

AUGUST 2019

Voice of St. George

**SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF THE DESERT**

74-109 LARREA ST., PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA



OUR LIFE WITH THE HOLY THEOTOKOS

Inside this issue



The Icon: "Virgin of Vladimir"

The following excerpts from the writings of St. Nectarios of Pentapolis and Henri J. M. Nouwen help to crystalize for us the influence of the **Theotokos** in our lives, which includes both our outlook on life in general and our life of prayer in particular. These excerpts, I believe are helpful also on the basis of the mystical influence of the **Theotokos** in terms of our deeper spiritual life as is communicated through the Holy Icons. In this way, I hope that we all come to a renewed frame of mind called for by asking the Theotokos to intercede for us as we commit ourselves to Christ our God. This is the best way for us to cele-

brate Her Feast Day on August 15th.

St. Nectarios of Pentapolis is among the Saints who considered the Ever-Virgin Mary to be His Patron Saint. In his manuscript, "Honor to the Theotokos," he writes the following:

"The Mother of God Herself, in a prophetic spirit, had already announced the dignity due to her among all generations, saying, 'Behold, from this time forth, all generations shall call me blessed. (Luke 1:48).' And, truly, from that time the blessedness of the Mother of God began. The first person to call her blessed was Elizabeth, who, being inspired by the Holy Spirit, proclaimed in a loud voice, saying, 'Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb and blessed is she who believes that those things that had been spoken to her by the Lord will be fulfilled. (Luke 1:42-45).' In addition, the

beheld the Holy Virgin holding in her arms the Divine Child, must have called her blessed. St. Luke the Evangelist mentions the spontaneous cry of a woman in the crowds blessing the Mother of the Lord who nursed Him. (11:27)."

"The Mother of God was, is, and always will be the Undefeatable Protectress and the Speedy Mediator and Helper for all the faithful Christians. They have always called upon Her in times of danger and sorrow and they have always had Her as the Invincible Warrior in times of strife. Her Motherly love for Her Son and God makes the Divine Liturgy always present, as comfort for all the faithful..."

The following is an excerpt from the book, entitled: Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying With Icons, by Henri J. M. Nouwen. Truly, Orthodox iconography teaches us how blessings

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are imparted to us. The Icon of the Virgin of Vladimir is one example.

"I always seek eye contact with those I meet. It makes me feel accepted, or at least taken seriously. But as I tried to make eye contact with the Icon of the Virgin of Vladimir, I realized it was impossible. At first this greatly disturbed me. I wanted Her to look at me, to notice me as a unique individual and to know me as her personal friend. But the Mother of God did not look at me. In stark contrast to most Renaissance Madonnas, whose familiar look engages us in an interpersonal relationship, the Virgin of Vladimir does not enter into our familiar reality; She invites us to enter with her into the eternal life of God. Her eyes look inward and outward at once. They look inward to the heart of God and outward to the heart of the world, thus revealing the unfathomable unity between the Creator and the creation..."

"As Mary sees Jesus, so She sees those who pray to Her: not as interesting human beings worthy of Her attention, but as people called away from the darkness of sin into the light of faith, called to become daughters and sons of God. It is hard for us to relinquish our worldly identity as noteworthy people and accept our spiritual identity as children of God. We so much want to be looked at that we are ill prepared to be truly seen. But the eyes of the Virgin invite us to let go of our old ways of belonging and accept the good news that we truly belong to God." (pgs. 32-34).

On my part, I would only add that the blessedness of the Holy Theotokos makes us all blessed. Her joy is found in our salvation through the Incarnation. Her joy was felt as great joy to the Prophet St. John the Baptist, who, as a babe in his mother's womb, leaped for joy on our behalf.

