

Diocesan Youth Rally set to go

August 9-14, Contoocook, New Hampshire

Young people and adult counselors from the Diocese of New England and throughout the Northeast will be gathering for the annual Diocesan Youth Rally, set for August 9-14, 2004, at Contoocook, New Hampshire. Diocesan Youth Director Fr. John Hopko is coordinating preparations for the week.

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!

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.

Pre-registration is available for anyone wishing to attend. If you wish to pre-register, please call or e-mail the Youth Rally Director:

Fr. John Hopko
(860) 582-3631
saintcyril@snet.net

All diocesan youth who have completed fifth grade and have not yet celebrated their 18th birthday are eligible to attend Youth Rally. Adults who are interested in and eligible to serve as leaders are also welcome.

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.

STATEMENTS TO 4

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 generosity to ONE Stewards.



Diocese of New England • Orthodox Church in America

Volume 14 • Number 7 • Summer 2004

<http://www.dneoca.org>

O.N.E. (ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND)

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

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

Advertising: This publication will accept advertisements. However, we reserve the right to refuse any advertising that we find unacceptable for a publication of this type. **Rate:** \$50.00 per quarter page, \$100.00 per half page, \$175.00 per full page.

Subscription: Distributed free of charge to diocesan members. \$10.00 per year or any part thereof for others. Subscription outside of U.S.: \$15.00 (U.S. Currency).

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Hardware: This issue was composed on an Apple Power Macintosh G5 with 1.5 gb RAM, a Umax Astra 3450 scanner, and a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5MP laser printer. **Software:** Microsoft Word X & PageMaker 6.52. Reproduction done at GT Graphics, Forestville, CT.

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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.

- July 28-31, 2004
Faith in Action: Parish Ministries Conference
St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY
- August 9-14, 2004
Diocesan Youth Rally
Boston Diocese Camp, Lake Contoocook, NH
- August 25, 2004
Diocesan Council Meeting
Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT
- August 30-September 1, 2004
OCA Evangelization Conference
St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY
- September 8, 2004
Connecticut Deanery Meeting
Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT
- September 20, 2004
SVS Adult Education Institute, 7:00 P.M.
Marriage: The Pursuit of Wholeness and Holiness
Dean John Erickson
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT
- September 27, 2004
SVS Adult Education Institute, 7:00 P.M.
New Testament Readings for the Marriage Service
Professor John Barnet
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT
- October 3, 2004
Annual FORCC Scholarship Banquet
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Bridgeport, CT
- October 4, 2004
SVS Adult Education Institute, 7:00 P.M.
Marriage and Asceticism
Father John Behr
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT
- October 11, 2004
SVS Adult Education Institute, 7:00 P.M.
Contemporary Challenges: Divorce, Mixed and Inter-faith Marriages, Cohabitation
Father Alexander Rentel
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT
- October 18, 2004
SVS Adult Education Institute, 7:00 P.M.
Contemporary Challenges: Same-sex Marriages
Professor Peter Bouteneff
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

Around the Parishes

Hartford, Connecticut

June is a month for congratulations with awards, graduations and more at All Saints Church, Hartford.

We begin with congratulations for Noemy Wecal, 13, daughter of Sam Wecal, who was received into the Orthodox Church through the sacrament of Chrismation. Noemy has been faithfully attending All Saints and has participated in the Church School for the past three years. Her desire and eagerness to come to the Chalice is inspiring to all of us. Many Years!

Congratulations to Chelsea Ranstead, 15, daughter of Susan and Mark Ranstead, who is the recipient of the St. Peter the Aleut Junior Service award. The award was presented by Fr. William on behalf of His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman and the Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry. Chelsea has volunteered more than 1,200 hours for Equistrides, a therapeutic horse program for persons with disabilities. Many Years!

Congratulations to our graduating students who this year include John Plotica who graduated from Central

OUR DIOCESE

PEOPLE
PLACES
EVENTS

Connecticut State University, and Elizabeth Plotica who graduated from high school this year. Many Years!

And congratulations to our Church School students who graduated this year and were honored after Liturgy. A big thanks to our Church School coordinator, Cathy Vargas, and to our teachers, George Babey, Tom Denisky, Mary Beth Stenko, Kathy Andrzejewski, Marsha Coombs, Gail Denisky and Nick Medynski. Many Years.

