

SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
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BULLETIN OF NOVEMBER 23, 2008

SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 23rd

23rd Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 6)

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour; Q. & A. Period

6:30p.m. Compline & Akathist to St. Katherine
 and anointing with oil from her tomb

THURSDAY/NOVEMBER 27th

Kursk-Root Icon of Theotokos

9:30a.m. Akathist to Theotokos

SATURDAY/NOVEMBER 29th

9:30a.m. Akathist; Confessions
 11:00a.m. Baptism of Nikolas Holot
 5:30p.m. Vigil; Confessions

SUNDAY/NOVEMBER 30th

24th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 7)

Apostle Andrew

9:10a.m. Hours; 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
 Coffee Hour; Church School
 6:30p.m. Vespers

MONDAY/DECEMBER 1st

St. Philaret the Merciful

9:10a.m. Hours' 9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Nativity 40 Day Lent

(November 15th-December 25th)

A Fast is held from meat, dairy, fish, wine and oil.

Certain days allow for modifications, see your
 parish wall calendar.

Sunday	Nov. 23	- fish, wine and oil
Monday	Nov. 24	
Tuesday	Nov. 25	- wine and oil
Wednesday	Nov. 26	
Thursday	Nov. 27	- wine and oil
Friday	Nov. 28	
Saturday	Nov. 29	- fish, wine and oil
Sunday	Nov. 30	- fish, wine and oil



The Wonderworking Kursk Root Icon

Tropar to the Kursk-Root Icon

Tone 4

As an invincible wall and source of miracles, you servants have you O most holy Theotokos. For having over come the enemy, you intercede with Christ God to grant peace to our land and great mercy to our souls.



*Current residence of the Kursk Icon:
 the Cathedral of the Sign, New York City, USA.*

November Month – OCA Charities Appeal

Please use your envelope. The funds will be distributed by the Parish Council .

St. Mary & St. Athanasius Coptic Orthodox Church of Somerset County:

www.smsanj.org

In December month the Coptic Church Community will be setting up a church in the upper hall for worship, meetings and fellowship. The Parish Council has explored the usage of our hall and a committee has been formed by our parish and St. Mary's Church to provide for the needs of both of our church communities.

Protodeacon Paul Sokol is our administrator for our parish relations with the Coptic Church and assisted by Peter Bakaltetz and Austin Kachek. You may address them with questions you may have. We warmly welcome St. Mary & St. Athanasius Community and look forward to an abiding good relationship.

Namesday Greetings:

St. Alexander/Nov. 23rd: Alexander Torrisi
St. Katherine/Nov. 24th: Kathryn Motoviloff;
Catherine Gorbatuk, Ekaterine Margiani
Many Blessed Years!

Outreach Committee Meeting

Monday, December 1st at 7:00p.m.

Christmas Cookie Walk

On Sunday, December 14th at 11:00a.m., the Annual Cookie Walk will be held in our Lower Hall. This is a very good fund-raiser. Please sign-up on the sheet on the vestibule stand if you plan to bake something. For more information, contact Jill Peterson (908-541-9586).

Candle Offerings Increase

After many years of retaining our candles at the same price, an increase is necessitated. As of December 1st, the small candles will be \$2.00; the large candles, \$3.00 and the 7-Day Vigils, \$5.00.

Bake Sale of Nov. 9th

Netted \$100.75. Thanks for your participation.

Parish Synodicon – Memory Eternal!

November 23, 1968	Daniel Podobed
November 25, 1968	Michael Spotts
November 25, 1971	Julia Hansen
November 26, 1950	Metrophan Saffron
November 26, 1953	Sauka Greunther
November 26, 2002	Mary Gavlick
November 27, 1979	John Skwarla
November 27, 1992	Mary Bozinta
November 28, 1974	Anna Perchishin
November 29, 1921	Alexander Khvechin
November 29, 1934	Fr. Peter Shemashko
November 29, 1981	Mary Fetchina

Food Drive for Local Food Pantry Ends Next Sunday, November 30th.

You are asked to focus on canned meat, canned corn, canned peas, macaroni and cheese and peanut butter. Yes, other basic food staples may also be brought. Baskets are in the church vestibule.

All-American Council

Took place in Pittsburgh, Nov. 11th-13th. You may visit the website of the Council at www.ocar.org/15acc for reports, talks, comments and photos. A reflection on the Council by our lay delegate, John Zahodnick is part of today's bulletin.

