

Our Lady of Grace Society Newsletter

OLOGSN

Vol. 30 /No. 2/ April - June 2011

51 Redgrave Ave., Staten Island, New York 10306-3620 - U.S.A.

Established in 1947 in Memory of Papas Ciro Pinola



*The Nursing
Madonna*

*Official Icon of
Our Lady of Grace
Italo-Greek Catholic
Mission & Society
Since 1904.*

Editor's Desk

Debora Scatuccio

Dear Friends in Christ,

This June marks the end of the beloved Saint Peter's High School for Girls. Archdeacon John informed me of the closing a few months ago. All of the Staten Island Catholic Clergy were greatly disappointed to hear the news.

The Archdiocese of New York announced the 94 year-old New Brighton, Staten Island, institution would close her doors at the end of academic year due to declining enrollment. Faculty, parents and the 3,500 member Alumnae Association labored mightily to stop the closing. A campaign to raise \$1 million fell short; breaking the heart of many, myself included.

As it had been for all the graduating classes, the final commencement was held at St. Peter's R.C. Church.

Monsignor James Dorney, pastor of St. Peter's parish since 1986, and co-vicar of Staten Island Catholics (including Our Lady of Grace Italo-Greek Catholic Mission and Society) was the pastor of the school. In his final blessing upon the new graduates, Monsignor Dorney told the girls to, "Go with God" and "Know that

I do, and ... I will... always love you!"

I am an Alumnae of Saint Peter's. Much of my formation as a Catholic, and a woman, is a direct result of the influence and teaching of the good the Sisters of Charity of New York, founded by Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. Without Saint Peter's High School for Girls, I do not know what kind of faith I would have today. It was a unique institution because it was solely devoted to the formation of young, Christian, women.

My prayers go out to the Graduating class the principal, teachers, parents and to Msg. Dorney.

As of this past Pascha/Easter Our Lady of Grace Italo-Greek Catholic Mission celebrated her 108 birthday and the Society is 64 years old. Please fight the good fight and keep the Mission and Society alive. I would hate to see this wonderful Catholic Institution fail because of lack of interest and devotion.

We run the Mission and Society on a budget of approximately \$4,000 a year, which is no where near the millions needed by Saint Peters to stay afloat. The reality of our times is that money is needed to fulfill the mission of the Church. We are so unique in our standing in Holy Mother Church because of our Italo-Greek-Albanina Eastern Catholic heritage. OLOGM/S needs your support. I beg of you to keep the Mission and Society in your prayers.

I love the Church, East and West, and I know that you do too! As always you are in my thoughts and prayers!

Sia lodato Gesu Cristo!
Debora Scatuccio

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Our Lady of Grace Society Newsletter

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Questions & Answers

Dear Fr. Archdeacon John,

Q. Living in Florida, I have never attended the Italian Greek Liturgy in New York or Las Vegas. What language do you use in your Liturgy? Tom L. Orlando.

A. The Byzantine Liturgical languages in Italy's Calabria and Sicily are Greek, Italian and Albanian. At Our Lady of Grace Mission, in Staten Island, NY, we open the First Litany with Greek, to honor the memory of Papas Ciro Pinolla. Papas Pinolla always used Greek with some Albanian in the Liturgy. The Homily is always in Italian.

We follow the same ritual with some exemptions. After the first Greek Litany, the rest of our Liturgy and Homily is English, in keeping with the language of the United States. Since few of the faithful know any Italian, Greek or Albanian, English is becoming more widespread in the United States for usages in the Byzantine Churches.

Q. What do make of the 33 to 29 vote by the New York State Senate on same sex marriage?

A. A sinful decision and timed just one day before the Gay Pride parade. In thirty days the marriage license bureau will be inundated with these same sex couples. After which these couples will be able to legally adopt children.

This is my answer to number of phone calls and in person questions from friends and family since yesterdays announced decision. I would like to get a poll as to those who voted so as we can know who next to vote out of office. Respectfully submitted, Rev. Archdeacon John F. DeMeis

Q. Is there Salvation outside the Catholic Church? Elizabeth Mullins, S.I.

A. Yes Elizabeth, there is! Vatican II began the Ecumenical movement whereby we are to look upon what we used to call dissident or Non-Catholics. We now use (Separated Brethren) for our Orthodox, Protestant and Jewish brothers and sisters.

The Church now tells us even a Native in the Amazon or darkest Africa who never heard of Our Lord could be saved if he or she leads a good, moral life. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "No one comes to the Father except by Me."

Q. Back page of March Newsletter. Under Antimens. "Since year of creation" What does this mean? Gary A. Staten Island.

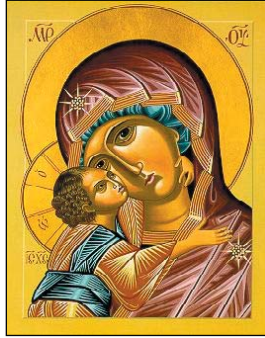
A. Jewish year 5771. We of the Eastern Christian Tradition follow the Jewish reckoning of God's creation of the world. For those who believe in evolution and that we are the decedents of monkeys, let them be monkeys. We believe we are in the Image "Icon" of God. The Jewish New Year changes in September 5772.