A good time was had by all at our Annual Old Fashioned Picnic held this year on All Saints Day, the patronal feast day of our parish. Rain forced the picnic to be held in doors at our Church but did not diminish the fun and fellowship as all gathered to partake of the foods. Special thanks to Cathy and Dave Vargas who coordinated the picnic, and to Dave, Nick Medynski, John Lichatz and Mark Ranstead for their work at the picnic. Many Years!

– submitted by Fr. William DuBovik

Meriden, Connecticut

We at Ss. Peter and Paul have been busy since the beginning of spring. All of our parish organizations took a turn and sponsored one of the Lenten suppers after

Presanctified Liturgy each Wednesday evening. Several Council Members and parishioners helped to clean the inside and around the Church grounds in preparation for Holy Week and Pascha. Our Seniors tied palms and pussy willow branches together and helped to distribute them on Palm Sunday. We collect donations to make up Easter baskets for several needy families in the neighborhood around our Parish. After Liturgy on Lazarus Saturday, we packed up seven baskets with Easter goodies and then distributed the baskets.

We were pleased to welcome three new communicants to Orthodoxy. In April, Jordan and George Novak were baptized and on May 9th, Cheryl Poccia was chrismated. May God grant them many years!

On St. Thomas Sunday, our Scholarship Committee sponsored a pork roast dinner as a fundraiser for our Scholarship Fund. This is the 8th year that we have awarded scholarships to graduating high school seniors. In June, we presented scholarship awards to Natasha Tassmer and Michael Barra. Good luck to these hard working students! We were happy to hear that three of our young adults have successfully completed their college studies and have joined the working community. Amy Massaro and Larissa Wigglesworth graduated from the University of Connecticut and John Stath graduated from Keene State College.

On May 16th, our Brotherhood sponsored a buffet brunch as a fundraiser for our Community Center roof repairs.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Neil Shulga who passed away suddenly during Bright Week. Memory Eternal!

PARISHES TO 4



OCA Clergy Conference

Participants from the Diocese of New England at the clergy conference held at St. Tikhon's Monastery, June 2-4.

(L-R): Fr. John Kreta, Dn. John Zarras, Fr. Vladimir Aleandro, Fr. Vladimir Horoszczak, Metropolitan Herman, Fr. Dennis Rhodes, Bishop Nikon, Fr. Steven Voytovich, Fr. Michael Westerberg, Fr. Vadim Pismenny, Fr. Matthew Searfoorce, Fr. Vasily Gilbert, and Fr. Nicholas Timpko. Not pictured: Fr. John Hopko. (Photo: Martin Paluch)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Six Days of Creation Icon Writing Workshop

The Six Days of Icon Writing Workshop will be hosted by St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Lexington, Kentucky, July 25-31, 2004. The workshop will introduce several audience levels to the dynamics of icon writing and the place of icons in Christian worship and in the history of art. The main events of the workshop will take place on the campus of Asbury Theological Seminary at the Beeson Manor Conference Center (204 North Lexington Ave., Wilmore, KY 40390).

Through the primary efforts of Master Iconographer Xenia Pokrovsky and participating scholars, the workshop and surrounding events will describe the fundamental process of creating icons and the purposes they serve. To enroll in the six-day course and for details of the events, go to:

<http://standrewlexington.org>

Besides the intensive instruction by world-renowned Master Iconographer Xenia Pokrovsky, the workshop offers a film screening and two outstanding lectures of iconography presenting by visiting artists and scholars.

For the past thirty-five years, Pokrovsky has labored to revive traditional icon painting in the egg tempura medium. Before leaving Russia in 1991, Pokrovsky taught hundreds of students, many of whom are now Russia's finest icon painters.

Connecticut Bible Lecture Series

The Connecticut Bible Lecture Series (CBLS) is pleased to announce the first of an annual lecture series hosted by Christ the Savior Church, 1070 Roxbury Rd (Route 67), in Southbury, CT.

On November 5-6, 2004, the Very Rev. Dr. Paul Nadim Tarazi will give four compelling lectures on

the Book of Psalms covering four sub-topics: Kingship, Kingly Victory, The King's Prayers, and Psalmody. The series begins at 7:00 P.M. on Friday evening, and ends at 8:30 P.M. on Saturday.

