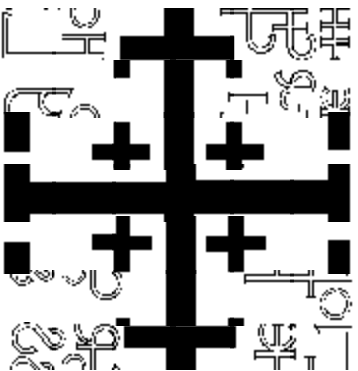


CROSS CURRENTS

Monthly Newsletter
March/April 2003



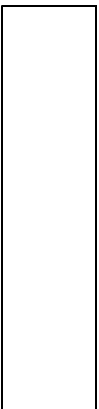
CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!



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The Monthly Newsletter of the Church of the Holy Cross
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(650) 591-4447 / fax (650) 508-9846
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Articles and ads for *Cross Currents* are due on the 26th of the month prior to the month of desired publication.

THE CROSS OF OUR LORD

by *Father Peter Salmas, Pastor*

“Approach and draw waters that shall never fail, flowing from the grace of the Cross . . . source of divine gifts, on which there fell blood and water from the wounded side of the Lord of all.”

The Cross, more than any other symbol, draws man’s attention to the ultimate expressions of love, pain, of mercy and sacrifice. The above hymn, sung on the Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross, also draws our attention to the everlasting gift of Christ’s love, for on it fell His blood and water.

During this most glorious and precious time of spiritual and physical preparation, we find ourselves in the midst of a world that cannot comprehend the strength and power of Christ and His message. Ours is a world filled with chaos and anger, hatred, and war. Nonetheless, people long for love and compassion and seek the peace that only our Lord can offer. Strive as we might for these virtuous gifts, we fail until such time that we acknowledge God as our Creator and Giver of Life.

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to be His witnesses in this world . . . to reflect His image and likeness to the extent that we take up His Cross and make it our own. We must bring that cross through the streets of chaos and anger, into the homes of hatred, conflict and war, placing it before the hearts and minds of all of mankind. Becoming the bearers of love and compassion that the world seeks is the call to which we must respond.

This Pascha, as we strive to commit more to the words that are offered in the Gospels and the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us take up our Cross and follow Him. Let us follow Him who grants us life through His death, who grants us love as He takes on the apathy and hatred of mankind, who grants us His great mercy as He embraces the chaos and anger of a world in conflict.

Let us come together in worship and prayer as often as possible for it is through prayer and fasting that evil is dispelled. Let us join in praising Him who has bestowed upon each of us His Divine Gifts. Let us worthily become one with Christ in all that we do and say, drawing upon the waters that never fail us, for they come as grace from His cross and offer us divine gifts that can change the world. In humble response, let us offer ourselves . . . and joyfully announce to the world, CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!

AXIOS FATHER SIMON!

When we began the month of March, we entered Great Lent and focused on its culmination with the celebration of Pascha. All of the sudden, we found ourselves preparing for Simon Thomas' ordination.

*On March 22 and 23, Simon was ordained to the Diaconate and Priesthood at Annunciation Church in Modesto. The hierarchs celebrating the Divine Liturgies during which the ordinations took place were **His Grace Bishop Anthimos** and **His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony**.*

*We are blessed to have witnessed these two milestones in the life of **Father Simon** and **Presbytera Stephanie** and to have participated in the celebration luncheons that followed. The parish of Annunciation, under the inspired leadership of **Father Jon Magoulias**, are to be congratulated for the love and support offered to Father Simon and his family.*

*Holy Cross had our own celebrations on April 13, when, following the Divine Liturgy where Father Simon was the head celebrant, we gathered to enjoy an exquisite Lenten luncheon prepared by the hands of **Marika Tsardoulias** and her trusted crew.*

Father Simon Thomas gave two wonderful homilies when he was ordained first to the Deaconate and then to the Priesthood. We present these homilies below. Congratulations to Father Simon and Presbytera Stephanie!

Ordination to the Deaconate, March 22, 2003

Your Grace Bishop Anthimos, Your Eminence Metropolitan Anthony,
Reverend Fathers, brothers and sisters in Christ:

I, Simon, stand humbly before the Holy Altar of the One True God and ask for your prayers that I may serve you, with faith and with love, to the greater glory of our Lord, and God, and Savior Jesus Christ. Although no one is worthy to stand before the Holy Altar of our Lord, I stand here today offering myself as a living sacrifice. I offer myself back to God, Who is my Creator, that He may fashion me into an instrument of His ministry, for which He has called me.

As Christ said in the Gospel of John, “He who abides in Me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” (Jn. 15:5) Therefore, I will continually pray to God that He may strengthen me, abide in me, and direct my ways throughout my service to His Church. I

will work to do His will, and not my own will, in everything I do. I pray that as I serve the people of God - that they hear not my words, the words of a mere man - but that they always hear the Word of God, which is eternal, just and true.

In the beginning of today's Gospel, we heard, "And in the morning, a great while before day, He rose and went out to a lonely place, and there He prayed." (Mk. 1:35) Today, I humbly ask for all of your prayers, that God may heal all of my shortcomings, and that He may give me the ability to serve His Church and His people. I also pray that God may grant me forgiveness of my sins, as I ask all of you to forgive me of any trespass I may have committed against you. For, my brothers and sisters in the Lord, today, I need your prayers, and your approval to become a deacon. I come from you, and I am thankful for all the support and prayers I have received from you throughout the years. At this time, I ask your forgiveness, as I thank only a few of the very important people who have been so inspirational and influential in my life.

