

THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN HERALD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROMANO BYZANTINE SYNOD OF THE ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH
PO Box 16201 • Duluth Minnesota 55806-1612

"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you..." I saiah 43:1-2



Fr Basil Koch of Blessed Memory CHURCH MOURNS DEATH OF VICAR GENERAL

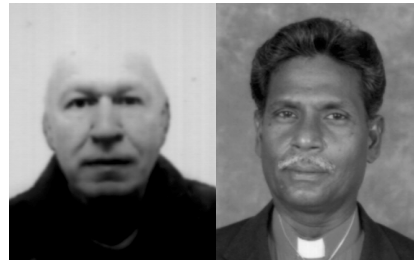
The Very Reverend Father Basil James Koch, Archdiocesan Vicar General since 1999, passed away into the arms of our Lord on Saturday October 27th, 2001 at 4:39 p.m. in Tacoma Washington. He had leukemia for many years and died of complications that resulted from a severe stroke just ten days before his death.

Father Basil was a very dedicated priest of the Church, and has long been an advocate of the Commission on Religious Counseling and Healing to which he belonged for many years. He also served as a consultor to the Archbishop on many issues and over the years has contributed to many apostolates of the Synod. He will be greatly missed by all that knew him in any form, i.e., personally or through his writings. Father Timothy Kjera, Synodal Chancellor, represented the

Archbishop and the Synod and officiated at the funeral in Tacoma Washington on Thursday November 1st, 2001. A Divine Liturgy was offered for Father Basil at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral in Duluth Minnesota and celebrated by the Archbishop. May his memory be eternal! Our prayers and love to Presbytera Irene and her family. Father Basil led a very poor life always giving his little money to others.

If anyone would care to make a donation to help the family with burial expenses please send it marked "Father Basil Burial Fund" to the Metropolitanate at 2123 West 5th Street, 2nd Floor, Duluth MN 55806; or to Mr Jeremy Koch, PO Box 5186, Tacoma WA 98415. Your donation is tax-deductible. ✕

NEW BISHOPS OF THE SYNOD



Bishop George & Bishop John

The Holy Synod of Bishops now has two new members. Bishop John of Madras India has been a priest with the Metropolitanate since 1990 and Bishop George of Lancashire England since 1998. Bishop John serves the Missionary Diocese of India that currently serves the Vicariate of Pakistan during its episcopal vacancy. Bishop George is an Auxiliary

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January – March 2002

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Bishop of the Metropolitanate and serves the Vicariate of the United Kingdom.. ✕

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Father Timothy Kjera, Editor

As you have probably noticed, the last two issues of last year were not published. Many circumstances contributed to this, but we are back and hope that you continue to enjoy the news and enlightenment that I enjoy with our publication. Because of this, all current subscribers will receive a free years subscription. We invite you to send any articles of interest or comments to us so that we can make this years issues the best ever. You may contact me at:

Editor
Orthodox Christian Herald
PO Box 16201
Duluth MN 55816

SYNODAL CONSISTORY

The Synodal Consistory will be held this year at St Mary's Church, 5907 Grand Avenue, Duluth Minnesota, from May 26 - June 2, 2002. It is required that all Bishops attend and other clerics are invited to attend as well. If you do not yet have an official invitation and need one for your travel visa, contact us immediately!! ✕

Orthodox Christian Herald
 Vol. 10, No. 1
 March 2001
 St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
 Sulphur, Louisiana

ORDINATIONS AND RELIGIOUS CLOTHINGS

- ✦ His Grace Bishop George of the Vicariate of the United Kingdom consecrated on Sunday August 19th, 2001 by His Eminence Archbishop Stephen and Bishop John of India.
- ✦ His Excellency Bishop John of India consecrated on Friday August 17th, 2001 by His Eminence Archbishop Stephen and Bishop Joseph of Zaire (Blessing).
- ✦ Isaac Baroi ordained Deacon on Thursday August 16th, 2001 by His Eminence Archbishop Stephen at St Mary's Orthodox Catholic Pro-Cathedral.
- ✦ Timothy Aaron Kjera ordained Priest on Sunday August 12th, 2001 by His Eminence Archbishop Stephen at St Mary's Orthodox Catholic Pro-Cathedral.
- ✦ John Frederick Stumpf ordained Deacon on Wednesday August 15th, 2001 by His Eminence Archbishop Stephen at St Mary's Orthodox Catholic Pro-Cathedral.
- ✦ Ronald Andrew Warcholak ordained Subdeacon on Sunday November 25th, 2001 by His Eminence Archbishop Stephen at St Mary's Orthodox Catholic Pro-Cathedral.