Father Paul Nadim Tarazi, Th.D., is Professor of Old Testament at St. Vladimir's Seminary, where he teaches Old and New Testament and Biblical Hebrew. He also teaches at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Massachusetts, and at St. John of Damascus Institute in Balamand, Lebanon.

His publications include commentaries on 1 Thessalonians and Galatians, a three-volume Introduction to the Old Testament, and many scholarly articles. He is currently working on the final two volumes of his four-volume Introduction to the New Testament.

For more information contact:

Fr. Vladimir Aleandro
(203) 263-0809

Deacon John Zarras
johnzarras@earthlink.net

STATEMENTS FROM 1

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 celebrated their 18th birthday.
- 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.

PARISHES FROM 3

We are looking forward to the next few months since we have several activities planned. Give us a call if you would like to join us.

- submitted by John S. Nighyew

New Britain, Connecticut

June was a busy month at Holy Trinity. We began with a glorious celebration for our pastor, Fr. John Dresko, who was celebrating his 25th anniversary as pastor (*see article on page 6*).

On Saturday, June 12th, we rejoiced to welcome Sara Elizabeth Kumor into the Church when she was baptized and chrismated. Many Years to her, her parents, Jim and Dori, her sponsors and family.

Father's Day saw a celebration of "Dads and Grads." We honored all of our fathers, grandfathers, and godfathers during the liturgy and the Sisterhood provided beautiful corsages for each man's lapel. The OCEA (parent's organization), honored our parish graduates with gifts. Our high school graduates: Megan Bartos, Bulkeley High School (New England University, Biddeford, ME) and Phillip Cook, South Windsor High School (Manchester Community College). We had one college graduate this year: Gregory Dresko, who graduated from the University of Connecticut. He is currently working on an internship at ESPN in Bristol, Connecticut. Congratulations to all of our graduates and may they be blessed with Many Years and success in their future endeavors!

New Haven, Connecticut

Our annual Lenten-Read-A-Thon was a huge success. Twenty-three adult book buddies encouraged their student readers in the 2004 Children's Lenten-Read-a-thon, which involves children in an age appropriate commitment of religious reading from Forgiveness Sunday to Pascha.

PARISHES TO 10

“For travelers by land, by sea, and by air...”

by Fr. 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 travelers - 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 “Playstation paralysis” and “TV hypnosis.”

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

First, prevention. Of course,



“Let us lift up our hearts...”

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 6am 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 traveling? 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, or check the OCA website for parishes!)

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 traveler 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 accompanies 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, and the lack of thankfulness to God for all that He has given us.

When we pray for travelers (and indeed, this prayer is for EVERYONE during the summer, traveling 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, we hope 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, gluttonous, drunken, 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 travelers, we hope to inspire everyone with the Spirit of God to be good sound Christians – even during the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.

(Reprinted from the Summer 1990 issue of Orthodox New England.)

Anniversary marked in New Britain

The weekend of June 5-6, 2004, saw a gathering of people from near and far to celebrate the 25th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Father John Dresko (ordained June 24, 1979), and the 15th anniversary of his pastorate at Holy Trinity Church in New Britain.

Presiding over the whole celebration was His Beatitude, the Most Blessed Metropolitan Theodosius, retired Primate of the Orthodox Church in America. His Beatitude ordained Fr. John to the Holy Diaconate back in 1978. Also concelebrating with His Beatitude were His Grace, the Right Reverend Nikon, Bishop of Boston and Administrator of the Diocese of New England, and His Grace, the Right Reverend Benjamin, Bishop of Berkeley, auxiliary to His Grace, Bishop Tikhon, of the Diocese of the West. Fr. David Brum, Secretary to His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, represented the Metropolitan, who was in Russia on an official visit regarding the return of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God.



Fr. John and Matushka Elizabeth receive the Order of St. Innocent (Silver Medal) from His Beatitude. (Photo: Paul Salina)

His Grace, Bishop Benjamin and Fr. John are long-time friends and former roommates at St. Vladimir's Seminary. The bishop stood as "best man" for Father and Matushka Elizabeth when they were wed, and he is godfather to their son, Christopher. His Grace was kind enough to serve as the main speaker at the banquet.

