

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Diocesan see declared vacant

Election to be set

March 30, 2005

**To the Very Reverend and Reverend
Clergy, Monastics and Faithful of the
Diocese of New England**

At its Spring Session, the Holy Synod of Bishops declared the Episcopal See of Hartford and the Diocese of New England to be vacant and directed that the election of the diocesan hierarch take place in accord with The Statute of the Orthodox Church. In the near future, I shall meet with the Diocesan Council in preparation for the convening of a Diocesan Assembly whose sole purpose shall be the nomination of a candidate for the office of Diocesan Bishop, and whose name shall be presented to the Holy Synod for canonical election.

Invoking God's blessing upon you and assuring you of my continued prayerful support, I remain

With love in Christ,



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



Youth Rally 2005

**To pre-register (and to be placed on the
list to receive registration materials)
please immediately call or email**

**Fr. John Hopko, Youth Rally Director,
at phone number (860) 582-3631,
or email address saintcyril@snet.net**

**Pre-register today for the Diocesan
Youth Rally!**

Here are the details:

What: Diocesan Youth Rally 2005

Who: All diocesan youth who have completed fifth grade and have not yet celebrated their 18th birthday are eligible to attend Youth Rally, (together with adults who are interested in and eligible to serve as leaders!)

When: August 15-20, 2005

Where: At the Campgrounds of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Boston Camp, Contoocook, NH, (the same place as last year!)



Diocese of New England • Orthodox Church in America

Volume 15 • Number 5 • May 2005

<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 Beatitudo, Metropolitan HERMAN, Locum tenens
His Grace, Bishop NIKON, Administrator
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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ONE STEWARDS: PO Box 1182, Torrington, CT 06790-1182

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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YES, I enjoy the articles, correspondence and editorials of *O.N.E. (Orthodox New England)* and would like to contribute towards the expenses of publishing this periodical. Find enclosed my check made out to "Diocese of New England."

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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.

May 1, 2005

THE HOLY PASCHA

May 9, 16, 23, 2005

Presentations on the Book of Revelation, 7:00 P.M.
Fr. Paul Tarazi
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

May 12, 2005

Connecticut Deanery Meeting, 7:00 P.M.
Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Meriden, CT

May 13-14, 2005

Presentations on the Book of Isaiah
Fr. Paul Tarazi
Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT

May 25, 2005

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

May 30, 2005

100th Annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage
St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, PA

June 3-4, 2005

Consecration of New Church
Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT

June 6, 2005

Presentation on the Book of Revelation, 7:00 P.M.
Fr. Paul Tarazi
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

June 19-24, 2005

Summer Institute of Music and Pastoral Practice
St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY

July 17-22, 2005

14th ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL, Toronto

September 18, 2005

90th Anniversary Celebration
St. Nicholas Church, Norwich, CT

September 25, 2005

90th Anniversary Celebration
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

October 7-8, 2005

100th Anniversary Celebration
Holy Trinity Church, Springfield, VT

Around the Parishes

Chelsea, Massachusetts

At the close of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, March 6th, Father John T. Bacon, Rector of Nativity of the Virgin Mary parish here, presented special *Certificates of Appreciation* to all the members of the "St. Mary's" Choir.

The recognition honored both present and "retired" members. Fr. John pointed out that some of the singers had served in that position since childhood. "We say 'thank you' today to all those who have given countless hours of service to this parish community, to those who have worked very hard to make our liturgical life prayerful and beautiful," he said. A surprise potluck dinner was given to honor all the members of the choir.

Particular mention must also be made that on the First Sunday of Great Lent (March 20), Marilyn Shesko completed thirty years as our choir director!

– submitted by Archpriest John T. Bacon

OUR DIOCESE

PEOPLE
PLACES
EVENTS

Claremont, New Hampshire

It seems to have been a long, long time since *ONE's Around The Parishes* has received a news report from Holy Resurrection Church here in central New Hampshire. Hopefully, this will be the first of successive reports to *ONE* from the parish of activities and events contributing to the growth of this faith community.

In 2004, the parish requested and received a blessing from His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, for a proposed plan of renovating and expanding the church building at its present location on Sullivan Street. This plan includes widening both the nave and parish hall with east and west additions, a new narthex and extension of outside stairs to the street. The parish hall will include redesigned kitchen, serving, dining and washroom facilities.

