

March is ONE STEWARDS Month

Continuing to Support Education for the Future

To the Reverend Clergy and Faithful
of the Diocese of New England:

Education of our youth is the surest example of providing for the future of our Church while acknowledging their significant contribution toward the fullness of parish life in the present. The appointment of Father John Hopko to the position of Youth Director for the Diocese of New England signals a renewed level of attention and commitment to the education of youth of all ages within the Diocese of New England.

ONE STEWARDS is a community of persons who work together in advancing the Orthodox Faith here in the Diocese of New England beyond regular expenses covered by the annual budget. The funding of youth ministry and religious education are two important contributions that ONE STEWARDS makes to support the discovery, learning, and praxis of the Orthodox Faith. Seminary scholarships, charitable outreach, mission and mission clergy support are other important areas supported by ONE STEWARDS in providing for the future of the Orthodox Church in New England.

This year alone over \$42,000 has been committed toward ONE STEWARDS programs, yet less than half of that is currently raised through contributions. The main goal of ONE STEWARDS is to recruit at least 25% of the membership of all our diocesan parishes in providing financial resources for worthy projects in our diocese over and above budgeted administration costs, assisting this effort to advance our Orthodox Faith.

We invite you to become a member of ONE STEWARDS, adding your expression of love and commitment in supporting this important work. If you are already a member, encourage others in your parish community to offer time, talent, and treasure to strengthen our Orthodox witness and education. Together we can empower many others to know and experience God's love. Let

us work together to significantly fund ONE STEWARDS outreach through contributions, and look to open up new projects in addition to those already part of this ongoing work!

We need your help in prayerfully and financially supporting active witnessing of our Orthodox Faith in our culture today in order that future generations may know and experience the fullness of the Orthodox Faith.

With love in Christ,



†HERMAN

Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada
Locum tenens of the Diocese of New England

Look for your ONE STEWARDS envelope in direct mail, and please be generous in your support of this important work!

Mark the Date!

Diocesan Youth Rally 2004

Who: All diocesan youth who have completed fifth grade and have not yet graduated from high school are eligible to attend Youth Rally, (together with adults who are interested in and eligible to serve as leaders!)

When: August 9-14, 2004

Where: The grounds of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Boston Camp, Contoocook, New Hampshire, (the same place as last year!)

Why: Because its great to be together!

How: For further information, please contact Fr. John Hopko, Diocesan Youth Director, by phone: (860) 582-3631, email: saintcyril@snet.net or mail: 34 Fairview Avenue, Terryville, CT 06786



O.N.E. (ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND)

Diocese of New England, Orthodox Church in America
Published monthly except for July-August

His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN, Administrator
The Very Reverend John J. Dresko, Editor

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ON THE DOCKET

A listing of upcoming events in the Diocese.
Please forward any dates you wish to be included to the Editor.

March 7, 2004

Connecticut Deanery Mission Vespers, 4:00 P.M.
Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Meriden, CT

March 14, 2004

FORCC Mission Vespers, 4:00 P.M.
St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, Orange, CT

March 21, 2004

Connecticut Deanery Mission Vespers, 4:00 P.M.
All Saints of North America Church, Salisbury, CT

March 28, 2004

Connecticut Deanery Unction Service, 4:00 P.M.
Three Saints Church, Ansonia, CT

April 4, 2004

Connecticut Deanery Bridegroom Matins, 4:00 P.M.
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

April 11, 2004

HOLY PASCHA

May 12, 2004

Diocesan Council Meeting, 6:30 P.M.
Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT

Look for the *new* Diocese of New England web page

As we go to press, a redesigned diocesan web site is being prepared. Go to the web site to see new and exciting content:

www.ocadne.org

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

May Issue
April 1st

June Issue
May 1st

Around the Parishes

Hartford, Connecticut

The old adage, better late than never, certainly rang true at All Saints as our Church School presented its snow-delayed St. Nicholas program featuring song and story—with a Pizza Party, sponsored by our R Club following the event.

