



ORTHODOX OBSERVER

NOVEMBER 2011 • Vol. 76 • No. 1270

www.observer.goarch.org • e-mail: observer@goarch.org

\$1.00

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Nearly 500 persons joined Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew on Oct. 21 to celebrate his 20th anniversary at a banquet hosted by Archbishop Demetrios and the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle.

The event was held at the Four Seasons Bosphorus hotel in Istanbul.

Among those attending were Patriarchs Irinej of Serbia and Ilia II of Georgia, Archbishop Anastasios of Tirana and All Albania, U.S. Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, Istanbul Mayor Kadir Topbas, Governor of Istanbul Huseyin Avni Mutlu, and representatives of the Orthodox Churches, hierarchs of the Throne from Europe, the United States, Crete and the Greek Dodecanese, and many other countries.

In his welcoming remarks, Archons National Commander Anthony J. Limberakis, MD, noted "The 20-year Patriarchal Ministry of His All-Holiness is one of a few unparalleled diakonias in the 1,700 year history of the Sacred See of St. Andrew not only in terms of longevity, for His All-Holiness is one of only nine Ecumenical Patriarchs who have served for more than 20 years, but more importantly in substantive accomplishment.

"What Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has achieved by the Grace of God, in the last two decades under the



Several children greet His All Holiness with flower bouquets at the anniversary celebration.

Photo by DIMITRIOS PANAGOS

most difficult circumstances, is nothing short of extraordinary.

"From an ecclesiastical standpoint, he has pioneered breakthrough initia-

tives such as the luminary sessions of the Synaxis of the heads of All Autocephalous Churches, the biennial Synaxis of the Hierarchs of the Great Church of Christ, the

International Clergy-Laity Congresses and International Youth Conferences."

Dr. Limberakis reviewed the Ecumenical Patriarch's accomplishments from a global perspective, ecumenical, Inter-Orthodox, political ecological and social perspectives.

"All of this has taken place under the most difficult political, social and financial conditions. Despite recent positive steps to improve the religious freedom of our Ecumenical Patriarchate, the forcibly closed Halki Theological School, which this year we are commemorating an ignoble 40-year anniversary of its closure, stands as a powerful reminder of the circumstances within which our own spiritual leader must serve and function," Dr. Limberakis said.

"His remarkable Patriarchal Ministry of Diakonia through Martyria serves as a worldwide example par excellence to inspire, encourage and strengthen all men and women of goodwill."

In his remarks at the banquet, Patriarch Bartholomew noted that with the grace of God, the last 20 years have been filled with numerous and diverse blessings for all of us and for our Church throughout the world. Unexpected and

▶ to page 4

Bishop Savas of Troas Elected Metropolitan of Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH – Metropolitan Savas, formerly Bishop Savas of Troas, was elected by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople on Nov. 3 to succeed Metropolitan Maximos, who retired on Sept. 1.

He was chosen for the see of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh from a list of three candidates whose names were submitted to the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate by the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Archdiocese.

Metropolitan Savas is a native of Gary, Ind., the second of six children of Skevos and Stamatia (Georgiades) Zembillas of Kalyrnian and Cypriot ancestry. He is a graduate of Andean High School, Gary, Ind. (1975), Colby College, Waterville, Maine (1979, BA in philosophy and English Literature) and Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Mass. (1984, M.Div. with highest honors).

He served as the pastoral assistant at Holy Trinity/St. Nicholas in Cincinnati, Ohio from 1985-87 before resuming his academic studies at Oxford University, England, from 1987 until 1994, under the supervision of then Bishop Kallistos (Ware) of Diokleia, researching texts and

persons of spiritual significance for the history of early Byzantine monasticism.

He was ordained to the diaconate on Nov. 21, 1992, and to the priesthood on Jan. 8, 1995; on both occasions by Bishop (now Metropolitan) Iakovos of Chicago, at his home parish of Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Merrillville, Ind.

During the two-year interim between ordinations, he served as deacon to Bishop Kallistos.

Upon his return to the United States in September 1995, he was appointed as proistamenos of Annunciation Church in Kalamazoo, Mich. He was elevated to the rank of Archimandrite on Nov. 12, 1996, by Bishop Maximos of Pittsburgh. In September 1997, Archbishop Spyridon of America assigned Archimandrite Savas to St. Demetrios Church in Merrick, N.Y., where he served until December 1999, when Archbishop Demetrios appointed his former student as chancellor of the Archdiocese, a position he held for 10 years. On Dec. 11, 2001, he was elected an auxiliary bishop to Archbishop Demetrios by the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and given the title "Bishop of Troas."



ORTHODOX OBSERVER PHOTO

Sunday School students of St. Demetrios Church in Merrick, N.Y., welcome Bishop Savas for the Vespers service of St. Demetrios on Oct. 25, where he also celebrated the Divine Liturgy the following day.

Bishop Savas served as the chancellor until 2009, when he was named director of the Archdiocesan Office of Church, Society and Culture.

Newly elected Metropolitan Savas will be formally enthroned as head of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh at 4p.m., Thursday, Dec. 8 at St. Nicholas Cathedral, 419 D. Dithridge St.

Following the enthronement service on Dec. 8, a reception will take place at the cathedral hall.

The Metropolitan traveled to the Ecumenical Patriarchate on Nov. 14-15 for the reading of the Official Announcement of Election (Mega Minima).

▶ to page 3

New Ionian Village Director Named

NEW YORK – Archbishop Demetrios appointed Deacon Evagoras C. Constantinides as the new director of Ionian Village in early November. Deacon Evagoras, who will also continue to serve as the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the Direct Archdiocesan District, will oversee the continuation and expansion of the Ionian Village program which has served thousands of young Orthodox Christians over the past 40 years.

Deacon Evagoras, who will be ordained to the priesthood on Nov. 20, grew up outside of Chicago. He lived in Bethesda, Md., prior to attending Holy Cross School of Theology. He has extensive experience in the fields of youth and camping ministries, having served camps and conducting retreats across the country. Prior to entering the seminary, Deacon Evagoras served as a counselor at Fanari Camp in Chicago.

He also served Camp St. Paul, the Direct Archdiocesan District camping ministry, as both boys' director and program director. Additionally, Deacon Evagoras served as program director at Summer Fenn Day Camp, an eight-week day camp for children ages 5-15 in Concord, Mass.

He has participated in the Ionian Village program several times as a camper and was a staff member for three years. He plans to continue the rich Ionian Village tradition of discovering Greece and living Orthodoxy.

Deacon Evagoras holds a degree in communication studies from Monmouth College in Monmouth, Ill., and a Master of Divinity from Holy Cross School of Theology. He was ordained to the diaconate in December 2009 by Bishop Andonios of Phasiane and will be ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Demetrios at St. Nicholas Church, in Flushing, NY.

His wife Maria (Calender), of Bethesda, has also participated in Ionian Village as a camper and served as staff member for multiple summers. He is the son of Fr. Christopher and Presbyteria Angie Constantinides of Holy Trinity in Dallas and the grandson of Fr. Evagoras Constantinides of Merrillville, Ind.



Photo by DIMITRIOS PANAGOS

Archbishop Demetrios chats with students at a reception following his presentation.

Archbishop Delivers Lecture at Yale

by Stavros H. Papagermanos

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – "Orthodoxy: An Unlimited Expression" was the topic of a lecture presented by Archbishop Demetrios Nov. 9 at Yale University's Marquand Chapel.

Archbishop Demetrios was invited by Yale Divinity School to present this lecture at the start of a conference titled "Looking East: A Window on the Eastern Christian Traditions of Epiphany" and the art exhibition "People, Piety, and Sacred Power in the Eastern Mediterranean."

His Eminence was welcomed and introduced by Yale Divinity School Dean Dr. Harold W. Attridge. In his engaging lecture the Archbishop presented the many contributions of Orthodoxy to the World and to people of faith throughout the centuries.

These included expressions in the

fields of language, literature, hymnology, philosophical thought and language, the arts as in iconography, embroidery, architecture, music and even in the dramatic arts.

Archbishop Demetrios also documented Orthodoxy's offerings and expressions in the development of social institutions, the advancement of philanthropic works and ideals and the promotion of education. He said that Orthodoxy offers many unlimited expressions, but it is in itself an unlimited expression which is making the material spiritual and thus is declaring the Glory of God.

The lecture was attended by Yale faculty members, students, clergymen and many faithful who had come for this event. It was broadcasted live in the Internet and is available for viewing as an archive at <http://divinity.yale.edu/orthodoxy-unlimited-expression>.

An Invitation to HCHC Alumni

As part of the 75th anniversary commemoration of Holy Cross School of Theology, the Orthodox Observer invites alumni of the School to submit a brief article (250-300 words) of a memorable experience (anecdotal, poignant or other personal remembrance) of your years at the seminary. It may focus on a particular classroom experience,

religious or social experience or other topic of your choice. Articles will appear in each issue through the culmination of the anniversary in May 2013.

Please include your name, year of graduation and current position.

They may be submitted by e-mail to the Observer (jim@goarch.org), or observer@goarch.org

CLERGY UPDATE

Ordinations to the Diaconate

Demetrios Kazakis – Archbishop Demetrios of America – Kimisis Tis Theotokou Church, Brooklyn, NY – 7/30/11
Athanasios Sharpley – Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver – Holy Trinity Church, Dallas – 9/10/11

Ordinations to the Priesthood

Deacon John Haby – Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit – Assumption Church, Springfield, Ohio – 8/27/11
Deacon Haralambos Spaliatsos – Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver – Holy Trinity Church, Dallas – 9/11/11
Deacon Athanasios Papagiannis – Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago – Assumption Church, Chicago – 9/18/11

Assignments

Fr. John Haby – Assumption Church, Springfield, Ohio – 8/27/11
Fr. Nicholas Bekris – Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco – 10/01/11
Fr. Luke Palumbis – Nativity of Christ Church, Novato, Calif. – 10/01/11
V. Rev. Fr. Grigorios Tatsis – Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Orleans – 10/01/11

Offikia

Fr. Thomas Newlin – Office of Confessor, bestowed by Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta – 8/14/11
Fr. Thomas Guerry – Office of Economics, bestowed by Metropolitan Alexios – 8/15/11

Sabbaticals

Fr. Michael Kontos - 9/19/11

Bishop Savas of Troas Elected Metropolitan of Pittsburgh

▶ from page 1

On Dec. 9, Metropolitan Savas will celebrate the Divine Liturgy of the Conception of St. Anna of the Theotokos with orthros beginning at 9 a.m. at the cathedral. A brunch will follow in the cathedral hall.

The cathedral seats about 500 and parking is limited.

Plans call for videotaping and live-streaming of both services on the Archdiocese and Metropolitan of Pittsburgh websites. (www.goarch.org and www.pittsburgh.goarch.org). For more information, contact the Metropolitan of Pittsburgh at 412.621.5529.



ENCYCLICAL

Thanksgiving Day

*I will praise the name of God
with a song;
I will magnify Him
with thanksgiving.*

(Psalm 69:30)

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this blessed day of Thanksgiving, we are encouraged in the tradition of this great national holiday to be thankful to God for His presence in our lives and His abundant gifts to us. As Orthodox Christians this gratefulness to God is something we share with all who celebrate this day. It is also an attitude and manner of life that is presented in our worship and in our relationships with others.

Our first calling as Christians is to respond to the grace of God through worship and communion with Him. We sing hymns of praise and thanksgiving, offering honor and glory to our Creator and Sustainer. We celebrate and receive the Holy Eucharist, a divine mystery of worship and faith that unites us with Christ and fills our hearts with joy. We also show our thankfulness to God by responding to His call to service. We give our time, abilities, and resources for the sacred work of His kingdom and for the needs of others.

This spiritual fruit of thanksgiving which is produced from grateful hearts can have a tremendous impact. Words of gratitude can bring joy and fulfillment into the life of another person. Kindness and respect through acts of thankfulness can affirm human value and dignity and instill hope that care and compassion remain essential qualities of life. An attitude of thanksgiving even in the midst of challenging circumstances can be the strength for another and a witness of the power and grace of God.

This is a vital connection of faith to life. Does the thanksgiving you offer to God become attitudes of gratefulness and joy in all areas of your life? Are you thankful to Him through your kindness and gratitude toward others? Is your life a witness of thanksgiving, bringing blessings and strength to others? These are questions to consider on this holiday as we affirm the spiritual character of this day and the priority of thanksgiving in our Christian lives.

May you and your families have a beautiful and blessed Thanksgiving Day, filled with joy and fellowship in the presence of God. As you gather in homes, as you share in meals, and as you offer time in serving others, may you praise His name with songs and magnify Him with thanksgiving!

With paternal love in Christ,

† DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America

Celebrating 20 Years

▷ from page 1

unimagined gifts have been showered upon the Great Church of Christ and its faithful children, the Patriarch said, and added that "on his 20th anniversary, the late Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras—who was affectionately known as 'the Patriarch from America'—noted: '20 years in this ministry are neither many nor few. They are few before eternity; but they are many when one conscientiously labors to achieve something.'"

"In our preface to the *Imerologion* for this past year, we wrote the following: In looking back at the two decades of our Patriarchal ministry, we behold

days of joy, but also days of sorrow; days of light, but also days of darkness; days of glory, but also days of bitterness; days of excitement and optimism, but also days of anxiety and disappointment. With the grace of God, we neither lost our footing as a result of pride nor were crushed by the pressure, but endeavored, as much as humanly possible, 'as servants of God commending ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in affliction, hardship sleepless nights with the weapons of righteousness.' (2 Cor. 6.4-10)

"In many ways, the last two decades reflect the story of the Mother Church of Constantinople through the centuries."



Photo by DIMITRIOS PANAGOS



Photo by DIMITRIOS PANAGOS



Photo by JOHN MINDALA



Photo by DIMITRIOS PANAGOS



Photo by DIMITRIOS PANAGOS



Photo by DIMITRIOS PANAGOS

(Clockwise from top-right)

Archons National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis presents Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with a mantle clock, a gift from the Order of St. Andrew.

(center right)

Members of the Holy Synod of the Archdiocese and various lay representatives including Leadership 100 Chairman Gus Caras (front, standing), Archons and others attend the service honoring the Ecumenical Patriarch.

(above right)

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew with members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of the Archdiocese.

