Bishop Teodosije of Liplje visits Western Diocese, Vidovdan Banquet

His Grace Bishop Teodosije of Liplje and abbot of Visoki Decani monastery in Kosovo visited the Western American Diocese from June 13 – 25, 2008. On the invitation of His Grace Bishop Maxim, his guest Bishop Teodosije, in a short visit to the western states, was introduced to many growing parishes and monasteries in the west.

The climax of Bishop Teodosije’s visit was the Kosovo charity banquet hosted by St. Sava in San Gabriel on Saturday, June 21, 2008. The event began with Vespers and prayer supplication for the suffering Serbian Orthodox faithful in Kosovo and Metohija.

The banquet was well attended by the faithful and the local clergy. The hosting priest, Fr. Peter Jovanovic, eloquently carried out the program for the evening together with Ms. Jelena Rajic. Performers for the evening were: St. Sava Church Choir, Miss Oksana and Miss Kajaia Germain, Mrs. Zeljka Gorinski, “Kalemegdan” Folklore group, and Zoran Kalezic.

His Grace Bishop Maxim welcomed the guest hierarchs and speakers: His Grace Antoun of Miami (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese), Metropolitan Joseph of Los Angeles and the West, His Grace Bishop Longin of the New Gracanica Metropolitanae, and His Grace Bishop Teodosije of Liplje.

In their brief addresses, Bishops Joseph and Longin underlined the importance of our perseverance in the midst of the Kosovo tragedy, reminding all the faithful to do as much as possible to aid our brothers and sisters in Kosovo and Metohija.

In his speech his bishop Teodosije said: “The Kosovo testament is a renewal of the evangelical covenant with Jesus continued on p. 10.

SCOBA Hierarchs convene for Spring 2008 Session

New York, NY - The Spring Session of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) met on June 12, 2008 at the Headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America here. In attendance were all the Hierarchs of SCOBA. The meeting was hosted by Archbishop Demetrios, chairman. Also present were the General Secretary and three guest hierarchs Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese), Metropolitan Methodios of Boston (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese), and Bishop Antoun of Miami (Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese).

The Hierarchs held a fraternal and open discussion related to SCOBA Agencies, dealing with communications, education and mission. The formal request of the Vicar of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, who is also the Administrator of the Moscow Patriarchal parishes in the USA (33 in number), Bishop Mercurius of Zaraisk to be included on SCOBA was presented by the Chairman, Archbishop Demetrios. He noted that the Moscow Patriarchate, through its Ecumenical, had been one of the original signers of the SCOBA Constitution. After the Archbishop’s presentation of the matter, there was immediate unanimous agreement, in a spirit of fraternal welcome, by all SCOBA Hierarchs to welcome the Representation of the Moscow Patriarchate in the United States, in the person of Bishop Mercurius, to full membership in SCOBA.

In addition, both Archbishop Demetrios and Metropolitan Christopher of the Midwest met on June 12, 2008 at the Headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in New York City on Monday evening June 9 and Tuesday, June 10, 2008.

Brotherhood President and Dean of St. Sava Cathedral, Protopresbyter Djokan Majstorovic welcomed the brothers-in-Christ in attendance. The priests and deacons came from far corners of the United States and included clergy with experience in South America.

Clergy were in attendance from the states of California, Texas, Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and Maine, coming from the Diocese of Midwestern America, Eastern America, Western America and New Gracanica.

The business portion of the Brotherhood Assembly was held on Monday evening, Prota Rastko Trubanovich was elected to preside at the Assembly. Father Srdjan Veselinovich was elected to be Secretary for the Assembly.

President Prota Majstorovic reported on the work of the Brotherhood during past year. His report included emphasis on efforts made to involve all the clergy in the work of the Brotherhood as stewards and as brothers.

Prota Majstorovic spoke of the Brotherhood’s concern for clergy widows, and for clergy experiencing difficulty getting the proper United States government approvals necessary to work in the parish and to care for their families. He spoke of the Brotherhood’s concern shown to families of clergy departed this life. Requests from clergy seeking financial aid for study continued on p. 3.

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Kosovo News  
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EDITORIAL

MARRIAGE - THIS WE HOLD SACRED

For Orthodox Christians, marriage is a union of two baptized individu-
als, a man and a woman living as one in the Church, particularly in their
local Orthodox parish. Every local Orthodox parish is the extended fam-
ily of God's Kingdom here on earth. Hence, the marriage and family unit is
a reality created by God.

In our ever so complex society that keeps plunging into immorality, we
see witness numerous harmful consequences associated with its disrespect
for marriage and family.

The California Supreme Court ruled on May 15 that the state's ban on
same-sex marriage violated its constitution. The court, however, said that
same-sex marriage has been lifted. This decision, as we have seen, opens the
door for same-sex marriage.

Undoubtedly, this act of the California Supreme Court is immoral and
sinful, as it is living a homosexual life. Marriage and family life emanates from a
divine origin. They have their foundation in the Holy Trinity. But, because of the improper vocation of our
forbearers, Adam and Eve, alienation between them was created as well as the rift between mankind and God. Of course through the work of Christ, the insti-
tution of marriage and family is healed, i.e. it is brought back to its original
primordial place in the created order through God's Grace.

So when a man and a woman enter into the mystery or sacrament of Holy
Matrimony, they do so freely in order to participate in the self-giving act of
Jesus Christ, who sacrificed Himself on the cross.

Furthermore, the family becomes a living icon of the church. The husband
and wife help each other in the way of salvation, having Christ as the center
of their daily life; they participate in procession; they responsibly raise their chil-
dren in the spirit of Orthodox Christianity; they live by the grace of God, strive
to exercise selfless love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

St. John Chrysostom in his homily on marriage said: "If we seek the
things that are perfect, the secondary things will follow. The Lord says, Seek ye
first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall
be added unto you (Matt. 6:33). What sort of person do you think the children of
such parents will be? What kind of person are all the others who associate
with them? Will they not eventually be the recipients of countless blessings as
well? For generally the children acquire the character of their parents, are
formed in the mold of their parents' temperament, love the same things their
parents love, talk in the same fashion, and work for the same ends. If we order
our lives in this way and diligently study the Scriptures, we will find lessons to
guide us in everything we need!"