The program was coordinated by Marsha Coombs along with other Church School teachers and parents and the active and talented participation of our youth. A highlight of the program was an original play, *The Story of St. Nicholas*, written and directed by Nick Vargas, who has appeared in several dramatic productions of Rocky Hill High School. Featured in the play were Calandra Babey, Chelsea Ranstead, Rosie Medynski, Danielle, Michael and Nicholas Andrzejewski, and John Medynski. Other highlights of the program were songs of Christmas and the presentation of the story, Babushka and the Three Kings. Among the other stars of the show were Allison Denisky, Erin and Kyle Fitzgerald, Noemy DeSilva, Alex Babey, Christian Holobinko and James Medynski.. All



The cast of All Saints Church School St. Nicholas program are joined by Fr. William DuBovik for the annual holiday photo sent to shut-ins and others. (Photo: Cathy Vargas)

and St. Basil the Great on the eve of the feast, followed by the annual Covered Dish Supper as the New Year neared. It was a good time for food and fellowship.

The architect plans have been completed for a ramp and main floor handicapped bathroom, moving the project forward. It is hoped to have the project completed this year—our 90th!

The community was saddened by the death of a longtime active member of the parish, Olga Meshenuk. Memory Eternal!

Two senior members of our parish, Alexandra Nazaruk and Mary Kreyditch, celebrated their 95th birthdays in January, and we extend Many Years! to both of them.

– submitted by Fr. William DuBovik

OUR DIOCESE

PEOPLE
PLACES
EVENTS

the students from Kindergarten and Grades one to three, combined for song, and the entire group welcomed St. Nicholas (Dr. Chet Andrzejewski), who distributed goodie bags, with the singing of the St. Nicholas Carol.

The dawning of January saw parishioners gather for Vespers Liturgy celebrating the Circumcision of Christ



Fr. Steven Voytovich, St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Mission (Clinton, CT), blesses Long Island Sound on the Feast of Theophany

New Britain, Connecticut

Congratulations and Many Years to our newly elected Parish Council for 2004: George Ludko, Warden; Paul Salina, Vice Warden; Phyllis Bartos, Rec. Secretary; Jennie Everson, Fin. Secretary; Nelson Potter, Treasurer; Daniel McGuire, Asst. Treasurer; Nancy Martin and Nadine Cabrera, Auditors; Ellen Santoro, Rosemary Delaney, Chris Dresko, Barbara Burrill, Michael Wanik, George Matyczuk and Amber Fiedler, At-Large.

Our Sisterhood sponsored a delicious and festive Meatfare Sunday Brunch on February 15th. Our pastor, Fr. John Dresko, was on vacation and the beneficiary of his absence was Fr. David Koles, who served liturgy and enjoyed the brunch. Many thanks to all who worked so hard in providing this feast!

The parish is praying for Juliana Dresko, along with seven other Orthodox Christians from the University of Connecticut OCF, who are traveling to work with Project Mexico during their spring break, March 6-13. The parish has offered generous financial support for this project.

Receiving the Guest

Adapted from a talk delivered by Matushka Evelyn Kreta, All Saints of North America Mission, Salisbury, Connecticut.

Look at an icon of St. Seraphim of Sarov. He is seen kneeling on a large rock, holding a prayer rope, with his hands upturned and open, as if he is waiting to receive something. In the corner, a part of the heavens are rolled away revealing Jesus Christ in conversation with the blessed Seraphim. Seraphim is represented in white to express that the uncreated divine light of the world, Jesus Christ, shines within him. St. Seraphim is praying.

Hear the words of St. Seraphim:

“Prayer, fasting, vigils and all other Christian acts, however good they may be in themselves, certainly do not constitute the aim of our Christian life: they are but the indispensable means of attaining that aim. For the true aim of the Christian life is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God. As for fasts, vigils, prayer and almsgiving, and other good works done in the name of Christ, they are only the means of acquiring the Holy Spirit of God....Prayer is always possible for everyone, rich and poor, noble and simple, strong and weak, healthy and suffering, righteous and sinful. Great is the power of prayer; most of all does it bring the Spirit of God and easiest of all is it to exercise.”

These words sum up the whole spiritual tradition of the Orthodox Church.

