Beloved in the Lord,

After having finished a task, have you ever felt that if you were to start over you would do it differently? Have you ever wanted to start again?

My dear family in Christ, September is an opportunity for us to start over. We have finished our summer vacations, the school year is gearing up, and everything — even in the parish communities — is coming back to its normal rhythm.

So it is a time for us to start over and to make good on those kinds of things which we realized we could have done differently — and I dare say, better.

One of the issues that we should be concerned about is our worship and prayer life. Sometimes we have thought that it matters little when we arrive at our church services, because it always seems the same. Maybe it’s time for us to take a renewed look at what it truly means for us to come together as a community to worship God. Maybe we will more seriously consider the fact that our own personal prayer is key in placing ourselves within a genuine Christian framework. Our worship and prayer life are key testimonies in our response to God and the many blessings which He has given us.

Another area that we need to rethink is our involvement in the Christian education of our children. What example of Christian faith and practice will they inherit from us? An example of faith or of indifference? We truly witness to these issues when our own example of Christian living does not inspire our children to become stronger Christians, able to explain the faith of the Orthodox.

How can we begin again this September? Well, look at the following ideas and let some work for you:

- Come to Church regularly — be on time!
- Encourage your children to attend Sunday School; discuss what they are learning;
- Discuss your faith with your family;
- Attend your parish Bible Study;
- Prepare for and receive communion regularly;
- Hang your icons at home, light a candle, and pray….

With prayers for a renewed beginning...

Metropolitan Nicholas

On September 2, 2011 the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew officially informed His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios that the request for resignation and retirement by His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh was received and accepted by the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, at their meeting of August 29th and 30th.

In accordance with the procedures of our Archdiocese, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios has appointed His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit as the Locum Tenens (Interim Administrator) effective immediately until the election of the new Metropolitan of Pittsburgh takes place.
### Bishop’s Schedule Highlights

#### August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 - 7</td>
<td>Ordination of Fr. John Afendoulis (for the Metropolis)</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Church - Grand Rapids, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Parish Visitation</td>
<td>Assumption Church - St. Clair Shores, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vespers &amp; Thyranoixia</td>
<td>Assumption Church - Grand Blanc, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Dormition of the Theotokos</td>
<td>Holy Cross Church - Farmington Hills, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 - 28</td>
<td>Ordination of Fr. John (Hayden) Haby</td>
<td>Assumption Church - Springfield, OH</td>
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</tbody>
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#### September

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Nativity of the Theotokos Great Vespers</td>
<td>Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church - Plymouth, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nativity of the Theotokos Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church - Plymouth, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church - Plymouth, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Elevation of the Cross Great Vespers</td>
<td>Holy Cross Church - Farmington Hills, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Elevation of the Cross Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Holy Cross Church - Farmington Hills, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 - 16</td>
<td>American Bible Society Meeting</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Hierarchical Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>Holy Cross Church - Farmington Hills, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 - 22</td>
<td>Strategic Planning Committee for the Archdiocese</td>
<td>NYC</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 - 27</td>
<td>Speed of Trust Training</td>
<td>Sts. Constantine &amp; Helen Church - Westland, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 - Oct. 1</td>
<td>Metropolis Clergy Laity &amp; Philoptochos Assembly</td>
<td>Sts. Constantine &amp; Helen Church - Westland, MI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Thank you!

Dear Metropolitan Nicholas,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the generous $500 scholarship for this year’s Metropolis Oratorical Festival.

I so enjoy participating in this festival and look forward to representing the Metropolis of Detroit in Houston, TX this June.

Χριστός Ανέστη,

Andrea Tsatalis
GET THE WORD OUT – Reach out to youth and parents to get them excited about the new year’s programs. Here are a few suggestions:

SNAIL MAIL IS YOUR FRIEND: Don’t underestimate the power of the US Postal Service! Send a postcard or flyer to the youth and parents of your community. You can also add something to the parish bulletin or mailing. Get them excited about the upcoming events and make them feel like they are welcome!

EMAIL BLAST: Send out a few emails to welcome everyone back from vacation. People get email at work, at home, and on their iPhones or Blackberry! So send out those emails and get the word out about the new year!

WEB PRESENCE: Think about posting information on your parish website. Consult with your parish priest and discuss the possibility of starting a Facebook page for your youth group. There is a Facebook page for the National GOYA Ministries.

