

Special Assembly Held in Hartford

Discussions on a nomination for the office of diocesan bishop

A special Diocesan Assembly was held at All Saints Church in Hartford on June 23, 2005, at the direction of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, Locum tenens of the diocese. This assembly was called after the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America declared the diocesan see “vacant,” necessitating discussions on the nomination of a new ruling bishop for the diocese.

The day began with His Beatitude presiding at the Divine Liturgy. Concelebrating with the Metropolitan were His Grace, Bishop Nikon, Administrator of the Diocese; Protopresbyter Robert Kondratick, Chancellor of the OCA; Archpriest Michael Westerberg, Chancellor of the Diocese; Archpriest John Dresko, Dean of the Connecticut Deanery; Archpriest David Brum, Secretary to the Metropolitan; Archpriest Robert Arida, Dean of the Boston Deanery; Archpriest Mark Sherman, Dean of the Northern Deanery; Priest John Kreta, Dean of Missions for the Diocese; Priest William DuBovik, Rector of All Saints Church; Priest Joseph Irvin, Associate at All Saints Church; and Protodeacon Paul Nimchek.

At the end of the liturgy, His Beatitude called Protodeacon Paul Nimchek forward. A gramota was presented to Protodeacon Paul from the Holy Synod of Bishops in gratitude for the 25 years of service he has rendered to the



(L-R) Protopresbyter Robert Kondratick, Chancellor of the OCA, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, Archpriest Michael Westerberg, Chancellor of the Diocese

Church, the diocese and his parish (Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Terryville, CT).

Following the liturgy, the parish hosted a wonderful brunch for everyone in the parish hall, after which, everyone returned to the nave of the church to begin the important process of discussing the diocesan vacancy.

Instructions were given by the Chancellor of the OCA, Fr. Robert Kondratick. The first action

ASSEMBLY TO 12



Protodeacon Paul Nimchek receive a gramota from His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, honoring him for 25 years of diaconal service

ONE STEWARDS Second Chance

Attached to this issue of Orthodox New England is a “second chance” envelope for the annual ONE Stewards appeal. If you did not have a chance to make a donation in March, you are asked to prayerfully consider doing so now.

ONE Stewards voluntarily funds the programs of our diocese. Seminarian scholarships, youth programs, mission support, etc., all are funded through your donations. Not one penny goes to the administration of the diocese.

Please consider making a donation to this most important cause!



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His Grace, Bishop NIKON, Administrator
The Very Reverend John J. Dresko, Editor

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Editorial Office: V. REV. JOHN DRESKO, Editor
E-MAIL: jdresko@cox.net
FAX: (860) 620-0739
US MAIL: 95 Butternut Lane, Southington, CT 06489

DIOCESAN WEBSITE: <http://www.dneoca.org>

ONE STEWARDS: PO Box 1182, Torrington, CT 06790-1182

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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 17-22, 2005
14th ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL, Toronto

August 15-20, 2005
Annual Diocesan Youth Rally
Boston Diocese Camp, Contoocook, NH

September 18, 2005
90th Anniversary Celebration
St. Nicholas Church, Norwich, CT

September 19, 2005
SVS Lectures: The World of the Prophets, 7:00 P.M.
Fr. Paul Tarazi
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

September 25, 2005
90th Anniversary Celebration
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

September 26, 2005
SVS Lectures: Christ and Culture, 7:00 P.M.
Dean John Erickson
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

October 3, 2005
SVS Lectures: Confronting the World in the Second Century
7:00 P.M., Fr. John Behr
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

October 7-8, 2005
100th Anniversary Celebration
Holy Trinity Church, Springfield, VT

October 10, 2005
SVS Lectures: Liturgical Music and Culture, 7:00 P.M.
Mrs. Helen Erickson
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

October 17, 2005
SVS Lectures: Liturgy and Culture, 7:00 P.M.
Dr. Paul Meyendorff
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

October 28-29, 2005
42nd DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY
Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT

O.N.E. Press Fund

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.

Around the Parishes

Ansonia, Connecticut

Our Sunday School recently finished for the summer months – awards were presented to the children present as well as cross necklaces. Special thanks to the Sunday School teachers and Stacey Pimpinelli and Gloria Timpko for taking over mid-year. We hope their enthusiasm continues for the next church school year.