+FR. THEODORE

ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS TO VISIT THE YOUNG ADULTS IN LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA



The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco is pleased to announce that **His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America** will bless us with his visit to the **Young Adult League Conference** being held in **Long Beach, California over Labor Day Weekend 2019.**

Our Metropolis is excited to host young adults from across the nation this Labor Day Weekend. It has been 17 years since the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco has hosted a Young Adult Conference. In sharing His thoughts at this time, **His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos**, said, "*It is a great honor to have His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America attend and share his vision at the Metropolis of San Francisco Young Adult League Conference. These attendees are the emerging leaders of our Archdiocese and it will be a wonderful opportunity for them to receive the blessing of Archbishop Elpidophoros, who will also bring greetings from our Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate. This event will provide a weekend of fellowship, friendship, faith, and service, and with young adults from 22 states representing our Archdiocese so far, I am confident this weekend will be historic on many levels for the Church.*"

The YAL Conference will serve as an opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones while growing together in our faith. **The theme** of this year's conference is "**Proclaim!**" As young adults, this three-day conference represents the youth coming together to *proclaim* our faith and our community as one.

Young adults from throughout our Archdiocese will also be enriched by great social events, amazing workshops from your favorite clergy and church leaders, participating in a Diakonia project, enjoying the beach and worshipping together. This conference will take place at the **Long Beach Hyatt Regency Hotel**. Details can be found at the San Francisco Metropolis website:

www.sanfran.goarch.org

ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA POLICIES FOR THE SAFETY OF YOUTH & CHILDREN

The Archdiocese policies for the safety of youth and children are set to be **rolled out on September 1st**. Accordingly, children and youth who want to join in activities or excursions will need to be accompanied by their parents or grandparents. Background checks will be conducted as required by our Archdiocese policies.

Presently, we ask everyone to be vigilant in protecting our children and youth. **Children are to be accompanied by parents or grandparents when using the restroom facilities.** Should a child linger in the restroom for more than a few minutes, please seek someone to check on the child to see if the child is experiencing any threat from anyone wandering onto our parish property unawares. In any event, it could also be that the child may need other kinds of assistance. Finally, **adult supervision is required for children playing in our courtyard.** The adage holds true: *"If you see something; say something."*

BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST: THE LAST FEAST OF THE CHURCH YEAR

The Beheading of St. John the Baptist, remembered on August 29th, is the last major feast day of the year. St. John the Baptist is a martyr, unjustly killed by King Herod. There are various sources from which the account of his beheading are taken. Along with the Gospel accounts, the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus tells a similar story as that found in the Gospels: Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-27; Luke 9:9. The date of August 29th is shared by Orthodox, Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, and others.

Why was he killed? To answer this, we must take a look at his life. John was the last of the great prophets who pointed to a new age of spiritual events leading to the Messiah. As the new representative of God, in his calling to reveal God to us, he was also the first of the prophets to recognize the Person of Jesus Christ.

We know that John baptized Jesus, even though

Jesus Himself did not need to be baptized. Yet, in His baptism, all of humanity is baptized. In a way, this is similar to the Last Supper, becoming a pattern for apostles to follow Him. Like baptism, apostles, priests and believers are to follow the Lord, receiving His Body and Blood. The great gifts of Baptism, Chrismation and Communion are acts to be lived out in faith. St. John *lived* these gifts as a life of righteousness, urging one and all to observe God's teaching.

In particular, St. John the Baptist called upon King Herod to respect God's Law, who himself was in great violation of this Law, as the result of having married his brother's wife, Herodias. John warned Herod, *"It is not lawful for you to have her!"* In response, Herod had John arrested.

When Herod's birthday was being celebrated, the daughter of Herodias performed dances for Herod's guests. This pleased Herod tremendously and he promised her with an oath, saying that he would give her anything she asked. Prompted by her mother, Herodias, she answered, *"Give me the head of John the Baptist on a platter."* Upon hearing this request, Herod was sorry, but, as the Gospel of St. Matthew relates, *"Because of his oaths before his guests, he sent and had John beheaded and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl..."* From then on, Jesus showed Himself to be the Messiah that St. John the Baptist had foreseen. In this regard, St. John had become the great spokesman for the future that was to come.

The Apolytikion hymn that is chanted in honor of St. John the Baptist reminds us that St. John's work of preparing the way for Christ to save all of humanity continued even after his beheading; for, he preached to those who were in Hades that Christ, the Son of God, was to overthrow Hades and liberate them. On Holy Saturday every year, after we commemorate our Lord's Crucifixion, we also celebrate "the Harrowing of Hades" and the resurrection of the dead who were held in Hades since the time of Adam and Eve.

