

The Epistle

February 2014

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Pastor

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Doubt and the Christian Life

Archbishop Anthony Bloom

I would like to focus attention on perplexity and on doubt, in an attempt to provoke thought about a few words like faith, doubt, reality and truth. I am not a theologian; I am a scientist by training and a physician, so you will not find in my words any depth of philosophical probing into things. *I am writing as an ordinary human being who is confronted with life and its problems.*

First, concerning faith, one preliminary remark. Faith is very often understood by people as a defeat of intelligence. In other words, faith begins when I can no longer think creatively, when I let go of any attempt at rational understanding, and when I say 'I believe' because it is so absurd that it is the only way of facing the problem. This may be an act of credulity, it may be an act of cowardice, it may be a preliminary act, full of wisdom and intelligence, that teaches us not to draw conclusions or to come to conclusions before we have understood. *But this is not faith as understood by the great men of all religions, and particularly the Christian Faith.* In the Epistle to the Hebrews in the eleventh chapter, faith is defined as '*certainty of things unseen*'. We usually lay the stress on 'things unseen' and forget the 'certainty' about them. So when we think of faith we usually think of the invisible and instead of certainty put against it an interrogation mark. Then to solve the problem, we accept in a childish way, in an unintelligent way very often, what we are told by others, usually our grandparents of three generations back, or whoever else we choose to believe for reasons that are not always reasonable. *But if you try to see the way in which faith originates in those people who were the great men of faith, the heroes of faith, you can see that it always originates in an experience that makes the invisible certain, and which allows them, having discovered that the invisible is as real as the visible, to go further in searching the invisible by methods of their own...!*

At 8 the world can be taken on trust; at 18, at 25, it cannot; and in certain circumstances, there are things that can never be taken on trust. I will give you an example. The Eucharist, the central event of Christian worship, is centered on an act of thanksgiving in which we say to God '*Thank you for all things*'. Now, can we honestly say, 'thank you for all things' in the face of the tragedies of the world unless we have a reason to see beyond the tragedy to their solution and a meaning within them?

Doubt is not simply contradiction. Doubt is a moment of dividedness, a dichotomy in our minds; a moment when, having followed a very simple straight road, we come to a fork, and we ask ourselves '*Do I go this way or that way?*' The one may be more convincing, the other may be more alluring. Which one are we going to choose? It is the situation of someone who has been weighing up the problems of life in a very simple way and suddenly discovers there is a much more subtle balance between things and that a simple solution is no solution at all. What are we going to do at that moment?

There are two absolutely different attitudes to doubt in the mind, there is that of the scientist and that of the believer. For the scientist, doubt is a systematic weapon; it is a joy. For the believer *when he takes the wrong attitude* to doubt and to the problems he is facing, it is a moment of anguish.

(Continued on page 3.)

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

The mission of Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church is to safeguard the 2,000 year old Traditions handed down by Christ and His disciples, by encouraging members to participate actively in the Sacramental life of the Church, and by furthering our knowledge of the Faith through education. In order to realize our role as stewards of God's vineyard and to grow spiritually as individuals and as a Parish, we will share our Faith with those who seek the knowledge of God, welcome and embrace all who join us in worship and fellowship, and reach out to those in need. Fulfilling our mission will draw us closer to God and His Kingdom, and allow us to experience the love of God (Agape) in our Parish and community.

Rev. Father Simon Thomas
Parish Priest

SAINT BARBARA PARISH COUNCIL

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ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	YIANNI MAGOULIAS

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OFFICE PERSONNEL

VALERIE KATSIKIS – Office Administrator

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY – FRIDAY * 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA * METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO

What happens usually to the believer is that having believed in all simplicity that everything is clear, simple, and straight-forward, he suddenly discovers that life gives the lie to what he thought to be true. Then his answer is *'I am disloyal to what I thought, I am disloyal to my Faith, to my Church, to my God'*. The problem is not only about subtleties but about basic things, about God Himself, about the Church, about what is at the core of the believer's life. Then he feels that what is at stake is the breaking down, the destruction, the disappearance of the object of faith, and God's existence is now questionable. *The values which were essential, which were existential values for him, are questionable, and therefore his very existence becomes a problem...!*

But when a scientist engages in research, he gathers together all the facts he is capable of collecting. Once he has gathered his facts, he must hold them together in a way that makes it possible for him to handle the totality of the facts, and he builds a hypothesis, a theory, a model, a construction, an architectural building, that is capable of holding everything together. If the whole object of research for the scientist was to make himself a name, he will try to protect his model against any criticism, against any doubt and against any questioning, with greater or lesser honesty. *But if as a scientist he is a man who is out to discover what things are in reality, his first action will be to go round and round his model in all directions, examining and trying to find where the flaw is, what the problems are which are generated by the model he has built, by the theory he has proposed, by the hypothesis he has now offered for the consideration of others. If he cannot find a flaw, then he will try through research to go farther in the field and discover such facts that do not fit with his theory or his model, because when he will find a fact that will explode his model, make his theory questionable, he will have opened up a new window on reality.*

So the aim of the good research scientist is to create models of theories or hypotheses as a preliminary exercise to questioning and to discovering something which will make him break them down in order to create another model which is as doubtful as the preceding one, but which allows him to keep the new facts together in a manageable way.

