

MOSAIC

Coming together, we form an icon of God's Kingdom

Vol. 15, No. 3

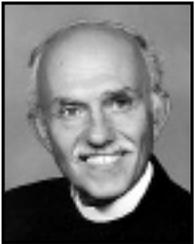
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL

June/July 2010

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill



Stop Sign

Those of us who live in Chicago and drive to work every day know that when April comes the familiar orange signs will be posted on our streets and highways. The signs are a signal that construction will begin on the first of April. This year without fail, we were greeted with the red signs that warned us to be prepared for long delays, workers along the route, and the splattering black top adhering to our cars. While passing through these sections, we must keep in mind the terrible potholes that haunted us in the winter months and the damage. This is all in the name of progress.

We have also encountered the colorful signs announcing the presence of cameras at various intersections. Some of us have felt the sting of a violation, which requires us to pay a severe penalty. In my reading, I learned California was the first state to have a right turn on red traffic law. Most states have it now, giving us the permission to make a right turn at a red light after a complete stop when oncoming traffic allows it.

It wasn't long, however, for some drivers to start abusing the privilege. Rather than come to a complete stop, some drivers merely slowed down a bit and, if no one was coming, wheeled right around the corner with hardly a pause. This became known as a 'Hollywood Stop,' because like the unreality of the movie town, it wasn't a real stop; it was just kind of a pretend one.

In the New Testament, there were some Christians in the Greek city of Corinth who were guilty of some 'Hollywood Stops' in their spiritual journey. After they were baptized into the faith, they didn't stop sinning. They just slowed down a little, but kept right on going in their old ways.



Following a long-standing Holy Apostles tradition on Mothers Day, Kristina Clark, left, pins flowers on mothers attending the Divine Liturgy including Sunday Urban, right.

Paul called them on it; pulled them over, so to speak, and informed them they were running a stop sign. The stop sign is Christian baptism. The sign of baptism is that sin is stopped dead in its tracks. The symbolism of baptism, according to Paul, is that the believer dies to sin and rises out of it in the pattern of the death and resurrection of Jesus. "Do you not know...?" (Rom. 6:3). Paul shows his disappointment with them after rhetorically asking, "Are we to continue in sin?" He answers emphatically, "By no means" (vs. 2). "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism... so we too might walk in newness of life."

The liturgical life of the Church during the

Paschal season calls our attention to water and its role in salvation. Biblical readings such as the healing of the paralytic in the pool of Bethesda and the blind man focus on the significance of water and our saving grace. Instead of the *Agios O Theos*, we sing the beautiful hymn "All those who have been baptized in Christ, have put on Christ, Alleluia." This is a direct quote from the Book of Romans. We are challenged to remember our baptism, its meaning, and whether we have fallen into sin. Our failure to cooperate and obey the stop signs may bring about tragedy. Our failure to remember our roots in the Christian life may weaken our faith.

There's that classic story in the Talmud about a king who invited a representative from

See Fr. Bill on P. 3

From Father Nicholas



Created To Worship

A few weeks ago, our GOYAN high school group shared a wonderful retreat. After a few fun games, we discussed Facebook, a social networking website that brings people together and helps them communicate. We had the GOYANS fill out a Facebook profile that detailed their interests; relationships; religious views; activities; and favorite music, movies, and books. We reviewed the profiles and discussed the difficulties of trying to package someone and describe them in a profile.

Why is this so difficult? We read in the book of Genesis: "God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (Genesis 1:27) God created us to grow into His likeness and image. He created us uniquely. The group also read Psalm 139: "O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways." God knows us well. We are in a state of becoming what we are created to be. Since we are unique creations in God's image, constantly being transformed, a Facebook page cannot capture our God-given uniqueness.

If someone looked at our faces, would they see the glory and the image of God? Blessed Father Justin Popovich wrote: "in the lives of the saints there are many marvelous examples of how a youth becomes a holy youth, how a family becomes a holy family, how a worker becomes a holy worker..." We were designed and made to become holy. Because we are created in God's image and likeness, we are meant to grow towards Him. Try filling in the blank: How will I, a ____ (occupation), become a holy ____ (occupation)?"

How can we become holy? Human beings were created to liturgize. We were made to be offered and to offer God, our Creator, thanksgiving; doxology; and divine worship. Through continual offering and worship, our souls focus and head dynamically towards the Lord. It is an intimate relationship and union with God. Because we are all created in God's image and likeness, we are cultivated to yearn and expect this union. There is a God-given urge and desire to grow closer to God. When we participate in the immaculate Mysteries of the Church, we partake of Divinity! Worshippers literally taste immortality and eternal life. We become Christ-like!



