



MISSION NEWSLETTER

From the Heart of Fr. Costas

My Dearest Ones,

Rejoice in the Lord Jesus!

June is the month which long ago was dedicated to the goddess Hera or Juno, the wife of Zeus. But for the Christians it became the month of the 12 Apostles. The Church, realizing that the summer months are a time that temptations are stronger since the heat makes people more lax and less dressed, has established two periods of fasting in the summer: one in June and one in August.

The dates and length of the Fast of the 12 Apostles varies each year depending upon the date of Pascha, which in turn determines the date of Pentecost. Sometimes the Fast of the Apostles is one week in length, other times it is longer. This year it is from June 4 to June 29 because Pascha was early.

Not only do we honor all Twelve Apostles, but Saints Peter and Paul are honored before the rest. Peter and Paul were the two most important men in the infant Christian Church through the perilous years of the early life and launched it on its great missionary career of converting the world to Christ.

These two giants of the Church were quite dissimilar. Peter was a fisherman. Paul, a tentmaker and scholar. Peter was married. Paul was single. Peter had little formal education. Paul was a graduate of the finest schools. Peter was a simple, impulsive man; Paul was a

thinking man, almost a philosopher of great erudition.

But Peter and Paul had one thing in common: they were united in their complete devotion to Jesus Christ. Both labored hard in the vineyard of the Lord and for a very long time. Finally both sealed with their blood the testimony of their strong faith and both were martyred in the first Roman persecution of Christians under the Emperor Nero. Peter was crucified upside down and Paul was beheaded with a sword.

Peter, as one of the original twelve, was present at the major events of Jesus' life, but he denied Him three times. He was the mouth of the Apostles and the prime mover in getting the Christian message in Palestine.

Paul, while not one of the original twelve, never-the-less considered himself to be a true apostle of Christ. Indeed, he became the greatest of the apostles, giving all of us hope and courage to surpass even the disciples in our love for Jesus.

Let us imitate these great men and all the apostles of the Lord in our love for Christ. Do not abandon Christ or His Church during the summer. Wherever you are—at home or away—come to Church on Sundays.

the happiest priest,

Fr. Costas

Steering & Operations

Committees:

REV. DR. COSTAS
CONSTANTINOU
Pastor

STEVE DAFNIS*
Chairman

IRENE BASDAKIS
Vice Chairperson
Operations

EJ CONSTANTINE*
Capital Formation and
Genesis Program Chair

GEORGIANN ELLIS
Treasurer

ANDREW KERATZIDES

MICHAEL SELBERIS*

REGGIE SELLAS

EMMANUEL SFAKIANAKIS

*Executive Committee Member

Mission Statement

“To establish a Greek Orthodox Church in South Orange County which follows, preserves and continues our timeless religious beliefs and traditions and emphasizes our Hellenic heritage, customs and values.”

Please email r.henning1@juno.com with any monthly newsletter in-put suggestions by the last week of the month preceding publication.

Baby George Giakos

Baby George Giakos was born on March 12, 2007 with a brain tumor that took up 80% of the left side of his head. This valiant angel has survived brain surgery and four blood transfusions. A biopsy determined that the tumor was stage 4 cancer. Baby George is now undergoing chemotherapy and will need another surgery to remove remnants of the tumor at the brain stem.

On June 17th, the family of Baby George will be hosting the coffee hour. The coffee hour is the 40-day memorial of Martha Giakos, Baby George's grandmother who tragically passed from this life recently.

It will be a wonderful opportunity for us all to meet the Giakos' and show our support of them during this very difficult period.

You may donate towards Baby George's medical expenses to: George Giakos Fund, 21 Evening Canyon, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA. 92688.

Mission Parish Meeting Planned

June 10th

The Steering Committee of GOMSOC Mission will be presenting information to all interested parishioners at the planned Meeting on June 10th following the Divine Liturgy.

This is an excellent opportunity for you to catch up on the progress we have made in many areas.

A light lunch will be provided.

Please Plan to Attend

Summertime (and the livin' is easy)

The summer months traditionally have been the driest months of the year here as well as the "dry" months of the Church. Expenses, regardless, are the same in any given month of the year. Please, before you go on vacation take a moment or two to remember your Church and write a generous check to offset our many expenses. Thank you!

Oriente Lumen Conference for the West Coast, June 2007

The Oriente Lumen Conference for the West Coast has been scheduled for June 26-28 (It is also being held in Washington DC and Constantinople). The name means "Light of the East" and it is a gathering of Orthodox Christians, Roman Catholics, and Eastern Catholics. The speakers are notable theologians and church representatives from all over America and abroad. The subject for the presentation this year is "Icons-Expressions of our Faith" and one of the speakers this year is our own Metropolitan Gerasimos. If you are interested in attending or want more information, you can ask Presvytera Jeannie about it.