PHONE CALLS: Good old fashioned conversation!!! What better way to connect with people than with a personal phone call. Recruit other adult volunteers to help handle some of the phone calls. Inform parents about the upcoming events and offer to update their contact information for future communication!

GET RESOURCES – Here are a few places to find very helpful resources to get youth programs moving.

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese – Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries: The Youth Department offers a wide variety of resources for youth workers, as well as teens. Visit www.youth.goarch.org for a list of resources.

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit—Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries: The Metropolis Youth Office provides resources, as well as youth worker support for parishes. Please visit www.detroit.goarch.org or contact Eva Kokinos (youth@detroit.goarch.org) for details.

Orthodox Marketplace – Find books, CDs, and the resources from the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Visit www.orthodoxmarketplace.com.

Orthodox Christian Network – OCN offers radio programs and podcasts that are geared specifically to teens. Visit www.myocn.net to find OTTO (Orthodox Teen Talk Online).

IDEAS FOR EVENTS — Need ideas? Here are a few to get started!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT: Gather youth and parents for food, games, crafts, Bible Study, and more. This is a great opportunity to present the year’s schedule and discuss other youth ideas with parents.

YOUTH MIXER: A new ecclesiastical year might bring new members to your youth groups. Kick start the year by offering social events that help young people get to know each other. Don’t forget to incorporate great icebreakers and teambuilding activities to build a sense of community!

YOUTH SUNDAY: Get the youth AND the entire parish excited about the youth ministry programs of the community by designating a Sunday in September as Youth Sunday. Offer youth an opportunity to serve in different ways (ushers, greeters, reader for the Epistle). After Divine Liturgy, youth ministry leaders can be available to meet with parents for signing up and distributing the youth event schedule.

YOUTH BRAINSTORM: Gather the teens of your youth group for a night of pizza and brainstorming. Using the Four Circles of Youth Ministry (Worship, Witness, Service, and Fellowship) as a guideline, offer teens an evening to brainstorm what they would like to accomplish during the year.

Published in the August 19, 2010 Youth Worker PULSE, the weekly Listserv of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/GOAMetropolisofDetroitYouthOffice
**Philoptochos News**

*By Eleni Zaferes*

Plans are underway for the upcoming Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Conference in conjunction with the Metropolis Clergy Laity at Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Westland, MI September 28th - October 1st. Delegates will discuss not only chapter and Metropolis concerns but also National concerns and the new National Capital Campaign for the new National Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy, The Vefa fundraising event successfully raised approximately $40,000 for this new Philoptochos endeavor. During the summer months most Philoptochos chapters do not meet, however their mission to help others and be the right hand of the Church continues. The Metropolis Board also continues to assist those in our parishes needing help through the Partners in Philanthropy program. In particular, the Dayton, OH chapter has successfully developed a Community Care Ministry which targets and supports area outreach programs on a monthly basis.

**MEFGOX News**

*By Irene Georgantas*

On July 14-17th the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (MEFGOX) held its 64th annual convention in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We were graciously hosted by Father Nikolaos Kotisis Prostames, the choir and community of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. There were 107 singers in attendance during the weekend of activities. Niki Wardner and her committee saw to every detail and delivered a well-planned convention. With the support of the National Forum of Church Musicians, several Church Music Institutes were held with presenters Pam Cramer, of Houston, Texas, Father Irenaeus Cox, of Saginaw, Michigan, and Dr. Mitsias, of Detroit. Over the last several years the instruction has focused on achieving excellence in vocal production, the learning of chant, and learning more about our faith and musical traditions. We were graced by the presence of His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas three out of the four days.

The weekend culminated with the presentation of Chris Zervos’s second liturgical arrangement. Chris, who is from Toledo, is a long-term member of the Federation, having held numerous positions in MEFGOX as well as the National Forum. The lit-
**Month of August dedicated to Panagia**

*By Fr. Michael Varlamos*  

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many agree that the month of August is dedicated to the Mother of God. We are therefore encouraged to take time and reflect on the person of the Virgin Mary as the one selected by God to be His earthly Mother and our role model for true Orthodox Christianity. Let us briefly see why.

The Virgin Mary had placed God at the center of her life. She was not a part-time follower, as we should not be part-time Christians. God was not simply a part of her life, but the essence of it.

The Theotokos teaches us that she freely chose to join herself to God. “Behold, the handmaiden of the Lord…” (Luke 1:38), she said. God did not force her to enter into a relationship with Him, just as He does not force us to believe in Him. God stands at the door of our heart and knocks. He invites us everyday to let Him in.

