

SYNDIAKONIA

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN

OF THE

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΣ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ

Marietta, GA

MAY 2008



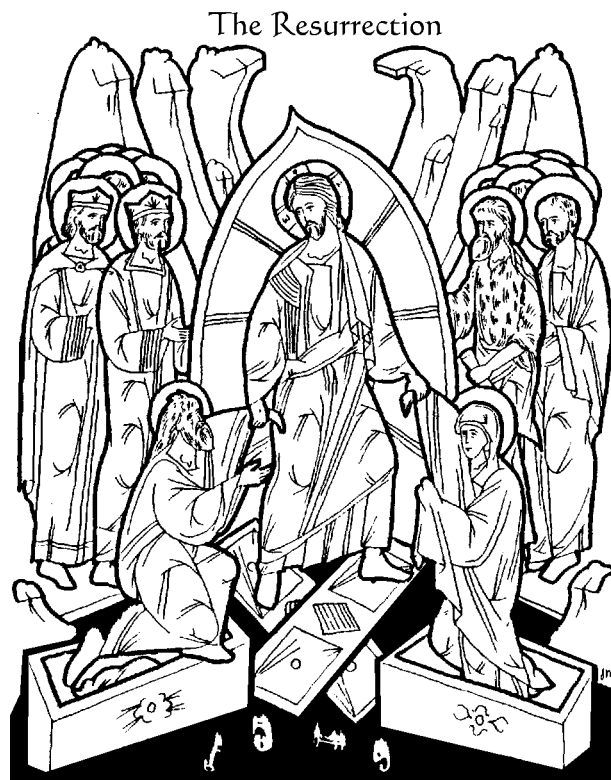
FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST

The Twelve-Year-Old Jesus teaching in the Temple

Christ is Risen!

Truly He is Risen!

XPICTOC ANECTH



*May the Light of the Risen Christ shine in
your life always!*

*The Christian Orthodox Community of
Holy Transfiguration, Marietta, GA*

Fr. Panayiotis' Message

THE MYSTERY OF PASCHA REVEALED



The most powerful and splendid moment in the life of the Orthodox Church comes in the midst of a darkened church when the priest intones, *"Come receive the light from the unwaning light and glorify Christ who has risen from the dead."* Suddenly, the entire church becomes ablaze with lights and the triumphant sound of "Christos Anesti!-- Christ is Risen!" reverberates in the air. It is as if the whole world has acquired the great voice which again and again proclaims the greatest message that man has ever heard: *"Christ has conquered death by death."*

The brilliant light illuminating the church is not merely symbolic: It is real. It dramatizes for us with overwhelming reality that, in the midst of a world darkened with human sin and evil a great light now illuminates every corner and disperses the darkness; this is the Light of the Risen Christ. Here lies both the hope and the reality of redemption from our evil ways.

"Christ is Risen from the dead, by death trampling upon death" and for the first time bestowing life upon those who died before Him as well as those who will die after Him.

A New Pascha has dawned upon us, a Great Pascha, a Blessed Pascha, a Mystical Pascha, a Pascha which has opened for us the gates of Paradise. This is the Pascha of the faithful, the Pascha which sanctifies those who believe.

It is the "Bright Day" of Pascha, a day of delight, the Day of the Lord. Let us embrace one another with joy, for this is the day of the Resurrection, the most glorious and splendid festival.

"Christ is Risen from the dead." Let us forgive those who harmed us, let us forgive those who hate us, for Christ on the Cross has shown us the way; the way which leads to the Resurrection; the way of patience and love, the way of sacrifice and forgiveness.

Let us join together with the rest of the Church to celebrate this glorious feast. Let the light of the Resurrection shine in our hearts. Allow it to bring home to us the greatness of the christian experience.

Christ is Risen brothers and sisters! Glory be to His Holy Name!

In Christ's Love,

Fr. Panayiotis



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Rev. Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou, Ph.D., Protopresbyter

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

May 2008

May 1, Thursday, Blessing of the Water 10:00 am.

May 4, Sunday, Sunday of Thomas

Orthros 8:45 am and Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

May 10, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:00 pm

May 11, Sunday, Sunday of Myrrh-bearing Women

Orthros 8:45 am and Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

May 16-18, Saturday, Greek Festival - Lectures and Tours of the Church

May 18, Sunday, Sunday of the Paralytic

Orthros 8:15 am and Divine Liturgy 9:30 am.

Note: Festival Sunday - The Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30 am

May 20, Tuesday, Great Vespers 6:00 pm

May 21, Wednesday, Feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen.

Orthros 9:00 am & Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

May 25, Sunday, Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Orthros 8:45 am and Divine Liturgy 10:00 am.

Memorial Service for those who fell during the Fall of Constantinople (May 29, 1453)

May 29, Thursday. Remembrance of the Fall of Constantinople - May 29, 1453 AD.

May 31, Saturday, Great Vespers 5:30 pm

A Summer Blessing: For those traveling on Vacation, or seeking cooler places in Northern lands, may the Lord be with you to protect you and bring you back again safe and sound.

Fr. Panayiotis & Fr. George



Holy Saints of May

Remembrance of the Appearance in the Heavens of the Cross of the Lord at Jerusalem (351): (May 7) After the death of the first Christian emperor, Constantine the Great, the imperial throne was occupied by his son Constantius, who inclined towards the heresy of Arius, which denied the one self-same essence of the Son of God with the Father. In the reaffirming of holy Orthodoxy, the Lord manifest at Jerusalem a wondrous sign. On the day of Holy Pentecost, 7 May 351, at the third hour of the morning in the heavens there appeared the image of the equal-proportioned Cross of the Lord, shining with an inexpressible light, and brighter than the light of the sun. All the people were eye-witness to this, and they were struck with great dread and amazement. The appearance of the Sign of the Cross began over holy Mount Golgotha, whereupon it was that the Lord had been crucified (Mt 27:32-33; Jn 19:17,41; Heb 13:12), and it reached to the Mount of Olives (Jn 8:1; 18:1-2), extending from Golgotha a distance of 15 stadia. The Sign was transfused with all the colors of the rainbow and it caught the sight of all the people. Many of the people, leaving off from whatever they were doing, went outside the houses and with awe stood contemplating the wondrous sign. Then a numerous throng of the people of Jerusalem with trembling and joy hastened to the holy Church of the Resurrection.

The holy Jerusalem Patriarch Cyril (350-387) advised the emissary of the emperor Constantius about this miraculous occurrence of the appearance of the Sign of the Cross, and he urged him to return to the Orthodox faith. And Sozomen, an historian of the Ancient Church, likewise testifies, that through this appearance of the Holy Cross many of the Jews and pagan Greeks came to the true faith, repenting in Christ God, and accepted Holy Baptism.

On Pain and Illness

My child, I pray that the good Comforter, the good and true Spirit, the Holy Spirit, will overshadow you, console you, and ignite in you the love of Christ.

I pray with all my soul that our Christ will grant you your health. I see and know from my experience, my child, that if one suffers various afflictions, whether bodily or spiritual, and patiently endures them with knowledge, and thanks God, then God is definitely obliged to send consolation to refresh his soul. But if we do not endure pain and labor, God does not console---He does not give His grace.

Do you see after you recover from pain how much the love of Christ ignites within you? Yes, it is the reward for your labor, your patience. If you didn't have this illness, you wouldn't have so much love and consolation. Do you see that when you recover, you feel like a child? This is a sign that God forgives your sins and you are free from blame. All this is caused by the patience you have when you are ill. When God deigns for you to get well, then you will see in practice what I am telling you. The more one suffers, the more grace one is given.

One monk was ill, and he had such a horrible disease that the brethren were disgusted by him and drove him away. He blamed himself by saying that he deserved such treatment. Because of his humility, God made him well. But afterwards, this holy monk kept saying, "Ah, my Christ, I was unworthy to suffer more for Thy love!" He knew from experience how much he gained from his illness.

Therefore, do not grieve at all. Only thank our Christ, Who loves you so much that He has given you temporary afflictions here in order to give you everlasting joy there. When you are ill and unable to fulfill your spiritual duties with exactitude, do not be sad, because it is not a sin since your will does not exercise authority over your health. Nevertheless, a monk must compel himself. But if he is ill, it is not a sin not to fulfill his duties---God is just. Obedience with humility and thanksgiving to God replaces the asceticism of fasting. Great is the benefit of self-reproach when one is unable to fast due to illness.

