Christ is Risen!

The other day I was driving my car and didn’t realize that the tank was almost empty. I began to get nervous, and kept praying to God that the car wouldn’t run out of gas before I reached the next gas station. When I checked my GPS, the closest station was 11 miles away! Thank God, though, I did reach the station and didn’t end up having to actually push the car!!!

As I thought about my carelessness in allowing the car to almost reach that critical point of empty, I reflected on what a great analogy this situation offers for our spiritual lives.

How many of us are close to running on empty in our spiritual lives? How many of us don’t even take the time to look at our spiritual gage, and see whether we actually have gas in our tanks. In fact, how many of us are now sitting in our cars, not moving at all because our spiritual tank is empty, and as we sit there not moving, we don’t actually do anything about it! It does no good to “wish” our tank was full. Instead we have to actually do something to refill our tank!

This month, as we continue to bask in the joy and wonder of our Lord Jesus’ Resurrection, we celebrate two other special feastdays of the Church - the Ascension of our Lord into heaven and Pentecost, which marks 50 days after Pascha when the Holy Spirit came down with power upon the followers of Jesus Christ.

Both these feast days remind us how Christ longs to fill our “tanks” with His Spirit. Our Lord doesn’t want us to run on empty as we journey through life. He wants to fill us and empower us each and every day of our lives. He even offers Himself to us daily through our connection with Him in prayer, through reading of Holy Scripture, and whenever we approach to
The mission of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church is to proclaim the Good News of Salvation through the Orthodox Christian Faith for the glory of our Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are a community of believers who journey towards our Lord Jesus Christ and one another through our WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH, WITNESS, and SERVICE. We invite all people to join us on this journey in the Kingdom of Heaven.

We are under the jurisdiction of
His Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America
His Eminence, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston

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RUNNING ON EMPTY?!?

unite with Him through Holy Communion. But remember, He will never push Himself on us, or force us to fill our spiritual tanks with His Presence. It’s up to us to see whether we have a need, and then to ask, and willingly accept to be filled with His Spirit.

Here are a few promises that our Lord Jesus offered to His followers:

“Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give will never thirst. But the water that I shall give will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

“I am the bread of life, anyone who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

“Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

“I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly.”

“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.”

“And remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Christ didn’t abandon the world when He ascended back into heaven. In fact, He promised that He would send down upon us a powerful Comforter, an Advocate, the Spirit of Truth. God will never abandon His children. God is with us and will always be with us! He is ready to fill our tanks, our lives with His Presence. Yet, will we allow Him to do this?

Here is the great promise and blessing of Pentecost. God’s Holy Spirit is ready to come and dwell within us! All we have to do is open up and invite Him. All we have to do is accept Him. And the more we open our hearts each day to receive Him, the more we will experience the peace and joy of the living God active in our lives!

So let us not sit in our cars with an empty tank! Let’s not go through life feeling empty, like we are going no where! Instead, let’s fill up our minds, hearts and souls with, as the Apostle Paul said, all that is “good, true, noble, just, pure, lovely, virtuous and praiseworthy” (Philippians 4:8). Let us begin each day with a Prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to come and be present and active in our lives:

Come O Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who are present everywhere and fill all things, the Treasury of blessings and Giver of Life, Come and Abide in us!

With much joy, hope, and love in our Resurrected Lord Jesus,

+Luke
The Light - May 2018

MEN HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

As a survivor of the Communist Holocaust, I am horrified to witness how my beloved America, my adopted country, is gradually being transformed into a secularist and atheistic utopia, where communist ideals are glorified and promoted, while Judeo-Christian values and morality are ridiculed and increasingly eradicated from the public and social consciousness of our nation. Under the decades-long assault and militant radicalism of many so-called “liberal” and “progressive” elites, God has been progressively erased from our public and educational institutions, to be replaced with all manner of delusion, perversion, corruption, violence, decadence, and insanity.

It is no coincidence that as Marxist ideologies and secularist principles engulf the culture and pervert mainstream thinking, individual freedoms and liberties are rapidly disappearing. As a consequence, Americans feel increasingly more powerless and subjugated by some of the most radical and hypocritical, least democratic, and characterless individuals our society has ever produced.

Those of us who have experienced and witnessed firsthand the atrocities and terror of communism understand fully why such evil takes root, how it grows and deceives, and the kind of hell it will ultimately unleash on the innocent and the faithful. Godlessness is always the first step towards tyranny and oppression!

Nobel laureate, Orthodox Christian author, and Russian dissident, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, in his “Godlessness: the First Step to the Gulag” address, given when he received the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion on May of 1983, explained how the Russian revolution and the communist takeover were facilitated by an atheistic mentality an a long process of secularization which alienated the people from God and traditional Christian morality and beliefs. He rightly concluded: “Men have forgotten God; that’s why all this has happened.”

The text of his Templeton Address is provided below. The parallels with the current crisis and moral decay in American society are striking and frightening. Those who have ears to hear, let them hear!

* * *

“Men Have Forgotten God”
The Templeton Address

More than half a century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of older people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia: Men have forgotten God; that’s why all this has happened.

Since then I have spent well-nigh fifty years working on the history of our Revolution; in the process I have read hundreds of books, collected hundreds of personal testimonies, and have already contributed eight volumes of my own toward the effort of clearing away the rubble left by that upheaval. But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous Revolution that swallowed up some sixty million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: Men have forgotten God; that’s why all this has happened.

What is more, the events of the Russian Revolution can only be understood now, at the end of the century, against the background of what has since occurred in the rest of the world. What emerges here is a process of universal significance. And if I were called upon to identify briefly the principal trait of the entire twentieth century, here too, I would be unable to find anything more precise and pithy than to repeat once again: Men have forgotten God.

The failings of human consciousness, deprived of its divine dimension, have been a determining factor in all the major crimes of this century.