The Theotokos is a perfect example of humility. The origin of the word “humility” literally means to be “down to earth.” That is, we must have a humble relationship with God and others. Pride, on the other hand, causes us to view ourselves as the center of our reality and that all others, even God, as objects that revolve around our self-centeredness. The Theotokos was just as human as we all are, but through her humility she joined herself to God and became “full of grace.”

Finally, the Panagia, by humbly and freely choosing to place God at the center of her life, experienced ultimate communion with God. This of course is the desire of every Orthodox Christian. We, as she did, must place our relationship with God above all other priorities in our life. If our relationship with God is sound, then the foundations are laid for all other relationships in our lives to be godly.

Let us embark upon this holy season asking for her intercessions as she guides us to her Son and our God by word and example. Let us in humility freely choose to place God at the center of our life, entering in communion with Him, that we may experience what it means to have true Christian joy.

In Christ,

+Fr. Michael

*Fr. Michael Varlamos is the Presiding Priest at the Assumption Church in St. Clair Shores, MI.*

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**MEFGOX News continued...**

The Liturgicalurgy was very capably directed by Evey Simon from Troy’s St. Nicholas Church. Evey was awarded the Athenagoras Medal at the Saturday evening Banquet for her outstanding contribution to her church and Metropolis musical programs. She has served as clinician for numerous workshops and served as Guest Director for our Federation and others. In addition to the usual members who attend, this year we were blessed to have with us a group of talented young adults and teens who sounded like a chorus of angels. Evey took them under her wing and worked with them during the weekend so that they contributed their own parts to the Liturgy and also participated with the mass choir. They also entertained us on Friday evening with a Talent Show.

MEFGOX also has a longstanding memorial scholarship program to promote the study of music, conducting, learning of piano or organ, and chant. This year the Federation was able to award four scholarships to worthy recipients from across the Detroit and Pittsburgh Metropolises. Next year’s convention will be held in Rocky River, Ohio, St. Demetrios Church.

Irene Georgantas  
MEFGOX President
Friends of the Metropolis (as of July 31, 2011)

Ann Arbor, MI - St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas Parish
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Kotsis, Fr. Nikolaos and
Presbytera Sandra
Bekiares, Christopher and
Margarita

Buffalo, NY - Annunciation
Kallis, Fr. Perry and
Presbytera Cassandra
Phufas, Ellene

Carmel, IN - Holy Trinity
Gounaris, Fr. Anastasios and
Presbytera Maria
Karais, Gus and Maritsa
Kourmoulos, Mario and Karen
Kyriakopoulos, Chris
Latter, Chris and Toni
Pappas, Vicki
Zeheralis, Gail

Chattanooga, TN –
Annunciation
Mousourakis, John and Donna

Cincinnati, OH
Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas
HTSN Philoptochos
HTSN GOYA

Dayton, OH- Annunciation
Kakas, Berdi

Elmira, NY – St. Athanasios
Vardakis, Paul and Thea

Fort Wayne, IN
Holy Trinity
Doublas, Gregory
Maggos, Eleftherios and Voula
Rongos, Christopher and
Katherine

Grand Rapids, MI
Holy Trinity
Bogdan, Fr. James and
Presbytera Joan
Afendoulis, Chris and Phyllis
Cassis, Edward and Vicki
Gray, Mark and Alexis
Monoyios, Terry

Indianapolis, IN
Holy Apostles
Matsigas, Gerasimos

Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine
Parthenakis, Fr. Tom and
Presbytera Cathy
Bantuvas, Ann
Bezirganian, John

Kalamazoo, MI
Annunciation
Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Philoptochos

Lexington, KY
Panagia Pantosavilisa
Panagia Pantosavilisa Philoptochos
Delvizzes, Thomas
Hostetter, Christopher and Ericka

Memphis, TN – Annunciation
Bagatelas, Todd and Cyndi

Muskegon, MI
Annunciation
Mot, Fr. Catalin and
Presbytera Felicia
Yankopoulos, Presbytera Ann
Afendoulis, Alexander
Afendulis, Phyllis
Afendulis, Ted
Anton, Ted and Francine
Bati, John
Bouth, Michael and Sharon
Encelewski, Christine
Karis, Tom and Kristi
Ladas, Paul M. and Patricia
Lutz, Helen
Micheil, Rich and Teresa
Oravitan, Andre and Philip
Soimar, Michael and Corina

