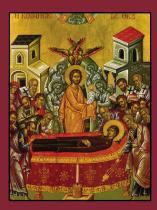


# JN BIRTH, YOU PRESERVED YOUR VIRGINITY; IN DEATH, YOU DID NOT ABANDON THE WORLD, O THEOTOKOS. AS MOTHER OF LIFE, YOU DEPARTED TO THE SOURCE OF LIFE, DELIVERING OUR SOULS FROM DEATH BY YOUR INTERCESSIONS.

APOLYTIKION OF DORMITION



DORMITION OF THEOTOKOS AUGUST 15

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# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

# THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

Volume III, Issue 4

August 2011

# METROPOLITAN NICHOLAS' MESSAGE

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 worship God. Maybe we will more seriously consider 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

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

n 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 Archbish-

op 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 ■

Page 2 The Shepherd's Staff

# BISHOP'S SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

#### **AUGUST**

6 - 7	Ordination of Fr. John Afendoulis (for the Metropolis	Holy Trinity Church - Grand Rapids, MI
14	Parish Visitation	Assumption Church - St. Clair Shores, MI
	Vespers & Thyranoixia	Assumption Church - Grand Blanc, MI
15	Dormition of the Theotokos	Holy Cross Church - Farmington Hills, MI
27 - 28	Ordination of Fr. John (Hayden) Haby	Assumption Church - Springfield, OH

#### **SEPTEMBER**

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

# 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 Jestival.

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 Volume III, Issue 4 August 2011 Page 3



#### YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

#### KICK START YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Preparing for the Ecclesiastical New Year
By Eva Kokinos—Metropolis Youth Director

ET 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!

<u>EMAIL BLAST:</u> 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!

<u>WEB PRESENCE</u>: 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.

<u>PHONE CALLS:</u> 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.

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

<u>Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit—Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries</u>: The Metropolis Youth Office provides resources, as well as youth worker support for parishes. Please visit <u>www.detroit.goarch.org</u> 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 <a href="https://www.orthodoxmarketplace.com">www.orthodoxmarketplace.com</a>.

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



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

<u>FAMILY FUN NIGHT</u>: 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.

<u>YOUTH MIXER:</u> 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.

<u>YOUTH BRAINSTORM</u>: 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



ST. TIMOTHY
SUMMER CAMP
REGISTER
TODAY!

#### August 13—19, 2011

There is still time to register for the St. Timothy Summer Camp of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit.

St. Timothy Summer Camp serve the upstate NY parishes of our Metropolis. However, youth from all over the Metropolis are welcome!

The summer camp program is held at the Oswegatchie Educational Center (www.oswegatchie.org) in Croghan, NY.

For information about the St. Timothy Summer Camp program, please visit

www.sttimothycamp.org or email Chris Tzetzis at christzetzis@gmail.com Page 4 The Shepherd's Staff

#### PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

By Eleni Zaferes



lans 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 endeabor. 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 ■

DAYTON, OH - Artemis House of Domestic Violence - \$1,379 and Hospice for Indigent Women - \$2,877.

CARMEL, IN - In July the chapter went to the local Soup Kitchen to serve meals. Quarterly \$500 to Gleaners Food Bank.

ANN ARBOR, MI - Donated \$300 towards materials for backpacks for children in Homeless Centers and will fill the backpacks for the children. Also the annual golf outing proceeds will go towards Habitat for Humanity.

CINCINNATI, OH - Raised over \$12,000 for the beautification of a new Philoptochos Garden on the Church property.

ANNUNCIATION - ROCHESTER, NY- Collected over 200 pounds of food for the local food bank, Food Link. The Sunday School children participated by helping to publicize the event.

BUFFALO, NY - made and donated 30 blankets to the Warm Up America organization and gave baby blankets to the Jericho Road, a local ministry assisting immigrants in the Buffalo area.

MEMPHIS, TN - Donated \$500 to assist flood victims and contributed personal items to the local agencies for the flood victims.

TRAVERSE CITY, MI - Participated once again with the Father Fred Foundation Food Drive in the city.

SYRACUSE, NY - \$500 to the Samaritan House, \$550 to Sarah House and \$500 to Hospice of Central NY.