The failings of human consciousness, deprived of its divine dimension, have been a determining factor in all the major crimes of this century. The first of these was World War I, and much of our present predicament can be traced back to it. It was a war (the memory of which seems to be fading) when Europe, bursting with health and abundance, fell into a rage of self-mutilation which could not but sap its strength for a century or more, and perhaps forever. The only possible explanation for this war is a mental eclipse among the leaders of Europe due to their lost awareness of a Supreme Power above them. Only a godless embitterment could have moved ostensibly Christian states to employ poison gas, a weapon so obviously beyond the limits of humanity.
The same kind of defect, the flaw of a consciousness lacking all divine dimension, was manifested after World War II when the West yielded to the satanic temptation of the “nuclear umbrella.” It was equivalent to saying: Let’s cast off worries, let’s free the younger generation from their duties and obligations, let’s make no effort to defend ourselves, to say nothing of defending others—let’s stop our ears to the groans emanating from the East, and let us live instead in the pursuit of happiness. If danger should threaten us, we shall be protected by the nuclear bomb; if not, then let the world burn in Hell for all we care. The pitifully helpless state to which the contemporary West has sunk is in large measure due to this fatal error: the belief that the defense of peace depends not on stout hearts and steadfast men, but solely on the nuclear bomb…

Today’s world has reached a stage which, if it had been described to preceding centuries, would have called forth the cry: “This is the Apocalypse!” Yet we have grown used to this kind of world; we even feel at home in it.

Dostoevsky warned that “great events could come upon us and catch us intellectually unprepared.” This is precisely what has happened. And he predicted that “the world will be saved only after it has been possessed by the demon of evil.” Whether it really will be saved we shall have to wait and see: this will depend on our conscience, on our spiritual lucidity, on our individual and combined efforts in the face of catastrophic circumstances. But it has already come to pass that the demon of evil, like a whirlwind, triumphantly circles all five continents of the earth…

By the time of the Revolution, faith had virtually disappeared in Russian educated circles; and amongst the uneducated, its health was threatened.

In its past, Russia did know a time when the social ideal was not fame, or riches, or material success, but a pious way of life. Russia was then steeped in an Orthodox Christianity which remained true to the Church of the first centuries. The Orthodoxy of that time knew how to safeguard its people under the yoke of a foreign occupation that lasted more than two centuries, while at the same time fending off iniquitous blows from the swords of Western crusaders. During those centuries the Orthodoxy in our country became part of the very pattern of thought and the personality of our people, the forms of daily life, the work calendar, the priorities in every undertaking, the organization of the week and of the year. Faith was the shaping and unifying force of the nation.

But in the 17th century Russian Orthodoxy was gravely weakened by an internal schism. In the 18th, the country was shaken by Peter’s forcibly imposed transformations, which favored the economy, the state, and the military at the expense of the religious spirit and national life. And along with this lopsided Petrine enlightenment, Russia felt the first whiff of secularism; its subtle poisons permeated the educated classes in the course of the 19th century and opened the path to Marxism. By the time of the Revolution, faith had virtually disappeared in Russian educated circles; and amongst the uneducated, its health was threatened.

It was Dostoevsky, once again, who drew from the French Revolution and its seeming hatred of the Church the lesson that “revolution must necessarily begin with atheism.” That is absolutely true. But the world had never before known a godlessness as organized, militarized, and tenaciously malevolent as that practiced by Marxism. Within the philosophical system of Marx and Lenin, and at the heart of their psychology, hatred of God is the principal driving force, more fundamental than all their political and economic pretensions. Militant atheism is not merely incidental or marginal to Communist policy; it is not a side effect, but the central pivot.

The 1920’s in the USSR witnessed an uninterrupted procession of victims and martyrs amongst the Orthodox clergy. Two metropolitan were shot, one of whom, Veniamin of Petrograd, had been elected by the popular vote of his diocese. Patriarch Tikhon himself passed through the hands of the Cheka-GPU and then died under suspicious circumstances. Scores of archbishops and bishops perished. Tens of thousands of priests, monks, and nuns, pressured by the Chekists to renounce the Word of God, were tortured, shot in cellars, sent to camps, exiled to the desolate tundra of the far North, or turned out into the streets in their old age without food or shelter. All these Christian martyrs went unwaveringly to their deaths for the faith; instances of apostasy were few and far between. For tens of millions of laymen access to the Church was blocked, and they were forbidden to bring up their children in the Faith: religious parents were wrenched from their children and thrown into prison, while children were turned from the faith by threats and lies…
MEN HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD

Continued from page 3

For a short period of time, when he needed to gather strength for the struggle against Hitler, Stalin cynically adopted a friendly posture toward the Church. This deceptive game, continued in later years by Brezhnev with the help of showcase publications and other window dressing, has unfortunately tended to be taken at its face value in the West. Yet the tenacity with which hatred of religion is rooted in Communism may be judged by the example of their most liberal leader, Krushchev: for though he undertook a number of significant steps to extend freedom, Krushchev simultaneously rekindled the frenzied Leninist obsession with destroying religion.

But there is something they did not expect: that in a land where churches have been leveled, where a triumphant atheism has rampaged uncontrolled for two-thirds of a century, where the clergy is utterly humiliated and deprived of all independence, where what remains of the Church as an institution is tolerated only for the sake of propaganda directed at the West, where even today people are sent to the labor camps for their faith, and where, within the camps themselves, those who gather to pray at Easter are clapped in punishment cells—they could not suppose that beneath this Communist steamroller the Christian tradition would survive in Russia. It is true that millions of our countrymen have been corrupted and spiritually devastated by an officially imposed atheism, yet there remain many millions of believers: it is only external pressures that keep them from speaking out, but, as is always the case in times of persecution and suffering, the awareness of God in my country has attained great acuteness and profundity.

It is here that we see the dawn of hope: for no matter how formidably Communism bristles with tanks and rockets, no matter what successes it attains in seizing the planet, it is doomed never to vanquish Christianity.

The West has yet to experience a Communist invasion; religion here remains free. But the West’s own historical evolution has been such that today it too is experiencing a drying up of religious consciousness. It too has witnessed racking schisms, bloody religious wars, and rancor, to say nothing of the tide of secularism that, from the late Middle Ages onward, has progressively inundated the West. This gradual sapping of strength from within is a threat to faith that is perhaps even more dangerous than any attempt to assault religion violently from without.

