

The Shepherd's Staff

VOLUME VII, ISSUE 3

JUNE 2015

SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

METROPOLIS FINALS

Annunciation Cathedral Detroit, Michigan

May 16, 2015

PHOTO: Jordan George, SJCOF Senior Division winner

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Metropolitan's Message



My Beloved Clergy and Faithful,

During these past few months, many of the parishes have had the pleasure and opportunity of seeing our young people compete in our Parish and Metropolis Oratorical Festivals. I am certain that each of us experiences a certain amount of pride in seeing our youth talk about our Orthodox faith during this Festival time.

To be certain, we can all learn something from the talks that our young people give. We are able to better understand something about our own Orthodox faith and the way in which it impacts our youth. And perhaps more importantly, at times we are also able to recognize that our young people are actually dealing with questions and ideas that we too have had in our own lifetime. Perhaps the most important difference is that our young people have made the active effort to talk to us about how the statements of our Christian faith have impacted their own lives.

Whenever I hear our young people speak about our

faith, I always remember the command of our Lord, to preach the gospel to the entire world (cf. Mark 16:15). It is interesting to note that our young people accept this challenge with an openness and a sense of joy.

So the question then becomes this: when was the last time that we were comfortable in sharing our Christian faith and witness with those around us? I am not talking about us forcing our faith on others – but rather about being comfortable in talking about our Christian walk with those around us. I am wondering if we can become as innocent and refreshing as our young people who took the challenge to talk about God in a world that wants to avoid His name.

I ask you to join me in this new day, made alive by the Pentecostal tongues of fire, so that we too might become like our young people, and tell the wonder and glory of God. May his name be praised forever!

† NICHOLAS
Metropolitan of Detroit

Metropolitan's Schedule |

updates at detroit.goarch.org/calendar

JUN	2015	
7	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy	St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI
13	Ordination to Priesthood of Dcn. Christopher Abell	St. George Church—Bloomfield Hills, MI
14	Ordination to Diaconate of Dionysios Koulianos	Holy Trinity Church—Fort Wayne, MI
20	Ordination to Priesthood of Dcn. Vasilios Pliakas	St. Nicholas Church—Ann Arbor, MI
21	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy	TBD
22—24	National Clergy-Laity Meeting with Jerry Dimitriou	Nashville, TN
27—28	Holy Trinity Cathedral Centennial Anniversary	Toledo, OH
29	Meeting with Jerry Dimitriou	Metropolis Center—Troy, MI
JUL	2015	
5	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy	Metro Detroit
12	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy	TBD
16—19	MEFGOX 68th Annual Convention	Sts. Constantine & Helen Church—Westland, MI
19	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy	Sts. Constantine & Helen Church—Westland, MI



Philoptochos News

by Margaret Yates—President

Congratulations to chapter #7040 from the Annunciation Church in Chattanooga, TN. Under the leadership of President Presvytera Thea Ballas, they were the first to complete their pledge to the St. Nicholas Church and National Shrine. This chapter has grown under Presvytera Thea from 16 members in 2011 to twenty-seven members in 2014.

Because most chapters do not meet during the summer, the past month has been busy for everyone. Elections for 2015-2017 chapter board members took place in May. As per resolution at the National Philoptochos Conference in Philadelphia, election procedures were changed after many, many years. We are currently in the process of ratification so board members can be sworn in and officers elected. The rule of no consecutive third terms for officers has hampered our smaller chapters with memberships under twenty. Even though formal meetings are not held, projects and activities will continue throughout the summer.

Although most are already doing so, many chapters have committed to the new initiative proposed by National Philoptochos President Maria Logus to Feed the Hungry by providing 250,000 meals by the summer of 2016. Some chapters are running soup kitchens and others are packing lunches for the homeless while partnering with community organizations. Go to Dayton and see some Philoptochos members passing out meals from a food truck. These are some of the things we're doing in addition to stocking food pantries, packing backpacks for children with food items for the weekend, providing meals to homeless shelters, and more.

