

MOSAIC

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

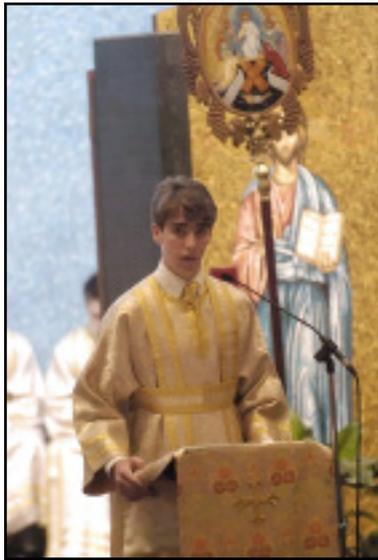
Vol. 12, No.3

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

June/July 2007

(708) 562-2744

www.holyapostleschurch.com



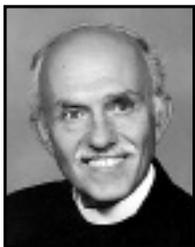
Youth Proclaim Christ Sunday gets kids involved

Sunday, May 6, the Holy Apostles community celebrated the youth of our parish proclaiming Christ. Many of the children of our parish volunteered their time and talent to contribute to the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

Clockwise from upper left: Fotis Pappas gives his Oratoric presentation on St. Anthony; Katie Berg and Rebecca Schieber teach kindergarteners the sign of the cross; Demi Kallis reads the Epistle; and Dee Manolis, Alexa Cussick, and Kristi Koszewski work a candle stand.

From Father Bill...

We Hope... We Wait... Graduates Look to the Future



June is the month for graduations. At assembly halls and campuses across the nation, young men and women wait anxiously for their names to be announced. Stepping to the stage

and receiving the coveted diploma or degree is the moment they have planned and worked for. How does one prepare for a life ahead filled with hope, anxiety and fear? Someone

wrote in life we hope...we wait. For Christians these eloquent words state the meaning of life. This thought is applicable to all people, especially to our graduates

"Rome wasn't built in a day." If I heard that once, I must have heard it a hundred times while I was growing up, and I began to resent it. Looking back in my life, I see that I was young and impatient, anxious to reach my goals.

That tidbit of advice always lingered, an irksome reminder that good things take time,

and great things take even longer. And speaking of Rome, Saint Paul's words to the 1st century Christians who lived there are truer than ever. "But if we hope for what we do not see,

...see Fr. Bill on P. 6

Remember!

Come celebrate Holy Apostles' Feast Day on Friday, June 29 and Saturday, June 30

From Father Nicholas



Experiencing the Lord's Healing

As priests we visit people, friends and community members in many different hospitals, care centers and even their homes. Some times after visiting the hospital and praying with people, I ask myself, "Why that person, Lord?" In my own personal life, when close family members have experienced great illness, pain and suffering, I asked again: "Why?" If we review carefully the Mystery of Holy Unction, we may be able to understand the "why question" and God's way of healing. Hopefully this will help us develop a Christian understanding of sickness and healing.

If we are patient and persistent, answers will come. They may not enter through our minds, but through our hearts and souls. Really, they come by grace from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Unction service primarily gives us the opportunity to participate in the eternal life promised to us in Christ. We are not meant for corruption and death. In the Gospel of John, we are reminded that "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life." As we just celebrated during the Paschal season, Christ came to restore all of creation. He offers us eternal life.

The physically ill hold a special place in the Church. They were the focal point of Christ's ministry and miracles. Jesus healed paralytics, lepers, the blind, the woman with the issue of blood and others. Holy Unction extends and continues Christ's healing ministry. For us, it is a sign of His transforming presence in a bruised and hurting world. Sickness and death are realities that resulted from the Fall. These illnesses in our lives are not God's punishment, but a result of the world's alienation from God. The Church offers us a way out. We can experience healing through the Mystery of Holy Unction. The passage in the Book of James begins: "Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up." (James 5:13-15) Calling on the Lord's name, prayer and oil are the elements of this great mystery.

