

MOSAIC

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

Vol. 8, No. 4

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

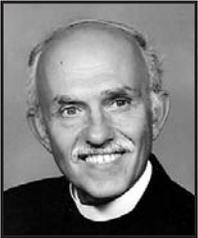
August 2003

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From Father Bill...

People are the keys to getting big jobs done



This year's celebration of our church's feast day shall remain for me an extraordinary moment. The beautiful and inspiring Vespers culminated when Metropolitan Iakovos conferred the Medal of St. Paul on Michael Cotsilis. The Medal of St. Paul is the highest award bestowed by our Archdiocese to lay-persons for faithful and continued service to Church and God. When Michael stood with head bowed before His Eminence, our hearts were filled with humility and gratitude for the love manifested by his leadership in the altar for more than 40 years. The faithful responded with warm applause and the spontaneous chant of "Axios".



A few days following this eventful and memorable evening, I was overcome with pensive thoughts and memories of the 44 years I have served this parish. Snapshots of personalities flashed before me as I thankfully praised God for all the faithful servants who have served with such devotion and love during these years. Many of these people may never be known by most, but will remain etched in the palm of God forever.

Recently, I read *The Leadership Secrets of Colin Powell*, written by Oren Harari. In it, the author explores many of the insights and principles of our Secretary of State. One insight that seemed to stand out above most of the others has to do with the importance of people when it comes to getting a big job done: "Plans don't accomplish work. Goal charts on walls don't accomplish work. Even



talking papers don't accomplish work. It is people who get things done."

People are the reason why any mission in this church has succeeded or failed. This is not to say that plans and organizations are not

Metropolitan Iakovos pins the Medal of St. Paul on Michael Cotsilis in recognition of 40 years of service to the parish, above. At left, Michael is all smiles after the service, saying the award was a complete surprise.

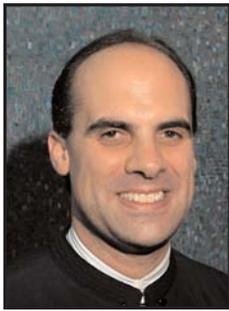
important, it's just that they themselves aren't what count in the final analysis. "No battle plan," Powell says pointedly, "survives contact with the enemy." Accomplishment and victory come directly from people who are in engaged in action.

In an insightful book *Hand Me Another Brick*, Charles Swindoll tells the story of Nehemiah and how he rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem. In this careful study of the biblical example of Nehemiah, the author shows how to overcome discouragement, apply the biblical bricks of self-motivation, and answer God's challenge to rise up and build.

People were called who believed in the importance of rebuilding that wall. Appealing

...See Fr. Bill on P.3

From Father Nicholas



A few weeks ago, my family and I visited the Shedd Aquarium, the largest aquarium in the world. We enjoyed the new shark exhibit and were amazed by

the diversity of the fish and marine life: big, small, fat, tall, bright and dull colored, fast and slow moving. Despite its diversity, the marine life dwells together in harmony. While watching these different fish, I remembered Psalm 104 that is read in every Vespers Service: "The earth is full of your possessions- this great and wide sea, in which are innumer-

able teeming things, living things both small and great."

Now that summer is finally here, we can look around our yards and see all of God's beautiful creation. Some of our flowers are finally starting to bloom. Our tomatoes, beans, cucumbers and summer squash plants

...see Fr. Nicholas on P3



Gavel to Gavel



By PETER POTERES... Parish Council Secretary

Regular Parish Council meeting Thursday, June 24

Parish council members present included: George Alex, Don Alexander, George Aravosis, James Banakis, George Chechopoulos, Terry Chiganos, Sandy Fiascone, Jim Fotopoulos, George Mannos Jr., Peter Poteres, Dennis Poulos, Steve Savas, Peter Tomaras, and Chris Zurales.

Finance

✦ Peter Tomaras reviewed the financial statement dated May 31, 2003. There was a deficit of \$20,664.53. YTD, there is a surplus of \$23,644.73. Dennis Poulos moved to approve the report. The motion was passed unanimously.

