

Dynamis

February 2008

“...since the kingdom of God is not just words, it is power.” 1CORINTHIANS 4:20

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL + PORTLAND + OREGON

We Do Not Live to Ourselves Stewardship as a Way of Life

As a kind of continuation of my *Dynamis* article last month on “Orthodoxy and Environmental Responsibility,” I would like to take a moment to talk about the idea of “Stewardship as a Way of Life,” beginning from St. Paul’s words in the Epistle to the Romans:

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.

Romans 14:7-8

Here St. Paul tells us that our lives are not separate entities that exist in isolation from each other. We are all connected. The final word on our existence is not *ownership*, dividing up the world between the things we own and the things we do not, but *belonging*. We belong to the Lord and to each other, we are part of a mystery far greater than ourselves, in which, as St. Paul says elsewhere, “Christ is everything, and in everyone” (Col. 3:11).

I have often thought that this realization, “we do not live to ourselves,” is the beginning of true stewardship. When we recognize that our lives are not separate from each other, that the way we live affects all those around us and the whole world, and that the way others live similarly impacts us, then we truly begin to live as stewards. And in this understanding, “stewardship” is simply another word for love, a love that shares everything freely because everything we have has been freely shared with us. As the great spiritual writer Thomas Merton puts it in his book *No Man is an Island*, “Love shares the good with another not by dividing it with him, but by identifying itself with him so that his good becomes my own.”

As a way of life, stewardship impacts everything we do. When we are attuned to the reality of stewardship, our way of being in the world changes. It affects the way we use limited environmental resources, through the recognition that the world has been given to us by God in order to be shared. It affects the way we interact with

others, as we realize that God has given us our brothers and sisters so that we can learn to love them, and has given us to them so that they can learn to love us as well. It affects the choices we make about how we spend our money, where we devote our time, and how we use the gifts God has given to us.

February is our annual “month of stewardship” at Holy Trinity, a time when we ask each person to consider and make a commitment for the coming year. This commitment ought to be a joyful one and not a duty; to quote Thomas Merton once more, “There can never be happiness in compulsion. It is not enough for love to be shared; it must be shared freely.” When done with a joyful heart, the filling out of a pledge card and the making of a financial commitment for the year are a true expression of love. Yet this is only part of what it means to live as a steward. Stewardship means learning to live together peaceably, to share freely, and to love deeply.

One of my all-time favorite novels is *St. Francis* (o Phtochoulis tou Theou) by Nikos Kazantzakis. In one part of this book, Francis tells a story to his companion Leo about a monk who died and stood before the door of heaven. He knocks at the door, and the Lord’s voice says, “Who is there?” The monk replies “It is I,” and the Lord’s voice says, “There is no more room.” This is repeated twice. Finally, on the third try, when the Lord’s voice says, “Who is there?” the monk replies, “Thou, Lord, Thou,” and the door opens wide for the monk at last.

We are part of a great mystery in which there is no longer any “I,” but only “Thou,” where Christ is all and in all. Stewardship is our acknowledgement of this mystery: that nothing belongs to us in any final sense; we belong to each other and to the Lord.

With Deep Love in the Lord,



Fr. Paul Schroeder
Proistamenos

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Dynamis

Dynamis is the monthly newsletter of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Portland, Oregon. Articles for the next month's issue of *Dynamis* are due in the church office on the 11th of the current month. Deadlines will be strictly adhered to.

Dynamis Editorial Guidelines

How to contribute:

email to: Gail@goholytrinity.org or on a CD with a hard copy to the church office, or typed copy to the church. If you do not use a computer, please fax submissions to 503-236-8379.

Content and length: Church-related organizations maximum 500 words; non-church related and articles by private persons maximum 300 words. We reserve the right to edit or decline a submission. All inserts must be approved by the church office and the postal service.

Announcements policy: Unpaid announcements for church-related events are limited to a half page. Non church-related community event announcements are limited to a quarter page.