APPOINTMENTS & ASSIGNMENTS

- ✦ Fr Deacon John F Stumpf appointed administrator of St Sophia Church and Retreat Center, Sulphur Louisiana, effective June 2, 2001.
- ✦ Right Reverend Bishop John appointed pastor of St Thomas the Apostle Parish, India, effective on August 26th, 2001.

- ✦ Right Reverend Bishop Joseph appointed pastor of Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Louvain-la-neuve Belgium, effective June 2, 2001.
- ✦ Father Michael Mason appointed pastor of Ss Peter & Paul Parish, St Cloud Minnesota, effective March 1,, 2002.
- ✦ Ms Stephanie Christenson appointed Vice Moderator of the Commission on Religious Counseling and Healing, effective February 12th, 2002.
- ✦ Very Reverend Azad Nyysar appointed provisional Vicar General of the Vicariate of Pakistan, effective May 16, 2001.
- ✦ Fr Deacon Eric Okeke appointed administrator of Holy Nativity of Christ Parish in Brazil, effective on August 20th, 2001.

DECREED BY METROPOLITANATE

- ✦ The Vicariate of Pakistan is under the provisional administration of the Very Reverend Azad Nyysar, Vicar General. Bishop John of India will provide episcopal oversight.

APPROBATION FOR ISSUANCE OR DISSOLUTION OF CHARTERS

Established:

- ✦ Holy Nativity of Christ Parish, Brazil, 08.20.01
- ✦ Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Louvain-la-neuve Belgium, 05.12.01.
- ✦ Ss Constantine & Helen Parish, Nakuru Kenya, 04.20.01.
- ✦ St James the Apostle Parish, Palestine Texas, 06.07.01.
- ✦ St Sophia Church and Retreat Center, Sulphur Louisiana, 06.03.01.

- ✦ St Thomas the Apostle Parish, K'asimedu India, 08.26.01.

DICIPLINARY ACTIONS

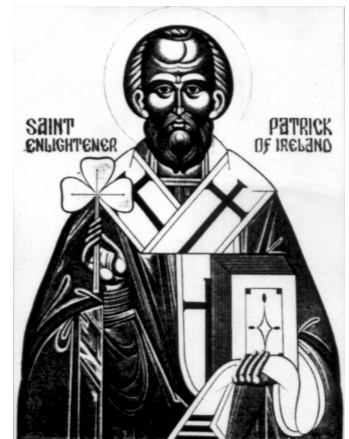
- ✦ Peter Irfan deposed from priesthood.
- ✦ Joseph Zafar deposed from the diaconate.

PRAY FOR THE ILL AND SUFFERING

- ✦ Bishop Pedro of Cuba
- ✦ Mm
- ✦ Anida Bruce
- ✦ Archbishop Ricardo of Cuba
- ✦ Bishop Pedro and the Diocese of Cuba
- ✦ Presbyter Irene Koch & Family
- ✦ Father & Presbyter Patrick Lemming
- ✦ Robert Rhea
- ✦ The Faithful of the Diocese of Bangladesh

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

- ✦ *Memory Eternal!* Very Reverend Basil James Koch, Tacoma Washington, October 27th, 2001
- ✦ Reverend Jerry Smola, Mount Vernon Washington, May 31st, 2001
- ✦ The Souls of all whom died in Pennsylvania, New York and the District of Columbia during the "Attack on America."



MESSAGE FROM THE METROPOLITANATE

His Eminence Most Reverend Stephen, Hierarch

February 11th, A.D. 2001

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ God, Greetings!

