

## Aug & Sep 2010 newsletter

### *Word from Fr Patrick*

A pilgrimage to a monastery can provide a rich spiritual feast. I encourage all my spiritual children to do this from time to time. Last year, we organized a group pilgrimage for our young women; this year, August 9-12, it's the young men's turn. We are going to St Anthony's Monastery in Florence, Arizona. Keep all the young men in your prayers as they prepare for this spiritually rich time at a very lovely oasis in the Arizona desert!

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We approach the time when we hold an annual parish meeting to handle the temporal affairs of our parish: its government, financial support, and visioning for the coming ecclesiastical year. As some of you know, the ancient New Year was September 23. Then, later, it was adjusted to the beginning of the month and, much later, to January 1. So, we still hold the ancient date: when better to look at where we have come in a year and then ahead to where we are going?

Our hierarchs have deemed it a good and profitable thing to include the laity in the governance of our parish communities, not to mention the diocese and archdiocese—all of which have lay persons serving in roles of decision making.

I ask you to consider carefully who you feel would serve well in our own church's Parish Council, laboring along with me to direct the parish in all of its endeavors for Christ's sake. Think, pray, then think again. After due consideration, contact Fr Patrick or Cindy O'Bleness to register your nominee to serve on the Parish Council. Our parish will then decide who to place in this position on the third Sunday of September. So, set that date aside on your calendar to be present for our Annual Meeting (Sunday, September 19, after the Divine Liturgy). Among the other items we will discuss is the issue of our parish move to a new location—something we have been working on for a while now.

Hopefully, in the will of God, we will have more news to share about that as the time approaches. Meanwhile, participate in the upcoming summer lent, the Dormition Fast, by giving yourself to prayer and confession. Starting in September, we shall have a new parish class on Tuesday evenings—more details on that forthcoming!

With a prayer for your life,  
Fr Patrick