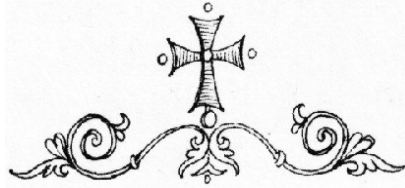


May 2008



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

Meeting at the Chaplaincy Centre of Lancaster University

Newsletter



*Ἰσθρονος Χριστός, Ζωοδότης.
(φ. Κόντογλου, 1962)*

*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.*

*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)*

OUR LIFE IN THE UAE

Now we live in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) specifically in Dubai. The city is lovely with loads of attractions.

Bassem works as an IT Manager at Abu Dhabi Airport Company. He commutes daily to Abu Dhabi, which is another nearby city. I work as an onsite project manager at du, which is the second mobile operator here. Karim goes daily to his nursery and he is coping really well there. He has friends and he loves playing with other kids. He will go to school by next September.

We are very lucky that we have lots of friends here especially a very close couple who are our friends since we studied together during university time. They have a daughter who is the same age of Karim so they play together most of the time.

We have a Coptic orthodox church which is a bit far, but we used to go every Wednesday. A new Coptic Orthodox church will open next July which will be much nearer to us.

Needless to say that we really miss our home and miss Lancaster too.

Marian



SYMMETRY

We have, in our minds, a tendency to accept symmetry as some kind of perfection. In fact it is like the old idea of the Greeks that circles were perfect, and it was rather horrible to believe that the planetary orbits were not circles, but only nearly circles. The difference between being a circle and being nearly a circle is not a small difference, it is a fundamental change so far as the mind is concerned. There is a sign of perfection and symmetry in a circle that is not there the moment the circle is slightly off -that is the end of it- it is no longer symmetrical. Then the question is why it is only *nearly* a circle – that is a much more difficult question. The result turned out to be a big dynamical problem, and now our problem is to explain why they are nearly symmetrical by looking at tidal forces and so on.

So our problem is to explain where symmetry comes from. Why is nature so nearly symmetrical? None has any idea why. The only thing we might suggest is something like this: There is a gate in Japan, a gate in Neiko, which is sometimes called by the Japanese the most beautiful gate in all Japan; it was built in a time when there was great influence from Chinese art. This gate is very elaborate, with lots of gables and beautiful carving and lots of columns and dragon heads and princes carved into the pillars, and so on. But when one looks closely he sees that in the elaborate and complex design along one of the pillars, one of the small design elements is carved upside down; otherwise the thing is completely symmetrical. If one asks why this

is, the story is that it was carved upside down so that the gods will not be jealous of the perfection of man. So they purposely put an error in there, so that the gods would not be jealous and get angry at human beings.

We might like to turn the idea around and think that the true explanation of near symmetry of nature is this: that God made the laws only nearly symmetrical so that we should not be jealous of His perfection!

*Richard Feynman
Nobel prize in Physics (1965)*

ST. SOPHIA CATHEDRAL, SOFIA, BULGARIA



*Fr. Tosko (father of Katerina Kazekina)
at the St. Sophia Cathedral.*

ST. CONSTANTINE & HELEN, EQUAL TO THE APOSTLES

This great and renowned sovereign of the Christians was the son of Constantius Chlorus (the ruler of the western-most parts of the Roman empire), and of the blessed Helen. He was born in 272, in (according to some authorities) Naissus of Dardania, a city on the Hellespont. In 306, when his father died, he was proclaimed successor to his throne. In 312, on learning that Maxentius and Maximinus had joined forces against him, he marched into Italy, where, while at the head of his troops, he saw in the sky after midday, beneath the sun, a radiant pillar in the form of a cross with the words: "By this shalt thou conquer." The following night, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him in a dream and declared to him the power of the Cross and its significance. When he arose in the morning, he immediately ordered that a labarum be made (which is a banner or standard of victory over the enemy) in the form of a cross, and he inscribed on it the Name of Jesus Christ. On the 28th Of October, he attacked and mightily conquered Maxentius, who drowned in the Tiber River while fleeing. The following day, Constantine entered Rome in triumph and was proclaimed Emperor of the West by the Senate, while Licinius, his brother-in-law, ruled in the East. But out of malice, Licinius later persecuted the Christians. Constantine fought him once and again, and utterly destroyed him in 324, and in this manner he became monarch over the West and the East. Under him and because of him all the persecutions against the Church

