



15TH ANNUAL BANQUET OF THE FOUR CIRCLES OF SERBIAN SISTERS OF NORTHWEST INDIANA "MOTHERS AGAINST HUNGER"

"He that hath mercy on the poor, lendeth to the Lord: and he will repay him"
Proverbs 19:17

On Sunday, October 7, 2007 the Four Circles of Serbian Sisters of Northwest Indiana held their 15th annual humanitarian banquet to benefit their cause "Serbian Mothers against Hunger". The Circle of Serbian Sisters of St. George the Great Martyr in Schererville, Indiana hosted this year's banquet.

In order to make this year's banquet a bigger success the presidents of each Circle began meeting during the summer months. Participating members were Sandy Sinovic from the St. Sava parish, Ljubina Rakonjac from the St. George parish and Mara Kostur, the vice president from the St. Elijah parish together with the president of the Circle of Sisters at the St. George parish in Schererville, Anka Ozegovic, who, as the host Circle, chaired the meetings. The host clergy V. Rev. Dragoljub Popovic and the other sisters met during these meetings in preparation for the fifteenth annual event.

If we are to judge by the number attendees (approximately 300 parishioners) at this banquet and the amount collected than we would have to say that the Sisters succeeded this year as well since approximately \$20,000 was raised at the banquet.

The Holy Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in the filled St. George the Great Martyr Church in Schererville was officiated by His Eminence Metropolitan Christopher, assisted by the host priest Fr. Dragoljub Popovic and Protodeacon Dr. Stanimir Spasovic. The Stefan Lastavica Church Choir made the liturgy truly divine in all things with their skillful and God pleasing singing.

After the liturgy the people went to the new church hall where parishioners from the other four parishes, together with their priests, were slowly arriving (St. George Schererville, St. George East Chicago, St. Sava and St. Elijah from Merrillville).

The guests were greeted by V. Rev. Dragoljub Popovic who, during his address, gave a report on his humanitarian mission in Republika Srpska this fall, where he, together with his Protinica Milena and in behalf of the four Circle of Serbian Sisters, distributed \$12,000 in a number of centers in Banja Luke, Republika Srpska, which care for orphans, mentally retarded children or children that have problems with hearing or speaking. This report was carefully listened to and even

brought some to tears. Prota Dragoljub said that there is still great need for this sort of work and pastorally beseeched that the work in humanitarian aid of the Circle of Serbian Sisters continues. Prota Jovan Todorovic's report was read by Fr. Marko Matic in which he also distributed \$12,000 in Serbia last summer. It was also carefully listened to and Prota Jovan also appealed to the Sisters and the Serbian Mothers that they absolutely continue their humanitarian program.

Mrs. Suzana Nikitovic, a nurse and a representative of the "Cardio Start" organization from Chicago. Mrs. Nikitovic spoke at length of her recent visit to Republika Srpska and the health problems that they face especially those in her cardio-vascular branch. She leads a humanitarian movement in collecting the means for attaining medical equipment which are used in healing patients in this state. Mrs. Nikitovic also spend much time with the children of Serbia of whom a large number are sick without any health care and therefore she appealed to those in attendance that they learn more about this issue. She praised the work of the Serbian sisters and mentioned that they were worthy of emulation and esteem.

His Eminence Metropolitan Christopher gave special praise to the sisters and thanked them for their humanitarian work, beseeching them to continue their good work to the unfortunate. His Eminence reminded all of the work of the

IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) and the need to work closely with this organization.

Unable to attend this banquet were His Grace Bishop of New Gracanica and the General Consul of Republika Srpska His Excellency Desko Nikitovic. Their greetings were read by Fr. Aleksandar Savic.

In the past fourteen years the sisters of these four Circle of Serbian Sisters collected and delivered to the hands of those most needy in Republika Srpska Krajina, Republika Srpska, Republika of Serbia and Kosovo and Metohija a little over \$428,207. The hard working sisters collected another \$20,000 which is yet to be distributed.

The writer of these lines once again expressed his sincerest thanks to the Circle of Serbian Sisters and all those of good will who have in any which way helped during this banquet that it be a success. Special recognition goes to sister Mara Dobrijevic, one of the founders and leaders of this program.

Once again on this occasion, just as many times before, we can apply the beautiful words of our Serbian proverb: "Everything was beautiful and pleasant and acceptable to gracious God."

V. Rev. Dragoljub Popovic



Clergy Brotherhood Board meets at Monastery Marcha

The Executive Board of the Serbian Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of North and South America met on October 25, 2007 at Monastery Marcha in Richfield, Ohio to organize and deal with matters of interest.

His Grace Bishop Dr. Mitrophan, Diocesan Bishop of Eastern America, participated in the meeting out of His genuine concern for the Brotherhood. Protopresbyter Djokan Majstorovic, President of the Brotherhood

convened the meeting with a direct interest in increasing the involvement of clergy in the work of the Brotherhood.

Areas of interest addressed during the meeting included the publication of the 2008 Calendar, providing assistance to priests in the immigration process, focusing on the retirement needs of clergy, establishing a comprehensive data base of active and retired clergy and reviewing by-laws of the Brotherhood.

The meeting also focused on establishing a formal process for requests from theological students for financial assistance. A publication committee was asked to examine steps for the Brotherhood to begin publishing a book each year. The importance of the Clergy Messenger, the publication



of the Brotherhood, was emphasized, as well as increasing the involvement of clergy in Canada and South America.