At the root of the scientist's activity there is the certainty that what he is doubting is the model he has invented, that is, the way in which he has projected his intellectual structures on the world around him and on the facts; the way in which his intelligence has grouped things. *But what he is also absolutely certain of is that the reality which is beyond his model is in no danger if his model collapses.* The reality is stable, it is there; the model is an inadequate expression of it, but the reality doesn't alter because the model shakes.

'Model' can be replaced by another word when it is not used in a scientific way, it can be replaced by the word 'truth'. Truth is something which is an expression of reality, and an expression means two things: *first, that the reality which surrounds us is perceived* (obviously incompletely); *secondly, that it is expressed* (also incompletely, because of our inability to express identically in words and in expressions). Only one occasion in human history sees the moment when truth and reality collide. That moment is in the Incarnation of Christ, because He is God, the plenitude, the fullness of creation, *and at the same time the expression of it...!*

Reality is something within us which is the total thing which includes God and all things visible and invisible. This is what we aim at expressing in glimpses when we speak in terms of truth. These terms of truth may be adequate, but they are *never identical with their object....*

When we say that the truth is inadequate, that our intellectual, philosophical, theological, scientific model is inadequate in comparison with reality, it simply means that we are saying *'How marvelous, I have come to a point when I can outgrow the limitations in which I have lived and I can move into a greater, deeper, more enthralling vision of things as they are.'*

If we think of a scientist and a believer, then we will see that the scientist's doubt is systematic, it is surging, it is hopeful, it is joyful, it is destructive of what he has done himself because *he believes in the reality that is beyond and not in the model he has constructed.* This we must learn as believers for our spiritual life both in the highest forms of theology and in the small simple concrete experience of being a Christian.

Whenever we are confronted with a crossroads, whenever we are in doubt, whenever our mind sees two alternatives, instead of saying ‘Oh God, make me blind, Oh God help me not to see, Oh God, give me loyalty to what I know now to be untrue’, we should say ‘*God is casting a ray of light which is a ray of reality on something I have out-grown, the smallness of my original vision. I have come to a point when I can see more and deeper, thanks be to God.*’ That is not perplexity, it is not bewilderment, it is not the anguished doubt of the believer who hides his head and hopes that he will be able to revert to the age of 8.

This is very important because unless you are prepared to see reality and your own thoughts and the thoughts of others with keen interest, with courage, but with the certainty that the last word is not doubt, not perplexity and not bewilderment, but that it is discovery, then you are wasting your time. You will die in the way in which in ancient mythology we are told: an ass that stood between a bucket of water and some straw and could never decide whether he was more hungry than thirsty or more thirsty than hungry. †

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh was born in Lausanne in 1914. He spent his early childhood in Russia and Persia, his father being a member of the Russian Imperial Diplomatic Corps. During the Russian Revolution the family had to leave Persia, and in 1923 settled in Paris where the future Metropolitan was educated, graduating in physics, chemistry and biology, and taking his doctorate in medicine, at the University of Paris. In 1939, before leaving for the front as a surgeon in the French army, he secretly professed monastic vows. He was tonsured and received the name of Anthony in 1943. During the occupation of France by the Germans he worked as a doctor and took part in the Anti-Fascist movement of the Resistance. After the war he continued practicing as a physician until 1948, when he was ordained to the priesthood and sent to England to serve as Orthodox Chaplain of the Fellowship of St. Alban and St. Sergius. He was appointed vicar of the Russian patriarchal parish in London in 1950, consecrated as Bishop in 1957 and Archbishop in 1962, in charge of the Russian Orthodox Church in Great Britain and Ireland. In 1963 he was appointed Exarch of the Moscow Patriarchate in Western Europe, and in 1966 was raised to the rank of Metropolitan. At his own request he was released in 1974 from the function of Exarch, in order to devote himself more fully to the pastoral needs of the growing flock of his Diocese and all who come to him seeking advice and help. He has authored many publications on the spiritual life. Metropolitan Anthony died peacefully August 4th, 2003, at the age of 89.

Saint Barbara Prayer List

Please contact the Church Office to add/remove someone from the list.

