

900 Alameda
BELMONT CA 94002-1604

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



CROSS CURRENTS

Monthly Newsletter
Sept / Oct 2006

The Greatest of Gifts

by *Father Peter G. Salmas, Pastor*



With the beginning of a new ecclesiastical year on September 1, our community began to prepare for a very special and spiritually significant event. After many years of asking and praying and searching, our community has become a recipient and caretaker of the most precious of all holy and saintly relics — a piece of the Precious and Life-giving Cross of our Lord.

The Theophileon Brotherhood of the Saint Anna Skete of the Great Lavra Monastery on Mount Athos, after much deliberation, gifted this sacred relic to our community as an expression of their understanding of our maturity as an Orthodox community. Under the prayerful and dynamic leadership of **Father Cherubim Apostolou**, we now take our place in history as one of the church communities that has been given the great responsibility of caring for and protecting a piece of our Lord's Cross. What a great honor and privilege.

Many of you were able to attend the Service of Gifting and the Great Vespers that followed on the Eve commemorating the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross. I am humbly grateful to **His**



CROSS CURRENTS

The Monthly Newsletter of the Church of the Holy Cross
900 Alameda / Belmont, CA 94002-1604
(650) 591-4447 / fax (650) 508-9846
office@goholycross.org / http://www.goholycross.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Report	3	50th Anniversary	4
Memory Lane 8	4	50th Anniversary Gift	5
Sunrise, Son Rise	7	Festival News	9
Our Beautiful Grounds	11	Father Leon Fellowship	12
Upcoming Events	13	Service Schedule	13
Meetings & Events	14	Church Directory Updates	14
<i>Cross Currents</i> Sponsors . . . 16-17			
Tour of Greece with Father Peter and Father Jon . . . center			

Articles and ads for *Cross Currents* are due on the 15th of the month prior to the month of desired publication.
[FYI : There was no August 2006 issue.]

(continued from front cover)

Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and the sixteen priests from throughout Northern California who assisted His Eminence in offering the services with such beauty and grace. I am confident that all who were able to participate were equally humbled and grateful.

The Cross is a gift that comes to us in the midst of our celebrations commemorating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of our Holy Cross community. There is no greater event in the life of our community than the receiving of this great and holy relic and is an event that we will commemorate annually.

Each year we read in the *Synaxarion*, the book of daily liturgical commemorations, of the translation of relics of a saint or of a piece of the Cross from one spiritual center to another. The gifting of the relic from Mount Athos to our church will now be part of our feast day

page 2 - *Cross Currents*

celebrations every year and will include, in the recounting, the significant events surrounding the Cross of our Lord.

Nearly 2000 faithful have venerated the sacred relic entrusted to us since its gifting. This is undoubtedly only the beginning. Inquiries regarding the Cross and its permanent home here in Belmont are answered each week.

As a community, we are truly blessed to have the Cross always present to inspire our commitment and the work that awaits us. Our church sanctuary needs to be made more secure and an appropriate reliquary to house the Cross will need to be built. A parishioner family has already stepped forward to donate this reliquary altar and plans are underway for its design and installation along with further improvements to our house of worship.

Our lives have already been enriched and inspired as we receive this historic and holy gift. May our efforts of Christian witness continue as we work as stewards of the Church of the Holy Cross to bring glory to His Holy Name.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by **Gary Brenner**, Parish Council President

August 2006

The 38th Clergy-Laity Congress convened in Nashville in July. It was appropriate for us to go to Nashville as it is known as the "Athens of the South". One hundred years ago, the Nashville



Cross Currents - page 3

community erected a full-scale replica of the Parthenon in a pristine city park. The host parish of Holy Trinity with 170 families planned a social evening at the Parthenon for more than 1,000 delegates, Philoptochos members, priests and presbyters. We toured the magnificent Parthenon with its 42' high statue of Athena. We were treated to Southern barbecue, roasted corn on the cob, fried green tomatoes and grits with shrimp. As a son of the South, it was a pilgrimage for me gastronomically and spiritually. A well known "Music City" band, *Diamond Rio*, performed, after which we were provided a phenomenal fireworks display. The evening finished with Greek dancing which I am told was weaving around the columns of the Parthenon late into the night.

The Opryland Hotel and Resort is the largest hotel in the U.S. that isn't part of a casino. It is spread over 40 acres and has three enormous atriums with lush gardens, waterfalls and footpaths. One could literally stay inside the hotel for the duration of the convention and never venture out to the 97 degree heat and humidity.