(left)

The Ecumenical Patriarch receives greetings from AHEPA Supreme President Dr. John Grossomanides Jr. Also shown are National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas, Fr. Alex Karloutsos and Archon's National Commander Dr. Anthony Limberakis.

(center left)

Ecumenical Patriarch and other hierarchs and clergy including the Patriarch of Serbia and Archbishops Demetrios and Anastasios of Albania at the Divine Liturgy.

(top left)

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew prepares to cut the commemorative cake at the celebration.



OCMC Board Holds Fall Meeting

by OCMC Communications Staff

PARMA, Ohio – Led by board President Fr. George Liacopoulos, Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) trustees from across the country held their annual fall meeting Oct. 10-12 at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, hosted by Metropolitan Constantine, Fr. John Nakanachny, Fr. Michael Hontaruk, Deacon Ihor Mahlay, and the faithful of the cathedral.

Also attending was Bishop Savas of Troas (now Metropolitan Savas of Pittsburgh) who had been serving as a liaison between OCMC and the recently formed Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America.

At the meeting, missionaries serving in Albania, Moldova, Romania, and Tanzania reviewed their progress. Stories of the Church's rapid expansion among the Turkana of northern Kenya were shared as well as the potential opportunities for sharing the Faith in Mongolia.

OCMC ministries are increasingly working to welcome non-Christian peoples into the Body of Christ. This focus has been a driving force behind the Mission Center's recent strategic planning process. The work that has been done thus far on the strategic plan was approved by the board. The new strategic plan is aimed at emphasizing the importance of bringing

people to the Faith, establishing church communities in parts of the world where they may not yet exist, and helping these communities to mature into self-sustaining, self-governing, and self-propagating parishes.

A reception took place Oct. 11 at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Rocky River, Ohio, organized by Dn. Ihor and Fr. James Doukas, to broaden awareness of, and support for, Orthodox missions and the work of the OCMC. During the banquet mission team member to Alaska Alexis Steffas, OCMC board member John Colis and his wife Carrie who recently served in Tanzania, and OCMC Executive Director Fr. Martin Ritsi shared their experiences from the mission field and highlighted the importance of missions in the world. The evening's festivities ended with some closing remarks from Bishop Savas who, following his recent trip with OCMC to Kenya, underscored the profound impact that missions can have in the lives of others.

The next board meeting will be in May 2012 at Mission Center headquarters in St. Augustine, Fla.

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) is the official missions agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America dedicated to fulfilling Christ's last command to make disciples of all nations.

Orthodox Family Mission Team

by Center for Family Care staff

"... If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him" (John 14:23)

This past July, a unique groundbreaking international Orthodox Christian missionary effort took place—the first Family Mission Team traveled to Albania. The team was a collaboration between the Archdiocese Center for Family Care (CFC) and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC), and part of a new family ministry initiative of the Orthodox Church of Albania. Families from North America along with Albanian families participated in "One Family in Christ" Family Camp led by CFC Resource Coordinator Panayiotis Sakellariou, and by OCMC short- and long-term missionaries.

The purpose of sending the Family Team was to offer a "family witness"—while sharing the Orthodox faith and growing as a family in Christ—and to answer the call of the Church of Albania to begin its own family ministry. Albanian leaders now plan to build on this camp experience and the family resources that were provided to them, to create a strong foundation for family ministry in Albania.

Team leader Panayiotis Sakellariou said, "We thank God for providing on behalf of all the families and for granting success to our camp efforts. We are also very grateful for everyone's support and prayers. We hope and pray this first Family Mission Team will be the beginning of an ongoing missions endeavor that gives families the opportunity to share their love of God and of neighbor, and to grow in their faith."

"One Family in Christ" Family Camp consisted of a total of 65 participants, 12 of which were Family Team members from America. Specifically, there were 39 adults and 27 children of various ages.

The camp included parent, couple and children programs; family activities and Olympics; outreach endeavors and local excursions. In particular, team members presented on the following topics: Church of the Home, Child Spiritual Development, Parenting Skills, Social Networking, the Journey of Marriage, and Family Ministry.

For further information on this mission team or the involved agencies contact the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Center for Family Care at 845-424-8175 or family-care@goarch.org, or Orthodox Christian Mission Center at 877-463-6784 or missions@ocmc.org.



**DO YOU LIKE THE
ORTHODOX OBSERVER?
HAVE YOU SOMETHING TO SUGGEST?
SEND US A FEW LINES...**

8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075

Fax: (212) 774-0239 E-mail: observer@goarch.org

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DONATE YOUR CAR



*Your Vehicle Donation Will Help to
Feed Families and Support Solutions to Poverty.*

IT'S QUICK AND EASY! Fill out the online car donation form at ioccc.org/cars to schedule a pick up or call the Car Donation Center toll-free at 1-800-240-0160

Most cars, trucks, boats, motor homes, trailers, jet skis, snowmobiles and even some motorcycles are accepted.



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES
P.O. Box 17398
Baltimore, MD 21298-9242 USA
Toll-free donation hotline: (877) 803-IOCC (4622)

Basile's Christmas Shopping Greek Style

**ALL DVD's
\$19.95
+S&H**

**ALL CD's
\$15.95
+S&H**

Ship Direct To Loved Ones!

Good Humor Basket \$59.95

Visit our Website for T-shirts, Spices & More Gift Ideas!
www.OpaBasile.com

Baskets Include 2 DVD's / CD's!

Basile Spice Basket \$59.95

Have Basile Come to Your Community For a Fundraiser!

Call to Order Toll Free 1.888.822.7453 or Order Online at www.OpaBasile.com

Save the Date July 1 - 5, 2012



41ST BIENNIAL CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS



JW MARRIOTT.
PHOENIX DESERT RIDGE
PHOENIX, AZ

More information to come in
future issues of the *Orthodox Observer*!



«The First Thanksgiving at Plymouth» (Jennie A. Brownscombe 1914).

It's a Wonder-Filled World!

by Fr. Mark Sietsema

I had a lousy Monday last November. My computer went haywire and needed professional attention. The bank made an accounting error and I lost three whole hours straightening it out. My planned workday was shot, so I got home while there was still daylight. Since the weather was unusually nice, I opted to go to the grocery store on my bike, probably for the last time that year.

It was a lovely ride ... which turned into a lovely walk after I got a flat tire! But just as I reached the final stretch before my house, something stopped me in my tracks. On one side of my street is a line of eight or nine very tall trees. And up in those trees, lining every single branch, were birds.

I don't know what kind of birds they were, but they were noisy! In fact, they would have been deafening, had the trees not been so tall. Nothing I can say will convey to you the experience of that enormous flock of birds. It made me think of the old reports about the now-extinct passenger pigeons, how a single flock could darken the sky.

Sure, it wasn't the Grand Canyon, but it was an awe-inspiring sight, literally in my own backyard. And in that moment, when I took in the grandeur of that innumerable flock of birds, a feeling arose in my heart. Gratitude. I was simply grateful to God that I was there at that place, at that time, to take in the splendor of His creation.

The squirrels gathering their acorns didn't seem to notice the birds. A neighbor was walking his dog; the man looked up and marveled, but the dog was more interested in the smells around the mailbox. It is something unique to the human race - this sense of wonder. I have never seen a housecat transfixed by a sunset or a raccoon who looked up at the night sky in amazement. These are purely human experiences, unique gifts of the heavenly Father to His children.

The birds didn't fix my computer, correct the bank error, or patch a leaky tire. But they did make me—for one wonderful moment—intensely thankful, despite those little troubles. And in that wonder-filled moment, I was also intensely happy.

On later reflection, that thankfulness turned into an even deeper gratitude. For I realized, that if I had not suffered a flat tire, I would have zipped right by that stretch of trees with helmet on and the wind in my ears and my eyes on the road. I would have missed the birds.

And I also realized that I would not have even been there at all, except my day was derailed by problems at the office and the bank. The bike ride happened just because my precious plans went up in smoke. And so, because of those mishaps, not despite them, I experienced a moment of wonder and joy. And so I was grateful. Those Monday mishaps slowed me down. Because of the enforced pause in my life, suddenly there was a little room for a moment of wonder, of amazement.

Socrates is recorded as having said that to *thaumazein* (to look with the sense of wonder) is the beginning of philosophy. I think he was right. And this sense of wonder is also the beginning of thanksgiving.

It is that sense of wonder around the Thanksgiving table at how plants can grow out of the dust of the earth and produce vegetables and fruits for us to eat and enjoy. It is that sense of wonder in our families at how our children come from us and are a part of us and are so much like us, and yet so different. It is that sense of wonder in our marriages and friendships that this other person could be so committed to us and love us, despite knowing us so well. And from this sense of wonder arises thanksgiving.

But if wonder gives birth to thanksgiving, then there is something that gives birth to wonder. And that something is quietness.

Rest, cessation of labor, a pause from the busyness of life. This is the soil in which moments of wonder grow. If the nose is forever at the grindstone, the eyes will never see the stars. "Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy," says the Lord. It is for our sake that this commandment was given. We need Sabbath-time in order to put aside the cares of life, our work, our hobbies, our daily pursuits, if we are to cultivate that sense of wonder.

We Americans have so much, and so much to be thankful for. And yet study after study concludes that we are not a happy people (even before the Great Recession). Indeed, we are less happy now than in the 1950s, when homes were smaller and budgets tighter and opportunities fewer in every way. And yet, as our wealth has increased, so has the frenetic pace of our lives. And in the dawn to dusk run on the hamster wheel of modern life, the scramble to multi-task, to keep pace with technology and media ... something is lost. Moments of peace, quietude, serenity and wordless wonder—when we lose a sense of sabbath, we lose wonder. And losing wonder, we lose gratitude. And losing gratitude, we lose happiness. And so the richest, most comfortable society in the history of humankind is also the one most in need of anti-depressants and anxiety pills.

Coca-Cola used to have the slogan, "The Pause that Refreshes." I believe that there is such a pause, and I also believe that soda pop is not it. When life's problems slow you down, then you should pay attention: a God-given moment of wonder may be just around the corner. "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you!" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). On this Thanksgiving weekend 2011, please thank the Lord with me even for life's "speed bumps" – for computer problems and bankers' bungling and flat tires ... and flocks of tiny birds that fill the air with song and our hearts with joy.

Fr. Sietsema is pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Lansing, Mich.

The Voice of Philoptochos

Campaign for Center Continues

National Philoptochos launched its Phase II Media Campaign for the Center of Philanthropy in September with the release of the first of two videos: "Open the Doors" available on YouTube, www.goarch.org and www.philoptochos.org.

National President Aphrodite Skeadas urges all chapters and members to share the video with friends and family on Facebook or other media. Support for the Center of Philanthropy will enable Philoptochos to expand its philanthropic outreach and important services to the underprivileged, enhance social services, and provide more services to benefit the chapters and members. The center will also serve as the permanent home of the Philoptochos archives.

For information and to receive a donation form, contact National Philoptochos at Philosny@aol.com.



Assembly Views Keynote Address through Skype

CHAMPAIGN, Ill.— In addition to hearing a live video conference address from Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at opening ceremonies of the Metropolis of Chicago Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Assembly in October, participants also viewed Deacon John Chryssavgis of the Ecumenical Patriarchate deliver a keynote address through Skype.

Deacon Chryssavgis, a noted author and theologian, has taught theology and authored several major studies. His address to the combined Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly and Philoptochos Conference focused on the ecumenical ministry of the Mother Church, with special attention to the two-decade tenure of Patriarch Bartholomew.

Noting the many changes in the global situation, Deacon Chryssavgis said that His All-Holiness' many initiatives, from focusing on greater Pan-Orthodox unity to environmental issues, were rooted in the historic concerns of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Against claims by those who view such innovations as counter to unity among Orthodox Churches, the theologian stated, "Over the past twenty years, His All-Holiness has been carving and shaping the events leading to Orthodox unity today."

The process, he noted, is slow and one that brings criticism. Yet His All-Holiness has been "way ahead of his time" and has been forging new ground not seen since the 7th Ecumenical Council in 787.

The deacon's address is available on the Metropolis of Chicago website (www.chicago.goarch.org).



New metropolis board members with Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, Fr. James Adams (then chancellor) and Deacon Niko Bekris.

San Francisco Metropolis Holds Fall Conference

DUNLAP, Calif. — The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos' fall spiritual conference took place Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center. The program included guest speakers and the election of new officers.

Keynote speaker was Presbytera Pat Tsgalakis of Holy Apostles Church in Shoreline, Wash., who spoke on "Balance: the Art of Giving and Receiving" — Reflections on Saints Mary and Martha. Her theme addressed the challenge Orthodox Chris-

tian Women face to find balance in their lives. Attendees also heard from Paulette Geanacopoulos, National Philoptochos Social Services director, who discussed the role of social services in philanthropy at the national, metropolis and chapter level. Metropolis Philoptochos members also viewed the new video, "Help Philoptochos Open the Doors" to promote the new Center of Philanthropy Campaign.

Newly elected are: Mary Lofton (assistant treasurer), Lisa Xanthos (recording

secretary), Diana Jianas (treasurer), Valerie Roumeliotis (past president), Jeannie Ranglas (president), Agatha Felactu (1st vice president), Mari Lou Diamond (corresponding secretary), Michele Genetos (2nd vice president); Voula Dodd, Emilie John, Elaine Wright, Elaine Kanellos, Connie Ralph, Sophie Mastor, Dora Hart, Patricia Aleck, Mary Peros, Genie Kontas, Kathy Gabriel, Judie Christopoulos, Gloria Vincent, Presytera Evelyn Adams, Frances Bissias, Tula Gallanes and Christine Peratis.



Participants from St. Barbara Church at the recent 'Walk to End Alzheimer's' event in New Jersey.

NJ Chapters Walk for Alzheimer's

TOMS RIVER, N.J. —The Philoptochos and GOYA alumni of St. Barbara Church, raised more than \$5,000 for the Alzheimer's Association in the "Walk to End Alzheimer's" on Sept. 24 in Point Pleasant, N.J. St. Barbara's participation was under the Metropolis Philoptochos Chapter

Challenge, "Shine A Light" project initiated by St. George chapter in Asbury, N.J.

The combined St. Barbara, St. George, and Kimisis tis Theotokou of Holmdel chapters, will continue to raise awareness and help the cause of Alzheimer's disease by holding more events during the year.