In March the project's architect and structural engineer inspected the facilities and found that the bell tower structure is not sound and that will need to be "shored up" before further renovations are undertaken.

The parish hosted the Northern Deanery's mission vespers on the Sunday of Orthodoxy with representatives and clergy from all four deanery parishes. Also represented was Archpriest Alexander Andrusov and members of Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Manchester (Moscow Patriarchate).



Fr. John Bacon and honored choir members in Chelsea, Massachusetts

The following mission vespers were hosted by St. Jacob of Alaska Mission in Northfield Falls, VT, Holy Resurrection Church in Berlin, NH and Holy Trinity Church in Springfield, VT.

Three members led by Nil Nellis are presently on a trip to Greece to visit Mark and Laura Montague and family in Thessaloniki and to visit Mount Athos. Mark is currently continuing his theological education at the university in that city.

Caleb Abetti and family are currently residing in Crestwood, NY where Caleb is finishing his first year at St. Vladimir's Seminary.

– submitted by Lawrence Johnson

Hartford, Connecticut

A great Eggs-travaganza it was at All Saints Orthodox Church as persons gathered to learn the fine art of Pysanky, sample some great Lenten foods, and satisfy their needs for Pascha (Easter) gifts through our expanding bookstore. The day was coordinated by Cathy Vargas who with several volunteers presented a day to enthuse the public. Helping in the event were two teachers of Pysanky—Susan Ranstead and Mary Beth Stenko. Susan has many beautiful Pysanky for sale (even ones for Yankee fans and, oh well, Red Sox fans, too – pastor's note). She can be contacted through the Church for them. Making Egg-Stravaganza the fun event it was were Chris Evans, Dave Vargas and Tom Denisky, lead kitchen people; Olga Powlishen, Helen Uremko and Dr. Chet Andrzejewski, steering our baked goods offerings with members of the Sisterhood; Joan Holobinko who coordinated the vareniki workshops and the many volunteers who helped make them; and Phyllis Sturtevant who worked with Cathy on set-up. Many Years!

We welcomed a new member Theodora St. Georges

Who are you?

Reverend Father Bohdan Hladio

I know your name, I know your family, but I don't know you. The phone call I got about you was the one I dread. "Father, so and so has passed away, and the family wants to know when you can serve the funeral"

What am I supposed to do? I've been in this parish long enough to have seen and met anyone who has even the slightest connection with our community. I've never seen you in Church. I've never spoken with you. I've never noticed you at a Panakhyda, a wedding, a baptism, or a funeral. Where have you been?

Were you a believer? If you were a believer, you certainly didn't act like one. What I mean is that there has always been a clear set of expectations set before anyone who wishes to call themselves a Christian. Christians approach Holy Confession and Holy Communion at least once a year, for example. You didn't. Christians support the Church with their time, money, and talents. You didn't. Christians attend Divine Services regularly. You, to my knowledge, and to the knowledge of everyone I've talked to, haven't darkened the door of our church in years.

From what I've been told you were rather successful at what you did. You obviously spent lots of time learning career skills, spent lots of time working and making money. From your address I see that you certainly were well off financially. But even this confuses me, because our parish keeps records of everyone who donates even the smallest amount of money, and I've never seen your name there. You had money for the government. You had money for food. You had money for shelter, for vacations, for a cottage, for concerts, and for restaurants. Yet now that you're dead it's the Church, the same Church you didn't support when you had the chance, that gets asked to bury you. "But he was baptized here", they tell me. Sometimes I think the sectarians are right, and we should wait until people reach the age of reason so that they might consciously accept baptism, with all its consequences and responsibilities. The fact that you were baptized here simply underlines the fact that someone failed – perhaps your family, perhaps our community, perhaps you yourself – in your Christian upbringing and development. If you hadn't been baptized you (and your parents and godparents) would at least have

an excuse for your conduct.