Here is an interesting way of thinking about the Holy Spirit. Father Anthony Coniaris writes: “The word Ghost as used in the Holy Ghost is the old Saxon word for guest, so the Holy Ghost is the Holy Guest. . . . the best Guest we can ever receive and entertain in our lives. . . . He comes, and the fruits of His presence are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Gal. 5:22) Through

prayer we are invited to open the door of our heart each day to receive this wonderful Holy Guest. We do so daily by praying the following prayer to the Holy Spirit, which the Orthodox church prays unceasingly:

O HEAVENLY KING, THE COMFORTER, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, AND FILLEST ALL THINGS, TREASURY OF BLESSINGS AND GIVER OF LIFE, COME AND ABIDE IN US AND CLEANSE US FROM EVERY IMPURITY AND SAVE OUR SOULS, O GOOD ONE.”

Speaking about this prayer, Olivier Clement states: “This is the most common prayer to the Holy Spirit in the Orthodox Church. We never begin any important activity, whether in church or in the world, without saying it. Within the Church it is the prayer that leads into every prayer because every authentic prayer unfolds within the breath of the Spirit.” And then he reminds us of this scriptural passage from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans, 8:26: “The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.” Another translation says it even more powerfully: “We do not even know how we ought to pray, but through our inarticulate groans the Spirit Himself is pleading for us.”

Father Anthony also reminds us that “Prayer is many things: adoration, confession, intercession, thanksgiving, etc., but it is also an expression of emptiness. We pray because we feel an inner emptiness without God, and we ask that He fill that emptiness.” And sometimes, although we have an inner emptiness, we are so distracted with the cares of this world or we are so full of our selves (ego) that there is no room within us for God. Quoting Father Anthony again, he points out the following: “The preconditions to

receiving the Holy Spirit are faith, prayer, emptiness of self, and purity of heart through daily repentance. Another word for such emptiness of self, is humility. Emptiness of self, or humility, creates space for the Holy Spirit. Upon being asked what was the greatest virtue, St. Augustine replied, ‘The three greatest virtues are first, humility, second, humility, and third, humility.’ One must declare oneself empty before one can be filled. St. Irenaeus believed that every human being is made up of body and soul plus either the Holy Spirit or the evil spirits....If the Holy Spirit does not dwell within, the evil spirits will move in and take over.”

Listen to the Prayer of St. Ephrem. This prayer is said at just about every Orthodox Church service during the season of Great Lent, and it is said as a part of one’s private prayers.

O LORD AND MASTER OF MY LIFE, TAKE FROM ME THE SPIRIT OF SLOTH, DESPAIR, LUST OF POWER AND IDLE TALK; (Prostration)

GRANT RATHER THE SPIRIT OF CHASTITY, HUMILITY, PATIENCE AND LOVE TO THY SERVANT. (Prostration)

YEA, O LORD AND KING, GRANT ME TO SEE MY OWN TRANSGRESSIONS AND NOT TO JUDGE MY BROTHER, FOR BLESSED ART THOU UNTO AGES OF AGES. AMEN. (Prostration)

We see that in the first line we are asking God to empty us. We ask God to take away the Spirit of sloth, that is, a kind of laziness, in some respects a kind of forgetfulness or negligence about our lives, our neighbors, our God. To take away despair, that moment in time when we have no hope, we are alone and without help, we are not able to trust God or to see

GUEST TO 5

Clinton Consecration Services Set

With the Blessing of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, final plans are being completed for the consecration of St. Alexis Mission in Clinton, CT. Reverend Steven Voytovich, along with the faithful, look forward to this joyous and historic celebration of the parish and hope that many of our brothers and sisters in New England will be able to join us in celebration.

Established in 1994 with the first regular Divine Services being held in a rental condo space in 1995, the community was blessed with the purchase of prime property on Main Street and the subsequent building of a church. Forgiveness Sunday services, Feb. 21, 1999 were the first celebrated in the new church. Today there are 47 members along with nearly 30 church school children.

Through the Grace of God, consecration services will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2004. The Consecration Day will follow the celebration of our Patronal Feast of St. Alexis on May 7.

The schedule of services is as follows:

Thursday, May 6: Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre, 7:00 P.M.

Friday, May 7: Festal Divine Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.

Great Vespers, Eve of Consecration, 7:00 P.M.
His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman
His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius
His Grace, Bishop Nikon

Saturday, May 8: Service of Consecration and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, 9:00 A.M.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman
His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius
His Grace, Bishop Nikon

Banquet at Aleia's Restaurant in Westbrook, 1:30 P.M.

