Let us follow the newly shining star that exceeds all heavenly lights.

(From the Megalynaria of the Nativity of Christ)

Icon of the Nativity of Christ - St. Nicholas Church, Ann Arbor, MI
Metropolitan’s Message

My Beloved Family in Christ,

Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15

Everybody knows those iconic symbols of Christmas … they begin appearing as the winter weather approaches … candles and lights, wreaths and trees, ribbons and bows. Somehow these sights speak directly to our hearts the reality: Christmas is coming.

From earliest childhood these signs of Christmas carried great meaning for us. We all remember how our parents began decorating the house with lights around the windows, garlands across the mantle, and the special place set aside for the tree. We began seeing packages wrapped up in sparkling paper; secretly (we thought!) we tried to ascertain what was in each package with our own name on it. We can recall even now the fragrances of pine and cinnamon in our homes. And more than that, we heard the sounds of bells from every steeple and Christmas music all over town. Yes, it was truly a time when our whole world welcomed that special, holy day.

Permeating all of these memories of Yuletides past is also the recollection of joy we had while watching the unwrapping of a surprise gift that we gave to someone. It could have been our neighbor, our sibling, another member of our family, our best friend, or perhaps even to a stranger. Because we knew how special that unexpected gift makes both the giver and the receiver feel, it mattered less to whom we gave a surprise gift. It mattered most that we ourselves entered into the spirit of the season fully - by bringing someone that unexpected Christmas joy.

With these thoughts in mind, I would prayerfully ask that each of us rediscovers that sense of joy in Christmas giving by making a gift to someone who does not expect something from us. Not that we should give expecting to receive anything in return—but rather to give freely, with the love of Christ in our heart, giving as He Himself gave in all things. So that the person who receives our gift will truly know the sense of joy that we have at Christmas, when we celebrate God’s gift to the world.

So, plan to give your surprise gift! And see how your gift can change a person’s life! God bless you all. And … Merry Christmas!

His Eminence blesses the Annunciation Muskegon parish community upon completion of the first phase of their new iconography project.
Metropolis News

❖ Congratulations to the Annunciation-St. Paraskevi parish community in New Buffalo, Michigan on the construction and installation of their new bell tower! (photo to the right)

❖ We are very proud to announce the ordinations of Deacon Vasilis Vallas at the Holy Trinity Church in Nashville on October 14, Tennessee and Deacon Vasilis Yacalis at the Annunciation Church in Vestal New York on November 18. Both of these fine deacons will be serving as a part of the permanent diaconal program. (photos on the photos highlights page) More information can be found at: https://www.hchc.edu/certificate-programs/diaconate-program/

Metropolitan’s Schedule

NOTICE: Metropolitan Nicholas’ schedule is subject to change. Please visit our website for updates: www.detroit.goarch.org/calendar.

December

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Youth News
BY EVA KONSTANTAKOS

A LOOK BACK AT 2018

It’s been another incredible year for the youth and young adult ministries of our Metropolis. We thank all those who work tirelessly to bring young people closer to Christ - the clergy, youth workers (paid and volunteer), and countless others - through worship, witness, service, and fellowship. Here are just a few photos from this past year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2019!

Looking ahead to 2019

January 26-27, 2019
GOYO-IV on the Go

February 15-17, 2019
45th Annual Dayton GOYA Basketball Tournament

March 23, 2019
Michigan Area GOYA Lenten Retreat

March 30, 2019
Upstate NY GOYA Lenten Retreat

April 13, 2019
Central District GOYA Lenten Retreat

Holy Trinity/Grand Rapids, MI
Annunciation/Dayton, OH
Holy Trinity/Toledo, OH
St. Sophia/Syracuse, NY
Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas/Cincinnati, OH

OCF’s Real Break aims to prepare college students to be socially-informed Orthodox Christian citizens of this world, while directing their focus on the world to come – the kingdom of heaven. Built on a foundation of fellowship, education, worship, and service, Real Break provides students the opportunity to understand the true meaning of seeing Christ in the other – traveling to all parts of the world deepening their faith, serving those in need, and cultivating relationships with like-minded peers.

OCF will offer nine Real Break trips in 2019. March Spring Break trips include Romania, Albania (OCMC), Houston (IOCC), Project Mexico, Jerusalem, Thessaloniki, and Alaska. OCF will also offer two summer 2019 trips: one to Mt. Athos (male only) and one to Jerusalem (female only).

