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**Above: Metropolitan Jonah, Bishop Nikon, and Bishop Melchisedek** celebrating Pentecost with clergy and faithful at Holy Trinity Cathedral. **Below: Prayers at the casket of newly-departed Protodeacon Simeon Kopcha.**



## *Holy Trinity Cathedral celebrates centennial*

Inga Leonova

On Saturday and Sunday, May 22–23, 2010, Holy Trinity Cathedral in Boston celebrated its altar feast of Pentecost. The weekend marked the high point in the events of the HTOC Centennial year. Hierarchs of

the OCA and many guest clergy and faithful celebrated the divine services and attended the festal dinner.

His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania presided over festal Vigil on Saturday evening. At the end of the

*Boston to 4*

## *Memory Eternal: Protodeacon Simeon Kopcha*

Protodeacon Simeon “Sam” Kopcha fell asleep in the Lord on April 30, just before his 83rd birthday. Multitudes came from across the diocese and beyond to attend the funeral services of this devoted servant of the Lord on May 3 and 4 at Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, Terryville. Generations of Deacon Sam’s family of faithful Orthodox Christians gathered to pray for his eternal memory as well.



Starting on page 5 of this issue, we publish Deacon Sam’s obituary and the funeral homily by Fr. Michael Koblosh.

## *Diocese awards seminarian scholarships*

Fr. Joshua Mosher, with Diocesan Treasurer John Skrobat

Over the past academic year, the Diocese of New England has provided scholarships to four seminarians, totaling \$12,000. All seminarians were enrolled full-time. Three attended St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary: Fr. Theophan Whitfield (from Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT, and now being assigned to St. Nicholas Church, Salem, MA); Justin DiMoulin (Holy Resurrection Church, Claremont, NH); and Andrew Boyd (St. Alexis Church, Clinton, CT). One attended Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology: John Taylor Carr (also of Claremont, NH).

As set by the Diocesan Assembly, each received a \$1,500 per semester full-time scholarship, but there remained \$1,500 in the diocesan budget. At the last Assembly, the diocese de-

cidied to share out all such leftover funds to the year's scholarship recipients. Therefore, each of these four seminarians is receiving an additional \$375 to defray educational expenses.

Scholarship applications state, "A scholarship applicant must: 1) Be a parishioner of a member parish of the Diocese of New England, Orthodox Church in America; 2) Be currently enrolled, as a full-time student, in a degree granting program at an accredited Orthodox seminary with the knowledge and blessing of the diocesan bishop." Applications are available at the diocesan website: dneoca.org.

Diocesan scholarships are a major priority of our diocese, and ONE Stewards aims to fund this part of the diocesan budget entirely through voluntary contributions.

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## *Diocesan Youth Rally 2010: August 16–21*

Fr. John Hopko

Youth Rally 2010, the annual event for the young people of the Diocese of New England, will be held at the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston's camping and retreat center in Contoocook, New Hampshire from Monday, August 16, until Saturday, August 21. This is an event where the youth of the diocese can come together for a week of fun, worship, and fellowship. All diocesan youth who have completed fifth grade and have not yet celebrated their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday are eligible to attend the Youth Rally. If you have children in your family who are interested in attending this year's Youth Rally, please contact Fr. John Hopko, Youth Rally Director, so that he can provide you with the necessary application forms. The deadline for registration is Monday, July 19, 2010.

The Diocese is still seeking staff members for Rally '10. Required staff members for the annual Youth Rally include senior and junior boys and girls counselors, religious education leaders, crafts and activities coordinators, camp medical personnel (usually registered nurses), a choir director, etc. While a number of these

positions have been filled for this coming summer, Rally absolutely requires more staff members if it is to take place. (We'd gladly have a big staff with lots of overlap in talents and qualifications!)

Rally Staff positions are all volunteer positions. Orthodox Church in America guidelines require that adult staff members be at least 18 years of age and preferably two years older than the group they will be working with. It is very important that we establish solid staffing for the Youth Rally soon, so that we can arrange for the necessary background checks to be carried out on these volunteers in order to fulfill the requirements of Orthodox Church in America guidelines.