The liturgical celebration began on Saturday evening, when Fr. John and Protodeacon Paul Nimchek served Great Vespers together. All the hierarchs were present. Following the service, His Beatitude gave an impromptu talk about the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God and the importance of it to the Russian Church. Everyone present was awed by the story and how the day of its return was a national holiday in Russia.

The honored guests and invited parish council members enjoyed a reception hosted by Paul and Annette Salina at their home after Vespers. A wonderful buffet and



The Dreskos with all the concelebrants of the Divine Liturgy. (Photo: Paul Salina)

great fellowship was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday morning, His Beatitude was greeted at the doors of the church by Warden George Ludko, who welcomed him on behalf of the whole parish. In addition to the hierarchs and the pastor, the other clergy serving were Fr. David Brum, Secretary to the Metropolitan; Fr. David Koles, of Terryville, CT; Fr. Vladimir Eremine, attached to Holy Trinity Church in New Britain; Protodeacon Paul Nimchek, of Terryville, CT; and Protodeacon Basil Andruchow, of Boston, MA, formerly assigned to Holy Trinity. The altar servers were Gregory Sulich, from the OCA Chancery in Syosset, NY, and Holy Trinity servers Nick Dresko, Dave Delaney, Matt Ferrandino, and Dan McGuire.

A large crowd was gathered at liturgy for the Eucharistic banquet. His Grace, Bishop Nikon, preached the sermon and called us all to the same sanctity and fruits of the Holy Spirit demonstrated by all the saints who were commemorated on that Sunday. The choir, under the



His Beatitude shares memories of the parish and Fr. John at the banquet. (Photo: Paul Salina)



Fr. John and Matushka Elizabeth at the "memory table" at the banquet. (Photo: Paul Salina)

direction of Matushka Elizabeth, responded in its usual glorious fashion. We are truly blessed to have such a talented and dedicated group of singers.

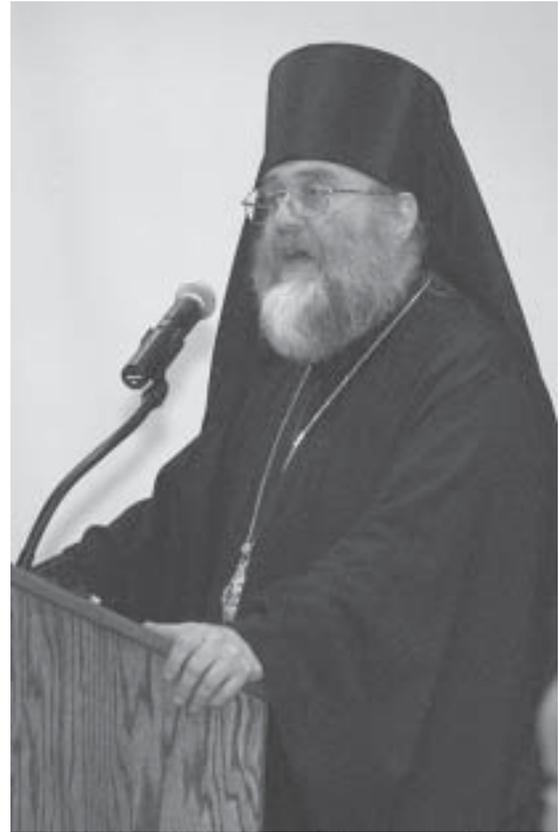
At the end of liturgy, His Grace, Bishop Nikon, presented Fr. John with a Gramota from the Holy Synod of Bishops commemorating the 25th anniversary of his ordination. Then His Beatitude surprised both Fr. John and Matushka Elizabeth by awarding them the Order of St. Innocent (Silver Medal) to honor their years of service and work in the Church.

Over 100 parishioners, family and friends gathered for the festive banquet held at the Hawthorne Inn in Berlin, one of the Dreskos' favorite restaurants. Upon entering, Fr. John was surprised by a "memory table," with various pictures from over the years arranged around a large sheet cake with a picture of Father on his ordination day, and a picture from today. A "before and after" cake, so to speak.

