

O. N. E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Right: Scenes from Youth Rally

Youth Rally Diary 2017

Maria Papademetris

Maria is a long-time participant in Youth Rally who agreed to share her experience of Rally 2017.

August 13

Dear Diary,

This week was Youth Rally. Our theme was “Patron Saints and how they inspire us to live Saint-like lives today” (I wrote it down for the Scavenger Hunt). Our new Rally shirts are Carolina blue, and I am glad to have a new one since my others are in bad

shape because I wear them so much.

I didn’t start packing until the day before Rally (again!), but I still managed to remember everything important. I didn’t even forget my flashlight, for walking down to Compline in the dark.

This year, I was an Alpha, one of the older Rallyers (usually in high school), which meant I got to stay up later at night to do Alpha things (Apples to Apples is my favorite). The younger Rallyers, the Omegas, have separate cabins and go to bed half an hour earlier than we do.

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On Monday, we had Orientation, where everyone was introduced to everyone (there were more than 40 Rallyers!) At Vespers we discovered that there are a surprising number of local versions of Tone 3, but our choir sounded good this year overall. Beneath Your Compassion with the entire Rally community singing gave me chills.

Tuesday was the first elective day. I joined Drama Club again this year, and we reenacted scenes from the life of St. Paul. I got the part of Narrator. We also had the Scavenger Hunt on Tuesday—I was extra prepared this year, but we still didn't win. That's okay, though, because there is no real prize for winning except the glory.

On Wednesday, we had Divine Liturgy for St. Herman of Alaska, and then during Christian Education we talked about different categories of saints (Enlightener, Merciful, etc.) and read the lives of some saints to apply what we had learned. My group got St. Vladimir, who is Equal-to-the-Apostles. Wednesday was also our unofficial appreciation day for our new Albanian campers from Worcester. We had special snacks they made (which were delicious!) and the food was blessed in Albanian at meals.

Thursday at Rally is amusement park

day, and this year was no different. We changed into our new Rally shirts and then got on the bus for Canobie Lake Amusement Park. My group avoided the more intense rides and got ice cream instead, though we still went on some roller coasters. I tried to sleep on the bus on the way back, but there was too much noise and I had too much sugar in my system.

On Friday, we had a Christian Education presentation on what qualities, habits, and disciplines we need to be like Saints. We had extra Drama club practice, too, because we needed to finish the story and run through it before our Saturday performance. I skipped the swimming session to memorize my lines.

Saturday was the last day of Rally, so we had to get up early in order to pack. Then we had Divine Liturgy, and the choir sounded amazing after a week of practice. Afterward, we had brunch and the Drama Club performed our play. We also got to enjoy the cookies made in the cooking elective.

I hate that Rally has to end. I am counting the days until Rally 2018.

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Right: Scenes from Youth Rally



John Skrobat Tonsured Reader, and Other Joys at St. Alexis, Clinton

Top Left: Archbishop Nikon tonsures **John Skrobat** a reader.



Top Right: Reader **John Skrobat** stands with his wife Joan, Archbishop Nikon and Fr. Steven Hosking.



Bottom Left: **Kyle Hollis** and **Stephen Wexell** are received into the Orthodox Faith.

Bottom Right: **Mike Koziak** wins the Chili/Chowder Cook-Off.

Vincent Melesko

On April 30, John Skrobat was tonsured as a Reader at St. Alexis, in Clinton, Conn. In addition to his years of faithful participation in the parish, John is the Treasurer of the Diocese of New England.

On April 30, St. Alexis held its annual Souper Bowl Chili/Chowder Cook-off. It is usually held Super Bowl Sunday, but was delayed this year due to inclement weather. This year's winner for his deli-

cious chicken chili, as shown below, was Mike Koziak.

On Sunday, May 28, Kyle Hollis and Stephen Wexell were received into the Orthodox Church. Kyle was baptized and chrismated and Steve was chrismated by Father Steven Hosking. Jim Pepitone was Kyle's sponsor and Vinny Melesko was Stephen's sponsor. A reception was held afterward in the church hall. May God grant them many years!

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“Snack Packs for Back Packs” and a New Seminary Intern in Southbury



Above: Kids from Christ the Savior stand with their “Snack Packs for Back Packs.”

