

Diocesan Youth Rally Set

Contoocook, New Hampshire, August 11-15

Young people from the Diocese of New England and throughout the Northeast will be gathering for the annual Diocesan Youth Rally, set for August 11-15, 2003, at Contoocook, New Hampshire. Fr. Vladimir Aleandro and Chezelle Serev are coordinating preparations for the week.

Volunteers and staff will report on Sunday, August 10th. Rallyers will arrive on Monday, August 11th, between 2:30-4:30 P.M. and will depart on Friday, August 15th, at 1:00 P.M. Please note that Friday, August 15th, is the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos and the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated that morning. You are eligible to attend Rally if, at the time of Rally, you will have *completed* the fifth grade and *have not yet graduated* from high school.

Youth Rally is intended to be an event where diocesan youth come together in a camp setting for Orthodox Christian education, fellowship, and worship. It is a time for learning more about our Orthodox Faith and applying it in the world in which we live. It is also a time for making or renewing friendships, and having fun!

Fees for attending Youth Rally are: \$125 per person, or \$200 per family (unlimited number).

The Greek Orthodox Diocese of Boston Camping and Retreat Center is located in Contoocook, New Hampshire, approximately 90 miles from Boston. The campground sits on 120 acres of wooded terrain. It directly abuts a small lake that is used for outdoor activities during Youth Rally. A lifeguard is present for all scheduled waterfront activities. Other amenities include a basketball court, a volleyball court, a state-of-the-art kitchen and dining facility, a recreation hall, a chapel, hiking trails, and more.

Sleeping accommodations are provided in cabins, some of which have been winterized. Each cabin will have at least one cabin counselor assigned to it. A nurse is also present during the entire Youth Rally to administer basic first aid, and to dispense allowable medications.

Bus Transportation

Bus transportation to Youth Rally departs from St. Alexis Mission in Clinton, CT, with a

stop for pick-up at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Meriden during the morning of Monday, August 11th, and returns from camp to the same places on Friday afternoon, August 15th. Cost per person is \$20.00. There is space on the registration form to sign up for the bus and exact details regarding this option for transport will be provided to those who indicate their interest on the application form. All other transportation must be arranged personally.

Activities

One off-site trip is usually a part of the Youth Rally. We go to Canobie Lake Park, an amusement park located in Windham, New Hampshire, for an afternoon/evening.

His Grace, Bishop Nikon, will be making an overnight visit to Rally during the week.

Noted Orthodox Christian singer-songwriter Peter Jon Gilquist will be performing at Youth Rally on Thursday evening.

There is usually a talent show during the Youth Rally. Everyone is urged to participate and share their talent with everyone.

A set of rules for behavior at Youth Rally has

RALLY TO 12

ONE Stewards Second Chance

Included with this issue of *Orthodox New England* is the "Second Chance" envelope for the annual ONE Stewards appeal. If you were not able to participate in the direct appeal this past Spring, we ask you to consider generously doing so now.

ONE Stewards provides voluntary support from the faithful of our diocese to fund the various programs and outreach of the diocese. The donations are used to fund seminary scholarships, mission support, youth work, education, and even this publication. Not one penny of funds donated to ONE Stewards is used for administration.

We thank you in advance for your support of the work being done within the Diocese of New England by your support of ONE Stewards.



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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RENEWAL _____

Please mail donations and subscription requests to: V. Rev. John Dresko, 95 Butternut Lane, Southington, CT 06489.

ON THE DOCKET

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

July 26, 2003

Connecticut Deanery Youth Service Project, 2:00 P.M.
Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, Terryville, CT

August 6, 2003

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION

August 11-15, 2003

Diocesan Youth Rally
Lake Contoocook, New Hampshire

August 15, 2003

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

August 27, 2003

Diocesan Council Meeting
Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT

September 11, 2003

Connecticut Deanery Meeting
St. Nicholas Church, Norwich, CT

September 22, 2003

SVS Fall Lecture Series, 7:00 P.M.
Tradition: The Making of a People, Fr. Paul Tarazi
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

September 29, 2003

SVS Fall Lecture Series, 7:00 P.M.
Formation & Tradition of the Creed, Fr. John Behr
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

October 6, 2003

SVS Fall Lecture Series, 7:00 P.M.
Christian Initiation: Yesterday & Today,
Dr. Paul Meyendorff
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

October 13, 2003

SVS Fall Lecture Series, 7:00 P.M.
Tradition and Traditions, Dr. Peter Bouteneff
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

October 20, 2003

SVS Fall Lecture Series, 7:00 P.M.
Keeping Tradition Alive, Dean John Erickson
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

October 24-25, 2003

Annual Diocesan Assembly
Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, Terryville, CT

Around the Parishes

Ansonia, Connecticut

The spring/summer months have been very busy here at Three Saints Church. We started off with a Mother's Day plant sale, coordinated by Mary Jimenez and her assistants. There were many beautiful flowers for parishioners to buy, as well as the addition of vegetable plants for the first time. June saw our Festival of Tables, a fun and fellowship event, which also generated funds for our Handicap Accessibility fund. Stacey Pimpinelli was chairwoman for the event, and each host/hostess, really put on a nice display with the varied themes. During the event, Nancy Krupa gave a presentation on flower arranging, and gave all great ideas to use throughout the summer months. There were many door prizes and those who didn't win one, at least had really nice favors reflecting the theme of their table to bring home.

