
❖ THE TORCHBEARER ❖

Vol. 10. No. 1 & 2

January/February 2001

From the Pastor...

One of the most essential ministries of our a parish priest is visiting the sick of his congregation;

“ Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.” –James 4:14-15

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

For some time I have wanted to address the topic of visiting the sick, and our circumstances at home have prompted me to do it now. As most of you know, our son Matthew underwent unexpected kidney surgery on December 12 (Feast of St. Spyridon and Laila's birthday!). Thanks be to God, everything seems to have gone well, and Matthew is making a slow but steady recovery. We thank you all very much for your support, but especially for your fervent prayers for his welfare. Fran claims to be developing carpal tunnel syndrome from all the prayer cards she has addressed!

As St. James wrote in his epistle, the church has a prescription for the sick. The regiment includes sharing the sickness with brethren, calling for the clergy, prayer and anointing in the name of the Lord. All the clergy at St. George want you to know that we stand ready to come to the infirm at any time of the day or night. Many people do not call us when sickness strikes because they feel the priest is too busy and they do not want to inconvenience him. We humbly ask you to lay this concern aside and allow us to administer the

yetbecause of a misunderstanding of this role he is often pre

sacraments of the church, in accordance with the scriptures, for the healing of the soul and body,

We also humbly ask you to let us know directly whether or not you want a visit. Many people still assume the priest will come to them when they are ill. Unfortunately, the priest does not receive ESP at his ordination to know when someone is sick. If you do want a visit for yourself or a family member, just call our homes or the office directly – not through an intermediary – and we will come absolutely as soon as possible. We make this request because, you know, there are still some in our community who think they are dying if the priest comes near them! We have often been gently chased away because they think they are dying if the priest comes near them! We have often been gently chased away because families have not wanted to frighten the infirm! Nevertheless, the scripture prescribes such visits, our love for you compels such visits, and our community deserves such visits. With prayers for a healthy New Year, I am

Your Servant in the Healing Christ,

Fr. John K. Teebagy

From the Chairman...

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family in the best of health during this glorious season.

As I write this article, our parish has just enjoyed a VERY successful feast day weekend. Starting with a wonderful Variety Show on Friday, Dec 1st, then continuing Saturday with a beautiful

Church School pageant, Family Brunch, and Hufli ... and concluding Sunday with a glorious Divine Liturgy with the elevation of our beloved Fr. John to Archpriest and our Grand Banquet on Sunday afternoon. And the entire weekend was blessed by the attendance of His Grace Bishop DEMETRI.

I can't tell you the elation that was expressed to me by all who attended the events during our Feast Day. It was truly an enjoyable weekend. On behalf of the entire parish, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mitch Hallal, General Chairman for the Feast Day Weekend, along with his entire committee and everyone who helped make this weekend a success.

During the banquet, I took the opportunity to talk about the vision of our parish. Through various publications, you've all seen the phrase from Proverbs, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish"*. I truly believe that we need to look to the future to ensure that our parish can survive and grow. With your indulgence, I would like to re-print parts of the message I gave at the banquet.

December 3, 2000

"Where there is no vision, the people perish"

You've all seen this quote from Proverbs many times over the past months. It has been adopted as the theme by our Long Range Planning Committee. What exactly is "vision" and how does "vision" fit into our parish life?

You know, over the years, we have done a very good job in keeping our parish together ... both operationally and spiritually. We've endured some very tough challenges through the years, and rejoiced in many accomplishments. We focus our energy on the present and reminisce about the past. However, we need to look beyond the present and the past and begin to focus on the future.

As you know, we've been running focus group meetings over the past few months. We have spoken with over 50 parishioners to get a feeling of what we as a parish are doing positively and what challenges and goals face us. I've had the pleasure of sitting through 3 of these sessions and read reports from the other 4 sessions. The interesting thing is that, be it age 14 or age 84, there are many common themes in this feedback.

So what exactly is vision. In simplest terms, a vision is a dream for the future. This vision is where and what we would like our parish to be ... 5 years, 20 years, 50 years from now.

During our variety show, there was an act from the Wizard of Oz. While watching the rehearsals of this act, it made me think of how vision related to the story of the Wizard of Oz. The four characters in this show had a vision, a dream, a goal ... it was the Land of Oz. In order to reach their goal, they had to follow the yellow-brick road. The yellow-brick road is their roadmap to the future. Along the way, these 4 characters met challenges and obstacles, but they overcame these obstacles, adjusted their route, and kept focused on their vision.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I encourage all of you to dream and help us establish a vision for our parish. Over the next several months, the Long Range Planning Committee and the Executive Board will working to build our "yellow-brick road", or roadmap for the next few years. Along the way, just like the four characters heading to Oz, we may face many challenges and obstacles, but we can overcome them to continue to move towards our vision.