Q. Dear Rev. Fr. Archdeacon John, You have informed us of the many Anglican clergy lay people and whole Dioceses who have petitioned Rome to enter in full communion with the Catholic Church. What of the Anglican Episcopal Churches in the United States? Robert L. Redbank, NJ

A. Many bishop's, priest's, deacon's and faithful in England have done so. In the United States they have also begun. Many individual clergy and their flocks have entered Union with Rome. On June 5th, this year. St. Luke Episcopal Parish in Bladensburg, Maryland became the first Anglican parish in the United States to request to join the Catholic Church.

Q. Rev. John, What exactly is he function of an Archdeacon? A. DeLuca, NJ

A. Within the Roman Catholic Church, this title has mostly fallen into disuse.



The archdeacon acted as a representative of the bishop, overseeing parishes. In the Latin Rite Catholic Church, the duties of the archdeacon have become aspects of the duties of the vicar general or vicar foramen. The archdeacon is still a prominent role in the Eastern Catholic Church, however it is now a title of honor in the Eastern Church. Much the same as Archimandrite and Archpriest. Titles to Priests and Deacons who have served the people of God in some special way.

Note: Archdeacon John was honored with his title by the late, beloved, John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, 1984-2000. Memory Eternal.

Q. Dear Archdeacon John,

You used to post from time to time on Byzantine Forum. Why don't we see you there any longer?

Does one have to be Italo-Greek or Italo-Albanian to subscribe to OLOGSNL? Nick Maniotis. Manhattan.

A. 1. Folks on the forum seem to be new comers to Eastern Christianity, Catholic and Orthodox. Too much backbiting and bickering over matters long resolved.

2. Not at all. Subscribers can be of any ethnic background. Catholic or Orthodox or any faith can belong to the Society as long as you support our traditions and goals. Please come aboard you will be cheerfully greeted.

A/Dcn. DeMeis

Letters

Dear Archdeacon John and Rita,

I received the Newsletter and I got all the news about you both. After reading it I feel as if I am in Staten Island. How are you and all our friends?

The chapel work is almost ready. It looks beautiful. I am inviting you for inauguration 29th September. I feel your son, John, will enjoy it. It is in a natural setting and beauty. I will be sending you the pictures. Lot of work remains undone. This is the first phase. Soon I shall turn to second phase the Polytechnic, Home for Aged and Orphaned. Polytechnic will open the whole complex to the people. At the same time I will strongly invite you join us as first members in our Home. You will feel comfortable. The only problem will be medical facility. There are good and efficient doctors but expensive. Give my regards to all your family members and our friends.

God bless you. Fr. Maxy 'Souza

Dear Debora,

How timely it was to pick up the Georgian Court University Magazine and read your fine words about Sister Phyllis. Thank you so much !

Sister Marian, Campus Ministry Georgian Court University

Dear Debora,

I just received the Icon of Our Lady of Grace that I ordered last month. It is beautiful. You, Archdeacon John and Vince Romano do a great job. Keep up the good work for our Lord and His people. Joyce Mennella

Have a Question? Need an Answer?

Send your letters or questions to OLOGM/S

51 Redgrave Ave., Staten Island, New York 10306-3620

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Pope Names New Eparch for the Armenian Catholics in the USA and Canada

USCCB News Release

WASHINGTON—Pope Benedict XVI has named Archpriest Mikaël Mouradian, superior of the Convent of Notre Dame in Bzommar, Lebanon, as the new bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg in New York for Armenian Catholics. The appointment of Lebanon-born Bishop Mouradian was publicized in Washington, May 21, by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States.



Bishop-elect Mouradian, succeeds Bishop Manuel Batakian, 81, is a member of the Lebanon-based Institute of the Patriarchal Clergy of Bzommar. Among positions he has held is head of Caritas Armenia. The New York-based eparchate includes about 25,000 people in the United States and 10,000 in Canada. The largest communities are in Los Angeles, CA and Montreal.

Congratulations, Jesuit Jubilarian Rev. Fr. Joseph L. Lombardi, S.J.

Rev. Fr. Joseph L. Lombardi, S.J., OLOGM/S' Advisor and Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy at St. Joseph University, Philadelphia, PA, where he taught for the past 35 years, celebrated his Jubilee.



Fr. Joseph graduated from Brooklyn Prep and Manhattan College, majoring in Philosophy and Classics. He entered the Jesuits at Bellarmine College in Plattsburgh, NY. Fr. Joseph obtained his licentiate in Philosophy from Loyola Seminary in Shrub Oak, NY and a Masters of Arts Degree from Fordham University. In addition he received his Masters of Divinity at Woodstock College, NY and graduated with his Doctorate in Philosophy from NYU. He was ordained to the Priesthood at Fordham University in 1975.

Fr. Joseph has Bi-ritual status in the Latin and Byzantine Rites and prepared the documents for Arcdeacon John DeMesis' return to his family's ancestral Byzantine Rite.



