

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
St. Peter & St. Paul Orthodox Church
Orthodox Church in America
 6980 S. County Line Road—Burr Ridge, IL 60527
 Fr. Herman Kincaid, Rector

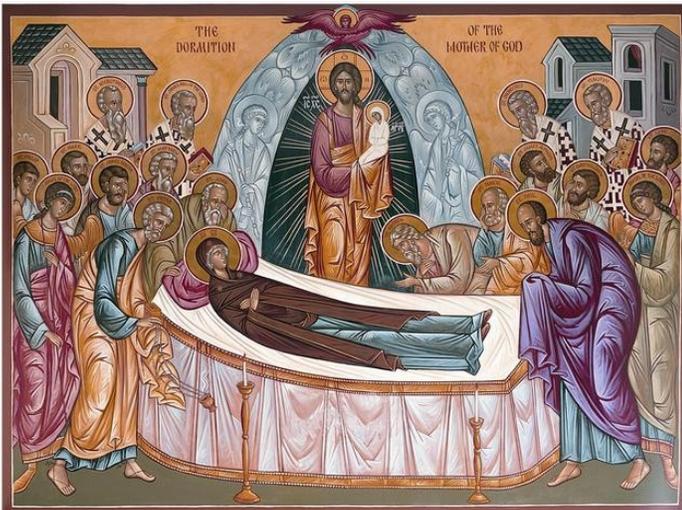


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Produced by the adjunct committee on Evangelization, Outreach and Parish Stewardship (EOPS). Our hope is to concentrate on information, people and events. Information should be given to Shirley Bryar, Dorothy Koncel, or Fr. Herman. Back copies of all Newsletters can be viewed in our library. *This issue can be viewed on our website in color.*

FALL 2015



Dormition of the Theotokos August 15. Thank you to Fr. Herman for our new way of displaying the flowers we bring to be blessed, and to Alice Obmascik for the decoration of the exquisite flowers on the tomb.

MEMORY ETERNAL

Joseph Bilas fell asleep in the LORD on December 2, 2015. May his Memory be Eternal.

The following article appeared in our Newsletter of Winter 2010-11.

Joe Bilas is a lifelong member of St. Peter & St. Paul Church and he has served in many capacities to be of help to the church.

He was president of the parish council, treasurer, served on the by-laws committee and he researched many, many services and products necessary to the function and operation of our facility.

Joe served on the 2000 Pictorial Directory, 75th Anniversary Committee, was a delegate to many Diocesan Assemblies and even printed the weekly bulletin in the interim after Fr. Karaffa's sudden passing. He also printed and edited the weekly bulletin between Fr. Raphael and Fr. Stephen.

When Fr. Karaffa wanted a head count of parishioners on a Sunday, Joe dutifully obliged. He is also an usher on most Sundays.

Joe has always been active in the "O" Club and he is one of the founding members of the EOPS Committee, publishers of this newsletter. He still keeps our mailing list and prints our mailing labels. Our list is larger than the church directory because our mandate is not only to reach our parishioners, but also to attract new parishioners to our church and to our activities.

The very first thing that the EOPS Committee did, at Joe's suggestion, was to establish a "Greeter Committee." This was a great idea! He is now the co-coordinator of the Greeters and prints out their schedule.

Joe attended Gage Park High School, the Illinois Institute of Technology (or simply IIT) and Wright Junior College. His last employer prior to his retirement was Baldwin Web Controls. His position was Manufacturing Manager. Baldwin Web Controls was a producer of safety and registration devices for web printing presses. He served in the U.S. Army as a Fire Control Specialist and was assigned to the Air Defense Command at Carlswell AFB, a Strategic Air Command Base.

His family consists of wife Mona and three children Jeff, Laura and Natalie. Mona is currently a Sunday School teacher. She is also a past president of our "O" Club. Jeff and his wife Laura have two sons Jason and Matthew. Jason is an altar server. Laura and her husband Casey have three children: Nick, Paul and Rachel. Nick and Paul also serve in the Altar. Nick will sing with the senior choir when not serving in the Altar. Daughter Rachel sings with the junior choir. Daughter Natalie and her husband Andy have three daughters: Alison, Melissa and Julia. They attend St. Joseph's in Wheaton.

Joe had a kidney transplant in December of 2004 and would encourage all to become organ donors. A person receiving any type of transplant is given a fresh lease on life.