Several chapters have had, or are planning activities to support the rebuilding of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. Our metropolis mailed a computer flash drive to each chapter with videos of the

PHOTO: (L-R) Margaret Yates, Eleni Zaferes and Aphrodite Skeadas at the site of the soon to be rebuilt St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, WTC, New York.

project to be shown to members and the parish community. The goal of our Metropolis Philoptochos is to raise \$201,000 based on a 2013 membership of 2010 members. Partnering with parish councils or other organizations makes that goal more realistic. I recall a quote from Rev. Fr. John Bakas from the St. Sophia Cathedral in Los Angeles. By concluding his talk, he said, "We are angels with only one wing. We can only fly by holding on to one another."

Plans are underway for our Clergy/Laity Philoptochos Conference in October. Our national president has been invited and we hope her schedule will allow her to attend at least a portion of the conference, culminating in the election of a new Metropolis Board.

As mentioned in the last issue of the Shepherd's Staff, National Board members were given an opportunity to tour Ground Zero on the afternoon of May 6. We traveled by school bus to the Port Authority Building where we met with Rev. Fr. Alexander Karloutsos, GOAA Rebuilding Committee, Mr. Steven Plate, director of World Trade Center construction, Nick Koutsomitis, Architect of Record, and Andrew Veniopoulos, GOAA. We viewed a video of the project, donned our hard hats, signed releases and walked to the future site of the St. Nicholas Church accompanied by construction workers and two police officers (who remained with us throughout the afternoon). It was an opportunity of a lifetime to stand in what will become the sanctuary and altar as Mr. Koutsomitis explained the process of building this religious icon. Following this very moving experience we were escorted to the reflecting pools and the 9/11 museum. This magnificent structure took us back to the morning of September 11, 2001, rekindling memories of that disastrous day of terrorism. The museum is incredible with its Historical Exhibition, Memorial Exhibition and Foundation Hall. That evening we shared a meal and heard the words of Paulette Poulos, representing Leadership 100, and Anthoula Katsimatides who lost her brother when the towers collapsed.

Our Orthodox youth are the future of our church. To keep them connected we have asked all chapters to refer graduating high school seniors to OCF with contact information as they go off to college.

St. Nicholas—Troy, MI Vasilopita St. Nicholas—Ann Arbor, MI Nepal Annunciation—Chattanooga, TN St. Nicholas National Shrine \$2,700

Youth News

by Eva Kokinos-Konstantakos—Director

2015 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL METROPOLIS FINALS

On Saturday, May 16, 2015, fifteen exceptional speakers from throughout the Metropolis gathered at Annunciation Cathedral in Detroit, MI for the 2015 St. John Chrysostom Metropolis Oratorical Festival.

Introduced in 1983, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides Greek Orthodox teenagers the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. The top speakers in the Junior and Senior Divisions from each parish advance to the district level. Two finalists in each district division represent the district at the Metropolis Oratorical Festival. The top speaker in each metropolis division is then selected to participate in the Archdiocese Finals, which is hosted by a different metropolis each year.

Each participant received a small gift bag and Certificate of Participation to recognize their hard work. the top Junior and top Senior Division speakers are each awarded \$500. This year, through the generosity of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas and the Friends of the Metropolis, the top Junior and Senior speaker will also be award with air travel to the Archdiocese Finals in Pasadena, CA June 5-7, 2015.

We thank Fr. George Manias and the Annunciation Cathedral community for hosting such a wonderful event.

We thank all of the judges who willingly took on the difficult task of evaluating the speakers and their presentations. Of course, we would especially like to thank the Festival Chairman, Mr. Will Lianos, for coordinating the entire event.

Congrats to all speakers and best of luck to Christian George and Jordan George at the Archdiocese Finals!