Office of the Vicar General Archdiocese of New York Procedure Relating to Sexual Abuse and Misconduct

It is required that we publish this announcement. In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact the Victim Assistance Coordinators:

Sister Eileen Clifford, O.P. at 212-371-1000, ext. 2949
or Deacon George J. Coppola at 917-861-1762.

Both may be reached via e-mail at victimassistance@archny.org

Information may also be found on the Archdiocese of New York's web site at <http://www.archdny.org>

Our Lady of Grace Greek Catholic Mission Paschal Antimension 2010-2011



The Paschal Animensions have been consecrated by our Bishop in Sicily. They will be hand delivered to the United States and should arrive in the beginning of September. The Clergy members who ordered them will receive them as soon as the package arrives. Thank you for your patience.

There have been some questions regarding the Paschal Animension. Several clergy have inquired as to why the new Paschal Animension does not show the Dead Christ or the Repose of the Lord. The answer is that the Paschal Animension does not show the typical Icon that showing the Theotokos, the angels and the weeping women looking at the dead Christ. It represents the Throne Awaiting the Second Coming of Our Lord with the book of the Gospel, with the throne representing the seat that Lord will take at His second coming.

The original format of the Paschal Animension was devised by our Bishops in Italy. The Greek reads, "Truly I am coming Soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." 20th verse of the Apocalypse commonly know as the Book of Revelation, see below.

Unlike the usual Repose of the Lord, the Resurrection A representing the Risen Christ and the Paschal Animension is to be used at Pasha/ Easter time. However we of the Eastern tradition considered every Sunday a little Easter, so it is permissible to use it at Divine Liturgy.

The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then He said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true." He said to me, "They are accomplished.* I [am] the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water." Revelation 21:5-6 *Jesus Christ Our Lord.*

Fr. Arcdeacon John DeMeis

"If you find any mistakes in this publication please consider that they are there for a purpose. We publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes!" Archdeacon John



News & Events

A Message to Catholic New Yorkers From the Bishops of New York State

We bishops share with so many of you deep disappointment in the presumption of our state's elected officials in the radical redefinition of marriage. Yet we are heartened by the vigor with which so many faithful Catholic New Yorkers fought to preserve the true meaning of marriage.

Many surely believed that Catholics would simply shrug their shoulders and go along with this radical act of social engineering. Yet you did not do that. Together with people of other faith traditions, you spoke out. Thousands of you, by phone, e-mail, letter or in-person visits to your legislators, and through social media like Facebook and Twitter, as well as hand-signed petitions in the back of your church, let your convictions be known.

We are grateful to you, as we are to the many legislators in the state Senate and Assembly who voted to reject this bill. We know the pressure that was brought to bear on them, and we admire their courage and yours in attempting to defend marriage and protect religious freedom. Their integrity and yours was called into question by many. Both you and they were accused of bigotry for simply defending the timeless understanding of marriage.

The proponents of so-called "same-sex marriage" portrayed their cause as a matter of "civil rights." Redefining marriage has nothing to do with civil rights. The Catholic Church has a proud history in this country's civil rights movement for African-Americans. However, this situation is in no way analogous. In the first case, a race of people was shamefully made to endure hundreds of years of slavery and systemic persecution and discrimination. Today's debate focuses on a small group of persons, whose human rights must always be respected and defended by us all, but who claim a civil right to redefine marriage for all of society based on a private and personal preference.

As so many of you have let us know, this is not just a "Catholic issue." Yet for us Catholics, there is particular disappointment with those elected officials who publicly profess fidelity to our Catholic religion but whose public stance is at odds with a fundamental teaching of that faith. The definition of marriage resides in the plan of God for humankind. It is at the very least presumptuous for the state to attempt to redefine it.

From this sad moment in our state's history, let it be our prayer that we witness a new appreciation for authentic marriage as understood by our Catholic faith and revealed to us by God through nature. We have seen so many threats to marriage in recent years, from widespread cohabitation, to infidelity, to exploding out-of-wedlock birth rates, to pornography and other addictions that undermine family and married life. Sadly, we have even seen rates of Catholic marriages plunge over the last four decades by nearly 60% and now we see the state presume to alter what God already has defined and common sense can recognize as right and true.

While our culture seems to have lost a basic understanding of marriage, we Catholics must not. We must be models of what is good, holy and sacred about authentic sacramental marriage.

Let this moment where marriage is being attacked from without become a moment of renewal from within – in our Church, in our communities and in our families – where marriage is indelibly marked by fidelity, sacrifice and the mutual love of husband and wife leading to children.

The Church does not seek to be at odds with the society and culture. The Church welcomes the opportunity to be part of the public dialogue and listens respectfully to all positions. But the Church cannot do otherwise than stand against the claims of any culture and any society that attempts to define a relationship into being what it is not. To that extent we members of the Catholic Church are called to be in opposition to the prevailing culture. And sadly we are called to do so again. We know well that marriage always has been, is now and always will be the life-long, life-giving union of one man and one woman. No act of government can change that reality. With respect for the dignity of every person, we proclaim this truth and we will be faithful to its meaning and to its observance in all that we say and do.