Deacon Simon reads petitions during the Orthros Service, while Metropolitan Anthony looks on.

First and foremost, I want to thank Almighty God for the blessings He has bestowed upon me. Let no one doubt that it is truly His grace that has placed me here today, and nothing of my own doing. Looking back on my life, there were so many times, where I could have strayed from this path, but it was always His Hand guiding my way. May all the glory be to God.

Your Grace Bishop Anthimos, I thank you for the blessings you bestow upon me today. I have been fortunate to get to know you through your service at St. Nicholas Ranch, and your service to this Metropolis. As a fellow bishop with Metropolitan Anthony, you selflessly serve this Metropolis and her people. The filial love Your Grace and Your Eminence show each other is an example of the brotherly love priest should show to one another. As Saint Ignatius says in his Letter to the Ephesians, “I pray that you will love the bishop in accordance with the standard set by Jesus Christ, and that all of you will be like him.” (Letter to Ephesians) May that love be evident today, and every day throughout your ministry. *Εἰ πολλά εἰσι Δέσποτα!*

Your Eminence Metropolitan Anthony, I would like to thank you for all of your support, encouragement and guidance throughout the years. The programs you established in this Metropolis have been influential in my love for Jesus Christ and His Church. Some of my fondest memories are of

being a camper at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center, where I learned a great deal about my Faith, and where in turn, I now spend every summer teaching the young people of the Metropolis the Faith I hold so dear.

As a fourth generation Greek-American, I was able to learn more about my heritage through the Folk Dance Festival you have established. Learning the ancient dances of Greece, and spending time with so many Greek Orthodox young men and women, has created in me a love for the Faith and culture of my forefathers.

When at the Seminary, all the students from the Metropolis of San Francisco would look forward to your annual visit in the spring. Although the financial support you gave the students was tremendous, it was the spiritual support you provided that the students yearned for. I knew, Your Eminence, that when I graduated, you would have a place for me in your Metropolis, because of the love you show to your Seminarians, and the relationship I had developed with you. Thank you for your continued support and guidance. *Εἰ πολλά ετι Δέσποτα!*

I also want to say “thank you” to my Spiritual Father, **Father Jon Magoulis**, who has taught me and encouraged me from the time I walked into his office and told him I wanted to go to the Seminary. You took me under your wings, guided me, encouraged me, and taught me. You have shown me not only what it means to be a good priest, but more importantly, what it means to be a good Christian. To my Proistamenos, **Father Peter Salmas**, thank you for giving me the chance to cut my teeth at Holy Cross. You are a true shepherd of the flock. You show patience and love for the people of God, leading them to Christ. You have been a wonderful teacher to me. And to all the other priests in attendance today, thank you for your guidance and encouragement. Your ministry to the Church of Christ is an example I will endeavor to follow.

To my parents, **Dave and Elaine**, who would pray with me every night before I went to sleep, thank you for instilling in me a knowledge and love for Jesus Christ. Dad, you have always taught me to look at all the information available, and to search out the truth. That search has led me here today, serving the One True God. Mom, your inner strength and fortitude have been an inspiration to me. Your example has often given me the determination to continue when times were tough. And to my brother Jason, thank you for showing me that God really does exist, even when my own faith was failing. I pray that you too now keep the Faith. **Yiayia Nike**, thank you for always showing me your faith and your love.

I would also like to thank all of the faithful here at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. You have encouraged me and supported me with your love and prayers. Who would have thought the shy, quiet boy you all knew, would one day be standing here. It is just further proof of the glory and power of God.

To the faithful from Holy Cross in Belmont, so many of you have come to be here today. Thank you for welcoming me and accepting me into your community. I feel like I have become, for so many of you, like family.

Finally, my wife **Stephanie**, whose faith is unshaken, and whose love is unquestioned, you have been my help and support. You have always been there when I was frustrated, tired, and sick. Thank you for your vigilance and strength. And to Stephanie's parents, **Chris** and **Jan**, you brought us together, and have supported my decision to go into the priesthood from the beginning. Thank you for your faith, patience and understanding.

For all of you, and for so many more, I am grateful to God. I ask for all of your prayers as I enter into the service of our Lord. May God have mercy on me, a sinner. I ask all this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Father Jon and Father Simon, Metropolitan Anthony, Bishop Anthimos, Father Peter and Father Chris

The Fifth Level students in Mrs. Chiotis' class expressed their thoughts on Spring and Easter in these essays and poems :

Ordination to the Priesthood, March 23, 2003

Your Eminence Metropolitan Anthony, Your Grace Bishop Anthimos,
Reverend Fathers, brothers and sisters in Christ:

I, Simon, a deacon in the service of the Lord, stand humbly before the Holy Altar of the One True God and ask for your prayers that I may serve you, with faith and with love, to the greater glory of our Lord, and God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

I stand here with fear and dread, knowing that I am not worthy of the blessings I am about to receive. For the responsibility of a priest, that is, to shepherd the flock entrusted to him, is a great responsibility indeed. There are many obstacles that can prevent him from doing so, not only from the wolves that hunt the sheep from outside the flock, as St. Paul lists in his letter to the Ephesians, - "the principalities, powers, the world rulers of this present darkness, the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12) – but also from within the shepherd's own soul, as St. Paul again cautions in his second letter to Timothy – for men are selfish, greedy, boasters, proud, arrogant, abusive, ungrateful, unholy, lazy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, gossipers, without self-control, lovers of pleasure, rather than lovers of God. (2 Tim. 3:2-4) It is for this reason that Saint John Chrysostom says concerning priests, "Bring before us those who far excel all others and are as much above the rest in spiritual stature as Saul was above the whole nation of the Hebrews in bodily stature – or rather, far more." (On the Priesthood) I stand here in fear and dread, because this description of a priest does not describe me, a sinner.