The services for Joe were held on:
 Wednesday, December 9, 2015 visitation from 3:00—9:00 PM.
 Memorial Service at 7:00 PM.
 Thursday, December 10, 2015 visitation from 9:00—10:00 AM.
 Funeral Service, 10:00 AM.
 Burial Service at Evergreen Cemetery.





Our delegates to the All-American Council were Fr. Herman and diaconate candidate Dave Kenny in front of The Sitka Mother of God icon.

Impressions of the 18th AAC by Dave Kenny, Lay Delegate

The 18th All-American Council (AAC) was held in Atlanta, GA from July 20th through July 24th, 2015 and its theme was "How to Expand the Mission." The weather certainly held up to the city's nickname "Hotlanta" during our stay. It was in the low 90's with oppressive humidity the whole week. Not that the weather mattered, since the days were long with not a lot of downtime between the liturgical services, plenary sessions, and workshops.

Liturgical services were scheduled throughout the week at various times between sessions. Divine Liturgy was at 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday with Akathists following at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday (Sitka icon), Wednesday (St. Anne icon) and Friday (All Saints of North America). On Thursday morning, attendees were able to sleep in a bit because of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, which started at 7:30 a.m. Vespers was scheduled for 5:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. on Monday through Wednesday, depending on the day. I do not wish to bore you with listing all the service times, but my intent is to demonstrate that with those many services at different start times, it felt a bit like Holy Week.



Monday would be considered the "late start" day of the week, since the 54th Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest started at 9 a.m. Although the perfunctory reports given included relevant information regarding the Diocese, the highlight was the report from Bishop Paul. His Grace generally supported both resolutions on the AAC agenda, but stated it was okay to disagree. He also wanted to visit all Diocesan parishes within a year, then move to a three-year rotation. Lastly, His Grace brought up the topic of marriage (due to the recent Obergefell v. Hodges U.S. Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage). Bishop Paul noted that we live in a world that is increasingly secular and polarized, which can be lead to equating Orthodoxy with political viewpoints. His Grace then added that Christ's Kingdom is not of this world. He stated that we acknowledge that same-sex marriage and abortion are indeed wrong, but the real issue is how to deal with those who come to the Church who may have had an abortion or gender reassignment surgery. He emphasized that he was in no way attempting to minimize the clear position of the Church, but stated that how we live in and minister to this world is central.

Between the end of the Diocesan Assembly and the beginning of the actual AAC, clergy and delegates attended various symposiums then Vespers. I was able to hear about the great work being done by the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). You could see the gratitude on the speakers faces when describing their work in third world countries. I use the word "gratitude" because they were able to witness the joy of those receiving assistance. We in America are too distracted with our lifestyle when compared to those with very little in undeveloped countries. Inhabitants of those poor area greatly express the joy of Christ.

Once the AAC started, each plenary session contained various reports and most Dioceses submitted their report via video presentation. There was a loud, collective chuckle when the Diocese of NY-NJ's presentation started with Sinatra's lyrics "start spreading the news" (from New York, New York). I highly recommend visiting the Archdiocese's website and viewing the all the presentations yourself. All the minutes, videos and presentations can be found at this URL: <http://oca.org/news/the-18th-all-american-council>



The highlight of the opening plenary session was, of course, Metropolitan Tikhon's address to the council. His Beatitude talked about the "why's", "who's", and "when's" of expanding the mission, while incorporating anecdotes from his family history (including a musket ball from the American Revolutionary war that was embedded in a relative's spine –which His Beatitude had in his possession at the council). He is a great story teller. The point His Beatitude was making was that his family history is important, but it does not define him. It reminds him of the human struggle and there is always human effort required to find God and to live a life worthy of Him.

His Beatitude talked about how this world has gone mad (with the continual disregard for human life, the Obergefell v. Hodges Supreme Court decision, addictions, violent attacks on innocent people) and that is the reason why we must expand the mission. The work of the Church is to help bring wholeness to the brokenness of this world, which can only be accomplished through Christ's victory.



The formal dinner (held on Thursday evening) was an enjoyable event, which included the address of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Onufry of Kiev and All Ukraine. He spoke about missions and missionaries and the example of St. Tikhon. He also talked briefly about the current situation in Ukraine and that the response of the Church is to strive to rise above fleeting ideological and political preferences.

