

Holy Transfiguration
Orthodox Cathedral
**Report of the Dean to the
109th Annual Parish Meeting, 5 November, 2006**

Beloved in Christ,

The year since our last General Meeting has been one of steady and solid growth toward a new level of community life. We have increased in our stewardship, in our membership, in our level of volunteer activity and, slowly but surely, in our implementation of the vision and goals described in our “Strategic Plan 2010”.

We conducted our three traditional Charity events and sent over \$5,000 to Orthodox projects and young people in various lands. We observed the Second edition of our Pan Orthodox Dinner Dance and the third rendition of our Orthodox Food Festival with increasingly successful results. Both events were designed to promote outreach and succeeded in this. No one who ever attends the PODD wants to miss it the next year so it is an event destined to grow. It also is our one event designed specifically to raise funds for the IOCC. Bishop Benjamin has promised to be present for PODD '07 and we are anticipating extending a similar invitation to Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver. The third annual Festival carried our outreach to a higher level by extending co-sponsorship to the Globeville Community. With a \$2,000 grant from The Denver Foundation, we were able to provide a terrific two-day free entertainment program and to serve food to about 25% more guests than we served last year. This event is now a small but reliable part of our annual income.

We conducted two new community building and outreach events this fall; our “Day of Spiritual Refreshment” held at the Greek Chancery and an area wide Pan Orthodox Softball Tournament at our Argo Park Diamond, which, of course, we won.

In July, Matushka Paulette and I hosted a celebration of our 40th wedding anniversary and of Fr. Eugene’s 40th anniversary of Priestly Ordination. His Grace, Bishop Benjamin and friends from many

neighboring parishes joined us for a fine meal and some low key socializing.

Through our participation in the Globeville Civic Association, we successfully fought off destructive uses in the community, participated in area wide planning, helped to enforce zoning and property codes in Globeville, allowed a couple of dozen poor, elderly and disabled neighborhood residents to have their homes repaired and painted, we provided summer swimming and recreation center passes for over 200 children who would, otherwise, have had a very hot dull summer and we enlisted these children and the local business men in a program to paint over and otherwise eradicate ugly graffiti from our community.

The ongoing highlights of our community life are our continuing plans to acquire property and to build a larger Temple near our present historic Cathedral and our present project of Historic Preservation of that structure. We received a Grant two years ago for \$10,000 to study the condition of our building and, as you will recall, we discovered that, although structurally sound for now, the building is in an advanced stage of deterioration. We received a second grant for over \$150,000 to deal with this, but are required to contribute another \$50,000+ ourselves as a 25% match. As of now, we have raised about \$18,000 from our people and will soon need to transfer about \$12,000 from our savings to meet upcoming outlays. In fact, we could take all of the money out of our endowment if we need to do so but this is a wonderful opportunity for our own people and friends to become re-founders of a Temple where saints prayed, and for a relatively small donation. We have, already, removed all of the asbestos from under our building; we have replaced the plumbing in our Altar area and rebuilt the floor under the entrance porch. We have also undertaken thorough and technically advances studies of the condition of our floor structure, walls and ceiling and of the “rising damp” with which we are beset and we have determined appropriate methods for mitigating and repairing these. The repairs and improvements are scheduled for late fall and early spring and, if our people do not fail in their generosity, we expect to receive another, smaller matching grant to refurbish the interior and exterior and to restore them to practically pristine condition.

METRIC RECORDS

Our Metric book indicates that, in the Ecclesiastical Year from September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, we had 18 Baptisms, 2 Receptions by Chrismation, 2 Marriages and 4 Burials. Since our last meeting, we have experienced the loss of one member, Helen Capron, by death. This is a small number of deaths but as we all know, a great loss to our Parish. May her Memory be Eternal!

Adding members to our list is always problematic. Every supporting adult we claim costs our parish, directly or indirectly, almost \$250 in regular and special assessments. That means that a couple that contribute \$500 a year are, practically speaking, giving NOTHING to the support of the Parish. So, you will understand that, when we say that our adult supporting membership has risen from 78 to 86 adults we are speaking of real substantial growth of about 9% in our supporting membership. When we consider that we have about 95 active households containing about 146 Orthodox adults and 52 Orthodox children, not counting a plethora of hangers on, we see the real dimensions of our parish. The increase from 78 to 86 supporting (Tithing or regularly contributing) adults represents the biggest growth in supporting households during my entire 22 years here.

LITURGICAL LIFE

In the past Liturgical Year, we served 435 Divine Services of which 146 were Divine Liturgies. Matushka Paulette sang most of the weekday services with the help of Gabriel Hayman and others. The Sunday Choir is under joint direction of Fr. Deacon Alexander Vallens (Music Director) Matushka Paulette and Mary Beth Johnson. We are very grateful, as well, to Reader John and Marjorie Graham and to the Johnsons who are reliable readers and singers for many weekend and weekday services. Our Monthly, Saturday Slavonic Liturgies continue to be an important part of Parish life with Fr. Eugene as Priest, Iraida Vallens as Choir director and Seminarian Anatoly Rubtsov as Homilist.

With memorial money we were able to purchase two new sets of Priests' Vestments and we have added five large and about five smaller Icons to the adornment of our Temple.

PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is the Heart of the Community. Their duty and privilege is to assist the Clergy in administrating the life of the Congregation. This year, four members complete their three-year elected terms: Erin Elizabeth Busken, Reader Joseph Hirsch IV, Berndt Roman Myhr and Colleen Amelia Ramos. Erin has been a terrific Parish Senior Warden, Colleen has been our financial secretary and has run many volunteer projects with skill while Berry and Joe are calm analytical voices and good minds on the Council. All of these are valuable members and all are eligible for reelection. In addition, Michael Rogozik and Tatiana Russell have requested to be replaced in the third year of their respective terms and we will, therefore, be electing six members at this meeting. Michael has served for many terms and has held many important offices in the parish Tatiana is expecting her second child and completing her PhD. Both have served the parish with honor. May God grant them Many Years!

PRIEST'S JOURNAL

In addition to the services I mentioned above, my journal indicates that, in the Liturgical Year, I made and received 2016 phone calls, made 267 visits, attended or taught 113 meetings and classes and had 362 appointments.

CONCLUSION

The coming year should find us completing phase one of our historical preservation project, receiving a new Bishop in our Diocese and improving and adding even more outreach projects to our parish agenda. I pray that it will also see a growth in volunteers who are cheerfully willing to help with our work, an even greater awareness of our responsibility to be stewards of our time talents and treasure and a much greater participation in prayer and Divine Services.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archpriest Joseph Hirsch