Additional Executive Board members participating in the meeting including those by conference call were: Protopresbyter Stavrofor Rastko Trbuhovich, Protopresbyter Stavrofor Rade Merick, Protopresbyter Rodney Torbic, Protonamesnik Milovan Katanic, Reverend Father Darko Spasojevic, Reverend Father Alex-

andar Novakovich, Reverend Father Norman Kosanovich and Father Deacon Damjan Bozic. Protonamesnik Dragomir Tuba joined the Board at the meeting site.

Mother Ana, Abbess of Monastery Marcha and Sister Anastasia were pleased to have the Executive Board with His Grace Bishop Dr. Mitrophan come to the monastery for the meeting.

The Brotherhood actively works to advance the work of the Serbian Orthodox Clergy in North and South America with the blessings of the Episcopal Council.

The Brotherhood holds an annual seminar for the clergy, provides assistance and support in times of need to members

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We offer our fervent prayers for the victims of the South California fires. We pray for those who have lost their lives and the protection and safety for those who have been evacuated or affected in any way. May God be their consolation and hope at these trying times!

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EDITORIAL

THE WORLD IS LEFT TO THE YOUNG

It is a concern of many of our pious and dedicated churchgoers, particularly those older in age, when they see that there are fewer and fewer young people today who are willing to become active in the life of our parishes. Those who have held these positions for many years, whether on the church board or the Circle of Serbian Sisters or any other church group, continue their devoted service, all the while lamenting the fact that younger parishioners are unwilling to commit their time. It's a situation found not only in a few, select parishes and not only in small colonies, but regardless of the size of the community this challenge facing our Church today is seemingly widespread.

Young families nowadays are overwhelmed with busy schedules: children are involved in sports, music lessons, drama clubs, etc.—the list of extracurricular activities is endless. In many cases, they participate on several teams with each team having their practice on a different night. On the other hand, parents themselves are busy. They don't have the factory, nine-to-five work schedules their fathers once had but have office jobs which mean they are either traveling or spend longer hours at work, meetings, etc. Often we have to take our work home with us as well.

Our Serbian proverb tells us that the "world is left to the young". And so we train our youth in everything that is good; we teach them about our Orthodox faith as well as our Serbian heritage so that they, too, might one day continue in our footsteps. But what use is teaching our children the beauty and depth of our faith and Serbian identity when the fast paced world in which we live will one day completely overwhelm them? Furthermore, what use are the summer church camps, the parish day camps, the annual youth conferences and other youth events we plan when, in the end, they too will be too busy to practice this faith that they have spent years learning about? Indeed, what use is the building of new churches when newer generations will be too busy to attend the services?

Yet, amidst this apparently unfortunate situation, we can still find a few young families with those same busy schedules who have found time for church and have made it a priority. They have found time not only for Sunday liturgies but also to become active in the life of the parish. This is to say that although it might be difficult to commit time to your church, it's not impossible. Such families should serve as examples to others and should not be shunned away.

We are slowly approaching the time of year when many of our church school congregations will be holding their annual parish assemblies. As the stories go from parish to parish, it is said that these annual meetings used to draw large numbers. People wanted to serve on the church board and help their church. Nowadays, however it's a common occurrence that we're rescheduling our assemblies for the lack of a quorum, let alone volunteers for all the positions that need to be filled.

Our Serbian ancestors brought their Orthodox faith and customs with them when they emigrated here so long ago. Since the 1800s the church has been present in the lives of our grandparents and parents. It's up to the educated, talented and gifted young Serbian Orthodox families of today to become more involved in their parishes. Our Church doesn't need "business-minded" people to help them figure out how to raise money. Rather it needs those children it taught in its church schools; those now young adults who once performed in the St. Sava programs, to take their faith seriously and, in the words of the prayer during the liturgy, "commit themselves and their whole lives to Christ our God."

Fr. Milovan Katanic

IOCC helps farmers hit by Greek fires

(Ileia Province, Greece) On his back and through the flames that burned everything except his house, Father Ioanni carried to safety his 22 year-old son who had passed out from smoke inhalation. The wildfires that devastated Greece's western province of Ileia spared Father Ioanni's home but completely destroyed his father's 600 year-old home along with its original furnishings and olive and fruit trees. In the midst of the devastation Father Ioanni has been assisting International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) in its work to distribute emergency relief to the farmers of this region.

IOCC delivered tons of animal feed for farmers with small and large livestock—a total of 53,000 head of livestock, including delivered directly to farmers in isolated mountain villages who were unable to reach the distribution centers. IOCC trucks moved into those mountainous areas with the help of Orthodox priests like Father Ioanni who know the needs of their parishes.

The Vice Prefect of Ileia, Nikos Mihalopoulos, described the wildfires of Greece that began in August as "a Biblical catastrophe" and thanked IOCC for its assistance to the farmers of Ileia. Father Ioanni gave his own thanks to IOCC in the form of a benediction, "May you always be in the position to give rather than to receive."

IOCC, founded in 1992 as the official humanitarian aid agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), has implemented over \$250 million in relief and development



Father Ioanni of Zacharo, Greece assists IOCC in the distribution of animal feed to farmers in the hard-hit Province of Ileia. IOCC worked in cooperation with Orthodox churches and local authorities to deliver tons of animal feed to the region in the aftermath of the recent wildfires. (Photo by Sophia Clark)

programs in 33 countries around the world.