Following the services on Saturday, a banquet of thanksgiving and celebration will follow at Aleia's Restaurant in Westbrook. Tickets are \$40.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under 12. Tickets are limited to 250 people. Reservation deadline for the banquet is April. For those needing accommodations, blocks of rooms have been set aside in nearby locations. In addition a commemorative/sponsorship book is being prepared. Complete information on all aspects of the consecration plans have been mailed to parishes in the diocese. For further information on the banquet, please call Joan Skrobat, 203.483.9260, to place an ad in the commemorative book call Cindy Voytovich 203.453.4405, and for all other questions call Christine or Raymond Boyd, 203.453.9493.

FORCC News

The Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in Connecticut have scheduled the 11th annual benefit dinner for Sunday, October 3, 2004, at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Park Avenue, Bridgeport.

We are pleased to announce that Protopresbyter John N. Kaloudes, Development Director for International Orthodox Christian Charities, will be our guest speaker. The topic of his presentation will be *Orthodoxy and the Family*.

You are cordially invited to attend our next FORCC meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 18th, at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Park Ave, Bridgeport. Meeting starts at 7:30 P.M. and ends at 9:00 P.M.

-- submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

GUEST FROM 4

His love or work in our lives, we are self-reliant, rather than God-reliant. To take away our lust of power, this is, trying to control or possess others and things, isn't it? Insisting upon our own way? To take away idle talk, and another translation calls it "vain babbling," vanity & pride, gossip and chatter, we are so full of our selves, we love hearing ourselves talk and we are unable to hear God speaking to us!

But it is not enough just to sweep our house clean. Consider this parable from the Gospel of St. Matthew:

"When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first."

Father Coniaris teaches us: "The parable points out the danger that lies in emptiness, namely, an empty house does not stay empty for long. Spiders move in. So do mice, rats, and bats....If one is not filled with the Holy Spirit, he will be filled with many unholy spirits...." Here is an illustration that Father Coniaris uses:

"A science teacher asked a group of students, 'What is the quickest way to empty a glass of air?' Someone suggested that one way would be to pump it out. 'That wouldn't quite work,' the teacher said, 'because that would create a vacuum and the glass would explode.' When no one had any other suggestions, the teacher took a pitcher of water and filled the glass to the brim. 'The quickest solution I know of,' he said, 'is to displace the air with water.'" Fr. Coniaris continues: "Often when people see some shortcomings in themselves, they try to pry it out by their own efforts. But that is as futile as trying to blow the air out of

GUEST TO 6

GUEST FROM 5

a glass. The only way to rid our lives of sin, and the melancholic, emptiness it brings, is to allow God to fill us with himself." "Be filled with all the fullness of God," writes St. Paul.

We now see the wisdom in the Prayer of St. Ephrem. The first line is insufficient without the second, for in the second line we express our desire to be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, to displace our sin and our self with all the fullness of God. In the second line we pray for the spirit of chastity; this is purity, not only bodily, but a purity of heart that sees God and His goodness in everyone and everything. Humility (another translation is "meekness"); it displaces despair, for in our humility we are able to turn to God. Patience, rather than lust of power. Finally, love, rather than self-glorification and whose essence is Christ Himself.

The last line of the prayer is "Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages." Olivier Clement tells us that this is "justifying oneself while condemning others, deifying [that is, making ourselves the judging God] while damning others, hating, despising and discounting others, and doing it all with a clear conscience because we are right. To see one's own sin [or transgression] is to obey the first command of the Gospel: 'Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.' One who sees his own sin and does not judge his brother becomes capable of truly loving him."

The prostrations are illustrative of one aspect of Orthodox worship and prayer: It involves our entire body, not just our mind, and of course, it involves the heart. But whether at home, or in church, we do many things to express our prayer:

We light a candle when we say a prayer, for Christ is the uncreated light of the world.

We sign ourselves with the cross at the start of prayer for many reasons. First, we hold our three fingers together symbolizing the

Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Two fingers pointing down to represent that Jesus came down from heaven to earth as the incarnate God, both God and human. We mark the cross on our bodies (forehead, heart and shoulders) for as Christians we are asked to take up our cross and follow Christ. In so marking ourselves we, in turn, dedicate our mind, our heart, and our strength to God. The sign of the cross is a declaration of faith and a prayer in and of itself.

