

Bishop Paul leads opening prayer at fourth annual March for Life-Chicago January 15

CHICAGO, IL [Orthodox Christians for Life-Chicago/Priest Andrew Bartek] — On Sunday, January 15, 2017, March For Life-Chicago held its fourth annual event.

March For Life-Chicago started four years ago with about 1,000 participants. This year saw

Approximately 10,000 people

attend. It has grown into a very significant event.



Priest Andrew Bartek, Rector of Saint Panteleimon Church, Summit, IL, is a March For Life-Chicago board member. He has represented the Orthodox faith there for the last three years.

“Gathering together in a peaceful way to give voice and raise awareness to the sorrowful effects of abortion and its legalization is very important,” said Father Andrew. “This is the mission of March For Life-Chicago and it is a mission the Orthodox Church can support. This year definitely was the most successful march, in terms of the number of people. The weather was the warmest it has been in years. Despite last year’s weather with a wind chill factor at -25 degrees, about 5,000 people came out to march. This year the temperature was near 40 degrees. People from Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio and of course Illinois were there.”

His Grace, Bishop Paul of Chicago and the Midwest was present for the third year in a row. He opened the March in prayer.



“We are so grateful for His Grace’s presence and participation, and the speakers were tremendous,” said Father Andrew, who expressed how refreshing it was to see thousands of young people attending the event. Each year the Orthodox presence has slightly increased, though Father Andrew would like to see it really expand. “Though the attendance of Orthodox is getting better, we have a bit of a way to go to having a great voice at this event.”

Father Andrew will be working with Priest Nicholas Finley, Rector of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church, Madison,

IL and Priest Benjamin Tucci, Associate Pastor of Saint Mary Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN to develop a diocesan youth event for the 2018 March For Life-Chicago event, which will take place the weekend of January 13-14, 2018. Further information will be forthcoming.



Bishop Paul visits St. Luke the Evangelist Church, Palos Hills, IL

His Grace, Bishop Paul of Chicago visited Saint Luke the Evangelist Church, Palos Hills, IL., on the weekend of January 7-8, 2017.

On Saturday, he met with the junior and senior high school students at the Nikolaou residence, where he spoke openly and informally about the challenges and opportunities facing Orthodox Christian teenagers in the early 21st century. Later the same day, he attended Great Vespers at the parish’s Chapel South location, New Lenox, IL, where he met the parishioners and discussed future goals for planting a community in the southern Chicago metropolitan area.

On Sunday morning, Bishop presided at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the parish and enjoyed fellowship during the dinner that followed in the parish hall.

Archpriest Paul Jannakos is the current Rector of the parish, which was established in 1984.



Chicago's Holy Trinity Cathedral to celebrate 125th anniversary June 11, 2017

Archpriest John Adamcio and the clergy and faithful of Holy Trinity Cathedral here recently announced that the parish's 125th anniversary will be celebrated on Sunday, June 11, 2017.

"This is a momentous occasion, worthy of giving thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ for the blessings He has bestowed upon us, as well as strengthening us for the challenges we face in the 21st century," Father John said. "Additional information will be posted as it becomes available; in the meantime, we ask everyone to 'save the date' and join us for this most joyous occasion for our faithful and the Diocese of the Midwest!"

His Grace, Bishop Paul will preside at the anniversary Divine Liturgy. A banquet will follow at the Carlisle, Lombard, IL.

Prior to the establishment of Saint Vladimir Church in 1892, Chicago's Orthodox Christian faithful — Russians, Greeks, Serbs and other eastern and central Europeans — were served on occasion by Saint Alexis Toth during his pastorate in Minneapolis. The original Saint Vladimir Church, built near the intersection of Racine and Madison, was consecrated on June 7, 1892. Archpriest Nicholas Grinkevich served as the community's first resident priest.

With the assignment of Saint John Kochurov in 1895, it had become evident that the need to construct a new, larger church should be pursued. Four years later, Saint Tikhon, at that time Bishop of the Aleutians and North America, blessed Saint John and the community's faithful to commission noted Chicago architect Louis Sullivan to design and construct the current edifice, which was renamed in honor of the Holy Trinity. On March 25, 1903, the first service was held in the completed cathedral with Saint Tikhon in attendance. The cathedral was consecrated in August of the same year.

The celebration coincides with the 125th anniversary of Orthodox Christianity in Chicago.



