

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 7, No. 2

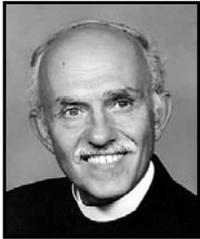
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, IL.

May 2002

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill ...



Nickels Dimes And Pennies

There are many things in life we take for granted. It's especially easy to forget to be grateful when things are going well. For example, we Orthodox Christians naturally assume that each Sunday our church will be open, a priest will be serving Divine Liturgy and there will be sufficient funds in the treasury. Such was not always the case: just ask any of the founding fathers of our parish.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Holy Apostles, I was asked to contribute some of the historical facts that occurred over the past quarter century. I was familiar with the hardships of the past and the sacrifices of our parishioners who made bold commitments. "Nickels, dimes, and pennies built our church," one parishioner told me. By today's standards, this seems an exaggeration, but in reality, a fact. It was the duty of the Parish Council members and the Canvass Committee to visit the homes of parishioners to collect what we called, in those early years, the dues. Some people they visited were not very receptive. Doors were literally closed in their presence. Thankfully, the perseverance and love in the hearts of these men and women who had a vision for Holy Apostles enabled them to press on toward the goal. By evolution and education, we now sustain most of the ministries of our church with the annual stewardship pledge.

By the time you read this, we will be near the completion of Pascha. Remember when we were kids and at the end of the long service, the priest would ask for contributions for the church? Holding the offering trays in hand, his appeal concluded with these words... "I don't want to hear the sound of coins in the

Oratorical Festival competition starts at Holy Apostles

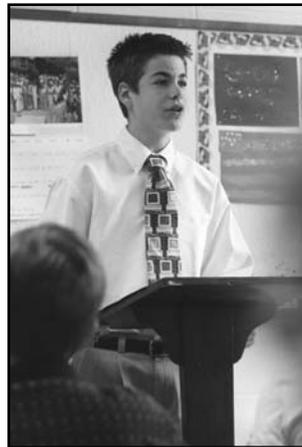
About 100 Sunday School students and teachers attended this year's Oratorical Festival on Sunday April 14th. Sunday School students shared their Orthodox faith with everyone present through speeches, written essays, and icons.

The winners are John Schieber in the Junior Division, and Marita Urban in the Senior Division. They will move on to the diocesan level of competition which will be Saturday, May 11th at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago.

Starting next year, our parish winners will receive a free week at Fanari Camp.



Above, Oratorical Festival coordinator Paul Franks holds up icons of St. Anna and St. Anthony made by 4th graders Hannah Milad and Toni Kokenis. At left, John Schieber gives his presentation on the filioque clause in the Creed, and how it caused the Great Schism.



tray only the soft sounds of paper money." For the most part, the footnote to the priests' appeal has all but disappeared from the announcement attributed largely to the patience, efforts and determined resolve to educate the membership. The point is that "nickels and dimes" were and shall remain the foundation of our church programs. Who could forget the presence of the pious little old women with their dark shawls at the pangarii (candle stand) while they searched diligently for those precious nickels and dimes. Such a scene is recorded in Holy Scripture (Luke 21:2-4; "And He saw a certain poor widow putting in two mites" (the value of a penny in Jesus' days) so Jesus said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all

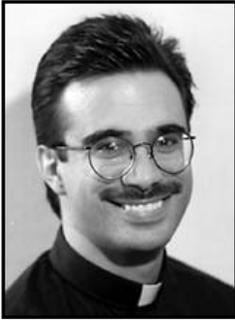
these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had." This sacrificial offering by the poor widow is praised by Christ because the value of a gift derives from the spirit in which it is given. A gift made from the heart has immense value.

It is precisely this kind of piety, love and devotion that I have been privileged to witness over the years at Holy Apostles. The nickels and dimes from the early sixties truly became the very foundation of our church life.

Recently a special appeal was made to help the Building and Grounds Committee make urgent improvements and necessary repairs to our church. A poster with names of

...See Fr. Bill on P.3

From Father Peter..



Are you a
marathon
runner?

Lent has finished and by the time you read this, it will be Holy Week or maybe even after Easter. I hope that your Lenten journey has been rewarding. I can't help but recall the words of Saint John Chrysostom that we read aloud at the Anastasis service. You will recall that at a particular point in the service, we read aloud that those who have followed the Lenten period, and those who have come at the eleventh hour, (in other words, at the last second) should rejoice, and join in the feast of the Resurrection. Whatever our intentions were for the season, whether we prepared or not, we are all welcome to celebrate. How can this be? It always seemed to me like this was the fine print, the undermining disclaimer in the church, so that we could ignore the Lenten season and the proscriptions of the fast. It always seemed as the hobbling clause that would allow anyone to hop into the spirit of the Church a couple of times during Holy Week, and then celebrate Easter. I resented Saint John Chrysostom for saying what he did. After all, it is my duty to preach the fast, and encourage the faithful to attend the services throughout Lent. Why would he say such things? After much thought, I understand why he said what he did. The fast is considered to be a marathon. It is a test of endurance and spiritual stamina.

I compare the Presanctified Liturgy to the glass of water that a marathon runner gets from the hand of a supporter as he or she runs. The Communion offered is our spiritual refreshment and encouragement to get us to the next checkpoint, which is Sunday. Keeping the same theme of the marathon, I thought of how to make Saint John's words clearer. After all some people in the church have flat out asked, "Why should we fast if the sermon of Saint John Chrysostom tells us to celebrate anyway?"