There is an Old Russian Proverb that goes like this: *“With God, go over the sea, without Him, not over the threshold.”* The man (or woman) who walks this life without holding in his heart the love of God, or without holding the hand of God, is like a blind man walking down an unfamiliar mountainous path without cane or seeing eye dog. With sincere love for God and trusting in his endless desire to protect us from evil and harm, we can achieve all that we need to in this life. I use the word “need” because many often ‘want’ a myriad of truly unnecessary things - but God knows what each of us needs for a happy life. God should be in our daily lives as much as possible. He realizes that we cannot think of him every second or every day because of the demands of life. However, if we keep in mind that all our actions of the day are watched over by him we will try harder and harder to live our life according to his desires as much as possible. Take not even one step upon rising without putting God in your mind, and certainly never fall into sleep without putting him into your heart. As the proverb tells us, do everything with God and nothing without him.

One often asks the question, “How do I become closer to God.” We must first realize that our time in this life on earth is but a second in the eyes of God. Therefore, we must use every minute possible to learn more about God and to show him that we want to do what is right by Him. Every Christian must strive to know, to love, and to serve God. Knowing God comes from reading Holy Scripture and from learning about Christ God and the Holy Spirit God. We can also gain this knowledge by studying the writings of the early Church Fathers and Saints, referred to as Patristics. The best source of knowledge is from the Church. By knowing Almighty God we will find how easy it is to love our heavenly Father and Creator. To serve Him means to keep the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament, the Two Great Commandments of the New Testament, and the Laws of the Church. If we do our best to honor these we have truly served him, loved him, and know him. Many marvel at the beauty of the Orthodox Liturgy as something that brings the worshipper from the earthly plane into the heavenly. But the faith of Orthodoxy, the oldest Christian religion dating back to Christ, also carries much beauty and antiquity. Many converts have remarked that once they knew about their Church’s founder and what he believed – now they know about God and what they must do to be one with Him.

I reach out to all those that this jurisdiction serves and beg all of you to bring yourselves closer to God by knowing, loving and by serving him faithfully. Make an effort to return to worship in His honor. Please your Father, as he was pleased to create you. May you be blessed this new year with God’s healing graces and love for each of you.

His unworthy servant,
+Stephen, Metropolitan Archbishop

RBC CHANGES

Reverend Father Michael Mason is the new rector of the Romano Byzantine College; and Reverend Dr Harold Hammond the new administrator and chief agent in Virginia.✠



Fr Michael Mason

VICE MODERATOR APPOINTED FOR COMMISSION

Stephanie Christenson has become the second woman since the canonization of the jurisdiction in 1892 to be appointed to an advisory position with the Metropolia, the first being Mary Patricia Raney who is the new Director of the Metropolia’s Department of Education. Stephanie will serve as Vice Moderator of the Commission on Religious Counseling and Healing, the second highest executive position next to Moderator. She will assist the current Moderator, Father Timothy Kjera, in administration and with member’s benefits. The Commission is currently made up of over 90 licensed providers, 5 retired members, and 6 canon lawyers in addition to clergy who serve in administration. Its growth is slow but steady since 1999.

METROPOLIA ACCEPTING CANDIDATES FOR MAJOR ORDERS

Those who feel a calling from God to serve the Church in the minor order of Subdeacon, or major orders of Deacon or Priest, should send a petition to the Metropolitan Archbishop expressing this desire

by May 1st, 2002, for his review and response. There is a special course of study for mature vocations and the studies may be completed mostly within your own domicile. Please contact the Metropolitan at Romano Byzantine Metropolitanate, 2123 West 5th Street, 2nd Floor, Duluth MN 55806.

MISSION PARISH FORMING IN PARIS TEXAS

St Luke the Physician Syro-Russian Orthodox Catholic Mission has been established in Paris Texas and Very Reverend Father Glenn Jensen is pastor of this parish. Father Jensen invites those interested in helping to build a church there to contact him. Father can be reached by writing to him at St Luke's Rectory, 339 NE 8th Street, Parish Texas 75450.

