Blessed are You, O Christ our God, who made the fishermen all-wise, sending upon them the Holy Spirit and, through them, netting the world. O Loving One, glory to You. (Apolytikion of Pentecost)

Metropolitan Nicholas’ Message

Beloved Clergy and Faithful,

“For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men – as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice but as bond servants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.” 1 Peter 2:15-17.

Over the past few years, the Metropolis of Detroit, the faithful individuals, the local churches, the local and Metropolis Philoptochos societies, the parish and Metropolitan councils, the priests and I as your Metropolitan, have been called upon to help people throughout the world. Victims of the tsunami in Asia, the forest fires in Greece, the earthquake in Haiti, and most recently, the devastating flooding in Tennessee have all been helped by the prayers and material aid of the faithful of the Metropolis of Detroit.

We will always be called upon to help our neighbors in need. As an absolute necessity towards fulfilling the commandments of God, our aid and comfort we offer to those in distress is a sign of the Holy Spirit acting within our community.

It is a blessing to see this Metropolis, beset by so many economic difficulties in our home cities and states, respond with such vigor and zeal when the call is made to help those in need. I do not write this to be prideful and boasting, but simply to acknowledge the blessings our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has bestowed upon our people and how those people, in turn, have answered the call when help was needed. It is my sincere hope and prayer that the Lord Jesus be with all those who have been ill-afflicted by unforeseen disasters. It is my sincere hope and prayer that the Lord Jesus will continue to be in the hearts, eyes, ears and minds of those who are able to help those affected by such disasters.

With Paternal Prayers and Love,

+Metropolitan Nicholas

To Haiti with love,

In January 2010, the country of Haiti fell victim to a catastrophic 7.0-magnitude earthquake. After the dust settled, the devastation in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas was incomprehensible. It is estimated that over 200,000 people lost their lives and that the efforts to rebuild will cost millions of dollars.

Seeing this suffering and devastation, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese initiated the Haiti Relief Fund to help with the recovery efforts. Through the leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, the faithful of the Metropolis of Detroit expressed its neighborly love to the people of Haiti by raising over $95,000 for the Haiti Relief Fund.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios issued a letter of gratitude to His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas and the faithful of the Metropolis for this outpouring of love and generosity. To read Archbishop Demetrios’ letter, turn to page 2.
May 25, 2010

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit
Holy Metropolis of Detroit
2560 Crooks Road
Troy, Michigan 48084

Your Eminence and Beloved Brother in Christ,

I write to you today to thank you for forwarding the valued and profoundly generous contribution of $ 95,000.00 to the Haiti Earthquake Fund by the faithful of the vibrant Metropolis of Detroit.

In light of the harsh economic reality that has befallen certain areas of the Detroit Metropolis, this offering resonates in full measure the good will of the people of the Metropolis and conveys the genuine spirit of almsgiving described by Saint John Chrysostom that is the mother of love, of that love which is the characteristic of Christianity, which is greater than all miracles, by which the disciples of Christ are manifested (Chrysostom Homilies on the Acts of Titus).

I ask that you kindly convey to each of the contributors my heartfelt appreciation for this much needed assistance for the people of Haiti. With my prayers for your archpastoral leadership and my encouragement that you continue as a vibrant Metropolis to demonstrate such firm resolve in serving as Christ’s witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts1:8), I remain

With love and esteem in Christ,

[Signature]

Archbishop of America
GOYA Trip to Boston and Hellenic College/Holy Cross
April 6-9, 2010

Seventy-one GOYAns from the Michigan area and 23 adults attended the GOYA Trip to Boston for a three-day trip. Seven of the Detroit area parishes were represented on this memorable trip. Departing from St. Nicholas Church in Troy, MI, participants traveled to Boston, MA to visit the city and the beloved seminary, Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology.

