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 (1 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
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 conducted by the Federation Council which meets once during the year and at the annual convention. Ideally, each parish should send representatives to these meetings. Scholarships are awarded 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
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 7th to 9th grades and the Senior Division for teenagers in the 10th to 12th 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 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

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 17, 2010</td>
<td>St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival: Michigan District Finals</td>
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<td>St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18, 2010</td>
<td>St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival: Southern District Finals</td>
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<td>Holy Trinity Church—Nashville, TN</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25, 2010</td>
<td>St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival: Central District Finals</td>
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<td>Annunciation Church—Dayton, OH</td>
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<td>May 15, 2010</td>
<td>St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival: Metropolis Finals</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas Church—Cincinnati, OH</td>
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Visit us on Facebook or join our e-Newsletter!!! Email at youth@detroit.goarch.org for details!!!
The Shepherd’s Staff

Philoptochos News

By Eleni Zaferes

CHRISTOS ANESTI!
The Spring Luncheon “Festival of Flowers” hosted by the Metropolis Philoptochos Board on April 10th 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 13th which brought together women from the greater Metro Detroit area. Father Ireneaus 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 15th 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.”

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, dating 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.

Sources: http://didyouknow.org/fastfacts/religion
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 receive 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 brokenhearted 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.

Fr. Aristotle Damascos serves the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Toledo, OH, and is president of the Metropolis Clergy Syndesoms.
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. Nicolas
Presbytera Sandra
Paul, Presbytera Eva
Bekiares, Penelope A.
Fry, Jack D.
Grias-Radwanski Sophia
Kales, Anthony and Joyce
Vlahadakis, Kosta

Bloomfield Hills, MI
St. George
St. George Parish

Buffalo, NY
Annunciation
Christakis, Fr. Chris and
Presbytera Lisa

Carmel, IN - Holy Trinity
Pappas, Vicki

Chattanooga, TN
Annunciation
Mousourakis, Donna
Soulieris, 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 Terrie

Fort Wayne, IN
Holy Trinity
Doublas, Gregory
Spirou, Arthur and Mary

Grand Rapids, MI
Holy Trinity
Nicholas, Jim and Georgia

Indianapolis, IN
Holy Apostles Mission
GusKarozos

Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine
Bezirghanian, John

Lansing, MI
Holy Trinity
Joseph, Yvonne
Sweeney, Evic Zois

Lexington, KY
Panagia Pantovasilissa
Hostetter, Mr. and Mrs.
Nicholas
Kiriacopoulos, Ken and Kate
Pandarou, Andronica

Memphis, TN
Annunciation
Gallagher, Evangela

Muskegon, MI
Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Mot, Fr. Catalin and Presbytera Felicia
Yankopoulos, Presbytera 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 Family
Douville, Farrell and Mary

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

Nashville, TN
Holy Trinity
Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and Presbytera Sofia
Vaporis, Fr. George and Presbytera 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 Presbytera Mary
Chilas, Diane
Ginis, Panos

Saginaw, MI
St. Demetrios
Cox, Fr. Irenaeus and Presbytera Alexandra
Ahejew, Petro and Sandra
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 Presbytera Donna

Toledo, OH
Holy Trinity Cathedral
Damoskos, Fr. Aristotile and Presbytera 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 Presbytera Emily, Dumfries, VA

Sexton, Katherine L.
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 backgrounds 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.
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:

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*

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**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__________