



# 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

September 2003

[www.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org)

Volume 11 – Issue 9

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

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Greek School Enrollment Form

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

NOTE:



THROUGH SEPTEMBER  
(SEE PAGE 4 FOR INFO)

*Saint Innocent, Enlightener and Apostle of America*



Saint Innocent was one of the early "pioneer" saints of North America. An orphan at six who became a respected priest in 19th century Russia, he volunteered to go the new land of Alaska and the northern territories of the new world with his wife and family as an Orthodox missionary. He worked to establish churches, translate the Faith and minister to his flock as a truly caring shepherd. The icon pictured here is from the Chapel of the Saint Innocent Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico, and is especially blessed by the presence of a small relic of this holy saint embedded in it (see the small circle on the lower right corner of the icon). His prayers and protection have brought many blessings to the Orphanage. His apolytikion hymn is sung in daily services at the chapel.

## Father John's Message

### THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

Parish Newsletter of  
Holy Trinity  
Greek Orthodox Church  
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Phone 412-321-9282  
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A Parish of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of  
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#### The Cultural Side

Michael Kritiotis      Voula Hareras  
Maria Kraniou        Vickie Bellios

#### Publication Schedule

The Herald is published monthly.  
The information deadline is the 15th of each  
month. If you would like to assist with mailing  
the Herald, please contact the church secretary  
at 412-321-9282 to volunteer your help.

This issue of  
**The Herald**  
is sponsored in loving  
memory of  
**John W. Chapas**  
by  
**Helen Chapas**  
May his memory be  
eternal!



*"Religion that is pure and undefiled  
before God and the Father is this: to visit  
orphans and widows in their affliction,  
and to keep oneself unstained from the  
world."* (James 1.27)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is a talk show commentator on a popular radio show who always welcomes his listeners to the program by reminding them that it is another day in this wonderful nation of America, "this greatest nation on God's green earth." Expressions such as that certainly contain undeniable elements of national pride, but they also bear truths we are often ready to dismiss or overlook as trite or worn out: we are a very, very blessed people.

Well, it doesn't take long after crossing the border from of this "greatest nation on God's green earth" into the poverty and dust-ridden streets of Mexico to realize, "wait a minute, maybe I should not be taking so much or granted!" No matter how much experienced Project Mexico travelers had told us about what to expect, it is an entirely different story to actually find one's self in the middle of a neighborhood where in-house plumbing is rare, anyone fortunate enough to have electricity usually pirates it by hooking thin wires from the high-voltage lines, most streets are not paved and bathrooms are made of holes in the ground with stalls made of old garage doors or blankets. But in the midst of that material poverty and suffering, the adults still reached out with love and thanks and the children were still happily playing without complaining. After a while, the stark contrasts eventually made one ask, "Who is really poor here...them or us? They have so little and are so content, and we have so much but often complain."

Nonetheless, poverty is still inflicts a blight on a nation and suffering on its people, so it was observing such living conditions, as well as teenage boys being cast out from orphanages to fend for themselves on the street, that moved Gregory Yova, founder and Executive Director of Project Mexico, to respond by putting the passage from the Epistle of St. James above into action. Starting in 1988, a small effort to reach out to needy and homeless people of Mexico blossomed into today's full-blown humanitarian program which has built 14 homes this summer alone. Expanding in 1996, the St. Innocent Orphanage was founded to care for Mexican teenage boys, who were too old for the Mexican orphanage system but too young to survive safely in the world on their own.

One of the inspiring examples we learned of during our trip was the story of the patron saint of this ministry, St. Innocent. Among the many lessons and examples his story provides is the fact that he left his home in Russia and travelled far away to Alaska to help and minister to those in physical and spiritual need. Each of us on the week-long trip has a sense that we were walking in his footsteps and being blessed by his prayers.

These few paragraphs are in no way adequate to relate the full impact of the very moving experience of travelling with a team of 38 missionaries from our Diocese to participate in the building of a house and the work at the orphanage; the full measure of that expression will certainly be found in forthcoming sermons and writings, as well as in the discussions and stories of the other members of our team, especially here at Holy Trinity Church. For the time being, please simply accept the deepest and most heartfelt thanks of the entire Holy Trinity team for the love, encouragement, prayers and contributions which helped make the trip possible.