Day One (April 7) of the trip was a full day at Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology. GOYAns were able to tour the beautiful campus and participate in various workshops, sponsored by HC/HC, the Office of Vocation and Ministry, and the CrossRoad Program. During some of the free time, participants were able to visit the Holy Cross Bookstore to purchase books, icons, and souvenirs. The Condakes Refectory provided delicious meals throughout the day. Before leaving campus, the group attended a beautifully-chanted Vespers service at Holy Cross Chapel. After dinner, the group enjoyed a fun evening of bowling before calling it a night!

Day Two (April 8) began with an historic two-hour walking tour of the city of Boston. The tour offered a wonderful glimpse into our nation’s history, seeing notable sights such as the Old North Church, Paul Revere’s home, and Boston Commons. Participants stopped for lunch at the famous Faneuil Hall in Quincy Market. After enjoying some Bostonian treats and shopping, participants moved on to spend a few hours at the New England Aquarium. Finally, the group headed back to HC/HC for dinner and a special session with students from the Metropolis of Detroit. Led by Holy Cross alumni Fr. Anthony Cook and Eva Kokinos, the students talked to the group about their experiences studying theology, vocation, and witnessing faith. The evening ended with some much-needed rest by the pool and time to pack for an early morning return to Detroit.

Many thanks to Fr. Anthony Cook for joining the group on this trip, and to all the adults who served as chaperones. Also, special thanks go out to those groups and individuals who donated food and money to make this trip special! If you missed the trip, don’t worry… Plans are already underway for Boston 2011!

To join the official e-Newsletter of the Metropolis Youth Office, email youth@detroit.goarch.org. Also, become a FAN on Facebook. Look for Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit—Youth and Young Adult Ministries.
The recent devastating floods in the Nashville, TN area found many parishioners of the parishes in Nashville without everyday needs. Some lost everything. The Philoptochos Metropolis Board and chapters sprung into action immediately. Contributions to the Metropolis Nashville Relief Fund spearheaded by Metropolitan Nicholas were made by the Metropolis Board ($5,000), the National Board ($15,000) and chapters throughout the Metropolis. Helping those in need is the primary purpose of Philoptochos. We thank everyone for their generosity for this effort to assist our own brothers and sisters.

“Festival of Flowers”, the Metropolis Philoptochos fundraiser was a huge success. The hall at St. Nicholas in Ann Arbor adorned with beautiful and unique floral arrangements reminded us that we count our blessing each day. We thank the Ann Arbor Philoptochos, raffle donors and sponsors for their support and everyone who attended. It was a fabulous day of fellowship. Money raised from this event will support the Metropolis ministries, the National ministries and the Detroit area charities.

In July, delegates will travel to Atlanta, GA for the Philoptochos National Convention in conjunction with the Clergy Laity Congress. The Convention promises to be educational and inspiring to the delegates. Workshops and Discussion Groups will bring together the delegates in dialogue to share their concerns and good works for the mission of Philoptochos. The Metropolis Board selected and paid registration for 2 small chapters of 25 members or less to attend the Convention.

Philoptochos is always looking to assist those in need. The Partners in Philanthropy Fund is an ongoing effort by the Metropolis Board to assist in an emergency and short term needs. Do not hesitate to contact myself or the Metropolis office for assistance.

We wish everyone a safe and wonderful summer. We thank His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas for his continued support, inspiration and guidance to our mission.

In March of 2009, Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) offered young adults an opportunity to give of their time during spring break to give something back to God’s church. Twenty-two young adults participated in the Real Break Trip to Constantinople, to the home of our Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Out of the 22 college participants from five different Orthodox jurisdictions, the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit was represented. Angelus Kocoshis is a member of the Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church in Indianapolis, IN. His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas, who was in Constantinople at the time, was able to visit with Angelus and the rest of the group participants at a dinner hosted by the Patriarch.

