Beloved Family in Christ,

In the United States, November is usually a time of reflection and choice with regard to the legal and cultural norms and goals of our country. It is the time of elections and voting — and our belief is that by participating in this process, we will have an opportunity to express a direction for our lives and country.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about the ability for us to cast our vote is the fact that we can either be convinced of the wisdom of our previous choices — or we can be free to change our minds. In this manner, the collective experience and goals of the entire population are meant to be taken into account so that “we the people” can be reflected in the manner in which our country is run.

We as Orthodox Christians must not forget that we are also called upon to make choices. Oftentimes people think that the only choices that we make as parishioners are those which concern the day-to-day operations of a parish complex. And as necessary and important as these choices might be, they are not the most significant matter at hand for us Orthodox Christians.

As Christians every day is election day. We are called upon each day to choose to follow Christ. It is not enough that we should be simply, as party members, waving our Christian flag. On the contrary, each day we are called upon to help those in need; each day we are called upon to say the name that is above every other name, the name of Jesus, and to bless ourselves and our families with our love and devotion to Him.

Here in the United States, where the rest of the society votes once a year, we are called upon to vote every day, to choose to follow Christ, and to be the emissaries of His love.

Let us make our votes for Him in our life count every day.

With every blessing,

Metropolitan Nicholas
**BISHOP’S SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS**

**OCTOBER**

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<td>Pastoral Visit</td>
<td>Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church - Plymouth, MI</td>
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<td>Trisagion &amp; Funeral Thomas G. Thomas</td>
<td>Assumption Church - St. Clair Shores, MI</td>
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<td>Fall Meeting of the Holy Eparchial Synod</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>St. Demetrios Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>2010 Archon Weekend &amp; Assembly of the Order of St. Andrew</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Hierarchical Divine Liturgy &amp; Investiture of the new Archons</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Archdiocesan Cathedral - NYC</td>
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**NOVEMBER**

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<td>Meeting of the Holy &amp; Sacred Synod</td>
<td>Ecumenical Patriarchate, Turkey</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>7:00 pm St. Nektarios Great Vespers</td>
<td>Assumption Church - St. Clair Shores, MI</td>
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<td>10 - 13</td>
<td>American Bible Society Board Meeting</td>
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<td>International Archon Religious Freedom Conference</td>
<td>Brussels - Belgium, Europe</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Pastoral Visit</td>
<td>St. George Church - Southgate, MI</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Clergy Syndesmos Meeting</td>
<td>Metropolis Center - Troy, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 - Dec. 5</td>
<td>Meeting of the Holy &amp; Sacred Synod</td>
<td>Ecumenical Patriarchate, Turkey</td>
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**NEW! Metropolis Website Re-Launched**

After a long period of time, our website has been redesigned and re-launched. The site includes new elements like: featured articles, online resources, multimedia, Q&A forms, maps, useful resources and links, an online bookstore, online donations via PayPal, Google search, etc.

Please visit us at: [www.detroit.goarch.org](http://www.detroit.goarch.org) and subscribe to the news and events of our Metropolis and access the Shepherd’s Staff Newsletter latest issue and Archive.
2010 GOYA
“Christ Encounter Retreat”
Annunciation Church
Little Rock, AR

Fr. Nicholas Verdaris and the GOYAns of the Annunciation Church in Little Rock, Arkansas held their annual “Christ Encounter Retreat” on Saturday, October 2, 2010.

Eva Kokinos, the Metropolis Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, is invited every year by Fr. Nicholas and Annunciation parish to come and lead this GOYA retreat. The goal of the retreat is to offer the young people an opportunity to encounter Christ through study of the Holy Scriptures, discussions about current issues, participation in service projects, and fellowship with one another.

The theme of the retreat was “Survivor: Making It Through Life for Eternal Life.” Led by Eva Kokinos, the GOYAns discussed some of the pressing issues facing teens today and how to navigate through those challenges according to the Church. Some of the topics included peer pressure, technology and internet safety, sexual purity, and drug/alcohol abuse.

The participants spent time studying the Holy Scripture and in prayer during “Alone with God” time.

As an integral part of their retreat, the Annunciation GOYA selects a service project to which they will offer their time and talent. This year, the GOYAns prepared dinners for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House of Little Rock. Through their efforts, twenty-five families were able to enjoy a delicious enchilada dinner, with Spanish rice and dessert.

