



Стаза Православља

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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 Kaija Germain, Mrs. Zeljka Gortinski, "Kalemegdan" Folklore group, and Zoran Kazelich.

His Grace Bishop Maxim welcomed the guest hierarchs and speakers: His Grace Antiochian Bishop Joseph of Los Angeles and the West, His Grace Bishop Longin of the New Gracanica Metropolitanate (a former administrator of the western diocese), His Grace Bishop Teodosije of Liplje, and the political analyst and writer Dr. Srdja Trifkovic.

In their brief addresses, Bishops Joseph and Longin underlined the importance of our perseverance in the midst



(From left to right:) His Grace Bishop Maxim, His Grace Bishop Joseph of Los Angeles and the West, His Grace Bishop Longin of the New Gracanica Metropolitanate, and His Grace Bishop Teodosije of Liplje,

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
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Clergy Brotherhood meets in New York City

The Serbian Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of North and South America convened for its Annual Assembly at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Cathedral 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 Dioceses of Midwestern America, Eastern America, Western America and New Gracanica.

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

President Protas Masjtorovic 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.

Protas 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 stud-

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Lenten Women's Retreat in Jackson, CA

One of the most spiritually nourishing events every year in the Western American Diocese is the Women's Retreat. Organized by the Diocesan Circle of Serbian Sisters and held during the weekend of the 5th Sunday of Great Lent (St. Mary of Egypt) at the Saint Sava Mission and Retreat Center in Jackson, California, this retreat always attracts many faithful from throughout the Diocese.

This year the retreat took place on April 11 and 12 and featured as guest speaker our own beloved Vladika, Bishop Maxim, who came to speak on the topic of "The Orthodox Marriage and Family." As if to underscore the theme, His Grace was accompanied by his parents, Proto Lazar and Protinica Radmila (Vasiljevic) as well as his sister, the Nun Veronica.

The weekend officially began on Friday at 5 PM with the Akathist Service to the Mother of God. After dinner, the evening was devoted to informal discussion. Saturday morning began with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy concelebrated by His Grace, his father Proto Lazar, Hieromonk Jovan, and Fr. Stephen Tumbas and Fr. Deacon Triva Paul of Jackson. Responses throughout the weekend were sung by the combined choirs of St. Peter (Fresno) and St. Sava (Jackson).

Following breakfast, all gathered in the KSS hall to hear His Grace give his talk, which was enhanced by power point
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SCOBA Hierarchs convene for Spring 2008 Session

New York, NY - The Spring Session of the Standing Conference of the 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 thirteen members of the SCOBA Study and Planning Commission representing all the SCOBA member Churches 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 Zarsk to be included on SCOBA was presented by the Chairman, Archbishop Demetrios. He noted that the Moscow Patri-

archate, through its Exarchate, 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 Metro-
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Member Hierarchs of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops at their Spring meeting. Pictured third from the right is His Eminence Metropolitan Christopher of Midwestern America.

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Letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. All letters and manuscripts submitted for publication must be signed and contain the author's name and address. Please send materials through email or MS Word format.

EDITORIAL

MARRIAGE - THIS WE HOLD SACRED

For Orthodox Christians, marriage is a union of two baptized individuals, a man and a woman living as one in the Church, particularly in their local Orthodox community. Every local Orthodox parish is the extended family 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 seem to 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. Thus, the ban on same sex marriages has been lifted. This decision, as we have seen, opens the door for same sex couples to legalize their living together.

Undoubtedly, this act of the California Supreme Court is immoral and sinful, as 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 volition 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 institution 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 on the way to salvation, having Christ as the center of their life; they participate in procreation; they responsibly raise their children in the spirit of Orthodox Christianity; they 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. Bratso Krsic

HOMILY ON MARRIAGE

by Saint John Chrysostom

...let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife that she reverence her husband. (Eph. 5:33)



MARRIAGE:

A certain wise man, when enumerating which blessings are the most important included "a wife and husband who live in harmony (Sir. 25:1). In another place he emphasized this: "A friend or a companion never meets one amiss, but a wife with her husband is better than both." (Sir. 40:23). From the beginning God in His providence has planned this union of man and woman, and has spoken of the two as one: male and female He created them (Gen. 1:27), and there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:28). There is no relationship between human beings so close as that of husband and wife, if they are united as they ought to be. When blessed David was mourning for Jonathan, who was of one soul with him, what comparison did he use to describe the loftiness of their love? Your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women (II Sam. 1:26).

The power of this love is truly stronger than any passion; other desires may be strong, but this one alone never fades. This love (eros) is deeply planted within our inmost being. Unnoticed by us, it attracts the bodies of men and women to each other, because in the beginning woman came forth from man, and from man and woman other men and women proceed. Can you see now how close this union is, and how God providentially created it from a single nature? He permitted Adam to marry Eve, who was more than sister or daughter; she was his own flesh! God caused the entire human race to proceed from this one point of origin. He did not, on the one hand, fashion woman independently from man, otherwise man would think of her as essentially different from himself. Nor did He enable woman to bear children without man; if this were the case she would be self-sufficient. Instead, just as the branches of a tree proceed from a single trunk, He

made the one man Adam to be the origin of all mankind, both male and female, and made it impossible for men and women to be self-sufficient. Later, He forbade men to marry their sisters or daughters, so that our love would not be limited to members of our families, and withdrawn from the rest of the human race. All of this is implied in Christ's words: He who made them from the beginning made them male and female (Matt. 19:4).

The love of husband and wife is the force that welds society together. Men will take up arms and even sacrifice their lives for the sake of this love. St. Paul would not speak so earnestly about this subject without serious reason; why else would he say, Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord? Because when harmony prevails, the children are raised well, the household is kept in order, and neighbors, friends and relatives praise the result. Great benefits, both for families and states, are thus produced. When it is otherwise however, everything is thrown into confusion and turned upside down. When the generals of an army are at peace with each other, everything proceeds in an orderly fashion, and when they are not, everything is in disarray. It is the same here. For the sake of harmony, then, he said, Wives, be subject to your husbands as to the Lord

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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 to hit the Midwest in 15 years has claimed two dozen lives and forced more than 40,000 to evacuate their homes.