June also saw our Sunday School children receive certificates and small gifts after Divine Liturgy for their continued participation in the program. Our Baccalaureate Service was held June 22nd and Earth Day was held at our park in Bethany on June 28th.

OUR DIOCESE

**PEOPLE
PLACES
EVENTS**

Coming up in August, we are looking forward to our Annual Picnic with Ss. Peter & Paul Church at the park in Bethany on August 17th. Our committee is very busy planning events and making food selections, with the hopes of having a fun day for all to participate. We sincerely ask God to give us the usual summer weather – as of this writing, the rain just keeps coming down.

– submitted by Julie Craft

Bridgeport, Connecticut

It seems that just a short while ago, we heard the Gospel reading of Zacchaeus, beginning our preparation for Great Lent. We have gone through Great Lent, Pascha, Bright Week, Ascension, and now Trinity Sunday.

Our annual Maslenitsa was held on March 2nd. For several weeks, the women of our parish (aka the "holy rollers") prepared piroghi and nut and poppyseed rolls.

Megan Flaherty, the granddaughter of Peter Popadic, was baptized in April. Cathy Savisky and Tamara Jankura were Chrismated on Holy Saturday. Due to the inclement weather, the procession around the church proclaiming "Christ is Risen!" had to be done indoors. Fortunately, both Paschal Vespers and Bright Monday were beautiful



His Grace, Bishop Nikon, tonsures Christopher Savisky as a Reader in Bridgeport, CT.

sunny days.

Following Liturgy on Bright Monday, the four Gospels were read at the four corners of the church as the bells rang and the congregation circled the church. Following services, the annual egg hunt was held for the children.

Our Maintenance Crew cleaned and shined the church for Pascha. Our gardener Richard Jankura has kept up the flower beds around our church for several years by planting bulbs of the Pascha flowers. They were in bloom for the procession on Bright Monday. Nancy Savisky of the Myrrhbearers prepared baskets for our shut-ins.

On May 4th, Matushka Elena Pismenny celebrated her birthday and a large cake was presented to her at the coffee hour. Father Vadim and Matushka also celebrated their wedding anniversary that week.

His Grace, Bishop Nikon, was welcomed to our parish on June 1st. He celebrated the Divine Liturgy, assisted by Fr. Vadim and Protodeacon Paul Nimchek. Prior to the liturgy, Christopher Savisky was tonsured a Reader by His Grace. Following the liturgy, a potluck buffet luncheon was prepared by many women of the parish, who outdid themselves with a delicious menu.

John Strickland, a seminarian at St. Vladimir's Seminary, has been assigned to serve an internship with us from June 1st to August 30th. He will work with Fr. Vadim and will experience the daily life of a parish priest. We welcome him, his wife, Elena, and their daughter, Elizabeth, to our parish and hope they will enjoy being with us.

On May 11th, a Mother's Day luncheon was prepared and served by the men of the parish. A Pentecost/Father's Day luncheon was held following Divine Liturgy on June 15th, sponsored by the Senior "R" Club.

Members of the Outreach Program Committee fed the hungry several times during the year. The food is prepared in our kitchen and taken to the facility in Bridgeport, or the Beth-El Shelter in Milford. Children

TODAY'S CHURCH

Daring to utter the "S" word

by Father John Dresko

I recently attended a weeklong seminar on developing a Church-wide stewardship program. The instructor began the seminar with these words: "Stewardship is a dirty word in most mainline denominations today." Being from what she would consider a "mainline" Church, I took exception to her comments. Stewardship is the biblical principle of living one's life recognizing that God has not only given that life to you, but is also the rightful Owner of that life and everything in the world. We are called to live our lives as *stewards*, caring for what does not belong to us and returning it in thanksgiving and love to God.

The members of my "mainline" parish have been working diligently on understanding these principles and trying to make them manifest in their day-to-day lives, and in the day-to-day life of our parish. The Orthodox Church in America has been working and striving to implement these same principles. As we struggle with these principles in our consumer-driven society, there are a few facts that might lead us to a greater awareness of stewardship and the very basic place it demands in the spiritual life of anyone claiming to be a Christian.

Giving facts

Twenty percent of the members of a typical congregation give eighty percent of the money (the 20/80 rule). "Recent large-scale studies have borne out this pattern. What they have also shown is that 20 percent of members give virtually nothing. The easy explanations all fail to account for these facts. The top 20 percent of givers are not necessarily the most wealthy. The bottom 20 percent are not predictably the least involved or the poorest." (James Hudnut-Beumler, *Generous Saints*)

In 1996, Americans spent \$2.5 billion on chewing gum. Americans also spent \$6 billion on pet foods.

In a survey, 85 percent of the pastors interviewed said they are untrained in the theology of stewardship and have no books on Christian stewardship, money or giving.

