And it shall come to pass in the last days, that I shall pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy”
(Joel 2:28)

Beloved in the Lord,

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear…. “ (1 Peter 3:15)

In a world where there are so many talented people, sometimes we like to leave the work and the answers to the experts. After all, no one really needs to know how a watch functions in order to wear it and tell time. And if it breaks — we take it to the jeweler for repair…or we just buy a new one. We don’t have to be an expert on watches.

The same is true for medicine and law. We generally know the basics of when to take an aspirin or when to call a lawyer after an accident — and so we recognize that being experts in these areas may be nice for some, but it is not necessary in order for us to live healthy and productive lives.

At times, we have come to feel similarly regarding our faith. If there is a question that is difficult or needs to be answered, we call the expert: our priest.

We expect the clergy to be fully trained in order to answer the questions of what we believe, why we believe it, and how we practice our faith. At times, it seems that every aspect of this most sacred relationship between people and God is also left to the experts.

Yet in terms of the Church, just as the First Letter of Peter indicates, we are all called upon to know what we believe and why.

This is why we were so blessed to witness our young people speak with Christian conviction during the recent Metropolis Oratorical Festival held at the Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Westland, MI.

Our young people proved to us that every Christian has the privilege to heed the encouragement of the Apostle Peter and to explain what it means to be a faithful Orthodox Christian. Congratulations to all the participants in the Oratorical festival. Your words are a living testimony to the “hope that is in you.”

ἌΞΙΟΙ!

+ Metropolitan Nicholas

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BISHOP’S SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

For calendar updates, please visit our website at: www.detroit.goarch.org/news/calendar

June

2  Baptism of Nicholas & Aristides Kyritses  St. John Church—Sterling Heights, MI
3  Holy Pentecost—Guest of Archbishop +NICOLAE  Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church—Troy, MI
9  Wedding of Alex Radulescu & Silvana Totan  St. George Romanian Orthodox Cathedral—Southfield, MI
10  Parish Visitation  Metropolitan Detroit
17  Parish Visitation  Metropolitan Detroit
24  Parish Visitation & 5 Yr. Memorial Fr. John Paul  St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI
28–29  American Bible Society Board Meeting  New-York, NY

July

June 30–5  41st Biennial Clergy Laity Congress  Phoenix, AZ
6–8  Parish Visitation & Baptism of Ana Streza  Archangel Gabriel Church—Traverse City, MI
21  Spiro—Doyle Wedding  St. George Church—Southgate, MI
22  Pastoral Visit  Sts. Constantine & Helen Church—Westland, MI
23–24  Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp Visitation  Rose City, MI
25  Ecumenical Visit  Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Cathedral—Detroit, MI
26–27  MEGFOX Conference  St. Demetrios Church—Rocky River, OH
29  Parish Visitation  TBD
30–31  Metropolis of Detroit Summer Camp Visitation  Rose City, MI

MEGFOX NEWS

By Irene Georgantas  President

I hope that you all had a spiritually (and musically) fulfilling rest of Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha. We have already passed Mid-Pentecost and are fast approaching Ascension. Our church musicians certainly are challenged during these months to be fully prepared and carry out these services as correctly and properly as possible. Your work does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Thank you for all your dedication to the enhancement of our services.

MEGFOX did hold its general meeting on May 5th at St. Demetrios in Rocky River, Ohio, which is a suburb of Cleveland. We were graciously host ed by its choir, which will also host us for the 65th Annual Convention the last weekend in July. Plans were confirmed at the meeting and all of the registration material will soon be mailed out. As has become the tradition the last few years, we will have three educational tracts or workshops for the benefit of our singers, directors, and chanters. Our Education Committee, along with the Host Choir and Executive Board, plan Church Music Institutes to carry out our basic mission as an organization, i.e. to promote the learning of our Orthodox faith and musical tradition. For example there will be opportunities to learn more about our Byzantine

(Continued on page 5)
On Saturday, May 12, 2012, speakers from the all across the Metropolis joined to participate in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Metropolis Finals. This year’s Metropolis Finals hosted Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Westland, Michigan. His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas was in attendance, offering words of inspiration and congratulations to all of the speakers.

