



Third Issue, 2009
Summer



Loving from the Heart
I Peter 1:17-23
Very Rev. Timothy G. Bakakos

We look at the world today and *some* people will see it as a difficult and oftentimes *not* a very nice time to be living in. While *others*, however, will look at this world, and see the beauty in it, and derive strength by the actions and goodness in so many people around them. Even several years now after the tragic events of September 11th, we continue to hear personal stories of individuals and families directly involved with it. And in review of that most tragic event in the history of our Country, we have now been “second guessing” on the possible weaknesses that may have existed within our defense system of readiness.

But amid all the crisis, all the pain and suffering that we witnessed before our eyes, we heard also, many stories of courage and compassion and the goodness in people that shined in the face of tragedy. There is such a story that I read about and would like to share with you. Harry Ramos and Hong Zhu both worked for May Davis, a financial-services firm whose offices occupied the 87th floor of the first tower in the World Trade Center. They were just two of thousands of panicked people who began evacuating the building after the first plane exploded into the tower.

On their way down the stairs, Hong Zhu and Harry Ramos came across a heavysset man who was having trouble walking. After descending so many stairs, his legs had given out on him. Zhu and Ramos helped the man down to the 36th floor, when the man's energy finally gave out. His legs wouldn't move at all...he was unable to go any farther. Firemen who had entered the building were screaming at Zhu and Ramos to save themselves. But Harry Ramos said simply, *"I'm not going to leave."* Hong Zhu escaped the building just before it collapsed. Harry Ramos stayed inside and died trying to help a stranger.

So no, this is ***not*** always an easy world. Sometimes it is a very cruel world. Even for people who are trying to do good. We perhaps can understand why mean and terrible people who do NOT live Christian lives suffer, but why do good people, compassionate people, have tragedies in their lives?

As some sort of Biblical reference, I chose to write this article from a passage from the New Testament Epistle of Saint Peter. It was written to Christians who were suffering during a time of intense and severe persecution. It was written to give counsel *and* to give comfort to them. Beautifully written, it is a letter brimming with hope and confidence in God. Saint Peter reminds his readers that they were ***not*** redeemed ***"with perishable things like silver or gold...but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, literally the blood of Jesus Christ."*** And then he says something quite interesting: ***"Since you have, in obedience to the truth, purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, I ask you to fervently love one another from the heart....."***

continue on page 2

Loving from the Heart

Continued from page 1

"Love one another from the heart . . ." Now some of us might think, 'what has love got to do with suffering and persecution'? Why, when people are confronting unspeakable evil, would this disciple counsel them to love one another? Well, there are at least three reasons.

FIRST OF ALL, IT WAS LOVE THAT BROUGHT CHRIST INTO THE WORLD. The early Christian community was being persecuted because of their faith in Jesus Christ. They proclaimed Him as the Son of God who left His heavenly throne to give His life as atonement for all. He was their Lord, their Savior, the source of their new life. It was not so much that they loved Him, but rather, that He loved them. The message that permeates Saint Peter's Epistle is that we were **not** saved by our *own* hand, we were saved by Christ's love poured out on the Cross through His crucifixion. It was love that brought Christ into the world.

In an editorial letter in the December 2001 issue of Time magazine, a woman wrote of her six-year-old son's reaction to the Sept. 11th bombing. For some reason, this woman's son, Parker, developed a fascination with the firemen he saw on television reports. He repeatedly asked his mother to take him to the local firehouse. Finally, this mother gave in. Parker ran around the fire house, asking questions and inspecting equipment. And then he did something that confounded his mother. In front of a candle-studded memorial to the dead firemen, six-year-old Parker bowed his head and began to pray. This is a boy, who, by his own mother's admission, had **never** been taken to, **nor** ever stepped foot inside a church in his life. Yet, this innocent child's first instincts were to pray. And after he prayed, Parker walked over to a fireman and said, **"I am sorry your friends died trying to save everyone. They were very brave. Remember they are with God now."**

What a testament.....and out of the mouth of a babe! What do you believe about people who suffer and die? Do you believe they are with God now? We need to always remember that it **was** love that brought Christ into the world.

SECONDLY, IN REFERENCE TO THIS BIBLICAL PASSAGE FROM SAINT PETER'S EPISTLE, IT WAS LOVE THAT SUPPORTED THE SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN THEIR DARKEST HOURS. They prayed together...they ate together....they sang together...they had all things in common. No wonder the power of the whole Roman Empire nor the prejudice of the Jews could break them. The **whole**, the Body of Jesus Christ, is more than the *fragmented individual parts*. When people love and support each other like those early Christians loved and supported one another, nothing but nothing can break them. Too many of us choose NOT to do that. Too many of us place ourselves, many times, above the "family"....the "Church family" that we all belong to claim to belong to.

But, if we looked at the local Church as Christ intended, we would respond differently. The **"I and ME"** would be replaced by **"sharing and caring and bonding together"**, and that would be Christianity at its finest. Whenever we see someone sinking into despair or addiction or whatever their vice might be, we need to reach out with love and concern. This is why our Sunday Church School classes and other small groups within our Church are so important. It is **not** just for the study involved, though that, of course, is important. But that is where the seeds of caring take nurture and place in the Church. And there is **no** substitute for that. We may ask, **"what has love got to do with persecution and suffering"**? Well, I say again, it was love that brought Christ into the world. And, it is the love of others in our Church family that helps us keep going in our darkest hours.

FINALLY, IT IS ALSO LOVE THAT GIVES US HOPE FOR TOMORROW. Ultimately we have **one** hope in this world, and that is that we are **not** alone. We like to think we are self-sufficient, don't we?, and maybe we **are** 99 percent of the time. But there are those times in life when we **are** helpless. And that is usually the time when most of us turn and throw ourselves on the mercy of God. And, heaven forbid, if God should **not** be there, then we are in a predicament that we should hope never, ever comes to be!

continued on page 3

Loving from the Heart

Continued from page 2

There is a very moving and beautiful story by an unknown author that was circulated on the Internet a while back that perhaps reflects the outlook of Saint Peter's Epistles letter to the Churches in Asia Minor. It is about a little boy who is about to have open heart surgery. The doctor sat with the boy to explain the process of what was about to happen to him during surgery.