Gavel to Gavel



BY GEORGE CHECHOPOULOS, SECRETARY

Parish Council meeting of May 20

Financial Report

✦ George Mannos Jr. reviewed the comparative financial reports dated April 30, 2009 & 2010. A motion to approve the statements, subject to year-end review, passed unanimously.

Stewardship

✦ Steve Melonides reviewed the Stewardship Report for April 30. The church received 654 pledges, up 2 pledges for the same period last year, totaling \$55,150.50 (down ~\$9,221.83), for an average pledge of \$905.56. Total amount paid was \$399,252.95.

Correspondence

- ✦ A letter was received announcing the 40th Biennial Clergy-Laity Conference to be held in Atlanta on July 4 - 8. A motion to support the commemorative album with a 1/2 page patron ad passed.
- ✦ Denise Karras, President of the Metropolis Church Music Federation, sent thanks for our hosting the Youth Choir Conference.
- ✦ Nick Paloumpis, chairman of the Youth Choir Conference, sent a letter recapping the event. There were 29 children registered. He is taking orders for CD recordings of the day's Liturgy, which are \$10.
- ✦ Fr. Nick Jonas of Ss. Constantine & Helen/Palos Hills thanked us for our donation towards the Jr. Olympics to be held May 28-30.
- ✦ The Archdiocese sent a letter of appreciation for the \$2,100 collected for the Haiti Relief Fund.
- ✦ Holy Cross Seminary thanked us for supporting its Easter Appeal.

Meditation

- ✦ Fr. Bill's meditation focused on Ss. Constantine and Helen, whose feast day is celebrated on May 21.

Building & Grounds

- ✦ Jim Fotopoulos reported that the crack in the church's center aisle will be repaired. Some pews will be removed during the repair. Also, the lower level of the church

will be retiled with lighter 6" tiles. The work on both areas will be done when it is convenient and accommodating with the church calendar.

- ✦ A partial re-inspection by the city of Westchester may be complete by the end of May.
- ✦ President Peter Poteres reported that the state approved the plan to move four handicap spaces from the west end of the parking lot to the east, next to the priests' reserved spots. The project will be done when the lot is recoated and re-stripped.

Technical Committee

- ✦ In his absence, Paul Kallis sent an email stating that the vendor has returned the failed sound system parts to the manufacturer and is awaiting replacements.

Ways & Means

- ✦ James Kapolas distributed copies of the 51st golf outing letter and ad. The ad will run in the *Mosaic* and be sent via email to parishioners with registered addresses.
- ✦ President Poteres thanked Jim Kapolas for his efforts in analyzing employee benefits and attempting to develop a concise handbook for the church employees.

Old Business

- ✦ Sandy Fiascone and Peter Poteres presented the 50th Anniversary report at Prima La Pizza in Westchester, where the owner provided dinner for the committee members. Photographs from the dinner dance will be put on a DVD and made available to the parishioners for purchase.
- ✦ Joan Berg and Sandy Fiascone met with Don Phillips of Phillips Flowers to discuss the parish's 2011 floral needs.
- ✦ Fr. Nicholas thanked Lou Kafkes and Steve Savas for their work on the 5K Run/Walk held on May 8. Due to the weather, there were fewer participants, but \$6,000 was raised for Philoxenia House in Rochester, MN.

In worship, we truly become people of God!

If we do not consistently attend the Liturgy, we are in danger of straying and wandering away from the Lord. Christ, with His Sacrifice on the Cross and Resurrection, gave us freedom from this wandering and sin. We celebrate this for the forty days of Pascha! He gives us all the potential to partake of the celebration of the New Testament! We can now "offer ourselves, one another and our

whole lives to Christ our God" (verse from the Divine Liturgy).

Adam and Eve's life in Paradise, before they fell, was a continuous Divine Liturgy. It was not the liturgy as we experience it today, but a continuous union with God. Today, the High Priest is the Son and Word of God Himself, who is incarnate in the person of Jesus Christ. The Holy Theotokos and all the