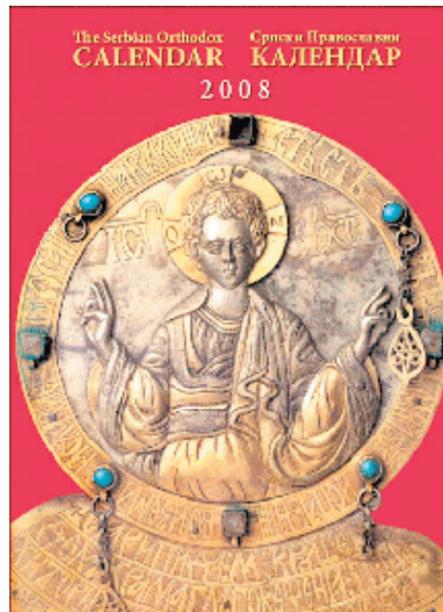
To help in providing emergency relief, call IOCC's donation hotline toll-free at 1-877-803-4622, make a gift on-line at www.iocc.org, or mail a check or money order payable to "IOCC" and write "Greece Fires" in the memo line to: IOCC, P.O. Box 630225, Baltimore, Md. 21263-0225.

2008 Calendar available in December

The 2008 Calendar of the Clergy Brotherhood of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America will be available for purchase in most Serbian Orthodox Churches in late December. The very attractive book style annual includes not only the Orthodox Church Liturgical Calendar including fast and feast days, but a wealth of other information. The parish directory includes contact information for all parishes by diocese, and the clergy directory is a handy alphabetical listing of contact information for all active and retired clergy. A day planner

section helps keep track of appointments and to-do lists, and the spiral binding allows the Calendar to lie flat and open on your desk. Interesting and informative articles in English and Serbian round out the Calendar.

The Calendar is provided to our faithful as a service of the Clergy Brotherhood. Sales and advertising revenues help further the charitable and educational work of the Clergy Brotherhood. Your support of the Calendar and the Brotherhood will be deeply appreciated. Look for the Calendar in your parish candle desk or bookstore.



Brotherhood

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and demonstrates on-going concern for the welfare of clergy widows. When situations arise that require help from the Brotherhood including giving attention to suffering in Kosovo and elsewhere, the need is addressed.

The Brotherhood publishes an attractive and comprehensive calendar each year for use by Serbian Orthodox Churches and faithful. The Brotherhood consistently has demonstrated support of the St. Sava School of Theology in Libertyville and for students seeking to advance their education studies.

All active and retired Serbian Orthodox clergy in North and South America are members of the Brotherhood by virtue of their ordination.

Father Rodney Torbic

ECCLESIASTICAL COURT IN LIBERTYVILLE, IL.

In the ecclesiastical Court of this Metropolitanate, divorce proceedings have been initiated by Ognjen Redzic against his estranged wife Suzana Redzic (nee Gazo) whose current address is unknown.

Whereas the husband's whereabouts are unknown, and unless he responds to this public notice within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice, the Court hereby appoints Rev. Seraphim Milojkovic of Libertyville, IL., as proxy for the defendant, in accordance with Article 56 of the Statutes for Ecclesiastical Courts, whereby this case shall proceed and be concluded, the decision of which shall be binding upon both parties.

From the office of the Ecclesiastical Court of the Serbian Orthodox Metropolitanate of Midwestern America in Libertyville, Illinois.

Successful Stewardship

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, STEELTON, PA

Understanding and Practicing Stewardship: A Practical Approach

Part I

Introduction

While the idea of stewardship became a reality for St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church in Steelton, Pennsylvania in October 2005, the groundwork was laid several years in advance. Three key factors motivated our church community to make the change from a dues structure to a stewardship program: (1) the strong spiritual guidance of our pastor, the Very Reverend Stavrofor Srboljub Jockovich, as reflected in the opening Biblical reference of this article, (2) the patient leadership and careful planning of our Church Board and its Stewardship Committee, and (3) the open minds and faithful hearts of our parishioners.

This article recounts the highlights of our experience and presents several of the key steps we took to achieve the change to stewardship.

Background

From the time of its origins in 1903, St. Nicholas Church had been sustained by the faithful through collection plates, annual dues, and special assessments—coupled with their hard work and dedicated service. For more than 50 years, we “passed the plate” each Sunday and only the total collection was noted. In 1957 these plate collections were replaced by weekly envelopes and an accounting system of individual member giving. Over time, the amount of the annual dues was raised several times in an effort to keep pace with expenses.

Like many other Orthodox Christian parishes, we raised additional money to supplement the annual budget. The most typical fund-raisers were weekly bingo games, the annual *Slava* banquet observing the church anniversary, a variety of raffles, summer picnics or festivals, and annual cookie, noodle, and nut roll sales. In 1967 when the congregation engaged contractors to design and build a new church complex, each church member was required to pay a special assessment in addition to their annual dues. In addition to their regular weekly church envelopes, members were encouraged to contribute through monthly building fund envelopes.

In recent years there were occasional, informal conversations about the need to consider alternative means to meet our financial and service obligations. We had always counted on a large number of dedicated church members who lived near the old church and could be ready to pitch in on any fund-raising project at a moment's notice. Even when the new church was built in a more distant location, volunteers were still available to run the weekly Bingo games and other fund-raising events. Over time, however, circumstances changed. Our aging population found it progressively more difficult to commit the time and energy needed to accomplish the various fund-raising projects. The time, priorities and energies of our younger population were taken over by career and family responsibilities. Some young people and families also moved out of the area because of jobs, school and related commitments.

Why Stewardship?

