

O.N.E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Right: Children share antidoron after communion at **All Saints of America**, Salisbury, Conn. More photos of their **25th Anniversary** begin at page 8.



Mission School—Food for Thought

Rev. Steven Hosking

“It is a great joy to greet all of you who have gathered for this first offering of the Mission School of the Orthodox Church in America. It is certainly fitting that this week-long event is taking place during our celebration of the resurrection of Christ and at the conclusion [of] Bright Week.... Just as asceticism is not the concern of monastics alone, so apostleship is not just the work of specialists but a vocation for the entire Church.

Archbishop Anastasios of Albania reminds us that: ‘each one of us personally, bears his or her share of re-

sponsibility, as a living cell of this organic whole. Interest in apostleship, in mission, is not the specialty of particular groups or individuals, but a definitive characteristic of the Church herself. It is designated as the occupation of the Church. It is the sine qua non of its life.”

With this introduction, his Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, greeted (via video conference) the participants, instructors and observers of the

Mission continues on 2

Mission from I

first Mission School, being held at the St. Andrew's House in Detroit, Michigan.

The objective of the Mission School is to provide a single, standardized school that would specifically address the needs of missions. Throughout the week-long school, not only was the theology of "mission" discussed, but also the practical applications and cultural significance of how to approach mission. Emphasis was placed primarily on the mission community, as opposed to the "missionary."

Specific topics presented and discussed included; missiology and evangelism theory, creating and understanding mission vision, community building, mission management, finance and stewardship, catechism, education programs, liturgy and music, ethnic approaches and challenges, parish revitalization, community in sacramental and developmental practices, and mission in the secular age.

The theme developed throughout the week, with regard to the American Orthodox presence, was the idea of mission as most often related to "evangelism," yet this idea is simply inadequate in conveying the situation of the American parishes. While evangelism and outreach are integral facets of any parish life, for Orthodox in America, "mission" must also convey fellowship, worship, stewardship and discipleship.

Every Orthodox parish in this country should understand themselves to be a "mission" parish. This idea was

brought to bear particularly with regard to the theme of this year's All-American Council: "How to Expand the Mission."

In reflecting on the week long course (with the opportunity for fellowship, study and prayer with others throughout the OCA), the most challenging objective for participants will be in determining how to implement what was learned. For those of us here in the Diocese of New England, this undertaking is exceptionally relevant; particularly as each of our parishes is struggling to find our place in an

increasingly secularized world. The clergy of the Deanery of Connecticut have met twice already to discuss the "mission" of the Church, and how best to implement the lessons from the Mission School. There will be a third meeting of the Connecticut clergy as well. Also being devel-

oped will be a new addition to the DNE web site, which will feature "mission" resources for all parishes of New England. It is hoped that this will be prepared in time to be presented at the Diocesan Assembly in October. A more substantive presentation on "mission" has been approved by the Diocesan Council, and will be delivered at the Assembly as well.

If you have any specific questions with regards to this Mission School, its subject matter, and how your parish might benefit or participate, please do not hesitate to contact me at frsteve@stalexischurch.org.

In Christ,

Fr Steven Hosking

Every Orthodox parish in this country should understand themselves to be a "mission" parish.

On Growth: Preliminary Considerations

Rev. Evan Armatas

[The following is an excerpt from *On Growth: Things Learned from a Mission Parish*, a document created by the Greek Archdiocese. It was among the resources shared at the Mission School which Fr. Steven Hosking attended.]

These questions require personal reflection. One should also initiate dialogue and reflection with parish leadership and the Parish Assembly.

Step 1: Positive change brings growth

Am I committed to encouraging and enacting positive changes that bring about growth?

Are the parish and parish leadership committed to encouraging and enacting positive changes that bring about growth?

Do I view this as necessary? Do I think this is a priority?

Step 2: Improvements precede growth

Do I realize, and does the parish agree that in order for growth to occur, we must make improvements to all aspects of our parish?

Are we ready to challenge ourselves and move in new directions?

Step 3: Growing begets growing

Am I prepared to grow, and am I comfortable with the new and challenging opportunities growth will present?

Do I understand that I will have opportunities to grow as well?