Remember in Prayer

Michael Warin, Richard Nevitt, Anastasia Barna and Alexandra Tereby.

Our Sympathy

Is expressed to Edward Sarchisian of Franklin Township, on the repose of his father, (+) Vaschen, on November 17th. May his Memory Be Eternal!

Adult Study Classes – Dec. 3rd and 10th: Wednesdays at 7:00p.m.

These two classes will focus on the Mystery of the "Incarnation," Why did God become man? How did this happen? What has been the result? A study to help us prepare for and celebrate the Nativity of our Lord.



REFLECTIONS ON THE 15TH ALL AMERICAN COUNCIL

Writing about another All American Council (AAC) held 35 years ago in Pittsburgh, Fr. Alexander Schmemmann described it as “a miracle of the Holy Spirit in an American Hilton.” It would be no exaggeration to use the exact same words to summarize my impressions of the 15th AAC, which was also held in the Hilton Hotel in Pittsburgh.

Even before I arrived in Pittsburgh, it was clear that this AAC would be far different from the 13th AAC I had attended 6 years earlier in Orlando, Florida. The package of materials sent to each delegate was a massive, 200-page, loose-leaf handout. While this certainly comprised a formidable mass of information, it was a welcome change from the 13th AAC where all materials were distributed on-site, and there was no time to review them prior to the Council.

As part of the handout, there were detailed reports from the Chancellor, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director of Ministries and Communications. All these positions have been recently filled with directors possessing appropriate professional qualifications (for instance, the new Treasurer is a CPA), and each position now reports directly to the Metropolitan. This new administrative structure has been specifically designed to avoid an excessive concentration of power in the position of Chancellor, which had been the cause of many of the problems in past years. I was impressed to note that each outline of job responsibilities, objectives, and long-term goals seemed straightforward and logical.

In addition to the management restructuring noted above, the supporting staff positions have also been reorganized and their number has been significantly reduced (by more than 50%).

Also included were detailed financial statements for the OCA Central Administration, specific departments within the Central Administration, and independent entities such as seminaries, monasteries, and the St. Tikhon's Bookstore. This was a long-awaited and very new development for an AAC; it was the first time that I could recall seeing a complete financial statement package for the OCA Central Administration, which included a Balance Sheet, a Statement of Cash Flows, and an Income Statement.

Unlike the 13th AAC in Orlando which was scheduled for a full week, the scheduling for the 15th AAC was very fast-paced, beginning with an evening session on Monday, November 10 and continuing into the afternoon on Thursday, November 13. Beginning Tuesday, every day started with Liturgy at 7:00AM, and sessions continued on past 10:00PM.

The main order of business on Tuesday and early Wednesday was the discussion of the Special Investigative Report and the individual reports of the new management team in Syosset. All reports were followed by an extensive question-and-answer session. I was pleased to note that the tone of the questions was positive and courteous, and that the responses were more direct, informative, and honest than in the past, when

“embarrassing” questions were routinely ruled “out of order”. It appeared that the new management team is indeed serious in its commitment to transparency and accountability.

The election of Bishop Jonah of Fort Worth as Metropolitan on Wednesday afternoon came as a complete surprise to me; I had assumed that the delegates would elect a familiar, older face as a caretaker-type metropolitan to lead the church through several years of restructuring, reform, and renewal. I thought that Archbishop Job of Chicago and the Midwest might be perfect in this role, since he had previously expressed the desire to retire in three years. Meanwhile, the OCA could select and groom younger hierarchs, one of whom would eventually serve as a long-term metropolitan.