"*Tomorrow morning,*" the surgeon began, "*I'll open up your heart . . .*" "*And you'll find Jesus there,*" the boy interrupted. The surgeon looked up, annoyed by the interruption. He continued, "*and I'll cut your heart open to see how much damage has been done.*" "*But when you open up my heart,*" said his young patient, "*you'll find Jesus in there, won't you?*" The surgeon looked to the parents, who just sat quietly. "*And when I see how much damage has been done, I will then sew your heart and chest back up and I'll plan what to do next.*" "*But you'll find Jesus in my heart,*" the young boy insisted. "*The Bible says He lives there. The hymns all say He lives there. You'll find Him in my heart.*" The surgeon had had enough. "*I'll tell you what I'll find in your heart,*" he said coldly. "*I'll find damaged muscle, low blood supply, and weakened vessels. And I'll find out IF I can make you well.*" "*But, you'll find Jesus there too,*" the young boy insisted, "*because the Bible tells me He lives there.*"

The surgeon left the room and returned to his office where he proceeded to record his notes about the surgery, "*Damaged aorta, damaged pulmonary vein, widespread muscle degeneration. No hope for transplant, no hope for cure. Therapy: painkillers and bed rest. Prognosis,*" here he paused, "*death within one year.*" The doctor then stopped the recorder, but that's **NOT** all he had to say.

"*Why?*" he asked aloud. It was clear he was speaking to God. "*Why did you do this? You've put him here; you've put him in this pain; and you've cursed him to an early death. Why?*" The surgeon's tears were hot, but his anger was hotter: "*You created that boy, and you created that heart. And he'll be dead in months. Why?*"

And thus a dialogue began between the surgeon and God. And in that dialogue, this frustrated physician discovered a new understanding of God's providence and love. And the surgeon wept. Well, the next day following the surgery, the doctor sat beside the boy's bed; the boy's parents sat across from him. The boy awoke, saw the doctor, and whispered, "*Did you cut open my heart?*"

"*Yes, I did*" said the surgeon.

"*What did you find?*" asked the boy.

"*I found Jesus there,*" said the surgeon.

My dear brothers and sisters, in times of persecution and suffering, in times of grief and stress, when it all comes down to it, we have only one place to turn, and that is to the power of the Jesus Christ, the Son of God. If there is **not** at the *heart of the universe* a **heart of love**, then nothing else we believe really matters.

As you enjoy the coming summer season with your family and friends, remember how much our Lord loves us. He is with us through the good times, and probably even more so, through our difficult times, standing alongside us as we make each step through decision, trial, adversity, and setback. Our God is a God Who wants to be in our life, our family, and our relationships. So, find time to include worship in your summer and benefit from the never-ending and unceasing love of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Epistle of Saint Peter says, "***Fervently love one another from the heart . . .***" So, if we are ever asked what IS and SHOULD be the ultimate secret of the Christian?...the correct and only answer is "***Love***".

+ A M E N

Parish Council President...

President's Report: Lazy Days of Summer *By James Lakerdas*

All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty
Proverbs 14:23

During this time of year, many people ask “what are you doing this summer?” The answers vary from vacationing to just plain relaxing at home. But here at the Assumption Church, the summer months are our most busiest of times.

George Arvanites, and his maintenance committee, are working on quite a few projects. They are planning to address a structural issue in Plato Hall. In addition, they are patching our parking lot, repairing the front limestone steps, and upgrading our exterior lighting. Dear Maggos, Chairman of the St. Catherine's Renovation Committee, is working on prioritizing exactly what needs to be done in St Catherine's Chapel. We are in the process of securing bids and preparing timetables, which will then be brought to the Parish Council for their input. John Vassiliades and the AQS middle school negotiation team are conducting their due diligence with respect to purchasing the building across the street, which was approved at the Spring General Assembly Meeting. They are also shopping for a mortgage, and once that is all complete, we will proceed to a closing and hopefully looking to use that space as additional parking closer to our Church. Ted Pappas is finalizing all the components of a Chair/Wheel Chair-Lift that will make our Church more accessible for elderly and handicapped individuals (a long overdue project). Christina Arvanites and Tina Sarantos are this year's Labor Day Festival Chairpersons, and along with everyone on the Labor Day Festival Committee, are planning for our big event which they promise to be more spectacular than last year. Finally, Father Timothy and Father Anthanasios are preparing our Church for our Panagia Feast Day, the Dormition of the Theotokos, which is not only one of our biggest religious holidays, but one of the biggest in the Chicago Metropolis, drawing thousands of worshippers to our Church.

As you can read, the list of what we are doing this summer at Assumption goes on and on, and it truly is a very, very busy season for us. Now some of you might be asking, “what are you as president of the community doing this summer?” Well, my job is to figure out how we are going to get all of this done. And perhaps more importantly, how are we going to pay for it? For all the projects listed above, a great deal of man power is required. If you are one of those people who plans to just relax at home, why not come by the Church and relax with us? Volunteers are needed for our Feast Day and our Annual Festival. Also a very rewarding experience in serving your Church is to become a member of the Parish Council, which is open to any steward (member) of the Parish. If you have any interest or expertise in any area, please contact me and we will see how you can help. As with most ventures, all of the above mentioned projects require money, actually a great deal of it. While we have reserves, and funds budgeted for some projects, we do not have enough money for everything we wish to accomplish. For this reason, please consider donating to one of these worthy projects. Remember, no sum is too small or too great.

In closing, please enjoy your summer. And we ask that you always remember your beloved Parish of Panagia.



Submit articles to the Church Office or to Tina Sarantos at t.sarantos@sbcglobal.net or (708) 660-0154.

Philoptochos...

