



EPARCHIAL NEWSLETTER

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Van Nuys

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Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

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2004 CLERGY DAYS - PHOENIX, ARIZONA



Bishop William C. Skurla, D.D., Clergy and Religious at Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ

Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D. welcomed the Clergy, Religious and staff members of the Eparchy of Van Nuys to Phoenix, Arizona for the Annual Clergy Days meeting. Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral hosted the event from May 24-26, 2004.

The conference began with the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Pro-Cathedral of Saint Stephen. Bishop William Skurla was the main celebrant. Present at the Liturgy was Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted, Bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix. Members of the Eastern Clergy of Arizona were among those in attendance. The Divine Liturgy was well-attended by parishioners of the Pro-Cathedral, friends and faithful.

Conference sessions included presentations on the

Eparchy's Safe Environment Program, Eparchial Youth Programs and Financial reports. *Annunciation Church* of Anaheim, CA, the *Cathedral of Saint Mary*, Sherman Oaks, CA, *Holy Angels* of San Diego and *Saint Stephen Pro-Cathedral*, Phoenix shared up-to-date information on their respective parish building plans.

The annual gathering of the Clergy also provided time for personal reflection, prayer and fellowship. Plans were finalized to have the annual Clergy Retreat in September at *Immaculate Heart Retreat Center* in Spokane, WA. While in Washington, the clergy will join the members of *Saints Cyril and Methodius* parish to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Church in Spokane.



Final Report: Bishop's Appeal 2004

We congratulate all the parishes who reached their goal for 2004!

PARISH (PASTOR)		GOAL	AMT. REC'D	REBATE
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Albuquerque, NM (Rev Zugger)	84	\$ 16,800	\$ 17,340	\$ 5,200
Church of the Annunciation, Anaheim, CA (Msgr Vida)	100	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 6,000
St. Nicholas of Myra, Anchorage, AK (Rt Rev Izer)	50	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,271	\$ 4,581
Holy Protection, Denver, CO (Rt Rev Izzo)	43	\$ 8,600	\$ 8,600	\$ 2,580
St. Nicholas of Myra, Fontana, CA (Very Rev Hutsko)	35	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,990	\$ 2,397
St. Thomas the Apostle, Gilbert, AZ (Rev Acquaro)	52	\$ 10,400	\$ 4,465	\$ 0
Our Lady of Wisdom, Las Vegas, NV (Rt Rev Vivona)	47	\$ 9,400	\$ 10,963	\$ 3,288
St. Gabriel the Archangel, Las Vegas, NV (Rev Daigle)	91	\$ 18,200	\$ 18,245	\$ 5,473
St. Basil the Great, Los Gatos, CA (Rev Hernandez)	23	\$ 4,600	\$ 4,600	\$ 1,380
St. George, Olympia, WA (Rev Perry)	32	\$ 6,400	\$ 6,650	\$ 1,995
St. Stephen Pro-Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ (Rt Rev Washko)	133	\$ 26,600	\$ 33,916	\$ 10,174
St. Irene, Portland, OR (Rev Burnette)	24	\$ 4,800	\$ 2,390	\$ 0
St. Phillip the Apostle, Sacramento, CA (Rev Hernandez)	14	\$ 2,800	\$ 2,900	\$ 870
Holy Angels, San Diego, CA (Rev Pipta)	69	\$ 13,800	\$ 18,695	\$ 5,584
St. Anne, San Luis Obispo, CA (Rev Idranyi)	36	\$ 7,200	\$ 9,675	\$ 2,902
St. John Chrysostom, Seattle, WA (Rt Rev Stanichar)	82	\$ 16,400	\$ 19,098	\$ 5,729
St. Mary Cathedral, Sherman Oaks, CA (Very Rev Rybarczyk)	107	\$ 21,400	\$ 24,515	\$ 7,354
SS. Cyril & Methodius, Spokane, WA (Rev O'Brien)	30	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,120	\$ 1,836
St. Melany, Tucson, AZ (Rev Rankin)	51	\$ 10,200	\$ 10,630	\$ 3,189
TOTAL:	19 Parishes	1103	\$220,600	\$241,983
				\$70,534

Over \$70,000 will be distributed to our parishes in rebate checks this year!
We especially acknowledge the parishes who exceeded their goal!

OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS:

Reverend Kurt Burnette is relieved of his responsibilities as pastor of Saint Irene Mission in Portland, Oregon effective August 15, 2004 and is assigned to a period of three years to study canon law at Gregorian University, Pontifical Oriental Institute (POI) in Rome, Italy beginning September 1, 2004.

Reverend Frank Knusel is appointed administrator of Saint Irene Mission in Portland Oregon effective August 16, 2004.

Gregg Burk is appointed Financial Administrator for Saint Irene Mission in Portland, Oregon effective August 16, 2004.



September 19, 2004

of God's message while sharing it by their word and example. As stewards they share the wonder of salvation and they recognize that all people are precious in the eyes of God. We value men and women who serve as catechists. We are grateful for their dedication to the Church and we acknowledge that they are treasures in our community.

The cross is rugged yet priceless. The cross is what we proclaim and what we cherish. Catechists take up the cross of ministry. It seems a burden yet it is a privilege. They are called to be stewards of the message to carry on the teaching



Anaheim's Annunciation:

...A DREAM IN THE MAKING!

The parishioners of Annunciation parish in Anaheim have a dream. For 35 years, they wanted a church of their own. This dream began to materialize on Pentecost weekend. Most Reverend William Skurla, Reverend Msgr. George Vida, pastor of Annunciation, with parish acolytes, parishioners and guests, broke ground for this new church on Saturday, May 29.

The Parish Advisory Board and 100 "eager to begin" parishioners brought their own shovels to participate in the ceremonial digging. In attendance were: Architect Edward Sapigao, AIA from Laguna Hills, CA, Cindy Moore, Vice President, Religious Financial Group representing Vineyard Bank of Corona CA, responsible for granting a partial loan, and Betty Belanger, the parish's Financial Officer. Mr. Robert Pipta, Sr. and the School of Cantors chanted the responses for the groundbreaking service. Following the ceremony, a buffet brunch was served on the Parish Center patio by the Events Committee chaired by Jacky Roza.

The church site, 2.5 acres located on North West Street, Anaheim, is designed in the classic Byzantine style. It will be distinguished by a 50-foot dome. A 10,350 square foot building will provide seating for 285 and will include a daily chapel seating 30,



Groundbreaking Procession (left to right): Deacon James Lane, Huntington Beach, Very Rev. Joseph Hutsko, St. Nicholas of Myra, Fontana; Rev. John Monestero, St. Justin Martyr Roman Catholic Church, Anaheim; Rev. Robert Pipta, Holy Angels, San Diego; Very Rev. Melvin Rybarczyk, Rector, Cathedral of Saint Mary, Sherman Oaks; Rev. Msgr. George Vida, pastor of Annunciation, Anaheim; and Most Reverend William C. Skurla, Bishop of the Eparchy of Van Nuys.

which will be accessible from the vestibule. Administrative offices, gift shop and rest rooms will complete the facility.

The building contract was awarded to Gentosi Builders of Santa Ana, CA at a cost of \$2.25 million. Vineyard Bank granted the parish a loan of \$1.16 million and the Parish contribution is \$1.15 million. The Parish amount includes a legacy of \$800,000 from the estate of devoted and recently deceased parishioners, William and Bonnie Jolissaint and daughter, Jo Ann Jolissaint Newman. Their generous gift has enabled the Parish to proceed with the final phase of its building program - the church.

From its founding in July, 1969, the parish used St. Catherine's Military School Chapel, Anaheim for Sunday Divine Liturgy including Christmas and Easter. Now, after many years of personal sacrifice of time, treasure and talent, and through a myriad of fund raisers, the completion of a three-year pledge campaign including gifts from benefactors and friends and many prayers, the parishioners are looking forward to Christmas 2005. Their dream of 35 years—**HAS COME TRUE!**



"Protect, we entreat you, O Lord, the ediface which shall be erected here..."