Imperceptibly, through decades of gradual erosion, the meaning of life in the West has ceased to be seen as anything more lofty than the “pursuit of happiness,” a goal that has even been solemnly guaranteed by constitutions. The concepts of good and evil have been ridiculed for several centuries; banished from common use, they have been replaced by political or class considerations of short lived value. It has become embarrassing to state that evil makes its home in the individual human heart before it enters a political system. Yet it is not considered shameful to make dally concessions to an integral evil. Judging by the continuing landslide of concessions made before the eyes of our very own generation, the West is ineluctably slipping toward the abyss. Western societies are losing more and more of their religious essence as they thoughtlessly yield up their younger generation to atheism.

If a blasphemous film about Jesus is shown throughout the United States, reputedly one of the most religious countries in the world, or a major newspaper publishes a shameless caricature of the Virgin Mary, what further evidence of godlessness does one need? When external rights are completely unrestricted, why should one make an inner effort to restrain oneself from ignoble acts? Or why should one refrain from burning hatred, whatever its basis—race, class, or ideology? Such hatred is in fact corroding many hearts today. Atheist teachers in the West are bringing up a younger generation in a spirit of hatred of their own society. Amid all the vituperation we forget that the defects of capitalism represent the basic flaws of human nature, allowed unlimited freedom together with the various human rights; we forget that under Communism (and Communism is breathing down the neck of all moderate forms of socialism, which are unstable) the identical flaws run riot in any person with the least degree of authority; while everyone else under that system does indeed attain “equality”—the equality of destitute slaves. This eager fanning of the flames of hatred is becoming the
Our life consists not in the pursuit of material success or happiness but in the quest for worthy spiritual growth. Our entire earthly existence is but a transitional stage in the movement toward something higher... Material laws alone cannot explain our life or give it direction.

mark of today’s free world. Indeed, the broader the personal freedoms are, the higher the level of prosperity or even of abundance—the more vehement, paradoxically, does this blind hatred become. The contemporary developed West thus demonstrates by its own example that human salvation can be found neither in the profusion of material goods nor in merely making money.

This deliberately nurtured hatred then spreads to all that is alive, to life itself, to the world with its colors, sounds, and shapes, to the human body. The embittered art of the twentieth century is perishing as a result of this ugly hate, for art is fruitless without love. In the East art has collapsed because it has been knocked down and trampled upon, but in the West the fall has been voluntary, a decline into a contrived and pretentious quest where the artist, instead of attempting to reveal the divine plan, tries to put himself in the place of God.

Here again we witness the single outcome of a worldwide process, with East and West yielding the same results, and once again for the same reason: Men have forgotten God.

With such global events looming over us like mountains, nay, like entire mountain ranges, it may seem incongruous and inappropriate to recall that the primary key to our being or non-being resides in each individual human heart, in the heart’s preference for specific good or evil. Yet this remains true even today, and it is, in fact, the most reliable key we have. The social theories that promised so much have demonstrated their bankruptcy, leaving us at a dead end. The free people of the West could reasonably have been expected to realize that they are beset by numerous freely nurtured falsehoods, and not to allow lies to be foisted upon them so easily. All attempts to find a way out of the plight of today’s world are fruitless unless we redirect our consciousness, in repentance, to the Creator of all; without this, no exit will be illumined, and we shall seek it in vain. The resources we have set aside for ourselves are too impoverished for the task. We must first recognize the horror perpetrated not by some outside force, not by class or national enemies, but within each of us individually, and within every society. This is especially true of a free and highly developed society, for here in particular we have surely brought everything upon ourselves, of our own free will. We ourselves, in our daily unthinking selfishness, are pulling tight that noose...

Our life consists not in the pursuit of material success but in the quest for worthy spiritual growth. Our entire earthly existence is but a transitional stage in the movement toward something higher, and we must not stumble and fall, nor must we linger fruitlessly on one rung of the ladder. Material laws alone do not explain our life or give it direction. The laws of physics and physiology will never reveal the indisputable manner in which the Creator constantly, day in and day out, participates in the life of each of us, unfailingly granting us the energy of existence; when this assistance leaves us, we die. And in the life of our entire planet, the Divine Spirit surely moves with no less force: this we must grasp in our dark and terrible hour.

To the ill-considered hopes of the last two centuries, which have reduced us to insignificance and brought us to the brink of nuclear and non-nuclear death, we can propose only a determined quest for the warm hand of God, which we have so rashly and self-confidently spurned. Only in this way can our eyes be opened to the errors of this unfortunate twentieth century and our bands be directed to setting them right. There is nothing else to cling to in the landslide: the combined vision of all the thinkers of the Enlightenment amounts to nothing.

Our five continents are caught in a whirlwind. But it is during trials such as these that the highest gifts of the human spirit are manifested. If we perish and lose this world, the fault will be ours alone.
We have heard in the Acts of the Apostles how, as the Feast of Pentecost was approaching, Paul the Apostle had started on his journey to Jerusalem to be there together with all those who on that very day received the Holy Spirit. Of all of them he was the only one who had not been present in the High Room where the first Pentecost actually took place. And yet, God had given him a true, a perfect conversion of heart, and of mind and of life, and had given him freely the gift of the Holy Spirit in response to his total, ultimate gift of self to Him, the God Whom he did not know but Whom he worshipped.

We also are on our way to the day of Pentecost (which we celebrate this year on May 31st) so we will keep this event. When Paul was on his way, he thought of what had happened to himself in the solitude of his journey from Jerusalem to Damascus and in the gift of the Spirit mediated to him by Ananias. And we also, each of us singly and all of us together should reflect on all that God has given us. He has given us existence and breathed life into us, not only the life of the body, but a life that makes us akin to Him, His life. He has given us to know Him, the Living God, and He has given us to meet, in the Gospel and in life. His Only Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In Baptism, in the Anointment with Holy Chrism, in Communion to the Body and Blood of Christ, in the mysterious, silent communion of prayer, in the moments when God Himself came near, although we were not thinking of Him, He has given us so much.