We were mindful of the increasing urgency in the statements of His Grace, Bishop Mitrophan about the need to introduce the concept of stewardship and implement it as a new way to support the churches of the Diocese. For several years, Fr. Srboljub reiterated to us the need to revisit and revise our way of supporting the church as part of his Sunday messages. In 2004, he made “stewardship” the theme of his annual blessing of the homes of parishioners. Fr. Srboljub used the occasion to offer mini-sermons on the topic and to sit informally with each church family and individual member and explain the true meaning of stewardship. He pointed out the biblical origins of stewardship, answered questions that arose and introduced stewardship's three elements—time, talent, treasures. Most importantly he reminded us all we have is from God and we were only caretakers of the Lord's resources. Fr. Srboljub was heartened because the parishioners were very attentive and listened with great anticipation. He distributed reading material and encouraged us to read it and discuss it with him so that we truly understood the meaning and spirit of being stewards of St. Nicholas Church. One of Fr. Srboljub's stewardship prayers and his stewardship reading list are included at the end of this article.

In a more formal way, Fr. Srboljub and the lay leadership of St. Nicholas Church explored ways to continue these conversations with the congregation at large. In late 2003, Church Board president, John Semic, appointed a stewardship committee to explore the whys, hows, and whens of stewardship and to propose a plan of action for the Board's

Most importantly he reminded us all we have is from God and we were only caretakers of the Lord's resources.

review prior to taking it to the congregation.

The first meeting of the Stewardship Committee was convened by chairperson, Marcia Breinich, in March 2004. As was the case whenever the committee met, Fr. Srboljub was on hand to lead us in prayer and to encourage us to be diligent and attentive. At the first meeting, we studied various facts and figures including:

- The size of the church membership pool, including lapsed members and the growing number of elder members who were exonerated from paying annual dues;
- The recent history of income from church dues, weekly and Holiday collections and various fund-raising events;
- The annual operating budget;
- The amount of the Diocesan assessment and other fixed line item expenditures.

This led to a discussion of the need to distinguish between a traditional dues structure and a stewardship program, especially to be clear with our congregation that stewardship was not just another way of collecting money.

Committee members reviewed their individual and collective understanding of the conceptual spirit and applied practice of “stewardship” and concluded a broader context was needed before reporting back to the Church Board or approaching the congregation. They were confident the congregation would be more accepting of the change if they understood why it was needed. The Committee proposed the Church Board engage in a strategic planning process to

establish the vision, mission, guiding principles and goals for the St. Nicholas Church. This strategic plan then would provide a concrete basis for a new way of giving and supporting our church.

Strategic Planning as a Building Block

With Fr. Srboljub's thoughtful blessings and active participation, the St. Nicholas Church Board held a one-day facilitated retreat to consider where our church community was headed and how we were going to get there. Confident that the Holy Spirit was watching over their deliberations, the Board developed draft statements of the long-term vision, the practical mission, the principles that should guide our actions and the wish list of goals that might be achieved in the near-term and longer range.

These materials were compiled, edited and reviewed at subsequent Board meetings and eventually adopted with an eye toward presenting them to the full congregation for consideration. Meanwhile the Stewardship Committee was able to use this draft strategic plan as the context for their work and proceeded to develop a stewardship proposal that included:

- A definition of stewardship as *a member's voluntary commitment to and contribution of resources, including time, energy, ideas, knowledge, skills, service and money to support and achieve the vision, mission, guiding principles and goals of St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church;*
- A list of short and long term goals to be accomplished through stewardship;
- An outline of actions and activities to be taken to introduce and market the stewardship program to the congregation and then to implement it;
- A list of “questions and answers” about what stewardship involved and how it would work;
- A review of more difficult or complex issues that might pose stumbling blocks to making a smooth transition from dues to stewardship.

At its annual meeting in October 2004, the St. Nicholas congregation adopted both the Strategic Plan and the integral piece related to stewardship with the proviso that stewardship as a practice would begin in October 2005. This timetable provided a full year of transition to a new way of thinking and acting about the immediate support and long-term sustainability of St. Nicholas Church.

To be continued in the next issue.

Construction of the St. Vasilije of Ostrog Church in Greensboro

Greensboro, NC—The construction of the church dedicated to St. Vasilije of Ostrog in Greensboro is in the finishing stages. The interior work is complete and has passed local inspection codes. The inside of the cupola and the narthex of the church have been dry walled and are awaiting painting.

The next phase is the outer façade. In the meantime the entrance from the street to the church and pavilion as well as the parking lot is expected to be paved. Once these projects have been completed a sidewalk around the church is being planned, as well as a sidewalk to the pavilion. Finally, plans are being made to plant trees and bushes around the church and pavilion.

We remain hopeful and we pray to God for help that all of this might be completed and pass inspection by mid December so that we might make our plans for a small blessing service at the end of the year.

Of course, the entire project will not end here. Plans are being made to complete by next year's Church Slava in May, among other things, installing the floor inside the church, constructing candle stands, and painting the great chandelier. The iconostasis is expected to arrive and be installed next July. Additionally, there is the possibility of painting frescoes in the altar.

Our faithful people in Greensboro and the surrounding areas, gathered in the church, with their donations and work are assisting in the construction of the church. Our community has no families that can give large amounts of money at once. All the donations that we have received from our parishioners have been literally bit-by-bit. From their crumbs, thanks to the yeast of the Holy Spirit, we have the bread that is our church.