For photos of this event, please visit: http://photos.detroit.goarch.org/2015/Oratorical-Metropolis-Finals/

JUNIOR DIVISION Speakers:

First Place: Christian George - St. Nicholas/Troy, MI Second Place: Elizabeth Martine - Holy Trinity/Carmel, IN

Honorable Mention (alphabetical order):

- Chloe Boucounis St. Sophia/Syracuse, NY
- Ana Eveleigh Annunciation/Rochester, NY
- Stephen Hohnholt Holy Trinity/Nashville, TN
- Carrie Langendorf Annunciation/Dayton, OH
- Sam Radwanski St. Nicholas/Ann Arbor, MI

SENIOR DIVISION Speakers:

First Place: Jordan George - St. Nicholas/Troy, MI Second Place: Victoria Martine - Holy Trinity/Carmel, IN

Honorable Mention (alphabetical order):

- Maria Makarounas St. George/Southgate, MI
- Caroline Malakelis Holy Trinity/Nashville, TN
- Nicole Naselaris Annunciation/Rochester, NY
- Constance Poplos Annunciation/Memphis, TN
- Julianna Schlabig Annunciation/Buffalo, NY
- Ismene Vedder Assumption/Louisville, KY

The First Forty Days: High School to College Transition

Research has shown that many college students form the habits and social groups that they will maintain for the entirety of their college career in the first six weeks of their freshman year. Thus, OCF knows it is critical to personally



contact every first-year Orthodox college student so that they know that an Orthodox family awaits them on campus during these crucial formative weeks. **Through OCF's First Forty Days Initiative**, the local OCF student leaders, spiritual advisors, and lay coordinators introduce themselves to all new incoming students, making sure that they know about Orthodoxy on campus and nearby Orthodox parishes. These students also receive a summer mailing directly from the North American Office with information and materials to help them navigate their freshman year of college as Orthodox college students. It is the hope that through this personal connection, young college students will not only stay connected but deepen their faith during their years in post-secondary education and graduate to be faithful stewards of parishes across the continent.

By submitting your incoming freshmen's information by **JULY 15th**, you ensure that your students will receive the full benefits of the First Forty Days Initiative. Visit www.ocf.net/parents-parishes/connect-students or email firstfortydays@ocf.net for more information!

MEFGOX News

by Vicki Pappas—President

This coming July 16th – 19th, choir members, and chanters from the nine states in the Detroit and Pittsburgh Metropolises, plus other guests from across the Archdiocese, will convene in Detroit for the 68th Annual Conference of the Mid -Eastern Federation of Church Musicians. Sts. Constantine and Helen parish in Westland will host the event. Father Teodor Petrutiu, Choir Director Maritsa Madias-Kalasz, Elaine Charalambopoulos, and Alex Skylakos are heading up the team of choir and parishioners preparing this major Metropolis event. Participants will enjoy a full weekend of music, liturgical education, business meetings, and social events.

A good portion of the weekend will be spent learning about music and the theology of our faith. The Federation has planned a Church Music Institute (CMI) that occurs within the Convention, including a series of workshops on various topics. Thursday afternoon will begin with a read-through of music available to parishes, followed by a workshop conducted by a priest and a choral musician, "The Apolytikia: Their Theology and Their Melodies." Concurrently, a Chanter's Workshop on the Second Mode will be led by Christine Stavros of Traverse City; Christina was part of the first group of chanters to earn a Byzantine Music Certificate from Holy Cross. She will also present the evening workshop for everyone, entitled "Rediscovering Byzantine Chant: A Look at Hymns in Worship."

On Friday, Metropolitan Nicholas will present another of his informative instructional sessions, this time about "The Ecumenical Councils," which is the feast that will be celebrated on the Sunday of the Convention. On Saturday, two young Orthodox church musicians from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music will conduct separate workshops for men and women on "Vocalizing for Men's/Women's Voices." These workshops are open to any parishioner and we welcome your attendance.

Another major event of the weekend will be the Grand Banquet, held on Saturday evening. It will begin with a moving Candle-Lighting Ceremony remembering all the church musicians who have departed from this life. Later in the evening, recipients of MEFGOX Memorial Scholarships will be announced as well as the recipient of the Patriarch Athenagoras Medal, given by the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians to church musicians who have made outstanding contributions to church music at the Metropolis level.