*Selected from **Counsels from the Holy Mountain**
From the Letters and Homilies of Elder Ephraim*

Holy Saints of May

St. Irene the Great Martyr. (May 5) Irene carried the message of Christianity and converted over 100,000 pagans while three successive emperors attempted to stop her. Irene was classically trained by a renowned scholar, Apellian, who wrote her life story. Signs were revealed to her of her future life in Christianity. Her father, Licinius, a pagan and governor of the region, attempted to dissuade her. When he failed, he personally arranged to have her trampled by horses in the arena. However, he instead was trampled and mortally wounded. Irene prayed over him, and he recovered. Her father, mother, as well as thousands of others were baptized as a result of this. King Sedecian, who considered her a sorceress, demanded that she deny Christ. When she wouldn't, he put her in a pit with poisonous snakes and he cut her feet, but an angel of God restored her. When the water that powered a torture wheel miraculously ceased to flow, again many thousands believed. When the king died, his son succeeded him and encountered the power of the saint. It is said that she blinded his entire army then restored their sight. When they still tortured her, the earth swallowed 10,000 soldiers. Once again, many thousands were converted. The next king attempted to burn her in a red hot bronze oxen. That furnace split open and Irene emerged unharmed. Each miracle converted many. King Shapur II of Persia had her beheaded, but she was resurrected by an angel of God. When she went to the king, he became a Christian and was baptized. She did many more miracles in Ephesus. At the end of her life, she had herself sealed in a stone tomb by her teacher. When Apellian went back to the sealed tomb, he found the stone overturned and the relics missing.

The Holy Martyr Barbaros (May 6). Barbaros (barbarian) was formerly a brigand, lived in Greece and for a long time he committed robberies, extortions and murders. But the Lord, not desiring the death of a sinner, turned him also to repentance. One time, when Barbaros was sitting in a cave and gazing upon the multitude of his stolen possessions, the grace of God touched his heart. He thought about the inevitability of death, and about the Dread Last Judgement to come. Pondering over the multitude of his wicked deeds, he was distressed in his heart and he decided to make a start with his repentance, saying: "The Lord did not despise the prayer of the robber hanging alongside Him, and grant that He spare me through His ineffable mercy". Barbaros left behind in the cave all his treasures and he went to the nearest church. He did not hide his wicked deeds from the priest and he asked to be accepted for repentance. The priest gave him a place in his own home, and Saint Barbaros followed after him, going about on his hands and knees like a four-legged animal, since he considered himself unworthy to be called a man. In the household of the priest he settled himself in amongst the cattle, eating with the animals and considering himself more wicked than any creature. Having received from the priest absolution from his sins, Barbaros went off into the woods and lived there for 12 years bare and without clothing, suffering the cold and heat, and his body became dirty and blackened all over. Finally, Saint Barbaros received news from on high, that his sins were forgiven and that he would die a martyr's death. At the place where Saint Barbaros asceticised one time there came merchants. In the deep grass before them something was moving. Thinking that this was an animal, they let loose several arrows from their bows. Coming closer, they were terrified seeing that they had mortally wounded a man. But Saint Barbaros besought them not to sorrow, he told them about himself, and he asked that they relate what had happened to the priest, at the house of whom he earlier had lived. After this, Saint Barbaros yielded up his spirit to God. The priest, who had accepted the repentance of the former robber, located his body, shining with an Heavenly light. The priest gave burial to the body of Saint Barbaros at the spot where he was killed. Afterwards from the grave of the saint there began to issue forth a curative myrh, which did heal various maladies. His relics are located at the monastery of Kellios in Thessaly, near the city of Larissa.

Consider this

An Indestructible Sandwich

The US military has developed an "indestructible sandwich" that stays fresh for three years.

The sandwiches, available in pepperoni or barbecue chicken flavour, can survive airdrops, rough handling and extreme heat — in fact, almost anything apart from a hungry soldier.

They are designed to remain tasty after months or even years in the sweaty pockets of a soldier's combat fatigues, providing quick and easy sustenance on the go.

The chunky sandwiches will keep for up to three years at temperatures of 26C (79F), or for six months at 38C (100F), slightly above body temperature, and the packaging is designed to withstand the heavy impacts it will encounter in the field.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/0,,3-263817,00.html>



"It may take a while for your entire life to download."

Let Yourself Be Cheered

Laughter is a gift of God that brightens our good times and lightens the rough ones. Laughter even has a healing quality to it. People have recovered from serious diseases by learning to laugh each day. Even more people have regained the courage to go on in painful circumstances when they were able to laugh. Proverbs 17:22 says that "a cheerful heart is good medicine."

Laughter can draw others to you and lighten your load in life. When you begin to laugh at life and at yourself you gain new perspective on your struggles. You begin to see a speck of light at the end of the tunnel.

A life without laughter quickly becomes a breeding ground for depression, physical illness and a critical spirit. But a laughter-filled life unleashes the spirit of celebration. So cultivate the spirit of celebration in your life by making room for laughter. Deliberately seek it out. Begin today as you smile at someone and find something worth laughing about. As the laughter permeates your life, the spirit of celebration will take root in your heart and you will discover the meaning of another proverb: "The cheerful heart has a continual feast." (Proverbs 15:15)

Dina Giannet

Meditation

There is a trend in the Church today away from prayer to activity, away from contemplation to engagement in the needs and problems of mankind.

The need for such involvement in the human struggle, in the cause of justice, in the fight for right and freedom -- and, above all, in the effort to bring the Gospel to all men -- is an urgent and crying need. But this need will not be fulfilled by an abandonment of contemplation.

ONLY IN THE LIGHT of prayer does man see himself clearly as he is in the sight of God; only in this light does he assess his fellow men rightly and arrive at the answers to the problems that beset mankind. And only in prayer does he get the strength to do something about them.

Besides all this, the more aware a man becomes of the vastness of the problems confronting mankind the more he recognizes his own smallness in the way of solving them and his utter dependence on God for a solution. "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." (Ps. 126).

The New Age Movement and Spiritual Deception: Resurrection vs. Reincarnation

Spiritual deception is not new within the Christian Church; it has plagued the faithful since the earliest days of Church history; unfortunately "...there is nothing new under the sun." (Ecc. 1:9). Many Christians today would be surprised to learn that the doctrine of reincarnation—the soul at death, passing into another body of some kind—was actually a point of controversy in the earliest centuries of Christianity. Although its acceptance was limited to a small minority within the mainline Church, the view was entirely accepted by the heretical Gnostics, as evidenced in their ancient texts discovered at Nag Hammadi in 1945. Not only did the early Church Fathers teach against the *heresy* of reincarnation, but it was officially rejected by the Church at the Fifth Ecumenical Council, held at Constantinople in 553 A.D. Even today, however, that heretical belief is retained by some Hasidic Jewish groups; and even some supposedly Orthodox Christians have been known to profess such belief¹ The charge from Christ to the Church is that in order to discourage such dangerous spiritual deception, the Truth of the Orthodox Faith must be taught knowledgeably and committedly at all tiers of the Church. (John 8:31, 32).

What then *is* the (false) doctrine of reincarnation all about and what is its chief source as accepted by the New Age Movement founded within the hippie movement of the 1960's in San Francisco? Reincarnation, defined as a transmigration of the soul, is a *non-Christian* belief that after death, the human soul leaves the body and passes into another body, which can be plant, animal, human or extraterrestrial¹ According to the Hindu "law of karma," then, one's soul supposedly continues to pass from one body to another, lifetime after lifetime, until it has made full retribution for the sins of each previous life. It is only by *human* effort that one *may* at the end of some lifetime achieve paradise (Nirvana). Deity is merely a bystander and entirely impersonal.

It is chiefly from the Hinduism of India that the doctrine of reincarnation came to the New Age Movement in America and spread through Europe. Although some well-known Americans, such as Emerson and Thoreau, were strongly influenced earlier by the Bhagavad Gita, the Hindu "sacred" text, it was the arrival of Swami Vivekananda in America in 1893 that resulted in the wide exposure to and rapid spread of Hindu thought, including the doctrine of reincarnation, throughout America. His mission was to form one world religion as a combination of many religions, including Christianity. Other Hindu swamis and gurus followed Vivekananda. Their teachings served as the foundation for the founding of the New Age Movement in the United States in the 1960's² It has been the strong religious tolerance of American society that has facilitated the easy entrance of Hindu and other non-Christian religions into this country and their easy acceptance by so many people who are not rightly spiritually grounded in the Christian faith. The result is spiritual chaos and loss of souls, including even some spiritual confusion and deception among some of the Orthodox faithful.