Go to bed tonight remembering that your support has made it possible for a family—who just three weeks ago did not even have a home to live in—to also sleep under a roof of their own. Give thanks that all of us have the ability and abundance to help in a meaningful way. But also while you pray for them and the others in so much need and suffering, do not neglect to give thanks for one of our greatest blessings: "this greatest nation on God's green earth."

With many thanks,

## News & Events

### EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES

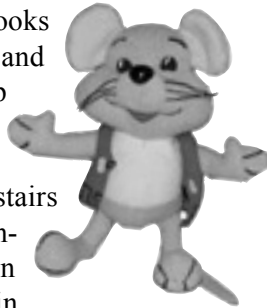
#### Church School Registration/Start . . . . . Aug./Sept.

Advance registration for the 2003/2004 Church School was held on Sundays, August 17 & 24. If you didn't sign your children up yet, don't worry: there's still room! The process is simple: just update your child's card with any changes and sign for the current year. Parents are reminded that classes start with the two-year-old Toddlers Class. **The first day of classes for Church School is Sunday, September 7 at 9:30.**

The Church School will also be collecting its annual Parents and Volunteers Survey forms at registration time. Please take the time to complete one of these forms and offer your stewardship of time and talents in helping the Church School ministry this year.

#### St. Spyridon Library Volunteers Needed!

Our Church School ministry continually monitors the progress of its classes and educational opportunities and is always looking for ways to improve. This year, a number of exciting changes are being made at the Saint Spyridon Library. One of the goals is to spread this valuable resource of books and videos farther into the homes and families of the community to help children grow in their faith. As part of the forthcoming changes, including moving the library upstairs during coffee hour, more volunteers will be needed, especially in the areas of checking materials in and out and shelving returns properly. If you can offer your time to help in this valuable ministry, please contact Mary Magdelene Welsh or Athena Hodge. Thank you!



#### St. Lydia's Women's Fellowship . . . . . September 11

The St. Lydia Women's Study Fellowship is a ministry for women to share in fellowship and to study scripture, the Orthodox Faith and family life in today's world. The meetings take place every other week on Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. at a home in the North Hills. New participants are always welcome! The fellowship is enjoyable and the approach is casual, but the subjects are important for today's families. For further information on this worthwhile and informative group or



for directions to the meetings, call Paula Valliant at 412-487-3977.

#### The New St. Nikodemos Men's Fellowship! . Sept. 9

The St. Nikodemos Men's Study Fellowship is taking a new turn this year, switching from its original Thursday meeting day to Tuesdays and from the former "earlybird" meetings to noontime gatherings which may be more accessible to a wider group of men.

After taking feedback from its participants into account and in a desire to grow the group, **the Saint Nikodemos Fellowship will now be meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at from 12:15 to 12:50 p.m.** The mission continues to be to provide a regular meeting for working men to discuss issues of faith, work and family. The group meets at the office of TriadUSA, Suite 460, Two Gateway Center, downtown. It is open to all interested men and has been centrally located downtown to accommodate easy access for the lunchtime meetings. For directions, call Gus Georgiadis at 412-880-4999.



### YOUTH MINISTRY

#### GOYA Kick-Off . . . . . September 6

The annual GOYA Kick-off will be held at the Kritiotis house at "Limni" (north near Mercer, PA) on Saturday, September 6. The family event will include a barbeque, a meeting, fun and, of course, a football game! Information is being mailed directly to the GOYA families. Questions? Call Marios Kritiotis at 412-766-5002.

#### JOY Kick-Off/Service Project . . . . . September 12

The JOY ministry (8 to 12 year-olds) will hold its Kick-off on Friday evening, September 12, at 7:00 p.m. at the Church. In addition to making plans for the coming year, the children will prepare bagged lunches for the homeless as part of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood's "Feed the Homeless" program. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to participate in a meaningful outreach ministry. JOY parents should contact Penny Georgiadis at 724-935-2383 to volunteer to bring items for the lunches or supplies for the children's ice cream treats.



## News & Events

### SACRAMENTAL REGISTRY

#### Kostos/Guimond Wedding

The servants of God, Guy Guimond and Stephanie Kostos, were united and crowned in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage on June 1, 2003. The Koumbaro was Kelly Karavolos. God grant them many years!