ONE †

Below: St. Mark's, Kingston, Mass., celebrated the **Baptism of Frank Ryles** into the Holy Orthodox Church with Godparents: Subdn. Peter Condrick and Maria Mojica



Above: The Ladies of St. Mark's, Kingston, Mass., gathered at the home of Lisa & Shell Shortes for a bridal shower for Cristina Marinescu.

Below: St. Mark's recent high school graduates: L to R: Nicholas Haddad, Even Shortes, Sarah Vantangoli, Marina Haddad, Nicholas Vantangoli (in college) and Simon Margitich (graduating next yr.). Not pictured is recent high school grad Dimitri Rusinak. God bless all!



The hearts of children filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit

St. Alexis Church, Clinton

Joan Skrobat

Right: Fr. Steven Hosking of St. Alexis prays over **Sofia Shevchenko** at her baptism.



In May, the parish of St. Alexis witnessed the baptism of Sofia Shevchenko. She is the daughter of Olena and Valeriy, and sister of Katrina and Svetlana. Baptism is our sacramental entrance into the Orthodox faith, the first steps we take in our new life in Christ.

In the Akathist to the Mother of God “Nurturer of Children” printed by St. Paisius Orthodox Monastery, the first Ikos reads: “Intercede with thy son and God, O Most Holy One, that an angel from heaven be sent to children, just as to thee was sent a most mighty protector, the Archangel Gabriel, and vouchsafe us to cry to thee thus: Raise the children to be earthly angels. Raise the children to be heavenly men. Raise the children to be thy servants. Raise the children to cry out to thee, ‘Rejoice, O full of grace the Lord is with thee.’ Raise the chil-

dren to be worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven and make them heirs of eternal blessings.”

The parish of St. Alexis would like to share with the Diocese of New England some of the expressions from the hearts of the children of our family. About 30 surveys were sent to children /parents of the parish. There were about a dozen questions, firstly a profile of the child, then questions about church: What do you like

best about church? How do you explain being an Orthodox Christian to your friends? What don’t you understand about church? What would you like to do to serve the church? What do you personally do differently during Great Lent or any fasting period? The range of ages of responders was from 10 months to college age. The parish of St. Alexis is blessed to have such wonderful children and dedicated parents. Please enjoy reading about these precious “gifts from God”.

Their comments have not been edited.

Michael Neiss is 10 going into 5th grade. He likes karate, horseback riding and cooking. He has a red & black belt award in karate. He likes best about church serving in the altar. He doesn’t explain to his friends about being Orthodox. He doesn’t understand why the service has to be so

long. He wants to continue to serve the church by being an altar server. During Great Lent he says "grace" more often.

Alena Catherine King is a regular visitor to the parish. She is often in church with her grandparents Daria and John Krawchuk. She is 10 months old and her grandmother and mother Melania helped with her survey. She likes making "holy noise (BaBa etc.) and loves to look at the Icon of Pantocrater. Her brother John Michael King is 4. His interests are swimming and Thomas the Tank Trains, he won the Thomas the Tank Engineer award. He likes books about dinosaurs. He likes best about church: Holy Communion bread.

Zachary Neiss is 10 and going into 5th grade. He likes writing, art, board games, violin, soccer, karate and Boy Scouts. He is interested in violin, art, doctors. He is a member of student council and has won the red-black



Above and below:
Scenes from the **baptism of Sofia Shevchenko.**

award in karate. What he likes best about church is Sunday school. He doesn't really tell anyone in school about being an Orthodox Christian "because they do not understand." He wants to serve the church by continuing to be an altar server. During Great Lent he goes to confession and tries to say more prayers.

Jack Jankura is 17 and going into 12th grade. His hobbies are fishing, skiing and the beach. He plays football and lacrosse. He likes to work out, study sports and academics. He is an



honor student, LIAL Leadership and on the football committee for selection of a new coach. What he likes best about church: Unity/family/ where to go when “lost.” How he explains being Orthodox to friends: similar to “regular” Christians except Easter could be different. He doesn’t understand some holidays and why and when we have them. He wants to continue to serve the church by being an altar server. During Great Lent he attends more services and confession.

