

## Holy Transfiguration Cathedral Newsletter

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### **Annual Meeting 2009**

Following Liturgy on Sunday, 5 November, the Parish will convene the 109th annual meeting of Holy Transfiguration Parish and Corporation. Sometime early in the year 1898, a group of Balkan and Carpatho-Rus immigrants, gathered to incorporate themselves so that they and their children could, "Worship Our God as our fathers and mothers did." They also took up a collection to purchase six lots on the corner of 47th & Logan Streets and approved plans to erect a modest but beautifully proportioned Temple in the style of those of Bukovena, Southern Galicia and Slovakia. Mostly new arrivals from the Carpathian Mountains and the Serbian parts of Croatia, they had come to secure the blessings of a free people in a free land. Still, they realized that the privileges America offered came with a price, among which were the financial support and participation in the life and government of their local Parish.

In 1904, the 7th annual meeting recognized the aspiration of the people to slip from the tyranny of the of Rome and the "Unia" and to return to the jurisdiction of canonical Orthodox Bishops, which had been forbidden them under Austro-Hungarian rule.

Through the subsequent decades, there had been many annual and special congregational meetings, not to discuss the doctrine, morals or discipline of Holy Orthodoxy, which are all givens and beyond debate, but to select

Trustees and, later, Parish Council Members to assist the Rector in managing the day to day affairs of the Community and to adopt a budget to carry out that task.

Now, for the 109th time, we will be gathering to carry out our responsibility to promote "Peace, purity, unity and tranquility" of this part of the Body of Christ.

All of those who are Communicants in good standing and who regularly support the Parish will be called upon to assemble, to receive reports on Parish life, to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2007, to select members of the Parish Council as well as auditors and to propose solutions to those issues which shall come regularly before them. Of course, all of these decisions are, then, reviewed and accepted by the Dean and are sent to the Bishop, who, as the Ecclesiastical Authority must confirm them.

To participate in this process is a great blessing, reminiscent of the assemblies early Church, gathered on the Lord's Day in the presence of the Holy Apostles and of their successors to support the needs of the poor and to promote the spread of the Gospel.

Our meetings, unlike those of bygone times, are not long. They last about one hour and most of the reports are duplicated in advance and distributed. Still, it is important to have as much of the Congregation as is possible gathered to express our concern for the Parish and to exercise the blessing given to us of being members of a Free Orthodox Church, unmolested by governments, whether local or foreign, or by infidel oppressors.

### **Fall Event Followup**

We had two very successful new events this fall. On Saturday, September 16th we sponsored a retreat at the Chancery of the Greek Diocese of Denver. His Eminence, Archbishop Isaiah lead us in a supplicatory service before the myrrh exuding Icon of

Our Lady, Rescuer of the Perishing. This Icon is also the center of important devotion in our parish. Next, His Eminence lead us in a meditation on events transpiring in contemporary history, we enjoyed a catered lunch and had a time for questions. We had a good turnout from Holy Transfiguration and some participants from other neighboring parishes. We owe a profound debt of gratitude to His Eminence and The Diocese of Denver as well as to Lidia Stcherbak who organized the event for the parish council.

We also held our, first ever, area wide Orthodox Softball tournament. Ben Hirsch was ramrod for the event. He contacted the participating parishes, saw to reserving and preparing the diamond and umpired in the infield. Holy Transfiguration won the tournament this year but, competition was stiff and more teams have expressed an interest in participating next year so we had best keep our softball skills honed. Colleen Ramos and Jessica Pierce provided a luncheon for all of the participants, at a small charge and the money went to the charities and projects of the Sisterhood.

### **Sisterhood Meeting**

On Sunday, 1 October, the Parish Sisterhood held its annual meeting. It was a special blessing this year to be able to meet on the very Name day (The Protection of the Theotokos) of the Sisterhood. The 2007 budget was reviewed and changes were proposed. The following years activity calendar and upcoming events were discussed and officers were elected. Officers for the ensuing year are Mira Hill;

President, Carla Elizabeth Scott; Vice President, Carol Elizabeth Montealegre; Secretary, Colleen Amelia Ramos, Treasurer and Rebecca Schiling, Volunteer Coordinators with Erin Elizabeth Busken and Matushka Paulette as advisory members of the Executive Board.

Officers and board member will be installed on Sunday, 29 October.

### **Volunteer Help is Needed**

For a number of years, now, Alexandra (Sandie) Kennedy has come to the Church early in the morning to polish brass and to bake the thousands of small and medium sized prosphora which we use throughout the year. When our beloved Helen Capron passed away last winter, Sandie also asked to be given Helen's volunteer job of many years, that of washing the thousands of pieces of colored candle glass that we use throughout the seasons of the year. Not many people know that Sandie has serious problems with her hands and has undergone four, only partially successful, surgeries for this condition. As it develops, the most strenuous work is the carrying and polishing of the many silver and brass items which are in need of regular maintenance. In light of this, Sandie has asked to be relieved of the polishing job and we are looking for someone or, better, several "someones", who would like to maintain the beauty of Gods House by coming three or four times a year or more for a polishing day. We could probably make this a Women's Group project but it has been a "Ministry" of its own for quite a while and it only seemed right to offer an opportunity to take it over.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Sunday, 29 October**

Our Children's Fall Costume Party will follow Church school. We will have some games, a parade of costumes and prizes for the best boy's and girl's costume and for the best costume depicting an Orthodox theme in each of three age categories. We have sponsored this for more than a quarter of a century to give our children the opportunity to get their candy without having to be outside in traffic and weather for two long on 30 October. Devils and Witches are not welcome. Your donations of candy and packaged snacks for the party are both welcome and solicited. See Michelle Dyl to donate these items.

### **Sunday, 5 November**

Our Annual Meeting will take place following Liturgy. See the article and Dean's Report in this issue and plan to be there. We will also serve the one year Parastas for Anna Ivkovich immediately following Liturgy.

### **Sat. & Sun., 9 & 10 November**

Our Annual St. Nicholas Event and bake sale will take place on the weekend of 9 & 10 November. The Sisterhood's Holiday Bake Sale will be held on both days and the St. Nicholas' party for our children will be held on Sunday. Magda Blagaila has customarily prepared the coffee hour and had a parastas on that day but she does so much that it certainly would be appreciated if others could volunteer to help. We need a small amount of candy and, especially, some gold chocolate coins for the young people that day. We need for all of our ladies to bake for this important year end fund raising event.

### **Saturday, 16 December**

We will be holding our Family Saturday Church Decorating and Greenery hanging day. It takes about two hours and we all

have a good time getting ready for the Holidays.

## **Holiday Service and Event Schedule**

**Friday, 22 Dec.,- Royal Hours & Typika at 10:00 a.m.**

**Saturday, 23 Dec.,- Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.**

**-Vespers and Confession at 6:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, 24 Dec., -(The Eve of the Nativity) Matins at 8:45 a.m.,**

**Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.**

**Vespers at 1:30 p.m.**

**Vigil of the Nativity at 6:30 p.m.**

**Monday, 25 Dec., (The Nativity of Our Lord) Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. (The Hall will be open after Liturgy for anyone who wishes to share food and fellowship.)**

**Tuesday, 26 Dec., (The synaxis of the Theotokos)- Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.**

**Wednesday, 27 Dec., (St. Stephen the Protomartyr)-Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.**

**Saturday, 30 Dec., Children's Play Practice ad Pizza Party at 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday, 31 Dec., Children's Christmas Program, Pot luck benefit for the Romanian Children's Memorial Fund and Christmas Party following Liturgy.**