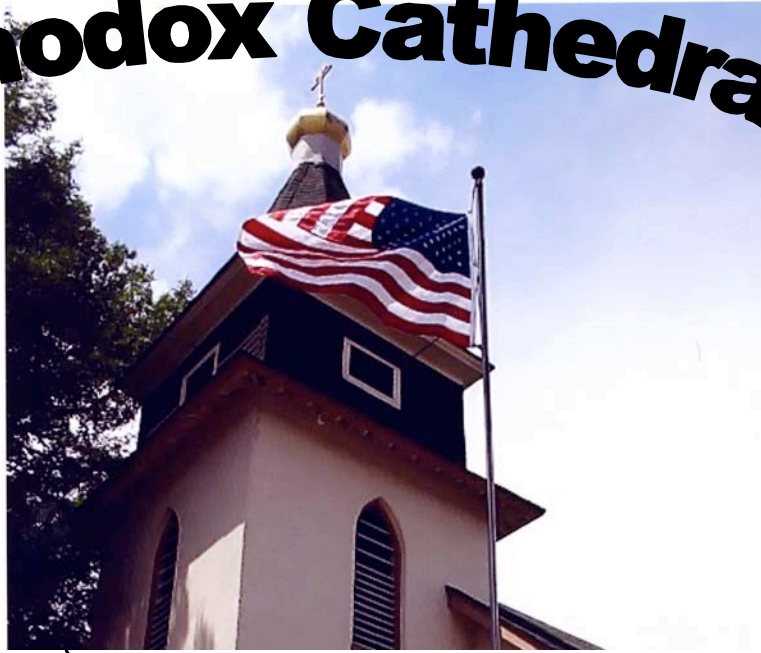


Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Cathedral

The Dean's
Report to
the 110th
Annual
Meeting 18
November,
2007



1898-2008
10 Years

Globvile
Denver's Oldest Neighborhood
1888-2008



Report of the Dean

18 November, 2007

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

This past year has seen more growth and progress within our parish than any year since the time of St. Tikhon. Let us begin at once to review some of these facts and events

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION PROJECT

We will celebrate our 110th Anniversary in 2008. In 2005, we received a \$9,500 grant from The Colorado Historical Society to study the causes of the cracks and fissures which have regularly appeared in the interior and exterior walls of the building. Later that year we were given the results of the study and a remedy for the condition known as "Rising damp". In January of 2006 we received a \$ 150,000 matching grant to halt and reverse the damage to the Church structure. This work was completed for about 2/3 of the estimated cost in the Spring of this year along with a complete reconstruction of the floor structure and the patching and repainting of the ceiling. At the same time we followed up with a Phase 2 Grant application to repair the damage which the, now mitigated, "Rising damp" condition has caused. This August we were informed by The State Historical Fund that this grant had also been made. The amount of the Phase 2 grant is about \$99,500. We anticipate that, after a great deal of bureaucratic and legal work, which has been generously undertaken by our Project Manager, Tom Bede Cope, we shall be prepared to start this work soon after the first of the year and should have the project completed by our 110th Anniversary banquet in the fall of 2008. At the same time, we plan to use some funds from the Catherine Rogozik Memorial fund to repaint and re-gold leaf the Iconostas, a project with which the State will not help.

All of this has been a long, tedious and often painful process. We only learned this fall that our Phase 1 Application had been ranked #1 in the State. Because we were careful, cooperative and intelligent, we were able to finish the project with only a \$34,000 match from our people rather than the estimated \$55,000. I suspect that, with the same oversight and due diligence, we should be able to cut the estimated \$33,000 match for Phase 2 by about 1/3. I am very proud of how we were able to meet our first obligation entirely from donated funds without having to access our Property Trust Fund. I have great confidence that this will also be the case with Phase 2, for which we have already received about \$3,600.

LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

For several consecutive years, our Annual Parish Meeting approved a resolution giving the Parish Council authority to purchase adjacent or near by property if and when they deemed this to be advisable. The first property we pursued was the Birch/Kulick property directly behind the Church Hall. Unfortunately, this effort has been temporarily frustrated by circumstances and all of the other property in the area was greatly overpriced. With, however, the unfortunate burst bubble of the "Sub-prime" home mortgage business, a number of homes have fallen to foreclosure at about 1/3 to 1/2 of their former sale price. The Land Acquisition Committee and the Parish Council determined that this was probably a once in a lifetime opportunity for us to increase the footprint of our historic campus. As a result, and with careful negotiation by Doug Busken, we have acquired two properties. One is a burnt-out house on the corner of Grant and 47th, which, for the present, we are going to convert into parking after demolishing the, now worthless, structure. The Second is the house next door which a few of our people have skillfully cleaned out and which is being remodeled for rental. We have also made an offer on the small yellow house with a large garage and yard on the Southeast corner of the intersection of 47th and Logan. We are keeping our eyes open for further opportunities and are counting, in part, upon our people's contributions to the land acquisition fund to help us nail down our future in this neighborhood which is slated for all kinds of positive development over the next five years. Presently, we have received almost \$30,000 for Land acquisition and are being very

conservative with our investments. It only seems appropriate that these properties in which we are presently interested, were all built by our founding families.

SPECIAL EVENTS

All three of our scheduled special events far exceeded our expectations for participation and income. The St. Sava's Celebration, under the sponsorship of Tom and Mira Hill, was like the old days with a fairly large and enthusiastic crowd and a substantially augmented bottom line.

The Pan Orthodox Dinner Dance (PODD) on Bright Friday is not so much a fund raiser as a Pan Orthodox charity event. With the help of Chris and Kat Jobanputra, we were able to bring in our Newly elected Bishop Benjamin and to host His Eminence, Isaiah for a lovely dinner, marked by the annual raffle, silent auction and drawing that have become the trademark of the event. According to our stated intention, a large share of the proceeds was forward to IOCC or international Orthodox Christian Charities and more was divided among the participating parishes for their local charities.

Our fourth annual Orthodox Food Festival (OFF) and "Old Globeville Days" was helped along this year by two grants. One was from The Denver Foundation Community Building Grant Project was for \$3,000 and a second grant from the Denver Planning Office project for Target Neighborhoods was for \$2,000. Between these two grants we were able to provide the entertainment and some of the set up in the park. Tom Hill also worked overtime, soliciting corporate sponsorships and donations for the event. The fifth Festival, this coming July 19th & 20th, will begin our celebration of our 110th anniversary, will close out the 120th anniversary of The Globeville Neighborhood and will also mark our neighborhood's participation in the 150th birthday of the City of Denver.

PROPERTY PROJECTS

We are indebted to several of our people, among whom are Mike Rogozik and Marco Lukich, who made major and minor repairs throughout the year which, literally, saved us thousands of dollars. Among improvements to our Temple, aside from the Grant projects, are the installation of metal railings and the repair and re-gold leafing of our tower cupola. The cupola restoration was funded from the memorial fund provided be Catherine Rogozik's family.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Our Parish had 15 Holy Baptisms in the 2007 ecclesiastical year (From September 1 of '06 through August 30th of '07) and there are six more scheduled in this calendar year. We received six baptized adult converts by Holy Chrismation, married 3 couples and conducted 7 funerals.

Among our newly Baptized are Isaiah Kidane, Sharon Anastasia Whitted, Michael Benner, Xavier Achilles Russell, John Jack Jobanputra, Gracelynn Moore, Katerina Graham, Padraig Murphy and Grace Catherine Busken.

Those Received by Chrismation were Dennis Glasson, Alexander Renault, Jessica Hirsch, Jessica Graham, Glenn Sava Clifford, and Erin Anna Schwartz. To all of these and to all of their families, Many Years!

We bade farewell to Dennis Glasson, Beverly Mystkowski, Catherine Rogozik, Zora Ninich and Alex Mystkowski. Each of these persons has plaid an important part in our parish life over many years and I could easily write a paragraph about each. May their Memory be Eternal!