The new bookstore recently opened in the auditorium as many parishioners had stated they could not find items relating to their faith, so Carol and Steve Zavednak decided to help. The store currently carries a selection of icons, adult and children's books, postcards, greeting cards, magnets, window decals, suncatchers, nightlights and much more. New items arrive daily from many vendors across the country. Soon to be on the shelves: Orthodox stationery, key chains and car visor clips. Stop in a pay a visit! The store is open every Sunday after Divine Liturgy (approx 10:45). You can contact The Zavednaks with any questions at (203) 735-0117 or fax them at (203) 735-0317. Special orders are welcome.

Congratulations as well to our graduates of high

OUR DIOCESE

PEOPLE
PLACES
EVENTS

school and college. God grant you many years! To all we wish you a safe and peaceful summer and hope to see you at services!

– submitted by Julie Craft

Claremont, New Hampshire

Andrew Christopher Belov, son of Anton and Naomi Belov of Princeton, NJ, received the Holy Sacrament of Baptism on Monday, May 16th, with Father Andrew Tregubov officiating and Father Paul Burholdt assisting.

The Holy Resurrection community was honored to greet His Grace, Bishop Nikon, for the hierarchical liturgy during his annual visitation on June 12th.

Assisting the bishop in the liturgy were Fathers Andrew and Paul and Mark Korban of Brownington, VT and southern Quebec, as well as Archdeacon Roman Skarnavicius of Springfield, MA.

Following the vesting of the bishop in the midst of the community was the tonsuring as reader of Ambrose (Chip) Powell of South Pomfret, VT and the ordination to the subdiaconate of Reader Lawrence Johnson of Frankestown, NH.

After the liturgy, on behalf of the Holy Synod, Bishop



(L-R) Fr. Paul Burholdt, Fr. Andrew Tregubov, godparents Gregory Lichter and Ann Brash, and newly-illuminated Andrew Belov.

Nikon awarded Father Paul the purple skufia for his years of service.

PARISHES TO 4

Southbury Church Consecrated

Christ the Savior Church is no longer a mission – we have attained parish status! The consecration of our temple was held on June 4, 2005. A glorious day unfolded beginning with the consecration of our altar led by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, and His Grace, Bishop Nikon, and in the company of many clergy and friends from near and far. Following the consecration of the church, the Divine Liturgy was celebrated.

A breakfast reception was held in our fellowship hall and outdoor tent following Liturgy. We had a joyous and most memorable day, which we ended with a banquet at the Dolce Heritage Inn. We thank all who came to visit and celebrate with us. (More pictures, page 8)



His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, greeted with traditional bread and salt as he enters the church.

PARISHES FROM 3



Singers in Claremont, NH

Blake and Stephanie Keller and their daughters, Maria and Faith, received a blessing for safe travel as the family moves from their West Hartford, VT home to a new home in greater Shanghai, PRC.

There was an informal luncheon in the undercroft for all present. This was followed with a concert by parishioners featuring such as *Nessun Dorma* from *Turandot* and *Ave Maria*, sung by Subdeacon Paul, through a number of duets and solos on violin, piano and recorder, to a selection of Sacred Harp hymns, harmonized by a group of six.

—submitted by Lawrence Johnson

Hartford, Connecticut

Spiritual voices and healing hands joined together at All Saints Orthodox Church in Hartford for a benefit concert, “Celebrating Faith’s Role in Healing, at the Church to aid breast cancer patients at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

Some 150 persons from the community were uplifted by the concert presented by the All Saints Choir under the direction of John Holobinko, who introduced the liturgical selections with enlivening comments on the lives and work of the composers.

Works by composers including Tchaikovsky, Kedrov, Chesnakov, Charkoff, Mironositsky, Kalinikov, Rachmaninov, Grechaninov and Turchaninov were beautifully sung by the inspired choir, comprising Valerie Olesnovich, Joan Holobinko, Marsha Coombs, Stephanie Lichatz, Andrea Lichatz, Michael Stenko, Michael Danchak and Clinton Hibdon.

“The music has struck in me a very deep, very personal chord, and I was suddenly becoming aware how all-encompassing, all embracing this music is, not only from the fullness of the sound, the rich tonal harmonies, the traditional modulations, and the almost eternal qualities, but how much related this eastern music is to our western sacral music, and how much of a give and take there must have been within the cultures,” commented Dr. Peter J.

Tutschka, physician in chief of the Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center Cancer Center.

“The music covered the Hagia Sofia in Constantinople, San Marco in Venice, and even reached the Cathedrals in Germany, like the High Dome in Regensburg.

