News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE 30TH NATIONAL ORATORICAL FESTIVAL TO TAKE PLACE IN MEMPHIS, TN

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary in 2013. The Metropolis of Detroit will host this historic event, which will be held at the Annunciation Church in Memphis, TN from June 7-9, 2013. The parishioners are assembling their committee members and looking forward to a memorable weekend.

The Oratorical Festival Topics and Topic Tips have been released and can be found on the web-site of the Department of Religious Education at:

http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religioused/sjcof/sjcof_2013_topics_tips. The topics range from: Considering the Lord's words to His disciples, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all" (Mark 9:35), discuss the relationship between service and leadership; to Discuss the importance of participating in the life of the Church in light of Jesus's teaching in John 15:5: "I am the vine, you are the branches" in the Junior Division. The Senior Division topics include: In Psalm 103/104, God's care for the natural world is praised. Select elements from the psalm and discuss how they may help us "grow" in our Faith; and In 313 AD, St. Constantine the Great proclaimed the Edict of Milan, which allowed Christians to practice their faith freely. What did religious freedom mean then, and what does it mean for people of faith today in countries where violent religious persecution occurs?

For many years the top three speakers in each division have been awarded college scholarships at \$2000; \$1500 and \$1000 respectively. While the scholarships have remained stagnant, the cost of college tuition continues to increase. This is why we are embarking on a fund raising campaign. We want to reach out to individuals who are willing to underwrite a scholarship in their name for a one time or long term commitment. The very first Archdiocese Oratorical Festival took place in 1984. Those early participants and those who followed them soon after are most likely settled in their professional careers. How wonderful it would be if they could establish a scholarship in their name(s) so that the current group of National Oratorical Festival participants can be helped with the ever increasing cost of a college education.