#### Irene Krist Funeral

The servant of God, Irene Krist, fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, July 23. The Funeral was held at Holy Trinity Church on July 26, followed by interment at Holy Trinity Cemetery. May her memory be eternal!

#### Upcoming Memorials

August 24..... Glenn Andromalos  
 August 31..... Carol Araviakis; Irene Krist  
 September 21..... Koula Roomeliotis  
 October 12..... John Roman

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### Festival Volunteers Still Needed!

It's here: the 2003 Holy Trinity Greek Festival, August 27-31! Don't wait for someone to call—get involved today! There is always room for you to volunteer, even if you didn't sign up ahead of time. Want to help and enjoy yourself, too? Call your friends, koumbaroi, relatives or co-workers and schedule a meal at the Festival from now. What a great way to wrap up the summer with a great meal and good *parea*, while supporting your Church at the same time!

### LITURGICAL LIFE

#### Feast Day of the Monastery ..... Sept. 8

The Monastery of the Nativity of the Theotokos in Saxonburg, PA, will be celebrating its Feast Day on Monday, September 8. Great Vespers and a vigil will be held on Sunday evening, September 7, and Orthros and Divine Liturgy will be held the next day.

#### Holy Cross Vespers & Liturgy ..... Sept. 13, 14

Our sister parish of Holy Cross Church in Mount Lebanon invites us to join them for their feast day Great Vespers on Saturday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m., followed by a lenten reception.

Although we usually join Holy Cross Church for Orthros and Divine Liturgy on the feast day, this year it falls on a Sunday, so we will be holding services for

the feast of the Holy Cross at Holy Trinity, including a Procession with the Holy Cross.

### REGIONAL EVENTS

#### Walk For Missions 2003 ..... October 12

The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Greater Pittsburgh will once again sponsor its annual Walk for Missions on Sunday, October 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the South Park Fair Grounds. Proceeds from the Walk will benefit the Orthodox Christian Missions Center (OCMC), which sends Orthodox Christian missionaries throughout the world: 35 long-term missionaries and over 800 short-term missionaries to 21 countries. OCMC also supports the ministries of indigenous (local) clergy in mission areas of over 12 countries, with over 240 clergy in areas such as Cameroon, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and Tanzania. The enclosed flyer can be used to collect sponsors and should be brought to the Walk. Please notify Holy Cross Church at 412-833-3355 if you plan to participate.

#### Ordination of Deacon David Zuder ..... Sept. 23

Our many campers who attended Summer Camp this year may be interested to know that Deacon David Zuder, Director of the Camp Nazareth facility, will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Tuesday, September 23 in the newly consecrated Chapel of Ss. Cyril and Methodios at the camp. Father John will be attending the service to represent our parish and taking the prayers and well wishes of our campers and their families to Deacon David.

#### ATTENTION HOLY TRINITY PARISHIONERS:

**DIVINE LITURGY TO REMAIN AT 9:30 A.M.  
 DURING SEPTEMBER FALL "TEST-RUN".  
 YOUR FEEDBACK IS NEEDED!**

**After a summer of good attendance and numerous requests to keep the 9:30 Divine Liturgy time year-round, we will be running a test during the month of September by leaving the Sunday Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. During this period, please provide your constructive personal response to Father John or any Parish Council member. At the end of the month, the results will be evaluated. Thank you for your cooperation!**



## The Cultural Side • Η Πολιτιστική Πλευρά

*A Greek language offering of poetic ponderings on the difficulties of life, especially as sensed in our nighttime thoughts.*



Vickie  
Bellios

Μιά βραδυά  
καθώμουνα  
Και η σκέψη  
με είχε πάρει  
Και αναλογι-  
ζόμουνα  
Μιά νύχτα με  
φεγγάρι.

Πως η ζωή είναι ψευτιά  
Και όλοι προσποιούνται  
Και οι ανήσιχες καρδιές  
Ξαπλώνουν, δεν κοιμούνται.

Ατέλειωτες οι νύχτες μας  
Με όνειρε γεμάτες  
Και μπλέχονται μες 'το μυαλό  
Με οπτικές απάτες.