--MATTHEW DAVIS

**THE TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST:
"We Have Seen the True Light!"**

The presence of the Apostles (Peter, John and James) at Mt. Tabor with Christ means that we are to have zeal to follow Christ through prayer, worship and the observance of His Commandments. In this way, we will be enlightened so that we can impart Christ's Light to others. The words of our Lord that there are people who "will see the Son of Man in His Kingdom" (St. Matthew 16: 26) come true in the fact that the Divine Liturgy is "The Kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

The Light of Christ at the time of His Transfiguration is the uncreated Light of the Divinity and it reveals His two natures—fully human and fully Divine. In this, it is possible also for people to share in Christ's Divine Light. This is shown, for example, in the face of Moses, when his face shined as he descended from Mt. Sinai with the tablets of the Law (Exodus 34: 29-45).

Indeed, the destiny of every human being is to participate in the glory of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That is why we invoke the Name of the Trinity when one is baptized. God created us in His Image and Likeness and, as a result, our purpose in life is to always reflect this Divine energy of Christ's Light in everything we do. This message is emphasized in the icons of our Saints, with the drawing of the halo around the face of each individual Saint depicted. Also, we are to experience the Divine Light every time we partake of Holy Communion. This is declared through the hymn that follows Holy Communion: (Idhomen to Fos to Alithinon...)" (*"We have seen the true Light; we have received the Heavenly Spirit; we have found the true Faith, worshiping the indivisible Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us."*).

Holy Communion imparts to us the Divine energy of Christ's love. Christ-like love is a "transfiguring power." Christ's love gives us the power to be vigilant in discerning evil from good and the power to avoid sin. Our free will is in play at all times. By making the choice to pray and worship our Lord, we are given the gift of

God's Wisdom, which energizes us to recognize deceptions and fight against temptations. It is the enlightenment that allows us to place our faith in Christ our God— to turn from putting ourselves first to putting God first, making us vessels of God's Love, as we celebrate the **Transfiguration of our Savior on Tuesday, August 6th.**

Thus, the Transfiguration of Christ is the Divine message saying that Christ is True God, Whose Will is to make His Light to glow from within us. Fr. Stanley Harakas writes, "*Christ's saving work restores the 'likeness' of God to all human beings, giving to all the potential of the new life reaching toward 'theosis' (i.e., sanctification)...[our] whole ethical endeavor consists of our 'internalization of Christ through the Sacramental Life and His Commandments.'*" (Toward Transfigured Life, pg. 236).

+FR. THEODORE

**SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH
by Deacon Euthym**

"Always remember that you were born into this world so that you may do good to all insofar as possible on every occasion." --St. Theophan the Recluse.

If we take this approach in everything we do so that at every hour we begin to transform each moment into an act of good, we begin the process of becoming icons of Christ Himself. Our very existence then glorifies God, which is the purpose of life. Try to bring good into every situation and see the difference in your approach your life and daily activities. Combine the act of good with a prayer and this is the spiritual life.

"Let us be patient! Are not all our temporary burdens and difficulties worth eternal happiness?" --Metropolitan Gregory of St. Petersburg

Patience is the single virtue which reflects true faith. Faith and patience are partners and appear together almost 70% in the New Testament. If we have faith, temporary challenges are just that: temporary and we are to wait for the Lord to

Continued on the next page ----->

SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS, Continued

show us how this leads to ours (and others') salvation. Staying patient and waiting on God, fulfills the command of the Lord in the Old Testament... "*be still and know that I am God*". If we accept God's love we have no choice but to be patient and trust in His love and mercy.