ALIVE IN CHRIST:

Cultivating Vocations in the Wilderness

By Luke A. Macik

The iconostasis in the middle of the forest was a clear indication that one was not alone in the wilderness. This iconostasis marked the spot where forty youths attended "Alive in Christ," the second annual "Boot Camp" held in June for Byzantine Catholic young men. The camp is located in the mountains of northwestern New Mexico near Gallup.

Rev. Robert Pipta, the Eparchial Vocation Director and pastor of Holy Angels, San Diego, Rev. Joseph Hutsko of Fontana, CA, Rev. Anthony Hernandez of Los Gatos, CA, Father Moses of Holy Resurrection, Newberry Springs, CA, and Deacon Michael O'Loughlin of Albuquerque inspired the youths to liturgical prayer, hymns, meditation and spiritual transformation. Other activities included skits on the early martyrs, a night procession through the forest with the readings on the "Call to Apostleship" and a rigorous physical activity, a hike.

The event concluded with the Divine Liturgy attended by the boys, chaperones, clergy and members of the Gallup Outreach. After Divine Liturgy, the site for the new chapel dedicated to Bishop Theodore Romzha was blessed.

With God's Grace, "Alive in Christ" will be the seed of new vocations for the Church.

ByzanTEEN Youth Rally 2004: ***"Mission" Accomplished***

Mysterious, dangerous, yet beautiful, the desert is the place to encounter both God and demon. This year, 175 ByzanTEENS traveled to Camp St. Nicholas, 7,000 feet above sea level. There they encountered the theme of this year's ByzanTEEN Youth Rally, "Mission." This desert site is located in Los Padres National Forest, Frazier Park, CA.

The teens learned that "mission" can be an experience of life-changing levels. It is a process in a place where one goes without knowing beforehand what lies ahead. Mission is a journey, a mysterious path.

In the rugged desert at Camp St. Nicholas, warnings of caution for bear and racoon attacks were given. Rev. Jack Custer of SS Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Pittsburgh gave the opening talk and led the teens on an enlightened journey into Byzantine spirituality. Workshops were conducted by Sr. Susan Sisko, Catherine Baranko, Rev. Frank Twardzik, Rev. Custer, Marya Tipton and Rev. Thomas Loya. Teens were invited to learn of the authentic teaching of the church concerning vocations, liturgical worship and the meaning of being human.

The spiritual growth, the challenges, fellowship, prayer and journey of ByzanTEEN Youth was a "MISSION" accomplished.



ByzanTEENS of the Metropolia take time to pose during the rally at Camp St. Nicholas, Frazier Park, CA



Deacon Candidates Attend Summer Session



Candidates (left to right): Row One: Michael Sullivan, Gilbert, AZ; Brian Escobedo, Albuquerque, NM; James Danovich, Phoenix, AZ; Row Two: John Bradley, San Luis Obispo, CA; Marc Brown, Anaheim, CA; Michael Mandelas, Seattle, WA; Row Three: Michael Mina, Sherman Oaks, CA; Michael Hanafin, Phoenix, AZ

Eight men from the Van Nuys Eparchy returned from SS Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA after their second summer of instruction in the Deacon Formation Program. They continue to fulfill the requirement of the four-year program.

With two years of study completed, the deacon candidates continue with more confidence. “The surroundings are more familiar,” said Marc Brown, “and we have moved right into the program atmosphere.” Michael Mina adds, “I do have a feeling of being more at home here, both with the surroundings and with my peers.”

For the 19 men of the Metropolia in the Deacon Formation Program, the course of studies is intense. After the two-week residency, studies continue through distance learning, for the men are required to write papers on assigned readings.

First year studies include Theological Foundations and introductory courses in Byzantine Spirituality, Liturgy and Sacred Scripture, and, courses in Liturgical Chant and Church History. For the second year, the classes are in Scripture, Dogma, Liturgy and Pastoral leadership. As the summer session ends, the

deacon candidates take with them assignments of spiritual readings and writings.