Stewardship

✦ In his review, George Mannos Jr. made the following comparisons to 2002: amount pledged is down 3.6%, amount paid is down 3.6%, number of pledges is down 6.9%, but the average pledge has increased 3.1%. The Stewardship committee met on 5/13 to discuss issues. Notes from that meeting were distributed. The committee investigated and reported on how other churches track their expenses. The committee discussed options for increasing stewardship. As of May 31, the church has received 771 pledges totaling \$500,967.50 for an average pledge of \$649.77. \$361,215.25 has been paid, which is 73% of the total amount pledged.

Correspondence

✦ Peter Poteres read thank you letters from IOCC and Hellenic College. There was a

donation request from the diocesan Philoptohos for its annual luncheon. Sandy Fiascone moved we donate \$500 as a benefactor. The motion was passed. A donation request for the 90th anniversary album of Ss. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral (Merrillville) was read. George Alex moved to donate a full page at \$125. The motion was passed. A donation request for the 75th anniversary album of St. Demetrios (Chicago) was read. George Mannos Jr. moved to donate a full page at \$125. The motion was passed.

Meditation

✦ Father Bill spoke about the need for us to focus on our church and spirituality. We need to go back to basics to continue our spiritual education process.

Building and Grounds

✦ George Alex reported there were four bids for resurfacing the parking lots. It was recommended that all the lots be completed at once instead of splitting the project. The entire cost would be about \$70,000. George Alex moved to resurface all the lots this year. George Mannos Jr. seconded the motion, but it was defeated. Instead, the decision was made to apply the \$10,000 budgeted for seal coating this year towards a new boiler (see below).

✦ Jim Fotopoulos reported that bids for a new boiler are being reviewed. One of the bids calls for replacing the present boiler with 3 smaller boilers. The cost would be about

\$45,000. The second bid is pending. A lengthy discussion was held on the topics of the parking lots and the boiler regarding financial implications for the church. The Council recommended that Jim seek a third bid.

- ✦ Remodeling of the women's bathroom will begin July 7th. It will be closed for two weeks. The estimated cost is \$5,000. Two portable restrooms will be available during the renovation.
- ✦ The alarm system had to be connected to the Westchester's Fire Department. The monthly cost will be \$70.

Ways and Means

- ✦ Don Alexander reported that only 26 golfers have paid to date. Cost of the outing has not increased. Hole sponsorships have increased.
- ✦ George Aravosis reported that committee assignments for the church picnic have been made and urged a strong participation by the Council.
- ✦ Sandy Fiascone reported that the location choices for the 2004 dinner dance is limited due to an expected high attendance. September 11, 2004 is the only date available at The Drury Lane.

Old Business

- ✦ Mando Gouvas has been hired as the new Greek School principal beginning this fall.

New Business

- ✦ The church's insurance program was reviewed in detail.



Have you made your appointment to be photographed for the new church directory? We strongly urge everyone to participate. Various time slots are available from August 7 to August 23 and in September from September 24 to 27.



Fr. Bill from P.1

Involved people help our church accomplish its mission

to them with great passion. Their response? "Let us arise and build." After that wonderful response, we read, "So they put their hands to the good work" (Jeremiah 2:18). The key to getting that big job done was people.

I'm grateful for God's underscoring that great truth, especially since we at Holy Apostles have such a huge job to do. Our task may not be in just building walls, but building character and molding lives in the image of Jesus Christ, an endless endeavor.

I'm also grateful because it gives people like you who benefit from the ministries an opportunity to step up and get involved in the day-to-day ministries of the church. Your involvement in church life has helped to accomplish the mission of the church. With the stewardship of your financial and physical assistance and support month after month in all church activities, you continue to make Holy Apostles a vibrant and productive Parish.

Thanks to all of you for embracing the challenge and mission of the church, not as onlookers, but as partners. Thank you for putting your appreciation into action, not on an annual basis, but on a daily and monthly basis. Thank you for understanding that the job cannot be done by a plan, but by people.

It is people like Mike Cotsilis and the countless anonymous faces who choose to remain unknown, who get things done. These people expect no applause from God nor accolades from others.