Current Events *By Nancy Pilafas*

Elections

At our meeting on Thursday, May 21st, elections for the slate of the Board of Directors was held. The slate was as follows:

Soula Boudros	Nancy Pilafas	Ann Dervis	Frances Riha
Eleanor Georgalas	Violet Skuteris	Valerie Green	Lillian Stamas
Christine Kanel	Betty Tsiolis	Pat Karabas	Elaine Vassiliades
Demetra Lakerdas	Sophia Vlahos	Joan Leakakos	Elaine Yannias

The following sisters are the officers for the years 2009-2011:

Nancy Pilafas - President, Pat Karabas - First Vice-President, Elaine Vassiliades - Second Vice-President
Joan Leakakos - Recording Secretary, Valerie Green - Corresponding Secretary, Eleanor Georgalas - Treasurer
Sophia Vlahos- Asst. Treasurer, Violet Skuteris - Advisor

We invite you to join us in our mission to help the less fortunate.

We wish to thank Connie and Demetra Andrews for the lovely luncheon they provided for us after the meeting in honor of Connie's Name Day. Everyone enjoyed visiting with each other and sharing Xponia Polla greetings. Also at this meeting, past president Christine Kanel presented Violet Skuteris with a past presidents' pin and kind words of thanks to Vi for the many years she unselfishly served our chapter as its third president. Our chapter is deeply indebted to Vi for her leadership and tireless efforts on behalf of our chapter.

June Outing

On Wednesday, June 3rd, over 30 men and women enjoyed lunch at the Drury Lane followed by the musical, "Pump Boys and Dinettes". Even though it was an unseasonably cold day, the music and dancing left us all with smiles on our faces. Thank you to Elaine Vassiliades who planned the outing.

A Busy August

On Tuesday, August 4th, we will be baking melomakarona in preparation for Panagia's Vesper Service. We will meet at 9:30am in Plato Hall. If you would care to help us, please see either Betty Tsiolis or Nancy Pilafas.

Our Philoptochos chapter will be serving refreshments after Vesper service on Friday, August 14 and again after Liturgy on Saturday, August 15. We can always use an extra set of hands to help us serve the many worshippers we anticipate will be attending these two weekend services.

Church Festival

Sunday and Monday, September 6th and 7th are the dates of our Church's festival. Our chapter will once again be in charge of the sweets booth and we welcome anyone who wishes to bake Greek sweets to sell at our booth. Also, if you are able to devote a few hours to help us man the booth, please see either Betty Tsiolis, Eleanor Georgalas, or Nancy Pilafas.

Save the Date: October 15

October 15th is the date of the Philoptochos's Vasilis Gaitanos Concert and dinner. Back by popular demand, our chapter once again invites you to a magical, delightful evening of exceptional food and music. More information will be forthcoming.

Youth Ministry...

God Is With Us *By Father Athanasios Pieri*

There are many times all of us have a strange feeling that we are alone. At that moment usually, we have the need to express our problem or the concern that we have to someone. Then we have another obstacle, to whom may we express the problem or the concern? May I express it to my spouse, to my parents, to my children, to my friend? Who is going to understand how I feel? Then we are thinking that we are going to carry our cross by ourselves! It is true that there are many problems, concerns, difficulties and trials to each one of us that nobody is able to understand exactly how we are feeling and then we have to choose to take our road by ourselves. We must find the strength to fight. Many of us may feel this way and maybe it is the truth of our life.

Every time that we have this loneliness; that nobody is there for us, next to us to support us, to smile, to show comfort, at that moment that we are feeling alone, we must know that God is with us. Our Lord Jesus Christ becomes our support and our confidence with His presence when we have the truth, when we are right, so what are the reasons of our worries? Then we are able each one of us to carry our cross and said to ourselves "I do not have any man (human support) but I have my Lord."

Let us not forget that the words of the human are only for today and tomorrow they will not count. The most important is not what the man should say, but what God should say. Those who love God, believe in Him and he/she has the hope to the Lord this person would live in the eternity.

Remember the life of Saint Nectarios who lived during the last century and what happened to those who accused him? All of them disappeared except the man of God. The slanderer, the unfair, the calumny, and all the names that they used falsely against him are the only ones that we remember and we venerate his holy icon asking his intercessions. Saint Nectarios with his presence shows us the characteristics of our days. Can you image if we lived during his days, every night the television would show him and they would accuse him as an immoral person.

Saint Nectarios would be the judgment for our days; the judgment for our actions and the judgment for our words. We have to be very careful my brothers and sisters especially in our days when we hear and we hear things said against others but truly we do not know what is true. Maybe this is one of the reasons that we loose the trust of those around us and we do not trust to talk to anyone.

Let us follow the example of Saint Nectarios who lived at the beginning of the twentieth century as he found support from God. Let us find our support and hope to Him. The Lord will not disappoint us, He will not betray us, and he will not leave us. When we leave Him, He follows us.

Many times we are asking God for a miracle. He is always listening to our prayers but we have to remember He has the ability to know better than us what is beneficial for our salvation. It is better at that moment of distress to ask Him to give us the strength to accept His will and give us what is more beneficial for our soul. The greatest miracle is to enter the heavenly kingdom and live forever with our Heavenly Father. Let us entrust our hope and every problem in His hands and then He will help us according to what is more beneficial for our soul and then we will feel that He is holding our hand guiding us to the end of the victorious triumph of the Heavenly Kingdom.



Sunday School...

Sunday School Update ***By Christina Arvanites, Sunday School Director***

Our Sunday School Awards Day Ceremony was held on May 17th. Our students were acknowledged for perfect attendance, faithful attendance (1-4 absences) and overall commitment and participation in our Sunday School program. Congratulations to our graduates.

Photos from this and many other events are on our church website: www.assumptionchicago.org.

Once again a special thank you to the Sunday School teaching staff for their dedication, to the Sunday School families for their support and especially to our students who provide the enthusiasm to keep us all going.

Mark your calendars, our 2009-2010 school year will begin on Sunday, September 13th, this promises to be another fun filled, rewarding school year. Best wishes to all for a wonderful summer.

Parish Happenings...

Divine Liturgy in the Park ***By Dean Sarantos***

On Sunday, May 31st, 2009, the faithful of Assumption gathered at delightful Ty Warner Park in Westmont for a very well-attended "Liturgy in the Park". An estimated 150 parishioners attended the event, which is becoming a beloved tradition of our Assumption Church. The day began with Father Athanasios celebrating the Divine Liturgy in the pavilion, assisted by acolytes and members of our choir. It was wonderful to see the many parishioners of all ages celebrate their faith and receive Holy Communion in this unique outdoor setting.