At times like this I just want to go on vacation, and let a substitute priest deal with things, because not knowing the situation at least he won't have qualms of conscience. Did you believe in God, or did you mock God? Were you positively disposed to the Church and Her teachings, or did you actively support social and moral teachings such as access to abortion which are anti-Christian? Not knowing these things, I don't know if it's proper to bury you. A Christian burial is for Christians. Were you? The Church always gives the benefit of the doubt, but we've got to base that benefit on something. So far, I'm drawing a blank.

What do I say to your family? They are distressed and heartbroken. All of us realize that death is just around the corner, that a weak heart, a drunk driver, or any of a myriad of other causes can snuff out our life even as we feel ourselves to be young, healthy, and in control of our destiny. Your sudden death, not having time to say even a simple "good-bye, I love you" has devastated them. I hope there were no unresolved conflicts, because in a case like this it makes those left behind even more distraught, and sometimes those wounds never heal.

The one thing I can say for sure is that you do have a few devout relatives, people who truly love God and serve Him in any way they can. While most of your friends and family would be only mildly upset if I didn't bury you. (I actually think they'd be happier. A "rent-a-preacher" service would be shorter and more easily forgotten, and afterwards they'd have the satisfaction of complaining about how the priest was "unfair" or "judgmental" and feel justified in not having anything to do with the Church. Until they wanted a nice wedding. Or to baptize their child. Or died). It's these pious relatives who are foremost in my mind as I consider what to do.

But as the saying goes, "God has children, but no grandchildren". It doesn't matter whether our parents or aunts or uncles are saintly, or priests, or bishops, or whatever, it's what we ourselves do with the time, talents and material wealth which God has given to us which will either open or lock the gates of Heaven for us. If we don't want to be saved even God Himself can't force us (and God can do anything!).

The bottom line, you see, is that I don't feel comfortable making either you, or me, or the Church into a hypocrite. Jesus preached love, but He also preached

truth and responsibility. He accepted the worst sinners who repented, but he condemned everyone (the "church people" first and foremost!) who was hypocritical. So you see, my problem is not that you were a sinner. I'm a sinner too. My problem is that if you consciously chose not to have anything to do with the Church during your lifetime then burying you from the Church makes you into a hypocrite, which I don't want to do. If I decide to bury you for a stipend, or just in order not to "make waves" in the community, I'm then a hypocrite. And if hypocritical priests bury hypocritical laymen it certainly makes the Church appear hypocritical, doesn't it?

"But the Church is full of hypocritical people", you might say. You're right, and again, I'm one of them. I personally would rather deal with an honest agnostic than a nominal believer. But the very fact that someone is willing to give God the "benefit of the doubt" (if not real faith) by paying their parish membership, by being well disposed towards the Church, by showing up for the occasional religious or cultural or social gathering really does mean something. We are taught that when we take one step towards God, He comes running toward us (you may have heard the story of the prodigal son. It's been on the best seller list for a long time). At this moment I'd really like to learn about any conscious step you may have taken in your adult life towards God. I'm not having much luck.

So I don't know what to do. I don't know whether giving you a Christian burial will be for God's glory, or compromise the Church's authority and discipline. We all know that a funeral has absolutely nothing to do with whether we go to heaven or not. Many saints didn't receive a Christian burial, but are in heaven. Others, who were buried with great pomp and ceremony but had grave, unrepented sins weren't helped by their funerals, because repenting is one of the few things only we can do for ourselves. In any other sphere of life a different set of expectations is in place – if I'm not in the army, for example, and ask for a military funeral the officer at the local base will not only deny my request, he'll think that I'm crazy. But the Church, is, well, supposed to be different!

"But Father, the funeral is for the living". If I hear this nonsense one more time I think I'm going to be sick. I've

FORCC News

Special thanks to Matushka Lydia Westerberg for obtaining billboard space for our Paschal Greetings. If you see a billboard that would be a great location for our ads, please jot down the billboard company name, board number and give it to a FORCC rep.

“Teaching Our Faith: A Seminar for Orthodox Church School Educators” will be held on May 14 at Holy Trinity Greek Church, Bridgeport. We will have guest speakers, breakout sessions and review of available Sunday school material, followed by a luncheon.