Thinking back to a marathon, anyone can run, or walk, or crawl. Completing the marathon sometimes requires all three of these forms of motion. However, if you run the marathon, can you be considered a marathon runner or even a serious athlete if you hop the rope at the last 500 feet and sprint across the finish line? I think we all

...See Fr. Peter on P.7



Gavel to Gavel



BY NICK KIRKELES... Parish Council Secretary

Regular Parish Council meeting Thursday, March 21st

Present: Fr. Bill, Fr. Peter, Don Alexander, John Anos, Jim Banakis, George Beshilas, Terry Chiganos, Nick Christy, Jim Fotopoulos, Spiro Kinnas, Nick Kirkeles, George Mannos Jr., Peter Poteres, Michael Stefanos, Peter Tomaras

Absent: George Alex, Sandy Fiascone, Dennis Poulos

Meditation

✦ Fr. Bill reminded council members of their responsibilities and duties during the Lenten season. Fr. Bill distributed the proposed Charter which was sent by the Archdiocese. The last Charter was revised in 1977. The proposed Charter took 2 1/2 years to complete and was prepared by the Patriarchate with purported input from the Archdiocese in the U.S. Council members were asked to notify Jim Banakis with any comments or changes they wish to present.

Stewardship

✦ As of February 28th, 641 pledges totaling \$437,309 have been received, for an average pledge of \$682.23 per pledge.

Building and Grounds

✦ Jim Fotopoulos reported that the A/C project is at the mercy of Com Ed. The work is complete except for adjusting the system once the power lines, which were inadvertently cut by Com Ed are restored.

✦ Jim also reported that we are required to put a new fire alarm system which would include smoke and fire sensors in the ducts as well as throughout the church. An annunciator panel is also required and will be placed at the north entrance.

Vision

✦ Terry Chiganos will present a formal draft of the Vision Committee's results at the April Parish Council Meeting.

Ways and Means

✦ Don Alexander indicated that the Golf Outing will be on July 15, at the Oak Meadows Golf Course. The church picnic will be on July 21, 2002, at Katherine Legge Park in Hinsdale.

✦ Don also reported on the Macaronatha luncheon held on March 17. He presented a list of recommendations for next year. A total of \$4,716 was collected. A motion was made by Don Alexander and amended by Terry Chiganos to distribute the

monies collected as follows: \$1,500 to Amnos tape ministries to replace the tape duplicating machine; \$2,500 to Metropolitan Nikitas; \$500 to Orthodox Christian Ministries. It passed unanimously. A special thanks to George and Karen Mannos, Tom Mannos, Mike Cotsilis and Don Alexander for all their hard work.

✦ The dinner dance committee is planning an event to be held possibly around the Thanksgiving day weekend.

✦ A luncheon for Bishop Ware will be held at Papagus after Liturgy on March 31st. All Parish Council members are invited but must indicate their intentions as soon as possible. Fr. Bill also requested that those on duty for Book Week be at church no later than 6:00 p.m. All collections will go to defray Book Week costs.

New Business

✦ George Beshilas made some suggestions for raising money which include a lamb roast that we could open up to the public.

✦ Don Alexander presented some information about an annuity in relation to a pension for church employees. A committee was formed to be headed by Nick Kirkeles, to look into the issue.

✦ Greek school's Glendi raised \$1,828. The program is doing great under the direction of Stacy Kinnas who is volunteering her time as the school's principal.

✦ Fr. Bill informed us that the Diocese is asking that all churches use a new booklet for Good Friday services. The books are \$2. John Anos moved to purchase 500 booklets. It passed unanimously.

✦ Metropolitan Iakovos is traveling along with other Hierarchs to prepare Chrismation oil on Holy Thursday.



Athletes Wanted

The 2002 Junior Olympics will be held May 24th-26th at SS. Constantine & Helen Church in Palos Hills.

Don't miss out. Register NOW! Call Father Peter at Church.

Proposed new Archdiocese Charter riddled with problems

EDITOR'S NOTE: Just before press time, the Mosaic learned that the Parish Council is sending a letter to the Archdiocesan Council voicing its concerns about the proposed charter. See the websites below, for actions taken by parishes around the country.

BY ELIAS P. KUSULAS

On February 20, 2002, the Archdiocesan Council distributed copies of the proposed new Charter of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America to all parishes. The proposed charter is a major revision of the current charter, which had been granted in November 1977. The proposed charter is purported to be a joint draft of the Patriarchate and the Archdiocese, in as much as it resulted after two years of negotiations, behind the scenes, among the Patriarchate, our Eparchial Synod and an Archdiocese Charter Committee, appointed by Archbishop Demetrios. The proposed charter does not in any meaningful way, adopt the recommendations of the Archdiocese Charter Committee and the Eparchial Synod. Indeed, the proposed charter, approved by the Patriarchate, in many significant ways weakens the role of our clergy and the laity in matters of church governance, which is provided for in the existing 1977 charter.

The Eparchial Synod and the Archdiocese Committee submitted a charter that would have provided for an autonomous Archdiocese, which would be generally self-governing, and with the authority to elect its own hierarchs, with the exception of the Archbishop. The Archbishop would continue to be elected by the Patriarchate; however, it would be from a list of three candidates (the

triprosopon) provided by the Eparchial Synod.