Medical Fund Luncheon to Feature Youth Concert

GREENWICH, Conn. — The 2011 Children's Medical Fund Luncheon will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Hyatt Regency in Old Greenwich under the theme "For the Health and Well-Being of Children."

Support of the luncheon makes it possible for the Philoptochos to offer financial assistance to hospitals and special children's medical programs nationally. The Children's Medical Fund has made a positive difference in children's lives in the United States and Ethiopia through donations of about \$2.2 million to medical programs and facilities that offer care, treatment, innovative research and cures. National Philoptochos also provides vital support for critically ill children whose families are unable to afford appropriate and necessary medical treatment as well as ongoing assistance to medically fragile children.

National President Aphrodite Skeadas and luncheon Chairman Maria Skiadas have announced that Andrea Tantaros, Fox News political commentator, will serve as the emcee. The Archdiocesan Youth Choir, which has performed throughout the world, will present a musical performance.

To become a luncheon sponsor or for more information, call co-chairs Stella Fiorentino at 516.496.8242 or Lily Katos at 347.542.3014. For hotel reservations, contact the Hyatt Regency-Greenwich at 1.888.421.1442 and request the National Philoptochos block.

Commentaries and Reflections

For God and Country

by Rev. Dr. Nicholas Verdaris

Recently an editorial in a British newspaper explored the impact of 9/11 on America and concluded that this country's optimistic spirit was extinguished as we watched nearly 3,000 of our citizens perish at the hands of Islamic fanatics.

The author argued that the same people, for whom the moon was not a horizon too far, have now been convinced that clouds of gloom will overshadow all of our tomorrows. The idea being that this dark new direction in the American psyche is the direct result of the actions of a handful of terrorists. Such a proposition is perhaps a bit too simplistic and we would do well to reconsider what really gave this country a sense of optimism and why it now seems so elusive.

There is plenty of evidence to show it was not the terrorists that succeeded in changing the spirit of this land.

Instead, it is a citizenry that gradually lost sight of this country's true history and developed confused personal priorities.

From a historical perspective, no matter how much the politically correct crowd may howl, this nation was founded on Christian principles and with a profoundly religious perspective (The American "public school" system was initiated to enable young people read the Bible and thereby become noble citizens.)

Faith in the Lord led pilgrims to make the treacherous trip to the New World, and led a rag-tag group of founding fathers to risk life, limb and livelihood to stand up to an empire and create a new country.

Faith in God enabled settlers to cross uncharted plains, hills, mountains and deserts in order to forge a better way of life. It enabled this country to forsake the scourge of slavery, and it led this nation to oppose the evils of nazism and communism.

What makes this country stand out as a beacon of hope is that for nearly 200 years most Americans individually believed in God and tried to live according to His Divine precepts.

It was an active faith in the Lord that led this country's citizens to believe that good was always possible and that every setback could be overcome.



The pessimism of the modern age is not rooted to specific events, no matter how horrific, but comes from a population that increasingly lacks faith.

The current marginalization and outright hostility towards Christianity in American society directly produces the bitter fruits of fear and cynicism. While not everyone in America is an Orthodox Christian, for the better part of its history this country has consisted of men and women who looked to the future through the prism of John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that He sent His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

This is the only way to explain how people from every corner of the earth could leave everything behind and find happiness here, and how this nation has found its way through revolution, civil war, economic depressions, world wars and the vastness of space while maintaining a measure of hope and optimism.

Faith in Christ gives mortals the courage to face powerful obstacles. Faith in Christ also gives people confidence to navigate through the fierce storms of life and enables people to do the impossible.

Terrorism has not changed this country; the economy is not eating away at the psyche of the nation. The increasing number of men and women who have stopped looking to God is changing the American spirit. Too many of our fellow Americans do not know or even consider the magnitude of John 3:17: "For God sent the Son into the world, NOT to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

Without faith in God, evil grows in strength, problems seem insurmountable and hope sounds like a fairy-tale.

Collectively, our country has lost its confidence because too many of our countrymen refuse to bend their knees before the living God. Case in point, the 10th anniversary commemorations of 9-11 at ground zero explicitly banned the participation of any religious leaders.

St. Nicholas Church was crushed by the falling Twin Towers and, until recently, was dismissed as a minor detail by public officials. These are not outside forces at work; this is the handiwork of our fellow Americans.

Orthodox Christian citizens must teach the world that the greatest strength

in heaven and on earth does not come from mortals, but from Christ our God.

True optimism is rooted to Christ and flourishes within His Church. We must make it clear that we are not slaves to the ebb-and-flow of popular culture or unfolding events. We are free men and women who can make a difference - not by government mandate, but because God is our master and we serve His only begotten Son!

Because Christ is the light of our life, we alone can genuinely see hope amidst the storm clouds. Because we are cross bearers, Christ has commissioned us to help friends, neighbors and strangers alike to find God and His Church.

Such sentiments may seem quaint, if not foolhardy and impossible. But the powers of indifference and pessimism rely on us to conclude that the mission of the Holy Church is just too hard to undertake.

The secular world depends on us say that Greek Orthodox Christians in America are too few to make a difference.

Ironically, that is exactly what the authorities believed when they crucified Jesus Christ. They could not conceive how one rabbi and 12 fisherman could possibly change the entire world.

At first, not even the 12 fisherman themselves could imagine how they could make a difference. Every so-called "reasonable person" at that time concluded that the expansion of the Holy Church of Christ around the world and its message of hope was simply impractical.

The mission of Christianity was in every conceivable sense of the word ... impossible.

And if the Holy Spirit had not descended, if Jesus was not the Christ, if there was any question about the new and eternal life in Him, if plain men and women did not have faith in the Lord and were not willing to act based on that faith; there is no question that the history of the human race would neither recall the execution of a Jewish carpenter nor His small band of followers. But with the grace of God and with dynamic faith in Him, the impossible is always possible.

The task has been entrusted to us to carry the Good News forward. As our nation searches to rediscover a true sense of itself, we have the gift of Jesus Christ to offer. As our country looks for solace, we have the shelter of the Church to provide. As our fellow citizens look for ways to meet and overcome the many problems that lie ahead, we have the treasure of faith to share.

It is up to us to be bold, not because it is easy, but because we are Orthodox Christians that love America.

We must do what might seem impossible, not because it is safe, but because we serve Christ, and we are committed to the world's salvation in His Holy Name. Against all odds, we must shine as Orthodox Christians. We must advance the work of our parishes and share the light of Christ, because that is our God-given commission and this vineyard is our personal responsibility.

Let us praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Let us pray for all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country and protect our religious freedom. Let us all recommit ourselves to the Truth of God and the work of our Church to help our nation meet the many challenges ahead with confidence and honor. For only in doing such faithful things, will we be able to rest in the knowledge that we are fulfilling our God-given calling to help instill hope and faith back to the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Fr. Verdaris is pastor of Annunciation Church in Little Rock, Ark.

ENCYCLICAL



Feast of the Synaxis of the Holy Archangels

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philotochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this blessed feast of the Holy Archangels, we recognize the ministry and service of our cherished Saint Michael's Home in New York. For over fifty years, Saint Michael's has offered the highest quality of care to its residents in an environment of compassion, fellowship, and faith. The nature of this service by the staff and directors has been a true witness of Jesus Christ and of the divine vocation of the Holy Archangels.

In the Holy Scriptures, the testimonies of Saints, and the witness of holy events in the history of the Church, we understand that the ministry of angels is to give praise and service to God. This service is characterized by a recognition of what is holy and by a firm and protective witness of life and all that is good and just. These attributes are why the name of Saint Michael's and the association with this feast are so significant. Saint Michael's has and continues to be a place that recognizes what is holy-the presence and love of God and the lives and well-being of the residents. It is also a place of protection. The care offered at St. Michael's and the atmosphere of compassion and faith protects what is good, sacred, and just against any forces of our world that seek to devalue human life or neglect our responsibility and calling to serve one another.

This faithful service to God and to the elderly has been blessed by your love and generosity over the years and, in support of this vital ministry our parishes passed a special tray on Sunday, Nov. 6.

The gifts sent to the Archdiocese in care of Saint Michael's will be forwarded to the Home. By contributing to the needs, growth, and vision of Saint Michael's, you will join with the Holy Archangels in a sacred work that protects life, upholds goodness, and brings glory to God.

With paternal love in Christ,
Archbishop Demetrios

† Archbishop DEMETRIOS of America

LETTERS

► Appreciates article ◀

I thank my dear friend and colleague Andy Manatos for his thoughtfulness in writing the article appearing in the October issue of the Observer.

It will be 15 years in January that hellenicare has been providing health care and humanitarian services. We have served more than 2.8 million people since 1997 and delivered more than \$158 million of aid to our fellow Hellenes and their neighbors in the former Soviet Republics and the Republic of Albania.

In establishing hellenicare, I have only responded to our Lord's calling to serve "the least of our brethren."

We are thankful for the support we have received.

Andrew A. Athens
President and Founder,
hellenicare

METROPOLIS NEWS



Photo by CLIFFORD ARGUE

Fr. Photios Dumont, proistamemos of St. Demetrios Church, assisted by Deacon Perry Angelos offer a Trisagion service at the dedication of a monument to 20 Greek American military men who lost their lives serving their country.

Seattle Community Dedicates Military Memorial

by Clifford T. Argue

SEATTLE – A memorial monument honoring 20 Greek-American military members from throughout Washington State who died in the service of their country was dedicated on November 5, 2011 in the Greek section of Evergreen-Washelli Cemetery in Seattle.

Rev. Fr. Photios Dumont, proistamemos of St. Demetrios Church, assisted by Deacon Perry Angelos, chanted a Trisagion for the fallen heroes and blessed the monument. An honor guard from VFW Post 2995 in Redmond, Wash., fired rifle volleys, followed by the playing of Taps by Dr. Dan Schmidt. Members of the committee which organized the event read the names of each honoree, and placed a wreath by the monument. Then, surviving relatives of the honorees placed carnations at the base of the memorial.

Chair of the committee and spearhead of the project was John Limantzakis, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran, a former St. Demetrios Parish Council President and son of a Greek Army veteran who fought in World War II. Other members were Jerry Costacos, a World War II U.S. Navy veteran; Dean Lentgis, and Johnette Limantzakis.

"These heroes made the free and prosperous lives we are blessed with a reality," Chairman John Limantzakis said in addressing the large crowd gathered for the dedication. "The inscription on another veterans' memorial states it very well.

They courageously 'gave their todays for our tomorrows.'"

"Many times over the years, I have thought about Greek American soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I have long felt strongly that they should be recognized," Limantzakis noted, in explaining why he and his family donated the

monument. He also thanked many people involved including the VFW honor guard, Evergreen Washelli Cemetery that provided the plots on which it stands, Quiring Monuments who offered a discount on the monument as well as its design,

inscriptions, and installation, and all the family members and others who helped with the research and compilation of information.

The servicemen whose names appear on the monument are: Private John P. Chemeris, Aberdeen, Wash.; 2nd Lieutenant Gust J. Damascus, Seattle; Lieutenant Junior Grade George Damaskos and Capt. James G. Droles, both of Yakima, Wash.; Private Leslie V. Frink and Flight Officer Dimitrios Geranios, both of Seattle; Maj. John W. Katsonis, Hoquiam, Wash.; Private First Class Denny F. Lagounaris, Tacoma, Wash.; Specialist 1st Class Christ Makos, Seattle; Private John Massouras, Ellensburg, Wash.; 2nd Lt. Nicholas C. Pantages, and Private 1st Class Tony T. Pappadakis, Jr., both of Seattle; Capt. John P. Prekeges, Spokane; 1st Lt. Paul P. Rockas, and Sergeant Perry Rogers, Seattle; Private Vlases Stavropoulos, Wenatchee, Wash.; Lt. Commander George P. Varver, Jr., Seattle; Corporal George Velas, Roy, Wash.; Capt. Dan Victor (Fountoukakis), Tacoma; and Specialist 1st Class Nicholas P. Wells, Seattle.

▶ to page 22



Eida Pantages Staats, 92, widow of 2nd Lt. Nicholas C. Pantages, U.S. Army Air Corps, places a flower at the base of the monument dedicated to 20 Greek American military men who lost their lives serving their country. Pantages' plane crashed in the sea off Holland on the way back to England after being hit by enemy fire on a mission over Germany in 1944. (Photo by ImageTreeMedia.com)

CROSSES BYZANTINE
From the Design Studio of Stefania Eterna comes the faith inspired collection 'Crosses Byzantine'

Please enjoy our 'demi-collection' made just for you...

By Paraskevi
PAUL'S JEWELERS
Master Craftsmen

Crosses Byzantine are decorative crosses inspired by Byzantine Artistic Tradition. These family heirlooms are to be cherished for generations to come. Truly a gift worth giving by parents, grandparents or koumbari.

10822 West National Avenue • Milwaukee 53227 • 414-321-5764 • ParaskeviforPaulsJewelers.com

IS YOUR PARISH...

Ready to expand parish participation?
Seeking funds for a building project?
Wishing to promote Planned Giving?

ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE!

THE OFFICE OF PARISH DEVELOPMENT OFFERS GUIDANCE TO PARISHES THROUGH:

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOPS: For greater involvement in your parish	STEWARDSHIP ASSISTANCE: Inspiring greater giving in your parish
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLANNING STUDIES: Assessing your project's fundraising potential	PARISH PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMS: Guidance in cultivating planned gifts
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MANAGEMENT: Planning and coaching from beginning to end	GRANT PROPOSAL RESEARCH & WRITING: Help throughout the grant proposal process

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

CONTACT US TO DISCUSS YOUR GOALS & NEEDS AND ALLOW US TO EXPLAIN HOW WE MIGHT BE OF HELP.

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF PARISH DEVELOPMENT
3 South Prospect Avenue, Ste. II
Park Ridge, IL 60068
Phone: (847) 825-1432
Email: jminetos@goarch.org

METROPOLIS NEWS

Boston Metropolis Clergy-Laity

BROOKLINE, Mass. – More than 300 delegates and observers representing parishes gathered at the Malotis Cultural Center for the Metropolis of Boston Clergy-Laity Conference. The theme was, “The Ministries of the Church: Archdiocese, Metropolis and Parishes.”