The speakers who won 1st place in this year’s Metropolis Finals each won a $500 scholarship, provided by the Metropolis of Detroit and generous donors. They will represent the Metropolis of Detroit at the Archdiocese Finals, June 8-10, 2012 in Bethesda, MD.

METROPOLIS FINALISTS

**Junior Division**
Athena Chapekis
St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI

**Senior Division**
George Gemelas
Holy Trinity Church—Carmel, IN

Best Wishes to Athena and George as they travel to the Finals in Maryland!

Here is a complete list of all the talented speakers who participated in this year’s festival (listed in alphabetical order):

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL SPEAKERS!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Junior Division</th>
<th>Senior Division</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athena Chapekis</td>
<td>Patricia Bajis</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI</td>
<td>Assumption Church—St. Clair Shores, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Eveleigh</td>
<td>Jordanis Ekimogloy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annunciation Church—Buffalo, NY</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Church—Nashville, TN</td>
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<td>Jordan George</td>
<td>Brianne Ehevsky</td>
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<td>St. John the Baptist Church - Sterling Heights, MI</td>
<td>Holy Spirit Church - Rochester, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evan Hoover</td>
<td>George Gemelas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annunciation Church—Memphis, TN</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Church—Carmel, IN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Makarounas</td>
<td>Leah Joynt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. George Church—Southgate, MI</td>
<td>Assumption Church—Grand Blanc, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juliana Schlabig</td>
<td>Theodore Monk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annunciation Church—Buffalo, NY</td>
<td>Annunciation Church—Chattanooga, TN</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Tsalatis</td>
<td>Alexander Przeslawski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annunciation Church—Dayton, OH</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Church—Troy, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Valcarcel</td>
<td>Andrea Tsalatis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Church—Cincinnati, OH</td>
<td>Annunciation Church—Dayton, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madeline Wiggins</td>
<td>Dora Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annunciation Church—Memphis, TN</td>
<td>St. Nicholas Church—Jamestown, NY</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
We had a wonderful time at the Metropolis luncheon, “Sounds of Spring”, held at the Annunciation Cathedral in Detroit on April 21. Nearly two hundred men and women were in attendance at this biennial fundraiser, chaired by Katherine Kotsis, Mary Kotsis Gaggos and Cindy Crosson. We wish to thank the generosity of the sponsors and those who attended and supported our raffle. The raffle prizes, donated by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas and the Metropolis Board, were beautiful and varied. Thank you to Anne Feles who chaired this activity.

We were entertained by the Detroit International Academy Gospel Choir and dancers from an inner city public school of choice in Detroit with between 95-97% graduation rates. What a wonderful testament to the hard working students and dedicated faculty. A monetary contribution was given by the Philoptochos Board and a gift of $1,000 was given by the Metropolis Council. Metropolitan Nicholas spoke eloquently in support of staff and students, impressed by the high standards and impressive graduation rate.

Three schools in depressed areas of Michigan with special needs students were chosen to receive books and school supplies (beautiful and colorful centerpieces made by Anne Feles), and a donation of $500 each. Those schools were the Kennedy Elementary School in Ferndale, The Marquette Elementary School in Detroit, and The Craig School for the Emotionally Impaired in Muskegon.

The Philoptochos in Cincinnati held a Palm Sunday luncheon co-sponsored by the St. Sophia Mother’s Club. Following the luncheon an Easter egg hunt was held for the children and they had an opportunity to have pictures taken with the Easter bunny. From proceeds, Philoptochos made a donation to the St. Sophia Mother’s Club to assist in purchasing Bibles for the 4th grade Sunday Church School students.

On May 5, the Cincinnati Philoptochos hosted a luncheon/fashion show, “A Festival of Fashions, Flowers and Flavors”, celebrating the generations of women in the community. The event will benefit Dress for Success in Cincinnati. A wonderful day of fellowship was celebrated with over 200 women in attendance. An added attraction was showing a DVD paying tribute to Philoptochos members working on various projects throughout the year.