Gabrielle Neiss is 13 and going into 7th grade. Her hobbies are horseback riding, dance, violin and crafts. She is a peer helper. She has been on the honor roll for 4 quarters in a row. She likes baking cupcakes, nails and horse accessories. What she likes best about church is everyone is very nice. She explains being Orthodox to friends: “I am Christian but celebrate Easter at a different time. She doesn’t understand why women can’t do stuff men do. She likes to serve the church by bringing icons to the younger children before the Great Entrance. During Great Lent she

tries to pray more, eat less meat and dairy products.

Kathryn Jankura is a sophomore in college. Her hobbies are: physical activity going to the beach, she plays field hockey violin and belongs to People Helping People. She had been awarded HFHCA Scholar of Distinction, All State/All SCC. She likes to watch her brothers play sports and making pizza. She likes best about church being with family. She explains being an Orthodox Christian to friends: like any Christian, but on steroids. What she doesn’t understand about church is why women and men aren’t viewed as equal. She would like to serve the church by being an altar server. During Great Lent she doesn’t eat meat.

Christine Nina Hoehnebart is 14. Her hobbies are music and writing. She likes to sail and play the piano. She has won 2 piano festival trophies, 4 plaques and sailing awards. Her special interest is producing and writing music. What she likes about church is learning more about saints. She doesn’t discuss religion with her

Below: Fr. Steven Hosking tonsures the newly-illuminated Sofia.



friends. She doesn't understand what every feast day is for. What she would like to do to serve the church is bringing food, remembering to pray for everyone and applying lessons in church to the real world. During Great Lent she tries to watch less TV and eat fewer sweets.

Cora is a regular visitor to the parish. She is in kindergarten. Her hobbies are writing, reading, crafting, playing badminton. She also likes to swim and is learning how to sew. What she likes best about church is "dressing up for a special day." She explains about being an Orthodox Christian: her church has a dome. What she would like to do to serve the church "I like to help." During Great Lent she attends Pre-Sanctified Liturgies on Wednesdays because they are in the mornings.

Alexei Hoehnebart's hobbies are archery shooting, Boy Scouts, sailing and skiing. His special interest is video games. He doesn't explain being Orthodox to his friends. He doesn't want to do anything to serve the church and he doesn't do anything special for Great Lent.

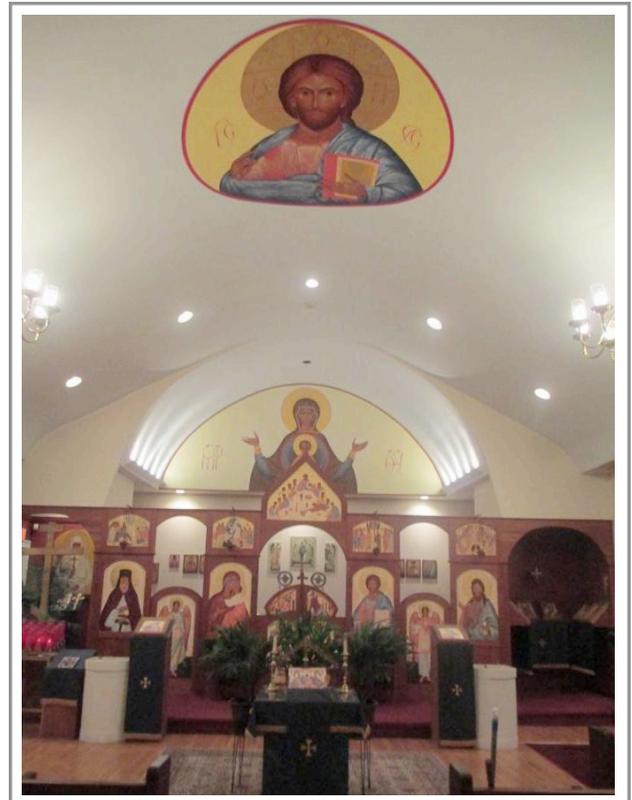
Sam Jankura is 14 and going into 10th grade. His hobbies are fishing and boating. He plays football and lacrosse. He likes best about church being with family. He explains being Orthodox to his friends: "I'm still a Christian." What he doesn't understand about the church is what we do differently than his friends. He would like to serve the church by doing yard work. During Great Lent he doesn't eat meat.

