



MISSION NEWSLETTER

From the Heart of Fr. Costas

My dearest ones,

September is the most exciting month for our Church, because the new ecclesiastical year begins and includes the Elevation of the Holy Cross and the Blessing of the Waters. It is also the time when Bible Classes, Sunday School, Greek School, Greek Ethnic Dancing and other activities begin.

Only the Gospel, explained by the Fathers of the Church is the sole and absolute truth which satisfies our spiritual hunger, quenches our thirst and strengthens the wings of our souls. Please, make it a priority to get closer to the Lord and His Church this year by being present at all Church activities in order to best preserve our faith, customs and traditions.

This is year of St. Paul. Usually the Gospel readings are easily understood but the Epistle readings, most of which come from St. Paul, are somewhat complicated and obscure. We shall try to explain them to the best of our ability using the Fathers of the Church as the guide. Please make every effort to read the letters of St. Paul and you will learn a great deal about your faith and the Bible in

general. Please, come to Church on time at 10:00 am.

Hopefully, this will be the year during which we will move to a more permanent and 24/7 facility so we could have our weekday services uninterrupted and other Church activities. Please read the letter of Mr. E. J. Constantine very carefully and respond soon after consulting your family and praying about it. Right now we are looking for:

1 GREAT BENEFACTOR
TO DONATE \$1,000.000.
4 BENEFACTORS, EACH
TO DONATE \$500,000, A
TOTAL of \$2,000.000
and
10 GUARDIAN ANGELS,
EACH TO DONATE \$10,000, A
TOTAL of \$1,000.000.

This will generate a GRAND
TOTAL of \$4,000.000.

The time has come for us to sacrifice a substantial amount for the New Church. LET US ALL GIVE OUR PARISHIONERS AND ESPECIALLY OUR CHILDREN A BETTER PLACE OF WORSHIP.

With love, and great anticipation,
the happiest priest,

Fr. Costas

Steering & Operations

Committees:

REV. DR. COSTAS
CONSTANTINOU
Pastor

STEVE DAFNIS*
Chairman

IRENE BASDAKIS
Vice Chairperson
Operations

EJ CONSTANTINE*
Capital Formation and
Genesis Program Chair

GEORGIANN ELLIS
Treasurer

ANDREW KERATZIDES

MICHAEL SELBERIS*

REGGIE SELLAS

EMMANUEL SFAKIANAKIS

*Executive Committee Member

Mission Statement

“To establish a Greek Orthodox Church in South Orange County which follows, preserves and continues our timeless religious beliefs and traditions and emphasizes our Hellenic heritage, customs and values.”

Please email r.henning1@juno.com with any monthly newsletter in-put suggestions by the last week of the month preceding publication.

Building Fund Benefit Dinner Dance

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

On November 10, 2007 our Mission Parish will be holding a semi-formal dinner dance in an effort to raise funds to build a church of our own. The event will take place at the Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club in Mission Viejo and will start at 5:00 pm. Invitations will be mailed out in the middle of September and seating is limited to 220 people so please reserve the date on your calendar.

In the very near future a committee member will be contacting you so that you may place an ad in the Commemorative Program Book. You can advertise your business, send a good wish to the church for their success or remember a loved on who has passed into eternity. There will also be a major raffle and the tickets will go on sale on Sunday, September 9th.

The success of this fundraiser depends on the participation of all our generous parishioners. If you would like to place an ad in the Program Book, please contact Mr. Dean Papas at 949-218-2332 or via email at deanmarpa@cox.net. If you would like more information regarding the fundraiser in general or would like to help sell raffle tickets, please contact Mrs. Mia Domingot at 949-637-5278 or via email at mdomingot@cox.net.

Thank You for your support,

Steve Dafnis, Steering Committee President
Mia Domingot, Dinner Dance Chairwoman
Dean Papas, Program/Ad Book Chairman

CHURCH READING PROGRAM

On June 27th Presvytera Jeannie met with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos about the Reader Program. The Metropolitan was very enthusiastic about her proposal for the training of tonsured Readers and gave her permission to begin the pilot program for the Metropolis at our parish. To read the Holy Scriptures in Church is an honor and a privilege since the Reader proclaims the Word of God. If the reading is not done effectively, God is dishonored and the faithful do not benefit from the Scripture's instruction. Therefore, those who read the Epistle in Church will only be those who have committed themselves to this training by enrolling in the Reader Program. The actual instruction for this program will begin in the Fall for adults, who will be expected to attend the Sunday morning Bible Study, and also for youth (ages 10 and up), who will attend a special Sunday School class. The instruction program will focus primarily on the basics about the Bible, but also will cover the various feasts of the Church, the liturgical year, the services of the Church, etc. A functional component will consist of training in the actual technique of reading, where to find the readings, procedures for reading in Church, etc. She also plans to produce instruction CDs which would allow you to learn at home or in your car. If you are interested but cannot attend the classes, let her know of your interest. If you have any questions or wish to enroll and begin reading in Church this Fall, see Presvytera Jeannie.