This approach was rejected by the Patriarchate and in the proposed charter the Patriarchate would have the authority to elect all bishops, metropolitans and the Archbishop.

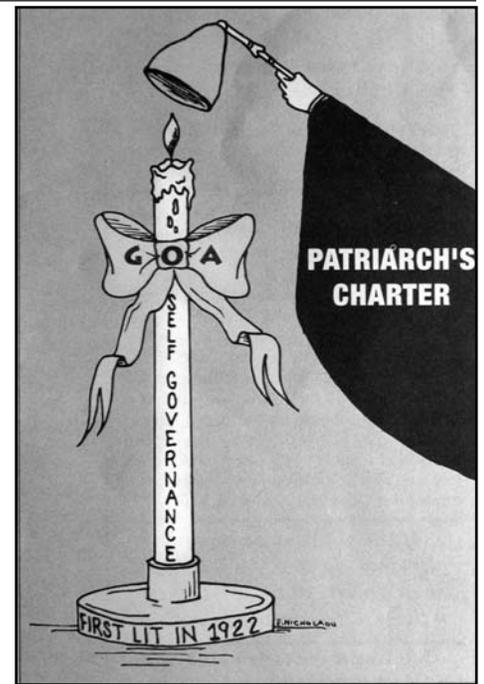
Lack of autonomy is just one of the controversial provisions of the proposed charter. The new charter does not: (1) provide for required biennial Clergy-Laity Congress meetings; (2) the Archdiocesan Council would no longer approve dioceses, sees and boundaries; and (3) only the Eparchial Synod could propose amendments to the charter, not the Archdiocesan Council or the Clergy-Laity Congress.

Members of the Archdiocesan Council have expressed major reservations with several provisions of the proposed charter. Other prominent lay leaders, and many of the faithful from throughout the Archdiocese, have also expressed serious concerns with the proposed charter. Many proposals have been made, which state that such an important matter must be included on the agenda of the upcoming biennial Clergy-Laity Congress, scheduled for July 2002 in Los Angeles.

Finally, an overriding concern is the way by which the revised charter proposal was developed, and the fact that it was not in accordance with the provisions of the current charter of 1977, under which we have been operating.

Reservations have been expressed by many who find it difficult to understand how such major revisions to the Archdiocese's governing charter could be implemented without the involvement and approval of the Clergy-Laity Congress.

Interested parishioners can obtain additional information from the Orthodox



cartoon by E. Nicholaou, from The Forum

Christian Laity website (<http://www.ocl.org>). Even more detailed information can be found at the web site for the Orthodox Christian News Service (<http://orthodoxnews.com>).

CORRECTION

In last month's Mosaic article about Voula Kouris' birthday celebration in the multi-purpose room, we said the cake and gifts were provided by Philoptohos. Voula Kouris received a Bible as a birthday gift from Barbara Pappas and the HARC staff. The refreshments were provided by a group of her friends. The Mosaic staff regrets the error.

Metropolitan Nikitas to be honored at IOCC banquet

The Chicago Region of the International Orthodox Christian Charities is having its eighth annual Pan-Orthodox grand banquet at the Carlisle in Lombard, IL on June 2. Donations are \$100 per person or \$60 per student. This year they will honor Metropolitan Nikitas who will also be the main speaker. I.O.C.C. raises its funds from all Orthodox Christian parishes as well as from government sources. George Aravosis or Don Alexander will be at the I.O.C.C. table in the multi-purpose room every Sunday in May (except Pascha) to provide information and take your reservation. You may also contact George Aravosis at 630-530-1412 or Don Alexander at 630-833-1754 to make reservations.

Fr. Bill from P.1

Holy Apostles to conduct special appeal

the donors has been placed in the narthex of our church as a token of acknowledgement and thanks to the participants; that is, everyone who contributed nickels and dimes as well as with more generous offerings. We are blessed in our Parish with members who have returned to Him as He has prospered them. Praise God!

In each parish, there are, no doubt, similar stories of struggles and perseverance. Men, women, and children, whose hard work and faith in God, provided us with a legacy too

precious to forget and one for which we should be grateful.

During this Paschal Season, your financial and prayer support are very important. After 37 years of active ministries in our church and school buildings, expenses loom large and our vision for the future is broad. The hope we have for meeting these demands is that God will provide through friends like you. I am profoundly grateful for your continued support.

