

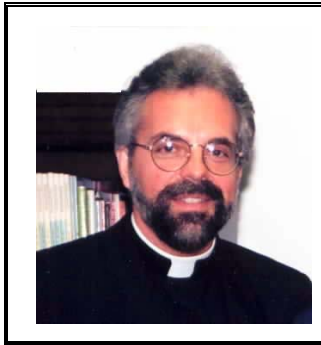
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Greek Orthodox Diocese of Pittsburgh

Vol. IX, No. 2, Spring 2003

Phyllis Meshel Onest, M.Div., Director

“FROM WATER TO WINE: ENHANCING THE PRACTICE OF PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION”



Rev. Frank Marangos, D.Min., Ed.D.
Director of Religious Education
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

St. Paul Greek Orthodox Church
N. Royalton, Ohio / Saturday, March 15
Saturday of Souls Liturgy: 10 :00 AM
Registration & Seminar 11:15 AM – 3:00 PM
\$10.00 includes lunch / RSVP St. Paul Church
Office 440-237-8998 by March 1

Session 1: *Qualities of an Effective Orthodox Catechist* –
teaching skills & techniques

Session 2: *How to Teach Teens: The CANA Curriculum
Model* - a model for teaching any age

Session 3: *Total Parish Education* - child-youth-adult
parish educational program

DRE NEWS

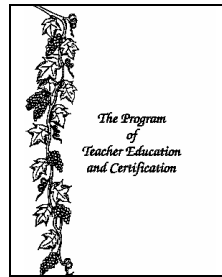
2003 SUMMER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

- Sponsored by the
Department of Religious
Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese.
- Thursday, June 26 – Sunday, June 29, 2003
- Held at Hellenic College/Holy Cross
Theological School, Brookline, MA.
- Theme - *Offering Orthodoxy to Contemporary
America*
- Lectures & workshops will examine the
theological, liturgical, scriptural, pastoral and
administrative issues surrounding the theme.
- Additional information will be sent out by the
DRE. **Mark your calendars now!**



The **UPCOMING ISSUE OF PRAXIS
MAGAZINE** will feature articles on “Family.”
Writers are asked to submit their articles by March
14, 2003. Additional information can be found on
www.religioused.goarch.org.

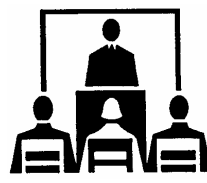
When a **REQUEST FOR STAFF NAMES &
ADDRESSES** went out in November I emailed each
parish requesting a copy, plus a census of the Church
School. Thanks go out to Akron, Ambridge,
Monessen, & Reading Ss. Constantine & Helen for
doing both, Bethlehem for a staff list and York for a
census.



TEACHER CERTIFICA TION

Fr. Marangos has directed us
to continue with the program
as is. Any modifications are to
be approved by the Diocesan
DRE. Annunciation/Akron has
10 teachers working on their
Certification. St. Nicholas/Bethlehem was one of
first to have a group of teachers complete the
program. It's a great way to increase your
understanding of the Faith and to enrich your
teaching ministry! If you have received your
Certificate, please let me know.

REVISITING REGIONAL - DIOCESAN WORKSHOPS



With the hope of garnering
greater participation, it has
been suggested that I should
offer “**district**” **workshops**
where there is a cluster of
parishes, rather than offering
3 Regional Workshops. For example, Akron-
Canton-Massillon; Steubenville-Weirton-
Morgantown-Wheeling; Cleveland-Lorain-
N.Royalton; Camp Hill, Lancaster, York, Whichever
parish desires to host the workshop is asked to
contact the cluster parishes to identify the best date,
i.e. when the maximum number of teachers can
attend. With the additional requests to lead
workshops outside the Diocese, I would ask parishes
to consider hosting a Workshop **now**. Please refer to
the “*Guidelines for Hosting a Workshop-Revised
2/2003*” included in this mailing.

A "SPECIAL THANKS" goes out to Annunciation/Akron, Holy Trinity/Pittsburgh and Holy Trinity/Camp Hill for hosting this year's workshops. Twenty of the 45 parishes that have Church Schools were represented.



