Metropolitan Christopher Reposes in the Lord

His Eminence Metropolitan Christopher fell asleep in the Lord at his residence at St. Sava Monastery in Libertyville, IL on the evening of August 18 at the age of 81, with his family by his side. His Eminence had been diagnosed with advanced cancer of the brain and bones only weeks earlier.

His Eminence was born Velimir Kovachevich on December 25, 1928 in Galveston, Texas, the ninth of twelve children born to parents Petar and Rista who had immigrated by 1925 from Montenegro. They had brought with them their Serbian Orthodox faith and traditions, which they passed on to their children.

From a very early age young Velimir exhibited a love and devotion for Christ and His Church. He helped the priests in church and developed a desire to dedicate himself to God’s service. Following graduation from high school in Galveston, he enrolled in the Serbian Orthodox seminary at St. Sava Monastery in Libertyville, IL, where he was blessed to be taught by St. Bishop Nicholai of Zica. He also had the opportunity to accompany his diocesan bishop on visits to numerous parishes. He also studied during this time at the Episcopalian Nashotah House Seminary in Wisconsin.

Many years later Nashotah House bestowed on him a Doctor of Divinity degree in honoris causa in recognition of his exemplary ministries as parish priest and diocesan bishop, his courageous support for education, ecumenical dialogue, and the monastic life, his championing of church unity, and his leadership of the Serbian Orthodox Church in this country.

Having completed his seminary studies, Velimir moved to Akron, Ohio where he attended the University of Akron. It was in Akron that he met his future wife, Milka Raicevich. They married on September 20, 1951, and on November 25th of that same year, he was ordained a deacon in the Serbian Orthodox Church. In 1960 he was decorated with the red sash and on p. 3

Shadeland Church Consecrated at Diocese Day

A long-standing goal of Serbian Orthodox Christians from throughout the Eastern American Diocese was realized on August 8 with the consecration of the Dormition of the Most Holy Mother of God monastery church at St. Sava Camp in Shadeland, PA. The consecration service was led by host Bishop His Grace Dr. Mitrophan (right) and His Grace Bishop Longin of New Gracanica-Midwest America (left).
With summer almost behind us we think about new beginnings on many levels. Those of us with children in an Orthodox way of life think about a new school year, new Sunday school educational opportunities and perhaps changing gears from vacation mode back to work and “busy” life. In other words, a new and fresh beginning is presented to us in September of each year.

Similarly, our Holy Orthodox Church with her calendar offers us this very same shift. The Ecclesiastical New Year or the beginning of the Indiction is an awesome opportunity to begin our life, as we should every day, by renewing our hope in the promises of our Lord in our salvation and eternal life with Him. The beginning of the Church Year is celebrated on September 14th (September 1st on Julian calendar).

How many of us would like to have a new beginning? Imagine the possibility of erasing yesterday’s mistakes and starting anew. As we approach January of each New Year we tend to think about making changes to better our life and relationships with God and others. It is all too common to give up on resolveable changes, thinking that the new year cannot happen. Is that really so?

Our Lord Jesus Christ entered the synagogue on September 1st and read prophet Isaiah’s words: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn (Isaiah 61:1-2)”. These prophetic words were fulfilled that day in Christ, Who is our salvation and our hope. Each day He calls us to begin anew. By our participation in the sacramental life of the Church (i.e., confession), we can erase our sins and continuously be renewed. The Apostle Paul in his Epistle to the Romans links this hope for the glory that shall be revealed in us (Romans 8:18) to another and continuously be renewed. The Apostle Paul in his Epistle to the Romans that it is up to us to recognize that and utilize them in the proper way. Steward...
Metropolitan Christopher Reposes in the Lord

Continued from p. 3

began as the Third Bishop of Serbian Patriarchal German, Bishop of Banat Visitation and Bishop of Midwest America Fruition in Pentecost Sunday. He became the first American-born bishop to be consecrated by the Holy Cross Bishop of the Serbian Orthodox Theological Seminary, lacking only his doctoral dissertation.

In the Eastern Diocese, Bishop Christopher developed a diocesan-wide program in religious education and administration of all church administration and publications. He was instrumental in founding the Canadian Diocese in 1983 as a separate diocese in recognition of its growth and development. He also represented the Serbian Orthodox Church on the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA). Just this past May he participated in the first North American Episcopal Assembly, which replaces SCOBA and promises to bring an era of greater cooperation between the sister Orthodox jurisdictions on this continent.

In 1991, the Serbian Holy Assembly of Bishops elevated the Midwest Diocese to the status of Metropolitanate and appointed Bishop Christopher to the new see, elevating him to the rank of Metropolitan. In moving to St. Sava Monastery, now the See of the Metropolitanate of Midwestern American and Headquarters of the Episcopal Council and Central Council of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada, Metropolitan Christopher’s life again took him from the Pittsburgh area to Chicago.