Registration costs vary according to the trip and limited scholarships are available.

For more information about Real Break 2019 or to register, visit http://www.octx.net/realbreak-2019/. In addition, please feel free to contact OCF’s National Programs Manager, Donna Levas for more information: donna@ocf.net or (617) 850-1227.
Greetings, and may the beauty of this joyous season be with you always.

The Metropolis Board will host its annual reception in honor of our beloved Metropolitan Nicholas’ Nameday on Sunday, December 9. St. Spyridon Vespers Service will be held on Tuesday, December 11 and Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, December 12. We invite everyone to take part in these celebrations at the Metropolis Offices in Troy, Michigan.

As October is known as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Holy Trinity Cathedral Chapter, Carmel, Indiana hosted its annual Coffee Social and Luncheon on October 14. The Chapter fundraised for the Pink Ribbon Connection in Indianapolis whose mission is to provide emotional support, resources and education to those touched by breast cancer across Indiana. The proceeds of $1000 were donated to the organization. During October, coats were also collected for Eskenazi Hospital for breast cancer patients in need.

Also in October, Philoptochos members of St. George Chapter, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan prepared a “Greek Dinner” for the parents whose children were in Children’s Hospital in Detroit. It was a rewarding and touching experience, and they are planning on doing it throughout the year.

In November, the St. John the Baptist Chapter of Sterling Heights, Michigan announced that they will be partnering with Friends of Foster Kids. The chapter will be doing outreach for them, and will offer spiritual and financial support.

The Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Board is proud to announce the establishment of the Florence G. Stefanou Scholarship. This scholarship is made possible through the generosity of the Stefanou family. Florence Stefanou was a devoted Philoptochos member serving at all levels, her local chapter, the Metropolis Board and the National Board. Together with the family, we offer this scholarship to an outstanding male or female wishing to further their education. The scholarship to be awarded will be for $1000. Applications will be available in January. The deadline for submission is April 30, and will be awarded at the Metropolis Convention in September.

At a recent National Board Meeting in New York, our National President Maria Logus stressed that we must be forward thinking to reach the next generation. Our membership must continue to grow, and the younger women must be embraced. Also the needs of ladies of all ages must be addressed. We must continue to work on asking women to join our beloved organization.

The National Philoptochos has embarked on a new speaker’s program, hoping to inform and inspire our members. On November 26, the first speaker was Maria Skafidas, the head of corporate communications and investor relations of the Lowes Corporation and the co-author of the book titled “Journeys an American Story.” She was live at the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy, but was also streamed live on Social Media. It was well received, and more information will be forthcoming on future speakers.

Mark your calendars for the Spring Luncheon on May 4, 2019. The committee for the fundraiser is planning a special and unique event. The destination for the luncheon will take place at Lovett Hall in Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford History Complex in Dearborn, Michigan. This is an event that no one will want to miss.

On behalf of the Metropolis Board, I wish you a joyous Christmas Season and a Blessed 2019.

DONATIONS

Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos

Victims of Hurricane Florence, - North Carolina - $1000
Victims of Hurricane Michael, Florida - $1000
Detroit Rescue Mission - $2000
St. Basil Academy - $200
Philoptochos Sister in need - $400

Chapter Thanksgiving Donations

Annunciation, Dayton, Ohio – Kroger gift cards to 6 families - $1600
Annunciation, Vestal, New York – November donation total - $500, includes the Food Bank of the Southern Tier and CHOW
Annunciation, Rochester, NY-Thanksgiving gift cards to the Veterans Outreach Center - $300
Holy Trinity Cathedral, Carmel, IN- Kroger Gift Cards to 100 families - $5,000

Theone Dickos
President
MEFGOX News

Developing Church Music Ministries
By Dr. Vicki Pappas
President, Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians

The Mid-Eastern Federation of Church Musicians serves as the music ministry for the Metropolis of Detroit as well as for the Metropolis of Pittsburgh. The Federation’s purpose is to be the church music resource for clergy and their parishes, including choirs, chanters, and youth music programs.

Liturgical music plays a central part in our services – the hymns sung in the services are actually beautiful prayers that coincide with the prayers of the priest. These hymns can be chanted by the psaltos, rendered by the choir, and/or sung by the entire congregation. In addition, the chanters and the choir have a vital role during the services – like the angels that sing praises around the throne of God, church musicians are to lead the congregation to worship God and help them experience the beauty and meaning of the services.