“When I was a young boy, growing up in rural Bavaria, I frequently went to the May Vesper, an evening meditation serviced held daily in May in honor of the Virgin Mary,” the doctor continued. “The May evening vesper, and indeed the whole month of May was dedicated in Bavaria to the Holy Virgin, the Mother, the Female, and thus it is more than fitting that this concert is dedicated to the healing of the woman, to the fight against breast cancer, to the improvement of the female body and spirit.”

A wine and cheese reception followed the concert. Coordinating the benefit was Joan Holobinko, who is active in the Women’s Auxiliary of St. Francis Hospital.

— submitted by Fr. William DuBovik

New Britain, Connecticut

Once upon a time there lived a brave little girl who was diagnosed two days before her 1st birthday with Neuroblastoma cancer, an aggressive form of childhood cancer. Her name was Alexandra “Alex” Scott. Alex fought her cancer for many years, always hoping for a cure.

In 2000 at the age of 4, Alex set up her first lemonade stand in West Hartford, CT, to raise money to “help kids get better”. She raised \$2,000 and donated the money to her hospital, Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. Every year she had her lemonade stand, every year she donated her earnings for pediatric cancer research. In August, 2004, Alex succumbed to her disease.

Last year, June 12th was declared *Alex’s National Lemonade Stand Day*. All 50 states participated raising over \$1.4 million for pediatric cancer research. Our children gathered after liturgy on June 12th to run their own “Alex’s Lemonade Stand.” The kids raised \$170 to help fight



“Alex’s Lemonade Stand” at Holy Trinity Church in New Britain on June 12th.

pediatric cancer.

The Feast of Pentecost, our parish patronal feastday, was a joyous celebration. Following Liturgy and Kneeling Vespers, we had a festive luncheon to celebrate the feastday and to honor our graduates and dads (it was Father's Day).

Congratulations and Many Years to our graduates:

Alex Cabrera graduated from Quinnipiac University with a B.S. in Marketing.

Nick Dresko graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a B.A. in Graphic Design.

Tessa Karabin graduated from Keene State University with a B.S. in Nutrition.

Jennifer Kelly graduated from New Britain High School and will be attending Central Connecticut to study Elementary Education.

Sarah Roberts graduated from Conard High School and will begin studies at Tunxis Community College, with plans to study Marine Biology in Florida.

Leah Santoro graduated from Wethersfield High School and will be attending the University of Rhode Island to study international business.

John Shafran graduated with his bachelor's and master's degrees in Electrical Engineering from MIT. He has relocated to San Jose, CA.

New Haven, Connecticut

Our special 90th Anniversary Lecture Series was quite a success. We extend our gratitude to Father Tarazi for presenting this special series on the Book of Revelations. Thanks to all who donated their time, goodies, etc. to make these lectures a success. Many Years!

Saturday, May 21, a 90th Anniversary Special Children's Workshop on iconography was held. Mrs. Poloukhine (an iconographer) and her two iconography interns, taught the children (24 of them) about icons. The workshop lasted all day and into the evening. The children, with the help of Mrs. Poloukhine and her interns, each wrote an icon of an angel.

Sunday, May 22, we welcomed Father Joseph and Matushka Anna Lickwar, parents of Susan Lickwar. Father Joseph, a parish priest in Jersey City, New Jersey, preached.

Our choir presented a concert of Orthodox Liturgical Music on June 12 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Orange, which was followed by a selection of hymns sung by the choir of the Zion Lutheran Church.

The CD made by our choir of the liturgical music from our feast days is now available and receiving rave reviews. The CD is \$15.00 plus \$3.00 for postage and handling. To place your order, please make check payable to Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church and mail to: Richard Asarisi, c/o Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 25 Kohary Drive, New Haven, CT 06515

Congratulation and Best Wishes to *Andre' and RoseAnn Maldera* celebrated their 29th wedding anniversary on May 10. *Caitlin Mitchell*, 7th grader at Amity Junior High, Woodbridge on receiving Citizenship and Academic Honors. *Ashley Mitchell* won a blue ribbon (first place) for free style swimming. *Joseph Gallo* celebrated his 2nd birthday. *Jason Maldera* graduated from the University of Massachusetts - Lowell. *Larry Oji* graduated from Emery University. *Alex Oji* accepted a teaching position in the New Haven Public School System. May God grant all Many Years!

