

# The Steward

SUMMER / FALL 2006

*The Lord said, "Well done, good and faithful servant: You have been faithful over a little, I will set you over many things; enter into the joy of your Lord." Matthew 25:21*

## A message from Father Eugene

I greet you and all members of the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards as we begin the Church New Year. May the Lord extend His blessing upon you and your family and guide our work as The Orthodox Church in America.

With the beginning of the new Liturgical Year on September 1, the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards also begins its annual FOS Outreach Appeal. The Annual FOS Appeal will be conducted as part of the September/October issue of *The Orthodox Church* magazine.

In this issue of the *TOC* you will read of the wonderful programs and activities provided by the OCA's Church Ministries. It is important for our FOS members, potential members and our loyal OCA constituency, to know that, in spite of the current crisis within the Church, the Church Ministries are meeting regularly and providing the necessary resources for our parishes.

I wish to commend all department chairpersons for their faithful commitment to fulfill the tasks of their departments. The result of their personal effort, along with the countless department volunteers, may be seen in the progress reports on the following pages.

The voluntary gifts, primarily offered through FOS, provide the financial resources needed by the Church Ministries. Without the additional voluntary gifts our current programs will be curtailed and any new programs will have to be placed on hold until new gifts are realized.

As a current FOS supporter, you can do your part by renewing your FOS gift - and if possible, increasing it by 10%. It is our joy to bring *The Steward* to you and share the many good things that your FOS support is making possible. May the Lord bless you and my thanks again for your loving support.

*Archpriest Eugene Vassouch*



## Plans underway for the 2007 Skill-Conferences by OCA Church Ministries

Michelle Jannakos, Coordinating Secretary for the Orthodox Church in America's Church Ministries, recently chaired a conference call of all Department chairpersons to plan for the 2007 Skills Conferences.

The Conferences in 2007 were mandated by the 14th All-American Council and the Holy Synod of Bishops.

Every Department chairperson was provided a list of possible ideas/topics to discuss with their respective members. It was decided that it is up to each Church Ministry to take the idea of Skills Conferences for 2007 to the next level - either solo or pairing with other Church Ministries.

Discussion among each chairperson will occur with ideas submitted to Michelle, who will gather the information and submit each to the Metropolitan for review. Once a proposed conference has tentatively been approved by the Metropolitan and the Holy Synod of Bishops, development of the conferences will begin. Preparatory materials

will be sent to all chairpersons to aid in the development of the skills conferences.

Progress on the conferences will be reported in the next issue of *The Steward*. Visit the **Departments section** at [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org) for updates on department activities.

**REACHING OUR GOAL!**  
(As of September 26, 2006)

Year to date support for FOS:  
**\$84,290**

Goal:  
**\$410,000**

*Thank you!*

## The Department of Chaplaincies

will be sponsoring a Retreat/Conference for all chaplains at St. Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary on November 2-4, 2006. According to the Department Chairperson, Fr. Theodore Boback, two priests are in the process of receiving ecclesiastical endorsements to become Orthodox Chaplains in the near future. At present, the Rev. George Hill completed his chaplain training course on September 8 and has been assigned to Ft. Bragg, NC. Col. John Stefero, USAF, (and a member of FOS) has been assigned to the Air Force Chief of Chaplains Office at Bolling AFB, Wash. D.C. The Department continues its work on several projects to support recruitment of chaplains, a Chaplain Handbook for Orthodox Chaplains, articles for the *TOC* news magazine and a Chaplain Newsletter.

## The Department of Christian Education

will sponsor a mini-Skills Conference on September 30th at St. Tikhon's Seminary. Future Conferences of the department are planned for the Midwest, West and South in the summer of 2007. The department continues to be very active providing monthly articles to the *TOC* news magazine; nearly completed is an update on the Activity Book (ages 5-8) that has the written lives and works of the North American Saints incorporating 14 activities to supplement the written material; as reported in the last issue, a new FOCUS unit on monasticism currently has two levels complete with the remaining levels in development.

## The Department of Christian Witness and Service

member, Mary Ann Lopoukhine will make a presentation on departmental work at the forthcoming Canadian Archdiocesan Assembly. Activities of other members include Fr. Thomas Moore exploring possibilities for a Bioethics Colloquium in 2007; Natalie Stavrevsky is developing plans for a Parish Nurse Training Seminar in 2007; Lisa Morris and other committee members are working to complete the Parish Survey for Handicapped Accessibility by end of 2006; Arlene Kallaur and Lori Kochan are reviewing information for the upcoming OCA Charity Appeal; and Donna Karabin

and Mary Ann Lopoukhine continue their work on the Parish Bulletin Resource Project. Resource Handbook articles continue to be posted on the OCA web site as they are completed. Department members communicate regularly via conference calls.