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

In exclusive Mosaic Q&A, Bishop Ware discusses Sept. 11

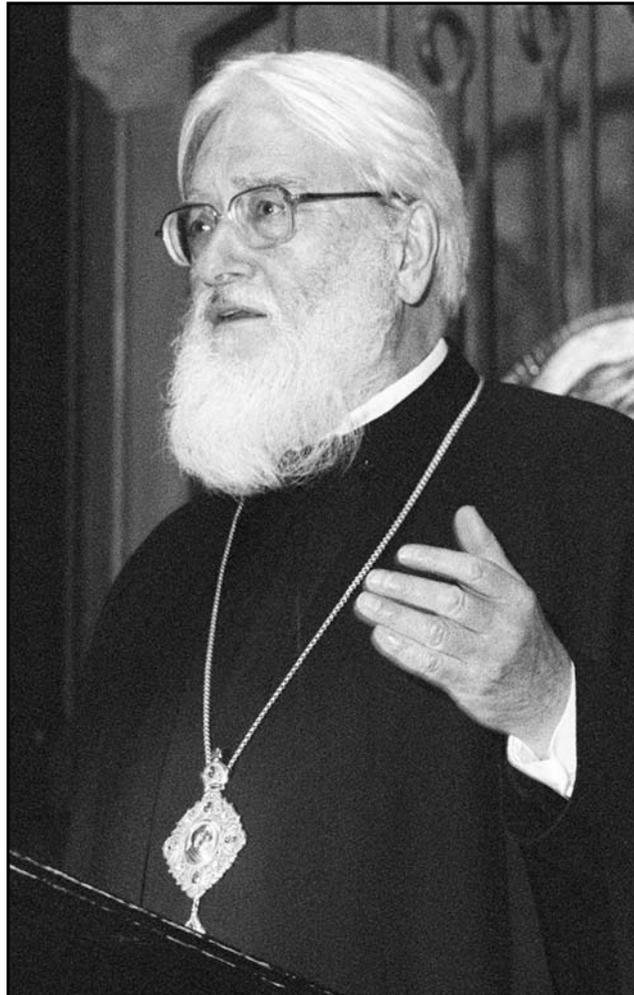
In addition to his lectures given during Holy Apostles' Celebration of Books, Bishop Kallistos Ware took a few moments to speak with Mosaic about the tragic events of Sept. 11 and the recent bloodshed in the Middle East, placing those events in the context of our Lenten season.

Mosaic: Are there any Lenten lessons we can take from the tragic events of Sept. 11?

Bishop Ware: We should start from the idea of forgiveness. I do not for one moment deny the importance of counteracting terrorism, and the leaders of the nations have to do everything possible to prevent tragedies of this kind from occurring. But, at the same time, we must avoid any feeling of revenge, any feeling of wanting to get our own back. It's very natural, in terms of fallen human nature, that we do feel that way. When something of this type happens, our natural fallen human nature reaction is to say, 'they can't be allowed to get away with it. Somebody's got to pay for this.' But this is not a Christian response, not in accordance with the spirit of the Gospel. We must not start from vindictive feelings. We have got to try to forgive. So, that would be to me the starting point. There is no way forward in the tragic situations of this world except through forgiveness.

Mosaic: Forgiveness of whom?

Bishop Ware: In this instance it means forgiveness of the people who have perpetrated the outrage. We may not be sure who they are. But also forgiveness of the people behind them because almost always the people who actually do these things are not the ones who really plan them. And, then forgiveness therefore of those who've been pursuing policies which lead to this kind of outrage. However, it's not enough for us to say, I forgive you. We should think of the words of the prayer of St. Ephraim: 'Grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother and sister. So, we have to ask ourselves, 'do not I also need to seek forgiveness? Do not I need to be forgiven? It is not only a matter of me forgiving the others. I should not think of myself as blameless. I should not say, 'I have no responsibility in this.' Now, of course the responsibility of church people here in the United States is very different from the responsibility of the terrorists who planned the outrage. And, I'm not suggesting that the church people have been guilty of



anything of this kind. However, we all have to say, 'I too have within my heart, hatred, resentment fear.' And, the great outrages that happen in the world all have their origins in the human heart. And the big divisions all start from small divisions. Because I am divided within therefore I project that fragmentation on the world around me and I create divisions among others. So, the great conflicts, the wars between nations, have as their source the warfare that is in the heart of each one of us, and that is why we have also to ask forgiveness.

Mosaic: What lasting effect, if any, will the events of Sept. 11 have on peoples' faith?

Bishop Ware: It's too soon to say whether there are lasting effects. But, it is worth thinking back to what happened in the Second World War over the Holocaust, the destruction of millions of Jewish people. That has had a lasting effect, I would believe, on theology, on the way people think about God and humankind. I am not sure it (Sept. 11) will have quite the same effect because the killing of the Jewish people involved really the whole world. It was on such a scale and it led to the

flight from their homes of so many Jews to different parts of the world that it really involved everybody. Possibly the 11th of September, immense though the loss was, is not quite on that kind of scale. What kind of an effect is it going to have? Perhaps events of this kind, which we wish with all our hearts had never happened, do have one quite important effect: they prevent us from being overconfident. It's easy when we belong to a wealthy society with a large measure of economic security, to a country which is powerful in world politics, to get, even as Christians, somewhat over-confident and falling into a certain pride. And, things of this kind remind us that in this present world, we have no reason to feel confident that things are always going to come out right. Christ has told us that ultimately all will be well, but he's warned us that we may have to face times of trouble. So events of this kind, tragic though they are, do remind us of the need for cross-bearing; that this life is, for the Christian, a bearing of the cross with Christ. But the cross goes with the Resurrection so that also means sharing the risen life. But we cannot leave out the cross and there's a danger that Christians do when they get too confident in a worldly sense.

I'd like to add another point about the 11th of September: Where was God in all this? We're tempted to ask, 'Why does God allow such a thing to happen? Why wouldn't he have stopped it?' And, many people have asked that over the Holocaust.