The Real Break participants, with the blessings of His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, visited Constantinople to refurbish St. Kyriakos Church and the Patriarchal Cemetery in Eripak. Both sites were desecrated many years ago and were in desperate need of repair. For more information about Real Break and other OCF opportunities, visit www.ocf.net.
Mankind has always sought to reach a higher, but not always a better end. At Babel, the tongues of men were confused by God for they were building a tower of pride, to make a name for themselves, not to the glory of God. Their confusion led to disaster and the demise of a great architectural achievement that was supposed to touch the sky (Gen. 11: 4). In many ways, our vanity makes us build higher and bigger as technology advances. We dream to do the impossible. Is it the right thing to do? Are we building to the right end?

For generations, humans were divided by language and culture. The world had tried several times in the past to reunite by using common language, standards, measures, etc. We talk today about globalization and its benefits: better trade, economic growth, and ease of communication. But do these help us get closer to God?

After Jesus was resurrected and ascended into Heaven, the Apostles were gathered “with one accord and in one place” (Acts 2: 1) and were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other languages. Since the Feast of Pentecost was of great importance to the Jews, commemorating the giving of the law on Mount Sinai (Exodus 12:2,19), the 50th day after the exodus, many pilgrims, both Jews and Gentiles, were gathered in Jerusalem from all parts of the world. And the multitude marveled at this great wonder “because everyone heard them speak in his own language“ (Acts 2: 6). For the first time in centuries, people were able to surpass the language barrier, as the Gospel united and enabled them to build a new tower: the Tower of Faith - the Church.

God has used language to separate and also to unite. The Apostles were empowered to speak the language of the Holy Spirit who “is present everywhere and fills all things” and they were heard “by everyone in their own language”. The Gospel is the new blueprint used by the workers of Christ to build the Tower of the Kingdom of God. At Babel mankind sought its own glory, but in Jerusalem mankind started to build to the glory of God.

The concept of globalization is used by our society today to refer to a worldly political, economical and social unity. For Christians, real globalization began at Pentecost with the Gospel of Christ which is the true unifying factor for all.

Let us reflect on the realities of our world today and how are we able to unite and build the tower of faith in God.

Nashville Flood Relief by Eva Kokinos

Last month, Nashville and other areas in middle Tennessee were pummeled by heavy storming, resulting in some of the worst flooding this area has seen in years.

In an effort to extend a helping hand to the people of Nashville for their Flood Relief efforts, His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas initiated the Nashville Flood Relief Fund.

Fr. Gregory Hohnholt and the community of Holy Trinity, as well as Fr. Parthenios Turner and the St. John Chrysostom mission family in Nashville, are working not only to help those of the parish who have suffered losses, but the Nashville community-at-large, as well, in their recovery effort.

Fr. Hohnholt reflected on these efforts, saying, “The needs are great and many, and the faithful of Holy Trinity are abundantly thankful for the gifts and support of the sister parishes in the Metropolis of Detroit, as well as the National Philoptochos, the Metropolis Philoptochos and all the various individual donors who are supporting the efforts to restore hope to the hearts of the people of Nashville and Middle Tennessee.”

To date, at least $55,000 has been raised for the relief effort. Please contact your local parish to make a donation.

For more information regarding the flooding and recovery efforts, visit http://www.tennessean.com/section/news0101.
Friends of the Metropolis (as of May 31, 2010)

His Eminence
Metropolitan Nicholas

Ann Arbor, MI
St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas Parish
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Kotsis, Fr. Nicolaos and Presbytera Sandra
Paul, Presbytera 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 Presbytera Lisa

Carmel, IN
Holy Trinity
Douvis, Harry
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 Parsenios, Lewis

Farmington Hills, MI
Holy Cross
Stefanakis, George and Terrie

Fort Wayne, IN
Holy Trinity
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Douglas, Gregory Spirou, Arthur and Mary Turner, Christian

