



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

1923 · EIGHTY YEARS OF MINISTRY · 2003

Our Mission: To proclaim and live the Orthodox Christian Faith in its fullness as faithful members of the Body of Christ

July 2003

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Monthly Parish Newsletter
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Fr. John Touloumes, Ekonomos

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July Parish Calendar
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HOLY TRINITY 2003
GREEK FESTIVAL IS
AUGUST 27TH-31ST

REMEMBER:



NOW IN EFFECT!

The Holy Prophet Elias - July 20



The Holy Prophet Elias (Elijah) is from the era of 800 B.C. He was a descendant of the tribe of Aaron. As a child, his father beheld him surrounded by angels, who were dressing him and feeding him with fire. One of his most famous encounters was when he defeated the priests of the pagan idol Baal, with whom he entered a spiritual contest to end a terrible drought. Also notable is the fact that he was taken up into heaven on a fiery chariot.

Father John's Message

THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

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The Cultural Side

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Publication Schedule

The Herald is published monthly.
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month. If you would like to assist with mailing
the Herald, please contact the church secretary
at 412-321-9282 to volunteer your help.

Sponsor an issue of

The Herald

in memory of a
loved one or
in honor of
a special event.

See the Sponsor Form
on page 15.



○ give thanks to the Lord, call on His name, make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing praises to Him, tell of all His wonderful works! Glory in His Holy Name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! Seek the Lord and His strength, seek His presence continually!

1 Chronicles 16:8-11

Dear Fellow "Wanderers:"

The passage above marks the beginning of a long hymn of praise offered by David the Prophet King when the Ark of the Covenant finally found a resting place in Jerusalem, the city of David, following a long and arduous trek.

As we head into the next 80 years in the life of Holy Trinity Church, we are also in an interestingly nomadic state of existence: as a community we have developed a vision for the future and have made commitments to pursue it; we have a party interested in acquiring our current property; we have been blessed with an unexpected but otherwise essential major bequest; and now, in the heat of the summer, it might feel like we are wandering like David, looking for a place to house the ark of our community for the next generation and for generations to come. We are in search of our own City of David.

Rest assured, both the Vision Committee and the Parish Council are well aware of this general state of anticipation within the community. They are, in fact, prayerfully resolved after two years worth of searching to bring this journey to a conclusion, God-willing, this summer. Last year we toured a property which looked to be at the time the best solution. A lot has changed since then. There have been many developments, but the inability to firmly grasp an offer to present in good faith to the community has at times made it seem like no progress is being made. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Internal committee work, consultations with our architect and investigations into fund-raising programs has been on-going, all buoyed by the knowledge, faith and spiritual assurance that God's divine hand is leading us to that conclusion which will be confirmed in the Holy Spirit from the Committees to the General Assembly to the Diocese. I thank both the Vision Committee and the Parish Council for their cooperation and dedication in keeping the process moving forward, and I ask the entire community to lift its hands in prayer and call upon the Lord with one voice and one heart to shine the divine light of His holy will upon us. It is certainly just around the corner!

In the mean time, please don't forget that even though we are not sure where God's new house at Holy Trinity will be found, you can be sure that He can be found everywhere, including vacation. Please don't forget to visit our Archdiocese web site before leaving for a trip and check for the location of the Orthodox Church closest to your destination. Don't forget also to take along good and edifying materials—books, videos, puzzles, Bibles—to keep your children (and yourselves) in the life of Christ even while you're away.

May our Lord Jesus Christ send His holy angels to protect you on your journeys ... and help us find our destination!

News & Events

LITURGICAL LIFE

9:30 Divine Liturgy Hours Now in Effect

Effective Sunday, May 4, Holy Trinity Church has changed the times for Orthros to 8:30 a.m and Divine Liturgy to 9:30 a.m. This schedule is in effect for all Sundays and weekday Liturgies. Please be sure to be there on time, as the homily is offered immediately following the Gospel during the summer months.



FUNERALS & MEMORIALS

Chris Kourakos

The servant of God, Chris Kourakos, fell asleep in the Lord on May 18, 2003. Funeral services were held at Holy Trinity Church on May 24, followed by interment at Holy Trinity Cemetery. May his memory be eternal!

George Langas

The servant of God, George Langas, fell asleep in the Lord on May 30, 2003. Funeral services were held at Holy Trinity Church on June 3, followed by interment at Mount Lebanon Cemetery. May his memory be eternal!

James Hartig

The servant of God, James A. Hartig, fell asleep in the Lord on June 18. Funeral services were held at Holy Trinity Church on June 23, followed by interment at Holy Trinity Cemetery. May his memory be eternal!