Why did God remain silent? That's a question we cannot really answer. We have to speak in terms of a mystery of evil. We can be sure of one thing, which is that God cares. God cares very deeply about it all. Even if God seems to be silent, he's not indifferent. And, we may be sure that if we are suffering over this, His suffering is far greater. So that all our grief and tears and pain—that is felt by God. To me this is the meaning of the incarnation, the fact that God has become fully and completely human. It is the meaning of the cross that God in Christ bears all our pain and all our sorrow. And, though Christ has risen from the dead, he has on his hands and feet the wounds of the cross, the marks of his suffering. He continues to share in the suffering of the world. So, we may be sure that God in Christ is suffering

...see Bishop Ware on P.7

Activities abound for Greek School students and parents

By **STACY KINNAS**
Greek School principal

By now you may have already seen the lovely daffodils blooming on the Holy Apostles grounds. They are a gift of love from the students of our afternoon Greek School program. Last fall the children and a group of dedicated mothers spent a portion of their class time planting the bulbs in an effort to give back to our church and beautify our grounds.

Ninety students meet twice weekly from September through May in our afternoon Greek School. Classes, ranging from pre-school through 6th grade, are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:15 pm. There are seven teachers on the Greek School staff.

The purpose of the Greek School is to teach the Greek language in spoken and written form while emphasizing the Greek culture and the Orthodox religion. Our school year begins with an 'agiasmo' service in September. Fr. Bill and Fr. Peter then bless each classroom with the holy water while stopping to talk to the children. In addition to language instruction, customs and traditions of our Greek Orthodox heritage are discussed in various levels of depth depending on the age of the students. There is also a weekly dance component to the curriculum.

Perhaps the nicest aspect of our program is the friendships formed between families. Meeting twice a week allows more reinforcement of learning and also means that we, the parents, run into each other and often have time to say more than just hello. Children attending Greek School and church on Sunday find themselves in our Holy Apostles church building three times a week. It's a wonderful thing to have the church be such a center for their lives. The message we send our children is that we value our heritage and can learn much from it. Very few after-school activities other than sports require the time commitment of Greek School, and yet from



year to year our numbers remain strong and steady. This year, a slight schedule change was made in an effort to accommodate the busy schedules of our families: each session was shortened by 15 minutes.

The Greek School performs on three occasions throughout the year. In December, the entire school sings the Kalanda (Greek Christmas carols) for the enjoyment of the congregation. Many parishioners have commented that they enjoy the brief program tremendously as they rarely hear those songs anymore. In March, the Greek Independence Day Program is presented with many children dressed in traditional Greek costumes to commemorate this momentous day of liberation for Greece. The children recite poems or participate in skits. They did a great job this year as usual! The graduates are honored at commencement program in May.

The Greek School Parents Committee offers assistance to the school in many ways. Two annual fundraisers, the Bake Sale and the Apokriatiko Glendi, are sponsored by the Parents Committee. Funds generated from these events have sponsored a field trip each year at no cost to the students. In January,

first through sixth graders attended the Cleopatra exhibit (learning of her Greek ancestry) at the Field Museum and later had lunch in Greektown. Last year, the students visited the Hellenic Museum, specifically the exhibit entitled *A Day in the Life of an Ancient Greek* and again had lunch in Greektown. Last year the Committee organized a bowling party for the entire student body. In addition to these wonderful experiences, the Parents Committee has purchased classroom items such as a multi-system VCR, videotapes, and hands-on materials for the younger classes. An event for all grade levels, the annual picnic, is held in Spring Rock Park in Western Springs at the end of the school year.

Registration for the 2002-2003 school year begins this month. Children must be four years old by September 1, 2002, and potty trained to enter the preschool class. Kindergarten students must be five years old and first graders six years old by the above date. The preschool class is limited to 14 students on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please stop by the church office for the necessary forms. We'd love to see your children in our Greek School!

Busy times for Philoptohos

The May general meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 21st at 7:30pm will be open to everyone. The featured speaker is the well known Barbara Rinella who will dramatize the era of Erma Bombeck and the book *Bobos in Paradise* by David Brooks. She will examine the main theme, the new upper class and how they got there. Barbara will give a one-woman show dramatizing the contents of the book with a perfect touch of humor. By becoming a character she creates a lively 'living literature' for her audiences. Raves abound for this dynamic woman!

Feed the Hungry

Philoptohos and friends will participate in the "Feed the Hungry" program on May 14th and May 28th. The group will meet at Holy Apostles at 8am to collect and prepare food items, and will depart for Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago at 10am, where the meal will be served between 11:30 and 1:30. Approximately 150 will attend the meal. The program, sponsored by the Diocesan Board, is in its 11th year of operation, and continues to be a successful and rewarding experience.

Graduates' Sunday

Philoptohos will host a coffee reception following the Divine Liturgy on Graduates' Sunday, June 9th.

Fashion Show

Chairman Beth Fotos and her fashion show committee have been meeting and planning for this year's annual fashion show and luncheon on October 12th at Ashton Place. The proceeds will benefit Gaucher Disease, a progressive disease that attacks children by causing systemic and neurological complications, and the Greek American Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Wheeling. The patron letter will be forthcoming. Your contributions are vital in supporting these extremely worthwhile causes.



Barbara Rinella will be the featured speaker at the May 21st meeting of Philoptohos.