On Sunday, July 16th, the assembled church musicians will provide the liturgical music for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy to be celebrated with Metropolitan Nicholas. Chanters will join the kliros with the chanters of Sts. Constantine and Helen. The choir will sing the musical setting composed by recently departed †Presvytera Anna Gallos, performing it as a tribute to the time and talents she gave to her

Church. Presvytera wrote this music in the 1970s and it was one of the early translations of the texts of the hymns into English. Presvytera's late husband, †Father George Gallos created the translation and then he and Anna collaborated to assure that the music fit the texts and also matched the liturgical action. Mrs. Pamela Cramer, Choir Director of the Annunciation Cathedral of Houston Texas will serve as Guest Director and George Cholak from Sts. Constantine and Helen will be Guest Organist. A choir of 100 or more is expected, and we hope you won't want to miss this beautiful Liturgy!

We hope the church musicians of your parish are planning to join us for this educational and spiritually uplifting event. Non-musicians interested in church music are also welcome to attend any and all parts of the Convention. You will find more details about the July 16th – 19th weekend on the Federation's website: www.mefgox.org.



Memorial Day

by Fr. Teodor Petrutiu*

Article originally published in the "Visions" Sts. Constantine & Helen Parish Newsletter of May/June 2015

Our way of life has been purchased at a high price. We say "thank you" on Memorial Day to all the men and women who have placed their lives in jeopardy for us. We honor those who are now serving in the armed forces of our country and we remember gratefully the veterans of the wars of yesterday who responded to their country's call in the hour of danger

Our fathers, grandfathers, immigrants or not, were tough people living through tough times. They loved this country and were proud to be Americans even though many of them could not speak English very well; many fought for this country and some died for it. They had work ethics and no sense of entitlement. That is the heritage we are called to remember and to perpetuate.

Thus, Memorial Day has become a day when we remember not only our soldiers but also all our loved ones who are no longer with us. To many it is also a 'Memorial Service Day' when pilgrimages are made to cemeteries to place flowers on the graves of the departed and pray for the repose of their souls. Thus it leads us to think about death and about our relation to the dead.

Ordinarily we are reluctant to face the fact of death. These days, the subject is either carefully avoided or cleverly disguised. Through a conspiracy of silence, imminent death is concealed as long as possible from the one whom it most directly concerns. And when the inevitable event takes place, the evasion continues.

The Christian view of death has none of this evasion. In every case of death, life, as we now know it, comes to an end. If this were not so, resurrection, the creation of new life by the power of God, would have no meaning, for only the dead can be resurrected. The foundation of the Christian hope is the resurrection of Christ. It is the risen Lord who assures us, "Because I live, you will live also."

As we remember our dead we wonder: where are they now and what is their condition? The answer must be: the blessed and faithful dead are with God and they are closer to him than before. Heaven means nearness to God, and it starts here, in church. That is what it means to a Christian. "To depart and be with Christ," says Paul, is "far better" than life on earth. He says also: "For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain". Death is real, but we, who believe rely on the word of his Lord, "He who believes in me, even though he dies, he shall live" (John 11:25). The life to which he comes is to be with Christ and to be "changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

As we remember our country's heroes, our founders and our own loved ones we offer our thanks to God and say with St. Apostle Paul in his Epistle to the Galatians: You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

*Fr. Teodor Petrutiu is the Parish Priest of the Sts. Constantine & Helen Church in Westland, Michigan.



