



# GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH

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January 21, 2010  
St. Maximos, the Confessor

Dear Reverend Clergy, Parish Council Presidents, Philoptochos Presidents and Faithful of the Holy Metropolis of Pittsburgh

Christ is in Our Midst!

I want to commend to you the work and ministry of **FOCUS North America**, *the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve*. I recently saw the FOCUS North America video and spoke at length with their Executive Staff and am moved by their hands-on ministries to help the poor in North America.

You have my full blessing to support and encourage the faithful to support and volunteer with FOCUS North America. It is my sincere desire that each of our parishes would welcome FOCUS North America warmly and support it generously.

FOCUS North America stands for values that are very important and basic for Christian ministry. These are the things that unite us and make us to be a united Orthodox Christian family.

I am also particularly excited about FOCUS North America's YES Program, *Youth Equipped to Serve* and would like to see all of our Orthodox youth active in this service learning and leadership training ministry. Our youth will be a part of two YES programs in 2010 taking place here in Pittsburgh, PA and in Cleveland, OH.

Also, congratulations to FOCUS on the appointment of their newest member of the Board of Directors, one of my spiritual children, Mrs. Theodora Polamalu. Theodora will be a good advocate for the ministries of FOCUS.

I ask the Lord to fully bless FOCUS North America so that we may continue to work together as a united Orthodox Christian family to help the poor and the less fortunate people here at home that need our help.

I remain, with all my love in Christ and paternal blessings,

+MAXIMOS  
METROPOLITAN OF PITTSBURGH