## The Department of Evangelization

Fr. Eric Tosi, Chairperson reported the Executive Board will meet before the end of 2006 to determine departmental funding priorities. His Beatitude is reviewing the proposal submitted by the committee with regard to making a determination of how best to arrange the '07 CPG program based on the funds received thus far through the '06 appeal. The following applications have been received for the 2007 Church Planting Grant Program:

**Charleston, SC** has applied for the third year of the grant. New applications received so far are parishes in **Mechanicsburg, P A, Fairbanks, AK, Stafford, VA, Inverness, FL, Denton, TX, Sonora, CA and Fremont, CA.** All applications will be reviewed with recommendations being submitted to the Metropolitan and the Holy Synod for approval.

## The Department of History and Archives

under the chairmanship of the Rev. John H. Erickson, continues to provide research and documentary support to the Holy Synod of Bishops, chancery staff and other administrative bodies of the Church.

## The Department of Institutional Chaplains

will participate in the comprehensive Chaplains Conference on November 2-4, 2006 at St. Tikhon's. All institutional chaplains interested in attending are encouraged to contact Fr. Steven Voytovich for further details.

## The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations

continues to work on the following projects:

- ✓ A digital version of the Typikon for the OCA web site is being prepared by Fr. Juvenaly (Repass);
- ✓ Under the guidance of Walter Obleschuk, the Menaion Troparia and Kontakia project continues to provide material that will be on file for every day of the year;
- ✓ Work is progressing very well on the weekly/festal Vespers stichera;
- ✓ The Chat Room averages 10-28 people per session. This is a wonderful way to teach and communicate with new choir directors and singers. A complete schedule for Oct-Dec, 2006 listing guest speakers, leaders and topics may be found on the back page of this issue.

The Department is looking into video clips of Fr. Sergei Glagolev's lectures in NY, NJ and Canada for future posts on the OCA web site.

## The Department of Pastoral Life and Ministry

Fr. Andrew Morbey, chairperson, reports that the department is concentrating on the following three projects:

- 1) An OCA Pastoral Ministries Internet Group. This is an immediate, short-term project;
- 2) Pastoral Life Workshops, a mid-term project to be developed and available by Spring 2007;
- 3) Pastoral Audit Program, a long-term project. The basic idea is to provide (a) a pastoral self-evaluation tool for clergy and (b) a parish ministries evaluation tool for parishes.

It was determined the Pastor-to-Pastor newsletter will be reestablished as soon as possible with Fr. Morbey producing the next issue for distribution during October.

## The Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry

On June 6th, Deacon Joseph Matusiak was appointed by His Beatitude to the position of Director of the Department. Deacon Joseph has relocated to Chicago, IL where he will work full-time for the Diocese of the Midwest, who support his position as department director. Through a generous \$9,000 grant provided by the F.O.C.A. three OCA Seminarians participated as Youth Interns for Summer Camp programs.

The three interns, all from St. Vladimir's Seminary, are Olga Beltechkova, Stephane Sollogoub and Becky Machnee. Ron Tucci, Cheryl Morse and Dn. Joseph Matusiak represented the OCA in a conference call with representatives of other Orthodox jurisdictions to discuss the development of a Pan-Orthodox Camping Association that would give consistency, direction and support to the continuation of Camp Conferences. Dn. Joseph Matusiak, director reports on the following Department activities:

- ✓ The process for updating the website is under review by Dn Joseph.
- ✓ The department distributed *the Basil Leaf* newsletter to all OCA Camps taking place after July 1st.
- ✓ The OCAY (Youth Movement) will have as its theme for 2006/07, "Defenders of the Faith". Fr. David Subu will be writing articles for each edition of the TOC.



Fr. Eugene Vansuch prays for the living and departed during Proskomedia at St. Sergius Chapel, Syosset, NY.

