



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

The To Light – ΦΩΣ



April / May – 2006
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St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin
Περιοδικόν Της Ενορίας Του Αγίου Αντωνίου

Volume 9, # 1

Encyclical of Archbishop Demetrios for the One-Year Memorial Upon the Falling Asleep in the Lord of Archbishop Iakovos

Protocol 13/06

April 9, 2006
One-Year Memorial Encyclical
Upon the Falling Asleep in the Lord of Archbishop Iakovos
Former Archbishop of North and South America

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Day, Afternoon and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America.

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of our Holy Eparchial Synod, I write to you on the first year anniversary of the blessed passing away of Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America. One year ago, we grieved deeply upon offering our last respects to a great ecclesiastical leader who led the Church and the Omogeneia for decades.

Today, his legacy lives on, and we honor the fruits of his labors as a dynamic witness to Orthodoxy and Hellenism in America and abroad. He defended zealously the civil

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Rev. Protopresbyter Efstathios V. Mylonas, Ph.D.

Parish Council 2006

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Nick Politis – Vice President
Irene Albeck – Secretary
Steve Pappas – Treasurer
John Patzakis – Assistant Treasurer
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liberties of people, advanced passionately issues concerning our Nation, worked intensively for Christian unity, and sowed generously the seed of the Gospel. His course of action constitutes a standard of application of Christian ideals in the world and an example of ecclesiastical offering.

In honor of the life and offering to the Church and the Nation of our Archbishop of blessed memory, all parishes of our Holy Archdiocese are hereby directed to conduct a one-year memorial service at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 9, 2006. Let this memorial service be an inspiration for all of us to comprehend the power of the Gospel, and our ultimate duty to promote it, as we pray for the repose of the soul of our deeply respected and beloved Archbishop Iakovos.

May his memory inspire all and be eternal.

With paternal love in Christ,

+DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America

A LETTER FROM METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS

Great Lent 2006

Protocol 01/06

To the Reverend Clergy, Monastic Communities; Parish Councils,
Philoptochos Societies, Choirs and Youth Organizations
of the Holy Metropolis of San Francisco,

*The Time has come, for the beginning of spiritual combat, for victory over
demons, for armed self-mastery, for the comeliness of angels, for openness before
God.*

(Hymn of praises for Forgiveness Sunday)

Dearly Beloved,

Truly the time has come. We are eager for change, a new start. I rejoice with you that the Church presents us with just such a new beginning, for as a loving mother She cares and provides for us.

As of tomorrow, She summons us to commence spiritual combat as it were. She calls us to perceive, to believe and to state that we are constituted of spirit and soul, not of a body alone. To perceive and believe that we may not accept all things as they are, that we may not yield to the every temptation, and that we may not bend the first moment we are pressed. But, rather to struggle and ultimately to prevail over everything that opposes our moral integrity.

It is time we learned to question ourselves and not to concede to others the right of censure. Self mastery is a great strength, a veritable panoply: the power to repel temptation from gaining mastery over our life, our will, and our actions. It is the power of self-regard, self-knowledge, and Christian dignity.

“The comeliness of angels” that is a harder thing to achieve. Moral purity, spiritual vigilance and the desire to serve only that which is good, and toward all who stand in need of it. But, this is the ministry of angels. They are “ministering spirits sent forth to serve.” What is more exalted for the Christian than the privilege of ministering to his fellow man? Great Lent is the time to speak openly to God: to make confession without fear and to acknowledge who we really are before Him. Our appearance doesn’t persuade

Him that it is true reflection of our inner self. It is time for direct discourse with God; however much we may prefer to avoid it, however much it may terrify us.

The first of the three Odes of the Triodion, the liturgical period we entered three weeks ago, reads: “O, giver of life, open up to me the gates of repentance.” It ought to become the very first words of our daily prayer. The gates of our hearts, shut to repentance, to self-awareness, to confession, must at last be thrown open. And open they will, once we cease to equate fasting with abstinence from certain foods, and instead, equate it with that contrition which opens the gates of the divine compassion.

I pray that we may come to regard Great Lent as the holy hymnographer did when he wrote: “The time has come; for the start of spiritual combat; for victory over demons; for armed self-mastery; for the comeliness of angels; for openness before God”; and that we may live it in a manner that God and our Holy Church expect.

With Love in Christ,

Metropolitan Gerasimos

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRIEST

Today's reading is from the holy gospel of Luke the evangelist. It is the 12th Sunday of Luke

The gospel reading is an account of the healing of a group of lepers. They were suffering from a dreadful disease that was incurable and highly contagious. The lepers always lived as outcasts far away from any contact with other humans. Misery had brought them together. There were nine Jews and one Samaritan.

When Jesus appeared in their territory, they started shouting "please heal us!" Jesus following tradition, said to them: "go to your priests and show yourselves to them." According to Jewish religious custom, a priest had to verify the healing of a leper.

They turned around and went, and on their way, they were healed. One of them came back. He fell on his knees before Jesus and thanked him.

Thankfulness and gratitude are great virtues, but is this story about thankfulness?

There were ten. One of them was a stranger, a Samaritan. He knew that he could not be checked by the Jewish priests. He would not have been welcomed. He would have been kicked out. And this is the reason why he decided to return to Jesus and thank him from the depth of his being.

Jesus immediately asked him where the other nine healed lepers were. Of course, he knew where they were.

The others represent so many of god's children in this world. Once they receive certification of healing, they go about their daily business, join their families, drink their coffee, meet their friends, laugh and enjoy their lives.

They all had been touched by Jesus. Their skin was healed, but the rest of their body remained the same, as if nothing had happened at all.

The Samaritan came back, and Jesus said: "stand up, go on your way. Your faith has saved you." Not his skin, but him; not the surface, but his heart; not his epidermis but his mind. He truly followed him.

The Samaritan came back to start living a new life, a truly transformed life. He abandoned his old life and his old world. He lived a new life with Jesus.

My beloved brothers and sisters, we, too, have been touched by him. If we had not been touched, we would not be here, in this church, surrounded by images of so many saints who have also been touched by Jesus and changed their lives.

How deeply do we feel Jesus' touch? How appealing is this touch to help change our attitudes and our attachments to a world that emphasizes success, material things and power.

The nine lepers were declared clean and sound by their priests. Number ten was tested by Jesus, who said: "you are healed and changed." number ten never returned to his old life. Let us try to follow the example of the tenth leper. Amen.