Christopher Dresko served as Master of Ceremonies. Speakers graciously honored Fr. John with memories and stories of service. George Ludko, on behalf of the parish council and parish, presented a very generous gift to Father. Fr. Michael Westerberg, Fr. David Brum, His Grace, Bishop Nikon, and His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius, all offered comments about the life and ministry which we were celebrating. His Grace, Bishop Benjamin, offered a very touching stroll down memory lane, recounting how he and Fr. John met and became great friends and then roommates at the seminary.

The highlight of the presentations was a surprise video presentation of the 25 year ministry prepared by Fr. John's children. It was a ten minute pictorial journey from 1979 – a young priest, husband and father all the way through pictures of the previous evening's service!

Finally, it was Fr. John's turn to offer some thoughts. He offered that the "25" of the celebration was not so special – after all, it meant that he lived long enough! But he also stressed that the "15" of the celebration was something special indeed. It meant that everyone had tried to make it work. The past 15 years were the same struggles that everyone experiences in marriage. Learn-



His Grace, the Right Reverend Benjamin, Bishop of Berkeley, main speaker at the banquet. (Photo: Paul Salina)

ing to tolerate each other, learning to forgive each other, but above all, learning to love each other. A humbled and thankful priest noted that his ministry in the 102-year old parish was now second in tenure to Fr. Joseph Dankevich, who was pastor for 35 years (1921-1956). Thanks be to God for all things!

All in all, it was a very special and glorious day for a very special and glorious celebration. Father and his family thank everyone who helped make the celebration such a wonderful weekend. Many Years to all the faithful of Holy Trinity Church!



(L-R) Nick, Juliana, Fr. John, Matushka Elizabeth, Greg and Chris Dresko. (Photo: Paul Salina)

OCA Department of Evangelization To Host Conference

SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] – With the blessing and encouragement of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, the Orthodox Church in America's Department of Evangelization will host a conference, "A Challenge to the Parish: For the Perfecting of the Saints, for the Work of the Ministry, for the Edifying of the Body of Christ," at Saint Vladimir Seminary, Crestwood, NY August 30-September 1, 2004.

"The theme was selected in response to the 2003 evangelization conference, whose participants identified various areas of parish and mission life that need to be addressed," according to the Rev. Eric Tosi, department director. "These areas include revitalization of parish life, ministry within inner city and ethnic parishes, healing divisions in parish communities, addressing the needs of parishes in declining demographic

regions, outreach programs in mission-oriented parishes, and building community among parishioners of different backgrounds."

Clergy from across North America with experience in various areas of parish life will offer lectures and workshops on these and related topics.

"We are pleased that they are willing to share their experience and expertise with those who will participate in the conference," Father Tosi added. "Each speaker will present a lecture that will be followed by a period of discussion."

Speakers include the Very Revs. Vladimir Alexeev, Joseph Hirsch, Joseph Lickwar, John Pierce, Vadim Pogrebniak, and Matthew Tate and the Rev. Thomas Soroka. Evangelization department members will also be present to offer presentations and lead discussions.

The conference is open to all clergy and faithful committed to the work of missions and evangelization.

Cost for the full program, which includes meals and seminary housing, is \$200 [\$250 after July 30]. For those not requiring housing, the cost including meals is \$100 [\$150 after July 30]. Off-campus housing with a special rate of \$110 per night has been arranged at the Royal Regency Hotel, Yonkers, NY and the Holiday Inn Yonkers, both within minutes of the seminary campus.

Registrations forms, schedules, and other pertinent information may be downloaded from the OCA web site at 2004 Missions Conference. Completed registration forms should be mailed for faxed to the OCA Department of Evangelization, PO Box 675, Syosset, NY 11791-0675; fax 516/922-0954.

21st Century Info

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www.dneoca.org

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jdresko@cox.net

Give your name and address and home parish. This is to verify your diocesan membership and to remove the correct mailing label from the monthly mailing.

Please state that you wish to receive Orthodox New England electronically instead of by mail.

FORCC News

We hope you enjoyed our beautiful Paschal Greetings on the billboards. FORCC (The Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in Connecticut) would be delighted to receive donations earmarked for our billboard project, if you are so inclined. Also, if you see a billboard that you feel would be a great location for our ads, please jot down the billboard company name, board number and give to your FORCC representative.

Our eleventh annual benefit dinner is scheduled for Sunday, October 3, 2004 at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Park Avenue, Bridgeport. Four \$500 and two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

Protopresbyter John N. Kaloudes, Development Director for IOCC will be our guest speaker. Topic of discussion will be Orthodox and the family.