We need to seek God's Kingdom with our hearts, souls, minds, words and
actions. Indeed, we must speak the truth with love, because we hold marriage
sacred.

Fr. Bratos Krsic

IOCC Mobilizes First Responders to Flood-
Stricken Midwest

BALTIMORE, June 19 — Large sections of the U.S. farm belt are under water after a
week of torrential rains. The worst flooding hit the Midwest in 15 years has claimed two
dozens lives and forced more than 40,000 to evacuate their homes.

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is mobilizing its network of first re-
ponder Orthodox clergy to travel to Iowa to conduct a needs assessment and provide trauma

counseling. Help us speed relief to the U.S.'s devastated communities by making a donation
iocc.org, or mail a check or money order payable to "IOCC" and write "U.S. Emergency Response" in
the memo line to IOCC, P.O. Box 630225, Balti-
more, Md. 21263-6225.

IOCC, founded in 1992 as the official hu-
manitarian aid agency of the Standing Con-
ference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the
Americas (SCOCBA), has implemented over $275
million in relief and de-
velopment programs in 33 countries around the
world.
Clergy Brotherhood meets in New York City

Alex Pavichevich, a recent graduate of St. Vladimir’s Seminary in New York, was introduced, as was Father Deacon Alex Pavichevich, a recent graduate of St. Vladimir’s Seminary who will be going to Serbia for additional studies this summer.

Prota Aleksandar Bugarin of Kolo-Srpskih-Sestara, who represents the Brotherhood in Kolo-Srpskih-Sestara, introduced the Brotherhood Composer, Deacon Bozic, Protopresbyter Djuro Krosnjar and Father Darko Spasojevic are Editors for the Calendar. Comments regarding the 2008 Calendar were all very favorable and the Editors were commended for their work. Deacon Bozic reviewed the various steps necessary to prepare the calendar for publication each year.

The Audit report submitted indicated the Brotherhood financial records were in proper order.

The Pension Plan report prepared by Protopresbyter Stanislov Dragojul Malich was distributed. Prota Malich was recognized for the hard work he puts into Brotherhood pension interests.

Father Vladimir Radojikovic, the new second priest at St. Sava’s Cathedral in New York, was introduced, as was Father Deacon Alex Pavichevich, a recent graduate of St. Vladimir’s Seminary who will be going to Serbia for additional studies this summer.

Prota Aleksandar Vlajkovitch was chosen to chair a committee to produce informational pamphlets of practical value for parish use. The pamphlets will be made readily available to Brotherhood clergy to assist in helping parishioners and prospective parishioners progress in Orthodox Christian growth.

At the request of Prota Aleksandar Bugarin of Kolo-Srpskih-Sestara, the Brotherhood decided to include historical accounts about clergy serving the Serbian Orthodox Church in the geographic areas served by the Brotherhood.

The usefulness of the Clergy Messenger, the newsletter of the Brotherhood, was recognized. The Clergy Messenger has been prepared and distributed through the efforts of Father Milovan Katanić, Father Mike Stubenic and Father Dragojul Popovitch. Father Djokan Majstorovic indicated he would be willing to assume responsibility for printing and distributing the Messenger as once was done by Father Popovitch, as he is no longer available.

On Tuesday, the Brotherhood assembled for the Divine Liturgy and parastos for departed members of the Brotherhood. Abbot Gerasim served with six additional priests and two deacons. Brother priests sang the responses.

The new Chancellor at St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary, Very Reverend Dr. Chad Hatfield, was the designated speaker for the second day of the Brotherhood’s Assembly. His topic was “Revitalizing Our Priesthood Ministry in A Post-Christian Culture.”

Father Hatfield spoke about the new curriculum at St. Vladimir’s Seminary and the challenges of educating clergy. Bioethical issues are an important concern. Technology and its temptations are major issues. Chancellor Hatfield spoke about the ministry of presence, of raising the Cross in times of difficulty, of remembering wholeness and quiet, of holiness of life and Christ the Good Shepherd.

Father Hatfield said beat-up wheat carries more protein than perfectly grown wheat. Difficult times can be times of greater nourishment for the soul. People want to see God working in their priests.

The clergy in attendance applauded Chancellor Hatfield for his talk and made extensive comments in addition to asking questions.

In bringing the Assembly to a conclusion, the Brotherhood adopted a new budget and elected new officers for the forthcoming year. Discussion centered on the application process for clergy seeking financial help to further their studies. Also, a portion of the discussion included concrete steps to be taken to deal with the difficulties clergy immigrating from abroad face in getting necessary United States government approvals. Members of the Executive Board and Audit Board serving during 2007-2008 were recognized and thanked for their contributions to the Brotherhood.

The Executive Board elected to serve for 2008-2009 includes; President Protopresbyter Djokan Majstorovic; Vice President Father Dragun Zaric; Treasurer Father Deacon Damjan Bozic; Secretary Father Norman Kosunovich; Board Members; Abbot Gerasim, Protopresbyter Stavrophor Rustiko Trubovitch; Protopresbyter Dr. Rodney Torbic, Father Srdjan Veselinovich. Father Ljubisa Brijos, Father Darko Spasojevic. Audit Board: Protopresbyter Aleksander Vlajkovitch, Father Dragan Petrovic, Father Michael Boyle.

Father Deacon Aleksa Pavichevich was asked to assist with the Clergy Brotherhood website.

Brotherhood members in attendance were very well received at St. Sava Cathedral. Brotherhood President Protos Djokan Majstorovic took steps to ensure the Brotherhood experienced fine hospitality in all aspects of the Assembly, from overnight accommodations to providing for meals and meeting facilities.