Because of this vital role church musicians play, it is important that they strive for excellence in the presentation of the music of the church, much like the iconography of a parish reflects the best of the artists, the buildings reflect excellence in architecture, and the robes, and cloths, and holy vessels reflect beauty in craftsmanship. So one of the major goals of MEFGOX is to provide educational experiences and resources for our church musicians so that the presentation of the hymns can also reflect excellence.

A major venue for accomplishing this goal is during our Annual Choir Conventions. Each year, we present a Church Music Institute as part of our Conventions for the registered participants. A variety of workshops occur during this time, some focusing on choral techniques, others providing theological information about hymns and services, and still others dealing with administrative issues related to maintaining and strengthening parish music programs. Those who attend consistently report their excitement in learning so much new information.

Another learning opportunity presents itself on February 1st at St. George Church in Southgate, MI. Here, participants will be able to experience learning and singing the hymns of an All-Night Vigil for the Feast of Ypapanti. Additionally, speakers will instruct on the structure of an all-night vigil and hymns as the spirit of prayer, plus a panel presentation will share ideas about relationships among clergy, church singers, the faithful, and the texts and music of our hymns. Surely, attending workshops of these types can help to enhance the work of church musicians who are able and willing to attend!

One last avenue for our church musicians to further their knowledge and skills lies in the decision of MEFGOX to create a restricted budget line solely to support individuals to further their church music education. Individual parish church musicians can apply for small continuing education grants to engage in short-term educational experiences, such as workshops, seminars, private lessons, and the like. For those seeking longer-term support for college and university studies, the Federation also has a Memorial Scholarship program to support this type of educational endeavor.

These are the opportunities MEFGOX strives to provide – what is also needed is a parish culture that sets expectations for excellence and continuous improvement so that it becomes a priority for church musicians to participate. We hope this short synopsis illustrates how MEFGOX is creating settings for learning. Reciprocity, however, is also important via the parish level – for instance, clergy articulating high expectations for choir and chanter development and valuing attendance; parish councils considering financial support to motivate participation; and third, the church musicians themselves considering hosting similar learning activities, inviting others in their areas, and seeking the assistance of MEFGOX to do so. We hope all three of these can occur; know that we stand willing to help in any way that we can!

In addition, MEFGOX encourages and helps sponsor local and regional educational workshops. This past fall, Annunciation parish of Akron, Ohio sponsored a weekend retreat to provide experience with the newly-approved translation of the Divine Liturgy and music to accompany it. Several Detroit-area parishes sent their church musicians to take advantage of this learning opportunity as a prelude to implementing the translation and the music in their home parishes. More recently, the Detroit Metro choirs held their own workshop; church musicians who attended this chorally-focused workshop learned many techniques for vocal improvement.
An Honor Flight of Angelic Heroes

BY FR. MICHAEL BAHLATZIS

As a priest, doctor, and retired Air Force officer, I thought I had seen everything. However, it was not until I boarded the Leatherstocking Honor flight when I realized that I was on an airplane filled with true American heroes. This flight departed on Saturday morning of October 27, 2018, from Albany, New York.

Its occupants were unsung patriots who were veterans who had once endured the hardships of war. Some had heard the battle cries of war-torn Europe. Some had experienced the frigid temperatures of the Korean peninsula. Others had been amidst the swampy jungles of Vietnam. These patriots were hosted by the volunteers of the Leatherstocking Honor Flight from the Leatherstocking region of upstate New York. This Honor flight was a regional affiliate of the National Honor Flight Network. The mission of the honor flight is to transport veterans of WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and terminally ill veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their war memorials at no cost to them. Leatherstocking Honor flight believes that this Honor flight is their way of saying to all our veterans: “One more Tour with Honor!” Everything on this flight was free to these patriots. After all, it is the general consensus of this organization that the Honor flight was and is the very least that our country could do for these heroes in view of the sacrifice that these heroes have made for our great nation.

On the morning of their departure, the honor Flight patriots congregated at the airport and were greeted by the cheer of hundreds of friends, family members, and fellow citizens who simply had an inclination and desire to pay their respects by honoring these “angels” of patriotism who once helped to bring freedom to our nation so that we all may enjoy worshipping our Lord and giving God the glory. These enthusiastic spectators gave our angelic heroes the cheer, pomp, and ceremony sending them off with joy and exhilaration in their hearts. For this was the “send off” that these veterans never originally received when going off to war while not ever knowing whether or not they would ever be returning home again. The local congressman gave a welcoming speech which added to the pomp.