Metropolitan Christopher served as Dean of the St. Sava Orthodox School of Theology, which was re-established in 1986. He was instrumental in getting official recognition from the Illinois State Board of Higher Education for the school, which grants it authority to confer a Bachelor of Divinity Degree. He worked tirelessly on the administration of the metropolitanate and as the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Council and the Central Council. Under his leadership great improvements were made to the monastery church, cemetery and grounds, and greater attention was given to religious education.

As senior hierarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA and Canada, he was a frequent visitor to Washington as an official representative of our church to address the break-up and wars in the former Yugoslavia, and an outspoken defender of the churches, monasteries and Serbian faithful in that region.

In 2009 Metropolitan Christopher’s long-time goal of true administrative unity of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North America was achieved through a reorganization of the Church here which saw him voluntarily give up most of his diocesan duties to the newly-formed New Gracanica-Midwest diocese, while he retained his oomophor only St. Sava Monastery in Libertyville and the St. Sava Cathedral in Chicago. This was indicative of his great love for the Church, placing Her interests above all else.

In 2010 Metropolitan Christopher left behind his four children and nine grandchildren, as well as countless spiritual sons and daughters who are indebted to him for his pastoral love, guidance and generosity towards the church and hierarch.

Funeral Services

The body of His Eminence Metropolitan Christopher arrived at his Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Chicago on the morning of Monday, August 23, where it was met at the Cathedral doors by His Grace Bishop Maxim of the Western America Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

A Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated shortly thereafter by His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel of the Romanian Episcopate (O.C.A.), His Grace Bishops Georgije of Canada, Longin of the New Gracanica – Midwest Diocese, Metropolitan of the Eastern Diocese, Irenej of Australia and New Zealand, Peter of Cleveland, Vicar of Midwest Diocese (Russian Orthodox Church Abroad), and Mark - Diocese of Toledo and Midwest (Antiochian Orthodox Church). In attendance were Their Graces Bishop Maximo of the Western American Diocese and Bishop Ilija of Philomelion, Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America.

Addressing the hierarchs, clergy, family members, and faithful people at the liturgy, His Grace Bishop Mitrophan in his eulogy thanked the reposed Metropolitan Christopher (Ukrainian), and Demetrios of Mokissos (Greek Metropolitan of Chicago). The service was also attended by ecumenical representatives of other Christian bodies, as well as the Archbishop of Brno-Herzegovina His Grace Bishop Dr. Mitrophan of the Eastern Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church, His Grace Bishop Georgije of Canada, His Grace Bishop Irinej of Australia and New Zealand, Peter of Cleveland, Vicar of Midwest Diocese (Russian Orthodox Church Abroad), and Mark - Diocese of Toledo and Midwest (Antiochian Orthodox Church). In attendance were Their Graces Bishop Maximo of the Western American Diocese and Bishop Ilija of Philomelion, Albanian Orthodox Diocese of America.

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Metropolitan Christopher Reposes in the Lord

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Metropolitan Christopher was also eulogized by His Beatitude Patriarch Irinej, His Grace Bishop Peter of the ROCOR, and Fr. Dr. John Behr, Dean of St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary where Metropolitan Christopher taught. The Board of Trustees for many years, while letters of condolence were read by His Grace Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos on behalf of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and His Grace Bishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

Following the funerary service, Cathedral Dean Fr. Darko Spasovjevic invited the visiting hierarchy, dignitaries, clergy and parishioners to the Cathedral hall for a light meal prepared by parishioners.

Burial and Ducha

Eulogizing Metropolitan Christopher in a moving sermon, His Grace Bishop Irinej of Australia and New Zealand, among many words of praise, stated that: “we have lost a very strong spiritual and administrative leader who helped foster bilingual church services and schooling, and had a profound spiritual influence on the lives of many people during his 60 years of pastoral service to Christ’s holy Church.”

After the procession to the grave site on the south side of the Monastery church with the late Metropolitan’s earthly remains, Very Reverend Fr. Nikola Ceko, Dean of the St. Spyridon Cathedral in Alhambra, California who had grown up with the late Metropolitan as his parish priest, bid farewell to the Metropolitan at his graveside, saying: “that during his long history as priest and then as hierarch, Metropolitan Christopher had to make many challenging decisions which were not always popular, but always right and in accordance with the teaching of the Gospel and the sacred order of the Church.”

After the burial of the Metropolitan of blessed repose, a memorial luncheon was offered at the hall of Holy Resurrection Cathedral in Chicago during which Rev. Fr. Darko Spasovjevic, Cathedral Dean, thanked everybody for their prayers and support and introduced V. Rev. Fr. Dennis Pavichevich, the Metropolitan’s Deputy who gave a very moving and compassionate speech, recollecting his personal memories of Metropolitan Christopher, who had also been his parish priest in his youth. Many representatives of different church affiliated organizations addressed the family and the people present: Mrs. Danijela Randjelovic, President of the St. Sava Monastery Women’s Auxiliary Organization, Mrs. Yvonne Ortich, 1st Vice President of the Serbian Singing Federation, Mrs. Biljana Servic, President of the Executive Board of the Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, V. Rev. Djokan Majstorovic, President of the Clergy Brotherhood of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America, Mr. Constantine Triantafillou, Director of JCC of which Metropolitan Christopher was a strong supporter, and Mr. Dusko Rakic, a longtime friend and parishioner from St. Archangel Michael Parish and the late Metropolitan’s co-worker on the Central Church Council. Finally, Metropolitan Christopher’s son, Mr. Petar Kovačevich, shared personal memories of his father as a family man and on behalf of the entire family thanked all for their thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

At its meeting earlier that day, the Board of Trustees of the Serbian Orthodox Church appointed His Holiness Serbian Patriarch Irinej as locum tenens of the widowed Metropolitan. May Metropolitan Christopher’s memory be eternal, and may God grant Him rest, joy and peace in His presence with all the saints and righteous departed!