The HARC CORNER

Books make great Mother's Day and graduation gifts

The Time of the Spirit Reading through the Christian Year

Selected and edited by
George Every, Richard Harries
& Kallistos Ware

This anthology of essays, poems and scripture lead the reader through the various spiritual seasons of the year. It begins in September with the Creation, goes through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. The preparation for Lent through Pentecost follows with the gifts of the Spirit and ends with the Final Glory in August. It is a source of inspiration and enjoyment as the reader becomes sanctified and transfigured into life with Christ.

Softbound \$11.00

The Story of Icons

By Mary Paloumpis Hallick

The targeted age group of this book is intended for ages 8 – 13. However, all ages can benefit and learn from reading this plainly written but informative book. It examines the origins of iconography; the iconoclastic conflict; explanations of icon symbolism and the reason for the different manner in which figures are depicted...in addition to the meaning of the coloration. The second half of the book, with its full-color plates, is devoted to the explanations of the feast days of Christ and the Virgin Mary. It also tells how to 'read' the icon for each of the events it depicts. *The Story of Icons* is a beautiful addition to everyone's library.

Softbound \$15.00

Zacchaeus' House & Martha and Mary's House

Written by Allia Zobel-Nola

Illustrated by Linda Clearwater

Young children can enter the world of two little houses in the "My Bible Village Series" and have Biblical characters come to life. Zacchaeus, once befriended by Jesus, changes his ways and Martha learns about what is important in serving Him. To capture children's attention and for more fun, they can search for hidden objects on each page. A cute, sturdy little book for little hands.

Hardbound, \$6.00

...reviewed by Pauline Franks
and Elaine Regopoulos



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM and pot luck dinner, sponsored by Synaxis, will be held on Saturday, June 1st, after Vespers, in the multi-purpose room. Father Bill will speak on marriage and our faith. You are invited to bring your wedding picture for everyone to enjoy. Please call Tony and Marcie Dahlgren at (708) 974-0246 to participate.

...Bishop Ware from p.4

We need to realize that love is stronger than hatred

with us. We don't understand why these things happen. At least we may believe God is involved and our grief is His also."

Mosaic: Do you have any thoughts on how progress can be made toward peace in the Middle East?

Bishop Ware: "My heart grieves over the situation in the Holy Land and it has gone on for decade after decade and it seems to get worse. But, again, the only possible way forward that I can see is through forgiveness. Now, it's easy for me to say that, sitting in this room. If I was an Arab whose close relatives had been shot, or an Israeli whose fiance had been killed in a suicide attack, then it wouldn't be so easy for me to speak in that way. But, I cannot see any way out from the present deadlock if we think merely in terms of revenge. There has to be somewhere a willingness to forgive and make a new beginning. And I think the President of Egypt, Sadat, was really the only person who saw that and risked his political reputation by insisting that the Arab world had to forgive and make a new beginning. And, for a time, his initiative did bear fruit; unfortunately, not permanently. To me, that's the only way forward."

Mosaic: If you had to offer Greek Orthodox Christians some food for thought during this particular Lenten season, what would you recommend they focus on?

Bishop Ware: "Let us be conscious of the immense amount of suffering that exists in this world. And of course, even in very prosperous places, people have their private tragedies which we may know very little about. But, let

us pray for all who are suffering. But, we must pray putting our personal tragedies and anguish in the context of the story of Christ, that He died on the cross bearing all our pain and sorrow. He rose from the dead and His resurrection means that light is stronger than darkness; love is stronger than hatred. In Christ, the victory is already won. So, though we have so much that leads us to suffer, and so many situations such as the Holy Land, which seem, in human terms, hopeless, yet Christ is risen from the dead and the light of the risen Christ is stronger than all the dark things in the world, all the dark things in our hearts."

...Fr. Peter from P.2

There's no sprinting through Christianity

know the answer to that question. Of course, no one would prevent you from getting your picture in the paper crossing with the other runners. One would even be able to celebrate at the different events held after the race. But could you be considered a marathon runner? Likewise, all are welcome to share in the joy of the Resurrection, those who have fasted and prayed, and those who have not. But did we complete the entire race? Did we struggle? Did we fall? Have we grown in our spiritual discipline? This is what being a marathon Christian is all about. There is no such thing as sprinting through Christianity and expecting salvation, wisdom, and spiritual growth.

The words of Saint John are an open invitation for all to rejoice in the Risen Lord, and also a calling to find within the celebration the true meaning of what it is to be a Christian. If we have come at the eleventh hour, and have been changed by the invitation to celebrate, then we will surely remain beyond the "twelfth

hour." If we are welcome, as unprepared as we may be, we should respect the invitation and remain for the entire party, and thanking God for His leniency, we should live differently throughout the year as well. We are all here at the door of the empty tomb: those who have prayed and fasted, those who have kind of prayed and fasted, and those who are just starting out. It doesn't matter what you have done this Lent, but it matters what you are doing with this year's invitation to sit at the Lord's table. I constantly hear that life is a big rat race. We are in a race, a marathon, where effort counts and has much to say about who we are. Finishing first is not the goal, but trying to finish is where the honor lies. Christ is Risen. Know it. Preach it. Live it. The marathon continues...pace yourself, and run with God who is all merciful and loves us more than we love ourselves.

I pray that this Paschal Season renews, strengthens, and enlightens each and every one of us. Christ is Risen.

