

May 2007



## The Orthodox parish of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross, Lancaster

*Meeting at the Chaplaincy Centre of Lancaster University*

### *Newsletter*



*The parish of the Holy and Life-Giving Cross,  
belongs to the Antiochian Orthodox Deanery of the United Kingdom and Ireland,  
which is part of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Western and Central Europe.  
Our Metropolitan is His Eminence Archbishop Gabriel.  
The Patriarchate of Antioch is third senior of the Orthodox Churches.  
The Patriarch is His Beatitude Ignatius IV.*

*The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch  
(Acts 11:26)*

BY FR. SERAPHIM ROSE

From "God's Revelation to the Human Heart" by Fr. Seraphim - St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, 1987.

"...Is there a special organ for receiving revelation from God? Yes, in a certain sense there is such an organ, though usually we close it and do not let it open up: God's revelation is given to something called a loving heart. We know from the Scriptures that God is love; Christianity is the religion of love (you may look at the failures, see people who call themselves Christians and are not, and say there is no love there; but Christianity is indeed the religion of love when it is successful and practiced in the right way)... If you ask anyone who knew Archbishop John what it was that drew people to him - and still draws people who never knew him - the answer is always the same: he was overflowing with love; he sacrificed himself for his fellow men out of absolutely unselfish love for God and for them. This is why things were revealed to him which could not get through to other people and which he never could have known by natural means. He himself taught that, for all "mysticism" of our Orthodox Church that is found in the Lives of the Saints and the writings of the Orthodox Elders, the Orthodox faithful always has both feet firmly on the ground, facing whatever situation is right in front of him. It is in accepting given situations, which requires a loving heart, that man encounters God.

This loving heart is why anyone comes to a knowledge of the truth...

The opposite of the loving heart that receives revelation from God is cold calculation, getting what you can out of people; in religious life, this produces fakery and charlatanism of all descriptions. If you look at the religious world today, you see that a great deal of this is going on: so much fakery, posing, calculation, so much taking advantage of the winds of fashion..."



BY FR. NIKOLAI OF OCHRID

*"A Poem by the Lake"*

People have become bad, and so they say: "What does the Lord do for us?"

The Lord gives life to every body;  
the Lord gives a face to every

creature. The Lord is as tenderhearted as a child, and selfishness and gloominess are unknown to Him.

The Lord gives to everyone whatever one asks of Him<sup>1</sup>. The Lord fills His eternity with giving, and yet you say: "What does the Lord give to us?" You would not even have been able to pose this question, if the Lord had not given you the power to do so.

The Lord collects the tears of those who mourn in the palms of His hands. The Lord visits captives. The Lord sits at the bedside of the sick.

The Lord keeps vigil over perilous paths, and keeps watch over the depths of the sea, and yet you say: "What does the Lord do for us?"

Whatever you ask of the Lord, He also gives you. But because you began to seek more from the world than from the Lord, you feel deluded in your hopes, and so you say: "What does the Lord do for us?"

Like a good host, the Lord sets His table and awaits His guests. The Lord listens attentively for knocking, and is quick to open the door to every guest<sup>2</sup>. Around His table are clustered undreamed-of mansions; at His table are many seats. Whoever strikes His door and knocks, will not be turned away, and yet you say: "Why did the Lord not open when we knocked?" Because you knocked at the door of the Lord with doubt,

but at the door of the world with faith<sup>3</sup>.

The Lord stands at the door of your soul with a broom, ready, at your invitation, to clean the horrendous filth out of your soul, to make your newly-cleaned soul fragrant with in-cense and fragrance, and to adorn her with virginal jewelry --the Lord is standing and waiting for your invitation<sup>4</sup>.

At the edge of your heart the Lord is standing with a tall candle that burns without smoking or melting. The Lord is standing and waiting at your invitation, to bring the candle into your heart and enlighten it, to burn up all the fear in your heart, all its selfish passions and all its ugly desires, and to drive out of your heart all the smoke and foul stench.



At the edge of your mind the Lord is standing with His wisdom and with His tongue, ready, at your invitation, to enter into it and drive

out all its foolish thoughts, all its filthy fancies, and all its mistaken notions, and to erase from your mind all nonexistent images -- the Lord is standing and waiting to introduce His reason, His seals, and His words.

Yet you say: "Where is the Lord?" At the edge of your life. Therefore your life has become hunchbacked. If the Lord were in the center, where He was in the beginning and where His rightful place is, your life would be upright and you would see the Lord, and you would not be asking: "Where is the Lord?"

You have become bad, therefore you ask: "Where is the Lord?"

The Lord is too good, therefore the bad do not recognize Him.

The Lord is too translucent, therefore the dusty do not see Him.

