REFLECTION

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you…”

John 14:26-27

Beloved in the Lord,

Often in the New Testament we see that after people have come into the presence of Jesus they leave and tell others of the “wonderful things that God has done.” (cf. Mark 5:18-19)

This important part of our Christian testimony is not something which stopped with the ascension of Jesus. Rather, it is an ongoing reality of our Christian life and experience, and a natural outpouring of the blessing of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

We recently saw this Pentecostal reality of our Christian witness when the young people of our Metropolis gathered for their local Oratorical Festivals which eventually brought participants from throughout the Metropolis to the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Toledo, OH where our Metropolis finals were held.

The speakers in Toledo represented the best of the best. They had already gone through their parish and local area tryouts vying to have an opportunity to speak their message before the families, friends, supporters, and clergy who were in Toledo to support this national program.

I must tell you that all of the speakers glowed with an inner sense of Christian pride as they delivered their message of faith and witness.

Their participation in this event highlighted their journey of faith and Christian learning. They are able to do something which many people find difficult: they shared their Orthodox faith in a public manner. Yes, they dared to speak the message of the Gospel!

To the participants at all levels — and to the parents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, grandparents, teachers, and Sunday School advisors — we say thank you for a job well done! Congratulations!

With every paternal blessing,

†NICHOLAS
Metropolitan of Detroit
Metropolitan’s Schedule

June

1. The Divine Liturgy
   - St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI
2. Wedding of Scott O’Rourke & Jessica Pindle
   - Transfiguration Church—Austin, TX
3. Holy Pentecost Divine Liturgy
   - Transfiguration Church—Austin, TX
4. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy & “Yasou Greek Fest”
   - St. Demetrios Church—Saginaw, MI
5. Baptism of Scott Lionas
   - St. John Church—Sterling Heights, MI
6. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy & Greek Festival
   - Assumption Church—Grand Blanc, MI
7. Greek Festival
   - St. Nicholas Church—Troy, MI
8. Pastoral Visit
   - Metropolis of Detroit

July

9. 42nd Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress
   - Philadelphia, PA
10. Archangel Gabriel Parish Visitation
    - Traverse City, MI
11. Wedding of James Petrolla & Nomiki Frangopoulos
    - Archangel Michael Church—Campbell, OH
12. Pastoral Visit
    - Metropolis of Detroit
13. American Bible Society Meeting
    - Metropolis Office—Troy, MI
14. MEFGOX Convention
    - Annunciation Cathedral—Columbus, OH
15. Archdiocesan Finance Committee Meeting
    - Denver, CO

For calendar updates, please visit our website at: www.detroit.goarch.org/news/calendar
Youth News
By Eva Kokinos—Konstantakos
Metropolis Youth Director

St. John Chrysostom
Oratorical Festival
Metropolis Finals

Young people from throughout the Metropolis of Detroit gathered again for the annual St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival—Metropolis finals.

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides our youth with the opportunity to truly witness their Orthodox Christian faith. In addition, the Oratorical Festival cultivates their skills in oratory and homiletics which was a significant tool used to spread Orthodoxy.

This year’s Metropolis Festival was on Saturday, May 17, 2014 at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Toledo, OH. His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas was present at this year’s Festival, calling all of our speakers to continue to share the message of the Gospel in this special way.

We thank Mr. Paul Sieben, Festival Chairperson, as well as all of the parish donors and volunteers who gave their time and resources to make the event so successful.

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Metropolis and parishes in our Metropolis, a $500 award was given to the 1st Place speaker of the Junior Division and Senior Division. In addition, a Certificate of Participation and small gift were given to each one of the speakers that day.

The Junior and Senior Division Speaker Finalists advanced to Archdiocese Finals which were held June 13-15, 2014 in Cleveland, OH.

We congratulate our two Finalists, Carrie and John, for advancing to the Archdiocese Finals and representing our Metropolis. We also congratulate all of the speakers on their exemplary presentations.

Pictures are available on
detroit.goarch.org/youth/gallery

ST. TIMOTHY SUMMER CAMP—REGISTRATION OPEN!

Registration is now open for the St. Timothy Camp at Oswegatchie Educational Center in Upstate NY. St. Timothy Camp has been serving the youth of the Metropolis for over 25 years.

St. Timothy Summer Camp will be held August 9—15, 2014. Campers ages 8-18 are welcome to register for camp TODAY!