"Learn to love opportunities not to speak, not to contribute, not to influence. Rather than crave conversations in which your voice can be heard, crave instead those opportunities in which your silence may respond to voice, in which you may sacrifice your willful desire for self involvement on the altar of quiet humility before God and man." --Bishop Irenei Steenberg

This really hit me, I rarely pass up an opportunity to give an opinion, to "contribute", to "help", mostly (unfortunately) to hear myself talk. Here, Bishop Irenei reminds us not to focus on the moments when your voice can heard, rather to seek ("crave") an opportunity not to be the center of attention. Rather, let us focus on peaceful listening, in silence, to hear the voice of others, ultimately offering quiet humility before God and man. By taking that approach, does that devalue us in some way? It goes against the modern thought that says, "*You are important; you are valued, etc*". Our value is in that God created us. Our value is in Him and in Him alone. Without Him we are rudderless ships, devoid of the divine spark, the Holy Spirit, which shines brightly and gives light to all around through our silence and humility. It is the true conversation that occurs when we are all one in Christ. Our silence before God is the first step.

"If you read worldly magazines and newspapers, and derive some profit from them, as a citizen, a Christian, and a member of a family, then you ought still more and still oftener to read the Gospel and the writings of the Holy Fathers; for it would be sinful for a Christian, who reads worldly writings, not to read divinely-inspired ones." --Righteous John, of Kronstadt

Here St John isn't telling us to avoid reading

worldly things. Rather, he is calling for balance with the scale tipping toward Scripture and divinely inspired writings. How often do we read/study our Bible alone? The Church Fathers have a multitude of writings available in many languages. Commentaries on Scripture, the Christian life, sorrow, suffering, reconciliation, struggles and worship are all available both online and in bookstores. Reading these elevates us to the point that when we do read newspapers, magazines, literature (etc.), our understanding of them is informed. We see things through spiritual eyes not worldly eyes. We resist the temptation to covet; our compassion increases; we begin to pray for the world through our understanding of it's brokenness apart from God. We must fill ourselves with good thoughts and information. Avoid the petty and spiritually irrelevant. Let us try to "hear" the higher calling of our Lord.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS' MEETING

All those who want to serve as **Sunday School teachers for 2019-2020** are called to attend a planning **meeting on Sunday, August 25, 2019**, following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

As always, discussion will center around the following topics:

- The 2019-2020 Sunday School Year Theme.
- Class arrangements
- Topics related to curriculum and needed Sunday School materials.
- Sunday School registration
- Sunday School teacher responsibilities

CHOIR

Our parish choir will be coming together in mid-September as we commemorate the **Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14th** (including the Sunday Before the Exaltation and the Sunday After the Exaltation). We welcome our new choir members! The first rehearsal back from the summer is **Thursday, September 5th at 1:00 p.m.** To join our parish choir, please contact our **Choir Director, Annette Laskaris at (760) 200-3213.**

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Summer Recap



Our Saint George Philoptochos group has been busy making a positive impact in our local community during the summer months! We have donated monies to the following local charities to support important projects. These include:

- High Hopes Dance Troupe...\$200
- Salvation Army...\$500
- Coachella Valley Water Project...\$500
- Ophelia Project...\$500
- Coachella Valley Books & Bags Project...\$500
- Visiting Nurses Assn...\$300
- Shelter From the Storm...\$300
- Boys & Girls Club...\$300
- Desert Cancer Foundation...\$300

In addition, we fed 75 homeless in the month of June; provided packets and clothing to 40 homeless during June & July, and plan two outreach meals for 200 homeless at the Indio and Palm Spring park locations on August 27th & 29th.

We are **needing volunteers to assist with preparation of sandwiches and to pack meals starting at 11:30 AM on Tuesday, August 27th** in the kitchen of our hall. And **volunteers are also needed to distribute the meals at Miles Avenue Park in Indio on Tuesday the 27th from 6:00-7:30 PM and in Palm Springs at Sunrise Park on Thursday, August 29th from 6:00-7:30 PM.** A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the church hall.

Our Philoptochos calendar for the next year is complete and is posted on the bulletin board in the hall. It shows meeting dates, outreach dates, and other special events for our organization.

We are in the process of updating the Philoptochos directory with current and new member information, to be available in September at our next **general members' meeting** scheduled for **Monday, September 16th at 11:30 AM.**

It's not too late to still join Philoptochos for the 2019 year that runs to March 2020. Membership is \$45.00 annually. Please join by August 5th if you wish to be included in the new directory. Activi-

ties and meetings will be back in full swing by September after the summer break. If you are interested in joining, please contact me, **Rhonda Latkovic**, Philoptochos President at 714-875-4661, or by email at r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com.