In his keynote, Metropolitan Methodios said, in part, “We gather in order to discuss the ways which we can effectively minister to the spiritual needs of the faithful entrusted to our care in the 62 parishes throughout New England...We need to constantly adapt to the new realities which we face as an Archdiocese, as a metropolis and as communities...We need to keep abreast with an ever-changing reality in our communities which affects attendance in our liturgical services, participation in parish programs and even interest in Orthodoxy itself...”

Following the keynote of Metropolitan Methodios, various departmental heads of our Archdiocese and Metropolis addressed the delegates concerning the ways in which parishes are assisted by the National Church to meet the spiritual needs of New England parishioners.

Presentations included the following:

Archdiocesan Ministries: Information Technologies (Theo Nicolakis); Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism (Fr. James Kordaris); Religious Education (Dr. Anton Vrame); Marriage and Family Ministries (Dr. Philip Mamalakis); Philoptochos Ministries (Aphrodite Skeadas and Philippa Condakes); Parish Development (Jerry Minetos); Parish Management Software Initiative (Nick Sialmas); Archdiocese Administration (Anthony Ste-

fanis); Archdiocese and Metropolis Finance Reports (Jerry Dimitriou, Ted Speros and Angelo Stamoulis)

Metropolis Ministries: Youth and Young Adult Ministries; Metropolis of Boston Camp; The St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center; The Retreat House; The Philoxenia House

Delegates elected the following three delegates to represent the Metropolis of Boston at the Archdiocesan Council: Fr. Dean Panagos, Mark Adam and Ted Speros; and 16 delegates to serve on the Metropolis Council, along with eight additional members appointed by Metropolitan Methodios. They were: Mark T. Adam, George Alexis, George E. Danis, Theodore Dimacopoulos, Stephen S. Kalivas, Theodore Menounos, Theodore Speros and Eleni Vidalis.

Clergy named were: Frs. George Dragas, Andrew George, Nicholas Krommydas, Dean Paleologos, Dean Panagos, Demetrios Toniais, Phillippe Mousis and the V. Rev. Makarios Niakaras.

Their term of office begins after the upcoming Clergy Laity Congress in Phoenix on July 1-4.

Draft of By-Laws

Demetrios Moschos, legal counsel of the metropolis, presented a draft of proposed parish by-laws for the individual communities of the metropolis. Many communities either did not have their own by-laws, or those that were outdated. They requested assistance in preparing legal documents that would address legal issues of the local parish. This draft of the local by-laws can be downloaded from the metropolis website www.boston.goarch.org.



Photos by DIMITRIOS PANAGOS

Archbishop Demetrios gives keynote address at the Staff Development Seminar.

Direct Archdiocesan District Holds Staff Development Seminar

by Jim Golding

ASTORIA, NY – The Direct Archdiocesan District held its annual Staff Development Seminar that was attended by hundreds of day school and Greek afternoon school educators.

The event was organized by Maria Makedon, director of the Direct Archdiocesan District Education Office and Special Projects and held at St. Demetrios Parochial School.

The day's activities began with a motivational speaker and a keynote address by Archbishop Demetrios.

Several workshops took place in the afternoon along with a presentation by Dr. Christos Tsolakis, professor emeritus at the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki.

In his address, the Archbishop said the Church strongly supports the teachers and noted that it “has always been a very basic place for schools.” He said that, following the Edict of Constantine the Great 312 that placed the Christian faith on a par with other religions, churches and schools followed soon after. (Byzantium saw its first university in the 5th century).

His Eminence said that, today, teachers face a “demanding and challenging task” with societal pressures and international uncertainty that affect children.

“We live in very hard times for children,” he said. “We face a very difficult world. Children are more and more conscious of what happens. There are so many things that are negative.”

He cited financial crises, violence and exploitation that affect children in a negative context and contrasted the lives of children in the past, when households also included grandparents, with the situation today where, according to national statistics, 40 percent of families have only one parent.

Families do not spend time together and children “are not growing up under



Maria Makedon

the most favorable conditions,” he said. “Children seem to be very serious. They don't smile as much,” which the Archbishop said is a situation brought about by the conditions they face.

His Eminence also observed that modern technology also has its negative effects on children, in addition to benefits. “It cuts young people off from a real connection with others.” He called the use of texting and telegraphic language “a primitive way of communication. It is rendering language to a very simplistic form.”

Along with the issues posed by technology is the “tremendous amounts of information that is available to children through the media, but that the information does not bring “real knowledge” or “real wisdom.” He said that technology and the media should be used in a healthy and progressive way, but “not as the absolute authority.”

The Archbishop concluded by saying that the Archdiocese and the Church “are conscious of the very, very demanding conditions of our teachers” and the contemporary cultural challenges they face. “We are committed to the teachers in our schools.”

Myrrh-streaming Icon Exhibited

OCEAN CITY, Md. – St. George Church welcomed the myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon of the Theotokos on Oct. 19.

With congregants singing the triumphant hymn of Ti Ipermachos, the icon was brought with much reverence and joy as it was placed on a floral stand. As the small canon to the Theotokos was sung, several hundred faithful of all denominations came to venerate the sacred image of the Panagia and be anointed with its myrrh after the Paraclisis service.

Fr. John Stavropoulos, pastor, welcomed visiting priests Frs. Demetrios Antokas (St. George, Bethesda Md.), Steven Gousios (Nativity of the Theotokos, Fredericksburg Va.), Vasilios Penteridis (retired clergy Ocean City), and John Parsells of the OCA parish Christ the Savior.

After being exhibited for several hours, a copy of the icon was presented to the parish. Congregants then sang “Tin Oraiotita” as its caretaker, Brother Nektarios, departed with the icon.

I am an Elementary Education Major.

I hope to someday become a teacher.

I am learning about the word of God, while fine-tuning the skills He has provided me.

I am an Orthodox Christian.

I am Hellenic College.



Hellenic College

STRONGER MIND AND SPIRIT

50 Goddard Avenue

Brookline, MA 02445

866-424-2338

www.hellenic.hchc.edu

Dana

Human Dignity in Orthodox Theology

by Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Clapsis

Human dignity is basic to many people around the world desperate for greater justice and freedom.

Respect of human dignity and recognition of human rights demand a culture of peace and justice. The Orthodox Church actively participates together with other Christian churches and communities of living faiths in building such a culture.

However, Orthodox theologians have not addressed - or at least do not consider it being crucial to their concerns - the issue of human dignity and rights. The Orthodox critique of the human rights tradition focuses on its reduction, especially in affluent western countries, to a basis that fortifies the self, leads to self-centeredness, and legitimizes self-gratification.

This contributes to social fragmentation that endangers human solidarity, love and communion - necessary elements and norms for a compassionate and just community. While the criticism of Orthodoxy against the philosophical and theological basis of the human rights tradition may be an important remedy to its current crisis, Orthodox theologians must also be critical of oppressive communal structures of dominance that do not allow people to be different or do not recognize their differences.

The turn to subjectivity as it has been developed in the West may be an important corrective to the totalistic inclinations of communal life. At the same time, the Orthodox emphasis on communal life and the primacy of relations is also an equally important corrective to western individualism and social fragmentation. The choice we have is not either/or, neither it is an issue of balance between human subjectivity and community, but of a continuous reflexive relationship of mutual enrichment.

Orthodox churches, as persecuted and oppressed minorities in oppressive societies, appeal to the notion of human dignity and rights for their survival and participation in the communal life with dignity and freedom.

Recognizing that the desire of and global discussions about human dignity and rights of people throughout the world is an invitation for Orthodox theology to contribute its spiritual resources and insights.

The conversation on human dignity between Orthodoxy with other Christian traditions, and other religious and secular ideologies, may bring a certain freshness and clarity to theological anthropology.

Human dignity is based on the biblical and patristic tradition that people are created in God's image. Human existence has its origins, sustenance and maturation in loving relationships with God, significant others, and the material world. These relationships are not external, attached to an already existing human substance; they are internal and constitutive of human identity.

People exist within a set of relationships necessary for their being. The crucial question is how we actively contribute to relationships that shape our identity. Do we, for instance, recognize the created sociality of all humans or do we contradict it by constructing our subjectivity as a denial of all sociality?

Given the fact that relationships can be either life-enhancing or dehumanizing, it is important to seek, develop, and sustain relationships that allow and promote the flourishing of life for all people.

Christian theological anthropology locates primarily the humanity not in the relationship of people to themselves (i.e., capacity for reflection, self-consciousness)

or in their relationship to the world, but in God, whose love as life-giving reality is extended unconditionally to all. Theologically, human dignity is a quality people possess apart from and independent of any relationship to themselves or to the world.

Each person's dignity originates in God's creating, redeeming and deifying grace that enables humans to transcend their self-existence and move towards the fullness of their humanity in life-sustaining and life-transforming relations.

It is only in communion that people can truly become what God destines them to be.

Though both theology and secular thinking have a sense of dignity as universal, they handle this differently.

Human dignity in theology is mainly seen as God's unconditional gift to all people, while others see it as an inherent quality of each person's essential self. There are, however, different ways something can be experienced as a gift. It is possible for people to feel demeaned or patronized by being told that something is a gift when they feel it is a basic part of their nature or constitution, or something to which they are entitled.

For others, however, receiving a gift is a highly affirming experience and something very much welcomed. Seeing dignity as a gift carries tasks and obligations appropriate to good stewardship of the gift, whereas seeing it as a right carries no such obligation. When a Christian tradition speaks of something being a gift of God, though the latter is intended, sometimes, in the context of post-enlightenment thought, it is heard as being patronizing.

In Christian theology, everything appropriate for human beings are gifts of God. Thus, human dignity is not a self-grounded possession enjoyed apart from a relationship to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

As Chrysostom writes memorably in a sermon on Philippians, "Humans possess dignity of rational nature, but this comes to them as a gift, not as something they have earned. Hence there is no natural preeminence amongst us, for no good thing is naturally our own."

Because God confers dignity, its measure and norm is to be discovered in God and in His action toward humankind in creation and redemption in Christ.

In response to critics of Christianity who found it ridiculous that "poor, unskilled people should dispute about heavenly things," Minucius Felix (late second or third century) replied, "let him know that all men are begotten alike, with a capacity and ability of reasoning and feeling, without preference of age, sex, or honor."

The perception that everyone has an inherent dignity is insufficient to embrace the totality of life and theologically is seen to be a static notion. It leaves no scope for a dynamic unfolding of God's purpose in relation to human dignity. A Christian theology of dignity needs an eschatological balance; creation is a continuing process and consequently it is inseparable from eschatology.

This requires that we distinguish different senses of dignity.

In one sense, we have dignity already, but in another sense, we do not have it in all its fullness. There is both a present actuality and a future potentiality about human dignity. Both are essential to an adequate theology of dignity and holding the doctrine of creation and eschatology together shows us how the absolute or universal concept of human dignity must

JOIN AHEPA PRESERVING HELLENISM SINCE 1922

BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE AHEPA FAMILY!

Join today and become a full member through the end of 2012. Please visit www.ahepa.org/join

WWW.AHEPA.ORG
1700 Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 232.6300

Membership is \$50 per individual. Eligibility requires internet age access and membership must be completed by December 31, 2011.



CALAMOS® Global Investment Management

Calamos Investments is a global investment management firm serving the needs of institutional and individual investors for three decades. Our worldwide clients have entrusted us with nearly \$37 billion in assets under management.

At the core of our investment philosophy, we believe the key to consistent, long-term success and building wealth is achieving the optimal balance between enhancing investment returns and managing risk.



John Calamos, Sr. provides his views on the current investing environment in our quarterly economic outlook report. To receive a copy or get more information please contact Yanni Sianis at +1 630 245 8789, ysianis@calamos.com or visit us at Calamos.com.

Assets under management data as of July 31, 2011.
Calamos Advisors, LLC, 2020 Calamos Court, Naperville, IL 60563-2787, 800.582.6959, www.calamos.com, cmrinfo@calamos.com
© 2011 Calamos Holdings LLC. All Rights Reserved. Calamos® and Calamos Investments® are registered trademarks of Calamos Holdings LLC. 10040 08110 AD

OPA! Let the fun begin.

Spend special times together with friends and family on the
6th Annual OPA Greek Cultural Cruise!
 Sailing this year on The MSC Poesia
 Saturday February 11 – 18, 2012 from Fort Lauderdale, FL

A one week vacation including all meals and entertainment with prices starting at
 only **\$679*** per person

* Rates are per person, Double Occupancy and include cruise, taxes, port charges and entry to all private Greek events. Rates and information are subject to change at any time without notice.



7-NIGHT WESTERN CARIBBEAN CRUISE			
Day	Port	Arrival	Departure
1 SAT	Ft. Lauderdale		7:00pm
2 SUN	Key West, Florida	7:00am	2:00pm
3 MON	Cozumel, Mexico	10:00am	6:00pm
4 TUE	Isla de Roatan, Honduras	10:00am	6:00pm
5 WED	At Sea		
6 THU	Montego Bay, Jamaica	8:00am	3:00pm
7 FRI	at Sea		
8 SAT	Ft. Lauderdale	8:00am	



For More Information Please Visit Our Website
www.opacruise.com

Please Note:
 You must book with TravelGroup International to be eligible to attend any and all private Greek events!



For reservations & information contact: TravelGroup International: 1.866.447.0750 or
 561.447.0750 ext: 102 or 108 or opacruise@travelgroupint.com Fax: 561.447.0510
 125 SE Mizner Blvd., #14, Boca Raton, FL 33432 www.opacruise.com

Sponsored by Saint Mark's Greek Orthodox Church, formerly the Greek Orthodox Mission of Ocala, Father George Papadopoulos, Pastor



Fr. Alexander and Presbytera Pearl Veronis.

Fr. Alexander and Presbytera Veronis Honored for Their 50 Years of Service

by Clifford T. Argue

LANCASTER, Pa. – “A Legacy of Service, Faith and Love – The Veronis Ministry” was the theme as more than 540 relatives, parishioners, co-workers, and friends from far and wide gathered on Oct. 2 to honor Fr. Alexander and Presbytera Pearl Veronis on the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood and 50 years of service at the Annunciation Church.

Since 2004 he has been an assistant to Fr. Alexander Goussetis, the current proistamenos.