May Registry

Baptisms

Anna, daughter of Georgia & David Haab
Sponsor: Cynthia Waldron

Nicholas, son of Estelle & Eugene Callaghan
Sponsor: Nicholas Psimos

Thera, daughter of Demetria & David Bowen
Sponsors: Constance & Charles Tatoes

Thalia, daughter of Demetria & David Bowen
Sponsor: Eleni Rustames

Vasilis, son of Lainie & Anthony Adrian
Sponsor: Hionis Athos

Elaina, daughter of Father Peter & Presvetera Dana
Sponsors: Stefanie & Dean Christy

Luke, son of Angela & Frederick Manos
Sponsors: Cynthia & Thomas Manos

Wedding

Sofia Beshilas & Daniel Parrott
Sponsor: Steven Savas

Marita Urban, a teenager to know

BY GEORGE J. DEMETRALIS
(alias Mr. D.)

When Marita was four or five years old, I received a phone call from her older brother, George. "Marita wants to talk to you, Mr. D.," he said, "so I dialed your number for her." And Marita did in fact talk to me. From time to time after that, I would receive, and frankly look forward to, similar phone calls. It wasn't too long after that when Marita learned to dial my number by herself. She is 16 now, and I still look forward to her phone calls.

Marita's brother, George, was a member of the Adventure Theater from third grade until he went to college and helped direct the group throughout his high school years. Marita has been a member since kindergarten and now, at the age of 16 and a high school sophomore, is one of the group's four directors.

Recently, when the Adventure Theater decided to have a Krispy Kreme doughnut fundraiser, Marita eagerly offered to coordinate it, and her efforts proved highly produc-



Marita Urban in front of some of the Krispy Kremes Adventure Theater sold.

tive. We sold 125 dozen doughnuts and could have probably sold many more. On the day of the sale, when we were running out of doughnuts, at least one of the Adventure Theater families donated doughnuts they had already paid for back to the group to sell again. To Marita Urban, her mom, and the kids and parents that helped out, you did an awesome job. Kudos.

We also want to thank those of you who

bought doughnuts and donated money. Teenagers like Marita, and kind and generous people like you seldom make the headlines. Nevertheless, this article is meant to let you know that you are appreciated. May the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ make even brighter the sunshine, moonlight, and starlight of your lives.

The meaning behind the tradition of cracking eggs

One of the most widely accepted Easter traditions of the Orthodox people is the 'cracking' or 'breaking' of colored eggs. Each housewife makes many and varied preparations for the Easter table; and rightfully so because the Resurrection of our Lord is the greatest event in the world and after the formal blessing of the Church through the magnificent Midnight Easter Liturgy, the great Fast is broken and Easter festivities commence.

Among these preparations is the dyeing of the traditional Easter eggs. Some people dye the eggs in different colors and, of course, various interpretations can be given. But the most popular color is red, for it symbolizes the Blood shed by our Lord Jesus upon the Cross as well as the great joy that Easter brings.

We dye the eggs and give them to our relatives and friends, then we proceed in cracking them, only because this is what we learned from our tenderest years.

I think that if we knew or realized the deeper meaning attached to this tradition, the 'cracking'

of the eggs would have a greater significance. We know that even in the history of pre-Christian people, the egg was considered as a symbol of life and immortality. This conclusion was commonplace

because from the egg, life springs forth.

However, in the Christian era, the egg becomes another symbol of the Resurrection.

The egg represents the sealed Tomb that held the

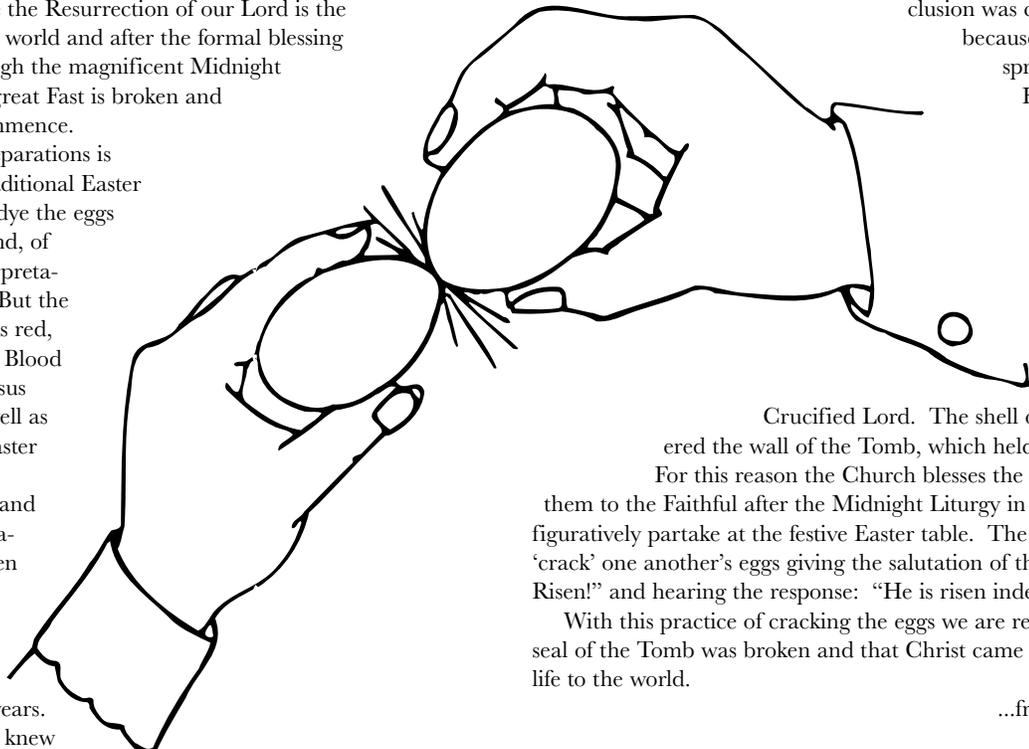
Body of our

Crucified Lord. The shell of the egg is considered the wall of the Tomb, which held within it the 'Life.'

