

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA  
GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

# THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Volume II, Issue 2

Easter 2010

*Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!*

*Metropolitan Nicholas' Message*

TODAY, HE WHO HUNG THE EARTH UPON THE WATERS IS HUNG UPON THE CROSS. HE WHO IS KING OF THE ANGELS IS ARRAYED IN A CROWN OF THORNS. HE WHO WRAPS THE HEAVENS IN CLOUDS IS WRAPPED IN THE PURPLE OF MOCKERY. HE WHO IN JORDAN SET ADAM FREE RECEIVES BLOW UPON HIS FACE. THE BRIDEGROOM OF THE CHURCH IS TRANSFIXED WITH NAILS. THE SON OF THE VIRGIN IS PIERCED WITH A SPEAR. WE VENERATE YOUR PASSION, O CHRIST. SHOW US ALSO YOUR GLORIOUS RESURRECTION.



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- Bishop's Schedule; MEFGOX Article 2
- Youth News 3
- Philoptochos News; Christian Trivia 4
- The Hope of the Resurrection* 5
- Friends of the Metropolis 6
- News & Events 7

Beloved Family in Christ,  
Christ is Risen!  
Χριστός Ανέστη!

It is with this ancient proclamation of faith that I greet you in the joy of the Resurrected Lord.

My brothers and sisters, it is this one phrase — that Jesus the Messiah was resurrected from the dead — which gave a unique character to the witness of the early Christian community. Beginning with the eye witnesses in Jerusalem of the Resurrected Christ and going out to all parts of the world, it is this certainty which is at the heart of the Christian message.

Surely there are some modernists who would like to deny the truth of the Resurrection of Christ. Why should people be any different than at the time of Jesus? How can we forget that even the Gospel narratives indicate that some people tried to explain away the Resurrection? The Gospel tells us that some tried to say that the tomb was empty because the disciples stole the body. (Mt 28:11-15)

But even though the empty tomb plays an important part

in the Gospel narrative regarding the Resurrection of Christ, the early Christian community did not base its faith in the Resurrected Lord on that piece of the story. It was not the empty tomb which proved to them that Jesus was resurrected from the dead.

No, quite the opposite. While the empty tomb gave a first hint as to the wonder that was to come, even the disciples were not certain what the empty tomb meant. Peter had run to the empty tomb, and Luke records that Peter “left the empty tomb wondering to himself what had happened.” (Lk 24:12)

The truth of the Resurrection was sealed into the heart of the early Church because the first Christians saw the Resurrected Lord.

Mary saw the Resurrected Lord and thought He was the gardener (Jn 20:15; see Mt 28:8); He appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13); the Resurrected Lord appeared to the disciples in the locked room (Jn 20:19. Lk 24:36); and again the Lord appeared to the Disciples at their boats (Jn 21); and to hundreds on the

mountainside (I Cor 15:6). And these recorded instances are but a few of the encounters with the Resurrected Lord.

It is the Resurrected Christ Who is the cornerstone and foundation of our faith. At this sacred Pascha, it is my prayer that each of us will encounter the Resurrected Lord, and that seeing Him we will truly receive our calling as sons and daughters of the Most High God. May He dwell in our hearts and our homes, just as He is found in our Churches, in deeds of loving kindness, in almsgiving, in aid and love to the poor and needy, and in comfort to the sick and suffering.

As were the first followers of Jesus, I pray that we, too, shall be eyewitnesses of the Resurrected Savior, and that we shall likewise proclaim His message to the ends of the earth, for

Christ is Risen!  
Truly He is Risen!