But I do not despair because of my own failings! Rather, I hold fast to hope in the grace of God. I look to Saint Paul, who during his own time of difficulty, was told by God, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9) It is He who strengthens me, cleanses me of my sins, and has called me into His service. It is because of my weakness that the glory of God is made manifest. Saint John Chrysostom, speaking on the priesthood says, "For no man, no angel, no archangel, no other created power, but the Paraclete Himself ordained this succession, and persuaded men, while still remaining in the flesh to represent the ministry of the angels." (On the Priesthood) I do not run from this calling, as did the Prophet Jonah. Saint Gregory the Theologian points out in his *Defense of His Flight to Pontus*, that Jonah, "in planning his flight, although he changed

his place, he did not escape from God. For God alone of all things cannot be escaped from or contended with.” (Flight to Pontus)

I stand here before God, a weak and sinful man. For, like the paralytic that we heard about in today’s Gospel, I too have been brought before God. I come seeking first His forgiveness, for nothing that is unclean can draw near to God. May God look upon me, as he did the paralytic in the Gospel of Mark, and say, “My son, your sins are forgiven.” (Mk. 2:5) And also like the paralytic, my sins are not my only infirmity. For when I look upon the great and awesome responsibility of serving God, I am spiritually paralyzed by my own faults and shortcomings. I pray that He may give me the ability to serve His people, saying, “Rise, take up your pallet and walk.” (Mk. 2:9) Today, I am brought before you, Your Eminence, who mystically represents our Lord, Jesus Christ. I am brought before you by my brother priests, seeking your forgiving embrace through the Laying on of Hands, and the strengthening grace that comes through the prayers of Ordination.

I stand here before Almighty God, Who is due all thanks, praise and worship. Without Him I can do nothing, but with Him, all things are possible. I pray that I may serve Him with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my mind. May all that I do throughout my service to His Church, be indicative of the love He showed for mankind through His Death and glorious Resurrection.

There are over 2.5 million Greek Americans in the USA, who are productive and respected members of the American society. They represent the best educated, and the second wealthiest ethnic group in America. Americans of Greek descent are very proud of their ancestry. They are very patriotic and love both countries and for what they stand: democracy, freedom and economic opportunity. These are the same ideals and values, our ancestors fought and died for during the 1821 War and we cherish now. The Greek Revolution of Independence, just like the American Revolution, taught us that freedom is earned with sacrifice and it takes sacrifice to keep being free.

Let the spirit of “1821” continue to inspire our thoughts and our actions and together proclaim that liberty, democracy and freedom are the greatest gifts we have received and these are indeed the greatest gifts we can pass on to our children and grandchildren.

Zito e Ellada! Zito e 25 Martiou. Euxaristo.

Adams, took very positive and supportive positions for the Greek Revolution. American statesmen such as Henry Clay, Sam Houston and Daniel Webster made strong public pronouncements for the recognition of the Revolution and for sending military aid to Greece.

The first American to join the War as a volunteer was George Jarvis from New York, in 1822. He learned the Greek language, put on a “foustanela,” joined the “kleftes” and became known as “Kapetan Zervis.” He died in Argos in 1828. Zervis became the role model for other American volunteers. Captain Jonathan Miller from Vermont in 1824 arrived in Greece, he too learned the Greek language, wore the “foustanela” and was fearless in battle.

By far, the best known philhellene was Dr. Samuel Howe from Boston. Upon his arrival in Greece, he served in the Greek army for 6 years as a soldier and surgeon. In 1829, he established a medical center in Aegina and a school for the blind in Korinthos. He even participated in the Cretan Revolution, and in town of Chania, there is a street named in his honor.

The Greek Relief Committees of New York, Boston and Philadelphia collected loads of foods and clothing that were sent to aid the Greeks. Many other Americans fought alongside the Greeks during the War of Independence such as James Williams, an African American from Baltimore, who traveled to Greece to fight for freedom, himself still being a slave, and William Townsend Washington, a second cousin of George Washington.

These Americans helped the Greeks in their struggle to gain their freedom and independence, just as 50 years prior the Greeks had helped the Americans gain their freedom and independence. What a story, indeed, is the history of friendship of these two great democracies.

This cooperation continued in modern times. It is a fact that Greece fought alongside America in all major wars, the only country, among three others to do so! America has become a super power, and as President Clinton declared Greece the “economic and democratic powerhouse in the Balkans” Now more than ever, Greece and America need to draw strength from the timeless bonds that developed through years of defending and protecting identical values and ideas.

Presbytera Stephanie receives a beautiful silver icon from the Diocesan Sisterhood of the Presbyteras.