This was a very serious gathering of the Brotherhood intent on addressing issues facing priests at present and in the future.

Father Rodney Torbic

Members of the Clergy Brotherhood at their annual meeting

Lenten Women’s Retreat in Jackson, CA

continued from p. 1

images including a selection of icons. Offered in love and humility, Bishop Maxim’s presentation was profound, complex, thought-provoking, and moving. (We can only present a few of his points in this article; you are urged to listen to or read his entire talk. See the Diocesan website: http://www.westbor do.org/Kolo_Srpskih_Sestara/KSSRetreat_April_2008.html)

One major theme of his presentation, which really is a goal of the Orthodox life, is “Holiness through self-denial.” Marriage is a sacrament and a mystery. It also is martyrdom: without the process of the ‘catharsis’ of trials and sorrows, without the breaking of one’s own will, there is not a genuine Orthodox Marriage.

Marriage as Transfiguration: Marriage is not a religious “addition” to the natural life of the individual, but a transforming experience, anticipating the Kingdom to come, for through marriage one enters into eternity. Furthermore, one finds one’s identity not through self-affirmation but through the other.

As regards the subject of children, although a childless marriage is considered negatively in the Old Testament, neither in the Gospel nor in St. Paul does one find the idea that childbirth “justifies” marriage. However, His Grace stressed that in “giving life to others, man imitates God’s creative act.” Childbirth is the natural, holy, and necessary element of Christian marriage.” Indeed, he described a marriage in which children are “unwelcome” as being a “defective, egotistic, and fleshly form of love.”

Finally, His Grace emphasized that the closer we come to the Source of Peace — Jesus Christ — the more peace we obtain within our souls. Reconciliation with God is a necessary pre-condition for reconciliation with any “other.”

A short question and answer session, all proceeded to lunch, after which two concurrent workshops were held in the main hall. On one side, Prost Вritica Rada demonstrated how to make the Slava kolach as well as decorations such as roses, barrels, grapes, and wheat. On the other side, Tanya Skundridc showed us how to make baklavas.

Saturday concluded with Vespers at 6 PM, dinner, and fellowship. Some women stayed over until Sunday to attend Divine Liturgy at St. Sava.

Although there were no further struc-
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX AGAIN WALK OUT OF PAN-ORTHODOX MEETING

Rhos, June 20 (CWNNews) - A Russian delegation has walked out of a meeting of Orthodox prelates, convened by Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, the top Russian delegate, Archbishop Nikolai (Balashov), said that the Moscow patriarchate could not accept the seating of a delegation from the Estonian Orthodox Church.

The meeting of Orthodox hierarchs, taking place at Rhodes, had been called by the Ecumenical Patriarchate to discuss the future of the Orthodox Church in the Balkans. Bishops of Russia's traditional Orthodox primates should be guided by the principle that participation is limited to those Orthodox bodies recognized by all other Orthodox churches. The Patriarchate of Constantinople claims sole authority to recognize local Churches as self-governing. Moscow rejects that claim.

RUSSIAN AND ESTONIAN ORTHODOX CHURCHES DISMISS PAN-ORTHODOX MEETING

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IN MEMORIAM
Protonamesnik Milivoj Djordjevic
1936 – 2008

The faithful servant of the Lord, Pro-
tonamesnik Milivoj Djordjevic fell asleep in the Lord on the fifth Saturday of Great
Lent, April 12, 2008, in Lodi, California, following unexcepted complications of his
illness. The funeral service was held at the Serbian Orthodox Church of the
Assumption of the Most Holy Theotokos in Sacramento, California, on Wednesday,
April 16, 2008. Ofl iciating at the funeral in the presence of the local pastor Archpriest
Dane Popovic were Protostavropilhs Mila-
din Gurich of Sacramento, CA; Protostav-
ropilhs Filip Civjanovic of Holy Trinity
Serbian Orthodox Church of Moraga, CA;
Archpriest Lazar Kostur of St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, Merrillville, IN; and Priest Steven Tumbas of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Jackson, CA.

1Fr. Milivoj was laid to rest at the Serbian Cemetery in Colma, California.

Beloved son of Zivojin and Merina
Djordjevic, the late Fr. Milivoj was born on November 19, 1936, near Velika Planina in the village of Trnovce. Separated by World War II, he was finally reunited with his father in 1963, in Ontario, Canada. In the fall of 1965 he joined fellow Serbian semi-
narians Lazar Kostur, Bogdan Zjalic, and
George Ketchum in study at Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, New York. Fr. Milivoj subsequently graduated from Holy Trinity Seminary in 1969, with the degree of Bachelor of Theology issued by the University of the State of New York.

In 1971, he married Pava Brankovic at St. Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church in Hamilton, Ontario. The same year Fr. Milivoj was ordained at the hands of Bishop Sava, Bishop of the Eastern American and Canadian Diocese of the Serbian Or-
thodox Church, first to the Diaconate and then shortly thereafter to the Priesthood, remembering the words of the Lord: “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you…” (John 15:16).

Immediatly thereafter he was appointed parish priest at the newly-organized Serbian Orthodox Church Parish dedicated to St. Sava in Lodi, California. Hereupon, Fr. Milivoj and Popadija Pava worked tirelessly not only in this their first parish with equal diligence and spiritual zeal when appointed to serve Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Castro Valley, California, in 1972. In 1973, they began their first of fourteen years of dedicated and all encompassing parish service at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Cuper-
tino, California. Hereupon, Fr. Milivoj moved his family, now including their wonderful and devoted children, son Petar (1973) and daughter Danica (1979) to Lodi, California, where he continued to serve in the Lord’s vineyard at the St. Sava Mission in Jackson and at Angels Camp.

