

Holy Apostles Newsletter

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ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA



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From the Holy Fathers

I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!" (Lk. 12:49). The holy apostles accepted this divine fire into their hearts, and fired with flaming love toward the Lord, left the world and everything in it and followed Christ. They gave themselves to Him both in soul and in body, and renounced both their will and reasoning, so that they could say with great joy: "Lo, we have left everything and followed You" (Mt. 19:27). They kept this holy obedience to the Lord in their hearts to the end of their lives, imprinting it in our memories through their experience of innumerable temptations, diverse deaths, and the pouring out of their blood unto the last drop. ... And this same fire of divine grace was accepted by all the truly holy servants of Christ, people of all ranks and calling, who meticulously observed the soul-saving Gospel commandments, without the fulfillment of which salvation is impossible through faith alone. Starets Paisius Velichkovskii



Contentment vs. Resignation

I spoke with a man whose outlook upon life was sour. "Consider," grumped he, "how I have been cheated and put upon my whole life through. When I was young, I was held back and denied opportunity by my own father. Yes, and had my wife not been a weight dragging me down, I could have been something. Oh, I tell ya, I could have gone places and done much..."

Thus on and on he spoke, and as he spoke, it seemed that in every life decision, he had been forced to bend to the will of someone else, who had invariably led him down the garden path. In fact, the impression mounted that even God had cheated him, so that now, past the prime of life, he had irreparably lost all opportunity for true fulfillment.

Now, I wish not to dwell on this man's troubles, but it caused me to think of how I should handle what God hands me. How does He want us to face the varying circumstances of life?

One who hath been a Christian for even but a short time cannot help but recall those famous words of St. Paul, who saith: "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Should one resign oneself to whatever comes down as the will of God? No, resignation is not what is needful, though there remains a sense in which whatever comes down is truly the will of God and to be accepted and lived with. When it comes down to it, however, resignation may be an attitude no better than resentment. For resignation implies no active trust, no relationship, no personal communion with God. One may as well say "Resignation to Fate" as to God.

One who has learned to be content

in any state whatever has not resigned to fate. Contentment has a depth of meaning far deeper than resignation. Within it lies satisfaction and fulfillment, and in the ultimate sense, contentment carries with it assurance and hope.

Even so, contentment is but a symptom of an underlying reality. For the contentment underlying that attitude which St. Paul expresses comes only from knowing the one true God and communing with Him. There lies not resentment, not resignation, but joyful abandon to the will of God, with a sense that "whatever state" has been appointed to be lived in and with, worshipping and serving the Lord.

Ah, but such comes not so easy for any of us. The weaknesses of the flesh incline us to resentment, resignation, and other improprieties. From communion with the Lord we so easily move in the next instant to sin. Therefore do we need prayer such as one, which contains these words:

"O Lord, help me in all things to rely upon Thy holy will. In every hour of the day reveal Thy will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the day with peace of soul, and with firm conviction that Thy will governs all. In all my deeds and words, guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events, let me not forget that all are sent by Thee." AMEN.

INSIDE

What's Happening	2
Kitchen Corner	2
Holy Apostles Schedule	3
June Calendar	3
Fasting Insert	
Many Years	3

Community Forum

TRANSITIONS PROJECT

The Transitions Project is scheduled for this Monday, June 4. Each sandwich maker should make 25 sandwiches. The bread will be in the fellowship hall by Saturday afternoon. If anyone is interested in joining the sandwich making team, let Matushka Mary know.

GOLDENDALE FEAST DAY

St. John the Forerunner Monastery in Goldendale, Washington invites all the faithful to participate in their feast day celebrations June 23rd & 24th. The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, June 23rd, 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers & Orthros
Sunday, June 24th, 8:30 a.m. Hours & Divine Liturgy (Lunch following)

For accommodations:

Quality Inn (509) 773-5881

Ponderosa Motel (509) 773-5842

THE HARMONS ARE MOVING

Rdr. Nectarios and Macrina are purchasing a house in Vancouver (903 NE 90th Ave.) If all goes well, they hope to move on Saturday, June 30th. Pizza, beer, soft drinks and ibuprofen will be available for all volunteers. If you'd like to see pictures, just contact us at bill.nectarios@gmail.com and we'll send you a link.

