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# ***THE TRISAGION***

The Monthly Newsletter of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church  
119 S. Sparks Street, State College, PA 16801 814-231-2855  
September 2008 Volume 13, Number 10

## **DISTINGUISHED ORTHODOX AUTHOR TO SPEAK ON CAMPUS**

This month, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church will have the blessing to host Matthew Gallatin, noted philosophy teacher and author of the popular book, *Thirsting for God in a Land of Shallow Wells* (Conciliar Press, 2002). Gallatin will share his journey from evangelical Protestantism into Eastern Orthodoxy in a talk on campus entitled “Seeking Truth, Truly Finding Christ: My Journey to the Orthodox Church.”

All are invited to hear how Gallatin, a former Evangelical pastor, embarked on a challenging and life-changing pilgrimage of discovery. As an ordained minister, a genuine desire to lead his congregation into truth brought him face to face with serious flaws in the foundations of evangelical Protestant faith—flaws that affect absolutely every denomination. Gallatin faced up to the fact that as an evangelical Protestant, the truth about God could never be anything more than a disputable personal opinion. After more than a decade of searching, Gallatin eventually found that the unaltered fullness of the Ancient Christian faith remains intact to this day.

During his lecture, Gallatin will tell the tale of how he found Orthodox Christianity and will recount some of the major issues he dealt with along the way, including:

- Do Christians with contradictory doctrines really worship “the same Jesus”?;
- Can the truth be found in “the Scriptures alone”?;
- What is the relationship between “historical” and “theological” Christianity?; and
- God’s ultimate goal for humanity.

The presentation will be held on Sunday, October 12 at 6:30pm in 104 Keller Building, conveniently located across the street from the Nittany Inn Parking Deck. A time for questions and discussion will follow. Matthew Gallatin will also be the guest homilist at the Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity that morning.

### OCTOBER SCHEDULES

#### Coffee Hour

October 5 — Judy Fryncko and Ellen George  
October 12 — Jean Miranda, Holly Torbic, and Jenny Anthony  
October 19 — Leslyn Radomsky and Beth Roberts  
October 26 — Russian Ladies

#### Greeters

October 5 — Melody Thompson and Mark Fedkin  
October 12 — Anne and David Swisher  
October 19 — Beth Roberts and Ed Miranda  
October 26 — Mark and Leslyn Radomsky

### ANNUAL MEETING – OCTOBER 5

On October 5 at 12:00 noon following the Divine Liturgy, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church will hold its Annual Meeting. The agenda is as follows:

- Opening Prayer: “*O Heavenly King...*”
- Minutes of the 2007 Meeting
- Priest’s Report
- Financial Review (*please see the proposed budget, next page*)
- Treasurer’s Report
- Election of Officers: (Parish Council President—Bob Roberts; Assistant Treasurer—Chuck Beecha; VP-Grounds—Shane Stevens)
- Closing Prayer: “*It is truly meet...*”

All parishioners who are in good standing and registered members of the parish as of last December, and who have fulfilled their obligations of Confession and Communion may and should attend. No new business may be introduced from the floor.

### PARISH “GREEN” INITIATIVE

In order for us to be better stewards of the earth’s resources, we have begun to substitute washable coffee mugs for the Styrofoam ones we are currently using. If you would like to help out, please bring any extra mugs you have from home to keep at the parish for all to use during coffee hour. Thank you for contributing to this very good cause as we attempt to cut down on the waste we generate each Sunday.

### WOMEN’S COFFEE

Women: You are invited to come to the rectory (562 Lanshire Lane) on Saturday, October 10 from 10am -12:00 noon. To RSVP, call 861-8020.

### FROM THE DESK OF DN. ALEXANDER

When the student leadership board of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship approached me this summer to lead the group in a semester-long series entitled “Practical Christianity,” I was more than willing to do so. Every Thursday night at OCF, we begin by examining opposing viewpoints on one topic from a wide range of cultural issues, including war and terrorism, entertainment, bioethics, science, and politics. After hearing arguments from both perspectives, we dive into Scripture and the Fathers to see how they shed light on the many issues facing the world today.

The goal of this approach is to equip our students with a power of discernment and to help them rely on the Church’s collective experience whenever making difficult decisions or standing for the Truth in their daily lives. By becoming aware of the values and beliefs held by society, we can enhance our witness for Christ by finding a connecting point between us and those around us.

Sometimes in our ascetic struggle to eliminate passions and acquire virtue, we can fail to recognize that while we are expected to not be of the world and be different from it, we are at the same time commissioned by our Lord to live in it and sanctify it. This is why St. Theophan the Recluse warns that when “one becomes involved in work at home or in business...and talk turns toward the spiritual life, then the idea inevitably surfaces [that] one must run from society...to the wilderness.” This commonly-held misconception is erroneous, according to St. Theophan.

That is why Fr. Seraphim Rose actually advised *against* isolating ourselves from the reality of today’s world. While we should not indiscriminately expose ourselves or our children to this culture, we must still recognize that there are still many good things in our culture. As St. Paul said, “whatever things are good, and beautiful, we should hold fast to these” (*Philippians 4:8*). Perhaps this is why in Athens he found a bridge to those he was ministering to there by “looking carefully at [their] objects of worship” and quoting their own poets (*Acts 17:16-34*). We can do the same.