Ninety percent of the parishes interviewed have no stewardship plan.

Seventeen of the thirty-eight parables told by Jesus are about money.

The Bible has 2,350 verses on possessions and money.

Parishes that experience growing incomes and effective ministries and outreach do talk about money and stewardship.



You have to use the "S" word

What the above facts tell us is simple. First, it is not unusual for a parish to derive the vast majority of its support from a relatively small number of parishioners (20/80). However, stewardship principles are not exercised in our lives in order to pay the bills of the Church. Every Christian strives to live a godly and stewardly life because God gave to us first. We are givers because God is a giver.

While we should not and cannot minimize the importance of meeting parish obligations (electric bill, incense, candles, etc.), our motivation for personal giving cannot be tied to those obligations, because the temp-

tation arises to be generous when we like the way the money is being spent and to be miserly when we don't. God tells us that if we believe and trust in Him, and give generously (even trying to meet the biblical tithe – donating 10% of our income to the Church because it already belongs to God), He will make sure we always have enough to continue being generous and still be able to meet our needs (cf. Malachi 3, 2 Corinthians 9).

It is inconceivable that someone claiming to be an Orthodox Christian would be a part of a parish community, pray in that community, confess their sins in that community and receive the Body and Blood of Christ in that community without supporting that community with their finances, time and talent generously. That "large-scale" studies (and parish experience) show that 20% of parish members give virtually nothing of the blessings that God bestows upon them shows an astounding hardness of heart, and a lack of trust in the Lord.

When someone voluntarily chooses to ignore giving back to the Lord in order to meet perceived personal needs and goals, he is actually saying that God will not (or cannot) provide for his needs. North American studies have also shown that giving is inversely proportional in our society – the wealthier (financially) a person becomes, the lower the actual proportion of his financial giving tends to be. At the same time, the poorer (financially) a person is, the greater the proportion of the gift in comparison to his income. In other words, in contemporary North American society, poor people actually give more than wealthy people. It is literally the story of the widow's mite (Mark 12:41-44).

We are tempted to convince ourselves that there is "no money" in my family, and "no money" in my parish. That is false. In a land that can spend \$2.5 billion on chewing gum

and \$6 billion on pet food, the question is not "Do you have money?" but "On what are you choosing to spend it?" There are parishes that have parishioners who give regularly, but at levels that are unrealistic. A pastor recently told me that weekly envelopes in his parish contain a few ten-dollar bills, a few five-dollar bills, and a very large amount of one-dollar bills. The can of cat food that one throws into a shopping cart costs more than one dollar. How could someone who goes to work everyday, understands how much things cost, and acts professionally in every other area of life put one dollar into an envelope for support of the Ark of Salvation? How can anyone do that and claim to love Christ and the Church?

A Christian steward does not play "wallet roulette," digging out the change in his pockets and shuffling through his wallet to see what gift can be offered today. A Christian steward plans his gift as a proportion of his income, and plans it first, before all other obligations.



*Don't play
"wallet roulette!"*

Secondly, if the large majority of parish priests really do feel "untrained in the theology of stewardship," our Church has to address the situation. The seminaries need to consider adding at least some lectures, if not entire courses, on the theology of stewardship and the methodology of imparting that theology and implementing stewardship principles in the life of the priest and the life of the parish. The "S" word must be taught and lived in the life of every Christian.

But even if the current curriculum does not provide for such instruction, and even if some of our pastors have been in their parishes for many years, there are resources

for continuing education. First of all, there are a number of very good books written about the various aspects of stewardship: personal giving, development of time, money management, planned giving and capital campaigns. A simple search of one of the large book chain websites unearths all of them.

The Department of Stewardship in the Orthodox Church in America is also a valuable resource. Workshops are available for regions and individual parishes. The OCA Handbook on Stewardship is in development, as is a series of Bible Studies suitable for parish and individual use.

It stands to reason that if many pastors feel unequipped to teach stewardship, many parishes do not have a stewardship plan. But most families today understand the importance of planning for their personal lives; Palm Pilots can be seen at meetings, restaurants, even little league and soccer games. Families discuss and plan how to save for vacations, how to purchase groceries and how to acquire a new car. Why wouldn't we want to give the same attention, care, love and responsibility to the Church? If we care about something, we provide for it.

Finally, we must understand that talking about the "S" word is not something for every place *but* the Church. Almost half of the parables that our Lord used to teach His disciples about walking in the path of salvation spoke about money and possessions. The entire Bible is full of instruction about the use of riches and the care of the Church. It is a matter of judgment; we will answer to the Lord Himself for the way we use the blessings He has given us. And we will answer to that same Lord if we are responsible for starving the Church and crippling Her mission.

It is time to answer the questions for ourselves: Is the "S" word a dirty word for me? And have I helped make it a dirty word in my parish?

(Father John Dresko, in addition to other duties, is Director of Stewardship for the Orthodox Church in America.)