We light incense so that our prayers may symbolically rise to God, as the psalmist repeatedly says: "Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense."

We kneel, bow and prostrate ourselves during prayer as a spiritual aid to discovering true humility before God. Humility, not humiliation, a sense of meekness before the awesome God.

We pray with icons, our "windows to heaven," as they are often called. We don't worship the wood the icon is painted on, it is not an object of worship; worship is due to God alone.

We know from the book of Genesis that we were created in the image and likeness of God. The word *icon* means *image*. Each of us is a living icon of the living God, but our likeness to God needs to be restored, and this was accomplished through Jesus Christ. In an icon we see a person *restored* to the likeness of God. The figure is painted in a transfigured state. It is the light of Christ that shines forth from within, that was fully realized and expressed in their life, and it is this light of Christ that we venerate.

During church services just about everything is chanted or sung in alternating response between the priest and the choir with the people. What we chant and sing is often from the scriptures or an expression of the dogmatic theology of Orthodox Christianity. What we sing or chant is our prayer is the way we pray. Our voices are our instruments in prayer.

During the Divine Liturgy, after

we are filled with the word of God in the Psalms, Beatitudes, Epistle and Gospel readings and the sermon, the words of the Liturgy guide us to lay aside all earthly cares. Emptying ourselves of cares, we pray with the priest and ask God to send down His Holy Spirit upon us and upon the Gifts of bread and wine. Through this prayer God comes first upon us to fill our emptiness with the Holy Spirit. Then the same Holy Spirit changes the bread and wine into the mystical body and blood of Jesus in order to further fill our emptiness with the presence of Jesus.

We worship and pray with all our senses in order to perceive and receive the depth and beauty of the world that we cannot see, but know, in faith.

Father Anthony points out that St. Paul "uses the phrase 'in Christ,' 164 times in his letters to express the closeness of his union with Christ." He states that while there are many definitions of what it means to be a true Christian, most are incomplete and leave out "the single most important quality about the true Christian: namely, a Christian is one in whom Christ lives." As St. Paul said "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."

As we experience the end of Lent and the journey to the Resurrection, meditate on Phillipians 2:6-8:

"Though He [Jesus] was in the form of God, He did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross."

The awesome God loves us so much that He gave us His Son, who emptied Himself so that we might be filled. If we ask, we shall receive. If we seek, we shall find. If we knock, the door will be opened.

God's Fullness for Our Emptiness,
Anthony M. Coniaris

All the Fullness of God,
Thomas Hopko

Three Prayers, Olivier Clement

PARISHES FROM 3

Many Years to the benefactors and to the young adults giving of their time and talent!

New Haven, Connecticut

On January 25th, the Ladies Auxiliary held their annual holiday luncheon at Brazi's in New Haven. Parishioners were invited to join in the celebration (Dutch treat). Lydia (Betty) Bolash coordinated this wonderful event and everyone enjoyed a great feast.

Great Lent is here. This is a very beautiful and moving experience in our parish. The Church School Lenten Read-a-thon began on February 23rd. The youth look forward to this activity and try to see who accumulates the most hours of reading.

We also have our traditional Lenten suppers following the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts, and the Vespers Liturgy for Annunciation.

This year, we are honored to host the Connecticut Deanery Bridegroom Matins on Sunday, April 4th, at 4:00 P.M. Matushka Lydia Westerberg, choir director, invites all singers, who will be attending, to participate in the choir. Warm up rehearsal will be held at 3:00 P.M. in the Church Hall. Please be prompt.

Congratulations to the Mosher family (Jenny and Joshua) on the birth of their son Alban Lewis. Alban joins two older brothers, toddlers Elias and Ephraim. May God grant all of you good health and many years!

- submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

Norwich, Connecticut

In October 2003, we held our 30th Annual Harvest Festival. We drew a large crowd of people and everyone enjoyed the food delights including the homemade pierogies, stuffed cabbage and kielbasa sandwiches at Baboushka's Kitchen. As usual, the chance table, flea market, the silent auction, country store, bake sale, dessert shop, and Russian imports were a huge success. The Sunday school children also had an arts and crafts booth at the bazaar.

In November, about 30 people from our parish visited Wright's Chicken Farm for a delicious home-style chicken meal. Denise Geeza did a wonderful job organizing this event.