Ad forms for the banquet benefit program book are now available in

your parish. These ads are our only fundraiser. Please help FORCC by purchasing an ad.

We have planned for some special programs during our meetings – on June 17th, we had a discussion on the movie "The Passion of Christ."

Tentative programs are as follows:

September 16th, Hope Line
October 21st, Christian Education information
November 18th, Life Line.

The November 18th meeting will be held at Three Saints Church, Ansonia. Election of officers will take place at that time.

Have a safe, happy summer.

– submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

The True Worth of Man

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourouz

(Continued from last month)

But the essential event, the essential act of solidarity is the incarnation of the Word of God. God becomes man. He enters into history. One may say, he acquires a temporal destiny; he becomes part and parcel of a becoming. But how far does this solidarity go? Usually in our sermons we underline, or we hear people say, that he became partaker of all that was man's condition except sin.

And if we ask what are these things he became partaker of, we are told that it is the limitations of time and space and the conditions of human life, tiredness, and hunger and thirst and anguish and isolation and loneliness and hatred and persecution and in the end death upon the cross. But when we have said this we seem to overlook something which is subjacent to all this, something which seems to me more important than any of these things. Yes, Christ accepts finally not only human life but human death. But what does this imply? How far does this solidarity go?

If you turn to Scripture you will see that death and sin, that is death and severance from God, death and the loss of God, what one can call etymologically atheism, are inseparably linked. The fact of not having a God is at the root of death.

St. Maximus the Confessor, in one of his writings, brings it out in a most striking way; speaking of the Incarnation, he says that in the very moment of the conception of Christ, even in his humanity Christ was immortal, because one cannot conceive of a human flesh united to the Godhead and capable of death.

Further, when we speak of the crucifixion we are aware of the fact that the death of Christ upon the Cross was an impossible tearing apart of an immortal soul and an immortal body; it was not the fading away of life; it was a dramatic, an impossible

event inflicted by the will of God on the one who was both equally and perfectly God and man.

But then the words of Christ upon the Cross acquire a significance that is deeper and more terrifying than anything which we have made of them. When the Lord says 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?', it is a moment in which, metaphysically, in an unspeakable way, in a way for which we cannot account because we can account for nothing in the mystery of Christ, Jesus nailed to the Cross loses the consciousness of his union with God. He can die, because he, free of sin, becomes at that moment fully partaker of the destiny of man, and he also is left without God, and having no God he dies.

This is also what is signified in the Apostles' Creed when it says 'He descended into hell'. Hell in the Hebrew tradition was the place where God was not; he went into the depth of this absence of God and he died.

Here is the measure of a divine solidarity with us, not only the shedding of blood, not only the death on the Cross, but the very condition of this death upon the Cross, of this death altogether, the loss of God.

And here we see that there is not one atheist in the world, whether ideological or, if I may put it this way, gastric – if you take St. Paul's word that some have made their belly into their gods – no atheist has ever gone into the loss of God, into atheism, in the way in which Christ has gone into it, has experienced it and has died of it – he, immortal in his humanity as in his divinity.

This is far beyond any other form of solidarity. This is the full measure of Christ's and God's love for men in what God is prepared to do, and the measure of how far he is prepared to go in his oneness with us. But then again, when we think of men, of those men who are not of the Church, of those men who are outside of it, who

have turned against it because of us, because the name of God is blasphemed among the nations for our sake, then we can see how far we dare to go, and how great our daring must be.

Our solidarity must be with Christ first, and in him with all men to the last point, to the full measure of life and death. Only then, if we accept this, can we, each of us, and can the congregation of all faithful people, the people of God, grow into what it was in Christ and into what it was in the Apostles, into a group of people whose vision was greater than the vision of the world, whose scope was greater than the scope of the world so that the Church in the beginning could contain all these, could be partakers of all those things which were the condition of man, and therefore could lead mankind into salvation.

And this is not the state in which we are. We have grown small because we have made our God into an idol and ourselves into slaves. We must recapture the sense of the greatness of that God revealed in Christ and the greatness of man revealed by him. And then the world may begin to believe and we may become co-workers of God for the salvation of all things. Amen.

