

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

A Newsletter for the Russian Orthodox Parish of Saint Panteleimon, Gosford

~ Number 18, 5 October 2003 ~

PARISH LIFE: UPDATE ON PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS

In the last newsletter we reported that Vladika & the Diocesan Council had given support to our proposal to purchase an industrial unit in West Gosford, and that the Diocese had offered to purchase 25% of the unit. These pleasing developments have allowed us to move forward with negotiations over the property. Over the last fortnight, we have approached Gosford City Council to obtain approval for our proposed use of the unit. Our plans present no difficulties from the Council's point of view. The only stipulation has been that we do not conduct funerals at that site.

We have also been negotiating with different financial institutions to secure a loan for the 70% of the property value (~\$136,000) that we need to borrow. Unfortunately, this has not been as straightforward or as successful (yet) as we had hoped. A great deal of work has had to be done to prepare financial statements and projections, and although we are confident of meeting the repayments, it is proving to be a challenge to convince the banks of this, as they give greater weight to the figures to date than to projected, or future, figures. If our attempts to secure finance are all unsuccessful (and we are not at that stage yet), we will certainly have to do a fair bit of work over the next year or so to boost our regular income and our bank balance to ensure that this is not a problem next time.

Our own bank, Westpac, is considering our application for finance this week. All parishioners are asked to pray that this matter will proceed favourably for us.

Although a number of people have been busy with this project, special thanks are due to our tireless legal representative and adviser, Bill Reid, who has been hard at work on this matter every day, and to Paul Pereboeff, who organized an accountant for us and did a lot of work to put together our financial statements and projections. May the Lord bless them & all who have assisted!

PARISH LIFE: BABY ARRIVES!

All parishioners will be pleased to learn of the arrival early this week of baby Phillip, the first child of young parish members Victor & Susie Bendevski. Mother & baby are both in radiant good health, and arrived home from Gosford Hospital a few days ago. We offer our warmest congratulations to Victor and Susie. May God grant them and their new son many years!

PARISH LIFE: WELCOME HOME!

We are pleased to hear that Katya Rubbo, together with her husband Michael & their daughter Elena, has arrived safely back in Australia after their extended trip to Russia. We welcome them all back, and look forward to seeing Katya at church and singing in the choir again soon.

NEWS FROM THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

COMMUNIQUE on the Meeting of Metropolitan Laurus, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, Members of the Synod of Bishops and President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir V. Putin

A meeting took place in the Consulate of the Russian Federation in New York on 24 September between the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, His Eminence Metropolitan Laurus, members of the Synod of Bishops and President V.V. Putin of the Russian Federation.

Participating in the meeting were Archbishop Mark of Berlin, Germany and Great Britain, Bishop Kyrill of San Francisco and Western America, the Secretary of the Synod of Bishops, Bishop Gabriel of Manhattan, Protopriests Nikolai Artemov and Peter Holodny, as well as the Prior of the stavropighial Monastery of the Meeting of Our Lord in Moscow, Archimandrite Tikhon (Shevkunov).

The paths of the Russian Church in the tragic 20th century were discussed, the relationship between the Orthodox Church and the government in present-day Russia, and the perspectives for a constructive dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) and the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. A letter from Patriarch Alexey II to Metropolitan Laurus was presented, which contained an invitation to visit Moscow. The invitation was accepted with gratitude.

This meeting was the result of a long process of relations between members of the Russian Church in Russia and abroad. The invitation to this meeting was expressed also during President Putin's first visit to the USA in 2001. With the blessing of the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia during presidential visits to the USA and Germany, brief meetings were held between bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia and the President of the Russian Federation.

The matters discussed during this meeting will be presented for consideration at the forthcoming All-Diaspora Clergy Conference and Council of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia to be held in December.

"Our Task is Not to Seek Our Own Will, but the Will of God"

Interview given by Bishop Kyrill of San Francisco and Western America,
for the San Francisco Cathedral Publication "Messenger"

September 27, 2003.

Your Grace, who was the initiator of the meeting between His Eminence Metropolitan Laurus and the members of the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia with the President of Russia, Vladimir V. Putin?

