



***SS Peter and Paul Albanian Orthodox Church***  
***9230 Old Bustleton Avenue***  
***Philadelphia, PA 19115***  
***Church Phone: 215-676-3311***

***Pastor: Father Stephen Siniari***  
***Rectory Phone: 856-616-0782***



*Church Bulletin ~ September 2004*

## **Father Stephen's Message to the Faithful**

**Regarding individuals & church communities who fail to use  
their accumulated wealth & resources to do the work of the Gospel,  
St Basil the Great says:**

What keeps you from giving now?  
Isn't the poor person there?  
Aren't your own warehouses full?  
Isn't the reward promised?

The command of Christ is clear:

The hungry person is dying now.  
The naked person is freezing now.  
The person in debt is being beaten now.  
And you want to wait until tomorrow?

I'm not doing any harm, you say...  
I just want to keep what I own, that's all.

Your own?

You are like someone who sits down in a theater  
and keeps everyone else away,  
saying that what is there for everyone's use is your own.

If everyone took only what they needed  
and gave the rest to those in need,  
there would be no such thing as rich and poor.  
After all, didn't you come into life naked,  
and won't you return naked to the earth?

The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry person.  
The coat hanging in your closet unused  
belongs to the person who needs it.  
The shoes rotting in your closet belong  
to the person with no shoes.  
The money which you put in the bank belongs to the poor.

You do wrong to everyone you could help but fail to help.

## **Events & Announcements**

### **Liturgical Schedule - September/October 2004**

**ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14** - Divine  
Liturgy - 9AM

## **Church News & Reminders**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3** - After the Divine Liturgy. *All members are expected to attend. Elections will be held, Annual Report will be read, Budget will be discussed, Delegates will be elected to the 2004 Archdiocesan Assembly.*

**ICON PLEDGES** - A reminder that Icon Pledges need to be paid up by the end of December. Please see the treasurer, George Kendro. *Also, please remember to return your Icons to the Church by the end of September and either return the Icons directly to George or place them in the Church and tell George. Thank you!*

**MEMBERSHIP DUES 2004** - *The Church Fiscal Year ends September 30. If at all possible, please fulfill your commitment by that time.* Dues are \$100 per person and can be paid at any time to George Kendro, treasurer.

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** - Normally held the 1st Monday of every month, 7 PM. All Parishioners are welcome to attend.

**SPECIAL SERVICES** - If you are planning to have a special service in the Church, please be considerate and notify either Father Stephen or the Church Committee one week in advance. When you are planning for a Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, or any other Prayer Service in the Church, please speak with Father Stephen in advance to determine if there is any way you can contribute to help the Church in helping others. Thank you.

**NO SMOKING/NO CELL PHONES** - Please remember that SS Peter & Paul has a no smoking policy in the building and that ringers on cell phones should be off during the Divine Liturgy.

## **The Joy of Giving**

**NEW CHALICE SET DONATIONS** - We are still accepting donations for the new Chalice Set. Thank you to everyone who has already so generously contributed.

**CASSEROLES FOR THE HOMELESS** - Please continue to help feed the hungry. Frozen casseroles are collected on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month by Harry Halkedis. A \$10 donation for casseroles can be given at any time. *Thank you!*

**POOR BOX DONATIONS** - Please continue to remember those who are less fortunate than we are.

**COLLECTION FOR THE POOR** - A special collection for the poor will be held on the 1st Sunday of every month. Please plan to give generously every month to those whose lives are less fortunate than ours. Donations can also be placed in the **Poor Box** at any time.

**DONATIONS OF WINE & OIL** - Altar wine and virgin olive oil for the altar lamps are always needed. The name of the altar wine is **Mavrodaphne of Patras** and it is available at most PA State Stores. Please help make sure that we always have a plentiful supply.

**PASTORAL FUND COLLECTION** - Collections for the Pastoral Fund will take place every 3rd Sunday of the month. Please donate generously. "Pastoral Fund" donation envelopes are found in the Church foyer, on the left side of the glass partition, should you wish to donate at another time.

## Ladies' Society News

MEETING - Sunday, **October 17**, after Divine Liturgy

### Events

**2ND ANNUAL INTERFAITH 911 CEREMONY OF PRAYER, PEACE & REMEMBRANCE** is scheduled for Thursday, September 9th, 7 PM. Opening Service at Maternity BVM Church (9220 Old Bustleton Ave) followed by a candlelight walk to Temple Beth Ami (9201 Old Bustleton Ave), where there will be a Closing Service, a speaker and refreshments. If you are interested, please meet Steve Murianka at 6:30 PM at our Church and we will walk over together and represent our Parish.

**SS PETER & PAUL ANNUAL CLAM BAKE** is **Saturday, September 18**, 3 PM to 7 PM. We need many volunteers to help with the Clam Bake. Please see **David Lane** if you can volunteer in any way. Any young people who volunteer to help are promised a free hot dog dinner at the Clam Bake!



**Prices-** Lobster Platter \$30; Steak Platter \$25; Adult Hot Dog/ Burger Platter \$8; Child (Ages 5-13) Hot Dog/Burger Platter \$5; Children under 5 Free.