The Philoptochos members in Buffalo, NY are busy helping to plan the church community’s centennial celebration, which will be celebrated throughout 2012. Many exciting events and activities are being planned, which I will share in the next issue of the Shepherd’s Staff. In addition, the chapter held a May Day Victorian Tea as a fundraiser. With two settings, they served over 80 guests and raised approximately $2,000.

We’re looking forward to seeing Philoptochos members from across our Metropolis in Phoenix where we will share ideas and get to know each other. What a dynamic group of women!
**Stayn’ Alive**

*By Fr. Anastasios Gounaris*

The recent passing of “Bee Gee” Robin Gibb reminds me I am getting older.

Another reminder is the 27 years since I left my first parish, Saint Spyridon.

By the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios and encouragement of Metropolitan Nicholas I now stand poised to walk on stage for my “second New York act” – as Dean of our Archdiocesan Cathedral.

I am humbled as I look forward to my installation by Archbishop Demetrios on Pentecost Sunday.

It seems like just yesterday I was a 26 year old priest in Washington Heights. As we celebrate Pentecost it likewise seems like yesterday that I heard bells pealing joyfully as I thrust my Paschal flame heavenward and proclaimed "Christ is Risen!"

Things change. People come and go. But one constant assures us of truly “stayin’ alive” – Christ’s Resurrection.

"Stayin' Alive" was a signature song of the Bee Gees. Today the song also literally helps people stay alive – its 104 beats per minute being the optimal range for applying CPR chest compressions!

Successfully “stayin’ alive” as a Christian family is achieved by also keeping the “beat” of our Lord’s Resurrection going throughout the year – and not only during the post-Paschal period.

To that end, let us teach and cherish the words of St. John the Theologian: “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:2-4)

*Rev. Fr. Anastasios Gounaris is the former Proistamenos of Holy Trinity Church in Carmel, IN who was recently reassigned by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in New York City.*

**MEFGOX News continued...**

Chant tradition, our feast days, religious meaning of our hymns, and enhancing our choral performance. More recently a greater emphasis has also been placed on attracting new and younger members to our ranks. In 2011 we had a banner year with almost 20 young adults who participated and we hope that we will not be disappointed this year Cleveland. Since Cleveland is a more central location and since many of us grew up singing the music of Frank Desby, we expect a wonderful turnout. I know that there will be choir members from all over the country who are coming to help celebrate the momentous 100th Anniversary of Cleveland’s first church.

Representatives from MEFGOX will also be attending the National Forum meeting in Phoenix, Arizona which occurs simultaneously with the Clergy-Laity meeting. It is a unique opportunity for us to learn from each other about the music ministries from all the Metropolises. We work tirelessly and are graced with visits from our clergy, hierarchs, and other interested participants. The week begins with an opening Liturgy celebrated by our Archbishop, Metropolitans, and clergy and a combined choir comprised of all the Federations…it is a rare and beautiful experience.

I wish you all a happy and healthy spring!
Friends of the Metropolis (as of May 31, 2012)

+ His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Ann Arbor, MI - St. Nicholas
Kotsis, Fr. Nicolaos and Presbytera Sandra
Baldwin, James and Mary Suzanne
Daniels, Tony and Cleve

Buffalo, NY - Annunciation
Christakis, Fr. Christos and Presbytera Lisa
Kallis, Fr. Perikles and Presbytera Cassandra
Cervi, Brian and Vassilia

Carmel, IN - Holy Trinity
Karas, Gus and Maritsa
Kazmierski, Maria Hristova
Pappas, Vicki

Chattanooga, TN - Annunciation
Moore, James and Fannie
Mousourakis, John and Donna

Cincinnati, OH - Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas
HTSN Parish
Assaley, Lewis and Patricia
Stringas, Emanuel

Dayton, OH - Annunciation
Emroll, Fr. Mark and Presbytera Ginny
Heisey, Jeffery and Chrisanne

Detroit, MI - Annunciation Cathedral
Papas, John G.