Let us reflect on all that is given us, asking ourselves whether we are truly disciples of Christ. We know from Saint Paul what it means to be a disciple: he said that for him, to live is Christ, to die will be a gain, because as long as he is in the flesh he is separated from Christ, Christ Whom he loves, Christ Who has become everything to his life, not only in time but for all eternity. And yet, says he, he is prepared to live, not to die, because his presence on earth is necessary to others. This is the measure of communion he had with Christ. And this is shown so movingly in a parallel between a small phrase in the Acts of the Apostles and in the Gospel: both the Lord Jesus Christ and His disciple say that they are now going back to the Father, that the time of their departure has come. His life in Christ had culminated in such identification with what Christ stood for, and beyond that with what Christ was, that whatever was applicable to Christ became applicable to him. Indeed, for him to live was Christ, and he longed for his death, but he had learned from God something more than this longing for freedom, for communion with the God Whom he adored and served so faithfully, - he had learned that to give is a greater joy than to receive.

The saints had heard Christ say, ‘No one has greater love that he who gives his life for his friends’. Paul, the other apostles, and innumerable saints after them gave their lives, shed their lives day after day forgetting themselves, rejecting every thought, every concern about themselves, having thought only for those who needed God, who needed the word of truth, who needed love divine. They lived for others, they gave as generously as they had received.

We also are called to learn the joy, the exhilarating, the wonderful joy of giving, of turning away from ourselves to be free to give, and of giving on all levels, the smallest things and the greatest things. And this can be taught us only by the power of the Holy Spirit that unites us to Christ, makes us into one body with Him, a body of people, bound with each other in their total togetherness, one with the God who is our unity.

Let us think of all we have received from God and ask ourselves: what can we give first to Him so that He can rejoice in us, so that He can know that He has not lived and died in vain. And what can we give to all those who surround us, beginning with the smallest, the humblest gifts to those closest to us and ending with giving all we can to those who need more.

And then truly Pentecost will come as a gift of life, a gift that unites us, welds us into one body capable of being to others a vision on earth of the Kingdom, but also a source of life and of joy, so that truly our joy, and the joy of all those whom we meet should be fulfilled.
The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is the way long?" She asked. The angel told her, "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end. But the end will be better than the beginning."

The young mother was happy and she would not believe anything could be better than those early years. So she played with her children and gathered flowers for them along the way and bathed them in the clear streams; and the sun shone on them and life was good. The young mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then night came, and the storm hit, and the path was dark and the children shook with fear and cold. The mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle and the children said, "Oh, Mom, we’re not afraid, for you are near us, and no harm can come." And the mother said, "This is better than the brightness of day, for I have taught my children courage."

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead and the children climbed and grew weary, along with their mom. But at times she said to her beloved, "A little patience and we will be there." So the children climbed and when they reached the top, they said, "We could not have done it without you, Mom." And the mother thought, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage, but today I have taught them strength."

And with the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth, clouds of war and hate and evil, and the children groped and stumbled. The mother said, "Look up. Lift your eyes to the Lord." And the children looked and saw above the clouds an Everlasting Glory, and He guided them and brought them beyond the darkness. And that night the mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have taught my children faith in God."

And the days and weeks and months and years passed by. Now the mother was old and bent over. And her children were tall and strong and walked with courage. When the way was rough they lifted her, for she was as light as a feather. And at last they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and a golden gate flung wide open. And the mother said, "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone now, with courage, and fortitude and faith. They will guide their own children, and their children after them.

And the children said, "You will always walk with us, Mom, even when you have gone through the gates. And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said, 'We cannot see her, but she is with us still. A mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a living presence with us!'"
PARISH COUNCIL
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

“Without a Working Cellphone”

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Christ is Risen!

A few months back I wrote to you about unplugging from technology, not paying attention to Facebook and other such outlets on the web. I recently got a bit of my own medicine and I wanted to share my experiences.

I was fortunate enough to take my wife and two of our kids to Italy for a bit of a vacation. The sights of Venice, Florence, and Rome were all beautiful and magnificent, especially the churches. On our second day in Italy, Apple (they make my iPhone, of course) decided to update my system software on my phone (the dreaded OS upgrade). I had not chosen to accept the update, they “pushed” it down to my phone. After a few hours of calls to Verizon and attempts to rectify the situation on the Apple website, I gave up and accepted the fact that the result of the update would be that my phone would be totally inoperable except for emergency calls for the entire trip. I hope to get it fixed upon my return to the US.

It was obviously extremely frustrating to not have access to my phone. I couldn’t use the phone to take pictures, order an Uber (an internet Taxi), check the weather, use the alarm to wake in the morning, check Google Maps to see where we were on the streets of Florence, etc. But even without those frustrations, there was a clear sense of liberation for the rest of the vacation. In addition to not being able to do all those things mentioned above (I especially didn’t like not being able to take pictures) I could also not check work email! Nor could I receive texts or calls from work! A weight of concern had been lifted from my shoulders. I was free from constantly looking down at my cell phone for an email, or a text, to see what was happening on a particular work topic. I have to say that it made our trip better.

Naturally I logged into work email every night and every morning and tried to do what I could for the needs of my job (because I brought my PC with me on the trip). I informed my customers of my situation with my phone and they all understood. More than that, once I told them I was on vacation they even stopped sending me emails, which tells you a bit about the human condition.

We used my wife’s phone for any emergencies or a quick check of Google Maps, but I did not set up her phone to read my email, and I’m glad I didn’t. The world survived for the week and a half of me being out of constant connection with the web, and I daresay our family vacation was better for it.

Maybe next time I vacation I’ll find a way to disable my phone!

Very Sincerely,
Neal Neslusan

APRIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

• Due to our harsh winter snow storms, we have more than $8000 in snow plowing bills, along with a higher electric and gas bill. This has left our financials by mid-April at $8000 in the red, even after the Pascha giving. Typically after the Easter Season, our finances are in solid shape until the lean summer months. The Parish Council noted we have to have a few extra fundraisers to make up for this lost. They also wanted to encourage the Stewards of our Church to please keep up with their stewardship support, and even consider increasing their annual giving.