The back cover is reserved for paid advertisements, at these rates:

Full advertising section - half of back page	\$400
Half advertising section - 1/4 of back cover	\$225
Quarter advertising section-1/8 of last page	\$125

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Pastitsio (meat or vegetarian)
Salad – Dessert

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2008

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL

following Church services

Holy Trinity Dance Group Performance

Adults \$8.00 - Children \$5.00 (under 12)

Support Our Youth

Raffle Sponsor: Chinook Winds Casino Resort

First Prize: Dinner for 2 in the Rogue River Room of the Chinook Winds in Lincoln City (\$75.00 value)

Second Prize: Two show tickets

Donation: \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00

Tickets will be sold at the luncheon and the drawing on the same day!

BLANKETS FOR THE NEEDY

Every year during Christmas, our community allocates \$2,000 to purchase and distribute brand-new blankets to the needy. This year 172 blankets were donated to the following organizations: Salvation Army Family Center, Raphael House, Portland Rescue Mission, Letty Owings Center and Medical Teams International. Several of these organizations cater to mothers and children and they are very appreciative of the warmth these blankets provide during the cold weather. On behalf of our Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Community,
The Festival Disbursement Committee.

FELLOWSHIP OF ST. PHOTIOS THE GREAT

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 PM in the Library. Topics will include a new guide to Orthodox architecture and worship and discussion of evangelization strategies to be shared with the Commission for Orthodox Mission and Evangelism. The Fellowship meetings are open to anyone interested in the Cathedral Outreach Ministry. Philoxenia members are especially welcome. Contact Fr. Dn. David at dndavid@goholytrinity.org for further information.

Senior Ministries

Jointly sponsored by Holy Trinity and Philoptochos

Join us for our annual Valentine's Day Luncheon
In the St. Dimitrios Hall on

Thursday, February 14 at 11:30 AM

Gus Pappelis

will be our featured musician!

**There is no charge for reservations received by
Monday, February 11.**

**There is a charge of \$15.00 per person for
reservations made after the 11th.**

Please call your RSVP to the church office at 503-234-0468

New Holy Trinity Cathedral Website Launched

On January 28, a new website was launched for Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. The development of the website has been a multi-year collaborative project that has finally come to fruition. You can visit the new website at our usual address on the web: www.goholytrinity.org.

The new website provides a beautiful graphic interface with images taken from throughout our magnificent church edifice (many thanks to Andy Fraser for developing the graphic portfolio). New features of the website include an updated parish history with a slideshow of historic photos, a "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) page especially intended for first-time visitors, an edited and streamlined section on the sacraments with practical information about planning and scheduling baptisms and weddings, updated information about our parish ministries, a page for downloading forms and applications, and a new weblog which will offer sermon notes, discussions on Vespers topics, community news, and more.

We encourage you to browse through the new website and to bookmark it in your "Favorites." We also encourage you to keep checking back over the next several months, as we intend to continue expanding the site with new information about our ministries and programs, as well as new conversations on the weblog.

Retreat of Silence to Focus on "Prayer of the Heart" March 10, 2008, at Camp Angelos

On Clean Monday, March 10, Holy Trinity Cathedral will hold its second "Retreat of Silence" marking the beginning of Great Lent at Camp Angelos. Our theme this year will be the "prayer of the heart," focusing on the practical aspects of learning to pray with one's whole being.

The retreat will begin at 9:00 AM with the service of Efhelaion (Holy Unction), followed by a session at 10:30 on the subject "Prayer of the Heart: Aligning our Hearts with the Heart of the World," led by Fr. Paul Schroeder. A period of silence and reflection will then be observed until 2:00 PM, including a silent shared meal. After a closing reflection, the retreat will conclude at 3:00 PM.

Cost for the retreat is \$5, which includes lunch and materials. For more information or to make reservations to attend the retreat, contact the Church Office at (503) 234-0468.

Father- Daughter Dance

Saturday, February 9, 2008

At 6:30 PM in St. Dimitrios Hall

Cost is \$25.00 per couple or \$30/family

Contact Nick Mallos for more details and to
RSVP.

