

The SPRING 2006 Steward

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 brief message from Fr Eugene

It is with joy that I greet you and all members of the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards during the season of Holy Pentecost.

The second edition of *The Steward* is coming to you later than expected. Much has happened in the life of The Orthodox Church in America since our last edition that I wanted to share with our membership an up-to-date progress report on the Church Ministries.

Within the past several months you may have received a renewal notice for your annual commitment to the **Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards**. Many have renewed their commitment while others have indicated a desire to postpone their renewal until there is a clear resolution to the financial matters of the OCA..

The Orthodox Church in America is grateful for the renewed commitments and appreciates the sentiments expressed by our members. We look forward to a satisfactory resolution to the financial matters that will enable all FOS members to regain the faith and trust in the wise stewardship of all FOS donations.

In the meantime, life in the Church continues as seen in the updates on the OCA Church Ministries. I have been busy with parish visits the past several months sharing the progress and good works of the Ministries supported by your loving gifts. I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Steward* and I look forward to your renewed commitment and continued FOS support in 2006!

Archpriest Eugene Vansuch



PARISH FOS MEMBERS of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Randolph, NJ with Fr. Eugene Vansuch, Executive Director of FOS and Fr. George Hasenecz, pastor of Holy Trinity during a recent parish FOS visit.

Resources for local parishes continue to be provided by OCA Church Ministries

Michelle Jannakos, Coordinating Secretary for the Orthodox Church in America's Church Ministries, reported to His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman and the Spring Session of the Holy Synod on the progress and accomplishments that have been made by the various Departments and Offices.

The Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards (**FOS**) funds the majority of the work done by the OCA's Ministries. The support provided by members of **FOS** through voluntary gifts is crucial to offset the costs of research, preparation, and distribution of materials produced by the Church Ministries.

Michelle stated that a major goal for the Church Ministries is the increased communication and collaboration between the departments. Utilizing conference calls and joint cooperation in projects are ways the

Ministries tend to be efficient in their use of resources, time and talent.

On the next page you will find progress reports on the work of a few of the departments. For a more detailed explanation of departmental activities, visit the **Departments section** at www.oca.org.

REACHING OUR GOAL!

(As of May 31, 2006)

Year to date
support for FOS:
\$60,602

Goal:
\$410,000

Thank you!

The Department of Chaplaincies

Fr. Theodore Boback, Department Chairman, reports that 20 of the 31 Orthodox Chaplains serving the Armed Forces are priests of The Orthodox Church in America; one priest of the OCA will enter active duty in June, 2006; there are 12 priests who are endorsed to serve in VA Medical Centers. A retreat/conference for all chaplains will be held at St. Tikhon's Seminary in November, 2006. The Department is currently working 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

provides monthly articles to the *TOC* news magazine; has been developing stories, artwork, activities, etc, detailing the lives and work of the North American Saints for an Activity Book (ages 5-8); regularly adds new material to their web site; Most FOCUS units are complete with a new unit on monasticism currently under development; a Skills Conference is being planned to be held in the east and the west in the summer of 2007.

The Department of Christian Witness and Service

has provided nine new articles that were posted on the OCA web site in March. Individual department members continue to be active in the areas of Family Life and Sanctity of Life Ministries, Prison Ministry and Parish Nursing Ministry. A Department Conference is being planned for mid-July 2007.

The Department of Evangelization

reports that current missions on the Church Planting Grants for 2006 are: Lincoln, NE, Nicholasville, KY, Port Townsend, WA, Victoria, BC and Mount Pleasant, SC. Other programs currently under development include "The Mission Box Program" and a

"Sister Parish" program. Frequent articles appear in the *TOC* news magazine

The Department of History and Archives

recently lost its Chairperson when Dr. Jaroslav Pelikan fell asleep in the Lord. In addition to Dr. Pelikan, Archpriest Victor Sokolov, a department member, fell asleep in the Lord. May their Memory Be Eternal! Through his writings and donations of archival documentation, Fr. Victor provided the OCA Archives with a wealth of archival information. Alexis Liberovsky, OCA Archivist, reported on the ongoing work of processing and integrating newly-archived chancery files, donated collections of



MYRA KOVALAK, A MEMBER OF THE OCA'S DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION participates in a one day workshop for seminarians and their wives at St. Tikhon's Seminary. *Your support of FOS makes it possible to prepare future clergy and lay leaders to teach the youth in your parish about the Orthodox faith!*

personal archives as well as publications, photos and other materials that are sent to the OCA Archives for perpetual preservation. The Department is currently involved in a cooperative project with the DCE to produce a series of videos on the Orthodox Saints of North America.