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 6

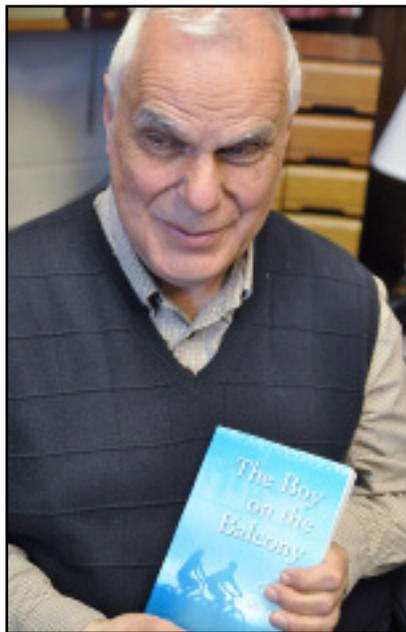
Mr. D's book becomes a reality

For many years, my students at Holy Apostles and Fanari Summer Camp have urged me to publish the stories I've told them with the goal of teaching Orthodox Christian values and how they might be applied in possible real-life situations. As a result, *The Boy on the Balcony and Other Stories by Mr. D.* has finally been published.

The book contains ten stories: *The Boy on the Balcony*, *Brian's Valentine*, *A Cry for Help*, *The Lost Christmas Gift*, *Friendship and Betrayal*, *A Test of a True Friend*, *House of Mysteries*, *Summit on the Hilltop*, *Someone's in Our House*, and *The High-Priestly Liturgy*. Each story is preceded by a brief note telling what inspired the story and when it was originally told.

Briefly, in "The Boy on the Balcony," Gena, Maria, Tom, and John ride their bikes down a road they have never been on before. At the top of a hill, they come to a beautiful house with a balcony. Sitting on that balcony is a boy in a wheelchair about their age named Dimitri, who invites them to come up and talk to him. This meeting leads to many adventures, and eventually places them all in great peril.

In "The Lost Christmas Gift," Josh and Justin spend part of another Christmas Eve listening to their grandfather relate a story which, for them at least, never gets old no matter how often they hear him tell it. It has to do with a Christmas gift of a unique toy train, made entirely of wood, their dad was to receive 30 Christmases ago when he was their age. But before their dad received the train, it



mysteriously disappeared. However, it was on this particular Christmas Eve that Josh and Justin were to find out that their dad's lost Christmas gift would start them on an adventure they'd never forget.

In "A Test of a True Friend," Anthony had the reputation among his classmates of being a true friend. When a new student named

Yianni is invited, along with other kids, to Anthony's birthday party, he astonishes everyone present by giving Anthony a gift of "a beautifully polished, black block of solid wood about 18 inches square." In the face of an apparent insult, could Yianni still depend on Anthony's friendship?

"The High-Priestly Liturgy" tells the story of a boy named Jim, who lived on a farm. It was on a hill on that farm where Jim, using various building materials, built a little church which he named The Church of the Transfiguration of the Savior. One summer, Jim, who longs for and has prayed for a true friend, is paid a visit by a mysterious girl named Tiffany. They form a close friendship which would soon be threatened. On a stormy afternoon, when Jim and Tiffany seek refuge in the little church, they suddenly find themselves participating in a Liturgy few have ever experienced.

The book will be sold for \$18.00. It can be purchased directly from Mr. D. For those who wish the book mailed to them, there will be an additional fee of \$3.50 for shipping and handling. For further information, please contact Mr. D. at 708.528.2782, cell; 708.562.0869, office; 708.562.4926, home; or fanari@sbc-global.net E-mail.

Plan now, to attend Adventure Theater's radio play August 29

The members of the Adventure Theater will present an exciting, original radio play with the unusual title *Pedimoo* in our expanded radio studio (the multipurpose room) before a studio audience following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 29, which will be preceded by a delicious, deluxe continental breakfast for those who attend the program. For their live performance of this exciting radio drama, the actors and actresses will read from scripts with a background of sound effects, as was the case in the long-ago days of

classic radio drama..

You are invited to join us in our radio studio on August 29, have breakfast, and share in a unique, modern-day, radio experience. Admission is free. Since tables will be set for 120 people, seating will be on a first come, first served basis. However, you may make reservations in advance by contacting Mr. D. at 708.562.0869, or e-mailing him at fanari@sbcglobal.net. See you on Sunday, August 29!

By Mr. D.

Fr. Bill from P. 1

Called to a mission

each of the many provinces of his realm to come to a banquet. He asked them each to bring a flask of wine from their particular region. The king's intent was to mix all of the wines in a vast goblet and to serve everyone a drink made of all the wines of the kingdom. Of course, as people will do, many thought to themselves, "We're going to put all of this wine together. Mine won't make a difference. I'll bring water. I'll bring colored liquid. As long as it's drinkable, it won't matter." Each person came and poured a little liquid into each goblet. You know what was found in it ultimately: almost straight water.