This season's corn and soybean crops are in danger, and Iowa's agricultural losses alone are estimated to exceed \$2 billion. Other states of the upper Midwest including Illinois and Indiana have also been affected.

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is mobilizing its network of first responder 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 today. Call IOCC's donation hotline toll-free at 1-877-803-4622, make a gift on-line at www.iocc.org, or mail a check or money order payable to "IOCC" and write "US Emergency Response" in the memo line to: IOCC, P.O. Box 630225, Baltimore, Md. 21263-0225.



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 \$275 million in relief and development programs in 33 countries around the world.

Clergy Brotherhood meets in New York City

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ies also received attention, as did attention shown clergy at the time of ordination and retirement.

Father Deacon Damjan Bozic presented the financial report and calendar report. Deacon Bozic, Protopresbyter Djuro Krosnjak 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 Stavrophor Dragoljub Malich was distributed. Prota Malich was recognized for the hard work he puts into Brotherhood pension interests.

Father Vladislav Radujkovic, 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 Vlajkovich 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 Alexander Bugarin of Kansas City, 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



Members of the Clergy Brotherhood at their annual meeting

prepared and distributed through the efforts of Father Milovan Katanic, Father Mile Subotic and Father Dragoljub Popovich. Father Djokan Majstorovic indicated he would be willing to assume responsibility for printing and distributing the Messenger as once was done by Father Popovich, 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 Priestly 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 Dragan Zaric. Treasurer Father Deacon Damjan Bozic; Secretary Father Norman Kosanovich; Board Members: Abbot Gerasim, Protopresbyter Stavrophor Rastko Trbuhovich; Protopresbyter Dr. Rodney Torbic, Father Srdjan Veselinovich, Father Ljubisa Brnjos, Father Darko Spasojevic. Audit Board: Protopresbyter Aleksandar Vlajkovic, Father Dragan Petrovich, 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 Prota Djokan Majstorovic took steps to ensure the Brotherhood experienced fine hospitality in all aspects of the Assembly, from overnight accommodations to providing for three 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

Lenten Women's Retreat in Jackson, CA

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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.westsrbdio.org/Kolo_Srpskih_Sestara/KSSRetreat_April_2008.html)

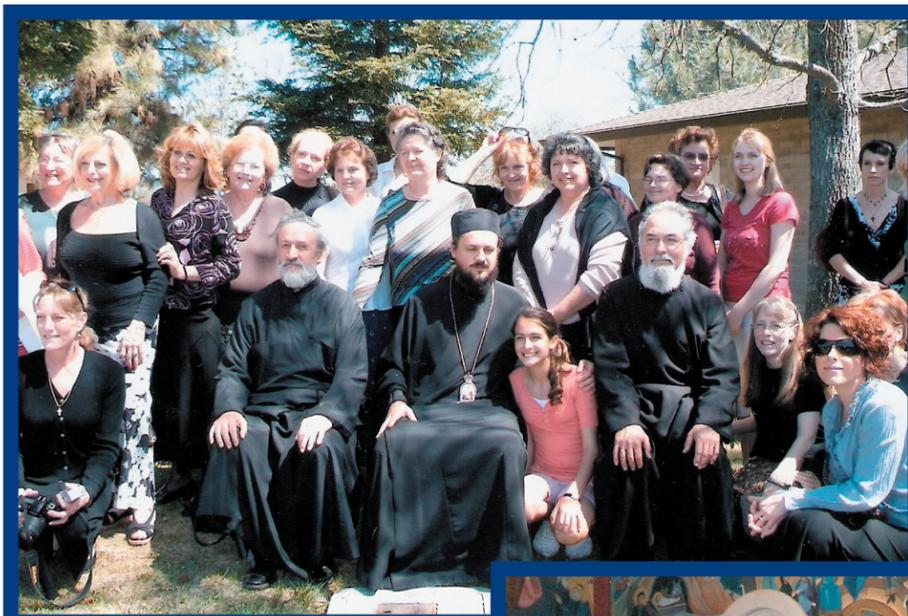
One major theme of his presentation, which really is a goal of the Orthodox life, is "Holiness through self-denial." Marriage is a sacrament and a mystery. It also is martyrdom: without the process of the 'catharsis' of trials and sorrows, without the breaking of one's own will, there is not a genuine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

After a short question and answer session, all proceeded to lunch, after which two concurrent workshops were held



in the main hall. On one side, Protinica Rada demonstrated how to make the Slava kolach as well as decorations such as roses, barrels, grapes, and wheat. On the other side, Tanya Skundric showed us how to make baklava.

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-

tured discussion groups, many retreat members held their own personal conversations, which enhanced the spiritual and sisterly nature of the retreat.

Participants also had a chance to shop at the tables set up by our Diocesan Bookstore and St. Paisius Bookstore.

Seventy women joined us this year, representing the following parishes: St. Sava-Phoenix, St. Steven's-Alhambra, St. Sava-San Gabriel, St. Michael-Saratoga, Holy Assumption-Fair Oaks, St. Peter's-Fresno, St. Sava-Jackson, St. John the Baptist-Reno, and St. Nicholas (Greek Orthodox Church)-San Jose.

Many thanks to Roy Ratkovich, chef de cuisine, and members of the parish of St. Sava-Jackson, who prepared the delicious Lenten meals for the weekend. And a special thank-you to the Diocesan KSS for organizing this wonderful retreat.



THROUGHOUT THE ORTHODOX WORLD

ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH WELCOMES RULING TO ALLOW ICONS IN SCHOOLS

Bucharest, Romania (AP) — The Romanian Orthodox Church is celebrating a ruling by the country's top court that allows religious icons to remain in schools.

The Romanian Supreme Court overturned a 2007 appeal court ruling that icons should be removed from schools because they discriminated against atheists and people of other religions.

About 80 percent of Romanians are Orthodox Christians and icons are commonly seen in homes, buildings and cars. The church has enjoyed a revival after communism.