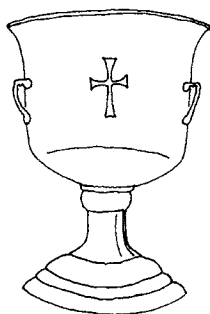
Upcoming Memorials

June 29: John Regas (6 months); **July 13:** Clara Pappas (6 months); **July 27:** Jim Hartig (40 days)

BAPTISMS

Balouris

The servant of God, Ekaterini Marina Balouris, was received into the Holy Orthodox Church through the Holy Mystery of Baptism on Sunday, June 22. The Godparents were Nicholas and Maria Terezis. May God grant her many years!



COMMUNITY NEWS

2003 Stewardship .. Have You Made Your Pledge?

The last issue of *The Herald* contained a list of Holy Trinity Stewards who has submitted their cards as of the publication date. Below is a list of additional names of Stewards who have submitted their pledge since then or who were omitted from the last list. Thank you for your faithful commitment!



Mrs. Carol Anestis
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Athanasiou
Mr. & Mrs. Dean J. Balouris
Christo J. Balouris
Mrs. Anastasia Barron
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bounos
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Andromalos-Dale
Mr. & Mrs. Fedra Dedousis
Mr. & Mrs. John Fekos
Mrs. Tessie Frankos
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Geanopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Hanna
Mrs. Catherine Hartig
Mr. & Mrs. George Hulse
Mrs. Penelope Komninos
Ms. Irene Krist
Mr. & Mrs. George Manias

These pledges bring our 2003 Holy Trinity Stewardship Pledge total to \$95,837 from 219 pledges, for an average of \$437 per pledge. We still have a way to go to meet our 2003 goal of \$130,000, so if you have not yet submitted your card, please do so today.

Don't forget, we have all been asked and challenged to increase our Stewardship commitment to Holy Trinity Church this year by at least 10% or \$50, whichever is greater. Additional cards are available from the church office or at the *pangari*.

Greek Day at Kennywood..... July 22

Greek Day at Kennywood is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, this year. In addition to the Kennywood attractions, there will be Greek food and dance performances at the pavillion. Discounted Ride-All-Day and General Admission tickets are available through the Presentation of Christ ("Ypapanti") Church by calling Theodora Stupakis at 412-824-9188 before July 20.

Community Life Photo Journal

An on-going photo journal of scenes from the active parish life of Holy Trinity Church.



The Holy Trinity Choir poses for their photo with Director John Nychis in the 2003 MEGOX Choir Convention album following Divine Liturgy in May.

Project Mexico "Brunch for Missions"

The GOYA recently sponsored a historic event at Holy Trinity Church: the first-event "Brunch for Missions" in support of our Project Mexico Mission Team ... and our first-ever Mexican Brunch! The event featured delicious Mexican items prepared by GOYAns and GOYA parents, delightful Mexican decorations, a Pinata for children and a video on Project Mexico.



Left: GOYA Seniors Jonathan Bonfield, Maria Pantelakis, Michael Andromalos-Dale and Chris Sarandou are honored at the annual GOYA Senior Dinner, this year held at Joe's Crab Shack.

80th Anniversary Basketball Tournament

Continuing the Holy Trinity Basketball tradition for the 80th Anniversary weekend, the five teams pictured here played a round-robin tournament which left everyone enthused and more than a few people reaching for the Motrin! Way to go, teams!



The Morning Prayer of Archimandrite Sophrony

This prayer was recently used in one of Father John's homilies and is reprinted here as a gift to our parishioners for daily use. It is from Archimandrite Sophrony (+1993), the Holy Elder of the St. John the Baptist Monastic Community in Essex, England.

ETERNAL GOD, HOLY KING,
 Maker of Heaven and Earth,
 Jesus Christ, Son without Beginning
 Of the Father without beginning,
 Who with incomprehensible goodness
 Has called me from nonbeing to this life,
 Who has granted to me the blessing of baptism
 And heavenly rebirth, and has set the seal of
 Your Holy Spirit on the members of my body,
 As You have kindled the desire to seek after You,
 the only One True God, Hear now my prayer.

NEITHER LIFE NOR LIGHT
 Nor joy have I,
 Neither wisdom nor strength
 Except You, O God.
 I am not worthy to look upon You,
 For the multitude of my sins. But as You have said
 To Your disciples, "Whatsoever you ask
 In prayer, believing, you will receive", and,
 "If you ask anything in My name, I will do it",
 In daring I call to You: Cleanse me
 Of every Impurity of flesh and spirit
 And teach me how to pray to You worthily.

BLESS THIS DAY
 Which You have given me,
 Your unworthy servant,
 And with the power of Your Blessing,
 Permit me at all times, and in every place,
 With pure heart, to speak and act
 Unto Your glory, with patience, wise humility and
 Love, in the spirit of peace, meekness, magnanimity and
 Wisdom, and to regard You before my own needs.
 Make known to me, O Lord, the way of Your
 Will, according to Your boundless goodness, and
 Grant me to walk blamelessly before Your face.