For this reason the Church blesses the eggs and distributes them to the Faithful after the Midnight Liturgy in order that they may figuratively partake at the festive Easter table. The Faithful proceed to 'crack' one another's eggs giving the salutation of the day: "Christ is Risen!" and hearing the response: "He is risen indeed!"

With this practice of cracking the eggs we are reminded that the seal of the Tomb was broken and that Christ came forth to give new life to the world.

...from The Greek Star



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Mothers Day Thank you for teaching me, mother, that life with God is endless hope... without Him, it is a hopeless end.</p>						
<p>PASCHA 11:00am Easter Sunday Agape Service</p>	<p>CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. GEORGE 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School</p>	<p>HOLY WEDNESDAY 10:00am Holy Unction 3:30pm Holy Unction 7:00pm Holy Unction</p>	<p>HOLY THURSDAY 6:30am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm 12 Gospel Readings</p>	<p>HOLY FRIDAY 9:00am Royal Hours 3:00pm Apokathelosis 7:00pm Epitaphios</p>	<p>HOLY SATURDAY 8:00am Divine Liturgy 10:30pm Choir/Easter Concert 11:00pm Easter Service 12:00am Resurrection Service 12:15am Divine Liturgy</p>
<p>MOTHER'S DAY 8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour</p>	<p>5:15pm The Way</p>	<p>8:00am Philoptochos Feed The Hungry Program 4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm GOYA Meeting</p>	<p>FEAST DAY OF ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>6:30am Prayer Breakfast 4:30pm Greek School</p>		
<p>8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour Junior Olympics Lunch And Practice</p>	<p>5:15pm The Way</p>	<p>FEAST DAY OF SS CONSTANTINE & HELEN 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 4:30pm Greek School 6:30pm Philoptochos Board Mtg. 7:30pm Philoptochos Meeting And Program</p>	<p>10:00am TOIs Program 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:00pm Orthodox Studies</p>	<p>4:30pm Greek School 8:00pm Parish Council Meeting</p>		<p>4:00pm Lamplighters (to 7:15pm) 5:00pm Great Vespers</p>
<p>8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour</p>		<p>8:00am Philoptochos Feed The Hungry Program 4:30pm Greek School 7:30pm GOYA Meeting</p>	<p>10:00am TOIs Program 1:00pm Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group 7:00pm Orthodox Studies 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4:00pm Greek School Picnic At Spring Rock Park In Western Springs (to 6:00pm)</p>	<p>4:30pm Adventure Theater Lock-In Begins</p>	<p>9:00am Adventure Theater Lock-In Concludes 5:00pm Great Vespers</p>
<p>8:00am Orthros 9:15am Awaken To God 9:30am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour</p>	<p>MEMORIAL DAY</p>					
<p>JUNIOR OLYMPICS</p>						

JUNIOR OLYMPICS

Weekday Services

Holy Wednesday

Holy Unction
10:00am, 3:30pm, 7:00pm

Holy Thursday

6:30am Divine Liturgy
7:00 pm 12 Gospel Readings

Holy Friday

9:00am Royal Hours
3:00pm Apokathelosis
7:00pm Epitaphios

Holy Saturday

8:00am Divine Liturgy
10:30pm Choir Easter Concert
11:00pm Easter Service
12:00am (Sunday) Resurrection Service
12:15am (Sunday) Divine Liturgy

Celebration of the Feast of St. George

Monday May 6
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Feast Day of St. John The Theologian

Wednesday May 8
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Feast Day of SS. Constantine & Helen

Tuesday May 21
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy



Vacation Church School begins with prayer led by Father Bill.

Vacation Church School just around the corner

Rise and Shine! *Come Celebrate the Birthday of the Church* is the theme of this year's Vacation Church School. Elaine Regopoulos, this year's director, has received an abundant amount of help from Deb Flessor, consulting and former director; Patty McKay, curriculum writer; Ann Cussick, art director; Marika Panton, music director; and Thania Walter, kitchen director, who round out the executive staff. In addition, a couple of dozen more wonderful people have come forth as teachers and various assistants to make this year's program a success. With this Vacation Church School class dates of June 10-14 falling right during the week of Ascension, the feast days of the Ascension and Pentecost will be the topics explored for the week. Age-appropriate lessons have been prepared along with music, some creative crafts, and yummy snacks. There is a registration of \$10 per child with classes ranging from Pre-K to 5th grade. A spiritually uplifting, fun-filled week awaits all those involved. See you there!

To register for Vacation Church School, or if you have any questions, please call Elaine Regopoulos at (847) 991-0711.

Memorials

*Pauline Katsulis
Sandra Capenigro
Harry Chrisopoulos
William Bockos*

Funerals

*Harry Chrisopoulos
Catherine Hiles*

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the June/July

Mosaic is Tuesday, May 7th.

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church
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(708) 562-2744

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