Orthodox Church spokesman Constantin Stoica said June 13 that the community, not state institutions, should decide what religious symbols are allowed in public spaces.

ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH HAS A NEWS AGENCY

Basilica News Agency was launched recently with the blessing of His Beatitude Daniel, the Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church. The agency is part of the Romanian Patriarchate's Basilica Press Center, along with Radio Trinitas, Trinitas television, 'Ziarul Lumina' daily and the Press Office. Its task is to present, in the form of news and press documentaries, the institutions, activities and attitudes of the Romanian Orthodox Church, as well as those of other Churches, on various current issues.

The news and information are organized electronically on thebasilica.ro website and include information on Church life in Romania and abroad: the activity of the Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church, the decisions of the Holy Synod, the activities of dioceses and parishes, those of theological schools and church associations, the Church's dialogue with civil society, as well as inter-faith and inter-religious dialogue.

The information published on basilica.ro website contains Romanian, English, French and Russian versions and can be used freely by individuals and institutions, provided it is for professional purposes and cites the source.

PENTECOST CELEBRATED IN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN ANTARCTICA

The only Orthodox temple in Antarctica had a Holy Trinity Day service on Sunday, June 18, a source at the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute of the Federal Hydro-Meteorological Service told Itar-Tass on Sunday. "Not only Russian polar explorers but also their colleagues from other Antarctic research stations attended the service," he said.

"The place for the Orthodox temple was selected so that it could be seen from afar. The Holy Trinity Church is the first site tourists see on their way to Antarctica from Terra del Fuego," the source said. The wood for the Antarctic temple was supplied from Altai in Russia, while Russian Palekh craftsmen did the iconostasis.

Source: <http://spc.yu>

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX AGAIN WALK OUT OF PAN-ORTHODOX MEETING

Rhodes, Jun. 20 (CWNews.com) - 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 Patriarch as a forum for mutual discussions and prayer. All of the world's autonomous Orthodox churches had been asked to send representatives.

Last year the Russian Orthodox Church walked out of a meeting of a joint Catholic-Orthodox theological committee in Ravenna, Italy, for the same reason: the seating of an Estonian delegation. The Moscow patriarchate does not accept the independent Estonian hierarchy, and has protested the decision by the Patriarch of Constantinople in 1996 to grant canonical recognition to the independent Estonian Church.

In explaining his delegation's protest, Archbishop Nikolai said that relations among the world's 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.

HOMILY ON MARRIAGE

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Let us assume, then, that the husband is to occupy the place of the head, and the wife that of the body, and listen to what "headship" means: For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the Church: and He is the Savior of the Body. Therefore as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let wives be subject to their own husbands in everything. Notice that after saying the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church, he immediately says that the Church is His Body, and He is Himself its Savior. It is the head that upholds the well-being of the body. In his other epistles Paul has already laid the foundations of marital love, and has assigned to husband and wife each his proper place: to the husband one of leader and provider, and to the wife one of submission. Therefore as the Church is subject to Christ—and the Church, remember, consists of both husbands and wives—so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands, as to God.

You have heard how important obedience is; you have praised and marveled at Paul, how he welds our whole life together, as we would expect from an admirable and spiritual man. You have done well. But now listen to what else he requires from you; he has not finished with his example. Husbands, he says, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church. You have seen the amount of obedience necessary; now hear about the amount of love necessary. Do you want your wife to be obedient to you, as the Church is to Christ? Then be responsible for the same providential care of her, as Christ is for the Church.

And even if it becomes necessary for you to give your life for her, yes, and even to endure and undergo suffering of any kind, do not refuse. Even though you undergo all this, you will never have done anything equal to what Christ has done.

You are sacrificing yourself for someone to whom you are already joined, but He offered Himself up for one who turned her back on Him and hated Him. In the same way, then, as He honored her by putting at His feet one who turned her back on Him, who hated, rejected, and disdained Him as he accomplished this not with threats, or violence, or terror, or anything else like that, but through His untiring love; so also you should behave toward your wife. Even if you see her belittling you, or despising and mocking you, still you will be able to subject her to yourself, through affection, kindness, and your great regard for her. There is no influence more powerful than the bond of love, especially for husband and wife. A servant can be taught submission through fear; but even he, if provoked too much, will soon seek his escape. But one's partner for life, the mother of one's children, the source of one's every joy, should never be fettered with fear and threats, but with love and patience. What kind of marriage can there be when the wife is afraid of her husband? What sort of satisfaction could a husband himself have, if he lives with his wife as if she were a slave and not with a woman by her own free will? Suffer anything for her sake, but never disgrace her, for Christ never did this with the Church. /.../

Paul has precisely described for husband and wife what is fitting behavior for each: she should reverence him as the head and he should love her as his body. But how is this behavior achieved? That it must be is clear; now I will tell you how. It will be achieved if we are detached from money, if we strive above everything for virtue, if we keep the fear of God before our eyes. What Paul says to servants in the next chapter applies to us as well, ...knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same again from the Lord (Eph. 6:8). Love her not so much for her own sake, but for Christ's sake. That is why he says, be subject...as to the Lord. Do everything for the Lord's sake, in a spirit of obedience to Him. These words should be enough to convince us to avoid quarrels and disagreements. No husband should believe any accusation he hears from a third party about his wife, and vice versa; nor should a wife unreasonably monitor her husband's comings and going, provided that he has always shown himself to be above suspicion. And what if you devote the

day to your work and your friends, and the evening to your wife; but she is still not satisfied, but is jealous for more of your time? Don't be annoyed by her complaints; she loves you, she is not behaving absurdly—her complaints come from her fervent affection for you, and from fear. Yes, she is afraid that her marriage bed will be stolen, that someone will deprive her of her greatest blessing, that someone will take from her him who is her head.