If you are an adult and would like to volunteer to be a member of Rally Staff, please also contact Fr. John Hopko.

**CONTACT DETAILS:** Fr. John Hopko, Diocesan Youth Rally 2010, c/o 34 Fairview Avenue, Terryville, CT 06786-6329, email: saintcyril@snet.net, telephone: 860-582-3631.

## *ONE Stewards 2010: “Giving above & beyond”*

### Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

The 2010 ONE Stewards donations have totaled over \$13,000 as of mid-May. The diocesan budget goal is \$20,000.

Thus far there have been eight donors in the “Bishop’s Circle” who have matched Bishop Nikon’s challenge of a \$500 donation. The annual Diocesan Youth Rally is scheduled for August, and ONE Stewards donations provide a major portion of the rally costs which total about \$20,000.

Show your support of our diocesan Youth, our diocesan Seminarians, our diocesan Mis-



sions, and our diocesan Charity donations by “Giving Above and Beyond” with a summer donation to ONE Stewards. ONE Stewards envelopes are included with this issue of the ONE Newsletter, or send your donations to:

ONE Stewards  
PO Box 1182  
Torrington, CT 06790

## *Pastoral transitions in the diocese*

### Priest Joshua Mosher

In recent weeks, there have been a few significant transitions in pastoral ministry within the Diocese of New England. On April 18, Archpriest Mark Sherman served his last Sunday at St. Nicholas Church, Salem, MA, having been blessed to retire by His Grace, Bishop NIKON. In his place, Bishop Nikon has assigned Priest Theophan Whitfield, graduate of St. Vladimir’s Seminary and former member of Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT.

Bishop Nikon has also released Archpriest Steven Voytovich from service as the rector of St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Church, Clinton, CT, and attached him to Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT. Fr. Steven has long served as a hospital chaplain, and has accepted a position at Episcopal Health Services, Garden City, Long Island. In that capacity, he is running training programs for healthcare chaplains around the world. In addition, he is serving to cover absences and vacancies in parishes in the Diocese of New England.

Priest Vadim Pismenny has been released by Bishop Nikon from service as the rector of Holy Ghost Church, Bridgeport, CT, to the omophorion of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah. He has since been transferred to the omophorion of His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion of the Russian Church Abroad, to await assignment.

Both parishes with vacancies are continuing to hold regular services and receive pastoral care through the coordination of Fr. Vladimir Aleandro, Connecticut Dean. His Grace, Bishop Nikon, with the aid diocesan chancellor Fr. John Kreta and Fr. Vladimir are working closely with the parishes to assess their needs and identify suitable candidates for rector.

**Below: Fr. Joseph Petranin** and Fr. Barnabas Fravel (seated beside him) delivered an inspiring presentation on June 10 to Bishop Nikon and the Connecticut Deanery on the history and ongoing ministry of St. Nicholas Church, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

*Photo: Fr. David Koles*





**Right: The Choir of Holy Trinity Cathedral, led by Walter Obleschuk.**

## *Boston* from 1

service His Grace, Bishop Nikon of Boston, New England and the Albanian Archdiocese presented *Gramotas* (Commendations) to parishioners for their many years of service to the Cathedral: Rosa Romanowski, Mary Hetman, Alice Carter, Nicholas Carter, Paul Andruchow, Stephanie Stroyen, Wanda Maksymowicz, Subdeacon Peter Robert Kotiuga, and Nevine Nassif.

At the reception following Vigil, Bishop Melchisedek shared memories of his time as a parishioner of the Cathedral.

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah presided at the Divine Liturgy of Pentecost and Kneeling Vespers, with Bishop Nikon and Bishop Melchisedek. Con-celebrating clergy included Archpriest Robert Arida, Rector and Dean of the Cathedral; Archpriest Alexander Garklavs, Chancellor of the OCA; Archpriest John Kreta, Chancellor of the Diocese of New England; Archpriest Vasily Lickwar, Priest Robert Dick, Priest John Teague, Archdeacon Joseph Matusiak, Deacon Theodore Feldman, and Deacon Christopher Westrate.

