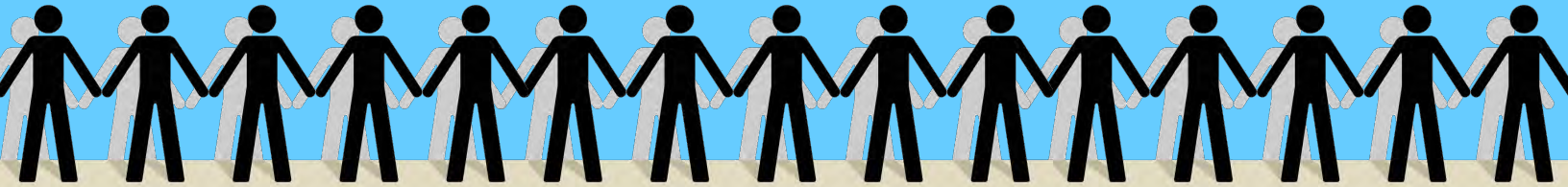
In Christ,

*Father Evagoras Constantinides
Director of Ionian Village*

D O N A T E O N L I N E

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Friends of the Metropolis 2017

LIST OF DONORS JANUARY 1—MARCH 31

+His Eminence Metropolitan
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Ann Arbor, MI – St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Pliakas, Fr. Vasilios and Kyriake
Baldwin, James and Mary
Daniels, Tony and Cleve
Kales, Anthony and Joyce
Yates, Margaret

Bloomfield Hills – St. George
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Presbytera Alice
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Yaksich, Moshoula

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Presbytera Stacey
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Kouris, George
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Assaley, Lewis and Patricia
Stringas, Emanuel

Dayton, OH – Annunciation
Gingrich, Fr. Joseph

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Farmington Hills, MI – Holy Cross
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Presbytera Olga

Fort Wayne, IN – Holy Trinity
Maggos, Eleftherios and Paraskevi

Grand Blanc, MI – Assumption
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Presbytera Teri
Chinonis, Dennis and Debra
Kaloydis, John and Karen
Karabina, Ruth

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Jacqueline
Photiou, Lucas and Lori

Grand Rapids, MI – Holy Trinity

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Nicholas, James

Ithaca, NY – St. Catherine

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Kalamazoo, MI – Annunciation

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Wingenbach, Fr. Gregory
Blackford, Charles and Patricia
Makris, Mary
Sharish, Mary

Marquette, MI – Assumption

Wainio, Paul and Katherine

Memphis, TN – Annunciation

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Middletown, OH –

Sts. Constantine and Helen

Sts. Constantine and Helen Parish

Muskegon, MI – Annunciation

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Nashville, TN – Holy Trinity

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Tzilos, Golfo

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Presbyteria Elizabeth
Colovos, Bill
Diamantis, John and Christin
Dionyssopoulos, Stavros and Eleni
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Kircos, David
Kircos, Lazaros and Paula
Kiousis, Sam
Kontos, Chris and Frances
Kontos, John and Marika
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Assumption Parish
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Presbyteria Tina

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St. John Choir
George, Christian
George, John and Marlo
George, Jordan
Kotsis, Andrew and Irene
Lionas, James and Helene

Toledo, OH – Holy Trinity Cathedral

Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Biernacki, Gerald and Pauline

Traverse City, MI –

Archangel Gabriel

Underwood, Robert and Theresa

Troy, MI – St. Nicholas

Chalker, Jess
Mickey, Cynthia
Mortis, George and Hionia
Zotos, Gregory

Vestal, NY – Annunciation

Gianakouros, Harry and Katie

Westland, MI –

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GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
METROPOLIS OF DETROIT
THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

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Dear Friends of the Metropolis

As part of the Friends of the Metropolis you have made an important impact on our common mission of Christian witness and action to the world – and we have been able to do this together as part of the Friends of the Metropolis for 2016.

Consider some of the results of your gifts to the Friends Program for 2016:

- **YOU** were part of the Great and Holy Council in Chania, Crete through the Metropolis support of \$30,000 from the Friends for this historic event;
- **YOU** helped cover some expenses incurred during the monthly travel of Metropolitan Nicholas to the Patriarchate as a member of the Patriarchal Synod;
- **YOU** were with Metropolitan Nicholas when he traveled to Moscow as the representative of Patriarch Bartholomew for the Nameday celebration of Patriarch Kirill;
- **YOU** were hosts for the 2016 National Clergy Laity and Philoptochos Conference and helped make it a success;
- **YOU** have made it possible to cover the travel expenses incurred during our pastoral visitations to the Metropolis parishes;
- **YOU** helped make certain that we are able to contribute to student loan payments for our clergy and church workers who graduated from the Hellenic College/Holy Cross and serve in our Metropolis parishes;
- **YOU** have made it possible for our Youth Programs to function without impairment in all areas of our Metropolis;
- **YOU** have assured that there is a summer youth camp available to all of our young people;
- **YOU** have been the helping hands who gave through our office to those in need of shelter, clothing, food, and medical supplies;
- **YOU** were part of our efforts to help the Holley Institute for Deaf Children;
- **YOU** helped us upgrade our technology systems so that live video conference calls can include clergy and faithful from Arkansas to New York;
- **YOU** have helped us to pay all the normative operational expenses of the Metropolis Office including: building maintenance and repair; heat; lights; postage; technology; and supplies.

Thank you for your great stewardship! God be praised!

FRIENDS DONATION COUPON

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TROY, MI 48084

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