• We have two unexpected, serious issues with a leaky room on the flat section of the Church Roof, and we are looking into possibly replacing our old heating/AC units, and our Parish House, which has serious foundational issues. We are assessing to see how to resolve this. Both issues could be a large and unexpected expense.

• We have two upcoming fundraisers will be our CHURCH GOLF TOURNAMENT on June 17th, and our GYRO FEST on June 23rd. We want to encourage all our parishioners to please support these two events! Contact Arthur Bilis for the Golf Tourney and Mike Chito/Joey Glinecki/Bill Thompson for the Gyro Fest.

• Upcoming May events include Godparents/Grandparents Sunday May 6th & Church Nameday May 20th.
PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Christ is Risen! And A Happy spring!

On April 16th we met and had a very productive meeting. First I would like to thank Eleni Xanthopoulos and her workers for baking the Easter breads for our community and for our shut ins. We made over $1900.00! That is amazing! And we didn't even advertise outside our parish.

Our next fundraiser is the Calendar Raffle for the month of June. We have 30 prizes donated - which include either a gift item, basket, or gift card of $25.00 or more - for each day in the month of June. We will be selling tickets throughout the month of May and then raffle the prizes each day in June. The cost to buy a ticket is $10.00. We will start selling these tickets on April 30th and every Sunday in May. Also many of our Philoptochos ladies will help sell tickets. Please support this fundraiser. Take a few extra tickets and sell them to your friends and neighbors. For $10.00 you have 30 chances to win a great prizes!

Our parish council will sponsor our 2nd Annual Gyro Fest on Saturday, June 23rd. It was so successful last year that we are doing it again this year and expanding it! We will ask the Philoptochos to bake petas and baklava in house as well as other pastries from home. We will also have a center table as a raffle. We will also organize a large yard sale with vendors. It should be a great day. At our next meeting on May 14th at 6:00, we will discuss times for baking.

We also talked about our end of year dinner in June. We are looking into when and where. Father Luke will announce details in church and also send a phone message. We also talked about having a bus trip to Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline. Recently Sam and I went to a wedding at their chapel. It was beautiful and quaint! It made you feel like you were in Greece! We talked about renting a bus. We will talk to Fr Luke about it. We could also visit the Philoxenia House which is located on the HCHC campus. This is a home which our Philoptochos supports, which houses visitors from overseas who have family members with serious illnesses who are going to the hospitals in Boston.

We will be awarding scholarships to our High School graduates this year on June 10th. We have 8 high school seniors this year, which is the largest class in recent memory. Congratulations to them all! We will also be giving our youth $3000.00 towards their participation in Project Mexico and the Metropolis of Boston summer camp. So please support our fundraisers because what we need to raise funds to support our youth, our parish, and other worthy causes!

Our Church's Nameday celebration is this month. We are looking for help in baking for the Feast day Vespers on the evening of May 20th. We will set up and serve for that evening.

At this time I would also like to extend our sympathies to Sandi and her family in the loss of her mother Helen. She will be greatly missed! Helen was a great lady in many ways, warm, loving, and generous! She was very active in the Philoptochos, where she served as president and in other positions and committees for many years. May her memory be eternal! We also express our condolences to the Thomas family for the passing of their brother Van. May his memory be eternal.

Don't forget our next meeting on May 14th. Refreshments will be served. Also, please see Sandi to pay your annual dues.

Thank you! And have a wonderful Spring!!

With much love and affection,

Evelyn Pappas
Christ is Risen!  
Christos Anesti!  
Krishti u Ngjall!  
Kristos Voskresie!  
Hristos a Inviat!  

Scenes from Palm Sunday, Holy Week & Pascha
Come Join Us for our 14th Annual
Grandparents/Godparents and Grandchildren/Godchildren Sunday

9:30am Divine Liturgy
10:45 Children’s Program in Church
11:00 Hansel and Gretel Puppet Show
11:30 A Delicious Spaghetti Luncheon

Sunday, May 6

We welcome the Tanglewood Marionettes, who will offer delightful professional puppet show of “Hansel and Gretel”

Come and celebrate the
Feastday of our Saints
Constantine & Helen Church

6:00 pm Vesper Service, Sunday MAY 20th

FOLLOWED BY A COMMUNITY DINNER
offered by SANDI & GERRY KUNKEL
in Loving Memory of her beloved parents

CHARLIE AND HELEN PAPPAS

and in honor of
all those who celebrate their feast day!
THANK YOU FOR ALL LENTEN & PASCHA DONATIONS

Lenten Altar Flowers:
For Glory of God from Barbara Desrosiers
For the Glory of God from Vasiliki Zaharidis
In loving memory of Hristos Bilis from Christine Porrazo
For the Glory of God from Rita Carabina
For the Glory of God from Evelyn and Sam Pappas

Friday Salutations Flowers
In loving memory of Nick Stathis from Dora Stathis and Pres Faith Veronis
In loving memory of Charles from wife Ann Chito
For the Glory of God from Eleni and Paul Xanthopoulos

Cross Sunday Flowers - In loving memory of Uncle George Kustas from Nike Beaudry
Incense (for a year) – For the Glory of God from Aristotelis and Gloria Panagiotou
Charcoal for (one Year) – For the Glory of God from Lorna McWilliam
Altar Candles (for a Year) – For glory of God from George/Helen Kerbici

Garland at Entry of Church—In Memory of John Panagiotou from his wife Evangelia
Palms and Trees— In loving memory of deceased members of the Naum family from Ana, and
In memory of our parents Grigorios & Aglaia, and Zenon & Anna from Helen and Bill Zenon
Bridegrooms Icon Flowers – In Memory of John Panagiotou from his son Kosta

Uction Supplies - $50 In memory of those who have gone before us – Anonymous

Holy Thursday Candles - For the Glory of god from Leah Didonato
Holy Thursday Flower Crown - In loving memory of Charlie and Helen Pappas
Holy Friday Epitaphio Candles - In loving memory of Charles from wife Ann Chito
Holy Friday Epitaphio Flowers - For Glory of God from Zach Gianaris and Joey Gliniecki
Holy Saturday Rose Petals - For the Glory of God from Sandi and Gerry Kunkel