*The Catholic Bishops of New York State
June 24, 2011 Feast of the Birthday of St. John the Baptist*

Pope invited to Ukraine by Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

July 14, 2011. (Romereports.com) The major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church, patriarch Sviatoslav Shevchuk, has invited Benedict XVI to visit his country. And by doing so, he would be following in the footsteps of his predecessor.

Inside Irish report on bishop that hid cases of child abuse in 1990's

July 15, 2011. (Romereports.com) A new government report was released on sex abuse in the Catholic Church of Ireland. This latest report says the diocese of Cloyne continued to conceal sex abuse of minors even after rules were made in the 1990's to protect them. The report also singles out the former Bishop John Magee for his failure to implement new procedures concerning child abuse, saying he "took little or no active interest." It also notes the Vatican's role in helping Irish Bishops was "entirely unhelpful."

Pope Remembers Belarus Eastern Cardinal Swiatek

July 21, 2011. Vatican City. In a telegram sent to the Conference of Catholic Bishops in Belarus, Benedict XVI expressed his condolences over the death of Cardinal Kazimierz Swiatek, 96. The cardinal, who had survived imprisonment twice by the Communist government in Russia, died in Pinsk, Belarus.

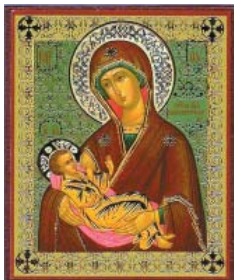
The purpose of Our Lady of Grace Society Newsletter (OLOGSN) is to foster fellowship and community among its members. It is run by an all volunteer staff. Subscription rates are used to help cover the cost of printing, handling and postage. The items contained herein are published as submitted and are provided for general information purposes only.

The OLOGSN does not hold itself responsible for statements or opinions made by any contributor. Statements or opinions reflect the views of the author(s) and are not the official policy of the OLOGSN, unless so stated. You, the reader, agree to hold the OLOGSN completely harmless as a result of reading this newsletter. We appreciate your support and understanding of our publication's policies. Thank you.

OLOGS Fundraiser



Let us choose one of these lovely tapestry Icon pouches for you. 5 3/8"x 4" \$12 each. Includes FREE shipping.



Nursing Madonna
100th OLOGS Anniversary Icon
1904-2004 Limited addition.
Wood Mounted. 2.5"x 3"
\$6 each. Includes FREE shipping.

As a courtesy, at your request, this Icon will be blessed by a member of the Mission's Clergy.



Our Lady of Vladimir
Canvas on Wood Frame. 12"x 16"
\$25 each. Includes FREE shipping.



Wooden and Rope, Western Rosary
Beads with Eastern Icons. \$10 each.
Includes FREE shipping.



Cast Bronze Wall Cross (Stunning!)
Limited Number
Gold Plated with Blue Enamel
\$50 each, (Retail Price \$70).
Includes FREE shipping.

To order one of our special fund raiser items, please send a check for the full amount made out to OLOGS. (Sorry Continental USA only.)

Write a note and include item and your personal information. Thank you.

Mail to: Our Lady of Grace Italo-Greek Catholic Mission/Society

51 Redgrave Avenue
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New York State Catholic Conference Family Life/Respect Life Office Statement of the Catholic Bishops of New York on Marriage *Defend Marriage*

Efforts are underway in New York to legalize "same-sex marriage." Marriage is the union of one man and one woman, which is naturally ordered both to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children. It is not an invention of the state, but is instead a foundation of human society that deserves special protection and recognition in the law. Same-sex relationships are fundamentally different in nature, and should not be given the same status or recognition as marriage.

Legalizing "same-sex marriage" would:

- *Establish in law the false and harmful idea that children don't need parents of both sexes.*
- *Endanger religious liberty by preventing the Church and parents from educating children about what marriage really is.*
- *Force Church agencies to recognize same-sex relationships, or else be barred from important activities such as health care and social service (e.g., adoptions.)*
- *Lead to people being stigmatized because they disagree, so that the expression of moral beliefs about homosexual behavior will be called "bigotry."*

This is not about "equal rights" or "discrimination." Same sex couples have the right to live as they wish, but nobody has the right to re-define marriage for all of society.

Please write to your State Senator and Assembly Representative and oppose same-sex "marriage." The easiest way to do this is to visit the Catholic Advocacy Network of the New York State Catholic Conference (www.nyscatholic.org, and click on "Take Action".)

The Catholic Bishops of New York recommended all Parishes and Missions share this message with their members.



**Thank You to
Our Society Members & Friends
for Supporting the Ministry of
Our Lady of Grace Italo-Greek
Catholic Mission !**

If you have not paid your Society dues for 2011 please do so now!

Without your support we can not continue our mission to evangelize the Word of God and work towards the re-establishment of the Italo-Greek and Italo-Albanian Rite in the United States of America.

Please mail your checks made out to OLOGS to Our Lady of Grace Italo-Greek Catholic Mission, 51 Redgrave Ave., Staten Island, New York, 10306-3620 USA.

Obituary

Sr. Mary Phyllis Breimayer, RSM, 80.



Sister Mary Phyllis Breimayer, Sister of Mercy, died on April 30, 2011 at McAuley Hall Health Care Center, Watchung, NJ.