Of course, the retreat included lots of fun and fellowship, punctuated by the annual Board Game Tournament.

GOYAns completed a beautiful weekend by attending Divine Liturgy the next day and continued the retreat discussion during Sunday School class.

Kudos to the GOYAns at Annunciation for making an effort to grow closer to God, to each other, and to the community at large.
Philoptochos chapters throughout the Metropolis support many outreach programs and charities in their local communities. The following are examples of the diligent work being accomplished to spread the philanthropic arms to those in need.

**SOUTHGATE, MI:** Monthly support of "Fish and Loaves", the local food pantry. Support is also given to the local help centers as Guidance Center, Good fellows, Penrickton for the Blind, The Information Center and Christnet, a local organization for the homeless. To support these charities the Southgate Philoptochos women host 4 fundraisers, a Feather Party, Vasilopeta, a Makaronatha dinner and Palm Sunday Fish Fry. The entire community supports these endeavors though their generosity.

**DAYTON, OH:** The Annunciation Philoptochos provides support to the greater Dayton area with its Community Care Ministry. In the past, they have supported children’s charities as Kids in Dependent Situations; Juvenile Diabetes; Special Needs for Deaf Kids; Big Brother/Big Sister programs and Daybreak for runaway children. In 2010, concentration was made to assist with food, clothing and shelter to House of Bread, Day Break, St. Vincent, The Other Place, Artemis House and the Food Bank. For 2011 they have declared it the “Year of the Women” providing support to women.

**NASHVILLE, TN:** During the winter months, the chapter provides lap blankets, warm socks and toiletries for the elderly in County Nursing Homes for indigent people. At the County hospital, sweatpants, T-shirts and snacks are provided for homeless patients when they are released from the hospital. Assistance was given to flood victims during the recent floods. Many victims were members of the community. Clothing, furniture and household items were collected and delivered to the Coptic Orthodox Church whose families (92) had lost everything thing in the flood.

**ANN ARBOR, MI:** The St. Nicholas Philoptochos have a very busy schedule planned with activities to help those in need. This year they will be assisting the Salvation Army, shopping for children at Christmas, sewing bed pads for Arbor Hospice, making Christmas wreaths and other fundraisers to benefit the National ministries.

At the recent Biennial Philoptochos Convention held in Atlanta, GA, the National Greek Orthodox Philoptochos Society awarded $15,000 to the Autism Society of Middle Tennessee. This grant money will go towards the cost of a School/Family Partnership Program. The mission or vision of the program is to be an advocate for the children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their parents within the middle Tennessee area during IEP (Individual Educational Plan) process to assist these children to receive the best support through their school within the current legal requirements. This pilot program would initially service 3 of the 44 counties of Middle Tennessee.

We invite all Orthodox women in every parish to join Philoptochos and be a part of our mission to assist those in need.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Presents: “An Afternoon with Vefa”
The First Lady of Greek Cuisine

**Vefa Alexiadou**

Saturday, April 2, 2011
More details to follow!
Religious Homeschooling by Fr. Gregory Hohnholt

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

Recently on National Public Radio, a news report was given on a film produced by Guggenheim on education. The film was covering the topic of public schools, charter schools and teachers’ unions. The film ran as a case study of a story of a young girl from Los Angeles who wants to become a doctor. According to the film, this young woman’s chances of going to medical school and becoming a doctor are slim due to the poorer socio-economic neighborhood her family lives in, and what public school that is zoned to. What was interesting to me in this segment of news reporting were the responses, of which they also reported some on NPR. There was an early statement about the chances of a child’s education and success was based primarily on how good the teacher is, not so much the school. Then came responses to that particular statement concerning the worth of teachers, a powerfully made one that no one could really retort: study after study has shown that a child’s success in education and school relies very heavily on how involved the parents are in the process. Schools and teachers make a difference for sure. But, the reality is, the more parents take an interest in their child’s education and get directly involved in the education process, the better children tend to do no matter what their external circumstances. The more a parent helps with homework, helps them study, reads with them, takes an interest in what their children are learning in school and engages them about it, the better off they are. If that is true for “secular” education, how much more so for religious education! Here is the point: take an involved and strong interest in your child’s religious education. Ask them what they talked about in Church school that Sunday. Talk to them about the feast days of the Church. Read the daily Gospel reading to them and explain what happened. Here is where you are called to exercise the “priesthood of all believers.” If you want your child to grow up a faithful member of the Orthodox Church, don’t rely exclusively on the priest at Church or the Church School teacher; get involved, teach your child at home, in the way he should go, and he will not part from it when he is older.

