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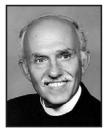
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, II.

September 2004

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com

From Father Bill...



Finding God's Mercy On The Highway

Mother Theresa was once invited to speak at a large convention. The organization asked her to address the ills of the world, how she was able to continue her service to others despite the despair and anguish she encountered daily, and how we can bring about change in the world. Mother Theresa's day at the conference arrived, and thousands upon thousands gathered to hear her speak. She was presented with a lengthy and glowing introduction, allowing all present to hear of her tireless service to the dispossessed of Calcutta. Finally, the presenter invited Mother Theresa to the podium and asked her to help all those gathered to understand how to bring change to the world. She rose and shuffled to the podium, climbed up on the step that allowed her to reach the microphone, and waited for the applause to finish. People clapped and clapped, but eventually stopped and waited to hear the profundities they had come to soak in.

Mother Theresa looked out at the audience and said these words: "One by one by one by one." She then turned, shuffled back to her seat, and sat down. It was not quite what everyone was waiting for. I imagine folks were waiting to hear financial plans, program designs, and internship models.

Mother Theresa could have addressed those topics or she could have described how to manage volunteers, do self-care so as to be better able to care for others, or create a positive service workplace environment. Instead, she got to the core.

I wish I had the skill and charisma to express myself with such clarity and brevity. In St. Peter's first letter 4:8-11, he reminds us

Are You In?

We're having an anniversary!

This is the GRANDEST event of all! On Sunday, September 12, the gala 45th Anniversary Dinner Dance at Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace will start with a cocktail reception at 5:00pm followed by a scrumptious dinner at 6:00pm. Then dance the night away to the music of the Chicago Orchestra. Adult tickets are \$125 per person, \$90 for those 18 and under. Reserve your table now! Reservations are guaranteed by payment

How Do I Get In?

There is a sign-up table in the multi-purpose room every Sunday following Liturgy; contact Steve Savas, Reservations Chairman; the church office weekdays 9am to 4pm; or ANY Parish Council member.

to "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one of us should use whatever we have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace. If anyone of us speaks, we should do as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ."

I'm reminded of the mother who was preparing pancakes for her sons, Johnny, who was five, and Costa, who was three. The boys began to argue over who would get the first

pancake, shouting reasons why each deserved access to the pancake they wanted. In the midst of all this, their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here," she reminded them, "He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait." Johnny turned to his younger brother and said, "I have a good idea. Why don't you be Jesus.?" I think we've all been Johnny at one point or another in our lives. We like the idea of everyone loving like Jesus, especially if we get to be the recipients. We may profess that it's better to give than to receive, but we

...See Fr. Bill on P. 6

From Father Nicholas



Laying The Foundation Of Faith

A hermit that was distinguished for his holy life and understanding of the human soul pointed to a small sapling tree and commanded his disciple:

"Uproot the tree from the ground." Although it was young, the tree had already grown deep roots. The disciple obeyed the Elder and tried to uproot the tree. He tried many times but could not even move the tree. "Father," he said to the Elder, "What you have told me to do is completely impossible!" Then the Elder showed him another tree. This was a young seedling (with no roots) and the disciple immediately uprooted it with no problem.

This story correlates with raising children. If children grow deep roots in Christian faith, it will be very difficult to uproot that faith later in their lives. Parents can be powerless with older children if they do not take advantage of training them in their young, tender years. The Book of Proverbs commands us to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Part of our calling as parents is to help our children discover what God is calling them to be and to do. Besides being challenged to train up the child in the way they should go, we should also train them in the specific and unique path in which God intends them to go. Parents have to adjust to the difficult realization that God uniquely creates each one of our children. They are different. The differences in the character and make-up of the children show the differences in the destiny which God has appointed for each one of them. As parents we should be on guard so that we do not force our own will and ambitions on our children. Sometimes we may be tempted to try to live out some aspect of our lives through the life of our child. We, as parents, can continually ask ourselves, "Am I doing right?" and more importantly "Am I doing right for this child? Is my teaching training this child in the way he should go?:

The best way to train the kids is through our Orthodox Christian lifestyle and example. I am amazed at children's ability to emulate their parents even in the smallest things. Their little eyes and ears see and hear everything. For example, after I brush my teeth at night, I cup my hands under the faucet to take a drink of water (I don't use a cup). Much to Presbytera's dismay, our children do the same thing every night! They saw me take a drink once (in this barbaric way) and now they do it every night! Our children become carbon copies of us. I enjoy playing hockey – so guess who else loves hockey – our little son James!

