

My Beloved Ones,

Coming at the end of October, this week's message looks back on all the beautiful things we experienced as a Metropolis, as well as looking forward to the exciting events and gatherings in November.

I give glory to Almighty God that as His servant, I was able to visit so many of our parishes these past few months, to bring greetings and provide assistance. Some of these visits included: a commemoration with St. John the Divine in Jacksonville for the hundredth anniversary of their parish; celebrations for yesterday's feast day of St. Demetrios, in both Ft. Lauderdale and Daytona; and the wonderful charitable gala in Mobile, attended by 450 people, which, as the mayor said, became the major event of the year in that city.

We are not meant to rest only on pleasant memories however, but always to look ahead. In the coming month of November, with the grace of our Lord, we can look forward to the meetings of our Metropolitan's Council, where we will discuss the life of Metropolis, including ministries of the Diakonia Retreat Center. The Philoptochos Board shall also present an account of the assistance they were able to provide, not only to the community of Holy Trinity, affected by the flooding in Baton Rouge, but also those parishes and families that faced damage from storms along the Eastern Coast this summer.

Most importantly, we shall discuss the progress of the Metropolis Strategic Plan, enacted nearly two years ago. Many of the projects envisioned—such as the Communications Department, and our new website—are completed, and are currently uplifting our Metropolis. And still we shall move forward, to further assist the lives of our priests, the volunteers and Parish Council Members, to continue providing our communities with new initiatives and programs to better serve our faithful.

And of course, we must never forget our Youth Ministry, which seeks to educate, encourage and uplift to fully live out an Orthodox lifestyle, which encourages a life of joy and peace in world that so badly needs more of these virtues.

+ALEXIOS

Metropolitan of Atlanta