Fr. Gregory Hohnholt is the Presiding Priest of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Nashville, TN.

Orthodox Christian Teen Survival Guide

The Youth and Young Adult Ministries Department of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has just launched its latest resource, the Orthodox Christian Teen Survival Guide Brochure Series which is available for download at www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/youth/youthworkers/survivalguide. Each brochure offers teens the information they need to navigate through tough issues: facts and statistics, the Church’s response, Q&As, and resources for more information. These one-page handouts are great for starting discussions, GOYA gatherings, Sunday School, or even your church bookstore. The following topics are available for download in pdf format: Sexual Purity, Pornography, Managing Stress, Drug and Alcohol Abuse, Peer Pressure.
**The Shepherd’s Staff**

**MY TRIP TO ISTANBUL by Presbytera Kimberly Maria Bahlatzis**

There are many places you may visit in your lifetime. However, the experience of having visited Constantinople (Istanbul, Turkey), will leave a lasting impression that will touch my heart forever. This city is not only rewarding culturally but also spiritually.

Attending Liturgy at the Phanar was quite surreal. It was captivating to watch the Ecumenical Patriarch His All-Holiness Bartholomew standing on his throne and the many tourist groups that arrived during the Liturgy just to catch a glimpse of His All-Holiness. After the service, we received antedoron from His All-Holiness. Lastly, Metropolitan Nicholas arranged for our group to meet with His All-Holiness in the Throne Room. There we anxiously awaited the arrival of the Patriarch. Finally, His All-Holiness entered the room and greeted his guests. It was truly a moment I will never forget meeting such a powerful spiritual leader who protects the Faith and guides 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide.

We also attended many of the city’s most captivating places such as: the Chora/Kariye museum (Chora Monastery), the Topkapi Palace, and the Blue Mosque. But, the most spiritually-fulfilling visit was definitely Hagia Sophia. Our guide was incredibly knowledgeable and gave us a complete history lesson to every site we visited. He told us that Hagia Sophia would touch us emotionally. When I arrived into the church, I kept wondering why I wasn’t feeling anything. Then once we walked upstairs and witnessed the beautiful mosaics uncovered and revealed after many years of having been plastered over, my emotions could not be controlled. I prayed for several people while there, and let me just say it was hard to fight back tears. The tears were for people who cannot practice our Orthodox faith, and tears for a beautiful Orthodox church that was now a museum. Lastly, tears of joy to witness such an architectural wonder.

The trip to Istanbul, Turkey, was one I will never forget, and I thank His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas for inviting us. I wish everyone had the opportunity to witness and experience all that Istanbul, Turkey has to offer.

Presbytera Kimberly Maria Bahlatzis from the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation - Vestal, NY.

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**THANK YOU LETTER FROM NASHVILLE**

After the record floods of May in Nashville, TN, many people lost their homes and everything they had in just a few days. In our previous issues we had reported on the Metropolis of Detroit and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese’s efforts to collect relief funds to be distributed to those affected. Our Metropolis contributed with about $66,600. Here is a thank you letter from someone who received financial help from us:

August 12, 2010

Your Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas,

You recently visited the Holy Trinity Greek Church in Nashville. At that time, you and Father Gregory came to my condo to see what damage the flood had caused.

Father Gregory gave me a check of $7,500 to help me with my rebuild. I’m writing to thank you and tell you how I deeply appreciate the money. There will not be a day, no matter how busy I am, that I won’t forget what you have done for me and will be forever grateful.

Sincerely,

Julie Foreenderry
Holy Trinity of Indianapolis celebrated its Centennial September 17-19, 2010 – led by their Eminences Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Nicholas.

The weekend began on Friday evening with an informal clergy dinner hosted at Meridian Hills Country Club by event chair Dr. Dennis Dickos, Council President Gail Zeheralis and the Parish Council.