With all paternal love and prayers in the Risen Christ,

+Metropolitan Nicholas

## BISHOP'S SCHEDULE

## APRIL

1	<i>Holy Thursday Morning</i>	<b>St. Spyridon Chapel</b> - Metropolis Center, Troy, MI
	<i>Holy Thursday Evening</i>	<b>St. George Church</b> - Southgate, MI
2	<i>Holy Friday Morning</i>	Visitation of local parishes to see the <i>Epitaphio</i>
	<i>Holy Friday Evening</i>	<b>Annunciation Cathedral</b> - Detroit, MI
3	<i>Holy Saturday Morning</i>	<b>St. Nicholas Church</b> - Troy, MI
4	<b>+Holy Pascha</b>	<b>Assumption Church</b> - Flint, MI
	<i>Pascha Agape Vespers</i>	<b>Sts. Constantine and Helen Church</b> - Westland, MI
19 - 22	<i>Archdiocesan Synod</i>	<b>Archdiocesan Center</b> - New York, NY
25 - May 3	<i>Patriarchal Synod Meeting</i>	<b>Ecumenical Patriarchate</b> - Turkey

## MAY

6 - 8	<i>Archdiocesan Council Meeting</i>	<b>Atlanta, GA</b>
12 - 14	<i>ABS Board of Trustees Meeting</i>	<b>New York, NY</b>
15	<i>Metropolis Oratorical Festival</i>	<b>Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Church</b> - Cincinnati, OH
15 - 16	<i>Centennial Banquet &amp; Liturgy</i>	<b>Annunciation Cathedral</b> - Detroit, MI
18	<i>Clergy Meeting</i>	<b>St. George Church</b> - Southgate, MI
20 - 21	<i>Patron Feast Vespers &amp; Liturgy</i>	<b>Sts. Constantine and Helen Church</b> - Westland, MI
25 - 28	<i>Episcopal Assembly</i>	<b>New York, NY</b>

## WHAT IS MEFGOX?

By Barbara Minton

What is MEFGOX? Although MEFGOX has been around for over sixty years, there is still confusion about what it is. Perhaps I can clarify this. MEFGOX is the acronym for the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians. (Originally the X stood for the Greek chorodia.) All the parishes of the Metropolis are able to be members of the Mid-Eastern Federation, simply by making an annual

stewardship contribution. This stewardship covers all the church musicians in the parish: choir directors, singers, organists, chanters, clergy, and Church School music coordinators. (Thus the change in name to church musicians.) The purpose of the Federation is to assist parishes develop their church music programs – by



presenting training programs, providing resources, offering assistance, and offering scholarships. The business of the Federation is presented annually to young people who are active church musicians in their parishes and wish to continue their music studies. Scholarships are also available to adults, who want to improve their directing, vocal, or accompanying skills in order to serve our Holy Orthodox Church. For more information about the Federation or for scholarship/stewardship forms, please visit our website:

<http://mideastern.churchmusic.goarch.org>

ings. Scholarships are award-

YOUTH NEWS *by Eva Kokinos*

## ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL



Introduced in 1983, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides Greek Orthodox teenagers the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. The Oratorical Festival Program is divided into two divisions; the Junior Division for students in the 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grades and the Senior Division for teenagers in the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

The top speakers in each division advance to the district level and if selected become one of two finalists in their division to represent their district at their Metropolis Oratorical Festival. The top speaker in each division is then selected to participate in the Archdiocese Finals, which is hosted by a different Metropolis each year.

The Metropolis of Detroit offers \$500 to the top Junior and Senior Division finalists of the Metropolis Finals who move on to participate in the National Finals.

At the National Finals, the Oratorical Festival Scholarship Foundation provides college scholarships in the amount of \$2000, \$1500, and \$1000 to the top three speakers in each division. In addition, those finalists who receive a rank of Honorable Mention are awarded a \$500 United States Savings Bond.

Please support your parish, District, and Metropolis Oratorical Festivals. See the calendar below for the festival near you!

## SUMMER CAMPS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The Metropolis of Detroit is blessed to have three summer camps for the youth of the Metropolis. Don't forget to plan for summer camp this year. All of our camps need fantastic campers AND enthusiastic camp staff! Contact the camp of your area for more details or contact [youth@detroit.goarch.org](mailto:youth@detroit.goarch.org) for more information.