Our merciful Lord desires our spiritual

...See Fr. Nicholas on P. 5



Gavel to Gavel



BY CHRIS ZURALES Parish Council Secretary

Parish Council meeting of Thursday, April, 19

Present: Father Nicholas Georgiou, Chrisy Banakis, Terry Chiganos, Jim Kapolas, Mara Georges, Nick Kirkeles, Peter Poteres, Steve Savas, Steve Melonides, James Fotopoulos, George Alex, Sandy Fiascone, Peter Tomaras, and Chris Zurales.

Financial Report

✦ Peter Poteres reviewed the financial report dated March 31, a copy of which was distributed to all Parish Council members. Bank balances as of March 31 are \$516,127.74. Peter Poteres explained that the apparent deficit of \$14,655.04 for the month ending March 31 was the result of us paying the entire first quarter Archdiocese assessment in the month of March. It was also mentioned that the Greek School has done a great job this year in collecting tuition in a timely manner.

Stewardship

✦ Steve Melonides reported that as of March 31, the Church had received 582 pledges (down 55 from 2006) totaling \$522,733.02 (up \$7,207.16 from 2006) for an average pledge of \$898.17 (up \$88.87 from 2006). Amount paid YTD is \$331,650.52 (up \$31,446.17 from 2006). An additional \$1,023 was collected for 2006, leaving a balance of \$13,936.

Correspondence

- ✦ A letter from the Hellenic Foundation with information on the sale of Hollywood House to Heartland Alliance was read.
- ✦ A motion was made by Steve Savas to buy one table for the IOCC Thirteenth Annual Pan-Orthodox Banquet held in May for \$1,000. It was passed unanimously.
- ✦ A letter was read from Father Christopher T. Metropoulos thanking us for the recent gift of \$320 to the OCN.

Meditation

- ✦ Father Nicholas thanked all of the Parish Council and ushers for their help during Lent and Holy Week. He explained that we are all resurrected after Pascha and all things are filled with light, both in heaven and on earth. Pascha is the beginning of new and everlasting light which we must keep within ourselves throughout the year.
- ✦ He encouraged us to pray for the 33 families who lost a loved one at Virginia Tech.
- ✦ He went on to explain that in Christ's resurrection we all have new life over death, by His death and resurrection our finite

life is changed into an infinite one. He reminded us that St. John said "death where is your sting". Death has no more strength over us.

Building & Grounds

- ✦ There was a presentation on the proposals for remodeling the multi-purpose room. The presentation included samples of the flooring material and design, new light fixtures, and paint colors. A presentation was also given on the proposed sound and video systems. The proposed budget for the project is \$208,000. Questions were raised on a number of issues including the sufficiency of the light provided by the proposed fixtures, the cost of alternative flooring, and the cost of noise dampening wall tiles.
- ✦ George Alex reported that the floors were cleaned both before and after Pascha. He also reported that 4 trees were planted in front of the church.
- ✦ The front door was adjusted by Jim Fotopoulos and he believes this will fix the problem with it not closing completely.

Miscellaneous

- ✦ Nick Kirkeles reported that the total donations received during Holy Week this year was down a little more than \$1,100.
- ✦ He also discussed the health insurance options that were reviewed. He explained how the decision was reached to go with the original proposal. The increase in health insurance costs for this year is approximately \$6,000.
- ✦ Peter Poteres estimated that this year's assessment to the Archdiocese will be about \$110,000.

Old Business

- ✦ After discussion, a motion to build a wheelchair accessible family bathroom in the southwest corner of the multi-purpose room was defeated 10-2 with 1 abstaining.

New Business

- ✦ The President informed us of the upcoming Diocese dinner honoring Andrew Athens, to benefit the Diocese camp. Steve Savas made a motion that Holy Apostles buy one table at this dinner for \$1,500 to support the camp. Motion was passed with a unanimous vote.
- ✦ Holy Apostles recently received \$170,000 in a testamentary gift from a parishioner. Steve Melonides moved that we deposit this money into a 6 month CD. The motion was passed unanimously.

PAREA tours the Chicago History Museum

In April, PAREA visited the Chicago History Museum located in the Lincoln Park area. The museum contains an impressive collection of artifacts and displays of the important events in Chicago history.