YOU, O KING OF PEACE,
 See into the depths of hearts
 And innermost parts.
 You know my poverty and mindlessness.
 You know my blindness and ignorance,
 But You see my heart's desire
 And my soul's sickness and sorrow
 Are not hidden from You;
 Hear then my prayer, and by Your Holy Spirit
 Direct me to the true land.
 Whenever my corrupt will
 Should lead me along strange paths, then I pray You,
 Spare me not, but by constraint bring me back
 To the path of Your Holy Commandments.
 By the power of Your Love, let me follow in Thy footsteps,
 Wherever You go.

PROTECT ME
 From every soul-destroying word and deed,
 From every agitation of heart and mind
 Which may sorrow Your Holy Spirit or Grieve my brother.
 Teach me what it is fitting to say
 And how to fittingly say it.
 If it be Your will that I keep silent, give me the sense
 To keep silent in the spirit of peace,
 Not like those who outrage or trouble my neighbor.
 Order me in the ways of Your statutes and
 Even until my last breath do not let me deviate
 From the light of Your commandments,
 So that Your commandments shall be of the sole law
 Of all my being, both now and ever.

MY BLESSED MAKER,
 be merciful to me,
 Your fallen creature,
 Be generous with me in my humility and sorrow,
 And hide not from me the way of Your salvation.
 Many and great things I ask of You, O my God,
 But forget not my corruption and my uselessness.
 Therefore, have mercy on me, and turn not Your Face
 From me, on account of my audacity, but all the more,
 Increase in me the holy audacity.
 And make me worthy, most wretched of men,
 To love You, as You have commanded us,
 With all my heart, all my soul, all my mind
 And all my strength.
 With all my being, may I love You.

LORD KING, BY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT,
 Teach me prudence and wisdom.
 Grant me to know Your Truth
 Before I descend into my grave.
 Prolong my days in this world so that I may bring to You
 The worthy fruits of repentance.
 Do not carry me off in the midst of my days,
 Nor in the darkness of my mind.
 But when You mercifully permit the end of my...life,
 Warn me, so that my soul will be prepared to see You.
 On that great day, at that dread hour, be with me, O Lord,
 and grant me the ineffable joy of Your salvation.

CLEANSE ME OF MY HIDDEN THINGS
 and from all unlawfulness lurking in me,
 and grant me to bring a good defense
 at Your Dread Judgment.
 Yes, Lord, according to Your great mercy
 and Your immeasurable love for mankind:

HEAR MY PRAYER.

AMEN.

2003 Paschal Donations

Thank you to the many parishioners and friends who offered donations for Lent and Holy Week through the envelope system. Thank you also to the following donors of special flowers and items used during this holy season:

Salutations to the Theotokos Services

Flowers for the processional and iconostasion icons of the Theotokos

- Dean and Diane Balouris & family, in memory of Themistocles Balouris
- Katherine Balouris, in memory of Themistocles Balouris
- Nick, Joy, Margo & Ted Loomis, for the health of their family
- Kelly Manning, in memory of Nellie & Catherine Learos
- Anonymous
- John Langas
- Stella Kourakos

Lenten & Holy Week Services

- Iconostasion Flower for the Holy Archangels Anonymous
- Processional Flowers for the Veneration of the Cross Holy Trinity Philoptochos
- Annunciation Iconostasion Icon Theologia Rigas, in memory of John Rigas
- Processional Icon for Palm Sunday Mr & Mrs. Peter Panos, for their health
- Bridegroom (*Nymphios*) Processional Icon Flowers Sophia Regas, in memory of John Regas and
in memory of the parents of John Regas and Sophia Fakles Regas
- Holy Wednesday Holy Unction Supplies Sarah Scopeletis
- Lent and Holy Week Wine for Holy Communion Gregory Pappas, in memory of Christ Pappas
- Prosforon for Liturgies Joanne Pappas, Martha Lambou, Evdoxia Danis, Katherine Balouris
- Crucifix Wreath of Flowers Connie, John & Diana Fries
- Crucifix Candles Charles & Melanie Black, in memory of Mary Mihalopoulos, Nicholas & Eugenia Roomeliotis
- Rosewater for Holy Friday Helen P. DeMoss, in memory of John E. DeMoss & for the health of his family
- New Epitaphion Icon Cloth Pauline and Rania Pontikos, in memory of Alexander Pontikos,
Apostolos Tsaktanis & Marianthi Papoutsis
- Flowers for the Epitaphion Holy Trinity Offering Trays, Envelopes, plus the following:
- Betty Dickos, in memory of Frank & Fannie Dickos
 - Steve & Anthoula Pefanis & family, for the health of their family
 - Gabe & Johanna Cocheres, for the health of their families
 - Bob & Harriet Navarro, in memory of Catherine, James & Michael Karras and for the health of their family
 - Pauline Diamond, in memory of her Uncle Deno & Aunt Clara Pappas
 - Pauline Diamond, in memory of her parents, Sophie & Nicholas Diamond
 - Mark & Karen Georgiadis family, for the well-being of our American servicemen & women
 - Demetrios & Evdoxia Danis
 - James Statheas
 - Frank & Katina Erdeljac
- Decoration of the Epitaphion Holy Trinity Philoptochos and other Holy Trinity Women & Youth
- Sheet for Burial Shroud Athanasia Geanopoulos