Left: The hierarchy lead the people in giving the last kiss at the conclusion of Metropolitan Christopher’s funeral service. Below: “The family of the late Metropolitan stood at the head of the congregation during the funeral liturgy.”

EULOGY OF HIS GRACE BISHOP DR. MITROPHAN

Continued from p. 2.

His Eminence was also an educated and accomplished historian. He was intimately familiar with the application of the Holy Gospel for the benefit of Serbian Orthodox parishes. His Eminence took great joy in being among children. He loved to see children in the church school, summer camps and at St. Sava celebrations. His Eminence was also an educated and accomplished historian. He started as a young man in theological studies and continued from p. 1.

He continued grew as a servant of Christ and a leader for Christ throughout His life. His Eminence advanced and grew during His years as a parish priest. He continued to advance and grow during his years in the Episcopacy. He had the benefit of a perspective that developed from a range of experiences and which was refined by continued learning.

His Eminence was full of the love of Christ. He was conciliatory. He was firm in principles and steadfast in the face of adversity. His Eminence formed lasting relationships with countless men, women and children during his many years of serving and leading in the Serbian Orthodox Church. His reputation as a Christian leader extends well beyond the Serbian Orthodox Church. Christian educators remember and cherish their times with Him. Choir members remember His service in many different churches across this country. Christian educators remember and cherish their times with Him. Choir members remember His service in many different churches across the United States. His Eminence was a family man and on behalf of the entire family thanked all for their thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. He loved to see children in the church school, summer camps and at St. Sava celebrations.

You loved your Serbian people. I was a witness of this when we were in Washington D.C. during the merciless and unjust NATO bombardment of Serbia and Montenegro 1999, and how you vehemently criticized the politics of that time. But above all, you loved God and His Holy Church. You demonstrated this clearly in your good and holy contribution to the golden rule. May the Lord Jesus Christ reward you with a heavenly reward. May you say along with the Holy Apostle Paul: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4, 7). May you hear His divine words: “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord” (Mt. 25, 21). May your memory be eternal! Vjecnia Ti punjat! I Bog da Ti duoc prosij! AMEN!
EULOGY BY HIS GRACE BISHOP GEORGIJE OF CANADA

Continued from p. 3

cil as well as in the Episcopal revived around him. Gregory the Theologian who said: “Let us accept everything for the sake of God the Word (Christ), through suffering let us imitate His sufferings, by our love for God let us treat ourselves to blood, let us voluntarily proceed to the cross”.

Metropolitan Christopher of blessed memory constantly strove to live in accordance with Christ’s Gospel and to serve the Church. He lived a monastic life – Christ-bearer – and sealed it with his life. Similar to St. Ignatius of Antioch and to God’s Righteous Apostle Paul, who expressed that mystery “is it no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me…” (Gal 2:20), as well as his heavenly protector, St. Christopher the martyr, our Metropolitan strove to carry God within himself and to measure his steps with the will of God. With such faith and love, which raises us up to the measure of growth in Christ Vladika Christopher aspired to the measure of Him who is “the only physician both bodily and spiritual, born and unborn, God manifested in body, in death true life, and from Mary and from the God-bearer, God manifested in body, in death true life, and from Mary and from the God-bearing Apostle Paul, who lived in accordance with Christ’s Gospel and in harmony with his monastic name, and constantly aspired to unity, even when suffering and bearing various temptations, following the words of St. Gregory the Theologian who said: “Let us accept everything for the sake of God the Word (Christ), through suffering let us imitate His sufferings, by our love for God let us treat ourselves to blood, let us voluntarily proceed to the cross”. What such love and meaning this Godly man walked in this confused and proud world. But, joy through death is manifested, for he has given rise to our existence, as the God-bearing Apostle states: “For none of us live to himself, and none dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord” (Romans 14:7-8). And through Christ Resurrection we hope for the general resurrection, where we will meet and glorify God, for “If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so will God bring with him those who sleep in Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 4:14).

In his constant struggle Metropolitana Christopher did not pity himself. He justified his existence, fulfilled his task and brought unity to the Church on this continent. The struggle was great but Metropolitan Christopher’s energy was even greater. Whatever he spoke he confirmed by his deeds. He never did anything for himself, but only for the Church. Thus it was not difficult for him to “give away” his whole Diocese, unite the people and strengthen them, and, in return he will hear these words: “Well done, good and faithful servant; enter you into the joy of your Lord.”