FORCC News

Earlier this year we promised to keep you informed regarding the same-sex marriage petitions. To date, the same-sex marriage petitions and the Hartford rally helped to defeat the legislation to allow same-sex unions in the State of Connecticut. During the last two weeks of this session, people were asked to contact their legislators to continue supporting the DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) and to defeat any legislation that would allow same-sex marriages. Information may become available (for the November, 2003 elections), to help people make a choice for the election of legislators who are favorable to the DOMA issues.

The overall response to the parochial school survey was well received. We received no mandate; churches did not offer their facilities; neither teachers nor administrators offered to take on the project. Therefore, the committee is now looking into starting a pre-school in the New Haven area from which (we hope) a firm foundation could be built for a future school. We are presently collecting information from local pre-schools and regional Orthodox schools, and planning organizational issues.

The Tenth Annual Benefit Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 5, 2003, 1:00 P.M. at St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church Hall, 5456 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, will be the Guest Speaker. His topic will be: "The Orthodox Church in America in the 21st Century." The Pan Orthodox Choir will sing musical selections.

Menu consists of a Crudite Table with Cheese, Vegetables & Fruit, Tossed Garden Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette, Stuffed Breast of Chicken or Porketta Au Jus, Rice Pilaf and Vegetables, Brownie Ice Cream Sundae, Wine, Soda, Coffee & Tea.

Donation is \$35.00 for Adults and \$10.00 for Children under 12.

FORCC TO 6

“For Travellers by Land, by Sea, and by Air..”

by Father John Dresko

*Roll out those lazy, hazy,
crazy days of summer,
those days of soda,
and pretzels, and beer.*

-Nat King Cole

For Americans, the summer season “semi-officially” begins with the weekend of Memorial Day. From Memorial Day to Labor Day in September, Americans just seem to live in a different “mode.” Some might call it “lazy.” Some might call it “restful.” What the Church calls it is “temptation.”

Since the very first days of the Church, part of our prayer in the liturgy has been for travellers - whether by land, by sea or by air (some now even include “in space”). This ancient tradition is well founded on a simple Christian awareness: any change in our normal life routines opens us up to many spiritual temptations. Summer, as a time when most Americans travel on vacations, usually because that’s when the kids are off school, is a time of acute spiritual danger.

What is so important about “routine” for Christians? The foundation of a Christian lifestyle is prayer - both personal and corporate. The only way to establish an exercise of prayer is through repetitive practice, just like any other exercise. Our daily prayer must be just that - daily!

When we establish a routine of daily prayer, it becomes like brushing our teeth; we can’t imagine living a day-to-day life without doing that! But personal prayer is not enough. We must gather as the Church in the corporate prayer of the liturgy to receive the Body and Blood of our Savior as the prayerful nourishment to continue living a daily Christian lifestyle. Just as we wouldn’t exercise to run in a marathon without eating the proper foods to restore health and energy to our bodies, so we eat the proper spiritual food to restore

health and energy to our souls.

So routine - both personal and corporate - are vital to our spiritual well-being. We can see how the difference in “routines” affects our children. When school is in session, they are busy, even disciplined. But when summer rolls around, it’s great for a few days, but then you hear “I’m bored.” “There’s nothing to do.” The kids get “Nintendo paralysis” and “TV hypnosis.”

When we pray for travellers, what are we hoping to “prevent”? When we pray for travellers, what do we hope they “accomplish”?

First, prevention. Of course, when someone travels, the first thing we hope to prevent is physical harm. We pray that their travels be safe and that they return safely to us.

But more than that, we pray that they remember who they are and what they are to be as Christians during their travels. When that daily routine gets upset, all of a sudden it is as if we aren’t Christians anymore. We stop our daily prayers. Who can pray when we get up at 6:00 A.M. to get the kids ready to travel? Who can pray when 8-10 hours a day is spent in a car - keeping the kids from killing each other?

Even without kids, who can pray when there are NO time limits and we can leisurely spend hours in bed? Who thinks about liturgy when they are travelling? When I ask the operator for the Orthodox parish in some cities, I get the number for the local synagogue! (Forget the fact that I didn’t simply ask my pastor for local contacts.) So for a Christian to remember who he is is important for us to pray about. Perhaps the disruption in routine can be minimized. Perhaps a traveller doesn’t have to forget to pray or go to liturgy.

We also pray to prevent the passions which can overtake us. The anger when we aren’t right on schedule, the impatience with the children or the stupidity of those “other” drivers, the simple laziness which accom-

panies vacation time, the amazing insensitivity which allows us to save hundreds or thousands of dollars to spend on a vacation while throwing five dollars in the collection plate, the lack of thankfulness to God for all that He has given us.

When we pray for travellers (and indeed, this prayer is for EVERYONE during the summer, travelling or not), what we as the Church hope to accomplish is very simple: we pray that our spiritual lives do not go on vacation.

We pray that there be enough routine and spiritual discipline in everyone to search out an Orthodox parish when they go on vacation. To continue a daily prayer life. Most importantly, to understand that there are no vacations from God.

It is amazing how many people live their lives as if the summer is a three-month sabbatical from God. Sleeping late on Sundays, being lazy, gluttons, drunks, etc., and then showing up back in church after Labor Day like nothing happened. All sorts of excuses exist - the yard needs care, the house needs care, the cars need care. But we forget that our souls need care also.