Father Efstathios V. Mylonas
Protopresbyter

MESSAGE FROM PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The new parish council was sworn in on Sunday January 8, 2006. I would like to welcome our two new board members, Syrus Mobayen and Julie Balas, two talented and dedicated parishioners, that we are happy to have join the council. I want to thank our members who finished out their terms; Jimmy Christodoulelis, Sam Dallas, and Arry Pastis. Each one has contributed so much serving on the parish council. Jimmy was our golf tournament chairman (5 years), and maintenance chairman, a never ending job. Sam was our 2005 festival chairman, the highest grossing festival we have had in a long time. Arry, also a past president and 20 year board member, was our assistant treasurer who spent many hours in the office recording all the transactions that take place on a daily basis. They still remain very active in the community. Our officers for 2006 are Sophia Angelos, President; Nicholas Politis, Vice President; Irene Albeck, Secretary; Steven Pappas, Treasurer and John Patzakis, Assistant Treasurer. Members and their positions are Julie Balas, ushering; John Buzas, building committee; Syrus Mobayen, maintenance; Eleftheria Polychronis, stewardship, Peter K. Vagenas, supplies & basketball liaison; Tashia Vagenas, organizations & Esther Vavoulis, youth ministries.

On Saturday, January 21, 2006, we had a special parish council meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. We discussed the Archdiocese rules and regulations, the responsibilities of each member, capital improvements and needs inventory, and the immediate and long term objectives for our parish. Thank you to Steve Pappas who organized the entire meeting. And a special thank you to Alma Vorgias, our church secretary, who spends so much time in helping us get all the paper work needed for all of our meetings, and the many extra duties she performs because she cares and wants everything to run as smoothly as possible.

I want to thank Elizabeth Spourdalakis who again chaired our Christmas Eve reception and thank you for your generosity.

Thank you to Nicholas Politis for planning the past presidents' dinner at Twin Palm's restaurant. We get together every year in January, to give the new members of the parish council an opportunity to meet the past presidents of our community.

Thank you to Dr. Louis Pastis who was our 2006 Pentahiliariko chairman and his entire committee for the beautiful event we all enjoyed on Saturday March 4. It takes committed people to put in the many hours to make this event possible. The Pente has been one of our main fundraisers for 39 years.

Congratulations to all the dance groups for a very successful FDF this year. You are all winners, and we are proud of all of you.

We are planning our 2nd annual Easter Picnic at Lacy Park again under the chairmanship of Nicholas Politis. And our 6th annual golf tournament will be held on Friday, May 19, 2006, co-chaired by Nicholas Politis and Vicki Kades.

The diocese Clergy-Laity Assembly was held February 27 thru March 1, 2006 at St. Nicholas Ranch. John Buzas and myself went to represent the community. It is always well attended by the priests and parish council members of the many communities in the diocese. I will report on this at our next general assembly which will take place on Sunday, June 4, 2006, right after church.

Basketball season has begun. Good luck to all our teams. Have fun and enjoy playing and cherish the friends you will make. Thank you to Chris Harper for again organizing the program.

Father has missed many of the events I mentioned, because of health reasons. On behalf of the parish council, Father, our thoughts and prayers are always with you. Get well, we need you.

Sophia Angelos
Parish Council President

Holy Sacraments and Services

Baptisms

Zoie Athena, daughter of Peter and Athena Bravos on January 7, 2006. Sponsors: Connie, Keith, Jeffrey and Kristen Becker.

Anastasia, daughter of Michael and Sylvia Kaparos on March 5, 2006. Sponsors: Stefanos Kaparos and Anastasia Kaparos.

Chrismations

Alesa Anne Kerr on December 20, 2005. Sponsor: Klio Harris.

Bryan Baumeister on February 22, 2006. Sponsor: Presvytera Maria Mylonas.

Wedding

Panayiotis Alexiou Vagenas and Melinda Elizabeth Hughes on January 14, 2006.
Koumbaros: George Alexiou Vagenas.

Warmest wishes to the newly baptized and chrismated, to newly weds, to the sponsors and parents. May God the Almighty abundantly bless their lives.

Funerals

Rachel Papajohn of Upland, California on December 22, 2005.

Jeanette San Filippo Pandis of Monrovia, California on March 1, 2006.

May God grant rest to the souls of Rachel and Jeanette. They were very devoted to their families and were also dedicated members of our Church. May their memory be eternal.

Father Soterios Lytras Fell Asleep in the Lord

As we were printing our Bulletin, we were saddened to learn that Father Soterios Lytras fell asleep in the Lord on February 18, 2006 in Australia. Fr. Soterios served our Archdiocese in America and the Archdiocese in Australia with great dedication and love. The last few years, he helped us during Holy Week and Easter. To his presvytera Maria and their son Jim, we express our heartfelt sympathy. May the Lord our God grant rest to the soul of this good and dedicated priest. May the memory of Fr. Soterios be eternal.

Statistics for the year 2005 Holy Sacraments and Services

Baptisms	17
Funerals	5
Chrismations	3
Weddings	5

A Heartfelt Thank You

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to our beloved and Most Respected Metropolitan Gerasimos for his many calls, his visit, his fervent prayers and his love and support during my hospitalizations. I am also deeply grateful to His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios for his call and his paternal prayers. I would also like to thank Fr. John Constantine, Fr. John S. Bakas and Fr. Peter Stratos who came to the Hospital to visit and to pray for me and all of my brother priests and presvyteres who called and offered their support and prayers.

To each and everyone my gratitude for your calls, your warm messages, your visits to the hospital and our home and your prayers to Almighty God. With God's help and your prayers, I am slowly recovering and am deeply grateful to Him and to all of you. I especially thank the Parish Council, Philoptochos and our children of the Sunday School, Greek School, Moms and Tots, Greek Folk Dance Groups, teachers and directors.

To all, my deepest appreciation.

Fr. Stathis

A Poem

During one of our recent visits to my doctor's office, my daughter, Stacey, noticed a poster of the following poem in the treatment room:

Cancer is limited.
It cannot cripple love.
It cannot shatter hope.
It cannot corrode faith.
It cannot destroy peace.
It cannot kill friendship.
It cannot suppress memories.
It cannot silence courage.
It cannot invade the soul.
It cannot steal eternal life.
It cannot conquer the spirit.