Your Eminence Metropolitan Anthony, thank you for the support and guidance you have given to me throughout the years. I humbly ask for your prayers today, that I may serve you to the best of my ability. Saint Ignatius says in his Letter to the Ephesians, “For if the prayer of one or two has such power, how much more that of the bishop together with the whole church!” You are our spiritual father, and our shepherd. Saint Ignatius says later, in his Letter to the Trallians, “It is essential, therefore, that you continue your current practice and do nothing without the bishop.” (Letter to the Trallians) I thank you for your blessings, your prayers, your guidance, and your love, which you have shown to me, and I pray that I may continually receive them, throughout my ministry. You have often given priests the freedom to develop programs and activities, trusting, through your love for them, that these programs would benefit the people of God. This is proof of the great love and care you have for your priests, and which I have experienced myself, when you gave me the freedom to spend a year in Greece studying. I ask that I may continue to receive your love. **Εἰ πολλά ετι Δέσποτα!**

I would like to thank the priests in attendance today. It is truly an honor to serve at the same Altar with you all. I have looked up to you and learned from you for so many years. I have the highest respect and admiration for your service to the Church.

To my family, I am grateful for the many blessings I have received from you all. The guidance and direction you have given me has led me here today. To my friends in attendance, thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement. I would like to thank my wife, **Stephanie**, who is my strength and support. I can always count on your love, compassion and care.

I would also like to pray today for our soldiers around the world, risking their lives for freedom. Today, I enter into the ranks as a soldier for Christ, continuing the spiritual battle that has been fought by so many before me, bishops, priests, deacons, and martyrs for Christ. As we pray today for peace in the world, may God watch over all of His soldiers, and grant a quick resolution to our present conflict.

As I approach the Holy Altar, I once again ask for your prayers for the great responsibility I am about to be entrusted with by God. May God have mercy on me a sinner. I ask this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

SERVING IN OUR MILITARY

As we pray for our armed forces and for peace in the world, please include in your personal prayers the following men of our Armed Forces that have been called to serve in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf: **Nicholas Kakis, John Zachos, John Schaeffer, Drew Deley, 1st Lieutenant Theodore S. Pratchios II, Dave Bragg.**

Please call the Church Office as you learn of the names of others for whom we, as a community, may pray.

GET CHURCH MAIL BY E-MAIL

To save money on printing and postage on SOME church mailings, we would like to e-mail such mailings to our parishioners instead of going the expensive, and old-fashioned paper, ink and envelope and stamp way. If you would like to help us save money, please send us your e-mail address at

ZHTΩ H 25 MAPTIOY

*The following speech was given by Teacher **Cleon Skourtis** at the Greek Independence Day Program :*

The 1821 Greek Revolution:

A catalyst for Greece and American friendship

Good afternoon: “Father”, parents, grandparents, students and guests. Welcome to our celebration of the 182nd Anniversary of the Greek Independence Day.

I am not going to talk about the details of the Greek Revolution as we all know how and what happened, instead I will concentrate my speech on the role that the Greek War of Independence played in fostering the long-lasting relationship between Greece and America.

As you know, Massachusetts was the birthplace of the 1776 American Revolution, 45 years prior to the 1821 Greek revolution. The 1776 American Revolution was an inspiration to the then enslaved Greeks and a number of them traveled to America and took up arms to fight for American Independence!

The most famous Greek who sailed to America and took up arms for the Revolution was Demetrios Ypsilanti. In 1883 a town near Detroit, Michigan, was named Ypsilanti in honor of this Greek freedom fighter. This was the beginning of a long lasting friendship, a friendship born in the battlefields of two great Revolutions, whose common motto was “*elefteria ea thanatos.*”

When the 1821 revolution started in Greece, a number of philhellenes started a lobbying campaign for the support of the Greek Revolution -- a campaign that captured the imagination of many influential political and civil leaders in America. These philhellenes made significant contributions in supporting the Greek Revolution. As the modern Greek state was founded, it was in the Beacon Hill area that the first Greek Consulate was established. It is of significance that Presidents Jefferson, Monroe, John Adams, Madison and John Quincy

office@goholycross.org. These e-mailings will be infrequent but, in the long run, will save us a lot of money. We will identify these with “Church Mailing” in the subject line. Thank you for lending a hand!

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

We will soon produce a new church directory for our parishioners. We need your help to make sure your information is correct. If you receive this *Cross Currents* at your proper **address** - you do not have to contact us. If, however, this *Cross Currents* comes to you after being routed through our US Postal Service back and forth across the country OR if your **home phone** has changed over the past 2 years, please call or e-mail us with your correct information.

We will also print personal **cell phone** numbers or family **e-mail addresses** if you wish. If you want THAT information included, please call or e-mail us.

We would like to start printing soon - so please contact us as soon as possible!

THE POWER OF STEWARDSHIP

by *P. Bibbes, Parish Council*

This is an “Alert”.

We, as a community of Orthodox Christians, need to **stop** for a timeout, to think about, and reassess who we are as Orthodox Christians, where we are going and what is our ultimate purpose and goal in life.

Of the many tools at our disposal to achieve that goal, Stewardship is the most effective and powerful means to the end. But it is a powerful tool not yet fully utilized nor meeting its full potential. It represents giving of some our treasures to not only benefit our own souls, but to benefit others as well, leading to the ultimate good of all.

We have much to be thankful for in this day and age and we need to share our blessings with others. This can be done most effectively through the leveraging power of Stewardship. The power of Stewardship in our hands creates synergy, defined as working together where the simultaneous actions of separate entities which when working together have greater total effect than the sum of there individual effects. In other words: $1 + 1 = 3$.