The six WWII veterans ranged in age from 92-96, and each joined the flight while being ushered by wheelchairs. The thirteen Korean veterans were ambulatory and anxiously awaited departure of the flight while being accompanied by their guardians. The 31 or so Vietnam War vets were younger but seasoned. They were also excited to be on this journey.

When we arrived at the airport in Baltimore, we were greeted by US Naval Academy cadets (midshipmen) who were decked out in their class “A” uniforms and eager to commiserate with these patriots on the hardships of war. They were truly honored to shake the hands of these angelic heroes. You could see the sincerity in their facial expressions. A member of the Guild of Town Criers dressed in a “Paul Revere-like” attire rang a bell and proclaimed the arrival of the flight and its payload of veterans who were processed through the airport terminal out to awaiting Coach buses. The heroes boarded the buses while wheelchairs and walkers were placed in compartments underneath. The US Park Police provided a lights-and-sirens escort for the buses all the way into the heart of Washington, D.C. and to each and every monument visited.

As a physician and guardian on this trip, I stayed vigilantly on the sidelines hoping that my medical skills would not be needed, considering the age of the group I had accompanied.

My father, Dionysios (Danny), a Korean War vet, was very moved by the realistic nature of the life-size soldier figurines clad in statuesque ponchos portrayed on maneuvers/on patrol in Korea. The WWII vets, who were marines, marveled at the Iwo Jima monument. The monument depicted the American flag being raised up by marines. The illusion of the flag actually seemingly being raised occurs when you walk around the monument. The WWII monument and Vietnam monument were also breathtaking. The Lincoln Memorial was very moving to all these patriots. The ornate statue of President Lincoln sitting and viewing across the plaza with the Washington Monument in the foreground was an awesome sight.

Arlington National Cemetery was a very solemn garden of tombstones. Witnessing the ceremony of the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as an incredible moment for our angelic heroes. The guard knew that these special veterans were in the audience. He could not acknowledge them outwardly so he would scuff his heel during the ceremonial march at the Tomb. This was his way of saying “Greetings fellow military members.”

Watching the facial expressions of these patriots on this Honor Flight was as captivating as the monuments we visited. These unsung veterans of war were angelic as they were now peaceful, God fearing, and awaiting the next chapter in their lives where God awaits to receive them home in His heavenly kingdom. May God bless them and the USA!
Friends of the Metropolis 2018
List of Donors January 1 - November 30

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Monk, Grace
Simpson, Joseph and Jillian
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Stringas, Emanuel

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Zois, Nick and Michelle

Detroit, MI - Annunciation Cathedral
Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos
Manias, Fr. Georgios and Presbytera Maria
Bennert, Constance
Gaggos, Harry and Irene
Gaggos, James and Mary
Inempolidis, Evelyn
In Memory of Helen Fakaros Tyler
Kazolis, Koulia
Lianos, Will and Kim
Politis, Dean L.
Tapazoglou, Nicolas and Christine
Tavoularis, Leonidas

Elmira, NY - St. Athanasios
Scott, Fr. Richard

Farmington Hills, MI - Holy Cross
Holy Cross Philoptochos
Hountalas, Fr. Dean and Presbytera Olga
Artemas, Fr. John and Presbytera Nikie
Casoglos, Thomas and Mary
George, John and Debbie
Katsias, George and Irene

Fort Wayne, IN - Holy Trinity
Holy Trinity Parish
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Walsh, Fr. Andrew and Presbytera Sophia
Baker, John and Konstantina
Maggos, El and Voula
Rongos, Christopher and Katherine
Turner, Christian

Grand Blanc, MI - Assumption
Assumption Parish
Chinonis, Dennis and Debra
Chinonis, Nancy and Jeff Lauster
Hountalas, Dimitri
Hountalas, John and Tasia
Hountalas, Yanni
Kalatjis, Athena
Kallis, Agape
Koloydis, John and Karen
Karabianas, Pavlos and Ruth
Potsos, Emanoull
Schultze, JoAnne
Yeotis, Catherine