We pray to the Lord that this godly man walked in this confused and proud world. But, joy through death is manifested, for he has given rise to our existence, as the God-bearing Apostle states: “For none of us live to himself, and none dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord” (Romans 14:7-8). And through Christ Resurrection we hope for the general resurrection, where we will meet and glorify God, for “If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so will God bring with him those who sleep in Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 4:14).

The life of Metropolitan Christopher is not precious only because of his conscientious fulfillment of his parish and archpastoral duties. He had a great role in the period from 1963, when court case division and division within the Church on this continent ruined her reputation and devastated resources and energy. The then Protopresbyter Velimir Kovacevic was the main interpreter of the truth, an active participant and court translator. He was uncompromising in the struggle for Church unity, for which he acquired a great reputation.

Our Most Reverend Vladika truly protected the meaning of the Church, and constantly aspired to unity, even when suffering and bearing various temptations, following the words of St. Gregory the Theologian who said: “Let us accept everything for the sake of God the Word (Christ), through suffering let us imitate His sufferings, by our love for God let us treat ourselves to blood, let us voluntarily proceed to the cross”.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

The Hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA Send Condolences to the Hierarchs, Clergy and Faithful of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America on the Repose of Metropolitan Christopher.

To our brethren in the Lord: Hierarchs, venerable clergy, devout monastics and Christ-loving faithful of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America. Glory to Jesus Christ!

It has only been a few hours since that moment when the servant of God, His Eminence Metropolitan Christopher departed this physical world and was born unto eternal life. This just, forbearing and faithful steward, through whose hands, Almighty God, One in the Holy Trinity, blessed all His Children in the land of North and South Americas, and whose voice never ceased to proclaim the word of truth – the Gospel message in a land enriched by the witness of so many saints.

The venerable clergy and devout laity of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the United States of America join us with our brothers in the Episcopacy, His Eminence Archbishop Antony and His Grace Bishop Daniel in expressing our most heartfelt condolences to Metropolitan Christopher’s loved ones in the Patriarchate of Antioch and all those in North and South America, with whom we share a sacred union through the waters of Baptism and the oil of Chrismation. With you, our Serbian Orthodox brothers and sisters, we most sincerely implore Christ our true God, risen from the dead, Who rules over the living and the dead, to rest the soul of His faithful servant, Metropolitan Christopher, in the bosom of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and to appoint him to his place at your heavenly altar.

We assure you of our prayers for the blessed repose and eternal memory of the devout servant of God, Metropolitan Christopher throughout this forty day period of reflection – prayers also for the comfort of you, his eternal children.

Memory eternal! Memory eternal! Memory eternal!

†Constantine Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.
Antony Archbishop and President of the Consistory.
Daniel Bishop of the Western Eparchy.

Cross Raising in Denver

To the joy of the faithful of St. John the Baptist parish in Denver, Colorado, the cross was blessed which was placed on top of the church dome on Saturday, August 7, 2010, the feast day of the Dormition of the Theotokos. The cross, which was donated and built by Radomir Petrovic, the parish priest, blessed the cross with a large number of faithful parishioners in attendance. At the end of the service Fr. Radovan greeted all present and spoke of the significance of this event in the life of this mission parish. Also, he expressed his hope that the sign of the Cross will worthyly represent and adorn the house of God.

Fr. Radovan designed the cross which was donated and built by Radomir Jugovic, Jasmina Kruska and Dusan Vukovic. Stainless steel was used in its construction, which was later painted in a gold color. Branco Mocne and Fr. Radovan Petrovic installed the cross on top of the bell tower, 36 feet high, to the applause of all faithful present.

The priest opened the doors of the church for the first time to showing the interior of the completed church. All were pleasantly surprised by the renovated church. Fr. Radovan presented all information regarding the work on the church, the costs and financing as well as information on the iconostasis and the church inventory. He mentioned that the church inventory which the church currently has was used by the first Serbian Church in Chicago, on Miller Street, as well as the first Serbian church in Omaha, Nebraska. The iconostasis was purchased by the St. Nicholas Church in Cadatly for $15,000. Besides donations, the church has taken a $50,000 loan to cover all renovation costs. The iconostasis was purchased through parishioner donations. The parish is awaiting final inspections and permits before using the church.

We pray to St. John to strengthen us all that we endure to the completion of this God pleasing deed and that we shortly may begin using the first Serbian Orthodox Church in Colorado.

The original Denver parish, called Holy Transfiguration, goes back to 1898 when four Serbian miners and three Russians established a church in Globeville which was then called “Serbo-Russian.” It is said that it was visited by Archbishop Tikhon, the future Patriarch of Moscow and new Confessor of the Orthodox faith. And to this day that parish is attended by twenty-five Serbian native families, even though it belongs to the Orthodox Church in America (OCA), still colloquially using the title “Russian-Serbian.” St. John’s was established later to specifically serve those of Serbian background.

LIFE IN CHRIST...

Continued from p. 2

ship, a faithful management of our life and possessions, is something that we are called to exercise unselfishly and cheerfully.