It is believed that Aristotle first stated the ancient law of logic – that every entity is equal to itself, or $A = A$, $1 = 1$, a table is a table, and so on. The power of Stewardship through synergy may well refute this law of logic. By adding the parts, the synergy created will help us achieve our goal in life. We have a golden opportunity to prove this: by coming together as a community of Orthodox Christians, not only supporting Stewardship at our current level, but substantially increasing our commitment to Stewardship – to the best of our ability – we can exponentially increase our results

This is my call and appeal to all in our community for a positive response.

THE HEALING POWER OF FORGIVENESS

by *Jenny Cladis, Parish Council*

Last week, we visited our relatives in Denver and celebrated Forgiveness Day in St. Catherine’s Church. It seems that with every passing year I become more aware of the tremendous healing power of Forgiveness. Have you noticed the growing number of people who are being psychoanalyzed these days? We all know of someone who is under therapy. And these include decent people – not just the likes of Tony Soprano! Clearly, the number of troubled people is increasing. I’m sure many will be helped by therapists, but I feel most of them could be cured if they would faithfully follow the teachings of Jesus; especially if they would forgive and be forgiven – and forgive themselves as well! Among the definitions listed in Webster’s Dictionary for the word *forgive* is: “to give up *resentment* against or the desire to punish.” Resentment is particularly self-destructive.

Jesus regards forgiveness to be so important in people’s lives that He included that concept in the prayer He recommended to us: “And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Mark 11 puts “teeth” into this command: “And whenever you stand praying and you have a grievance against anyone, forgive him so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” Also, woe to those who are asked for forgiveness and they do not forgive!

Some good popular quotes regarding forgiveness are the following:

- o We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of power to forgive is devoid of the power to love.

Λογος Ελληνικου Σξολειου

The following speech was given by Teacher Aleka Kambaka at the Greek Independence Day Program :

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS

by *Vaso Tonas*

January 2003 was a busy month for our school. Being the last month of the first semester teachers and students worked to prepare for the Open House on the 22 of the month. On January 26 the Greek School PTO sponsors the Community Coffee Hour. Then on the 29th we had the Three Hierarchs and Greek Letters Day Celebration, which has become an annual highlight for our school. On this day the program included comments by our very special guests, the Honorable Consul General of Greece **Mr. Touloupous** and the Counselor for Greek Education **Dr. Kasvikis**; short presentation by the students; planting of an olive tree on our church's grounds as a lasting memory and symbol for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece; cutting of *vasilopeta* by **Father Peter** and pizza and refreshments by our PTO.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

1. Our Greek School had the honor of welcoming the Consul of Cyprus **Mr. Theophanous** to Holy Cross on April 9. On this day Mr. Theophanous spoke wonderfully and presented a video about Cyprus to our students, staff and parents.
2. Examinations to get certificates of attainment in Modern Greek will take place under the supervision of the Office of Education in Los Angeles in **May**. Application have to be submitted to this office now.

- o The day the child realizes that all adults are imperfect he becomes an adolescent; the day he forgives them, he becomes an adult; the day he forgives himself he becomes wise.
- o He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass.
- o The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attitude of the strong.
- o To understand is to forgive even oneself.
- o Forgiveness is the key to action and freedom.
- o Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.

As the crowd drew around ready to stone the adulteress woman, Jesus came up to them and said, "Let the one who is without sin among you throw the first stone." One by one the people dropped their stones and left. Then He said to the woman, "Your accusers have left and no one has accused you, then I do not condemn you either. Go, and sin no more." Jesus forgave her, but I'll bet that, even though she may have repented and relinquished her evil ways, no one else in the community truly forgave and forgot her wrongdoing. It is unlikely to me that she acquired the freedom of expression to fully grow in the Lord and serve her community.

As I was praying last week, I thought about a formerly respected cleric who was accused of an indiscretion many years ago. He repented deeply, confessed his sin, and continued his service to the Lord. Yet, to this day, many Christian people in the church still condemn him! It seems that we are more willing to forgive an enemy than a friend – or worse, a fallen cleric. . . We should realize that those who struggle the hardest toward "Theosis" are tempted the most! Jesus also was sorely tempted, but he was the only man on earth without sin!

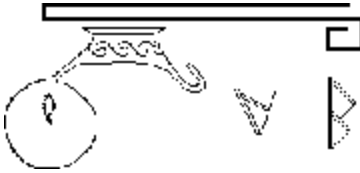
During this Holy Lenten season, we must be faithful in all our actions. We must forgive our trespassers and ask forgiveness from those whom we have offended, both knowingly or unknowingly, as we request our Father to forgive us also. Then we will acquire the lightness of heart, freedom, and power to pursue full lives in the Lord. We will drop our stones — and remember Jesus, who forgave us even while He was suffering on the Cross.

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY

Ask anyone who attends a Greek Orthodox Church with some regularity what the “**Philoptochos**” is. The most common answer is that it is an organization of women that meets monthly. They have fund-raisers and teas. They cook and they prepare the coffee for Coffee Hour. They give money to some charities, but exactly which ones, few really know. Sadly, even some of the most visible parishioners are unclear about the work this organization does and the charities it supports.

Recently, just after Valentine’s Day, the coffee hour was dedicated to the **Kids’N Cancer Program**. There was a basket on the table and just over \$250 was collected. This was less than last year. Do we all know that this program helps children who are terminally ill with cancer? For a few days they go to St. Nicholas Ranch with their families and do the things that terribly sick children who are in pain every day rarely get to do. They sing. They pray. They create. They go for walks if they can. They laugh with friends. Some children are so ill; a medical professional has to join the family. For some children, this might be their last week or two. Imagine though being outside with nature and being close to your church. Imagine getting away from the harsh realities of needles, hospitals and a sterile environment if for only a day or two. What is this time worth to a child and his family? It is probably worth much more than we who perhaps are more fortunate can ever imagine. This is an effort that our Philoptochos works very hard to support.