Farmington Hills, MI - Holy Cross
Ganas, James S.

Fort Wayne, IN - Holy Trinity
Doublas, Gregory
Koulionos, Dionysios and Maria
Turner, Christian M.

Grand Blanc, MI - Assumption
Chinonis, Nancy and Jeff Lauster

Grand Rapids, MI - Holy Trinity
Bogdan, Fr. James and Presbytera Joan
Cassis, Deacon George and Diaconissa Vicki
Monoyios, Terry
Nicholas, Jim and Georgia

Indianapolis, IN - Holy Apostles
Holy Apostles Parish

Ithaca, NY - St. Catherine
Bantuvanis, Ann
Bezirganian, John

Lansing, MI - Holy Trinity
Holy Trinity Philoptochos

Little Rock, AR - Annunciation
Verdaris, Fr. Nicholas and Presbytera Maria

Middletown, OH - Sts. Constantine and Helen
Anagnostou, Elias
Canada, William
Comminos, Steve and Beth
Formakes, George
Formakes, John
Gordon, Kiki Demetriou
Hasselbusch, Aaron
Mathews, Mike
McNeely, Ed
McNeely, Nestor and Niki
Revelos, George
Revelos, Mike
Ververis, Chris
Ververis, Nicholas

Muskegon, MI - Annunciation
Annunciation Philoptochos
Yankopoulos, Presbytera Ann
Encelewski, Christine
Ladas, Paul M. and Patricia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Parish/Mission</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Nashville, TN - Holy Trinity | Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and Presbytera Sofia  
Billo, John and Kassiani  
Gore, Jim and Stacy  
Hayes, Litsa  
Lamberson, Lambert and Helen  
Rogers, Helen and Lawrence Kamm | Bazakis, Andrew and Ann |
| Nashville, TN - St. John Chrysostom Mission | Turner, Fr. Parthenios and Presbytera Marion  
Barber, Jill  
Calvert, Patrick  
Courington, Christopher and Shelley  
Derryberry, Paul  
Dozier, Matthew  
Duke, Naomi  
Dunn, Robert and Laura  
Gharavi, Parissa  
Knox, David  
Stein, Matt and Dana  
Thomas, Gordon  
Tickle, Jackie  
Williams, Nina  
Winter, Lindsey | |
| New Buffalo, MI - Annunciation/St. Paraskevi | Hahn, Elizabeth  
Lepeniotis, Christos and Anastasia  
Litznerski, Robert and Mariann | Genematas, Toulia  
Sarelis, Fr. Charles and Presbytera Angela  
Randall, Michael and Anne  
Zervos, George and Lisa |
| Plymouth, MI – Nativity of the Virgin Mary | Govostes, Fr. Sean and Presbytera Pamela  
Sarelis, Fr. Charles and Presbytera Angela  
Randall, Michael and Anne  
Zervos, George and Lisa | Damaskos, Fr. Aristotle and Presbytera Debbie  
Biernacki, Gerald and Pauline |
| Troy, MI - St. Nicholas | Demery, Beck  
Zotos, Gregory | Streza, Fr. Ciprian and Presbytera Sinziana |
| Vestal, NY – Annunciation | Gianakouros, Harry D.  
Yacalis, Vasili G. | |
| Westland, MI – Sts. Constantine and Helen | Petrutiu, Fr. Teodor and Presbytera Roxana  
Balaskas, Dorte | |
| Other Friends | Bartz, Fr. William and Presbytera Emily  
Demetris, Olga (Dolly)  
In Memory of Iakovos (Jack) Demetris  
In Memory of Tess Gakis  
Radulescu, Alexandru  
Totan, Silvana  
Walsh, Andrew and Catherine | |

**Friends of the Metropolis (as of May 31, 2012)**
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 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

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.

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

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

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City______________________________________________________________________
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Account # ___________________Exp.__________Signature_______________Date__________