In loving memory of the late Fr. Milivoj,
F. Lazar Kostur spoke at the funeral, brieﬂ y remembering their shared days at Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, N.Y. where Fr. Milivoj was a good student who
readily adapted himself to the new and
stringent routine of monastery life required
of all seminarians. “At Holy Trinity Semi-

nary we experienced ﬁ rst hand the spiritual
depth of the Orthodox Church and were given the rare opportunity to gain a thor-
ough foundation in and experience of the Orthodox liturgical life.” Fr. Lazar men-
tioned how Abbot and Dean of Holy Tran-

it Monastery and Seminary, the beloved Metropolitan Laurus of blessed memory, who preceded Fr. Milivoj in passing from this earthly life by just four weeks, always remembered Fr. Milivoj fondly; he called him “Milibo.”

Fr. Lazar spoke about priestly duty and how conscientiously and diligently the late Fr. Milivoj offered service to our church under difﬁ cult and trying conditions in an era now often forgotten. With utmost humility, Fr. Milivoj was fully dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ and His Gospel. He put forth good works to the best of his abilities with love and patience for his flock, the church missionary with hope of at-
tainment of the church triumphant.

F. Dane Popovic likewise eulogized the late Fr. Milivoj eloquently, focusing on his years of service and sacriﬁ ce in north-

ern California.

Fr. Milivoj loved and cherished his homeland for which he raised heartfelt prayer with tears. He was a great supporter of HRH Crown Prince Aleksandar II and HRH Crown Prince Katherine, whom he knew personally.

Protonamesnik Milivoj Djordjevic was a faithful husband, a wonderful and devoted father, a good friend and “...a priest for ever after the order of Melchize-
dek.”

We extend our heartfelt condolences to
Popadija Pava, son Petar, daughter Danica and the entire Djordjevic and Brankovic families. Please accept our gratitude you for your collective years of service and sacriﬁ ce, known in totality only to Almighty God, Whom we beseech to grant you strength to endure your loss.

Archpriest Lazar Kostur
St. Elijah Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
Merrillville, IN

Summer 2008 Conference on Orthodox Schools
Boston, MA August 1 and 2

The Orthodox Association is pleased to offer the opportunity for Orthodox edu-
cators to meet together at Hellenic College in Boston, MA, for the second annual conference on Orthodox schools. This year’s conference will include several panels designed to meet together at Hellenic College in Boston, MA, for the second annual conference on Orthodox schools. This year’s conference will include several panels

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

POLITICS THAT SHARED WITH THE OTHER SCOBA
Hierarchs the positive results of their indi-

vidual meetings with Metropolitan Hilarion, the newly enthroned (May 18, 2008) First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR).

The Chair of the Orthodox-Roman Catholic Theological Consultation, Metro-
politan Maximos, gave a presentation on the status of the various Inter-Church Dia-

logues. The meeting closed with an open and fraternal discussion of ecclesiastical issues that need attention.

SCOBA

Members of the SCOBA are Archbish-

op Demetrios, Chairman (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese), Metropolitan Philip, Vice-

Chairman (Antiochian Orthodox Archdio-
cese), Metropolitan Christopher, Secretary (Serbian Orthodox Church), Metropolitan Nicholas (Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese), Metropolitan Herman (Orthodox Church in America), Metropolitan Joseph (Bulgarian Orthodox Church), Archbishops Silou (Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese), Archbishop Antonio (proxy, Ukrainian Or-
thodox Church) and Bishop Iliia (Albanian Orthodox Diocese).
IOCC expands economic development projects in Kosovo, announces matching grant

Belgrade, Serbia — International Orthodoxy Christian Charities (IOCC) announces that The John G. Rangos Sr. Family Charitable Foundation will support IOCC’s expansion of aid projects for Kosovo by creating a matching gift program. The Foundation will match every dollar contributed to IOCC Kosovo projects up to $50,000. The goal for IOCC’s Kosovo response is half a million dollars and includes economic development projects for isolated rural communities in Kosovo and aid to some of the approximately 225,000 people who have been displaced from the region since 1999.

“We need to provide a sustainable response that enables families to secure economic prosperity and a future for their children,” says Constantin Triantafilou, IOCC’s executive director. “The important support of John G. Rangos, a founder of IOCC and past chairman of our board, will provide new opportunities to assist families in Kosovo and to avoid further displacement of persons in the Balkans.”

“This is an exceptional opportunity for people to have their contributions matched and make a lasting difference for families in Kosovo. We are thankful to Mr. Rangos for his leadership in extending this challenge grant,” added Alex Machacseki, current IOCC board chairman.

Funds contributed to IOCC for Kosovo will go towards providing immediate assistance to families who are living in isolated minority enclaves. IOCC will also expand efforts to provide sustainable agricultural training and other projects that provide employment and foster inter-ethnic cooperation. IOCC’s initiative will also provide assistance to schools and create educational and recreational programs. IOCC, which has provided assistance in Kosovo for the past 15 years, will continue to work with local community groups and the Serbian Orthodox Church, including the Visoki Decani Monastery.

“Regardless of what has happened around them, the Brotherhood of the Visoki Decani Monastery has demonstrated true compassion for their neighbors of all backgrounds and ethnicities,” says Triantafilou. “We will continue to work closely with the Monastery and local partners in the region toward an inclusive civil society that will provide lasting solutions.”

IOCC, founded in 1992 as the official humanitarian aid agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), has implemented over $279 million in relief and development programs in 33 countries around the world.

The most isolated enclaves of Kosovo recently received school repairs and new computers and books through IOCC. A new matching grant program through the John G. Rangos Sr. Family Charitable Foundation will allow IOCC to provide even more assistance to schools as well as economic development projects. (photo credit: N. Prelevic/IOCC Serbia)

The documentary is highly recommended. Sentic believes that cooperation with the international community and local institutions must not be broken because, he said, they are institutions that can help in realizing at least one of the interests of the Serb community, and that is return to Kosovo.