CHURCH READERS WANTED TO BE TRAINED

We are going to begin a program to train people to become tonsured Readers. Except for the Gospel which is only read by a deacon or priest, all scripture readings (such as the Epistle, prophecies, psalms, etc) are actually supposed to be done by people who have been specifically blessed and tonsured by the bishop to perform this service in a Church. A similar blessing (Heirotheisia) is done for Psaltes and Acolytes (altar boys). Readers are called "Anagnostes" and the practice of having Anagnostes be responsible for reading the scriptures was a practice from the earliest centuries of Christianity. When our Metropolitan Gerasimos visited us last fall, he tonsured a number of boys into the ranks of Acolytes. We hope to tonsure some people to become Readers in the future, but they must first be trained and educated. If anyone is interested in learning more about this, please talk to Presvytera Jeannie.

New Adult Greek Dance Group Now Forming

A young adult (17+) to adult Greek Dance performing group is now being formed for Exhibition and Folk Dance Festival competition. John Basdakakis will be directing what is hoped to become the premier Greek dance exhibition group in Orange County. Classes will be fun, dynamic, at times challenging, very rewarding, and a great social opportunity. Practice times and days are to be determined.

For more information, contact John Basdakakis at 714-813-2158 or email him at john@msn4loans.com.

OPA!

Announcements

Sunday School News

Educating our youth in the tenets of our faith is probably the most important task that we have as a community of Orthodox believers. We often underestimate the value of Sunday School. This next Sunday School year is one in which we have a unique opportunity—more Sunday School teachers will be needed this next year—and you can make a big difference in the lives of the community's children by being a teacher. Please pray about this ministry and make a decision to participate. If you think that you can help, please see Ariana Sfakianakis after the Divine Liturgy or call her at (714) 879-7758. Thank you so much!

Summer Camp

Details concerning the Summer Camp programs at St. Nicholas Ranch and St. Sophia Camp are to be announced soon. Please watch for this forthcoming information.

Ladies Philanthropic Society News

Questions, comments or concerns? The Society has a box upstairs in the Fellowship Room that you can use to relay any questions you have. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number so someone can contact you with a response or action. **Dues.** The Society kindly requests that all members send in their dues for this year as soon as possible. **Ladies Friendship Tea.** The Ladies Friendship Tea, previously scheduled for this Spring, has been rescheduled for the 6th of October. Please save the date. **Next Regular Meeting.** The next regular meeting of the Society will be on June 7th at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be at Irene Constantine's house.

GOYA Has Started

Please let us know if you have a teenager at home (13-17 years old). We would like to be able to contact them and welcome them into the GOYA group which has now formed. Advisors are also needed. Let us know if you can help in that capacity. Miss Yeoryia Selberis has been appointed as the first president until we have elections.

YAL is Organized.

YAL (Young Adults ages 18—40) will have had a very good first meeting. Join them every second Monday of the month at 7:15 pm at the Church Office (Avery and Marguerite). For more information call or email Sophia Kollias. Her contact information is phone, 388-9123 or email her at sophia99@cox.net.

Church Office Updates

Cell Phone. Fr. Costas' cell phone number is (949) 365-6339. Do not hesitate to call him. Father would prefer that you not leave messages on the office 800 number because it seems that we are still not receiving all of the messages. Please call him directly. **Regular Day Off.** FRIDAY is now Fr. Costas' day off. Please refrain from calling him on that day, unless it is an emergency. **Fr. Costas' Vacation.** Fr. Costas' vacation has been scheduled from August 1st to August 24th. Please watch for details about the priests who will be replacing him while he is in Canada in our next Newsletter.

Committee to Name our Mission Parish

A committee is now being formed to create the selection process for the naming of our Mission Parish. Those persons interested in serving on the committee can email GOMSOC at info@gomsoc.org or speak directly with Fr. Costas.

Choir News

All are welcomed to sing with our Choir every Sunday. Choir practices for the months of June, July, and August will be on an as-announced basis. All practices start at 6:30 pm and are held at the church office. For further information, please contact Robert Henning at 949-459-6375.

Prime Timers

The planning of this year's Parish Christmas Party is actively being pursued. The date has been chosen: December 9th—Mark your calendars now! It will start at 4 pm and is being held in the same location as last year's Christmas Party. This event was a great success last year and is not to be missed! The organizing committee is seeking door prize items. Please see if you can contribute something to this worthy effort. If you can help, contact Danny Tonge at (949) 457-9524. Thank you so much!

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METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Sunday Liturgies:

Orthros and Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Liturgy	10:00 a.m.

JSerra High School Chapel
26351 Junipero Serra Rd.
San Juan Capistrano

Directions: From I-5 take the Junipero Serra Road exit. Go west on Junipero Serra Road. Just past the Shell gas station on your right, make a right into the next driveway. Proceed to the north end of the property (signs are posted).

Office and Greek School: 28570 Marguerite Parkway #223
(just north of Avery Pkwy)
Mission Viejo

Telephone: (866)350-1933; Father Costas Cell Phone (949)365-6339

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