Holy Altar Easter Arrangement - In loving memory of sister Dina Teguis from Eleanor and Mary
Resurrection Candle - In loving memory of Bruce and Alexis from Despina and Bill Condos
Resurrection Icon Flowers – For Glory of God from Sophie Apostol
Circular Resurrection Icon Flowers - For the Glory of God from Richard and Louise Pavlech
Easter Pew Flowers - In loving memory of Cynthia from Alex and Chris Massie
White Lilies for Easter

In loving memory of Charles from wife Ann Chito
In loving memory of our parents from Chris & Helen Constantine
For the Glory of God from Aristotelis and Gloria Panagiotou
For the Glory of God from John and Samantha Gatsogiannis
For the Glory of God from Nick and Mary Seferi
For the Glory of God from Rita Carabina
In loving memory of Hristos Bilis from his wife Athina
For the Glory of God from Denise and Robert Gritzner
4 Lilies in Loving Memory of Cynthia from Chris and Alex Massie
In loving memory of Mary Patras and Argyrie Patras from Pauline and Carl Mueller
For the Glory of God from Anton and Nicoleta Cojocaru
In Loving Memory of our sister Elizabeth Vriga from Louise and Richard Pavlech
In Loving Memory of Charles and Loucia Christos from Sam, Evelyn, Angelo, Dhimitra
In Loving Memory of Stavros and Evangelia Pappas from Sam, Evelyn, Sakis, Lola, Olympia

And THANK YOU to everyone else who offered a special Pascha Donation to support our Beloved Church!
HOLY LANDS PILGRIMAGE
February 15-24, 2019

A SAMPLE SCHEDULE OF OUR PILGRIMAGE

Day 1: Depart for TEL AVIV
This afternoon, we will depart for an unforgettable and fulfilling spiritual odyssey!

Day 2: TEL AVIV / TIBERIAS
Welcome to the Holy Land! We will travel to Tiberias, a drive of approximately two hours. En route to Tiberias, visit the Church and Tomb of St. George in Lydda, the birthplace of St. George. Venerate the tomb and chain of St George. Some believe that the church was built on the very spot where St. George was chained and tortured in an attempt to convince him to renounce his faith. Others believe that the church was built in the place where he was buried after he was martyred in Nicomedia.

Day 3: TIBERIAS / RIVER JORDAN / CAPERNAUM / TABGHA / TIBERIAS
Enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus met Simon, Peter, James and John, his first disciples, and performed many miracles here. He stillled the raging storm on the Sea of Galilee that was about to flood their boat and walked on the stormy sea to His Apostles. In Capernaum, walk in the same village Jesus did. It is here that our Lord and Savior chose and called forth His Apostles, and where He preached and performed miracles such as the healing of the paralytic, the mother-in-law of Apostle Peter, the servant of the centurion and many others. See the remains of the House of Saint Peter, one of the very few exact sites we know Jesus visited. See the ruins of the Synagogue where Our Lord preached. Continue to the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Apostles, the very place Jesus called His first disciples. Enjoy the peaceful setting of this beautiful church with its red domes. We will go to the Mountain of Beatitudes, where Jesus Christ preached the Sermon on the Mount and where the Lord’s Prayer was said for the first time. Then, on to Tabgha (Seven Springs) and the Church of the Multiplication of Fishes and Loaves. It is here that the miracle of the loaves and fish took place. Over 5,000 men, women and children were fed from the miraculous multiplication of the five loaves of bread and two fish. Our last stop will be Yardenit on the River Jordan, the site for Spiritual Baptism and Water Blessing. Experience an affirmation of your baptism in the same river that our Lord was baptized by Saint John the Baptist 2,000 years ago.

Day 4: TIBERIAS / MT. TABOR / CANA / NAZARETH / JERUSALEM
We will visit the Church of the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor. At the top of Mt. Tabor, there, see an utterly commanding view of all of lower Galilee and the valley of the Armageddon. It was here that Jesus revealed the wonderful power of presence in communion with the Lawgiver and prophets of the past (Moses and Elijah). This also became immediate evidence of Communion with His Father. At the foot of Mt. Tabor is the little village of Naim, where Jesus raised the only son of the poor widow from the dead. In Cana our Lord performed his first public miracle turning water into wine at the request of His Blessed Mother the Virgin Mary to spare the bridegroom the embarrassment of running out of wine at his wedding party. A special service for married couples will follow.

In Nazareth, the home of Mary, Joseph and Jesus until the beginning of His ministry. Nazareth is also where Jesus spent some years of His youth after returning to Israel from Egypt and until His public ministry began. Visit the Virgin Mary’s Well where the Angel Gabriel announced the “good news” to Mary that she would give birth to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation is built over this site.
Day 5: JERUSALEM / BETHLEHEM / JERUSALEM
In Bethlehem is the birthplace of our Lord and Savior and the cradle of biblical history. Bethlehem is located five and half miles from Jerusalem. Visit the Shepherd’s field and the Church of the Nativity. A Greek Orthodox Church has been built over the birthplace of Our Lord by the Emperor Justinian and is over 1,500 years old. It is the second oldest Orthodox Church in existence. On the way back to Jerusalem, visit the Monastery and Church of the Prophet Elias and the Church and Tomb of St. Symeon, the Just.