On the way to the museum, the 45 members were treated to a bus tour of places of interest in downtown Chicago by the bus driver, who was of Greek descent. The guided tour of the museum took us from the founding of Chicago through its growth to the present day. Included were exhibits such as: a diagram showing the path of the Chicago Fire and actual objects melted by the intense heat; a diorama of the World's Columbian Exposition; posters from the 1933 Century of Progress; and a large map of Chicago neighborhoods. We saw early uniforms from Chicago sports teams, photographs of Riverview amusement park, toys from our childhood such as Lincoln Logs and Tinker Toys, a full-size original 'L' car with wicker-style plastic seats, photographs of the steel making industry and stockyards, and a slide presentation of Chicago residents describing



photo by George Aravosis
PAREA members listen to a presentation on early Chicago in an authentic rail car.

their lives in the city.

A buffet luncheon followed at the Exchequer Restaurant in downtown Chicago. Everyone enjoyed a day of Christian fellowship.

Results from a survey taken of members late last year showed there was an interest in other trips and tours including an architectural boat ride on the Chicago River, the Amish Village in Indiana, Hellenic Museum, Museum of Science and Industry, Chinatown, Garfield Park Conservatory, Art Institute of Chicago, and the Morton Arboretum in Lisle. Your comments about these or suggestions for other programs are always welcome, and can be forwarded to George Aravosis or other committee members. Plans are being finalized for an Architecture River Cruise and lunch in Greek Town on Tuesday, June 19. More information will follow by mail and in the Sunday bulletin.

Parish Council sets up Master Calendar to get church activities organized

The Parish Council is instituting the use of a master calendar to facilitate the posting of events and to eliminate the possibility of scheduling conflicts.

All groups are encouraged to submit the dates of their scheduled events for the year by August 15 of each year. Any other scheduling of events must be submitted 30 days in advance, when possible, in order to clear the event for posting to the master calendar.

Forms should be submitted when scheduling general meetings, social events, lectures, outings, fashion show meetings, Bible classes, senior adult Christian fellowship, youth and young adult groups, Greek School and Sunday School events or programs etc.

Scheduling forms may be obtained in the church office. Forms are available now. We appreciate your cooperation!

Earthshaking possibilities a sixth grader's question caused me to consider

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

I will especially remember May 6, 2007 because of a question one of my sixth grade Sunday School students asked: "What would we be like if Jesus hadn't died on the cross?"

The obvious answer was, of course, that without Christ's redemptive sacrifice on the cross, there would have been no salvation and forgiveness of sins. God's kingdom would have been off-limits to all but a very few members of the human race.

That eleven-year-old's question also stirred up a hornet's nest of historical possibilities: If Christ hadn't died on the cross and rose from the dead on the third day, Christianity wouldn't have been born, and without the influences of Christianity, the history of the world would have been completely altered. For instance, without Christianity, the beauty of the Old Testament would not have become known

throughout the world. Only the Jews and those few converts to Judaism would ever know of the Ten Commandments. The world would never learn of a greater commandment, to love God, one's fellow man, and oneself, and that the Founder of Christianity offered Himself as the perfect example of that love.

It was the Christian monks who hand-copied and thus preserved many of the ancient writings, including the works of Plato and Aristotle, and the principles of democracy the ancient Greeks originated and developed. It was early Christian leaders like Basil the Great and Gregory the Miracle Worker who introduced soup kitchens and the compassionate care of orphans, homeless, and the elderly to a mostly hedonistic and heartless Roman society. It was a Christian Europe that gave birth to numerous missionaries, inventors, discoverers, and moral teachers.

In addition, most of the founding fathers of the United States were not members of the

clergy, but they were undeniably Christians. Through their influence and that of many who followed after them such as Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt, and moral leaders like Martin Luther King and Billy Graham, Christ's teachings remain alive and active today through the Holy Spirit. Indeed, that sixth grader's question made me come to a profound conclusion: that if Christ hadn't died on the cross and risen from the dead, there probably would not have been a United States and that sixth grader would not have been in that classroom to ask that profound question. Come to think of it, without Christ and the change in world history He brought about, perhaps there wouldn't have been a 2007 A.D.