At the banquet following Divine Liturgy, Fr. Robert Arida offered welcoming remarks, followed by the singing of “O Heavenly King,” and blessing by Metropolitan Jonah. The pro-

gram included remarks by Bishop Nikon and reflections by Walter Obleschuk, HTOC choir director, and parishioners Zhanna Stalbo, Katia Arida, and Lillian Lelles.

The centennial program included the following message from Fr. Robert Arida: “Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has gathered us together.’ These words embrace the history and legacy of what we have been celebrating during the course of the past year. Our centennial is a unifying event of the Holy Spirit who draws together our past, present and future.

“Looking towards the past, we remember those humble and courageous men and women who, through the Holy Spirit, enabled the parish to face and resolve its own internal struggles while navigating through the uncharted waters of American life and culture. Assessing the present, the Spirit compels us to prepare for the future in order to bring the uncreated light of Christ to new generations.

“In and through the Holy Spirit the Cathedral extends the ministry of Christ.... [W]e are called to discern the times as we acknowledge, with humility and courage, that we and our successors will face challenges and opportunities never imagined in the past. Guided by the Spirit, nurtured by the Word and embraced by the Father, we will pass on our great legacy ... to draw the world into the net of salvation.”

## *Protodeacon Simeon “Sam” Kopcha: “Good and Faithful Servant”*

### Priest John Hopko

Protodeacon Simeon “Sam” Kopcha was born on May 3, 1927, the fifth of the seven children of Matthew and Irene Kopcha, Slavic immigrants to the United States. Though he was baptized in a Byzantine Catholic church, his family transferred membership to Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church.

Sam attended the public schools in Terryville and was known for his musical talent, playing cello in the school orchestra. In 1944, with his parents’ permission, Sam left Terryville High School and enlisted in the United States Navy, serving in the Pacific. Upon returning home, Sam eventually became a salesman for local manufacturing concerns that he would represent until his retirement late in life.

On Oct. 13, 1951, Sam married Eva Hasko, who had grown up in the same town and church, at Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church. In a few years, they had four children—Susan, Claudia, Melanie and Peter. Over the next nearly six decades, he would serve as a Parish Council Member, Treasurer, Choir Member, Choir Director (26 years) and Deacon (23 years). His commitment to his Orthodox Faith was truly a vocation of loving service.

**Below:** Eva Kopcha, wife of departed Protodeacon Simeon Kopcha, and many clergy and faithful stand in prayer at his grave, while **Bishop Nikon sprinkles earth** upon it.

*Photo: John Barone*



In the early 1960s, Sam was among the parish leaders who pushed for the use of the English language and who, each time a new priest was being assigned to the parish, requested the assignment of an English-speaking priest. He also promoted the idea of a parish rectory, which was built in 1969, to make the parish more attractive to priests with families.

Sam became Choir Director in 1961. The worship services were almost exclusively Church Slavonic. Sam did nearly all the necessary work to make the change to the use of English.

A significant moment in the life of the Terryville parish came with the assignment of Fr. Michael Koblosh as pastor in 1977. During those dozen or so years, the parish transformed itself from an ethnic enclave into a community that made real efforts to witness to the universal quality of the Orthodox Christian Faith. The use of the Revised Julian (“new”) Calendar was affirmed, the use of the English language for worship became the norm, education programs within the parish began to concentrate on truly Orthodox themes, and financial stewardship was reformed. Deacon Paul Nimchek was ordained in 1980 and, later, Deacon Sam Kopcha in 1987. A new church building was built in 1979, and Sam was central to that effort.