On Saturday evening over 650 parishioners and guests attended the Centennial Gala at Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts. Centerpieces of the event were the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, renowned opera soprano Stella Zambalis – and a specially-produced video retrospective entitled “A Century of Witness to Two Millennia of Faith.” Both hierarchs moved the assembled crowd with their heartfelt words.

A twenty thousand dollar check was presented to Archbishop Demetrios to benefit Holy Cross School of Theology in honor of Fr. Anastasios and Presbytera Maria Gounaris. For almost two decades Father and Presbytera have served the parish with love and dedication, since Father Anastasios was assigned to Indianapolis by the late Bishop Timothy in 1991. A five thousand dollar was also presented to Metropolitan Nicholas as a contribution to the Friends of the Metropolis program.

Holy Trinity was honored to host two former pastors – Fathers Chris Hadgigeorge and James Rousakis. Fr. Nicholas Samaras, son of the late Bishop Kallistos – another influential former Holy Trinity pastor – honored his father’s memory with his presence. Fathers Soterios Rousakis and Mark Lichtenstein also took part. Fr. Soterios grew up at Holy Trinity and Fr. Mark came to Orthodoxy via the parish in 1990. A number of other clergy representing Central Indiana Orthodox parishes were also in attendance.

On Sunday both hierarchs celebrated an inspired Archierarchical Liturgy assisted by the assembled clergy. Holy Trinity’s Choir, directed by William Christoff, and Chanter Constantine Maniakas provided their glorious accompaniment. Special guest – and former parish Chanter Dr. Jessica Suchy-Pilalis – led a group that provided an outstanding presentation of the day’s Orthros. Philoptochos offered an elegant brunch after Liturgy before Archbishop Demetrios’ departure for Chicago to take a flight to Constantinople for meeting Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I.

Holy Trinity looks forward to its next century of service to both God and man – and as the leader of the Orthodox community of central Indiana.
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<th>City, State</th>
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<th>Parishes or Groups</th>
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<td>Holy Trinity Philochochos, Sts. Constantine and Helen, Holy Trinity Parish</td>
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Friends of the Metropolis (as of September 30, 2010)

Afendulis, James
Afendulis, Phyllis G.
Afendulis, Theodore
Anton, Ted and Francine
Baker, Georgia
Baldas, Voulai
Bati, John
Bouth, Mike
Clark, Ken and Nicci
Danigelis, George
Davros, Nickolas J. and Family
Douville, Farrell and Mary
Dreloozis, George
Encelewski, Christine D.
Hoopes, Kenneth and Maria
Karis, Othon and Kristi
Ladas, Paul and Patricia
Lita, Helen Innis
McNutt, Angela C.
Michiel, Rich and Teresa
Nace, Doru
Oravitan, Ionut
Pallas, Tom
Paris, John and Patricia
Peliotas, Gust and Ethel
Rickse, Max and Nelly
Roldan, Martha
Soimar, Michael and Corina
Stathas, Nick and Rita

Nashville, TN - Holy Trinity
Hohnholt, Fr. Gregory and
Presbytera Sofia
Vaporis, Fr. George and
Presbytera Kalliope
Silkas, Presbytera Stella
Andrews, Chris and Julia
Billo, John and Jennie
Carden, Kathryn
Demetry, Willodene
Duncan, Angela
Harman, Todd and Dawn
Kirk, Benedict
Lamberton, Lambert and Helen
Mooney, Sonny
Rogers, Helen and Lawrence Kamm
Taras, Nick and Donna

Nashville, TN
St. John Chrysostom Mission
Turner, Fr. Parthenios and
Presbytera Marion
Demmas, Constance
Wagner, Charles and Edith
Williams, Heath

New Buffalo, MI
Annunciation/St. Paraskevi
Martin, Fr. Paul and
Presbytera Nikki
Anton, Gust
Hahn, Herbert and Elizabeth
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. Estathios Metallinos
Bazakis, James and Maria
Demetriou, Cleo
Kheir, Angela
Zervos, George and Lisa

Plymouth, MI
Sterling Heights, MI
St. John
Kyrillos, Fr. Nicholas
Karamanos, Peter and Mary
Kotisis, Harry and Katherine
Lazaris Peter
Lions, James and Helene
Salonikas Georgios and Nicoleta
Vekos
Spyros and Katina Patoulas
Sours, Bernice
Tangalos, Philip and Alexandra

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
Gesell, Melody
Ginis, Panos
Kouides, Peter and Ruth
Seaton, Katherine L.