**MDSC (Rose City, MI)**

*www.gomdsc.org or call 248.909.MDSC*

*2010 Season begins June 27, 2010*

**ST. NICHOLAS SUMMER CAMP (Pleasantville, TN)**

*www.southerncamp.com or 248.823.2411*

*2010 Dates: June 27-July 2, 2010*

**ST. TIMOTHY SUMMER CAMP (Croghan, NY)**

*www.sttimothycamp.org or 315.446.5222*

*2010 Dates: August 7-13, 2010*



## YOUTH OFFICE CALENDAR

April 17, 2010	<b>St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival: Michigan District Finals</b> <i>St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI</i>
April 18, 2010	<b>St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival: Southern District Finals</b> <i>Holy Trinity Church—Nashville, TN</i>
April 18, 2010	<b>St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival: New York District Finals</b> <i>St. Sophia Church—Syracuse, NY</i>
April 25, 2010	<b>St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival: Central District Finals</b> <i>Annunciation Church—Dayton, OH</i>
May 15, 2010	<b>St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival: Metropolis Finals</b> <i>Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Church—Cincinnati, OH</i>

Visit us on  or join our e-Newsletter!!! Email at [youth@detroit.goarch.org](mailto:youth@detroit.goarch.org) for details!!!

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

*"Together Everyone  
Achieves More"*

By Eleni Zaferes

**X**RISTOS ANESTI! The Spring Luncheon "Festival of Flowers" hosted by the Metropolis Philoptochos Board on April 10<sup>th</sup> in Ann Arbor, MI was a wonderful day of fellowship. The beautiful floral arrangements provided by the Table Hostesses adorning the tables brought Spring into everyone's hearts. Student musicians Andreas Xenopoulos and Mariangela Chatzistamatiou enlightened us with classical and folk music selections. It is truly rewarding to witness the talents of our young adults. Thank you to those attendees and to the supporters that made this event a huge success. Through this event our

philanthropic arm will continue to reach those in need.

The St. Nicholas Philoptochos of Troy, MI hosted a Lenten retreat on March 13<sup>th</sup> which brought together women from the greater Metro Detroit area. Father Irenaeus Cox of St. Demetrios in Saginaw, MI spoke and inspired everyone on how we are the "Salt of the Earth" and about the balance that is needed in our lives. We thank the Philoptochos of St. Nicholas for hosting this day of spiritual reflection.

On May 15<sup>th</sup> the Philoptochos chapter of Holy Cross, Farmington Hills, MI will sponsor their annual Salad Luncheon and Fashion Show. For more information please contact the Philoptochos chapter of

Holy Cross. We hope to see many Philoptochos women support this event.

Each month Philoptochos chapters designate philanthropic charities to support. They expand their projects to include the entire parish. In this way, everyone becomes a part of the Philoptochos mission. Please assist the Philoptochos women in your parish to assist those less fortunate either within the parish or for outreach philanthropy.

Thank you for the support to the "Partners in Philanthropy" program. Through your generosity this program is able to assist those within our local parishes with short term needs. This program will continue as the economic difficulties that plague many of our families and friends grow greater. If

you would like to contribute to this philanthropic program or know of someone who is in need please contact your local Philoptochos chapter or the Metropolis Board through the Metropolis Center for information.

Nationally, the Metropolis of Detroit chapters support the ministries through the National commitments that are approved by the delegates at the National Conventions. In the year 2009 close to \$2 Million was distributed by the National Board to these commitments and other philanthropies. Another \$125,000 was distributed over the past 2 months.

We invite all Orthodox women in every parish to join the mission of Philoptochos by working together as a TEAM to assist those less fortunate. "Together Everyone Achieves More." ♦



Metropolis Philoptochos Meeting, March 12

## CHRISTIAN TRIVIA

*Did you know that...*

- Christianity is the world's most widespread religion.
- The oldest almost-complete manuscript of the Bible still existing is the Codex Vaticanus, da-

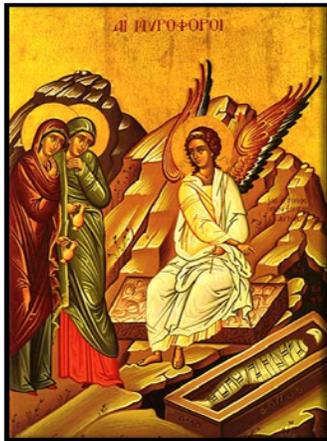
ting from the first half of the 4th century, now held in the Vatican library.