Day 6: JERUSALEM
We will walk through old Jerusalem to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate and enjoy a private audience with His Beatitude Theophilos III, then continue with a visit to the Church of Saint Anna (birthplace of the Theotokos). Within its grounds are the Pools of Bethesda. These are the pools located near the sheep gate where the Lord cured the paralytic. Archeologists have uncovered all of the pools and the five porticoes, as was reported by St. John in the Gospel. Then, we will walk along the Way of the Cross. Venerate at the same cell the Lord was held prisoner before His crucifixion. It is located deep in a dungeon. There is a slab of stone with two holes through which His legs were passed and ankles shackled together. The cells of Barabas and the two thieves, who were crucified with Him, are here. We will continue with a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the site of our Savior’s death and resurrection. This is the most important church for Christians. We climb the stairs to reach Golgotha, the place of the crucifixion. Over the site, a main altar has been built. Take a moment to reflect in this Holy Place and to feel the spirit engulf you and appreciate all that Our Lord has given you and your loved ones. At the bottom of the stairs, as you leave the Chapel of the Golgotha, is the site where the body of Christ was placed after he was taken down from the cross. Then, we are led to the site of the Tomb, the place of the Lord’s resurrection. A small chapel has been built over the sacred place under the watch of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate. In the first small room is the great stone that sealed the tomb. It was here that the Angel of the Lord sat proclaiming the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The next small room contained the slab of stone on which the dead body of the Lord was placed, entombed and resurrected. It is a truly incredible experience to be in this church! It is from this tiny room that the Holy Light of the Resurrection emanates.

Day 7: JERUSALEM
Visit the Monastery of St Mary Magdalene to venerate the relics of St Elizabeth, the 20th century Russian Martyr and St Stephen’s Church. Then we visit the the Chapel of Ascension, the site our Lord ascended from the earth to Heaven. Continue to Gethsemane. Visit the Church of All Nations and the Garden of Agony. It is here our Lord prayed with great passion before He was to endure the selfless sacrifice to come. Continue with a visit to the Tomb of the Virgin Mary. It is from this site that the holy body of the Virgin Mother was taken into Heaven by her Son and God. We will visit the Western Wall (Wailing Wall) on Mount Moriah, where it is said the Patriarch Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son. Here also stands the Dome of the Rock, with its marble and multi-colored mosaics, quotations from the Koran and the Golden Cupola. Continue on to Mt. Zion to visit the Room of the Last Supper, King David’s Tomb and the Church of the Dormition. Return to the hotel for dinner. Those who wish may attend midnight Liturgy at the Holy Sepulcher for a truly unforgettable and spiritually-fulfilling evening.

Day 8: JERUSALEM / JERICHO / JERUSALEM
Visit the Mount of Temptation, where the Lord was tempted by the devil and fasted for forty days and forty nights. There is an altar built over the same slab of stone where Jesus prayed and fasted. The Monastery was built over this site, and there is only one elderly monk who takes care of it. He is truly inspirational. En route to the Dead Sea, stop in Qumran, the area where a Jewish sect thought to be the Essenes wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls. Continue to the Church of St. Elisseos and Zacchaeus’ Tree. This is the tree upon which Zacchaeus climbed in order to see the Lord walk by. From here, drive to the Judean Desert to the Monastery of St. Gerasimos. It is one of the oldest monasteries in the world, built by Abbot Gerasimos in 455 A.D. Continue to Martha and Lazarus Tomb in Bethany where Lazarus was raised from the dead by Jesus after 4 days in the tomb. The Lord wanted to establish His power over death and waited until Lazarus was confirmed dead before raising him from the dead.

Day 9: JERUSALEM / USA—Return Home
SAVE THE DATES FOR NEXT YEAR AND HAVE A ONCE IN A LIFETIME SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE!!!
Contact Fr. Luke today to reserve your spot!
PROJECT MEXICO FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN
50 Envelopes = $4000

We have 50 Envelopes on our Project Mexico Table in the Church Hall. Please take, or send, in one of the 50 Envelopes which have suggested donations from $25 to $100.

Help our Group of 26 go to the Project Mexico this summer and build another home for the needy. This will be the 8th time our Church goes to Mexico!

This is one way YOU can participate and help our Church fulfill Christ’s mission “to go into all the world and share the good news.” Help us build a home for those in need!!!

THANK YOU!!!

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
10:00am-11:15am
Wednesday in May 2, 9, 16
EVERYONE WELCOME!
Come and enjoy delightful fellowship, while learning your faith!

WEEKDAY SERVICES
May 2 - 9:15am Mid-Pentecost Liturgy
May 9 - 9:00am Liturgy at Holy Trinity Nursing Home
May 11 - 9:30 Liturgy for Sts Cyril and Methodios
May 16 - 9:15 Close of Pascha Liturgy
May 17 - 9:30 Ascension Liturgy
**USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE**

**May 6** Marie McNally, Matt Benoit, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi

**May 13** Neal Neslusan, Jimmy Karapanos, Bill Thompson, Tasi Vriga, Tatyana Zhuk, Mike Chito

**May 20** Nicoleta Cojocaru, Arthur Darligiannis, Zach Gianaris, Jared Quill, Nikitas Zagoras

**May 20 (evening)** Arthur Bilis, Chris Geoti, Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau, Ron Sanderson

**May 27** Marie McNally, Matt Benoit, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi

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**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SERVING GROUPS**

**May 6**- Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau, Deb Raymond, Vange Wilson, Alexandra Koulax

**May 13** Donna Cooney, Leah Didonato, Rena Klebart, Betty Tonna, Therese Totolos

**May 20** Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi

**May 27** - Kathy Bilis, Sara Darligiannis, Marie Monroe, Charlotte Neslusan, Stephanie Quill

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**Coffee Fellowship Supply Pastries/Donuts Groups**

*These groups will bake or bring in pastries/donuts and/or fruit and veggies for our coffee fellowship. We are looking for more volunteers to help!!!*

**May 6** – Sara Darligiannis, Sissy Darligiannis, Therese Totolos, Helen Constantine

May 13 – Lisa Healy, Marie McNally, Despina Condos, Trish Lareau

May 20 – Charlotte Neslusan, Evis Jordanoglou, Dolly Sosnowski, Annalisa Dunning

May 27 – Lynn Purcell, Rayne Purcell, Sophia Foisy, Kelly Vosnakis

June 3 – Titi Chito, Rina Sgouritsas, Lorna McWilliam, Pres. Faith Veronis

June 10 - Palm Sunday & Pascha

June 17 – Sandi Kunkel, Evelyn Pappas, Gulapka Kostovski, Betty Tonna, Alexandra KoulaX

June 24– Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Eleni Sgouritsas, Tina Collelo

July 1– Leah Didonato, Mary Seferi, Olga Poulokhine, Vasiliki Zahariadis

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**YOUTH EPISTLE READERS**

**May 6** - Lily Mueller

**May 13** - Olivia Neslusan

**May 20** - Helen Dunning

**May 27** - Panayiota Veronis

**June 3** - Theodora Veronis

**June 10** - Maia Beaudry

**June 17** - Zach Beaudry

**June 24** - Kiera MacKenzie
Remembering Our Church Family

Important Dates in MAY:

Try to make a visit or give a call, to those celebrate special days this month.