Regarding the main business of the council, there were a number of resolutions considered. The first was the 'Revised Statute', brought forth by the Commission of Canons and Statutes. The gist of the resolution was to increase the legal protection at all levels of the OCA and included adaptations from lessons learned from the 'time of troubles'. The Statute stated how we relate to each other as well as how we should relate to the rest of society. The motion to accept the Revised Statute carried with 473 for and 15 against.



The second resolution on the official agenda was titled 'AAC Proposal on Spiritual Abuse'. There was a presentation on this, but a vote did not occur due to the length of the session going well beyond its allotted time. The consensus among most clergy and laity was that the proposal's intent was well meaning, but it would cause problems later (unintended consequences). On the last day of the Council, the hierarchs knew of the overall feeling on this and it was removed from consideration, but discussion was allowed. The Holy Synod acknowledged the question of spiritual abuse as a serious one and will be studying the matter further.

During the fifth plenary session on Thursday, there two other resolutions that took place. The first one expressed our solidarity and support for the suffering Christians in the Middle East. It called on our respective governments to take on political and humanitarian efforts to protect Christians and holy sites in that area of the world. It passed by acclamation. The second resolution took place after an International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) video was played, highlighting their efforts to help people affected by the current crisis in Syria. Fr. John Zdinak (Midwest Diocesan Chancellor) requested a collection take place immediately to support IOCC in its efforts. Metropolitan Tikhon blessed the action and the collection totaled almost \$12,000.

On a lighter note, I was entertained watching folks come up to the swarm of men-in-black with beards, usually in the mall food court, asking them, "what are you?" After being told they were Orthodox, some inquirers asked for prayers, while some even asked further if they were Jewish! They obviously did not see the cross hanging around the priests' necks (I recollect that happened to Fr. Herman).

Overall, the vibe of the council was positive and upbeat. Comments from previous attendees and speakers stated so as well. Most said it was a different feel than during the 'time of troubles' (approximately 2006 through 2011).

Although this is a very brief article, I hope to give some small impression of what I experienced at the AAC. It was informative and uplifting – I was definitely charged to help expand the mission. As I stated previously, please check out the oca.org website and review the materials yourself. It has been an honor and privilege to serve our parish as the lay delegate to the 18th All-American Council. May God bless you, as we all work to expand the mission.



Metropolitan Tikhon makes his opening remarks. Note all of the reliquaries.



Our Official 2015 Parish Photo

A SPECIAL HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY DOROTHY



The Metropolitan and the bishops pose with the 85 children who attended. This is the first time that the youths have been a part of the AAC, which meets every 3 years.



Dorothy Koncel Greeting Patriarch ALEKSY II at O'Hare airport in 1993.



AM classes and projects, they also learned hymns.



Afternoon outing



They served meals to the homeless & needy



Sight-seeing



Closing ceremony
The kids shared their "Dream for the Church"
The Metropolitan urged the kids to "Bring their parents to Church."



The Bishops ate breakfast with the children

Iveron Icon of the Mother of God



At our September Healing Service, we were anointed with the oil from the miraculous Iveron icon of the Mother of God, from Hawaii, which recently visited the Chicago area. We thank Fr. Herman for obtaining this special oil for us.



The Christmas Eve Holy Supper

(Svjatyj Vecer / Veliija)



Christmas Eve Holy Supper from the book: Order of Prayers For the Holy Supper

By: Archbishop JOB (Osacky) our former Bishop who Fell Asleep in the Lord on December 18, 2009. (Although the names the Bishop used are Ukrainian, variations of the dishes are typically used throughout Eastern Europe. We will attempt to give you our abbreviated English translation where necessary.)

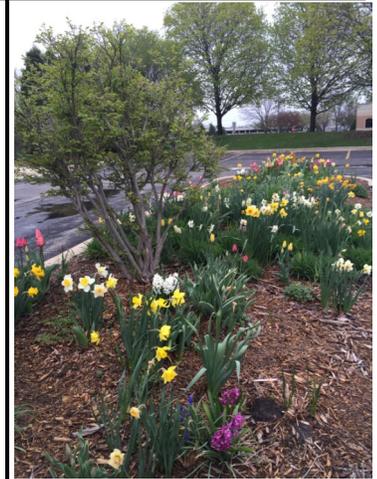
The Bishop began the list by stating the twelve suggested courses. Their order are not the same everywhere except for the first course kutya, which remembers our ancestors. Custom dictates that everyone must partake of kutya.