Below: Church School Children from St. Mark’s, Kingston, Mass.

Nicholas Yuschak, Jr.

“Snack Packs for Back Packs” for the Woodbury Food Bank were assembled by the youth of Christ the Savior Church after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 1.

Pictured above from left to right in the front row are Cecilia Cole, Jack McGinnis, Herman O’Keefe, Kyrill Oleynikov and Thea Oleynikov and from left to right, in the rear row, are Timothy Cole, Mark Yuschak, Mary Halvorsen, Hannah Cole, and Sofia Cole.

The Woodbury Food Bank is one of several ways Christ the Savior Church ministers to the needy by reaching out to the less fortunate on an ongoing basis. The Food Bank provides weekly access for low-income households to shop for staple goods, personal care items, and pet foods, serving to support proper nutrition, and enable these families to conserve scarce financial resources for other household necessities. Special collections are taken at Christ the Savior for other

worthy causes throughout the year as the need arises.

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Workshop for Readers and Musicians Draws 38 Participants

M. Deborah Belonick

The “Workshop for Readers and Musicians,” sponsored by the Diocese of New York and New Jersey (Orthodox Church in America) and hosted on the campus of St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary on Saturday, September 9, 2017, was led by the Very Reverend J. Sergius Halvorsen, Ph.D., assistant professor of Homiletics and Rhetoric at the Seminary. The workshop drew 38 participants, who, in a survey at the close of workshop, gave favorable reviews regarding Fr. Sergius’s instruction, among them:

“This was a great opportunity for people to learn more about reading in church. It was an encouragement to our novice readers and a great place for our experienced readers to get quality feedback. Also, I would be in favor of a longer workshop: Saturday and part of Sunday...for us in central PA, anything closer to us in our diocese would be appreciated!”

The workshop addressed liturgical reading as a vital ministry. Participants reviewed the Church’s theology that guides and informs that ministry. They also reviewed rubrics and melodic patterns for reading, as well as methods

for chanting the “Prokeimenon” and “Alleluia” in synergy with the choir. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to receive vocal coaching and practice. Workshop activities were taught within the framework of a supportive community of fellow readers and liturgical musicians. Some participants also joined our chapel choir in the singing of Great Vespers at the close of the workshop. Clergy who completed the workshop earned six (6) Continuing Clergy Education credits from the Orthodox Church in America.

Father Sergius, an accomplished liturgical musician, served as director of the 1995 St. Vladimir’s Seminary Octet, and over the last ten years, he has contributed to a number of “Archangel Voices” recordings. He received his Master of Divinity degree from St. Vladimir’s Seminary in 1996, and completed his doctoral dissertation at Drew University in 2002. From 2000 to 2011 he taught at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell Connecticut, where he also served as Director of Distance Learning. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1999 and to the priesthood in 2004. He is attached to Christ the Savior Orthodox Church, Southbury, Conn. **ONE +**

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Join “Run/Walk to Break the Silence on Ovarian Cancer”

Right: Members of Ss. Cyril & Methodius display their “Team Donna” banner.

John Kriniske

On Saturday September 16, 2017, for the fourth year, friends, and members of Ss. Cyril & Methodius Orthodox Church in Terryville, Conn., joined me, John (Jack) Kriniske, in walking to raise funds for Ovarian Cancer research in honor and memory of my wife Donna who waged a courageous struggle to overcome this most devastating affliction.

The walk is sponsored by the Connecticut chapter of the NOCC (National Ovarian Cancer Coalition) which is focused on developing awareness of this disease as well as raising funds for research and is held at Rentschler Field, East Hartford.

Ovarian cancer is referred to as the “Silent Killer” as there is currently no method of early diagnosis.

About the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition

For more than 25 years, the NOCC has been committed to raising awareness, promoting education, and funding research in support of women, families, and communities impacted by ovarian cancer. The four organizational pillars are the following:

Early Awareness

Campaigns that tell it like it is: “Take Action: Not Chances” and “Not Knowing is Killing Us”

Research

NOCC’s “Research In Action” multi-year financial commitment to “Stand Up to Cancer.” The Ovarian Cancer Dream



Team is working on accelerated science, which will one day lead to an early diagnosis test, and ultimately to a cure

Quality of Life

“Faces of Hope” totes and packets for the newly diagnosed are distributed to over 200 accredited health care institutions nation wide.