The weather was excellent, with plenty of sunshine and warm temperatures. As the Divine Liturgy concluded, preparations for the picnic luncheon began. Messrs. Brian Birkland, Brian Krapec, Larry Palmisano, Ted Pappas and Jack Woods handled the grilling of hamburgers and hot dogs for the many in attendance. As the table was prepared for lunch, the children began to enjoy playing in the park. Volleyball was particularly popular, as there was a sand volleyball pit nearby that both children and adults enjoyed. The spray water park was also a good way to cool off and enjoy the warm weather, particularly for the younger children.

After the table was prepared, the crowd reconvened in the pavilion as Father Athanasios gave the blessing. A large variety of summertime foods was enjoyed by all, with a number of salads and other side dishes complementing the barbecue, prepared by the talented cooks of our Assumption Church. Dessert included baked goods and fruit, with plenty of watermelon (karpouzi).

Mrs. Evie Maggos and Mrs. Christina Arvanites provided a number of fun games for the children to enjoy after lunch. One of the most popular games was the water balloon toss. The hula hoop competition was also fun to see, and brought back memories of this year's tropical-themed Apokreatiko Glendi. The children also enjoyed receiving prizes at the games, such as water guns with which to spray their unsuspecting parents on a nice sunny day.

Early in the afternoon, Father Timothy and others who celebrated Divine Liturgy at our 601 South Central Avenue home arrived to join us for lunch and fellowship. The event continued until well into the afternoon, as there was much for the children to enjoy at the park while the adults enjoyed some "parea".

Special thanks to Dr. Stavroula Spyropoulos and Mr. Robert Gonzini for their help in coordinating many of the preparations and logistics for this event. We look forward to again celebrating "Liturgy in the Park" next year. The event was enjoyed so much that there was discussion of possibly having this event again this summer. Kalo Kalokeri!



ΓΙΑΤΙ ΑΝΑΒΩ ΤΟ ΚΑΝΤΗΛΙ?

Είναι ωραίο πράγμα να ανάβουμε καντήλια μπροστά στις εικόνες. Άλλα πιο ωραίο πράγμα είναι να προσφέρουμε στον Θεό σαν θυσία τη φλόγα της αγάπης. Τότε είμαστε αληθινοί προσκυνητες του. Αν ανάβεις καντήλια στις εικόνες και δεν έχεις αγάπη προς τον Θεό και τον πλησίον σου, αν είσαι φιλάργυρος και φιλόνικος, η θρησκεία σου είναι ματαία.

Γιατί ανάβω το καντήλι;

- Μου θυμίζει ότι όπως ο Θεός είναι φως, έτσι πρέπει να είναι και η ζωή μας φωτεινή.
- Είναι ο έλεγχος στα σκοτεινά μας έργα.
- Είναι μία δική μας θυσία ένδειξη ευγνωμοσύνης και αγάπης για το Χριστό που θυσιάστηκε για μας.
- Είναι το φόβητρο στις δυνάμεις του σκότους που προσπαθούν να απομακρύνουν το νου του ανθρώπου και τις προσευχές του, από το φως που είναι ο Θεός.
- Όπως το καντήλι καίγεται μέσα στο λάδι, έτσι και εμείς πρέπει να ζητάμε το έλεος του Θεού για τις αμαρτίες μας καίγοντας το δικό μας θέλημα και κάνοντας το θέλημα του Θεού.
- Όπως δεν ανάβει το καντήλι χωρίς τα δικά μας χέρια, έτσι και εμείς δεν θα είχαμε το φως αν ο Χριστός και Θεός μας δεν είχε έρθει στη γη.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ΣΟΥ...

Οι άγγελοι δημιουργήθηκαν πριν από τον ορατό κόσμο και τον άνθρωπο. Σύμφωνα με την Ορθόδοξη Θεολογία, όπως συνοψίζεται στην διδασκαλία του αγίου Ιωάννου του Δαμασκηνού, οι άγγελοι είναι υπάρξεις πνευματικές, αεικίνητες, ελεύθερες, ασώματες, που υπηρετούν τον Θεόν και είναι κατά χάριν αθάνατες. Τό σχήμα και την κατάσταση των υπάρξεων αυτών, μόνον ο Θεός τα γνωρίζει. Είναι όμως ασώματοι και αεικίνητοι οι άγγελοι σε σχέση με τούς ανθρώπους.

Σέ σύγκριση με τον Θεό, τον μόνον ασώματο, είναι δυσκίνητοι και υλικοί. Είναι πλασμένοι από λεπτή ύλη. Μόνον ο Θεός είναι αληθινά άυλος και ασώματος. Δεν έχουν ανάγκη από γλώσσα και ακοή, αλλά πληροφορούνται μεταξύ τους τα προσωπικά διανοήματα και τις αποφάσεις τους, χωρίς τον προφορικό λόγο. Όταν επικοινωνούν με τούς ανθρώπους, τότε λαμβάνουν σχήμα και μορφή για να μπορούν οι άνθρωποι να τούς βλέπουν. Η θέα τους είναι φωτεινή και τα ρούχα τους είναι συνήθως λευκά, πράγμα που φανερώνει την καθαρότητά τους.

Τροφή τους είναι η θέα του Θεού, τον Οποίο βλέπουν, κατά το μέτρο της δυνατότητός τους. Οι άγγελοι και οι αρχάγγελοι, διαφυλάττουν τα μέρη της γής, είναι άρχοντες των λαών και των χωρών, όπως τούς όρισε ο Δημιουργός, τακτοποιούν τα ανθρώπινα και προστατεύουν όσους τούς επικαλούνται, κυρίως από το μίσος και την μανία του διαβόλου. Σέ κάθε Θεία Λειτουργία, η οποία είναι Σύναξη ουρανού και γής, συλλειτουργούν με τον Αρχιερέα ή τον Ιερέα άγγελοι. Στήν μικρή είσοδο, ο Λειτουργός παρακαλεί τον Κύριο να στείλη αγγέλους, για να συλλειτουργήσουν μαζί του και θα συνδοξολογήσουν την αγαθότητα του Θεού. Διάκονος, επίσης, δέεται: «άγγελον ειρήνης, πιστόν οδηγόν, φύλακα των ψυχών και των σωμάτων ημών παρά του Κυρίου αιτησώμεθα.