At every Divine Liturgy, we experience and celebrate the certainty of Christ's Resurrection and live out its implications. We renew repeatedly our baptismal pledge and are formed continuously into the body of Christ. Filled with hope, we are called to faith and to a mission: to transform both ourselves and the world by furthering the Kingdom of God within us and within the world.

The joyous greeting, "Christ is Risen," with which we greet and embrace each other during the season of Pascha, is never casual or empty. It speaks loudly of God's immeasurable love for the world; the marvelous restoration of creation; and the newness of life to which we have been called. It speaks to us, as well, about our need to abandon our blind and selfish ways and surrender each other and ourselves to the risen Lord. Look for the stop sign and obey it. God may be telling us to stop and examine our life and then proceed with caution.

Fall fashion show

The Holy Apostles Philoptochos Society presents its annual fashion show, "Fall Into Fashion", on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at 11am at the Carlisle in Lombard, IL.

Portions of the proceeds will benefit two organizations: The Greek American Rehabilitation Care Center and Batten Disease. The Greek American Rehabilitation Care Center's mission is to provide a home life environment that promotes independence and a sense of belonging for individuals with memory impairment.

Batten Disease is a disease that affects children between the ages of 3-5 years. Affected children suffer mental impairment, seizures, progressive loss of sight, speech and motor skills. Eventually, children with Batten disease become blind, bedridden, and demented. Batten Disease is always fatal.

Details will follow in upcoming bulletins, but please mark your calendars to attend this event.



Walkers and runners braved the 45 degree chilly and damp conditions to finish Holy Apostles 5K and raised \$6,000 for Philoxenia House at the same time. Eugene Callaghan was the men's overall winner with a time of 19 minutes, 9 seconds. Dena Colie was the overall women's winner with a time of 23 minutes, 55 seconds.

Spring activities abound at Holy Apostles



On Youth Proclaim Christ Sunday, John Stathopoulos, Katie Berg and other ensemble members provide musical accompaniment for the dismissal, above. At right, Fr. Nicholas leads a discussion at the GOYA Retreat at St. Iakovos Retreat Center in WI.



During Adventure Theater's production of Valley of the BC Christians, land is pointed out to Captain Alexander. Left to right are Lisa Buhelos, Nicolette Colie, Alex Patt, Ankit Chataut, Yanni Mihalopoulos, and Jessie Christman.



Photos by Peter Bell

Volunteers join in Feed My Starving Children program

On April 30, over twenty adults and children, including Fr. Nicholas and his family, from Holy Apostles went to the Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) facility in Aurora. FMSC is a non-profit Christian organization committed to "Feeding God's Starving Children Hungry in Body and Spirit."

The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals designed especially for starving children, and are shipped to more than 60 countries. In 2009, more than 92 million meals were shipped. Ingredients are purchased entirely through the generosity of donors.

The Holy Apostles group has committed to approximately a once a month schedule. The session lasts about two hours. If you would like to join us, the dates so far are: Sat. June 26, 4:30-6:30pm; Sat. July 17, 11:30-1:30pm; Sat. Sept 11, 2-4 pm; Sat. Nov 12, 9-11 am. Contact Paul Franks at 630.262.0168 to volunteer or for more information. We hope that you will join us.



Volunteers from Holy Apostles measure rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and vitamins and pack them into meals to be sent to needy children worldwide.



Greek School students learned about Minoan, geometrical and black ancient Greek vases. Then, with the help of their classroom teachers and the art teacher Mrs. Demakis, they worked as teams making their own vases. The multi-purpose room was decorated with their projects, above. At right, two Philoptochos members, Diane Hank and Sophia Natiello, cook food for Feed the Hungry at Annunciation Cathedral.



And even more activities



Greek school students visited the Hellenic Museum on Saturday April 17. The P.T.O. undertook all expenses including a delicious Greek lunch.



Marching in the Greek Independence Day parade are: Christian Natiello holding the Greek flag, Eleni Feggos and Zachary Chiganos holding the church banner, and Stella Lappas holding the American flag.

The **HARC** CORNER

Meet the Evangelists

Christina Book Series
By Maria C. Khoury, Ed. D.
Illustrated by Antonia Marshall

This book is enriched with colorful Byzantine icons to help young readers grow closer to God. Knowing special people like St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John, who placed God first in their lives, can give children the courage to meet different challenges in life.

Softbound \$11.75

The Woman and the Wheat

By Jane G. Meyer
Illustrated by Ned Gannon

There once was a woman who planted some wheat...so begins the story of a farmer as she works to grow the wheat and bake the bread that she will offer back to her Creator in Eucharistic celebration. The author comes from a long line of French Basque bakers and still bakes bread regularly. Because of her love for Christ and the earth, she writes books to inspire children and their parents in their faith.

