

## Connecticut Bible Lecture Series ~ October 11, 2014

As I put away the roster from today's CBLS (Connecticut Bible Lecture Series), I am in awe of so great a diversity from a small group. Today, October 11, 2014 also marks a new chapter in the life of Fr Paul Tarazi and the vision of CBLS. This is the fourteenth time for this series in Southbury, Connecticut, which began eight years ago with the mission statement coined by Fr Deacon John Zarras: "**Making the scholarly study of the Bible accessible to everyone.**" Fr. Paul, through the CBLS, has faithfully offered a systematic study of scripture each Spring and Fall for these eight years. The grant from the New England Diocese this year made possible the in depth study of *The Acts of The Apostles* in May. The second part was continued this October.

Two years ago, when private funding for this important work ceased, the Diocesan Grant Program made it possible for it to stay on schedule. Today, at the end of the last talk, it was announced that Fr Paul Tarazi is retiring, but with a promise that he will return once a year to continue feeding us on the Word of God.

The roster this year reflects people from five Orthodox parishes of three jurisdictions. There were people here from two Roman Catholic churches, the faithful little group of Episcopalians, and Bishop Edmund and his wife from the Anglican Church. Bishop Edmund and Ahmsa have not missed a session in four years. Because of the exposure received through CBLS they, like others, have come for St. Nectarios Night and other occasions here. At lunch, it was wonderful to hear the fellowship taking place between this beautiful diverse group of people who have one thing in common – the desire to learn and grow in the Lord through the study of Scripture in this Orthodox setting.

On behalf of the group this October 11<sup>th</sup>, and all who have participated during the past thirteen sessions, I thank the Diocese of New England for a very wise investment.

Fr. Vladimir Aleandro