Once again, we wish to thank all the parishes of our Serbian Orthodox Church in this country that have come to our aid. Likewise, we call on other parishes and individuals to help us in this God pleasing act.

Fr. Dragan Lj. Zanic





we
are

SHADELAND!



We come from all over the Eastern Diocese and from Canada; we are American-born; we are from Serbia; we are campers; we are counselors; we are parents and grandparents; we are clergy; we are SHADELAND!

Around 200 children, 30 volunteers and 16 staff came to Shadeland for this year's camp season to enjoy fun, fellowship and faith. As usual, staff arrived earlier on Tuesday, July 10 to organize crafts, unpack equipment and stock the kitchen. It was also a time for our eleven counselors to meet and get to know one another and the senior camp staff. On Friday, His Grace Bishop Mitrophan, V. Rev. Dr. Rodney Torbic, and Camp Director Rev. Zivojin Jakovljevic held orientation for our counselors. With months of preparation behind us, everyone was eager for the start of our first official week, which began on Sunday, July 15th.

Parents and campers were anxious to use the new dormitory, which was blessed at last year's Diocesan Days weekend and completed last October. The 5100 square foot dormitory with two large bunk-rooms and six private rooms for clergy and counselors was ready for occupation. Thanks to the generosity of the Eastern Region KSS, the great rooms in both dormitories were refurbished with new furniture. Certainly, there's no roughing it for campers at Shadeland.

For this year's camp season, the theme was "O Taste and See, Giving Thanks through the Liturgy." With a wonderful curriculum prepared by the Standing Committee on Christian Education, our children got a better understanding on how the Divine Liturgy is closely connected to our daily lives in what we do and who we are. Once again campers were able to take home their curriculum books to share with their families.

Weekly directors were Fr. Rodney Torbic, Fr. Djokan Majstorovic, and Fr. Dejan Obradovic for Week 1, Fr. Rajko Kotic, Fr. Miladan Blagojevic, and Fr. Milan Pajic were here for Week 2, and for the final week of Camp, Fr. Aleksandr Vljakovic and Fr. Dragan Zaric joined Fr. Milovan Katanic.

As is his custom, His Grace Bishop Mitrophan joined us each Tuesday for a visit with our campers. After taking a group picture, His Grace has a session with campers, which always reflects his love of teaching. Campers

also had the opportunity to ask His Grace questions; some questions were related to our theme and others

were more personal in nature. His Grace was happy to answer them all.

During Week 1, each afternoon during a little down time in the kitchen, Fr. Rodney and Fr. Djokan held religious education classes for the adult volunteers. A large part of the discussion revolved around raising children in a Christ-centered family

Despite some rainy weather during the first two weeks, we still managed to have the group games, hikes, hayride and the ever-popular trip to Waldemeer. New activities for this year included a trip to a bowling alley, and on Monday night, we held a Shadeland style carnival. Campers made their own masks to wear and joined in typical carnie games. And what would a carnival be without funnel cakes, popcorn and other treats?

Yet, Shadeland isn't just about hayrides and games, but more importantly it's about faith. The active participation of our youth today leads directly to their desire to be involved and active in their Church community as adults. Our clergy and staff work to insure that religious education, prayer, daily services, and participation in the Sacraments of confession and communion are an integral part of the program. This is a large reason why the Shadeland experience is so important, because it is one way to keep our youth engaged, especially if they are not attending and participating in Church life regularly at home.

Our final week of Camp was Folklore Week. In addition to preparing for Sunday's afternoon program, emphasis has also been placed on the participation of our campers in Sunday's Divine Liturgy. This year our Camp Director Fr. Zivojin worked daily with the campers teaching them the responses and hymns in the Divine Liturgy. At Sunday's Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, it was the Shadeland campers who sang many of the responses.

Tammie Week is not a typical week of camp, but for campers who attend it is definitely their Shadeland experience. It's a week of dance, music, and controlled chaos. We are fortunate to





St. Sava Shadeland Camp: It feels like home!

by Alexandra Zaremba

It began when I was between the ages of three and eight. There was never a question about what I was doing over my summer vacation. Of course like every other family we would take trips, but we were always back in time for St. Sava Shadeland camp. At that time my father was director of the camp, and every time he would be one of the priests for the week or need to do something at Shadeland I would beg and plead to tag along.

When in Shadeland every camper always feels welcome. You are greeted by the kitchen babas, hugged by the counselors, and welcomed by your fellow campers, but that's only the beginning. Each day we pray together, eat together, play together and sleep together as if we have known each other our whole lives. We are fed the best food by the most amazing ladies and are taught by helpful priests and counselors.

Whichever week you attend there are three classes each day—religion, liturgy music, art—and (week 3) folklore dancing. In the afternoons we have time to relax and mingle with each other. The lake, pool, and playground are always open in the afternoon. Each week is different from the rest, still unbreakable friendships are formed and bonds are created. No matter how many times you have attended Shadeland, the next year will bring something even more special.

This past year I went to Week 3 Shadeland 07' and had the most amazing time of my life and was sobbing as it came time to leave. I will never forget this place that our religion, culture, and Serbian people have created, and I can't wait to return. Shadeland is not just any camp, but it's my home.