So, kids, don't ever think a question you want to ask is stupid or unimportant. An eleven-year-old's question asked on May 6 made Mr. D. write an article on May 7 he never dreamed of writing on May 5.

Fun, fitness, and fellowship team up for a very good cause at annual 5K Race & Walk



Anastasia Stefanos, and Kristi Koszewski enjoy pre-race stretches.

The generosity of many sponsors and participants enabled us to raise over \$7,500 for Philoxenia House in Rochester, MN. Philoxenia House provides a temporary residence each year for about 1,000 Orthodox Christians and their families who come to the Mayo Clinic for medical treatment.



Fr. Bill starts the race.



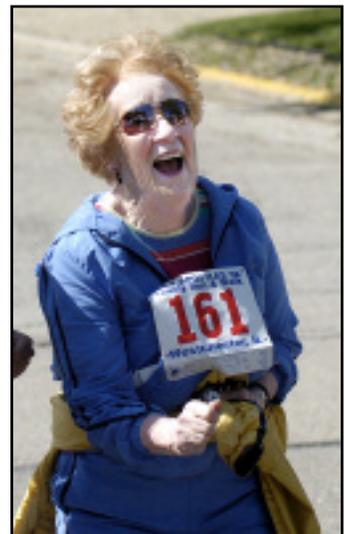
Fotis Pappas charges across the finish line first with a time of 18:30.



Everyone takes off from the start at different paces, above. At left, Teri Kafkes, Mr. D, and Rosalie Christofidis, close in on the finish line.



At left, Father Nicholas Kasemeotes, pastor of Holy Anargyroi Church in Rochester, and the Director of Philoxenia House, follows Fr. Nicholas to the finish line.



Although she didn't come in first, the race's oldest competitor 80-year-old Connie Poulos Smith had a blast anyway.



Theodore Dress pins a Mothers Day flower on his mother, Marie Dress on Mothers Day.

Seniors on the move

The Adult Christian Fellowship & Bible Study Ministry is organizing a trip to Buffalo Grove and Long Grove on Wednesday, June 13. This trip will include a tour of the Buffalo Grove Confectionery and Chocolate Factory and lunch at the Seasons Restaurant in Long Grove.

The bus will leave Holy Apostles at 9:30a.m. and return at 3:30p.m. The cost for the tour, lunch, and bus ride will be \$30.

Please contact Kay Bobis (630) 512-0586 for reservations.

Fr. Nicholas from P. 2

Oil is a vehicle for God's healing grace

healing above everything else. The Sacrament's primary purpose is spiritual, and secondarily, physical healing. Oil itself is not therapeutic. It is the material vehicle that transmits God's grace to us.

Throughout the Bible, oil was used to convey God's grace. We read in the Gospel of Mark about the 12 Holy Apostles "anointing with oil many who were sick" and they were healed. When the Good Samaritan helped the man that was stripped and beaten, he dressed the wounds with oil and bandaged them.

Through this simple oil, the Sacrament of Holy Unction offers us God's grace and restoration. As we participate in this sacrament of healing, we experience three things. We share in the victory of Christ over evil. Every Paschal season we celebrate this victory as we sing: "Christ rose from the dead, trampling down death by His death." Through Holy Unction, we are mercifully given the spiritual power and strength to endure sickness. Finally, it offers the healing of both our souls and bodies.

So, what is the answer to the "why" question? Holy Unction is a sacrament of faith. It is meant for any sick person and is always celebrated in the hope that it will bring healing. Although we desire physical healing, this is not always the result. The essential purpose is to allow the person to share in the victory of Christ and raise that person into the realm of God's Kingdom. It brings spiritual power that enables us to endure the trials of sickness with courage, hope and strength. We may not intellectually understand the "why" question, but hopefully, in time, God's grace will help our hearts and souls in realizing and understanding that "all things work together for good to those who love God." (Romans 8:28)

Adventure Theater needs two slide projectors

The Adventure Theater, comprised of boys and girls from first grade through senior high school, produces a movie in the spring, a play in a radio studio format in August, and a stage play in December. Every night during the week before the stage play is presented, directors, advisors, and cast members work very hard to build and paint the sets for the performance.