Another ministry of this organization is the **Christ Care Ministry**. Right now there are many of our beloved parishioners who are critically ill, very elderly or housebound due to illness or failing health. The ladies of the Philoptochos will call and visit these people whenever they know someone needs a call or a visit. When we are able to come to church and see our friends, we don’t always think about how sad we would be if we could not. The ladies of the Philoptochos ask that you consider helping them to carry out this ministry. Lend them your hands, your kind words, your ability to drive to help those in need at this time. Even if you are unable to join the organization as an active member, call **Helene Nemchik** at 345-2719 or **Alexandra Fotis** at 591-3522 and offer your help.



**HOLY CROSS
GREEK SCHOOL**
900 Alameda
Belmont, CA 94002-1604

**ELLHNIKO
FWS**

March / April 2003
Volume 13
Number 2

*Fr. Peter G. Salmas,
Vaso Tonas, Principal
Theodora Kounalakis, Coordinator;
Cleon Skourtis, Co-Coordinator*

*Editorial Staff:
Vaso Tonas, Katerina Chiotis, Roula
Argyris*

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Holy Cross Greek School celebrated the feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos and the Anniversary of Greek Independence on Sunday, March 23. Our PTO served a delicious luncheon and refreshments. Following, our students presented a patriotic program of songs, plays and poems. Thank you for joining us.

The Greek Independence Day Parade in San Francisco was postponed until next year, but the “after parade” celebration still took place at Annunciation Cathedral. Local Greek organizations, church parishes, Greek Schools, Greek Dance Groups, and individuals of all ages made this event a great success.

3. COCKTAIL TABLE AT DINNER

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Keftedes (meatballs) | Olives |
| Cheeses | Veggies |
| Salami | Crackers |
| Dips - Chips | Snacks items (trail mix etc) |
| Dolmathes | Napkins |

4. BEVERAGES FOR DINNER

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| Gin | Tonic Water |
| Vodka | Club Soda |
| Scotch | Wine |
| Bourbon | Sodas - Regular and Diet |
| Vermouth | Plastic glasses for the drinks |

Your donations and services are greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,
The Golf and Tennis Tournament organizing committee

--- Detach and return this form with your prize or cash donation ---

Prize Donation or Cash Contribution

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

_____ Telephone: () _____

Prize: _____ Estimated Value: \$ _____

**PRESENTING
A 1930'S
MELVILLE CLARKE
BABY GRAND PIANO
OFFERED FOR SALE
AT \$4,000**



Experience the elegance of Art Deco design and enjoy the bright sound of this beautiful piano. Made in the Midwest during the 1930's, this wonderful baby grand has been musically restored to its original condition. It has its original mahogany finish, as well, and has been tuned and is ready to grace your family room or music room.

Donated as a gift to the Philoptochos, all proceeds will benefit the charitable works of this organization. Flexible payment options can be arranged. Donations made to the Philoptochos qualify for a tax deduction.

Come and see this piano on display in our Main Hall foyer. Help our Philoptochos Society with its many charitable causes and enjoy playing this fabulous piano.

If you are interested, please contact **Helene Nemchik** at 345-2719. Hurry! The piano will soon be advertised in local papers and to the broader community!!

Why Invest in Vintage Pianos

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Most people are amazed to learn that millions of pianos and organs were built by thousands of manufactures worldwide prior to America's Great Depression. Because America led the world in piano and organ production at that time, the numbers significantly decreased after the Great Depression, never

to be the same. Any self-respecting household in the decades surrounding the turn of the 19th century boasted a highly polished and well-used piano or organ in the parlor. These instruments were the focal point of entertainment and culture in the early American home, a trend which continued until the middle of the 20th century. Although pianos and electronic organs have consistently been produced since, the integrity and quality of these contemporary instruments has not always been consistent.

Inferior materials such as plastic, particleboard and vinyl woodgrain have caused today's consumer to seek alternatives when purchasing a new or used piano. Although there are a number of high quality pianos being built today, their quality is usually reflected by their high price. While living in this era of modern technology, people seem to be embracing qualities and values of the past. This is evident among the antiques & collectibles market worldwide, with the revival of vintage pianos and organs being no different.

Consumers in today's piano market are discovering that they can purchase a beautifully restored piano with character and integrity for less than the price of a newer instrument. Since so many instruments were produced during the past several generations, many homes still have the family piano tucked away somewhere in a forgotten corner or garage. Having been given the misconception by their friendly piano tuner that the instrument is in disrepair and it's useful life is over, the instrument is usually left abandoned or tossed out with the garbage. Luckily, these individuals are beginning to realize the value of "Grandma's piano" and are having the instruments restored for future generations to enjoy. Often times, our customer is a granddaughter who wants to learn to play on the piano her mother and grandmother learned to play on. We often restore pianos and organs for individuals who have had the instrument in their family for three and four generations!

Like most antiques and heirloom pieces, these instruments have a fantastic investment potential. In fact, during the past ten years we have seen retail prices for these instruments actually double. Buying a new piano or organ is like buying a new car in that depreciation begins almost immediately. Buying or restoring your vintage instrument is certainly an investment opportunity with many, many returns.