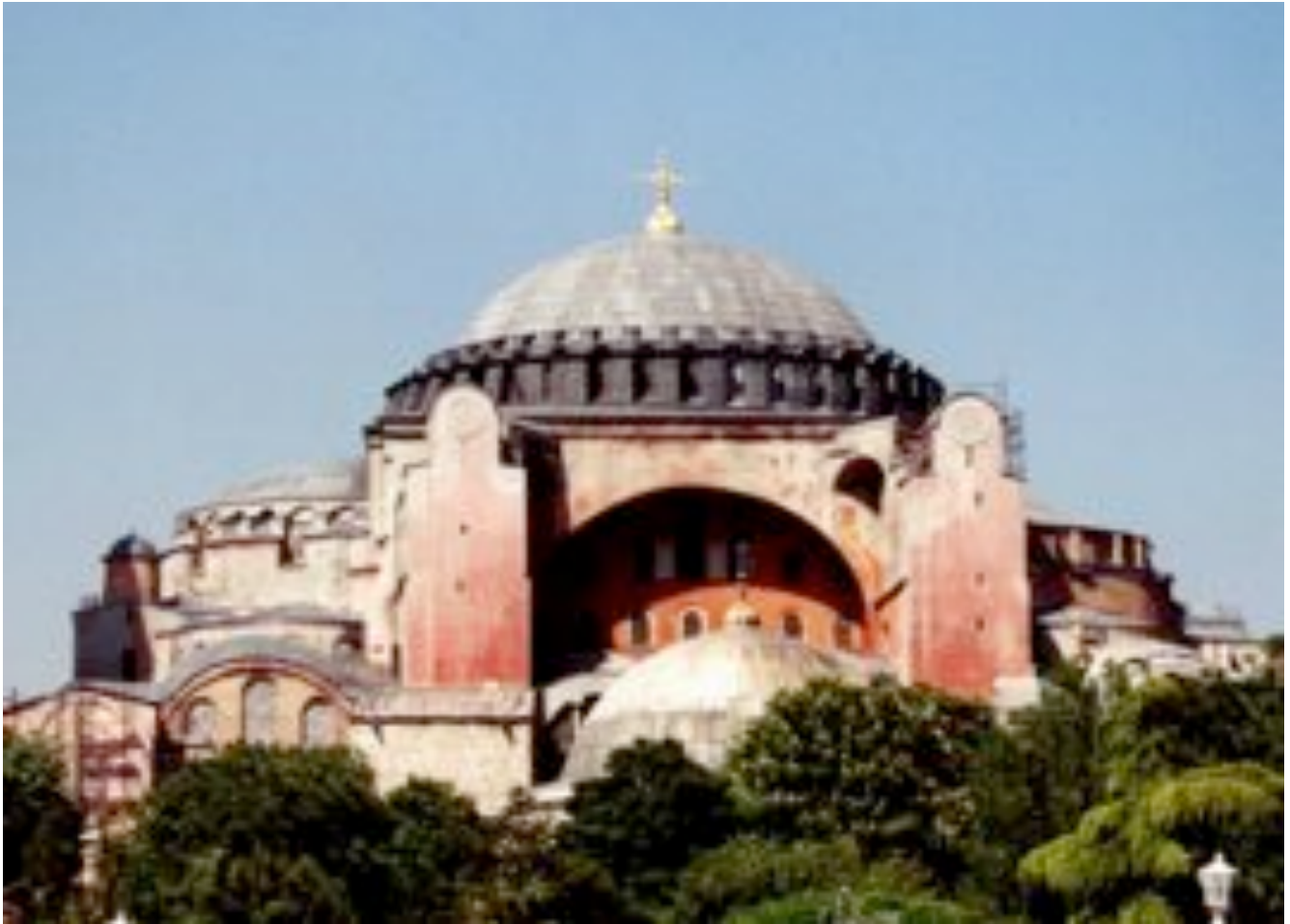
Unlike the many reincarnations purported by Hinduism/The New Age Movement necessary for the *possibility* of achieving the "salvation" of Nirvana—maybe, we as Christians have the joy and security of the *promise* of eternal life through the *incarnation, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ*. Unlike the impersonal Hindu deity who takes no part in salvation of the human soul, Christ has willingly atoned for our sins. If we only sincerely repent of our sins in this *one* lifetime on earth, no other chances are needed nor given for our salvation. We need be spiritually reborn only once, not over and over again like a gerbil in a treadmill.

As Orthodox Christians, as followers of Christ *and no other* (Exodus 20:3), we can and *must* arm ourselves against the deceptive onslaughts of such non-Christian beliefs as reincarnation by being well grounded in Christ's Truth through biblical and patristic knowledge, watchfulness, prayer, worship, and receiving of the Holy Sacraments. We can afford neither ignorance nor complacency.

¹"Cults and Sects: Reincarnation," Fr. Alexey Young: <http://www.orthodoxnet.com/wisdom/si004.html>

²Orthodoxy and the Religion of the Future, Fr. Seraphim Rose, Chap. 2: "The Power of the of the Pagan Gods"

CHURCH OF AYIA SOPHIA IN CONSTANTINOPLE



May 29, 1453: The Fall of Constantinople

signaled the end of the longest civilization in the history of humankind. On that fateful Tuesday of May, Constantinople fell to the hands of the Ottoman Turks, led by Mehmet the Conqueror. The Great City, which for 1,100 years represented the Christian Greco-Roman Civilization initiated by Constantine the Great, was overrun by the Asian warriors.

The Great Church of Ayia Sophia (built by Emperor Justinian), which for 900 years stood as the symbol of the triumph of Christianity in the world, was turned into a moslem mosque.

The Greco-Roman Christians, who preserved Orthodox Christianity for over 1,000 years, came under the rule of the moslem conquerors. For the next 400 years they would suffer the ultimate humiliation, but would continue preserving the Faith undefiled.

The Christians live under moslem yoke always looking to the miracle of the Resurrection of the Lord with the hope of liberation and freedom.

Islam's "Public Enemy #1"

Coptic priest Zakaria Botros fights fire with fire.

by Raymond Ibrahim, <http://www.orthodoxytoday.org/>

Though he is little known in the West, Coptic priest [Zakaria Botros](#) -- named Islam's "Public Enemy #1" by the Arabic newspaper, *al-Insan al-Jadid* -- has been making waves in the Islamic world. Along with fellow missionaries -- mostly Muslim converts -- he appears frequently on the Arabic channel *al-Hayat* (i.e., "Life TV"). There, he addresses controversial topics of theological significance -- free from the censorship imposed by Islamic authorities or self-imposed through fear of the zealous mobs who fulminated against the infamous cartoons of Mohammed. Botros's excursions on little-known but embarrassing aspects of Islamic law and tradition have become a thorn in the side of Islamic leaders throughout the Middle East.

Botros is an unusual figure onscreen: robed, with a huge cross around his neck, he sits with both the Koran and the Bible in easy reach. Egypt's Copts -- members of one of the oldest Christian communities in the Middle East -- have in many respects come to personify the demeaning Islamic institution of "dhimmitude" (which demands submissiveness from non-Muslims, in accordance with Koran 9:29). But the fiery Botros does not submit, and minces no words. He has famously made of Islam "[ten demands](#)," whose radical nature he uses to highlight Islam's own radical demands on non-Muslims.

The result? Mass conversions to Christianity -- if clandestine ones. The very public conversion of high-profile Italian journalist Magdi Allam -- who was baptized by Pope Benedict in Rome on Saturday -- is only the tip of the iceberg. Indeed, Islamic cleric Ahmad al-Qatani stated on *al-Jazeera* TV a while back that some six million Muslims convert to Christianity annually, many of them persuaded by Botros's public ministry. More recently, *al-Jazeera* noted Life TV's "unprecedented evangelical raid" on the Muslim world. Several factors account for the Botros phenomenon.

First, the new media -- particularly satellite TV and the Internet (the main conduits for Life TV) -- have made it possible for questions about Islam to be made public without fear of reprisal. It is unprecedented to hear Muslims from around the Islamic world -- even from Saudi Arabia, where imported Bibles are confiscated and burned -- call into the show to argue with Botros and his colleagues, and sometimes, to accept Christ.