So when we pray for travellers, we hope to inspire everyone with the Spirit of God to be good sound Christians - even during the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.

(First published in the June 1990 issue of Orthodox New England.)

FORCC FROM 5

Advance ticket sales only. We **will not sell tickets** at the door. Tickets may be purchased from your parish representative, Nina Kosowsky 203-924-0936, or Bill Balamaci 203-521-7697 before September 23, 2003. Proceeds of this dinner provide major funding for FORCC. Please join us for great food, fun, and fellowship. Meet and greet old acquaintances and make new ones.

What do the color changes mean in the Church?

by Father Joseph Hirsch

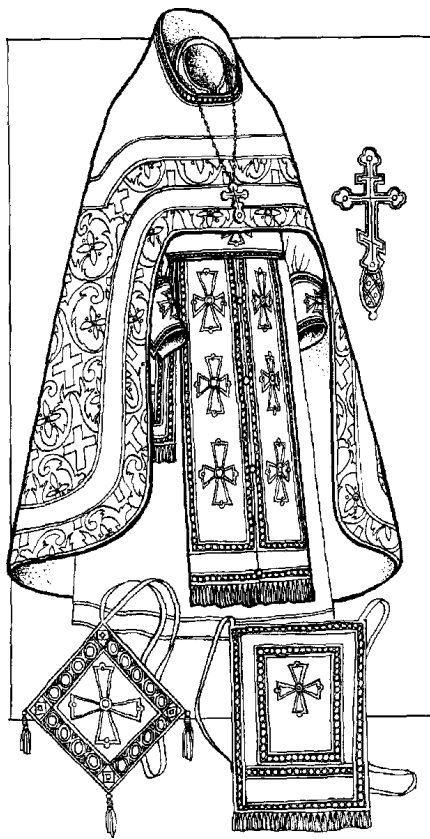
This will seem like a strange way to begin an answer, but, when my son began Karate lessons, I discovered that there were a number of ranks in the ancient sport, each of which was accompanied by its own peculiarly colored belt. The first belt he received was white and these were followed, in turn, by yellow, green, blue, purple, brown and black. My son explained that, while the colors might vary from sport to sport, they derived from the changes in appearance of a new "white" belt as it is worn over many years.

The connection with your question is this: the original church vestments worn by clergy were all white. The undergarment or "sticharion" was and is, simply, "The Robe of Light" or baptismal robe. Over this, were worn the ordinary street clothes of the first through third century lower social classes. The "felonian" or "planeta" was a form of "poncho" worn over the head. The "dalmatic" or Deacon's Sticharion (named for the wool of the province of Dalmatia from which it was woven) was a form of tunic or large outer shirt, etc.

We know that special clean clothes of these kinds were kept at the place of worship, so that the Bishop, Presbyters, Deacons and other ministers could be fastidiously dressed. In time, it seems, these garments would age and discolor so natural dyes seem to have been used to render the old gray vestments more seemly. It must be remembered that, for most of Church history, most parishes could only afford two or three sets of vestments so few, if any, parishes had all of the possible colors.

The Orthodox service books direct that the brightest vestments, usually white, should be worn for the highest festive days and second best sets for lesser feasts. It is sometimes directed that a dark vestment (dark red, blue, purple, violet or even brown) should be worn. I understand that black did not enter as a liturgical

"color" until the reign of Tsar Peter when it may have been imported from the Roman Catholic color scheme, which had only become standardized itself after the Reformation. As artificial dyes made more brilliant colors possible, it was probably natural that meaning would be attached to the various colors and that Altar and Analoï covers would also be made in matched sets.



Today, most parishes use white for Holy Pascha and the Pentecost season. Red is normally used for the Holy Apostles and other Martyrs. Light blue is often used for feasts of the Holy Theotokos, green for the feast of Pentecost and the Sundays following, and dark blue, violet, purple, or black for the Lenten season. Additionally, gold or red are sometimes used for autumnal weeks after Pentecost, while many Greek churches follow the Roman practice of wearing violet for the pre-Christ-

mas fast and some traditions use red for the Sunday of the Holy Cross in Lent and green for the Sunday of Palms. Bright red or red and white are also not uncommon usage for Pascha.

In any case, the colors are intended to be evocative of the theme or mood of the feast or season. White is light, green is life, red is blood, violet is mourning, etc. When we enter the Temple and see a change in color, it should be one more lure to draw our attention Godward. I might add the note that every Sunday is a "Little Pascha" and that white or at least bright vestments are always appropriate on Sundays. It is also good to recall that white is the original color of all vestments. My son reminded me that the oldest and most venerable teachers of Karate wear simple white belts. We should also aspire so to pass through all of the ordeals and trials of this earthly struggle, that, at the end, our garments (our spiritual robes) may be "white with wear."

(Fr. Joseph Hirsch is pastor of Holy Transfiguration Church in Denver, Colorado. This article is reprinted with permission from The Orthodox Vision, Diocese of the West, Orthodox Church in America, Summer 1998 issue.)