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew	Bessie Condos (surgery)
Archbishop Demetrios of America	Michael Domagala (health)
Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco	Vasili Economidou (cancer)
Metropolitan Jeronimos of Mwanza	Bill & Helen Gekis (health)
Father Simon & Presvytera Stephanie and children	Nicky Gekis (health)
Parishioners of Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church	Sorel (Sophia) Kolendrianos (Rett Syndrome)
Parishioners of Saint Barbara’s in Kazinga, Tanzania	Brooke McGillivray (surgery)
Metropolitan Paul (Yazge) of Aleppo	Jim Peters (health)
Archbishop Youhanna Ibrahim (Syriac) of Aleppo	Bill Poulis (surgery)
Nuns of St. Thekla Monastery in Maaloula, Syria	Jheri E. Redding (Lyme disease)
Presvytera Krissy Flesoras (health)	Marina Vogel (health)
Angelique Chuchas	

Happy Name Day!

3rd – **St. Symeon the God-Receiver** - Symeon Argyropoulos, Father Simon Thomas

10th - **St. Haralambos the Priest Martyr** - Bob Swider

17th - **St. Theodore** – Ted Martin

As we are determining all the Names Days of our parishioners due to the many variations of names and baptismal names, please bear with us and inform the office if your name is omitted or listed on the wrong day to be added to future lists.

President's Report

Happy New Year to our Orthodox Family and Friends!

I wish to thank the 2014 Parish Council Members for their dedication and efforts and particularly the 3 retiring members, Connie Hillman, Tom Kapernekas and Terry Keramaris, for their many years of faithful service.

The 2014 Council Members will continue the tradition of offering their time and talents to address the challenges that we, and all Churches, confront: membership, stewardship, relevancy, infrastructure renovations, outreach, financial obligations, ministering to those in need and ongoing religious education. I feel privileged to be part of a team with such great depths of talents - spiritual, engineering, finance, communication, social outreach, management, business and education. I am prayerfully hopeful that with your prayers and participation, our Church will continue to be a "Beacon" of Orthodoxy - a Religious Center of Excellence.

Our three priorities this year will be **#1, MEMBERSHIP**, **# 2**, create a CAPITAL CAMPAIGN to raise funds to renovate/upgrade our beautiful 28 year old campus and **#3**, establish a SAINT BARBARA FOUNDATION to guarantee long term financial stability for future generations. Ambitious goals indeed, but with your commitment, they can be realized!

Last year we lost dear friends - Lisa Stathopoulos, Mary Stamos, Carol Pertsulakes, and Virginia Fanos. May their Memory Be Eternal! Dear friends also have relocated, to Philadelphia (Nick Pappas), Ashville, N.C. (Peter Stathopoulos), Gilbert, AZ (Carol Stathopoulos) Fresno, CA (Kara, Michael & Eleanor Osborn) and Sarasota, FL (Constantine Davlantes). We are grateful for all their contributions to the development and growth of our Orthodox Family.

Planning for our 41st Greek Festival at Oak Park, July 26 & 27, has begun in earnest with George Papador as Chairman and a newly formed Festival Leadership Committee.

In late February, I will join Father Simon, Paul Tziouvaras, Bessie Condos, Alex and Angelique Chuchas in attending the Metropolis of San Francisco Clergy Laity meeting at the St. Nicholas Ranch. The major topic of discussion will be the newly crafted Strategic Plan for the Metropolis with the Theme: **"Where there is no vision, the people will perish."** Proverbs 29:18. Unified Visionary planning and action built Saint Barbara, and with continued Unity and Faith, will sustain Her.

In closing, I welcome your thoughts, ideas and assistance in improving our programs, ministries, and facilities. The Sunday Coffee Fellowship Hour after Divine Liturgy will be my "Open Office."

In His Service,
Ernest Kolendrianos

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday, February 2nd
Presentation of the Lord
Orthros – 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

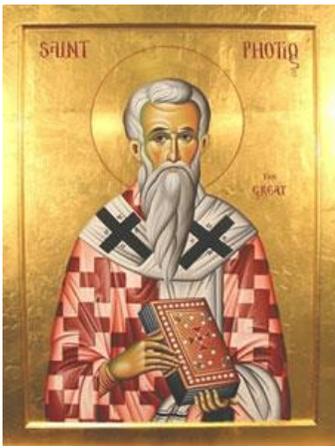
Sunday, February 9th
Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Orthros – 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

Monday, February 10th
Feast of Saint Haralambos
Orthros – 8:00 am
Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Sunday, February 16th
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Orthros – 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

Saturday, February 22nd
Saturday of Souls
Orthros – 8:00 am
Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am

Sunday, February 23rd
Judgment Sunday
Orthros – 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am



Saint Photios the Great, Patriarch of Constantinople

February 6th

Saint Photios, Patriarch of Constantinople, “the Church’s far-gleaming beacon,” lived during the ninth century, and came from a family of zealous Christians. His father Sergios died as a martyr in defense of holy icons. St Photios received an excellent education and, since his family was related to the imperial house, he occupied the position of first state secretary in the Senate.