FORCC Scholarship applications are now available on our website (www.forcc.org). These scholarships are for students of **FORCC member parishes. The Smerznak, Medak & Kidwell Scholarships** (\$1,000.00 each for one boy and one girl) and **FORCC Scholarships** (\$500.00 each) will be awarded at our Banquet in October. Applications should be sent to: Eva Vaniotis, 4100 Park Ave, #12, Bridgeport, CT 06604 **by June 1, 2005.**

– submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon.

WHO ARE YOU FROM 4

never heard of a funeral being served for someone who was alive. Orthodox Christians believe that prayers for the dead can be beneficial. We don't believe in “closed casket” funerals, or worse yet, funerals without a corpse. Yes, a funeral, piously served and chanted, with a proper sermon, can bring great comfort to the grieving and spiritual edification (sometimes even enlightenment) to those present. But it's my experience that people “write their own eulogy”. In cases like yours lying won't do, and telling the truth might not be terribly comfortable.

So forgive me. If I was wiser, and more compassionate, and holier, I'd know what to do, what to say. But I don't. Am I going to serve the funeral? I don't know yet. The only thing I know for sure is that at this moment I hope and pray with all my heart that your current dilemma is less traumatic than mine. But somehow I doubt it.

Fr. Hladio is Pastor of Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor of St. Vladimir, Hamilton, Ontario

Orthodoxy Sunday



Holy Trinity Church in New Britain hosted the Connecticut Deanery Orthodoxy Vespers. Fr. John Dresko, pastor, proclaims the Great Prokiemenon after the reading of the Synodikon of Orthodoxy. (L-R) Fr. John Kreta, Fr. Timothy Lowe, Fr. Dresko, Fr. Michael Westerberg, and Fr. Steven Voytovich.

Other services were held around Connecticut: in Norwich, Waterbury, and Bridgeport. All parishes are encouraged throughout Connecticut to attend local celebration.

SVS Chorale



The St. Vladimir's Seminary Chorale visited Holy Trinity Church in New Britain on April 17th. Deacon Kevin Smith directed the chorale, who responded at liturgy and sang a concert following coffee hour.

PARISHES FROM 3

who comes to All Saints with her husband George, and children Athena, George IV, Katherine and Christopher. Welcome and Many Years!

Congratulations are in order for John Medynski who attained the rank of Eagle Scout. John is the son of Jan and Nick Medynski, and is a reader and altar server. The parish honored him with a cake to celebrate his achievement.

Congratulations too to Nicholas Vargas, son of Cathy and Dave Vargas, on his selection to the All-Eastern United States Honor Choir. A junior at Rocky Hill High School, Nicholas was one of six bases selected from Connecticut for the choir and performed at the All Eastern MENC Conference, held in Baltimore, MD. Nicholas has also appeared in many school and regional drama and musical productions.

Our Lenten Suppers which follow Presanctified Liturgies continue to be a pleasant way to end the evening with good food provided by volunteer teams and fellowship. Lent was prelude by our Meatfare Dinner prepared under the watchful eye of talented chef Chris Evans.

– submitted by Fr. William DuBovik

New Haven, Connecticut

Our special food collection for the area's needy and homeless netted 500 pounds of food that was donated to the Connecticut Food Bank. Great work.

The Church School Lenten Read-a-Thon began on March 14th with the start of Great Lent; the youth participate in an age appropriate commitment of religious readings from Forgiveness Sunday to Pascha. The youths are paired with an adult buddy and spend time at home reading the Bible or materials from the parish library. Some also do readings before, after and during services. We are blessed with many children who look forward to this event and try to see who accumulates the most hours of reading.

Most activities were curtailed during Great Lent so that we may enrich our lives by partaking of the many liturgical services in preparation of the Paschal triumph. Speaking of preparations, our choir members are hard at work, singing for the pre-lenten and lenten services; also preparing for our 90th Anniversary Celebration. On April 2nd, our choir (adult and children) members, under the direction of Matushka Lydia Westerberg, participated in a three-hour recording session with Grace Recording Studio, recording a 90th Anniversary Commemorative CD featuring hymns from our feast days throughout the year.

Jean Cherniavsky, along with Anne Bosse and Martha Lee Asarisi, were busy making appointments for our parish families to have their portraits taken for our 90th Anniversary pictorial directory. A photographer and a portrait consultant from Olan Mills arrived on the first weekend in April to accomplish this task. On April 3rd,



Faithful celebrate the Baptism of Timothy Cole in Southbury, CT

group photos were taken following Liturgy.