Resurrection & Pentecost Services

- Resurrection Eggs Mr. Jerry Pefanis, in memory of his wife, Anastasia
- Dying and Preparation of the Red Eggs Holy Trinity Philoptochos
- Resurrection Processional Icon 1 Irene S. Karavolos & Fanny Kostos, in memory of Steve Karavolos
- Resurrection Processional Icon 2 Gerri & Paula Valliant & daughters, in memory of their mother
& grandmother, Helen Kastanis Valliant
- Priest's Resurrection Candle 1 Georgia Manesiotis, for the health of her family and our parishioners
- Priest's Resurrection Candle 2 Barbara Harlas, in memory of Nick Harlas
- Rose Petals and Leaves for Holy Saturday Georgiadis family, in loving memory Koula Roomeliotis,
our loving mother, yiayia & wife
- Lilies Holy Trinity Offering Envelopes, plus the following:
- Judith Fulton, in memory of her parents, Robert and Bella (Fortes) Fulton
 - Joseph & Arlene Phaturos, for the health of their family
 - Olga Regakis, in memory of James Regakis and all the deceased
 - Paul & Sally Hionedes, in memory of Jim Hartig and for the health of the entire congregation
 - George & Chrissie Georgiadis
 - Pauline Pontikos
 - George & Rhea Pantelakis
 - Steve & Anthoula Pefanis

Parish Council Update

This abbreviated review of the Parish Council minutes is provided as a way of keeping our Holy Trinity parishioners informed of the active work of the Parish Council. Want to get involved? Contact any Parish Council member. Thank you to our Parish Council secretary, Maria Kraniou, for provided these condensed minutes for the Herald.

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Parish Council was held on Tuesday, May 13, 2003, in the Church Library. The meeting was opened in prayer by Father John.

Approval of March 2003 Minutes

Bill Feidler made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by George Georges. Approved.

Financial Update

It was decided that at the next meeting, we would be given a first quarter update for 2003.

Father John's Report

Father reported donations made during Holy Week for the Epitaphion and a new Holy Trinity icon for the Proskinitarion in the Narthex. The GOYA is having a dance on Saturday, May 17. On June 8, they will have a Mexican breakfast to benefit Project Mexico. Twenty-six campers are going to camp this year from our church. The Diocese has also announced that the Mount Tabor property, site of our new camp, will be paid off by the end of the summer due to an anonymous donor.

Committee Reports:

Social: The parish's 80th Anniversary Feast Day celebration will be on June 14. It will begin with a Saturday of the Souls liturgy at the cemetery at 8:30, followed by a community basketball tournament in the afternoon (location TBA), then Great Vespers and a Feast Day Dance with "mezethes" in the evening.

Cemetery: Bill Fiedler received bids for tree cutting. Cemetery clean-up is this Saturday at 10:00. Harry Athanasiou made the suggestion that "GOYA graduates" could also be recruited for this.

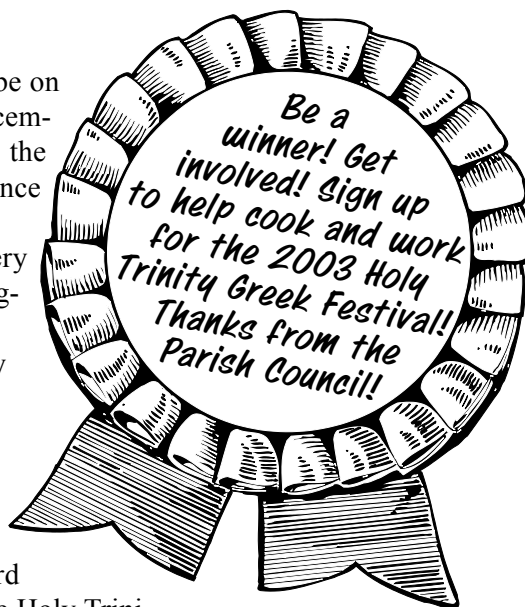
Maintenance: The status of the church's air conditioner is pretty good, but we'll give it a spring check-up.