Ψάχνουμε για τελειότητα  
Εκεί που δεν υπάρχει  
Και πάντοτε χανόμαστε  
Μες 'του μυαλού τα βάθη.

Βάθη που δυισδύωμε  
Με την συνήδειση μας  
Που άλωτε την χάνωμε  
Και άλωτε είναι δική μας.

Ο νους μας δεν χωρά πολλά  
Χωρείς να καταλάβη  
Χάνεται μες ' της σκέψεις μας  
Δίνει μεγάλη πάλη.

Με το γνωστό φιλότιμο  
Τον πνίγει η αδικία  
Δεν θέλει να παραδεχθή  
Πως ζη τόση κακία.

Οι εμπιστοσύνη χάνεται  
Θάβονται οι αξίες  
Και οι άνθρωποι παλεύουνε  
Μέσα σε τρικυμίες.

Τα παλαιά πεθάνανε  
Χαθήκαν μες ' την στάχτη  
Τα νέα ήλθαν και έσβησαν  
Τα περασμένα λάθη.

Ο κόσμος άλαξε πολύ  
Πήρε την κάτω βόλτα  
Και ο Θεός μας ξέχασε  
Δεν μας κοιτά σαν πρώτα.

Μα η ελπίδα μας κρατά  
Πως θα ' ρθη μία μέρα  
Θα στείλη την βοήθεια  
Σε όλους εδώ πέρα.

Θα σβύση μίση και οργές  
Και θα μας αγιάση  
Το θρόνο του θα στήση εδώ  
Και θα εξουσιάση.

*«Αυτός δε ο Θεός της ειρήνης αγιάσαι ημάς  
ολοτελείς, και ολόκληρον υμών το πνεύμα και η  
ψυχή και το σώμα αμέμπτως εν τη παρουσία του  
Κυρίου ημών Ιησού Χριστού τηρηθείη.»*

(1 Θεσσ. 5.23)

## Project Mexico: "Building Hope"

*A day-by-day photo journal of the recent Project Mexico Mission Trip*



Day 1: Left: The team arrives, unpacks and explores the ranch. Right: Peter Dickos and Alex Elderkin finish setting up their pup tent, where they will live for the week.



Day 1: Father John and Father Michael lead the team in their first daily evening prayer service.



Day 2: The day starts with the first of many beans and rice breakfasts the team will enjoy during the course of the week.



Day 2: Eleni Valliant tills the ground as the team prepares the soil for the foundation of the house. Only hand tools are used.



Day 2: Presytera Becky takes shovel in hand to level out the ground. The Project Mexico staff said this property required more moving of dirt than any previous site.



## Project Mexico: “Changing Lives”

*A day-by-day photo journal of the recent Project Mexico Mission Trip*



Day 2: Father John helps measure boards for the concrete form.



Day 2: George Dickos pulls support wires up into the thickening cement.



Day 3: Dean Dickos takes a break from construction to work on building faith as he reads to one of the children from a Spanish Bible.



Day 3: Luke Kazmier nails together a section of the wall. Seven sections were built by teams and then assembled on the foundation. Project Mexico has it down to a science, with materials, tools and drawings ready each day.



Day 3: The end of a hard day's work. The entire house team concludes a productive day with a photo break.



Day 4: At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy (done all in Spanish!), Father John and Father Michael join the Orphanage's chaplain, "Padre Pedro," in offering special prayers of entry for three new boys who were brought to live there at the beginning of the week.



## Project Mexico: “A Mission of Love”

*A day-by-day photo journal of the recent Project Mexico Mission Trip*



Day 4: In a special ceremony with Margaret Yova, Associate Director and wife of Founder Gregory Yova, the leaders from the four participating parishes present a gift of over \$5,000 to help with the educational expenses of the residents of the St. Innocent Orphanage.



Day 4: “OK, it wasn’t all work!” Since Sunday is never scheduled as a work day, it starts with Divine Liturgy, then a visit into a local shopping area and, before heading in for the day, an hour of rest and fun at the Pacific Ocean beach not far from the ranch.