Secondly, Botros's broadcasts are in Arabic -- the language of some 200 million people, most of them Muslim. While several Western writers have published persuasive critiques of Islam, their arguments go largely unnoticed in the Islamic world. Botros's mastery of classical Arabic not only allows him to reach a broader audience, it enables him to delve deeply into the voluminous Arabic literature -- much of it untapped by Western writers who rely on translations -- and so report to the average Muslim on the discrepancies and affronts to moral common sense found within this vast corpus.

continue over

A third reason for Botros's success is that his polemical technique has proven irrefutable. Each of his episodes has a theme -- from the pressing to the esoteric -- often expressed as a question (e.g., "Is jihad an obligation for all Muslims?" "Are women inferior to men in Islam?" "Did Mohammed say that adulterous female monkeys should be stoned?" "Is drinking the urine of prophets salutary according to sharia?"). To answer the question, Botros meticulously quotes -- always careful to give sources and reference numbers -- from authoritative Islamic texts on the subject, starting from the Koran; then from the canonical sayings of the prophet -- the *Hadith*; and finally from the words of prominent Muslim theologians past and present -- the illustrious *ulema*.

Typically, Botros's presentation of the Islamic material is sufficiently detailed that the controversial topic is shown to be an airtight aspect of Islam. Yet, however convincing his proofs, Botros does not flatly conclude that, say, universal jihad or female inferiority are basic tenets of Islam. He treats the question as still open -- and humbly invites the *ulema*, the revered articulators of sharia law, to respond and show the error in his methodology. He does demand, however, that their response be based on "*al-dalil we al-burhan*," -- "evidence and proof," one of his frequent refrains -- not shout-downs or sophistry.

More often than not, the response from the *ulema* is deafening silence -- which has only made Botros and Life TV more enticing to Muslim viewers. The *ulema* who *have* publicly addressed Botros's conclusions often find themselves forced to agree with him -- which has led to some amusing (and embarrassing) moments on live Arabic TV.

Botros spent three years bringing to broad public attention a scandalous -- and authentic -- hadith stating that women should "breastfeed" strange men with whom they must spend any amount of time. A leading hadith scholar, Abd al-Muhdi, was confronted with this issue on the live talk show of popular Arabic host Hala Sirhan. Opting to be truthful, al-Muhdi confirmed that going through the motions of breastfeeding adult males is, according to sharia, a legitimate way of making married women "forbidden" to the men with whom they are forced into contact -- the logic being that, by being "breastfed," the men become like "sons" to the women and therefore can no longer have sexual designs on them.

To make matters worse, Ezzat Atiyya, head of the Hadith department at al-Azhar University -- Sunni Islam's most authoritative institution -- went so far as to issue a fatwa legitimatizing "*Rida' al-Kibir*" (sharia's term for "breastfeeding the adult"), which prompted such outrage in the Islamic world that it was subsequently [recanted](#).

Botros played the key role in exposing this obscure and embarrassing issue and forcing the *ulema* to respond. Another guest on Hala Sirhan's show, Abd al-Fatah, slyly indicated that the entire controversy was instigated by Botros: "I know you all [fellow panelists] watch *that* channel and *that* priest and that none of *you* [pointing at Abd al-Muhdi] can ever respond to him, since he always documents his sources!"

continue over

Incapable of rebutting Botros, the only strategy left to the ulema (aside from a rumored \$5-million bounty on his head) is to ignore him. When his name is brought up, they dismiss him as a troublemaking liar who is backed by -- who else? -- international "Jewry." They could easily refute his points, they insist, but will not deign to do so. That strategy may satisfy some Muslims, but others are demanding straightforward responses from the ulema.

The [most dramatic example](#) of this occurred on another famous show on the international station, *Iqra*. The host, Basma -- a conservative Muslim woman in full hijab -- asked two prominent ulema, including Sheikh Gamal Qutb, one-time grand mufti of al-Azhar University, to explain the legality of the Koranic verse (4:24) that permits men to freely copulate with captive women. She repeatedly asked: "According to sharia, is slave-sex still applicable?" The two ulema would give no clear answer -- dissembling here, going off on tangents there. Basma remained adamant: Muslim youth were confused, and needed a response, since "there is a *certain* channel and a *certain* man who has discussed this issue over twenty times and has received no response from you."

The flustered Sheikh Qutb roared, "low-life people like that must be totally ignored!" and stormed off the set. He later returned, but refused to admit that Islam indeed permits sex-slaves, spending his time attacking Botros instead. When Basma said "Ninety percent of Muslims, including myself, do not understand the issue of concubinage in Islam and are having a hard time swallowing it," the sheikh responded, "You don't need to understand." As for Muslims who watch and are influenced by Botros, he barked, "Too bad for them! If my son is sick and chooses to visit a mechanic, not a doctor -- that's *his* problem!"

But the ultimate reason for Botros's success is that -- unlike his Western counterparts who criticize Islam from a political standpoint -- his primary interest is the salvation of souls. He often begins and concludes his programs by stating that he loves all Muslims as fellow humans and wants to steer them away from falsehood to Truth. To that end, he doesn't just expose troubling aspects of Islam. Before concluding every program, he quotes pertinent biblical verses and invites all his viewers to come to Christ.

Botros's motive is not to incite the West against Islam, promote "Israeli interests," or "demonize" Muslims, but to draw Muslims away from the dead legalism of sharia to the spirituality of Christianity. Many Western critics fail to appreciate that, to disempower radical Islam, something theocentric and spiritually satisfying -- not secularism, democracy, capitalism, materialism, feminism, etc. -- *must* be offered in its place. The truths of one religion can only be challenged and supplanted by the truths of another. And so Father Zakaria Botros has been fighting fire with fire.



DAILY BIBLE READING - MAY

5/1/2008	Gospel: John 3:1–15	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 2:38–43
5/2/2008	Gospel: John 2:12–22	Epistle: St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:7–16
5/3/2008	Gospel: John 3:22–33	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 3:11–16
5/4/2008	Gospel: John 20:19–31	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 5:12–20
5/5/2008	Gospel: John 2:1–11	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 3:19–26
5/6/200	Gospel: John 3:16–21	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 4:1–10
5/7/2008	Gospel: John 5:17–24	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 26:1,12–20
5/8/2008	Gospel: John 19:25–28, 21:24–25	Epistle: St. John's First Universal Letter 1:1–7
5/9/2008	Gospel: John 5:30–47; 6:1–2	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 5:1–11
5/10/2008	Gospel: Luke 6:12–19	Epistle: St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9–16
5/11/2008	Gospel: Mark 15:43–47; 16:1–8	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 6:1–7
5/12/2008	Gospel: John 4:46–54	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 6:8–15;7:1–5,47–60
5/13/2008	Gospel: John 6:27–33	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 8:5–17
5/14/2008	Gospel: John 6:35–39	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 8:18–25
5/15/2008	Gospel: John 6:40–44	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 8:26–39
5/16/2008	Gospel: John 6:48–54	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 8:40; 9:1–19
5/17/2008	Gospel: John 15:17–27; 16:1–2	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 9:19–31
5/18/2008	Gospel: John 5:1–15	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 9:32–42
5/19/2008	Gospel: John 6:56–69	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 10:1–16
5/20/2008	Gospel: John 7:1–13	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 10:21–33
5/21/2008	Gospel: John 7:14–30	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 26:1,12–20
5/22/2008	Gospel: John 8:12–20	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 10:34–43
5/23/2008	Gospel: John 8:21–30	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 10:44–48;11:1–10
5/24/2008	Gospel: John 8:31–42	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 12:1–11
5/25/2008	Gospel: John 4:5–42	Epistle: St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6–15
5/26/2008	Gospel: John 8:42–51	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 12:12–17
5/27/2008	Gospel: John 8:51–59	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 12:25;13:1–12
5/28/2008	Gospel: John 6:5–14	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 13:13–24
5/29/2008	Gospel: John 9:39–10:9	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 14:20–28;15:1–4
5/30/2008	Gospel: John 10:17–28	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 15:5–12
5/31/2008	Gospel: John 10:27–38	Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 15:35–41

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT



Fellow Parishioners,

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ Is Risen!

What a glorious time of year. The weather is turning warm. The flowers are blooming. Spring is here. Mother's Day is just around the corner. And we all know what comes next. It's the most important time of year for fundraising and outreach in our parish. It's FESTIVAL TIME!