Kosovo Government to exclude international community from return process

CAGLAVICA, June 19 (KIM Radio)—Srdjan Sentic, advisor to the UNMIK chief for return of displaced persons to Kosovo, said in a statement for KIM Radio that UNMIK’s view is that the return process in Kosovo and Metohija has stopped, as indicated by the facts on the ground.

According to UNHCR data, during the past month not a single displaced person returned to the province. Sentic said that the proclamation of independence and the Kosovo Constitution have largely contributed to the halt in returns to Kosovo. “We have a lot of programs that have been waiting for years for funding because there is no interest on the part of the international community or local institutions to launch a process of returns. It is necessary to reinforce this process; it is especially necessary to encourage mass returns. We have more than 5000 Serbs living in collective centers in Serbia and more than 2000 more of them living in collective centers in Kosovo. The priority is to provide them with houses. I have yet to encounter honest dedication to this problem,” said Sentic.

Czech Kosovo documentary on YouTube

A Czech made for TV documentary on the history of the conflict in Kosovo and Metohija has been posted with English subtitles on the YouTube internet site, after being banned on Czech television.

The documentary was originally to have been aired on Czech television in March. It’s showing was initially postponed, and appears to have been permanently cancelled after the Czech government recognized Kosovo’s independence in May. The recognition of Kosovo caused public outrage in the Czech Republic, and unusual public disagreement by the Czech President with the decision.

The documentary is narrated in Czech, with English subtitles. Interviews with Serbs can be heard in the original Serbian. It is carried in ten parts on YouTube, with the first part at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4z8tuStg8uE. Links to the remaining parts will then appear on the YouTube site.

The documentary is highly recommended.
Serbia hosts 100,000 refugees

Belgrade, June 20 (Balkan Insight) — Serbia is home to some 100,000 registered refugees from neighboring Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, new data released today shows.

The data, compiled by the UN’s refugee organization and Serbia’s Refugees Commission and published today to mark International Refugee Day, shows that some six thousand of these refugees continue to live in collective centers in what are referred to as ‘asylum communities’. In addition, there are over 20,000 internally displaced people in Serbia from Kosovo.

Serbia has 55 collective centers where some families have been living, usually in one room, for over a decade. Many complain that their return, particularly to Croatia, has not been easy.

On Thursday, Croatian President Stjepan Mesic said it was his country’s duty to facilitate the return of all refugees.

Serbia’s President Boris Tadic has said that Belgrade, Sarajevo and Zagreb should put additional efforts into solving their refugee problem. He has said that the European Union membership for all Balkan countries would substantially contribute to the best solution for these people.

Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the Sarajevo declaration in 2005 obliging them to find solutions for the return and reintegration of all refugees left homeless in the 1991-1995 regional wars.

UN observer recalls Knin carnage

ZAGREB, June 10 (B-92 Radio) — The artillery onslaught of Knin (Dalmatia, Serbian Krajina) on August 4 and 5, 1995, was unselcetive, says UN observer Peter Marti.

Testifying at the trial of Croatian Army (HV) Generals Ante Gotovina, Ivan Cermak and Mladen Markac at the Hague Tribunal, the UN observer said that there had been no military targets in Knin.

The witness stated that he had seen destroyed civilian vehicles and clothes littered around the area, suggesting that civilians had been targeted.

The Croatian government did not do enough to protect civilians and their property after Operation Storm, Marti said, adding that survivors had told UN peacekeepers that they were not safe, that no-one was protecting them, and that they just wanted to leave in safety.

According to certain sources, around 150,000 and 200,000 Serbs fled Croatian forces in the direction of Bosnia and Herzegovina during Operation Storm.

On August 7, 1995, EU Special Envoy for the Former Yugoslavia Carl Bildt described Storm as the “most efficient ethnic cleansing ever seen in the Balkans.”

Croatian forces also attacked Serb civilians and their property, and according to reports, a campaign of mass looting and destruction of Serb property was carried out.

Overcoming the “dues mentality”

The Bible teaches that we reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7). For 100 years we have sown “dues” and predictably we have reaped a “dues mentality.”

We often have that same type of thinking in our Serbian churches in this country and yet our “dues,” besides being spiritually opposed to Christian Stewardship, do not come close to paying the annual operating costs of our parishes. I have personally heard Serbs say “I paid my dues, i.e. $150 and I do not have to give any more money.” Lord have mercy on us!

The Bible teaches that we reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7). For 100 years we have sown “dues” and predictably we have reaped a “dues mentality.”

For the past several years I, like many, have been very encouraged in witnessing a change that is occurring in several of our church-school congregations. This change is from a “dues mentality” to Christian Stewardship. Our hierarchs and most of our clergy have been very supportive of this change. This is not to imply that change will be automatic or immediate. Sadly many of us often resist any change to the “status quo,” and will talk negatively about stewardship.

We need to be mindful that sometimes people speak not simply from ignorance but also from a lack of Orthodox Christian Spirituality. One could say that, unlike early Christians and many over the centuries, we have not sufficiently understood that everything that we possess, our lives, our families, our jobs, our special talents and, yes, even our money, are gifts from God. Not have we learned that a portion of our money and talents (our first fruits) are to be used for helping our brothers and sisters and to proclaim the Gospel and God’s love to all.

I have personally observed over the past many years that most of the Serbian churches in the United States would be unable to financially support themselves if they did not have outside fund raising activities, i.e. “Las Vegas nights”, “Days at the Races,” as well as raffles and bingo which thank God are being discontinued. One may not say that our churches are running deficits due to the “high salaries” that are paid to our clergy, because in fact they are among the lowest paid of our brother Orthodox jurisdictions, not to mention other communities. Now I would say that there are many reasons we experience financial problems.