It was a time for me to truly feel proud as an Orthodox Christian. All of the Metropolitans of the Archdiocese of North America joined His Eminence **ArchBishop Demetrios** in providing us spiritual and divine guidance.

Nick Peros and **Tanya Spritos** were also delegates, and we attended numerous workshops and seminars on topics such as Intermarriage and Conversion, Stewardship, Capital Fund Campaigns and diverse workshops on using the internet and computers for Parish Administration.

The plenary sessions which provide us the opportunity to discuss and adopt policies and procedures for the church were run efficiently and professionally.

My wife **Arleen** and **Mary Peros** were delegates to the Philoptochos Convention and we joined them for their banquet on the first night.

National Philoptochos president **Georgia Skeadas**, a former parishioner at Holy Cross, has been a very effective President. We viewed a video highlighting 75 years of Philoptochos service to the church and their ministries. When I make a donation to "Kids'n Cancer" on Sunday at Coffee Hour I now have a better idea of this ministry and excellent service that it provides to these children. Philoptochos supports many ministries and the average parishioner probably doesn't know or appreciate how much the ladies of Philoptochos accomplish nationally or locally. Count me among those who did not appreciate or understand their ministries.

I plan to double my Coffee Hour donation and support our ladies in all their activities and fundraisers.

I learned much about our church and the resources that we offer. We have a sacred tradition, extraordinary leadership from our Clergy and Laity. I pray that my experience at Clergy-Laity will enrich me as a leader of our Parish. I pray that our Parish will benefit from the experience that your delegates derived from our attendance at Clergy-Laity Congress 2006.

September 2006

Fr. Silviu, Presbyteria Irina, Tibi and Maria who have been very dear to our community over the past two years, have left for Saint Andrew's parish in San Luis Obispo. We have been blessed by their assignment here and wish them the very best as they move their ministry to Saint Andrew.

Our 50th Anniversary Committee continues to meet and make plans for three more events culminating with the Gala Ball on **December 29**. We enjoyed a very special program for our Nameday Luncheon on September 17 and honored all of our past Parish Council Presidents. It was a very nice affair featuring a lamb dinner prepared by Nob Hill Catering.

On **November 5**, we will honor the memory of all parishioners who have passed away over the past 50 years. We will have a special ceremony at the luncheon following the Liturgy. We have never before commemorated such a large group, and we expect a large number of parishioners to be in attendance.

The Gala Ball will be on **December 29** at the Westin Hotel in Millbrae. We will have a program to honor a number of key parishioners but we will also enjoy the live music of an exceptional local band, *The Martini Brothers*, as well as Greek music by *Vital Sounds*. Ticket sales will be limited, so don't miss this opportunity that only comes along once every 50 years.

October 2006

September 13, 2006 and the Celebration of the Feast Day of our beloved Church on September 14, 2006 marked a milestone in the history of our Parish. We received the gift of a relic of the Precious and Life-giving Cross from the **Very Reverend Archimandrite Cheroubim Apostolou** a priest from the Theopholeon Brotherhood of Saint Anna Skete and the entire monastic community on Mount Athos. It is very rare that such a precious relic is gifted from the monastic community on Mount Athos.

Father Peter has been attempting to arrange for this rare gift for five years, and it is so appropriate that we have now received it in this, the year of our 50th Anniversary.

Metropolitan Gerasimos was present at the Vespers along with sixteen visiting clergy to receive the Cross. Parishioners filled our church and patiently waited for an opportunity to venerate the Cross after the Vespers.

The wonderful ladies of our Philoptochos under the direction of **Helene Nemchik** prepared dinner for the visiting clergy and guests after Vespers. They are always available and willing to provide delicious meals on special occasions such as these.

The Divine Liturgy on September 14 was celebrated by Metropolitan Gerasimos followed by another wonderful luncheon prepared by **Kathy Polychroniou** and **Jenny Kalaitzidis**. Both of these ladies are extremely talented cooks and through their love and devotion to our church, are willing to commit their time on special occasions.

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated our Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 17. At the luncheon following the Liturgy we are to honor all of the past presidents of our parish both the living and those of blessed memory. I am forever reminding myself that I serve the Lord as your Parish Council President following many great leaders at Holy Cross. I pray that my service and leadership as president in our 50th Anniversary year will be worthy of those who preceded me.