A Request from Dn. Ryan Gzikowski, Administrative Assistant to Metropolitan Maximos

His Eminence has requested that parishes planning to

invite a priest or layperson from outside our Diocese to lead a Religious Education Workshop contact the Diocesan Religious Education Director. The Director has been directed to contact His Eminence for the necessary permission & invitation. Whenever I travel outside the Diocese, I confirm that the Hierarch of that Metropolis or Diocese is aware of my coming & I request Metropolitan Maximos' blessing to go.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PRISON MINISTRY



What does OCPM do?

- Seeks to serve prisoners & their families through visitation, prayer, correspondence, & literature.
- Responds to over 800 letters requesting spiritual guidance from prisoners each month.
- Produces, prints & distributes nearly 2,000,000 icon prayer cards to prisoners in N. America.
- Publishes & distributes over 100,000 copies of the *JOURNEY* Series books & pamphlets.
- As prisoners are catechized & prepared, they are baptized, chrismated & brought into the Orthodox Church.
- Fr. David Ogan guides & coordinates the activities from an office in Elk Grove, CA.

Not everyone is able to personally visit a jail or prison to minister the Gospel of our Lord, but all Orthodox Christians can be involved through prayer & financial support.

*"...I was in prison & you visited Me"
Matthew 25:36*

We can help in several ways...

[1] Christmas & Pascha Card Project

Here's a wonderful project for our students during the Christmas & Paschal Lenten seasons! OCPM sends home-made Christmas & Pascha cards made by children & adults each year to prisoners all over the world; currently 400. Fr. David needs Pascha cards by mid-Lent and Christmas cards by Thanksgiving.

Rules: no stickers, glitter, labels, or glue. (Some people apply drugs to the glue)

Sign with first names only & if a child, add age.

Size: Must fit in a business size #10 envelope.



[2] "Stamp Out Loneliness"- OCPM needs stamps or money for stamps for all the mailings. Consider having a "Stamp Drive."

[3] Remember them in prayer, especially during the petitions of the Liturgy.

Mail to:

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM)
P.O. Box 1600
Elk Grove, CA 95759-1600
For more information: (916) 714-3455
FAX: (916) 714-3457

<http://www.antiochian.org/Ocpm/>



In appreciation for our students' participation in the Christmas Card Project (Annunciation Akron), Fr. David sent the Church School a Guardian Angel icon written by Anthony, who is in a maximum-security prison cell. This and other icons are available from OCPM and can be found at

<http://www.antiochian.org/ocpm/literature.html>.

The accompanying letter included quotes from prisoners' letters. *"Father, my appreciation to your ministry. You answered my prayer by sending the handmade Christmas card. It was more than I could have hoped for. It brought tears to my eyes. A beautiful & blessed act of love by a child. This gesture of love warmed my heart immensely."* John from Florida.

Several of the prisoners have been given a **monastic blessing** & several are now **iconographers**. Anthony,

who is serving a life term was baptized while a prisoner. He has a gift to paint & began painting icons with a brush made by cutting his own hair and tying it together with thread taken from his clothes. His paints consisted of egg, coffee, mustard, honey & more... anything that would provide color. He is now provided with the painting supplies he needs. These are normally contraband. An Orthodox bishop has given him the blessing to be an iconographer!



WEBSITE UPDATES

SAINTS OF THE WEEK – WEBSITE

I met Jim Brady through Orthodox Peace Fellowship two years ago. Each week he offers us a multiple page collection of the “*Saints of the Week*” compiled from the *Synaxarion* published by Ormylia Monastery, *The Prologue from Ochrid* by St. Nikolai of Zika (Bishop Nikolai Velimirovic), and the *Great Horologion* published by Holy Transfiguration Monastery. His work can be found on www.geocities.com/abbamoses2002.

If you want to be placed on the “Saints of the Week” email list, contact Jim Brady at abbamoses2002@yahoo.com. The announcement is sent out on Friday for the next week’s saints. It’s a great way to begin the week, plus have info on the saints for that Sunday’s lesson.

Jim Forest, Executive Secretary of Orthodox Peace Fellowship shared the following two resources.

DECADE TO OVERCOME VIOLENCE (2001-2010): CHURCHES SEEKING RECONCILIATION AND PEACE:

<http://www.wcc-coe.org/dov> is an interactive website developed by the World Council of Churches to provide an open space for exchanging ideas, stories, news of resources and events, and information on organizations, networks and initiatives related to overcoming violence and seeking reconciliation.