**Tickets** - See *Alicia* to reserve your ticket **now! Time is running out! The Deadline** for the purchase of tickets is Sunday, September 12.

Don't miss this great opportunity to get together with your fellow parishioners and friends for super food and super company!

**2004 ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY** will be held **Thursday - Saturday, October 14 -16**. It will be hosted by St. Nicholas Church in Southbridge, MA. The theme is: "Cultivating Missions -- At Home and Abroad" and the guest speaker is Rev. Fr. Luke Veronis who just returned from a 10 year missionary endeavor with the Church of Albania. For more information, please see our webpage or contact Alicia.

### Miscellaneous

**WEB PAGE/E-MAILS** - SS Peter & Paul Webpage: <http://homepage.mac.com/aliciaj17/sspeterpaulhome1.html>. New Bulletins can be viewed the Saturday before distribution by 7 PM (just click on the tip link "**Church Bulletin**"). If you would like to be kept up-to-date by e-mail or to be removed from our "paper" mailing list, please send me an e-mail at: [aliciaj17@mac.com](mailto:aliciaj17@mac.com)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS ABOUT PARISHIONERS** - If you have any items to include in next month's Bulletin, please see Alicia or call her at **215-742-0492** or e-mail: [alicia17@mac.com](mailto:alicia17@mac.com). The deadline for the next Bulletin is **Sunday, September 26**. Thank you! Parishioners will be able to pick up the Bulletins at the Church on **Sunday 10/3/04**. Bulletins will be mailed to any Parishioners unable to attend.

**Thank You** to all members of the Parish who have helped out or volunteered in any way with their time and efforts, and a very special **thank you** to anyone whose name was inadvertently omitted from the Bulletin.

## **Parishioner's Corner**

A **VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY** is wished to the following parishioners and friends who are celebrating **September** Birthdays: **Richard Burdumy, Angie Kozlowski, David Lane, Jean Rifkin**

*May God grant them all many, many years!*

### **Let Us Keep Them in our Prayers**

*\*\*\* Please pray for the full and speedy recovery of **Martha Murianka** who is currently hospitalized. Martha requests no visitors at this time, simply your prayers and she also asks that you light candles for her. Cards may be sent to her home address.*

### **Ordination of Deacon Mark Doku**

Deacon Mark Doku is scheduled to be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, October 23, 2004. The Hierarchical Liturgy and Laying on of Hands shall take place at his home parish of St Mary's Assumption Church in Worcester, beginning at 9:30 AM.

Father Mark will be assigned to the Theophany Chapel at St. George Cathedral in Boston.

### **In Memorium: +The Very Rev. Victor F. George**

WORCESTER, MA [OCA Communications] -- The Very Rev. Victor F. George, 78, reposed of heart failure at the University of Massachusetts Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, August 25, 2004.

A Worcester native, Father George was an alumnus of Clark University, Illinois State University, and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. He was ordained to the Diaconate and Holy Priesthood by His Eminence, Metropolitan Anthony [Bashir] of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese in 1952, after which he served Antiochian parishes in Illinois and Pennsylvania.

In 1976, Father George was received into the Albanian Archdiocese of the Orthodox Church in America, in which he served parishes in New York, NY; Rochester, NY; and Boston, MA. For over 25 years he served Saint Elia Church, Jamestown, NY.

He was elevated to the dignity of archpriest by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius in 1986. In addition, he was awarded the right to wear the palitza in 1992 and the jeweled cross in 1995. On his 50th Anniversary of ordination in 2002, he was awarded a citation signed by the members of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America.

Father George was a devoted pastor, well known among his brother clergy as a missionary priest, always willing to travel far and wide to serve distant parishes and faithful in need of pastoral care. Well-versed in theology and history, he was fluent in ten languages and capable of celebrating services in Arabic, Greek, Albanian and Slavonic. A perpetual student, he continued

to attend university classes into his late 70s. He was an inspiration to younger clergy, a loyal servant of his bishop, and a trusted companion with his colleagues.

Memorial gifts in Father George's memory may be sent to the Student Fund of the Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese, 523 East Broadway, South Boston, MA 02127.

*May Father George's memory be eternal!*

**Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude,  
Metropolitan HERMAN for the September FOS Appeal**

September 2004

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

The theme chosen for the 14th All-American Council is Our Church and the Future. This is an exciting theme that will allow us to explore not only where we came from as a Church, but also where we presently are and most importantly where we are going. It is a theme that invites us to reflect upon the past and present and to act to shape the future work and mission of the Church and how the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards can support that work and mission.

There is no doubt that the decisions we make today will shape the future direction of our Church. I liken this to a road map with many different roads. Some roads will lead us to our intended destination, others, if taken, will lead to a dead-end. Yet there is another alternative, if we just stand still and do nothing, then we will go no further.

The road that leads us to the Kingdom of Heaven, although a narrow path it is well lit with the Light of Christ, with His saints as sentinels pointing us in the right direction. In the life of our Orthodox Church in America, the light and lives of our North American Saints inspire us to move forward into a future full of hope and joy built upon the virtues of prayer, fasting and sacrificial giving.