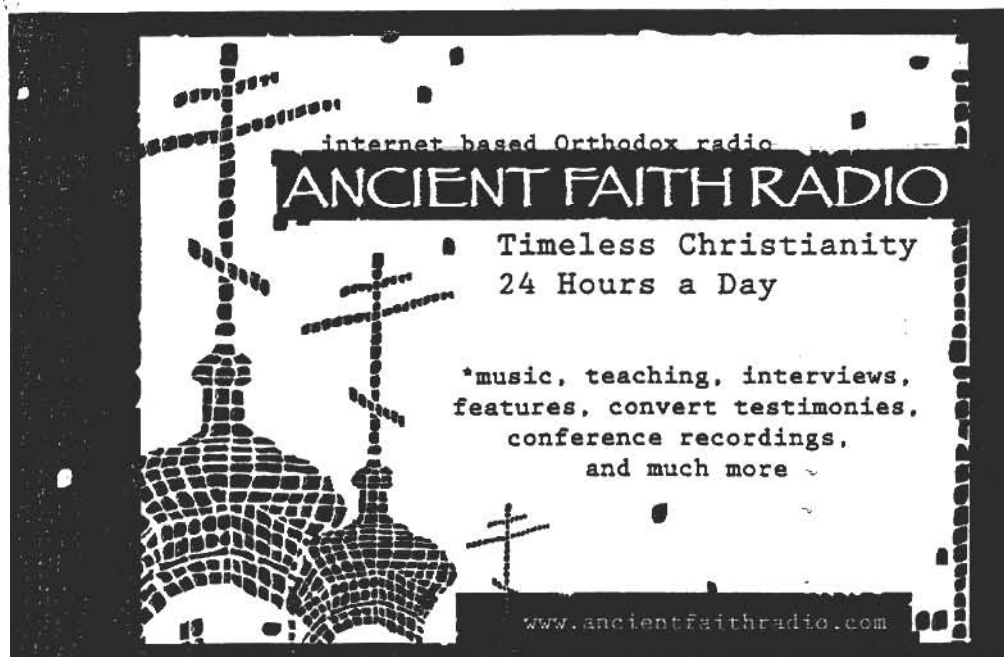
However, “it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us” to elect Bishop Jonah as Metropolitan, the most junior bishop of the OCA, having been elected to the episcopate a mere 11 days earlier.

The AAC voted on a per person assessment of \$105 for the next 3 years, a decrease of \$1 from the present level; an alternative proposal to reduce the per capita assessment to \$90 was defeated. Both the new Metropolitan and the majority of the delegates supported the eventual replacement of the “head tax” with a system of proportional giving, which is already in place in the Dioceses of the South, the West, and Alaska.

The AAC concluded Thursday with elections to the Metropolitan Council and the OCA Pension Board. In addition, resolutions were made, and adopted, to commend Alaskan priests for their steadfastness during the recent crisis with former Bishop Nikolai; as well as to thank both Protodeacon Eric Wheeler and OCAnews.org for their roles in uncovering the scandal in the OCA.

In summary, the 15th AAC introduced a new management team, outlined a new style for the conduct of its administrative and financial affairs, demonstrated a new spirit of conciliarity, elected a new Metropolitan, and brought a sense of closure to the crisis that had plagued the OCA during the past three years.

John Zahodnick, Lay Delegate of Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Manville



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A MEMORANDUM ON PARISH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Parish Membership

A parishioner is one who belongs to a particular parish church; is known unto the spiritual father, that is the priest; and is a registered member, committed to the parish community and supporting it in the stewardship of time, talent and tithes.

If you are frequenting Ss. Peter & Paul in Manville and live in the area, you are invited to register to become a parishioner. Speak with Father James. All parishioners receive bi-monthly in the mail offering envelopes. If you are not receiving them, you are not registered as a parishioner.

Financial Support of Your Parish

Parishioners support their parish through the usage of the offering envelopes – 52 Sundays, Christmas and Pascha.

Parishioners are encouraged to make “a first-fruit offering” that is of our treasure, we set aside our first offering to God. Secondly, we make a self-determine “percent offering” (10%, 8% 5% etc.) rather than a “dollar amount” (\$20, \$15, \$12 etc.). A growing number of our parishioners tithe (10%) or some other self-determined proportionate offering based on a percentage.

An Understanding of Why and How We Make Our Offerings

The act of “supporting” our church needs to be understood in the context of making offerings to God. This we do at every Sunday Divine Liturgy. Here, we offer ourselves – our hearts, minds and wills to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ takes us – washing us in His Blood and offers us with Himself as a gift to God the Father – “Thine own of Thine own we offer unto Thee, in behalf of all and for all” – which means “for everyone and for everything.”

We gift ourselves over to the Lord. This giving of ourselves is expressed in a symbolic manner – the tithe, candles, prosphora, flowers, incense, monetary gifts, etc. They express in a “partial” way the “full” offering of our lives to God.

Aside from the aspect of “offering,” there is that of “fulfilling the salvific work” of the church – that is the offerings and support we give the church enables the church to pay bills and provide for mission, education, outreach and fellowship. It is essential that we understand that the offering of our lives and what we are gifted with – time, talent and treasure – is transformed into the work of carrying out the Mission of Jesus Christ.