Kaitlyn Luft is 17 she



will be a freshman at Upon. Her hobbies are reading, tennis, and theatre. She plays the French horn, soccer, tennis and has been stage crew, involved in youth groups and National Honor Society. She was Salutatorian of Westbrook High. Her special interests are business, teaching mathematics and tutoring. She likes best about church being with family. She explains to her friends being an Orthodox Christian "we share many Christian

Above and below: The icon of the **Pantocrator**—Christ the ruler of all—is affixed to the ceiling of **All Saints of America, Salisbury, Conn.**, in anticipation of their parish feast and anniversary.





Above: Archbishop Nikon is greeted with flowers before the Liturgy of All Saints of America, June 14, 2015. The **Mission of All Saints of America** celebrated its 25th Anniversary.

Below: Fr. John Kreta, rector of All Saints of America and chancellor of the Diocese of New England, is awarded the jeweled cross.

values and follow a different calendar. She doesn't understand certain aspects or meanings of the Liturgy. She hopes to teach Sunday school someday. During Great Lent she selects something meaningful to give up or fast from.

Katerina Hoehnebart is 11 and in 5th grade. Her hobby is the piano. She also plays the flute, skis, and sails. She won 3rd place in Balsa Bridge contest and 1x gold piano certificate. Her special interest is music. What she likes

best about church is coffee hour. What she tells her friends about being Orthodox is "it's a lot like being Christian but usually she doesn't talk about it." What she doesn't understand about the church is how to explain it to people. To serve the church she would like to go to some of the work parties. She doesn't do lent.

Sarah Luft is 21 and a senior at UConn. Her hobbies are reading tennis and hiking. She is a member of Orthodox Christian Fellowship, UConn Community Outreach, Peer Allies through Honors, and Loft Outlets. Her special awards are Dean's List, Girl Scout Gold Award. Her special interests are youth development, culture and law. What she likes best about the church is the sense of community and support. How she explains being an Orthodox Christian to her friends: she finds herself reiterating that we share many common Christian beliefs and that Orthodoxy is very living, rich faith built upon tradition, and she explains a very basic church history. She would like to



Above: The leadership of All Saints of America, standing with Archbishop Nikon before the icons and relics of the saints of America.

Below: Festivities at the anniversary dinner following Liturgy at All Saints of America.



learn more about the lives of the saints, biblical text, and the intricacies of our services. How she would like to serve the church is to continue her participation in Orthodox Christian Fellowship, and to participate in more volunteer and service work. During Great Lent she tries to put aside extra time to read through daily scripture

with a family member, in addition to prayer and fasting. She also tries to reflect and readjust her attitude, refocusing attention away from small worries.

Many years to the high school graduates of St. Alexis Parish: Kaitlyn Luft and Connor Kuziak!

ONE +





ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
Diocese of New England
ONE Stewards

<p style="text-align: center;">Youth Activities</p> <p>In August 2014, "Rallyers" from throughout the diocese truly enjoyed their week at the Diocesan Youth Rally. The cost for the Youth Rally is over \$20,000. Help sponsor a Youth Rally Participant with your ONE Stewards donations.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Seminary Scholarships</p> <p>In 2014, the diocese provided seminary scholarships totaling \$2800 to the students from our diocese attending Orthodox seminaries. Continue your support of our diocesan seminarians with your ONE Stewards donations.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Missions</p> <p>In 2014, our mission parishes received over \$14,000 to help them provide an Orthodox presence in their communities. Help our mission parishes with your ONE Stewards donations.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Charities</p> <p>The diocese continues to support IOCC, OCMC, Project Mexico, FOS, and other worthy organizations with periodic donations. Your ONE Stewards donations enable the diocese to help where needed.</p>

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Upcoming Events

August 15

July 20-24

August 10-15

Sept 19

Sept 27

Oct 18

Oct 23-24

Deadline for the next issue of the ONE.

All-American Council in Atlanta.

Diocesan Youth Rally.

Holy Resurrection, Berlin, N.H., celebrates 100th Anniversary.

Holy Trinity, Springfield, Vt., celebrates 110th Anniversary.

Holy Transfiguration, New Haven, celebrates 100th Anniversary.

St. Tikhon's Seminary concert at SS. Peter & Paul, Meriden, Conn., at 4 PM.

Diocesan Assembly at Holy Trinity, Willimantic, Conn.