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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
www.holytrinity-oca.org **May 2009** Volume 14, Number 5

FOR THOSE WHO LABOR...

by Bishop-elect Melchisedek (Thomas Pleska)

We often hear about working for the Church, about those who work for the Church, and especially about those who ought to work for the Church. There is, however, a basic misunderstanding about what it is of which work for the Church consists. It is all too often forgotten that the primary understanding of the Church about work has to do with attendance at the liturgical services of the Church. The very word “liturgy” is derived from the Greek word *leitourgia*, which has several related meanings.

In ancient Greece, it was first of all the service of a citizen at a public office at his own expense. What is emphasized is the service at public duties of the State. Later it came to mean the performance of the public religious services. But, the primary meaning has never been totally lost.

The word “liturgy” understood in its most complete sense is the public service of members in the Church. The Church has always held that the performance of its liturgical rites is primary because these “works” focus on what is primary and what justifies all of the other “works” in the Church. It is the Liturgy of the Church as experienced in Vespers, Matins, and Divine Liturgy which focuses us on Jesus Christ the Son of God, what He has done for us, and how He enables us to become as He is.

All of the fellowship, all of the educational activities, all of the charitable activities, and all the “management” activities follow from this. Without this focus on God the Father
(continued, page 2)

Consecration Update

The consecration (which literally means to declare sacred or holy) of Bishop-elect Melchisedek is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 27 at St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Allison Park.

We will have more details as well as a description of the service in the June issue of the *Trisagion*.

Planning to go or thinking about going?

Holy Trinity is considering chartering transportation to this rare and blessed event in the life of our Church. Let us know if you are interested by contacting the Parish Office at 231-2855 and check the weekly bulletin for more information.

FOR THOSE WHO LABOR... *(continued from front cover)*

who made us; God the Son, Jesus Christ, who has saved us; and the Holy Spirit, who imparts the life of God in the Holy Trinity to us, all of the other activities will inevitably break down. When the worship of the Church becomes something secondary, a duty to perform “when we have time” or for those who—I’ve been told—have “nothing better to do,” then all the other “work” of the Church breaks down; arguments begin, factions form, and all of those sinful characteristics which divide us from God and each other take the front seat.

In the early days of the Church, people were attracted to the Church not because people “evangelized” on street corners, or knocked on doors to invite people in, but rather that there was a certain something which set Christians apart from those around them. The Church was unlike any of the other organizations—religious or secular—which surrounded it. That “something” was the life in Christ, who was God made man. Before all else, the Church expects attentive attendance from its membership so that we may, in our own lives, manifest the Divine/Human nature of the Church to those around us.

St. Seraphim of Sarov, perhaps the greatest Saint of the Russian Church, said that if someone attains the peace of God, then thousands around him will be saved. The first step in attaining this peace is the devout attendance at the public services of the Church, particularly the weekend cycle Vespers and Liturgy.

This article was reprinted with permission from the OCA Diocese of New England Web site: <http://www.dneoca.org/articles/thosewholabor0391.html>.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

The last Sunday School of the 2008-2009 year will take place on Sunday, May 17 at 9:00am. Special thanks to all of our teachers: Jill Finke, Sheena Sands, and Ksenia Nemtsov (3- TO 4-YEAR-OLDS); Matushka Linda Reeves, Katie Radomsky, and Rebekah Cattell (INTERMEDIATE CLASS); and Gary Cattell (HIGH SCHOOL).

UKRAINIAN DINNER FUNDRAISER

To help celebrate Mother’s Day, you are cordially invited to come enjoy a home-cooked Ukrainian dinner in the Parish Hall following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, May 10. The dinner is being hosted by Lara Haluszczak, a student member of our parish and former OCF Vice-President. A free will offering will be accepted, and all proceeds will be directed to Lara’s summer mission to benefit needy orphans in Ukraine.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Holy Trinity returns this summer with an all-new curriculum written by Fr. John. Entitled “Take Me to the Water,” focusing on God’s creation of water and its necessity for both physical and spiritual life, VBS is an interactive, educational, and entertaining experience for children ages 4-14. It begins Monday, August 3 and ends Friday, August 7. Volunteers are needed. Look for more information in future editions of the *Trisagion*.

ALTAR SERVERS MINISTRY

Holy Trinity is looking to expand its Altar Servers ministry beginning the Sunday of Pentecost, June 7. To allow more people the opportunity to serve, we will be creating two or three alternating teams of altar servers. Now is an excellent time to become an acolyte! All current acolytes and males aged 8 and up are invited to attend an Altar Servers’ Retreat on Saturday, May 23 from 10:30am to 1:00pm at the Parish Hall. We will go over everything one needs to know to serve, get to know each other better, and enjoy lunch together. If you are interested in becoming an acolyte or attending the retreat, please see Micah Cattell or Deacon Alexander.

COMMUNITY LECTURE ON LOWER-COST FUNERAL OPTIONS

Informing area residents of the significant cost savings available when families act as their own funeral director will be the topic of a community lecture held on Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00pm at Schlow Library. The talk is presented by Dr. Laurie Mulvey, the President of the Board of Last Rights of Central Pennsylvania, who argues that families struggling financially during the economic downturn may find this option easier and more infinitely more rewarding than is commonly thought. Last Rights of Central Pennsylvania is a Centre County organization that helps individuals and families make informed choices about the care of their deceased loved ones.