Mother Son Bowling Night

Saturday, February 9, 2008

Don't miss a great evening of fun with your son(s)!

Lace up those ever so fashionable bowling shoes and hit the lanes at Tigard Bowl. You pick the most convenient bowl time for you and the boys.

There are lanes reserved from 6:00-7:30 PM and from 8:30 - 10:30 PM. Dinner will be from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the pizzeria next door to the bowling lanes.

Cost is \$10.00/person for reservations received by Thursday, Feb. 7 and \$16.00/person after the 7th. Please RSVP to Gail at 503-234-0468. Be sure to indicate the total number of sons you will be bringing. Aunts, Grandmothers and God-mothers are welcome to join us!

Getting it together

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21

The heart wants to be generous, the mind finds it difficult. We make payments at different times. We use up our last check. We stop using checks. We focus on monthly bills. We put off our gift to the church.

In February, Stewardship Month, as you consider your commitment for the year, consider also the method that will bring your treasure to the Church. Examine the stewardship packet mailed to you. The Direct Deposit Stewardship form makes the discipline of regular giving automatic. Regular amounts spread out over the year make your generosity easy to manage. The amount can be modified if your circumstances change. Meanwhile, as the Parish Council tackles the budget and plans for good works in 2008 the Church's programs will have a good basis for planning.

Sign up for Direct Deposit Stewardship.

Your heart, your mind and your treasure will be in agreement.

Your Commitment Gets the Job Done

"LET US COMMIT OURSELVES AND ONE ANOTHER AND OUR WHOLE LIFE TO CHRIST OUR GOD." (DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM)

February is 'Stewardship month' at Holy Trinity – a time of appreciation for all our families who give selflessly of their time, expertise and financial gifts. A simple 'thank you' does not seem enough. You set the example and many of you 'raise the bar' for the rest of us, through your tireless efforts, heartfelt commitment and generous gifts each month.

By now you have received your 2008 pledge card. (If you have not received yours, contact the parish office. Do we have your correct address?) Please take the time to prayerfully consider returning your pledge card once you have determined your best gift. And what *is* a 'best gift'? Simply, it is a gift given out of one's abundance, cheerfully, and in proportion to one's own means. So, it follows, that each and every gift is appreciated and utilized to further the mission of the Church.

All parish families are asked to have their pledge card on file every year and to update their family information. And finally, please do return your pledge card soon. Pledge cards will be blessed and dedicated to our Lord on Sunday, February 24th.

2007 Summary: *surpassing our goal!*

We experienced strong giving most of the year with your generous gifts. Stewardship contributions totaled \$492,875 and exceeded our goal of \$485,605 by over \$7,000. Thank you for all your gifts - time, talents and treasures - they are appreciated!

- ◆ 402 families pledged \$392,415 and gave \$387,490.
- ◆ 290 of the above families (72%) met or exceeded their pledge and gave \$307,100.
- ◆ 205 additional (non-pledging) families contributed \$105,385.
- ◆ **Stewardship gifts totaled \$492,875.**

OUR PEOPLE

Birth Announcement:

Greg and Wendy Courogen are the proud parents of a baby girl, born January 5, 2008.

From the Office

Andy Fischer, Holy Trinity's beloved bookkeeper for the past 13 years has retired. The office is just not the same without you, Andy! We wish you the best in your future plans and please keep in touch.

A Word from Agia Sophia Academy

Happy New Year! We at Agia Sophia Academy want to wish you all a joyous, Christ-centered, and prosperous 2008. Speaking of the new year, we invite you to attend our Open House on Tuesday, February 5th from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time with our teachers in the classroom setting. They will be happy to share with you what they do at Agia Sophia Academy. You will witness our small class sizes that allow us to provide the best of attention to the educational process. Take a look at our curriculum. Ask lots of questions. We are excited about our school and want to share it all with you.