-Author Unknown-

This poem is so appropriate for each of us who battles cancer and for those of us who have lost this battle. We are reminded of the recent untimely death of Dana Reeve. Through her example, we truly realize that cancer "cannot conquer the spirit" and silence courage. May God grant rest to her soul and may her memory be eternal.

Parish Council 2006

On December 4, 2005, our parish conducted elections for the Parish Council. The following dedicated members of St. Anthony's Church were elected: Julie Kiotas Balas, new member, Syrus Mobayen, new member, Steven Pappas re-elected and Esther Vavoulis re-elected. The remaining Parish Council members are: Irene Albeck, Sophia Angelos, John Buzas, John Patzakis, Nicholas Politis, Eleftheria Polychronis, Peter Vagenas and Tasia Vagenas. The outgoing members of the Parish Council who did not seek re-election are: Jim Christodoulelis, Soterios Dallas and Arry Pastis. Ted Attalla

withdrew from the Parish Council. We thank these people for their invaluable services to the Church and we congratulate the newly elected and all of the members for serving St. Anthony's Church. The officers of the Parish Council are: Sophia Angelos, president, Nick Politis, vice president, Irene Albeck, secretary, Steven Pappas, treasurer and John Patzakis, assistant treasurer.

Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following people who generously donated to purchase the most beautiful processional fans and Cross which are placed behind the Holy Altar: all of our faithful people who donate at the Coffee Hour and the Philoptochos Ladies Society for managing the donations, an anonymous family, and those who donate to the Memorial Fund. A special thank you to Theodore and Eleftheria Polychronis, Dr. James and Virginia Kallins, and an anonymous family for donating to complete the iconography in the Sanctuary. Appreciation and a heartfelt thank you to Nick and Irene Mitsos, Cindy and Jack Chapdelaine, Dick and Fran Dougherty, Linda and William Hackett, Anthony and Madeline Gaeta and Sharon Thomson in honor of Nick and Irene Mitsos for their generous donation toward the Choir Balcony iconography and the mosaic in the Vestibule. We will always be grateful to Louis and Jenny Tripodes of blessed memory for their donation to complete the iconography of the Choir Balcony. Thank you and deep appreciation to Dr. James and Sophia Angelos for their generous donation to the iconography of the Choir Balcony. Other generous donors are, Maryam Attalla, Elisabeth Spourdalakis, Ted Attalla and an anonymous parishioner. To all these faithful people, we are deeply grateful.

Pente 2006

A special thank you to Dr. Louis Pastis and his dedicated committee for organizing a great Pente. Our Community is deeply grateful to Louis and his committee and to the donors and supporters of this most beautiful event.

John Buzas Appointed to the Legal Committee of our Metropolis

John Buzas, a member of St. Anthony's Parish Council and a dedicated member of the Church, was appointed by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco to serve on the Legal Committee of the Metropolis. We congratulate John for this honorable appointment and thank him for his service to our Church.

Anniversary Album

Dear Parishioners,

The magnificent 50th Anniversary Album which beautifully chronicles Saint Anthony's history with text and pictures is now available for you, your families and your friends. It is a must for every home.

Copies are for sale in the Church Office for \$75.00 each. Proceeds will go to the Building Fund.

Your continuing support is greatly appreciated.

Athena Dallas

Preparing for Lent

Lent will begin on March 6 and the Archdiocese web site offers numerous resources on the Lenten season, prayer, fasting, and much more. Visit the Lent site to prepare for this holy time of the year: www.goarch.org

Holy Week Flowers

Donations are now being accepted for flowers for Holy Week, Holy and Great Friday and Easter. Please contact the office for specific floral arrangements, wreaths, icons, candles and Easter Lilies.

A New Translation of the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed and the Lord's Prayer

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Holy Eparchial Synod of our Archdiocese of America, after thorough and multi-faceted study, having carefully considered the variety of English translations of liturgical texts currently in use in our Parishes, and aware of the need for liturgical uniformity, has decided to prepare and publish a formal translation of basic liturgical texts in English. The Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed and the Lord's Prayer are the first texts to have been translated in English, copies of which will be sent to all Parishes of the Holy Archdiocese of America.

These two holy texts of our Faith constitute unparalleled expressions of our daily faith and worship and are central to the liturgical praxis of the Orthodox Church.

Thus, we paternally ask that you henceforth make use only of these translations at all liturgical occasions in which the Creed and the Lord's Prayer are used.

Invoking the blessing of the Merciful God upon all of us, and asking Him to fill your lives with all good things, we remain

With prayers and love in the Lord Jesus Christ,

(The letter is signed by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, President and all the Hierarchs of the Eparchial Synod of our Holy Archdiocese of America)

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all ages.
Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not created,
of one essence with the Father through Whom all things were made.
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was
incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.
And He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge the living and dead.
His kingdom shall have no end.
And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of life, Who proceeds from the Father,
Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke
through the prophets.
In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

National Orthodox Radio Program

The Come Receive The Light (CRTL) program ceased to operate in the Los Angeles area because of a lack of financial support. There will be two gatherings in May 2006, to make people aware of the importance of this unique program. The first gathering will take place in Irvine and will be sponsored by St. Paul Church and the second gathering will be held in the Pasadena area. We will advise you of the dates and times as soon as they become available. Our Church supports this program.

An Important Scholarship Fund to Help our Seminarians

The Endowed Scholarship Fund that was established on the 41st anniversary of Fr. Stathis' ordination through donations from our parishioners and friends awards scholarships to seminarians who plan to be ordained and serve our Greek Orthodox Church in America. Should you wish to contribute to the scholarship fund, please contact the Church Office at (626) 449-6943.

Gioles and Malta Scholarships

Scholarship applications are now available on line for the Gioles and Malta Scholarships. Awards range from \$1500 to \$2000 and the application deadline is April 15, 2006. For more information and to download applications got to:

<http://www.goarch.org/en/archdiocese/administration/chancellor/scholarships.asp>

Anne Sophia Nonis Scholarship Foundation

The annual dinner dance, entitled "A Night in Monte Carlo" to support the Anne Sophia Nonis Scholarship Foundation has been re-scheduled to October. The next dinner dance will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2006 (in honor of Anne's Birthday). Please save this date for an exciting night of fine dining, a variety of dancing, and fun-filled games beyond all expectations. The foundation helps our high-achieving Sunday School graduates to meet the ever-increasing costs of college.

