

Monastery Fall Newsletter 2010

Beloved of the Lord,

Fall in Northeastern Pennsylvania is full of beautiful sights as we enjoy the great leave-taking of autumn and prepare for winter. As it is in the spiritual life, so in the material world God sends us consolation and grace in the beautiful turning of the leaves and their various shades of orange, red and yellow for several weeks before the often difficult and long winter. We continue to labor here for the glory of God and the good of the entire Orthodox Church in America through your support, love and prayers.



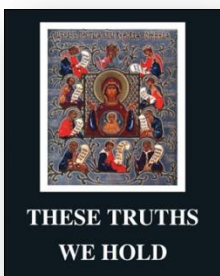
The 2010 Memorial Day pilgrimage was a great blessing for all who visited these Holy Grounds this year. The Iveron Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos visited us for the three days of the Memorial Day celebration and also recently returned again to bless us on October 20th and 21st. Indeed this Icon of the Iveron Mother of God is a great and miraculous sign of God's presence and love for us in the Church. Many cures from cancer, demon possession, and blindness have been attributed to this Icon which miraculously pours forth large quantities of beautifully sweet myrrh oil with which the faithful are anointed. The reader Nectary from Hawaii graciously travels with the Icon and we thank him wholeheartedly for this gift and visitation. On Memorial Day, we had many guest Hierarchs, Priests, and Deacons and we want to express our gratitude to everyone for making this year's Memorial Day pilgrimage a great spiritual blessing. Special thanks are always due to the many faithful of the Diocese of Eastern PA who help us every year especially Father and Matushka Joseph Martin and Father and Matushka Michael Hatrak. Please be encouraged to come to next year's pilgrimage to be with us on that special, grace-filled day.



Our Abbot, Fr. Igumen Sergius, continues to travel and give retreats, talks, and have parish visitations bringing the relics and sacred items from our large repository and museum. In June, Fr. Sergius visited several parishes in the Denver area and brought many relics of different Saints, a piece of the True Cross, St. Innocent's Gospel Book and St. Tikhon of Moscow's Mantia, Panagia, and relics to the faithful for veneration and their spiritual edification. In September, Fr. Igumen Gabriel visited St. Nicholas' Parish in Bethlehem, PA bringing with him the Wonder-working Monastery Icon of 'She Who is Quick to Hear' to the delight of the parishioners and surrounding faithful in the Southern area of Pennsylvania. If you would like to have some of the treasures of St. Tikhon's Monastery visit your parish, please contact us by phone or e-mail.



The Monastery Bookstore has been publishing and re-publishing many popular Orthodox titles. Most recently, the Bookstore reprinted the Divine Liturgy book (in both small and large editions,) St. Nikolai's 'The Universe as Signs and Symbols,' 'These Truths We Hold' (the popular level comprehensive catechism of the Orthodox Church,) and the 'Svit' Prayer book. A book translated from Serbian about the life of St. Nikolai of Zicha, who labored at our Monastery, will also be out soon translated by Sr. Mihaela. Please remember that the Monastery is hand-dipping beeswax candles for parish usage. Please consider supporting us by purchasing our candles for your Parish Community. All of our products are available for purchase by contacting our Monastery Bookstore. God willing we will be on-line with our new website by December 1st. Please visit us today at stspress.com!



The Monastery guest houses have been attracting pilgrims who come to pray and stay with us. Please feel welcome to contact us to come for a visit at monasteryguesthouse@gmail.com. Also, we update our Monastery website weekly which has our history, videos, sermons, services, our weekly bulletin

and so much more! Log onto to see our website at sttikhonsmonastery.org.

The monks continue to pray and labor for the glory of God and now our number totals fifteen Monastics in our community: His Grace, Bishop Tikhon, our Abbot, Fr. Igumen Sergius, Igumen Gabriel, who is back from sabbatical, Hieromonks Alexander and Innokenty, Hierodeacon Philip (who is a recent addition of members from our extended community,) Monks Nicodemus and Kyril, Riasaphore Monk Michael, and the Novices Kenneth, Peter, Basil, Silouan, Gabriel, and Stephen.

This year we have also finished several renovations around the monastery. Before Memorial Day this year, we moved the Icon Repository to the museum above the Bookstore. The Repository was suffering from climate control problems in the Bell Tower Chapel (some of the West wall icons had mold problems) and we have now merged the Museum and the Repository into one large Museum of Orthodox life, culture, and art from Orthodox America and around the world. Tours and appointments are available by e-mail or phone or visit us on-line for a free video tour on our website. Walk-in tour appointments are sometimes possible. Please check with the Bookstore for availability. Also, the Old Bell Tower was converted into a second Church chapel to be used for services and funerals.

This summer, we were able to purchase monastic seating from Greece which are now beautifully situated on the left klerios/choir area of the Altar. We also finished landscaping in our courtyard between the newer modular home and the existing older building, creating a garden with a waterfall, fruit trees, vegetables, and flowers enclosed by a fence made from wood in our forest.

Our next project focus for this year will be the much needed renovation of the original Monastery building which will cost approximately \$25,000-\$30,000. The building, built in 1962, has no insulation (it is very cold in the winter,) has a dirt floor underneath the existing floor, a spring and lake that occur in the basement during the spring and fall, and a dilapidated plumbing system, amongst other things. After consulting with a mold, asbestos, and radon testing firm, they advised that instead of tearing the older monastery building down that we should do some extensive renovations in order to make the building safer for human habitation. The majority of what we collect in this year's winter appeal will go to funding this much needed renovation.



Tikhon's Day on August 13th would be a wonderful time to come to visit and to receive the blessing of our Patron and the wonderful grace that permeates these Holy Grounds.

As we continue to labor and pray for the Church, be assured of our prayers for you and your loved ones this Nativity Season and of our love and gratefulness for your support. We also express a special thanks to all of our community members, both far and near, the monastics, and the local and nationwide clergy who labor on behalf of this Holy Place. May Christ our True God, the Only Begotten and Eternal Word of God Who took flesh of the Ever-Virgin Mary bless and keep you and illumine your hearts with His never-waning and everlasting Light.



With love in Christ,
The Monastic Brotherhood of St. Tikhon's Monastery