

ПАНТЕЛЕИМОНСКИЙ ЛИСТОК

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

~ Number 40, 5 February 2005 ~

«Мы обойти молчанием такие заявления не можем – это настроит всю нашу паству против переговорного процесса».

Архиепископ Берлинский и Германский Марк, председатель комиссии Русской Зарубежной Церкви по переговорам с Московским Патриархатом, отреагировал на заявление, сделанное Святейшим Патриархом Алексием на встрече с главой Палестинской автономии Махмудом Аббасом

Как сообщают официальные российские церковные интернет-сайты, в понедельник во время своего визита в Россию глава Палестинской автономии Махмуд Аббас посетил Данилов монастырь в г. Москве, где встретился со Святейшим Патриархом Московским и всея Руси Алексием. В ходе беседы, Святейший Патриарх выразил благодарность руководству Палестинской автономии за передачу Русской Духовной Миссии Московского Патриархата церковной собственности в Хевроне и Иерехоне, многие годы охраняемой и оберегаемой Русской Зарубежной Церковью. В 1997 г. представители Палестинской автономии вооруженной силой изгнали монахов и монахинь Русской Зарубежной Церкви, в тот день собиравших там фрукты, из Свято-Троицкого монастыря в Хевроне и передали монастырь Московскому Патриархату. В январе же 2000 г., в день преп. Серафима Саровского, вскоре после празднования 2000-летия Рождества Христова в Вифлееме, монахи (это были в основном те же, которых изгнали в 1997 г. из Хеврона) были, опять же при употреблении физического насилия, арестованы палестинскими военными на подворье Русской Зарубежной Церкви в Иерихоне, переданное Московскому Патриархату. «Полагаю, что настало время, когда юридически необходимо закрепить за Миссией (РПЦ МП - ред.) право на эту собственность» - заявил Святейший Патриарх Алексий.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

On Sunday 20/2/2005, immediately after the Divine Liturgy, there will be a **special general meeting of parish members to elect a parish delegate to attend the Diocesan Assembly in Strathfield on 25 & 26 March 2005**. Diocesan Assemblies are held every three years in order to review the affairs of the Diocese and elect a Diocesan Council. Equal numbers of clergy and laity attend the Assembly, with lay delegates elected by the parish. As we have only one formally assigned member of the clergy (Fr James) we will have one lay delegate. Lay delegates should be parish members in good standing who are able to effectively represent the interests of the parish. A notice of the meeting and a nomination form will be posted to all members in the coming week.

With the commencement of the parish school, **the church will now generally be open every Saturday morning**. Those wishing to see Father James, confess in preparation for receiving Holy Communion on Sunday, have a moleben or pannikhida served, or simply to light a candle and pray quietly in church, are welcome to do so.

Члены комиссии по переговорам с Московским Патриархатом рассчитывали на то, что Московский Патриархат в знак примирения вернет хотя бы часть отобранной незаконным способом собственности на Святой Земле, что исцелило бы самую свежую рану на Теле Русской Церкви. Поэтому, заявление Московского Патриархата вызвало протест со стороны председателя комиссии Русской Зарубежной Церкви. Просьба Московской Патриархии еще больше поражает тем фактом, что, насколько известно, РПЦ МП еще не удалось окончательно урегулировать ситуацию по законному владению церковным имуществом как в России, так и в Израиле и в землях под контролем Палестинской Автономии.

«Я очень разочарован, - заявил корреспонденту газеты «Коммерсантъ» Павлу Коробову Архиепископ Берлинский и Германский Марк - Ведь в начале процесса было сделано заявление о том, что мы должны воздерживаться от любых действий и высказываний, которые могут огорчить другую сторону. А это именно такое действие. Мы обойти молчанием такие заявления не можем - это настроит всю нашу паству против переговорного процесса», - добавил Преосвященнейший Марк. - Но если это недоразумение, то должно быть сделано соответствующее заявление».

«Тут совсем недавно - продолжает Преосвященнейший Марк - со стороны Московского Патриархата было высказано мнение, что надо перерукоположить всех наших священников в России. Но на это никакой наш архиерей не пойдет. Иногда я себя спрашиваю, может быть это просто чья-то цель подорвать переговорный процесс».

В своем недавнем интервью «НГ- Религии» Архиепископ Марк отметил: «Есть также страхи (среди паствы Русской Зарубежной Церкви - ред.) в отношении имущества. Президент России Владимир Владимирович Путин при нашей встрече в мае сего года в присутствии Святейшего Патриарха Алексия II и Первоиерарха Русской Зарубежной Церкви, Высокопреосвященнейшего Митрополита Лавра однозначно высказался по этому вопросу, подчеркивая, что ни российское государство, ни РПЦ МП не будут претендовать на имущество Зарубежной Церкви. И тем не менее у многих еще не хватает доверия! Необходимо, чтобы были предприняты шаги, способствующие такому доверию».

