



# THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF Η ΠΑΒΛΟΣ



Monthly Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Detroit

September 2000

## A Message From Our Bishop...

My Beloved Faithful in the Lord,

Just over a year has past since my election and enthronement to the Holy Diocese of Detroit. As I reflect on this past year I am reminded of how much we have achieved and of how much we can achieve.

With the help of the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Philoptochos we have begun once again to revive our Holy Diocese.

This newsletter is an effort to promote communication and unity within our Diocese. This newsletter will be sent to each parish on a monthly basis and is to be included in the monthly mailings of the parish.

Currently, we are eagerly preparing for the historic visit of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew. His All Holiness will be in the Diocese November 10 - 12. Details regarding his visit will be given through your local parish. In addition, we are also working on relocating the Diocesan Office to a more suitable location and facility.

Both of these projects take great commitment; Commitment from both the clergy and laity alike. We must work together as the one body of Christ that we are, to make these and other endeavors of our Holy Diocese a success.

Bestowing upon all of you, my paternal prayers and Episcopal blessings, I remain,

In the Service of Christ,

## Archbishop Demitrios Makes First Pastoral Visit to Diocese

His Eminence Archbishop Demitrios of America made his first official visit to our Diocese July 14-16. His Eminence was welcomed by the Clergy of the Diocese at a reception at the Diocesan Home on Friday afternoon. That evening His Eminence celebrated a Great Vesper service at the Annunciation Cathedral in Greektown.

On Saturday, His Eminence ordained the Reverend Deacon Mark Sietsema to the Priesthood during the Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Church in Ann Arbor, MI.

On Sunday, His Eminence celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Assumption Church in St. Clair Shores. Following the Divine Liturgy there was a Luncheon honoring the Archbishop's visit to the Diocese. Among those attending the luncheon was Senator Spence Abraham, one of only three Orthodox U.S. Senators.

## Orthodox Youth Conference in Constantinople

Nine delegates from our Diocese headed to the Ecumenical Patriarchate for a conference of Orthodox Youth from June 18 until the 25th. Topics range from the environment to AIDS and substance abuse. His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

officially opened this conference on June 18 at the Phanar.

The delegates from our Diocese were Christopher Amerikanos (Holy Trinity, Indianapolis, IN), Harry Gaggos (Assumption, St. Clair Shores, MI), Dimitri Karageorge (Assumption, Louisville, KY), Vasilios Kartalopoulos (Holy Trinity, Toledo, OH), Anastasia Spanos (Holy Cross, Farmington Hills, MI), Christos Stephanides (Assumption, Louisville, KY), Mihalis Stephanides (Assumption, Louisville, KY), Yiannis Ververis (Sts. Constantine and Helen, Middletown, OH) and George Yfantidis (St. John, Sterling Hts., MI).

## New Diocesan Youth Director

His Grace Bishop Nicholas is pleased to announce that Mr. Nicolaos Kotsis assumed the duties of Diocesan Youth Director beginning June 15.

Nick is originally from the St. John Church in Sterling Heights, MI. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan, and he has just finished his Master of Divinity degree from Holy Cross in Brookline, MA.

## Oratorical Festival News...

On May 6 the Diocesan Oratorical Festival was held at the Assumption Church in Flint, MI. This year's winners are Senior Division - Alice Shukla (Holy Cross, Farmington, MI), and Junior Division - Nicholas Moniodis (Nativity, Plymouth, MI). These winners participated in the



Archdiocesan Oratorical Festival held in Dayton Beach, FL this past June.

At the National Oratorical Festival Nicholas Moniodis from the Nativity of the Virgin Mary parish in Plymouth, MI came in first place for the Junior Division Oratorical Festival.

## Ordinations and Assignments

June 10 - Rev. Deacon Irenaeus Cox to the Priesthood assigned to Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas, Cincinnati, OH - Second Priest

July 15 - Rev. Deacon Mark Sietsema to the Priesthood assigned to Holy Trinity, Lansing, MI - Effective September 1, 2000

## From the Diocese Philoptochos...

by Despina Nicholas

Our Festival of Tables held at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Southgate, Michigan, was a huge success. There were 22 beautifully decorated tables.

From the "No Bake Bake Sale" checks were given to five area hospitals in the Diocese. Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit, Michigan, Riley's Children's Hospital, Indianapolis, Indiana, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee, Children Medical Network, Syracuse, New York, Children's Hospital Buffalo, New York. Thank You to all the Chapters who contributed.

We hosted a Diocese breakfast for all the delegates at the conference in Philadelphia, PA, Tuesday, July 4, 2000.

Mark your calendars for May 3, 2001 - our next fundraiser. Vefa the Greek Chef from Greece will be our guest. More information will follow.

Have a great summer.

## Choirs Meet in Cincinnati

by Barbara Minton

Choirs from the Detroit Diocese met in Cincinnati July 20-23, 2000, at the annual conference of the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Choirs. The Mid-Eastern Federation is made up of choirs from the Detroit and Pittsburgh Dioceses, and its goals are to promote the study, development and presentation of Greek Orthodox church music; to foster and maintain a high standard of singing; and to provide a means of integrating the work of the member choirs through sharing and fellowship. Delegates from the various choir federations throughout the Archdiocese also make up the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians.

At the 2000 Conference, hosted by the Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Choir in Cincinnati, the combined choirs chanted the music of Kevin Lawrence in Greek and English under the direction of Evey Simon, Choir Director of Annunciation Cathedral in Detroit. The choirs rehearsed on Friday and Saturday in preparation for the culmination of the conference - the Divine Liturgy celebrated on Sunday, July 23, 2000.

In addition to the rehearsals, a Church Music Institute co-sponsored by the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Choirs and the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians was held. The topics included the cycle of the Apolytikia (Resurrection Hymns), major hymns of the Orthros, and interpretation of the Doxology. Father Nicholas Kastanas, Professor of Byzantine Music at Holy Cross Theological Seminary, served as the instructor, assisted by church musicians, Ann Marie Koukios of

Cincinnati, George Raptis of Detroit, and Nancy Takis of Lansing, MI. Father Bill Cassis, Chris Demakes and George Kalomeres, Chairmen of the Conference and the Cincinnati choir planned a welcome evening, Great Vespers, a talent show and Grand Banquet to round out the weekend of education, worship, and fellowship among the choir members. Those in attendance were twice blessed by the presence of His Grace Bishop Nicholas of Detroit on Thursday and Friday and His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos, presiding hierarch of the Pittsburgh Diocese, on Saturday and Sunday.

Very recently a combined group of "convention-bound" choir members from the Detroit area sang the Lawrence arrangement at the Divine Liturgy with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios and His Grace Bishop Nicholas at Assumption Church in St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

In September choirs of the greater Detroit area will begin rehearsals for the Patriarchal Liturgy. Choir directors will receive information early in August. For more information please contact Barbara Minton, 9906 Carter Avenue, Allen Park, MI 48101 or [barbmint@aol.com](mailto:barbmint@aol.com)

## From the Editor...

The Shepherd's Staff will be mailed out on a monthly basis. In the future our hope is to expand this newsletter. We are always open to suggestions !!! Please forward suggestions to :

The Shepherd's Staff  
Greek Orthodox Diocese of Detroit  
19405 Renfrew Road  
Detroit, MI 48221