Anne Sophia Nonis was a dedicated Sunday School teacher at St. John's Church in Anaheim, CA. After her untimely death, her family established this important scholarship in her memory. Those who have interest in this scholarship or who wish to support the fundraising banquet, please call Mr. Jason Nonis at (714) 985-9934 or write to: Anne Sophia Nonis Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 151, Placentia CA 92871-9000.

National Altar Retreat and National Girls' Retreat

The annual National Altar Boy Retreat and the first annual National Girls' Retreat will take place on the campus of Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology from April 6-9, 2006. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America will be the keynote speaker for both events, which are co-sponsored by Hellenic College/Holy Cross and the National Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. We are encouraging our altar boys and young girls from our youth programs to consider participating in this event. If you have any questions, please contact Sonia Belcher in the Admissions Office at 617-850-1285 (sbelcher@hchc.edu) or the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at 646-519-6180 (youthoffice@goarch.org) You can also call our Church Office for more information at 626-449-6943 or Dr. and Mrs. Nikitas Tripodes at 626-799-4735.

Our Metropolis New Youth Director

Pete Sotiras, Director - Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco
Office of Youth and Family Ministries, 372 Santa Clara Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94127
(415) 753-3075 (office) (415) 753-1165 (fax) sfyouth@sanfran.goarch.org

Oratorical Festival

St. Anthony's Oratorical Festival will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. following the Divine Liturgy and Doxology on the Feast Day of the Annunciation and Greek Independence Day. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco has announced that "Our Metropolis has been given the honor of hosting the 23rd Annual St. John Chrysostom National Oratorical Festival. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America will honor this event with his attendance." The Oratorical Festival finalists are our guests and it is customary that their expenses be paid by the host Metropolis. As individuals and parishes, we should help to raise at least \$10,000. Please make your check payable to the Archdiocese Oratorical Festival and forward it to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, 372 Santa Clara Ave., San Francisco, CA 94127. The Oratorical Festival will take place Friday, June 2 – Sunday, June 4, 2006 at the Annunciation Cathedral and Holy Trinity Church in San Francisco, California. For more information please call (415) 753-3075 or sfyouth@sanfran.goarch.org

A New Graduate

Anna Zakos-Feliberti, a wife and mother of two, received her Ph.D. in Behavioral Sciences – Public Health from the University of Texas – Health Science Center, Houston, Texas. We congratulate Anna and wish her a successful career. Anna and her husband, Eric are supporting members of our Church.

Hellenic Education Seminar

The Commission on Hellenic Education and Culture for the Metropolis of San Francisco invites Hellenic School administrators, Instructors and Friends to the Northern California: Hellenic Education Seminar on Sunday, April 9, 2006 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, San Jose, CA. For more information please call Mrs. Helen Dumas, Director of Hellenic Education at (310) 373-0808 or SpeakGreekNow@aol.com

American Hellenic Council

The American Hellenic Council cordially invites you to attend the 2006 Annual Honors Dinner Dance. The Honorees are Euripides L. Evriviades, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the United States, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, Thirty-Ninth Congressional District of California and Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, philanthropist and businessman. The event will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2006 at the Omni Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles. For reservations, please call (323) 651-3507 or e-mail: info@americanhellenic.org

St. Sophia Philoptochos Debutante Presentation

St. Sophia Philoptochos is currently making plans for its Debutante Presentation Ball which will be held on January 27, 2007, at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel. Interested young ladies who will be high school juniors or older should contact the Presentation Ball Chair, Tina Callas at (818) 986-7659 or at dalset@aol.com An informational meeting will be held at the St. Sophia Cathedral Residence Center on Sunday, June 4, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.

St. Sophia Annual Easter Picnic

St. Sophia annual Easter Picnic will take place Sunday, April 23, 2006, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Brookside Park (Next to the Rose Bowl). For information call (909) 660-4333 or (323) 737-2424.

A Greek Orthodox Section at Rose Hills Memorial Park

For more information on the Greek Orthodox Section at Rose Hills, call (562) 260-9671 or (877) 385-4861 ext. 795. The Greek Orthodox Memorial Foundation of Southern California is an independent non-profit Religious Corporation supporting the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. The beautiful Byzantine Chapel at the cemetery is almost completed and the iconography is exquisite.

IOCC

The International Orthodox Christian Charities need our support to fulfill their mission. Please consider helping them during this Holy Lenten period and Easter. For more information www.iocc.org or call 877-803-4622.

A Wonderful Retreat

There will also be a wonderful retreat at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center April 28-May 1, 2006. For more information, call our Church office at (626) 449-6943 or St. Nicholas Ranch at (559) 338-2103.

Summer Camps

Saint Nicholas Ranch Summer Camp 2006 will offer you a unique experience. Session One: July 9 – 15, Session Two: July 16 – 22, Session Three: July 23 – 29, Session Four: July 30 - August 5 and Session Five: August 6 – 12 (Priests Kids Elite Camp). For information call our office at (626) 449-6943 or (559) 338-2103, www.stnicholasranch.org

IONIAN VILLAGE SUMMER CAMP 2005 IN, GREECE

Program dates: Summer Travel Camp (grades 7 – 9): June 29 – July 16. Byzantine Venture (grades 10 – 12): July 24 – August 13. Information/registration at www.ionianvillage.org or call (646) 519-6190, email: ionianvillage@goarch.org

Church Doors Fund Raiser

Thanks and appreciation to the committee for raising \$ 21,332 for the new front doors of the church. With the \$12,000 from the Memorial Fund the total now available for the front doors is \$33,332. The Parish Council is considering several bids to replace the doors and is waiting for details pertaining to these bids. They will choose the doors after all the details are gathered and presented. In the meantime, we thank the following donors for their generous contributions towards the new doors:

Donors for new Church doors ...