A wife should never nag her husband: "You lazy coward, you have no ambition! Look at our relatives and neighbors; they have plenty of money. Their wives have far more than I do." Let no wife say any such thing; she is her husband's body, and it is not for her to dictate to her head, but to submit and obey. "But why should she endure poverty?" some will ask. If she is poor, let her console herself by thinking of those who are much poorer still. If she really loved her husband, she would never speak to him like that, but would value having him close to her more than all the gold in the world...Furnish your house neatly and soberly. If the bridegroom shows his wife that he takes no pleasure in worldly excess, and will not stand for it, their marriage will remain free from the evil influences that are so popular these days. Let them shun the immodest music and dancing that are currently so fashionable.

I am aware that many people think me ridiculous for giving such advice; but if you listen to me, you will understand the advantages of a sober lifestyle more and more as time goes on. You will no longer laugh at me, but will laugh

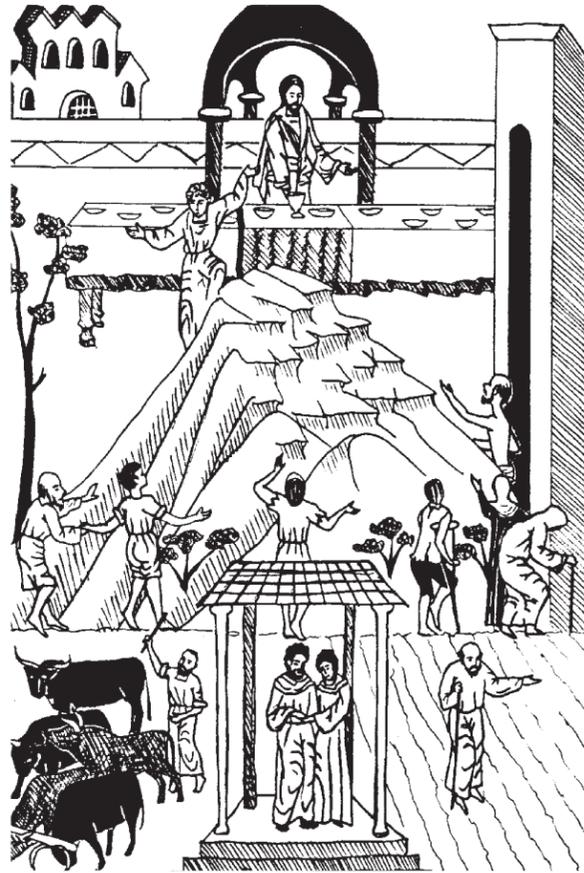
instead at the way people live now like silly children or drunken men. What is our duty, then? Remove from your lives shameful, immodest, and satanic music, and don't associate with people who enjoy such profligate entertainment. When your bride sees your manner of life, she will say to herself, "Wonderful! What a wise man my husband is! He regards this passing life as nothing; he has married me to be a good mother for his children and a prudent manager of his household." Will this sort of life be distasteful for a young bride? Only perhaps for the shortest time and soon she will discover how delightful it is to live this way. She will retain her modesty if you retain yours.

Don't engage in idle conversations; it never profits anyone to talk too much. Whenever you give your wife advice, always begin by telling her how much you love her. Nothing will persuade her so well to admit the wisdom of your words as her assurance that you are

speaking to her with sincere affection. Tell her that you are convinced that money is not important, that only thieves' thirst for it constantly, that you love her more than gold; and indeed an intelligent, discreet and pious young woman is worth more than all the money in the world. Show her that you value her company, and prefer being at home to being out. Esteem her in the presence of your friends and children. Pray together at home and go to Church; when you come back home, let each ask the other the meaning of the readings and the prayers. If you are overtaken by poverty, remember Peter and Paul, who were more honored than kings or rich men, though they spent their lives in hunger and thirst. Remind one another that nothing in life is to be feared, except offending God. If your marriage is like this, your perfection will rival the holiest of monks.

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!

A selection from *On Marriage and Family Life* by St. John Chrysostom, St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1986.





Growing in the Grace and Knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)

His Grace Bishop MAXIM cordially invites you to
the 12th Annual Diocesan Days gathering
Celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the Western American Diocese
 1963-2008

Come and spend a Weekend of spiritual and social activities for all ages with the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful from all of the Parishes and Monasteries throughout our Western Diocese

Guest Speaker:
His Grace Bishop Fotije (Photius) of Dalmatia

Featuring:
The Student Choir from the Faculty of Orthodox Theology at the University of Belgrade




Saint Sava Mission, Jackson, CA
 August 29 to August 31, 2008

Saint Sava Mission, Jackson, CA
 August 29 to August 31, 2008

For more information visit our website at www.westsrbdio.org

Schedule for Diocesan Days 2008

Friday, August 29, 2008
 1:00 p.m. Clergy Luncheon and Conference
 6:00 p.m. Vespers at the St. Sava Mission
 7:00 p.m. Dinner with an Interactive Discussion with Rt. Rev. Bishop Fotije
 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Evening Program and Fellowship

Saturday, August 30, 2008
 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy at the Mission
 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service at St Sava Church
 11:30 a.m. Barbeque Lunch, picnic with live music from Orchestras Srbija and Braca
 1:30 p.m. KSS semi-annual meeting
 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Parent / Teacher Conference
 12:30-5:30 p.m. Open Swimming
 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Youth Rally for Teens
 5:30 p.m. Great Vespers at the Mission
 6:30 p.m. Concert Performance by the Belgrade Theological Student Choir
 Dinner & Dancing with Folklore Performances
 10:30 p.m. Closing

Sunday, August 31, 2008
 9:00 a.m. Resurrection Matins
 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
 12:30 p.m. Banquet in the St. Sava Mission Hall
 Keynote Address: Bishop Fotije of Dalmatia
 Performance by the Belgrade Theological Student Choir
 Open Swimming 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
 Live Music and Dancing 2:30 - 5:00 p.m.
 Closing 5 p.m.