METROPOLIA SEEKS DONATIONS

The Metropolia is seeking donations to assist various mission projects that it has commenced both domestic and foreign. We are calling on all those we serve through any of our agencies or parishes to search their hearts and give. Donations are tax-deductible. A gift will be sent to all that donate at \$25.00 or more. You can send your donation to St Mary's Church, c/o Father Timothy Kjera, 5907 Grand Avenue, Duluth MN 55806.

APOSTOLIC CANONS ON PRAYING WITH HERETICS

By Father Timothy A Kjera, Editor

The early Church Fathers were very protective of the faith that was entrusted to them by our Lord,

ORDINATION IN LOUISIANA



Fr Deacon John



St Sophias Parish (right) and Retreat Center on spacious grounds for meditation

The Metropolitan Archbishop Hierarch will perform the first ordination of the jurisdiction to take place in the State of Louisiana. Fr Deacon John Frederick Stumpf will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood at St Sophia's Syro-Russian Orthodox Catholic Church, Sulphur Louisiana, on Sunday March 17th, 2002. This will be the first pastoral visit made by any Metropolitan Hierarch to Louisiana. Deacon John was ordained to the diaconate last August at St Mary's Syro-Russian Orthodox Catholic Pro-Cathedral in Duluth Minnesota. He commenced preparing for ordination since 1997 and began formal preparation for ordination in 2000. He recently completed academic requirements for his Master of Divinity through Romano Byzantine College, and before that he earned his undergraduate degree in Theology and Canon Law. Currently he is preparing for his doctoral degree in Canonical Jurisprudence. He is married to Diakonissa Mary Patricia who assists him greatly in his work at St Sophia's Church and Retreat Center, and who was recently appointed by the Metropolia to the directorship of the Department of Education. Assisting the Metropolitan Primate at the ordination in March will be the chancellor, Father Timothy Aaron Kjera, Father Michael David Mason, and Deacon Isaac Baroi.

Christ God. After all, it was Jesus who came into this human world of ours to teach and then to suffer and die for His Church and us. Therefore it is only right and just that his disciples carry on the faith unchanged and protected. Because of the early heresies that arose after the establishment of the Christian Church by Christ, the Church Fathers approved certain canons that were meant to stop additional schisms and protect the faithful Christians. Some of the canons dealt specifically with the heretics themselves. Among these are the following: 10th Apostolic Canon, *If any one shall pray, even in a private house, with an excommunicated person, let him*

also be excommunicated. 11th Apostolic Canon, *If any clergyman shall join in prayer with a deposed clergyman, as if he were a clergyman, let him also be deposed.* 45th Apostolic Canon, *Let a bishop, priest, or deacon who has only prayed with heretics be excommunicated; but if he has permitted them to perform any clerical office, let him be deposed.* These are the words of the sainted Fathers of the Church lasting for nearly 2,000 years since the death of Christ. Why should this change today? In a time when terrorism abounds, hatred becomes more prevalent, sin more common, and the works of Satan more viable, there is a real need to return to the

teachings of Holy Scripture and the early Councils of the Christian Church. Many of the early Church Fathers suffered and died for the one faith given us by Christ and preserved through His One, Holy, Catholic (Universal) and Apostolic Church. Let us return to their teachings and through these return to Christ.

PRIESTS ORDAINED AT PRO-CATHEDRAL

Father Timothy Kjera and Father Peter Irfan were ordained at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral by His Eminence Archbishop Stephen on Sunday August 12th and Sunday September 2nd, 2001, respectively. Father Timothy Kjera will continue to serve as Chancellor of the Synod and as assistant pastor of St Mary's. Father Peter Irfan has returned to continue his mission parish of St James in Pakistan. ✠

DEACONS ORDAINED AT PRO-CATHEDRAL

Deacon Isaac Baroi and Deacon John Stumpf were ordained at St Mary's Pro-Cathedral by His Eminence Archbishop Stephen. Fr Deacon John is currently administrator of St Sophia's Church in Sulphur Louisiana, and Fr Deacon Isaac is currently assigned to the Archdiocese with residence in New York. ✠

METROPOLITANATE ANNOUNCEMENT

Statement of Donations (Financial and Supplies) from Metro-politanate to Domestic and Foreign Missions, and to indigent clergy, from May 1, 2000 to April 30, 2001.

