

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

The Stavronian

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*Εὐαγγέλιον Χριστοῦ, Ζωοδότου.
(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.
Our Metropolitan is His Eminence Archbishop John.
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)*

WORK IN PROGRESS!

Isaiah 64:8 , *Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.*

When I was a small boy I used to go with my father who was a Glass, China and Earthenware merchant to the Potteries in order to buy pottery to sell in our shops in Wolverhampton. I treasure the moments with my father who took me to see how glass was blown and how pottery was fired in the kilns. In those days wholesalers and retailers had access to the factory floor and could see the potters making the table ware. One could follow the process from raw clay from the earth through the moulding, painting, firing, glazing through to the finished product of plates, cups and saucers, teapots, sauce boats etc.

The Spiritual journey is in many ways similar. God moulds us from the earth and gradually shapes us into the chosen vessels of His grace. He then gives colour and design to us, imbuing us with the beauty of our eyes and texture of our hair and the unique pattern of our finger prints. Then we are tested and proved in the fires of suffering before we are glazed with holiness so that we may be of use for others.

Theosis is *work in progress* as we are transformed from the base substance of our being by the energies of countless spiritual influences and encounters just as at each step the plate passes through the processes of manufacture until it reaches the finished product.

Of course we are fragile creatures, easily breakable and to be handled carefully just like the plates and cups.

On the journey home our van was filled with such fragile commodities and had to be packed with great thought in order to avoid breakages. Likewise our

treatment of others (who are also vessels of God) should be gentle and respectful. Whenever my dad packed a Tea Set for customers he would put a sticker on the outside of the cardboard box: **FRAGILE: HANDLE WITH CARE!** Perhaps we need a similar reminder how to treat others:

"EVERY virtue is a good thing, but most of all gentleness and meekness. This showeth us men; this maketh us to differ from wild beasts; this fitteth us to vie with Angels. Wherefore Christ continually expendeth many words about this virtue, bidding us be meek and gentle. Nor doth He merely expend words about it, but also teacheth it by His actions; at one time buffeted and bearing it, at another reproached and plotted against; yet again coming to those who had called Him a demoniac, and a Samaritan and who had often desired to kill Him, and had cast stones at Him, the same surrounded and asked Him, "Art thou the Christ?" Yet not even in this case did He reject them after so many and so great plots against Him, but answered them with great gentleness."

St. John Chrysostom

GLOWING HEARTS

You cannot be too gentle, too kind. Shun even to appear harsh in your treatment of each other. Joy, radiant joy, streams from the face of him who gives and kindles joy in the heart of him who receives.

All condemnation is from the devil. Never condemn each other. We condemn others only because we shun knowing ourselves. When we gaze at our own failings, we see such a swamp that nothing in another can equal it.

That is why we turn away, and make much of the faults of others. Instead of

condemning others, strive to reach inner peace. Keep silent, refrain from judgment. This will raise you above the deadly arrows of slander, insult and outrage and will shield your glowing hearts against all evil.

St Seraphim of Sarov

STUBBORN HEARTS

Jeremiah 6:

16 Thus says the LORD: “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls”. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’

17 Also, I set watchmen over you, saying “Listen to the sound of the trumpet!” but they said, “We will not listen”.

Human traits are found in cartoon parodies
A beast may don a life like human mask
Dark vestments may perchance another suit
And clothe the actor for his chosen task.

Thin the polar veil that hangs twixt foe and friend
When passion fires the heart and twists the mind.
The troubled soul God’s loving voice denies and
Tormented, feeds on scraps that it may find.

Stubborn wills find an empty, bleak deception
The broken ones for God a sacrifice
Repentance finds the path of obedience
That turns disease of bitter guile to life.

Walk before God in simplicity, and not in subtleties of the mind. Simplicity brings faith; but subtle and intricate speculations bring conceit; and conceit brings withdrawal from God.

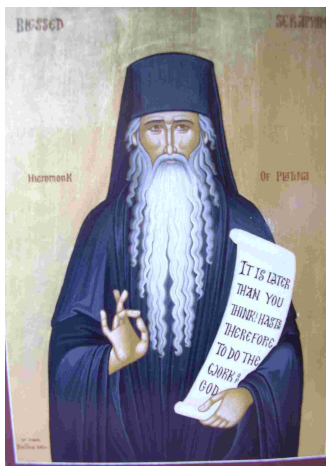
St Isaac the Syrian



SEARCHING HEARTS

Everything in this life passes away — only God remains, only He is worth struggling towards. We have a choice: to follow the way of this world, of the society that surrounds us, and thereby find ourselves outside of God; or to choose the way of life, to choose God Who calls us and for Whom our heart is searching.

fr. Seraphim Rose



The icon of fr. Seraphim Rose handpainted by our iconographer Dimitrios Hakim.

GREETING FROM ROMANIA

My Dear All,

It is a very long time since we had our last contact. I hope all of you are well and keep you all in my prayers.

These two years were difficult for me because we had a lot to work at the church and also had to finish my doctoral dissertation. I still have to present it in front of the Committee. Now, the building is almost near the roof. But for the

moment we wait because of this crisis. There are not good times for building. It is very expensive and demanding. But God's grace we were helped by a generous sponsor. It is very interesting the fact that he studied in England too as engineer. I attach two pictures.

I miss my lovely Lancaster, I miss Fr. Jonathan too and concelebrating with him.

I hope we will be able to come next year again in Lancaster and have the joy to share some time together.

Hoping to meet you again and cheers up a black beer. Next time I will come with some Transylvanian Palinka, having 80 grades. It is a splendid passport to the Dream Land.