Sr. Phyllis, the former Madalen Breimayer, is the third of four daughters of Philip and Mary Breimayer of Trenton, NJ. She completed her early education in Trenton, NJ and entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1949.

Sr. Phyllis taught primary and intermediate grades. In 1970 she graduated from New York University with a Master of Arts degree in Art Education, and was assigned to Georgian Court as Assistant Professor of Art.

In 1981 she was elected as a General Councilor of the Sisters of Mercy for four years. Afterward Sr. Phyllis returned to Georgian Court and continued studies at New York University and received a Doctor of Philosophy Degree at the Steinhardt School of Education in 2004. Sister continued as Chair of the Art Department until her recent illness.

She is survived by two sisters, Julia Szucsik and Marie Boros both of Florida, several nieces, nephews, cousins and many Sisters of Mercy of the Mid-Atlantic Community. She was also predeceased by her sister Kathryn Lewell.

Sr. Phyllis was a Spiritual Advisor and Art History Professor of OLOGS' member Debora Scatuccio. She was not only a great educator but the face of Christ was reflected in Sr. Phyllis' smile and in everything she did for her students. She will be missed. May her Memory be ever Eternal!

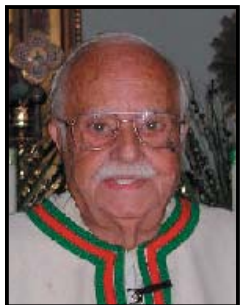
Carmine "Chuck" Antonucci, 52.

Carmine "Chuck" Antonucci, brother of OLOGS member, Rev. Fr. Antonio Antonucci, died on May 9, 2011 in New York of cardiac arrest.

Chuck was born in Uniondale, NY on June 16, 1958. He resided in Patchogue, NY. May his Memory be ever Eternal!

Reverend Father Edmund M. Idranyi, 83.

The Reverend Father Edmund M. Idranyi fell asleep in the Lord Jesus Christ on August 3, 2011, surrounded by members of his Saint Anne's family at his Atascadero home. He was born March 11, 1928 in Brooklyn, NY. His father Michael was a member of the Byzantine Catholic church while his mother, Mary, was a Roman Catholic. As customs dictates Fr. Edmund received the sacraments in the church of his father. The influence the Byzantine and Roman Rites provided Fr. Edmund with very wide exposure to both lungs of the Church. Growing up in Fairfield Connecticut he attended both rites of the Church and attended Catholic schools, graduating from Cardinal Bellarmine Preparatory School-Fairfield College Preparatory School, a Jesuit institution in 1946.



The main Divine Liturgy 2011, for Fr. Edward was held at Saint Anne's, San Luis Obispo, CA on Aug. 9, 2011. His remains will be interred in the historic

priests' section of the Old Mission Cemetery in San Luis Obispo.

Fr. Edward was a great help in the re-formation of the Society of Our Lady of Grace. He had a wealth of documents on the Eastern Church, including newspaper clippings of Father Ciro's funeral and reams of information about the Italo-Greeks which he shared with us and that were used in many of our newsletters. May his Memory be Eternal.

Chaplin DeMeis Retires

June 15, 2011. NYC, NY.



Our Lady of Grace Italo-Greek Catholic Mission and Society's own Fr. Archdeacon John DeMeis accepted a Retirement Award presented to him by Chief Chaplain Rabbi Harry Berkowitz and Dianne Ritter, MTA Director with appreciation for his many years of service as a Chaplain for the NYC Mass Transit Authority.

The award's sentiments wished Chaplain John T. DeMeis, "New Beginnings and Happy Memories. MTA Transit Office of the Chaplain. Thank you for your outstanding years of service. Best wishes for a happy retirement."

Among many in attendance at the event were Archdeacon John's wife, Rita, Chaplain Rev. Fr. Lawrence Lucas (who recently celebrated his 52nd Anniversary of his priesthood, see above photo.) Chaplain Rabbi Shlomo Rizel, and Chaplain Bishop Joseph N. Williams of Christ Church International Ministries.

John DeMeis joined the Transit Police Department on October 23, 1961 and was assigned to District 1 in Manhattan. For the next 20 years he served the City of NY at several locations as a NYC Transit Police Officer.

After retirement John entered the Deaconate program and was ordained to the Eastern Catholic Church. He was elevated to the rank of Archdeacon by the late, John Cardinal O'Connor. Archdeacon John was appointed Chaplain to the NYC Retired Transit Police Officers Association by Past President Michael Spadafora. He has served the City of NY with compassion and love and has ministered to police officers' their families and people of all faiths. May God Grant Him Many Years!