Stewardship: Stewardship is up about 7 to 9% this year.

Vision: Alternatives other than the Gorman property are being researched and considered.

Catering: Everything remains the same, thus far with Evan Kaparakos doing a fine job managing catering operations; Richard Sotfko has started to attend the functions to oversee them and be Holy Trinity's representative during affairs.

Festival: The freezer had been approved. The four chairmen for the festival this year are Leo Loomis, Bill Fiedler, Jim Statheas, and Harry Athanasiou.



Review of By-Laws

The by-laws are continued to be reviewed and revised.

Adjournment

No further business appearing, motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned with a prayer at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maria Kraniou, Secretary

The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά



Voula Hareras

*A Greek-language celebration
of and tribute to Father's Day.*

ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΠΑΤΕΡΑ

Δέν ήταν πρώτος στά μαθήματα ούτε στο τρέξιμο ούτε στο πήδημα. Στην τάξη δέν τόν πρόσεχε κανείς ιδιαίτερα, δέν είχε άκούσει ένα μπράβο, καί στά διαλείμματα άν έπαιζε ήταν πάντα μαζί

μ' αυτόους πού φτιάχνουν ομάδα, ποτέ δέν ήταν άρχηγός. Άρχηγός ήμουν εγώ, ήταν ό Πότης, ό Βαγγέλης, έμείς κανονίζαμε πότε θά παίξουμε πόλεμο ή κλέφτες καί άστυνόμους, έμείς είχαμε τό προνόμιο νά λέμε ιστορίες, οί άλοι άκουγαν..

Όλο γιά κατορθώματα τούς λέγαμε, ήρωησμούς, παλέματα πετροπολέμους, μονομαχίες, καί άλλα φανταστικά!.. Τό ξέραμε πώς δέν ήταν άλήθεια αυτά πού λέγαμε, ποτέ δέν είχαν γείνει τέτοια πράγματα στό χωριό μας, μ' αυτό δέν είχε καμιά σημασία.

Τό χωριό μας ήταν ήσυχο καί εϊρηνικό, κι' άν είχαν έγνοιες οί πατεράδες γιά τόν πόλεμο καί τίς δουλιές, έμείς δέν παίρναμε είδηση. Άλλά μάς γέμιζαν τήν ψυχή, Μιλάγαμε γιά τόν Μεγαλέξανδρο, τόν Κολοκοτρώνη, τόν Παύλο Μελά, σάν νά ήταν εκεί δίπλα καί νά συνενοούμαστε μαζί ίσος πρός ίσον καί γινόμαστε ένα καί τά πιστεύαμε πώς ήταν άλήθεια όσα λέγαμε. Άσε πιά αυτόους πού μάς άκουγαν. Μιλάγαμε άκόμη καί γιά φαντάσματα, μάς άρεσαν οί άγριες ιστορίες πού άνακατευόταν οί ύπερφυσικές δυνάμεις, όλοι κάτι είχαμε δει όλο καί κάτι είχαμε άκούσει. Καί τό δειλινό τήν ώρα πού μεγάλωναν καί βάραιναν οί ίσκοι, όλο σ' αυτά γύριζε ή κουβέντα μας. Άνατριχιάζαμε κρυφά μά κανέναν δέν τ' όμολογούσε, καί οί άρχηγοί τό ίδιο σάν τούς άλλους -γιά ένα φιλότιμο ζεί κανείς! σ' αυτό τόν κόσμο.- Βεβαιώναμε καί όρκιζόμαστε πώς άν χρειασθεί πάμε νύκτα στό νεκροταφείο, πάμε καί στό στοιχειωμένο μύλο νύχτα, πάμε καί στήν βρύση καταμεσήμερο τήν ώρα πού χορεύουν οί νεράιδες. Όλα τά μπορούσαμε έμείς καί οί άλλοι θαύμαζαν. Καί έτσι καθώς είμαστε μαζεμένοι ό ένας κοντά στόν άλλον ίσως στ' άλήθεια νά τό πιστεύαμε πώς τά μπορούμε όλα αυτά! Όλα, όλα!

Δέν ξέρω πώς βγήκε τότε ή φήμη κάτι σάν ψίθυρος άκαθόριστος στήν άρχή πού όλο καί φούντωνε στόν κόσμο μας. Ό Άντρέας φοβάται! Ό Άντρέας δέν πάει νύκτα στό νεκροταφείο άν χρειασθεί. Ήταν στήν ομάδα μου καί ή προσβολή ήταν γιά όλους μας βαριά. Τόν πήρα παράμερα μία μέρα καί τού είπα