The book of Deuteronomy tells all of us to

"love the Lord your God with all of your heart, and with all of your soul, and with all of your might." This is the attitude that parents themselves must have toward God. If we do not have a love toward God, our teaching of the children will be hollow. The starting point of raising our children in the Christian life is our own love and devotion to God. Children are very perceptive and observant. They do not merely respond to the words and formal beliefs of the parents. Children sense our inner sense of faith. Our goal as parents should be to ask our children as St. Paul does in the book of Corinthians: "Imitate me just as I also imitate Christ."

Another way for our children to become rooted in the faith is through participation in the church's ministries. As we approach the beginning of a new school year and the church programs begin, remember that Holy Apostles Church offers many children's' programs. These programs supplement the Christian training that our children are receiving at home. TOTS is a group for children from 2-5 years old and offers hand-on interactive learning. First through eighth graders can participate in The WAY. The GOYA group is for high school students and offers discussions on Christian daily living and participation in philanthropic projects and social events. These ministries help parents convey the Christian faith to our children in a fun, engaging environment. The programs are another way to lay the foundation of faith for our children.

Children's souls are like soft wax. They can receive the imprint of God's image that will stay with them for their entire life. The imprint that they receive depends on the upbringing that we give them. It is up to us.

Tashion Show 'in the bag'

Philoptohos invites you and your friends to this year's luncheon fashion show, It's In The Bag, Saturday, October 2 at Ashton Place, 341 West 75th Street, Willowbrook. Social hour and raffle viewing will begin at 11am, with lunch at 12 noon. Fashions will be presented by Tracy Tarantino of Zzazz Productions. Her program will include fashions for women, children, and men from Von Mauer, York Furrier, and other specialty boutiques.

Co-chairmen Aleka Ernst and Wanita

Co-chairmen Aleka Ernst and Wanita
Loupakos and their multiple committees
of dedicated and talented women are
planning an exciting show, open to
women and children of all ages. Men
are most welcome to attend as well.
Unique prizes will be presented in different types of bags. The super raffle
tickets are for sale to win the exciting super prizes.

Reservations may be obtained following Liturgy on Sundays until September 26, or by calling Angela Rice at (630) 893-5232 or Kim

Syregelas at (630) 953-0043. Groups of eight or more may choose their tables upon payment. The cost of ticket is \$40.00. Children, ages twelve or under are admitted for half price.

News of upcoming activities from Mr. D

Adventure Theater

On September 10 at 4:30 p.m., the Adventure Theater will begin rehearsals for its Christmas stage play, which will be presented following a luncheon on Sunday, December 5.

The Adventure Theater, comprising boys and girls of grade school, junior high, and high school age, produces three original plays annually—two stage plays and one play in a radio studio format. The goal of these plays is to teach Orthodox Christian values and their application in everyday life. The group also sets aside time for fellowship which includes outings, a barbecue, a Halloween party, a retreat, a lock-in, and pizza parties. We are always looking for new members. Interested? Contact Mr. D. in person or by phone 708-562-0869.

Radio tapes for sale! The Adventure Theater is offering for sale, \$4.00 per play, all radio plays produced from 1980 through August, 2004. Interested? Contact Mr. D., or you may order them from members of our group at a table in the multi-purpose room on Sunday, September 26, when the Adventure Theater sponsors the fellowship hour.

The Lamplighters

A unique group for Seventh and Eighth Graders Begins Its Fifth Year. The Lamplighters will meet on four Saturdays during the 2004-2005 school year, with our first meeting scheduled for Saturday, October 9, at 4pm. The curriculum will include lessons on early Christian religious symbols and a study of parts of the book of Revelation appropriate for this age group.

At 5pm, we will attend Saturday Vespers, followed by pizza at a local restaurant. Since churches were lit entirely by oil lamps and candles during Vespers until the invention of electricity, I've named this group The Lamplighters. For additional information, call Mr. D. at his direct number 708-562-0869. You may also register in the multi-purpose

room on September 5 and 12, following Divine Liturgy.

Adult Christian Fellowship and Study Group

Our Adult Christian Fellowship and Study group will continue its weekly Wednesday afternoon classes. Sessions begin at 1pm with refreshments and fellowship, followed by the study of Holy Scripture and other aspects of our Orthodox Christian faith. From September through June, excellent recreational activities are provided for the group, coordinated by Kay and Jim Bobis. We are always looking for new members. Just come, and you'll receive a warm welcome.