Because the devil rules over the world, evil cannot be avoided but must be overcome. By avoiding the tendency to artificially separate life into the “secular” and “sacred” and instead see how good and evil are intertwined everywhere (like the wheat and the tares in Matthew’s gospel), we can begin to build our own bridges to those who are desperately in need of Christ around us.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR UPCOMING EPISCOPAL NOMINATIONS**

Last month, Metropolitan HERMAN retired from his office as Archbishop of Washington and New York, and Metropolitan of All America and Canada, effective September 4. Since that date, His Eminence, Archbishop DMITRI, Archbishop of Dallas and the South, has served as the *Locum tenens* of the Metropolitan See.

However, this is only a temporary assignment, and there will be an election to permanently fill the position during the Fifteenth All American Council on November 12 in Pittsburgh. Each parish across the OCA, having sent delegates to the council (Father John and Deacon Alexander will be representing Holy Trinity), will be given an opportunity to cast a vote for the new Metropolitan. Two-thirds of the delegates present must agree on a candidate in order for him to be nominated on the first vote. (If no nominee has received the required two-thirds of the ballots of the first vote by the Council, a second ballot will be cast—this time with two names on it, and the top two vote-receiving candidates will be nominated.) The Holy Synod will then take the nominated candidate(s) into consideration and make their final decision by secret ballot.

Also in November, there will be an Extraordinary Archdiocesan Assembly to choose a nominee to be considered by the Holy Synod to become the new Bishop of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. This will take place on Saturday, November 15 at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Allison Park.

Among the candidates being considered for the nomination is Fr. David Mahaffey, Jr., originally from Altoona. He converted to Orthodoxy in 1975 after being raised a Methodist. After completing a late vocations program, he was ordained to the diaconate in 1981 and was later ordained to the priesthood in 1993. Fr. Mahaffey holds a Master's of Divinity from St. Tikhon's Seminary and a Master's of Theology from the University of Scranton. He became an Archpriest in 2002 and was awarded the *Palitsa* in 2006. Widowed last year in August, Fr. Mahaffey has four adult children.

The second is Archimandrite Melchizedek, originally from Dayton, Ohio, who was tonsured to the Great Schema while serving in Greece. Though born into an Orthodox family, he considers himself a convert because he came into the Church as a young adult since there was a lack of churches around when he was growing up. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1985 while studying at St. Vladimir's Seminary, where he received his Master's of Divinity. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1986.

**HOLY TRINITY 2009 PROPOSED BUDGET**

	2007 Actual	2008 Budget	2008 YTD	2009 Budget
Altar Society	\$273	\$100	\$6	\$100
Archdiocese	\$14,677	\$14,665	\$9,610	\$12,565
Bank Charge	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$100
Christian Education	\$4,309	\$1,750	\$3,703	\$3,500
Coffee Hour	\$497	\$400	\$955	\$2,000
Discretionary	\$662	\$1,200	\$1,252	\$1,500
Gertrude Hawk Candy Purch.	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,062	\$1,000
Insurance	\$1,362	\$1,400	\$1,184	\$1,400
Legal/Prof Fees	\$812	\$1,000	\$570	\$1,000
Licenses/Permits	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30
Liturgical	\$4,453	\$4,300	\$4,138	\$5,100
Misc. Non-Budgeted Expenses	\$175	\$500	\$190	\$500
Missionary/Seminarians	\$2,254	\$5,750	\$4,000	\$3,250
Office Administration	\$3,014	\$2,300	\$1,929	\$2,600
<b>Outreach &amp; Fellowship</b>	<b>\$8,261</b>	<b>\$11,550</b>	<b>\$4,459</b>	<b>\$11,100</b>
Adult Ministries	\$0	\$500	\$412	\$500
Advertising	\$2,274	\$4,000	\$1,544	\$2,500
Literature	\$393	\$1,000	\$295	\$1,000
Matthew 25	\$2,718	\$2,000	\$464	\$2,000
Miscellaneous	\$151	\$150	\$128	\$150
OCF	\$1,712	\$1,750	\$680	\$1,750
OYA	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$1,000
Parish Events	\$562	\$500	\$329	\$500
Speakers	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
TLC	\$451	\$400	\$516	\$600
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$92	\$100
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>\$65,195</b>	<b>\$69,964</b>	<b>\$47,055</b>	<b>\$98,714</b>
Custodian	\$1,931	\$1,000	\$0	\$3,900
Deacon Housing	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$12,000
Deacon Stipend	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,404
Office Assistant	\$4,010	\$4,188	\$2,792	\$4,404
Rector's Allowances	\$32,760	\$32,760	\$21,840	\$32,760
Rector's Continuing Ed	\$0	\$2,400	\$604	\$2,400
Rector's Stipend	\$25,794	\$28,416	\$18,944	\$31,596
Supply Clergy	\$700	\$1,200	\$875	\$1,250
Physical Plant	\$26,558	\$24,825	\$17,817	\$25,875
Refurnishings	\$6,225	\$2,100	\$1,060	\$1,600
Sobor	\$0	\$1,500	\$840	\$0
Utilities	\$4,842	\$5,400	\$4,512	\$7,850
<b>EXPENSE SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$144,598</b>	<b>\$149,834</b>	<b>\$104,279</b>	<b>\$179,784</b>
Equipment Amortization	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$0	\$0
<b>EXPENSE GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$149,598</b>	<b>\$152,334</b>	<b>\$104,279</b>	<b>\$179,784</b>