The men in the second Deacon Formation Program are enthusiastic and energetic. “Many come to me with questions on the church,” says Brian Escobedo. “I am being used much more as an assistant for our priest.” Michael Mina adds, “Many are using me as a go-between; I am expected to know more.”

For Mike Sullivan, the change has been more subtle. He says, “What has been added, I now serve at the altar every weekend, Saturday Vespers, Sunday Divine Liturgy, every Wednesday evening, Holy Days and special occasions.”

The word “deacon” comes from a Greek word meaning “servant.” Men who are preparing to become deacons in the Byzantine Catholic Church feel called to serve the Lord through ministry in their parishes and their communities. The deacon assists at the liturgical services, chants the Gospel, gives homilies and Eucharist to the sick and homebound. He works especially in the many service areas of parish life.

“The knowledge gained carries over into all I do at home, at church, at work,” says Mike Sullivan. John Bradley agrees, “The classes have brought a deeper peace and unity to my family. This is something we routinely pray for, but now it has come to life due to reflections on the living model of the Blessed Trinity.”

James Danovich adds, “As my faith journey progresses through these classes and class work, I gain a deeper appreciation of the word ‘Christian.’ I try to impart this as best I can into my daily family life.”

One unexpected gift is expressed by Michael Mina who says, “My thirteen year-old son stands more attentive (during Liturgy), especially when I serve.”

“I gain a deeper appreciation of the word “Christian.” I try to impart this as best I can into my daily family life.”

- Jim Danovich,
Deacon Candidate

Safe Environment Corner

Especially for Parents - Part I

Parents, no one loves your children as much as you. This love drives your concern for their safety. Yet as children grow, they are more and more out of your sight and supervision. As parents, primary educators of your children, you need to empower your children with knowledge to keep themselves safe. In our training session last year there were several examples and resources given to assist you. In this and future newsletters, support and resources will be introduced to assist parents in reinforcing safety rules with their children to prevent abuse.

Its Back-to-School time and children need to be reminded of various dangers. Stress these dangers with your child:

- Never go near a strange car
- Never accept a ride without asking a parent first
- Ignore and flee from anyone trying to offer you a ride or trying to get you into the car
- Never give directions to adults. Adults should ask adults.
- Try to remember as much as you can about the person who approached you.
- Tell a parent or trusted adult and the police immediately
- Never keep secrets

Remember: To prevent child abuse, parents must empower their children with knowledge!

EPARCHIAL CALENDAR

June 3-6:	“Alive in Christ,” Ascetical Boot Camp for young men, Gallup, NM.
June 14-20:	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Denver, CO
June 21-24:	Oriente Lumen Conference, Washington, D.C.
June 24-27:	Metropolia ByzanTEEN Youth Rally, Frazier Park, CA
July 8-16:	Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady of Wisdom, Las Vegas, NV
July 17-21:	Greek Catholic Union Convention, Opryland, Nashville, TN
July 26-28:	Metropolitan Liturgical Commission, Pittsburgh, PA
August 6:	Transfiguration of Our Lord
August 15:	Dormition of the Mother of God
August 18:	Archbishop Cyrille Salim Bustros, SMSP enthroned as 4th Eparch of Newton for Melkite Greek Catholics
August 27-29:	Annual Pilgrimage, Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Olympia, WA.
September 3-6:	70th Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Mount Saint Macrina, Uniontown, PA
September 4-11:	Ad Limina Visit, Rome, Italy
September 19:	Catechetical Sunday: “Stewards of God’s Treasure”
September 20-24:	Eparchial Clergy Retreat, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Spokane, WA
September 22:	25th Anniversary Celebration of Saints Cyril & Methodius Church, Spokane, WA
September 25-30:	National Catholic Diocesan Vocation Directors, Anchorage, AK



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel:
*“Blessed, Glorious
Mother of Our God,
we sinners cry out to you!”*