Greetings from Dracula's land to the friends from Richard Lion Heart's land.

Forever yours in Christ,

Fr. Bogdan-Costin Georgescu



MEMORY ETERNAL

- Bishop Dimitri of Thrice memory &
- Leon the Iconographer of Walsingham

"Grace proceeds from all that is good, but above all from brotherly love."

St Silouan the Athonite

Dear to Christ, Fathers and Brothers:

Blessings.

Notice has been received this morning from the Patriarchal Office in Damascus of the falling asleep in Christ of His Grace BISHOP DIMITRI ILYAN AL-HOSNI following a long illness. As a priest His Grace had served at the Patriarchate in

Damascus and as a bishop in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Bishop Dimitri

Please join me in praying a rope for the repose of Bishop Dimitri's soul, saying, "O Lord Jesus Christ, grant rest to the soul of thy departed servant." May he be granted Paradise, and may you be granted long life.

In Christ Who is our Resurrection and our Life,

✝ Bishop Basil

Bishop of Wichita and the Diocese of Mid-America , Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



Please also pray for the soul of Leon Lidament of Walsingham. Leon was an Iconographer and spiritual son of Archimandrite David of Walsingham. Our Parish made a pilgrimage at Walsingham back in 2005 visiting also his studio.

Leon's funeral is on 9th September. There is an article by Aidan Hart who mentions Leon Lidament as one of the leading British Iconographers at the next link:

<http://www.aidanharticons.com/articles/20THICON%202.pdf>

or visit the webpage of the brotherhood of St. Seraphim of Sarov here:

<http://saintseraphim.inspiron.co.uk>



Archimandrite David of Walsingham painting an icon



Our parishioners back in 2005 outside St. Seraphim's chapel at Walsingham. This is also where fr. David's and Leon's studio is located.



OLD STAVRONIAN CORNER

On the Holy Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy and Life Giving Cross may God the Father bless you in the love of Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We thank Lauren Macrina for the gift of the prayer ropes and hope in God's will and time to see her again with our community. Kind thanks also to Polimnios for the gift of candles which we indeed need at the community. Thank you to Katerina Dokou for her gifts of candles, wicks, incense and charcoal.

Thank you so much for the 12 bottles of Communion wine (Aghia Nektaria) which I collected from the post office today. It is so kind of you to remember us and support us through your gifts and prayers.

In these difficult days of financial restraints and economic cutbacks especially in Greece it is so generous and kind of you to remember us with these gifts for the Church.

May God bless you all for your generosity of spirit.

With my thanks and poor prayers,

fr. Jonathan

Dr. Andreea Popescu sends her greetings and regards to our community of the Holy and Life Giving Cross. She is now working as a junior doctor in the ENT department at Hastings on the South Coast of England.

PARISH NEWS

The book on the life of St. Lioba written by fr. Jonathan and translated in Greek by our community is printed in Cyprus. For those of you who would like to

acquire a copy, please contact father Jonathan or Panagiotis Georgopoulos.

Sharing Holiness

Dear all,

The books on St. Lioba arrived today at school. Since they are only stapled together without a hard cover so we will only be able to sell them at a realistic low price. I suggest £2.50 or £3.00. All money raised will go to the Church funds but this is not the main aim, the primary purpose is to share with our Greek speaking brothers and sisters the universal nature of our Orthodox faith and to make known unknown saints. There are 47 pages in total in this booklet. Shipping and postage of course will be another financial burden so I suggest those who are going to Greece, back to Cyprus from whence they came (or Greek speaking communities worldwide), could take some to sell there. We have 600 copies in total. I notice that the Christian Centre of the Transfiguration in Anthoupolis Nicosia is affiliated to *Syndesmos* which was founded by His Beatitude Ignatios our beloved Patriarch. I hope that this little educational endeavour of the *Holy Cross Synodia Press* will be blessed by God by the prayers of Saint Lioba.

I want to thank you all for your help in translation (and others who helped), to thank Protopresbyter Michael Efthymiou for printing the copies in Cyprus, Fr. Michael Harper of blessed memory for writing the foreword, Mr. Sophocles Ioulianou (Old Stavronian) for paying for the printing, Mr. Takis Palykythritis for paying for the shipping to London.

I think it is wholly wonderful, life enhancing and significant that God has given to us his humble servants this holy task of translating the life of a Greek Saint St. Joachim of Vatopaedi and Ithaca into the English language and of translating the life of an English Saint St. Lioba

of Wimborne and Bishofsheim into the Greek language.

Glory to God for all things.
With my love and poor prayers,

fr. Jonathan

We would like to congratulate Konstantinos and Vera-Nina on the Baptism of their daughter Heidi-Vasiliki on 26th September at Vravra, Athens.



MAJOR CELEBRATIONS THIS MONTH

6th Oct.: Holy Apostle Thomas

9th Oct.: Holy Apostle James, the son of Alphaeus

12th Oct.: St. Wilfrid, Bishop of York (709)

18th Oct.: Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke

19th Oct.: St. John of Kronstadt

26th Oct.: Glorious Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-bearer of Thessalonica

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

Services during October

Sat. Oct. 2 nd	10.00 am	Liturgy in R.C. chapel followed by Parish meal
Sun. Oct. 10 th	10.00 am	Liturgy in Q.R. followed by Parish meal
Sat. Oct. 16 th	10.00 am	Liturgy in R.C. chapel
Sat. Oct. 23 rd	10.00 am	Liturgy in R.C. chapel
Sun. Oct. 31 st	10.00 am	Liturgy in Q.R.

“We have been called to become unknown heroes,
visible only to the unsleeping eye of God”
- Elder Ephraim -



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