It has recently been brought to my attention that, by projecting scenes on slides using a carousel slide projector onto a backdrop made of fabric, a great deal of time and trouble spent on painting scenes on backdrops could be saved. Therefore, is there anyone who has a slide projector or two that we can borrow? If so, please contact Mr. D. at (708) 562-0869, office; (708) 528-2782, cell. Thank you.

Philoptochos Events And Report

Philoptochos will honor this year's graduates by hosting the Graduates' Coffee Hour following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 10. Please submit graduates' names to the church office by Wednesday, June 6.

Holy Apostles Philoptochos is honored to host the Namesday Vesper Reception at our church following the evening Vesper Service on Friday, June 29. Donations would be greatly appreciated to help with this event. If you'd like to make a monetary donation, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Philoptochos Vesper Reception" and drop it off at the church office. If you'd like to donate baked goods, please contact Eleni Poteres at (630) 416-8902 for details on what's needed. We look forward to this wonderful evening.

Philoptochos is wrapping up another successful year. Not only has our organization hosted many events, but we've distributed over \$37,000 to numerous worthy charities throughout the year. Many thanks to all the wonderful parishioners who have supported us in so many different ways.

Upcoming Events

- + Sunday, June 3
Coffee to honor Ioanna Burtzos,
Director of Sunday School
- + Sunday, June 10
Graduates' Sunday
- + June 11-15
Vacation Church School
- + Sunday, June 17
Father's Day
- + June 17-23
Fanari Camp
- + Friday, June 29/30
Holy Apostles Feast Day Vespers
and Liturgy
- + Sunday, July 8
Holy Apostles Picnic
- + Monday, July 9
Golf Outing

Fr. Bill from P. 1

It's what you put into the cup that counts. Read on...

with perseverance we wait eagerly for it" (Romans 8:25).

The following story will help us, and especially the graduates, face the future with boldness, courage and faith. A university professor invited a number of former students to his home one evening. They'd done well for themselves since graduating and he looked forward to hearing about their experiences outside of academia.

After everyone had caught up on what the others were doing, the professor slipped out of the room to get the coffee, and the conversa-

tion of the former students took a negative turn. The upbeat evening had become an all-out whine session and a disappointment to the host who was listening from the kitchen.

The professor returned to the group with a tray bearing a pot of coffee and a hodgepodge of cups: handmade and oddly shaped ceramic mugs, two gilded porcelain cups from a set, and an assortment of promotional mugs. He poured equal amounts of coffee into each.

The ex-students gathered around and the professor watched as they each reached for a specific cup regardless of its position on the table or their proximity to it. The professor picked up the cup nearest to him and took a sip.

"Ahh! So you're all focused on the good life now, aren't you," he said. The group grew silent. "Do you think your coffee tastes better than mine?" the professor asked one holding a porcelain cup. "No, of course not."

"Yet I noticed that you reached over all the other cups just to have that gilded one." The professor looked at his other guests and the cups they held. "Let me guess. You went for that cup because of the name of the team on it. Did anyone grab a cup just for the coffee?"

No one answered, yet everyone knew a lesson was about to be imparted. "If the coffee represents your life and the cup a mere container represents your home or your workplace, isn't the quality of the metaphorical coffee what's more important? "But doesn't one help define the other?," someone asked.

The professor shook his head. "A fancy cup is just a cup. It's what you put into it that adds value to our life."

Four words jump out at me as I ponder this thought: "we hope...we wait." Sandwiched between these words "what we do not see" are the things we're waiting for and hoping will happen. Let your cup runneth over with God's love and a perspective of life seen differently than that of the world. In addition to patience and perseverance, add daily prayer. Fifteen minutes daily set aside for a talk with God which will enable you to get through the day. When tough times invade your life don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends. Realize that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance. Let the process go on until that endurance is fully developed, and you will find you have become people of mature character. Let us place in our cup of life the words of the Apostle Paul, " We hope...we wait."