MARRIAGE COVENANT SIGNED

On Bright Friday (April 24), Fr. John and Dn. Alexander represented Holy Trinity in the signing of the State College Marriage Covenant, an historic collaboration of two dozen area churches. By committing to preparation standards already in place at our parish, we were able to take a stand at a time when the number of marriages in our community is declining and traditional marriage is under attack. Now more than 200 cities and towns have entered into this program. The immediate benefit of this program to our parish is that it grants us access to material that can be used to train mentors that can help those preparing to marry as well as strengthen existing partners. If you and your spouse are interested in becoming a mentor couple, please see Fr. John.

HOLY DAYS AND FEASTS DURING MAY

Leavetaking of Pascha

Daily Vespers, May 26, 7pm
Divine Liturgy, May 27, 9am

Ascension of Our Lord

Great Vespers w/ Litya, May 27, 7pm
Divine Liturgy, May 28, 9am

CHRIST IS RISEN: A TO Z

This month we will formally say “goodbye” to the Paschal season with Leavetaking Vespers and Divine Liturgy. Until then, here’s a list of some of the more unknown greetings from around the world:

Aleut	Khristus anahgrecum! Alhecum anahgrecum!
Byelorussian	Khrystos uvaskros! Saprawdy uvaskros!
Czech	Kristus vstal a mrtvych! Opravdi vstoupil!
Dutch	Christus is opgestaan! Ja, hij is waarlijk opgestaan!
Eritrean-Tigre	Christos tensiou! Bahake tensiou!
Finnish	Kristus nousi kuolleista! Totistesti nousi!
Gaelic	Kriost eirgim! Eirgim!
Hawai’ian	Ua ala hou ‘o Kristo! Ua ala ‘i ‘o no ‘oia!
Icelandic	Kristur er upprisinn! Hann er vissulega upprisinn!
Japanese	Harisutos Fukkatsu! Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!
Korean	Kristo gesso! Buhar ha sho nay!
Latvian	Kristus ir augsham sales! Teyasham ir augsham sales vinsch!
Malayalam	Christu uyirthezhunnettu! Theerchayayum uyirthezhunnettu!
Norwegian	Christus er oppstanden! Sandelig han er oppstanden!
Ossetic	Tcheureuchti raigah chiche! Tcheureuchti ma com den bar feleude!
Polish	Khristus zmartwyckwsta! Zaprawde zmartwyckwsta!
Quenyan	Ortanne Laivino! Anwa ortanne Laivino!
Romanian	Hristos a inviat! Adeverat a inviat!
Swedish	Christus ar upstanden! Han ar verkligen upstanden!
Tlingit	Xristos Kuxwoo-digoot! Xegaa-kux Kuxwoo-digoot!
Ugandan	Kristo ajukkide! Kweli ajukkide!
Vietnamese	Chúa ki-tô đã phục sinh! Qu a thật ngài đã phục sinh!
Welsh	Atgyfododd Crist! Atgyfododd yn wir!
Xhosa	uKrestu uvukile! Ngenene uvukile!
Yupik	Xris-tusaaq Ung-uixtuq! Iluumun Ung-uixtuq!
Zulu	Ukristu uvukile! Uvukile kuphela!

MAY SCHEDULES

Coffee Hour

May 3 — Ellen George and Anne-Therese Pelikan
May 10 — Anne Swisher and Corene Swisher
May 17 — Karen Cattell and Jean Miranda
May 24 — Russian Ladies
May 31 — Leslyn Radomsky and Julianne Vaughan

Greeters

May 3 — Megan Propst and David Swisher
May 10 — Bob Roberts and Ed Miranda
May 17 — Leslyn Radomsky and Mark Radomsky
May 24 — Melody Thompson and Mark Fedkin
May 31 — Megan Leathers and David Swisher

FROM THE DESK OF DEACON ALEXANDER

At the end of last month, over a dozen members of the 2008-2009 Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship gathered together for one last time for an end-of-the-year picnic at Spring Creek Park. Everything about the event—the good food, the great attendance, the fun had by all—was reflective of a fellowship that has truly grown and transformed in the past couple of months, thanks to the efforts of strong student leadership and a committed core of faithful young adults who rose to the occasion.

The year was not without its trials. Suffering from a drop in membership because of attrition, experiencing a breakdown in communication, and struggling from a lack of shared vision, concerns were raised about the future of our OCF. At the end of the Fall Semester, Fr. John and I posed a challenge to the group: Renew your commitment to social outreach, restore your evangelical focus, and grow the fellowship.

Instead of becoming embittered or throwing in the towel, OCF was emboldened. Special elections took place. Organizational meetings were expanded to encompass the entire active membership, involving everyone in the planning of fun, spiritually-meaningful outreach events. Service projects were executed specifically aimed at ministering to our immediate community. And thanks to the ongoing prayers and support of the entire Holy Trinity family, I was able to dramatically expand my office hours: time dedicated to ministering to students on campus.

The efforts paid off. Dozens of new students, many of them not Orthodox, were attracted to OCF events, like bowling and PSU Suppers. Thousands of dollars were raised to combat childhood cancer. Most importantly, by working together to overcome some difficult setbacks, our students have formed an unbreakable and lifelong bond with one another, and OCF at Penn State remains a leader and a model for campus ministry nationwide.



Members of the Penn State Orthodox Christian Fellowship enjoy the unseasonably warm weather of Thomas Sunday at their End-of-the-Year picnic at Spring Creek Park.