Please review the information enclosed concerning the **Paint El Paseo Pink Walk**, sponsored by the Desert Cancer Foundation (our next door tenant). The walk will be held on **Saturday, October 12th at 8:00 AM**. We are trying to form a "SAINT GEORGE TEAM" for the walk. We had a team of five last year and it was a fun event! Your donation of \$25 registers you for the event and includes an event tee shirt. We hope you will join us. Proceeds are used to support cancer patients needing assistance in our community.

To all our snowbirds, "we miss you" and to our locals, "stay cool"!

--RHONDA LATKOVIC,
Philoptochos President

INTEREST IN LESSONS OF GREEK LANGUAGE AND GREEK DANCE

Good news! Expressions of interest in learning the Greek Language and Greek Folk Dance have surfaced in our parish. Classes can be arranged for adult, as well as for youth instruction.

At this point, if anyone is interested in joining such classes, please **contact Fr. Ted** throughout the month of August so that he can arrange a meeting with prospective teachers in order to discuss their availability and needs in providing such instruction.

Based on the number of those interested in learning Greek and Greek dance, particular details regarding class arrangements can be formally announced.

2020 ST. GEORGE FESTIVAL

The dates for our **2020 St. George Greek Festival** are: **Saturday, February 22, 2020 and Sunday, February 23, 2020**. Please mark these dates on your calendars and plan to help out toward the success of the 2020 Greek Festival in support of our St. George parish.

THE NATIONAL AHEPA FAMILY CONVENTION



The **National AHEPA Family Convention**, held in **Chicago** last month hosted for the first time **His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros**. In his address, Archbishop Elpidophoros spoke about the anticipation of celebrating the centennial anniversaries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and AHEPA “in this nation of freedom and hope.”

“As we prepare for these commemorations, we share great joy in knowing that the Holy Archdiocese of America and the AHEPA family have worked together and shared this legacy. Over the past century, the members of AHEPA have supported the sacred ministry of the Church through the establishment and growth of our parishes, through the support and leadership offered in our national programs and initiatives, and through the unwavering support for our beloved Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Church has continued to recognize in love and gratitude the vital work of AHEPA in education, philanthropy, civic responsibility and in so many other areas of service, as well as in advancing Hellenic ideals which inspire and enliven our common humanity and enhance our witness of our Orthodox faith. My hope and prayer is that this relationship will not only continue in the love that we share and that it will bear much fruit, but that it will also become even stronger as we prepare and commit for the work that is before us.”

Highlights from this year’s convention include the following:

- ♦ The AHEPA Family fulfilled its **\$1 million** commitment for the construction of the **St. Nicholas National Shrine** in New York.
- ♦ **2,000 gallons** of water were donated to the victims of the **Flint, Michigan water crisis**.
- ♦ AHEPA commemorated the **45th Anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus**

MEMORIAL WALL

Phase 1 of our Memorial Wall Project is completed and we are awaiting delivery of the remaining nameplates to be added to our installed wall. We have a total of 60 nameplates that will fill all the spaces on this first wall.

Phase 2 originally was planned to be rolled out in early 2020. However, we have received several requests from parishioners who wish to have their loved ones who have fallen asleep in the Lord to be added as soon as possible. To accommodate this request, working with the manufacturer of the wall, W & E Baum, we have determined that a “trptych” can be made to expand the existing memorial plaque on the wall. This would double the nameplate spaces to an additional 60 spaces for a total of 120 nameplates. A left and a right bronze rectangular plaque can be added. However, before proceeding, we will need to pre-sell 30 nameplates in order to have the funds necessary to start the project. Since we are adding two, though slightly smaller plaques, with manufacturing, shipping and installation charges, the cost estimate of the project is at \$12,000, very near the original wall plaque cost. Due to this projection, we must increase the donation cost to \$225 per nameplate (up to 25 letters maximum).

We have included the revised nameplate donation form in the August Voice. If you have any questions or wish to order a nameplate, please see **Rhonda Latkovic**, project coordinator.

