



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF Η ΠΑΒΛΟΣ



Monthly Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Detroit

October 2000

A Message From the Bishop...

To the Faithful of the Holy Diocese of Detroit:

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

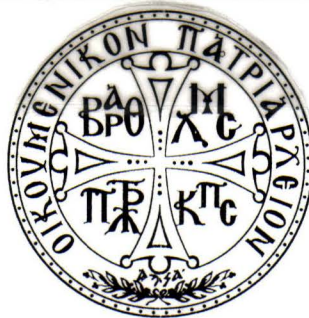
As we all have returned from our vacations and are settled back into our schedules it is good for us to take a moment to reflect on our own personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Each day it seems as though we rush to get all that we want accomplished in the 24 hours of a day, only to wake up the next morning and start all over again. Often times we neglect to put into our busy schedules time for Christ and His Holy Church. I cannot tell you how important this is for your personal relationship with the Lord.

By fostering this relationship we demonstrate to the world that we ultimately do not belong to this world; that we as Orthodox Christians belong to Christ. As your Bishop it is my constant prayer that all of you remain close to Christ and His Church.

Life here at the Diocese Office is very busy. As you all should have heard by now His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will be making a historic visit to Detroit November 10 -12. This will be the first time that an Ecumenical Patriarch has visited Detroit. Please mark your calendars so that we can welcome our Patriarch to Detroit.

Bestowing upon all of you and your families my paternal blessing and prayers, I remain,

In the Service of our Lord,



The Millennium Visit of the Ecumenical Patriarch

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide, will make an historic visit to the Detroit Diocese November 10 through 12. Detroit will be the only Diocese visited by the Ecumenical Patriarch during this trip to the United States, followed by a brief stop on his return to New York City where he will dedicate the new Byzantine gallery of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The purpose of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's Detroit visit is simply to meet and extend his blessings to the Christian faithful of our Diocese. The visit will include several opportunities for members of Diocese churches and the community at large to see and hear His All Holiness during his three days in the city. The visit will begin with the arrival of the Patriarch and his entourage on Friday at the airport, followed by a Saturday morning Youth Conference at Sts. Constantine & Helen Church in Westland. Saturday

at 11:30 a.m., there will be a Doxology at the Annunciation Cathedral in Detroit and vespers in the early evening at St. John Church in Sterling Heights. A grand banquet will take place in Troy on Saturday evening at the St. Nicholas Cultural Center. The Sunday Liturgy will be celebrated at the Computware Arena in Plymouth, followed by a Philoptochos luncheon in the same facility.

More information concerning this important visit, when the world will focus on the center of Orthodoxy at the Detroit Diocese for three days, will be available through your local Parish. The itinerary of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will be available and sent to you in the coming weeks.

Fund-raising News...

Mr. Tom Demery, Chairman of the Millennium Campaign Fund, has put fund-raising efforts into full swing. The monies collected will be used to defray the costs of the November Patriarchal Visit, relocate the Diocesan Offices, and establish directed funds for the various ministries of the Diocese. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the Millennium Campaign Fund!

From the Youth Office...

By Nick Kotsis

Greetings!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. By now, each parish should have received a packet of information and programing for the next nine months from the Diocesan Youth

Office. Some of these activities include a picnic, info on Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) programs at colleges and universities, retreat planning, and something new called "Bible Bowl". We are also preparing for the visit of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in November and planning for the breakfast program he wants to have with all the young people of our Diocese. I hope to see and work with all of you on these programs and anything else you have in mind.

Detroit Diocese

Rose City Camp

By Dean Niforos

The Detroit Diocese Summer Camp, located in Rose City (MI), just completed its 48th summer, and had yet another successful year with 384 campers attending over the 5 weeks of camp. This is the 5th year in a row the camp has seen an increase in camper numbers.

The camp had over 100 staff members from across the Diocese who worked as counselors and administrative staff. In addition, Fr. Stavros Ballas (Southgate, MI), Fr. James Stathakios (Westland, MI), Fr. Patrick Cowles (Louisville, KY), Fr. John Lardas (Troy, MI), Youth Director Nick Kotsis and a group of seminarians from Hellenic College/Holy Cross provided the guidance and instruction in our Orthodox faith to the campers and staff this summer. The camp would like to thank all the staff and clergy who offered their time and energies to help enrich the lives of our young campers.

The annual Camp Reunion Dance will be held at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Troy (MI) on Friday, November 3, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. Please also look for the Detroit Diocese Summer Camp web-site which will be introduced this fall, attached to the Diocese of Detroit site on <http://www.goarch.org>. Information

including Summer 2001 schedule, camper registration information, staff opportunities and a picture tour of camp will be available on the website.

Diocese Philoptochos...

By Despina Nicholas

With the visit of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the Detroit Diocese, the Diocese Philoptochos will be hosting the luncheon at Compuware Arena in Plymouth, Michigan after liturgy on Sunday November 12, 2000. More information will follow.

The Diocese of Detroit Philoptochos has recently been involved in helping a young girl from Greece. Maria Poursanidou is a 12-year old girl from Kastoria who is in the United States for treatment of Scleroderma Pigmentosa which causes tumors, moles and lesions to form on parts of her body that are exposed to the sun. The only treatment available to Maria, who is the only child in Greece diagnosed with this disease, is to surgically remove the moles as they appear and before they metastasize. Since arriving in the United States, Maria has had seven operations, all on an outpatient basis to keep the costs at a minimum. Maria is being treated at the University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey (UNDNJ) located in Newark. The Diocese of Detroit Philoptochos has sent \$1,000 to Maria and her family to help defray their lodging costs.

With commitments of the Chapters to the Emergency fund, we can continue to help when called upon.

Choirs Celebrate Patron Saint...

Saint Romanos the Melodist

The hymnologists of the Orthodox Church are Christians of

virtue and great faith, having been endowed with musical talent as well as the power of religious inspiration. Their creations have enriched our worship services and have helped turn our souls towards God. Perhaps the greatest of all hymnologists is *St. Romanos the Melodist*. Many other hymnologists had written ecclesiastical hymns, but none of them inspired the Christians as much as St. Romanos.

Romanos was a Syrian Christian who lived in the beginning of the 6th century. A convert to Orthodoxy from Judaism, he was ordained a deacon and served in the Church of Beirut. His talent was great. Unlike others, he wrote his hymns in simple language and produced a pleasant meter in the verse by the way he accented words. The hymns he composed appealed to the hearts of the people, and are still sung today. Romanos has been called "Sweet Singer" (*Glykophonos*), "Melodist" (*Melodhos*), and "Righteous Chanter" (*Psaltis Dhikeosinis*).

Romanos died on October 1st in 510 AD. He was a productive genius and artist, writing and accenting thousands of kontakia. He has been called the patron saint of all who sing for the Church. Others say he is the leader in the world of religious hymnology. Surely, he has made a profound contribution to divine worship and deserves to be recognized by all who sing and by all who listen to the hymnology of our services.

The first Sunday after the Feast of St. Romanos has been designated by our Archdiocese as *NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY*. (This year the Feast of St. Romanos falls on a Sunday.) Each year on this Sunday, we pause to honor the gifts and contributions of our church musicians, clergy, choir directors, psaltai, choir members, organists, and Church School music educators. We thank them for their devotion to our Church through their Ministry of Music.