Hardbound \$18

Wounded by Love The Life and the Wisdom of Elder Porphyrios

Edited from an archive of notes and recordings by the Sisters of the Holy Convent of Chrysopigi

Elder Porphyrios was a vibrant Greek monk and priest who died in 1991. He was a God-bearing father of our days, who through his presence, love, prayer, counsel, and guidance, supported an untold number of people in the difficult hours of illness, mourning, pain, loss of faith, and death. This book was compiled after his death from an archive of notes and recordings of his reminiscences and conversations. His teaching is deeply impregnated with the ethos and theology of the Orthodox Church.

Softbound \$13

Holy Apostles Annual Golf Outing

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church will host its 51st Annual Golf Outing this year on Monday, July 12, at Indian Lakes Resort. Indian Lakes Resort is located at 250 West Schick Road, Bloomingdale, IL. Proceeds from this event will be used to fund many of the ministries of the church. Come enjoy a fantastic day of golf, food, fun and prizes. You can be a part of this wonderful event in one or more of the following ways: donate raffle prizes, sponsor a hole, golf, or do all three!

Participation at any level is a rewarding and appreciated effort. We will be offering many packages and ways to help with this unique opportunity of fellowship, fun, and charity.

Please keep the date open. For more information, visit our website at www.holyapostleschurch.com or contact any committee member for more information.

For reservations, contact Jim Kapolas 630.450.3442 / j.kapolas@comcast.net or Steven P. Savas 708.387.2080 / spssav@sbcglobal.net

For hole sponsorship and prize donations, contact: Peter Poteres 630.204.0198 / ppoteres@hotmail.com; George Mannos 708.354.4021 / gkmannos@sbcglobal.net; Karen Mannos karen.mannos@va.gov; Mara Georges 773.929.4061 / mamutz1@sbcglobal.net; or Paul Kallis akallis@aol.com.

An art lesson

One day, a kindergarten teacher was observing her students drawing pictures. She spotted one girl working very diligently. "What are you drawing?" she asked. "I'm drawing God," the girl replied. The teacher said, "But nobody knows what God looks like." Without pausing or looking up, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."



Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

We have seen the true light

Saints of the triumphant Church, along with the Angels and Archangels, are concelebrating. All together, we glorify the Holy Trinity with incessant mouths and unceasing doxologies. Every liturgy we confess our faith in the Resurrection. We experience the divine blessedness and glory of the Kingdom of Heaven. At the conclusion of each Liturgy, we proclaim: "We have seen the true Light!"

Participation in the Divine Liturgy helps us to grow in holiness. This growth comes slowly. We may not even be aware of what is happening. As we actively and consistently participate in the divine worship services, especially during these summer months, we are being "transformed into the same image from glory to glory." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Registry

Baptisms

*Andres, Son of
Ashley & Daniel Martinez
Sponsors: Anne & Ted Theophilos*

*Jonathan, Son of
Bridget & Demetri Demopoulos
Sponsor: Andrea Radigan*

*Elpida, Daughter of
Elaine & Kostas Cios
Sponsor: Michael Petranek*

*Krystallo, Daughter of
Elaine & Kostas Cios
Sponsor: Mary Beth Petranek*

Weddings

*Allison Kanelos & Patrick McTigue
Sponsor: Alexander Kanelos*

*Kristen Mordis & George Vlagos
Sponsor: Georgia & Eric Brown*

*Anna Grieger & Kosta Vlahadamis
Sponsor: Nick Zarkos*

Weekday Services

Hierarchical Vespers

Tuesday, June 29
6:00pm

Feast Day Of Holy Apostles

Wednesday, June 30
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the August Mosaic is
Wednesday, July 7.

A guy joins a monastery and takes a vow of silence...

He's allowed to say two words every seven years. After the first seven years, the elders bring him in and ask for his two words. "Cold floors," he says. Seven more years pass. They bring him back in and ask for his two words. "Bad food," he says. Seven more years pass. They bring him in for his two words. "I quit," he says. "That's fine," the elders say. "You have done nothing but complain since you got here."

Laughter can add eight years to your life.

Memorials

Sophia Rendas
Diamando Kleronomos
Carl Kleronomos
Louis Van Zandt
John Varlas
Mando Gouvas

Funerals

Peter Paleothodoros
Nicholas Stavropoulos

Stewardship

Please remember to fulfill your pledges.
The church needs your dough
for its spiritual baking!

Postmaster: Please deliver by the 3rd of June

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