DEATH PENALTY FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

<http://www.theotherside.org/resources/dp/index.html>

CHURCH FATHERS ONLINE
<http://www.biblestudytools.net/History/AD/EarlyChurchFathers/>
ONLINE LESSONS FOR JR. HIGH - David Elfering



(dave@aroundomaha.com) updated the Saint John's Sunday School lessons web page <http://www.synaxis.org/sschool/> with 5 new lessons centered on the Liturgy & based on Father Alexander Schmemmann's *Liturgy and Life*. At least 5 more are due over the course of the school year. David writes, “There just don't seem to be any materials for Junior High so we concentrate on pulling in things from multiple sources and editing them to an age appropriate format.”

IDEA CORNER



THE ST. SPYRIDON CHURCH SCHOOL LIBRARY

at Holy Trinity/Pittsburgh continues to grow under the guidance of Mary Magdalene Welsh. The Video Case is filled, the books are overflowing, and, if that is not enough to entice the students, there are all kinds of incentives/ prizes / gifts to keep them coming. The weekly bulletin and the monthly **HERALD**, which is online, include a message from Spero, plus reviews of new books and videos. Click here to see Spero’s February message.

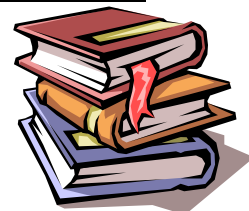
<http://www.holytrinitypgh.org/herald/herald-2003-feb.pdf>

One of the students wrote this **song for Spero**.

*“Who lives in the Library under the Church?
Spero the mouse
With Yiayia and Zoe good books do we search
Spero the mouse
Videos, Books and Veggie Tales, too
Spero the mouse
He wants to bring faith and God’s love to you
Spero the mouse
So come pay a visit and bring a friend
Spero the mouse
And you will discover how much you can learn with
Spero the mouse”*

NEW RESOURCES

CHILDREN’S BOOKS DONATED TO THE DIOCESE DISPLAY



Dr. Maria Khoury

Christina’s Favorite

Saints is her latest book in the popular *Christina Goes to Church* series. This book is an ideal gift

or end-of-the-year award for elementary children.
[Light & Life, \$11.99+SH]

Fr. John Touloumes *In My Father's House* by Shelly M. Vezendy (\$15.95)

From Christ the Saviour Brotherhood Publishing

St. Moses the Ethiopian by Fr. Jerome Sanderson (\$7.95)

An Unbroken Circle: Linking Ancient African Christianity to the African-American Experience edited by Fr. Paisius Altschul (\$12.95)

St. Herman of Alaska written & illustrated by S. A. Smith

Amnos Publishing: *God's Bubbly, Gurgly, Overwhelming, Overflowing Love* by Barbara Pappas (\$15.95)

Annunciation Press: *The Nativity Coloring Book* (\$5.00)

Conciliar Press:

Letters from Heaven: an Illuminated Alphabet by Susan Kelly vonMedicus (\$21.95)



The Abbot & I as Told by Josie the Cat by Sarah Elizabeth Cowie (\$8.95)
How the Monastery Came to be on the Top of the Mountain retold & illustrated by Alvin Alexsi Currier (\$8.95)

The Miraculous Child retold by Alvin Alexsi Currier (\$7.95)

The St. Nicholas Secret by Dennis Engleman (\$7.95)

12 Great Feasts for Children Series

The Nativity of Our Lord by Sister Elayne (\$5.95)

The Meeting of Our Lord by Sister Elayne (\$5.95)

The Theophany of Our Lord by Sister Elayne (\$5.95)

Destro Publishers:

Miracles & More: Exercises for the Church School by Angeline Eliakopoulos (\$22.95)

O God of Demetrios: The Story of Saint Demetrios of Thessaloniki by Angeline Eliakopoulos (\$15.95)

Fr. Irinej Dobrijevic: *The Church Alphabet: A Children's Primer* by Fr. Irinij Dobrijevic (\$20.00)

Holy Cross Press: *The Story of Icons* by Mary Hallick (\$14.95)

Icons Plus: *The Nativity Calendar Advent Activity for Orthodox Christians* (\$10.00)

Light & Life Publishing

Orthodox Christian Beliefs: Real Answers to Real Questions from Real People by Fr. Stanley Harakas (\$16.95)

My Daily Orthodox Prayer Book by Fr. Anthony Coniaris (\$7.95)