Από την ώρα που βγήκαμε από την μήτρα της Εκκλησίας, την Κολυμβήθρα του βαπτίσματος, μάς παραστέκει ένας άγγελος, ο οποίος είναι φύλακας των ψυχών και των σωμάτων μας. Δεν φεύγει από κοντά εάν εμείς δεν τον διώξουμε με την αμαρτωλή ζωή μας. Εκείνο που τον ξαναφέρει κοντά μας είναι η αληθινή μετάνοια. Οι άγγελοι χαίρονται και πανηγυρίζουν, όταν κάποιος μετανοή ειλικρινά.





ΓΙΑ ΠΑΝΤΡΕΜΕΝΑ...ΜΑΚΑΡΙΑ ΖΕΥΓΑΡΙΑ

- Μακάριοι ο άντρας και η γυναίκα που συνεχίζουν να αγαπιούνται για πολύ καιρό μετά το γάμο τους
- Μακάριοι ο άντρας και η γυναίκα που έμαθαν να γελούν ο ένας με τον άλλο, αλλά να μην κοροϊδεύουν ο ένας τον άλλο
- Μακάριοι ο άντρας και η γυναίκα που έμαθαν να μην πίνουν
- Μακάριοι ο άντρας και η γυναίκα που έμαθαν να αγαπούν ο ένας τον άλλο περισσότερο από ότι αγαπούν οιονδήποτε άλλο
- Μακάριοι ο άντρας και η γυναίκα που αγαπούν την απόκτηση παιδιών και την δημιουργία οικογένειας για τον Κύριο
- Μακάριοι ο άντρας και η γυναίκα που έμαθαν να ευχαριστούν τον Θεό για το φαγητό και που καθημερινά μελετούν το Λόγο του Θεού και προσεύχονται
- Μακάριοι ο άντρας και η γυναίκα που έμαθαν να φέρονται ευγενικά ο ένας στον άλλο και δε θυμώνουν ο ένας με τον άλλο ούτε αποθαρρύνουν ένας τον άλλο
- Μακάριοι ο άντρας και η γυναίκα που μαζί λατρεύουν τον Θεό και μαζί συνεργάζονται για την πρόοδο της βασιλείας του Χριστού
- Μακάριοι ο άντρας και η γυναίκα που διαχειρίζονται συνετά τα χρήματα και τα οικονομικά τους
- Μακάριοι ο άντρας και η γυναίκα που πήραν απόφαση να τιμούν το Χριστό σε κάθε φάση της ζωής τους

ΜΑΘΕΤΕ ΠΕΝΤΕ ΓΛΩΣΣΕΣ ΣΕ 20 ΔΕΥΤΕΡΟΛΕΠΤΑ

Ἡ πρώτη εἶναι τό χαμόγελο...

Ἡ δεύτερη εἶναι τά δάκρυα...

Ἡ τρίτη εἶναι τά ἀγγιγμα...

Ἡ τέταρτη εἶναι ἡ προσευχή...

Ἡ πέμπτη εἶναι ἡ ἀγάπη...

Μέ αυτές τις πέντε γλώσσες γυρίζεις ὅλη τη γῆ καί ὅλος ο κόσμος εἶναι δικός σου.

Ὅλους τους αγαπάς τό ἴδιο.

Ἀσχέτως θρησκείας καί ἔθνους.

Ἀσχέτως με ὅλα.

Παντού ὑπάρχουν ἄνθρωποι τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Καί δέν ξέρεις αὐτός πού βλέπεις σήμερα, αν αὔριο δε θά εἶναι ο Ἅγιος...



Stewardship...

Contribution or Commitment? Borrowed from Greek Orthodox Archdiocese

The difference in a contribution and total commitment is usually the difference in failure and success.

A chicken and a hog were walking past a church building one day when they noticed the Sunday morning sermon posted on the outside bulletin board, "Helping the Poor." They walked a ways when the chicken suddenly came across with a suggestion. "Say, Brother Hog, why don't we give all of the poor people a nice breakfast of ham and eggs?" The hog thought a moment and replied, "That's alright for you to say because for you it is only a contribution but for me, it's total commitment!"

A growing problem facing our world and the Church today is the increasing number of people who have given up commitment to become contributors. Contributions are much easier than commitments. The average man on the job contributes whatever is necessary to keep his paycheck coming in. He is not committed to his company. In most cases he does not even like his job. It is only a boring way to make money. Check the shoddy craftsmanship lately on a lot of items you buy and you will see what I mean. You probably already know.

Most Churches have the same problem. Members contribute enough time, effort and money to be recognized as a member and to soothe their own conscience. They are not committed to the Church or to the Lord. They will contribute to just about anything as long as it does not cost them anything but they will sacrifice nothing, especially themselves.

Jesus succeeded in His mission because He was totally committed to the task before Him. He was willing to give up everything, even His life, for the cause He believed in. No one really succeeds in life until he reaches the point that he is willing to lay down his life. Jesus said, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone."

If your life as a Christian has not been as successful as you would like for it to be, you might check your total Stewardship Commitment. If your life is only a series of small contributions, that could be your problem. Paul says that we are to offer ourselves to God as a living sacrifice." (Romans 12:1)

The difference in a contribution and total commitment is usually the difference in failure and success. "Here, Lord, I give myself to You, that is all I can do." That is all You can do, but you must do that much!

Does your Stewardship Commitment to Panagia reflect a contribution or a commitment? "Let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God."



Stewardship List June 2009...