Sam joyfully threw himself into Church work at this time, serving as Choir Director, but also preparing himself with Fr. Michael Koblosh’s guidance, for ordination to the diaconate, which took place on the parish’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Deacon Sam also involved himself beyond the borders of the parish. He represented the parish at the annual Diocesan Assembly on many occasions, as well as All-American Councils. Sam also served as a dedicated member of the Saint Vladimir’s Seminary Theological Foundation, zealously supporting the seminary and encouraging others to do so, even visiting other parishes to ask for support of the school. His personal sacrificial giving to many aspects of the Church affected his own standard of living.

All the while, Sam was enjoying his family, which he loved so deeply. Over the years, Sam and Eva welcomed eight grandchildren into

their family—seven girls and one boy. Sam especially embraced the role of grandfather. His grandchildren affectionately called him “Papa,” and he responded to them with depths of love, manifested especially by the careful playing of children’s games long after the other “grown-ups” had all run out of patience and energy.

Sam also enjoyed the personal contacts that he made. He was a great and bighearted friend. He had some close friends that he spoke with, personally or by telephone, almost every day—always with encouraging and uplifting words.

Throughout all of this, the defining aspect of Sam Kopcha’s character was his unending commitment to labor on behalf of the Church. For Sam this labor was rooted in humble obedience to the Church and all that the Church asks of us; and this labor was fed by the very real joy that Sam received through his self-sacrificial work. Never did Sam think that he was being asked too much and, as a result, God always made sure that Sam had more to give and the time and energy with which to give it.

Sam’s labors on behalf of the Church were usually of the humblest variety, for not only did he serve in public parish responsibilities but was also always at the parish church doing the thankless tasks that make parish life possible. When questioned, he always said, “Just doing my job...now you go do yours.” He embraced regular participation in the Sacrament of Confession and was always prepared to receive Holy Communion through prayer, fasting and assiduous involvement in the fullness of the Church’s liturgical life. At the same time he knew that in Christ salvation was a gift received not earned.

None of this was done for show—indeed, Sam would have been horrified by the thought that he was doing anything to be noticed by others. When he sometime wondered aloud why fellow parishioners were not attending church regularly, or not supporting the church generously, or failing to keep the fasts and only showing up for the feasts, he did not ask to judge or condemn. Rather, Sam was genuinely perplexed at how people could willfully fail to love the Church in these ways. Sam did not see the ways of the Church as mere obligations, but rather as blessed opportunities to be embraced and even enjoyed.

In the last years of his life, Sam Kopcha suffered profoundly. He developed progressive degeneration of the cerebellum, the portion of the human brain that controls speech and balance. He lost the ability to speak clearly. At the same time, he lost the ability to walk, and he spent most of the last year of his life in a room in a convalescent home he shared with three other men in similar circumstances. Among the last times Sam spoke clearly was on Pascha morning, April 4, 2010, when he was brought Holy Communion for one of the last times before entering into more perfect communion with God through passage from this life to the next. Upon receiving the Holy Gifts that morning, clearly and with unexpected strength, Sam said, “Amen. Amen. Amen.”

Twenty-six days later, on Friday, April 30, the Feast of the Apostle James, Brother of the Lord, God’s faithful servant, Protodeacon Simeon “Sam” Kopcha, surrounded by family and friends, fell asleep in the Lord. At his bedside, a memorial service was served. The following Monday and Tuesday, May 3 and 4, the funeral services took place in the parish church at Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, Terryville, the location of so many of Sam’s labors. On Monday evening for the Memorial Service (the “Panikhida”) the church was as full—possibly fuller—than it had ever been. On Tuesday morning again the church was full. In honor of Deacon Sam, the choir never sounded better. The time had a genuinely Paschal quality. It was Deacon Sam’s last earthly gift to his church: the gift of a moment by which to be reminded of and encouraged by the truth of the gospel that, “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,” and that “unto us He has given eternal life, as we worship his third-day resurrection.”