αύστηρά σάν άρχηγός. Φοβάσαι βρέ? Άλήθεια είναι πώς φοβάσαι στά σκοτάδια? Μού έκαμε έντύπωση πώς δέν κατέβασε τά μάτια του, κοκκίνισε μονάχα ως τ' αυτιά σάν νά έφαγε μπάτσο. Ναί, έκαμε ήσυχα όπως όλα του, φοβάμαι τήν νύκτα άγριεύομαι, δέν τό θέλω. Φτού σου νά χαθείς, τού έκαμα περιφρονετικά, μονάχα τά κορίτσια βρέ φοβόνται! Ήταν μεσημέρι, ό ήλιος σ' όλη του τήν δόξα, πώς νά θυμηθώ λοιπόν καί εγώ τούτην τήν ώρα πώς τήν νύκτα καί εγώ φοβόμουναι κι' άγριευόμουναι σάν κι' αυτόν κι' άπέφευγα νά βγώ έξω στήν αύλή. Είναι νά τά θυμάται κανείς αυτά ή νά τά κρύβει σάν άμάρτημα φοβερό?

Ένώ έτούτος μάτια μου τό έλεγε έξω φωνή, (φοβάμαι δέν τό θέλω) από τότε πού ξηγηθήκαμε τόν άποφεύγαμε. Μία φορά, ό ξάδελφος μου ό Γεώργης ό πιτσιρικός, τόν φώναξε δυνατά μπρός στους άλλους, φοβιτσιάρη φοβιτσιάρη, μά ό Άδρέας δέν έδειξε πώς προσεβλήθηκε ούτε θυμωσε, ούτε χύμηξε νά δείρει τό μικρό όπως θά έκανε ό καθ' ένας πού ήθελε νά έχει ένα όνομα σ' αυτόν τόν κόσμο Άλλαξε δρόμο καί έκαμε πώς δέν άκουσε. Χάλια δηλαδή, δέν τόν λογαριάζαμε πιά γιά δικό μας, καί ούτε μάς έλειψε δά! Καί μία μέρα άναποδογυρίστηκε ό κόσμος όλος. Όλα όσα πιστεύαμε γκρεμίστηκαν έτσι σέ μία στιγμή, καί τό ξάφνιασμα μας ήταν μεγάλο, τόσο πού γιά καιρό χάσαμε τά νερά μας καί δέν ξαίραμε πιά τί νά πιστεύουμε καί τί όχι. Μπήκε ό δάσκαλος στήν τάξη ένα πρωί καί δέν κοίταξε κανέναν άπο μάς τούς πρώτους μαθητές όπως κάθε μέρα, Κοίταξε αυτόν τόν Άντρέα!

Δέν έπρεπε νά ρθεις σήμερα στό σχολείο τού είπε στοργικά, έπρεπε νά ξεκουραστείς. Αυτός δέν μίλησε, τότε ό δάσκαλος γύρισε σ' έμάς καί είπε. Τήν νύκτα ό Άντρέας δέν κοιμήθηκε καθόλου, άρρώστησε ξαφνικά, άσχημα ό πατέρας του καί πήγε νά φέρει τό γιατρό μά ό γιατρός δέν ήταν στό χωριό άπόψε, γι' αυτό χρειάστηκε νά πάει ως τά δένδρα γιά νά τόν βρεί καί νά τόν φέρει. Γι' αυτό τού είπα πώς δέν έπρεπε νά ρθεί στό μάθημα σήμερα, νά κοιμηθείς τό μεσημέρι παιδί μου..

Ποτέ άλλοτε δέν είχε μιλήσει έτσι ό δάσκαλος σ' έμάς τό νοιώθαμε, όλα τά άριστα καί τά μπράβο πού είχαμε έμείς οί πρώτοι ως τότε, χλώμιαζαν καί χάναν τήν άξία τους πλάι σ' αυτήν τήν έγνοια πού έβαζε τώρα γιά τόν ύπνο τού Άντρέα.

Έπειτα άρχισε τό μάθημα, μά κανείς δέν είχε νού ν' άκούσει! Έξω έβρεχε σιγανά κι' όλων ή σκέψη ήταν στήν χθεσινή τήν νύχτα πού έριχνε μόρα μεγάλη κι' άστραφτε καί βροντούσε καί φύσαγε ό άέρας νά ξεριζώσει δένδρα καί κλαδιά, πήρε σκεπές καί γκέμισε πεζούλια.