In my opinion the primary reason for our problems is that we have had a “dues mentality” for as long as the church has been in this country. When someone joins a private club whether it is a golf club, a health club, etc., they are assessed monthly or annual dues. The management of those organizations develop an annual budget and divide that budget by the number of members and the resulting number is the amount of “dues” that must be assessed to each member in order to meet the annual budget.

When the operating expense increase, the annual “dues” assessment increases. Members of those organizations have the right to expect that as long as they pay their annual dues that they do not have to “pay” anything more.

Recently I had a discussion with a lay leader from one of our larger parishes who stated “our parish will never give up the dues system because it forces an individual to submit an application and to be voted upon by the board before being allowed to become a member.”

When I asked, “what about an individual who is Orthodox, attends church every Sunday, goes to confession and communion regularly, whose children are in church school and who pledges $1,000 a year as a steward. Is this person a member of the parish and can he vote at the annual meeting? His response was a firm “no because he failed to complete an application and be voted upon!”

One can see that if you pay $200 in dues, fill out an application, attend church two or three times a year, you are considered a member of the Church-School Congregation and can vote on congregation policy, as opposed to the practicing Orthodox Christian steward who is an active part of the parish but not allowed to vote at the Church-School Congregation just described. I guess that I have to re-read the book of Acts because I do not remember reading about the Apostles requiring a “membership application and dues” in the early church or the unholy dualism of “Church-School Congregation” and local parish.

Thank God this is not the case in every parish. In 1998, St. George Serbian Church in San Diego, California under the spiritual guidance of V. Rev. Stavrophor Bozidar Draskovic terminated its dues system, switching completely to a stewardship program under the leadership of congregation board President Wayne Papic. I am happy to report that they went from 61 dues paying members to having 228 stewards today generating more in donations and gifts than ever before.

The faithful of St. George parish understand that Orthodox Christians are called to be faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to them and that they are to give sacrificially for the continuation of God’s work and ministries.

The seeds of “stewardship” that are being sown in San Diego (Ca), Fresno (Ca), Alhambra (Ca), Seattle (Wa), Lake Forrest (Il) and in Lackawanna (NV) are examples for all of us. Our Serbian parishes that our future in this country depends upon teaching our leaders, the parents and grandparents, and especially our youth that God’s earthly kingdom does not run on a “dues system” but rather is based upon love – first God’s love toward us and in return our love to Him, demonstrated through sacrificial giving of our time, our talent and our treasure back to Him for the furtherance of His Kingdom on earth.

Brian Gerich

Brian Gerich is a parishioner of St. Steven’s Cathedral in Alhambra, CA, and is treasurer of the Central Church Council of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the US and Canada as well as chairman of the Standing Committee on Stewardship.
With the Blessing of the Episcopal Council of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America, The Youth Ministry Committee is pleased to announce the Third Annual Youth Conference to be held in Los Angeles, CA, from Wednesday, August 6 through Sunday, August 10, 2008. The theme of this year’s conference is “Keyword God...R U Connected? Hollywood vs Holy Wood: The Power of Image.” The conference is open to high school students 14-18 years of age.

The facility we have selected for this year’s conference is The University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA. The university is an excellent location that has all the amenities that we need to have a successful conference full of spiritual and social activities.

This Youth conference is an excellent opportunity for parishes in North and South America to send teenagers for spiritual fulfillment and fellowship with like-minded youth. The retreat will include presentations and discussions related to important topics that our youth face every day. Recreational and fellowship events will enable our youth to interact with other high school students from throughout the United States and Canada.

The Youth Conference Committee requires that the following be completed by the delegate's parish and must be picked up by 1:00pm on Sunday August 10th at St. Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Ahamba, CA, 1621 West Garvey Ave., Alhambra, 91803, 626-284-9100.

5. What should the participant bring to this retreat?
   - For boys: pants and suitable shirts for church services (jeans, t-shirts, and tennis shoes are not acceptable)
   - For girls: skirt and blouses, or dress (dresses and blouses should have sleeves; skirts and dresses should be knee length; nothing short)

6. Where is the conference? The conference will be held at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA, 1621 West Garvey Ave., Alhambra, Z1803, 626-284-9100.

7. How do I contact the conference administrator in case of an emergency?
   The emergency contact for the conference will be Chris Radanovic, the secretary of the Youth Ministry Committee. In case of emergency please call Chris on his mobile phone at (717) 421-3078.

8. What time should I schedule my travel arrangements for?
   - Flights arriving at LAX on 8/6 by 4:00pm (local time) and leaving LAX on 8/10 no earlier than 3:00pm (local Pacific) time.
Health History Form

Delegate’s Name (Last, First, Middle): ____________________________________________________________
Name of Family Physician: __________________________ Phone: __________________________
Name of Family Dentist: __________________________ Phone: __________________________
Is the participant covered by family medical/hospital insurance (Yes/No): __________________________
Carrier or Plan Name: __________________________________________________________
Group #: __________________________________ I.D. #: __________________________
Allergies (Describe reaction and management of reaction): _________________________________________
Medical Allergies: __________________________________________________________
Food Allergies: __________________________________________________________
Other Allergies (include insect stings, hay fever, asthma, animal dander, etc.): ______________________
Medications Currently Being Taken (meds brought to the conference must be in their original labeled pharmacy container):
Med (#1): __________________________ Dosage: __________ Specific Time Taken Daily: __________
Reason for Taking: __________________________________________________________
Med (#2): __________________________ Dosage: __________ Specific Time Taken Daily: __________
Reason for Taking: __________________________________________________________
Med (#3): __________________________ Dosage: __________ Specific Time Taken Daily: __________
Reason for Taking: __________________________________________________________

Attach additional pages for more medications.

This health history is correct and complete as far as I know. The person herein named has permission to engage in all conference activities except as noted.

I hereby give permission to the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada to provide, seek, and consent to routine health care, administration of prescribed medications, and over the counter medications, and emergency treatment for my child, as may be necessary, including, but not limited to x-rays, routine tests and treatment, and/or hospitalization. I also give permission for the conference to arrange related transportation. I agree to the release of any records necessary for treatment, referral, billing, or insurance purposes.