#### **MEFGOX News**

By Irene Georgantas



n July 14-17<sup>th</sup> the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians (MEFGOX) held its 64<sup>th</sup> annual convention in

Ann Arbor, Michigan. We were graciously hosted by Father Nicolaos Kotsis Proistamenos, 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 wellplanned convention. With the support of the National Forum of Church Musi-

cians, 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, 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-

 $(Continued\ on\ page\ 5)$ 

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#### MONTH OF AUGUST DEDICATED TO PANAGIA

By Fr. Michael Varlamos\*



ear 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 herself to  $\operatorname{God}$ . "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 Theoto-kos 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■

## MEFGOX NEWS continued...

urgy 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 wing her 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)

#### + His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

#### Ann Arbor, MI - St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas Parish
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Kotsis, Fr. Nicolaos 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 Karas, Gus and Maritsa Kourmoulis, Mario and Karen Kyriakopoulos, Chris Lafter, Chris and Toni Pappas, Vicki Zeheralis, Gail

#### <u>Chattanooga, TN –</u> <u>Annunciation</u>

Mousourakis, John and Donna

#### <u>Cincinnati, OH</u> <u>Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas</u>

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 Nicholas, Jim and Georgia

#### <u>Indianapolis, IN</u> <u>Holy Apostles</u>

Matsigas, Gerasimos

#### Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine

Parthenakis, Fr. Tom and Presbytera Cathy Bantuvanis, Ann Bezirganian, John

#### Kalamazoo, MI

#### Annunciation

Annunciation Parish Annunciation Philoptochos

#### <u>Lansing</u>, MI – Holy Trinity

Mansour, George Pascalenos, Olga Rahib, Margaret

#### Lexington, KY

#### Panagia Pantovasillisa

Panagia Pantovasillisa Philotpchos Delvizis, Thomas Hostetter, Christopher and Ericka

#### Memphis, TN - Annunciation 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 Harman, Todd Miles, Eric and Scarlett Sherrill, Justin and Kiki

#### 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 Nikki Lepeniotis, Anastasia Litznerski, Robert and Mariann

#### Plymouth, MI Nativity of the Virgin Mary

Sarelis, Fr. Charles and Presbytera Angela Randall, Michael and Anne Szlinis, John and Thekla Takis, Gerald and Mary

#### Rochester, NY Annunciation

Gines, George and Maria Stefanou, Constantine and Florence

#### Rochester, NY Holy Spirit

Georgantas, Irene

#### Saginaw, MI - St. Demetrios

Cox, Fr. Irenaeus and Presbytera Alexandra Bazakis, Andrew and Ann Caldwell, Larry and Peggy

#### Sault Ste Marie, MI

#### St. George

Gianakura, Peter and Georgia

#### Southgate, MI St. George

#### Anonymous

Kircos, Angelo and Sophia Kircos, John and Violet Kircos, Lou and Paula Kontos, John and Marika Minton, Barbara Minton, Nicholas

#### St. Clair Shores, MI

#### Assumption

Callas, Kalliopy

#### Sterling Heights, MI St. John

Kotsis, Harry and Katherine Kotsonis, Steve and Angela

#### Syracuse, NY - St. Sophia

Smith, Fr. David and Presbytera Donna Boucounis, Andrew Ganotis, John Kazakis, Elaine Paul, James

#### Toledo, OH

#### **Holy Trinity Cathedral**

Damaskos, Fr. Aristotle 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

Michalopulos, Presbytera Magdalena Yacalis, Vasili

#### Westland, MI

#### Sts. Constantine and Helen

Petrutiu, 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, Stamatios and
Anita
Krekoukis, Flora
Psaras, John

Radulescu, Alexandru





# METROPOLIS OF DETROIT CLERGY-LAITY ASSEMBLY and PHILOPTOCHOS CONFERENCE

"You are the Light of the World" Matthew 5:14

Hosted by the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church, Westland, MI

# 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

 $\frac{\text{PLEASE PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS}}{\text{BY SEPTEMBER 12}^{\text{TH}}}$ 

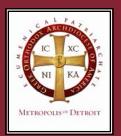
FR. WILLIAM CASSIS Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas, Cincinnati, OH FR. ARISTOTLE DAMASKOS Holy Trinity, Toledo, OH FR. STRATTON DOROZENSKI St Nicholas, Troy, MI FR. ATHANAS GEORGE Annunciation, Detroit, MI FR. ANASTASIOS GOUNARIS Holy Trinity, Carmel, IN FR. DEAN HOUNTALAS Holy Cross, Farmington Hills, MI 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

Name	Number of tickets @ \$50		
Address			
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Make checks payable to:	Saints Constantine and Helen Church		
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Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

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**ELEVATION OF** HOLY CROSS

September 14

#### THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

# FRIENDS OF THE METROPOLIS

# What Does Friends of the Metropolis Support?

olis 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 **Leadership**: Organize Metropolis Clergy-Laity parishes.

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

General: Fully fund the expenses of the Metrop- 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

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

If you have not yet become part of the Metropoliswide 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					troit	
□ \$25	□\$50	□\$100	□ \$250	□\$500	□\$1000	Other
Name_	Parish Affiliation:					
Address						
Phone _	Email					
☐ Check Enclosed (payable to the Metropolis of Detroit)						
☐ Plea	se Charge My C	redit Card	☐ Visa	☐ Master(	Card	
Account	#	Ехр.		_Signature	D	ate