The church school students, under the direction of Penny Mitchell, recently participated in a nationwide project know as Bottles of Hope. They collect empty chemotherapy medicine bottles and decorate them with polymer clay. They write special notes and insert them into the bottles. The bottles are then distributed to the patients at the V.A. Medical Center in West Haven. Caitlin



*Holy Transfiguration Choir
at Zion Lutheran Church*

and Ashley Mitchell broached this project for the church school class when they recalled their grandfather's illness and how happy he would have been to know that the veterans were receiving a gift from our church school class. This will be a regular, ongoing project. The children learned about outreach and, because many of the students have family members with cancer, the project took on a special meaning. If you would like to sponsor a workshop, please contact Penny Mitchell, Church School Director, at 203-799-3119 for more information.

Caitlin and Ashley Mitchell are working on their Bronze and Silver Awards at the Junior and Cadet levels as well as their religious recognitions in Girl Scouts.

- submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

Southbury, Connecticut

One of our catechumens, Michael Austin, was Chrismated on April 10. Michael was joined by his sponsor, Don Cole and family and friends for his special day. A festive coffee hour was held in his honor following Liturgy.

We hosted the Connecticut Bible Lecture series, featuring Fr. Paul Tarazi on Friday, May 13 and Saturday, May 14. Guests and participants came from numerous area parishes

Mission: Alaska

by Juliana Dresko

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
(Matthew 5: 14-16)

Under normal circumstances, hearing these words during the Gospel reading wouldn't really cause me to look up in disbelief, but today was not normal. Today, seven college students, including myself, were standing in the church at St. Herman Seminary in Kodiak, Alaska. Jen Needham, Rob Giokas, Will Kopcha, Greg Matzkevich, Kristen Senetcen, David Delaney, and I arrived from Connecticut on May 23rd, the night before. We would be traveling to Spruce Island with Fr. Mikel Bock shortly after Liturgy. Our reason for going to Spruce Island was to help rebuild three bridges and widen the pathways, in order to accommodate the hundreds of people who will be traveling there for the 35th anniversary of St. Herman's canonization in August. More importantly, however, we were there to worship together and

gain a better spiritual understanding of our Orthodox beliefs.

As I stood in the church that morning, hearing the words of Jesus through St. Matthew, I felt that we were in the right place at the right time. In a few hours we would be working on Spruce Island, the place where St. Herman had lived and preached as one of the first missionaries of Orthodoxy in America. We had been looking forward to this for so long, it now seemed quite unbelievable that we were actually here in Alaska. However, we were here, preparing ourselves to go to Spruce Island. In my mind, I couldn't help but believe that through the Gospel, God was letting us know that we were exactly where we were meant to be.

One of the first things I noticed and loved about Alaska is that the majority of the population is Orthodox. Priests were always in their cassocks and it was not uncommon for them to be approached by complete strangers. In fact, we witnessed a "drive by blessing" as a van driving up the hill passing by Fr. Mikel rolled down his window with his hands out and Fr. Mikel gave him a blessing. It was rejuvenating to witness an abundance of Orthodoxy everywhere we went and it was an incredible feeling to be part of the religious majority.

We left Kodiak and landed on Spruce Island in the early afternoon of Tuesday May 24th. We were going to be there until Friday, so without delay we brought all our food, bottled water, bags, and camping gear up to the main cabin. We then took our first tour of the island on our way up to the church located at the site of St. Herman's grave, where we sang the Akathist to St. Herman. We were accompanied by one of the monks who lived on the island at the monastery, which is about an hour and a half walk from where we were staying. His name was Fr. Martyrios. He was a joyful man, full of stories about St. Herman and about the island. It was wonderful to have him with us because it's not every day that you are able to spend an extended period of time with a monk.

Fr. Martyrios was very intelligent and well rounded. He taught us about the lifestyle of a monk and more about our own religion, but also talked about Homer's Illiad, how to keep a mosquito from leaving itchy bite marks, and to close the out house toilet seat to keep the flies away. He introduced us to his llama, Tula, which is kept on the island as a pack animal. He also showed us that being a monk didn't mean you weren't just as human as everyone else. He made coffee from a French press every morning, expressing his disdain for the instant coffee Fr. Mikel brings. He helped us cook meals, clean up, and worked side by side with us everyday.

During our four days on Spruce Island we tore down three unstable bridges made of logs and rebuilt sturdy ones made of wood planks and beams. We shoveled out sludge from the streams to allow clogged waterways to



(Front, L-R): Kristen Senetcen, Will Kopcha, Rob Giokas, Juliana Dresko, Jen Needham.
(Rear, L-R): Greg Matzkevich, Dave Delaney, Fr. Martyrios



A new bridge being constructed

open up. We also cleared the pathways of Devil's Club, which is a plant covered in sharp thorns that become embedded in your skin and give you a rash. David learned the hard and more painful way that Devil's Club does in fact leave your arms in an uncomfortable condition.