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Study resources now available for Spirituality volume of "The Orthodox Faith"

The Orthodox Church in America's Department of Christian Education [DCE] recently released a series of



review and study questions based on the text of Spirituality, one of four volumes of the late Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko's series The Orthodox Faith. Resources for two other volumes—Doctrine and Scripture and Church History—are already available, while resources for the fourth volume, Worship, will be completed this spring, fulfilling Father Thomas's request that the DCE provide these resources for his series.

"The questions, which are keyed to the pages in the book from which they are taken, offer readers a way of reviewing and reinforcing what they have read," said Matushka Valerie Zahirsky, DCE Chair. "A separate document provides answers, also taken from book.

"If the book is being used in a discussion group, the leader might give participants the questions for a chapter before they read it, and they can then find the answers as they go through the text," Matushka Valerie suggested. "Those who read the book on their own, rather than as part of a group, will find the questions and answers helpful in the same way. Several answers also offer points for further reflection."

The Spirituality volume deals with many intriguing topics and questions, including what is the noonday demon, how does the Orthodox Church define "spirituality," is it ever appropriate to hate ourselves, what in God's eyes is the most vile of all human evils, and is there a difference between being tolerant and being merciful.

"Great Lent would be an especially appropriate time to reflect on the elements of Christian spirituality presented in this book," Matushka Valerie added. "But at any time, it offers an inspiring picture of what it means to 'do all to the glory of God' [1 Corinthians 10:31]."

Visit the DCE web site for a wealth of additional educational resources and study units on a variety of topics.

Homily delivered by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon at the Cathedral of the Ascension, Mexico City, Mexico Sunday, January 15, 2017

Your Eminence, Reverend Fathers, brothers and sisters in Christ, Glory to Jesus Christ!

I am grateful to God to be with you again this year for the Feast of Theophany and to participate in the Great Blessing of Water as we rejoice in the revelation of the Holy Trinity: "The Trinity, our God, today has made Itself indivisibly manifest to us. For the Father in a loud voice bore clear witness to His Son; the Spirit in the form of a dove came down from the sky; while the Son bent His immaculate head before the Forerunner; and by receiving baptism He delivered us from bondage, in His love for mankind."

Last year's visit with you in January left a deep impression on me. I was inspired and humbled by what you have accomplished with the grace of God. There is a humility and energy in your community life that I wish all of our people in the United States and Canada could see.

The missionary team that came from the Orthodox Church in America and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center last March felt the same inspiration. They visited the communities in San Esteban, Hidalgo and Pisaflores in Veracruz, where as a priest Archbishop Alejo did missionary work. They returned to the United States, as I did, having received much more from you than we gave. God is at work among you, and for that I am grateful and inspired.

This is an historic year for Christianity in Mexico. In 1917—one hundred years ago—all Church properties were nationalized, many churches were closed, monasteries were abolished and the communities dispersed, and clergymen were required to obtain licenses to function — measures not unlike those imposed at the same time as a result of the Russian Revolution. Your own Diocese of Mexico traces its roots to this earlier period of the 20th century and the emergence of a national Mexican Church. As you celebrate your 45th anniversary you have inherited a powerful sense of being both Mexican and Orthodox. I saw this very clearly last year. Your ongoing mission efforts and your relationship with the broader Mexican society is vivid testimony to this vision of truly offering yourselves as a church for all in Mexico.

Let me turn now to today's Gospel, which is a challenge to all of us, whether or not we have more material possessions than others. There is no avoiding the sharp message of Jesus, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Those who have more than others enter the kingdom by divesting and sharing what they have. John the Baptist offered exactly the same message. When the crowds came to him for baptism and asked what they should do, he answered them, "He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise" [Luke 3:10-11].

This touches on how we ought to look at each other and treat each other as Christians. And this is expressed beautifully in Saint Paul's letter to the Colossians. It is short, so let me read it again. "As the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." That last line echoes especially well here in this cathedral, "singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord," because your singing is so beautiful and is a glorious sign that you have made your own the words of Saint Paul.