Έκείνη τήν ώρα ό Άντρέας(πού τό έλεγε έξω

The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά

φωνή πώς άγριεύεται στά σκοτάδια) περπάταγε όλομόναχος νά φέρει γρήγορα τό γιατρό γιά τόν πατέρα του, τόν ξαίραμε τό δρόμο ώς τά δέντρα, τόν ξαίραμε καλά, πέρναγε από τόν παλαιό μύλο. Κι' άν τήν ήμέρα είναι μιά χαρά ό περίπατος κάτω από τά δροσερά πλατάνια, από τό δειλινό καί πέρα καί οί μεγάλοι άκόμα άγωγιάτες, άντρες θηρία σωστά, άποφεύγαν νά περάσουν.Κράταγε ό τόπος, όλοι τό έλεγαν αυτό κι' όχι μονάχα έμείς. Ό Άντρέας πέρασε όλομόναχος τρέχοντας καί έφερε τόν γιατρό πού έγιναν τόν πατέρα του! Έμείς κοιμόμαστε ήσυχοι κι' άσφαλισμένοι καί όνειρευόμαστε κατορθώματα, ενώ αυτός περπάταγε όλομόναχος. Τόν έβλεπα τώρα από τό πλάι μικροκαμωμένο, αδύνατο, άσήμαντο όπως πάντα καί δέν μπορούσα νά τό χωνέσω, Άν δέν είχε έλθει ό γιατρός πού ήταν κάτι χειροπιαστό δέν θά τό πίστευα κι' άς τό έλεγε ό δάσκαλος.

Στό διάλειμα πήγα κοντά του, ήταν κάποτε ατήν ομάδα μου, ήμουν άλλοτε άρχηγός του. Είδες τού είπα, μάς κοροΐδενες όλους τόσο καιρό, δέν φοβήθηκες διόλου χθές τήν νύχτα! Φοβήθηκα ποιός τό είπε πώς δέν φοβήθηκα? Μά φοβόμουν πίο πολύ γιά τόν πατέρα μου,έκαμε νυσταγμένα κι' έφυγε.

Ναί ό κόσμος είχε άναποδογυριστεί καί δέν μπορούσαμε νά τό χωνέσουμε, χρυσό τόν κάναμε νά μάς διηγηθεί τί είδε στά σκοτάδια, τί άκουσε πώς είναι νά πορεύεσαι τήν νύχτα μέσα στην θύελλα όλομόναχος σέ μέρη πού καί τά σκυλιά λουφάζουν τρομαγμένα,ποτέ δέν μίλησε γι'αυτά.

Τήν Κυριακή, σάν έγινε ό πατέρας του όλότελα καλά, ήλθαν στην έκκλησία οί δυό τους.

Φορούσε μακρύ παντελόνι ό Άντρέας, παρόλη τήν φτώχεια, τού τό πήρε ό πατέρας του όλοκαίνουργιο καί τό έβαλε πρώτος αυτός άπ' όλους μας.Στάθηκαν κοντά στους έπιτρόπους καί μετά τούς χαιρέταγαν σάν νά ήταν πρόσωπα έπίσημα. Κι'ό Άντρέας εκεί μέ τούς γέροντες μέ τούς μεγάλους μέ τούς προεστούς, είχε γίνει άνδρας μέσα σέ μία νύχτα, αυτό όλοι τό καταλάβαιναν καί τό παραδεχόταν.

Γίναμε φίλοι μέ τόν Άντρέα από τότε σάν άδελφια, τόν ξαναστήσαμε μαζί τόν κόσμο μας καί στάθηκε γιά μένα ό ήρωας μου, τόν έβαλα δίπλα στόν Μεγαλέξανδρο καί στόν Κολοκοτρώνη.

Μ'αυτός ποτέ δέν μίλησε γιά ήρωες καί άγριες ιστορίες καί κατορθώματα, επέμεινε μάλιστα ως τό τέλος πώς φοβόταν καί άγριούνταν τά σκοτάδια.

Βούλα Χαπερά



ΤΑ ΧΕΡΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΕΡΑ ΜΟΥ

**Τά χέρια τού πατέρα μου τραχιά
σάν τ'άμπελιού τά ροζιασμένα ξύλα
όμως στίς χούφτες του κάνιστρα κρατά
άχλάδια καί ροδάκινα καί μήλα**

**Τά χέρια τού πατέρα μου τραχιά
σκάβουν στό κρύο, στην ζέστη
καί ματώνουν
κάνουν παράδεισο τήν έρημιά
καί μέ καλά τά σπίτια μας φορτώνουν**

**Τά χέρια τού πατέρα μου τραχιά
σά δείχτες ρολογιού δουλεύουνε
τό χρόνο
κάνουν τίς μέρες νά κυλούν γλυκά
καί νά περνούν οί νύκτες δίχως πόνο**

**Τά χέρια τού πατέρα μου τραχιά
είναι όμως άγια χέρια αυτά γιά μένα
τούς έχει δώσει δύναμη ό θεός
καί τάχει δυό φορές εύλογημένα**

Ρένα Καρθαίου



Gheronda's Corner

Part of a regular series of contributions by our resident "Gheronda" (respected elder clergy), Father John Androutsopoulos



**Father John
Androutsopoulos**

DEDICATED TO THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PITTSBURGH, PA 1923-2003

"God put all things under Christ's feet and gave him to the Church as supreme Lord over all things. The Church is Christ's body, the completion of him who himself completes all things everywhere."