Our 2006 Festival was a resounding success thanks to the outstanding leadership of **Bob Nemchik** and **Peter Bibbes**. Our success was also due to the legions of volunteers who entertained, cooked, cleaned and served in the Holy Cross tradition which earns us the reputation as the best Greek Festival in Northern California.

I want to recognize a very special and award-winning dance group from our church known as *Epitihia*. On Wednesday night before the Festival and after practicing for several hours, they formed an assembly line in the hall to fill about 500 containers of dips to be served in the Deli. Dance director **Dean Angelis** and Dance Coordinator **Kathy Roque-Albert** were also assisting these energetic young people.

There are many stories of extraordinary effort during the Festival and I invite you all to send in your stories of extraordinary Festival feats for publication in the next issue of *Cross Currents*.

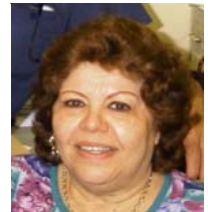
50TH ANNIVERSARY

“AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL
SERVE THE LORD” JOSHUA 24:15



MEMORY LANE -- 50 YEARS AGO

by *Ella Stamates, 50th Anniversary Committee*



. . . will resume next month. In the meantime, enjoy the story of how our ORA came to be . . .

THE ORA STORY A Trip Down Memory Lane

by *Virginia Coppock, ORA Vice-President*

(the following is taken from a presentation Virginia made at the ORA meeting on August 1, 2006, in celebration of Holy Cross' 50th Anniversary)

Today we are going to take a trip down Memory Lane! We will be honoring our founders, past presidents, and have a short history on how this wonderful organization was started. There are so many different stories on how ORA began; and, with due respect to members that may have been present in the beginning, I am only quoting what has been recorded. When I started to research ORA's history for our church's 50th Anniversary, I had a lot of questions that I needed to find answers to. Some of my questions were:

- ❖ Whose idea was it to start this club?
- ❖ What year was it started and chartered?
- ❖ Who were the founders, the chartered members, the priest, and those present at the first meeting?
- ❖ Who was the first president and those who followed?
- ❖ Who chose to name the "ORA"?
- ❖ Where did they meet?

Here are the facts as I uncovered them.

In 1978, **Mary Metropulos**' mother, Constance Grachis, would say to Mary, "Why don't we have the opportunity to get together with friends besides church on Sundays? Maybe we could start a club where we could speak Greek and enjoy each other's company." So, Mary got together with **Mary Pappas** and they decided to have a "vote" on Sunday after church in the Main Hall. They asked all in attendance if they were in favor of starting a seniors' group. It was unanimous that all the seniors did indeed want this. They presented the vote to Father George Stevenson, our priest at the time; and, he thought it was a wonderful idea for Holy Cross to have a club dedicated to seniors. It was then presented to the Parish Council; and, it was approved that the seniors could meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month for "companionship, support, and fellowship" over coffee and desserts. So, a small group of seniors started meeting on the first Tuesday of the month in the Main Hall. They needed someone to help them organize their club. Mary Pappas then contacted **Helen Demarest**'s mother, Emily Pappas to help organize the club. Emily had started several successful clubs in Daly City and was very knowledgeable about organizing clubs and how meetings should be conducted. The records show that on February 6, 1979, under the guidance of Emily Pappas, and with Father George Stevenson present, the club was chartered, the bi-laws written, the election of the first President took place as well as naming their club. After many names were proposed, Father George submitted "Order of Respected Adults." It was unanimously approved as the perfect name! So, Father Stevenson named ORA! The first elected board was President, Emily Pappas, Vice President Ruby Klunis, Secretary, George Metropoulos, and Treasurer, Pete Neofotistos. Since that meeting, there have been 14 additional administrations.

With the completion of the Sunday School rooms, ORA moved into Room 7 and met there for 16 years. They were a very happy, energetic, and active group! They held a variety of activities with many day trips, and overnight Reno trips. For many years, they hosted the Kaffenion in Room 7 at the Festival; and having several retired members from the restaurant business, they held many, many luncheons and BBQ's, always with bingo to follow.

