

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Cathedral

349 East 47th Ave., Denver, Colorado, 80216

ANNUAL REPORT of the DEAN

9 NOVEMBER, 2003

INTRODUCTION

Beloved in Christ,

It is difficult to believe that this is my 20th Annual Report as your Rector and Dean. I do realize that a vast majority of our people have never known another priest at Holy Transfiguration and that many of our people have never known another in their lives.

When Matushka and I arrived here in July of 1984, the Community consisted of forty or fifty regular members and the median age of the parish was about 62 years. This had been significantly lowered by the presence of our three sons, aged 13, 12 and 7. Today, we are literally “Crawling” with preteen aged and preschool aged children, our Church school will soon have to expand from four to six classes and Weddings regularly outnumber funerals while baptisms out pace burials by three to one.

As our twentieth anniversary at Holy Transfiguration draws near, those of you who know me pretty well might expect me to “Wax nostalgic”. As I look back over previous reports, I realize that I was already “dripping” nostalgia in my fifth report. Still, I realize that for all but a couple dozen of you, August of 1984 is “Ancient history”. What you care about is what is going on right now. Let me, then, share just a couple of facts and observation with you. In 1985, when Matushka I and the parish were just starting to invest a decade and a half of almost constant involvement in bettering our immediate neighborhood of Globeville, we were offered a chance to purchase the four lots and small house immediately across the street from our Church, for about \$9,000. Gary Seurer and I wanted to make the deal but we had just built the new hall and many of our people simply thought it was a waste of money. Today, we could not purchase the same property for \$200,000. Again, a decade or so ago, when the Stapleton homes were being torn down, Matushka and I personally negotiated a covenant with Sal Carpio of the Denver Housing Authority that the bulk of that land would never be diverted from residential use. The morning of this writing (13 Oct.) our son Benjamin just returned from joining Mr. Carpio in turning the earth for a 90+ unit Condo development on the same site. This is just one of many such condo and loft projects which are scheduled for North Broadway, North Washington and the banks of the Platte river adjacent to Globeville. So, while we are struggling with simply meeting our Annual Budget year by year, control of our own future is slipping from our hands and the fruits of our years of hard work to improve life for others is being lost to us. Some are tired of hearing me say this, but it is simply time for us to purchase

land and to begin to build a new, larger and more adequate Temple, which might, by the way, include an apartment for a one day retired Dean and his Matushka. Still, there is no point in pretending that we are going to do this unless people are moved to act. Otherwise we are just setting ourselves up for disappointment. This is not just another project to throw a couple of hands full of dollars at. By this point in our history, we, by rights, ought to have received millions of dollars in bequests but, alas, until the 1980s people were not certain enough about the future of the parish even to consider such bequests. Still, as I have amply illustrated, we are quickly being overtaken by events and, unless we are the beneficiaries of several hundreds of thousands of dollars in the next couple of years, we stand the real possibility of going from a bright light in the urban darkness to being a tiny isolated city “Mission” surrounded by renewal and development and forever arrested in our potential for growth. It all depends upon what are our priorities.

PARISH LIFE

CLERGY We continue to be blessed with the assistance of Fr. Eugene Tarris who is at my side for almost every Liturgy and important service. In addition to leading the Slavonic services and to assisting Matushka with the Choir, he is performing a valuable service to the entire English speaking Church by producing translations from Bulgakoff’s manuals. Fr. Averky is once more among the employed and has not had as much time as in the past to assist at Holy Days but he remains a leading Deacon in the Diocese and has had orders for his Reader’s Manual and his Deacon’s Manual from St. Tikhon’s Seminary. We continue to have two seminarians, Reader Alexander Vallens who is a top student at St. Tikhon’s and Anatoly Rubtsov (PhD Candidate in biology) who is concurrently an MDiv candidate from the St. Tikhon’s Pastoral School in Moscow. We have been blessed as well with the assistance of Archpriest Constantine Tofan, who has agreed to provide a monthly Romanian Liturgy on Saturdays for a trial period.

DIOCESE I continue to be both Dean of the Rocky Mountain Deanery and an elected member of the Diocesan Council. In the past year I conducted a Matushki retreat and undertook a special enquiry for His Grace. Bishop Tikhon has recently requested a Vicar Bishop to assist him in his work and the Holy Synod should be acting on the unanimous request of the Diocesan Council to that effect in the near future. I am pleased to be joined on the Diocesan Council by Daroah Powell, who, after a year of gaining experience is now making a clear contribution to the life of the Diocese.

MUSIC Our choir has continued to provide beautiful Sunday services and to meet the special worship needs of the Parish. Matushka Paulette spent last year praying for Basses and now asks us to intercede for a couple more Sopranos. Iraida Vallens consented to direct our monthly Slavonic Liturgy and is being helped by Matushka Paulette and five or six other singers to form a respectable ensemble. We hope to soon have a regular Romanian Choir as well

PROSPHORA Sandie Kennedy has assumed the principal leadership in Prosphora baking. Luminica Gurau and her mother, Theodora Gogan; Christine Jobanputra and Peggy Yadlowsky as well as our stalwart Magda Blagaila have also kept us supplied with Holy Bread. Adriana Staicu has just received my blessing to

bake as well. We thank these ladies for taking on this most important and Holy work

CHURCH CLEANING In my report last year, I expressed the hope that 2003 would be remembered as “The year of the volunteers”. While this has not been an unqualified reality, still, our sisterhood has really risen to the challenge recently and taken a much more serious view of their stewardship of our Temple. In addition to having added a fifth cleaning team of men and women, we have had several of our ladies appear on week days to do special cleaning. Sandy Kennedy continues to do almost all of the metal polishing. We have also added a special “Adopt a corner” project by which we will designate a volunteer or group to take special care of one of our shrines or areas in the Temple and to keep it in tip top shape all of the time. We also have a real need for more cleaning team members.