Alex is the daughter of Prota Stephan and Protinica Svetlana Zaremba of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, St. Petersburg, FL. She is 13 years old, and a student at the John Hopkins Middle School Center for the Arts and Communication Studies—and a faithful Shadeland Camper. —VRM.

have return as our instructors Mr. Nick Jovic of Hamilton, Ontario for dance and Ms. Nicole Bellich of West Mifflin, PA, for music. Their efforts as a team always result in an outstanding program for Sunday's performance. We are grateful for their continued dedication to our folklore program and look forward to their continued participation in the future. With the typical Shadeland heat and humidity (translation: really, really HOT!!!), you cannot help but admire the enthusiasm, hard work, and love of folklore that our instructors and children have. Even with a steady pace of re-

hearsals, during their free time campers took instruments out of their cases and played; others gathered and started to dance.

Every year another unforgettable part of the Shadeland experience for the campers is our counselors. This past season, our counselors were a combination of former campers and seminarians from Libertyville. By the end of the four weeks the counselors managed to give their charges many happy memories to take home, while developing strong bonds with each other. Many thanks are due to former campers Amanda, Alexis, Dana, Jennifer,

Maria, Stevo, Nick, Dave, and seminarians Vaso, Dragan, and Selimir for a great year.

And where would we be without our equally dedicated volunteers, the moms, dads, and grandparents who come and work in the kitchen and grounds. They roll up their sleeves and with such enthusiasm do whatever is asked of them. Some have traveled from Boston, others from the Pittsburgh area, some from Canada, and our Ohio contingent came from the Canton and Cleveland congregations. We are so grateful for their support. Along with our volunteers, our camp nurses this year-- Cathy Stupar, Desa Mrvos, and Nancy Generalovich- offered invaluable assistance. From dispensing medications to rendering first-aid, our campers and staff benefited from their compassion and care. Each of you—volunteers, staff, and clergy—contributed to the positive experience that continues to make Shadeland so memorable.

Finally, many thanks are extended to His Grace Bishop Mitrophan for his continued leadership and his love for the children of our Diocese, to Fr. Zivojin our director for his steady and thoughtful guidance, and the Shadeland Management Committee. Many thanks are due to the Eastern Region KSS which funds the Camp program and, in particular, to KSS president Millie Radovick and vice presidents Dee Dee Baskot and Martha Springborn; it is their year-round effort for St. Sava Camp that keeps the Shadeland experience going strong.

Lastly, you are invited to look at pictures taken by Camp mothers Lana Balach from Boston and Nancy Generalovich from Pittsburgh. Enjoy! Then, for the next camp season, come and experience what Shadeland is all about!

Vesna Meinert



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THE YOUTH PAGES OF THE PATH OF ORTHODOXY, NOVEMBER 2007

DID YOU KNOW...

By Amy Yurko

Saint Dimitrios

Icons of Saint Dimitrios are very common. He is often depicted on a horse or standing with a spear. But, **DID YOU KNOW:**



- Dimitrios was the only son of the military commander of Thessalonica in the early 4th century. As such, he was very cherished by his family and educated. Upon his father's death, the Emperor Maximian appointed Dimitrios as the successor.
- Maximian ordered Dimitrios to persecute and kill Christians. Instead, he openly preached the teachings of Christianity. As a result, he was arrested and thrown into prison. While praying in his cell, Dimitrios was speared to death by the soldiers.
- The Holy Great Martyr was buried. His relics began producing the fragrance of myrrh. Soon, a small Church was erected on the site. Upon praying at the relics of St. Dimitrios, Leontius, a nobleman, was cured of an incurable disease. In tribute, Leontius replaced the small Church with a much larger one.

More reflections on the Second Annual High School Youth Conference

(continued from the October issue)

The second Annual High School Youth Conferences took place from August 7 through 11 at the New Gracanna camp in Grayslake, IL. Following are thoughts from some of the teenage participants of the conference.

"This year I came to the conference with expectations to learn about my faith and aspirations to grow spiritually while in the company of thirty or more young people with the same goals. I have not been disappointed. While the experience that I had this year has been different (for lack of a better word) than last year, it has been one that I will never forget. The presentations, so pertinent to my life as an Orthodox Christian teenager, did not cease to enlighten me. There is so much to be learned, so much to be gained by attending this retreat. Learning how to overcome temptation and learning that it is truly possible to do so through the grace of God is a relief in a world filled with peer pressure and temptation. During his presentation, Father Stevo had said, 'Opportunity only knocks once, but temptation leans on the doorbell.' He knows, as does everyone else here, how true that statement is, and how relevant it is to our lives as teens. When I think of the wonderful experience I have had this year, I would be crazy to not come back again next year!"

Joanna Aud, St. George, San Diego, CA.

"My experience at the youth conference was very uplifting. I learned a great deal about my faith through presentations we had each day. My favorite quote from the presentations was, 'Opportunity

knocks on the door once, but temptation leans on the doorbell.' At the conference I made a lot of new friends, and also became closer to the people that I already knew. I plan on attending next year's youth conference. I believe the youth conference is a great place to grow in your religion and make new friends."

Brittany Rodgers, Holy Resurrection, Steubenville, OH.

"At this conference there was a lot of things I enjoyed. I loved that I got to meet new Serbian Orthodox people. I had a lot of fun learning new things about my religion. I'm happy that I had the opportunity to come to this youth conference."

Daniella Mancich, St. Sava, Highland, IN.

"What I liked about the youth conference was that I met many young Orthodox leaders. The facilities at the conference center were beautiful. It was a great experience and I learned a lot."

Sonja Capuzzi, St. Nicholas, Monroeville, PA.

"There are many things I liked about this conference. For one, I liked making new friends and meeting new Orthodox peers. I also had fun with our talks about our faith and religion. This conference was a great experience and I'm glad I had the chance to come."