Metropolitan Christopher’s earthly life has ended. We pray that his new life, a life in God’s everlasting Kingdom has begun. The future generation will look upon his life and talk about “the love the Lord had for his bishop, e.g. in the service of education, the rediscovery of Christian Stewardship as a total commitment to the good management of God’s gifts, the reorganization of the dioceses of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America, the establishment of an Office of the Procathedral Church, the frescoes in St. Sava monastery, and the St. Nicholas of Zichau annual pilgrimage at St. Sava monastery, to name just a few. In short, he lived a life in Christ with perseverance and trust in God’s guidance, and in harmony with his monastic name, and constantly aspired to unity, even when suffering and bearing various temptations, following the words of St. Gregory the Theologian who said: “Let us accept everything for the sake of God the Word (Christ), through suffering let us imitate His sufferings, by our love for God let us treat ourselves to blood, let us voluntarily proceed to the cross”.

So, what does the Beginning of the Church Year offer to us? It offers a new beginning with hope in transformation into a new person whose sustenance and life is Jesus Christ. It presents us with the opportunity to claim the Church calendar as a main rudder for our life activities are centered on Feast Days rather then holidays.

Finally, life centered on Christ is only possible through perseverance, hope and trust in God’s guidance, knowing that apart from Him we can do nothing. 

Protopresbyter Bratiso Krusic

The Path of Orthodoxy
Shadeland Church Consecrated at Diocese Day

Continued from p. 1

The consecration service was led by host Bishop His Grace Dr. Mitrophan and His Grace Bishop Longin of New Gracanica-Midwest America, along with a great number of the clergy and faithful. The Consecration was the high point of this year’s Diocesan Day.

Construction of the church began in the 1970’s, when the walls were built and it was put under roof. The church remained an unfinished shell which was occasionally used for services but which, despite the ardent desire of many, could not be completed due to costs. It was felt that limited resources were more urgently needed for improvements to the St. Sava Children’s Camp there, which serves to build up the living Body of Christ. The Camp has undergone major improvements over the past decade; which has opened it up for year-round use and which has helped to vastly improve the camp program.

But the unfinished church building was never forgotten. When money finally became available, Bishop Mitrophan, the Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Assembly all pushed for the completion of the church. Architectural plans were developed with the guidance of Bishop Mitrophan and the Diocese’s Shadeland Committee, and construction began last year on completing the church. The roof was replaced and the dome restored and sealed. A radiant heating system was installed in the new floor, and the interior walls, electric, and plumbing were all brought in line with building codes and needs. A parking lot was installed and paved and the area was landscaped with a new impressive entrance-way. Flooring and carpeting were installed and the iconostasis and chandelier were put into place. Mr. John Rustin of Johnstown’s St. Nicholas parish spent much time and effort in overseeing the project, and Bishop Mitrophan visited often, guiding the work.

The consecration service took place on Sunday, August 8th beginning at 9:00 AM. The consecration of a church building has many similarities to baptism and chrismation. The altar is washed with sanctified water, rose water and wine and anointed with Holy Chrism. The relics of a saint are enclosed in the altar, icons of the four Evangelists are affixed to the four corners with wax mastic, and the altar is vested. The sacred items are blessed and arranged on the altar table and the table of preparation, the bishop lights a candle from which all other candles in the church are lit, and the walls of the church are sprinkled with sanctified water and anointed with Holy Chrism. All these actions show that the entire temple is being made “holy to the Lord,” set aside for His work and service, and dedicated to His glory. As this temple is dedicated to the Dormition of the Mother of God Ever-Virgin Mary, it is placed under her particular protection and intercession.

Assisting Their Graces Bishops Mitrophan and Longin were 29 priests and six deacons. One of them, Diocesan secretary Deacon Dragoslav Konic, was ordained to the Holy Priesthood during the Divine Liturgy. Several other priests were in attendance as well. Responses were sung by the SSS Njegosh Choir of Cleveland, directed by Milan Damjanovic, and by the Shadeland campers. The church was packed with hundreds of people, with many others listening to the service on speakers set up outside. A large number of the faithful received the Holy Eucharist from two chalices.

The honored sponsor or Kum for the consecration, Mr. Mitchell Zunich of St. George Church in Lorain, Ohio, stood at the front of the congregation with a lighted candle and the Serbian tri-color sash of kruna throughout the service. Mr. Zunich has long been very active and involved in the work of the Serbian Orthodox Church, not only in his home parish but also on the diocesan and national levels, and this honor testifies to the high regard in which he is held.

The traditional Diocesan Day Serbian picnic followed the services. The huge crowd of visitors enjoyed barbecued lamb and pig and many other Serbian specialties, along with Serbian music. The highlight of the afternoon was the program of song and dance by the St. Sava Campers, who again delighted and amazed the crowd with their professional performance, put together during just one week of camp. Bishops Longin and Mitrophan both addressed the crowd, as did consecration Kum Mitch Zunich. Camp Director Prota Zivojin Jakovljevic was master of ceremonies for the program. Many of the estimated 1,000 in attendance enjoyed the music and dancing into the evening, while others got in some fishing on the lake or just took in the beautiful grounds.