*Want a place to express your opinion?
Ask a question about matters of faith?
Make a prayer request? Send a note of support?
Have an obituary notice?*

Contact OLOGM/S

**E-mail: Rev. Fr. Archdeacon John DeMeis
@ ItaloGreek@aol.com.
Or Join Us via FACEBOOK @
Our Lady of Grace
Italo-Greek-Catholic Society**



Prayer Requests

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)

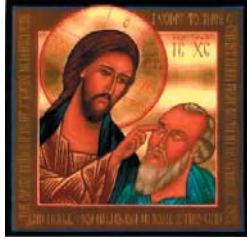
Please remember in your prayers:

- Christie Idol, healing from breast cancer.
- Gertrude Patterson, healing from cancer.
- Louis Rassetta, healing from heart problems.
- Baby Will Richard, recovery from open heart surgery.
- Mario Antonucci, Carposi's sarcoma.
- Carmine John Antonucci, 85-years-old, heart-lung problems.
- Patrick Foley, healing and good health.
- Frank Ferraiuolo, healing and good health.
- Lilly O'Keeffe, healing and good health.
- Sal and Marie Cuchiarra, healing and good health.
- Angela Ryan, healing and good health.
- Cosmo Bua, healing and good health.
- Laura Gagliardi, healing and personal intentions.
- Keith, needs a good permanent job.
- Joyce, healing from several health problems.
- Cindy, healing from several health problems.
- Christopher Ditolla, healing and strength.
- Albert DeAngelis, gravely ill.
- Thomas Robert Parzymieso, age 3, cure of Duchene's MS.
- Regina and George Lutz, healing and good health.
- Personal intentions of Debora Scatuccio.
- Personal intentions of Vincent Romano.
- Personal intentions of Patricia Johnson.
- Personal intentions of the Hayes Family.
- Archdeacon John and Rita DeMeis, pray for healing.
- Deacon and Mrs. Joseph Pasquella, improved health.
- Rev. Deacon Thomas Stadnik, healing from hip surgery.
- Archimandrite Stephen Von Fauer, healing.
- Intentions of Pope Benedict XVI.
- Intentions of Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan.
- Intentions of Fr. Januarius Izzo, OFM.
- Intentions of Bishop Ercole Lupinacci
- Intentions of Fr. Craig DePaulo.
- Intentions of Fr. Antonio Antonucci.
- Intentions and healing Fr. Deacon Thomas Stadnick.
- Alice Lake, May her memory be eternal.
- Anna Teresa Ruscito, May her memory be eternal.
- Joseph Anthony Maddalena, May her memory be eternal.

Requests will be posted as space permits. Thank you. If you have a prayer request or update send it to OLOGS at ItaloGreek@aol.com.

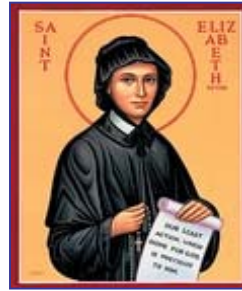
Troparion of the Holy Prophet Elijah

The glorious Elijah, an angel in the flesh and the cornerstone of the prophets, the second forerunner of the coming of Christ, sent grace from on high to Elisha to cast out sickness and cleanse lepers. He pours forth healing upon all those who honor Him.



St. Peter's Girls HS Closes

June 2011 The Archdiocese of New York announced the 94 year-old New Brighton, Staten Island, institution would close her doors at the end of the academic year due to declining enrollment. The Sisters of Charity, founded by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, (see Icon at left) came to St. Peter's Church in August 1852, and established the first Parish School in the Church basement. The school had 105 students by the end of this year.



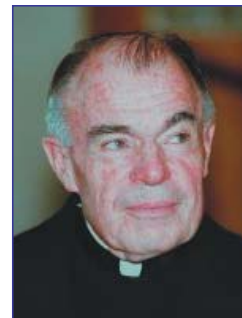
In addition the Archdiocese announced that it was closing 26 elementary schools and one other high school that had received heavy subsidies in recent years. It is the largest school consolidation in the history of the Archdiocese, which includes more than two million Catholics across New York State. St. Peter's High School for Girls was the fifth school on Staten Island to close at the end of the 2011 school year.

Faculty, parents and the 3,500 member Alumnae Association labored mightily to stop the closing. A campaign to raise \$1 million fell short. They had raised \$550,000.



Christine Begeman-Thomson, Alumnae

Association President and a 1979 graduate, stated, "Since the announcement of the closing of St. Peters Girls, I have increased our database by hundreds of alumnae. I would like to take that momentum and run with it. What I am thinking is that we will continue with a yearly luncheon, honoring milestone classes, but hoping all will be involved. The money raised will be donated. Women's causes, education programs, and helping other schools in trouble. Imagine that, the school that couldn't get any help is now helping other churches and schools."



Monsignor James Dorney
Pastor of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church.
Co- vicar of Staten Island.

Alumane can join the St. Peters High School for Girls Alumnae Association on Facebook. Contact Christine Begeman-Thomson President of the Alumnae Association via the Facebook page or e-mail Christine at ChrisT813@aol.com. Our prayers are with the school's 2011 graduates, Alumnae, teachers and Monsignor Dorney.

In my office, along with my College Diplomas and my community service awards, proudly hangs my Diploma from Saint Peter's Girls High School. Now and forever I will always be an Eagle! Debora, Class of 1975.

Eastern Catholic Stamps

VINCENT ROMAN

S.S Cosmas & Damian



Among the most popular saints of both the Eastern and Western Churches are the twin brothers, Saints Cosmas and Damian. Born into a Christian family in Cilicia, in what is now modern day Turkey, the brothers were educated in science and medicine. After becoming

physicians they traveled throughout Cilicia and Syria not only healing the sicknesses of the body but also preaching the “good news,” of the Gospel. The brothers refused any payment for their services, thus earning the name “Unmercenary.”