“NOCC Cancer Connect Community”, an online platform provides a way for survivors and caregivers to share their experiences in a safe, evidence-based, and moderated forum

Community Events

The “Run/Walk to Break the Silence on Ovarian Cancer” events, which drew almost 40,000 participants over the past two years, are the largest ovarian cancer event in the world

Thank you to all who support this cause by walking and also to the many people who make monetary donation. More information concerning Ovarian Cancer can be found at <ovarian.org> .

Pittsfield Welcomes Fill-in Priest from NY



Top: Deacon Michael and Father Burdikoff prepare for Sunday liturgy at St. Nicholas

Steve Nikitas

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Pittsfield, Mass., is located just a few miles from the New York border. The New York state capital of Albany is 40 miles from Pittsfield.

St. Nicholas has participated in many special religious observances over the decades with Albany-area churches including Lenten Vespers services when we have traveled to Albany or they have come to Pittsfield.

Since its founding in 1916, St. Nicholas had a steady stream of permanent priests. But over the last 15 years there have been periods when fill-in priests were needed and there even was talk of closing our small church.

Fr. Barnabas Fravel served at St. Nicholas from 2006 until Sept., 2015. He led St. Nicholas through construction of a new church that opened in 2012. Since then our parish has flourished.

From Sept., 2015 until Feb., 2016, St. Nicholas had fill-in priests and did not miss a Sunday service. We were served by Fathers John Bacon from the Boston area; Nicholas Timpko from Connecticut; and David Mezynski from St. Vladimir's Seminary.

In Feb., 2016, we were happy to get our new permanent priest, Fr. Joseph Gall who was young and enthusiastic. He had been serving as a deacon in New Haven at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church under Fr. Michael Westerberg. His wife Matushka Mary was getting her Ph.D from Yale University in Christian Studies. On Feb. 20, 2016, Father Joseph was ordained in our own church.

But in June 2017 Fr. Joseph announced that Matushka Mary had been offered a plum teaching position at Princeton Theological Seminary, NJ, and that they would be leaving us.

We were sad to see him go but we knew that God would bless us. Since then we have not missed a single Sunday service with the cooperation of a long-time friend, retired Archpriest Igor Burdikoff of Christ the Savior, an OCA church in Ballston Spa, NY, just north of Albany. Fr. Igor was well known to us through many Lenten Vespers services.

Every Sunday Fr. Burdikoff makes the one-hour drive to Pittsfield to serve us. He is affable and very popular with our parish and we also get a bonus—Deacon Michael Burdikoff serves alongside his father and helps out with Sunday school.

Father Igor was born in Steubenville, Ohio. He was ordained in 1965 and helped to found St. Innocent of Irkutsk Church in Redford, Michigan in 1967 where he served for two-and-a-half years. He recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of St. Innocent. He served at Christ the Savior from 1988 until he retired in 2015.

And just to show what a small world we live in, Fr. Burdikoff's grandfather Stephen Burdikoff served as priest at St. Nicholas in Pittsfield in the early 1920s.

Fr. Dennis Nagi has also served at our church one Sunday that Fr. Igor could not. Fr. Dennis is assistant priest of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in Albany. We at St. Nicholas feel blessed to be close to the many Orthodox churches in Albany.

Fr. Igor Burdikoff is a great addition to our parish and he seems to enjoy serving on Sundays without having to take on the full-time responsibilities of a permanent priest. He said that he is happy to serve again in his retirement, and even to have some extra income to help with renovations at his house. So it is a win-win for all of us. We pray that Fr. Burdikoff can continue to serve us for as long as we need him.

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Upcoming Events

Dec. 15

Nov. 24

Nov. 29

Dec. 1

Dec. 29

Deadline for the next issue of the ONE

“Rally after Rally” at All Saints, Hartford—Nativity Fast Retreat.

Diocesan Council meets in Springfield, Mass.

Deanery of Connecticut Clergy Self-Care Workshop at All Saints, Hartford.

“Rally after Rally” at All Saints, Hartford—Fast-Free Friday Christmas Party with Akathist to the Nativity.