The Metropolitanate has sent emergency cash donations, books, vestments, religious articles, clergy assistance, and other gifts to all dioceses and vicariates, or members therein, amounting to \$10,700.00. The

ABOUT ORTHODOX PASCHA

Pascha (Easter Day), on which nearly all the Feasts of Our Lord and Sundays depend, is the first Sunday after the ecclesiastical Full Moon which happens upon or next after March 21; and if the Full Moon happens upon a Sunday, Pascha is the Sunday after. This is the same rule which is used in the Roman Church, but Pascha does not always coincide in the Orthodox Catholic Church with that feast in the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches, because of our calculation according to the Julian Calendar. The Orthodox Church still observes the rule laid down by the Council of Nicæa (AD 325), that the Christian Pascha shall never either precede or coincide with the Jewish Passover, but must always follow it. Pascha cannot fall earlier than 22 March, (Julian), or later than 25 April, (Julian).

The FASTING CYCLE of the SYRO-RUSSIAN CHURCH

- ✠ **FAST** means to eat no food until 3:00 p.m.
- ✠ **ABSTAIN** means to eat no flesh-meat (e.g., beef, pork, chicken), eggs, or dairy products (e.g., milk, cheese, eggs, butter, ice cream), or anything made from them.
- ✠ **FASTING** begins the morning of the fast day.
- ✠ **ABSTINENCE** begins the evening of the day in question and ceases in the late afternoon of that day. This is because according to the Church, the day begins and ends at sunset.
- ✠ **FAST Days** in the Church are all Wednesdays and Fridays through the year, except those in fast-free seasons; every day of Lent besides Saturday and Sunday; Holy Saturday; Ember Wednesdays and Fridays; the Vigils of the greater Feast days; Mondays from Pentecost to Ss. Peter & Paul Day & from the 1st Sunday in Advent to the Nativity; & all days from Dec. 14 to the Nativity besides Saturday & Sunday. If a greater Feast falls on Wednesday or Friday, the fasting is changed to abstinence, but in Lent Feast days do not mitigate the fasting.
- ✠ **ABSTINENCE** is observed: on all fast days without exception; from the beginning of Great Lent until dawn on the Day of Pascha, from the Monday after Pentecost until Sts Peter & Paul Day; & from the 1st Sunday in Advent until dawn on the Day of the Nativity.
- ✠ **FAST-FREE** occasions are the Day of Pasha through Pentecost & the Day of Nativity through Epiphany. We do not fast on Wednesdays & Fridays falling in these seasons, though some of them are abstained.

The rule of fasting, to be sure, is not intended to be a "strait-jacket" for Orthodox believers, nor a source of pharisaical pride for anyone who keeps the letter of the Church's law. It is rather the rule, the standard, against which each is to measure his own practice, and towards which one must always strive, according to one's strength and circumstances. Whenever, for sickness or any other reason, one falls short of the rule, he applies to himself the spiritual medicine of self-reproach, and strives to enter more fully into the spirit and discipline of fasting, which is indeed of great benefit to those who sincerely strive to follow it.

from *The Rule of Fasting prologue in the St. Herman Calendar*

Metropolitanate has received from these in return a total of \$290.00.

The Metropolitanate has spent on publications during the same period a total of \$8,230.00. This was for the Liturgy Books and Altar Missals, Orthodox Christian Herald, Church Pamphlets, Metropolitanate Documents, and other printed items.

The Metropolitanate spent in postage (sending boxes of items to both foreign and domestic missions) during this period the total

of \$3,100.00. It was reimbursed at total of \$50.00.

On August 17th, 2001, the Metropolitanate gave \$5,120.00 in cash donations, vestments, chalices, office equipment, books, and other materials to visiting clergy attending the Consistory for their missions.

This coming year it is requested that all remember that it is good to receive, but it is better to give in return. ✠

CLASSIFIED ADS

NOTICES

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN HERALD – SUBSCRIPTIONS You can now subscribe to the OCH for the annual donation of \$20.00 (USA), US\$25 (Canada & Mexico), or US\$35 (Foreign). Send your payment to Orthodox Christian Herald, PO Box 16201, Duluth Minnesota 55816-0201. Check or Money Order payable to “RBS”

ROMANO BYZANTINE PUBLICATIONS. For price list and titles write: Romano Byzantine, 2123 West 5th Street, 2nd Floor, Duluth MN 55806; or fax to: 218-733-0349.