On December 20th, we held our annual Christmas cookie sale. This year we not only sold cookies, but we also sold potato pierogi and Father Dennis' rye bread. December also saw us celebrating Christmas Eve with a Holy Supper followed by Great Compline with Litia for the Feast of the Nativity. On the Sunday after Christmas, our Sunday school children conducted a Christmas carol sing-a-long.

In January, we held our annual meeting and the newly elected officers were installed. The newly elected officers for 2004 are: Jason Geeza, Warden; Peter Shillo, First

Assistant Warden; Eric Ford, Second Assistant Warden; Lydia Pierce, Treasurer; Sophia Kashanski, Financial Secretary; Fred Tarasuk, Recording Secretary; Vincent Melesko, Comptroller; George Stolaronek, Trustee; Thomas Shankun, Trustee; Mary Maciejewski, Trustee; Douglas King, Trustee; Vera Dubenetsky, Trustee and Frank Krajewski, Trustee.

Plans have begun for our 90th anniversary celebration. The celebration will take place on Sunday, September 18, 2005. Metropolitan Herman's office has confirmed this date. Please keep this date open. The 90th anniversary committee is currently working on a dinner-dance, an anniversary book, a photomontage of the parish's history and a donation of an Icon to the church. The committee asks that parishioners and friends begin looking for old photographs and other memorabilia of the ninety-year history of our church. Photos will be scanned into a computer and returned to their owners. In February we will hold our first fund raiser for the anniversary, which will be an ethnic dinner.

We wish to congratulate Sarah Fritz who was elected to the Eastern Connecticut Conference cross country first all star team and Alexander Melesko who was selected to the East Lyme Chapter of the National Honor Society.

- submitted by Vincent and Marlene Melesko

Salisbury, Connecticut

On January 11th, our church celebrated the Blessing of the Water with our annual procession to Twin Lakes. With the subzero weather preceding the blessing, the lake was frozen solid. Our parishioners are usually greeted with a vista of the Berkshires framing the Twin Lakes dotted with many ice fishermen. This year only three ice fishermen were on the lake – a testament to the arctic air that had settled in New England for a few days.

As part of our tradition, Fr. John cut through the ice in order to plunge the cross into the frigid water. The children also took part in the blessing – probably their favorite part. They waited patiently until Fr. John flung the cross over the ice. A race ensued between the children to see who could retrieve the cross first and return it to Fr. John.

Following the blessing, the procession hurried back to All Saints to partake in a much appreciated coffee hour and fellowship.

- submitted by Heather Mongeau

Springfield, Vermont

On the weekend of August 23 & 24, His Grace, Bishop Nikon, visited Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. On Saturday evening at Vespers, the bishop presented David and Anastacia Lihatsh with a gramota. In attendance were their children and grandchildren. After Vespers, there

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PARISHES FROM 7

was a cookout welcoming Bishop Nikon. On Sunday morning, there was a hierarchal liturgy with coffee hour and fellowship following.

For over two years, David Lihatsh suffered from complications of colon cancer. Receiving the gramota was one of the last things he was able to fully enjoy. He really loved the Church. On January 16, 2004, he fell asleep in the Lord. May his memory be eternal!

- submitted by Cynthia A. Lihatsh

Choir Directors Program



(L-R) Fr. Steven Voytovich, Ann Sovyrda, Pamela Parsons, Sophia Kelly, Cindy Voytovich, Susan Lickwar, Michael Nimchek

The first session of the second enrollment of the Diocesan Choir Directing program was held on Saturday, Jan 25 at St Alexis Mission in Clinton, CT. This session stressed the importance of the role of the choir and choir director in leading prayerful services. Being able to fully understand the various services, their order and Liturgical terms were just a part of this session. On a practical level the giving of tones and directing patterns were introduced. The group plans to meet quarterly over the next two years. In between sessions participants have reading and directing assignments. They are also asked to work closely with their parish pastors and choir directors.

Making the two-year commitment to the program thus far are Michael Nimchek, Terryville, CT., Pamela Parsons, Springfield, MA., Susan Lickwar, New Haven CT., Sophia Kelly, Southbridge, MA, and auditing Matushka Ann Sovyrda, Terryville, CT. Leading the program are Fr. Steven and Cindy Voytovich. For further info or to sign up please call 203.453.4405.

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