Aleksandra Lazic, St. Czar Lazar, Third Lake, IL.

"I enjoyed many things at this conference. My favorite thing was meeting new Orthodox teens interested in our religion as much as I was. I also

continued on the next page

St. John Chrysostom (the Golden-Tongued), Patriarch of Constantinople

Commemorated 13/26 November

He was born in Antioch in the year 347, his father's name being Secundus and his mother's Anthusa. Studying Greek philosophy, John became disgusted with Hellenic Paganism and turned to the Christian faith as the one and all-embracing truth. John was baptized by Meletius, Patriarch of Antioch, and, after that, his parents were also baptized.

After their death, John became a monk and began to live in strict asceticism. He wrote a book: 'On the Priesthood', after which the holy Apostles John and Peter appeared to him, prophesying for him great service, great grace and also great suffering. When the time came for him to be ordained priest, an angel of God appeared at the same time to Patriarch Flavian (Meletius's successor) and to John himself. When the patriarch ordained him, a shining white dove was seen above John's head. Renowned for his wisdom, his asceticism and the power of his words, John was, at the desire of Emperor Arcadius, chosen as Patriarch of Constantinople. He governed the Church for six years as Patriarch with unequalled zeal and wisdom, sending missionaries to pagan Celts and Scythians and purging the Church of simony, deposing many bishops who were given to this vice. He extended the Church's charitable works, wrote a rite for the Holy Liturgy, put heretics to shame, denounced the Empress Eudoxia, interpreted the Scriptures with his golden mind and tongue and left to the Church many precious books of sermons. The people glorified him; the jealous loathed him; the Empress twice had him sent into exile. He spent three years in exile, and died on Holy Cross Day, September 14th, 407, in a place called Comana in Armenia. The holy Apostles John and Peter again appeared to him at the time of his death, and also the holy martyr Basiliscus, in whose church he received Communion for the last time. 'Glory to God for everything!' were his last words, and with them the soul of Chrysostom the Patriarch entered into Paradise. Of his relics, the head is preserved in the Church of the Dormition in Moscow, and the body in the Vatican in Rome.



For Consideration

Both punishment and reward are in the hands of God. But, as his earthly life is but a shadow of the true life of heaven, so punishment and reward here on earth are but a shadow of that true, eternal punishment and reward. The greatest persecutors of God's holy hierarch Chrysostom were Theophilus, Patriarch of Alexandria and the Empress Eudoxia. After Chrysostom's death by martyrdom, harsh punishment fell on them both. Theophilus went mad, and the Empress Eudoxia was driven from the court by the Emperor Arcadius. Eudoxia soon fell ill of an incurable disease, sores opening all over her body and worms coming out of the wounds. There was such a stench from them

that people in the street could scarcely pass in front of her house. Doctors made use of the most fragrant perfumes, unguents and incenses in an attempt to mitigate the stench from the stricken Empress, but with little success, and she finally died in filth and agony. But God's hand was even heavier upon her after her death. The coffin containing her body shook day and night for thirty whole years, until the Emperor Theodosius translated Chrysostom's relics to Constantinople. But what happened to Chrysostom after his death? He was rewarded with a reward such as God alone can give. Adeltius, the Arab bishop who received the exiled Chrysostom into his house in Cucusus, prayed to God after the saint's death that He would reveal to him where Chrysostom's soul was. Once, when he was at prayer, he was as though taken out of himself, and saw a youth bathed in light, who led him to heaven and showed him the ranks of the hierarchs, pastors and teachers of the Church, naming each of them. But they did not see John there. Then the angel of God led him to the way out from Paradise, and Adeltius was very downcast. When the angel asked the cause of his sadness, Adeltius replied that he was very distressed not to have seen his teacher, John Chrysostom, among those there. The angel answered him: 'No man who is still in the flesh can see him, for he stands beside the throne of God, together with the angelic company of the cherubim and seraphim.'

From the *Prologue From Ochrid* by Saint Nikolaj Velimirovic.

The Troparion to Saint John Chrysostom, sung in tone 8:

Grace like a flame shining forth from thy mouth has illumined the universe, and disclosed to the world treasures of poverty and shown us the height of humility. And as by thine own words thou teachest us, Father John Chrysostom, so intercede with the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls.

The Kontakion to Saint John Chrysostom, sung in tone 2:

Thou hast received divine grace from heaven, and with thy lips thou dost teach all men to adore the one God in Three Persons. O John Chrysostom, most blessed Saint, we rightly praise thee; for thou art our teacher, revealing thine divine.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Does a young person's anxiety for his future stem from unbelief?

A. Not always. Often, young people who are interested in finding their path in life while also remaining close to God worry about how this will all be established. This actually shows health; for if a young person does not show concern about his or her future, it reveals a certain indifference or carelessness, which could result in their becoming a good-for-nothing. Youths just need to be careful to control their anxiety, because the devil will try to destroy them with it, putting them in agony by keeping their nous in constant tumult.

Young people need to entrust themselves wholly to God. By doing so they will become peaceful, because the Good God, our loving Father, acts where we are humanly not able to act. It is not necessary for youths to rush about making childish decisions to follow in their lives. I know kids who really agonize and try to resolve all their problems quickly. In the end they get confused, leaving their studies. For example, even before finishing college they totally stress out about their future, which causes them to lag behind in their studies. The end result is worse than if they had not been so hasty. It can't happen all at once. Problems aren't solved this way. Instead, they should resolve within themselves to give order to their lives. In other words, first they should be sure to get their diploma. Then they can find a job, or, in the case of young men, finish the military. And then, in peace and with the help of God, they can decide either to start a family (if they have decided on the married life) or go to a monastery (if they have chosen monasticism).