Let us now focus our time and energies towards this major event. We need to all be available for the weekend of May 16, 17 and 18. Give all or as much time as you can this weekend. If you are thinking about vacation or travels, think again. We need all of you to help.

In addition to the weekend of the festival, there will be cooking, set-up and other tasks which will need to be performed prior to the festival. Please also volunteer your time and energies to this as well.

It takes all of us, working together, to pull off this major event. Please help. Don't wait to be asked, ask what you can do. Get involved. It's a great time to make new friends and rekindle old relationships.

I look forward to seeing you there.

In His service,

Alex Miltiades

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES FOR 2008



THANK YOU TO THE FAITHFUL
STEWARDS WHO HAVE
SUBMITTED PLEDGE CARDS
FOR THE 2008 PLEDGE YEAR!

PIN	Name	PIN	Name	PIN	Name
0002.01	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Adamson	0654.01	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Derr	0710.01	Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Kretsedema
0001.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Alberts	0661.01	Ms. Eleni Dodys	0234.01	Mr. & Mrs. Cristos Kyprianou
0712.01	Miss Melissa C. Alexander	0641.01	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Donkar	0695.01	Mr. & Mrs. Van Kynias
0010.01	Dr. & Mrs. George Andros	0644.01	Mr. George Dracos	0236.01	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Lake
0660.01	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Ardagna	0106.01	Dr. & Mrs. Robert Driscoll	0608.01	Dr. Anna Lambros
0523.01	Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Basto	0709.01	Mr. & Mrs. Drew Dudley	0511.01	Mr. & Mrs. Blake S. Lawson
0726.01	Miss Syra Arzu	0108.01	Mr. & Mrs. Cedric Dunkerly	0237.01	Mr. & Mrs. Stamatis Levantis
0017.01	Mrs. Irene Athanas	0109.01	Mr. & Mrs. James Duvlaris	0652.01	Mr. & Mrs. Walter S. Lewis
0019.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ben Azimzadeh	0113.01	Dr. Marjorie Economopoulos	0240.01	Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Lilly
0707.01	Miss Dorian Bafas	0598.01	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Elias	0241.01	Mr. & Mrs. David Linebaugh
0022.01	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bafas	0294.01	Mr. and Mrs. Paul Farina	0517.01	Mr. & Mrs. James Linos
0023.01	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Bakatsas	0565.01	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Farrey	0500.01	Ms. Sylvia Lisgaris
0026.01	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Barke	0541.01	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Fernandez	0244.01	Mrs. Florence Lockmuller
0030.01	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Bates	0121.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Fleshman	0728.01	Mr. Drew Logothetis
0034.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Bilson	0125.01	Mr. & Mrs. James Frangis	0245.01	Mr. & Mrs. Elton Longshore
0035.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Bilson	0128.01	Mr. & Mrs. Stratton Frank	0623.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Lopes
0036.01	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bilson	0134.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ignatios Gaitanoglou	0248.01	Mr. David & Dr. Stephanie Lukens
0040.01	Mr. & Mrs. Tony Blasetti	0144.01	Mr. & Mrs. Evan Gekas	0250.01	Dr. & Mrs. Allen Macris
0041.01	Mr. Terry & Dr. Irma Bliss	0146.01	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Georgacopoulos	0251.01	Dr. & Mrs. Bobby Macris
0043.01	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Botni	0148.01	Mr. & Mrs. Leslie George	0252.01	Mrs. Catherine Macris
0612.01	Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Bourgeois	0149.01	Dr. & Mrs. Larry Gess	0254.01	Mrs. Irene Macris
0611.01	Mr. & Mrs. John Brewer	0151.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Gianaris	0256.01	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Maduros
0048.01	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bridgers	0155.01	Miss Martha Gingles	0259.01	Mr. Angelo Mallis
0050.01	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Brotsis	0595.01	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Gormanos	0263.01	Mrs. Xenia Mantglaris
0051.01	Dr. & Mrs. Dan Brown	0166.01	Dr. & Mrs. James Hammond	0267.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Marianos
0560.01	Mr. & Mrs. Kerry Buchan	0577.01	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Hanes	0537.01	Mrs. Marjorie Marinos
0054.01	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bundros	0690.01	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hayes	0691.01	Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Markley
0055.01	Mr. & Mrs. D. J. Burke	0173.01	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Holderness	0269.01	Mrs. Xanthippe Marsico
0057.01	Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Bylos	0174.01	Mr. & Mrs. Christ Hondras	0272.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Matthews
0060.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Caras, Jr.	0175.01	Mrs. Diana Honey	0273.01	Miss Michelle Matthews
0572.01	Mr. & Mrs. Chris A. Carlos	0594.01	Mr. & Mrs. Constantin Hutanu	0274.01	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Mavridis
0063.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Carlos	0656.01	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Isaac	0278.01	Mr. & Mrs. Frank McAteer
0068.01	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Cassimus	0681.01	Ms. Anna L. Jackson	0279.01	Mr. & Mrs. John McCarty
0730.01	Mr. & Mrs. Allen Castro	0183.01	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Jacobs	0631.01	Mr. & Mrs. Sam R. McClurd II
0070.01	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Catrakilis	0188.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Johnston	0281.01	Mr. & Mrs. Glenn McCollum
0570.01	Ms. Irene S. Ceisel	0703.01	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Karacalidis	0283.01	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Melissas
0716.01	Mrs. Maria J. Ceisel	0201.01	Mr. & Mrs. David Kay	0284.01	Mrs. Krystalia Metropoulos
0683.01	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Christofil	0711.01	Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Kimble	0286.01	Dr. & Mrs. Kyriakos Michaelides
0075.01	Mr. & Mrs. Sotir Christopher	0208.01	Mrs. Irene Kipreos	0724.01	Miss Tina Michaels
0667.01	Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clement	0684.01	Mr. Steve Kipreos	0287.01	Mr. & Mrs. John Miller
0658.01	Mr. & Mrs. Peter J. Copses	0213.01	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Klementzos	0289.01	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Miliades
0696.01	Mr. Arthur Costakis	0215.01	Mr. & Mrs. Alan Knuchel	0289.03	Mr. Andrew Miliades
0723.01	Mr. & Mrs. John Costopoulos	0714.01	Mr. & Mrs. Athanasios Kollias	0290.01	Mr. Charles Miliades
0081.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Coundouriotis	0216.01	Miss Constance Kollias	0291.01	Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Miliades
0715.01	Ms. Margaret Csonka	0585.01	Mr. & Mrs. Zacharias Kollias	0292.01	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Miliades
0087.01	Mr. Shawn & Dr. Despina Dalton	0219.01	Ms. Natalie Konstadinidis	0293.01	Mr. & Mrs. Leo Modenos
0089.01	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Danos	0222.01	Mrs. Athena Kontrafouris	0297.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Moorehead
0094.01	Mr. Michael T. Davino	0221.01	Mr. James Kontrafouris	0650.01	Mr. & Mrs. John Moraitakis
0621.01	Mr. Christopher Davis	0223.01	Ms. Marilyn Kontrafouris	0301.01	Mr. & Mrs. John Moustoukas
0099.01	Dr. & Mrs. Evangelos Demestihias	0648.01	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Kopsias	0304.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Nakos
		0226.01	Dr. & Mrs. Michael Kostas	0633.01	Mr. & Mrs. James Niarchos
		0229.01	Mr. & Mrs. James Kourafas	0307.01	Mr. & Mrs. Iancu Nica
		0232.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Koutouzis	0308.01	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Nichols
		0664.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dionyssios Koutsoukail	0309.01	Dr. & Mrs. Evans Nichols

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES FOR 2008



THANK YOU TO THE FAITHFUL
STEWARDS WHO HAVE
SUBMITTED PLEDGE CARDS
FOR THE 2008 PLEDGE YEAR!