- Orthodox Christians number about 215 million worldwide, with about 5.6 million in the United States.

- The five largest Orthodox Churches in the world are: Russian (70 to 100 million)
- Romanian (15 million)
- Greek (13 million)
- Serbian (8 million)
- Bulgarian (8 million)
- The name "Easter" has its

- roots in ancient polytheistic religions.
- The word *Bible* comes from the Greek word for "papyrus plant" (*biblos*), since the leaves of that plant were used for paper.

## THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION



By Fr. Aristotle Damascos

*“Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” Mark 16:3*

This was the question of the Myrrh-Bearing women as they went in anticipation to the tomb on early Sunday morning, to anoint the body of Jesus. This they did to fulfill the requirement of the Jewish law and also as a sign of love for their Master. Yet, to their amazement when they arrived at the grave site, the stone that they feared, had been rolled away, and a young man clothed in white gave them the glad tidings and said, “He is not here. He is Risen!”

Imagine if these

three women had allowed their fear of the giant stone to stop them from going to Christ, they would not have heard nor experienced the Resurrection of the Lord.

To be sure, we are living in pressing times, unemployment is at an unprecedented high, and we hear of more and more home foreclosures. A feeling of uncertainty permeates our lives.

Unfortunately, fear

on any level has the capability to cripple and prevent us from living our lives to their fullest, because there is that persistent anxiety of the ‘other shoe falling,’ making our already taxed lives, even more challenged. What becomes even more onerous is that we allow our fears and apprehensions to block us from going to Jesus Christ in order to re-

ceive His forgiveness, restoration and hope for our lives. We allow the ‘stones of this life,’ despair, sin, broken marriages, sickness, being at odds with others, hatred, financial worries, death, depression, wars and pride, to separate us from the love of God.

Thankfully, my brothers and sisters, we are blessed with the message of the Resurrection, which brings to us hope and renewal. It

is the reality that the Risen Christ is the only one who is willing and able to roll away those ‘stones in our lives,’ which prevent us from living full and productive spiritual lives. We, however, must approach Him in prayer, with sincerity, humility, patience, love, and with the anticipation that Christ is real and He wants to bring healing to our lives. After all, *“The LORD is close to the bro-*

*kenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”* Psalm 34:18

Therefore, as we celebrate this glorious season of Pascha, let us re-examine ourselves and explore what ‘stones in our lives’ need moving. May we avail ourselves to the Sacrament of Confession, as that perfect leverage to push away those oppressive boulders that life and the ‘evil one’ hurls at us.

Finally, and most importantly, let us prepare and partake of Holy Communion throughout this Holy Season and allow the love and healing power of the Risen Jesus Christ to fill our very presence, so we may become victorious and bold in our faith and encourage one another that our God is a great and marvelous God who works wonders in our lives ♦

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Fr. Aristotle Damascos serves the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Toledo, OH, and is president of the Metropolis Clergy Synodesoms.

*Let us re-examine ourselves and explore what ‘stones in our lives’ need moving...*

## FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS (AS OF MARCH 31, 2010)

**+His Eminence  
Metropolitan Nicholas**

**Ann Arbor, MI  
St. Nicholas**

St. Nicholas Parish  
St. Nicholas Philoptochos  
Kotsis, Fr. Nicolaos and  
Presbyteria Sandra  
Paul, Presbyteria Eva  
Bekiares, Penelope A.  
Fry, Jack D.  
Grias-Radwanskim Sophia  
Kales, Anthony and Joyce  
Vlahadamis, Kosta