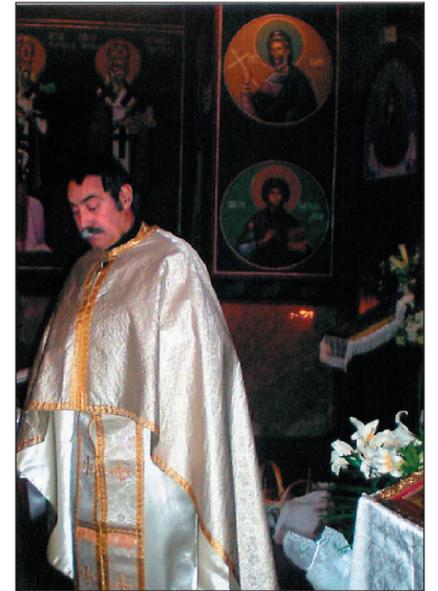
Hotel Information:
 Best Western Amador Inn, 200 S. Hwy 49, (209) 223-0211
 Holiday Inn Express, 101 Clinton Road, (209) 257-1500
 When calling the hotel, ask for the Diocesan Days rate.

IN MEMORIAM

†Protonamesnik Milivoj Djordjevic

1936 - 2008

The faithful servant of the Lord, Protonamesnik Milivoj Djordjevic fell asleep in the Lord on the fifth Saturday of Great Lent, April 12, 2008, in Lodi, California, following unexpected 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. Officiating at the funeral in addition to the local pastor Archpriest Dane Popovic were Protostavrophor Miladin Garich of Sacramento, CA; Protostavrophor Vasilije Cvijanovic 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. †Fr. Milivoj was laid to rest at the Serbian Cemetery in Colma, California.



Beloved son of Zivojin and Merinia Djordjevic, the late Fr. Milivoj was born on November 19, 1936, near Velika Plana 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 seminarians Lazar Kostur, Bogdan Zjalic, and George Ketchanin for study at Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary in Jordanville, New York. Fr. Milivoj successfully 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 Orthodox 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..." (John 15:16). Immediately thereafter he was appointed parish priest at the newly-organized Serbian Orthodox Church Parish dedicated to St. Sava in London, Ontario.

Fr. Milivoj and Popadija Pava worked tirelessly not only in this their first parish, but 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 Cupertino, 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, Fr. Lazar Kostur spoke at the funeral, briefly remembering their shared days at Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, NY, 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 Seminary we experienced first hand the spiritual depth of the Orthodox Church and were given the rare opportunity to gain a thorough foundation in and experience of the Orthodox liturgical life." Fr. Lazar mentioned how Abbot and Dean of Holy Trinity 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 "Miliboj."

Fr. Lazar spoke about priestly duty and how conscientiously and diligently the late Fr. Milivoj offered service to our church under difficult 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 militant with hope of attainment of the church triumphant.

Fr. Dane Popovic likewise eulogized the late Fr. Milivoj eloquently, focusing on his years of service and sacrifice in northern 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 Princess 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 Melchizedek."

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 sacrifice, 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 educators 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 led by leading educators and other advocates of Orthodox schools. Speakers to include Fr. Anthony Scott of Stewardship Advocates, Dr. James Skedros of Hellenic College, Dr. Vigen Guroian of Loyola College, Andrew Kern of the Circe Institute, Fr. Dcn. James Huges of St. Michael's School, and Bryan Smith of the Orthodox School Association, among others.

The cost for attendance, meals, and professional development credit is \$150. Accommodations are offered at the nearby Hilton Hotel in Dedham. Space is limited, so participants are asked to register early.

Participants are also invited to enroll in one of three evening seminars. These in-depth seminars offer attendees the opportunity to read and discuss seminal texts in the classical tradition.

For additional information on the conference and the evening seminars, please visit www.orthodoxschools.org, you may also call the Orthodox Schools Association at 617-850-1315.

SCOBA

continued from p. 1
 politan Philip shared with the other SCOBA Hierarchs the positive results of their individual meetings with Metropolitan Hilarion, the newly enthroned (May 18, 2008) First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia (ROCOR).

The Co-Chair of the Orthodox-Roman Catholic Theological Consultation, Metropolitan Maximos, gave a presentation on the status of the various Inter-Christian Dialogues. The meeting closed with an open and fraternal discussion of ecclesiastical issues that need attention.

Members of the SCOBA are Archbishop Demetrios, Chairman (Greek Orthodox Archdiocese), Metropolitan Philip, Vice-Chairman (Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese), Metropolitan Christopher, Secretary (Serbian Orthodox Church), Metropolitan Nicholas (Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese), Metropolitan Herman (Orthodox Church in America), Metropolitan Joseph (Bulgarian Orthodox Church), Archbishop Nicolae (Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese), Archbishop Antony (proxy, Ukrainian Orthodox Church) and Bishop Ilia (Albanian Orthodox Diocese).

IOCC expands economic development projects in Kosovo, announces matching grant

Belgrade, Serbia — International Orthodox 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 Constantine 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 people 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 Machaskee 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."



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)

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 \$275 million in relief and development programs in 33 countries around the world.

To help in providing assistance to families in Kosovo and the Balkans, visit www.iocc.org call IOCC toll free at 1-877-803-4622, or mail a check or money order payable to "IOCC" and write "Kosovo" in the memo line to: IOCC, P.O. Box 630225, Baltimore, Md. 21263-0225.

IOCC's new initiative for Kosovo will provide sustainable agricultural training and other employment projects. Since 1993, IOCC's Kosovo programs have assisted isolated communities while encouraging greater inter-ethnic cooperation. (photo credit: N. Prelevic/IOCC Serbia)

UNMIK official attacked in Decani

BELGRADE, June 13 (Tanjug)—Luis Perez, an official of the UNMIK [United Nations Mission in Kosovo] office in Decani, was physically attacked in Decani, Serbian language media in Kosovo reported today.

Citing international sources in Kosovo, they said that Perez was attacked June 12 while entering the building where he lives in Decani in Metohija.

Perez was attacked by three people who were hiding in the dark as he entered the building. They jumped him with the intent of beating him up. He reacted spontaneously and sustained a head injury defending himself from his attackers, said the media.