The key to getting this big job done is YOU.

Family fun for all at annual parish picnic



The annual Holy Apostles Parish Picnic is an opportunity for all sorts of fun. Above left, under the dotting care of yiayas Pauline Hamalis and Barbara Pappas, Faith Krabbe checks out Gia Hamalis' belly button. As always, the picnic is filled with lots of fun games for kids under the direction of George Alex.

Fr. Nicholas from p2

Be a good steward of God's creation

already have buds on them! The rabbits, squirrels and birds are usually in our yard. Summer is a wonderful time to stop, relax, and enjoy all of God's creation.

Psalm 104 continues..."He sends the springs into the valleys; they flow among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. By them the birds of the heavens have their home; they sing among the branches. He waters the hills from the upper chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your works. He causes grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that he may bring forth food from the earth." Psalm 104 shows us the depth of God's love for us and His intimate involvement with all of His creation.

God created the heavens, the earth and all of its inhabitants. He is the Creator. God created this amazing universe and world in which we live. The world did not come into existence by chance. All of the intricate details God chose to include in our universe have reason and purpose behind them. God created the universe and that adds dignity and worth to the entire environment, from the ozone layer to the plant kingdom and right through to the animal kingdom and all human beings.

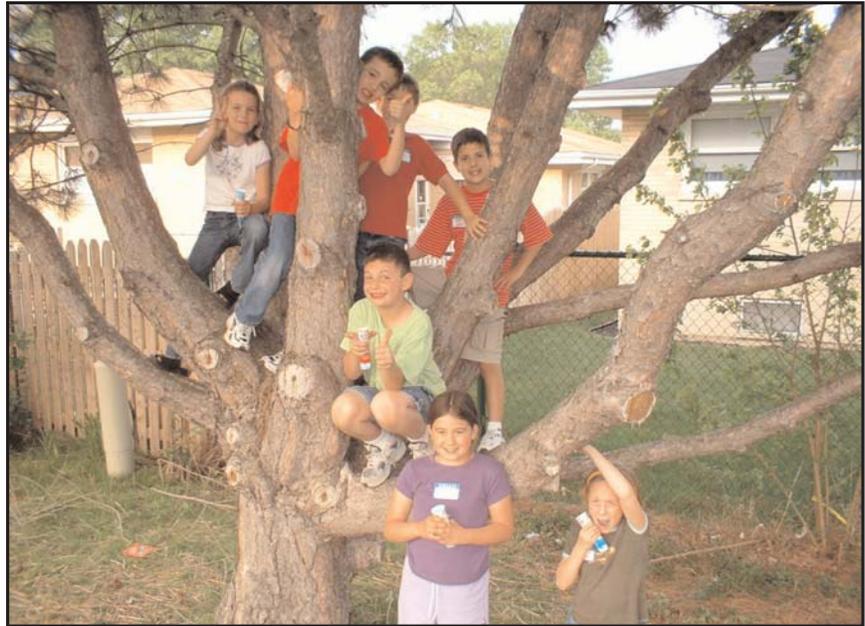
According to verse 28 of Genesis, God

wants us to rule over all the earth. God passed on some of His authority and gave humans the responsibility of caring for His creation. We are stewards of God's creation. Do we care for the environment? Are we responsibly caring for this world that God created for us? Do we notice the beauty of creation and God's hand in all of creation?

Because we are stewards of God's creation, we should not shy away from showing concern for environmental issues. We can take active steps by being careful when disposing of harmful objects and gasses that can cause problems to both nature and the environment. Trying to conserve the world's scarce resources is another way to be a good steward. Keeping our yards and neighborhood clean are other ways to be good stewards of the environment.

Today I see another part of God's beautiful creation, the rainbow. Rainbows appear when the rain and sun are present simultaneously. The sun captures drops of water and then white light bursts into seven different colors. This is another visible symbol of unity and diversity. It is a sign of harmony, beauty and God's love all working together. "O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all." (Psalm 104)

Parish Youth activities highlight summer



Above, The Way kids enjoy some free time during their end of year barbeque.