By 1995, there were 165 members, and Room 7 was getting a little crowded. Newly elected president, **Virginia Coppock** and her board, Vice President **Angie Stambollis**, Secretary **Bernice Dadaos**, and Treasurer, **Mildred Franco**, asked **Father Peter Salmas** if ORA could be moved to The Oaks. It was approved and we moved to The Oaks where we are currently holding our meetings.

We have seen a lot of changes in 27 years. Today, our members enjoy luncheons catered by Nob Hill Catering at the meetings in the beautiful Oaks. Under the direction of past Secretary, **Desi Evangel**, who started the ORA luncheons in 2002, they have been so successful, that every month, we are almost to full room capacity! Congratulations and thank you Desi; you certainly are an asset to ORA.

ORA has so much to be proud of. From 20 members in 1978 to 220 members in 2006; and we're still growing. ORA is the most popular club here at Holy Cross; and, I believe, one of the largest Greek senior groups in the Bay Area. It didn't take just one or two people or even a group of people to make this club the success it is today. It took 14 administrations, a countless amount of hard-working members, teamwork, love and dedication. From our first president, Emily Pappas, and her board, through the presidents and officers that have followed her, each one added their charm and personality to their term of office. God bless our founders. Today we honor and thank you. I pray that those who follow will respect and honor the founders and this organization and serve their term with love and dedication. From the smallest little acorn, the mighty oak has grown.

(Special note: ORA thanks and acknowledges the late Constance Grachis, who conceived the idea of a senior club where she could socialize and be with other Greek people. Also included are Mary Metropulos, Mary Pappas, and the late Father George Stevenson who made it all possible).

50th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

by Jenny Cladis, 50th Committee Chair

We have been happily at work for the past year planning our 50th – year celebrations at our Holy Cross Church.

We have had a very inspiring Spiritual Odyssey and a weeklong celebration of our Holy Cross Feastday. We were privileged to have received a gift of the piece of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord from the **Very Reverend Cheroubim Apostolou** of the Theophileon Brotherhood of Saint Anna Skete of the Great Lavra. We also honored all of our past presidents of the Parish Council at a special luncheon in September.

We are now going forward with the Fellowship Luncheon that will be held on **Sunday, November 5** to honor the founders of the Church and the workers in His vineyard.

We will cap-off our year long celebration with our Golden Gala Ball at the Westin-Airport Hotel on **December 29**. We MUST all be there!! Mark your calendars now.

LEAVE YOUR MARK

in the 50th Anniversary Photo Directory!

This is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to advertise your business, remember a loved one, or send a personal message to the community by taking out an ad in the Holy Cross 50th Anniversary Photo Directory.

¼ page - \$100 / ½ page - \$200 / Full page - \$350

You won't have another chance until 2016 -- so act today!!!

Place ad by sending payment and ad to :

**Church of the Holy Cross, c/o Photo Directory Ad
900 Alameda, Belmont, CA 94002-1604**

50TH ANNIVERSARY GIFT

by *Chris Canellos, Parish Council Treasurer*

The fall season is upon us at Holy Cross. Our religious education classes are brimming with beautiful, inquisitive students learning about God's love from truly dedicated teachers. Our weekday afternoons are brightened by our Greek School program and our evenings once again are filled with dance groups, choir rehearsals, parishioners learning more about our faith and remarkable individuals dedicated to the betterment of the community at large.

Holy Cross has come a long way in its 50 years. From its humble beginnings in a San Mateo restaurant, to the recent majestic event of the gifting of the relic of the Holy Cross, our parish has been a shining light for Greek Orthodox faithful here on this Peninsula.

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, we have invited each parishioner's family to offer a gift to Holy Cross out of their love. So far, over 140 parishioners families have responded by offering over \$163,000. At this time, I ask you to join us. Your gift will provide important support to the Church as we begin the second half century of our service to the faithful. As an incentive, donors at the \$1000 level and above will receive two tickets to our Grand Gala celebration on **December 29**. You may also earmark your

page 10 - *Cross Currents*

gift for any good church cause. Any amount is welcome. It is important that every Holy Cross Family participates in someway.

Please return you pledge card as soon as possible. Thank You.

CALLING ALL PHOTOS!

As part of Holy Cross 50th Anniversary celebrations, we would like to create a photo archive of the many moments, both large and small, that have taken place at our church. We would like to create a pictorial record of the baptisms, weddings, chrismations, and other sacraments that have taken place at our church. We would also like to see pictures of the many events that have taken place at our church. We also want pictures from all of the organizations in the church.

