

Monastery Newsletter Summer 2011

Beloved of the Lord,

We greet you with the joy of summer here at the Monastery as things begin to quiet down, the Seminary school year has come to an end and the Memorial Day pilgrims have all gone home. Thanks be to God, the Memorial Day Pilgrimage was a tremendous success. The Elder, Fr.



Archimandrite Zacharias of the Monastery of St. John the Baptist in Essex, England, stayed with us for a week, during which, he gave the Seminary commencement address, preached sermons, counseled monks and laymen, and generally edified all by his amazing and grace-filled presence. In addition to this, we had the blessing of having the wonder-working Icon of St. Anna from Philadelphia present with us for the entire pilgrimage. Fr. Athanasy of the Joy of All Who Sorrow Parish (ROCOR) accompanied the Icon which

comforted and consoled the entire community.

The Seminary had 18 graduates this year (among which was one of our own, the Riasaphore-monk Michael) bringing to conclusion the first year of our new and beloved Seminary Dean, Archpriest Alexander Atty. The Monastery, as always, offers its full support to Fr. Alexander and the Seminary community through our prayers and our pledge to teach, preach, and train traditional, balanced, and healthy priests for our Church while offering the greatest teaching tool the Church has: daily Liturgy and the full cycle of services at the Monastery Church.

Amazingly, we have also completed the desperately needed renovations to the Monastery which installed new energy efficient windows, insulation, sheet rock, new carpet, a new roof for half of the building, new septic pipes, some new plumbing, new electrical outlets for the rooms (finally, three prongs!), new kitchen cabinets and a fire system that brings the building up to the most basic code for our area of North Eastern PA. Thanks to the donations of the faithful, especially Dn. Michael and Mat. Arlene Pasonick as well as Behzad and Barbara Parhizgar, we were able to accomplish this immensely needed and difficult work in a short period of time. We cannot thank God enough for your support of this greatly needed project!



The Monastery continues to have many visitors (and we remind everyone that we have guesthouses for retreats and that you are invited to come to visit, stay and pray) as well as many prospective candidates for monastic life that hopefully will come back to stay in the future. The Brotherhood currently consists of 14 members: Bishop Tikhon (Bishop of Eastern Pennsylvania,) Abbot Igumen Sergius, Igumen Gabriel, Hieromonks Alexander and Innokenty, Hierodeacon Philip, Monks Nicodemus and Kyril, Riasaphore monk Michael, and the Novices Kenneth, Peter, Basil, Silouan, and Stephen. We are blessed to have each one, everyone providing services to the community,

offering their lives and talents to the Lord in this place to serve the Church.

This year, we brought on-line a new Monastery website (same address, stikhonsmonastery.org) which provides resources, videos about the Monastery and Icon Museum Repository, as well as a wealth of historical information on our monastery. Please visit us today! We are also working on our new website for the Monastery Bookstore, www.stspress.com. This has been an ongoing, challenging endeavor but we are hoping to have the site completely functional by mid-summer. All in all, the Bookstore is a great challenge for the Monastery and we appreciate so very much your patience, support and understanding as we improve our services, products, and website.



Fr. Igumen Sergius spoke at several retreats and traveled with various treasures of the Monastery to parishes in California, Northeast Pennsylvania, and Kansas this spring, among which were St. Innocent's Chalice, Gospel and Panagia as well as the relics of many of the



American Saints. If you would like to have some of the Monastery's treasures visit your area, please contact the Monastery for more details at monasteryinfo@gmail.com. Fr. Sergius also was blessed to represent the Monastery brotherhood at the historic reunion Liturgy at St. Nicholas Cathedral in New York, during which the formal reconciliation took place between the OCA (Metropolitan Jonah) and ROCOR (Metropolitan Hilarion.) Words cannot describe the experience and the wonderful presence of the Holy Spirit among us.



Again, we cannot adequately thank you enough for your support, your prayers and your love. Our Monastery has such a rich heritage which needs our help and support. You help to keep the heart of the oldest Orthodox Monastery in America alive and moving forward into the future. This place of such grace is available to all the Church in America, and indeed, to all the people of America and yet so few know about our beloved Monastery, where so many Saints, monks, priests and laymen have given their hearts and lives so that the vision of our founder, the great St. Tikhon of Moscow would continue to thrive. Be assured of our prayers at the daily Divine Liturgy for you, your loved ones, and your intentions. May God remember you all because you remember Him and His Church and glorify His Name in your lives through your sacrifices made for our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. May God bless you, one and all.

With much love in Christ,
St. Tikhon's Monastery Brotherhood