It is my intention that the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada be treated as acting in loco parentis if the person herein named is a minor. Further, it is my protected health information pursuant to the privacy regulations promulgated pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. I hereby agree (pursuant to 45 CFR 164.510 (b)) to the disclosure to conference representatives of the protected health information of the person herein described, as necessary: (i) to provide relevant information to the conference representatives related to the person’s ability to participate in conference activities; and (ii) in the case of minors, to provide relevant information to the conference representatives to keep me informed of my child’s health status.

In the event I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the camp to secure and administer treatment, including hospitalization, for the person named above. This completed form may be photocopied for trips out of the conference.

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Adult Conference Delegate: _________________________________________
Printed Name: __________________________________________________________
I also understand and agree to abide by any restrictions placed on my participation in conference activities.
Signature of Minor Conference Delegate: _________________________________________________
Printed Name: __________________________________________________________
Date: __________________________

Youth Conference Permission to Travel Form

The Youth Committee requires that the following be completed by the delegate’s parents and returned with the registration packet. If the delegate is traveling with someone other than a parent/guardian a copy of this form should also be provided to the adult the delegate is traveling with. I, (Parent/Guardian) __________________________ give my permission for (delegate) __________________________ to attend the 2008 Youth Conference of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA and Canada to be held at the facilities of UEC, Los Angeles, CA.

Parent/Guardian Name: __________________________________________________________
Last First
Address: __________________________________________________________
Number/Street City State Zip
Home Phone: __________________________ Work Phone: __________________________
Name of Parish: __________________________________________________________
Name of Parish Priest: _______________________________________________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian: _________________________________________________
Printed Name: __________________________________________________________
Date: __________________________

Conference Guidelines and Regulations

Please note that this form must be read and signed by both the delegate and the parent. Delegates will not be permitted to attend the conference if this form is not signed and returned. Thank you for your cooperation.

1. The Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada strictly prohibits alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, tobacco products, fireworks, or weapons of any kind. If your child is found having any of the above he/she will be sent home immediately.
2. Any inappropriate, violent/aggressive, or unchristian behavior may result in your child being sent home immediately; these behaviors include, but are not limited to:
   - Attacking or hitting another delegate, chaperone, worker, or director
   - Inappropriate “touching” or fondling of another conference delegate (male or female)
   - Disrespectful behavior (swearing, cursing, yelling in anger, etc.) shown toward delegates, chaperones, directors or workers
   - Leaving the dormitory at night after “lights out”
   - Food, candy, or drink in the dormitories
   - Radios, stereo, boom boxes, and wallmart tape players are not allowed at the conference. Use of cell phones and iPods during the conference will not be permitted. This will be strictly enforced.
   - Disrespect shown during the Church services including laughing, talking, or not participat-
ing will necessitate one warning, then dismissal.
   - Use of dormitory phones for social calls
   - Theft of property
   - Destruction of property will not be tolerated. If your child is involved in any of this you will be held financially responsible.
   - Rooms should be kept neat and presentable by delegates. Please stress to your child to be respectful of others property
   - Any additional retreat center costs above and beyond the provided amenities will be the financial responsibility of the delegate.

This includes the following: Food, athletic events, gift/personal purchases, gift/other purchases, and any unforeseen purchases made by the delegate.

We reserved the right to search luggage, lockers, and bed areas at any time.

Delegates please note, in signing below, you agree to adhere to the rules and guidelines of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada.

Delegates Signature: __________________________________________________________
Delegates Printed Name: _______________________________________________________
Date: __________________________

Parent/Guardian Authorization, Permissions, and Agreement

Youth Conference Delegate Name: _______________________________________________________

Please read the paragraphs below and sign the consent and/or responsibility waiver. This is necessary not only for your child to attend the youth conference, but also for us to operate the conference.

The person herein described has permission to engage in all conference activities except as noted. I hereby give permission to the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada to provide, seek, and consent to routine health care, administration of prescribed medications, and seek emergency medical treatment including ordering x-rays or routine tests.

I agree to the release of any records necessary for treatment, referral, billing, or insurance purposes.

I give permission to the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada to arrange necessary related transportation for my child. I further agree that if I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada to secure and administer treatment, including hospitalization, for the person named above.

I understand that my insurance coverage for my child will be used as primary coverage in the event medical intervention is needed. I further understand that I will be responsible for expenses not covered by my insurance.

I understand all reasonable safety precautions will be taken at all times by the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada and its agents during the conference. I understand the possibility of unforeseen hazards and know the inherent possibility of risk. I agree not to hold the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada, their clergy, its leaders, employees, and/or volunteers liable for damages, losses, disease, or injuries incurred by the subject of this form.

I hereby give my permission to take field trips while attending the conference.

I agree that my child will abide by all the rules and guidelines set forth by the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada for the safety and good health of the conference delegates.

I also agree that if my child has to return home due to discipline violations, it will be at my own expense.

I agree to indemnify and hold harmless, the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada, their clergy, their leaders, employees, and/or volunteers from any expenses, losses, claims, or damages incurred as a result of the acts or omissions of the subject of this form. I hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada, their clergy, its leaders, directors, employees, staff, and volunteers from any and all expenses, claims, costs or attorney fees incurred as a result of claims, actions and/or suits brought by me, my child or on my behalf or on my child’s behalf or by anyone else as a result of any accident or injury occurring to me or my child.

I give permission for my child to participate in all conference activities, except the following (please list reason for each activity denied):

Activity and Reason for Denial of Permission: ________________________________________________

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _______________________________________________________
Printed Name: __________________________________________________________
Date: __________________________
To begin to imagine what you think and feel, what you expect as you prepare to enter college or return for another year of studies, I must search back into my thoughts some ten years ago. It was then that I left the nice comfortable security of family life in a small town in South Carolina. I became a freshman in a university in Chicago with a student population almost equal to that of the city I left. I remember my doubts, my fears. What did the future of this grave decision to go to college be was still uncertain. Nonetheless, the step was taken—actually, leap—a leap into the unknown.