In September of this year, the prior of the Stavropighial Monastery of the Meeting of the Vladimir Icon of God in Moscow (the Sretensky Monastery), Archimandrite Tikhon, asked to be heard at the Fall Session of the Synod of Bishops. The Sretensky Monastery is a major

publication center of the Church in Russia. Father Tikhon is well acquainted with both the internal life of the Moscow Patriarchate and the life of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. He participated in the Church History Conferences organized by the Russian Church Abroad in 2001 and 2002. At the Session of the Synod of Bishops, Father Tikhon conveyed President Putin's desire to meet with the hierarchy of the Russian Church Abroad.

When did it become known that the meeting would actually take place?

Initially we received a verbal invitation, but the official written invitation was received only a few days prior to the meeting itself.

What did you discuss with President Putin and what was your personal impression of him?

The President mainly spoke about Russia. Reconciliation was his main theme. For true reconciliation to take place in Russia, it is first necessary for the Russian Church to be reconciled. To that end, both parts of the Russian Church, that which is in Russia and the part beyond its borders, must find rapprochement. It is my understanding, and this brings me much consolation, that President Putin places the Church at the center of Russia's reconciliation, at the center of a revival and a healing process. I would say that this is the first time after the Revolution in Russia that a leader of Russia-Soviet Union has expressed such an Orthodox idea.

We also discussed the state of the Church in Russia, concerns regarding Church property and the legacy of the tragic 20th century. Our bishops suggested to President Putin that a special day be established in Russia commemorating all the victims of the godless terror. This would not be a holiday, an off day from work, but a day of sorrow. Schoolchildren would have talks dedicated to this subject. Regular programming on television would be cancelled, and only programs on the subject of this day of sorrow would be televised. President Putin personally welcomed this idea, but said that some thought would have to be given as to how to make it a reality. His Grace Metropolitan Laurus stressed that, for the Russian Church Abroad, serving Russia, laboring for the Russian Church, for the Russian people and culture, is of greatest importance. We presented an icon of St. Elizabeth to President Putin. I watched carefully how attentively he looked at the icon, how he made the sign of the cross with reverence and then venerated the icon.

I was left with the impression that the President of Russia is someone direct, open and sincere. He loves his country and his people deeply and it is clear that it pains him to see and know how difficult life is for the ordinary people. One can really sense this pain for Russia.

During our meeting, President Putin conveyed a personal invitation from the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Alexei to His Eminence Metropolitan Laurus to visit Russia. Metropolitan Laurus has been to Russia numerous times, but never in the capacity of the First-Hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church outside of Russia. The Metropolitan accepted the invitation with gratitude.

Your Grace, how do you propose events will unfold in the near future?

I would like to stress that all the events that have taken place thus far have happened, one could say, on their own. We did not make any plans, and we are not making any plans now. We do acknowledge, though, that in the course of the last 10 years, absolutely unpredictable events

have taken place, and also, that the division in the Russian Church continues to pain us. The Lord is merciful. He Himself leads us, He Himself arranges everything. We must not seek our own will, but the will of God.

Insofar as the future is concerned, our main focus now is on the upcoming All-Diaspora Clergy Conference and Sobor of Bishops of the Russian Church Abroad. The Conference will take place in the Holy Protection Parish in Nyack, NY, from December 8-12 of this year. This will not be simply a pastoral conference, but an All-Diaspora one, with clerical representatives from all dioceses of our Church. The main theme of the upcoming Conference is: "The Path of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, Past and Future." There will be guest speakers from Russia as well. They will deliver talks on the three topics: the New Martyrs of Russia, Church life in Russia and Ecumenism. The All-Diaspora Conference will convene under the omophorion of our Guide, the Kursk-Root Wonder-working Icon of the Mother of God. She has led us all these years and we hope for and are in great need of Her Protection.