We worked hard through the long daylight hours, but in the morning we began the day with morning prayers, and we ended each day with either the Akathist to St. Herman, or evening prayers. After a long day of work we had free time to explore the island together, or be on our own. We hiked to the top of a cliff where the scenery was breathtaking. With Fr. Martyrios as our guide we were able to hike towards the center of the island to see beavers building a dam. We had campfires where Fr. Mikel enjoyed his very first s'more with us, and taught us the actual difference between a chapel, a church and a cathedral. On one of our walks we quickly discovered that there were more churches on this small island than there were in any city where we were from. There was a church dedicated to St. Herman and one to the Theotokos. There was also a chapel inside the main cabin and the church above where St. Herman was buried.

When we left the island on Friday, we sadly watched the cupola that could be seen poking through the tops of the trees, fade into the distance. Very shortly after we

returned to Kodiak we all ran for the showers. Since there is no running water on Spruce Island, the only water we brought over was for drinking. We were not traveling home until Monday so after cleaning up we went down to the crab festival, which was luckily being held on the very same weekend we were there. We attended the Cathedral for Vespers and Liturgy, where they gave us holy oil from St. Herman's lampada, and were able to venerate his holy relics, which are kept there. Fr. Innocent, the priest at the Cathedral, spent Sunday afternoon with us, and that evening Stephanie, one of the seminarians, took us out to Fort Abercrombie, an old World War II lookout.

It really seemed like every single person in Alaska was making time to take care of us. We were always busy touring Kodiak and we always had a meal. In fact I think most of us feasted more than we ever expected to. The seminary graciously offered their extra rooms and couches so we had a place to stay and we were able to use their kitchen even though many of our meals were provided by the generosity of others. Everyone we met was incredibly giving and friendly. No one was ever in a hurry. They took their time, and unlike Connecticut they consistently went 5 mph under the speed limit instead of 10 mph over. Herman was another man we met and with whom we spent time. He was always offering us rides, and cooked dinner for us one night even though he is a busy, single, working parent, and a student at the seminary.

Once we had reached the end of our journey we realized that it had far surpassed all of our expectations. From the moment we stepped off the plane we were received warmly, and the opportunity to spend four days on Spruce Island is certainly a opportunity not many are given. Not only did we tear apart and rebuild three bridges, but we did it in sunny weather, a feat that was truly God-given. I don't think a single person from our group was ready to leave once it was time. It only took one week for us to realize what was so special about Alaska, not just its physical beauty but also its spirit. Orthodoxy was abundant here and in such a short time it had come to feel like home.

It can honestly be said that our group worked well together and enjoyed each other's company. Not once was there a disagreement, instead a goal was set for us and each person stepped up to accomplish it. When any person needed help, there was someone offering his or her assistance. It was incredible to have such a bond between us as we adjusted, worked, and worshipped together. This experience was rewarding for each of us because we were able to learn a lot about ourselves through each other.

It is not possible for us to express the gratitude we feel to each and every person who prayed for us and helped us monetarily. This trip was truly successful because our communities and parishes were so supportive. We would never have had this opportunity if it were not for them and they were continuously in our prayers as we spent the

ALASKA FROM 7

week in Alaska. We also would not have accomplished much if it weren't for Fr. Mikel. He planned the specifics of this trip for us and was with us on our journey as a spiritual and physical guide. He was continuously reminding us that our work was second to the growth of our spiritual heart. In his sermon, he taught us that the church was the hospital for our soul. When the years pass and the bridges are gone, our souls will still be left and it is important that we nurture them before all else. Through Fr. Mikel's words and lessons, along with the spiritual presence of St. Herman, I learned more in a week about myself and what is really important, than I have in any year of my life.

It became apparent after each passing day in Kodiak, that the people we spent time with greatly appreciated us and our efforts. Many of them felt honored that we had taken such a trip, but to us it felt like our group was blessed to be in the presence of such a holy place, with such wonderful people. On more than one occasion we were told to come back, and those are definite plans among most of the people in the group.