Our records indicate that, as of September 1st, we had 156 Adult Communicants, 67 Children under 18 years of age, 10 regularly participating non-Orthodox Adults. Unfortunately, we have a total of only 84 adults who contribute regularly enough to the support of the Church for us to have a record. In addition to these numbers, we have about 25 Eritrean families, a dozen Romanian and a dozen Russian families, plus a few Serbs, Bulgarians, Macedonians and Ukrainians who consider themselves to be members of our Congregation but who have not registered. If we add all of these together, I am directly responsible for a little over 350 souls.

PRIEST'S JOURNAL

In the past Church year, my journal indicates that I have:

Placed or received 1441 phone calls. (This number does not reflect my use of Email.)

Made 195 Home or Hospital Visits.

Served 138 Divine Liturgies and Offered 385 Divine Services.

Had 266 Appointments in my office and attended or conducted 64 Meetings or Classes.

FINANCES

Again, because of the wonderful, "Financial Educational Materials" which have been produced by Erin Busken we find ourselves in sound financial condition. One can only imagine what we could accomplish if the other 2/3 of our Parish family attempted, just a little, to make regular weekly offerings toward the support of the Church. Perhaps we could even build a larger Temple which would accommodate all of the people who would like to make our Temple their spiritual home

PARISH LEADERSHIP

The following Parish Council Members will conclude their elected terms this year:

Reader Benjamin Hirsch , Christine Jobanputra, John Baird and Reader Rupert Applegate. Each of these is eligible and has agreed to run for reelection. In addition, Reader Joseph Hirsch, whose term expires in 2010 and Reader Anthony Dyl, whose term expires in 2009, have asked to resign the remainder of their terms due to family obligations. Thus, we will be electing 6 Council Members and two Alternates this year. Chris Jobanputra, who has been our Treasurer for almost a decade, has asked to retire from this office this year and Jim Hartenbower is training to take over this office.

The Parish Council and especially Erin Busken and the Executive Committee have acquitted themselves excellently this past year and most of the progress we have noted above, can be attributed to their leadership and direction.

THE CHOIR

With Matushka Paulette no longer able to direct our Choir on a regular basis, I have had to consider a number of options in this, most important, ministry of our Parish, Beth Mary Johnson was able to fill in for some time as acting choir director and she and her husband, Reader Simeon did a great deal of work toward resetting and editing our music library, but, alas, they have gone off to St. Vladinir's and other solutions needed to be found. In this, we were doubly blessed by the emergence of the very talented Anastasia Whitted and the return of Post-Graduate Seminarian Michael Tarris. I have appointed Michael and Anastasia as Co-Directors while Matushka Paulette will retain the Chair of the Music Department. Iraida Vallens remains Directress of the Slavonic Choir which has temporarily suspended activity with Fr. Eugene's illness but which will sing at our January 7th Liturgy at which His Grace, Bishop Benjamin, will be the Celebrant.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

I am now in my 24th year as Rector and then Dean here. Our progress during that time should not be measured by the high points and visible accomplishments but, rather, by the 162 infants and adults who I have been privileged to assist into Holy Illumination through the Baptismal font, through the 55 adults who we have brought from heterodoxy to Orthodoxy through the Holy Chrismation, through the 67 couples who we have Blessed in the Mystery of Holy Marriage and, especially, the more than 100 dear spiritual children to whom I have had the blessing of delivering their final absolution, imparting their last Holy Communion and commending their relics to the earth in sure and certain expectation of the Resurrection. A Parish was never intended to be a business or a "Growth Industry". It is our *Para Oikos*, our Other Home. On earth it is the other house in which we are at home: the real house where we are never "Home alone". In Eternity, it is the other Home in which we await Our True and final Home, The Foursquare City where there is neither Sun nor Moon, "For the Lamb of God Who is in the midst of her is The Light thereof."

I am, however, showing the effects of my age and physical limitations and have no wish to see all that we have done together, in God, over the years, fall apart or stagnate. Therefore, as I approach the 25th year of my pastorate here, then the 35th anniversary of my Priesthood over the next two years, I will be in investigation with His Grace and the Parish Council, alternatives which will provide for the continued care of our children and grandchildren in the years ahead. As always, thank you for your love and support.

Love in Christ, *Proto Joseph Hirsch*