The gala celebration featured remarks by members of the community and his children; a stirring keynote address by Fr. John Manuel, one of many from the parish who had a calling to serve the church in some capacity and is pastor of Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral in Richmond, Va; a video presentation on the lives and ministry of Fr. Alexander and Presbytera Pearl, and a musical interlude including songs sung by their children and grandchildren and a surprise appearance by the Gospel choir from the Brightside Baptist Church, a tribute to Fr. Alexander's extensive work with all faiths in the Lancaster area.

All of the speakers and the video highlighted how blessed the parish was to have Fr. Alexander and Presbytera Pearl engaged in a cooperative ministry together, teaching Bible study groups, doing social outreach programs, and leading spiritual life and renewal retreats. As one parishioner was quoted in the local newspaper, “We got two for the price of one.”

The parish experienced dramatic growth during the Veronises' tenure, increasing in size to some 550 families with diverse ethnic backgrounds. Fr. Alexander established a stewardship program which helped the parish retire its mortgage in 1975. He oversaw the addition of an educational building including classrooms, a gym, and youth room, and set up a library with more than 5,000 volumes. Meanwhile, Presbytera Pearl sang in the choir, taught classes, is a tireless worker for the bazaar, and participates in prison and nursing home ministries. They raised five children and now have 14 grandchildren.

In addition to his 43 years as proistamenos of Annunciation and various leadership roles in inter-faith and ecumenical organizations, especially as chair for over three decades of the local Church World Service/CROP Hunger Walks, Fr. Alexander gave his many talents to the Orthodox Church nationally and internationally. He was president of the National Presbyters Council, the Clergy Brotherhood of the Pittsburgh Diocese and, for 10 years, of the Orthodox Council of Churches of South Central Pennsylvania.

However, he is probably best known for his long-standing dedication to the

promotion and support of foreign mission work.

His interest began when he was a student at Holy Cross School of Theology in the mid-1950's.

Bishop Athenagoras (Kokkinakis), the dean, started a student missionary society and brought young men from Korea to study at the seminary.

Writing in the Dedication Book for the new Orthodox Christian Mission Center in 2009, Fr. Alexander stated “Seeds were planted in my heart at this time for promoting Orthodox missions.”

Later, as he and his wife were studying at the University of Athens they met students from Africa, Spain, Korea, and the Middle East, further reinforcing their desire to follow Christ's commandment to “Go and make disciples of all nations...” (Mt. 28).

As they began their ministry in Lancaster in 1961, Father and Presbytera started a “Lenten Self-Denial Club.” Members sacrificed meals during Lent and gave the money to buy and send religious books, icons, and other materials to the missions in Korea, Uganda, and Mexico. Fr. Alexander also set up speaking tours throughout the Archdiocese for missionary priests from those countries.

The 1966 Clergy-Laity Congress approved the formation of an Archdiocesan Foreign Missions Committee with Fr. Alexander as chairman. The committee and its work grew, and by 1984 became a Board with an executive director and offices at the St. Photios Shrine in St. Augustine, Fla.

In 1987, the Board acquired a house and in recognition of his many efforts, named the building the “Fr. Alexander Veronis Mission Center.” He and Presbytera led a short-term team to Kenya in 1988 to build a medical clinic. The Archdiocese Mission Board was expanded in 1994 to be Pan-Orthodox and became the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). Fr. Alexander continues to serve on the board as president emeritus, providing valuable guidance and insight. He also was a founder of the Endowment Fund for Orthodox Missions which has established the Mission Institute of Orthodox Christianity at Holy Cross.

Their son, Fr. Luke Veronis, long-term missionary to Africa and Albania, is currently pastor of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church in Webster, Mass. In a sermon at Annunciation on the morning of the banquet, he reflected on life as a “PK” (priest's kid) as experienced by him and his siblings. “Each day we saw how much they loved God above all else and passionately wanted to serve Him as priest and presbytera,” Fr. Luke noted. “Ultimately, as we honor my parents for their faithful service, we are ultimately honoring Christ, for my parents have strived to simply act as icons of Christ over these past 50 years!”

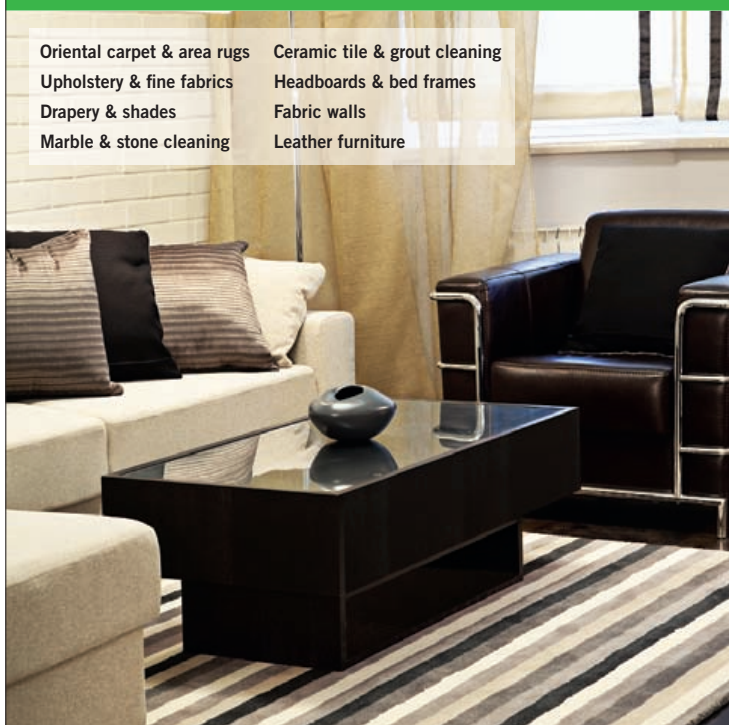


Fabra-Clean Carpet & Fabric Specialists Inc.

GETTING ALL THE DIRT SINCE 1949

Oriental carpet & area rugs
 Upholstery & fine fabrics
 Drapery & shades
 Marble & stone cleaning

Ceramic tile & grout cleaning
 Headboards & bed frames
 Fabric walls
 Leather furniture



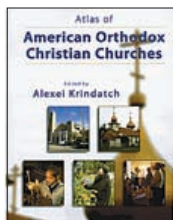
Serving the Tri-State Area

212.777.4040 fabraclean.com fabracleanstoneandtilecare.com

HOLY CROSS BOOKSTORE

HELLENIC COLLEGE - HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
50 GODDARD AVENUE, BROOKLINE, MA 02445

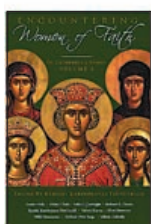
~ Christmas ~



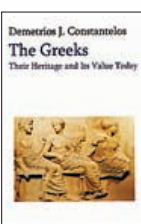
ATLAS OF AMERICAN ORTHODOX CHURCHES
Alexei Krindatch, editor
\$19.95



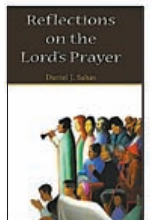
ICON AS COMMUNION
George Kordis
\$19.95



ENCOUNTERING WOMEN OF FAITH VOLUME 2
Kyriaki Fitzgerald, editor
\$19.95



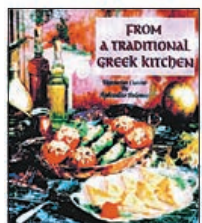
THE GREEKS: THEIR HERITAGE AND ITS VALUE TODAY
Demetrios J. Constantelos
\$15.95



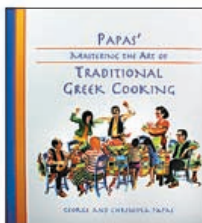
REFLECTIONS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER
Daniel Sahas
\$13.95



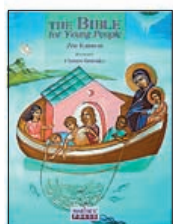
DAILY PRAYERS FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS
N. Michael Vaporis, editor
\$9.95



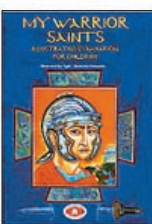
FROM A TRADITIONAL GREEK KITCHEN
Aphrodite Polemis
\$14.95



PAPAS' MASTERING THE ART OF TRADITIONAL GREEK COOKING
G. and C. Papas
\$30.00



THE BIBLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
Zoe Kanavas
Christos Gousides, illustrator
\$17.50

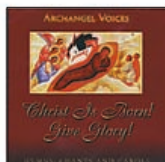


MY WARRIOR SAINTS
(available in English or Greek)
D. and E. Potamitis
\$28.00

MUSIC



WHEN AUGUSTUS REIGNED
Capella Romana
\$17.00



CHRIST IS BORN! GIVE GLORY!
Archangel Voices
\$16.98

These and many other Christmas selections
can be found on our website:

www.holycrossbookstore.com

Mon - Fri 9:30 am - 4:30 pm EST Toll-free: 1-800-245-0599
Fax: 617-850-1430 Email: hcbks@hchc.edu

METROPOLIS NEWS



Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Gerasimos greet children of the Anaheim parish.

Calif. Parish Marks 50 Years

by Jamie Amerine

ANAHEIM, Calif. – St. John the Baptist Church marked its 50th anniversary with a weekend of events celebrating Christian love and service to their fellow man in Orange County on Oct. 8–9.

The parish was honored with the presence of Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco during this celebratory weekend. Under the local leadership of Fr. John Kariotakis, proistamenos; Fr. Nicholas Andrews; and 50th anniversary Chairman John Ohanian, the St. John the Baptist community planned a full weekend to honor the past, celebrate the present, and plan for the future.

The festivities began with a Youth Rally on Oct. 8 with nearly 100 youth lining the walkway outside the church to eagerly greet Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Gerasimos. The day's program included presentations by the Youth Choir, Greek school, Oratorical Festival winners, GOYA, and Greek Dance groups.

Archbishop Demetrios also participated in a very engaging question-and-answer session where children and teens eagerly awaited the opportunity to personally address His Eminence and ask many in-depth questions about the Orthodox faith, Holy Scripture, as well as about

the Archbishop's personal journey to the priesthood.

The Disneyland Hotel served as the site for the Grand Banquet on Saturday evening which was attended by more than 650 faithful who gathered to celebrate this important milestone for the St. John the Baptist parish. The community welcomed back two distinguished clergy whose leadership was pivotal to the parish's growth and development – Fr. Evagoras Constantines and Fr. George Massouras.

Though he was unable to attend Fr. James Diavatis, who served the parish for 30 years until 2010, also received recognition.

The weekend concluded with the Archieratical Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning where Archbishop Demetrios led the faithful in worship. The Church was filled with prayerful and grateful stewards who joined together in prayer and fellowship giving thanks to God for the abundant blessings of the past 50 years, and honoring the founders who have fallen asleep in a memorial service following the Liturgy.

St. John the Baptist blazed the trail as the first Greek Orthodox church in Orange County.

Organizing meetings held in 1960 resulted in the incorporation of the Greek Orthodox Community of Orange County on Oct. 20, 1961, with the Archdiocese granting its charter in 1963.

Mass. Church Celebrates 95th Year

SOMERVILLE, Mass. – Dormition Church celebrated its 95th anniversary with a series of events – a choir reunion, family garden picnic and the opening of an art exhibit and dinner-dance at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

The choir reunion took place in February and included a presentation of images from the past 50 years.

On May 22, a family garden picnic featured a ground-breaking ceremony for a multi-year landscaping project to which many parishioners donated and planted flower bulbs and plants.

The observation concluded on Oct. 29 with a daytime program open to youth from all parishes of the Metropolis of Boston. They participated in age-appropriate activities.

That evening, the celebration



included the opening of the "Art and Aphrodite" exhibit at the MFA, followed by a dinner-dance.

To view more coverage of the 95th anniversary, visit www.Dormition-Church.org or the parish's Facebook page – Dormition Church 95th anniversary.

PRISON MINISTRY



Participants in the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry convocation held in Toronto.

OCPM Holds World Conference

by Chaplain Patrick Tutella

TORONTO – Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry held its annual convocation in late June in conjunction with Prison Fellowship International. This cooperative effort with PFI greatly enriched OCPM's convocation, as it allowed for the inclusion of Orthodox prison workers from around the world.

This year's theme was "Welcoming home our brothers and sisters who have been in prison."

Seminars included several speakers including Metropolitan Paul of Glyfada, Greece, who spoke of his personal 28-year involvement in prison ministry in Greece, and of prison ministry there in general.

Since his ordination to the episcopacy, he has continued to meet with ex-prisoners and to correspond with people currently in prison. He encouraged the convocation attendees to pray, because prayer is the power "which moves everything."

With the increasing number of incarcerations in the United States, the issue of re-entry becomes more and more pressing. While the general unemployment rate nationally is around 9.2 percent, for those coming out of prison it is near 80 percent.

There are many barriers standing between prisoners and their successful reintegration into society.

Too often, government policies seem to be directed at putting people back into prison; thus, it is left to believing people to try to welcome returning prisoners home.

Fr. Cosmas, a monk at the Monastery of St. John of San Francisco in Manton, Calif., discussed corresponding with prisoners, and the centrality of honest self-revelation in building relationships with prisoners.

He noted that fear of abandonment and isolation dominates the lives of those in prison. Fr. Cosmas also discussed Christ's liberation of everyone from personal imprisonment to sin and selfishness and that the prison minister's revelation of his own liberation from the hell of self builds credibility with prisoners he ministers to.

Rick Wagoner and Sandra Anderson from OCPM Minnesota discussed the "Reunion Meals" they hold for people released from prison.

They emphasized that the meals' purpose is relationship-building, carrying on the theme of relationship

that developed throughout the convocation.

A two-part presentation on the Lazarus Project highlighted a reintegration program developed by OCPM that matches people coming out of prison with a team of mentors. They meet on a weekly basis to help them successfully re-enter society.

Other prison ministries

Fr. Oleg Skomorokh discussed prison ministry in Russia. Fr. Oleg is the assistant to Archbishop Irinarkh, who directs the Orthodox Church's prison ministry in Russia. He spoke of the challenges prison ministers face in Russia; challenges that sound rather familiar to those of us in the United States: lack of funding, an exploding prison population, and societal indifference to the plight of those in prison.