OCEC-Orthodox Christian Education

Commission:

Basic Lesson Plans (HS) for the Interim Curriculum (\$5.00)

Basic Lesson Plans (Middle School) for the Interim Curriculum (\$5.00)

Pascha Books, Richard Shabib, Livonia, MI:

Jesus is Born by Sergia Clare Anatolios (\$9.95) published by St. Nectarios Press

St. Vladimir's Seminary Press: *Christ in the Old Testament* by Fr. Thomas Hopko, Illustrated by Niko Chocheli (\$16.95)

MUSIC UPDATE



From St. Gregory

Palamas Monastery [Perrysville-Hayesville, OH]

Email: palamas@bright.net

Now Available for Free Download –

Original Melodies, Part III: Exaposteilaria (English)

Byzantine Notation

<http://sgpm.goarch.org/Extras/MBExap.pdf>

Western Notation

<http://sgpm.goarch.org/Extras/MWExap.pdf>

Sunday Apolytikia in the Eight Modes in Greek and English Western Notation

<http://sgpm.goarch.org/Extras/ResApol.pdf>

Apolytikia and Kontakia of the Great Feasts in English Western Notation

<http://sgpm.goarch.org/Extras/GrFapKon.pdf>

New Typicon Notes Page approved by Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh

<http://sgpm.goarch.org/Typicon.htm>



ICONOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS

Christopher Gossey of Boston, MA recently taught an Icon Writing Workshop in Akron, OH. From Friday through Sunday the group learned about the development of icons, the

theology behind icons, the spiritual preparation and

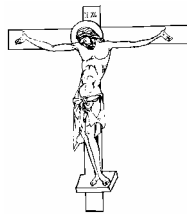
more. At the end of the 3-day (15-hour) workshop each participant had a hand-painted icon. Ability to draw or paint is *not* a requirement! The only essential ingredient is a prayerful attitude.

Chris works with adults and children. Earlier in the week he spent 4 days at St. Nicholas Orthodox School. The older students participated in painting a large panel of Our Lord that will eventually be placed in the School Chapel; the younger ones painted watercolor icons. He'll be back again to work on the icons of the Theotokos and St. John the Baptist.

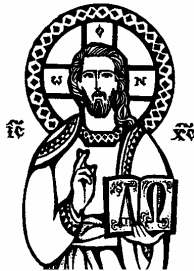
Interested? Contact Christopher at his studio at 617-244-592 or his voice mail at 781-673-3020. Expenses: Travel, housing, and about \$125 per person, which includes all supplies. Ten to fifteen people are needed to hold a class. To learn more about Christopher and his work click onto www.holyikons.com. The Akron, Cleveland, Youngstown & Campbell participants are already looking forward to the next workshop!

HOLY FRIDAY RETREAT IDEA

Angeline Eliakopoulos, DRE at St. Demetrios GOC in Chicago, offers *Miracles & More: Exercises for the Church School* for a retreat. It includes dramatizations of the "Raising of Lazarus," a "Christ is Risen!" worksheet, a "Using the Bible to Learn About the Crucifixion & Resurrection" worksheet and more. Destro Publishers 5118 N. Western Ave. Chicago, IL 60625 / 773-784-7358)



PLANNING FOR THE FALL



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION (OCEC) EXPECTS TO HAVE ITS FIRST TEXT OF NEW CURRICULUM AVAILABLE FOR THIS FALL

THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE was developed in response to many years of frustration, voiced by teachers and church school directors, whose efforts have been hampered by their students' sporadic attendance, insufficient class times, and inadequate teaching facilities. The program offers the "basics" of Orthodoxy for students in eighth grade and above. According to **Carole Buleza**,

OCEC Curriculum Chairperson, "This program allows us to offer every student a firm knowledge of their Orthodox faith as well as the opportunity to further develop/explore their own spiritual awareness, maturity." The Orthodox Christian Education Commission is an agency of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in America (SCOBA).

OCEC'S INTERIM CURRICULA FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

The OCEC will again offer an interim curriculum using existing Orthodox materials for the 2003-2004 school year. It will be included in the OCEC's 2003-2004 catalogue. I know of at least 2 parishes in the Diocese using the *2002-2003 Interim Curriculum*. It may require some work on our part, but until we have a formal curriculum, let's use what's available. We cannot "do our own thing" and think that we are best serving our students.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WORKSHOPS "Children's Ministry Magazine Live 2003"

Why go? New strategies, practices, & tools, dozens of service ideas, ways to partner with families to help children Nursery through Grade 6 and much much more!