Grand Rapids, MI - Holy Trinity
Berends, Fr. James and Presbytera Anne
Cassis, Deacon George and Diakonissa Vicki
Afendoulis, Angelynn
Georges, Mena and Froscene
Gray, Mark and Alexis
Monoyios, Terry and Akriwi
Nicholas, James S.
Petricevic, Mark and Lili
Sinias, Thomas and Michelle

Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine
St. Catherine Parish
Bantuvanis, Ann
Bezirganian, John

Jamesstown, NY - St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas Parish
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Russell, Fr. Jarrod
Cheronis, James and Christine
Frederick, Elizabeth
Turner, Bill and Angie

Kalamazoo, MI - Annunciation
Theoharis, Fr. Theoharis
Ingalls, Robert and Andriana

Lansing, MI - Holy Trinity
Sietsema, Fr. Mark and Presbytera Katherine
Karagoulis, Michael and Lynn
Munk, Jerry and Jan
Pascalenos, Olga
Perentesis, Stephanie
Platsis, George and Barbara

Lexington, KY - Panagia Pantovasilissa
Panagia Pantovasilissa Parish
Panagia Pantovasilissa Philoptochos
Redmon, Fr. William and Presbytera Elizabeth
Arimes, Vickie
Karounos, Dennis and Chrisi
Minor, Tom and Delores

Little Rock, AR - Annunciation
Verdarsis, Fr. Nicholas and Presbytera Maria
Pappas, James and Eva
Vratasinas, Gus M.

Louisville, KY - Assumption
Assumption Philoptochos
Boukis, Fr. Jon and Presbytera Doreece
Wingenbach, Fr. Gregory
Blackford, Charles and Patricia
Makris, Mary
Taylor, Robert

Marquette, MI - Assumption
Wainio, Paul E. and Katherine

Memphis, TN - Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Philoptochos
Thomas, Fr. Simon and Presbytera Stephanie
Hawkins, Charles and Elizabeth
Kay, John and Nancy
Poplos, Ted and Stephanie
Semos, Vassili and Luane
Tobias, Richard and Angela

Middletown, OH - Sts. Constantine and Helen
In Memory of Carol Clore Valen

Muskegon, MI - Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Philoptochos
Sakellariou, Fr. John and Presbytera Pavina
Encelewski, Christine Danigelis
Ladas, Paul and Patricia
Michel, Richard and Teresa

Nashville, TN - Holy Trinity
Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and Presbytera Sofia
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Billo, John and Kassiani
Gore, James and Stacy
Harman, Todd and Dawn
Lamberson, Lambert and Helen
Miller, John M.
Taras, Nick and Donna

Lexington, KY - Panagia Pantovasilissa
Panagia Pantovasilissa Parish
Panagia Pantovasilissa Philoptochos
Redmon, Fr. William and Presbytera Elizabeth
Arimes, Vickie
Karounos, Dennis and Chrisi
Minor, Tom and Delores
Nashville, TN - St. John Chrysostom
Turner, Fr. Panthenios and Presbytera Marion
Courington, Christopher and Shelley Wagner, Charles and Edith

New Buffalo, MI - Annunciation-St. Paraskevi
Martin, Fr. Paul and Presbytera Nikki

Plymouth, MI - Nativity of the Virgin Mary
Nativity of the Virgin Mary Philoptochos
Paulos, Louis
Stassisimos, Lambros and Helen Tsaprazis, Peter and Diane Vardouniotis, Michael Wernette, David and Golfo

Rochester, NY - Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Philoptochos
Maggos, Fr. Angelo and Presbytera Teri
Augustinos, Vasilia Balta, Karen A. Balta, Katheryn Cerniglia, Mary Chamberlain, Elpiniki Colakovski, Hristo and Evgenija Economides, Maria George, Angeline Gines, Maria Kitz, Margie Lacz, Elaine M. Loverde, Maria Pallogudis, Eleni Pink, Kenneth J. Stefanou, Constantine Testa, Jordan Theodorakakos, Dina

Rochester, NY - Holy Spirit
Marcantoni, Fr. Michael and Presbytera Katherine Gesell, Melody A.