Even though school's out, the youth of our parish are still involved in many activities during the summer. Whether going to camp, participating in sports activities, or washing cars, there are many opportunities for fun and fellowship in church programs.

Alyssa Chiganos, right, and a friend, to impersonations for skit night at Fanari Camp, at right. Below, Alexis Stefanos, far right, and other 11th graders pose for the last time as fanari campers.



Above, silver medal winner, Nick Christou, with Metropolitans Tarasios and Iakovos. Below, younger boys try their skill at checkers.



Presvytera Michelle, center, and the members of TOTS gather for a group photo after a nature walk.



Above, Julie Layton drums up business for hard working GOYA car washers, below.



At left, Holy Apostles olympians take part in the opening ceremonies. Above, Vacation Church School participants perform for parents on their last day.

The Old West will come alive in Adventure Theater's next radio drama

The adventure theater rejuvenates radio drama! A deluxe continental breakfast and a live performance of an original radio play is scheduled for August 24th!

On Friday, August 1, the members of the Adventure Theater will begin rehearsing an original radio play called 'Parson Doc,' a western. It will be presented at Holy Apostles Church in our expanded radio studio (the multipurpose room) before a studio audience following Divine Liturgy on Sunday,

August 24, and will be preceded by a deluxe, continental breakfast for those who attend the

program.

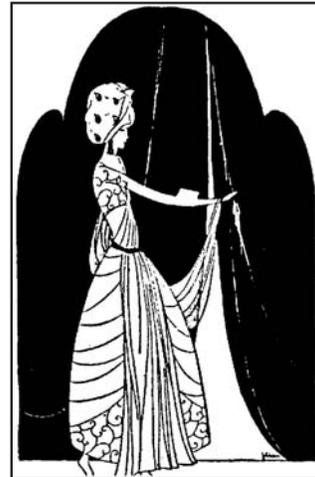
For their live performance of 'Parson Doc,' the actors and actresses will read from scripts with a background of sound effects, as was the case in the long-ago days of classic radio drama. You are invited to join us in our radio studio on August 24, have breakfast, and share in a unique, present-day, radio experience. Admission is free.

Since there is only room for 120 people, seating will be on a first come, first served

basis. However, you may make reservations by contacting Mr. D at 708-562-0869.



Fashion show to have a European flair



Philoptohos' main fundraiser, a fashion show and luncheon, "The Streets of Europe" will be held on Saturday, October 4 at The Ashton Place in Willowbrook. Reservations will taken beginning

Sunday, August 17 following Liturgy. Parties may choose tables on a first come, first served basis, with a payment for eight or more. After the 17th, reservations may be made by calling Irene Boutzarelos at (630) 773-8277 or Aleka Ernst at (630) 904-8277.

Philoptohos News

The Philoptohos Board of 2001-2003 enjoyed a prosperous term by honoring their commitment to helping others and in fulfilling their duty to the church. The Board thanks its members, contributors, and everyone who assisted in completing all the accomplishments of the organization.

Ann Lampros has completed her term as President, and passes the torch to Eleni Poteres. With her hard work and neverending love of helping others, Ann has been a member of Holy Apostles Philoptohos for 38 years, a Board member for 18 of those years, and has served as an officer many times. She will continue to be an asset to the organization, acting as Advisor to the Board in the upcoming term. She looks forward to spending more time with her four children and their families, including eleven grandchildren.

Eleni accepts her current position as President with enthusiasm. She has chaired many fashion shows as a calm and organized leader. The Board gratefully welcomes her as President.

Below are the names of the 2003-2005 officers and board members:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Eleni Poteres |
| 1st Vice President | Cathy Magas |
| 2nd Vice President | JoAnn Stubbings |
| Recording Secretary | Yiota Moe |
| Corresponding Secretary | Eleni Kouimelis |
| Treasurer | Alyssa Petropoulos |
| Assistant Treasurer | Mary Syregelas |
| Advisor | Ann Lampros |

Board Members: Fay Adams, Tessie Andreakis, Mary Jean Angelos, Chrisy Banakis, Mary Dangles, Elizabeth Dorner, Anna Eriotes, Teri Karapas Parafink, Kim Syregelas.