Fr. Viktor Yatsenko made a presentation about prison ministry in the Ukraine. Fr. Viktor shared a series of pictures depicting the vibrant life of faith that exists even in the harshest prisons in Ukraine.

He said faith in Christ is the only thing helping a person remain intact through the hell of imprisonment.

The last presenter, Elena Yoncheva, discussed prison ministry in Bulgaria. There, the Church works closely with psychologists, social workers and others to bring a genuine change in the life of a person in prison, and their family. Convocation attendees also visited St. John the Compassionate Mission, an Orthodox homeless ministry in downtown Toronto. Remarkably, the concepts of relationship and community were central to the description of the ministry at St. John.

Participants were reminded of the centrality of relationship in the Christian life: the primary relationship of the individual to God in Christ, and the human relationships which subsequently develop through the grace of that primary God-Man relationship. The attendees were enabled, not only to meditate on the gift of human relationships imbued with God's grace, but also to experience this gift as they formed relationships with one another, relationships that crossed barriers of culture, language and custom through the common and eternal bond of Christ.

Chaplain Tutella is executive director of OCPM.

YOUR CONNECTION TO SOUTH FLORIDA



Specializing in Commercial & Residential Real Estate Brokerage From Miami To Palm Beach



Gus Trataros Realtor®
561.716.0653 / 305.285.7272
gtrataros@skylinerealtyint.com

SKYLINE REALTY INTERNATIONAL
800 Brickell Avenue, Suite 201, Miami, FL 33131
www.skylinerealtyinternational.com
info@skylinerealtyint.com

Available on our website festivalofgreekflavors.com and amazon.com or call 303.697.1467

Take a Mediterranean Adventure!
The Festival of Greek Flavors is a new Greek and Mediterranean cookbook by the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society of Denver

- 216 pages of tested, time-honored, authentic Greek recipes in a high quality, hard bound book
- Over 50 mouth-watering professionally photographed images
- Wine pairings by an expert in Greek wines
- Proceeds benefit our charitable programs

Enter coupon code **TENOFF** on our website for 10% off the cover price!

MAKES A GREAT GIFT!

Rohlf's Byzantine Stained Glass Art

Serving the Orthodox Church for over 80 years in Achievements of Ecclesiastical Excellence and Beauty

FOR MORE INFORMATION & LITERATURE CALL OUR TOLL-FREE NUMBER
800-969-4106

Rohlf's Stained & Leaded Glass Studio
783 South Third Ave., Mount Vernon, NY 10550
e-mail - rohlf1@aol.com web page - www.rohlfstudio.com

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

Offered to Communities, Organizations, Church festivals and all other functions.

Kontos Foods famous for its **POCKET-LESS PITA**, is proud to present its original products once again.

Fillo Kataifi

Delicious, traditional products made

with the highest quality ingredients

Spanakopita Tyropita

Courteous Service • WE SHIP EVERYWHERE in the US & CANADA

Exclusive Distributor for USA & CANADA of **TRIKOMITES HALOUMI**

KONTOS FOODS, INC • EVRIPIDES KONTOS, President
BOX 628, PATERSON, NJ 07544
(973) 278-2800 • Fax: (973) 278-7943

STERLING TRAVEL

20 LAUREN LANE, PHILLIPSBURG, N.J. 08865

www.hellastickets.com

Κρατήσεις online αεροπορικών εισιτηρίων, δωματιών

Ξενοδοχείων και ενοικιάσεις αυτοκινήτων

Πληκτρολογήστε την πόλη, αναχωρήσεις, τον προορισμό σας
και κρατήστε θέσεις σε τιμές ευκαιρίας

NEA YOPKH – ΑΘΗΝΑ

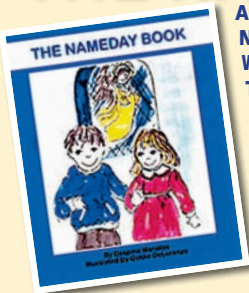
From **\$218** ONE WAY From **\$318** ROUND TRIP

Τηλεφωνείστε δωρεάν (Toll Free): 1.800.GREECE-8 (1.800.473.3238)

1.908.213.1251 • 1.908. 213.5826

ΙΔΙΟΚΤΗΤΕΣ: ΒΑΣΙΛΗΣ & ΜΙΝΑ ΑΓΓΕΛΗ

THE NAMEDAY BOOK



Attention all Yiayias, Papous, Theas, Theos, Nounas, Nounos, Sunday School Teachers, Moms & Dads!

WithAgape.com is happy to announce that **THE NAMEDAY BOOK is now available for purchase through GoTelecom!**

THE NAMEDAY BOOK written by Despina Manatos & Illustrated by her Nouna Goldie DeLorenzo encourages all in the Orthodox faith to celebrate their given name every year and includes a comprehensive month by month list of the most prominent Saints and Feast Days in the Orthodox faith.

This is a great gift for Easter, birthdays, christenings, Christmas, and of course, Namedays!

To order your own copy or copies of

THE NAMEDAY BOOK (€11.95 each + \$5 S&H)

please call **212-570-3588**

or email gotel@goarch.org

GO TELECOM
GREEK ORTHODOX TELECOMMUNICATIONS

FILM & TELEVISION

MONEYBALL

by Fr. Gary Kyriacou

I love baseball and going to the movies, so when the two experiences come together, I'm thrilled. The new Sony Pictures release "Moneyball," now joins "The Natural" and "The Sandlot" as a classic in the genre of baseball movies. Having read the book *Moneyball*, upon which the movie is loosely based, it is safe to say that there are no spoilers in this review.

Moneyball is based on the true story of Oakland A's General Manager Billy Beane. Beane moves into the GM position in 1989 and, finding his ability to recruit big players restricted by a tight budget, develops a revolutionary approach to assembling a successful team. He partners with an Ivy League graduate played by Jonah Hill to turn baseball tradition on its ear.

Although the movie is very different from the book, I was captivated on many levels. The theory Beane uses to create the team is fascinating, and the life lessons the characters learn along the way can be instructive to Orthodox Christians. The fact that I actually lived and served as a deacon in Oakland for three years from 2001 to 2004, may make me one of the few blue-blooded Dodger fans that closely followed the unfolding legacy of Beane and the Oakland A's with interest rather than scorn.

I'm not always a big fan of Brad Pitt, but he does a wonderful job portraying the oddities of Billy Beane, who suffers through self-doubt and ridicule as he champions the use of an obscure mathematical analysis of baseball to pick players that are undervalued by traditional powerbrokers.

Batting averages and home runs are the yardstick of choice until Beane and his associates begin using on-base percentage and other lesser statistics to ferret out players that fit their constricted budget.

But don't think you can only enjoy this movie if you are a baseball fan, because the film's greater message is about overcoming resistance to change and the benefit of strong leadership and believing in yourself and your message.

Although Moneyball's message is not overtly religious, it doesn't take much of a leap to see the same principles at work in Christianity.

In the movie, as in life, change creates

problems for people. The Disciples of our Lord experienced this first hand after Pentecost during the establishment of the Church. It's a good thing they were resistant to the persecution they endured as they spread the Good News, because they were not always met with acceptance and open arms. Change for the sake of change is not necessarily wise, but change for the sake of progress can challenge us to strive for better than the status quo.

Leadership is not an attribute best taught in a structured curriculum; the concept is more easily understood in the context of life lessons. Moneyball is a great tool to use as a session builder for leadership and discipleship. The implementation of Billy Beane's scheme to create a successful team can be likened to the disciples' establishment of the early Church in the Book of Acts. The traditional baseball scouts were accustomed to doing things a certain way, much like the Hebrews after our Lord's resurrection. Along comes a new way to look at an old structure (see Acts 9:2) and an identifiable conflict is born.

Early practitioners of Christianity could hardly have imagined what the Church would become. And though Orthodox Christians and others still experience persecution, we who practice in the western world enjoy a widespread acceptance of our faith and a deeply rooted tradition to sustain us in difficult times.

When Beane and the Oakland A's decided to embark on a new path, they probably didn't envision their method helping the Boston Red Sox win the 2004 World Series. Sometimes the changes we resist the most change the game for the better. It takes visionary leaders to champion big changes, and Moneyball's portrayal of leadership, baseball and life make it worth seeing.

The movie is rated PG-13, because of some strong language and "locker room" behavior. Adults should take care to make sure this film is only introduced to groups mature enough to recognize the unsuitable material.

Fr. Kyriacou, pastor of St. Demetrios Church in Camarillo, Calif., spent several years in the motion picture and television industries. From time to time he will offer an Orthodox insight into contemporary entertainment programming and films.

National, World Leaders Learn the Oxi Day Story at Washington Event

WASHINGTON - Modern history's most consequential, yet forgotten, David vs. Goliath story - Greece's role in the defeat of Adolph Hitler and preservation of freedom and democracy - took a major step into public consciousness at the Washington Oxi Day Foundation's first annual celebration, Oct. 27-28.

Hundreds of high-level national and international policy makers and opinion leaders learned the Oxi Day story through the words of Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt and through the vocal advocacy of current day national and international leaders, including Vice President Joe Biden, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chris Matthews of CNN, former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and others. Washington Oxi Day Foundation President and founder Andy

Manatos and Executive Director Mike Manatos welcomed the involvement in these activities of the national leaders of the Order of St. Andrew, Leadership 100, AHEPA, AHI, SAE, the Pancretan, Pan-Macedonian, Pancyprian, Cyprus, Pan-Epirotic and Pan-Icarian Associations and Federations of America, PSEKA, American Hellenic Council of California, National Hellenic Society, Next Generation Initiative, Hellenic-American National Council, and Hellenic American Women's Council, among others. Dozens of Washington policy makers and opinion leaders, along with Archbishop Demetrios, participated in Foundation events including a National WWII Memorial ceremony that included a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.



36-05 162 street, Flushing, NY 11358

tel.: 718.445.7272 • fax: 718.445.5133

the one and only jewelry store in the USA
that designs and manufactures
christening crosses.

www.rizosjewelry.com

Design your own cross or any other type of jewelry,
send it or describe it to us and we will take care of the rest.

ΕΜΠΝΕΥΣΗ • ΤΕΧΝΗ • ΠΡΩΤΟΤΥΠΙΑ

WE ARE PROUD TO SERVE THE GREEK AMERICAN
COMMUNITY ALL OVER THE COUNTRY SINCE 1972

Caring for the Poor and Homeless in the Nation's Oldest City

PARISH profile

Name: Holy Trinity
 Greek Orthodox Church
Location: St. Augustine, Fla.
Metropolis of Atlanta
Size: about 95 families
Founded: 1973
Clergy: Fr. George Ioannou (HC 2005)
E-mail: holytr@netzero.com
Web: www.holytrinitygoa.org
Noteworthy: Emphasizes a strong outreach to the poor and homeless



HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – It is an irony of history that the first Greeks in the New World, brought to Florida as indentured servants to the New Smyrna colony in 1768, are not those who founded the Greek Orthodox parish in the oldest city in the United States.

Their story is a familiar one. After several years of a miserable existence in the mosquito-malaria infested colony about 70 miles to the south of St. Augustine, they eventually left and blended in with the Spanish inhabitants in St. Augustine where they attended Roman Catholic services in a building known as the Averro House on 41 St. George St.

In 1964, St. Augustine residents and early parishioners of what is now Holy Trinity, Mr. and Mrs. George Fotiou, Mr. and Mrs. James Kalivas, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Sarris, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Xynidis, and Mr. and Mrs. Spiro Zepatos brought this fact to the attention of the Archdiocese, which purchased the building in 1966.

It was restored with a chapel and dedicated as the St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine, named for the great Patriarch and missionary saint of Constantinople.

In addition to serving as the full-time priest of Holy Trinity, Fr. George Ioannou also the Shrine's chaplain, holds a paraklesis service on most Fridays and celebrates the Divine Liturgy every three months.

Historical background

According to information from Fr. George, those who established the Greek community began arriving in the 1890s and early 1900s and were American-born. There were no direct immigrants from Greece. Many of the local families relocated from Florida's west coast, where they had worked as shrimp boat builders. They followed the shrimping industry when much of its activity shifted to the state's east coast.

The Greek Orthodox families would travel 40 miles north to Jacksonville to attend services at St. John the Divine Church from the early 1900s to the late '50s, when its priest, a Fr. Berris, would come to celebrate a monthly liturgy in St. Augustine at St. Peter's Chapel of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on St. George Street. He served the community until the early 1970s, when local families organized the Hellenic Society as a religious and philanthropic organization with the goal of establishing their own church. One of the Society's founders, Dr. Steve Poulos, originally came from Ohio.

In 1976, after many "Greek Nite" dinner-dances and bake sale fund-raisers, the society purchased an existing church building in the downtown area and established the St. Augustine Hellenic Center.

The Jacksonville priest at the time, Fr. John Hondras, celebrated the first Divine Liturgy there.

In the following 10 years, Fr. Paul Costopoulos, the next Jacksonville priest, served the St. Augustine community. Fr. George Gallos was assigned as the first permanent priest in 1992.

Under Fr. Gallos, who served until his death in October 1995, Presbytera Anna Gallos established the choir and became its first director.

A parishioner, Jack Hill, became ordained and briefly served as the pastor, followed by Fr. Nikitas Theodosian in early 1997. He left after 13 years and Fr. Ioannou began his ministry at Holy Trinity on March 1, 2010.

Fr. Ioannou noted that the parish demonstrates "a genuine concern for the poor and homeless of St. Augustine."

He said that St. Augustine has a large number of homeless, many of them living in camps in the woods and, under a program of the Philoptochos chapter, parishioners bring them food and clothing and also transport some to church to attend the Divine Liturgy, though they do not take part in the sacraments.

"To me, this sets the community apart from other communities," said Fr. George, who was born in New Jersey and grew up on Long Island. "This is new to me; I've never seen this in a church. It's year-round, every day."

He added, "The community is showing the love that the Lord commanded us to do."

Another key area of ministry is the Missions Program.

With the presence of Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos, a member of the parish and the first director of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, and the new OCMC training center and headquarters near Interstate 95, parishioners strongly support the OCMC, especially in serving as missionaries. Nearly 20 individuals and families of the community have served or presently serve in the mission field.

Parish ministries

Holy Trinity pursues a strong youth ministry with the formation of youth groups such as JOY, GOYA and the Hellenic dance groups that take part each

year in the Atlanta Metropolis' Hellenic Dance Festival.