If you ever have the chance to go to Kodiak or Spruce Island then you should without any doubt take that opportunity. Be warned that cell phones don't work, and you won't have online or email. However that is your greatest blessing, because then for once you are forced to slow down and just be where you are. You can appreciate

the beauty of nature and feel the spirit of Orthodoxy that is all around you.

Perhaps you already have plans to attend the 35th anniversary pilgrimage this year. Whenever you go, if ever you do, there will be three bridges you have to pass over to reach the church at St. Herman's burial site. Those three bridges are the ones we built, and the streams flowing underneath them are the ones we cleaned out. I know that all seven of us hope they are sturdy enough, but should they collapse, I hope you'll understand that Fr. Mikel asked them to be our second priority. Don't worry though, the sludge cleans right off, and if your feet get stuck just twist and then pull. If you fall into Devil's club, that's another story.

The same group of students are planning on going back to Alaska next summer, hopefully for a longer period of two weeks. If you wish to donate towards this cause, or if you'd like to have someone come and give a presentation of the trip, please contact Juliana Dresko, babyd2702@cox.net.

(Juliana Dresko is a parishioner at Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT.)

Consecration Pictures



The blessing of the fleet in Kodiak Harbor



Pegs being pounded into the new altar in Southbury



Concelebrants at the consecration service

FOR THOUGHT

Media Bias

by Fr. Vladimir Berzonsky, www.oca.org

“As for the cowardly and the unbelieving, the depraved, the murderers, the immoral, those practicing magical arts, and all idolaters and all liars – their lot is in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur. This is the second death”
(Revelation 21:8)

Recently a tsunami of wrath and condemnation against America roiled up throughout the Muslim world, stimulated by a false report in “**Newsweek**” magazine that interrogators in the Guantanamo prison in Cuba flushed down the toilet pages from the Koran. The supposed intention was to provoke the prisoners and stimulate them to confess whatever they might know about the terrorist operations. One wonders how a story fabricated and not swiftly retracted could stir up such a worldwide reaction when so many worse atrocities perpetrated against Christian sensitivities are treated lightly or not at all.

Recall the supposed artistic license of Andres Serrano dipping a crucifix of our Lord God and Savior into a vat of urine, the frenetic media protest when then-Mayor Rudolph Guliani sought to shut down the Brooklyn Museum for a display that portrayed the Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary spattered with elephant dung, or Yoko Ono in what was an expression of creativity tearing the Bible apart page by page. Christians of various persuasions rose in indignation, while the media dismissed their protests with the bland general reference to the rights of free expression.

One cannot equate the theology of Islam with Christianity. Christians may not always practice forgiveness, mercy and tolerance, but we are ordered by our Lord to do so. Islam came on the scene of history brandishing a sword and never apologized for it nor placed it back in

the sheath. Orthodox Christians especially in the Balkans have borne with the fierce intolerance of their Muslim-dominated countries for more than a dozen centuries, and it’s not over. The ongoing persecution of Serbian Orthodox in what had been their nation now continues, with the desecration and destruction of many churches in Kosovo especially, as the NATO forces ostensibly sent to the region to pacify the population stand by and do nothing while the Serbs are harassed by the Albanian Muslims. Not long ago the Patriarch of Constantinople had his residence bombed, while he pretends that all is in order, lest he provoke even greater attacks.

Of course it’s politically correct to emphasize the peaceful aspects of Islam, and to an extent that is accurate. Maybe most Muslims want to live in harmony with their neighbors; nevertheless, the bias of American media gives the lie to the truth they claim to search out and report. Part of the reason for their impartiality is that they honestly believe that they are fair-minded, treating the alien entity, the Islamic world, with a respect they withhold from what they consider to be a Christian-dominated America.

Another aspect of the lopsided approach to religion is that for the most part they assume not having a faith commitment is the same as being free to see life objectively. That’s not the case. It only disguises one’s prejudices under a blanket of supposed neutrality. As G.K. Chesterton put it: Those who believe in nothing will fall for anything. At a deeper philosophical level we ask Pilate’s question: “*What is truth?*” A fact or phenomenon can be tweaked, twisted or as politicians and journalists practice, “spun.” An event can be over-reported and hyped, noted in passing or simply ignored. A similar question: What is news? The media don’t really know;

they chase one another around with tape recorders and cameras, all hoping to report “breaking news,” all of them more or less babbling the same stories on all channels. In the process they determine what’s “in” and what’s “out.” Presently political correctness insists that we must treat Islam, even the extremists, with deference at the expense of Christianity, assuming our Christian faith can bear it. After all, we do proclaim that there is virtue in innocent suffering. But we are not masochists. We also demand justice from the media, and we must insist on fair play.