Albeck, Irene
Alex, Larry & Helen
Angelos, James & Sophia
Anonymous, Anonymous
Anton, Gus & Helen
Arapostathis, Mary
Arapostathis, Christiann
Athanasoulis, Chris & Tina
Attalla, Maryam
Attalla, Philip "Ted"
Bacoyianis, Sotiria K.
Becker, Brian L. & Connie
Betinis, Harriet
Bicos, Dino & Kalli
Bicos, Soterios & Mary
Bogosyan, Margarita
Bonorris, Chris & Helen
Brahos, Drew & Marcia
Buzas, John & Pamela
Christodoulou, Christakis/Chris
Christopoulos, Gus & Judie
Cocores, Ted & Christine
Dallas, Soterios & Athena
Damilatis, Dimitrios & Eleni
Demopoulos, Andrew & Elizabeth
Demos, Nick & Maria
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Haralambos, Aliko
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Harris, Nick & Klio
Jones, Peggy

Kallas, Mark & Debra
Kalyviaris, Socratis & Joanna
Kamar, Bassily & April
Kaplanis, Peter & Joan
Karagias, Tasos & Helen
Karaioannoglou, Phaedon & Jeanne
Kefalas, John & Evelyn
Kefallinos, Nick & Vicky
Kitridou, Rodanthi C.
Lanergan, Philip & Xenia
Lappas, Dino & Virginia
Lappas, Dino & Virginia
Livanos, Parri
Lucas, Katherine
Malamis, William J.
Malina, Dorothea
Mavredakis, George & Vivian
Mavredakis, John & Christie
McGregor, Rick & Kristen
McNulty, Chris & Jennie
Mechalas, Bessie
Nichols, James & Joyce
Panagiot, Harry & Anastasia
Pappas, Constantine J. & Hope
Pastis, Arry & Leah
Pastis, Gust S. & Vivian
Patzakis, John & Andrea
Pavlis, Eleftherios & Mary
Pegadiotes, George S. & Maria
Pegadiotes, Stan S.
Petrossian, Rafic R. & Stacy
Poulos, Yiota
Riley, Thomas & Evangelia
Roumbos, Popi
Sarantos, Chris & Antonia
Sideris, Athanasios/Anastasia
Sjostrand, Margaret C.
Skandale, George & Katherine
Soewers, Randy & Stephanie
St. Anthony's, VIP's

St. Anthony's, Philoptochos
Stavropoulos, Demetra
Stavros, George N. & Angeline
Tarazi, John & Ellie
Treantafelles, Zoi
Treantafelles, Andrew & Georgia
Treantafelles, George T. & Helen

Tripodes, Nikitas & Dena
Tripodes, Koula J.
Vagenas, John & Georgia
Vagenas, Spiros & Margaret
Vidalakis, Perry & Zoe
Webster, John & Jennifer
Wojcik, Radoslav & Pamela

Greek Orthodox Basketball League 2006

Sunday, March 12	Sunday of Orthodoxy no games
Sunday, March 19	No game for St. Anthony
Sunday, March 26	St. Anthony at St. Nicholas
Sunday, April 2	St. Anthony at St. Sophia
Sunday, April 9	St. Anthony - St. Katherine at John Muir High School, Pasadena
Saturday, April 29	Quarter Finals at John Muir High School, Pasadena
Sunday, April 30	Semi Finals at John Muir High School, Pasadena
Sunday, May 7	Finals/Banquet at St. Sophia

Pentehiliariko

The 39th annual Pentehiliariko was a great success. The hors d' oeuvres, dinner and entertainment were outstanding. I want to thank everyone who donated their precious time and for their generous support in making this unique event such a wonderful experience, Dr. Louis Pastis.

St. Anthony's VIPs

St. Anthony's VIPs are planning a rummage sale in July 2006. It would be appreciated if you could save and donate items for this sale from now.

What's New (and Not So New) with Philoptochos

The Second Annual Philoptochos Women's Health & Wellness Symposium took place on October 8th at Loyola Marymount University. It was a complete sell-out and attended by women of all ages from the entire Southern California area. Once again, it was a well-received program especially with the presence of His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos. Many thanks to the women of St. Anthony's who attended.

The following day, October 9th, our Philoptochos team of almost 20 individuals participated in the 5K Walk for Hope at City of Hope. This year most of us wore the custom-printed blue and white t-shirts that identified us as the St. Anthony Philoptochos team. Everyone had a great time and agreed to join the team again next year, bringing along more friends and family. We want to thank Steve Bicos and Pantele Xanthos for treating us to breakfast following the walk. We were able to raise close to \$2,000 for breast cancer research at City of Hope. We ask all parishioners to consider walking with us next year.

We want to thank the parishioners who visited our Christmas tree and generously gave gifts to our “adopted” family as well as others in need. We also gave new underwear, shoes and socks to Families In Transition, a Pasadena agency who was also a recipient of a portion of the proceeds from our Christmas Benefit. No matter how great or small your contribution, you can be sure that each gift was appreciated by its recipient.

Heartfelt thanks to all the women who gave of their time and talents for our annual Christmas Benefit Luncheon at the Ritz-Carlton in Pasadena. Even though we functioned without a chairman, everything went smoothly! Not only did our guests enjoy the Christmas boutique, Santa’s Kitchen and the Silent Auction, but they loved the angelic little girls, the handsome young men and especially the beautiful Fashions by Lourdes. Our Metropolis President, Valerie Roumeliotes joined us that afternoon. We also honored Peter Carpou, a kind and generous friend of Philoptochos. For some time now, Peter has been our number-one piano player during the benefit reception hour. Peter has always been one of those special touches that we have been blessed to have at the Christmas Benefit Luncheon.

Again we must thank Paul and MaryAnn Mallis for opening their home for the Philoptochos Christmas party. Charlene Vayos and her committee did a wonderful job organizing a wonderful and festive evening enjoyed by many.

Special thanks to Jenny Tsouvalas and Litsa Stavropoulos who offered their homes for the first two general meetings of this year. Our pot-luck, the first meeting, took place at Jenny’s where there was an abundance of good food and fellowship. At Litsa’s home, we welcomed representatives from Operation Smile, a non-profit organization that travels around the world focusing on developing countries to repair childhood facial deformities. Operation Smile provides these services at no cost to affected families.

In January, Christina Becronis offered her home for the general meeting where Sara Elisabet Oftedal spoke to us about the Martha & Mary House, an Orthodox home located in Escondido for women who are pregnant and have nowhere else to turn for support. Our

chapter gave a donation to help with this vital ministry. We enjoyed having several new members at this meeting. We welcome them and hope to see them at future Philoptochos events.

January was a busy month for us. Thanks again to Evelyn Kefalas, Sophia Vagenas, Stavroula Kiotas and Julie Balas for preparing and organizing a delicious and successful Vasilopita. This is a labor of love shared by these same women every year. We thank them for their hard work and dedication.