MR JOHN ALEXANDER
MS PAULINE ALEXANDER
MR & MRS ORESTIS ALEXOPOULOS
MR & MRS ERNEST ANALITIS
MRS CHRISTINE ANDREWS
MS CONSTANCE ANDREWS
MS DEMETRA ANDREWS
MR JOHN ANDREWS
NICK & TAMISHA ANGELACOS
MRS NICOLETTA ANOS
MRS GEORGIA APOSTOL
MRS FRIEDA ARAVOSIS
MS CAROL ARGYRAKIS
MR & MRS GEORGE ARVANITES
FATHER TIMOTHY G. BAKAKOS
DR & MRS MICHAEL BAKALIS
MRS NOTA BARKOULIES
MRS TESS BAZIOTES
MR & MRS JAMES BECKER
MR MATTHEW BECKER
MR & MRS JOHN BELTRAMO
MR & MRS GEORGE BERBAS
MRS MARY BETINIS
MR & MRS DONALD BIANUCCI
BOB & HELEN BIGGERS
MR & MRS DONALD BLANGIN
MS KATHERINE BLANGIN
MR & MRS WILLIAM BLATHRAS
MR & MRS JAMES BOARDEN
MRS GARIFALIA BOLOS
MR & MRS JAMES BOUNARDJ
MR & MRS MICHAEL BOZNOS
MR & MRS JAMES BUONINCONTRO
MR AND MRS JOHN CALAMOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER CAPRIO
MR DAN CARAS
MRS GEORGJEAN CARAS
MRS CATHERINE CATCHFORES
MR & MRS GEORGE CEPEK
MR & MRS GEORGE CHERIMPES
DR JOHN CHIAKULAS
DR & MRS NICHOLAS CHIPAIN
MRS ANTONIA CHOPORIS
MR WILLIAM CHOPORIS
MR CHRIS CHULOS & MRS TANJA CHULOS-
SAARINEN
MR & MRS PATRICK CIBULA
MR & MRS GEORGE COLLIAS
MR & MRS ANDREW COLLIS
MRS HELEN COLLIS
MR THOMAS COLLIS
MRS & MR ELAINE COLUMBUS
MR & MRS JAMES COLUMBUS
MRS EVELYN CONSTANTINIDES
MRS & MR TINA CORRADINO
MRS EMILY COTSIRILOS
MRS CONNIE COUSSIS
MRS JULIA CUTSUVITIS
MR PAUL CUTSUVITIS
MR JOHN DADES
MR & MRS JOHN DAKURAS
MS ANASTASIA DAMOLARIS
MS MARTHA DAMOLARIS
MR & MRS STEVE DAMOLARIS
JAMES & GEORGIA DARRAS
MR TOM DARRUS
MRS EMILY DEAM
MR BILL DELIGIANNIS
MR & MRS BILL DEMAKIS
MS HELEN DEMAKIS
MRS APHRODITE DEMEUR
MR & MRS GEORGE DEMITROPOULOS
MR & MRS JOHN DEMITROPOULOS
MR & MRS GEORGE DEMOS
MR & MRS JIM DEMOS
MR & MRS THOMAS DEMOS
MRS LAUREN DEREUS
MRS ANN DERSIS
MR GEORGE DERSIS
MR & MRS WILLIAM DIAMANT
MR & MRS EMMANUEL DIMITRAKOPOULOS
MRS DIAN DIONESOTES
MR JAMES DIONESOTES
MS KATHERINE DOUKAS
MS BASILLE EFANTIS
MR & MRS JOHN ELLIS
MR MICHAEL EUGENIDES
MS CATHERINE FERGUSON
MR & MRS PANTAZIS FILIS
MR & MRS HAROLD FITZSIMMONS
MR LEE FORRES

continued on page 12

Stewardship List June 2009..

MRS MARY FOTOPOULOS
MR & MRS RICHARD FRITZ
MR THEODORE GAILAN
MR & MRS GEORGE GALANOPOULOS
MRS ALICE GALLIOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER GANAS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER GANAS
MRS BESSIE GANGAS
MR PETER GANIOS
MRS SHIRLEY GATZIOLIS
MS CHRISTINE GEANON
MR & MRS WILLIAM GEIB
MRS EFFIE GEKAS
NIKI GEORGACAKIS & ELAINE GEORGE
MR & MRS JAMES GEORGALAS
MR & MRS NICK GEORGIAFENTIS
MR & MR ANTHONY GEORGIAN
MR & MRS GEORGE GEORGIU
MRS IRENE GERAKARIS
MR NICK GERAKARIS
MR & MRS PETER GIANAKOPOULOS
MRS TOULA GIANAKOPOULOS
MRS VASILIKI GIANNOS
MRS CHRISTENE GIANNOULIS
MRS IRENE GIARDINA
MR & MRS JOSEPH GIARDINA
MR THOMAS GIARDINA
DR & MRS CONSTANTINE GODELLAS
MRS OLGA MEHALOS GOLDEN
MRS GEORGIA GOROS
MR LEO GOROS
MR & MRS DOUGLAS GREEN
MS KELLY GRIGOROPOULOS
MR JOHN GRITSONIS
MRS HELEN GROM
MS FRANCINE HARVALIS
MRS PENELOPE HARVALIS
MR JAMES HATZIS
MR & MRS MARIO HOLGUIN
MR & MRS PETER IATRIDES
MR RAYMOND ISAAC
MR & MRS JANUSZ KACZMARCZYK
MR ANDREW KANEL
MRS CHRISTINE KANEL
MR JAMES A. KANEL
MR & MRS JAMES KAPPOS
MRS CATHERINE KARABAS
MRS PATRICIA KARABAS
MISS SOPHIE KARAGIANNIS
MRS DEMETRA KARAHALIOS
MR & MRS ANTHONY KARAS
MR LAMBROS KARKAZIS
MR & MRS THOMAS KARONIS
MR & MRS ANDREW KAROS
MR & MRS ERNEST KARRAS
MRS MIA KASIMOS
MRS ANTOINETTE KASKAS
MR & MRS CHRIST KATES
MRS BESS KATSIKAS (GEROULIS)
MR & MRS LOUIS KAZAGLIS
MRS CONNIE KEENAN
DR NICHOLAS KINNAS
MRS ANGELINE KIOUSIS
MR & MRS SPYROS KOKOLIS
MR & MRS GEORGE KOLETTIS
MS FAY KOLLIAS
MRS ALICE KOPAN
MR & MRS KONSTANDINAS KORDOPITOULAS
MR GEORGE KOSIONIS & MS JAN AUGUSTINE
MR & MRS THOMAS KOSTAS
MR DINO KOTSOVETIS
MRS KAREN KOTSOVETIS
MS NATALIE KOTSOVETIS
MS KATHERINE KOTT
MR & MRS WALTER KOTT
MR & MRS GUST KOUIMELIS
MRS HELEN PAPAGEORGE KOUIMELIS
MR & MS DEMETRIOS KOULOURIS
MISS SOPHIE KOUTSELAS
MRS GEORGIA KOUVELIS
MR & MRS PETER KOUVELIS
MR & MRS MATTHEW KOZIL
MR & MRS BRIAN KRAPEC
MS EUGENIA KRIBALES
MRS HELEN KRILLIES
MS CALLIOPE KUTRUBIS
MRS GEORGIA KYRIAZES
MR & MRS CHRIS LAGEOTAKES
MR PETER LAGEOTAKES
MRS PANAGIOTA LAGGAS