St. Theophan the Recluse, On Judging

Since the enemy watches you constantly, waiting for an opportunity to sow evil in you, be doubly watchful over yourself, lest you fall in the nets spread for you. As soon as he shows you some fault in your neighbor, hasten to repel this thought, lest it take root in you and grow. Cast it out, so that no trace is left in you, and replace it by the thought of the good qualities you know your neighbor to possess, or of those people generally should have. If you still feel the impulse to pass judgment, add to this the truth that you are given no authority for this and that the moment you assume this authority you thereby make yourself worthy of judgment and condemnation, not before powerless men, but before God, the all-powerful Judge of all.

This reversal of thoughts is the strongest means, not only for repelling accidental critical thoughts, but also for completely freeing yourself of this vice. Even if a person’s sin is not only obvious, but very grievous and comes from a hardened and unrepentant heart, do not condemn him, but raise your eyes to the wondrous and incomprehensible judgments of God; then you will see that many people, formerly full of iniquity, later repented and reached a high degree of sanctity, and that, on the other hand, others, who were on a high level of perfection, fell into a deep abyss. Take care, lest you also suffer this calamity through judging others.

FORCC Sunday School Seminar Held

Saturday, May 14th, dawned with out a hint of the rain that had been forecast. Despite the fair weather, thirty-six Orthodox folks gathered at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Bridgeport for the first annual FORCC church school seminar entitled, *Teaching Our Faith*. We browsed the tables of extra-curricular materials while chatting and drinking coffee, before settling down to our main business, the keynote address by Mr. Michael Kallas of Hellenic College and Holy Cross Seminary.

Mr. Kallas spoke on The Service of Education, discussing how we raise our children in the faith, our vocation as teachers, and the process of teaching. We raise our children in the faith to love God and their neighbors. He noted that, as teachers, we align ourselves with God's vocational call. In fact, according to St. Basil, a teacher is one who is rich in virtues and wise in the Holy Scriptures. Then, quoting St. John Chrysostom, Mr. Kallas reminded us that our procedural task as teachers is to know the scriptures and to teach those stories faithfully and engagingly. Among the resources Mr. Kallas cited were: the OCABS.org website, a computer inventory program called Strengths Quest, the sermons of St. John Chrysostom, and a book by Tony Vrane titled *The Educating Icon*.

After a brief discussion period, we divided into small groups on a

number of subjects.

Fr. George Alberts (St. George Antiochian, Danbury) spoke about the 2-day teacher training curriculum developed by the OCEC that is presented nationwide, including this June 17 & 18 in his parish; Mr. Jim Sarigianas (St. Barbara GOC, Orange) led a session about teaching high-school level students; Mrs. Patti Boros (St. Nicholas Antiochian, Bridgeport) taught her methods for teaching first communion classes; Matushka Jenny Mosher (St. Vladimir's Seminary) led a session on praying with children; and Heidi Crosby (Holy Transfiguration, New Haven) spoke about teaching preschoolers and kindergarteners.

During our lovely luncheon, Matushka Jenny Mosher discussed her handout, "Thinking Outside the Curriculum Box," which served as a companion piece to the materials tables, and which lays out guidelines for evaluating supplemental Christian educational materials.

Many thanks and many years to all those who planned, supported, and presented this seminar and also to all our enthusiastic participants. And, don't forget to volunteer and bring a friend next year!



The Live Wires Sunday School in Southbury

PARISHES FROM 5

and houses of worship to learn more about the Prophet Isaiah. We look forward to Father's return in the fall for the another session of lectures.

We are very proud of Will Kopcha, one of our college students. Will recently returned from an Orthodox Christian Fellowship mission trip to Alaska. While there, Will and his fellow students worked on Spruce Island.

On June 12 the Live Wires Sunday School students had their end of the year reception. Each student received an award and a gift certificate for ice cream. Our eighth grade graduate, Phoebe Latanzi was awarded a \$100 savings bond. Our college students, Will (UConn) and Rebecca Filipowich (Stone Hill College) each received a \$100 scholarship to use toward their upcoming semester's books.

- submitted by Sarah Cole

"The bread you do not use is the bread of the hungry. The garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of the person who is naked. The shoes you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot. The money you keep locked away is the money of the poor. The acts of charity you do not perform are the injustices you commit."