Friends of the Metropolis | Jan 1—May 31, 2015

His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas

Ann Arbor, MI – St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas Philoptochos Kotsis, Fr. Nicolaos and Presbytera Sandra Pliakas, Deacon Vasilios and Diaconissa Kyriakoula Daniels, Tony and Clevie Yates, Bill and Margaret

Bloomfield Hills, MI - St. George

St. George Philoptochos Abell, Deacon Jeffrey and Diaconissa Alice lakovides, Dimitri

<u>Buffalo, NY – Annunciation</u>

Annunciation Philoptochos Sakellariou, Fr. John and Presbytera Pavlina Kuvshinoff, Boris and Barbara

Carmel, IN - Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Parish Holy Trinity Choir Bartz, Fr. William and Presbytera Emily Mamalis, Presbytera Janet Andros, Cheryl Antonopoulos, Dean Apostoles, Stacey Baker, Dan and Sylvia Brochhagen, Curt and Renee Christoff, Bill and Karen Conrad, William and Kathleen Dervenis, Nicholas and Sharon Dimos, Jim and Kathy Drukas, Doreen Dunbar, Pete and Lea Eaton, Joe and Florie Eleftheri, Lawrence and Beth Freudenberg, Jim and Cindy Graffeo, Barry and Matina Hostetler, Duane and Eleny Johnson, Ronald and Sunday Kourmoulis, Karen Lisch, Michael and Jean Oberlies, Toula Pappas, Donna

Pappas, Leon and Andrea Pappas, Nicholas and Tracy Pappas, Victoria Pavlakos, Elias and Maria Payne, Martha Rowlas, Julie Sofianopoulos, Nick and Vickie Woodruff, Jim and Cindy Xidias, Paraskevi Young, Michael and Helen Zeheralis, Chris and Becky

Chattanooga, TN - Annunciation

Annunciation Parish Ballas, Fr. Stavros and Presbytera Thea Bouloukos, Dino Dimopoulos, Barbara Fox, Ann Kosmidis, Alex Kouris, George Mena, Michael Merritt, Steve and Venetia

Cincinnati, OH -Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas

Holy Trinity – St. Nicholas Parish Assaley, Lewis and Patricia

<u>Dayton</u>, OH – Annunciation

Annunciation Philoptochos

Bennert, Constance Kazolis, Koula Politis, Dean Tapazoglou, Nicolaos and Christine

Farmington Hills, MI – Holy Cross

Hountalas, Fr. Dean and Presbytera Olga Boudouris, Constantino and Joanne

Fort Wayne, IN – Holy Trinity

Walsh, Fr. Andrew and Presbytera Sophia Byzyka, Edison and Angela Fliotsos, William Maggos, Eleftherios and Paraskevi Poursanidis, Haralambos and Trisha Spirou, Arthur and Mary

Turner, Christian

Grand Blanc, MI - Assumption

Assumption Parish Daughters of Penelope, Iris Chapter #242 Chinonis, Dennis E. and Debra Chinonis, Sandra Hountalas, Yanni Kallis, Agape Kaloydis, John and Karen Karabinas, Pavlos and Ruth Schultze, Joanne Steinhoff, G. Olaa Yeotis, Catherine Yiannatji, Helen

Grand Rapids, MI – Holy Trinity

Cassis, Deacon E. George and Diaconissa Vicky Gray, Mark and Alexis Nicholas, James and Georgia

Indianapolis, IN – Holy Apostles

Holy Apostles Parish

<u>Ithaca, NY – St. Catherine</u>

Bantuvanis, Ann Bezirganian, John

Jamestown, NY - St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas Parish **Detroit, MI – Annunciation Cathedral** Cheronis, James and Christine

Kalamazoo, MI – Annunciation

Ingalls, Bob and Andriana

Lansing, MI - Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Parish Holy Trinity Philoptochos

<u>Lexington</u>, KY - Panagia **Pantovasillisa**

Panagia Pantovasillisa Philoptochos Karounos, Dennis and Chrisi Smither, Steven and Eugenia

<u>Little Rock, AR - Annunciation</u>

Delfos, Fr. Pierre and Presbytera Harriet

Louisville, KY - Assumption

Wingenbach, Fr. Gregory C. Balakos, Michael and Lori Blackford, Charles and Patricia Taylor, Robert

Memphis, TN – Annunciation

Annunciation Philoptochos Daughters of Penelope, Memphis #180 Berends, Fr. James and Presbytera Anne Tobias, Richard and Angela