Sunday school has about 70 students and there are plans to add more classroom space. While there currently is no Greek school, the parish has offered a Greek language program of about 10 weeks duration.

Fr. George has helped the community spearhead an iconography endeavor to further the worship at Holy Trinity.

This project will include icons on the dome and throughout the entire church interior.

Future plans also call for establishing an Orthodox cemetery.

The Stewardship program is the church's main revenue source, supplemented by other fund-raisers during the

year that include the annual Greek festival on Columbus Day weekend that draws more than 12,000 people in three days, the annual Philoptochos Fashion Show, the annual golf outing that draws participants from various states, a Greek Nite and an Aug. 15 *paneyiri*.

Rounding out the various ministries and programs are the altar boys, Bible Study, choir, Stewardship Committee, Planning and Building Committee, Communications Committee, Outreach and the Nisiotis Dance Group.

In January 2006, Holy Trinity Church moved from its downtown location west of the city to a 19-acre site the parish acquired several years before near Interstate 95. Many parishioners live over a wide area that ranges from the outskirts of Jacksonville, to Palm Coast to the town of Palatka about 25 miles to the southwest.

Fr. George, who said he had thought he would be coming to a retirement community when told of his assignment, said the parish is anything but that.

There are some 20 children under age 10 and many teenagers as well.

— Compiled by Jim Golding

PEOPLE

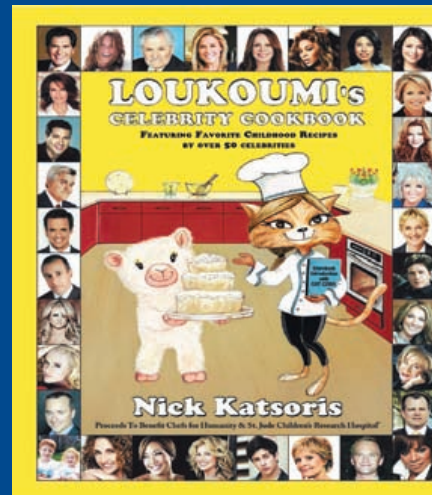
Faith award

Pave the Way Foundation Inc., an international non-sectarian public foundation that identifies and eliminates non-theological obstacles by enhancing relations between religions through cultural, technological and intellectual gestures, presented its "Defense of Faith Award" to Archdiocesan Council member and Archon John Catsimatidis at its 2011 Awards Gala Benefit on Nov. 14 in Huntington, N.Y. He was one of four distinguished persons to be honored.

LOUKOUMI's CELEBRITY COOKBOOK

The 5th Loukoumi Storybook & Over 50 Favorite Childhood Recipes

Featuring:
 Jennifer Aniston
 Ernie Anastos
 Beyonce
 Cat Cora
 Katie Couric
 Paula Deen
 Ellen DeGeneres
 Celine Dion
 Olympia Dukakis
 Nicole Kidman
 Matt Lauer
 Jay Leno
 Constantine Maroulis
 Rachael Ray
 Al Roker
 George Stephanopoulos
 Taylor Swift
 Mark Wahlberg
 Reese Witherspoon
 Betty White & More



THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOUR LOUKOUMI!

Benefiting Chefs for Humanity & St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

At Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million, Amazon.com &

www.LOUKOUMI.COM 212-397-2804

GET RESULTS • ADVERTISE

observer@goarch.org

Tel (212) 570-3555 • Fax (212) 774-0239

**THREE GENERATIONS OF YAIYIAS,
ONE RECIPE, CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF GREECE**



BAKLAVA,
KOULOURAKIA
(“THE GREEK COOKIE”),
PAKSIMADIA
(“THE GREEK BISCUIT”)

DELICIOUS,
BEAUTIFULLY BOXED
AND BOWED!


PERFECT FOR
YOUR HOLIDAY
GIFT GIVING,
OR JUST
TO ENJOY YOURSELF!

COMPLIMENTARY SHIPPING,
FOR A LIMITED TIME

VISIT US AT:
WWW.SWEETSBYSTELLA.COM




Download Chant
Hear your faith



Download Store at Liturgica.com

GREEK INTERNET MARKET
A TASTE OF GREECE WITHOUT THE TRAVEL

Huge Selection of Greek Holiday Gift Baskets Starting at \$7.45:

- Greek Sweets & Treats
- Olives & Olive Oils
- Greek Coffee & Tea
- Greek Soaps & Beauty Products
- Build Your Own Custom Gift Baskets

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!

Take 10% Off Your Next Order! Use Coupon Code “Observer” During Checkout



**Shop Online Or Place Your Order Over
The Phone Toll-Free: 1-800-755-8067**

www.GreekInternetMarket.com

Registration Now Open for 2011 College Conferences

BROOKLINE, Mass. – Registration for the 2011 College Conferences is now open at events.ocf.net. The conferences will be held during Christmas Break in three locations: St. Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, Calif.; Antiochian Village in Bolivar, Pa.; and the Diakonia Center in Salem, S.C., each centering on Orthodox Christian Fellowship’s (OCF) theme for the year – “Raise Me Above This World’s Confusion.”

Annually, nearly 400 college students from across North America participate in College Conference to learn and grow closer in their Orthodox Faith in an exemplary display of Pan-Orthodox fellowship. Each four-day conference includes a prominent keynote speaker, along with workshops led by clergy and lay leaders who are experts in their related fields. Featured workshop topics will include Understanding Orthodoxy, Comparative Religions, Practicing Your Faith, Contemporary Issues in Orthodoxy, Dating and Personal Relationship, and Serving, defined as Seeing God in Others. OCF College Conferences are planned and executed by a committee of college students who desire to provide their peers with an enjoyable and edifying experience.

“College Conference is a great opportunity for college students to take time away from their busy academic and social lives and concentrate on developing their spiritual lives by learning from clergymen and great speakers, and by engaging with other Orthodox students from across the country. This year’s theme, ‘Raise Me Above This World’s Confusion,’ encourages discussion of how to live in today’s society while living an Orthodox life,” said Tanya Schillwaski, College Conference East coordinator and a sophomore at Northeastern University.

“Following Christ’s example of taking time to retreat, OCF’s College Conference provides a place for Orthodox Christian college students to refresh their worn down body and soul,” said John Mahfouz, director of North American Programs.

“Students spend four days being nourished in a loving community through edifying lectures and discussions, Church services, and exciting activities.”

A limited number of scholarships are available and offered, by each jurisdiction

on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, call the North American Office at 1-800-919-1623. To register, visit events.ocf.net.

College Conference West

St. Nicholas Ranch

Dunlap, Calif. Dec. 27–30

Earlybird rate

until Dec. 15: \$215 Regular: \$240

Keynote speaker – Fr. Josiah Trenham, pastor of St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Riverside, Calif.

College Conference East

Antiochian Village

Bolivar, Pa. Dec. 28–31

Earlybird rate

until Dec. 15: \$240 – Regular: \$265

Keynote speaker – Bishop Michael Dahulich of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey in the Orthodox Church in America

College Conference South

Diakonia Center

Salem, S.C. Dec. 28–31

Earlybird rate

until Dec. 15: \$210 – Regular: \$235

Keynote speaker – Fr. Michael Nasser, pastor of Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission in Bowling Green, Ky.

Military Memorial

▷ from page 9

While the 20 military men lost their lives in earlier times, the monument includes a very up-to-date high tech feature. On the front there is a small embedded target where if one points a smart phone, the biographies of each honoree can be downloaded. This data can also be found at www.washelli.com/wordpress/?p=3380.

The monument is located in close proximity to the cemetery chapel of St. Demetrios Church, and will be maintained perpetually by the parish. A reception and further talks in the cemetery funeral home followed the dedication.

Clifford T. Argue of Seattle is a member of the Archdiocesan Council and chairman of its Communications Committee.

Human Dignity in Orthodox Theology

▷ from page 11

be kept always in relation to a relative or qualitative one.

A theology of creation gives an absolute concept that bestows dignity on all, without variations or exceptions.

However, this affirmation needs to be complemented by a qualitative concept that reflects the extent to which the potential that comes from being made in the image of God is or has been realized. The distinction between being made in the “image” of God and growing in his “likeness” has been used in this way. People differ to the extent they have realized the potential that comes from being created in the image of God.

Fuller dignity to which we all are called, and for which we can hope, is more completely realized in some people than in others. All, however, are called to a fuller realization of the dignity that is part of God’s purpose. People can thus live in the space created between the basic dignity that is given to them and the fuller dignity to which they are called. It makes a crucial difference how this is experienced. The proper experience of dignity depends on keeping open the axis between the dignity that we have already as gift and

the fuller dignity that we are promised and toward which we are called.

To see dignity solely as necessary property of human beings, as Enlightenment thought tends to do, is to lose touch with the eschatological promise that the dignity of humanity can become more of a reality.

On the other hand, if dignity is seen entirely as something that might develop more fully, with no sense that it is already in some basic sense present, there would be no constraints on current indignities.

If the only concept of dignity in the political realm is the universal dignity of all as an inherent quality of every person, then it might be assumed that human dignity could be neither destroyed nor improved upon.

Only if there is a sense that human dignity could become more of a reality than is the case, people can be motivated toward a betterment of human conditions. This sense of dignity as something to be realized can be an invitation and promise, a possibility held out to people, and to which they are invited to respond.

Fr. Clapsis is the Archbishop Iakovos Professor of Systematic Theology at Holy Cross School of Theology.

CHALLENGE

THE PULSE OF ORTHODOX YOUTH

Showing an Attitude of Gratitude

by Eva Kokinos

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever!" (Psalm 107:1)

It is November... the month of THANKSGIVING! The Thanksgiving holiday is a time where all Americans stop to reflect on the blessings in their life and to give thanks. But what typically comes to mind when we think of Thanksgiving... turkey, football, family gatherings, Black Friday shopping, etc.? As a society, we have unfortunately adopted an attitude that Thanksgiving means excess, sports, and overindulgence. "Giving Thanks" for Orthodox Christians is a much deeper responsibility that goes beyond even the Thanksgiving holiday. In fact, it is a way of life.

So if "giving thanks" is an essential part of our Orthodox Christian lives but we focus on other things, maybe it is time we had an "attitude adjustment." Instead of having an attitude of excess and overindulgence, we should take steps toward having an attitude of gratitude. Here are a few ways that we can keep the true spirit of Thanksgiving in every aspect of our lives:

1) Attitude of Gratitude ... through words. *"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging*

cymbal." (1 Corinthians 13:1)

We say a lot! We are texting, we are chatting, and we are constantly on the phone. Unfortunately, words can be used to gossip, to lie, to deceive, and to criticize others. This is a great time to consider whether or not our words are being used for the glory of God and for positive things.

Spiritual "Attitude Adjustment" Challenge: Make a specific effort to actually SAY thank you when people do things for you. If someone opens a door for you, say "thank you." Take time to say "thanks" to your parents/guardians for being there for you.

Say "thank you" to someone who serves in our Armed Forces. You can even say thank you to a friend for just being a friend!

The point is... SAY it!

2) Attitude of Gratitude ... through actions. *"Preach the Gospel always. When necessary, use words."* (St. Francis of Assisi)

As the saying goes, "Actions speak louder than words." We do not doubt for one second that words have a strong impact on how we react and how we relate. But, our words are given meaning and dimension through "walking the walk" when we are "talking the talk" to others.

Spiritual "Attitude Adjustment" Challenge: Show your attitude of gratitude by

returning the favor. What does that mean?

Challenge yourself to appreciate the gifts that you are given by giving them to others. If you say "thank you" to your parents for all they do, make sure to show them by helping out a little more at home. If you feel truly thankful for the basic needs of food and clothing, show your appreciation by donating your time or items to food banks, homeless shelters and philanthropic organizations.

3) Attitude of Gratitude ... through worship. *"Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; Sing praises on the harp to our God..."* (Psalm 147:7)

Worship is such a vital part of our Orthodox Christian lives. Worship is more than just praising God with our attendance. Since we encounter the living God through the Holy Eucharist, it is the perfect time to offer our prayers of thanksgiving.

Spiritual "Attitude Adjustment" Challenge: When you feel your attention starting to wander off during Divine Liturgy, offer a prayer of thanksgiving for different things in your life.

You can say "thanks" to God by offering your time and talents for specific aspects of the Divine Liturgy. For example, prepare the Prosforo or "blessed bread" with your family or youth group to be used for the

Holy Eucharist.

You can also join the choir and offer your voice in thanksgiving and praise. As the priest says during the Divine Liturgy, we want to offer God gifts out of the gifts that He has bestowed unto us.

Eva Kokinos serves as the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit. She received a Masters of Theological Studies from Holy Cross School of Theology in 2003. Contact Eva at youth@detroit.goarch.org.

Save the Date

Jan. 25-28: Inter-Orthodox Christian Camp & Youth Worker Conference

"Presenting the Message of the Gospel to Today's Youth." All youth workers (youth directors, camp directors and staff, and OCF chaplains) are invited to attend the annual Orthodox Christian Youth Worker Conference. The conference offer resources and tools for youth workers to use in their ministries. In addition to a keynote presentation, there will be breakout sessions for youth ministries, camping ministries, and Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) College Ministry. This conference is being hosted at Antiocheian Village in Ligonier, Pa., by the Department of Camping Ministry and Department of Youth Ministry of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. Visit: www.orthodoxcamps.org.

Witness Your Faith ... Even Online!

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

There's no denying it...we exist in a digitally-driven society. Ten years ago, did you ever think you could speak to your friends from across the country via video conferencing? Can you believe that you can view a live presentation through a "webinar" (a web-based seminar)? Statistics tell us that at approximately 93 percent of teens go online.

With all of the headlines of cyber-bullying, sexting, and other abuses of technology, it is hard to believe anything good can happen on the internet. But Orthodox Christians can shine the light of Christ through their own witness and positive use of technology and media. Here are a few ways that you can take a stand, witness your faith, and bring Christ the midst of our digital world:

Social Networking Websites

Social networking websites, like Facebook and Twitter, are growing larger every day. In fact, approximately 75 percent of teens who go on the internet have an online profile. Many people choose to use social networking websites for negative and destructive things, like bullying or gossip. But instead, we can really use our profiles to witness Christ. On Facebook, you can join groups for Orthodox Christians. You can add a daily Bible verses. You can even post a status update about how awesome

it was to go to your youth group meetings or to summer camp.