If you have photos of any of these events or occasions that have taken place at our church, please send or bring them to the church office. We are asking that all photos be clearly labeled with a post-it note. The note should state the **people** in the photo and the **name of the event and/or organization** and the **date**. Please place pictures in a letter size envelope (9" x 12") to ensure that they will be returned to you. Please label the envelope **Holy Cross Photo Archive, 50th Anniversary** with RETURN: your name.

Please take the time to send these photos. They will be an invaluable part of our church's 50th Anniversary celebrations this year and for always.

REFLECTIONS REFLECTIONS

SUNRISE, SON RISE

by *Chris Canellos, Parish Council*

It was a particularly busy late summer at Holy Cross. With humble hearts and solemn ceremony, we received the most special gift, a portion of the Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, during our Church nameday cel-

Cross Currents - page 11

eburation. We bid a fond farewell to four dedicated parishioners who fell asleep in the Lord. And we once again joined hands to complete another successful Belmont Greek Festival.

It was the most significant event in the life of our Church since its founding – the gifting of a portion of the Holy Cross itself! In meaningful ceremonies presided over by **Metropolitan Gerasimos** and attended by local Orthodox clergy and a full congregation, we joyously received this beautiful gift from a monastery on Mount Athos, represented by saintly **Father Cheroubim**, whom we so deeply thank for making this possible. The presence of the Cross, together with the continuing presence of our Lord through the Sacrament kept at the altar, should inspire us all and bring us many blessings. When Saint Helen found the Cross in the fourth century, it miraculously gave new life to a soul who had fallen asleep in the Lord. We pray that the Cross will grant our parish and our families renewed life and commitment to the Christian ideals that the Cross so wonderfully represents. Just as He died for all of us, this portion of the Cross is for all of us to claim, to venerate, to respect, to adorn and to protect. And in all our dealings here, let us remember that the Church of the Holy Cross has a new and truly wonderful new meaning.

We were saddened at the passing of four dedicated parish members, John Vasil in July, and Geri Mayers, Andy Chrisafis and John Metropulos in September, as we commemorated the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

John Vasil was a trail-blazing professional in our Hellenic and Orthodox communities. For many years, he was *the* attorney that so many of us would turn to in our time of need. He would happily assist the Church in its legal dealings, or even in situations having nothing to do with the law. He once came to my aid, running to the store to pick up a bunch of hot dog buns to keep our golf tournament guests happy.

Geri Mayers was tireless in her efforts for every cause she joined. Her colorful raffles were an important part of our Easter Picnic each year, and she would enroll and coordinate all the outside vendors for our Festival. Her generosity was seen in the major items she donated for our kitchen, heard in the bells that ring each day at the Church, and in the golf cart that saves Tyke, as well as many disabled or elderly folk, so many steps. Even



though she was very ill by that time, she managed to witness her grandson Jack's baptism, a very happy day for her family and friends. Recently honored as Redwood City citizen of the year, she took great pride in her efforts to preserve the beautiful cross that overlooks her home town.

Andy Chrisafis and his partner owned a very important restaurant in San Mateo. It was a place where visionaries gathered and dreamed of the Church community we enjoy today.

The founding documents were signed there. And Andy was called by our Lord on the 50th anniversary of the first liturgy held here in San Mateo County, September 14, 1956.

A humble man, he never complained that a quirk in history kept him from being one of the signers to the founding document – he was ill that day and had to go home early from the restaurant. Not until after his death did this tiny detail come to my attention.

In the early days, our Church was known as “Have altar, will travel,” as we scrambled to find places each week to conduct our holy services. John Metropulos was always there to help move our portable altar wherever it needed to go. Throughout the past 50 years, John was always present in Church, worshipping downstairs while his lovely wife **Mary** shared her beautiful voice for the glory of God each Sunday up in the choir loft. He and Mary were married for 53 years and raised three wonderful sons.

May their memory be eternal, and may God grant peace to **Dolly, Fred, Argero** and Mary and all of the family members of these beautiful souls who now rest in God's kingdom.

We will remember all Holy Cross members who now rest among the righteous on **November 5**. We will offer memorial prayers for all the souls who have worked so hard to make Holy Cross such a special place. If you have a loved one whom you wish to be remembered at this special service, please contact the Church office.