Therefore, I tell young people who are studying and have such worries—because what they'll do with their lives has not matured within them yet—that they should continue with their studies; and that which grows within them over time, and gives them peace, that is what they should do with their lives. If they have a good disposition, God will help. Little by little it will become clear which life is for them—married or celibate in a monastery—, and they will find rest.

From the book, "Hasten for a word from the Fathers..."

More reflections



continued from the previous page
enjoyed our contemplation talks. I learned a lot at this youth conference."

Demetria Runjo, St. Nikola, Cudahy, WI.

"I'd like to start off by saying that, this being my first time, I had a wonderful time. This conference uplifted my soul and mind to a new level. There were many questions answered here, such as how to live a Christian life, and how to take control of my temptations. I plan on returning next year mostly because of the friends I have made here."

Andrej Petronijevic, St. Luke's, Potomac, MD.

"Here at camp Gracnica, the lectures that were held everyday enlightened and taught me about guidance in life, as well as policies and rules of the Orthodox Church. I enjoyed spending time with my friends from last years youth savor as well as meeting new people from across the United States. The service was great, the food was good, and the church was beautiful. All of the chaperones and clergy were very nice and fun as well."

Collin Gruin, St. Nicholas, Steelton, PA.

"Being here for the second year I experienced the same learning experiences as last year. They are great experiences and something I would not want to help. My favorite quote was mentioned by

Father Stevo saying "Opportunity knocks on the door once and temptation leans on the doorbell." I will definitely come back next year to have the same experiences and learning opportunities that I have had at the first conference as well as this second!"

Nikola Vranesevic, St. Sava, McKeeseport, PA.

"The week that I spent at New Gracnica for the second youth conference was a blast. The topics that we discussed were really relevant to our teenage lives. My favorite discussion was "The Two Shall Become One." It really made me realize how important it was to find the right person to spend your life with, by showing us which qualities were important and which were not. I wish I could have come last year so that I could have experienced this wonderful conference twice."

Daniella Vucelich, St. Nicholas, Monroeville, PA.

"My experience here was very enjoyable. I had a lot of fun meeting new friends that have many of the same interests and ideas as I do. I know that I will stay friends with the people that I met for a long time. This experience has also allowed me to grow in my faith. Some questions that I had were answered and I was able to learn more through the presentations. I had a great time."

Jelena Tasic, St. Stevens, Alhambra, CA.

Let us help the youth to follow their calling

The Good God created man free. He is nobly unimposing. He respects man's freedom, freely leaving each person to follow that path which brings him or her comfort. He does not force everyone stand in the same line with military discipline. For that reason, we should leave youths to themselves, without restraint, in the spiritual realm of their God-given freedom. They are not helped by constant questioning about which life[—i.e., married or monastic]—they will follow. This is a topic in which they should not be influenced by anyone. Each person has his or her calling.

Again, the parents, the Spiritual fathers, the educators, should help youths to choose whichever life is most suitable for them, and to follow that path to which they are truly called, without influencing or hindering their calling. Their choice should be their own. The rest of us should only express our humble opinions. Our only right is to help these souls find their path.

Sometimes when I speak with youths who are troubled by this topic, although I see towards which path the scale tilts I don't tell them, so as not to influence them. I only try, as much as I am able, to do that which helps them find the right path and inner peace. I take away anything harmful from whatever it is they enjoy and find rest within—thus leaving them only with that which is beneficial and holy, in order to live their lives joyously with God, and in the next life more even more joyously. Whichever life a young person I know may choose to follow, I will sincerely rejoice, and will always have the same interest for their salvation. It is enough that he is close to Christ and His Church.

Naturally, I especially rejoice in those youths who follow the monastic life. He who follows the angelic life is truly wise, for he flees the hook of the devil who uses the world as a lure. But you can't put all people into the same mold. Christ, you see, did not give Monasticism as a commandment—as much as it is the path of perfection—because He did not want to place this weighty calling on everyone. When the young man asked Him how to be saved (Cf. Matt. 19:16; Mk. 10:17; & Lk. 18:18), Christ answered him "keep the Commandments" (Matt. 19:17; Cf. Mk. 10:19; & Lk. 18:20). And when he said that he did keep them (Cf. Matt. 19:20; Mk. 10:20; Lk. 18:21) and asked "what lack I yet?" (Matt. 19:20), Christ said to him, "One thing thou lackest: If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and come and follow me" (Mk. 10:21; Cf. Matt. 19:21; & Lk. 18:22). In other words, if He found someone with any philotimo, then He spoke to him of perfection. He didn't come to cast a noose upon people. He did not even teach Monasticism, for this would have "started a fire" and perhaps many would have run without discernment to become monastics, with bad results. He only threw a spark and, when the suitable time arrived, Monasticism sprang forth.

In the same way, we do not have the right to force others. If they wish, let them force themselves. We only have the right to force ourselves, and even that with discernment. I have never told any youth that they should marry or become a monastic. If asked I say to them, "Do that which comforts you. What's most important is to be close to Christ." If they tell me that they do not find comfort in the world, then I speak to them of monasticism, so as to help them find their path.

From the book, "Family Life" by the Blessed Elder Paisios the Athonite.

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