Day 5: Fresh and ready for another day’s work, the Holy Trinity team takes a moment for a group photo. Front (l-r): Dean Dickos, Peter Dickos, Luke Kazmier. Back (l-r): Presvytera Becky, Fr. John, Joe Pavia, Eleni Valliant, George Dickos, George Pilafas and Nicki Michael.



Day 5: Nathan, our resident project supervisor from the Project Mexico staff demonstrates that the tarantulas found sometimes in the woodpiles and under rocks are really not poisonous, despite popular misconceptions. (Yes, that is a real tarantula!)

Nathan is serving a multi-year term as a paid project supervisor. All the seasonal interns are there on a volunteer basis.



Day 6: Left: In a moving conclusion to the house-building project, Father John offers a house-blessing service and presents the family with an icon and a Bible on behalf of Project Mexico. Right: The construction team pauses for a photo with the family before heading back to the ranch for the last time. Note the family’s children with their toys displayed in the foreground.



These are but a few of the photos and only a few bits of information about this important and holy work. Want to see more? There are over 600 photos posted on our website at [www.HolyTrinityPgh.org](http://www.HolyTrinityPgh.org). Want to get involved? Make plans from now to be part of this special blessing next year. Get your name on the list! See Father John or watch for info!



## Gheronda's Corner

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



**Father John  
Androutsopoulos**

**SEPTEMBER 14**

### **The Elevation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross**

On Sunday September 14th, the Holy Orthodox Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of the Elevation of the **Precious and Life-giving Cross** of the Lord. This is one of the twelve major feasts of the Church. The miraculous appearance of the Cross to

Emperor Constantine the Great and the discovery of the Cross of Christ by his mother, St. Helen, gave the first occasion to the Feast.

*"Thy Cross, our Master, we adore, and thy Holy Resurrection do we glorify."*

*"O glorious and venerable Cross! O precious wood! O wonderful sign, by which sin, the devil and hell were overcome, and the world was redeemed, through the blood of Christ. Thou art exalted above all the cedars of the forest, for on thee hung the life of the world! On thee Christ gained the victory, and by His dying overcame death forever."*

*"O Lord Jesus Christ, we adore and bless Thee; for through Thy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world."*

Beloved, the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross is equal to the Holy and Great Good Friday. Therefore, our Holy Church prescribes strict fast day. (But, according to the teachings of our Church, because it falls on a Sunday this year, wine and oil are permitted.)

### **Why Do We Make The Sign Of The Cross?**

To confess openly: 1) That we are Christians and adore Christ crucified. 2) That we are redeemed by the Cross, and that all blessings come to us from God through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ upon it.

### **The Child And The Sunday School**

Parents have a great responsibility and a great privilege. They are responsible for the welfare of their children. From infancy, the parents must nourish the tender body with the best foods. Parents nourish the mind of the child with stories, poems, pictures and books. They nourish the child's emotions with love. But how do

parents nourish the soul of the child?

In Holy Scriptures, we read "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Since a child possesses a soul, it must be nourished as extensively as the body and the mind. A child must be trained in the spiritual life. Just as a loving, caring parent teach the child manual skills, so the parents must start training the child from infancy by bringing the child to the Divine Liturgy, having the child partake of Holy Communion, praying with the child at home.

When the child is old enough, he or she should be sent to Sunday School to learn about his faith and Orthodox Catholic Church. The child will grow closer to God. In Holy Scripture there is a verse that reads, "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right." What about your child? Do you want him to be pure and to do what is right? He must be trained in the Orthodox Church.

At a certain age, the child is ready for public school, and the parents do not hesitate to send him whether the child desires it or not. The parents do want the child to learn about the world, how to live in it, and how to work in it. As a Christian, the parents should be even more eager to have the child grow in faith. Living the life the way in which God intended us to live it will bring us a great reward.

By attending the Sunday School regularly, the child will learn in detail about the duties he or she must perform here on earth. The child will grow spiritually and the soul will be nourished.

Remember that the Sunday School is a handmaid of the Church. Its work is to lead the children to worship regularly in God's family. Its work is to train the children to be practicing members of Christ's Church. The teachers are there to help the children. They are there because they love God, His Church, And His children. To each teacher, it is a privilege of serving God in teaching the Faith to the children, training them to seek the more excellent way, and leading them in the knowledge and obedience of God's Word so that in the end, they may attain everlasting life.