Looking back at bit, our Christmas program was a booming success. The standing-room-only audience witnessed a living icon of the Nativity as our children sang and acted out the glorious birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks to all of you who attended this special time of celebration. Do you have any questions about Agia Sophia Academy? Give me a call at 503-641-4600 or e-mail me at dndennis@agiasophiaacademy.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dance, Sing, Serve

Being in the Dance program here at Holy Trinity requires quite a commitment, especially for those heading down to FDF, The Folk Dance (and Choral) Festival of the Metropolis of San Francisco. The annual event is always held over President's Day weekend and this year's competition will be in Ontario, California.

Holy Trinity is being represented by our two oldest dance groups, Doxa and Romiosini who, for months now, have been hard at work to perfect their steps, styling and voices. All of this training is in addition to their already crammed schedules. Many are involved in sports, theater, college and jobs! And yet, Greek dance is clearly a passion for them and performing well is a matter of pride.

A couple years ago, Metropolitan Gerasimos introduced a new "challenge" for the competing dance groups diakonia, service projects. Happily Romiosini took the responsibility to heart and recently came to the aid of two facilities here in Portland.

The Goose Hollow Family Project provides overnight accommodations to families in transition and is in need of basic living items. The dance group arrived with a car full of clothing, towels and blankets, hygiene products, Fred Meyer cards, bus tickets, etc. A couple days later, the

kids all went down to St. Francis Dining Hall to serve meals to those in need. They came away from the experience feeling good that they were able to help those less fortunate in a small way.

The dancers will perform at the Limnes Association's Ypapandi dinner on February 2nd presenting the new suites they've learned for this year's competition. Then it's off to Ontario!! Our prayers are with them all.... Καλη τυχη παιδια!!



Ethos Bookstore

Open Monday thru Friday
10:00 AM – 2:30 PM
and for one hour after Liturgy on Sundays.

Come in and browse!

- Books
- Tapes
- Candles
- Incense
- Gifts
- Items for Baptisms & Weddings



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**2008 Lenten Adult Christian Education at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
COME, JOURNEY TOWARDS CHRIST!
THE FAITH, DOCTRINE, AND WORSHIP OF THE HOLY ORTHODOX CHURCH**

Purpose: This course is a perfect chance for a quick review of our Orthodox Faith and Practice during this year's Lenten Journey of Spiritual Renewal. It is designed for all adults, from Sunday school teacher to adult leader to inquirer... anyone who would like a review of the Holy Orthodox Faith.

Time: Mondays, 7:00-9:00pm

Location: The Upper Room at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Instructor: Fr. Deacon David B. Cole

Text: The Orthodox Church (Bishop Kallistos Ware)

Supplemental Texts: The Orthodox Church A to Z (Fr. George Grubbe) Blackwell Dictionary of Eastern Christianity (Dimitri Brady, et al.) and The Orthodox Church: 455 Questions and Answers (Fr. Stanley Harakas)

Course of Study:

Date	Topic	Reading in Ware
25 Feb	Source of Faith: Tradition and Scripture	Ch. 10 (11)
3 Mar	God, His Church, and Deification	Ch. 12 (11)
10 Mar	Earthly Heaven: Liturgy and Sacraments I	Chs. 13, 14
17 Mar.	Earthly Heaven: Liturgy and Sacraments II	Chs. 13, 14
24 Mar.	Tour of Church (following Annunciation Vespers)	-----
31 Mar.	Feasts, Fasts, and Private Prayer	Ch. 15
7 Apr.	Orthodoxy and the Reunion of Christians	Ch. 16
14 Apr.	Final Question and Answer in Church	-----

Note to Catechumens: The two traditional times on the Church's liturgical calendar for the baptism and/or Chrismation of converts are either Holy Theophany on Jan. 6 or Holy Saturday, at the end of Great and Holy Week and just before Holy Pascha. These classes are designed with this tradition in mind, so that catechumens may be received into the Church either time, once they have completed both the fall and spring sections and met with the priest.