Michael, the young successor to the throne, and St Cyril, the future Enlightener of the Slavs, were taught by him. His deep Christian piety protected St Photios from being seduced by the charms of court life. With all his soul, he yearned for monasticism. In 857 Bardas, who ruled with Emperor Michael, deposed Patriarch Ignatius from the See of Constantinople. The bishops, knowing the piety and extensive knowledge of Photios, informed the emperor that he was a man worthy to occupy the arch-pastoral throne. St Photios accepted the proposal with humility. He passed through all the clerical ranks in six days. On the day of the Nativity of Christ, he was consecrated bishop and elevated to the patriarchal throne.

Soon, however, discord arose within the Church, stirred up by the removal of Patriarch Ignatius from office. The Synod of 861 was called to end the unrest, at which the deposition of Ignatius and the installation of Photios as patriarch were confirmed. Pope Nicholas I, whose envoys were present at this council, hoped that by recognizing Photios as patriarch he could subordinate him to his power. When the new patriarch did not submit, Nicholas anathematized Photios at a Roman council.

Until the end of his life St Photios was a firm opponent of papal intrigues and designs upon the Orthodox Church of the East. In 864, Bulgaria voluntarily converted to Christianity. The Bulgarian prince Boris was baptized by Patriarch Photios himself. Later, St Photios sent an archbishop and priests to baptize the Bulgarian people. In 865, Sts Cyril and Methodius were sent to preach Christ in the Slavonic language. However, the partisans of the Pope incited the Bulgarians against the Orthodox missionaries.

The calamitous situation in Bulgaria developed because an invasion by the Germans forced them to seek help in the West, and the Bulgarian prince requested the Pope to send his bishops. When they arrived in Bulgaria, the papal legates began to substitute Latin teachings and customs in place of Orthodox belief and practice. St Photios, as a firm defender of truth and denouncer of falsehood, wrote an encyclical informing the Eastern bishops of the Pope’s actions, indicating that the departure of the Roman Church from Orthodoxy was not only in ritual, but also in its confession of faith. A council was convened, censuring the arrogance of the West.

The Synod of 869 met to investigate the conduct of St Photios. This council took place with the participation of papal legates, who demanded that the participants sign a document (Libellus) condemning Photios and recognizing the primacy of the Pope. The Eastern bishops would not agree to this, and argued with the legates. Summoned to the council, St Photios met all the accusations of the legates with a dignified silence. Only when the judges asked him whether he wished to repent did he reply, “Why do you consider yourselves judges?” After long disputes, the opponents of Photios were victorious. Although their judgment was baseless, they anathematized Patriarch Photios and the bishops defending him. The Saint was sent to prison for seven years, and by his own testimony, he thanked the Lord for patiently enduring His judges.

During this time the Latin clergy were expelled from Bulgaria, and Patriarch Ignatius sent his bishops there. In 879, two years after the death of Patriarch Ignatius, another council was summoned (many consider it the Eighth Ecumenical Council), and again St Photios was acknowledged as the lawful arch-pastor of the Church of Constantinople. Pope John VIII, who knew Photios personally, declared through his envoys that the former papal decisions about Photios were annulled. Under Emperor Basil’s successor, Leo, St Photios again endured false denunciations, and was accused of speaking against the emperor. Again deposed from his See in 886, the Saint completed the course of his life in 891. He was buried at the monastery of Eremia.

Saint Barbara Philoptochos Chapter #4019

WHAT IS PHILOPTOCHOS: We live in a war-torn world where hatred and violence annihilate peace and life. In the United States today:

- One in five children lives in poverty.
- One in six families is food insecure (we no longer use the term "hunger") - the highest ever recorded in the US.
- 51 million Americans are 'near' poor - people who are one paycheck, one lost job, one divorce or one sick child away from falling below the poverty line.

National Philoptochos Department of Social Work, with the support of every chapter within the Archdiocese of America served 228 cases in 2013 and the total amount of financial grants awarded nationally was \$160,012.23. Throughout the year our faithful and dedicated Philoptochos Sisters in America work tirelessly with agape (love) to identify and assist people in need. The Cyprus Children's Fund honored the National Philoptochos Society with its Humanitarian and Philanthropic Award at the Annual Testimonial Dinner held December 7th in NY. President Skeadas stated that "the combined efforts of the Philoptochos chapters allow the National Philoptochos Society to create such an impact in the world in which we live."