In January Philoptochos also hosted the St. Anthony Vesper Dinner. I do want to thank those board members and other Philoptochos members who came forward to help. We have been getting quite a few people who come for vespers and stay to enjoy supper. We had at least 120 people enjoy the meal this year. Thanks to Pantele Xanthos who once again provided the “manpower” in the kitchen.

In February, Fontaine Malisos opened her home for the general meeting. I spoke about the IOCC study tour that I took to Bosnia and Serbia last August and September. It was such an inspiring trip and educated all of us on the tour about the many projects supported by IOCC.

The National Philoptochos, under the direction of Dee Nicolaou, Metropolis Philoptochos President of Atlanta, has implemented a program to offer assistance to victims of the hurricanes that plagued the southern states last year. A portion of the proceeds from our Christmas benefit were designated to aid the hurricane victims and that will be going to help this program. All families that will be helped by the Adopt-A-Family project are from the Greek Orthodox parishes in New Orleans and Biloxi. We want to encourage our parish to assist us in helping these families, some of whom were left with nothing but the clothes on their backs. More information will be forthcoming on how you can help.

Philoptochos is inviting the ENTIRE community to a Lenten supper on Sunday, March 26th where Connie Constant will speak on her book, *Austin Lunch*. This book reflects on the years during the Great Depression in Chicago and her family’s struggle to survive as Greek immigrants from Arcadia, Greece. Look for more information in the coming weeks. Reservations are not necessary but we would love to know if you will be able to attend. Please contact a Philoptochos board member if you know you will be attending or if you would like more information.

Once again, we are preparing for the Kids n’ Cancer event which will take place on May 7, 2006 at the home of Ted and Esther Vavoulis. Please save the date and consider helping us in our role as a host chapter.

Remember, Philoptochos is not just a “club.” It is an official ministry of the Greek Orthodox Church where Orthodox women participate in philanthropic projects to assist those in need. In October of 1932, Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras encouraged all women to be part of Philoptochos and to remember that St. Paul tells us that charity is the only thing that has eternal value and he admonishes us never to cease practicing charity. If you are not already a member, please consider joining us in this outreach ministry. You can be involved as little or as much as you are able.

In Christ, Lisa Xanthos

Dance groups

Dear St. Anthony’s parishioners,

This past week in San Diego at the annual FDF (Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival) all of our dance groups performed with big hearts filled with the pride of our heritage and our community. There were 113 groups attending and performing from all over the country as well as from Bulgaria and Greece. Our groups; Bouboukaicia, Terpsichoreans, Ta Asterakia, Neolea and Pyrkagia, all performed and impressed both their peers and the audiences watching. Three out of five dance groups won awards.

- 1). The Terpsichoreans won Second place and the Choral award in the Division I primary category.
- 2). Ta Asterakia won the Division II Dance Sweepstakes award. This award is best overall in 4 categories.
- 3). Pyrkagia won Third place in the Division I advanced senior category.
- 4). Dena Kefallinos received a FDF Memorial Scholarship.

I would like to thank all the parents, dancers and everyone that has participated, volunteered or donated to the Greek Folk Dance program over the past year, with a special thank you to Father Mylonas, the directors and the dance board for all of their concentrated efforts. Throughout the year our directors worked hard to research and organize new programs to teach our dancers. Our dancers worked hard and practiced many hours to learn the new dances for these programs. This year has been another successful year not because of the awards but because we worked together and have all grown closer both as fellow Christians and as Greek Folk dancers.

As President of the Greek Folk Dance program I am proud to say that all of our groups have once again represented our community well and were shining examples of what fellowship, unity, and good sportsmanship is meant to be.

PA-SA-DE-NA!!

Eleni Vagenas
President
Greek Folk Dance Board

For more information on how to join a dance group please contact Eleni Vagenas at:
(909) 519-7788

Bouboukakkia - Georgia Giannoulis – Director, Dena Romios - parent rep.
John Paul Caire Sophia Pappas Ariana Saigh
Amalia Christodoulelis Sotirios Papavasiliou Gus Varelas
Panagiotis Giannoulis Alexander Romios

The **Terpsichoreans** won Second place Dance and the Choral award in the Division I primary category. Directors: Mary Langis and Pete Katsafados. Terese Caire-parent rep.

Niko Balas	Taso Giannoulis	Nikolitsa Vagenas
Maria Caire	Katerina Kamar	Christos Vagenas
Anastasia Christodoulelis	Kyriaki Tsigkounis	Anthony Varelas
Christina Dupas	Christina Vagenas	Katherine Vavoulis
Katerina Dupas		

Ta Asterakia won the Division II Dance Sweepstakes award. This award is best overall in 4 categories. Directors: Elleni Ioannou, Teresa Vorgias and Theo Giannoulis.

Angela Angelopoulos - parent rep.

Stefani Angelopoulos	Hristo Giannoulis	Anthony Vagenas
Stacy Athanasoulis	Christina Karatzas	Chris Vagenas
Christian Balas	Marios Kefalas	Alexandra Vavoulis
Lefteri Christodoulelis	Anastasia McGregor	Christina Vavoulis
Zoe Demos	Victoria McGregor	Ana Dewar
Danae Pappas	George Dupas	Billy Vagenas

Neolea - Paulas Darlas – Director, Nina Kefalas - parent rep.

Anna Athanasoulis	Billy Kalivas	Nicholas Kritikos
Athansios Baroudos	Kalliopi Kefalas	John Paziouros
Chrisoula Baroudos	Dena Kefallinos	Patricia Paziouros
Olga Baroudos	Sophia Kefallinos	Elizabeth Vagenas
Eleni Christodoulelis	Despina Kritikos	Dimitri Douvikas
Konstantinos Kritikos		

SAINT ANTHONY'S 2006 PLEDGED MEMBERS (March 9, 2006)