Camp is a transformative experience for youth and the staff, too! So do not miss this opportunity for a week of faith, fun, and friendship!

Register and send your camp tuition BEFORE 7/15/2014 to take advantage of the $30 Early Bird Discount!

To register, visit
www.sttimothycamp.org/register

Don’t forget… there is still space at our two other Metropolis Camps in Michigan and Tennessee. Contact them for more information.

MDSC
www.godmsc.org
St. Nicholas Camp
www.stnicholascamp.org

SJCOF SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

We want to thank the “Friends of the Metropolis” and the following parishes for donating to the St. John Chrysostom Metropolis Oratorical Festival Scholarship Fund:

Annunciation Cathedral—Detroit, MI
Annunciation Church—Little Rock, AR
Annunciation Church—Chattanooga, TN
Holy Apostles Church—Indianapolis, IN
Holy Cross Church—Farmington Hills, MI
Holy Trinity Church—Carmel, IN
Holy Trinity Church—Grand Rapids, MI
Holy Trinity Church—Lansing, MI
Holy Trinity Church—Nashville, TN
Nativity of the Virgin Mary—Plymouth, MI
St. Catherine Church—Ithaca, NY
St. Demetrios Church—Saginaw, MI
St. George Church—Bloomfield Hills, MI
St. George Church—Southgate, MI
St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI
St. Nicholas Church—Carmel, IN
St. Nicholas Church—Troy, MI
St. Sophia Church—Syracuse, NY
Sts. Constantine and Helen Church—Westland, MI
Philoptochos News
By Margaret Yates—President

“A Celebration of Caring”, the biennial fundraising luncheon offered by the Metropolis Philoptochos Board, was held on April 26 at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Toledo, OH. Upon entering the fellowship hall building, we were greeted with a display of colorful sheets, comforters, adult and children’s hand-made fleece blankets and a few baby blankets that were to be donated to the Beach House family shelter by the Holy Trinity Philoptochos.

Punch and hors d’oeuvres were served in the beautifully decorated fellowship hall where members had an opportunity to visit with one another before the program was begun and lunch was served. During the fellowship hour we enjoyed the music of The Vutones musical group. We were honored that Metropolitan Nicholas was able to attend and present a yellow rose to each of the forty-nine past presidents from our Metropolis who were in attendance. Five past presidents who were planning on attending had to cancel because of last minute unexpected commitments.

Thank you to all the Metropolis Board who worked to make the luncheon a success, to Metropolitan Nicholas and Board members for donating the beautiful raffle prizes, to our sponsors and to our hosts, The Holy Trinity Philoptochos, for their hospitality. A special thank you to our co-chairs, Pauline Biernacki of Toledo and Evanthia Valassiades of Dayton. It was truly a joyous occasion as we celebrated those who worked so hard in past years to carry out the mission of Philoptochos.

The Dayton Philoptochos is collecting monetary donations and “wish list” items for the Fisher House, which helps house military families of service men and women requiring hospitalization and medical attention.

The members of the Philoptochos in Buffalo held a farewell reception for Fr. Penkles Kallis, their assistant priest, and his family. He is now the Proistamenos at Holy Trinity in Waterbury, CT. They also coordinated a church team to walk in a fundraiser for Autism awareness. As mentioned previously, the members collected IOCC baby kits in honor of the Kallis family and presented the new baby with a baby quilt that was signed by 100 of the parishioners.

Several chapters throughout the Metropolis held spiritual retreats during the Lenten season, also attended by members from other chapters. The majority of the chapters held Palm Sunday luncheons, dyed red Easter eggs and helped to decorate the Epitaphion.

As we prepare for the Clergy/Laity Philoptochos conference, our goal has been to have all 36 active chapters ratified. We are now at 95% and hope to reach 100% soon. The majority of our chapters will be receiving awards for paying all National Commitments for 2012 and 2013. Congratulations!

Philoptochos Donations

- HOLY SPIRIT, ROCHESTER NY $200 TO ALBANIA AND $120 TO GUATEMALA THRU IOCC
- HOLY SPIRIT, ROCHESTER NY $2900 TO NATIONAL COMMITMENTS IN 2013
- METROPOLIS BOARD - $500 TO THE BEACH HOUSE
- ANNUNCIATION IN BUFFALO - $750 FOR AUTISM AWARENESS

MEFGOX News
By Theodore Niforos—President

When you come to our sacred Liturgy, do you take one important aspect of your worship for granted? I refer to the beauty of our traditional Byzantine-style music, whether it is one voice chanting or with a choir singing the traditional hymns in four-part harmonies.