Schooled in the Theology of Stewardship

Our Christian Way of life touches everything: birth, growth, eating, learning, time, marriage, family, vocation and even death, burial and resurrection. How important it is that we rightly understand our stewardship – what God has entrusted us with!

Take the time to read – or perhaps refresh your memory – by reading the parish handout, *The Theology of Stewardship*. This 19 page booklet (free) may be found on the vestibule stand.

The Lord won't leave dead pets without mercy, an Orthodox priest believes

Moscow, November 18, Interfax - Archpriest Vsevolod Chaplin recommends not to grieve in vain over dead pets, but to express feelings in good affairs.

"Pass this situation to God. We don't know what will be with living creatures surrounding us in afterlife, but we know that the Lord is merciful to all His living and breathing creatures. Be sure, the Lord won't leave any creature living with us and dear to us without His mercy," Deputy Chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate Department for External Church Relations said on air of the Russian News Service.

According to Fr. Vsevolod, "we often grieve over ourselves, over people around us, over pets, while the natural state of a Christian is joy."

"Our grief over a dead pet can be expressed in good affairs, for example, in our care for another living creature," the priest advises.

Thus, he answered to a woman who told she grieved over the death of her favorite cat and couldn't overcome this feeling.

Hollywood out of step with American morals: poll

By Gregg Kilday

Reuters

Monday, November 17, 2008; 12:48 AM

LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter) - A majority of Americans say Hollywood doesn't share their moral values, according to a poll commissioned by the Anti-Defamation League, a group that fights anti-Semitism.

Sixty-one percent of those surveyed said that religious values in America are "under attack," and 59% agreed that "the people who run the TV networks and the major movie studios do not share the religious and moral values of most Americans."

The poll, titled "American Attitudes on Religion, Moral Values and Hollywood," was conducted by the Marttila Communications Group, which surveyed 1,000 adults nationwide. It was released Friday at the ADL's annual meeting in Los Angeles.

"These findings point to the challenges that we face in dealing with issues of religion in society," said Abraham H. Foxman, ADL national director. "The belief that religion is under attack underlies the drive to incorporate more religion into American public life. Disturbingly, 43% of Americans believe there is an organized campaign by Hollywood and the national media to weaken the influence of religious values in this country."

Among the survey's findings:

— 61% of respondents agree that "religious values are under attack in this country," while 36% disagree with that statement.

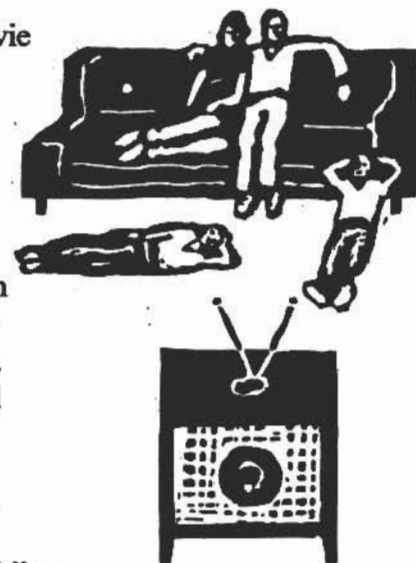
— 43% said that Hollywood and the national media are waging an organized campaign to "weaken the influence of religious values in this country."

— 63% disagree with the statement that "the movie and television industries are pretty much run by Jews," while only 22% agree with that point. When ADL conducted its first survey on anti-Semitic attitudes, in 1964, nearly half of the respondents believed that the television and film industries were run by Jews.

— Nearly 40% support the notion that "dangerous ideas should be banned from public school libraries," and nearly the same number disagree with the statement that "censoring books is an old-fashioned idea."

— Nearly half of those surveyed -- 49% -- believe that the United States is becoming "too tolerant in its acceptance of different ideas and lifestyles; 47% disagree with that statement.

The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percent.



RECENT MIRACLES OF THE KURSK ICON OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

Since its miraculous appearance in the forest of Kursk in the 13th century, the wonderworking icon of the Mother of God, known as the Kursk Root Icon of the Sign, has been a constant source of healing, comfort and deliverance from calamity to countless numbers of Orthodox Christians, most prominent among who was St. Seraphim of Sarov himself, a native of Kursk. In his childhood he was healed of a serious malady through the intercessions of the Most Holy Theotokos when her miraculous icon stopped at the home of the Moshnin family.