Protodeacon Simeon “Sam” Kopcha is buried in the Parish Cemetery of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church, East Plymouth Road, Terryville, CT. His grave is located just to the north side of the large white cross that stands in the middle of the Cemetery, which is open to those who may wish to visit Deacon Sam’s grave and pray there. “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints!” (Psalm 116:15)

*Father John Hopko is Pastor of Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, Terryville.*

## “We have to translate the services”

Homily by Archpriest Michael Koblosh at the Funeral of Protodeacon Simeon “Sam” Kopcha

My association — or co-ministry — with “Sam” Kopcha was during the time I was the priest at Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Terryville. This was in the late ‘70s and early ‘80s when life in the Church was filled with great hope, blessed with great leaders speaking words that, for many of us, ignited much joy and a “burning of the heart.” The winds of renewal were sweeping through the Church. With the exception of introducing more English into services and calendar changes, not much changed externally. The change happened from within, for we began to see that which was familiar to us from childhood with new eyes, hear it with new ears and receive it with new minds.

With the blessing of Bishop Dmitri—then *locum tenens* of New England—I met with members of Ss. Cyril and Methodius on the evening of December 6, 1976, for the parish was then looking for a new priest. After that, my wife and I left to return to New York, lost in our own thoughts. It was not until we reached Danbury that I asked her what she thought. “Did you hear what they were saying?” she asked. “How can you not go?” And it was the choir director, “Sam” Kopcha who at that meeting said, “We have to translate the services.” Our impression was that the community was hearing “new voices” and looking for renewal. That, and the fact that a Hungarian Roman Catholic convert was parish council president indicated to us that there was something “there” in Terryville; and so I submitted a petition and we came to Terryville in 1977.

Throughout all the time I was at the parish, “Sam” Kopcha was right there, zealously striving and struggling to incarnate the renewal in Terryville. Aside from his love for the parish, I know he had in mind his children and grandchildren; the fact that they are all in the Church is testimony to his efforts. He strove to incorporate them into a Faith they could live by in the contemporary world. By “translating the services,” he didn’t mean only translating from Slavonic into English, but translating the vision of the services into our hearts and lives.

Time will tell whether or not—or how much—of this “translation” was successful. We did what we could. God will judge, and His judgment cannot but be merciful for the Protodeacon, for He will see into his heart and recognize his intention and desire. In many ways, the hope of the renewal did not materialize as we anticipated. Today, many of our parishes—especially the older, established communities—face an uncertain future. And, as world Orthodoxy turns its attention to the American situation, one cannot help but feel that the Church is entering a stormy period in her pilgrimage—a period fueled by fear, opportunism, lust for power and unconvincing references to ancient canons.

It may well be that the future Ss. Cyril and Methodius will look radically different than it does today. Metropolitan Anthony of London said that after the Russian Revolution, when many Orthodox Russians found themselves exiled in the West, defeated, impoverished and mourning that Russia had been taken by demonic forces, they could do little but erect humble chapels—sometimes in garages. Yet, said the Metropolitan, something happened in these “garage churches.” “We rediscovered Christ,” he said, “Who appeared to have been rather obscured in the great cathedrals of Russia,” buried beneath all the gold and wealth.

Whatever the future of Ss. Cyril and Methodius might be, it is the vision and power of the renewal—centered on the Eucharist—that will carry it through. It is the vision for which Protodeacon Simeon labored as he struggled to “translate the services.” In the last analysis it doesn’t matter much where the community gathers for Liturgy; for there, where the Eucharist is offered, is Christ. And where Christ is, there is all the happiness, fullness, freedom and that joy that no one and nothing can destroy.

Now he departs from us to join the heavenly Liturgy. Now we ask him to pray for us, that we may translate that vision into our own lives. Thank you, Protodeacon “Sam” for all your work—and thank you, Lord, for his life which—in one way or another—touched us all.



**Right: Fr. Michael Koblosh** preaching at the funeral of Protodeacon Simeon Kopcha.  
Photo: John Barone



## *All Saints of North America, Salisbury, CT*

### Paul Radley

This spring, All Saints of North America was blessed to welcome two children into the Church. The baby Izabella Delventhal, daughter of Thomas and Loredona, was baptized in April. The Delventhals are a Romanian family, new to the area, who have been welcomed into our parish. In May, Ryan Michael Lewis, the son of Fr. John Kreta's niece, was baptized.

Also in May, our parish was honored to be invited to participate in the blessing of John Tavlarios's new prayer chapel. The chapel was constructed in Greece and transported to John's property in Hillsdale, NY. After the blessing we were welcomed to share in food and fellowship with John's family.

Sunday, June 6, is the commemoration of All Saints of America, which marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our mission parish. His Grace, our Bishop Nikon presided at the feast. In celebration of the rich blessings our parish has received, we hosted a lenten retreat led by Archpriest Chad Hatfield, chancellor of St. Vladimir's Seminary in Yonkers, New York, entitled "Mary, Mysteries and Mission: Fundamentals of Christian Life." We also plan to have an open house on July 31 and a community forum in the fall, tentatively on internet safety.

Last year saw the completion of the interior renovations of our church building, which created a large blank wall above the altar. We have commissioned Fr. Andrew Tregubov to write an Oranta icon for the space. Our parish's relationship with Fr. Andrew reaches back to 1994, when he wrote the first two icons for our iconostasis. We look forward to sharing the results of his work and prayers later this year.



**Top:** Newly-baptized Ryan Michael Lewis with his family.

*Photo: Fr. John Kreta*

**Middle:** Fr. John Kreta assembling with faithful to **bless a family prayer chapel** in Hillsdale, NY.

*Photo: Hope Mongeau*

## *Three Saints, Ansonia, CT*

### Barbara Ann Dixon

Congratulations to Alexander (Sasha) Kavall on his acceptance to U.S. Naval Academy as a member of the Class of 2014. Sasha will be sworn in on July 1 at Annapolis, Maryland.

On March 29, our beloved Father Timothy and Matushka Lisa Lowe left for Jerusalem, where Father Timothy began his new assignment as the Director of the Tantur Institute for Ecumenical Studies.

On Holy Friday, April 3, Father Michael Roshak joined the Valley Clergy in a "Cross Walk" through the city of Ansonia, stopping six times for readings that are connected to the

last seven words of Christ. Father Michael led the assembly in the singing of the Lord's Prayer.

On Sunday, April 11, the annual egg hunt and children's Pascha Program was held following Divine Liturgy. Twenty children were presented with awards for their Pascha artwork. Our resident artist, Tatiana Prys, helped the children (ages 3–14) with this project following Liturgy during March. Children who participated were Michael Szewczyk, Joseph Szewczyk, Alex Kosciuszek, Nina Kosciuszek, Kevin Pimpinelli, Matthew Pimpinelli, Jason Pimpinelli, Dillon Weller, Tyrell Allen, Rellasia

Hopkins, Sophie Sergiyenko, Robert Sergiyenko, Samantha Reese, Michelle Seagull, Adriana Wasciczko, Christina Wasciczko, Lindsey Dowling, Emily Dowling, Joey Augustitus and Josh Pulgaim.



**Above: Procession of the Shroud** in Ansonia, CT.

Photo: Alexandra Mastej

## *SS. Peter & Paul Church, Meriden, CT*

John S. Nyghyew

We have been busy at SS. Peter and Paul. On Saint Thomas Sunday, we blessed the graves at our Parish Cemetery and then held a luncheon at the Church. Later in April, with the research of Joe Uliase, Jr. we re-discovered and blessed the graves of several parishioners who were buried in East Cemetery, one of the older cemeteries in Meriden. These parishioners were buried before the Parish cemetery was founded. After blessing the graves, we visited a few of our older members at the Meriden Baptist Home. There we sang our favorite hymns of Pascha and prayed for the Lord to grant them many blessed years.

In May, we said goodbye to Ilaria Wolfe, who has been attending SS. Peter and Paul and

On Sunday of the Myrrbearing Women, April 18, we hosted the St. Vladimir's Seminary Men's Choir, directed by Dr. Alla Generalow. Archpriest Steven Belonick, Associate Dean for Student Affairs concelebrated the Liturgy and preached the sermon. A scrumptious chicken dinner prepared by Chad and Diane McNeil was served following Liturgy. Thanks to all who helped. \$1,257 was donated to the seminary.