ST. GEORGE BOOK STORE

More copies of the *Orthodox Study Bible* are set to arrive soon in our parish book store. In addition, new icons are available, as are hand censers, incense and prayer ropes.

A window has just been installed in the door of our parish bookstore, thereby making the items featured in our bookstore more visible and, in general, making our book store more inviting to parishioners and visitors alike.

STEWARDSHIP

God, Who came to us at Bethlehem continues to come to us today. He comes through the Sacrament of Baptism to bestow upon us His love, to call us His very own. He comes through the Sacrament of Chrismation to fill us with His presence, to make our bodies temples of the Holy Spirit. He comes through repentance and the Sacrament of Confession to cleanse us of sin, to restore in our souls "the peace of God that passes all understanding."

In every Liturgy, He is present as the Word of God, bringing words of eternal life through the Scripture readings and the sermon. Through the Sacrament of Communion, He comes to be born again and again in the shabby stables of our hearts. He is constantly present with us through prayer. He blesses our marriages as He did in Cana of Galilee. He stands by our sick bed, laying His healing hand upon us through the prayers of the priest. He comes again and again in so many, many ways through the many ministries of His Church. He heals and forgives; He gives strength and guidance. In His presence, as the Bible says, "the blind see, the lame walk, and the prisoners are set free."

It is by offering our blessings back to God that God will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For, God, Infinite though He be, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today.

+FR. ANTHONY M. CONIARIS

--Thank you for your dedication to Stewardship Ministry. Glory to God in all things.

STEWARDSHIP-2019 UPDATE AS OF JULY 29th

We have reached the point in the year where we are just past the half year mark, and are pleased to report that we have 119 families who are stewards this year pledging \$125,065 to our church.

At this time we have a net gain of 5 stewards over last year (119 TY vrs. 114 LY) and a net dol-

lar pledge gain of \$5,465 over last year (\$125,065 TY vrs. \$119,600 LY). We have met our stewardship pledge goal of \$125,000 for 2019. Our average annual stewardship family pledge is \$1051, which is outstanding! However, our stewardship pledges do not fully cover all expenses of the church, which is why we execute an annual Greek festival and golf tournament to supplement our income.

Breakout of 2019 Pledges

Annual Pledge	Amount	Number of Families
Over \$10,000		2
\$4,800-\$9,900		4
\$3,000-\$4,700		2
\$2,000-\$2,900		6
\$1,000-\$1,900		24
\$ 500-\$ 900		38
Under \$ 500		43
Total		119

Outstanding pledges yet to be received for this year are \$37,987. We would like to thank all who have already paid their pledge in full and those who are staying current with their pledge donations. Your contributions are vital to the operations of our beloved Saint George Church!

We will be mailing semi-annual statements during the month of August to all stewards. This will give you the opportunity to check your donations made to date.

We welcome any and all input from our parishioners. Please see Rhonda Latkovic, Stewardship Chairperson, or Nick Kaperonis, Treasurer, or Father Ted with any questions or comments. Thank You!

CHURCH & WELLNESS

Dependence on God vs. Co-dependence

Being created in the Image and Likeness of God, makes us intimately related to our Creator. This is *how* we are made. Period. Because God loves us, respond by loving God, showing gratitude to Christ for "*blessings that we know and do not know, seen and unseen,*" as is expressed in one of the prayers of the Divine Liturgy. To be dependent on God is, therefore, consistent with our entire being and identity. In this, we allow the "*the love of God the Father and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion of the Holy Spirit*" to guide us in our lives in order to do our Lord's work through His energies.

But, co-dependence is truly *not* dependence on God. *Co-dependence* means that one's sense of value *depends* on people or things *other* than God.

Let's take a look at gambling, for example. The temptation is to get rich by betting on a horse, a team or a player. If they win, *you* win. Even if money is not at stake, people all too often identify *their* value with the outcome of actions of *other* people or even of events outside of their control. Hence, if *your* team wins, therefore, *you* are a winner; if *your* team loses, *you* are a loser. To the extreme, such identification due to co-dependency on the success of players on a team leads to one's unchecked jubilation or despondency.