The Belmont Greek Festival was a particularly successful one, thanks to our co-chairmen, **Bob Nemchik** and **Peter Bibbes**, and all of you who served tirelessly in the kitchen and on the grounds, throughout the summer in preparation, and then through three very warm days and not so warm evenings over Labor Day Weekend. We know our gross proceeds were an all-time high. The food and entertainment were a great hit with the local community. *Ke tou chronou!* And to next year!

And one last thought. Many of us have sent generous gifts to the Church commemorating our 50th anniversary. If you have not yet done so, we invite you to do so now. These gifts in aggregate will be of great benefit

to the Church, allowing us to address some critical capital needs. Donations at any level are welcome. Gifts of \$1000 or more will be reciprocated by two tickets to our fantastic Golden Gala event in **December**. If you need a pledge card or further information, please contact the Church office.

PHILOPTOCHOS

75 YEARS OF PHILANTHROPY - Update from the Philoptochos National Convention, Nashville, Tennessee

by *Mary Peros, Philoptochos President*

Arleen Brenner and I recently returned from Nashville where the National Philoptochos Convention was held. The Philoptochos is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. We attended four days of meetings, workshops and events. I have a binder full of notes and scribbled ideas which I have to sort through. I met so many wonderful ladies with so many wonderful ideas. Perhaps because I am a “big picture” type of person, I come away from these events with a renewed sense of energy, generally inspired by all that I saw and heard.

I was asked to present an update on a program that we were challenged to begin at the previous convention. It was the “Circle of Friends.” I spoke frankly about the progress of this ministry – its modest successes and I believe huge potential. As some of you may know it is a way to deliver help to members of our Church by geographically organizing our help. If someone needs assistance and lives near you, it is easy to drop by and offer the help. Many chapter presidents stopped me to say that they thought what we are doing is a great idea and were going to bring this idea back to their chapters. Some chapters talked about different kinds of “circles.” They use circles to grow their membership. Circles of members who have similar interests or are of a similar age meet informally at a home and then send a representative to the Board meeting. This is a great way to enlarge the core of our organization. There were so many other examples of innovative ideas in this program bank. One chapter near Chicago established an “Angel” program that granted wishes to a limited few in desperate need. Another chap-

page 14 - *Cross Currents*

ter created loving quilts made from individual quilt squares which people worked on at home and then were pieced together and sent to soldiers in Iraq or homeless in the city. Each freeform quilt was unique. There were many other ideas that we will share with the Board and the general membership later this fall.

All the presidents were given a fantastic DVD about the work of the Philoptochos throughout the decades. It was shown at the Philoptochos banquet and it was extremely entertaining and touching. During wars, hurricanes, civil rights movements and even the Great Depression, the Philoptochos was there, helping one person at a time, making a difference in the life of one family at a time. I can't wait to share this DVD with all of you.

Arleen and I thank you for giving us the opportunity to network and learn more about the organization we are a part of. Our official calendar year begins again in September.

AGAPE BLANKETS

The ladies of the Philoptochos are looking for knitters to make some soft and cuddly blankets for children in local hospitals. We have some Agape bears that we can deliver with these blankets. We will provide yarn if you would like. For information, please call either **Arleen Brenner**, Agape chair, at 592-4755, or **Mary Peros**, at 347-6910. Thank you soooooo much!

ETC.

Dear Parishioners,

I cannot thank you enough for the beautiful sympathy cards you sent me for my grandson John.

We at Holy Cross Church have a lot to be proud of having Father Peter as our priest. The reading you chose, Father, for the funeral was outstanding and memorable. Your message concerning John's death was so meaningful and appropriate. Everyone was in awe of your eulogy, it touched our hearts. Thank you Father, and May God Bless you and your family with good health always.

With deepest sincerity -- *Maraki Vlasis*

Cross Currents - page 15

+ = + = + = + = + = +

Dear Parishioners.

A big "Thank You" to all of you who have said prayers and sent get-well cards to me during my illness. I'm recuperating slowly after a bad fall. Again, thank you for your thoughtfulness.


Best wishes to you and your families -- *Virginia Lagiss*

YOUTH CURRENTS

Sept / Oct 2006 edition

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

2 Peter 3:18



DEPARTURE

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

It is hard to believe that two years have gone by since July of 2004 when **Presbyteria Irina, Tibi**, (**Maria** was not in the picture yet) and I came to the Holy Cross Church. To think that I have served the community here in Belmont for two years seems like a dream! The time has flown by. I have shared many tender moments with many of you: celebrating births, baptisms, chrismations, weddings, praying with those in need, visiting the sick people and even memorializing our loved ones who have passed from this life.