The Way

A group that deserves more notice and recognition is The Way, which provides an excellent opportunity for religious and moral education, as well as time for fellowship and recreation, for boys and girls from first through eighth grade. Its fall schedule will begin on September 13.

The group meets on a Monday twice a month from 5:15 to 7pm. The lesson is preceded by an agape meal. On September 5 and 12, parents may register their children following Divine Liturgy in the multi-purpose room. The registration fee is \$10.00 per child, which helps cover expenses for instructional materials and other needs. When the children are registered, parents may also indicate whether they would like to host a simple agape meal and on what date. We are also requesting that all parents who register their children meet with Fr. Nicholas and The Way teaching staff for a brief, get-acquainted session when they pick their children up on September 13.

Attention Parents

The groups' teachers are truly dedicated and much care has been taken to formulate a curriculum for the moral and spiritual needs of the children. Unfortunately, attendance for all the youth groups has fallen. We must never forget that today, more than ever before, our young people not only need religious instruction but also an opportunity for fellowship with each other; for, they are facing destructive temptations from TV, movies, books, the Internet, and their peers unparalleled in recent history.

Septembeer Registry

September Baptisms

Julius Elias, son of Chris & Casandra Nikolas Sponsor: Constandinos Actipis

Lea, daughter of
Bill & Julie Angelakos
Sponsors: Nick & Georgia Stavroulias

Kyra, daughter of James & Katerina Toulios Sponsors: Elena Toulios & Haralambos Kostopoulos

Demetra, daughter of Michael Mutz & Mara Georges Sponsor: Joanne Giannis-Radtke

Anna, daughter of Dr. Spero & Stacy Kinnas Sponsors: Eleni & Nick Kouimelis

> Thomas, son of Sean & Eleni Ahearn Sponsors: Cindy Tagaris & Michael Mitropoulos

Aaron, son of Catherine & Steven Anderson Sponsor: Megan Bobis

September Weddings

Dea Maria Mannos & Thomas Hughes Sponsor: Steven Mannos, Jr.

> Katie Enyeart & Peter Magas Sponsor: Paul Lekas

Get involved with Philoptohos this season

Membership Meeting

Philoptohos will celebrate the spirit of volunteerism at the annual membership meeting and reception on Tuesday, September 21, at 7pm in the multi-purpose room. Become a member, enjoy Christian fellowship and the start of another successful Philoptohos season. Philoptohos encourages all women to join and express their talents through the many scheduled events and projects. Clipboards will be on display, which feature each project and include sign-up sheets. For those who are unable to attend the meeting, you may join on the following two Sundays during fellowship hour after Liturgy, or by mail.

Diocesan Luncheon

The 73rd annual Metropolis-Diocese of Chicago Philoptohos Luncheon will be celebrated on Saturday, September 18, at the Rosewood Restaurant and Banquets, 9421 West Higgins Road, Rosemont, Illinois. The event, *Home...It's Where the Heart Is*, will benefit the Metropolis Home, Diocese Philanthropy Fund and other philanthropic endeavors of the Metropolis Philoptohos. Please contact Eleni Poteres for any further information (630) 416-8902.



George Rantis, second from left, Bill Pihos, right and colleagues enjoy this year's record-setting outing.

Records broken at this year's golf outing!

On July 19, 115 men and women teed off at the Holy Apostles golf outing. After a shotgun start, the golfers played a best ball scramble format at the Oak Meadows Golf Club in Addison.

Don Alexander, chairman of the golf outing, said the event was a huge success because of the hard work and co-operative efforts of the entire golf committee led by co-chairpersons George and Karen Mannos and Peter Poteres. "We had more golfers than ever before and about 25% of the golfers came from outside the Holy Apostles community," he said.

The winning foursome with a score of 59 was from Mesirow Financial, Inc., who, in addition to being this year's only corporate patron sponsor, also donated many raffle prizes. Men, women and seniors (a new group added this year) were awarded prizes for the longest drive, straightest drive, longest putt and closest to the pin. Peter Poteres said, "We had more and better prizes than we ever had thanks to the contributions from parishioner Kathy Stratton and the Northwestern Golf Company."

All who attended enjoyed burgers, brats and libations plus practice time before teeoff and hors d'oeuvres and a filet mignon dinner at the end of the day.

The betting hole, which was managed by super salesman, George Aravosis, brought in double the dollars from the previous year. George was also responsible for the publicity and signage for the outing. The raffle, led by Don Singleton, was a financial success and brought in more money than ever before. Positive comments overheard comments like "Best golf outing ever," "super event," and "I wish I would have come last year."