(A University Sermon preached in the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Oxford, on October 22, 1967, by the Most Revd. Anthony Bloom, Metropolitan of Sourouz.)

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

September Issue
August 1st

October Issue
September 1st

PARISHES FROM 4

Twenty-eight children of all ages participated by reading a total of over 1,000 hours to doubles last years reading effort.

The students were presented with a special book in recognition of their effort. Corey Knap, 68 hours 33 minutes; Caitlin Mitchell, 37 hours 13 minutes; Rebecca Swimmer, 34+ hours; Lauren Tvardzik, 33+ hours; Steven Swimmer, 30+ hours. Our first time participants, ranging in age from 2 years and up: Elizabeth Crosby, Thomas Crosby, Roman Filyaw, Alexandra Kropova, Dennis Kropova, Andrew Lybousky, Darya Lybousky, Alexandra Millberg, and Maria Papademetris also received awards for their efforts.

Congratulations to an exceptional effort by the team of Elisabeth Colandro (61+ hours) with grandfather Joseph Pope (44+ hours). All readers are commended for their fine effort, as are the adult buddies who guided the choice of reading material, providing encouragement to keep on reading and demonstrated enthusiasm in this enriching team effort. Also, the adult buddies who read to the toddlers who were first time participants. May God bless all of you and grant you Many Years!

Congratulations to: Colleen Ross for being inducted into the National Honor Society and the Latin Honor Society at Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden. Also, to our college graduates, Gheorghe and Daniela Doros, Yale University; Alexander Oji, Trinity College in Hartford; and Lawrence Oji, Emory University in Atlanta. Gregory Farm (grandson of Olga Farm), a sophomore at UCONN, has received a fellowship to G.E. in Kentucky, where he will spend his summer. We wish all of you great success in your future endeavors. May God grant you many years!

Safe journey wished to Gheorghe and Daniela Doros as they travel to Indianapolis where Gheorghe will begin his new job on June 12.

Heartfelt sympathy extended to Anastasia Meinikoff Avgerinos and Penelope Mitchell on the loss of their beloved husband and father, George. George fell asleep in the Lord on May 2. Memory Eternal!

May 9th, a single red rose was presented to each Mother, Grandmother, Godmother, Adoptive Mother, Foster Mother, and those who are like Mothers on Mother's Day. God bless all of you with Many Years!

The Ladies Auxiliary attended a dinner hosted by the ladies of St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Orange. All had great food, fellowship.

The Orthodox Christian Library Outreach (OCLO), earlier this year, donated money to help with the publishing of a children's book on Icons in the Polish language. We recently received two copies of the book from the Orthodox Church in Bialystok, Poland. The books will be in our library. If you would like to read the book, it is written in Polish.

The Kropova family (Arcady, Elena, Dennis & Alexandra) donated a book on the Life of Czar Nicholas II to the church library. Sincere thanks and Many Years!

A Molieben and the close of Church School was held



Read-a-Thon participants in New Haven.

on the Second Sunday after Pentecost. The Victor Panko Memorial Scholarships were presented to our students who will be attending college next year. Jason Maldera, Nicole Maldera, Lawrence Oji and Patrick Ross.

We would be delighted to receive donations earmarked for the Victor Panko memorial Scholarships, if you are so inclined. Donations may be sent to Victor Panko Scholarship Fund, Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 25 Kohary Drive, New Haven, CT 06515.

Special thanks to Starosta Dan Crosby and Assistant Starosta Dmitry Klimenko for adorning our church with greens and branches for Pentecost. The Altar Guild for donating the beautiful new green altar coverings and servers' vestments. All parishioners for supporting our coffee hour, which is the only monetary source the Altar Guild has to provide for the covers, vestments, feast day flowers, and for the general beautification of our church. May God bless all of you and grant you Many Years!

- submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

Stamford, Connecticut

St. Mary's Holy Assumption Orthodox Church started the summer with its annual tag sale sponsored by the St. Mary's Men's Club. This was one of St. Mary's most successful fund-raising activities. Many wonderful items to be sold were contributed by St. Mary's parishioners, and ethnic foods made by members of the Ladies' Guild, such as pierogi, stuffed cabbage and breads and other pastries, were also very popular with the busy shoppers. In addition to raising a significant amount of funds for the church, the event was a great opportunity for parishioners to participate together in planning the activity.