Our prayers and best wishes to Lew Nescott who is training for deployment to Afghanistan as a human terrain analyst with the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. He will be at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas for 5 months of training and will deploy in September.

Once again, Mary Jimenez and Debbie Egan chaired a very successful plant sale on May 9 and 16. On May 16, Andrew Pavlucik from Belton explained how to determine hearing loss and how to have hearing restored. Thanks to Kathy Hausen for coordinating this presentation.

Congratulations to Courtney Egan, recently inducted into the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. Courtney is a junior at the Ansonia High School.

Our senior group had a kielbasa luncheon on Tuesday, May 18 in the Church Auditorium. They all had a great time.

singing in our choir while a student at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. Ilaria recently graduated and will be getting married in August. She will be teaching English in the country of Georgia for a few years; then she and her husband plan to move to Alaska.

Our former pastor, now His Grace, Melchisedek, Bishop of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, came for a visit on May 15–16. He was our pastor from 1989 to 1998 and we knew him as Father Thomas Pleska. After leaving our parish, he entered monastic life and served at the Monastery of the Holy Cross in Thebes, Greece. His Grace joined us for Vespers on Saturday evening and met with old friends during a supper



Above left: **Bishop Melchisedek cuts the cake** decorated by Cindy Dennis in his honor.

**Above right:** Faithful of SS. Peter & Paul gather to **bless graves in Meriden's East Cemetery.**

**Below: Fr. Michael and M. Lydia Westerberg,** who are celebrating 30 years of service in New Haven.



arranged by the Parish Council. After Liturgy on Sunday, we held a dinner in his honor.

Later in May, we celebrated the marriage of Theodora Datzko and Peter Boris. Teddi and Peter grew up together in the parish, but their lives took separate paths. Last year, while Peter was back in Connecticut to visit his mom, the

two reminisced about their earlier days, and a short time later, Peter proposed to Teddi. The happy couple are now living in Oregon. May God grant them many years together!

We are planning the centennial of our parish's founding. October, 2011, will be a busy month. Stay tuned for more information.

## *Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT, to honor Archpriest Michael Westerberg in October*

### John Kruchok

In recognition of two milestones, the parish family of Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, Connecticut will be honoring Father Michael and Matushka Lydia Westerberg on Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010. Fr. Michael celebrated his 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood in January and will be observing his 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Rector at Holy Transfiguration in late September.

His Grace, Bishop Nikon will preside at the celebration of Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Oct. 10 at 9:00 AM. A reception will follow at Anthony's Ocean View Restaurant, 450 Lighthouse Road in New Haven beginning with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at noon. Dinner will follow at approximately 12:30 PM.

If you would like to join us in this milestone celebration, tickets are available, in advance and by reservation only. Deadline is September 5, 2010. Tickets are \$55.00 per person and can be obtained by mailing a check to:



Mrs. Barbara Pope, 469 Circular Avenue, Hamden, CT 06514. Information can be obtained by calling (203) 691-6220.

## Missions Walk 2010

Sarah Cole

There are many things we take for granted in our daily life: fresh water, an abundance of food, our church building, our family, our Christian community, the Gospel, God's love. The people of the Turkana of Northern Kenya face a life of extreme poverty in a land wracked with disease and drought. To date, three Orthodox Christian Mission Teams have traveled to spend time and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the Turkana. The joy and gratitude the Turkana share as they learn about the salvation and hope in Christ is inspiring. Fr. Vladimir and Matushka Suzanne Aleandro have witnessed this, and the images and stories they have brought back are amazing!