(Ephesians 22-23)

The Church is a living organism, like the human body. Christ is the head, the Church is his body.

OUR CHURCH OBLIGATION

As we begin our 80th Anniversary of Holy Trinity, let us read the following prayer and practice it every day during the coming years: Having accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and having made this known by uniting with His Church, I, therefore, acknowledge that I want to give my Church:

AFFECTION: I want to give my church affection that she may be strengthened by the knowledge that I, as a member of the Church, am trying to serve with my fellow believers in the bonds of holy love and unity.

APPRECIATION: I want to give my church a kindly word of appreciation for her ministry and want to have a part in sending her truths to all the world.

CONSIDERATION: I want to give my Church sympathy and consideration and want to rejoice in the good she is doing and share to the limit of my ability.

ENCOURAGEMENT: I want to give my Church encouragement when temptations, vexations and annoyances make the work of Christ difficult.

FAITH: I want to give my Church faith that she may be free to proclaim the message of peace, goodwill and brotherhood.

GRATITUDE: I want to give my Church gratitude and praise for the many things she has helped me to bear; for the precious outpouring of God's love that strengthens and gives me courage in time of trouble.

PRAYER: I want to give my Church prayer each day that God bless her and make her services a blessing to everyone who enters her gates.

REVERENCE: I want to give my Church reverence as the Divine Institution, as a body of baptized believers organized to teach men a better way of living.

STEWARDSHIP: I want to give my Church a tithe of my income.

TIME: I want to give my Church enough of my time to help in the work of Our Lord Jesus Christ, to win others to Him, when and where He needs me.

May God rest the souls of the founders of our Church, the departed Parish Priests and all of those members who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Eternal be their memory!

And, may God give wisdom and prudence to the Parish Priest, Fr. John, the Parish Council and to all of the members of the community to continue the good works of our ancestors. For the Glory of God, and His Church, and the spiritual welfare of all of the faithful of the parish.

WHAT CHRISTIANS SAY

Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me say farewell to those at my home." (Luke 9:61).

This text is typical of many so-called Christians today. People say, "I can't do it because...." and then give 101 reasons why they cannot teach a Church School class, help with church projects, come to church regularly.

To many of us, these excuses seem reasonable; the mother with the young child, the father who is too tired after working all week. Yet, these same people find time to do the things they want to do: go to a card party or to the golf course.

What would have happened if Jesus had said, "I am too young to die." Or, "Give me a few more years to enjoy life?" On the contrary, He submitted Himself completely to God.

It is not for us to say, "I'll follow You, but first...." Rather, as followers of Christ, we feel compelled to say, "Here I am. Use Me." No excuse is good enough for not doing the Master's will.

*With His love and blessings,
Rev. Fr. John Androutsopoulos*

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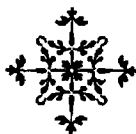
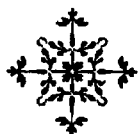
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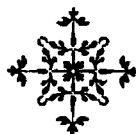
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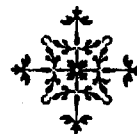


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WHAT WE (SHOULD) FIND IN THE CHURCH



Your soul seeks true life and its natural food. The food of the mind is truth; the food of the heart is peace and blessedness; the food of the will is lawfulness. Go to the Church; she will give you all this in plenty, for she possesses it in abundance...She teaches us the true way which leads to eternal life—the way of God's commandments.

The Church, through the ordering of the church building and her divine services, acts upon the whole man, educates him wholly; acts upon his sight, hearing, smelling, feeling, taste, imagining, mind and will, by the splendor of the images, and of the building in general, by the fragrance of the incense, by the veneration of the gospels, cross and images, by the singing, and by the reading of the scriptures.

The source of every true joy, of all true calm and peace of conscience, of cleansing, of spiritual and bodily healing, the source of spiritual power and boldness, flows in the Church; theatres and other worldly distractions and consolations can never replace that which a true Christian receives in the Church, where God Himself comforts the souls of those who believe, and whose hearts are turned to Him, as a mother comforts her child.

Truly the Church is heaven upon earth; for where the throne of God is, where the awesome mysteries are celebrated, where the angels serve together with men, ceaselessly glorifying the Almighty, there is truly heaven. And so let us enter into the house of God with the fear of God, with a pure heart, laying aside all vices and every worldly care, and let us stand in it with faith, reverence and with understanding attention, with love and peace in our hearts, so that we may come away renewed, as though made heavenly; so that we may live in the holiness natural to heaven, not binding ourselves by worldly desires and pleasures.

From "The Spiritual Counsels of Father John of Kronstadt" (SVS Press)