Cosmas and Damian lived during the reign of the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who was one of the most violent persecutors of Christian. In 303 A.D. the brothers were arrested and tortured. Still they refused to renounce their faith and were beheaded. Their cult spread throughout the Christian world and when finally Christianity was given its freedom, churches dedicated to them appeared not only in Syria, but also in Jerusalem. The Byzantine Emperor Justinian (527-565) built a temple in their honor in Constantinople. Pope Felix IV (526-530) built them a basilica in Rome. In our own day, major relics of the two can be found at the Poor Clare's Convent in Madrid and St. Michael's Church in Munich, Germany. In 2010 the Vatican issued two stamps to commemorate the reopening of the Vatican Library. (See stamp above.) One of the stamps pictures the twin physicians as they appeared on a Greek manuscript known as *REGISTRUM LATERANENSE*, which is dated to 1613. In the Western churches Sts. Cosmas and Damian are honored on September 26 and in the East on July 1.

New Smyrnan Colony

VINCENT ROMANO

While reading the May 2011 issue of the *ORTHODOX OBSERVER*, the monthly newspaper of the Greek Orthodox Church of America, I came across a news article that should be of interest to all the members of our society. It was reported that on April 15, 2011 at the Tolomato Cemetery Chapel, in St. Augustine FL, a joint Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic ceremony was held. The ceremony was to honor the first Greek Orthodox Christian to be buried in the New World. Fr. George Ioannou, Pastor of Holy Trinity G.O. Church of St. Augustine; and Polly Hillier, Director of St. Photios G.O. National Shrine. In addition an Icon of “Christ the Teacher” was presented to Fr. Tom Willis of the R.C. Basilica of St. Augustine. Fr. Willis accepted the icon in the name of Catholic community, it was then hung in the cemetery chapel

where it will honor the Greeks buried there.

How did all this come about you might ask? For the answer we will have to go back to the early history of our nation. Originally Florida was discovered and colonized by Spain. After over 250 years there the Spanish were forced out because they were back the losing side in the Seven Year War (we call



Varela Chapel, Fr. George Ioannou, pastor of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and Fr. Tom Willis, pastor of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine, at installation of an icon of Christ the Teacher. The Icon was given to the chapel at Tolomato Cemetery by the Greek church and the iconographer, Fernando Arango-Fernandez, shown with a parish member.

it the French and Indian War). Then in 1763 Florida was ceded to England. The British were interested in colonizing the area, they granted a Scotsman, Dr. Andrew Trumbull, 20,000 acres of land 75 miles south of St. Augustine. Unable to interest any English colonist because of the climate and poor living conditions, Trumbull then recruited colonists from the Greek Isles, Italy, the Spanish Island of Minorca (then occupied by the British) and among the Greek refugees on Corsica. He felt that people from a warmer region would better adjust to the climate of Florida.

On April 17, 1768 a small armada of eight ships, carrying over 1,400 colonists set sail from Europe headed for the New World and a new life. During the three month trans-Atlantic crossing 148 of the migrants had died. On June 26th the first of the ships arrived in Florida. The new colony was named New Smyrna after the hometown of Trumbull's Greek wife.

Accompanying the settlers were two Roman Catholic priests, Fr. Pedro Campos and Fr. Bartolome Casanovas both from the Island of Minorca. Originally the plan was for a Greek Orthodox priest to also accompany the settlers, but they never materialized. The two priests were there to spiritually guide their fellow Minorcans, it soon became evident they were the spiritual guide to the entire colony. However the colony was doomed to failure from the beginning due to poor planning, poor logistics and incompetents on the part of the management. Within the first five months over 300 had died from starvation. Lack of food was always a problem causing sickness, this led to the inability to work which in turn turned the colonies overseers into cruel tyrants. When Fr. Casanovas complained he was expelled from the colony, being accused of instigating several revolts. The situation became so bad that the British governor of Florida freed all the laborers of New Smyrna from their bondage to the colony and ceded part of St. Augustine to the colonist. By June 1777 most of the people of New Smyrna had migrated to St. Augustine. On November 9, 1777, the last man to leave New Smyrna, the ailing Fr. Campos

New Smyran Colony Continued

arrived in St. Augustine. At first things were not much better in St. Augustine, but gradually improved. There were a total of 479 colonists living in St. Augustine. Fr. Campos established a Roman Catholic Church on St. George Street, which became known as the "Greek Chapel." In 1783 Britain ceded Florida back to Spain. Fr. Campos and most of the colonists decided not to evacuate with the British. With the return of Spanish rule the former colonists began to thrive to this day if you check the St. Augustine city directory you will find the family names of the colonists. Fr. Campos was promoted and received 3 priest assistants, two of them Irish.