In 2013, our commitment to National, San Francisco Metropolis and Local totaled to \$4,500. We also raised money for the American Heart Association from Essence of the Mediterranean and the fundraising for Cyprus. Our donations are endless.

Sunday, February 9th National Philoptochos Society promotes the American Heart Association "**GO RED FOR WOMEN**" campaign and are asking all women across the country to join the movement and **WEAR RED**. National statistics are: 90% of women have one or more risk factors for developing heart disease. Only one in five women believes that heart disease is her greatest health risk. 80% of cardiac events in women could be prevented if women made the right choices for their hearts.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO AND WHY WE HELP WHO WE HELP: It is because our work saves lives. Our work gives people some breathing space so that together, we and they can figure out what their next steps will be, and most importantly our work provides spiritual support while letting members of our community know they are not alone. We accomplished a lot in 2013 for a small chapter. Come and join this most dynamic organization and become a Philoptochos Steward and with your involvement you can make a difference in people's lives.

Our **next meeting is scheduled for February 16th at the Education Center at 11:45 am. OUR SPEAKER WILL BE DR. DAN BRENNAN, PEDIATRICIAN AT SANSUM CLINIC AND THE TOPIC WILL BE "CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & CHALLENGES"** Sleep issues, Temper Tantrums, Night frights and more. Questions are encouraged. We can all learn from this topic when these issues occur to our children, grandchildren or even just a friend. The presentation will be short and everyone is welcome to join us. Babysitting will be provided. To become a Philoptochos member, join us at one of our meetings. More interesting topics with speakers will be coming up in the future. If you want a specific topic, let's talk about it.

*THE SAINT BARBARA
PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY*



PRESENT

**DR. DAN BRENNAN, PEDIATRICIAN AT SANSUM
CLINIC**

THE TOPIC

"CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & CHALLENGES"

Sleep issues, Temper Tantrums, Night frights plus more

Questions are encouraged

Everyone is welcome

Sunday, February 16th, 2014

At 12:00 noon

At the St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church Education Center

Babysitting will be available

For information contact Georgia Gastouniotis via email ginagaston@verizon.net

Parish, Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Choir

We wish you all a blessed and musical New Year! Rehearsals continue on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in the choir loft, so if interested in joining, you are most welcome to attend.

Our agenda this year includes learning new music, outreach to other parishes and choirs, and participation in the Metropolis Church Music Federation Summer conference to be held at the Ascension Cathedral in Oakland, CA. The **Summer Conference** is a gathering of 100 to 200 dedicated church musicians: chanters, choir singers and composers from throughout the Metropolis. All rehearsals, workshops and Liturgy will be held at the beautiful Ascension Cathedral. More information to follow, so save the dates: **June 27 - 29!**

Director Andriana Kolendrianos and Soprano Barbara Hunt recently attended the **Federation Winter Business Meeting** of directors and delegates Jan. 17 & 18, hosted by the Resurrection Church in Castro Valley. Our Greek Orthodox Metropolis Church Music Federation is an amazing group of committed and enthusiastic volunteer musicians involved in every aspect of church music and offers training, workshops and music for directors, chanters, adult and youth choirs to all our parishes, and is now seeking (*Yeah!*) a Youth Music Education Specialist to assist in developing Youth Choirs in our parishes! For more information about the Federation, see the website:

www.sanfran.churchmusic.goarch.org

V.I.P. Seniors

The V.I.P. Seniors conducted their first meeting for the New Year on January 9, 2014 at Cody's Café. The meeting was attended by 12 members including Fr. Simon Thomas. After good food and some lively conversation, the meeting concentrated on important VIP business, such as last Thanksgiving's Dinner, VIP Seniors finances, and our activity plans for 2014. Additionally, long time V.I.P. member Bill Pertsulakes was asked by V.I.P. Coordinator Sofija Nedic to take on the position of treasurer and financial advisor for SBGOC V.I.P. Seniors group. Bill Pertsulakes has graciously accepted the position and was unanimously approved by the attending members. Thank you Bill for all your help until now and the in the future.

Greek School

First level is being taught by Georgia Gastouniotis every Wednesday at 6:00 pm at the Education Center and includes Children, Young Adults and Adults. We are learning to read and the class is always full of excitement. For information on first level contact Georgia at ginagaston@verizon.net.

Second level is being taught by Mariella Kallona Stockmal and they are meeting at her home every Thursday evening at 6:00 pm. Information on second level contact Mariella at stockmalm@gmail.com or call the Church Office during business hours.