I can still picture myself clearly walking up and down the shores of Lake Michigan wondering, “What in the world am I doing here? Where in the world am I heading? Where in the world would I like to get to?” At that time my plans were to learn a profession, get out in four years, and start making money.

Education then is a risk; you never know what’s going to happen. I congratulate you for taking that risk. In my estimation you have decided to take the most exciting and important leap into the unknown that will ever take place. You are about to begin a step forward that is not only a leap, but a step that will be quite important. It is always invited to attend and participate. The meetings provide an opportunity to listen from the speaker and for participants to share and learn from each other.

Father Rodney Torbic

A Leap into the Unknown

To live it, you must know about it. Faith and knowledge go hand in hand. As you live more our Orthodox Church on a level equal to your college studies your faith will increase and you will come to understand better that to us by God is far superior to the philosophies of men. In your studies you will give Plato and Rousseau and St. James a chance. Give Christ a chance too.

Joel Mata, an Orthodox archon who died in the gas chambers with Jews during World War II, said that “If Christi
anity is not fire, it is nothing.” All of you have proved your willingness to do a risk, by entering college. I invite you to take another—Jump into the fire—learn what it means to be a Christian.

For some a little knowledge leads them to proclaim themselves God. Well, the truth is that according to Orthodox theology we are called to be gods. However, not after the example of the false prophets, the self-proclaimers, but in imitation of Him who gave his life for us. Christ’s challenge is to us is to strive for perfection.

Don’t set your sights lower. Don’t adopt as your way of life one proposed by your mother. Rather remain steadfast in that way shown to us by the Creator of man.

During your years in college attend Church services regularly. Church is a source of supernatural nourishment. Frequently. Just as the body needs food, so does the spirit. Don’t fall prey to the destructive campus attitude that treats the Church like a disease—something to avoid.

Assert your Orthodox faith, learn more about it, live it. If there are enough Orthodox students at the college you attend start an Orthodox Campus Fellowship with a program that will assist you to do just that. Our Hierarchs feel that Orthodoxy in America is in dire need of an Orthodox campus ministry. For this reason, the Campus Commission was created to begin making available some resource material that will make Orthodox meaningful to college students.

This modern world, our fellow young people, is now our job. If we don’t like its direction, we must change it. If we don’t like war, poverty, disease, injustice, corruption, prejudice, the hypocrisy of older generations—then we must do something about it. May I be so bold as to suggest that you, all of us do should about it is begin to live our Orthodox faith. A simple answer—not a simple way, not the way we live.

Take charge of the world—change its direction.

James Coupsell (Bishop Demetrios) Former Executive Secretary of the Ortho
dox Campus Commission

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**Washington Deanery Meets on Education in NYC**

The 21st Annual Washing
ton Deanery Christian Education Meeting was held at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in New York City on Bright Wednesday, April 30, 2008.

His Grace Bishop Dr. Mi
tophan designated Reverend Father Zoran Radovic of St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Elizabeth, New Jersey to be the featured speaker.

Father Zoran declared that the Church must be a godless symbol of nationalism, instead as a symbol for the people, as a political symbol, as Kosovo and Metohija only as the territoryourselves and lose it if we separate ourselves from the people, for where there are people there also lives of the Church also rebuilds the lives of her people. By living in Kosovo and Metohija is making every effort to rebuild her holy shrines. In doing so, the Church also rebuilds the lives of her people. For where there are people there also indispensable to our curriculum, particularly regarding contemporary issues facing parents and children. Challenges regarding the use of technology and social networking practices drew considerable attention.

Parish reports reviewing Christian educa
tion at our parishes was presented by attending clergy, including in addition to those already mentioned Protopresbyter Stavrophor Toma Stojacic, Protopresbyter Aleksandar Vlajkovic, Protopresbyter Ivan Marjanovic, and Reverend Father Aleksa Micich. Protopresbyter Stavrophor Predrag Micich, Protopresbyter Dr. Rodney Torbic, and Deacon Alex Pavichevich also participated in the meeting.

Deanery meetings consist of a reportanthetical Divine Liturgy with attending clergy serving and singing responses.

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Deanery meetings have been held annu
tally since 1985 in the Eastern American Di
cese. Clergy and teachers in each Deanery are always invited to attend and participate. The meetings provide an opportunity to listen from the speaker and for participants to share and learn from each other.

Father Rodney Torbic

**Oldest Church found**

Ribab, Jordan. Archologists announced last week that they had discovered the world’s oldest Christian church, a cave in which the original disciples of Jesus hid after fleeing Jerusalem following the crucifixion. The 920-square foot chamber lies beneath the St. Georgeous Church, which was built around 230-290 AD. The Greek historian Ammianus Marcellinus called the cave an “important milestone for Christians all around the world.” But some archeologists said there was not enough evidence that the site had actually been a church, rather than a storage cellar. Jerome Murphy-O’Connor, a professor of Biblical and Archeological School in Jerusalem said Jordan has been known to have archeological finds to boost tourism.

**Vidovdan Banquet**

continued from p. 1

Fr. Srboljub Jockovich and His Grace Bishop Mitrophan

**WASHINGTON DEANERY**

**THE PATH OF ORTHODOXY**

**JULY - AUGUST 2008**

**FRONT COVER: ANNUAL DIOCESAN DAYS**

**ALL EVENTS AT SHADELAND FOR**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2008**

10:00 Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Noon Picnic with barbecued lamb and traditional foods

2:00 PM Folklore Program presented by Shadeland Campers

Music by Cleveland Serbs

More music and dancing to follow!

w.easternorthdiocese.org