New Adult Greek Dance Group Now Forming

A young adult (17+) to adult Greek Dance performing group is now being formed for Exhibition and Folk Dance Festival competition. John Basdakakis will be directing what is hoped to become the premier Greek dance exhibition group in Orange County. Classes will be fun, dynamic, at times challenging, very rewarding, and a great social opportunity. Practice times and days are to be determined.

For more information, contact John Basdakakis at 714-813-2158 or email him at john@msn4loans.com.

OPA!

Fellowship Brunch

Given by GOMSOC Philoptochos

Come and enjoy a delicious brunch with friends old and new!

DATE Saturday, October 6, 2007

TIME 10:00-1:00pm

PLACE Oak Knoll Village Club
28192 Oneill Drive
Ladera Ranch

Seating is limited, so please *RSVP* and purchase tickets in advance by September 25. Tickets are \$30.00 a person. Make checks payable to GOMSOC. Send checks to:

Argie Cupples
2 Calle Regio
San Clemente, CA 92693
(949) 498-5956

For more information contact Irene Constantine @ (949) 218-0882

Directions to Oak Knoll Village Club from Oso and Antonio
Take Antonio south to Benjamin. Make a right on Benjamin.
At the roundabout where Benjamin, Sienna, and Oneill merge,
go right. Then make a left into the parking lot of Oak Knoll
Village Club. For more information on directions call
(949) 218-0900

Presvytera Eugenia Receives Ph.D

Presvytera Eugenia successfully defended her doctoral dissertation at Université Laval in Quebec City, Canada, on August 17th. The subject of her dissertation was "Andrew of Caesarea and the Apocalypse in the Ancient Church of the East." Andrew of Caesarea was the bishop of Caesarea, Cappadocia, in the early 7th century, the same Episcopal see held by St. Basil the Great in the 4th century. Andrew of Caesarea wrote a commentary on the Book of Revelation. Revelation is the last book of the Bible and it is also called "the Apocalypse." A commentary is a written explanation of a book of the Bible. Andrew's commentary on Revelation became the most important patristic commentary (a commentary by one of the early Fathers of the Church) explaining Revelation, but Revelation later it fell out of favor because of its strange symbols and imagery. After the 4th century, most Eastern Christians did not accept it as Scripture. Andrew of Caesarea's commentary was very important because it explained Revelation in an Orthodox manner and because of it, slowly the Orthodox Church fully accepted the Apocalypse as part of the Bible.

Andrew's commentary on Revelation was written in a form of ancient Greek and has never been translated into a modern language. Presvytera's work was to translate the commentary and write a dissertation analyzing and explaining the commentary. She studied the historical period in which

Andrew lived and also studied and wrote about the use and reception of the Book of Revelation in the Eastern Christian tradition. She had to study everything that was written or said about Revelation for the first five hundred years after its composition (about 95 AD) in the Latin West and in the Greek East and compare those statements and interpretations to Andrew of Caesarea's interpretation of Revelation. Presvytera's dissertation is both the first translation of the commentary and the first in depth study

of the work and person of Andrew of Caesarea. In total, her dissertation consisted of about 550 pages with about 2,300 footnotes. Presvytera's translation of the commentary of Andrew of Caesarea will be published by Catholic University of America Press in a very well-known series called

The Fathers of the Church, but it will probably not appear in print for about three years. She hopes that the rest of dissertation will become another book on Revelation in the Orthodox Church.

What is a Ph.D?

A doctorate, or Ph.D ("Doctor of Philosophy") is the highest academic degree one can attain. The Candidate enrolls in an Ph.D. program after first completing bachelor's and master's degrees with high academic achievement. A Ph.D is an absolute necessity for a teaching position at a university, unless you are teaching classes for professional training such as law or nursing.

A Ph.D. requires several years to complete.