Sunday School

The Sunday School has kicked off the new year with excellent attendance from the pre-kindergarten class through second grade. The little kids have been attentive participants in both Sunday school and Youth Choir. Although it is a small group, the middle school class and teacher are enjoying the time spent together. The high school students are working on their speeches for the **Oratorical Festival to be held February 23rd at the Sunday School Open House**. Please support our youth by joining us!

February 2 ~ Sunday School and Youth Choir

February 9 ~ Sunday School

February 16 ~ Sunday School and Youth Choir

February 23 ~ Sunday School and Open House

The Annual Parish Oratorical Festival this year will be held on February 23, 2014 after Divine Liturgy. Please parents, encourage your child(ren) to participate in this rewarding program! It has expanded this year, to include essay and poetry! See attached fliers for more information!!!

District Festival TBD in April; **Metropolis Festival** at Saint Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center May 3, 2014. **National Archdiocese Festival** in Cleveland, Ohio June 13-15. For more info please see flyer included in this Epistle or contact Presvytera Stephanie, the Parish Oratorical Chairman.

Orthodox Social Network

The Orthodox Social Network met on January 31st for a Potluck event. All are welcome - singles, couples, or just friends! *If you would like to join the group, please submit your email to the Church Office so we can include you in future events!*

Please Join Us

for our

Saint Barbara Oratorical Festival

and

Sunday School Open House

February 23, 2014

in the

Redding Education Center

following the Divine Liturgy

Listen to speeches, essays and poetry from our 4-12th graders!

See the classrooms and what the Sunday school students have been up to

Coffee Hour will be served

Community Organizations

SB-Patras Sister Cities Group

As of January 1, 2014 we are officially a Sister City, Santa Barbara and Patras, Greece. The Mayors of Santa Barbara and Patras have signed and now we can start the process of becoming a strong chapter. An MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) will be set-up in the near future from UCSB and the University of Patras, a student exchange program and much more. You don't have to be Greek to be a member. Our membership fee is only \$35.00 per year and we are taking applications for new members. If you are interested in joining our group please contact Georgia Gastouniotis at ginagaston@verizon.net, George Papazacharioudakis at gpapazach@msn.com, Vivi Tziouvaras at v.tzxan@gmail.com or Debbie Merlo Ruccioni at debbie@debbiemerlo.com. Our meetings are held every other month and the **next meeting will be held February 6, 2014.**

Order of AHEPA, Santa Barbara Chapter 243

www.ahepa20.org/chapters E-mail ahepa243@gmail.com

The Mission of the Family of AHEPA, Santa Barbara Chapter 243, is to promote Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, Family and Individual Excellence. The Goal of AHEPA Chapter 243 is to expand and strengthen its educational efforts and the lifelong learning of mind and body, the Classic Hellenic definition of PAIDEIA.

We have our meetings on the third Monday of the month, usually at Harry's Plaza Café in the Ranchero Room, starting at 6:30 p.m.

At our January meeting we had guest speakers Chad and Kara Steward, personal trainers and principals in Platinum Fitness, who talked about and demonstrated exercises for total body conditioning and for health. Their information was well received.

All meetings with a guest speaker are open to members of the community and we invite you to join us, have dinner, and listen to an inspiring and informational speaker.

If you are interested in joining Ahepa, or attending a meeting to learn more about Ahepa, call President Bill Poulis at (805) 682-4733.

Daughters of Penelope, Santa Barbara Chapter Delos 103

www.dophq@ahepa.org; www.dopdistr20.org

Our annual **Garage Sale is February 1st** at the home of Terry Keramaris. Come support us and find that treasure you didn't know you needed!

For more information about the Daughters of Penelope you can visit the national website at www.daughtersofpenelope.org, as well as our district website at www.dopdistr20.org. If you are interested in becoming a Daughter, please call Helen McGillivray at 965-6727.

Missions Luncheon

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. (1 John 3:18)

Please plan on attending the **38th Annual Mission Awareness Luncheon on Sunday, February 9th** (see enclosed flyer). If you cannot attend please consider sending in a donation to support the orphans in India, Guatemala, and Albania. With the gift of your love to the orphans we create a healthy environment, provide education and a brighter future for them. Please help those in need reach the potential for a better life. Thank you for your support. God Bless you always.

GIVE SHARE LOVE

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT
ORPHANS OF INDIA, GUATEMALA, and ALBANIA

38th ANNUAL MISSION AWARENESS LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2014
AFTER LITURGY - IN THE ORTHODOX CENTER

Please join us for a delicious luncheon following the Liturgy on Sunday, February 9th.

This year's annual Mission Awareness Luncheon is free. But in order to continue the goals and work of our missionaries and to support the Orthodox orphanages in India, Guatemala, and Albania; we are hoping and praying that those attending will be able to make a generous donation.