**Bloomfield Hills, MI  
St. George**

St. George Parish

**Buffalo, NY  
Annunciation**

Christakis, Fr. Christos and  
Presbyteria Lisa

**Carmel, IN - Holy Trinity**

Pappas, Vicki

**Chattanooga, TN  
Annunciation**

Mousourakis, Donna  
Soufleris, Adam and Nickie

**Cincinnati, OH  
Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas**

HTSN Philoptochos  
Assaley, Lewis and Patricia  
Moraites, Dena

**Farmington Hills, MI  
Holy Cross**

Stefanakis, George and Ter-  
rie

**Fort Wayne, IN  
Holy Trinity**

Doublas, Gregory  
Spirou, Arthur and Mary

Turner, Christian

**Grand Rapids, MI  
Holy Trinity**

Nicholas, Jim and Georgia

**Indianapolis, IN  
Holy Apostles Mission**

Gus Karozos

**Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine**

Bezirgianian, John

**Lansing, MI  
Holy Trinity**

Joseph, Yvonne  
Sweeney, Evie Zois

**Lexington, KY  
Panagia Pantovasilissa**

Hostetter, Mr. and Mrs.  
Nicholas  
Kiriocopoulos, Ken and Kate  
Pandaru, Andronica

**Memphis, TN  
Annunciation**

Gallagher, Evangelia

**Muskegon, MI  
Annunciation**

Annunciation Parish  
Mot, Fr. Catalin and Pres-  
byteria Felicia

**Yankopoulos, Presbyteria**

Ann  
Achterhoff, Christina  
Afendoulis, Alexander J.  
Afendulis, James  
Afendoulis, Magdalene  
Afendulis, Phyllis G.  
Baker, Georgia J.

Baldas, Voula  
Bati, John  
Bouth, Mike  
Clark, Ken and Nicci  
Davros, Nickolas J. and Fami-  
ly  
Douville, Farrell and Mary

Dreleozis, George  
Encelewski, Christine D.  
Hoopes, Kenneth and Maria  
Karis, Othon and Kristi  
Lutz, Helen Innis  
McNutt, Angela C.  
Micheil, Rich and Teresa  
Nace, Doru  
Oravitan, Ionut  
Pallas, Tom  
Peliotes, Gust and Ethel  
Riekse, Max and Nelly  
Roldan, Martha  
Soimar, Michael and Corina  
Stathas, Nick and Rita

**Nashville, TN  
Holy Trinity**

Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and  
Presbyteria Sofia  
Vaporis, Fr. George and  
Presbyteria Kalliopi  
Kirk, Benedict  
Rogers, Helen and Lawrence  
Kamm

**New Buffalo, MI  
Annunciation/**

**St. Paraskevi**  
Polymeris, Spiros and Donna

**Plymouth, MI  
Nativity of the Virgin**

**Mary**  
Sarelis, Fr. Charles

**Rochester, NY  
Annunciation**

Gines, George Family  
Stefanou, Gus and Florence

**Rochester, NY  
Holy Spirit**

Holy Spirit Philoptochos  
Cowles, Fr. Patrick and  
Presbyteria Mary  
Chilas, Diane  
Ginis, Panos

Sexton, Katherine L.

**Saginaw, MI  
St. Demetrios**

Cox, Fr. Irenaeus and Pres-  
byteria Alexandra  
Ahejew, Petro and Samdra  
Caldwell, Larry and Peggy

**Southgate, MI  
St. George**

Kontos, John and Marika  
Minton, Barbara  
Minton, Charles  
Nanos, Vasiliki

**Syracuse, NY  
St. Sophia**

Smith, Fr. David and Pres-  
byteria Donna

**Toledo, OH  
Holy Trinity Cathedral**

Damaskos, Fr. Aristotle and  
Presbyteria Debbie  
Sieben, Paul

**Traverse City, MI  
Archangel Gabriel**

Olechnowicz, Fr. Iakovos  
and Pres. Joleen

**Troy, MI - St. Nicholas**

Demery, Beck

**Watertown, NY  
St. Vasilios**

St. Vasilios Parish

**Westland, MI  
Sts. Constantine & Helen**

Sts. Constantine and Helen  
GOYA

**Other Friends**

Bartz, Fr. Bill and Presbyt-  
era Emily, Dumfries, VA ♦

METROPOLIS NEWS

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

The University of Michigan Modern Greek Program in Ann Arbor, Michigan has become an examination center for the "Certificate of Attainment in

Greek Language" which is issued by the Greek Ministry of Education. In the past, individuals in the Midwest had to travel to Chicago to take the examination. This examination is for all individuals of all ages and back-

grounds seeking the official "Certificate of Attainment in Greek Language". With this certificate one can prove anywhere in the world that the Greek state has officially recognized their proficiency in the

Greek language. A special thank you to Professor Vassilios Lambropoulos, University of Michigan and Mr. George Reganis, Co-Chairperson Metropolis of Detroit Greek Language and Culture Committee.