BIRTHDAYS:
May 1  Nick Seferi
May 3  Kara George
May 5  Ted Tonna
May 8  Maria Econome
May 9  Joey Gliniecki
May 12 Angelo Adamopoulos
May 12 Yanni Mironidis
May 13 Elliot Benoit
May 14 Cristina Enache
May 15 Matthew Neslusan
May 16 Barbara Gianaris
May 21 Stephanie Quill
May 21 Taso Zaharadis
May 22 Joan Geotis
May 25 Dimitri Mironidis
May 25 Scott Kunkel
May 26 Nicholas Avlas
May 27 Michael Belanger
May 29 Stephen Pappas
May 30 Sophia Koulax
May 30 Lea Koveas Mirandola
May 31 Gus Koulax
May 31 Matt Benoit
May 31 Tina Colello

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:
May 6  Nicholas/Athanasia Darligianis
May 7  Michael & Titi Chito
May 9  Michael & Muriel Angelo
May 12  Garry & Jaime Ross
May 19  Yanni & Katie Mironidis
May 21  Dimitrios & Efkapria Sidopoulos
May 22  John and Eleni Sgouritsas
May 23  Scott and Kathy Kunkel
May 24  Ron and Sandy Sanderson
May 27  Pauline & Carl Mueller

NAMEDAYS:
May 5  St Irene
   Irene Mountzouris

May 8  St John the Evangelist
   Ian Mackenzie

May 13  St. Glykeria
   Glykeria Partsalis

May 21  Sts Constantine & Helen
   Constatine Anifantis
   Eleni Barakilis
   Charles Constantine Chito
   Helen Constantine
   Helen Dunning
   Louisa Eleni Foisy
   Elaine Goulas
   Helen Hazatones
   Helen Kerbici
   Constantine (Gus) Koulax
   Helen Lepine
   Helen Metropoulos
   Chuck Spiro Pappas
   Kostas Panagiotou
   Eleni Sgouritsas
   Helen Thomas
   Eleni Xanthopoulos
   Helen Zenon

May His Memory Be Eternal
To our Beloved
VAN THOMAS
would entered into Eternal Life on Pascha Day, April 8

As Many as Have Been Baptized in Christ Have Put on Christ.

Congratulations to
JULIAN RAYMOND
Son of Amanda Raymand on his baptism
7th ANNUAL
Sts. Constantine & Helen
GOLFTOURNAMENT
12:30pm, June 16th
at Webster Dudley Golf Club
Cost: $90/person (includes golf, cart, dinner, and prizes)
Contact Arthur Bilis for more info!

MEMORIAL DAY PRAYERS

“May Their Memories Be Eternal”
Fr. Luke will be in Albania during the annual Memorial Day Prayers at Mt Zion Cemetery
If you would like him to go to the cemetery, please call Fr. Luke to arrange a time May 14-18.

REGISTER for our
VACATION CHURCH CAMP
July 9-13
METROPOLIS OF BOSTON SUMMER CAMP (www.mbcamp.org)
Week 4 - July 30 - Aug 5
Sign up today because MBC week fills up quickly

Look for our safe and convenient Online Giving at bottom left of Church webpage at www.schwebster.org

Learn your Orthodox Faith from Orthodox podcasts, music, teachings at

www.myocn.net

www.AncientFaith.com
Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!
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JUST A MOM?!?

A woman, renewing her driver’s license at the County Clerk’s office was asked by the woman recorder to state her occupation. She hesitated, uncertain how to classify herself. "What I mean is," explained the recorder, "do you have a job or are you just a.....?"

"Of course I have a job," snapped the woman. "I'm a Mom." "We don't list 'Mom' as an occupation, 'housewife' covers it," said the recorder emphatically.

I forgot all about her story until one day I found myself in the same situation, this time at our own Town Hall. The Clerk was obviously a career woman, poised, efficient and possessed of a high sounding title like, "Official Interrogator" or "Town Registrar." "What is your occupation?" she probed.

What made me say it? I do not know. The words simply popped out. "I'm a Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations." The clerk paused, ball-point pen frozen in midair and looked up as though she had not heard right. I repeated the title slowly emphasizing the most significant words. Then I stared with wonder as my pronouncement was written, in bold, black ink on the official questionnaire.

"Might I ask," said the clerk with new interest, "just what you do in your field?" Coolly, without any trace of fluster in my voice, I heard myself reply, "I have a continuing program of research, (what mother doesn't) in the laboratory and in the field, (normally I would have said indoors and out). I'm working for my Masters, (first the Lord and then the whole family) and already have four credits (all daughters).

Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities, (any mother care to disagree?) and I often work 14 hours a day, (24 is more like it). But the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers and the rewards are more of a satisfaction rather than just money."

There was an increasing note of respect in the clerk’s voice as she completed the form, and personally ushered me to the door. As I drove into our driveway, buoyed up by my glamorous new career, I was greeted by my lab assistants - - ages 13, 7, and 3. Upstairs I could hear our new experimental model, (a 6-month-old baby) in the child development program, testing out a new vocal pattern. I felt I had scored a beat on bureaucracy!

And I had gone on the official records as someone more distinguished and indispensable to mankind than "just another Mom." Motherhood! What a glorious career! Especially when there’s a title on the door.

Does this make grandmothers "Senior Research associates in the field of Child Development and Human Relations" and great grandmothers "Executive Senior Research Associates"? I think so!!! I also think it makes Aunts "Associate Research Assistants"!

Happy Mother’s Day!!!