Let us all go together down that yellow-brick road to reach our dreams. Your input and feedback are essential for our journey to our vision ... because ...

In closing, from my family to yours, I wish all of you a very blessed and Merry Christmas and a safe, health and Happy New Year.

Your brother in Christ,

John M. Haddad
Chairman, Executive Board

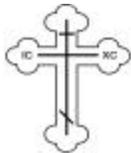
Church Records...

***"As many as have been baptized into Christ,
have put on Christ."***

Gabrielle Vincenza Mazzoni daughter of Paul and Cynthia (Zahka) Mazzoni of Malden was baptized on October 15, 2000

Eric Paul Saidnawey son of Paul and Louise (Stanwicks) of Belmont was baptized on October 15, 2000

Many Years!



***"O Lord our God, crown them with
glory and honor!"***

David Medwar and Jennifer Medwar were married on October 22, 2000. They reside in Tewksbury.

Mark Hallal and Michelle Hallal were married on October 22, 2000. They reside in Boston.

Elian Khouri and Leandra Khouri were married on November 12, 2000. They reside in Walpole.

Many Years!

***"Blessed are they whom thou has chosen and
taken O Lord!"***

Marie Kandalaft (86) of Canton fell asleep in the Lord on December 6, 2000. She is survived by two sons and their families. Burial was at Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park

Mary Zahka (103) of Needham fell asleep in the Lord on December 1, 2000. She is survived by two daughters, three sons, and their families brother. Burial was at Fairview cemetery in Hyde Park

Memory Eternal!

From the Virgin Mary Society...

Now that our Annual Bazaar is over, the Virgin Mary Society members have resumed their every day activities and can now prepare for the holiday season. It was very gratifying to see the many women who filled our kitchen every scheduled work day, ready to do their part in whatever was on the cooking or baking agenda that day. A special "Thank you" to all these devoted women who gave so many hours of their time in order to achieve the very profitable contribution we proudly added to the success of the 2000 Bazaar. This could not have been accomplished without the teamwork shown during our working months of September and October. Hopefully, next year will be the same!

Our 2001 Calendar of Events will include our annual Sfeeha Sale and Lenten Dinner. Details to follow at a later date.

Wishing you all a very happy and health Christmas and New Year!

Sincerely,
Maryann

From the Church School...

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Is the Church costing too much?

Last Sunday, another golfer sank the last putt on the 18th green and received a check for \$50,000 for four rounds of golf, plus an automobile for himself and one for his wife. This week, the papers reported that a certain popular singer will receive \$100,000 per week for her current singing engagement. Americans spend annually more on dog food than on church contributions. It is not unusual for an individual to pay more for his country club membership than he gives to his church. Is the church costing too much?

Let me share an experience with you. On June 2, 1940, a little girl was born to us. She cost us money from the moment she was born. As she grew from babyhood to girlhood, she cost even more - her dresses and shoes were more expensive, and we had to have the doctor through all those childhood diseases.

She was even more expensive during her school and teen years. She needed long dresses to go to parties. When she went to college we discovered, along with other parents, that all college expenses are not listed in the catalog. Then after graduation, she fell in love and married. She was married in a church wedding and that, too, cost a lot of money.

Then, five months after her marriage, she suddenly sickened and within a week she was dead. She hasn't cost us a penny since the day we walked away from her grave. -----

As long as the church is alive, she (the church) will cost money. And the more alive a church is, the more money she will cost. Only a dead church, like a dead child, is no longer expensive.

Think it over. Is the church costing too much? - Taken from Dear Abby.

From the Parent Guild...

“Debbie and Sheila



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Announcements

- ❖ The Fellowship will be holding heir annual bake sale on January 28th after Liturgy. Anyone interested in helping please call Linda Hakar at (781) 551-9444. Proceeds will benefit the Children’s Relief Fund
- ❖ Youth Retreat: A winter youth retreat for those 13-17 (18 if still in high school) will be held at the Antiochian Village from Friday, February 16th thru Monday, February 19th. For more information, please consult the bulletin board or e-mail Khalil Samara at avcamp@antiochian.org.

She

**"Wher e t her e is no vision,
t he peopl e per ish."**

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A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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Services: Sunday-Matins 9:00 a.m.,
Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours...
Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The deadline for the Sunday bulletin is Thursday at ten a.m.

Please plan accordingly.

Please watch the weekly Sunday Bulletin for any changes or exceptions.

DEADLINE for the November/December 2000 *Torchbearer* will be October 6th.