With its departure from the Russian land following the defeat of the White Army, the icon did not cease its miraculous aid to all who with faith sought the heavenly intercession of the Mother of God.

A book entitled *The Hodigitria of the Russian Emigration*, authored by Bishop Seraphim (later Archbishop of Chicago and Detroit, now reposed), was published in 1955 (in Russian), giving a lengthy account of the history of the Kursk icon and the miracles performed by it. In 1976 Archbishop Seraphim issued a supplement to this book, containing more recent accounts of miracles which he had gathered in the course of some 20 years. It is this latter supplement which we are presenting here in English translation for the edification of our readers, as well as an account published subsequently in the newspaper *Orthodox Russia*.

THE HEALING OF A HAND IN NEED OF AN OPERATION

For many years my hand had troubled me. Often I did not feel it and when I held something with it, I dropped it. The pain, especially during cold weather, was greatly tormenting. I consulted many doctors. They gave me injections, I took all sorts of medicine, they took X-rays, and the last specialist whom I visited spotted some type of cyst, and proposed to operate. I decisively refused, as two other operations on my inner organs awaited me. In addition, I had a weak, sick heart.

At this time the First Hierarch, Metropolitan Philaret, was visiting Australia and brought the Kursk wonder-working icon. He visited churches and private homes. In our church in Cabramatta I prayed fervently and asked the Sovereign Lady to help me in my troubles. After prayer, while venerating the holy image, I placed my sick hand on its edge. At first I did not notice the healing, but soon felt that my hand no longer bothered me, did not hurt, and with it I could pick up various objects, which I could not do previously.

Then I was convinced that the Heavenly Queen had healed me.

Years passed. Again the Kursk Icon visited Australia; this time Archbishop Nikon brought it. The churches visited by the icon were always filled, and the prayerful experience of all was tremendous.

The Lord permitted me to have the wonder-working icon at my home. During the moleben, with tears I thanked the Heavenly Queen for the healing sent me. My hand has not bothered me since then.

Father Boris Kritsky, who accompanied the icon, advised me to write to Archbishop Seraphim of Chicago concerning this miracle, which I am now doing.

Angelina Uminskaya
Cabramatta, Australia



Prochor Moshnin (St. Seraphim of Sarov) receives healing from the Kursk Root Icon of the Mother of God.

BLESSED IS HE WHOSE FAITH IS STRONG From a Letter to Archbishop Boris Kritsky

In 1970, during the second week of Great Lent, I became very ill. The sickness grew especially worse during Bright Week. The pains tormented me all the time, especially at night. I was persuaded to go to a medical specialist in Utica. This was the feast day of the holy Great-martyr George. The doctor prescribed various medicines and baths.

We had barely returned from the doctor when the Kursk wonder-working icon arrived at our house. With faith I venerated it and prayed briefly. Great joy came over me. I put away all the medicine and did not use it, deciding that it would be an offense to the Most Holy Theotokos. Through my faith the Heavenly Queen sent me quick and complete recovery from my long and tortuous illness.

Victoria Alexandrovna Grishin
Jordanville, NY 13361

HEALING FROM CANCER

Archpriest Boris Kritsky reported that while he was with the Kursk icon in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1967, the Mikhailchishkin family approached him and asked that he serve a moleben before the miracle-working icon, because on Wednesday, that is to say, in a few days, the wife Liubov was to undergo an operation for cancer. The next Saturday, though, they came to church to say the operation was canceled because the cancer had disappeared.

HEALING FROM ARTHRITIS

The same Fr. Boris related how, at the same time in Sao Paulo, a woman suffering greatly from arthritis in an advanced stage was brought into the church. After the moleben before the miracle-working icon the sick woman got up and went home by herself, feeling no pain.

I confirm this report.
Archbishop Seraphim
1975

**COTTON FROM THE MIRACLE-WORKING ICON WAS PLACED
IN THE SORE EARS OF A GIRL AND THE PAINS VANISHED**

Eight years ago my granddaughter Alexandra's ears became sore and she lay several days with a high temperature.

At this time the Kursk wonder-working icon of the Mother of God of the Sign visited Detroit. The icon visited our house. After the moleben, upon the advice of the priest accompanying the icon, cotton from the miracle-working icon was placed in the ears of the sick girl, and the very same days her ears stopped hurting, and have not hurt now for several years.