Nashville, TN
Holy Trinity
Holy Trinity Parish
Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and
Presbytera Sofia
Billo, John

Nashville, TN
St. John Chrysostom Mission
Turner, Fr. Parthenios and
Presbytera Marion
Derrybery, Paul
Dozier, Matthew
Tickle, Jeffrey and Jackie

New Buffalo, MI
Annunciation/St. Paraskevi
Martin, Fr. Paul and
Presbytera Niki
Lepeniotis, Anastasia
Litznerski, Robert and Mariann

Nyack, NY – St. Sophia
Smith, Fr. David and
Presbytera Donna
Boucouinis, Andrew
Ganotis, John
Kazakis, Elaine
Paul, James

Plymouth, MI
Nativity of the Virgin Mary
Sarelis, Fr. Charles and
Presbytera Angela
Randall, Michael and Anne
Slinis, John and Thekla
Takis, Gerald and Mary

Plymouth, MI
Holy Spirit
Georgantas, Irene

Rochester, NY
Annunciation
Gines, George and Maria
Stefanou, Constantine and
Florence

Rochester, NY
Holy Spirit
Georagonas, Irene

Saginaw, MI - St. Demetrios
Cox, Fr. Irenaeus and
Presbytera Alexandra
Bazakis, Andrew and Ann
Calwell, Larry and Peggy

St. Clair Shores, MI
Assumption
Callas, Kalliopi

Sterling Heights, MI
St. John
Kotsis, Harry and Katherine
Kotsonis, Steve and Angela

Syracuse, NY - St. Sophia
Smith, Fr. David and
Presbytera Donna
Boucohoun, Andrew
Ganotis, John
Kazakis, Elaine
Paul James

Toledo, OH
Holy Trinity Cathedral
Damaskos, Fr. Aristole and
Presbytera Debbie

Traverse City, MI
Archangel Gabriel
Streza, Fr. Ciprian and
Presbytera Sinziana
Bemis, Steve and Pam
Dalbo, Helen A.

Troy, MI - St. Nicholas
Demery, Beck

Vestal, NY – Annunciation
Michalopoulos,
Presbytera Magdalena
Yacalis, Vasili

Westland, MI
Sts. Constantine and Helen
Petruiti, Fr. Teodor and
Presbytera Roxana
Stavropoulos, Gus and Maria

Other Friends
Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos
Bartz, Fr. Bill and
Presbytera Emily
Demetris, Jack and Dolly
Kartalopoulos, Stamatis and
Anita
Kreouklis, Flor
Psaras, John
Radulescu, Alexandru

Friends of the Metropolis (as of July 31, 2011)
GRAND BANQUET
Honoring 12 Proistamenoi of our Metropolis
with 20+ years of service as Parish Priests

Thursday, September 29, 2011
6:00 pm

DINNER TICKETS $50
To purchase tickets, send in the tear-off form with payment, or call the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church office at: 734.525.6789

PLEASE PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS BY SEPTEMBER 12TH

FR. WILLIAM CASSIS
Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas, Cincinnati, OH
FR. ARISTOTLE DAMASKOS
Holy Trinity, Toledo, OH
FR. STRATTON DOROZENSKI
St Nicholas, Troy, MI
FR. ATHANAS GEORGE
Annunciation, Detroit, MI
FR. ANASTASIOS GOUNARIS
Holy Trinity, Carmel, IN
FR. DEAN HOUNTALAS
Holy Cross, Farmington Hills, MI
FR. PHILEMON KARAMANOS
St. George, Southgate, MI
FR. NICHOLAS KYRITSES
St. John, Sterling Heights, MI
FR. CATALIN MOT
Annunciation, Muskegon, MI
FR. NICHOLAS PATHENOS
St. George, Bloomfield Hills, MI
FR. MICHAEL VARLAMOS
Assumption, St. Clair Shores, MI
FR. GEORGE ZERVOS
St. Nicholas, Jamestown, NY

MAIL PAYMENT AND FORM TO:
Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
36375 Joy Road, Westland, MI 48185

WWW.DETROIT.GOARCH.ORG/CLERGY-LAITY-2011
**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.

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**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

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- [ ] I am pleased to support the work of Metropolitan Nicholas and the Metropolis through the Annual Metropolis Stewardship “Friends” Program

- [ ] $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__________

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