Do you also take for granted the contribution of your Greek Orthodox Church Musicians?

If one took the time to consider the many kinds of musicians we have who take part in the Liturgy, you would be surprised at the levels of training and commitment your musicians display.

Our Metropolitans, Priests and Deacons have been trained at a seminary in the chants of the Liturgy, which lead you to your prayers. A large number of our chanters have trained for many years, in Greece or in the United States, to learn the eight modes of our music and how each hymn they provide fits into them. Think of all the special hymns they chant during Holy Week. Most of our choir directors are trained musicians who lead our singers in their responses to the Clergy on behalf of the “laos”, the people. The choir members, almost all of whom are volunteers, not only sing every Sunday, but attend regular rehearsals to become proficient under the director’s leadership. Organists, also skilled musicians, accompany
He Has Revealed Himself To Us

By Father Nicholas Marcus

During Orthros, after the reading of the Psalms as well as in other services such as Paraklesis, we hear a special and a very short hymn “God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us...” I say these words in my daily prayers knowing that they are ancient in origin and that they are speaking about mystery revealed. God the Lord has revealed Himself to us! Our Holy Church exists through the belief that God has revealed Himself to us. This idea of God appearing is a source of strength to all who have faith in the person of Jesus Christ.

The God who appeared to us appeared in our physical history. It is through His plan of salvation for each and every one of us that on the day of Pentecost, fifty days after Pascha, He reveals to us the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the One who brings wisdom, strength, and courage to our lives. It is through the Holy Spirit that our Lord shows us His love and, very importantly, His purpose for each of us in this world. Many people try to show or prove that God exists. Faith is not about proof of God’s existence; faith is about individual acceptance that God is!

The Church began its mission of Christianity on the day of Pentecost. One could argue that the Church has always existed, but it is on this day that a few fishermen are sent out to change the world forever. On this day our Lord’s holy disciples received the Holy Spirit upon them as flaming tongues and established through the Holy Spirit a Faith in a God who revealed Himself to us! As Orthodox Christians, we cannot separate the Church from Faith. We cannot know Christ, or the Holy Spirit, or God the Father—the Holy Trinity, outside of His Holy Church that He has established. This has been proclaimed by the Saints from the beginning of Christianity. In the Church we proclaim His faith, and we help to maintain that faith through the Sacramental life, starting with our baptism.

Recently, we had the graduation of the high school seniors from Sunday School. Those in the ministry of teaching the faith, such as our dedicated Sunday School teachers, do their best to show a God who has been revealed. These teachers try to impart their love for God and His Church. But no one can really teach you how to have faith, or what God feels like. The only way is to seek Him in your heart and in His Holy Church. To have the Lord in our life is the greatest treasure that we can have—a treasure that no one can take from us!

“God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us...” may these sweet words guide you and comfort you.

(Continued from page 4)

On July 24-27, 2014, the Church Musicians of MEFGOX, from both the Detroit and Pittsburgh Metropolises, will attend our annual Convention, this year at the Annunciation Cathedral in Columbus, Ohio, to learn more about our faith and its music and to rehearse to sing the beautiful music of Presvytera Anna Gallos’ Second Greek and English Liturgies at our Sunday Service.
Friends of the Metropolis

Donors List as of May 31, 2014

+ His Eminence
Metropolitan Nicholas

**Ann Arbor, MI - St. Nicholas**
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Paul, Presbytera Eva
Daniels, Tony and Clevie
Yates, Billy and Margaret

**Bloomfield Hills, MI – St. George**
Abell, Deacon Christopher and
Diakonissa Alice

**Buffalo, NY – Annunciation**
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Holy Trinity Philoptochos
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**Chattanooga, TN – Annunciation**
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**Dayton, OH – Annunciation**
Jannides, Michael
Moraites, John

**Detroit, MI – Annunciation Cathedral**
Annunciation Cathedral Pioneers

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St. Athanasios Parish

**Farmington Hills, MI – Holy Cross**
Hountalas, Fr. Dean and
Presbytera Olga
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Nakos, Nikos
Maggos, Eleftherios and Paraskevi

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Assumption Parish
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Chinonis, Nancy and Jeff Lauster
Chinonis, Sandra
Costa, John and Laura
Greenberg, Camelia