continued on page 13

Stewardship List June 2009...

MRS KYRIAKI LAGON
MRS DEMETRA LAKERDAS
MR JAMES LAKERDAS
MRS ANASTASIA LAMBESIS
MISS EVELYN LAMBROU
MR & MS LOUIE LAMBROU
MR & MRS JAMES LEAKAKOS
MR & MRS NICK LEKOUSIS
MISS BETTY LEONTIOS
MISS EUGENIA LEONTIOS
MRS DENA LEVADITIS
MR & MRS WILLIAM LIMPARIS
DR JANICE LIMPERIS
MR & MRS NICHOLAS LINARDOS
MS FRANCES LIVADITIS
MRS MARY CLARA LIVADITIS
MR & MRS ILIAS LOULOUSIS
MR & MRS WILLIAM LUCAS
MR DEAN MAGGOS
DR EVELYN MAGGOS
MRS HELEN MAGGOS
MR LOUIS MALEVITIS
MRS MARY MAMAIES
DEAN & LOUISE MAMALAKIS
MR GEORGE MANIATES
MRS HELEN MANIATES
MR & MRS GEORGE MANIATIS
MR & MRS THEODORE MANIATIS
DR & MRS CHAD MANSOUR
MR & MRS NICHOLAS MANSOUR
MR & MRS EMILE MANTZAKIDES
MRS MARY MARAS
MR & MRS CHRIST MARKOU
MRS POTA MAROS
MR & MRS JOHN MAROUTSOS
MR & MRS THOMAS MASSOURAS
MR HARRY MATARAS
MS MICHELLE MAUTONE
MRS BESSIE MAVREAS
MRS HELEN MIHAIL
MR & MRS GEORGE MILLER
MR & MRS MARTIN MILOSOVIC
MR & MRS WILLIAM MILOSOVIC
MR & MRS TIM NASH
MRS ALIKI NICHOLAS

MS PHYLLIS NICHOLAS
MR VINCENT NICHOLAS
MRS AMELIA NICHOLS
MR & MRS DEAN NICHOLS
MRS MARIE NICHOLS
MRS HELEN NICOLOPULOS
MR GEORGE NISBETT
MR & MRS ROBERT NISBETT
MR & MRS LARRY PALMISANO
MS SOFIA PALOUMPIS
MRS FREDA PANAGOS
MISS ANTOINETTE PANOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOS PANOS
MR & MRS PETER PANOS
MR KOSTAS PANTAZIS
DR & MRS JOHN PANTON
DR & MRS PETER PANTON
DR & MRS ROBERT PANTON
MR & MRS DIONYSIOS PAPAFOPOULOS
MR & MRS NICK PAPAFOPOULOS
MRS MARIA PAPAGIANNPOULOS
DR & MRS STEVEN PAPAGIANNPOULOS
MRS ANITA PAPANEK
MRS GEORGIA PAPPADIMITRIOU
MISS ANASTASIA PAPPAS
MR GEORGE PAPPAS
MRS MARTHA PAPPAS
MR & MRS THEODORE PAPPAS
MISS VIVIAN PAPPAS
MRS ANGELA PARRY-PATERAKIS
MR GEORGE PARRY-PATERAKIS
MISS KATHERINE PATRINOS
MR & MRS ANDREW PENESIS
MRS DIMITRA PEPPAS
MRS MARY PETENES
MRS GEORGIA PETREE
MR AND MRS JAMES PETROPOUL
MRS ELIZABETH PHILLIPS
FATHER & PRESBYTERA ATHANASIOS PIERI
MRS RITA PIETRZYK
MR & MRS ANGELO PILAFAS
MS ANN PILAFAS
MISS NANCY PILAFAS
MRS TOULA PITSIS
MRS HELEN PLEVITIS

continued on page 14

Stewardship List June 2009...