Co-dependency can often revolve around loved ones. Clearly, an alcoholic, for example, is dealing with an illness of soul, mind and body. Too often, the emotional happiness of the alcoholic's loved ones *depend* on his or her *choice* to, or not to, drink. His or her choice to drink often leads to the feeling of embarrassment on the part of loved ones, with their sense of lessened self value. However, their sense of value actually depends on their willingness to gain better knowledge of the disease and to lovingly encourage the alcoholic to get needed treatment, while still leading responsible lives in their own right — all through prayer and faith in God.

Let's take another example. Many parents live

with the delusion that "my child's success is *my* success." To the extreme, this is played out on hundreds of little league soccer fields. "If my child scores a goal, it means that *I have scored.*" If my child is called out for a penalty, therefore, "*I am penalized.*" As a result, instead of allowing the child to discuss the matter with his or her coach or referee, the parent becomes irate and insulting.

My favorite example of a loving relationship is that of the Prodigal Son's father. His love for his prodigal son always existed. But, when his son asked for his half of his inheritance, the father allowed his son to make that choice...and that choice led to a life of debauchery. Yet, his son's behavior, although sad, did not take away from the father's spiritual well-being through which he continued to care for the welfare of his other son, (the Prodigal's older brother) and those to whom he was responsible — nor did it hinder him from rejoicing in the return of his wayward son.

People often speak about "detachment with love." St. Paul tells us, "*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*" (1 Corinthians 13: 4-7). In this regard, *we* are responsible to continually sacrifice of ourselves in order to provide good examples of God-like virtues of patience, prayer, and understanding as we give good advice from Scripture, through prayer, for the purpose of leading others to salvation. However, "the others" have the choice and the responsibility to follow that advice.

In truth, we cannot lead other people's lives, forcing them to make the right choices. It is important to *detach* ourselves from their choices. Their choices are theirs, as are the consequences — even if it means that their team loses, or that measures may be needed to protect against violence and ill intentions.

For good reading about the issue of co-dependence, check out the book, *Co-Dependent No More*, by Melody Beattie (available on Kindle and in paperback edition).

+FR. THEODORE

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AUGUST 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Paraklisis- 6 pm	2 Paraklisis-6 pm.	3
4- 7th Sunday of Matthew Ep.-Rom.15:1-7 Gos. St. Matthew 9:27-35	5 Great Vespers- 6:00 pm.	6 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD Orthros-8:30 am. Divine <u>Liturgy-9:30 am.</u> Bible Study- 11:00 am	7 Paraklisis-6 pm.	8	9 Paraklisis-6 p.m.	10
11- 8th Sunday of Matthew Ep.-1 Cor.1:10-17 Gos. St. Matthew 14:14-22	12 Paraklisis- 6 pm.	13 Bible Study- 10:00 am.	14 Great Vespers- 6:00 pm.	15 -DORMISION OF THE THEOTOKOS Orthros-8:30 am. Divine Liturgy- 9:30 am.	16	17
18- 9th Sunday of Matthew Ep. 1 Cor. 3:9-17 Gos. St. Matthew 14:22-34	19	20 Bible Study- 10:00 am.	21	22	23	24
25- 10th Sunday of Matthew Ep. 1 Cor.4:9-16 Gos. St. Matthew 17:14-23 Sunday School Staff Meeting	26	27 Bible Study- 10:00 am. Street Life-Indio 6:00 p.m.	28 Great Vespers- 6:00 pm.	29- BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (Fasting Day) Orthros-8:30 am. Divine <u>Liturgy- 9:30 am.</u> Street Life-Palm Springs at 6 p.m.	30	31

Saint George Memorial Wall - PHASE 2

RE: Memorial Wall & Garden Name Plaque

INSTRUCTIONS:

This form is to be used when making a Saint George Memorial Wall & Garden donation in honor of a deceased family member. For a donation of \$225.00, the name of the person for whom the memorial donation is made will be placed on a 2 1/2 inch by 10 inch bronze plaque. Each plaque will be etched with the words "Memory Eternal" and with the deceased person's first & last name only and mounted on the Memorial Wall & Garden bronze wall. (25 letters maximum).