4 HOUR SHIFT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

1. Waiters & Waitresses for dinner
2. Bartenders for cocktail hour at dinner
3. Set up person for hors d'oeuvres
4. Kitchen helpers to assemble dinner courses & beverages for tables
5. Ladies to set up & decorate dinner tables
6. Greeters at church for golf & tennis participants
7. Raffle ticket sellers

GOLF COURSE VOLUNTEERS

1. Registration - Mulligans
2. Photography
3. Putting Green contest
4. Tee signs - Setting up and picking up signs
5. Barbecue Cooks - at lunch and on course
6. Beverages
7. Hole-in-one witnesses
8. Women greeters at course and parking directions

FOOD & MISC DONATIONS

1. DINNER

Cheese	Feta
Cucumbers	Tomatoes
Oil & Vinegar	Lettuce
Anchovies	Meat - shanks
Kalamata Olives	Dairy Products
Greek Desserts	

2. LUNCH

Charcoal	Plastic eating utensils
Potato Chips	Condiments
Potato Salad	Beer
Paper Napkins	Soda
Paper plates & cups	Bottled water

(continued)

DONATE A PRIZE OR MAKE A CASH GIFT

We will send you a confirmation of your tax-deductible donation in acknowledgement of your generous gift. In addition, your contribution will be recognized in the tournament and to the more than 750 families of our parish. Please mail or deliver your gift, with the form on page 28, to the Church of the Holy Cross, 900 Alameda, Belmont, CA 94002, or contact **Chris Canellos** at 341-9080 or **Basil Kockos** at 570-6965. *This tournament is the second largest fundraiser for the Church*, and your generosity is vital to the success of our tournament and is sincerely appreciated.

Thanks!

Suggestions

ITEMS OR SERVICES NEEDED

1. Printing
2. Stationery for:
 - A. Golf Letters
 - B. Envelopes
 - C. Name tags
 - D. Brochures, etc
3. Trophies
4. Postage Meter Donor

AUCTION ITEMS:

1. Trips - Cruises
2. Golf packages
3. Hotel accommodations
4. Sports memorabilia
5. Art - Collectibles
6. Sports events tickets
7. Any item of value

GOLF PRIZES:

Any prize of \$15.00/\$20.00 and up

THREE HIERARCHS HOLY CROSS BOOKSTORE

Our Three Hierarchs Holy Cross Bookstore is well stocked with material relevant to our growth as Orthodox Christians. Available are many book titles, some in Greek and in English, geared to the whole of our spiritual struggle. Parents and godparents, do not underestimate the wisdom of introducing Orthodox literature, coloring books and flashcards, to the young people for whom you are responsible. A large selection of icons and cards are also available for your perusal and purchase.

We are fortunate to have the opportunity and the ability to offer the materials in our Bookstore for the enrichment of our Orthodox Christian lives. It is our hope that each Holy Cross parishioner will become familiar with what is available.

ASK MAX

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Who
are these handsome
gentlemen?

(answer in the next issue)

Max will entertain any question submitted on clean, natural, carrot pulp-based paper written with low-salt, soy-based ink . . . or e-mail him at office@goholycross.org.

(continued)

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

We missed a few names for this year's Community Easter Card. We present them here with our wishes to all for a blessed Paschal season.

Jeff and Eleni Baxter

Bill & Vickie Chapralis

Steve, Irene and Alexandra Chapralis

John and Jenny Cladis

Eleftherios, Eleftheria, Peter and Michael Eliopoulos

Pat Lagiss

Mary, Liz and Jim Maletis

Stephen and Brenda Maneatis

Tom, Bev, Elaine and Jim Maneatis

George Metropulos

Tillie Modonas

Nick, Mary, Jim & Lia Peros

Bill & Maria Polakis

Mr. & Mrs. Pete Polychroniou & Family

Dimitria Sakelarios

Pete & Stacey Samaras

The Stamates Family

Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Tonas Family

Mary Topalis

Eugenia Verbeckmoes

SPOTLIGHT

The **Stamates** family sends heartfelt thanks to everyone who called, visited or asked about Ella during her recent stint in the hospital. Ella is home and recuperating and it was all made easier by your kind expressions of love and concern. Thank you!

Belated thanks to the two Christmas elves who donated the lovely Christmas "frost" decorations on our Fellowship Hall lobby windows.

If you're proud of a student who has just completed a course of study - please send us their name, program completed, and future plans, and we'll share the good news in future *Cross Currents*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS 2002 & 2003

Baptisms 2002

December 1 - Anthony, son of Alex and Ramee Ray; John D. Anagnostou, sponsor

December 1 - Kalliope, daughter of Alex and Ramee Ray; John D. Anagnostou, sponsor

December 28 - Christos, son of Constantine and Tami Rally; Athena Megaro, sponsor

December 28 - Christos, son of Thomas and Mary Mavrakakis; Konstantine Salmas, sponsor

Baptisms 2003

Jan. 11 - Michael, son of Geoffrey and Detra Caldwell; Lee Violet, sponsor

Jan. 18 - Nicholas, son of Michael and Melinda Glafkides; Georgine Glafkides, sponsor

Feb. 1 - Rachele, daughter of Luciano and Paulette Costantini; Jim and Nancy Lianides, sponsors

Feb. 1 - Leanna, daughter of Luciano and Paulette Costantini; Maria Celebi and Panfilo Constantini, sponsors