ceased. Christianity triumphed and idolatry was overthrown. In 325 he gathered the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, which he himself personally addressed. In 324, in the ancient city of Byzantium, he laid the foundations of the new capital of his realm, and solemnly inaugurated it on May 11, 330, naming it after himself, Constantinople. Since the throne of the imperial rule was transferred thither from Rome, it was named New Rome, the inhabitants of its domain were called Romans, and it was considered the continuation of the Roman Empire. Falling ill near Nicomedia, he requested to receive divine Baptism, according to Eusebius (*The Life of Constantine*. Book IV, 61-62), and also according to Socrates and Sozomen; and when he had been deemed worthy of the Holy Mysteries, he reposed in 337, on May 21 or 22, the day of Pentecost, having lived sixty-five years, of which he ruled for thirty-one years. His remains were transferred to Constantinople and were deposited in the Church of the Holy Apostles, which had been built by him (see Homily XXVI on Second Corinthians by St. John Chrysostom).

As for his holy mother Helen, after her son had made the Faith of Christ triumphant throughout the Roman Empire, she undertook a journey to Jerusalem and found the Holy Cross on which our Lord was crucified (see Sept. 13 and 14). After this, Saint Helen, in her zeal to glorify Christ, erected churches in Jerusalem at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where our Saviour was born, another on the Mount of Olives whence He ascended into Heaven, and many others throughout the Holy Land, Cyprus, and elsewhere. She was proclaimed Augusta, her image was stamped upon golden coins, and two cities were named Helenopolis after her in Bithynia and in Palestine. Having been thus glorified for her piety, she departed to the Lord being about eighty years of age, according to some in the year 330, according to others, in 336.

PHOTOS FROM EASTER

Decoration of the Epitaph:





Liturgy of the Resurrection:



Sunday of the Resurrection:



**PRAYERS BY THE LAKE XXIV BY
ST. NIKOLAI OF OCHRID AND ZICA**

You pour Your holy oil into the stars,
O Holy Spirit, and out of senseless
conflagrations You make vigil lamps
before the Glory of Heaven. Pour
Yourself into my soul also, and out of
a passionate conflagration make a
vigil lamp before the heavens.

You stroll through fields of flowers
without being heard, and You
sprinkle the flowers with Your grace,
so that the blood of the earth may not
look through, but the beauty of God.
Sprinkle the field of my soul with
Your grace also, so that it may not be
said that the field of my soul sprouted



from the blood of the earth, but that it is adorned with the beauty of God.

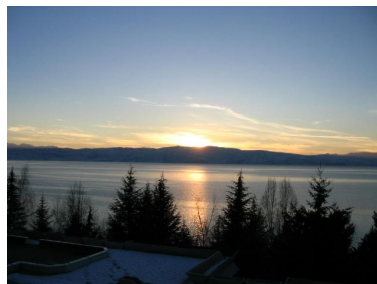
You mingle with every heap of ashes and pour in life. Pour life into the ashes of my body also, so that I may live and glorify Your works.

You tame the fire and wind, and out of demons of fury You make servants of the Most High. Tame my pride and make me a servant of the Most High. You are kind to the animals in the woods. Show kindness to me also, who am animalized by ignorance.

You fertilize every seed of life. You hover in every womb. You sit in the egg of a bird's nest and masterfully form a new miracle of life. Fertilize, I beseech You, the invisible seed of goodness within me also, and keep watch over it until it reaches maturity.

O Awesome and Almighty Spirit, by Your presence You turn a den of thieves into a haven of Heaven, and a

terrifying universe into a temple of God. Descend into me also, I beseech You, and turn a handful of ashes into what You know how to do and can.



MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

1st May: Prophet Jeremiah

4th May: Thomas Sunday

21st May: St. Constantine & Helen

23rd May: St. Joachim of Ithaca

25th May: The third finding of the Head of the Forerunner John

For the lives of Saints please visit the Calendar of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America:
www.calendar.goarch.org



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