Remember \$50.00 will help provide milk for 50-60 children and the \$100.00 will help feed 100-120 children. Any size donation is greatly appreciated.

One day Mother Theresa was asked how she deals with the pervasive nature of poverty and oppression. She replied simply "One person at a time, one child at a time."

Checks should be made payable to *St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church* (please put Mission Awareness in the memo).

We hope you will be able to attend our 38th annual mission luncheon and support the orphanages of India, Guatemala, and Albania. If you cannot attend, please consider sending a donation anyway. Thank you for supporting these efforts.

In His Service,
Alex Haimanis, Chairman

YES, I want to help support the orphanages of India/Guatemala/Albania
with the following tax deductible donation

Name _____

Number attending: _____

Donation amount: \$_____

Regretfully, I cannot attend the luncheon. However, I do want to do
my share to help the orphanages of India/Guatemala/Albania. \$_____

Please make checks payable to *St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church*

Volunteers for February 2014

Epistle Readers:

2	Greek: Alex Trigonis	English: Dean Papazacharioudakis
9	Greek: Terry Keramaris	English: Randy Langel
16	Greek: Tom Pappas	English: Mike Pahos
23	Greek: Angelique Chuchas	English: Theophilos Lasswell

Acolytes:

Connor Blake, Cainan Iorio, Dean Richardson, Dimitri Richardson

Ushers:

2	Paul Tziouvaras, Brian Iorio
9	William Poulis, Alex Haimanis
16	Paul Tziouvaras, George Papazacharioudakis
23	William Poulis, Brian Iorio

Prosporo Bakers:

2	Valerie Katsikis
9	Connie Pappas Hillman
16	Angelique Chuchas
23	Sophia Kenrick

Altar Flowers:

2	Available
9	Available
16	Available
23	Available

Coffee Fellowship Hosts:

2	Pete and Carol Stathopoulos
9	Mission Awareness
16	Available
23	Sunday School Open House

NEWS & NOTES

40 Day Blessing...

Anna Sophia Landry, daughter of Frank & Kalliroi Landry

Baptism...

Olivia Cloutier Burge, January 25th, daughter of James & Megan, Sponsors are Kathryn Olaiz, Manuel Olaiz, Hunter Kral and Avery Kral

Memorials...

Rosalie Ann Forinash (6 years), January 12th, wife of Dr. Robert Forinash

Penka Mitova (3 years), January 19th, mother of Olya Benbow and grandmother of Olivia

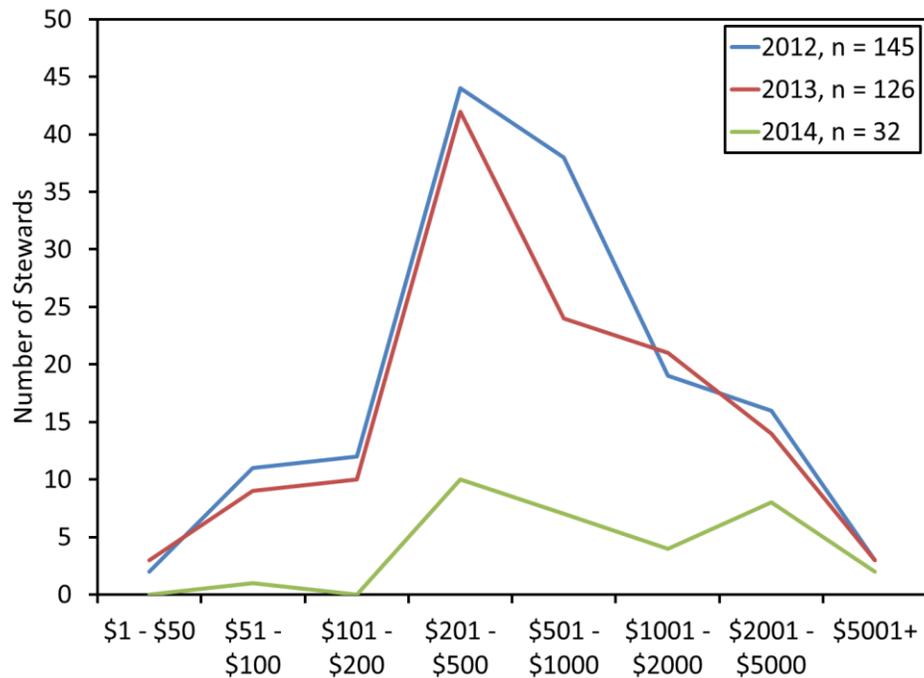
In Memory of...