With the many demands women face today, these women are to be commended for their commitment to the church and the community at large.

August Registry

Baptisms

Jenna, daughter of Alicia & Evan Magas
Sponsors: Laina & Michael Krabbe

Weddings

Jessica Orloff & Nick Marion
Sponsor: Alex Marion

Toni Zuales & Steve Milak
Sponsor: Justin Miller

Olympia Alexis & John Ruipe
Sponsor: Amelia McKay

Kelly Callaghan & Tom Toullos
Sponsor: John Stavropoulos

Stacy Niforatos & Sean McCombs

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

When did our Theotokos fall asleep?

The tradition and written accounts which have survived tell us that our Panagia lived eleven years after the Transfiguration of our Lord. For three years after his death, she visited the temple. When she was 49, Christ ascended into heaven. At the age of 60, she fell asleep.

4:30pm Adventure Theater
7:00pm Paraklesis Service

1 2

8:00am Orthros
9:15am Awaken To God
9:30am Divine Liturgy
Fellowship Hour

7:00pm Pre-Marital Seminar

7:00pm Paraklesis Service

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy
10:00am Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group

7:00pm Paraklesis Service

4:30pm Adventure Theater

10:00am Pre-Marital Seminar

3 4 5 6 7 8 9

8:00am Orthros
9:15am Awaken To God
9:30am Divine Liturgy
Fellowship Hour

7:00pm Paraklesis Service

10:00am Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group
7:00pm Paraklesis Service

7:00pm Vesper Service At Assumption Church In Chicago

FALLING ASLEEP OF THE THEOTOKOS
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy
4:30pm Adventure Theater

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

8:00am Orthros
9:15am Awaken To God
9:30am Divine Liturgy
Fellowship Hour

10:00am Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group

7:30pm Parish Council Meeting

4:30pm Adventure Theater

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

8:00am Orthros
9:15am Awaken To God
9:30am Divine Liturgy
Adventure Theater Play

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10:00am Adult Christian Fellowship And Study Group

BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Strict Fast Day

4:30pm Adventure Theater

8:00am Orthros
9:15am Awaken To God
9:30am Divine Liturgy
Fellowship Hour

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25 26 27 28 29 30

Memorials

Mary Economy
Louis Lampros
Melia Papatonatos
George Papatonatos
Anna Zervakis
Vasiliki Lampropoulos
Thomas Chiampas
John Varlas
George Theodorou
Manoli Theodorou
Anastasios Pronoytes
Efrosini Skaftourou
George Karones
Nicholas Vasiliou
Helen Kordonis
Julia Kokinis
William Gilbert
Philip Coulolias
Besie Coulolias
Spyro Coulolias
James Peponis
Angeliki Verros
Prokopios Verros
Nicholas Stavropoulos

Shari Zougras
Marcella Xanthopoulos
Alexandra Zervakos
Bill Bockos
Christopher Karambelas
Thomas Kalyvas
Nicholas Anos
Dr. Harry Paul
James Pavlou
Constantine Mitsos
Demetra Bertsois
Jean Contos
Nickolas Contos
Anastasia Contos
Peter Contos
Josephine Contos

Funerals

Marcella Xanthopoulos
Nicholas Anos
Thomas Kalyvas
Paul Spinthur
John Bapes
James Konis
Frances Xinos

Weekday Services

Paraklesis

Friday, August 1
Tuesday, August 5
Thursday, August 7
Monday, August 11
Wednesday, August 13
7:00pm

Transfiguration Of Our Lord

Wednesday, August 6
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Vespers At Assumption Church

Thursday, August 14
7:00pm

Falling Asleep Of The Theotokos

Friday, August 15
8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the September
Mosaic is Wednesday, August 6.

Fasting Periods

The Church sets aside August 1 through 14 as a period of prayer and fasting. This is for the purpose of invoking Divine help through the Mother of God in cases of personal difficulties or spiritual illness. Also, the Beheading of John the Baptist on August 29, is observed as a strict fast day.

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