On August 28, we at Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT, have an opportunity to help raise money to aid in providing a bore hole type well for the Turkana. This source of

fresh, clean water would be a well of health—physically and spiritually. We can choose to walk one, two or three miles, beginning at 9:00 AM. The Turkana walk many miles through the desert each day to access the unclean water available to them, and many more miles to attend church services. Fr. Martin Ritsi, director of OCMC, will be traveling 200 miles in the High Sierras of California this summer as a part of the effort to raise the \$75,000 needed to help the Turkana. If you would like to read more about the Turkana, or the Missions Walk, please visit OCMC.org. To participate or donate in our own walk on August 28, which we hope to coordinate with other parishes across the region, or to make a donation, please contact me at 203-881-0437 or donandsarahcole@yahoo.com.

This is an opportunity for parishes all over, for people of all ages to share. Let us join together and walk on the morning of August 28, so the people of the Turkana will not have to! Our steps can bring Christ's love and fresh water to our brothers and sisters in Northern Kenya.

## Donald Sheehan,

1940–2010

Tiffany Garland

Donald Sheehan, 70, died May 26<sup>th</sup> at his home in Charleston, S.C., surrounded by family and friends.

Born April 2, 1940, to George and Josephine Innes Sheehan, Dr. Sheehan received a Ph.D. in English from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1969. He began his 35-year teaching career at the University of Chicago and completed it in New Hampshire, including 15 years at Dartmouth. With his wife, he founded alternative schools and homeschooled his younger son and grandchildren. He also founded an acclaimed writing program.

In 1984, he was received into the Orthodox Church, taking in baptism the name Donatos. The study, practice, and teaching of his

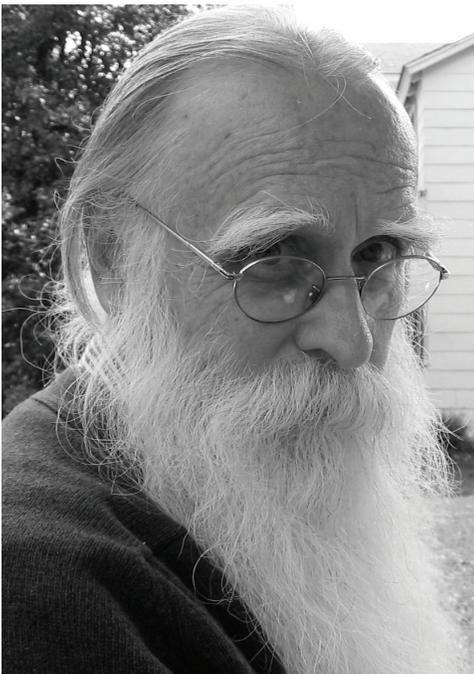
faith became from that time forward the central purpose of his life and work. In 1987, he was ordained Subdeacon. In his last days he said of himself, "Above all I have loved prayer and loved God in His most pure Mother."

In addition to his scholarly work in English and Russian literature, Dr. Sheehan was a student of ancient languages, and the 2nd c. B.C. Greek translation of the Bible, the Septuagint.

He is survived by his wife, Carol, whom he married in 1966; his sister, Nora Wilson of Montpelier, Vt.; his two sons, David Sheehan of New York, N.Y. and Rowan Benedict Sheehan of Charleston, S.C.; their wives, Tara Mooney and Talia Miriam Sheehan; and six grandchildren. He was predeceased by his twin brother, David, in 2007.

After a funeral on May 28 at Holy Ascension Orthodox Church in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., he was buried at Panagia Prousiotissa Greek Orthodox Monastery in Troy, N.C.

Memorial contributions toward the publication of his translation of the Septuagint Greek Psalms by New World Byzantine Studios may be sent to: The Donatos Sheehan Psalter Fund, 1661 Battalion Dr., Charleston, SC 29412. Memory eternal!



## O.N.E.

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**Jul 15** Deadline for next issue of the ONE  
**Aug 16-21** Youth Rally, Contoocook, NH

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- **Missions:** Our mission parishes received \$15,000 from the diocese to help in providing an Orthodox presence in their communities.
- **Charity:** The diocese donated over \$7,000 in support of IOCC, OCMC, Project Mexico, FOS, and other worthy organizations.

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