SISTERHOOD Our Sisterhood will have a report at this meeting but deserves special thanks for all of the charitable work and general support to the parish program. We are most grateful to the outgoing President, Gloria Rogozik and Treasurer, Colleen Ramos who fulfilled their leadership responsibilities with scrupulous care over the past twelve months. We know that this level of service will continue in the coming year under the presidency of Matushka Maria Davis.

Participation in preparing and support of our weekly luncheons is a vital part of our Parish and Sisterhood programs. Your generosity in cooking and donating is a primary source of support for the work of the Altar Society. Regular participation in the Grocery Coupon Program remains a valuable way to help at no personal cost. By, in effect, purchasing one’s groceries in advance, he or she can donate 5% of their total food bill to the Sisterhood at no cost to themselves.

This past year, in addition to their regular budgeted expenses, your coffee hour donation and coupon purchases helped the Sisterhood to provide a new chest freezer for the Hall and a new stove for the Rectory.

EDUCATION We are blessed to have a thriving Church school. As we have said, we are expanding and growing and need some more dividers for the lower hall. New teachers this year are David and Denise Karsen and Michelle Dyl. Our new Church School superintendent is Vera Rudenko. Parents need to be scrupulous in getting their children to Church and seeing that they go to Church school.

YOUTH This year we had 24 participant in our Youth Camp. Next year camp will be in the middle of summer, from 25-28 July at Glacier View Ranch near Boulder. We hope to have 40 children and adults from our parish at camp this year.

PARISH PROPERTY Our Jr. Warden, Mike Rogozik has taken special care to maintain our property over the past several years. Not only are our lawn and grounds beautiful but all of our maintenance problems have been handled at very low cost. Mike was helped by Daroah Powell, Tony Dyl, Ben Hirsch, (who was organizer for many projects), Berndt Myhr, David Karsen, Magda Blagaila, Matushka Paulette and Andrew Hirsch (Who planted the gardens), Ed Boyce and many others.

We are still seriously persuing the purchase of the Birch property which adjoins our property.

BOOK STORE With Tom Cope having been posted overseas, Anthony Dyl has done a wonderful job of keeping our Book store well stocked with timely and popular materials

PARISH PLAN We realize that we are behind the curve on our Parish Plan but have continued to implement many of its provisions. This will be a priority for the new council.

CHARITIES Charities continue to be a big priority of our parish and we will continue to sponsor our Romanian Children's Benefit on the Sunday after Christmas and our Russian Children's Holiday benefit on the Sunday after Theophany. Our Sisterhood continues to support the Eastern European Children's Christmas Stocking project of the O.C.A. and to Mother Cassiana and the Holy Protection Monastery as well.

PARISH ADMINISTRATION I wish to express my profound gratitude to Christine Jobanputra, our Parish Treasurer who continues to keep us out of trouble and to Tatiana Russell, who has been an excellent Secretary, not only keeping very complete minutes but reminding us of meetings from time to time so that we always have good attendance at meetings

PARISH COUNCIL The parish council is the heart of Parish Administration. The Council presently consists of:

Michael Cahenzli, Jill Cahenzli, Reader Anthony Dyl & Daroah Powell- Whose terms end in January of 2006.

Reader Benjamin Hirsch, Christine Jobanputra, Michael Rogozik & Tatiana Russell, whose Terms Expire 1 January 2005

And Erin Buskin, Ioana Comanciu-Anton, Reader Joseph Hirsch IV & David Karsen, whose Terms Expire at the end of this year. All four are eligible for reelection

METRIC RECORDS In the twelve months of the Ecclesiastical Year which ran from 1 September, 2002-31 August, 2003, our metrical records indicate that we celebrated: (14) Holy Baptisms, (5) Receptions of Converts by Chrismation, (7) Marriages & (5) Burials.

Among those buried were Marsha Dorchinez and Richard Dawson, children of founding families and Nona Carr.

We have 81 Supporting adult members, 121 adult Communicants, 55 Orthodox Children and 11 non-Orthodox Adults who participate in the life of our parish on some level. This is a TOTAL of 187 souls for whom I am directly responsible. We can add to this list about 150 more souls who consider this to be their Parish Home but who are not registered with us

PRIEST'S JOURNAL

My Journal indicates that within the Church Year I:

Receive or placed	1300 Phone Calls
Made	321 Visits traveling 9770 miles
Attended or Conducted	102 Meetings and Classes
Had	301 Appointments on Church Property
Served	350 Divine Services of which 140 were Liturgies

Over the years, the numbers of phone calls and even meetings have declined as I have made greater use of Email for Communication

CONCLUSION

In Conclusion, I would like to thank all of you who have supported and worked with me in the last year and over the last 20 years. I would like to thank Anna Marie Kuczun who has put in hundreds of hours in a volunteer effort to publish a really professional book about the art and architecture of our Cathedral in celebration of our 105th Parochial Anniversary. This book should be on the internet for you to download at your leisure by the end of the year.

Finally, I want to thank Matushka for having, as always, supported my ministry and having managed to keep our family fed and clothed during those first few very lean years in Denver. In spite of this, she has always been the first to give for any worthy cause in the Parish.

We are, very much, looking forward once more to celebrating the Nativity and Paschal Seasons with you and to being together with all of you for the celebration of our twenty years of ministry here, at our picnic on 25 July, 2004

In conclusion, please reread my introduction and pray to find what if anything you can do to help.



In Christ,

**Archpriest Joseph
Cathedral Dean**