1. Kutya (A pudding made of wheat berries, honey & sometimes poppy seed or dried fruits & nuts.)
2. Pickled herring and or baked fish or salmon aspic (in memory of early Christians.)
3. Borsch (Beet soup, or another Lenten soup)
4. Varenyky (Filled dumplings.)
5. Mushroom sauce.
6. Holubtsi (Stuffed cabbage rolls.)
7. Buckwheat kasha.
8. Nalysnyky. (Crepe-like pancakes.)
9. Bread.
10. Honey cake.
11. Ukrainian Christmas Cake.
12. Fruit Compote.

You can also create your own 12 course Lenten meal using the above for ideas. It can work for any size family, even for a family of one, or two. Light a candle, and give the traditional toast that God will always be in our thoughts, words, and laughter, and will direct our every deed.

We hope you will each have a special "Holy Supper" on Christmas Eve, and we hope it will include attending church. We know that some of you already have a family tradition, others have the opportunity to start one. It doesn't matter how large the family is, remember the Bishop's words, "we remember our ancestors and we do this in memory of the early Christians".

Merry Christmas from the EOPS Committee.



Some of the 300 bulbs that Alice Obmascik planted.

Thanks for your year-round effort to beautify our church with plants and flowers inside and out. We hear that she is at work planting more bulbs that will bloom next year.



Planning for College

Our first Summer College Orientation took place on Sunday, July 12th, and was extremely successful: 17 people were in attendance which is pretty high for the busy summer time. Our speakers: Nicole Fortuna, Northwestern; Matthew Adams, Nuclear Naval Training Command; Laura Barannikova, Purdue; Natalia Ogurkiewicz, UIC, shared their own experiences in searching for the right college and gave advice to our teens on how to make the journey less painful. The discussion was lively and very helpful for everyone. Especially thank you to Nicole Fortuna for creating "Pointers for Choosing the Right College."

Thanks to Dr. Olga Metlushko





Lil Gula got to visit our church for the first time since she moved to Eve Assisted Living. She brought 2 friends and a driver.



Some of the church cleaning crew and other parishioners were on hand to welcome the ladies with coffee and refreshments. Also, Fr. Herman anointed those who wished it, and had a special prayer for our guests. It was great to get to see Lil again and to meet her new neighbors who asked questions about our church.



This years Annual Father Stephen Karaffa Golf Outing was held at a new venue, Carriage Greens Country Club, on August 22, 2015. It was a beautiful day for the golfers, the food was delicious and the camaraderie was fantastic. Everyone was in such a good mood. It was fantastic. The church realized a \$3,197.92 profit for the day, which comes to a combined profit of \$40,534.25 for the years 2005—2015.

Thank you to the committee for their hard work and thank you to all who contributed in any way. See you all next year.



Our Annual Memorial Day prayer service at Evergreen Cemetery didn't quite get finished. It started as a bright day, but suddenly turned dark. The winds came fiercely and it poured. Umbrellas got turned inside out and we got drenched running to our cars.



While running across the cemetery this photo was taken of John Kotkovich's new grave. Surprisingly it doesn't look like a stormy day.

How was it possible to get such a peaceful photo during such a storm? It was a day of surprises.

ANNUAL CHOIR BANQUET



Director John Sutko, Bishop Paul, Fr. Herman, and Fr. Dns. John and Mark. This was the Bishops first time to attend the banquet, and it was Fr. Dn. Mark's first time as a deacon. Mr. Sutko announced that a new director should be sought in 2016.

DENKMANN—DELUCA WEDDING



Danielle and Justin exchange a kiss at the end of their marriage ceremony on September 12, 2015, with Fr. Herman's and Fr. Ned Lunich's approval.



DWTS Rex and Denise got to dance at their daughter's wedding.

2015—2016 Official Church School Photo



2015—2016 “Do We Have Fun in Church Photo”



CALENDAR



- DEC 6—ST. NICHOLAS THE WONDER WORKER
- 13—VENERATION OF ST. HERMAN’S RELICS
- 20—THE CHILDREN’S YOLKA
- 25—JAN 4 NO FASTING
- 24—27 SEE WEEKLY BULLETIN FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES
- JAN 6 HOLY THEOPHANY
- FEB 2 PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE
- 7 ANNUAL MEETING



Appropriately dressed resident at St. Tikhons Monastery, but aren’t the white shoes a little much?

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