MRS HELEN PONTIKES
MRS ELAINE PONTIKIS
MRS BEATRICE POTAMIANOS
MR & MRS ANTHONY POTOGLOU
MRS JANE POULAKOS
MRS NIKI POULOS
PETER & JOY POULOS
MR & MRS THOMAS POULOS
MRS THERESA PRESVELOS
MRS MARY PREVAS
MR GEORGE PREVOLOS
MR & MRS ALEXANDER PSARRAS
MS GEORGIA PSICHOGIOS
MRS HELEN PSICHOGIOS
MS PAMELA PSYHOGIOS
MR MICHAEL PULLOS
DR & MRS SPENCER PULLOS
MS KEKE RAFTELIAS
MS MARY RAFTELIAS
MS ANN RANTIS
MR & MRS WILLIAM RANTIS
MRS HELEN RAPTIS
MR & MRS JAMES REGAS
MR & MRS RAYMOND RIHA, JR
MR AND MRS RAYMOND RIHA, SR
MR & MRS EDWARD RIZER
MR & MRS JEFFREY ROBERTS
MR AND MRS PETER ROMAS
MRS SOPHIE ROMAS
MRS IRENE ROMBAKIS
MR & MS JOHN ROMBAKIS
DR & MRS WILLIAM ROUMAN
MR & MRS KEN RUBENSTEIN
MR & MRS DEAN SARANTOS
MR & MRS HARRY SAUNDERS
MS MARIA SCHMIDT
MR & MRS NICK SCOURLETOS
MS TESSIE SELIMOS
MR & MRS KOSTA SKOULIKARIS
MRS POPE SKOULIKARIS
MR & MRS KOSTAS SKOULIKAS
MS IRENE SKUTERIS
MR & MRS SPIRO SKUTERIS
MRS ATHENA SOULIDES
MS TASOULA SOULIDES
MR & MRS HARRY SOUMAKIS
MR & MRS NICK SPYRIDAKOS
DR BASIL SPYROPOULOS
MR & MRS PETER SPYROPOULOS
DR STAVROULA SPYROPOULOS
MRS LILLIAN STAMAS
MRS ALEXANDRA STATHOPOULOS
MRS GEORGIA STAVROPOULOS
MISS JOANN STAVROPOULOS
MR & MRS PAUL STAVROPOULOS
MR & MRS JOHN STEC
MRS ROSE MARIE STEWART
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS STRAVOLEMAKOS
MR & MRS MATHIEU SUSSMAN
MR & MRS PETER SUTTERLIN
MRS MARY T SZCZESNIAK
MRS SEVASTI TAGARIS
MR TAKOUDIS & MRS FOUSTALIERAKI
MISS ANASTASIA TEROVOLAS
MR & MRS ANGELO TEROVOLAS
MISS CRYSTELLA TEROVOLAS
MRS BESSIE THERMOS
DR & DR NICK THOMOPOULOS
MS ELENI TOLE
MR & MRS GENTJAN (YANNI) TOLE
MR & MRS ANGELO TOLIOS
MR & MRS CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
MRS HELEN TOULIOS
MR & MRS PETER TRAGOS
MR JOHN TRAHANAS
MR & MRS GUS TRAKAS
MRS BESSIE TRIHAS
MR & MRS ANGELO TSAGALIS
MR & MRS VASILIOS TSAGANOS
MR & MS JOHN G. TSIGOLIS
MRS BETTY TSIOLIS
MR JAMES TSIOLIS
MR & MRS DIMITRIOS TSIRIBAS
MRS KATHERINE TZOUMIS
MRS DENA VAGIAS
MRS ARITA VALESSARES
MRS MARY VARVEN
MR GUST VASILIADES
MR & MRS JOHN VASSILIADES
PAULINE VAVASIS

continued on page 15

Stewardship List June 2009...

MR & MRS ROBERT VELASQUEZ
MR & MRS THOMAS VELIS
MRS STAMATA VERVENIOTIS
MR & MRS ALEX VICKAS
MRS ALAYNA VLAGOS & MR PETER WEIGAND-VLAGOS
MR & MRS GEORGE VLAHOS
MR AND MRS JOHN VLAHOS
MRS MARIANTHE VLAHOS
MR & MRS PETER VLAHOS
MR & MRS ROMAN VOULGARAKIS
MR BILL VRANAS
MR JASON VRANAS
MRS PEGGY VRANAS
MS ALKISTIS WONAIS
MR & MRS JACK WOODS
MS MARY ELLEN WOODS
MR & MS GUS XINOS
MRS MARIKA XINOS
MR & MRS CONSTANTINE YANNIAS
MR & MRS STEVE YANNIAS
MS TRACY YANNIAS
MRS FRANCES ZACK

Chairlift Approved

The Parish Council has approved the purchase of a new chairlift for the south stairwell. The chairlift will go up to the main church as well as down to St. Catherine's. The approval was based on thoughtful consideration for parishioners and visitors who find it difficult to maneuver the stairs.

The chairlift will be the same type owned and used by the school at the east end of the building and will cost approximately \$40,000.00. We are actively soliciting donations for this worthwhile project. Please contact Ted Pappas or James Lakerdas at the Church office if you are interested in being a part of this long overdue effort.



Parish Registry April - June 2009...

WEDDINGS

- John Tole and Maria Tole
Sponsor – Eleni Tole
- Sophia Paloumpis and Daniel Hatch
Sponsor – Danielle Paloumpis
- Jim Kappos and Indre Valiurype
Sponsor – Harry Kappos
- Raymond Andrade and Katherine Blangin
Sponsor-Kristine Eisenmann

BAPTISMS

- Son of, Angelo and Angela Tsagalis,
taking the name *Louis (Elias)*; Godparents – James and Maria Kottaras
- Son of, Jeffrey and Holly Roberts,
taking the name *John*; Godparent – Lisa Lucas
- Gentjan Tole, taking the name *John* and Eralda Tole,
taking the name *Maria*; Godparent – Kiki Giannos
- Daughter of, Peter and Jodi Gianakopoulos,
taking the name *Evanthia*; Godparent – Valerie McCarthy
- Son of Mana and Konstandinas Kordopitoulas, taking the
name *George*; Godparents—Bill and Maria Alex

40 DAY BLESSINGS

- Daughter of Christ and Christine Panos
- Daughter of Christopher and Stephanie Vassiliades
- Son of Peter and Tina Paras

FALLEN ASLEEP IN THE LORD

+ Matina Karras

MEMORIALS

40 Days

American Legion-Evzone Post 1039
Demetrios M. Kouimelis

6 Months

Martha Pappas
Evangelia Skoufi
Katherine Poulos
Aphrodite Pappas

1 Year

Diane Andrews
Mando Gouvas
Alexandros Kalasountas
Gus Barkoulies

7 Years

Jimmy Demos

15 Years

George Calamus

THIRD ISSUE
2009

Dormition of Theotokos
August 15, 2009

Newsletter Contents

Induction.....	1-3
Parish Council President.....	4
Philoptochos.....	5
Youth Ministry.....	6
Sunday School.....	7
Parish Happenings.....	7
Greek.....	8-9
Stewardship.....	10
Stewardship List.....	11-15
Parish Registry.....	15