Each September, as Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, I invite you to join me and the thousands of other faithful and friends of our Church in making a free will gift to the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards. This year's appeal to you is especially important because I have placed the challenge before us, as members of the Church, to raise an additional \$150,000 in new FOS gifts in the next six weeks.

With on-going FOS support and with these new FOS gifts, the Orthodox Church in America's Departments will be fully funded at their budgeted level of \$470,000. These Departments can then continue to minister to our youth, young adults and college students, to our missionaries, church schoolteachers and students, pastors and those less fortunate. Our Church's website and newspaper can continue to reach out to people around the world with news about the life of Christ and His Church.



Dearly beloved, each hour of every day our Church commits \$54.00 to help support these and others Church Departments, Offices and Ministries. It is only through voluntary gifts that we fund these efforts. I am now asking you to become as FOS supporter. If you are already a FOS supporter, please increase your current FOS support as much as possible.

As good stewards of Christ's Church, we are called to journey on the road that leads to the Kingdom of God. Let each of us today make the choice to support the work of the Church that FOS so generously funds.

Let us be part of a future stronger and more determined to answer the daily call of our Lord to preach the gospel and share the Good News of the Lord with all people.

I look forward to your generous response.  
Yours in Christ,

+ HERMAN

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

***Contribute:***

**Online:** <https://secure.oca.org/fos/fos.html>

**Phone:** 1-516-922-0550 ext 124

**Mail:** The Orthodox Church in America  
Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards  
PO Box 675  
Syosset, NY 11791

## **IOCC Responding to Victims of Iraqi Church Bombings**

*For immediate release - August 5, 2004*

Baghdad (IOCC) - The broken stained glass has been swept up, the structural damage is being repaired, but the Christian community of Iraq will take a long time to recover from the August 1 car bomb attacks.

Iraqi Christians, a minority in this predominantly Muslim country, have been left reeling from the large-scale violence against their communities in Baghdad and Mosul. International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), a humanitarian aid agency of Orthodox Christians, is working to meet the immediate needs of those most affected by the attacks.

Several of the damaged churches in Baghdad are part of a local ecumenical network of IOCC partners that has been active in distributing food and hygiene kits to Iraqis in need over the past year. Since the bombings, IOCC staff, led by Dr. Saad Gedeon, have visited the churches and interviewed their priests and bishops.

"We are assessing the needs of the families of those killed or injured by these senseless acts of brutality, and IOCC will be providing assistance to them as we are able," said Dr. Gedeon, program coordinator for IOCC Iraq. "Christians around the world must stand with those who have fallen victim to this brutal violence, letting them know that we are with them not only in thought and prayer, but also in deed, in the days and weeks to come as they work to rebuild."

Despite the violence and unrest, IOCC continues its work in Iraq. Through IOCC's distribution network, hundreds of low-income Iraqi families receive food and other necessities. Victims of the recent attacks will receive food parcels, hygiene kits and other forms of assistance, depending on their needs.

IOCC is one of four implementing partners for the relief alliance Action by Churches Together (ACT) in Iraq and is working in partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Beginning operations in Iraq in April 2003, IOCC has been distributing food, hygiene and first-aid parcels through the Middle East Council of Churches and its network of churches and mosques.

IOCC is the humanitarian aid agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA). All of its assistance is delivered solely on the basis of need.

Donations may be sent to

**IOCC, "Middle East Crisis," P.O. Box 630225, Baltimore, MD 21263-0225**

Donations may also be made online at <http://www.iocc.org> or by calling toll-free **1-877-803-4622**

IOCC has worked in the Middle East since 1997 and, in addition to Iraq, has programs in the Holy Land, Syria and Lebanon. To learn more about IOCC's humanitarian and self-help programs around the world, please visit <http://www.iocc.org>

### **Holy Days and Name Days in September**

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|--------------|---|
| September 5  | - Prophet Zachariah & Righteous Elizabeth; St Athanasius of Brest |
| September 8  | - Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos                             |
| September 9  | - Righteous Joachim & Anna  |
| September 13 | - Founding of Church of the Holy Sepulchre; Hieromartyr Cornelius |
| September 14 | - Elevation of the Precious Cross                                 |
| September 17 | - Martyr Sophia & her Daughters: Faith, Hope & Love               |
| September 23 | - Conception of St John the Baptist                               |
| September 24 | - Protomartyr Thecla  |
| September 25 | - Repose of Ven. Sergius of Radonezh; Ven. Euphrosyne             |
| September 26 | - Repose of St John the Theologian                                |
| September 28 | - Martyr Wenceslaus, Prince of the Czechs                         |
| September 30 | - Hieromartyr Gregory, Bishop of Armenia                          |



## ***The Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos***

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.



The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since St. Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible. Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin. On one of the feastsdays at the Temple in Jerusalem Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless. Deep in grief, Joachim went into the wilderness, and there he

prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Never once did Anna complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls". The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

~ Reading Courtesy of the OCA Webpage ~

~ Icon Courtesy of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Webpage ~