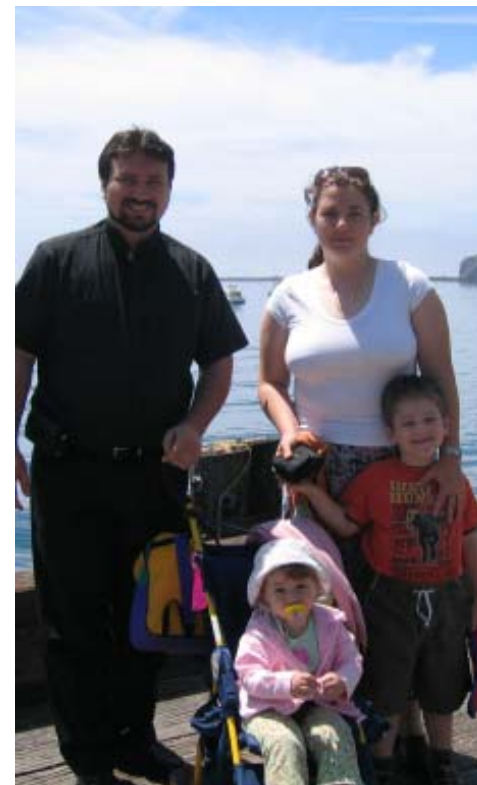
As Greek Festival time approaches again I remember the 2004 Festival when I had a wonderful opportunity to connect with so many people all at once, and witness the hard work, dedication, sacrifice and also joy of being involved in this great event.

We have accepted a new assignment to serve St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church in San Luis Obispo, California. While we are excited about this new assignment and the possibilities it holds, we are also truly thankful and feel most blessed to have had the privilege of serving the Holy Cross community. We will always cherish the time spent here, the many lessons learned, and the relationships we have made with everyone.

It has been an honor for me to serve as your priest and to celebrate Liturgy at the right hand of **Fr. Peter**. And, I have to thank Fr. Peter for his example, his leadership and his advice which helped me in working with the Youth Council, Religious Education program, Dance program, Athletics program, Young couples, Youth groups, Acolytes, OCF at Stanford and in organizing so many other activities. Thank you Fr. Peter! There are so many moments to be remembered, and so many people to be named and thanked, but I am certain that I would overlook one or two very special people, and I don't want to do that.

Yes, the time has come for me to go, but I will never leave you! You will always be in my heart, thoughts and prayers! I will be a few miles south, you have an invitation to drop in and visit as you please. I plan to visit the Bay Area, to celebrate Divine Liturgy praying in front of the new icons to be added in the Holy Altar, and to see the children learning in the new school to be built.

I have grown to love you all very much. The hospitality, warmth and generosity you have so graciously shown to me and my family is greatly appreciated. Presbyteria Irina, Tibi and Maria will miss you all also. My wife and children have made some very special friendships at this parish and hope to maintain them as they grow.



These many beautiful friendships have been a tremendous support to us and I know that they will continue to be as we move forward to serve in San Luis Obispo.

We also look forward to the day that we may welcome you to parish of Saint Andrew, offering you a bit of the hospitality and love characteristic of the Holy Cross community.

You remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Love in Christ,

Fr. Silviu

UPCOMING SERVICE & CHURCH HAPPENINGS

UPCOMING SERVICES

subject to change - please check your Sunday Bulletins

Sunday Services are 8:30 AM, Orthros, 10 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday Vespers are at 5:30 PM

Wednesday, October 18 - Luke the Evangelist, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Friday, October 20 - Saint Gerasimos, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, October 21 – Great Vespers

Sunday, October 22 – 6th Sunday of Luke

Monday, October 23 - Saint Iakovos, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Thursday, October 26 - Saint Demetrios, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, October 28 – Great Vespers

Sunday, October 29 – 7th Sunday of Luke

Wednesday, November 1 - Cosmas & Damien, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, November 4 – Great Vespers

Sunday, November 5 – 5th Sunday of Luke

Wednesday, November 8 - Synaxis of Archangel Michael, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Thursday, November 9 - Nectarios the Wonderworker, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, November 11 – Great Vespers