I know many Society members travel to Florida, and I would urge them if they are anywhere near St. Augustine, to visit the Basilica, The Tolomato Cemetery on Cordova St. and St. Photios Shrine which was Fr. Campos Chapel on St. George St. And nearby, although not directly connected with this article, is the Roman Catholic Shrine of Nuestra Senora de la Leche y Buen Parto, Our Nursing Mother of Happy Delivery. This shrine, which was founded in 1565, to honor Our Lady the Nursing Madonna, who under her Greek title Galactotrophusa is the patroness of Our Lady of Grace Society.

So visit these holy shrines and say a prayer not only for the

Spotlight On Lyme Race

May 23, 2011 Congratulations to OLOGS member, Keith Jolliffe, and to all the participants in the 4th Annual Spotlight On Lyme 5K Run held at Pier Village, Long Branch, N.J.

Keith came in 41st out of almost 400 registered runners. Matt Schafer crossed the finish line first, with a time of 19:43.6. Many participants were not able to run in the race due to physical limitations, however with determination they followed the course in their wheelchairs or with walkers and others cheered all the participants at the sidelines.

The Annual Run supports the work of the Lyme Disease Association (LDA) through awareness and fund-raising. Keith raised over \$800 with many donations coming from Society members. The Spotlight group raised \$16,710, earmarked for research.

Lyme disease is found in 65 countries worldwide and has been reported in all 50 states. It is the number one infectious disease in the USA.

Lyme disease is a multi-systemic infection caused by bacteria called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. It is transmitted to people and animals by the bite of an infected blacklegged tick, *Ixodes scapularis*,

departed, but also for the continued cooperation between the churches and that our Lord prayer that all may be one become a reality.

Epilogue I

There is no doubt in my mind that the Greeks from Corsica are the first Byzantine Catholics to come to, what is now, the United States. These Greeks were originally from the city of Mani. Life under the Turks was unbearable, so like our Arbereshe forefathers they sought refuge in the West. In January 1676 over 700 refugees with their bishop and priest arrived in Genoa, Italy. There they sign an agreement with the Genoese Republic, the main terms being that they would recognize the supremacy of the Pope in matters of religion, to continue to use the Byzantine Rite, and the settlers were to be considered subjects of the republic. In return the settlers were given land on the Island of Corsica for three villages. The native Corsicans were not happy with this or with the Genoese causing friction. So when Trumbull arrived in 1763 many people were happy to leave.

Epilogue II

For anyone who would like to read a more detailed account of the colony, E, P, Panagopoulos has written an excellent account *NEW SMYRNA*, published by *Holy Cross Orthodox Press*.

commonly called the deer tick. It may also be passed through the placenta of a pregnant woman to her unborn child.

The LDA is an all volunteer national organization with little overhead and no paid employees, most of the money raised goes directly to education, research projects and patient support for Lyme disease and other Tick Borne infections.

OLOGM/S supports the work of the Lyme Disease Association, not only because it is a worthy organization, but because many Society members and their families suffer from Lyme disease and other tick borne infections. Some of the others found in our area are; Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

Please keep all people afflicted by Lyme disease in your prayers. To learn more about Lyme disease and Tick Borne infections or to make a donation contact the Lyme Disease Association at <http://www.lymediseaseassociation.org/>



OLOGS Member, Keith Jolliffe, nears the Finish Line.

NOTE: Members of OLOGS may obtain a free Tick Identification Card and Brochure on Lyme disease. Please write to OLOGS' Debora Scatuccio at dscatucc@optonline.net include your name and full address. Sorry USA residents only.



PRAYER TO STS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS

Cyril (Constantine) 827-869 AD Methodius 826-885 AD

O' Holy Saints Cyril and Methodius:
you led our forefathers, and us with them,
from the darkness of pagan error to the light of the true Faith
of Christ, and now you rejoice with Christ in Heaven.
Sincerely, we rejoice in your glory, with which God
has rewarded your untiring zeal, and we humbly thank Him
for the great gift of Christianity which our heavenly Father
has bestowed upon us through your efforts. Intercede with God
for us who are unworthy descendants of Adam, that He
may strengthen us in the True Faith, which you preached
to our forefathers. Amen.

Άγιε Αγίων Κυρίλλου και Μεθοδίου:
σας οδήγησε τους προγόνους μας, και μας τους,
από το σκοτάδι της παγανιστικής λάθους στο φως της
την αληθινή πίστη του Χριστού, και τώρα χαίρεστε με
Ο Χριστός στον Ουρανό. Ειλικρινά, χαιρόμαστε στη δόξα σου,
με την οποία ο Θεός έχει ανταμειφθεί ακούραστη ζήλο σας,
και εμείς να Τον ευχαριστήσουμε ταπεινά για το μεγάλο δώρο
του Ο Χριστιανισμός που ο ουράνιος Πατέρας μας έχει
εναποθέσει επάνω μας μέσω των προσπαθειών σας. Μεσολαβήσει
με το Θεό για μας που είναι ανάξιτοι απόγονοι του Αδάμ, ότι
μπορεί να μας ενισχύσει στην αληθινή πίστη, η οποία θα κήρυττε
στους πατέρες μας. Αμήν.



*Our Lady of Grace Italo-Greek Catholic
Mission and Society
51 Redgrave Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10306-3620 - U.S.A.*

*“O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.”
Psalms 63:2*



Address Correction Requested.



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