This short message from Saint Paul can serve all of us as a daily reminder of how to live as Christians. Saint Paul understood through difficult experience that communities require constant effort to stay together. It takes constant vigilance to remain focused on Christ and not be distracted by irritations and complaints, to overlook offenses and lift each other up rather than easily point fingers and pull down. That must be true as much here in Mexico City as it is in Washington DC. We live in a world that is often harsh, cruel and unwelcoming. This is why at this particular point in history we as Christians need to pay special attention to being examples of Christ's most basic human kindness. This was at the heart of my Christmas message this year. As Father Alexander Schmemmann wrote, "A kind person is kind because he or she accepts people as they are, covers them with kindness. Kindness is beautiful, the most beautiful thing on this earth. Virtuous people are activists, obsessed with the desire to impose their principles and goodness and easily condemning, destroying, hating.... In this world there is a lot of virtue, and so little kindness."

Your kindness was one of the impressions you left on my visit last year. You do not shut yourselves away from your neighbors. I noted at the Great Blessing of Water that neighbors of the cathedral were delighted that a cross was planted in the playground across the street from the cathedral. The cathedral faithful and area residents alike were

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blessed with holy water. And later, gifts of food were distributed to members of the local community.

So again, I thank you for your witness and encourage and exhort you to continue in your faith and efforts on behalf of Christ and His Church. You will always have big challenges in front of you, but as we heard from the Lord in today's Gospel, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

May our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom the Father bears witness, and upon Whom the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove, continue to bless all of us, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Apostle Timothy of the Seventy
Commemorated on [January 22](#)

The Holy Apostle Timothy was from the Lycaonian city of Lystra in Asia Minor. Saint Timothy was converted to Christ in the year 52 by the holy Apostle Paul (June 29). When the Apostles Paul and Barnabas first visited the cities of Lycaonia, Saint Paul healed one crippled from birth. Many of the inhabitants of Lystra then believed in Christ, and among them was the future Saint Timothy, his mother Eunice and grandmother Loida (Lois) (Acts 14:6-12; 2 Tim. 1:5).

The seed of faith, planted in Saint Timothy's soul by the Apostle Paul, brought forth abundant fruit. He became Saint Paul's disciple, and later his constant companion and co-worker in the preaching of the Gospel. The Apostle Paul loved Saint Timothy and in his Epistles called him his beloved son, remembering his devotion and fidelity with gratitude.

He wrote to Timothy: "You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, and patience" (2 Tim. 3:10-11). The Apostle Paul appointed Saint Timothy as Bishop of Ephesus, where the saint remained for fifteen years. Finally, when Saint Paul was in prison and awaiting martyrdom, he summoned his faithful friend, Saint Timothy, for a last farewell (2 Tim. 4:9).

Saint Timothy ended his life as a martyr. The pagans of Ephesus celebrated a festival in honor of their idols, and used to carry them through the city, accompanied by impious ceremonies and songs. Saint Timothy, zealous for the glory of God, attempted to halt the procession and reason with the spiritually blind idol-worshipping people, by preaching the true faith in Christ.



CHICAGO DEANERY WINTER YOUTH CAMP 2017

for all youth ages 11 through 18
11 AM Saturday, February 18 – 2 PM Monday, February 20, 2017
 Edwards YMCA Camp, N8901 Army Lake Rd., East Troy, WI

Bundle up! It's time for our annual winter weekend of sledding, skating, tubing, cross-country skiing, hiking, team building, snow sculpture, art projects, worship, camp fire, Vespers and Sunday Liturgy, and more... all for just \$105.00, which includes two nights lodging, all meals, all fees and activities!

REGISTER NOW!
 A completed registration form must accompany all registrations!
 Questions? Call Fr. Tom Mueller at 414-671-5819.

Registration Form – Deadline is Monday, February 13

Please return to Father Tom Mueller, 2515 South 30 Street, Milwaukee, WI 53215-2829 or by e-mail to crankypriest@gmail.com. No registrations will be accepted without ALL info below. Youth from non-Deanery parishes will be invited to participate with the approval of Father Tom. Please attach check for \$105.00 per camper, payable to the "Chicago Deanery."

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____ Parish _____

The pagans angrily fell upon the holy apostle, they beat him, dragged him along the ground, and finally, they stoned him. Saint Timothy's martyrdom occurred in the year 93.

In the fourth century the holy relics of Saint Timothy were transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles near the tombs of Saint Andrew (November 30) and Saint Luke (October 18). The Church honors Saint Timothy as one of the Apostles of the Seventy.

In Russian practice, the back of a priest's cross is often inscribed with Saint Paul's words to Saint Timothy: "Be an example to the believers in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12).