The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations

has been one of the most active departments. The increasing availability of music and texts continues to be very well received by many parishes across the country. David Drillock, chairperson reports on the following:

* Posting of Troparia and Kontakia

for saints commemorated on Sundays of each calendar year continues to be completed and posted;

* Approximately 110 pages of liturgical music for the services of Theophany were made available for downloading. Music for the Feast of Pentecost is in the process of being completed.

*Texts for liturgical services are regularly posted for Saturday vespers of each week; Several major Feasts including the Nativity and Meeting of the Lord, Presentation in the Temple and Annunciation; Lesser Feasts and Saints; All Wednesday Presanctified Liturgies, Friday Presanctified Liturgies; and for Saturdays and Sundays of the Lenten period.

Chat Room sessions are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Average number of participants was 10. Most participants have been from the East and Midwest with participation from Canada and Alaska.

The Department of Pastoral Life and Ministry

received a new chairperson in Fr. Andrew Morbey, Minneapolis, MN. He reports that discussion has taken place about posting up material from the SVS 'Good Pastor' project online. With the closing of the Orthodox-clergy list, Fr.

Andrew has opened and manages a proto-type 'pastoral common room' group. The Department also coordinates the Seminarian Internship Program, which is undergoing a review and plans to be reintroduced in 2007.

The Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry

has continued to work to provide quality opportunities and materials for youth and young adults and those working with them. Cheryl Morse, chairperson reported that the Department has:

* updated and expanded the department web site--yua.oca.org;

Development and Stewardship



The OCA Director of Development and Stewardship, the V. Rev. John Dresko, making a presentation at St. John the Baptist Church, Rochester, NY. Fr. John visits parishes to discuss the work and progress of the Orthodox Church in America.

The Office of Development for the Orthodox Church in America works hand-in-hand with the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards. While both efforts support the programs of the Church, every single member of the Orthodox Church in America can, and is encouraged to, become a member of FOS. The annual gifts (usually \$100-1000) given to FOS go directly to the work of the Church. Even parishes can offer annual gifts through parish membership in FOS.

The Office of Development looks for faithful stewards who might be interested in specific types of gifts, even to a targeted goal. Most of these gifts offer a benefit to the donor

beyond a simple tax deduction. These can range from a simple bequest written into a will or estate plan of an individual or a cash donation to an endowment fund to a complex Charitable Remainder Trust, which can provide a current tax deduction, tax deferred income during a lifetime and an eventual gift remaining to the Church following the passing of the donor(s). Gifts of appreciated securities, real estate, retirement assets and even appreciated tangible assets (i.e., art, etc.) can be donated to the Church for general purposes or to a specific goal. All of these types of gifts benefit not only the Church, but also the donor. The Office of Development can help with all of these types of donations.

In the coming months, we hope you will be able to note the following developments in the Orthodox Church in America:

◆ A new program for planned giving in the Orthodox Church in America. Planned giving is a steward assessing his or her life and estate plan and seeing how a gift fits into that plan. Most people, even of modest means, have an estate larger than one thinks. If you own a house, you already have a substantial estate and need to plan its disposition after your death.

◆ Web site upgrades that will allow interested parties to go directly from the home page of the OCA website to a specialized page of planned giving information. This will include articles of major donors that have established gifts with the OCA, a description of the types of planned gifts that are avail-

able and a database of over 250 articles about various gifts and the legal and tax implications. A calculator for one to be able to work out a possible gift scenario in the privacy of a home or office will also be available.

◆ By the end of 2006, we hope to offer to individuals the capability of making a Charitable Remainder Trust or Annuity Trust to one's parish with the OCA doing all of the administration of the gift through Wachovia Securities. More details will be forthcoming.

Workshops are also available on a number of topics regarding planned giving, parish development, and personal and corporate stewardship. Parish councils, deaneries and even diocesan assemblies are encouraged to arrange a presentation with the Director of Development. As with all major and planned gifts, there are legal and tax implications that only your professional advisor can outline for you.

If you are interested in more information on estate planning, making a major or planned gift to the Orthodox Church in America, or scheduling a visitation and/or workshop on any of these topics, please contact:

Archpriest John J. Dresko
PO Box 675
Syosset, NY 11791

jdresko@oca.org
516-922-0550 x150

Arrange to have Fr. Eugene or Fr. John visit your parish for a presentation on the work of our Church Ministries, Development and Stewardship and how you can support their efforts. They may be reached at the Chancery by phone, 516-922-0550, and by email: evansuch@oca.org or jdresko@oca.org.