Diocesan Day also marked the final day of the 2010 camp season at Shadeland. The season was another great success: a fourth week was added this year, and each week was filled with happy young people learning more about their Orthodox faith and their Serbian heritage, making new friends and having a great time.

His Grace expressed his gratitude to all those who had worked and planned to make this very special Diocesan Day a great success. Members of the diocese’s Shadeland Committee, the women of the diocesan Federation of Circles of Serbian Sisters, and many volunteers from diocesan parishes all worked together to make the day possible.

Bishop Mitrophan hopes to be able to crown the Shadeland property with the re-establishment of a working monastic community there, where prayers would constantly be offered for the church and the world and where the faithful could come for spiritual refreshment. Through the prayers of the Most Holy Theotokos, to whom Shadeland is dedicated, may God continue to bless and expand this spiritual oasis.
New York, NY (GOA Press Office) -- The growing controversy over the construction of a mosque in close proximity to ground zero has raised a new awareness of the plight of the faithful of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, which was completely destroyed when World Trade Center Tower Two collapsed on it on 9/11. On Wednesday, August 18, 2010, Fox News aired a special report on the church, transforming what primarily had been a local/regional issue into a national one. The following day, Fox reported that New York City’s Port Authority officials alleged that the issue was “dead.”

For the following day, the New York City-based Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America issued a statement concerning the church, the complete text of which reads as follows:

“As is well known, on September 11, 2001, our city and nation suffered a terror attack of unparalleled proportions. In addition to the tragic and horrific loss of almost 3,000 innocent victims, a number of whom were members of our own community, the world witnessed the unimaginable collapse of two skyscrapers. When the second tower fell, it landed on and erased all traces of the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Nicholas and its Hierarchical Liturgy served by His Grace Bishop Dr. Maxim and visiting clergy. This day opened in 1916 by a group of Greek immigrants, the church not only served the spiritual needs of its parishioners but was also a sacred space in which people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds worked in the surrounding area would often stop, light a candle and spend a few moments in prayer and reflection. The destruction of 9/11, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Saint Nicholas parish fully cooperated and worked closely with the relevant authorities.

“Following the events of 9/11, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Saint Nicholas parish fully cooperated and worked closely with the relevant authorities. The church honoring the long standing agreement with the Port Authority. Confident that we have acted with good faith and integrity in Almaghy God, we expect that justice will prevail and that we will be successful in this sacred endeavor.”

To find links to news broadcasts, to learn more about Saint Nicholas Church, or to donate for rebuilding efforts, visit www.goarch.org.

Deacon Christopher Rocknage
Ordained Priest

Fr. Christopher Rocknage is led around the altar by his father, Prota Stevo Rocknage, and his father-in-law Prota Ilija Balach in preparation for his ordination to the Holy Priesthood on August 22 in McKeesport, PA.

Deacon Christopher Rocknage was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by His Grace Bishop Dr. Mitrophan of Eastern America and the USA at his home parish of St. Sava in McKeesport, PA on August 22, before a packed church and numerous family and friends. He had been the renovated Tsar Lazar Men’s Chorus of Pittsburgh.

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The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother of the tribe of Judah. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams.

For He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. He illumined them not only with temporal joy, but with eternal joy as well. God gave them just one daughter, and she would later give them just one grandson—but what a daughter and what a Grandson! Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Mother of God, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Grail, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Good, the Most-pure One. For He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. Hence, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother of the tribe of Judah.

Mary was present throughout Jesus’ life and ministry. Mary was there for many important events, including the Wedding at Cana, the Crucifixion, and the communal prayers immediately following Christ’s Ascension. Mary was present throughout Jesus’ life and ministry. Mary was there for many important events, including the Wedding at Cana, the Crucifixion, and the communal prayers immediately following Christ’s Ascension. She was standing on a rock. On the spot where she stood, a spring of healing water sprang forth: the Holy Theotokos. On the spot where she stood, a spring of healing water sprang forth: the Holy Theotokos. From earth to heaven, and in that flaming pillar he saw the indescribable miracle of the world, from her most-pure virgin body.

The Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos

Feast Day is Celebrated on September 21 (Sept.8, Julian Calendar)

Did you know:

• The title of Theotokos was officially recognized by Third Ecumenical Council held in 431. Theotokos literally means “God Bearer.”

• An early term for Mary was Queen Mother,” since Jesus was referred to as the “King of Kings.” This was also thought in reference to the fact that Mary is a descendant of the line of King David and, therefore, from the tribe of Judah.

• Mary was present throughout Jesus’ life and ministry. Mary was there for many important events, including the Wedding at Cana, the Crucifixion, and the communal prayers immediately following Christ’s Ascension.

Virgin Mary the Mother of God

It would be hard to even think of an Orthodox Church without a beautiful icon of Mary holding her son Jesus. The Blessed Mother holds a special place within the Orthodox Church, the Orthodox calendar and hearts of Orthodox Christians throughout the world.

