

Summer 2009

Dear Beloved Supporters and Friends,



Glory to God for all things! As we begin the summer of 2009 here at St. Tikhon's Monastery, we have many things to be thankful for. Recently, we completed our 105th Annual Pilgrimage with the visitation the Icon "Our Lady of Sitka." What a joy and a blessing to have another miracle working Icon of the Mother of God here at St. Tikhon's...one which has produced many, many healings of soul and body. (We have heard of many instances of complete cures from cancer and other ailments from various individuals who have encountered this icon at different times throughout the country.) During our pilgrimage, we had many visiting hierarchs, clergy, and faithful celebrate with us as we journeyed through this four day event. Thankfully, due to the help we received from the community and diocese, it was a tremendous success and a blessing for all.

Recently, our Monastery has undergone some significant changes. On Monday of the Memorial Day Pilgrimage, Fr. Sergius was raised to the rank of Igumen of St. Tikhon's Monastery. As the Igumen, Fr. Sergius oversees all of the finances and general direction of St. Tikhon's Monastery in consultation with His Grace, Bishop Tikhon and His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah.



Liturgy and Divine services have continued to be served at the Monastery for all of the people of the world and for the various intentions and needs of those who ask for prayers. This offering was begun in 1905 and has continued unbroken until the present day, granting the Monastery a special blessing and a peace that heals and helps all of those who come to stay, pray, and visit here. If you have any prayer requests or special needs, don't hesitate to contact us.

Bp. Tikhon continues to be busy leading the Dioceses of Eastern Pennsylvania, working at the Seminary as the rector, and also helping the Monastery as the Deputy Abbot. Fr. Jerome is still in the nursing home, after suffering from a stroke in April 2007. Please continue to pray for his patient endurance of being totally bed ridden for more than two years. Fr. Alexander (at age 77) continues to help clean, cook and help out everywhere in the Monastery. Fr. Nicodemus continues to work long hours in the Church, beautifying it and making worship go as smoothly as possible. Fr. Innokenty has begun working in the Bookstore, taking charge of packaging and shipping orders. He also travels once a month to Philadelphia to take care of the Russian Mission at St. Stephen's Cathedral. Fr. Gregory continues to live and work at our St. Arsenius skete. He recently published a new book about the Mother of God, "O Full of Grace, Glory to Thee" which is now available at our Bookstore. Fr. Michael and Brother Nilus are continuing to work in the seminary library and also have finished taking their spring classes. Brother Nilus is also acting as guest master for both guesthouses. Fr. Kyril continues to bake all our prosphora, cook in the kitchen, tend the bees, and live at the other skete.



Recently, the Monastery/Seminary Choir, led by Fr. Sergius, journeyed throughout the Midwest and the South with the miracle working icon, Our Lady of Sitka, singing concerts and services in a continuing effort to raise money for Seminarians who cannot pay for their tuition. Pictures of these events are available on the Monastery website: sttikhonsmonastery.org. The mission choir is a fund raising group which travels throughout the school year in an effort to keep education at the Seminary available to all who are called (but might not be able to pay.) This year alone, the mission choir raised over \$60,000.00! Fr. Sergius also has visited various parishes in several states giving talks, serving, holding retreats, choir workshops in an effort to re-aquaint people with the Monastery and to extend an open

invitation to all to visit and contact us for their spiritual needs.

Our bookstore recently added a coffee shop that held its grand opening on May 14th. Fr. Nicholas Palis gave an enlightening presentation to the entire extended community focused on the modern Elders of Greece. The Bookstore hopes to put back into print many titles that have been out of stock and also plans to begin to look into candle making, wine making, and bottling the Monastery's water to increase revenue for the Monastery.



For the first time ever, St. Tikhon's has two new guest houses and warmly extends an invitation for everyone to visit. The guest houses, a family house guest house and a men's guest house, total seven rooms with 11 beds. Please call us if you are interested in staying.

The monastery's website has been updated since January and will continue to be enhanced with photos and footage from the Monastery.

Also, this year, the Orthodox Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of St. Alexis of Wilkes-barre, a confessor and defender of Orthodoxy in America. St. Alexis' relics reside here at the Monastery and we had a beautiful feastday!



Our community continues to grow with the addition of two new postulants, Peter and Br. Patrick, with one or two more on the way. We also have a relatively new postulant who came last year, Dimitriy, who works with Fr. Kyrill tending bees, baking, and working around the property. With this growth in our community, it is apparent that our current building, with all of its problems (black mold, only two showers, not enough rooms, etc.) is incapable of sustaining any real growth. Hence, at the recommendation and with the blessing of Metropolitan Jonah, we hope to erect and furnish a modular home with several monastic cells and bathrooms next to the existing building. The community will still have common meals in the old trapeza but will expand to two buildings. The cost of this project will be about \$150,000. Through our new projects just mentioned and with the generous donations of our supporters, we hope to revitalize St. Tikhon's. In the future, God willing, we intend to build an entirely new facility. We are finished with the first phase of this project (the initial renderings and choosing the site) and God willing, we hope to begin phase two next year. The plans for this new Monastery complex are available to for viewing on-line at the Monastery website (sttikhonsmonastery.org.)



Finally, and sadly, we will be losing one of our members, Fr. Gabriel, who will be greatly missed by the community as he goes to serve a parish for the Greek Archdiocese in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Last but not least, we have been blessed with a new maintenance man, Bill Smith, who is from California and who will be baptized on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul this year. Special thanks to all the faithful who continue to support us and pray for us and with us! Also, to our parishoners, the faculty, and seminarians who we greatly value and treasure: a special thanks for your involvement and continuing work to help us to build up the Monastery of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk. May God bless you all. Be assured of our prayers, goodwill, and our tireless work to continue to bring the light of Christ to our world.



The Community

With love in Christ,

The Monastery of
St. Tikhon of Zadonsk
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The New Coffee Shop