June is also a time for graduations and several members of our church reached this personal achievement. Anna Horoschak, daughter of Fr. Vladimir and Matushka Anna Horoschak, graduated with high honors from

St. Vladimir's Seminary

575 Scarsdale Road, Crestwood, NY 10707-1699

Adult Education Institute 2004*Does Christian Marriage Have A Future?*

Our culture teaches us things about sexuality and marriage that strongly oppose the Christian understanding. This assault affects all Christians- celibate, married, young or old. This leads us to ask some important questions: • Will Christian marriage, with its Biblical foundations, survive? • How will divergent cultural definitions of sexuality and marriage impact friendship, courtship, the family, and the Church community? • How will celibate and married persons understand chastity? • How will Christians understand masculinity and femininity? Answers to such questions are vital to the daily life of Christians, of parishes and of our society. This year's lecture series by members of the St Vladimir's Seminary Faculty will examine Christian marriage and sexuality, addressing how we as Christians, living in this culture, can strive to be faithful to the Orthodox teaching in our relationships and witness.

The series of five lectures will be held at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 285 Alden Ave, New Haven, Connecticut. Lectures will be on Monday evenings, beginning September 20th and ending on October 18th. 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 20: *Marriage: The Pursuit of Wholeness and Holiness*
Dean John Erickson

Monday, September 27: *New Testament Readings for the Marriage Service*
Professor John Barnet

Monday, October 4: *Marriage and Asceticism*
Father John Behr

Monday, October 11: *Contemporary Challenges: Divorce, Mixed and Interfaith Marriages, Cohabitation*
Father Alexander Rentel

Monday, October 18: *Contemporary Challenges: Same-Sex Unions*
Doctor Peter Bouteneff

Registration Form

Name _____ Individual \$25

Address _____ Group: 8 persons \$150

City, State, Zip _____

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

Parish _____ City _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____ [*Please make checks payable to 'OCLO'*]

PARISHES FROM 10

Westhill High School. In September, Anna will be attending the Stamford branch of the University of Connecticut. Joseph Kay also graduated from Westhill High School and will be enlisting with the U.S. Army. Lydia Kovalchuk, daughter of choir director, Helen Kovalchuk, graduated from Stamford High School with high honors. Helen will be attending Central Connecticut State University in the fall. Adam Gardner graduated from Masuk High School in Monroe and will be attending the University of Connecticut in September. Lastly, Michael Lewis graduated from Western Middle School. Michael was also the recipient of the Principal's Award for Overall Excellence.

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 working to prepare craft items for the Fair. Much hard work goes into the preparation for St. Mary's largest fundraiser. St. Mary's is also greatly anticipating the arrival of its Russian church bells. We are expecting the Blagovest bells to arrive in October. Several members of our parish have heard demonstrations of the bells at local parishes and we expect the bells to beautifully enhance our services.

- submitted by Gregory Driscoll

Woodbury, Connecticut

We are drawing closer to moving into our new church building, and anxiously anticipating that day. We welcome visitors to our new home, which we should be in by the end of the summer months. In an effort to make our mortgage payments viable, we have undergone a campaign to raise \$100,000 to be matched by an anonymous donor. As of May 30, we have just over \$50,000 to be



New church building takes shape in Southbury, CT

matched. Through our generous donor, we now have until the end of August (Labor Day) to raise an additional \$50,000 to be matched. If you are able to help us meet this goal in any way, please feel free to write or contact us! Many thanks to all of you who have helped us thus far!

The end of the school year brought graduation for several of our youth. Kate Jellinghaus graduated with her Master of Fine Arts degree, and recently returned from studies in Bulgaria. Nicholas Aleandro graduated from St. Michael's College in Vermont with his Bachelors in Business Administration. Will Kopcha, our Eagle Scout, graduated from Pomperaug High School and is looking forward to his entrance into the UCONN Honors program. Alexa Anderson graduated from eighth grade, and will begin her high school career in the fall. Many years to you all, and congratulations!

Looking ahead, we are planning to host the Connecticut Bible Lecture Series led by Fr. Paul Tarazi from Friday, November 5 to November 6. This year's topic will be The Psalms.

- submitted by Sarah Cole

ONE-Orthodox New England

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