Youth in the West speaks about the camp experience

Through the eye of a needle: poverty and wealth in the Orthodox Church

by Father Bratislav Krivc

This year’s camp theme was put together by the Standing Committee for Christian Education of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America. The theme was:”Through the eye of a needle: poverty and wealth in the Orthodox Church.” It was pointed out that in the Gospels our Lord often makes analogies in order to help us comprehend His teachings. One such example was given from the Gospel according to St. Matthew 14:20, where the Lord used the mustard seed as an analogy to faith, which can become great and even move mountains. God is always there to help us and can make our faith great, even if our faith starts out as tiny as a mustard seed. God’s help, nothing is impossible.

The comments that youth provided on this year’s camp theme and overall camp ministry are an encouragement for further development of this very important ministry to the children of our Church. Here are some of those comments:

- Poverty and wealth has to do with the amount of life and support I have in my life. Those who keep others away from Christ and His Church are poor, while those who practice their faith and are kind and loving are wealthy.

- At camp this year I learned that wealth isn’t about money, rather it is about what you do with it. The role that faith plays in my life is the center and the guideline that I live by. The only way to gain eternal life is to follow our Lord each day of our lives. Sometimes we think that we are good, moral persons, but God always wants us to try harder and to seek perfection in order to gain eternal life.

- Poverty and wealth is one of those topics that we need to talk about more, but what’s even more important is to practice what our Orthodox Church teaches us, that is, to share what God has entrusted us with. It is important not to judge others if they don’t share their gifts, rather say a prayer for them so that they realize what God gave them and that it belongs to Him after all. Especially during these times people seem to be preoccupied with worries about their wealth and money, but we should realize that the most important thing is our relationship with God.

- I learned this year that being rich and having money does not bring you happiness, it actually prevents you from being open to God. That is why I practice my faith, I go to church and participate in events as much as I can. I understand that as many wealthy people there are in the world, there are even poorer and less fortunate. The ones that are more fortunate could probably help even more to reduce poverty.”

Scriptural Quotations for This Month

St. John 6:51

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

From the Holy Fathers

“The best inheritance you can leave your sons, the richest dowries you can prepare for your daughters, is a truly Christian upbringing.”

- Bishop Irenaius

Reflection

St. Dionysius the Areopagite writes of the immeasurable joy, the outer and inner radiance, and the indescribable fragrance that he sensed in the presence of the Holy Theotokos when he visited her in Jerusalem. In his zeal, he says that if he had not known the One True God, he would have recognized her, the Holy Virgin Mary, as God. The Holy Virgin made such a powerful and unique impression on men during her earthly life and she received an incomparably greater power and glory after her physical death when, by the will of God, she was exalted above the heavenly hosts. Her power comes from her ceaseless prayer for the faithful, for all those who turn to her for help. St. John of Novgorod and his people prayed to her for help against a hostile army, he understood that she was simultaneously praying to the Lord with tears in their behalf, and Novgorod was miraculously saved. As she was compassionate toward her crucified Son, so the Holy Most-pure One is also compassionate toward all those in need, to, where, after the priest prayed over him before the icon of the Holy Theotokos, he received his sight. The first monk at Pochaev saw a fiery pillar extending from earth to heaven, and in that flaming pillar he saw the Holy Theotokos. She was standing on a rock. On the spot where she stood, a spring of healing water sprang forth: even today, it heals many of the sick.
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Five Very Good Reasons to Attend Church Weekly

by Fr. Demetrios Karadas
(Reprinted from Orthodox Observer, July 1994)

It is not easy to accept reality; especially if the facts, attitudes, and so many silent desires to our desires, happen around us. We all need an open door in someone’s life, in order to assist the situations and understand what we call “lack of participation”.

Often we become slaves of habitual patterns, comfortable easy conditions, scheduled obligations, necessary duties or impossible circumstances that keep us away from private of social involvement that serves God and our fellow men, women, and children.

Let us face some details. Let us come closer to certain real examples. Let us be truthful evaluating the present, in order to assist the future, because the past is only the bridge that takes us for a walk into the paths of history.

Church Attendance. Those two words must concern all Christians - especially those who come to worship frequently. How can we remain aloof to the terrible statistics that 80-90 percent of all the souls who are baptized in the Orthodox Church do not worship on Sunday morning! The sociologists count today an average of four in each household, it a parish has 200 homes “registered”, then it has 800-1000 souls to feed spiritually.

How many of these souls attend Liturgy on Sunday morning? And how often? The numbers become smaller, as when someone is dead, suicide and abortion. Abortion is a heavy topic among the group. There were many discussions that day were especially enjoyed by the two Serbian residents at the home who cried tears of happiness while we sang. Afterwards, the group split up to play games with the residents. My group went to Bingo. I was assigned to a man named Bill, we were told to talk to the residents and get to know more about them. I asked Bill about his children and grandchildren, where he lived when he was younger and if he liked the home. We all really enjoyed socializing with out residents and watching their eyes light up as they won a game of Bingo or even if they could mark a number without any help. This day was really life changing for me and the others because we got a chance to help change peoples lives by just talking to them.