Saginaw, MI - St. Demetrios
St. Demetrios Parish
Cook, Fr. Timothy and Presbytera Catherine Bistolarides, Fr. Peter and Presbytera Peggy Ahejew, Petro and Sandra Barris, Thomas and Angela Bazakis, Andrew and Ann Caldwell, Larry and Peggy Houpis, Evan and Candace Metropoulos, Katherine E. Ostler, Dennis and Soula Rouman, George and Frances Stamas, Jim and Marsha

Southgate, MI - St. George
St. George Parish St. George Philoptochos

Cook, Fr. Anthony and Presbytera Elizabeth Anonymous Constantakis, Clarence and Lillian Coloves, Bill and Julie Danckaert, Saraphim and Anne Diamantis, John and Christin Dionysopoulou, Stavros and Eleni In Memory of Spyridon and Vasiliki Nanos Kircos, Lazaros and Paula Kontos, Chris and Frances Kontos, John and Marika Kotronis, George and Stella Liakos, Michael and Karen Minton, Barbara Minton, Nicholas Moody, Rick and Kim Tougas, Christian and Lauren Vougiouklakis, Peter and Christina

Springfield, OH - Assumption
Lagos, James H.

St. Clair Shores, MI - Assumption
Assumption Parish

Sterling Heights, MI - St. John
St. John Parish St. John Philoptochos St. John GOYA Kyritos, Fr. Nicholas George, Christian George, John and Marlo George, Jordan In Memory of Harry Kotsis Kourtessis, Alexander and Irene Kotsis, Andrew and Irene Kotsis, Harry and Katherine Raphitis, E. Mike and Betty Souris, Bernice Tangalos, John and Mary

Syracuse, NY - St. Sophia
Smith, Fr. David and Presbytera Donna Macris, James Dean

Toledo, OH - Holy Trinity Cathedral
Holy Trinity Cathedral Philoptochos Biernacki, Gerald and Pauline Chaka, Bryan and Kathy Jenkins, Steven and Penny Morris, Debra Papadimos, Steven

Sieben, Paul Yakumithis, Emmanuel and Kelly Yakumithis, Manuel K.

Traverse City, MI - Archangel Gabriel
Archangel Gabriel Philoptochos Poumad, John and Nicola Sobkowski, Nikki Underwood, Robert and Theresa Stamos

Troy, MI - St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas Philoptochos Dalamagas, Fr. Chris and Presbytera Niki Arisman, Steve and Anita Carson, Chrysa Karmanos, Peter and Danialle Korstanje, Ingmar and Marlo Liakonis, Chris and Labrini Robert, Kevin and Christine The T.K. Zamptesis Family Foundation Zotos, Gregory

Vestal, NY - Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Bahlaitzis, Fr. Michael and Presbytera Kimberly Gianakouros, Harry and Katie Yacalis, Vasilis and Pamela

Westland, MI - Sts. Constantine and Helen

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Thank you!
Photo Highlights

Ordination to the Diaconate
Vasilis Yacalis
Annunciation Church, Vestal, NY
November 18

Holiday Hoops
St. John Church, Sterling Heights, MI
November 10

Lexington Visit & Baptism
Panagia Pantovasilissa Church, Lexington, KY
November 4

Ordination to the Diaconate
Vasilis Vallas
Holy Trinity Church, Nashville, TN
October 14

“10th on Shelborne” Celebration
Holy Trinity Church, Carmel, IN
September 22

Family Life Center Opening
Annunciation Church, Buffalo, NY
September 15
Dear Friends of the Metropolis

You made a tremendous impact in our Metropolis of Detroit for the year 2018. Because of your love and support for the Friends of the Metropolis program, we have been able to fully fund the continued operation and ministries of our Metropolis. Please know that the Metropolis of Detroit has always had an open financial accounting of our income and expenses.

Every gift to our Metropolis has been spent in accordance with the needs, work, and ministry of our Office for the benefit of our Parishes, our Clergy, our Faithful, and all of our individual ministries.

If you are getting ready to give a donation for the 2019 Friends of the Metropolis program, please remember how your donations are used:

❖ YOU made it possible for Metropolitan Nicholas to accept Archbishop Demetrios’ request for him to be the Metropolitan Locum Tenens of Chicago;

❖ 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;

❖ 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 assured that there is a summer youth camp available to all of our young people;

❖ YOU helped support the annual regional youth lenten retreats;

❖ YOU have been the helping hands who gave through our office to those in need of shelter, clothing, food, and medical supplies;

❖ 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 made it possible for us at the Metropolis to repair the water leaks in the basement of our Metropolis Office;

❖ YOU helped Metropolitan Nicholas assist people in emergency situations in need of financial support;

Thank you for your great stewardship!

God be praised!

Thank You!