PUBLICATION DEADLINES

September Issue
August 1st

October Issue
September 1st

PARISHES FROM 3

and parents from our Sunday School take part in this project. We shall continue to collect non-perishable food for the St. Charles Food Pantry every second Sunday of the month.

Congratulations to Melissa Maugeri, who graduated from Bennington College in Bennington, VT, on June 7th. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree. Congratulations also to John Gulash, who keeps winning medals at Special Olympics Games. In February, he took a Bronze Medal in Knoxville, TN, for bowling and in June, a Silver and two Bronzes for race walking in New Haven.

On Sunday, June 8th, the Junior "R" Club sponsored the coffee hour to thank the choir for their dedication during Great Lent and throughout the year.

Deacon George Coca, of St. Dimitrie Romanian Orthodox Church in Bridgeport, and director of our Bible Class for many years, will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on October 25th. Deacon George has served in our parish many times. He is an electric speaker and his sermons are interesting, informative and dynamic. We hope to be present at his ordination. God be with you, Deacon George!

Hartford, Connecticut

Congratulations and Many Years to Owen Nicholas Jacobs, who was Baptized and Chrismated into the Holy Orthodox Church at All Saints Church. He is the infant son of Olga and Todd Jacobs, members of the parish.

Our Church School held its annual graduations after Liturgy, honoring our students, teachers and staff.

Also honored was Kelly Ranstead, daughter of Susan and Mark Ranstead, who graduated from Granby Memorial High School in Groton. Kelly will attend Neumann College, Aston, PA, in the fall where she will major in Athletic Training and play college ice hockey. She was presented an Orthodox Study Bible and monetary gift.

Among the Church School staff honored were Cathy Vargas, Church School coordinator; and teachers, George



PASCHA IN KINGSTON – (L-R) Paula Himmelman, Patty and George Sowpel, and Andrei Dubrovsky share the Agape Meal on Pascha (Photo: Laura McGillicuddy)

Babey and Tom Denisky, pre-school; Mary Beth Stenko, kindergarten and first grade; Kathy Andrzejewski, second and third grades; Marsha Coombs, fourth and fifth grades; Gail Denisky, sixth and seventh grades; Nick Medynski, eighth grade and high school. We offer all of them a big thanks for the important work they are doing in teaching our children about our faith. Many Years!

– submitted by Fr. William DuBovik

Kingston, Massachusetts

Pascha took on a very special meaning this year as we



rejoiced with George and Nancy Haddad. They recently adopted twins, Marina and Nikita, from a Russian orphanage. We all had the joy not only of seeing them begin their new life in America, but of celebrating their first Pascha with us. May God bless the newly expanded Haddad family!

– submitted by Laura McGillicuddy

New Britain, Connecticut

Our celebration of Holy Pentecost, our parish patronal feastday, had many joyous layers to it. His Grace, Bishop Nikon, together with Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, was present to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and the Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost.

In addition to our parish feastday celebration, we also honored our parish graduates with gifts. His Grace blessed Jeffrey Burrill, who graduated from South Windsor High School and will be attending Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT; David Delaney, who graduated from Coginchaug High School and will be attending Loyola University in Baltimore, MD; Laura Bradanini, who graduated from the University of New Hampshire; Lydia Dorsey, who graduated from Tunxis Community College; and Jason Ferrandino, who graduated from the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford. We are proud of all our graduates and hope God blesses their future endeavors.

Following the liturgical celebration, we gathered on



His Grace, Bishop Nikon, pronounces the dismissal at Kneeling Vespers in New Britain (Photo: Lydia Dorsey)

the church grounds for a festive picnic. It was one the few Sundays with decent weather since Spring began. Great food and fellowship highlighted a most enjoyable day for our parish community.

We ask God's blessings and wish Many Years to Kevin Delaney and Leslie Sarcia, together with Rebecca Karabin and Scott Ahern, who were recently united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in our parish. We hope their married lives are filled with much life and light!

New Haven, Connecticut

Our parishioners send special thanks to Father Michael and Matushka Lydia Westerberg for the beautiful Paschal altar coverings they donated in memory of their parents. Many Years!

Saturday, May 3rd, the Fillyaw family (John, Natasha and toddlers Roman and Raphael) extended an invitation to the entire parish to attend an open house party at their home. A fantastic time was had by all.

On May 11th, a single red rose was presented to each Mother, Grandmother, Godmother, Adoptive Mother, Foster Mother, and those who are like Mothers on Mothers Day. God Bless all of you with Many Years!

The Ladies Auxiliary held their annual dinner in the

Church Auditorium, hosting the ladies from St. Barbara's Greek Orthodox Church in Orange on May 22nd. Great food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Several of our parishioners attended the 99th Annual Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery for the Memorial Day Weekend. They were ecstatic to be able to venerate the Icon Of Our Lady Of Tikhvin, written by St. Luke the Evangelist.