Consider this: How would YOU feel if someone was saying horrible things about you? Would you want someone to stand up for you? Are certain people really worth "friending" if they talk like that online? Another very important way you can witness your faith online is to take a stand against those who bully or post negative things online. Don't allow others to post inappropriate things on your Facebook page. If someone is picking on you or a friend, "defriend" the bully instead of responding.

Here are just a few Orthodox Christian groups, organizations or apps you can find on Facebook:

- Daily Readings App
- Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
- GOYA Greek Orthodox Youth of America
- IOCC International Orthodox Christian Charities
- OCMC Orthodox Christian Missions Center
- OCN Orthodox Christian Network

Blogs

Do you have a lot to say? Why not blog? Talk to your parents about starting a blog about being an Orthodox Christian teen.

Your parents and other teens can offer their thoughts and ideas to add to your blog. Also, you can ask people like your parish priest and your youth group leader to offer an article or reflection so that people can discuss different issues.

Want to see an Orthodox Christian blog in action? Check out The Ladder... the official blog of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. The Ladder Visit www.orthodoxyouthministry.blogspot.com.

Music and Podcasts

Think about the music and other multimedia files you have on your favorite music player or cell phone. Would your music library give the right impression about who you are?

Witness through your technology by thinking carefully about the messages

music and media are sending you.

You don't have to delete your music library! But consider putting music that reflects who you are as an Orthodox Christian.

Load up or download CDs of the Divine Liturgy, Paraklesis, or the Services of Holy Week. You can find CDs at your local bookstore or favorite online Orthodox Christian bookstore. You can also find Orthodox Christian music available on iTunes.

Also, OCN (Orthodox Christian Network) offers a variety of ways you can receive Orthodox Christian music, podcasts, and much more. Visit www.myocon.net to see what they offer. You can also subscribe to their podcasts through iTunes!

FOR YOUTH WORKERS AND PARENTS

- Did you know about one of our newest resources, the Orthodox Teen Survival Guide Brochure Series? You can use these brochures to help start a discussion regarding tough issues at home, in Sunday school, or in your youth groups. Order from Orthodox Marketplace or the Department of Religious Education!
- Don't forget to sign up for the Youth Worker Pulse! This is the weekly listserv of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Subscribers will receive valuable tips, tools, and resources for creating a successful and transformative youth ministry experi-

ence. Sign up today at www.youth.goarch.org.

• Are you on Facebook? If you are a member of Facebook, you can visit us on our GOYA and Young Adult Ministries "fan pages!"

These fan pages have information about GOYA and Young Adult Ministries events from throughout the Archdiocese.

Also, fans are connecting and talking about different issues regarding faith and life! Just search for GOYA-Greek Orthodox Youth of America or Greek Orthodox National Young Adult Ministries and become a fan today.

Let Us Celebrate the Birth of Salvation & Find Inspiration for the Coming Year

FREE*
Ground Shipping
on all orders over
\$35



Teach children about the saints
& their witness to others...



Become faithful stewards
of your talents...



Encourage an active prayer life...



with products from

THE ORTHODOX MARKETPLACE

Visit www.orthodoxmarketplace.com/Christmas for our complete selection of Christmas products.

The Orthodox Marketplace allows you to place your orders via fax.

Visit www.orthodoxmarketplace.com/forms/fax.pdf to download the fax order form.

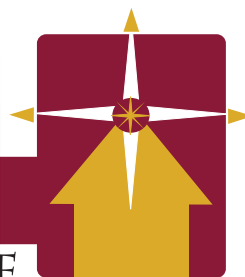


THE ORTHODOX MARKETPLACE | www.orthodoxmarketplace.com
The Official Online Store of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

*Free ground shipping offer applies to orders that are over \$35 and shipped within the United States.

Family Connections

CENTER for FAMILY CARE



DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Equipping Teenagers to Navigate Life

by Dn. Paul Zaharas

Over the past several decades the external pressures and challenges associated with parenting teenagers have been varied.

Whether it was the introduction of rock and roll music, the "social scourge" of the 1950's, or the pervasiveness of today's social networking explosion, parents have faced the challenge of helping their children bridge the chasm that stands between childhood and adulthood. As Christian parents we recognize the importance of raising Godly-minded children and we must take appropriate steps to help them in their journey toward Him.

Society today, through media, peer influence, and accepted norms, can convey ideas that do not coincide with the teachings of Orthodox Christianity. In fact, oftentimes, the messages that our teen children receive from the world are in direct contradiction to the saving message of Jesus Christ. Experiencing sleepless nights worrying about their children falling into substance use/abuse, sexual promiscuity and perversion, "over-connectedness" to social media, materialism, and a myriad of other harmful behaviors, parents at times feel overwhelmed by the challenge of addressing all of these issues with their teens.

In the Book of Proverbs we read: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (22:6) This sounds simple enough, but given the variety of challenges that life throws at our young people, how can a parent successfully prepare their teen for every situation? The simple answer to this question is that you can't address each and every possible circumstance that your child will face. We know from our own experience, as well, that there isn't always someone standing by, watching our every move and steering us clear of mistakes and miscues. What we can offer to our children, however, are the tools which are necessary for them to address challenges on their own.



We are taught by the Church that each individual is created in the image of God, but what does this really mean? Without venturing into deep theological discussion, we can understand being created in the image of God to mean that we possess two of His specific attributes: intellect and free will. First of all, we have intellect, the ability to think.

Scientists will tell us that humans have the same type of "fight or flight" instincts that lower animals do, however, we also have the capacity for higher thought in the form of problem solving and comprehension. Likewise, God has granted to us free will, the ability to make conscious choices, rather than be subject to mere reflex reactions.

With this in mind, the challenge given by the directive found in Proverbs to "train up a child in the way he should go" is much more attainable. If we are able to teach teens to utilize their God-given intellect and free will to make decisions that are physically and spiritually healthy, we are training them up in the way they should go.

On Raising Teenagers

- Our main goal for our teenagers is not financial, or educational, or even moral: it is spiritual. We wish them to enter adulthood prepared, as free persons, to love Christ.
- We cannot expect to bring up children today in a morally sterilized environment. We will try to direct our children's energy to decent entertainment and good company, but we will not be able to avoid every negative experience, especially as the children grow older, and it would not help our children if we could.
- We must accept any such negative experiences as "immunization" for our children. We can discuss these things with them and try to imbue them with their own sense of judgment, so that at least they recognize what causes spiritual and physical harm, and learn to reduce the danger to themselves.
- Children need to exercise their freedom of choice while we are there to guide them. We must loosen the reigns gradually as our children grow up.

This being said, teenagers are notorious for making poor decisions. Certainly this can be attributed to many causes, two of which are that decision-making centers of the brain are not fully developed at this stage in life, and the fact that teenagers are still trying desperately to establish their own unique identities. For this reason, Christian decision-making is a skill set that needs some instruction and practice. Here are some steps that you can take with your teenager:

1. It is vital to impress on our teens the importance of making quality decisions. They need to be well aware that decisions have consequences, and that consequences have ripples. What is meant by this is that the choices they make generate real results, positive or negative, and those results affect not only the individual, but those people and things around them. An example that is easy to understand would be underage drinking. The decision to illegally drink alcohol can lead to health problems, trouble with the law, and physical harm to oneself or others. Likewise, those consequences spread and affect a teen's parents, family, and peers.

In a greater sense, sinful behavior separates us from God and this separation has a negative effect on our relationships with others and our overall well-being.

2. Together with your teenager, identify some decisions or conflicts that are applicable to their own lives or to your family.

These issues can range from relatively minor items with younger teens, such as what to wear to school, to more life-changing matters like moral questions or vocation/occupation choice. Through this exercise your child may recognize choices they did not otherwise realize that they had.

3. Help your child to carefully consider the options that are presented with each decision. Many times young people fail to look at the possible outcomes of their choices prior to making them. By making a conscious effort to weigh the potential positive and/or negative results of their actions, teens become better equipped in their decision-making process.

4. Clearly the most important point to remember in developing Christian decision-making skills is to make Christ the primary factor in every choice. A number of years ago "What Would Jesus Do?" (WWJD) bracelets were very popular and encouraged wearers to apply that question to their everyday actions. For us as Orthodox Christians, however, a much more basic and important question should be asked; does this particular action lead me closer to, or further away from God?

5. Now that your teen has considered the options and possible consequences of their actions, let them make their own decision. With your help they have used their intellect and educated themselves on important aspects of a choice, and now they are ready to exercise their free will to decide.

6. After the decision has been made and consequences are realized, speak to your teen about the decision they have made. By offering them constructive feedback you will enable them to better understand what has occurred and how they may repeat positive, or avoid negative outcomes in the future.

Ultimately, as members of the Body of Christ, we are called to seek after our Lord and His Eternal Kingdom. In sharing the Christian faith with our teenage children we, along with the Church, present to them the choice of this path. Enabling them to be good, Christian decision-makers gives them the opportunity and ability to successfully take steps in this journey.

Dn. Zaharas is the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for the Metropolitan of Denver. He lives in Littleton, Colo.

A Prayer of Children for Their Parents

Lord and Savior, You have taught us to honor our fathers and mothers, and to show love and obedience toward them. From the depth of my heart I fervently pray to You, sweet Jesus, my God, hear my prayer.

Bless my parents who have raised me up with the help of Your grace. Protect them from evil, harm and sickness. Grant them faith, health and joy. Bless all their works that they may give You honor and glory all the days of their lives. Amen.

— From My Orthodox Prayer Book by the Department of Religious Education.

— Excerpts from *Children in the Church Today: An Orthodox Perspective* by Sister Magdalen.

Family Connections is a ministry of the Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

For more information about the center's ministries please contact the center at:
79 Saint Basil Road
Garrison, NY 10524
Phone: (845) 424-8175
Fax: (845) 424-4172
Email: familycare@goarch.org
Website: www.family.goarch.org

Leadership 100

The Center for Family Care was established with a major grant from the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Endowment Fund, Inc.

We are grateful for its support.

A GUIDE TO THE NATIONAL MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

MINISTRY

Archives

Church & Society

Communications*

**(includes GOTElecom, Press Office, Internet Ministries, Orthodox Observer)*

Greek Education

Information Technologies

Inter-Orthodox Ecumenical, Interfaith

Marriage & Family

Parish Development

Philanthropy*

**(includes Philoptochos Society, retired clergy benevolence fund, other humanitarian assistance)*

Public Affairs

Registry

Religious Education

Stewardship, Outreach and Evangelism

Youth, Young Adult Ministries*

**(includes camping ministries and Ionian Village)*

WHAT IT DOES

Gathers and records materials relating to the history of the Greek people, their culture and religion in the United States.

Addresses issues of contemporary American culture and society. Develops programs and ministries to help guide the faithful.

Provides information about the Church through electronic, social and print media.

Provides for the instruction of Greek and promotes Hellenic culture.

Responsible for Archdiocese's digital Ministries and strategic direction and coordination.

Promotes relations with other Orthodox Christian jurisdictions, other Christian churches and other faith groups in the U.S.

Addresses issues relevant to marriage and family life through the Center for Family Care and Office of Interfaith Marriage.

Assists parishes with fund-raising guidance and development.

Develops and coordinates the philanthropic work, the Archdiocese special funds and also works with the Philoptochos.

Coordinates Archdiocese involvement in public and political issues affecting the Church.

Maintains records relating to the life of the faithful of the Church.

Develops and provides religious education materials to advance the metropolis and parish programs.

Works with National Stewardship Ministries Team and Outreach and Evangelism Advisory Board.

Coordinates the national youth and young adult programs with metropolis youth directors. Administers campus and camping ministries.

HOW IT AFFECTS YOU

Provides information and photographs on request to scholars, researchers and authors.

Through social networking sites such as Facebook individual parishioners can engage in constructive dialogue with the department.

Connects parishioners to the National Church through print, social and electronic media. Informs the U.S. and Greek media and general public about Orthodoxy.

Provides textbooks and other instructional materials for all Greek afternoon and parochial schools; teacher training.

Provides online support to help parishioners connect to various Archdiocese services.

Through its efforts, parishes benefit through more meaningful contacts with such groups at the local level.

Provides assistance to families and individuals coping with problems affecting relationships and daily life.

Helps with strategic planning, capital improvements, grants, endowments and expanding stewardship.

Provides assistance for local catastrophes such as Hurricane Katrina, fires in Greece, aid to families of 9/11 victims.

Works with local parishes in events such as Patriarchal visits.

Issues marriage licenses, divorce decrees, baptismal and chrismation certificates, replaces lost transcripts.

Sunday schools use materials and run programs including the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival.

Provides resources for parish ministry, support for parish leadership and stewardship activities.

Provides opportunities for parish youth to participate more fully in the Church.

RESOURCES

Online, hardcopy data and photographs for hundreds of documents representing many categories of Church development.

Online connection to the Archdiocese and Orthodox Faith; provides lectures at young adult seminars, retreats and OCF Real Break.

Videos of religious television productions, Orthodox Observer, annual yearbook, ecclesiastical calendar, website, e-bulletin, listservers.

Textbooks and other educational materials for Greek schools; conducts teacher seminars and workshops and curriculum guidelines.

Offers Bulletin Builder, Orthodox Market Place, Interactive Children's Bible, Iconograms, Online store for parishes.

Establishes and maintains direct contacts between the Archdiocese and other Christian denominations and other Faiths, fosters ecumenical relations.

Online and personal connections with Archdiocese clergy, publishes books and other resources.

Assists parishes through Capital Campaign Planning Studies, ongoing management programs, strategic planning seminars, stewardship workshops.

Provides assistance for charitable causes in each Metropolis, at local level and worldwide.

Maintains direct contact with local, state and national government officials to increase information & knowledge about the Church.

Provides important documents for vital statistics and maintains records in parish registry books.

Creates and produces Sunday School texts and other materials, PRAXIS Magazine, oratorical festival information, resource catalog and teacher certification.

Evaluates parish management software programs; provides resources to help parish outreach programs, other materials.

Online and hardcopy materials to youth directors, workers; administers youth camps, including Ionian Village; maintains listservers and blogs.