Feb. 2 - Nicole, daughter of Philip and Nihad Siotos; Sandy Lynn and Eyad Faud Musa, sponsors

Mar. 1 - Fotini, daughter of Ahad and Alla Razzaquri; Frances Carroll and Kathy Polychroniou, sponsors

Mar. 9 - Nicolette, daughter of Blaine and Christina Bolich; John and Kristina Kallas, sponsors

May 3 - Andreas, son of Panayotis and Georgia Kalogierias; Maria, Christina, Anastasia Kalogierias, sponsors

Weddings

December 7, 2002 - James Wilson Sherry & Carol Georgina Leonidou; Janette George Leonidou, sponsor

January 18, 2003 - Nick Gus Tsivikas & Audra Victoria Grech, John Tsivikas, sponsor

Memorial prayers are offered for the repose of the souls of:

Funerals 2002

Despina Davis who fell asleep in the Lord on Dec. 4
Vicki Boubalos who fell asleep in the Lord on Dec. 9
Irene Georgides who fell asleep in the Lord on Dec. 11
Mary Goldstein who fell asleep in the Lord on Dec. 17
Elsie Couloures who fell asleep in the Lord on Dec. 19
Anthony Pappas who fell asleep in the Lord on Dec. 24

Funerals 2003

Katherine Metropulos who fell asleep in the Lord on Jan. 21
Peter Marcopulos who fell asleep in the Lord on Jan. 22
Theodora Rivera who fell asleep in the Lord on Feb. 12
Catherine Carellas who fell asleep in the Lord on Mar. 1
Christina Wardell who fell asleep in the Lord on Mar. 31

If there are omissions or corrections to the above, please let the church office know (591-4447 or office@goholycross.org).

YOUTH CURRENTS

MARCH/APRIL 2003 edition

*Grow in the Grace and knowledge
of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

2 Peter 3:18



“Here’s Father Peter’s -- what’s everybody else having?” Thank you to our acolytes who served through the Lenten season with great dedication and reverence. Following Midnight Resurrection services, the team broke their Lenten fast with the traditional Acolyte burger feast! (Yes, that IS one bun and the rest is all meat patties - 40 of them! - and cheese!)



St. Nicholas Ranch
Conference, and Retreat Center

**Don't Just Retreat.
Ascend.**

**Visit our website at
www.stnicholasranch.org**

**To find out more
information about
Ranch events, call us
at 559.338.2103
or email us at
info@st.nicholasranch.org**

CALENDAR

UPCOMING SERVICES

SUNDAY LITURGY - 8:45 AM, Orthros; 10 AM, Divine Liturgy

WEEKDAY LITURGIES - 8 AM, Orthros; 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

SATURDAY GREAT VESPERS - 5:30 PM

Sunday, May 11 – Sunday of the Myrrhbearers

Monday, May 12 – Germanos, Patriarch of Constantinople

Tuesday, May 13 – Glykeria the Martyr

Wednesday, May 14 – Isidore the Martyr

Thursday, May 15 – Pachomios the Great

Friday, May 16 – Theodore the Sanctified

Saturday, May 17 – Andronicus and Junia

Sunday, May 18 – Sunday of the Paralytic

Monday, May 19 – Patrikios (Patrick) the Martyr

Tuesday, May 20 – Martyr Thalelaeus

Wednesday, May 21 – MidPentecost / Constantine & Helen

Thursday, May 22 – Basiliskos the Martyr

Friday, May 23 – Michael the Bishop

Saturday, May 24 – Symeon the Righteous

Sunday, May 25 – Sunday of the Samaritan

Monday, May 26 – Karpos and Alphaios

Tuesday, May 27 – Confessor John the Russian

Wednesday, May 28 – Martyr Eutyches

Thursday, May 29 – Martyr Theodosia

Friday, May 30 – Martyr Issac of Dalmatian

Saturday, May 31 – Hermes the Apostle

Sunday, June 1 – Sunday of the Blind Man

Monday, June 2 – Nikephoros, the Confessor

Tuesday, June 3 – Martyrs Lucillian and Paul

Wednesday, June 4 – Mary and Martha

Thursday, June 5 – Dorotheos the HieroMartyr

Friday, June 6 – Righteous Hilarion

Saturday, June 7 - Theodotus of Ancyra

Sunday, June 8 – Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Monday, June 9 – Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria

Tuesday, June 10 – Alexander and Antonine the Martyrs

Wednesday, June 11 – Bartholomew and Barnabas the Apostles

Thursday, June 12 – Righteous Onyphrius, Peter of Athos

Friday, June 13 – Martyr Aquilina

Saturday, June 14 – Prophet Elisha, Methodius the Confessor

Sunday, June 15 – Sunday of Pentecost

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 13 & 27 **Youth Groups**

June 2 **Golf & Tennis Tournament** – Monday, Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club. Reserve your spot early as space is limited. Contact the Church office at 591-4447 for details.

June 3 **ORA**, 11 AM, The Oaks

June 3 **Philoptochos Board** 7:30 PM, Library

REGULAR MEETINGS (until Summer Schedule kicks in)

Tuesdays 10:30 AM, Bible Study (Fireside)

Tuesday May 20 and June 17, 7:30 PM, Parish Council (Library)

Wednesdays 4:30-6:30 PM, Greek School (classrooms)

Wednesdays 7:30 PM, Choir (Loft)

Thursdays 3:45 PM, Youth Choir (rooms N-2)

(remove this page for news from Saint Nicholas Ranch)