Sunday, November 12 – 8th Sunday of Luke

Monday, November 13 - John Chrysostom, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, November 18 – Great Vespers

Sunday, November 19 – 9th Sunday of Luke

Tuesday, November 21 – The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

Saturday, November 25 – Great Vespers

Sunday, November 26 – 13th Sunday of Luke

Thursday, November 30- Saint Andrew, 9 AM, Divine Liturgy

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Also, please check your Sunday Bulletins for the dates and times of all meetings

15th of the Month, 4 PM - Articles and ads due for *Cross Currents* and *Youth Currents* (church office)

Wednesdays, Noon - Memorials for the following Sunday are due

Fridays, Noon - Items for the following Sunday's Bulletin are due

Daily, 9-Noon - Preschool

Daily, 4:30- 6:30 PM - Greek School (Classrooms)

Tuesdays, 10:30 - Noon - Bible Study (Fireside Room, or the Contos Library when ORA meets)

First **Tuesday** of the month, 11 AM – ORA (Oaks)

First **Tuesday** of the month, 7 PM – Philoptochos Board (Classrooms)

First **Thursdays** of the month, 6:30 PM - Technology Committee (Contos Library)

Third **Tuesdays** of the month, 7:30 PM – Parish Council (Contos Library)

First three **Wednesdays** of the month, 7:30 PM, Choir (Loft)

Wednesdays, 5-7 PM, Adult Greek School (Fireside Room)

Wednesday, 7 PM, Studies in the Faith (Contos Library)

Fridays, 3:30 PM, Youth Choir (Loft)

*Please call the church office
if we missed your organization's meeting.*

Memorial Sunday

On **Sunday, November 5**, the Church of the Holy Cross will commemorate those beloved parishioners who served the Lord in our community during the past 50 years and have since fallen asleep in the Lord.

Before our liturgy begins that Sunday, we will offer a Memorial Service for these venerable souls. The Sunday School children will actively participate in this truly moving memorial, singing the hymns and responses of the *mnimosino*.

In order to ensure a meaningful service; we ask that you arrive no later than 9:45 AM, to be properly seated before the memorial begins.

Please make sure that your child arrives no later than 9:45 AM so he or she may line up and be ready to process into church and participate.

A luncheon will follow the Divine Liturgy in The Oaks. We hope that your family will be able to attend all of the day's events.

November 5, 2006

Please forward (first) names of your beloved family members and friends that you wish to be remembered on this special occasion.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

----- drop off at church office or e-mail to office@goholycross.org -----

THANK YOU *CROSS CURRENTS* SPONSOR!



25 37th. Ave
San Mateo, Ca 94403
Tel: 650-349-3300
www.Alhana.Net

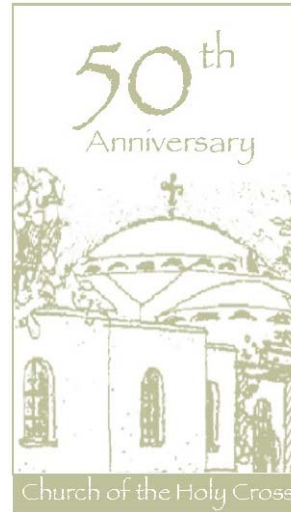
Get your own Free Email @Alhana
WWW.ALHANA.NET

JUST ARRIVED!

ALL THE GREEK FOODS YOU LOVE!

**WINES-OUZO-MOUSAKA-TRAHANA
OREGANO-OUZO CANDY-
COFFEE-CHEESES: DODONI-FETA-
KEFALOGRAVIERA-KEFALOTYRI-
KASSERI-MIZITHRA-BAKLAVA
VEGETABLE SPREADS-
SMOKED HERRING-RUSKS-
SHEEP'S BUTTER-COOKIES
PASTITSIO-MOUSAKA**

**AND SO MUCH MORE...
COME IN & SEE FOR YOURSELF**



*Save the date -
Friday, December 29*
50th Anniversary Gala
*An event
50 years in the making.*
Join us with your family.
Golden details soon.

THANK YOU *CROSS CURRENTS* SPONSOR!

DISC JOCKEY MUSIC RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE, PROFESSIONAL
WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS, ANNIVERSARIES, SOCIAL EVENTS
GREEK AND AMERICAN MUSIC



Call Today dj Alexander
650-591-1010
www.VitalSounds.NET