In preparation for the All-Diaspora Conference and the upcoming Sobor of Bishops, a delegation of three bishops will visit Russia and meet with Patriarch Alexei. The main purpose for the meeting with Patriarch Alexei is to meet him face to face, without intermediaries, to discuss Church matters and to ascertain his personal views on a number of issues. The bishops will share the results of this meeting with the participants of the All-Diaspora Conference and the Sobor of Bishops in December.

Do you not think that some people may feel such a meeting is premature?

There are times when we should avoid meetings, and there are times when we are obliged to meet face to face. In the past I have feared such meetings, I even preferred being isolated, but there have been too many changes in Russia. As a pastor, I have a great responsibility for the salvation of souls, and I also feel that someone has been praying hard for me. All this has caused me to have a change of heart. If we have a great conviction in our position, if God is with us, we should not be afraid. According to Apostle Peter, we must always be ready to give an answer of our hope (I Peter, 3,15).

When we meet face to face with somebody, the picture we get is much closer to reality. We can no longer limit ourselves with reports from others, from internet news items and from a view from afar--the time has come for us to come into real contact with the body of the Church in Russia, with the life of the Church there, with the positive, the promising, as well as with the negative.

In conclusion I would like to say that our Lord, by miraculous means, is returning our Russian Church Abroad, the Church we are so dedicated to and love so dearly, to its original path, the path of its founders. I personally believe that this is due to the prayers of the great saint and wonder-worker of the Russian Church Abroad--Saint John of Shanghai and San Francisco. By his holy prayers may our Lord guide us!

НОВОСТИ ИЗ АРХИЕРЕЙСКОГО СИНОДА

КОММЮНИКЕ по поводу встречи митрополита Лавра, Первоиерарха Русской Православной Церкви за границей и членов Архиерейского Синода с Президентом Российской Федерации В.В. Путиным

24 сентября с.г. в Нью-Йорке в Генеральном консульстве РФ состоялась встреча Первоиерарха Русской Православной Церкви за границей, Высокопреосвященного митрополита Лавра, и членов Архиерейского Синода с Президентом России В.В. Путиным.

Во встрече принимали участие архиепископ Берлинско-Германский и Великобританский Марк, епископ Сан-Францисский и Западно-Американский Кирилл, секретарь Архиерейского Синода епископ Манхеттенский Гавриил, протоиереи Николай Артемов и Петр Холодный, а также наместник московского ставропигиального Сретенского монастыря, архимандрит Тихон (Шевкунов).

На встрече обсуждались пути Русской Церкви в трагическом XX веке, отношения между Православной Церковью и государством в нынешней России, перспективы конструктивного диалога между Русской Православной Церковью (Московского Патриархата) и Русской Зарубежной Церковью.

На встрече было передано письмо Патриарха Алексия II митрополиту Лавру с приглашением посетить Москву. Приглашение было с благодарностью принято.

Данная встреча - итог длительного процесса общения между членами Русской Церкви в России и в Зарубежье. Приглашение на такую встречу также было уже высказано во время первого визита Президента России В.В. Путина в США в 2001. По благословению Архиерейского Синода Русской Православной Церкви за границей при президентских визитах в США и Германию имели место краткие встречи архиереев Русской Зарубежной Церкви с Президентом России.

Итоги данной встречи будут представлены для обсуждения на предстоящих в декабре 2003 г. Всезарубежном пастырском совещании и Архиерейском Соборе Русской Православной Церкви за границей.

«Наше дело - не искать свою волю, а волю Божию»

Интервью, данное епископом Сан-Францисским и Западно-Американским Кириллом, санфранцисскому соборному «Благовестнику», 27 сентября, 2003

Ваше Преосвященство, кто был инициатором встречи Высокопреосвященнейшего митрополита Лавра и членов Архиерейского Синода с Президентом России В.В. Путиным?

- В сентябре месяце с.г. на заседание Архиерейского Синода прибыл настоятель ставропигиального Сретенского монастыря в Москве, архимандрит Тихон. Сретенский монастырь - издательский центр Православной Церкви в России. Отец Тихон хорошо знает и о внутренней жизни Московского Патриархата, и о жизни Русской Зарубежной Церкви. Он был участником двух Церковно-исторических конференциях, проведенных в 2001 и 2002

годах. На заседании Архиерейского Синода отец Тихон передал архипастырям пожелание Президента России, В.В. Путина встречи с иерархией Русской Православной Церкви за границей.