OUR NEWEST CATECHUMEN

Congratulations to Joe Harvest, our newest member of the Catechumenate. Please pray for him that God would protect him during this time and keep him by His grace.

MEN'S GROUP

We will begin a new set of talks given by Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou at the 2007 Clergy Brotherhood Retreat titled: "The Hidden Man of the Heart: the Christian Anthropology of Elder Sophrony of Essex, spiritual son of St. Silouan the Athonite." I really want to encourage every man to come to these set of talks. There are 7 talks, and it would be ideal if you come at the beginning and continue on for the entire seven talks. Instead of the second Thursday of the month, we will have our first meeting on Thursday, June 21st in the fellowship hall. Dinner will be provided, so bring a few bucks to contribute. Feel free to invite a friend.

PATRONAL FEAST DAY

Our patroanl feast day is coming up on Friday, July 13th. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, July 12th - Vigil w/Lity at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, July 13th - Hours @6:40 a.m., Divine Liturgy @7:00 a.m.

Friday, July 13th - Feast day celebration/BBQ @5 p.m. We will have the BBQ at a park in Portland - place TBD. Mark your calendar and plan ahead so we can all be together on our patroal feast day. Stay tuned for more upcoming information.

CATECHISM CLASSES FORTHCOMING

Fr. Dimitri will begin teaching a weekly catechism/inquirer class on Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m., beginning September 4th. All are welcome to attend.

WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY

Matushka Mary's mother, Nektaria Harvey is moving to Portland to be a part of our parish. She will be here June 5th and will stay with Fr. Dimitri and Matushka Mary until she finds a place to stay. ♦

Kitchen Corner

Best Ever Shrimp Sauce

1 garlic clove
1 cup vegemase (this is a non-dairy may substitute and is very good - don't use nayonaise)
1/2 cup chili sauce (such as Heinz)
1 Tbs. drained bottled horseradish, or to taste
1/2 tsp. dry mustard, or to taste
1/8 tsp. cayenne, or to taste
2 tsps. fresh lime juice, or to taste

Accompaniment: chilled boiled shrimp or crackers or vegetables such as carrots, peppers, etc.

Force garlic through a press into a bowl and stir together with remaining ingredients. Chill at least 4 hours and up to 3 days.

Serve sauce with shrimp or whatever.

Makes about 1 1/2 cups. ♦

Holy Apostles Schedule

DATE	COFFEE HOUR HOUR AGAPE MEAL	COFFEE HOUR HOUR CLEAN UP	CHURCH CLEANING TEAM	FLOWERS
JUNE 3	Joanna Donnor & team	Kojenov & Hudanish		
JUNE 10	Bev Aiello & team	Perez & Schmitt	George & Joanna	Matushka Mary
JUNE 17 (Father's day)	Thomaida Hudanish & team	Story & Watt		
JUNE 24	Elena Kojenov & team	Beckel & Campbell	George & Joanna	Matushka Mary
JULY 1	Joanna Donnor & team	Aiello & Dingman		

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE - REMINDER!

As Fr. Dimitri mentioned last Sunday, please don't forget to fill out the sheet titled: "Time, Talent & Treasure" and return to Fr. Dimitri as soon as possible.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HILLHOUSES!

Most of you know Vasili and Maria Hillhouse, who recently moved to Portland to be a part of St. John the Baptist GOC. Vasili recently graduated from St. Tikhon's Seminary and, God willing, will be ordained sometime in the future, under the omniphoron of the Greek Archdiocese. Holy Apostles has been supporting them financially a little each month and this has been a good help to them during seminary.

GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!

Happy Feast Day to the following people who celebrate their names day in June:

May 21/June 3 Holy Equal of the Apostles Helena,
Mother of Emperor Constantine
Lena Campbell
May 25/June 7 3rd Finding of the Head of St. John the Baptist
John Campbell
5/18 GM Irene
I. Aiello, Irina Meinhardt
11/24 Apostle, St. Bartholomew (Nathaniel)
Nick Aiello (ALSO NICK'S 50TH BIRTHDAY!!)
Nathaniel Beckel

If you don't see your name listed, please let Joanna Donnor know, as she updates the names day list. ♠

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