This is the second instance of a serious attack on UNMIK representatives in Decani since the publishing of a decision by UNMIK chief Joachim Ruecker asking the municipality to return cadastral records to their state prior to the 1999 conflict, and to record property owned by Visoki Decani Monastery in the land register. The [Albanian dominated] Decani municipal assembly decided last week not to implement this executive decision, and to break off contact with the two UNMIK representatives working in the Decani area. [The dispute regards land the Monastery claims was illegally taken from it. UNMIK had agreed with the Monastery and ordered the land returned, but the local Albanian authorities refused to accept the decision.]

Kosovo media sources reported that the attack on Perez provoked grave concern among the Serbs in the region of Pec and Visoki Decani Monastery, who are openly asking how they can expect to be protected when international representatives are not.

Media in Kosovo reported that it is assumed that a group of KLA war veterans [sic] led by Abdyl Mushkolaj are behind the attack. Mushkolaj personally threatened Patrick Buse, an UNMIK representative who left Decani municipality a few days ago.



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.

He added that as of Monday UNMIK has agreed to a role of mere observer in the process of returns of displaced persons

in Kosovo and Metohija. Sentic said that at a meeting last week the Kosovo Government rejected a Committee for Budget Authorization with ties to the Ministry for Communities and Return. Only the Kosovo Government's Ministry for Communities and Return will decide on implementation and

selection of programs.

Sentic believes that cooperation with the international community and local institutions must not be broken off 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.

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=0rDr85g0uqc>

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 and Bosnia and Herzegovina, new data released today shows.

The data, compiled by the UN's refugee organization and Serbia's Refugee 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 often described as appalling conditions. In addition, there are over 200,000 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 was 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 those 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 unselective, 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-Herzegovina and Serbia.

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.

According to the Croatian Helsinki Committee, 677 Serbs were killed during the operation, while Serb sources put the figure at around 2,500.

Marti said that that in villages in and around Knin, he had seen members of the HV who "looked more like pirates" and less like real soldiers, as well as looters who had robbed everything they could lay their hands on.

Initially, they stole cars, TVs, washing machines, furniture, and later, windows, door frames and carpets, so that by the end, said Marti, nothing was left.

The witness said that he had warned Croatian authorities about the looting, but that they had only pretended to be responsible for the former Republic of Serb Krajina.

[Operation Storm was the military offensive in August 1995 by Croatian forces to conquer the Republic of Serbian Krajina, which Serbs living in the former Yugoslav Republic of Croatia set up as a separate state following Croatia's secession from Yugoslavia. The brutal operation was given technical and advisory assistance by agents of the United States government. It resulted in some 200,000 Serbs being driven from their homes into Serbia as refugees. Croatia has been slow in allowing these refugees to return to their property, and many are still living in refugee camps.]

Successful Stewardship

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."

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. Nor 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 can 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 at our parishes.

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.

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."



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!" So 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 unhealthy 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.

May the seeds of "stewardship" that are being sown in San Diego (Ca), Fresno (Ca), Alhambra (Ca), Seattle (Wa), Lake Forrest (IL) and in Lackawanna (NY) be examples for all of 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.

OUR VIEW OUR VIEW OUR VIEW

THE YOUTH PAGES OF THE PATH OF ORTHODOXY, JULY-AUGUST 2008

Third Annual Youth Conference Los Angeles, CA, August 6 - 10, 2008

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.

We hope that each parish in North and South America will provide the financial means necessary to send representatives to the Youth retreat. Each teenager will be required to provide a \$125 registration fee as well as transportation to USC.

The following pages contain the registration materials for the Youth retreat. Please submit one complete packet for each delegate you are sending to the retreat and return to the Youth Ministry Committee at the following address:

Youth Ministry Committee
c/o Chris Radanovic
80 Church Rd
Etters, PA 17319

All registrations must be received no later than July 15, 2008. It is very important that your registration be submitted by this date so that the coordinators can prepare for the conference logistics.

When you return the completed registration packet, please make sure the following completed items are included:

- ___ Youth Conference Registration Form
- ___ Youth Conference Priest Recommendation Form
- ___ Youth Conference Permission to Travel Form
- ___ Parent/Guardian Authorizations, Permissions, and Agreement
- ___ Conference Guidelines and Regulations
- ___ Health History Form (2 pages)
- ___ \$125 Registration Fee Check made out to "The Serbian Orthodox Church Youth Conference."

Finally, we have included a frequently asked questions page to help you prepare for the conference. Please feel free to contact Chris Radanovic if you have any questions about the conference. His home telephone number is (717) 938-9829.

We are very excited to have this opportunity to facilitate this event. We hope you will support the future of the church by sending one or more delegates to the conference.

The National Youth Ministry Committee

Youth Conference Registration Form

The Youth Committee requires that the following be completed in its entirety and returned with the registration packet.

Delegate's Name: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
Number/Street City State Zip

Parent's Names: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Delegate's Birthday: _____ Male ___ Female ___ Shirt Size: _____

Parish Name _____ City: _____ State: _____

Please indicated travel plans (circle one): Air (flight no., arrival, & airport) _____
Automobile _____

If the delegate has/had special medical or physical needs or is under a physician's care for an ongoing or behavioral condition, please check this box and explain on a separate sheet of paper.

For Office Use Only

Date: _____ Ck#: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Parish Priest Recommendation Form: Yes/No
Permission to Travel Form: Yes/No
Parent/Guardian Authorizations, Permissions, and Agreement: Yes/No
Conference Guidelines and Regulations: Yes/No
Health History and Examination: Yes/No

Youth Conference Parish Priest Recommendation Form

The Youth Committee requires that the following be completed by the delegate's parish priest and returned with the registration packet.

Parish Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Priest Name: _____

Please briefly explain the spiritual and leadership qualities and church community activities of this delegate.

Signature and Seal of Parish Priest: I hereby affix my signature in approving this youth's Conference application, signifying his/her good standing in our parish.

Signature of Parish Priest

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where and when are we meeting for the conference?