Announcements

Sunday School News

Sunday School begins this month! We are very fortunate to have several knowledgeable and dedicated teachers who have generously offered their help this year. Registration for Sunday School will occur on September 9th. Student instruction will begin on September 16th. Be sure to register your children early so that we can make the appropriate class assignments and procure the necessary materials. If you have any questions, please see Ariana Sfakianakis after the Divine Liturgy or call her at (714) 879-7758. Thank you so much!

Dinner Dance Fundraiser Planned

A Dinner Dance Fundraiser is being planned. Proceeds will benefit our Building Fund. Circle this date on your calendar now - **November 10, 2007**. You can find more details on this worth-while event on page 2.

Ladies Philanthropic Society News

Next Meeting. The Society's next meeting will be immediately after the Divine Liturgy on September 16th to discuss preparations for the Fellowship Brunch. Please plan to attend. **Dues.** The Society kindly requests that all members send in their dues for this year as soon as possible. **Ladies Fellowship Brunch.** The Ladies Fellowship Brunch has been scheduled for the 6th of October. Please save the date. **Questions, comments or concerns?** The Society has a box upstairs in the Fellowship Room that you can use to relay any questions you have. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number so someone can contact you with a response or action.

Greek School

Thanks to our teachers, parents and wonderful students who attended Greek School in 2006-2007. We are looking forward to seeing all of you again in September and welcoming any new students for the Fall. Greek School will start Monday, September 10th. If you are interested, please contact Mia Domingot at mdomingot@cox.net or Kelly Parissis at kelly@greekbaby.com. You may also call Kelly at (949) 249-3448.

GOYA Has Started

Please let us know if you have a teenager at home (13-17 years old). We would like to be able to contact them and welcome them into the GOYA group which has now formed. Advisors are also needed. Let us know if you can help in that capacity. Miss Yeoryia Selberis has been appointed as the first president until we have elections.

YAL is Organized.

YAL (Young Adults ages 18-40) have had a very good start. Join them every second Monday of the month at 7:15 pm at the Church Office (Avery and Marguerite). A special thanks to the Vasilakos family of Rubinos Pizza for donating the fare at our first gathering, a bon fire at North Beach in San Clemente. For more information call or email Sophia Kollias. Her contact information is phone 388-9123 or email her at sophia99@cox.net.

Church Office Updates

Cell Phone. Fr. Costas' cell phone number is (949) 365-6339. Do not hesitate to call him. Father would prefer that you not leave messages on the office 800 number because it seems that we are still not receiving all of the messages. Please call him directly. **Regular Day Off.** FRIDAY is now Fr. Costas' day off. Please refrain from calling him on that day, unless it is an emergency. **Office hours.** Monday & Wednesday: 4:00-7:00 pm. Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00 am –1:00 pm. When not in the office Fr. Costas will be visiting your homes and businesses, hospitals and convalescent homes, etc.

Committee to Name our Mission Parish

A committee is now being formed to create the selection process for the naming of our Mission Parish. Those persons interested in serving on the committee can email GOMSOC at info@gomsoc.org or speak directly with Fr. Costas.

Prime Timers

September Meeting. The Prime Timers will meet at O'Neils at 11:30 am on Monday the 10th. O'Neils is located at the golf course at the end of Avery Pkwy. **Palm Springs Follies.** A trip is being planned for all interested in attending the Palm Springs Follies. A date of January 10th has been selected. Those interested can contact John Argos at (714) 549-2503 for further information. **Christmas Party.** The planning of this year's Parish Christmas Party is actively being pursued. The date has been chosen: December 9th—Mark your calendars now! It will start at 4 pm and is being held in the same location as last year's Christmas Party. This event was a great success last year and is not to be missed! The organizing committee is seeking door prize items. Please see if you can contribute something to this worthy effort. If you can help, contact Danny Tonge at (949) 457-9524. Thank you so much!

Greek Orthodox Mission
of South Orange County
P.O. Box 1214
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693

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METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Sunday Liturgies:

Orthros and Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Liturgy	10:00 a.m.

JSerra High School Chapel
26351 Junipero Serra Rd.
San Juan Capistrano

Directions: From I-5 take the Junipero Serra Road exit. Go west on Junipero Serra Road. Just past the Shell gas station on your right, make a right into the next driveway. Proceed to the north end of the property (signs are posted).

Office and Greek School: 28570 Marguerite Parkway #223
(just north of Avery Pkwy)
Mission Viejo

Telephone: (866)350-1933; Father Costas Cell Phone (949)365-6339

Website: www.gomsoc.org

Email: info@gomsoc.org