Adamopoulos, Virginia & Peter A.	Dieguez, Kiriaki & Marvin	Livanos, Parri
Albeck, Irene	Dogris, Julie & Nicholas J.	Lucas, Katherine
Alex, Helen & Larry	Dupas, Evangeline & Theodore	Macris, Catherine & George
Andrianopoulos, Alex	Dupas, Katherine & George	Malina, Dorothea
Angelopoulos, Angela	Fine, Alexis & Edward	Mastrodemos, Susan & Nikolaos
Angelopoulos, Vassilis & Mary Christianidis	Feliberti, Anna Zakos & Eric C.	McBride, Wendi & James
Angelos, Sophia & James	Furst, Nicolette & Jay	Mechalas, Bessie
Angelos, Nicholas	Galanis, Myrtice & John	Mitsos, Michelle & Michael N.
Anton, Helen & Gus	Gavalas, Cleola & George	Mowrey, Vicky
Athans, Tina & Dean P.	Gelt, Pana-Louise & Brian	Nichols, Joyce & James
Attalla, Maryam	Giakas, Vasiliki	Nicolaidis, Nicolas
Attalla, Philip "Ted"	Gianopulos, Dorothea & George N.	Nurches, Paul C.
Bacoyianis, Sotiria K.	Hagelis, Pauline & James	Panagiot, Anastasia & Harry
Balas, Julie & Dino	Haralambos, Alik	Pappas, Carolyn & Anastasios
Becker, Connie & Brian L.	Haralambos, Kathleen & Anthony	Pappas, Christine & Steven N.
Becronis, Christina	Haralambos, Page & Tom	Pappas, Hope & Constantine J.
Betinis, Harriet J.	Harper, Christina C.	Pastis, Arry & Leah
Bicos, Mary & Soterios	Harris, Klio & Nick	Pastis, Vivian & Gust S.
Bogosyan, Margarita	Hickey, David & Vasiliki Sellis	Pastis, Patricia
Bonorris, Helen & Chris	Hronas, Maria & James W.	Patzakis, Andrea & John
Bonorris, Donna & Pete	Ioannou, Eleni & Chris	Pegadiotes, Maria & George S.
Bozikis, Demetra	Kalambakas, Nick P.	Pegadiotes, Gena & Sam S.
Broussinos, Angeliki & Chris	Kallas, Debra & Mark	Pegadiotes, Stan S.
Burkard, Penelope & Frank J. Jr.	Kamar, April & Bassily	Pegadiotes, Stelios G.
Caire, Terese & John	Kaparos, Lily & Stefanos	Petropoulos, Eleni Tsaggouri & Anastasios
Christodoulelis, Helen	Kaparos, Sylvia & Michael	Polychronis, Eleftheria & Theodore
Christopoulos, Judie & Gus	Kaplanis, Joan & Peter	Poulos, Yiota
Christopoulos, Lynnette & Tony	Karagias, Helen & Tasos	Riley, Evangelia & Thomas
Christy, Angene	Karaioannoglou, Jeanne & Phaedon	Saigh, Mara Suchy & Mark
Clentzos, Peter	Karamaras, Andriana & John	Samaan, Evett & Nader
Cocores, Christine & Ted	Karatzas, Chris	Shankwiler, Alexandria Darras & James
Courlas, George & Georgia	Karatzas, Mersina & John	Sideris, Kitsa C.
Cristofi, Marion & Pete	Kasdagli, Dimitra & Mark Nastri	Skandale, Helen
Dallas, Athena & Soterios	Katem, Basil	Soewers, Stephanie & Randy
Damilatis, Eleni & Dimitrios	Katsas, Asimina & Andreas	Stavropoulos, Demetra
Pledged members cont...	Katsenis, Peter	Tangalos, Helen & Tony
Darlas, Argyro & Tom	Kefallinos, Theoni & Demetri	Tarazi, Ellie & John
Darlas, Taso & Laura	Kiotas, Stavroula & Alex	Theofilopoulos, Alik
Daughters, Janine & Chris	Koulos, Joanna & Konstantinos	Treantafelles, Georgia & Andrew
Deligiannis, Susan & Fotios	Kousakis, Peter John	Treantafelles, Vivian & Stan
Demetriades, Elizabeth & Demetrios	Kundanis, Christine	Treantafelles, Zoi
Dewar, Mary & Andrew	Kypreos, Maria & James	Tripodes, Dean S.
Diamond, Anastasia	Lakon, Valerie & Peter P.	Tripodes, Dena & Nikitas
	Lanergan, Xenia & Philip	
	Lappas, Virginia & Dino	

Tripodes, Koula
Tripodes, Mary
Tripodes, Nikki & Peter L.
Tripodes, Steven G.
Tsagalakis, Joanie & Sam
Tserres, Alesa Kerr & Demetrios
Tsouvalas, Jenny & John
Vagenas, Eleni & Peter
Vagenas, Georgia & John
Vagenas, Janet & Peter
Vagenas, Nicolicha, Vasilios

Vagenas, Margaret & Spiro
Vagenas, Mindy & Pete A
Vagenas, Tashia & Alex
Valassidis, Christopher
Vavoulis, Esther & Ted
Vorgias, Alma & Zacharias
Wojcik, Pamela & Radoslav
Yagjian, Anita & Michael
Zacharias, Niki & Steve Millward
Zarifes, Tina & Peter J.

<p>As of March 9, 2006 Total Pledges: <u>151</u> Goal: <u>300</u> To Go: <u>153</u> Average Pledge <u>\$815</u> Total Pledge: <u>\$123,114</u> Budgeted Goal: <u>\$325,000</u> Amount left to reach Goal: <u>\$201,886</u></p>
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\$tewardship or Stewardship?

A Reflection on Orthodox Christian Stewardship

by Father Harry Pappas



Christ the Sower

Unfortunately, when most of us hear or read the word “Stewardship,” we instinctively think of it spelled as “\$tewardship,” a code word for giving money to church. It may be politely asked for. It may be clothed in pious language. It may be linked to giving of time and talents. But, in the end, stewardship still means, for most of us:

“I must give some of my money so that we can operate the church.”

However, we may have not yet learned to spell this key word as “Stewardship.” The Bible from beginning to end identifies

what we now call stewardship as a *way of life centered on God*. And for Christians, this means discipleship centered on *Jesus Christ as Crucified and Risen Lord*. The cross thus dramatically signifies both our identity as *disciples of Christ* and our calling to a *life of sacrificial giving* directed toward God, others, and all creation.

Many people know how to raise money. There are professional experts who work full time. There are more opinions and ideas than parishes know what to do with. And, in fact, raising funds has become a favorite American pastime for public and private schools, political parties, charitable organizations, and legions of athletic and recreational activities. Who needs another fund-raising campaign when we are already inundated with them!

But while there are legions of experts, opinions, and efforts, how many of us are genuinely committed to Christ and the Church and have learned a sound teaching about stewardship based upon Holy Scripture?