**Grand Rapids, MI - Holy Trinity**
Holy Trinity Parish
Cassis, Deacon George and
Diakonissa Vicki
Cassis, James and Christine
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Missler, Stephen and Maria
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Triant, Linda
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Holy Apostles Parish

**Ithaca, NY – St. Catherine**
Bantuwanis, Ann
Bezirganian, John

**Jamestown, NY – St. Nicholas**
St. Nicholas Parish
Cheronis, James and Christine

**Lansing, MI – Holy Trinity**
Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Evanoff-Joseph, Yvonne
Pascalenos, Olga

**Little Rock, AR – Annunciation**
Annunciation Parish
Verdis, Fr. Nicholas and
Presbytera Maria
Delfos, Fr. Pierre and
Presbytera Harriet

**Memphis, TN – Annunciation**
Annunciation Parish
Annunciation Philoptochos
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Presbytera Anne
Vieron, Fr. Nicholas and
Presbytera Bess
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Daughters of Penelope – Memphis Chapter #180
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Buchanan, Angela
Bullard, Tim
Bunn, Jan
Couloubaritsis, Jerry and Julia
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Demos, Chris and Shawn
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Semos, Vasilis and Luane
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Taras, Kosta and Loretta
Tasie, Dave and Christine
Tasie, George and Cecile
Tasie, Jimmy and Nancy
Tasie, John
Tasie, Judd and Debbie
Terranova, Anastasia
Tobias, Richard and Angela
Touliatos, Joy
Vergos, Alex
Vergos, John and Ellen
Vergos, Tasia
Wassef, Magdi and Amira
Vasiliki, Whitten

**Muskegon, MI – Annunciation**
Yankopoulos, Presbytera Ann
Keat, Peppy
Ladas, Paul and Patricia

**Nashville, TN - Holy Trinity**
Holy Trinity Parish
Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and Presbytera Sofia
Gaddis, Jim and Tasoula
Gaddis, Thoma and Carrie
Lamberson, Lambert and Helen

**New Buffalo, MI – Annunciation-Agia Paraskevi**
Martin, Fr. Paul and Presbytera Nikki
Anton, Gust J.
Kerhoulas, Mike and Louisa

**Nashville, TN – Holy Trinity**
Rogers, Helen and Lawrence Kamm

**Nashville, TN - St. John Chrysostom Mission**
Turner, Fr. Parthenios and Presbytera Marion

**Plymouth, MI – Nativity of the Virgin Mary**
Randall, Michael and Anne

**Rochester, NY – Annunciation**
Annunciation Philoptochos
Mot, Fr. Catalin and Presbytera Felicia
Gines, George and Maria
Stefanou, Constantine and Florence

**Rochester, NY – Holy Spirit**
Gesell, Melody

**Saginaw, MI – St. Demetrios**
Bazakis, Andrew and Ann

**Southgate, MI - St. George**
St. George Parish
St. George Philoptochos
Kircos, Louis and Paula
Kontos, John and Marika
Kozaitis, Mina

**Springfield, OH – Assumption**
Lagos, James H. Lagos Company, Inc.

**St. Clair Shores, MI – Assumption**
Varlamos, Fr. Michael and Presbytera Tina
Callas, Kalliopi
Zingas, Christopher and Marsha

**Sterling Heights, MI - St. John**
St. John Choir
Lionas, James and Helene
Kotsis, Harry and Katherine
Raphitis, Mike and Betty
Salonikas, George and Niki

**Toledo, OH – Holy Trinity Cathedral**
Damaskos, Fr. Aristotle and Presbytera Debbie
Biernacki, Gerald and Pauline
Mulopulos, George and Ann

**Traverse City, MI – Archangel Gabriel**
Sobkowski, Nikki

**Troy, MI - St. Nicholas**
St. Nicholas Philoptochos
Constantine George Pappas
Architecture/Planning
Demery, Beck
Feles, Gust and Anne
George, Christian
George, John and Marlo
George, Jordan
Kardasis, Marie
Mortis, George and Hionia
Patches, John and Angeliki

**Vestal, NY – Annunciation**
Gianakouros, Harry and Katerina

**Westland, MI – Sts. Constantine and Helen**
Bogdanos, Connie
Ochadleus, William and Georgene

**Other Friends**
Radulescu, Deacon Alexandru and Diaconissa Silvana
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.

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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