Workshop Schedule

8:00-12:00 PM - Registration & Resources, Giving Kids 24/7 Devotion, Creating Service Opportunities
12:30-2:00 PM- Questions & Answers, Age-Specific Breakouts

To Register or for more Information:

- Online: <http://www.cmmag.com/cmml2003/default.html>
- Phone: 1-800-704-6562

OHIO

Canton, OH, March 1, 2003
Cleveland, OH, March 22, 2003
Columbus, OH, March 29, 2003

PENNSYLVANIA

Bethlehem, PA, September 13, 2003
Erie, PA, March 8, 2003
Harrisburg, PA, March 29, 2003
Harrisburg, PA, September 20, 2003
Lancaster, PA, March 8, 2003
Lancaster, PA, November 15, 2003
Pittsburgh, PA, March 15, 2003

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston, WV, October 18, 2003
Whether I have taken staff members or just gone myself, I come home excited about teaching & with a handful of ideas. Make a point to go if there's A Children's Ministry Workshop in your area!

THIS IS A GREAT CONFERENCE!

The Orthodox Institute for Church School & Youth Workers is sponsored annually by the Antiochian Archdiocese Christian Education & Youth Ministries Departments in October at Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA. This year **Fr. Steve Denas & Kiki Lazarides (Ypapanti, E. Pittsburgh), Spero Maginas (Koimisis, Aliquippa), & Presbyteria Anne Marie Shaw & Kathy Snidow (Charleston, WV)** attended. Professional educators & clergy from across the country offered some 20 sessions for Church School Directors, Church School Teachers, & Youth Workers. Check out this website in the Fall for more information - <http://www.antiochian.org/>

2002-2003 "YELLOW PAGES" CORRECTION

St. Photios National Shrine Church Supplies [p.3] <http://www.stphotios.com>

REMINDERS



ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

The theme for the 2003 Festival is **"Orthopraxia – the Life of the Orthodox Church."**

Parish Festivals: March

Regionals:

- Western: March 29, Holy Trinity, Canton, OH
- Central: Saturday, March 22, Holy Trinity, Ambridge, PA
- Eastern: Sunday, April 6, St. Nicholas, Bethlehem, PA

Diocesan: Saturday, May 10, Pittsburgh, PA

Archdiocesan: June 6-8, Denver, CO



LENTEN RESOURCES

The *2002-2003 Yellow Pages for Religious Education* has a page dedicated to resources for use during Lent.

<http://home.neo.rr.com/pmonest>

[t/vp_02.pdf](#)

REQUEST FOR PLAYS & PROGRAMS

I frequently receive requests for Nativity, Annunciation, and Pascha Plays & Programs. If your parish has produced one that you like, send it to me (preferably by email as an



attachment). I will review it and post it on the website, with full credit. Too often only our respective parishes benefit from the talent and hard work it takes for these programs. Please share!

DOES YOUR PARISH HAVE A NEW CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR?

If so, please let me know ASAP by phone, mail or email. If you are no longer the Director, please be sure he/she gets this packet.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

I need updated **email addresses of Parishes, Clergy & Church School Directors.**

If neither the Priest nor Director has email access, identify a staff member with email willing to disseminate the latest information.



ENCLOSURES

2003 REVISED GUIDELINES FOR HOSTING A WORKSHOP

Over the years I have been asked how does one go about inviting me to lead a workshop or conference. I revised the guideline again this year to reflect what I am able to do, how much time it takes to prepare, load & unload display materials, & the driving distance.



THE LEAFLET FOR THE FEAST OF SS. PETER & PAUL

can be distributed to the church school students before the end of the school year or included in the weekly or monthly bulletin. I would like to produce a series of leaflets on major saints using the same format at the *Feast Day Tract*

Masters. Requests are welcome.

New Website Name: In the very near future my website will have a new name www.phyllisonest.com & a new look. If you use the old name you will be forwarded to the new site.

Phyllis Meshel Onest, M.Div.

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Greek Orthodox Diocese of Pittsburgh
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330-376-0629 / pmonest@neo.rr.com
<http://home.neo.rr.com/pmonest>