MEMORIAL DONATION IS MADE IN THE NAME OF: (Print name(s) as you want on the plaque-25 letters maximum)

DONATION IS FROM:

(Name of person making the donation)

(Name & address of person(s) to whom acknowledgement is to be sent) *

ADDRESS _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

SIGNATURE of person submitting form:

To make your donation, you can do one of the following:(OVER)

Fill out the form and either choose to drop off the form and payment to the church office or mail the form and payment to: Saint George Orthodox Church, P.O.Box 4755, Palm Desert, CA 92261. You may pay for your memorial donation by check or credit card.

• Check # _____

♦ Cash \$ _____

♦ Credit Card Info:

Type _____ Number _____

Expiration Date _____ CCV _____

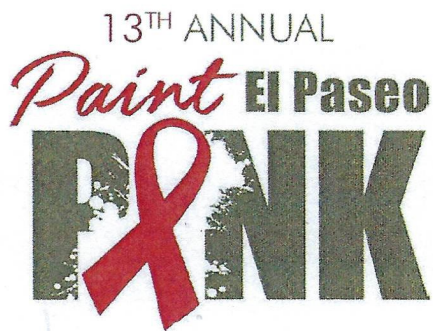
Authorized Signature: _____

Example of Plaque:

Memory Eternal

o (first & last name(s) of deceased) o

***Any questions, please contact Rhonda Latkovic at (760) 610-1598 or r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com**



SIGN UP FORM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 2019

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

First Name:		
Last Name:		
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Sex: <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> F		
Phone:		
E-mail:		
Team Name: SAINT GEORGE		
<input type="radio"/> I am raising pledges. My goal is:		
<input type="radio"/> I am a breast cancer survivor.		

PARTICIPATION TYPE (Per Entry)

Early Registration Fee \$25 - by October 10 (includes T-shirt)	\$
On-Site Registration Fee \$30 - after October 10 (includes T-shirt)	\$
I'd like to buy an additional T-shirt \$25 each	\$
I'd like to make a donation	\$
TOTAL AMOUNT	\$
T-Shirt Size: (Select size for each registered participant.)	
<input type="radio"/> S <input type="radio"/> M <input type="radio"/> L <input type="radio"/> XL <input type="radio"/> XXL <input type="radio"/> XXXL	

PAYMENT INFORMATION

<input type="radio"/> Cash <input type="radio"/> Credit Card <input type="radio"/> Check (Make check payable to Desert Cancer Foundation.)
Select One: <input type="radio"/> Amex <input type="radio"/> Visa <input type="radio"/> MasterCard <input type="radio"/> Discover
Credit Card Number:
Expiration Date: / /
For registrations with credit card authorization, fax to: Desert Cancer Foundation at 760-773-6532. Mail your completed registration form and payment to: Desert Cancer Foundation 74091 Larrea St. Palm Desert, CA 92260.

WAIVER AND RELEASE

I know that the 13th Annual Paint El Paseo Pink event on Saturday, October 12, 2019, is a potentially hazardous activity and I hereby assume full and complete responsibility for any injury or accident which may occur during my participation in this event or while on the premises of this event, and I hereby release and hold harmless and covenant not to file suit against Desert Cancer Foundation, the City of Palm Desert, its officers, officials, agents, employees and volunteers, any Walk sponsors and their agents and employees, and all other persons or entities associated with this event (the Releasees) from any loss, liability or claims I may have arising out of my participation in this event, including personal injury or damage suffered by me or others, whether same be caused by falls, contact with participants, conditions of the course, negligence of the Releasees or otherwise. Participant shall cause all walkers participating in Promotion to hold harmless and release Owner and Taubman Company LLC as Managing Agent from any and all claims and liability growing or arising out of the Promotion or their presence at the Center in connection with the Promotion. I hereby grant permission to Desert Cancer Foundation and its authorized agents to use my name, photographs, videotapes, motion pictures in connection with this event, including recording any other record of my participation in this event for any purpose.

Signature: _____

Parent /guardian signature if participant under age 18



STEP UP FOR CANCER AWARENESS!