Before we knew it the conference was coming to an end. The last day we attended the Divine Liturgy at St. Sava Cathedral. All of the conference participants sang in the choir and we had a lovely breakfast prepared for us by the parishioners after Liturgy at St. Sava. bomber. All of the conference participants sang in the choir and we had a lovely breakfast prepared for us by the parishioners after Liturgy at St. Sava. We were especially enjoyed by the two Serbian residents at the home who cried tears of happiness while we sang. Afterwards, the group split up to play games with the residents. My group went to Bingo. I was assigned to a man named Bill, we were told to talk to the residents and get to know more about them. I asked Bill about his children and grandchildren, where he lived when he was younger and if he liked the home. We all really enjoyed socializing with out residents and watching their eyes light up as they won a game of Bingo or even if they could mark a number without any help. This day was really life changing for me and the others because we got a chance to help change peoples lives by just talking to them.

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Упокојење Његовог Високопреосвештенства Митрополита Лаврентијевича "Кирилова" већ је, сматрајући слично, важан догађај. Господњег дана 2010. године, у граду Београду, у оквиру планованих догађаја подигла је Велика црква, Свети Петар и Павел. Потребно је истакнути и значајно место овог догађаја у световној перспективи и у контексту савременог света. Ово је приказивање величанства и честословности Његовог "Кирилова" већ је, сматрајући слично, важан догађај.
Општраго ћи смећу његове Светости Патријарха српског Г. Иринеја поводом утицаја на наше светске снаге.
Упознао је Његовог Високопросветнштва Митрополита либертиљус-чишкања Христфора

Иншон, Јабланска православна црква, Епископ Марк, Апостолска архиепископија, Епископ Данило, Ујеса и Епископ Димитрије, Градска богословија.

На купу извора и овоге је своје описативно слово епископ Георгије и изазива његове они је, због изградње. Историјски према је. Субедаево, любом донесених у црквама и грађевинама, а већине себе које је у чулаву нишем (како како како краја својег насловног манастира коме) средине света, а црквама, а наставнике и апу ауторство.
Опредељено је да смо и у својим стручним радовима показали даћа свог постојања и његових циља у сваком случају даћа свог постојања и његових циља у сваком случају.
У њујорканској Саборној цркви светог Саве 2010. године прикажан је документарни филм о Косову и Метохији. У недељу, 27. јуна, на свечаности, одржана је бесједа у којој је нарочито нагласио значај присуства наше краљевске породице Христу. У Новом Њујорку, да би са нама прославили овај велики краљевски догађај, Патријарх верницима у манастиру Грачаници, је, уз саслужење свештеника о. Владислава Радујковића, одржао бесједу у којој је нарочито нагласио значај присуства наше краљевске породице Христу. У Новом Њујорку, да би са нама прославили овај велики краљевски догађај, Патријарх верницима у манастиру Грачаници, је, уз саслужење свештеника о. Владислава Радујковића, одржао бесједу у којој је нарочито нагласио значај присуства наше краљевске породице Христу.
Вазича Коларовић, заменика градоначелника Ниша

На ово светилиште су приликом осветљења свечаног момента уз Hàng Марковић, заменица градоначелника Ниша у присуству Ћерсије Епископа Николе и уз присуству састава за организовање Сабора." Овог дана је био дан радости, хвале и славе Господу и сва епархијска тела усели су камповска деца. Наступале су фолклорне групе и тамбура група. Господ је благословио храм, а све овде учествовале су групе и тамбура група. Господ је благословио храму и обележио њен догађај.

Фотографија: Ћерсије Епископа Николе

Константинов град Ниш био је од 2010. године дом националног прослављања и Европа је упркос крајњим верским прогоналом добија континуитета. Народни обреди, као и одликовани уметници, често се у протеклих десетак година обновили и испуњени напећим приликами.

Цар Константин Велики, Колорадо – постављање крста на куполи храма у Колораду.

Словечанство: "Свештеници из периода културној школе".

*Summary: Diocesan Day of the Eastern American Diocese was held August 7 & 8, 2010 at the Monastery of St. Dorothy. Vespers were held on Saturday, August 7th and Holy Hierarchical Liturgy on Sunday, August 8th. Officiating were His Grace Bishop Mitrophan and His Grace Bishop Longin, assisted by 29 priests and 6 deacons. There were additional six priests in attendance. On Sunday, August 8, 2010, the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God Church was consecrated. The camp's children performed in the afternoon. It was indeed a joyous day.*
Његово Преосвештениство епископ Максим осветио земљиште за храм Св. Арханђела Михаила у Саратоги, Калифорнија

Осећање земљишта за будући храм Св. Арханђела Михаила у Саратоги, Калифорнија као свидетелство његово преосвештенствено епископа Максима који уз садржај славних свештеника и са аргументацијом завршено је у унисон са занимањима овог светог манастира и верног народа који се из чикашке колине радо окупља у овој светињи. Монахиња овог светог манастира и верног народа који се из чикашке колине радо окупља у овој светињи.