Grand Rapids, MI
Holy Trinity
Monoyios, Terry Nicholas, Jim and Georgia

Indianapolis, IN
Holy Apostles
Gus Karozos
Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine
Bezirganian, John
Lansing, MI - Holy Trinity
Joseph, Yvonne Sweeney, Evic Zois
Lexington, KY
Panagia Pantovasilissa
Panagia Pantovasilissa Parish Hostetter, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Kiriacopoulos, Ken and Kate Pandaru, Andronica
Memphis, TN
Annunciation
Gallagher, Evangelia Muskegon, MI
Annunciation
Holy Trinity
Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and Presbytera Sofia Vaporis, Fr. George and Presbytera Kalliopi Kirk, Benedict Rogers, Helen and Lawrence Kamm Nashville, TN
St. John Chrysostom Mission
Turner, Fr. Parthenios and Presbytera Marion New Buffalo, MI
Annunciation/St. Paraskevi Polymeris, Spiros and Donna Plymouth, MI
Nativity of the Virgin Mary
Nativity of the Virgin Mary Parish Sarelis, Fr. Charles and Presbytera Angela Estate of Fr. Efstathios Metallinos 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 Sexton, Katherine L.

Saginaw, MI
St. Demetrios
St. Demetrios Philoptochos Cox, Fr. Irenaeus and Presbytera Alexandra Ahejew, Petro and Sandra Caldwell, Larry and Peggy Southgate, MI - St. George
Kircos, Angelo and Sophia Kircos, John and Violet Kircos, Louis and Paula Kontos, John and Marika Minton, Barbara Minton, Charles Nanos, Vasiliki St. Clair Shores, MI
Assumption
Genematas, Toulia Sterling Heights, MI
St. John
Georgios Salonikas and Nicoleta Vekos Syracuse, NY - St. Sophia
Smith, Fr. David and Presbytera Donna Toledo, OH
Holy Trinity Cathedral Damaskos, Fr. Aristotle and Presbytera Debbie Anagnos, Joyce Sieben, Paul Traverse City, MI
Archangel Gabriel Olechnowicz, Fr. Iakovos and Presbytera Joleen Troy, MI - St. Nicholas
Demery, Beck Vestal, NY
Annunciation
Michalopoulos, Presbytera Magdalena Demetry, Helen Gianakourous, Dino and Mary Tzivanis, Thomas and Florence Watertown, NY
St. Vasiliou
St. Vasiliou Parish Westland, MI
Sts. Constantine & Helen
Sts. Constantine and Helen Parish Sts. Constantine and Helen GOYA Other Friends
Bartz, Fr. Bill and Presbytera Emily, Dumfries, VA
MEFGOX NEWS by Barbara Minton

The Annual Convention of the Mid-Eastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians will be held July 15-18th in Canonsburg, PA. This year the participants will sing a setting of the Divine Liturgy by Nancy Takis. Her husband, Stan Takis will serve as guest director. The four day convention will begin with the first two sessions of a Church Music Institute. The first offering will be “Singing Good, Better, or Your Best” lead by Bill Christoff, Carmel, Indiana. The second offering will be “Praying the Liturgy for Church Musicians: Challenges and Solutions” lead by Father Steylios Muskursis.

The Church Musicians will also learn about the “The Small Supplicatory Canon” (Paraklesis) and attend a Paraklesis before a Friday evening picnic at Angel Acres Park. Other workshops, rehearsals will round out the educational/musical portion of the weekend. Another highlight of the Convention is a recognition of church musicians who have offered distinguished service and the awarding of scholarships to young people pursuing music or theology in higher education.

The culmination of the Convention will be a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. At the conclusion of which the newly elected officers will take the oath of office. A Memorial Service for the deceased church musicians of all of the member parishes will also be offered. For information about the Memorial Scholarship (how to apply or how to donate in memory of a loved one), please visit the MEFGOX website (www.mwfgox.org) or contact Dan Packis at dpackis@roadrunner.com or send donations to MEFGOX Memorial Scholarship Program, 4651 Greenview Court, Avon, Ohio 44011 ♦
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

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__________