Когда стало известно, что встреча состоится?

- Сперва мы получили устное приглашение, но официальное письменное приглашение было получено лишь за несколько дней до самой встречи.

О чем вы беседовали с Президентом Путиным и какое у вас осталось впечатление от встречи с ним?

- Президент говорил главным образом о России, о том, что она нуждается в примирении. Но процесс примирения не может иметь место, если Церковь в России не примиренная. Для этого необходимо, чтобы две части Русской Церкви, в России и за ее пределами, примирились. В моем понимании, и это меня очень утешает, Президент ставит Церковь в центр примирения, в центр возрождения и исцеления России. Впервые после революции возглавитель России-Советского Союза выразил такую православную мысль.

Мы также беседовали о положении Церкви, об имущественных вопросах, о последствиях трагического XX века. Нашими архипастырями была предложена мысль, чтобы в России был учрежден особый день памяти жертв безбожного террора. Это не должен быть праздник гуляния и веселья, а днем скорби. В школах в этот день надо детям рассказывать на эту тему, а по телевизору показывать передачи, исключительно посвященные жертвам террора. Владимир Владимирович одобрил эту идею, но необходимо обдумать, как ее можно реально воплотить в жизнь.

Владыка митрополит Лавр подчеркнул, что для Русской Зарубежной Церкви нет большего блага, чем служить Родине, работать на благо Русской Церкви, русского народа, русской культуры. Президенту Путину была преподнесена икона святой Новопреподобномученицы Елизаветы Феодоровны. Я внимательно наблюдал, как он сосредоточенно на нее посмотрел, благоговейно перекрестился и к ней приложился.

У меня осталось впечатление, что Президент России человек прямой, открытый и искренний. Он очень любит свою страну и народ, и особенно переживает, что простому русскому народу так тяжело живется. Чувствуются его боль за Россию.

На встрече Президент Путин передал Владыке митрополиту Лавру личное приглашение от Патриарха Московского и Всея Руси Алексея посетить Россию. Владыка Лавр неоднократно бывал в России, но не в качестве Первосвятителя Русской Православной Церкви за границей. Он принял приглашение с благодарностью.

Владыка, как Вы предполагаете будут развиваться последующие события?

- Я хотел бы подчеркнуть, что все события складываются как бы помимо нас. Мы не делаем и не делаем никаких особых планов. Разумеется, что мы сознаем, что в России произошли совершенно непредсказуемые перемены за последние 10 лет, а также,

продолжаем болеть за церковное разделение. Господь милостив, и Он нас Сам ведет, Сам все устраивает. Наше дело - искать не свою волю, а волю Божию. Церковь - живой организм, который должен живо реагировать на события и перемены.

Что же касается последующих событий, то сейчас наше главное внимание сосредоточено на предстоящих Всезарубежном совещании духовенства и Архиерейском Соборе Русской Православной Церкви за границей. Совещание будет проходить в Наяке (близ Нью-Йорка) с 8 по 12 декабря с.г. Это не будет обычным пастырским совещанием, а Всезарубежным, с представителями от всех епархий нашей Церкви. Главная тема Всезарубежного совещания: «Путь Русской Православной Церкви за границей в прошлом и будущем». Будут приглашены докладчики в священном сане и из России. Они будут говорить о Новомучениках Российских, о церковной жизни в России и об экуменизме. Всезарубежный съезд будет проходить под омофором нашей Одигитрии, Коренно-Курской иконой Божией Матери. Она нас вела все эти годы и мы очень нуждаемся и надеемся на Заступничество Пречистой.

Еще предполагается, что до Всезарубежного съезда духовенства и предстоящего Архиерейского Собора состоится поездка делегации из трех архиереев нашей Церкви в Россию для личной встречи с Патриархом Алексеем. Главная цель встречи - лицом к лицу, без посредников, выяснить наше отношение к ряду вопросов и выслушать мнение самого Патриарха. О результатах этой встрече будет доложено участникам Всезарубежного съезда духовенства и Архиерейскому Собору.