PIN	Name
0311.01	Mr. & Mrs. Marc Nichols
0313.01	Mr. & Mrs. Caryl Nielsen
0318.01	Mr. Nick Nixon
0324.01	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Orologas
0326.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pallas
0327.01	Rev. & Mrs. George Pallas
0328.01	Mr. Tasi Pallas
0332.01	Mr. & Mrs. Konstantine Papadimitri
0335.01	Mr. & Mrs. Aristotle Papadopoulos
0337.01	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Papadopoulos
0657.01	Rev. & Mrs. Panayiotis Papageorgi
0339.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jon Papastrat
0639.01	Dr. Maria Paradisis
0344.01	Mr. & Mrs. Casey Pater
0347.01	Mr. Alex Paulson
0349.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Paulson
0351.01	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Paulson
0352.01	Mr. & Mrs. Keith Paxten
0528.01	Mr. & Mrs. John Peppas
0354.01	Mr. & Mrs. Arestedes Petaros
0357.01	Mrs. Athena Pickett
0358.01	Mr. James Pickett
0727.01	Mr. & Mrs. Scott Pohiman
0361.01	Mr. & Mrs. William Porter
0725.01	Presvytera Katherine M. Prassas
0721.01	Mr. & Mrs. Francesco Quintero
0367.01	Dr. & Mrs. Dorel Radivoj
0371.01	Mr. & Mrs. Eric Richards
0372.01	Dr. & Mrs. Lambros Rigas
0376.01	Mr. & Mrs. Randy Rogers
0383.01	Miss Christina Sampanes
0384.01	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Sampanes
0386.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jay Sarmir
0387.01	Mr. & Mrs. Emmanuel Sarris
0388.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Sarris
0392.01	Mr. & Mrs. Marc Schaub
0689.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Scherer
0394.01	Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Seraphim
0729.01	Mr. & Mrs. Vasileios Styris
0395.01	Mr. & Mrs. John Shanahan
0396.03	Miss Mari Bess Shoji
0396.01	Mr. & Mrs. Takanori Shoji
0708.01	Dr. & Mrs. Michael Skardasis
0620.01	Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios Skarpelis
0410.01	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Slocum
0411.01	Mr. & Mrs. Francis Smith
0412.02	Mr. James Smith
0412.01	Mrs. Mary C. Smith
0420.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ron Sprouse
0422.01	Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Starks
0426.01	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Steffas
0627.01	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Strakes
0558.01	Mrs. Constance Stratigos
0435.01	Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Tassopoulos

PIN	Name
0698.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ovidiu Teodorescu
0506.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Thomas
0439.01	Mr. & Mrs. John Thomas
0441.01	Mr. & Mrs. Steven Thompson
0444.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Tidwell
0445.01	Mrs. Helen J. Tiliacos
0446.04	Miss Irene Tiliacos
0446.01	Mr. & Mrs. Nick Tiliacos
0447.01	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tiller
0448.01	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Tingas
0449.01	Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Titus
0453.01	Mr. & Mrs. Athan Tsarouhas
0668.01	Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Tselios
0455.01	Mrs. Maria Tsifopoulos
0507.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Tsoukalas
0458.01	Mr. & Mrs. James Tucker
0460.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ray Turner
0461.01	Mr. & Mrs. Lester Tyra
0694.01	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Vachtsevanos
0465.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ben Valagohar
0466.01	Mr. & Mrs. Plutarch Vamvakias
0467.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dimitri Vastakis
0702.01	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Vatzakas
0475.01	Mr. & Mrs. Tim Vouloupos
0476.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Wagner
0720.01	Mr. & Mrs. Michael R. Wilborn
0665.01	Mr. & Mrs. Barry Williams
0484.01	Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Worden
0486.01	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Young
0493.01	Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Zakreski

242 Pledges received

BUILDING FUND PLEDGES FOR 2008/09



PIN	Name
0001.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Alberts
0030.01	Mr. & Mrs. Bob Bates
0040.01	Mr. & Mrs. Tony Blasetti
0043.01	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Botni
0055.01	Mr. & Mrs. D. J. Burke
0057.01	Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Bylos
0060.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Caras, Jr.
0060.03	Mr. Thanos Caras
0063.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Carlos
0068.01	Mr. & Mrs. Greg Cassimus
0070.01	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Catrakilis
0716.01	Mrs. Maria J. Ceisel
0667.01	Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clement
0625.01	Donor - Non Member
0108.01	Mr. & Mrs. Cedric Dunkerly
0149.01	Dr. & Mrs. Larry Gess
0155.01	Miss Martha Gingles
0595.01	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Gormanos
0174.01	Mr. & Mrs. Christ Hondras
0656.01	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Isaac
0183.01	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Jacobs
0211.01	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Kiritsy
0216.01	Miss Constance Kollias
0232.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Koutouzis
0695.01	Mr. & Mrs. Van Kyrias
0240.01	Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Lilly
0241.01	Mr. & Mrs. David Linebaugh
0241.03	Miss Maria Linebaugh
0241.04	Miss Sophia Linebaugh
0245.01	Mr. & Mrs. Elton Longshore
0623.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Lopos
0250.01	Dr. & Mrs. Allen Macris
0251.01	Dr. & Mrs. Bobby Macris
0269.01	Mrs. Xanthippe Marsico
0272.03	Miss Alexandra Matthews
0272.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Matthews
0278.01	Mr. & Mrs. Frank McAteer
0283.01	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Melissas
0289.01	Mr. & Mrs. Alex Miltiades
0291.01	Mr. & Mrs. Demetri Miltiades
0304.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Nakos
0309.01	Dr. & Mrs. Evans Nichols
0311.01	Mr. & Mrs. Marc Nichols
0324.01	Mr. & Mrs. Gus Orologas
0326.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Pallas
0327.01	Rev. & Mrs. George Pallas
0328.01	Mr. Tasi Pallas
0657.01	Rev. & Mrs. Panayiotis Papageor
0344.01	Mr. & Mrs. Casey Pater
0347.01	Mr. Alex Paulson
0349.01	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Paulson
0354.01	Mr. & Mrs. Arestedes Petaros

PIN	Name
0386.01	Mr. & Mrs. Jay Sarmir
0388.01	Mr. & Mrs. George Sarris
0396.04	Miss Anna Georgia Shoji
0396.01	Mr. & Mrs. Takanori Shoji
0420.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ron Sprouse
0426.01	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Steffas
0435.01	Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Tassopoulos
0448.01	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Tingas
0453.01	Mr. & Mrs. Athan Tsarouhas
0455.01	Mrs. Maria Tsilopoulos
0458.01	Mr. & Mrs. James Tucker
0460.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ray Turner
0465.01	Mr. & Mrs. Ben Valagohar
0466.01	Mr. & Mrs. Plutarch Vamvakias

Total Number of Pledges Received: 66

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONGRATULATIONS!

Manolis Kipreos & Tasia Agrafiotis!

Michael Paxten & Dawn Schapeler

APRIL 19th , 2008

Margaret Csonka – Chrismation

Juliana (Julia) Patris – Chrismation

Niki (Heather) Sfyris – Baptism



The Choir would like to offer a special thank you to **Eftichia Macris, David Young & Pappadreau Seafood Kitchen** (Pappas Restaurants, Inc. - Houston) for the donation of the Fish, Salad, and Green Beans for the Palm Sunday Luncheon. Also, a thank you is extended to the members of the IBOK (Int'l Brotherhood of Festival Kitchen workers), who donated their time and talents to prepare and cook the food for the Luncheon: **Nick Pappleacos, George Matthews, Pete Bilson, Kenny Bilson and Phil Kiritsy**. And finally, thanks to all the other individuals who offered assistance in the kitchen and with set-up.

With everyone's help, including the parishioners who attended the luncheon, the Choir will be donating all proceeds, **\$2,364**, directly to the Building Fund.



Holy Transfiguration
Greek Orthodox Church
Marietta, GA

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL
"Summer Camp"

Monday June 9 to Friday June 13, 2008



"Traveling on the Ark of Salvation"

An Exploration of the Great Feasts of the Church

Save the Days - June 9-13

Donation: \$10 for materials

Children must be 4 years of age and/or Potty Trained!

Please call the Church office for more details

Address:

**3431 Trickum Road
Marietta, GA 30066
Office: (770) 924-8080
Fax: (770) 924-3030**

e-mail: holytrans@comcast.net

Parish Life

Philoptochos Lenten Retreat 2008

March 29



Parish Life

Philoptochos Lenten Retreat 2008

March 29



Parish Life

Philoptochos Lenten Retreat 2008

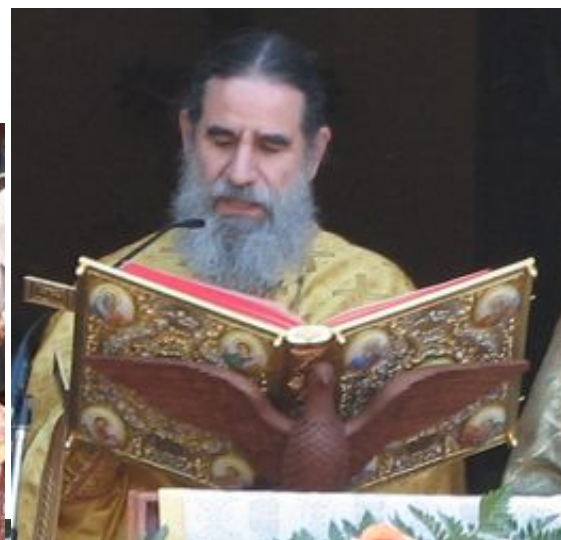
March 29



Parish Life

Palm Sunday at Holy Transfiguration

April 20, 2008



Parish Life

Palm Sunday at Holy Transfiguration

April 20, 2008



*3rd Annual
Pre-Festival
Performance*

**Enjoy a Night
Under the
Stars!**

Saturday, May 10, 5 pm – 9 pm

The Parish Life Committee invites you to
enjoy our Festival Dance Shows performed
JUST for our own Community!

VESPERS 5:00

Followed by Dinner at 6:00.

Performances are as follows:

Palamakia (Kindergarten–1st)	6:30 – 6:35 pm
Asteria (grades 2nd-3rd)	6:40 – 6:50 pm
Petaloudes (grades 4th-5th)	7:00 – 7:10 pm
Phoenix (grades 6th-8th)	7:20 – 7:35 pm
Eleftheria (grades 9th-12th)	7:40 – 8:00 pm
Adult group	8:05 – 8:25 pm
The ZORBA Show	8:30 – 8:55 pm

Picnic supper in the Amphitheatre!

\$5 for a BBQ picnic supper; \$3 for children under 12

\$1.50 for hot dog & chips

(Dancers eat for free!)

Bring your camera & a seat cushion...

Enjoy our Parish's dancing stars!

“Dancing with the Stars”

Event charge is strictly to defray all food costs

For Information, please contact:

Julie Orologas 770.578.9118 or orologas@bellsouth.net



MAY 16, 17 and 18, 2008

It's almost here! The 2008 Greek Festival is just weeks away!

The Festival is the largest fundraiser for our church building fund. Please come by and visit our Festival table during coffee hour to find out more.

Here's how you can help...

TELL EVERYONE

Word of mouth is the best advertisement. Tell or e-mail everyone you know that the Festival is **MAY 16h, 17th AND 18th...THE WEEKEND AFTER MOTHER'S DAY!!!** Please take flyers with you to hand out to friends, neighbors and businesses or forward an electronic version of the flyer to everyone on your e-mail address book. Please contact the church office if you did not receive the flyer via e-mail. A limited number of car magnets are also available.

SPONSOR YOUR FAVORITE BOOTH

This is YOUR opportunity to donate money, whether the amount is small or large, to help "sponsor" the booth of your choice and defray the start up cost of the festival. Please stop by during coffee hour or contact Karen Melissas at 678-352-0525 or akm165@charter.net. Visa and Master Card are accepted.

BUY MGF GIFT CARDS

Don't forget to buy those **Gift Cards!** Gift Cards are great gifts for friends, family, co-workers, and teachers alike. They are so flexible that they can be used for ANY church sponsored booth, including admission. And what a great deal... we are selling \$10 gift cards for \$8 and \$25 gift cards for \$20. In addition, the gift cards can be redeemed partially until fully used throughout the festival weekend. Purchase gift cards after Church during coffee hour or at the church office. Visa and Master Card are accepted. Please contact Carol Adamson at 770-641-8840 or carol_adamson@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

BUY T-SHIRTS

We are pre-selling many designs of our T-shirts before the Festival. So don't wait – Buy your T-Shirts today! Please visit us during coffee hour. Visa and Master Card are accepted.



COME BAKE AND COOK

We have a lot of mouths to feed and we need lots of help in the kitchen! Even if you don't know how to cook or bake! Mark your calendars with these cooking dates and join us for fun & fellowship . . . bring a spouse, a friend, a family member, a newcomer and enjoy the experience!

REMAINING FESTIVAL COOKING AND BAKING DATES

Sat., May 3	Galatoboureko	9AM-2PM
Tues., May 13	Melomacarona (dipping)	9AM-1PM
Tues., May 13	Pastitsio	4-10PM
Wed., May 14	Pastry Samplers/Trays	9AM-1PM
Wed., May 14	Pastitsio & Souvlaki	4-10PM
Thurs., May 15	Set up stations/supplies	9AM-1PM
Thurs., May 15	Souvlaki	4-10PM

Any Questions?

Food - Mary Miltiades 404-626-5111 or mmiltiades@bellsouth.net and Ellie Turner 770-422-0597 or mavromatamou@hotmail.com

Pastry - Marty Driscoll 770-977-0467 or rlodriscoll@mindspring.com and Mary Ellen Knuchel 770-924-1735 or aknuchel@bellsouth.net

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

We need **EVERYONE!** There are around **750** positions needed to be filled during the entire weekend!!! **With the growing number of attendees each year, please consider signing up for multiple days and shifts.** It is a time for our *ENTIRE* Parish Family to join together in fun and fellowship for one common goal...**our CHURCH!** Being a volunteer is FUN and EASY and a great way to MEET NEW PEOPLE – No experience necessary! Please remember to also help with set up and take down. We need a lot of help in these areas.

Volunteer sign-ups are during coffee hour and on-line at www.mariettagreekfestival.org – click on the Volunteer tab.
Any questions? Ready to sign up? Paula Rogers is happy to help!
(770-427-7881 or paularog@bellsouth.net)

VOLUNTEERS... THINGS TO KNOW

1. PARK at Designated Parking areas – Shuttle to Church
2. WEAR a Festival T-Shirt (it can be from previous festivals)
3. ARRIVE for your shift 30 minutes early.
4. CHECK-IN at the church office.
5. BE FLEXIBLE – You may be reassigned to another area as needed.
6. SHOW-UP to your assigned area.
7. HAVE FUN and Smile ☺ !!!!!

(Volunteers may purchase food tickets at the church house at half price.)

2007-2009 Philoptochos Board



President:
1st Vice President:
2nd Vice President:
Recording Secretary:
Corresponding Secretary:
Treasurer:
Asst. Treasurer:
Advisor:
Membership:

Frances Mavridis
Xanthippe Marsico
Annette Jacobs
Christine Sprouse
Dorothy Macris
Mary Miltiades
Dorothy Botni
Marty Driscoll
Evelyn Bilson
Kate Lewis

Board Members:
Shirley Kiritsy
Niki Gess
Nikki Palamiotis
Connie Stratigos
Athena Burke
Mary Smith

Our Lenten retreat - **Matters of the Heart** - provided the thirty attendees a day filled with laughter, tears and much love as we explored "Heart" themes. From an opening discussion about how visual stimuli motivate us to renovate and remodel our homes (since we often choose to fix the problems we can clearly see), we then considered whether a blind person would know their rooms were shabby or outdated-looking. With the idea of physical blindness in our minds, we considered spiritual blindness - a condition we all share - and how it keeps us from seeing the shabby and outdated nature of our hearts, and in turn, how this keeps us from growing closer to God. As we often need to overcome obstacles and consult professional contractors to renovate our homes, we found that the same process is true in overhauling our hearts. Fr. Panayiotis provided much loving guidance, wisdom and humor through all the discussions and led us in prayer services, done on the Holy Hours of 9am, noon and 3pm. We finished the day by working on the No-Sew Blanket Philoptochos outreach project, as a way of opening our hearts (through our talents) to others in need. Special thanks to Fr. Panayiotis for his love and support before and during the retreat and to Marty Driscoll, Xanthippe Marsico and Frances Mavridis for coordinating the blanket project and to Carol Sarmir, Maria Tingas and Theodore Georgacopoulos for feeding us!

Currently enrolled college students and high school seniors are encouraged to apply for **Charles Salome Scholarship**. One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded. Scholarship forms can be obtained through the church office, in the bookstore, or through a Philoptochos board member. Completed applications must be turned in to Dr. Stephanie Batcos by May 30, 2008.

Cooks and Servers for the **March Soup Kitchen** were: Mary and Elton Longshore, Tina Vamvakias, Kally Niarchos, Rosemary Peppas, Linda Lopos, Michelle Broussard-Hanes, Tina Isaac, Christine Stavrou, Athena Burke.

Many volunteers helped with the dyeing of eggs, decorating of the Kouvouklion, and preparing and serving the Resurrection Supper. Thank you to Athena Burke and Nikki Palamiotis for chairing the Egg Dyeing on Thursday. We also appreciate Xanthippe Marsico for getting all materials donated. This ambitious group dyed and wrapped over 400 eggs! As always, the Epithaphion was absolutely breathtaking. A special thank you to chair person Diane Lozier and the many volunteers who helped decorate on Holy Friday morning.

Philoptochos Membership Drive: Our membership continues to grow. We are now up to 75 members. Our goal is 100.

Bookstore: Thank you to John and Rosemary Peppas for their generous donation to the Philoptochos Bookstore. The funds will be allotted for the purchase of new Liturgy books.

Marty Driscoll, who is on the Metropolis Board gave us this update: Of the 9 Metropolis in the United States, we have the largest membership and have collected the most money for Philoptochos projects. Philoptochos thanks **everyone** for their continued help and support.

Upcoming May Activities: **May 21**, Wed., General Meeting, 7:00pm. Amphitheater, weather permitting-Our speaker will be our own **Connie Kollias**. Her topic is **Prayer: One of God's Greatest Gifts**; **May 22**, Thurs., Soup Kitchen; MUST Ministries, 11:00am. Contact Athena Burke at ibgreek@bellsouth.net if you can cook and/or serve; **May 22**, Thurs., Book Club, Home of Michelle Cassimus; **June 1**, End of Year Luncheon. Look for more information during the next few weeks.

Save the Date: Oct. 25, 2008! Philoptochos has a new and exciting fall event coming up. "Don't be "square"; be there"! This has never been done at Holy T. before! More "clues" coming up next month!

Prime Timers BBQ



Sat., June 7, 2008
(Rain or Shine)

4:00 P.M.

\$10/person

(Payment due by May 25)

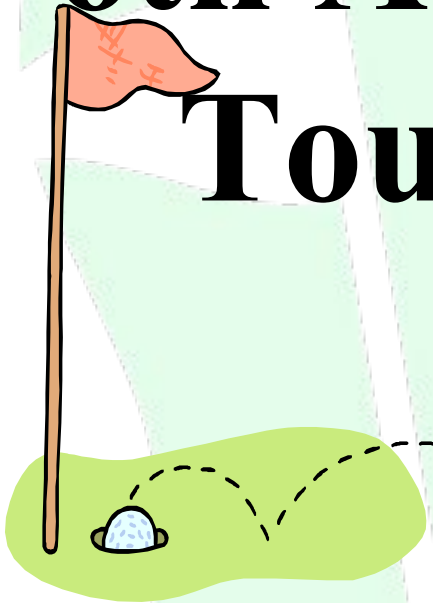
Parish Life Center or Patio
Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church

RSVP by May 25: Mary Ellen Knuchel 770-924-1735
Dina McCullum 770-592-7127

Save The Date

Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church

6th Annual Golf Tournament



Play Prestigious White Columns Country Club

One of the top Private Courses in Atlanta

Date: Monday, September 8, 2007

Contact Tony Blasetti at 404 520-5292 or Jay Sarmir
(770 998-6404) to register or for additional information

Sponsorships Available

Tax Deductible

May 2008

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- Divine Services
- Ministry Meetings
- Church Calendar
- Work
- Home
- US Holidays
- Sacraments
- Social Events/Rentals

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 The Great an...e Bright Day) 12:00 AM The Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Je- 12:30 AM Orthros and Di- 2:00 AM Resurrection Sup- 12:00 PM Great Vespers of Love and Feast of St. 1:00 PM Agape Picnic	28 Monday of R... of St. George 8:30 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy	29 4:45 PM Hellenic Dance 5:30 PM Hellenic Studies	30 7:00 PM GOYA Meeting	1 10:00 AM Blessing of the Water 11:00 AM Adult Hellenic Dance Class	2 10:30 AM Prime Timers Board Meeting 5:00 PM Sampanes/West-moreland Wedding Re-hearsal	3 9:00 AM Festival Baking 5:30 PM Sampanes/West-moreland Wedding
4 Sunday of Thomas 8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:15 AM Catechism 12:00 PM Festival Commit-tee Meeting 1:00 PM Phoenix Dance 2:00 PM Eleftheria Dance	5 Cinco de Mayo ... Philoptochos Board Meeting	6 4:45 PM Hellenic Dance 5:30 PM Hellenic Studies	7 7:00 PM GOYA Meeting	8	9	10 5:00 PM Dancing with the Stars 5:00 PM Great Vespers
11 Mother's Day Sunday of M...aring Women Mother's Day 8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:15 AM Catechism Grad- 11:30 AM 40 day Memorial and 2 more...	12 6:30 PM Parish Council Meeting	13 9:00 AM Festival Baking 4:00 PM Festival Cooking 4:45 PM Hellenic Dance	14 9:00 AM Festival Baking 4:00 PM Festival Cooking 7:00 PM GOYA Meeting	15 9:00 AM Festival Baking 4:00 PM Festival Cooking	16 Marietta Greek Festival	17
18 Marietta Greek Festival Sunday of the Paralytic 8:15 AM Orthros 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy	19	20 6:00 PM Great Vespers	21 Feasts of Sts...ne and Helen 9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM Philoptochos Gen-eral Meeting 7:00 PM GOYA Meeting	22 11:30 AM Soup Kitchen 4:00 PM Scollo Rectal Club	23 6:00 PM Blackwell/Brown Wedding Rehearsal	24 12:00 PM Karacalidis Bap-tism (Alexandra) 1:30 PM Rogers Baptism 5:00 PM Blackwell/Brown Wedding
25 Sunday of th...aritan Woman 8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy 11:30 AM Memorial Service for those who fell during 4:00 PM Arzu/Pethel Wed-ding 5:00 PM Arzu/Pethel Wed-	26 Memorial Day	27	28 7:00 PM GOYA Meeting	29 John F. Kennedy's Birthday 12:00 PM Remembrance of the Fall of Constantinople - May 29, 1453 AD.	30	31 12:00 PM Vachtsevanos Baptism (Sophia) 5:30 PM Great Vespers

DATE	PARISH COUNCIL DUTY	ACOLYTES	OUTREACH	PROSFORO
May 4	Koutouzis/Miltiades	Team II	NA	R. Peppas/I. Steffas
May 11	Frangis/Gormanos	Team I	NA	M. Tingas/T. Vamvakias
May 18	Matthews/Melissas	Team II	Festival	F. Tucker
May 25	Lopos/S. Miltiades	Team I	NA	N. Barke/T. Vamvakias

Acolyte Team I	Zach Blasetti (Captain), Nico Orologas (Captain), Strati Papageorgiou (Captain), Christopher Bilson, George Caras, Leo Frangis, Nicholas Gekas, Alexander Georgacopoulos, Charlie Honey, Paul Jacobs, Michael Marianos, Zach Melissas, Stratton Paulson, Jonathan & Nicholas Radivoj, Giovanni Ray, Dylan Rogers, Matthew Shanahan, Alex Skarpelis, Chase Smith, Yianni Turner
Acolyte Team II	Cosmon Bylos (Captain), Arthur Tingas (Captain), Nicholas Azimzadeh, Daniel, Michael & Chris Bridgers, Nick Catrakilis, Chase Eckerman, Alexander Elias, Jacob Harrah, Eli & Evans Nichols, Dean Papastrat, Lukas Porter, Michael Sarris, Nick & Michael Steffas, Luke & Nicholas Tassopoulos, Nicholas Zakreski

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30am - 5:30pm

770.924.8080, Fax - 770.924.3030

Email: holytrans@comcast.net

Web Page: www.holytrans.org

Web Page: www.mariettagreekfestival.org

Rev. Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou, Ph.D., Protopresbyter

Rev. Fr. George Pallas, Protopresbyter

Alex Miltiades - Parish Council President
 Alex Paulson - Parish Council VP
 David Linebaugh - Catechism School Dir.
 Demetri Miltiades - Choir Director
 Paulina Vastakis - Hellenic Dance Artistic Dir.
 Isabelle Fleshman - Hellenic Studies
 George Lopos - Outreach/Welcoming
 Frances Mavridis - Philoptochos President
 Linda Lopos - Prime Timers President
 Elias Modenos (Leo) - Psalti
 Alan Knuchel - Stewardship
 Jimmy Frangis - Treasurer

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