May Registry

Baptisms

Georgio, son of
Maria & Jim Fotos

Sponsors: Stacie & George Kotrogiannis

Thalia, daughter of
Desiree & James Becker

Sponsor: Danita Stratis

Ariana, daughter of
Alexandra & George Mandelaris

Sponsor: James Menoutes

Weddings

Hannah Khatabi & James Athas
Sponsor: Christopher Athas

Tiffany Rantis & Michael Howard
Sponsor: Shannon Quinn

Jane Tsatsis & Robert McKinley
Sponsor: Vasiliki Stratos

Jennifer Wolicki & William Cardaras
Sponsor: Dr. John Alexis

Estelle Lepitch & John Hereford
Sponsor: Tina Krnich

The HARC CORNER

The Time of the Spirit Readings Through the Christian Year

Edited By George Every, Richard Harries, and Kallistos Ware

The purpose of this anthology is to show how time—the sequence of days, months and seasons can be taken up into Christ. In so doing, it looks at some unfamiliar treasures to be found in three great traditions of the church: Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican.

Beginning in September with the creation of the world, the sequence of sacred time unfolds all through the seasons to Christ's incarnation, death and resurrection leading to Pentecost and the revelation of the Trinity and the establishment of the Church. The book ends in August with the final glory of the age to come.

Within each month some of the more well known saints and their works are featured.

Softbound, \$11.00

Orthodoxy 101: A Bird's Eye View

By Father Evagoras Constantinides

An easy to read, crisp, informative overview of the Orthodox Church. Includes explanations of the five original churches, the Protestant Reformation, life after death, and much, much more. This work is useful to someone who contemplates joining the Church or just wants an excellent, concise explanation of Orthodoxy.

Softbound, \$12.50

Catch Me If You Can

By Connie Mau
Illustrated by Kristine Lemus

This beautifully illustrated big book tells the reality of what hurricanes (Katrina) can do. A heartwarming story of a displaced little turtle and other animal characters that come to his aid. Children will learn how to overcome adversity with faith, hope, and courage.

Hardcover, \$15.00

Weekday Services

Hierarchical Vespers

Friday, June 29
7:00pm

Feast Day Of Holy Apostles

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

Mosaic Deadline

The deadline for the August
Mosaic is Tuesday, July 10.

We're outta here til August.

**As usual, there's no
Mosaic issue in July
while we
take it easy, too.**

**Best wishes for
a happy summer
from the Mosaic staff!**

Golf Outing

Our annual golf outing is approaching fast! Since the response was so good last year for a day off of work, Holy Apostles will give you special permission again this year to take the day off work and to have the fun and relaxation you deserve.

You will enjoy a delicious BBQ lunch, along with the opportunity to golf all day at the beautiful Oak Meadows Golf Course, to mingle with over 100 friends and fellow golfers and to get a tender, mouth-watering filet mignon dinner. To top it off, you'll even have a chance to win valuable prizes at our HUGE raffle. This all could be yours for a mere \$135. That's right, no price increase from last year or the year before that; we want everyone to come and enjoy (that includes you women out there). Free up your schedules for July 9. There are only 144 openings, so you need to reserve quickly. As always, information is available in the church office or by contacting Steven Savas at 708-387-2080. Can't wait to see you there!

Facts and Figures:

Golf and dinner-	\$135
Dinner only-	\$65
Hole sponsor-	\$125 min.
Single hole sponsor-	\$500 min.
Beverage cart sponsor-	\$250 cart
Corporate patron-	\$940
(full package for four plus a single hole sponsorship)	

Memorials

*Rosemary Agoranos
Thomas Agoranos
Anastasia Economou
Panayioti Koutsopanayos
Yianoula Koutsopanayos
Carey Failla
Dena Sepsis
Chrysanthi Panagoulas
Elias Pavlopoulos
Evgenia Pavlopoulos
Anastasiou Pavlopoulos
Spilliou Pavlopoulos
Ekaterini Kambanena
Emmanuel Theodorou
Georgiou Theodorou
Efrosini Theodorou
Evgenia Theodorou
Brian Katsaros
Nicholas Poulos
Dr. Louis Poulos
Steve Chakos
Irene Zoumboulis
Gus Zoumboulis*

Funerals

none

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