Fr. Michael served a Molieben for the close of church school followed by the presentation of Church School Awards after liturgy on June 8th. Nicole Maldera was presented with the "R" Club and the Victor Panko Scholarships. Jason Maldera, Alexander Oji, Lawrence Oji and Patrick Ross received the Victor Panko Continuing Education Scholarships. The St. George Girl Scout Orthodox Medal was presented to Natalie Aarisi, Junior Troop 422, Hamden and Ashley Mitchell, Brownie Troop 140, Orange. The Chi Rho Girl Scout Orthodox Medal was presented to Caitlin Mitchell, Junior Troop 333, Orange. Penelope Mitchell, Leader of Troop 333, Orange, received the Chi Rho Girl Scout Orthodox Mentor Award.

God's blessings and Many Years extended to Stuart and Robin Milberg on the joyous occasion of the Baptism and Chrismation of their infant son, Samuel.

A parish survey was conducted regarding adult education classes, based on the survey, studies will be held for topics of special interest. Due to the mixture of adults wishing to attend, dual sessions for each topic will be scheduled. The first topic of interest was iconography. Joshua Mosher conducted two 90-minute evening sessions (June 2 and 16) and Fr. Michael conducted daytime sessions on June 16th and June 23rd.

Congratulations to our high school graduate, Nicole Maldera who will be attending Southern Connecticut State College, School of Nursing; and to our Yale Law School graduate, Daniel Crosby. Dan will be busy studying for the Bar exam. Wishing both of you great success in your future endeavors. May God grant you many years!

PARISHES TO 10



New Britain parishioners show off their athletic process at a parish picnic in celebration of the parish patronal feastday of Pentecost. (Photo: Lydia Dorsey)

PARISHES FROM 9

It is not too early to mark your calendars. We at Holy Transfiguration will once again be sponsoring the SVS lecture series. Lectures will begin on Monday, September 15th and continue for five consecutive Monday evenings, culminating on October 13th. Please join us as we become better acquainted with our faith. Refreshments are served and parking is free. Flyers and details will be mailed to your parish.

– submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

Stamford, Connecticut

The late spring and summer months brought many events at St. Mary's Holy Assumption Church. The highlight of this period was the visit of His Grace, Bishop Nikon of Baltimore, in June. A glorious Divine Liturgy was celebrated by the Bishop, along with Protodeacon Paul Nimchek of Terryville. This was Bishop Nikon's first visit to our parish and all of parishioners were excited to have the opportunity to meet His Grace at the coffee hour held after Divine Liturgy.

Later in June, the St. Mary's Ladies Guild sponsored an Italian Dinner. The food, including spaghetti, meatballs, sausages and Italian pastries, and decorations created quite an ambiance and made those in attendance feel like they were in Rome. This was a successful fundraiser for our church and a wonderful time was had by all.

June is also a time for graduations and several members of our church reached this personal achievement. Eric Bulakowski graduated from Oklahoma State University's School of Veterinary Medicine. Eric will be returning home to our area to work at the Norwalk Emergency Veterinary Clinic. Barbara Driscoll graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a Masters' Degree in Mathematics. Barbara is currently a mathematics teacher at Pomperaug High School in Southbury. Katie Briggs graduated from Colgate University in Hamilton, NY, earning a Bachelor's of Arts Degree



His Grace, Bishop Nikon, with the clergy and servers in Stamford, CT.

in English. Katie is looking forward to pursuing a career in the publishing field. Congratulations to our graduates.

Another successful year of St. Mary's Sunday School also ended in June. Congratulations to all the students who participated during the year and many thanks to Sophie Constantaki and Father Vladimir for putting in much time and effort preparing the weekly lessons and instructing the classes that broadened our children's spiritual education.

Looking ahead, St. Mary's will be holding its Annual Parish Picnic in August on its church grounds. This event always boasts a tasty barbeque and other picnic foods, as well as games for the children. Also, preparations for St. Mary's Troika Fair in late October continue through the summer months. As in past years, a number of the ladies of our parish are gathering every Tuesday to prepare craft items for the Fair. Much hard work goes into the preparation for St. Mary's largest fundraiser. Preparations also continue for St. Mary's 90th Anniversary Dinner to be held on September 28th.

– submitted by Gregory Driscoll

Woodbury, Connecticut

New life is here. And with the Paschal spring has come much activity for Christ the Savior mission.

Once again, we entered into our local "Cropwalk" with full vigor. With the help of Emily Serev's recruiting talents, our representation at the walk was larger than ever, and we were grateful for the opportunity to help those throughout the world who are in need.

The children of the parish joined forces with the Orthodox Christian Mission Service in an effort to help children in Tanzania, Guatemala, India and in many other countries. During Lent they all kept "Mission Coin Boxes" and contributed to them as part of their own Lenten journeys. If the contents of the boxes they turned in are in anyway indicative of their Lenten experiences, they have proved fruitful indeed; they were able to double the gift they turned in last year. As always, the children serve as true role models!