Не считаете ли Вы, что некоторые могут быть смущены такой встречей?

- Есть периоды, когда мы должны избегать встречи, а есть время когда мы обязаны иметь подобные встречи. Раньше я боялся общения, даже хотел изолированности, но, как мне кажется, и перемены в России, и пастырская забота о спасении душ, и чьи-то молитвы изменили мой взгляд. Если мы уверены в своих позициях, если мы с Богом, у нас не должно быть страха. Согласно апостолу, мы всегда должны быть готовыми давать отчет о нашем уповании с кротостью и благоговением (I Петр, 3, 15).

При реальной встрече с людьми, картина меняется. Мы больше не можем ограничиваться мнениями других людей, интернетовскими заявлениями, взглядом издалека, а должны сами соприкоснуться с церковным телом в России, с его жизнью - как к положительным, так и к отрицательным ее сторонам.

В заключение я хотел бы сказать, что Господь чудесным образом возвращает нашу Зарубежную Церковь, которой мы так преданы и которую так любим, на ее первоначальный путь, на путь ее основопологателей. Я лично думаю, что в этом большая заслуга нашего зарубежного святителя и чудотворца - св. Иоанна Шанхайского и Сан-Францисского, егоже молитвами да направит нас Господь!

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2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Общее Годовое Собрание Прихожан

Please note that our first parish Annual General Meeting will be held this year on November 2nd, following Divine Liturgy. The Annual General Meeting hears reports from the Rector, Starosta, and Treasurer, and elects the parish council for the year to come. Only parish members are entitled to vote. All regular worshippers at Gosford are encouraged to take up parish membership prior to the meeting.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL ARE ASKED FOR:

The sick & suffering: Metropolitan Vitaly, our parishioners Fyodor & Antonina Tialshinsky, Ioann, Alexander, Nina, Alexandra, child Ksenia

Special needs: Katherine, David, Helen, Marina, Paraskeva, Antonina

Expectant mothers: Tatiana

Families with new babies: Victor, Susie & baby Phillip (Bendevski); Andrew, Mila & baby Alexei, with big sisters Larissa, Katya & Marina (Pucovski); Paul, Anna & baby, with big brother & sister Timothy & Nika (Morozov)

Preparing for marriage: Gregory & Heather

Newly-married: Peter & Svetlana

Newly-reposed: Olga (Chemodakova), Anna (Bukovec), Sviyeta (Maksimovic)

GOSFORD & NEWCASTLE SERVICES IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Services in Gosford are now always on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month. Services in Newcastle are on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month. The only additional service scheduled for either parish in October or November is on Saturday 22nd November. On this day, Divine Liturgy will be served in Wallsend at 8.00am for the repose of the soul of the ever-memorable Archpriest Ioann Lupish, the founder of the Wallsend parish. A graveside pannikhida at Sandgate Cemetery will follow.

50-YEAR JUBILEE OF THE GREAT CONSECRATION OF THE SAINTS PETER & PAUL CATHEDRAL IN STRATHFIELD CELEBRATION PROGRAM

Saturday - 18 October 2003: 5.15 pm: Greeting of the Harbin icon of the Mother of God and His Eminence Metropolitan Laurus at Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral. **5.30 pm:** A memorial service (panikhida) for the founders of the Cathedral. All clergy and faithful will proceed to the grave of ever-memorable Archbishop Theodore at the end of the panikhida where everyone will sing "Memory Eternal". **6.00 pm:** Festive Sunday Vigil. The service will be sung antiphonally by the Archbishop's Choir and a male chorus consisting of the clergy.

Sunday - 19 October 2003: 8.30 am - Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Laurus and His Grace Archbishop Hilarion together with the concelebrating clergy. After the Liturgy a festive moleben and procession around the cathedral will be held. Contact: Jubilee Committee - 9754 1264.

Father James tries to prepare this newsletter to coincide with each service at Gosford. You can call him about it on 02-9721-2659 or email him at fr.james.carles@rocor.org.au.