Пресс-служба Архиерейского Синода Русской Зарубежной Церкви

"We Cannot Remain Silent After Such Statements— This Will Turn Our Flock Against the Ongoing Talks"

Archbishop Mark of Berlin and Germany, President of the Committee of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia on Discussions with the Moscow Patriarchate, Reacts to the Statement Made by His Holiness Patriarch Alexy During a Meeting with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas

As reported by the official websites in Russia, while on a trip to Russia on Monday, Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas visited Danilov Monastery in Moscow, where he met with His Holiness Patriarch Alexy of Moscow and All Russia. Over the course of their conversation, His Holiness the Patriarch expressed gratitude to the leadership of the Palestinian Autonomy for transferring to the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission of the Moscow Patriarchate church property in Hebron and Jericho, which had been preserved and protected for many years by the Russian

Church Abroad. In 1997, representatives of the Palestinian Authority forcibly ejected monks and nuns belonging to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia from Holy Trinity Monastery in Hebron (who had been collecting fruits there that day) and turned it over to the Moscow Patriarchate. In January 2000, on the day of St Seraphim of Sarov, soon after the celebration of the 2000th year of the Nativity of Christ in Bethlehem, monastics (mainly those who had been ejected from Hebron in 1997) were arrested by Palestinian forces, again with the use of physical force, at the premises of the Russian Church Abroad in Jericho, which was then turned over to the Moscow Patriarchate. "I presume that the time has come when it is legally necessary to secure this property in the name of the Mission (of the ROC/MP—ed.)," stated His Holiness Patriarch Alexy.

The members of the Committee of the discussions with the Moscow Patriarchate had expected that the Moscow Patriarchate, as a symbol of peacemaking, would return at least one of the properties seized unlawfully in the Holy Land, which would be a noble gesture on the part of the ROC/MP and would heal the most recent wound on the Body of the Russian Church. For this reason, the statement made by the Moscow Patriarchate elicited a protest on the part of the President of the Committee of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. The request made by the Moscow Patriarchate is even more stunning since, as far as it is known, the ROC/MP has not yet succeeded in formalizing the legal ownership of church property either in Russia or in Israel or in lands controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

"I am very disappointed," stated Archbishop Mark of Berlin and Germany to *Kommersant* correspondent Pavel Korobov, "For at the beginning of the process a declaration was made that we must refrain from any actions and statements that could insult the other side. And this is precisely such an action. We cannot remain silent to such a statement—this will turn our entire flock against the talks," added His Eminence Archbishop Mark. "But if this is a misunderstanding, a corresponding statement should be issued."

"Very recently," continued Archbishop Mark, "the Moscow Patriarchate expressed its opinion that one must re-ordain all our priests in Russia. But not one of our bishops would agree to this. Sometimes I ask myself, maybe this is someone's attempt to sabotage the process of negotiations."

In a recent interview given to *NG-Religiya*, Archbishop Mark noted: "There are such fears [within the flock of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia—ed.] regarding property. The President of Russia, Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, during a meeting with us in May of this year, in the presence of His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II and of the First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, His Eminence Metropolitan Laurus, unequivocally spoke out on this topic, stressing that neither the Russian Government nor the ROC/MP will make any claims on the property of the Church Abroad. Still, many are not convinced! It is necessary that steps be taken to ensure such trust."

Press Service of the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council held its' regular monthly meeting on Tuesday February 1st. The Council discussed: the number of successful parish activities over the last month; the commencement of the parish Russian school on 5/2; agreement to a "seeding grant" of \$1000.00 to assist the school to buy textbooks & a whiteboard and for other initial needs; the need to meet as a parish on 20/2 to elect a parish delegate to the Diocesan Assembly on 25 /3 & 26/3; and building issues (security grille, kitchen cupboards, & air conditioning). Although the Parish Council was unprepared to authorise expenditure of parish funds on air conditioning (considering reduction of our mortgage to be the key priority at this stage), a donation made specifically for this purpose was accepted, and air conditioning units for the church and hall are to be installed this month. The temperature will be set at industry standard. Father James asked that the installation of air conditioning not lead to a general requirement for the church doors to be closed during services, perhaps making it harder for mothers with young children to move around freely. The Parish Council once again recognized the need to plan strategically for the future, and Father James is to arrange for a special planning meeting to assist the Parish Council in this regard. The council is due to meet next on Tuesday March 1st.

PARISH RUSSIAN SCHOOL NEWS

On Wednesday February 2nd Father James, school teacher Irina Kouznetsova, Matushka Marie, and Lydia Pereboeff met to make initial arrangements for the commencement of our parish school on 5/2. Apologies were received from other parents. It was agreed that the school will operate every Saturday between 9.00am and 12.30pm. The school day will begin with prayers in church. Russian language subjects include listening and speaking, speech development, writing, reading, art and craft, drama, and history. Father James is to teach 'Law of God'. Fees were set at \$10.00 per child per week, with only the first two children from any family required to pay. In addition, a \$10.00 per year stationery levy was set. It was agreed that fees would be used to pay a small stipend to the teacher and to meet ongoing costs. The new School Committee discussed plans to undertake fundraising during the year, including the publication of a book of Russian nursery rhymes illustrated by Katya Rubbo.

At 9.00am yesterday, the first students of the new school gathered in church for the special moleben for the beginning of the instruction of children ("Молебное пение при начатии учения отроков"). Having prayed that God would grant those studying wisdom and obedience, all came forward to venerate the icons of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the school patron, Saint Innocent of Alaska. Father James spoke briefly of the importance of the parish school in helping the children establish the fundamentals of the Russian language and of our Orthodox Christian faith. He encouraged all to work hard and to seek the help of Saint Innocent. The first day of school passed with the teacher and children adjusting themselves to their new school routine.

Questions about the school may be directed to Father James or to Irina Kouznetsova (tel: 4329-0046).

Father James tries to prepare this newsletter to coincide with each Sunday service at Gosford. You can call him about it on 0428-639156 or send an email to info@gosfordrussianchurch.org.