EDUCATION

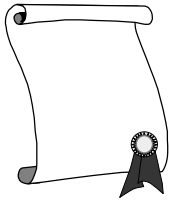
ROMANO BYZANTINE COLLEGE offering CEU’s and programs in Canon Law and Chiropractic (Theocentric Holistic Healing) Christian Social Services, Ministry. Write RBC, 2123 West Fifth Street, Second Floor, Duluth MN 55806 or fax: (218) 733-0349 for more information.

RELIGIOUS ORDERS

MONASTIC COMMUNITY OF ST BASIL and Companions of St Basil open to those who wish to follow a monastic way of life or who wish to be associated with it in the secular world. Write to: St Mark’s Syro-Russian Orthodox Catholic Abbey, 1A Sultan Street, Accrington Lancashire BB5 6EL England.

THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN HERALD
PO Box 16201
Duluth MN 55816-1612

Address Correction Requested



SOPHIA!

Official Publication of the Romano Byzantine College Alumni Association

NEW DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCED

Mary Patricia Raney BCh, MDiv, has been named by the Metropolia to succeed Very Reverend Basil Koch who passed away in October 2001. The Department of Education is currently being restructured and will now be located in Sulphur Louisiana. She becomes the first woman to head this department since its creation back in 1980, and first to have a position on the Metropolia's Advisory Committee since the canonization of the Archdiocese in 1892.

HOLY FAMILY SEMINARY FACING CLOSURE

Holy Family Collegiate Seminary of Tacoma Washington has served the jurisdiction since 1996, and Christianity since 1979, with dedication and commitment. It has trained many clergy and laity for service in the Church.



Holy Family Seminary
Chartered Archdiocese In-Residence Program of the Romano Byzantine Synod of the Orthodox Catholic Church
We offer Bachelors and Masters degrees in the areas of Theology, Pastoral Counseling, and Canon Law.
For further information contact:
Registrar at P.O. Box 5461, Tacoma, WA 98405-0461.
“Come Study With Us”

The Metropolia has received word from the seminary that financial concerns are making it almost impossible to continue and that this may be the last semester of its existence. If you can find it in your heart to make a donation to assist with its debts please send it to St Mary's Orthodox Catholic Pro-Cathedral, 5907 Grand Avenue, Duluth MN 55807, and mark the memo "Holy Family Seminary." Help us keep it going!

HOLY TRINITY THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OF INDIA

His Excellency Right Reverend Bishop John has announced that eligible candidates with doctoral credentials will be reviewed for the Doctor of Philosophy in Theocentric Counseling and Healing by merit and proficiency. This is a special grandfather provision commencing this program. Applicants must apply to Romano Byzantine College, 2123 West 5th, Street, 2nd Floor, Duluth MN 55806. Also, a review session for those wishing a Certificate in Theological Studies has been commenced.

ROMANO BYZANTINE COLLEGE CHANGES – 2001

Reverend Fr Michael Mason is the new rector of the Romano Byzantine College; and Reverend Dr Harold Hammond the new administrator and chief agent in Virginia. The College now has its own website <RBC.RBSOCC.ORG> that lists all academic programs, policies, and has the application that can be printed out.

ROMANO BYZANTINE COLLEGE GRADUATES

John Frederick Stumpf, Bachelor of Theology, June 10th, 2001

Note: If your name was not listed in this section, please send it along with the name of the degree and date awarded to: Orthodox Christian Herald, PO Box 16201, Duluth MN 55816-1612.

"Sophia" meaning "Wisdom" is the official newsletter of Romano Byzantine College of Virginia, and Holy Family Collegiate Seminary of Washington. It is sent to all alumni in good standing with the Alumni Association of St Mark free of charge. If you are an alumnus and have news to share, please send this to: Fr Michael Mason, 5907 Grand Avenue Duluth MN 55807