In the Old Testament, our Hebrew ancestors based their very existence upon what God had first done for them: through the promises given to the patriarch Abraham, the sacred covenant at Sinai given through Moses, and messianic kingship through David. Since God was their Creator, Savior, and King, ancient Israel worshiped him regularly and on special feast days. They considered the very land upon which they lived as a precious gift from God, and not the result of their own hard work or of their pious virtue. This meant that all products of their livelihood ultimately belonged to God. The biblical tithe (10%) meant that the first and best portion of these material assets were to be returned to God for support of the sanctuary or temple, the ordained ministers, and various human needs

(including charity). The rest (90%) was not to be used as each person decided, but rather according to the will of God through each person's family, home, and vocation. Further, as emphasized by the prophets like Amos and Isaiah, the people of God were to seek justice and righteousness in all their relationships —through business, commerce, legal courts, government, and society. In particular, ancient Israel was to protect, support, and advocate for the poor, oppressed, and weakest members of society.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ affirmed this Old Testament stewardship as a way of life based upon God's gracious salvation and his natural gifts through creation. He clearly approved of worship, of tithing, of seeking justice and righteousness in all human relationships, and of service especially to the poor, oppressed, and needy. However, Jesus went way beyond these in offering himself as the perfect steward of God's gracious gifts by his voluntary suffering and death on a cross. In this event, he exemplified that true sacrifice for the sake of others has absolutely no limits. The one who truly loves God and passionately seeks the truth is called to die to self, take up the cross of unjust suffering, and be prepared to live and even die for others, especially those who are hardened in sin and blinded by ingratitude.

In the Church, everyone is called to be a disciple of Christ. This involves conversion –an inward turning of mind and heart toward Christ – and a conscious and deliberate commitment to follow the Lord, no matter what the cost. And true Christian stewardship springs very naturally from such faith and obedience, since it recognizes God as the origin of life, the giver of salvation, and the source of all blessings, visible and invisible. The deeper the conversion and commitment to Christ, the deeper the thanksgiving for these spiritual and material gifts that we have received, and the greater the readiness to use them to show our love for God and those around us.

Jesus Christ sets the true standard of Christian stewardship by which we can measure ourselves. Our stewardship of the good news of salvation should be shown in the following ways:

- *Creation* .joyful appreciation for the wonder and beauty of nature; protection and preservation of the environment; bringing the gifts of creation to the Church for blessing (altar bread, wine, fruits, oil, incense, etc.); development of the material world through holy work (physical labor, professions, arts and sciences); respect for and protection of the sanctity of human life from conception to death.
- *Vocation* .fulfillment of our God-given calling in life as married or single people, adult or child, working or retired, clergy or laity, to extend the love and truth of God in Christ to those around us.

- *Church* . becoming active participants in working out our salvation as members of the Orthodox Church through the Christian nurture of children, regular worship and fellowship; spiritual formation through on-going education; service to one another and to the poor, sick, and needy; cooperating to make our parish a vibrant source of faith and work; and supporting Metropolitan, Archdiocesan, and international ministries that link us to the worldwide Church.

In a culture that frequently encourages us to focus on ourselves, Jesus Christ challenges us to reorient our priorities according to the Kingdom of God breaking into this world. The antidote to greed and selfishness, even when it is masked by religious piety, is genuine repentance and conversion toward Christian stewardship as a new way of living. And what joy there is now for those who turn toward God, learning and living as stewards of the manifold grace that has been offered to us through Christ in the Church!

Fr. Harry Pappas serves as Proestamenos of St. Mary's (Kimisis) Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

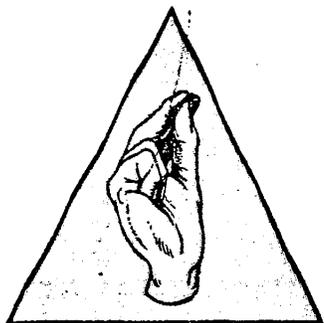


DEPARTMENT OF STEWARDSHIP AND PASTORAL RESOURCES

Further Stewardship information can be found in the Stewardship section of the Archdiocesan website www.goarch.org

left. During the movement, this prayer is said: “*In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*” Thus, a cross is traced over the body. The act is often accompanied by an inclination of the head and body.

1. By tracing the Sign of the Cross upon our bodies we make a profession of the Christian Faith. We express our belief in God, in the Holy Trinity, in the Incarnation, and in the Redemption wrought by Christ on the tree of Golgotha.



2. By making this sign, we also make a complete dedication of self to Almighty God. We dedicate our mind, that God might enlighten our thinking to the end that we might learn and understand the truths of our faith. We dedicate the heart, symbol of our love, that we might love God first and above all else. Finally, we dedicate our shoulders, the place of our physical strength, offering ourselves to work and serve for Christ’s honor and glory in the Church.

This dedication of self to God is designed to help us fulfill the first and greatest of the Commandments: “*Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.*”

Christians have loved and used this Sign of the Cross from the very earliest times. Early believers loved this ritual, which was to them a reminder of the price of redemption. They could not make use of a material cross, such as one made of wood or metal, because those were days of severe persecution. Besides, unbelievers would heap insult upon such emblems. Thus, the early Christians made use of this inspiring and meaningful formula—they made the Sign of the Cross over their bodies, and uttered the short prayer that still accompanies it.

It is clear that this is a precious and meaningful ritual of the Church. The sign should be made carefully and reverently.

Church tradition tells the story of an early Christian who was apprehended by Roman soldiers during a persecution, and sentenced to die because he refused to deny his Christian faith. As he awaited death, this man thought of the Sign of the Cross and its meaning. Being unable to make that sacred symbol over himself, he scratched it on the cement and uttered the prayer that goes with it. This gave him strength to suffer to the end and receive the crown of a martyr’s glory.

Let us love and use rightly this wonderful symbol that has been handed down to us, generation upon generation. May it not be said by posterity that its use began to disappear or lose its meaning in this twentieth century.

**SPECIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT**

**SAINT ANTHONY'S
SECOND ANNUAL EASTER
PICNIC**

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that Saint Anthony's will be sponsoring our annual Easter picnic, on April 23, 2006, at Lacy Park in San Marino. The picnic will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will end at 7:00 p.m.-everybody is welcome. This picnic is a BYOF, (bring your own food), or share with family and friends; no cooking is allowed in the park. There will be baseball, games, and face painting for the children, with plenty of room to run. The City of San Marino charges \$3.00 at the door for all people 5 years and older. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call the church office at (626)449-6943