On May 18th the mission held a reception for St. Teresa Catholic Church of Woodbury. One hundred years ago, our neighbor parish had received a very generous gift from a local Protestant church, which had given them a jump start from their humble beginnings. Their way of celebrating their anniversary and giving thanks to the Lord was to offer Christ the Savior Mission a similar gift, one of over twelve thousand dollars! The reception was a huge success, with over a hundred of their parishioners in attendance. A particularly joyous moment was when Father Vladimir asked everyone to respond to the Paschal greeting "Christ is Risen!" and everyone, especially the children, shouted out and continued to shout out at the top of their lungs, "INDEED HE IS RISEN!"

– submitted by Burgess Speed

St. Vladimir's Seminary

575 Scarsdale Road, Crestwood, NY 10707-1699

Adult Education Institute 2003*Living Tradition*

From the earliest days, Christians have been concerned with Tradition. But what is this Tradition that Christians are called to preserve? How do we prevent the living Tradition of the Church from becoming a fossilized "traditionalism?" How is the Tradition maintained in such a way that it is not simply repetition, but creatively faithful, expressing the life of the Holy Spirit in the Church? Such questions are directly relevant to every aspect of Christian life. This year's lecture series by members of the St Vladimir's Seminary Faculty will examine what is meant by "Tradition," and how we, in our setting, are to be faithful to it in such a way that it is truly "living Tradition."

The series of five lectures will be held at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 285 Alden Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut 06515. Lectures will be on Monday evenings beginning September 22nd and ending on October 20th. The lectures will begin at 7:00 P.M. and conclude at 9:00 P.M.

Registration and payment [payable to 'OCLO' (*Orthodox Christian Library Outreach*)] may be made at the first lecture of the series or by mail to: SVS Lecture Series 25 Kohary Drive New Haven, CT 06515.

Monday, September 22*Tradition: The Making of a People*

Father Paul Tarazi

Monday, September 29*Formation and Tradition of the Creed*

Father John Behr

Monday, October 6*Christian Initiation: Yesterday and Today*

Dr Paul Meyendorff

Monday, October 13*Tradition and Traditions*

Dr Peter Bouteneff

Monday, October 20*Keeping Tradition Alive*

Dean John Erickson

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: [with area code] (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Parish _____ City _____

*Individual \$25.00 Group: 8 persons \$150.00 [Please make checks payable to 'OCLO']***Check enclosed for \$** _____

RALLY FROM 1

been established. These rules apply to everyone, Rallyers and volunteers alike. Disregarding these rules may result in dismissal from Youth Rally. The rules exist for the safety of all those who attend Youth Rally.

To obtain registration forms, please contact your parish priest or, if necessary, contact Fr. Vladimir Aleandro at (203) 263-0809 or Mrs. Chezelle Serev at (203) 263-0422. **Deadline for registration is July 25, 2003.**

MISSION STATEMENT – YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The mission of the Youth Department of the Diocese of New England is to present programs for the youth of our diocese that educate and ground them in Orthodox Christianity:

- To meet these young people where they are in their lives and help lead them in Christian fellowship to an experience of the Kingdom of God.
- To enhance and build upon the fellowship they already share in their home parishes and families.
- To model Christian life and behavior for the young people to build upon in their own lives and their lives in the fellowship of their parish and the Church.

MISSION STATEMENT – YOUTH RALLY

The mission of the Youth Rally of the Diocese of New England is:

- To provide a program of Orthodox-based education, Orthodox worship, and Orthodox Christian fellowship in a summer camp environment to those diocesan youth who have completed fifth grade, and have not yet graduated high school.
- To build upon and supplement the life that these young people experience in their parishes.
- To provide opportunities for these young people to develop a deeper sense and understanding of the Church, and their role in it.

YOUTH RALLY COVENANT

All Rally Attendees will agree to live by the following rules:

- 1) Rally participants will attend and participate in all discussions and worship services during Rally. They will be on time for all scheduled events including services and class sessions.
- 2) Rally participants will stay on the campgrounds at all times unless permission is granted by the Rector or Director(s).
- 3) No alcohol, drugs, tobacco, weapons, firearms, knives, fireworks or other clearly dangerous and/or illegal items are allowed at Rally.
- 4) Electronic devices such as, but not limited to, cell phones, beepers, "walkmans," radios, "Gameboys," etc., are strongly discouraged and may only be used with the permission of the Rally Director.
- 5) Smoking is not permitted on the campgrounds.
- 6) Waterfront areas are to be used ONLY when the camp lifeguard is present. Bathing suits are to be worn only for waterfront activities.
- 7) Rough play and fighting are not allowed at Rally.
- 8) No phone calls are to be made on camp telephones without permission of the Rally Director.
- 9) Rallyers must be responsible to their assigned cabin counselors at all times, unless otherwise designated by Senior Rally staff.
- 10) Dress and attitude should reflect our Orthodox Christian beliefs. No immodest attire should be brought (no bare midriffs), and appropriate clothes should be worn at church services.
- 11) Lights are out at 11:30 P.M. Rallyers are expected to be in their sleeping areas and quiet by this time.
- 12) Boys are not allowed in girls' cabins and girls are not allowed in boys' cabins.
- 13) Stay safe and well!

ONE-Orthodox New England

P.O. Box 2876

New Britain, CT 06050-2876

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

<p>Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID New Britain, CT Permit No. 885</p>
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