Beloved, Sept. 1st, marks the beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year. May we all have a blessed and fruitful New Year For the Glory of God and His Church. with His love and blessings,

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

## Holy Trinity Greek School Update

The information below has been provided by our Greek School Committee as both an update and an incentive to become involved with this important program for developing and promoting understanding of Greek language and culture. As seen here, there are many benefits to be gained from learning another language and staying in touch with our cultural roots. Please look for the flyer in this issue of *The Herald* for information on how to enroll in this year's program.

### Pan-Icarian Society Offers Awards for Greek School Excellence



June, 2003: Holy Trinity Greek School students Jerry Trilivas (left) and George Kilantonis (second from left) received the 2003 Awards for Excellence in Greek School from the Pan-Icarian Society. Presenting the award were Greek School Director Effie Kilantonis and Father John. The award included a certificate of recognition and a U.S. Savings Bond.

Congratulations to Jerry and George, as well as our Holy Trinity Greek School and their teachers!

### From the Holy Trinity Greek School Committee

Why is it important to attend Greek School? It's more than getting an award and a Savings Bond. You will have fun and fellowship with other students while learning about a very valuable treasure: the Greek language and heritage that have been so important to our ancestors and our grandparents and parents as they built their lives here in America.

This year the program will add Kindergarten to the Children's level. This is in addition to the existing classes: Children's Beginners, Teenage Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced for children, and Beginners and Advanced classes for adults. Our Greek School also offers a lending library with Greek language books and videos, both entertaining and instructional. Also, take a look at the newspaper article below to see just how important and beneficial a working knowledge of the Greek language can be!

Andy Stames/Post-Gazette

THURSDAY  
JUNE 26, 2003

Dena Haritos Tsamitis, associate director of CMU's Information Networking Institute.

# Her big fat Greek job

CMU consultant, professor helps launch long-distance degree program in Athens

By Joyce Gannon  
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

Growing up in a Greek-American household, Dena Haritos Tsamitis became fluent in Greek very young but never expected the language to come in handy as a career tool.

Now she flies to Greece several times a year to help manage a Carnegie Mellon University partnership in Athens where students, plugged in electronically to CMU's Oakland campus, are earning master's degrees in information networking.

Tsamitis, 38, associate director of CMU's Information Networking Institute, helped develop the school's long-distance learning venture with Athens Information Technology, a research and graduate education institute. The program was launched a year ago with students in Athens and Oakland enrolled in the same courses.

As they sit in classrooms in different cities, what's being taught at the CMU campus is broadcast in real time via the Internet to Athens. Videotapes of each class are shipped via overnight mail to the Athens classroom and the students there have access to the same online course material as their Pittsburgh counterparts. Courses in the degree program include technology, business management and networking policy issues.



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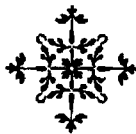
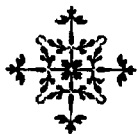
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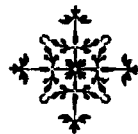
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of their  
beloved  
ones

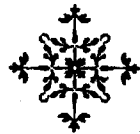


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In loving memory  
of my brother,



**Michael**



Louis Manesiotis  
and family

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## ON WEALTH AND POVERTY



“Our money is the Lord’s however we may have gathered it. If we provide for those in need, we shall obtain great plenty. This is why God has allowed you to have more: not for you to waste on ... drink, fancy food, expensive clothes and all the other kinds of indolence, but for you to distribute to those in need.

Just as an official in the imperial treasury, if he neglects to distribute where he is ordered, but spends instead for his own indolence, pays the penalty and is put to death, so also the rich man is a kind of stewards of the money which is owed for distribution to the poor. He is directed to distribute it to his fellow servants who are in want...for his own goods are not his own, but belong to his fellow servants.

Therefore, let us use our goods sparingly, as belonging to others, so that they may become our own. How shall we use them sparingly, as belonging to others? When we do not spend them beyond our own needs, and do not spend for our needs only, but give equal shares into the hands of the poor... You have received more than others have, and you have received it, not to spend it for yourself, but to become a good steward for others as well.”

*From “On Wealth and Poverty” by St. John Chrysostom (SVS Press)  
4th century sermon on the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus*