

**CHRIST IS RISEN!! INDEED HE IS RISEN!!**

**Online Orthodox Liturgical Music Resource to be developed**

**P**SALEM (Pan-Orthodox Society for the Advancement of Liturgical Music) has been awarded a grant of \$15,000 from the Virginia H. Farah Foundation in support of the development of an online Orthodox Liturgical Music Resource.

The Liturgical Music Resource Project addresses the need for a central resource for musical materials – particularly sheet music, and the need for pooling the resources of all Orthodox musicians and dioceses. While this project has been in progress for several years, the grant from the Farah Foundation will help to accelerate the completion and public launch of this

technically complex undertaking. The Resource will provide a comprehensive listing of music that is available through various dioceses and publishers, offer .pdf files of liturgical sheet music that can be downloaded to personal computers for a nominal fee, and feature helpful annotations of an educational and rubrical nature.

Driven by a master database comprised of nearly 2,500 liturgical hymn categories, the PSALM Resource will ultimately contain music for the entire cycle of liturgical services. Eventually, it will offer thousands of pieces from all traditions that are appropriate for a wide variety of parish situations, from large mixed choir to unison chant to congregational singing. All music

**PSALM TO 4**



*PSALM's Website Committee met at the PSALM 2003 Annual Meeting at St. Vladimir's Seminary to discuss the progress of the Online Liturgical Music Resource that will be housed within the website ([www.orthodoxpsalm.org](http://www.orthodoxpsalm.org)).*

**New Website Address**

The website for the Diocese of New England has a new layout, new features and a new address:

**[www.dneoca.org](http://www.dneoca.org)**

Check out the site to see all the new content. An up-to-date calendar of diocesan events, official announcements, archives of *Orthodox New England*, parish and Church links, all sorts of things are available. Bookmark the site and visit often!



**Time to start thinking about Youth Rally**

**Y**outh Rally 2004, the annual event for the young people of the Diocese of New England, will be held at the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Boston Camping and Retreat Center in Contoocook, New Hampshire, from Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, until Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

This is an event where the youth of the diocese can come together for several days of intense fun, worship, and fellowship. All diocesan youth who have completed fifth grade and have not yet graduated from high school are eligible to attend the Youth Rally.

If you have children in your family who are interested in attending this year's Youth Rally, please let your pastor know so that he can help you obtain the necessary application forms. If you are an adult of preferably 20 years of age or older and would like to volunteer to be a cabin counselor or an activity counselor, please speak with your pastor or contact Fr. John Hopko, Diocesan Youth Director, at (860) 582-3631, or e-mail him at: [saintcyril@snet.net](mailto:saintcyril@snet.net).

**O.N.E. (ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND)**

Diocese of New England, Orthodox Church in America  
Published monthly except for July-August

*His Beatitude, Metropolitan HERMAN, Administrator*  
*The Very Reverend John J. Dresko, Editor*

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**O.N.E. Press Fund**

YES, I enjoy the articles, correspondence and editorials of *O.N.E. (Orthodox New England)* and would like to contribute towards the expenses of publishing this periodical. Find enclosed my check made out to "Diocese of New England."

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**Please mail donations and subscription requests to: V. Rev. John Dresko, 95 Butternut Lane, Southington, CT 06489.**

**ON THE DOCKET**

A listing of upcoming events in the Diocese.  
Please forward any dates you wish to be included to the Editor.

May 4, 2004  
*Connecticut Deanery Meeting, 7:00 P.M.*  
*Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Meriden, CT*

May 7-8, 2004  
*Consecration Services*  
*St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Mission, Clinton, CT*  
*His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman*  
*His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius*  
*His Grace, Bishop Nikon*

May 12, 2004  
*Diocesan Council Meeting, 6:30 P.M.*  
*Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT*

May 16, 2004  
*"The Early Church's View of Scripture,"*  
*Fr. John Behr*  
*Holy Trinity Church, Springfield, VT*

May 20, 2004  
**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

May 30, 2004  
**HOLY PENTECOST**

May 31, 2004  
*100th Annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage*  
*St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, PA*

June 2-4, 2004  
*2004 Pastoral Life Ministries Conference*  
*St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, PA*

June 6, 2004  
*Celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Holy Priesthood*  
*Archpriest John Dresko*  
*Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT, 9:00 A.M.*  
*His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius*  
*His Grace, Bishop Nikon*  
*His Grace, Bishop Benjamin*

June 21-25, 2004  
*Annual Pastoral and Music Institute*  
*St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY*

July 28-31, 2004  
*Faith in Action: Parish Ministries Conference*  
*St. Vladimir's Seminary, Crestwood, NY*

# Around the Parishes

## Hartford, Connecticut

Our Church library at All Saints in Hartford has some new decor – maps of Connecticut and Alaska linked together by a cord. The display, arranged by youth of our parish, symbolizes their participation in Project Outreach Alaska, through which the students are developing pen pal relationships with children of seminarians at St. Herman's Seminary. It is hoped that these relationships will lead to more contacts between parishioners and parishes here and in Alaska as the program develops.

Our Church Council participated in a Vision Workshop, coordinated by George Pawlush, in which strengths and weaknesses of the parish were identified in an effort to improve outreach and ministering to others. One goal emerging from the session was to make the Church more visible through the development of a Website and other efforts.

Fr. William was surprised by the presentation of flowers by some of our younger children in recognition of his 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood. The parish enjoyed a special Lenten cake and

## OUR DIOCESE

PEOPLE  
PLACES  
EVENTS

fruit cups for the occasion.

Been to St. Tikhon's Seminary and Monastery lately? Much has changed over the years under the guidance of His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman, and an excellent opportunity to see this beautiful center of Orthodoxy and join thousands of Orthodox in prayer and fellowship comes May 31, for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary annual pilgrimage. Our FOCA-R Club is coordinating a bus trip for the event for the Atlantic District of the Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America. Cost is \$31. Information and registration is available by calling 860-871-7676. Deadline is May 17.

A Finance Committee has been meeting with groups of parishioners to discuss plans to convert from the current free will offering/dues system to one entirely dependent on pledges. It is hoped that by next year, with the support of parishioners, the system can be operating.

– submitted by Fr. William DuBovik

## New Britain, Connecticut

Great Lent and Holy Week were fulfilled in a glorious and splendid Pascha celebration. The journey through the penitential days was made even more beautiful with the



*Vera Luziatti is Chrismated by Fr. John Dresko following her baptism on March 28th at Holy Trinity Church in New Britain.  
(Photo: Lydia Dorsey)*

Baptism and Chrismation of Vera Luziatti on Sunday, March 28th. Vera had been preparing for over a year and we welcome her into the Holy Orthodox Church and into our parish family. Many Years to her and her sponsors and family.

Congratulations are extended to Jim and Dori Kumor, as the baby boom continues in our parish with the arrival of Sara Elizabeth on March 17<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to her baptism.

Memory Eternal to the servant of God, Walter Gedz, who fell asleep in the Lord on March 28<sup>th</sup> after a brief illness. May he be received into the mansions of the Righteous and may God console his family.

Our parish was overjoyed to hear of the election of Archimandrite Benjamin (Peterson) to the episcopate. Fr. Benjamin is a long-time friend of our parish, stretching back to his student days at St. Vladimir's Seminary. May God bless his episcopate with wisdom and may He bless the new bishop with Many Years!

## New Haven, Connecticut

Best wishes to Susan Lickwar who has enrolled in the Diocesan Choir Directing Program. Susan is very enthusiastic regarding her "new found calling".

With the arrival of spring, our thoughts turned to "parish spring cleaning." On March 19 & 20, we held our annual spring-cleaning. Our volunteers crawled out of bed at dawn's early light, arriving at the church by 8:30 A.M. and began the task of cleaning the church from top to bottom. With all the "elbow grease" that was applied, the church was resplendent for Pascha.

Our traditional Lenten suppers, held after the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts and the Vespertal Liturgy for

## PSALM FROM 1

in the primary music database will undergo through editorial scrutiny for accuracy and quality, will be type-set and published to industry standards, and will have been reviewed by a committee of expert musicians and clergy.

The Resource will also provide a place for composers, arrangers and adapters to share their music at no cost to them or to the user, and will provide a site where the various Orthodox dioceses and jurisdictions can post their own music publications and translations.

When asked for comment, John Erickson, Dean of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and a composer himself, said, "Hats off to PSALM! I know of no other organization that has done more to raise the level of Orthodox Liturgical singing in this country. This project has the potential to cut across jurisdictional and national lines and serve all Orthodox musicians and clergy."

The team of volunteer consultants that have been working on the development of the Online Orthodox Liturgical Music Resource for the past eighteen months includes Vladimir Morosan, Project Manager (Connecticut), Michael Farrow (Virginia), Kevin Lawrence (North Carolina), Walter Obleschuk and Theodore Feldman (Massachusetts), Kurt Sander (Kentucky), and Attorney Michael Houry (Michigan).

Founded by four church musicians from different jurisdictions and regions of the country, PSALM is a 501 (c) (3), a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of California. The mission of PSALM is to promote the advancement, excellence, and growth of all traditions of Orthodox liturgical singing. For more information about PSALM, see the website ([www.orthodoxpsalm.org](http://www.orthodoxpsalm.org)) or e-mail to [info@orthodoxpsalm.org](mailto:info@orthodoxpsalm.org).

For more information on PSALM's Online Orthodox Liturgical Music Resource, contact Vladimir Morosan, Project Manager, at (203) 458-3225 or via e-mail at [vlad@musicarussica.com](mailto:vlad@musicarussica.com).



*Fr. Sergei Glagolev, Honorary Chairman of PSALM, conducts a music reading session of PSALM's publication of his Selected Choral Works, some of which will be available through the Online Liturgical Music Resource that will be housed within PSALM's website. (St. Vladimir's Seminary, 2003)*

# CONFERENCES

## Pastoral Life Ministries Conference

The Department of Pastoral Life and Ministry announces the 2004 Pastoral Life Ministries Conference, to be held June 2-4, at St. Tikhon's Monastery in South Canaan, PA. Speakers include:

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, Keynote  
His Grace, Bishop Tikhon, "Spiritual Fatherhood"  
Fr. Andrew Morbey, "The Pastor as Confessor"  
Fr. Stephen Freeman, "Ministry and Mission"  
Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky,  
"Ecumenical Issues and Pastoral Life"  
Fr. Alexander Garklavs,  
"The Orthodox Pastor in the 21st Century"  
Fr. Robert Kondratick, "Reflections"

All priests and deacons are encouraged to make plans to attend the conference. All parishes are encouraged to provide the funding and time necessary for this important continuing education of the pastors and leaders of our Church.

## Faith in Action

### Parish Ministries Conference

The Orthodox Church in America and the Department of Christian Witness and Service is sponsoring a Parish Ministries Conference, July 28-31, 2004, at St. Vladimir's Seminary.

The conference based on the theme of "Faith in Action!" will provide a unique opportunity for clergy and laity involved in active Christian ministries to exchange ideas and to share the means and methods to initiate new ministries in other parishes. Through keynote speakers, panel discussions and over twenty workshop topics, the Conference will focus on four areas: Ministry within the Parish, Community Outreach Ministry, Family Ministry and Senior Life and Ministry.

Registration forms and more information are available in your local parish, or you can contact Donna Karabin at [christianwitness@oca.org](mailto:christianwitness@oca.org) or Arlene Kallaur at [arlene@oca.org](mailto:arlene@oca.org).



## Patterns of Giving

by Ron Nicola

*(Continued from last month)*

The fact that member giving programs have not traditionally generated enough money to cover the cost of parish operations and special projects has led to reliance on fund-raisers to make up the difference. Communities have, over the years, proved to be very creative, resourceful, and imaginative when it comes to planning and implementing fund-raising projects. Everything from festivals, dinners, luncheons, dances, fashion shows, cotillions, and merchandise and food sales of all types have been used to raise money for the church. Script sales, rummage sales, bake sales, toy sales, and sales of just about anything people might buy have been tried at one time or another.

In recent years, it has become quite common for parishes to utilize their facilities during the weekdays for day care centers and preschool programs. These not only generate significant revenue for churches, they also give parishes a positive presence in the surrounding community by providing a much needed service to families in the immediate vicinity of the church. There are even communities who own real estate that generates revenue in some fashion. Senior citizen housing and even businesses of one sort or another on these parcels become major and ongoing stems of income for parishes.

In addition to the financial assistance parishes realize from the myriad of fund-raising endeavors they sponsor, there is a certain amount of fellowship which comes along with the planning and implementation of these projects. Members of the parish enjoy working together to make these events successful. This offering of time and talents is part of a faithful Orthodox Christian's stewardship. After all, the giving of time, talents, and resources is what Christian stewardship means.

So, this combination of giving

through dues, pledges, and fundraisers has brought parishes to where they are today. Many are doing very well by following these practices. They have solid membership cores, beautiful church buildings, social halls, and classroom facilities, and out-reach programs of various types. While some parishes struggle under the burden of financial limitations, we seldom hear, thank God, of parishes failing due to lack of funds. The dedication of our clergy and the commitment of our faithful laity give our communities throughout North America a vibrant presence in cities, states, and provinces in the north, south, east, and west.

Yet, there is a major flaw in this picture. Of the three factors that influence our patterns of giving, only one is founded in scriptural teachings. Furthermore, while there is nothing inherently wrong with fundraisers, relying on their revenue to allow individual members to give less is not consistent with Church teachings. The only method of giving that is consistent with Church teachings and traditions is that which comes from the belief that all we have is a gift from God. Our offering to the church is in thanksgiving for those blessings.

Through baptism we are Orthodox Christians. Paying dues or minimum pledges are not needed to establish that commitment. What is needed is to offer our time, our talents, and our resources in recognition of the fact that they are gifts from God. Looking to the money generated from fund-raisers to help cover the obligations of parish operations is not consistent with Church teachings. The Bible is clear in its guidance about how faithful Christians should give of their resources to the church.

In 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 we read, "This is how one should regard us, as stewards of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." It is not easy to

be a good steward. God holds us to a high standard because He has given us so much by virtue of His faith in our ability to utilize those gifts to glorify His name. Stewardship begins with our profession of faith in God and in His teachings. Following this expression of faith, we are required to be trustworthy. This means the giving of our time, talents, and resources. Not two of the three, not a lot of our time but very little of our talent and resources, not a lot of money but none of our time. We must give generously of all three to be true to our expressed belief in God and faith in His teachings.

In Genesis 2:15, it is written, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it." It is our responsibility to care for our churches, not the responsibility of others to fulfill our obligations. Our offerings must be sufficient to cover parish operations. Fund-raising revenue has its place, but it must never be thought of as a way of reducing the commitment God expects from us in terms of the giving of our resources to the glory of God.

"Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine." This message from Proverbs 3:9-10 reminds us that our offering to God must come first in our yearly, our monthly, or our weekly financial planning. Considering all of the blessings we have received from God and determining how to show our thanks through the offering of our time, our talent, and our resources takes careful planning and serious prayer.

In terms of our resources, thinking about how we spend our money and how we allocate our resources is required. First we must decide how much we should offer the Lord to truly show our thanks and appreciation. Then we need to put our financial house in order to meet our needs and those of our family

# "THE DIACONATE IN CHRIST"

## SYMPOSIUM ON THE HOLY DIACONATE FOR DEACONS, DIACONAL CANDIDATES AND OBSERVERS

Hosted by St. Seraphim's Cathedral and the OCA Diocese of the South

Panelists: His Eminence Dmitri, Archbishop of Dallas and the South, Fr. John Anderson,  
Fr. Seraphim Hipsh, Archdeacon Vsevolod Borzakovsky, Protodeacon Patrick Gleason, Deacon David Mascarenas  
November 12-14, 2004

### Thursday, November 11, 2004

Afternoon Arrival into the God-protected City of Dallas  
7:30-9:00 PM Reception and Registration in the Parish Hall

### Friday, November 12, 2004

8:00-9:00 AM Continental Breakfast and Registration in the Parish Hall  
9:00-9:15 AM Opening Prayer and Opening Remarks by Archbishop DMITRI: *The son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life unto many — brothers, love your people.*  
9:15-9:30 AM Introduction of Panelists and Participants  
9:30-10:00 AM Presentation by Dn. David Mascarenas: *The Ministry of the Diaconate in the Orthodox Church*  
10:00-10:45 AM Panel Discussion  
10:45-11:00 AM Break  
11:00-11:30 AM Presentation by Protodeacon Patrick Gleason: *The Diaconate in the Diocese of the South*  
11:30-12:15 PM Panel Discussion  
12:15-1:30 PM Lunch  
1:30-2:00 PM Presentation by Archdeacon Vsevolod Borzakovsky: *The Russian Orthodox Legacy and the Diaconate of the Orthodox Church in America*  
2:00-2:45 PM Panel Discussion  
2:45-3:00 PM Break  
3:00-5:45 PM Liturgical Instruction (Daily Vespers) in Cathedral Church by Archdeacon Vsevolod and Protodeacon Patrick

5:45-6:30 PM Break  
6:30 PM Vespers  
7:30-8:30 PM Dinner in the Parish Hall  
8:30-9:30 PM Liturgical Instruction (Divine Liturgy Served with a Priest) in the Cathedral Church by Archdeacon Vsevolod and Protodeacon Patrick  
9:30-10:00 PM Fellowship and refreshments in the Parish Hall

### Saturday, November 13, 2004

9:30-11:00 AM Divine Liturgy concelebrated by Fr. John and Fr. Seraphim  
11:00-Noon Coffee Hour Brunch in the Parish Hall  
12:00-2:45 PM Liturgical Instruction (Vigil) in Cathedral Church  
2:45-3:00 PM Break  
3:00-3:30 PM Keynote Speaker: Archbishop Dmitri "Axios!"  
3:30-4:30 PM Open Discussion with Vladyka Dmitri "On the Diaconate"  
5:00-7:30 PM Vigil with Litya  
7:30-8:30 PM Dinner in the Parish Hall  
8:30-10:00 PM Liturgical Instruction (Hierarchical Divine Liturgy) in the Cathedral Church

### Sunday, November 14, 2004

9:30-11:30 AM Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (Seminar closes with final blessing)  
11:30 AM-? Coffee Hour Brunch followed by Departure in Peace

## Symposium Registration

Registration Fees: \$50.00 for Deacons and Diaconal Candidates \$35.00 for Observers

Please make checks payable to St. Seraphim's Orthodox Cathedral and remit registration form to P.O. Box 191109 Dallas, TX 75219-1109. For more information contact Fr. Seraphim Hipsh at 214-528-3741 or Dn. David Mascarenas at 505-833-5454.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Deacon: \_\_\_\_\_ Diaconal Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_ Observer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish, Community or Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Diocese: \_\_\_\_\_

Nonrefundable Registration Fee enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Seating is limited. Please register by 10/15/04.

Deacons should bring a set of vestments and be prepared to serve if called upon to do so.

### PARISHES FROM 3

Annunciation were superb. Our compliments to the parishioners, who planned, shopped, prepared and cooked the Lenten supper. Each week, the menu was posted and those who were able to attend signed up so the chefs had an approximate number of meals they should prepare. We look forward to these annual Lenten suppers and the great foods prepared by our fantastic chefs.

Many of our parishioners attended the March 28 Holy Unction Service hosted by the Connecticut Deanery at the Three Saints Church in Ansonia. Following the beautiful and moving service, all participants enjoyed a delicious Lenten buffet.

Our parish was honored to host the Deanery Bridegroom Matins on April 4<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday. Following the service, everyone moved to the auditorium to partake of a scrumptious Lenten buffet. Special thanks to Anna Bolash and her many assistants for overseeing the well-stocked buffet tables of finger foods; ensuring no one left hungry. Thanks to all our friends, guests and parishioners who shared this uplifting service with us.

We all prepared for and received the Holy Eucharist at the Paschal Liturgy. Following the Midnight Paschal Services, we descended to the auditorium for a bountiful buffet and the breaking of the Lenten fast, together. The buffet consisted of warmed glazed ham, a succulent roast lamb, delicious delicacies of babkas, cheese pascha, ham, kielbasa, kulich, turkey, roast beef, deviled eggs, pasta, jello molds, various salads and condiments. Following Divine Liturgy, Procession and Blessing of our Church on Bright Monday, we once again proceeded to the auditorium for Part II of our Paschal Breakfast. Following our meal, the children participated in the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Special thanks to Heidi Crosby and Susan Papademetris for coordinating this fantastic feast, which feeds more than 200 participating parishioners and friends.

Thanks also to the many people who assisted with the Lenten, Holy Week and Paschal services. We also extend our appreciation to Matushka Lydia and her faithful, dedicated choir members. Many Years!

*- submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon*

### **Woodbury, Connecticut**

It is with great excitement that we watch our new church home begin to grow and develop. The foundation has been poured and framing is currently underway. Our matching gift, provided by an anonymous donor, is still underway. It began on February 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue until the end of May. This will match donations made to the building fund up to \$100,000.

On Lazarus Saturday, we joyously participated in the Chrismation of Cheryl Skovran. Cheryl joins her husband, Nick, and their three children, as faithful church members. Many years to you and your family, Cheryl!

We are also very happy for Jillian Cole, who was

recently received into the catechumenate. We hope and pray that this time of preparation may be faithful and blessed.

Will Kopcha, who has been a faithful sacristan as well as barn painter, recently went before a Boy Scout panel for interviewing. He was deemed worthy to receive his Eagle Scout award. We are very proud of Will for achieving the highest honor in scouting. Congratulations!

The Town of Southbury recently held two symposiums on the movie *The Passion of the Christ*. Each drew about two hundred people. One was at the local synagogue and the other at the large Roman Catholic church in town. Fr. Vladimir Aleandro was a keynote speaker addressing the subject of "atonement." Here was an Orthodox priest on the Bema of a synagogue with the Torah behind him as he spoke of Christ as the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. Quite remarkable.

*- submitted by Sarah Cole*

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## Search for Seminary Development Officer

St. Tikhon's Seminary is seeking to hire a new Chief Development Officer for the theological school. The individual must be an Orthodox Christian, with at least a Bachelor's degree. An advanced degree is preferred, with broad experience in the major area of resource development, including annual giving, corporate/foundation solicitation, capital and planned/deferred giving. The applicant should have at least five years of experience in development or a closely related area in the non-profit sector; as well as excellent interpersonal communication and organizational skills and the ability to meet, cultivate and elicit support from potential donors.

Among the duties of this position will be: to serve as senior staff leader in formulating, implementing and managing Seminary development programs; to provide leadership in guiding development activities; in concert with the Seminary President, to be responsible for establishing objectives, priorities and strategies for fund-raising activities; and in special relationship with the officers of auxiliary groups, to collaborate in providing planning and coordination, implementation, and evaluation of Seminary fund-raising, communications, volunteer and related activities that have as their objective short- and long-term financial support.

The Chief Development Officer will report directly to the Seminary President. No licenses are required. Salary and benefits will be determined on the applicant's credentials. Applicant resumés should be sent to:

Development Office  
St. Tikhon's Seminary  
PO Box 130  
South Canaan, PA 18459

**GIVING FROM 5**

while we offer to God what we feel is right and necessary. Scriptural-based giving is very different from the practices of paying annual dues and pledges, deciding how much to give based on parish needs, and fund-raising to help pay the church's bills.

Sacrificial giving and giving in proportion to what we have received from God leads us toward the concept of tithing. In the minds of most, this means offering ten percent of our gross revenue to the glory of God. Parishes and individual Orthodox Christians who commit to begin this journey need not focus too heavily on the word "tithing" or on the ten percent level of giving right from the start. While it is clear to many that this is what the Bible and Church tradition dictates, thinking in terms of a percentage and giving 1% or 2% or 5% as a first step will mark an important break from the patterns of giving so common in many parishes. Examining the patterns of giving at work in our parishes is something parish councils and stewardship committees should do as they make plans to move their community forward toward the goal of proportional or sacrificial giving. Encouraging parishioners to give as a measure of their faith and not according to set minimums, the amounts of past pledges, or parish needs will take time to implement fully.

The first step in this process, however, must be to recognize that faith-based giving is the desired goal. The patterns of giving followed by so many for years and years, while well-intentioned and based on faithful devotion, need to be changed if our churches are to grow and progress to their full potential. The time to start is now and the way to start is to launch an open-minded, patient, and loving look at what has motivated our past practices. Comparing these findings to what is really prescribed in the Bible will reveal the path we need to begin following. May God be with you on your journey.

*Ron Nicola is Chairman of the Antiochian Archdiocese Department of Stewardship. Reprinted from the February 2004 issue of The Word.)*

**ONE-Orthodox New England**  
**P.O. Box 2876**  
**New Britain, CT 06050-2876**  
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# Scholarships

Scholarship applications are available for students of FORCC member parishes only. Fellowship of Orthodox Churches of Connecticut Scholarships of \$500 and the Smerznak, Medak & Kidwell Scholarships of \$1,000 each (one boy and one girl) will be awarded at our annual Banquet, October 3, 2004 at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Park Avenue, Bridgeport.

We would like to remind students graduating this year, that the applications are now on our website ([www.forcc.org](http://www.forcc.org)).

Applications should be completed and forwarded to: Eva Vaniotis, 4100 Park Ave, #12, Bridgeport, CT 06604 by June 1, 2004.

Matushka Anastasia Timpko, (Three Saints Church in Ansonia) administrator of the Life Line Program for Griffin Hospital in Derby, will give a presentation on the Life Line Program at our June 17 meeting to be held at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church. Alden Avenue, New Haven. Meeting starts at 7:30 P.M. and ends at 9:00 P.M. Please join us.

- submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

## PUBLICATION DEADLINES

**Summer Issue**  
**June 15<sup>th</sup>**

**September Issue**  
**August 1<sup>st</sup>**

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