Don Alexander said it was truly a team effort by the Parish Council and the Holy Apostles family that made it successful. When all of the money is received, we will net more than \$9,000, which will be added to the general fund to assist with the church ministries. It truly was Fund Raising thru Fun and Fellowship.

Seasoned and first time golfers are welcome to join in the fun at next year's golf outing which is scheduled for Monday, July 11, 2005.



Gus Lekatsos, left, and Steve Pappas, right, watch Jimmy Lekatsos, center, line up a put.

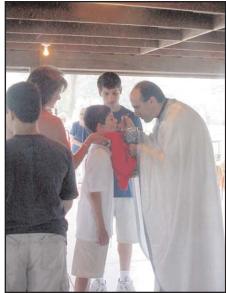




Jennifer Zack, above, hits an approach shot, while Fr. Nicholas, Jim Clohessy, Bob Pavlakos, and Tom Gregory, enjoy the day.

Faith, food, and fun highlight annual church picnic





Fr. Nicholas celebrates the Liturgy prior to the picnic, above.

After lunch, the highlight of the day for the kids are many exciting games.



Parish Council members are the chefs for the day, above, and hungry parishioners line up for the tasty treats, right.



Vacation Church School



Church School attendees watch a puppet show, above, and 'power up' by lifting weights for this year's theme of 'Jesus helps you power up,' as they rehearse for the final program.



Who attends the catechism instruction classes at Holy Apostles?

By George J. Demetralis (alias Mr. D.)

Since 1980, two sessions of catechism instruction classes have been conducted at Holy Apostles Church annually, one beginning in January and the other in September, with approximately ten classes to each session. Classes are held Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm to 8:45pm.

This series of classes is geared primarily toward those wishing to convert to Orthodox Christianity, but Orthodox Christians who want a refresher course in their faith are also welcome. The curriculum covers a wide range of subjects: i.e., a definition of the church in general and the Orthodox Christian Church in particular; our two main sources of faith (Holy Scripture and Sacred Tradition), and what place the Virgin Mary, the Saints, candles, icons, incense, and fasting have in our private and congregational worship. We also study the Lord's Prayer, the Symbol of Faith, and the Seven Sacred Mysteries. Questions and comments are welcomed and encouraged during class time.

I strongly encourage the Orthodox Christian partner to attend class with his or her non-Orthodox spouse, fiancé, or fiancee for support. I've also had students who desired to become Orthodox Christians, not for marital reasons, but because they desired to obtain the pearl of Orthodox Christianity through their own personal investigation.

The majority of my catechism students have been adults, but there have been some children. Catechism lessons for children are conducted separately from the adults.

This fall, catechism instruction classes will begin at 7:30pm on Wednesday, September 22, and will meet weekly through mid-November

Please contact Fr. Bill (708-562-2744) or Mr. D. (708-562-0869) as soon as possible.

Mr. D says Thanks for 25 awesome years!

On September 23, by the grace of God, I shall celebrate my 25th anniversary of service as Lay Assistant to you, the greatest friends, students, supporters, and guardian angels anyone could ask for.

Despite the fact that I was a graduate of the School of Theology of the University of Athens and just as qualified to teach religion in the Greek Orthodox Church as most clergymen, my repeated attempts to secure a permanent position as a religion teacher, especially of children, were for the most part rejected, not only because I wasn't ordained, but because I was also blind.

However, in September 1979, Fr. Bill Chiganos, Sam Gordon, who was president of the parish council at that time, and the other council members looked beyond these perceived drawbacks, and hired me for my God-given abilities shown at Fanari Camp and attested to by Fr. John Chakos, pastor of St. Athanasios Church in Aurora, where my family and I attended at that time.

Most people with disabilities, when seeking employment, do not expect guarantees, but ask for an opportunity to show what they can do. If they succeed, fine; but if they fail, they could say that they were at least given the chance to try, and you gave me that chance.

I want to thank you all for the Christian love and friendship you've shown to my family and me over these 25 exciting and spiritually rewarding years, and for helping to preserve my dignity as a human being.

I love you all lots and lots and triple lots.

Fr. Bill from P. 1 Seize each small opportunity to respond to God

all like getting. So what do we do in order to love like Jesus? Where do we start? One by one by one by one.