The Ladies Auxiliary hosted our traditional and marvelous lenten suppers held after the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts and the Vespertal Liturgy for Annunciation. Compliments to the parishioners, who planned, shopped, prepared and cooked the delicious lenten and vegetable dishes.

We were saddened by the death of a dedicated and hard working member of our parish, Alexandra (Stella-Cris) Semenkovich who Fell Asleep In the Lord on March 15. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her family. Memory Eternal.

– submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

Southbury, Connecticut

March, bringing with it the start of Great Lent was also a time of renewed birth, as we participated in two baptisms. On the Sunday of Orthodoxy, Timothy Lee Cole was born anew during the Divine Liturgy. Timothy's sponsor Nick Aleandro and honorary sponsor Christine Brainerd were most excited for Timothy's new beginning.

On Friday night, as we celebrated the Feast of the Annunciation, Ezekial Jennings was baptized. His joy and

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Faithful celebrate the Baptism of Ezekial Jennings in Southbury, CT

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

285 Alden Avenue New Haven, CT 06515

90th Anniversary Spring Lecture Series***An Exposition of the Book of Revelations***

by

Father Paul Nadim Tarazi**Professor of Old Testament**

Saint Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, New York

Adjunct Professor of Old Testament

Hellenic College – Holy Cross Seminary, Brookline, Massachusetts

The series of four lectures will be held at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 285 Alden Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut. Lectures will be on Monday evenings, beginning May 9th and ending on June 6th. (No lecture on Memorial Day, May 30th.) 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:

Spring Lecture Series 25 Kohary Drive New Haven, CT 06515

Four Monday Evenings
May 9, 16, 23 and June 6
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Father Tarazi is the author of:

The Old Testament – Historical Traditions
The Old Testament – Psalms and Wisdom
The New Testament – Luke and Acts
Galatians – A Commentary

The Old Testament – Prophetic Traditions
The New Testament – Paul and Mark
First Thessalonians – A Commentary
The Book of Revelations – A Commentary

Registration Form

Name	Individual \$20
Address	Group: 8 persons \$150
City, State, Zip	Check enclosed for \$
Phone: [with area code] (Day)	(Evening)
Parish	City

[Please make checks payable to 'OCLO']

PARISHES FROM 6

exuberance were contagious! Many years to Ezekial, his parents Ted and Lavinia and his sponsors Neil and Ellen Latanzi and his honorary sponsor Ursula! Both baptisms were followed by a wonderful Lenten meal and fellowship.

We look forward to a second Connecticut Bible Lecture Series given by the Very Rev. Dr. Paul Tarazi on May 13 and 14. The series of four lectures will be on the Book of Isaiah, and promises to be interesting and informative. For more information, please call Father Vladimir Aleandro at 203-267-1330.

Our consecration date is fast approaching. Reader Peter Kopcha and his helpers are busy preparing for June 3-4. Anyone who would like to join us and would like to learn more can also contact Father.

- submitted by Sarah Cole

<p>PUBLICATION DEADLINES</p> <p>Summer Issue June 15th</p> <p>September Issue August 1st</p>

FORCC sponsors billboards

The Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in Connecticut have once again placed billboards with Paschal greetings around Connecticut. The following locations are where the billboards may be viewed:

- Ansonia* North Main Street near Fourth Street
- Bridgeport* Rt 2 Barnum & Mil Hill Avenue
US. 1 and Palisade Avenue Near Boston Avenue
- Hartford* New Park Avenue S/O Kane Street
- Milford* Post Road N/O Erna Street
- New Haven* Whalley Avenue at intersection with Amity Road
- Norwich* Rt 97 at the intersection of I-395
- Uncasville* Rt 32 at the intersection of Othem Lane near Mohegan Sun

The members of FORCC would like to thank those who provided the resources to enable the annual posting of these greetings.

	<p>CHRIST IS RISEN!</p> <p>WE GREET YOU WITH THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION. MAY 1, 2005</p> <p>THE FELLOWSHIP OF ORTHODOX CHURCHES OF CONNECTICUT [FORCC] WWW.FORCC.ORG</p>
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