Saginaw, MI - St. Demetrios
St. Demetrios Philoptochos
Cox, Fr. Ireneaeus and
Presbytera Alexandra
Ahejew, Petro and Samdra
Coldwell, Larry and Peggy
Kookotsides, Gust and Mary
Ostler, Dennis and Soula

Sault Ste Marie, MI
St. George
Gianakura, Peter and Georgia

Southgate, MI - St. George
Anonymous
Bass, John and Panagiota
Cranford, Joanne
Galanis, Sam
Karamanos, Peter and Mary
Kirekos, Angelo and Sophia
Kirekos, John and Violet
Kirekos, Louis and Paula
Kontos, Chris and Francis
Kontos, John and Marika
Minton, Barbara
Minton, Charles
Minton, Nicholas
Nanos, Vasiliki
Papalas, Mary

Pappas, Barbara
Tassis, James

Springfield, OH - Assumption
Assumption Parish

St. Clair Shores, MI
Assumption
Bournias, James and Evangeline
Campbell, Delphine
Genematas, Toulia
Gust, George and Georgiana
Pangalos, Despo
Ribble, Effie
Samaras, Robert and Marietta
Yanoulaki, Katherine

Stony Point, NY
Presbytera Zafera

St. George
Kotsis, Harry and Katherine
Lazaris Peter
Lions, James and Helene
Salonikas Georgios and Nicoleta
Vekos
Spyros and Katina Patoulas
Sours, Bernice
Tangalos, Philip and Alexandra

Syracuse, NY - St. Sophia
Smith, Fr. David and
Presbytera Donna
Panarites, William and Kaloiope
Theodore, Dorothea
Theodore, Eleanor

Toledo, OH
Holy Trinity Cathedral
Damaskos, Fr. Aristotle and
Presbytera Debbie
Anagnos, Joyce
Ballas, Constantine
Melanakos, Anthony and Paula
Proestou, Maria
Sieben, Paul

Traverse City, MI
Archangel Gabriel
Olechnowicz, Fr. Iakovos and
Presbytera Joleen
Ely, Ray and Martha
Kaly, Anthony and Barbara
Olechnowicz, Rebekah
Psaros, John and Donna

Troy, MI - St. Nicholas
St. Nicholas Parish
Asher, Mike and Joyce

Athens, John and Arioste
Carson, James and Paula
Delgianis, Leo
Delgianis, William
Demetry, Beck
Feles, Gust and Anne
Feles, Paul
Hourdakis, Andreas
Horstman, Ingmar and Marlo
Lafer, Mary
Lavrakis, John and Catherine
Lakonis, Chris and Labrini
Papp, Gregory and Martha
Pervolakakis, Calliope
Simon, Basil and Eve
Spounias, Christopher and Maria
Tsiafalus, George
Xylas, Spiros
Yanoulaki, Peter

Vestal, NY - Annunciation
Bahlatzis, Fr. Michael and
Presbytera Kimberly
Michalopoulos, Presbytera Magdalena
Abdo, Moufid and Anita
Bahlatzis, Danny and Gail
Demetry, Helen
Gianakouris, Dino and Mary
Grisswold, Richard and Hrisanthi
Ivan, James and Lynda
Markatos, Nicholas
Skialas, Ernest
Stoinescu, Caterina
Tzivianis, Thomas and Florence

Watertown, NY - St. Vasilios
St. Vasilios Parish

Westland, MI
Sts. Constantine & Helen
Sts. Constantine and Helen Parish
Sts. Constantine and Helen Choir
Charalambopoulos, Elaine
Chuey, Mark and Jean
Kasotakis, Paul and Nanette
Katsarelis, Sophy
Skouberdis, John
Stavropoulos, Gus and Maria
Stavropoulos, Peter and Marie

Other Friends
Aheja - Chapter #374 Northville, MI
Bartz, Fr. Bill and Presbytera Emily,
   Dumfries, VA
Bartz, Presbytera Zafera
Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos.
The Shepherd’s Staff

Friends of the Metropolis

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.

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

Dear Friends of the Metropolis:

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