In our forty five years of ministry to the church, I believe we have followed the instruction of one by one by one by one. I am convinced because each of us saw the face of Christ in every person, we were able to reach our goals. The motivation, enthusiasm and cooperation during those formative years always remained the impetus to go forward. From the earliest days, the cooperative spirit of God was at work in all of us. We were not blessed with many major contributions during those early days, but the spirit of love and commitment provided the dynamic force to reach out for our goal: the establishment of a new community and church building.

C. S. Lewis wrote a friend in Verona in 1948: "We are not kings, we are not senators. Let us beware lest, while we torture ourselves in vain about the fate of Europe, we neglect either Verona or Oxford. In the poor man who knocks at my door, in my ailing mother, in the young man who seeks my advice, the Lord Himself is present: therefore let us wash His feet." One by one by one.

I am certain I have shared with you the experience Presvetera had one cold rainy night

driving home on the Eisenhower. The road was undergoing the usual repairs which caused even greater havoc with driving in the inclement weather. The one thing I feared most surely happened. The frightening sound of a flat tire thumping along uneven pavement and the difficulty in maintaining control of the vehicle were occurring at the same time. With some good fortune, an opening through the barriers appeared and we pulled over. "Now what are we going to do?" exclaimed Presvetera. I said prayer certainly can help! We did not own a cell phone and a feeling of helplessness came over us. We were confined to our car. Before we could discuss our dilemma, an old model pickup truck with its powerful engine roaring pulled up behind us. I looked in the rear view mirror and further terror gripped me when I saw two men with long beards, headbands and gold earrings dangling from their ears. Before I could share the disquieting scene with Presvetera, a rhythmic tap on the window brought us to attention. I reluctantly rolled the window down a few inches. "It looks like you need help, mister!" cried out one of the strangers. "Stay in your car with your woman and give us the key to the trunk." By now I knew Presvetera's imagination was racing faster than mine, but I

did exactly as the stranger said. Within minutes, our car was being lifted off the ground and the spare tire replaced the torn and shredded flat tire. Within minutes there was the familiar tap on the window and the faces of the two strangers looking at us saying "You're all set, buddy. Good luck and drive carefully." I blessed myself with the sign of the cross and lowered the window to call to the good Samaritans. "Let me at least offer payment for your service." With that, their pickup truck zoomed into the traffic as they waved to us. Our hearts were filled with gratitude to God for His mercy and love along a highway.

That was an unexpected blessing, but it was also a lesson that benevolence comes from people whose names you may never know. Like God's messengers that assisted us on that stormy evening, during the past 45 years, many faithful friends have helped to establish and sustain this parish. There have been numerous challenges to meet and by God's grace, we have succeeded.

One by one by only one.

2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Illinois	
September 2004	
Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church	

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Memorials

Mae Alexis
Marianthe Kritzas
Anna Xenos
Marianthy Stoumbelis
Gregory Stoumbelis
Peter Xenos
James Kritzas
Mary Fotopoulos
Lazaros Dali
John Economakos
Marie Economakos
Mary Zarcone
Helen Karkazis
Michael Pihos
William Tselepis, Jr.

Funeral

Bessie Demos Amelia Learakos Mary Zarcone

In Memorium

Recently we were informed of the sudden death of Mr. Edward Straka, associate architect of Holy Apostles. He was an integral part of Holy Apostles from its inception. Working closely with Edward Dart, the principal architect, Mr. Straka devoted countless hours during the period of construction. He was consulted on several occasions by the building and grounds committee to offer opinions and direction for various work at the church.

In 1972, he designed and supervised the construction of our educational building. His most recent mark was left on the church with the supervision of the new parking lots and also the canopies over both the south and north entrances.

Many of us who worked closely with Mr. Straka will remember his loyalty, integrity, and his love for this church. He was not only an excellent architect but a friend to many of us. He will be missed.

... Father Bill

Weekday Services

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin

Wednesday, September 8 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Great Vespers at Holy Cross - Justice

Monday, September 13 7:00pm

Elevation of the Cross

Tuesday, September 14 8:00am Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the October Mosaic is Wednesday, September 8.



Frick and Frack at it again!

The latest project on the drawing board for Frick & Frack (Jim Fotopoulos and Greg Vandarakis) is to update and improve our presentation of the flag. They will install a 30 foot flag pole, in front of the church, which will be lighted at night. It would be especially meaningful if all the veterans in the parish would make a monetary donation to cover the cost of this project. Contact Jim Fotopoulos at 708-448-4053.

Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church 2501 S. Wolf Rd. Westchester, Il. 60154 (708) 562-2744

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