Virginia Fanos, by Bill Poulos

Stewardship 2014

The Stewardship Committee would like to extend a huge, heartfelt thanks to all those who fulfilled their stewardship commitments for 2013. As of press time, we had received **93%** (\$124,842) of committed stewardship funds (\$134,437) from 126 stewards. A very special *thank you* goes out to all who went above and beyond their initial commitment and continued to give from their abundance. Let's keep up the momentum for 2014! As of January 13, **32 households** have committed **over \$53,000**. Don't forget to return your Time and Talent forms as well, so we can help match you up with a ministry to which to contribute your time and very special talents. Also, keep an eye out in the Epistle and email list for opportunities to share your gifts.

Distribution of Annual Stewardship Commitments 2012-2013 and 2014 Year-to-Date Commitments



Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church

1205 San Antonio Creek Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Telephone: (805) 683-4492 Fax: (805) 964-2774 Web: www.saintbarbara.net

2014 Stewardship Commitment Card

I/We _____ Phone _____
Please Print

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Commit to Stewardship in the amount of \$ _____ to Christ and His Church for Jan–Dec 2014,
in gratitude for the gifts He has bestowed upon us. This Commitment will be paid in installments of
\$ _____ on a (*please circle one*) weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis.

The amount being committed is 2% or more of our annual household income.

Signed: _____

The dollar amounts above are CONFIDENTIAL.

You are advised to consult your CPA or other tax advisor regarding the deductibility of all or part of this gift.

For Authorized Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church Personnel Only

Stewardship 2014

Aldrich, Voula
Alexander, Pam
Alexander, Sophie
Anderson, John & Catherine
Angelos, Dr. James & Ruth
Anthes, George & Stacie
Ballas, Gus
Carlton, Karen & Gary
Carroll, John & Lexy
Casserly, Terry & Eugenia
Chuchas, Alex & Angelique
Cocores, Ted & Christine
Condodina, Alice
Condos, Bessie
Day, Derrick & Darcy
Domagala, Terilee & Michal
Fakinos, George & Barbara
Gastouniotis, Dean & Georgia
Hanges, Andrew & Georgia
Haimanis, Alex
Hillman, Catherine

Hillman, Chris & Connie
Hroundas, George
Hunt, Barbara
Kallas, Agnes & Anthony
Katsikis, Valerie
Kenrick, Sophia
Keramaris, Terry
Kolendrianos, Chris & Megan
Kolendrianos, Ernest & Andriana
Kwiatkowski, Jackson
Lamb, Glory
Landry, Frank & Kalliroi
Langel, Randy & Patti Stathis
Laspitis-Balboa, Stella
Lasswell, Theophilos & Dorothea
Mamalakis, George & Mary
Martin, Nick
Moreno, Paul & Lindsey
Nedic, Sofija

Pahos, Mike & Vivian
Papador, Georgia
Papazacharioudakis, George
Phillips, Emanuel
Pollalis, Gikas & Stella
Poulakos, Jennifer
Poulis, William
Poulos, Steve
Rishwain, Jeff & Connie
Solomon, Karen
Stathis, Cy & Helen
Swider, Bob & Christy
Theofanous, Theo & Danae
Thomas, Fr. Simon & Pres. Stephanie
Trigonis, Alex & Alexandra
Tullis, Bud & Barbara
Tziouvaras, Ahileas & Polyxeni
Velliotes, Louie
Winford, Gerald & Stamatina
Zettas, Paul & Jennie

FEBRUARY 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Presentation of the Lord Orthros, 9 am Liturgy, 10 am Sunday School Youth Choir	3	4	5 Greek Class 1, 6:00 pm Greek Class 2, 6:15 pm OC Rental	6	7	8
9 Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee Orthros, 9 am Liturgy, 10 am Sunday school Mission Awareness Luncheon <i>Wear Red for Women</i>	10 Feast of St. Haralambos Orthros, 8:00 am Liturgy, 9:00 am Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 pm	11	12 Greek Class 1, 6:00 pm Greek Class 2, 6:15 pm	13 VIP Luncheon & Meeting, 12 noon	14	15 Koulourakia Workshop
16 Sunday of The Prodigal Son Orthros, 9 am Liturgy, 10 am Sunday School Youth Choir Philoptochos Meeting – Dr. Brennan Presentation	17 President’s Day- Office Closed AHEPA/DOP Meetings, 6:00 pm	18	19 Greek Class 1, 6:00 pm Greek Class 2, 6:15 pm	20	21	22 Saturday of Souls Orthros, 8:00 am Liturgy, 9:00 am Baptism in Church
23 Judgment Sunday (Meatfare) Orthros, 9 am Liturgy, 10 am Sunday school SS Open House Oratorical Festival	24	25	26 Greek Class 1, 6:00 pm Greek Class 2, 6:15 pm	27	28	
	Metropolis Clergy-Laity at St. Nicholas Ranch		Clergy Retreat			