- Out of town delegates should fly into Los Angeles International airport and plan to arrive by 4:00pm local (Pacific) time. Travel arrangements from LAX to the University of Southern California will be communicated prior to the conference.
- Local participants may be dropped off at the University of Southern California by 7:00pm. All participants should plan on being at the campus by 7:00pm so that the evening activities can proceed with all in attendance. No participants will be permitted to bring automobiles to the campus. All participants must be dropped off on Wednesday August 6th and must be picked up by 1:00pm on Sunday August 10th at St. Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Alhambra, CA, 1621 West Garvey Ave., Alhambra, 91803, 626-284-9100.

2. Who is chaperoning the youth during this event? The Youth Ministry Committee will provide qualified chaperones. There will be one chaperone for no more than eight youth attendees.

3. What activities will take place at the conference? The conference will include several spiritual presentations and discussions relevant to being an Orthodox teenager. Recreational activities in the host city will be organized. Participants will attend services and choir rehearsals.

4. What should the participant bring to this retreat?

- Clothes & Miscellaneous to pack:
Toiletries: comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, sun screen, deodorant
- Clothing: daily change of underwear, socks, other clothes (shorts, t-shirts, etc. for outdoor recreational activities), pajamas
- Swim Wear: Swimming suit and beach towel (one piece swimwear, bikinis will not be permitted), there will be a planned swimming activity during the retreat

For boys: pants and suitable shirts for church services (jeans, t-shirts, and tennis shoes are not acceptable!)

For girls: skirt and blouse, or dress (dresses and blouses should have sleeves; skirts and dresses should be knee length. Nothing short)

****Please do not send valuables --jewelry, etc.-- with your child. We will not be responsible for its security.**

****Remember that this is a spiritual retreat. Inappropriate clothing is a distraction to the other participants and will not be allowed.**

5. What should the participant not bring to this retreat?

- Automobiles – Out of town participants will meet at the USC campus. Local participants must be dropped off and picked at the campus. No personal participant cars will be permitted on the campus.
- Weapons
- Radios, Walkman, Tape Players, DVD players, video iPods, laptops
- Food – all food will be provided by the retreat center
- Linens: USC will provide two bath towels, face cloth, top and bottom bed sheets, pillow, pillow case, and blanket.

6. Where is the conference campus? The conference will be held at the University of Southern California. USC website is: http://www.usc.edu/about/visit/upc/tommy_cam/

7. How do I contact the conference administrators 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. Chris will be present throughout the entire retreat.

8. What time should I schedule my travel arrangements for?

Flights arriving at LAX on 8/6 by 4:00pm local (western) time and leaving LAX on 8/10 no earlier than 3:00pm local (Pacific) time.

Health History Form

The information on this form is not part of the conference acceptance process, but is gathered to assist us in identifying appropriate care.

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 me/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: _____

Date: _____

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 USC, 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

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, stereos, boom boxes, and walkman 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 participating 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 parents/delegate. This includes telephone charges, food 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: _____

Parents please note: in signing below you are agreeing that your child(ren) will adhere to the rules and guidelines of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada. Your endorsement is your consent for inspection of prohibited articles. Your signature also affirms that you have gone over these items with your child. Your child will not be permitted to attend the conference unless this form is signed and returned to us.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parents Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Authorizations, 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 routine health care, administer over-the-counter medications, administer 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. In the event 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, officers, directors, employees, staff, and volunteers from any and all expenses, claims, costs or attorney fees incurred as a result of claims, actions and/of 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: _____



Washington Deanery Meets on Education in NYC

The 21st Annual Washington 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. Mitrophan designated Reverend Father Zoran Radovic of St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Elizabeth, New Jersey to be the featured speaker.

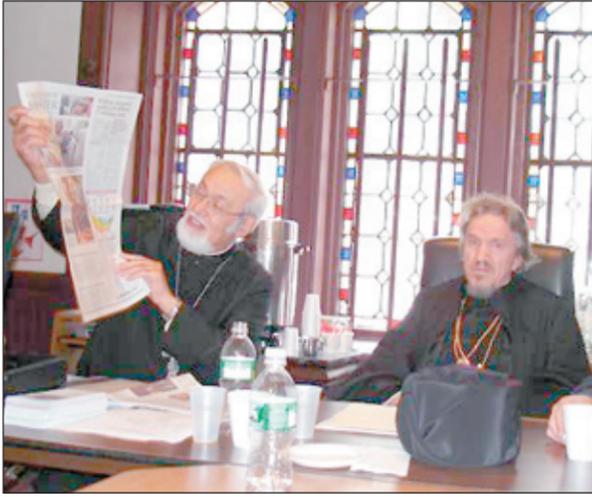
His Grace officiated at the Paschal Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with attending clergy serving and singing responses.

Following the Divine Liturgy, Cathedral Dean Protopresbyter Djokan Majstorovic expressed his pleasure in having His Grace and brothers in Christ present for the meeting.

Protopresbyter Stavrophor Srboljub Jockovich, dean of the Deanery, gave welcoming remarks emphasizing Christian education in the Deanery.

Father Radovic's well-prepared presentation stimulated discussion particularly regarding contemporary issues facing parents and children. Challenges regarding use of the internet, television and reading practices drew considerable attention.

Parish reports reviewing Christian education in each parish were presented by attending clergy, including in addition to those already mentioned Protopresbyter Stavrophor Toma Stojich, Protopresbyter Aleksandar Vlajkovic, Protopresbyter Ivan



Fr. Srboljub Jockovich and His Grace Bishop Mitrophan

Marjanovic, and Reverend Father Aleksa Micich. Protopresbyter Stavrophor Predrag Micich, Protopresbyter Dr. Rodney Torbic, Father Vladislav Radujkovic and Father Deacon Alex Pavichevich also participated in the meeting.

The Washington Deanery consists of the Pennsylvania parishes in Steelton, Lebanon and Philadelphia; the New Jersey parishes in Paterson and Elizabeth; the New York City parish and parishes in Boston, Massachusetts; Portland, Maine and Washington D.C.

His Grace Bishop Dr. Mitrophan schedules and actively participates in the Deanery meetings, and His participation is the strongest evidence of the importance of Christian education in the Diocese.

Deanery meetings have been held annually since 1987 in the Eastern American Diocese. Clergy and teachers in each Deanery are always invited to attend and participate. The meetings provide an opportunity to learn from the speaker and for participants to share and learn from each other.