Another time I became sick with diabetes. I began to pray fervently before a small icon of the Kursk Mother of God which I had, and my illness passed. After this I had a moleben of thanksgiving served to the Heavenly Queen.

Maria Petrovna Grigorenko
20030 Goddarot Street
Detroit, Michigan 42834

THE HEALING OF AN ELDERLY WOMAN FROM GRIEVOUS ILLNESS

Olga Alexandrovna Tvardovskaya, née Bobkovskaya, 76 years old, the daughter of a priest, suffered from a debilitating stomach flu accompanied by very low blood pressure. The illness began in February 1968. In May of the same year the completely weakened sick woman was placed in a hospital.

By the time of the arrival of the Kursk wonder-working icon in Frankfurt, Germany in June 1968, her illness had reached a climax. The patient was at all times on oxygen and artificial feeding.

The miracle-working icon was brought directly from the airport to the patient in the hospital. After the icon's visit the crisis came on immediately, which ended fortunately and the sick woman began to recover gradually. Doctors recognized the miraculous cure of the sickness. Some time later the patient returned home, and although rather weak, she feels no pain.

The above was attested to in 1968 by the spiritual father of the patient, Archpriest Leonid Ignatiev, and by Archpriest Boris Kritsky who accompanied the wonder-working icon.



*Tsar Theodore and Tsaritsa Irene beautifully adorn
the Kursk Icon of the Mother of God.*

**A DANGEROUS TUMOR HEALED AFTER PRAYER
BEFORE THE MIRACLE-WORKING ICON**

I took a month-long vacation during August of 1974. For several weeks before my departure for this vacation I noticed a swelling on the right side of my chest. This swelling grew more and more serious during my stay in San Francisco. This made it necessary for me to visit a doctor. He saw me on a Thursday after lunch and said the cause of the swelling could either be an infection of the gland or a tumor. The doctor said that an infection of the gland is rare and usually takes place with growing boys and men more than sixty years old. I was only 26 years old, so the doctor was quite worried. He advised me to undergo an operation, in order to remove a specimen from the tumor and find out whether or not it was malignant. It was agreed that I come for the operation on the following Monday.

On Friday, the feast of St. Herman, I went to the Cathedral of Our Lady the Joy of All Who Sorrow, where the wonder-working Kursk Icon was staying. I had always had a love and veneration for this icon. In New York I had always visited the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Sign on its feast day. And now I met again with the icon. I felt that this was no coincidence. It was as if the icon had crossed the country from New York to San Francisco in order that I, in my time of need, might pray before it. And so I prayed fervently to the Heavenly Queen for healing.

When I woke the next day, I joyfully noticed that the swelling on my chest had considerably lessened. By Monday, it had completely disappeared.

On Monday the doctor was no less amazed and told me that he could not explain the cure by any process known to medical science.

A year has gone by and I remain completely healthy. I believe that the Mother of God healed me during the time of fervent prayer before her wonder-working icon.

James Parsells
New York, 1975

THE HEALING OF NATALIA SERGEYEVNA KORIBUT-KUBITOVICH

Sergei Nikolaevich Koribut-Kubitovich lived with his daughter Natalia in Vienna from 1922 until 1945. I knew him closely, as he worked in my business and was the director of the choir (in which I sang) in our Russian Orthodox church.

In the thirties his daughter became ill with a pus-filled swelling in the region of the ear; the disease became more complicated with a total infection of the blood. Her condition worsened and soon the doctors told her father that her condition was hopeless. At that time the Kursk miracle-working icon of the Mother of God arrived in Vienna. Vladyka Scraphim (Lade), Bishop of Vienna and Austria, proposed to Koribut that the icon be brought to the room of the patient, and that a moleben be served for her health. The moleben was served.

The next day, the father, visiting his daughter every day, wishing to adjust her bed-sheet, drew his hand along her spine; at this she cried out, having felt a severe pain. After looking at the sore place, Koribut discovered a large red spot. The doctor, having been called, concluded that an abscess had formed.

"Your daughter is saved," he told the father, "the pus from the blood is gathering in the abscess that is forming. This is a miracle! You know, I did not consider it possible to save your daughter. God has helped!"

After the abscess was lanced, the patient began to improve slowly and finally recovered completely.

Alexander Sergeyevich Gershelman
Buenos Aires