*"Hear our prayer, O God, and hearken to the words of our lips. Attend to our supplication and receive our petitions. Incline Your ear and be merciful to the intercessions of Your unworthy servants which we offer as a spiritual sacrifice on behalf of all and for all."*

**Prayer Fellowship**

Since the FOS Prayer Network was restarted, Fellowship members continue to respond to the request to become a spiritual partner in the *FOS Prayer Network*. Requests continue to be received asking to have loved ones remembered in our prayers at the Metropolitan's Chapel in Syosset, NY. The first request resulted with **19 families** providing **317 names**. The latest response provided **81 names** from **8 families**. The names of the living and departed are remembered during the Proskomedia in Syosset or whenever Fr. Eugene celebrates the Divine Liturgy while making a parish FOS visit.

It is very heart-warming to see the faithful take steps to prayerfully remember their loved ones and express prayerful concern for The Orthodox Church in America. Every name commemorated enables Fr. Eugene to personally identify with members of our FOS parish family. Our prayers for one another strengthen our faith, witness and commitment to the Gospel teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Wouldn't you like to have the names of your loved ones commemorated by Fr. Eugene? Allow him to add your names to the Prayer Network list.

Be a good steward of this fine work through your financial and spiritual support. Use the convenient prayer request form at the right and enclose it with your financial support for FOS to:

**The Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards / Prayer List**  
 The Orthodox Church in America  
 PO Box 675  
 Syosset, NY 11791

May the Lord be with you and your family.

*Fr. Eugene Vansuch*

**CORRECTION:** In the last issue of *The Steward*, **St. Christina of Tyre Mission**, was inadvertently listed as St. Innocent Church. We apologize for any inconveniences this may have caused and we thank the members of St. Christina's Mission for their generous FOS support.

*Join the  
 FOS Prayer Network*

I'm asking for the below named living and departed be remembered during the Proskomedia at all divine liturgies served in the Metropolitan's Chapel during the fall of 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State/Province                      Zip/Postal Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone

**For the HEALTH of:**

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**For the REPOSE of the soul of:**

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♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪ Department of Liturgical Music ♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪



**The OCA Chairman of the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Mr. David Drillock, announces the 2006 Liturgical Music Chat Room Schedule.**

The fall 2006 Schedule of topical discussions available on The Orthodox Church in America's *liturgical music chat room* was recently announced by its chairman, Prof. David Drillock.

The chat room provides an opportunity for choir directors, singers, and others interested in liturgical music to discuss liturgical hymnology, repertoire selection, liturgical chants, church rubrics, vocal techniques, the choir and congregational singing, music and liturgy and related issues.

The new chat room season began on **September 5, 2006** with a chat on pastor-choir director communications led by Prof. Drillock.

To access the chat room, log on to [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org) and follow the links to the liturgical music section. Once there, scroll down to the chat room link and follow the instructions. [<http://www.oca.org/MDchat.asp?SID=13>]

Future chat room themes include the following.

♪ **October 17** - *Setting Texts to Music*; Dr. Vladimir Morosan, presenter.

♪ **November 9** - *Topic to be announced*; Mark Bailey, presenter.

♪ **November 21** - *Georgian Music*; John Graham, presenter.

♪ **December 5** - *The Structure of Vespers*; Dr. Joseph McLellan, presenter.

♪ **December 19** - *Effective Musical Leadership*; V. Rev. Sergei Glagolev, presenter.

Funding for the chat room is provided by contributions to the [Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards \[FOS\]](#).

## Come meet Fr. Eugene at a future FOS visit

### OCTOBER

#### October 7

St. Vladimir's Seminary - Education Day

#### October 8

St. John the Theologian Church, Shirley, NY

#### October 14-15

St. Nicholas Church, Bethlehem - 90th anniversary celebration at former parish

#### October 21-22

St. Nicholas Church, Mogadore, OH

#### October 29

St. Herman's Church, Shillington, PA

### NOVEMBER

#### November 4-5

OPEN DATE

#### November 11-12

St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church, Philadelphia - 75th anniversary at former parish.

#### November 18-19

Ss. Peter & Paul Church, South River, NJ

#### November 25-26

Thanksgiving Weekend

### DECEMBER

#### December 2-3

St. Stephen Cathedral, Philadelphia

#### December 9-10

Visit pending.

#### December 16-17

St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington, D.C.

#### December 23-24

Nativity of Our Lord weekend

#### December 30-31

New Year's weekend

Winter/Spring 2007 Schedule will appear in the next issue.

Arrange to have Fr. Eugene visit your parish for a presentation on the work of our Church Ministries and how you can support their efforts. He may be reached at the Chancery by phone, 516-922-0550, ext. 124 and by email: [evansuch@oca.org](mailto:evansuch@oca.org)

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