Father Rodney Torbic

'Oldest' church found

Rihab, Jordan. Archiologists announced last week that they had discovered the world's oldest known 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 Orthodox Archdiocese in Amman called the find 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'Conner of the French Biblical and Archeological School in Jerusalem said Jordan has been known to hype archeological finds to boost tourism.

Vidovdan Banquet

continued from p. 1

Christ. Kosovo for us is a Christ-centric event in which our people, led by St. Tsar Lazar, chose a personal relationship with God. By this choice they affirmed that they are people of God...Being mindful of her role and meaning for the faithful, our Church today 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 is the Church, and there is God's Kingdom and there is our homeland. In a spiritual sense, no leaders of this world are able to take away our holy Kosovo and Metohija, for it is a symbol of our covenant with Christ. However, each one of us can contribute to the loss of Kosovo, i.e. we can take it away from ourselves and lose it if we separate ourselves from Christ. We can lose it if we look at Kosovo and Metohija only as the territory without the people, as a political symbol, as a godless symbol of nationalism, instead as the symbol of renewal of our covenant with Christ through the holy Lazar-Kosovo suffering and our resurrection in Christ."

The political analyst Dr. Srdja Trifkovic in his speech also foresaw the self-destruction of the US international policy particularly in Kosovo and Medohija: "The U.S.-led Kosovo policy in the end will prove to be a blessing in disguise for Serbia. Only by not joining the European Union will she preserve her identity, her traditions, and her faith. Only by not joining the U.S. - hegemonized system of military alliances will she avoid

having her youths put in harm's way for nothing, in some arid, hostile faraway lands. Only by forging an ever-tighter political, economic, and eventually military alliance with Russia will Serbia avoid the clutches of a postmodern "American" empire devoid of a single redeeming feature. God sometimes acts in mysterious ways, and as we near the 619th anniversary of the Battle of Kosovo, we should ask for His mercy and thank Him for His blessings. Kosovo had remained Serbian during those five long centuries of Ottoman darkness, to be liberated in 1912. It is no less Serbian now, the ugly farce in Pristina notwithstanding. It will be tangibly Serbian again when the current experiment in Benevolent Global Hegemony collapses and when the very names of Messrs. Bush, Clinton and their cohorts are deservedly consigned to the dust-heap of history."

The banquet truly was an indication that in the midst of this darkest period for Serbian Orthodox people there indeed is a light of hope. Our true hope is in our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The battle for Kosovo has just begun. It is up to each one of us to fight this battle on the grounds of our hearts, primarily, and then on a wider political arena.

Collectively and individually we must remain faithful to Christ. We must remain faithful to the Kosovo covenant. We must be, as His Holiness Patriarch Pavle said: "Let us be people" - people of God"

Protopresbyter Bratso Krsic

HIS GRACE BISHOP MITROPHAN

INVITES THE FAITHFUL
OF THE EASTERN AMERICAN DIOCESE
TO SHADELAND FOR
ANNUAL DIOCESAN DAY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2008

10:00 Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
Noon Picnic with barbecued lamb and traditional foods
Music by Cleveland Serbs
2:00 PM Folklore Program presented by Shadeland Campers
More music and dancing to follow!

www.easterndioces.org

A TALK ADDRESSED TO COLLEGE STUDENTS:

A Leap into the Unknown

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. It was then that I left the nice comfortable security of family life in a small town of 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 the outcome of this grave decision to go to college would 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?" 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 you will ever take. You are entering the world of new ideas, new philosophies, and new ways of life. What will happen to the old ways, the old ideas, when mom can no longer remind you to go for a haircut or to Church?

Your Church is concerned about what will happen during these formative years. The Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is an expression of the concern of your Hierarchs for what will happen to you. We are concerned because we know that many think religion is nothing but a bunch of do's and don'ts—with the don'ts seeming to be a lot more appealing, a lot more exciting than the do's. You will be tempted by talk of new moralities, of situational ethics. Archbishop Iakovos once said that immorality no longer exists because immorality presupposes a morality. And that which characterizes our society is amorality—no morals at all. Beware, then, of so-called "new moralities." Be prepared to hear from learned professors whom you will admire that they are atheists.

I could probably come up with a list of at least 10 BEWARES for college students, and some of you might question, well, if there is so much wrong, maybe I shouldn't go to college. No, that's not what I mean to get across. St Paul says, "try all and keep what is good." You will hear much and learn much in college. Keep what is good.

As you listen and learn and become proficient in your chosen area of study, devote some time also to learning about your Orthodox faith. Religion, you know, is not just an area of study; it is a way of life. It is to be lived whether you become a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher or a ditch digger. To live it, you must know about it. Faith

and knowledge go hand in hand. As you learn more our Orthodox Church on a level equal to your college studies your faith will increase and you will come to understand that the way shown to us by God is far superior to the philosophies of men. In your studies you will give Plato and Rousseau and Shakespeare and James Joyce a change. Give Christ a chance too.

Mother Maria, an Orthodox nun who died in the gas chambers with the Jews during World War II, said that "If Christianity is not fire, it is nothing." All of you have proved your willingness to take a risk, by entering college. I invite you to take another—Jump into the fire—learn what it's all about.

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 to us is to strive for perfection. It was not an empty challenge because he provided the example for us to follow. "Behold The Man," St. John exhorts us. In him there is perfection, purity.

Don't set your sights lower. Don't adopt as your way of life one proposed by men. Rather remain steadfast in that way shown to us by the Creator of men. During your years in college attend Church regularly, receive spiritual 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 intelligentsia. For that reason, the Campus Commission was created to begin making available some resource material that will make Orthodoxy meaningful to college students.

This modern world, my 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 what you, I, all of us should do about it is begin to live our Orthodox faith. A simple answer—not a simple way, not the way the world is today.

Take charge of the world,—change its direction.

James Couchell (Bishop Demetrios)
Former Executive Secretary of the Orthodox Campus Commission

Upbeat
v.1, n.5, 1968