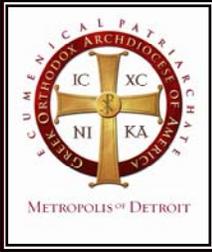
**The Hellenic community of greater Detroit will celebrate Greek Independence Day on Sunday, April 18, 2010**

In the spirit of unity, the Hellenic community of greater Detroit will celebrate Greek Independence Day as a symbol of our national renaissance. We have every reason to be proud of our inheritance and together with pride showcase Hellenism and its traditions! Your support is very important. Please help us make this day a memorable for Hellenism and particularly our children and grand children that seem to enjoy it so much.

PARADE Weekend - Schedule of Events

- \* **Friday April 16 (6-9 pm) - Preview the New Hellenic Museum of Michigan;**
- \* **Saturday April 17 - Preview Dinner Dance & Hellenic Heritage Awards;**
- \* **Sunday April 18 (10:30 am) - Hierarchical Liturgy & Doxology @ Annunciation Cathedral, Detroit**
- \* **Sunday April 18 (2:15 pm) - Dignitary Reception @ 1001 Woodward Ave, Detroit**
- \* **Sunday April 18 (3:00 pm sharp) - GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE**

*The famous Laographikos Omilos Kouriton from the Island of Crete under the leadership of their director Manolis Pattakos will lead the parade and perform at all the events.*



2560 CROOKS ROAD  
TROY, MI 48084

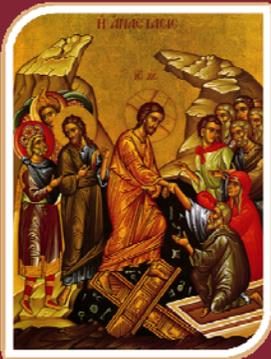
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### THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

## FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS

### What Does Friends of the Metropolis Support?

**General:** Fully fund the expenses of the Metropolis offices, programs and travels.

**Education:** Enhance scholarships and adult education programs, as well as support the Metropolis students at Hellenic College/Holy Cross.

**Support:** Develop and provide educational and instructional seminars and services to clergy and parishes.

**Youth:** Maintain and support the youth office and activities of a full-time Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director.

**Outreach/Missions:** Create opportunities to introduce our faith to society, participate in inter-Christian and inter-faith activities as well as provide quick responses to national disasters.

**Hellenism:** Develop programs for Hellenic Cultural Outreach, including language, history and arts.

**Leadership:** Organize Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conferences, Oratorical Festivals, Christmas Pageants and Adult Education Programs.

**Special Programs:** Website development, hospitality to visiting dignitaries and guests, Charity and Philanthropy.

### Dear Friends of the Metropolis:

Dear Friends of the Metropolis:

God has called us to do mighty deeds for the glory of His name and for the love of His people.

You are called upon to join in this reality of "faith working through love" as we continue to manifest the love of God for His Church and His people.

When you support the Friends of the Metropolis campaign, you are part of a greater outreach that proclaims with one universal voice that God is truly our hope and our rock of salvation.

Because of your devotion and help to the Friends

program, ministries and programs are implemented on a Metropolis-wide basis which strengthen and enhance our faith and our joint ministry of service.

If you have not yet become part of the Metropolis-wide effort, I would like to invite you to join forces with the faithful throughout our Metropolis in support of the ministries which are part of the Office of the Metropolitan.

Thanking you for your kind and generous response, I remain, with paternal blessing and prayers,

+NICHOLAS  
Metropolitan Of Detroit

I am pleased to support the work of Metropolitan Nicholas and the Metropolis through the Annual Metropolis Stewardship "Friends" Program

Send this card in an envelope to:  
The Metropolis of Detroit  
2560 Crooks Road, Troy, MI 48084

\$25     \$50     \$100     \$250     \$500     \$1000     Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parish Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed (payable to the Metropolis of Detroit)

Please Charge My Credit Card     Visa     MasterCard

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_