Muskegon, MI - Annunciation

Honeycutt, Fr. James and Presbytera Juliana Ladas, Paul and Patricia

Nashville, TN – Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Philoptochos
Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and
Presbytera Sofia
Billo, John and Kassiani
Gaddis, Jim and Tasoula
Lamberson, Lambert and Helen
McNeil, Larry
Taras, Nick and Donna
Weeks, Timothy and Teresa

Nashville, TN - St. John Chrysostom

Turner, Fr. Parthenios and Presbytera Marion Demmas, Constance Derryberry, Paul Dozier, Matthew Gore, James and Stacy Light, Oxsana Marchetti, John and Linda Pappas, Tom and Lisa

<u>New Buffalo, MI –</u> Annunciation-St. Paraskevi

Martin, Fr. Paul and Presbytera Nikki

<u>Plymouth, MI –</u> <u>Nativity of the Virgin Mary</u>

Nativity of the Virgin Mary Parish Kheir, Angela Kyriacou, Costis and Kathleen Randall, Michael and Anne

Rochester, NY - Annunciation

Moukous, Sylvia Stefanou, Constantine and Florence

Rochester, NY - Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit Parish Cowles, Fr. Patrick and Presbytera Mary

Saginaw, MI – St. Demetrios

St. Demetrios Philoptochos St. Demetrios GOYA Cook, Fr. Timothy and Presbytera Katherine Bazakis, Andrew and Ann Metropoulos, Katherine Stamas, James and Marsha

Southgate, MI – St. George

St. George Parish St. George Philoptochos Cook, Fr. Anthony and Presbytera Elizabeth Cranford, Joanne Dionyssopoulos, Stavros and Eleni Galanis, Sam Kircos, Angelo and Sophia Kircos, Louis and Paula Kontos, Chris and Frances Kontos, John and Marika Kozaitis, Mina Liakos, Michael Makarounas, Panormitis and Kyriaki Minton, Nicholas Papalas, Mary Vougiouklakis, Peter and Christina

Springfield. OH – Assumption

Lagos, James H. Lagos Company, Inc.

St. Clair Shores, MI – Assumption

Assumption Parish
Varlamos, Fr. Michael and
Presbytera Tina
Athanassopoulos, Nick and Sarah
Callas, Kalliopy
Thomas, Tom and Lynn

Sterling Heights, MI - St. John

St. John Choir Kotsis, Harry and Katherine Lionas, James and Helene Raphtis, Mike and Betty Salonikas, George and Niki

Syracuse, NY - St. Sophia

Smith, Fr David and Presbytera Donna

<u>Toledo, OH - Holy Trinity Cathedral</u>

Holy Trinity Cathedral Philoptochos Biernacki, Gerald and Pauline Photos, Thomas M. Proestos, Kypros

<u>Traverse City, MI –</u> Archangel Gabriel

Archangel Gabriel Philoptochos Streza, Fr. Ciprian and Presbytera Sinziana Underwood, Robert and Theresa Stamos-

Troy, MI - St. Nicholas

George, Christian George, John and Marlo George, Jordan Mortis, George and Hionia Xydas, Spiros

<u>Vestal, NY – Annunciation</u>

Annunciation Parish Gianakouros, Harry and Katerina

<u>Westland, MI –</u> Sts. Constantine and Helen

Sts. Constantine and Helen Parish Ochadleus, William and Georgene

Other Friends

Ahepa – Alpha Chapter #40 – Troy, Michigan Detroit Greek Independence Day Committee Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Ponkey, Marsha Radulescu, Deacon Alexandru and Diaconissa Silvana



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA METROPOLIS OF DETROIT

The Shepherd's Staff Newsletter

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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

BACKGROUND: Mosaic icon of Sts. Constantine & Helen, Westland, Michigan

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Send this card in an envelope to: METROPOLIS OF DETROIT 2560 Crooks Road, Trov. MI 48084

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