The Lord is too holy, therefore the unholy do not perceive Him.

If there are not enough people, who will confess the name of the Lord, the Lord will manifest Himself through objects.

If even the stars of heaven forget the name of the Lord, it will not be forgotten by the countless hosts of angels in heaven.

The weaker the confession of the Lord's name in one realm, the stronger it is in another. Neither can the uttering of the name of God be decreased, nor can it be increased. If

one brook dries up, another will begin to rise, and thus -- the sea maintains the same level.

1. Cf. Matt. 7:7-12.
2. Cf. Luke 11:9-13.
3. Cf. James 1:5

## ROMANIA SUMMER CAMP

During July (23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>) a group of 9 sixth formers from Lancaster Royal Grammar School, 3 teachers and 2 other supporting adults are travelling to Ploiesti in Romania. There we will work with a similar group to run a summer camp for around 40 Romanian village children. For these children who, in so many ways, do not have the advantages that children in this country have, we hope the camp will be exciting, enjoyable, challenging and memorable. It will also be educational – the activities will be structured around the key cultural themes of music, drama and art. We hope too that, for all involved – English and Romanian – the camp will promote a greater level of international understanding, an appreciation and respect for each other's culture, and long-lasting friendships. There are many costs associated with the project, in particular travel to and living in Romania and the costs of actually running the camp. All these costs have to be borne at our end. We are actively seeking to raise money from sponsorship and through a wide variety of other fund-raising activities.

At the moment, the following fund-raising activities are planned. Please note them in your diary. Further information and tickets are available from Father Jonathan.

- June 29<sup>th</sup> at LRGS, 7.30-11.00pm Ceilidh - dancing to 2 ceilidh bands, food (English and Romanian), bar, raffle; tickets £10.
- July 11<sup>th</sup> at the Gregson, 7.00-11.00pm - local musician entertain, hot pot supper; tickets £6.

*Andrew Nicholson*

### 8<sup>TH</sup> CAMBRIDGE SUMMER SCHOOL: THE ORTHODOX APPROACH TO THE BIBLE

*7-13 July*

University of Cambridge, Institute of Continuing Education with the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies

#### SPEAKERS include:

- METROPOLITAN KALLISTOS WARE, formerly Spalding Lecturer, University of Oxford
- FATHER THOMAS HOPKO, Dean Emeritus, St Vladimir's Seminary, New York
- FATHER NIKOLAI SAKHAROV Monastery of St. John the Baptist, Essex
- ARCHIMANDRITE JACK KHALIL, St. John of Damascus Faculty of Theology, Balamand, Lebanon

- DR. MARCUS PLESTED Academic Director, Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies

#### TOPICS may include:

- The Bible and Tradition: Conflict or Consensus?
- The Challenge of Orthodoxy to Modern Biblical Scholarship
- The Challenge of Modern Biblical Scholarship to Orthodoxy
- Orthodox Approaches to the Old Testament
- Scriptural Commentary in the Early Fathers
- 'Wisdom' in the Christian Tradition
- Varieties of Exegesis and Interpretation, Ancient and Modern
- The Status of the Septuagint Version of the Hebrew Bible
- Uses of Scripture in the Worship of the Church
- Versions in English for Public and Private Use
- Orthodox Scriptural Exposition: a Demonstration.



### MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

5<sup>th</sup> May: The Great Martyr Irene

6<sup>th</sup> May: Sunday of the Samaritan woman

8<sup>th</sup> May: St. John the Theologian

13<sup>th</sup> May: Sunday of the Blind man

15<sup>th</sup> May: St. Pachomios the Great

17<sup>th</sup> May: The Holy Ascension, concelebrated with Fr. David Rucker, Director of the mission of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA).

20<sup>th</sup> May: Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Council

21<sup>st</sup> May: St. Constantine and Helen

25<sup>th</sup> May: The 3<sup>rd</sup> discovery of the Head of the Forerunner and Baptist John

27<sup>th</sup> May: The Pentecost

28<sup>th</sup> May: Monday of the Holy Spirit

For the lives of Saints please visit the Prologue of Ohrid:

[www.westsrbdio.org/prolog/prolog.htm](http://www.westsrbdio.org/prolog/prolog.htm)

or the Calendar of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America:

[www.calendar.goarch.org](http://www.calendar.goarch.org)



*For further information please contact:*

Father Jonathan Hemmings

67 Sibsey Street, Fairfield, Lancaster, LA1 5DQ

Tel: +44 1524 840759, +44 1524 580600

Email: [frjah@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:frjah@yahoo.co.uk)

[www.antiochian-orthodox.co.uk/lancaster.htm](http://www.antiochian-orthodox.co.uk/lancaster.htm)