- Saint Basil the Great

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

September Issue
August 1st

October Issue
September 1st

St. Vladimir's Seminary

575 Scarsdale Road, Crestwood, NY 10707-1699

Adult Education Institute 2005*Church and World : Church and Culture*

The Church, like Christ, is “not of this world.” But like Christ, the Church is in the world, and sent for the life of the world. The relationship between Church and world has posed questions for Christians since the apostolic era. Is the Church to accept the world as it is, or reject it? Many Church Fathers tell us to renounce the world, to deny it, even to hate it. But what exactly is “the world” that they are talking about? Is it the same “world” that God so loved that He gave His only-begotten Son for its life?

The theme of “Church and World” has many dimensions. This fall’s adult institute looks at this theme in terms of culture. Culture – the artistic, musical, literary, and intellectual output of people in particular places and times – is a key aspect of the world. The relationship between Church and culture – which goes both ways – is vital on many levels of the Church’s life: missiological, liturgical, and pastoral:

When should the Church adapt to its host culture? What should it transform, and what should it reject? How is the historical and geographical setting of a church reflected in its liturgy, language, music, and iconography?

Are there elements in popular culture that can be celebrated, and even brought into our preaching? And how does the Church’s life influence popular culture? Is there an “Orthodox culture,” as distinct from other Christian or religious cultures?

The series of five lectures will be held at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 285 Alden Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut. Lectures will be on Monday evenings, beginning September 19th and ending on October 17th. 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 19 • *The World of the Prophets*

Father Paul Tarazi

Monday, September 26 • *Christ and Culture*

Dean John Erickson

Monday, October 3 • *Confronting the World in the Second Century*

Father John Behr

Monday, October 10 • *Liturgical Music and Culture*

Mrs. Helen Erickson

Monday, October 17 • *Liturgy and Culture*

Dr. Paul Meyendorff

Registration Form

Name _____ Individual \$25 _____

Address _____ Group: 8 persons \$150 _____

City, State, Zip _____ Check enclosed for \$ _____

[Please make checks payable to ‘OCLO’]

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

Parish _____ City _____

ASSEMBLY FROM 1

to be taken was a ballot in which every delegate was asked to write in a name of a possible diocesan bishop. It was noted that current diocesan bishops were not eligible for nominations, although auxiliary bishops (+Benjamin, +Ireneu, +Alejo) were eligible.

It was also noted that a blank ballot could be turned in, indicating that the voter either did not have a preferred candidate or that the voter wished the Holy Synod to appoint a diocesan bishop from among the candidates being considered for the episcopate or one of the current diocesan bishops under *economia*. If anyone received 2/3 of the votes (i.e., 38), that name would be forwarded to the Holy Synod as the diocesan nominee.

Delegates were called up by parish to place their ballot in the chalice placed in the center of the church. The results:

Blank	25
Bishop Benjamin	18
Fr. David Brum	9
Bishop Ireneu	2
Fr. Michael Dahulich	1
Fr. Stavros Strikis	1

In addition, Bishop Nikon, although ineligible as a diocesan bishop of another diocese, received two votes but those ballots were invalidated.

No one having received 2/3 of the votes, the Diocesan Chancellor, Fr. Michael Westerberg, made the following resolution:

“WHEREAS, on March 29, 2005, the Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America declared the See of Hartford and New England to be vacant and that preparations be made for the election of a ruling diocesan hierarchy; and

WHEREAS, His Beatitude, The Most Blessed Herman, Archbishop of Washington and New York, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, *Locum tenens* of the Diocese



Fr. Vasily Gilbert, Salem, MA, places his ballot in the chalice.

of New England, has convened the special diocesan assembly whose sole purpose is the nomination of a new diocesan bishop, as provided for in The Statute of The Orthodox Church in America, Article VI, Section 8; and

WHEREAS, the special diocesan assembly, duly convened at All Saints Church, Hartford, Connecticut, on June 23, 2005, has failed to nominate a candidate for the office of ruling hierarchy of the See of Hartford and New England; therefore

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the diocesan assembly of the Diocese of New England petition The Holy Synod of Bishops of The Orthodox Church in America to elect a ruling hierarchy for the See of Hartford and New England and to prayerfully act in the best interests of the diocese and the whole Church.”

The resolution was adopted by the Diocesan Assembly, with five voting against it. The Holy Synod of Bishops will discuss it at their meeting on July 16, 2005 in Toronto.

ONE-Orthodox New England
P.O. Box 2876
New Britain, CT 06050-2876
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