

Summer 2015 Newsletter

We greet you with the joy and blessing of the Feast of Holy Pentecost. After a very cold winter, spring has finally come to Northeastern Pennsylvania granting us a sigh of relief...until we start mowing the lawns in the cemetery and grounds. We have had a lot of events this past winter.



In November, St. Tikhon's Monastery Museum hosted Archimandrite Justin from Mount Sinai who gave a presentation to the community entitled "Tabernacle in the Wilderness: Mount Sinai past and present." It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with Fr. Justin (a native of America) who is the librarian of one of oldest continually operating monasteries in the world, founded by Emperor Justinian in the 6th century.

Also during November, St. Anna went to California accompanying Fr. Sergius who gave a retreat at St. Christina's Orthodox Mission and also visited a couple of local parishes. After a procession for rain beseeching St. Anna for her help and prayers, the Bay Area experienced almost two months of uninterrupted rain and some of the most serious storms on record! Holy and Righteous Anna pray to God for us! In December and February, Fr. Sergius visited the Washington D.C. area (St. John's Cathedral, Orthodox Christian Fellowship and St. Luke's Orthodox Church). In March he traveled to Yonkers, New York and in May to St. Willibrord Antiochian Mission in Holland, Michigan.

At the Feast of Nativity, the monastics offered hospitality (a yearly event) to the extended community and served Holy Supper to almost 80 people. Many come from far and near to experience the wonderful warmth and community with us. Consider joining us this coming Nativity!



The monastics continue to pray and labor doing various obediences and working in and around the community. Fr. Athanasy continues to help with Seminarians as he recovers after surgery. We ask for your prayers for his continued health and well-being. Fr. Gabriel is still serving the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Parish in Wilkes-Barre. Fr. Michael is working at the



seminary (along with Fr. Sergius and Fr. Gabriel who also teach the Seminarians) helping in the Library and teaching. Fr. Innokenty works in the Bookstore shipping department, Fr. Kyril with his bees, and Fr. Nicodemus in the Church. Fr. Andrew (formerly Fr. Silouan) was recently tonsured a monk and has been sent to study iconography with a disciple of Leonid Ouspensky, Fr. Patrick, at St. Seraphim's in Santa Rosa, California. Br. Maximos is currently studying at the Seminary part-time and Fr. Basil, Br. Anton, Br. Stephen, and Br. Stephenos continue to labor at various obediences which

assist the Monastery, Seminary and Church in America.

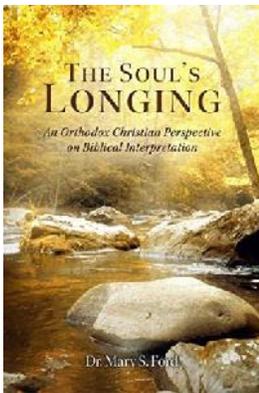
In early January the monastery and representatives of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary, signed a landmark agreement detailing new cooperative efforts in the publication and distribution of Orthodox Christian books and other materials. The purpose in doing so, states the agreement, is "to combine the intellectual, operational, financial, and spiritual resources" of St. Vladimir's Seminary Press (SVS Press) and St. Tikhon's Monastery Press (STM Press) "in order to provide quality publications and materials for the Orthodox Church," while "preserving

the corporate autonomy of each institution.” The agreement calls for the immediate co-distribution of SVS Press and STM Press publications by the presses and bookstores of both institutions, and details their responsibilities regarding production and marketing—including identical pricing of the same product in their respective on-site stores and virtual market places.

We expect that this joint endeavor will provide improved editorial, production, marketing, and fulfillment operations for each press and as we anticipate new and reprinted liturgical materials for the Church, with subsequent enhanced revenues for each publication house, we believe our combined efforts will contribute to increased fiscal soundness of both the monastery and the seminary.



The bookstore also has three new titles: the first one by our own Dr. Mary Ford (her life’s work and a profoundly inspiring book on understanding the Holy Scriptures) entitled “The Soul’s Longing.” The second is a reprint by Dr. Stephen Muse entitled “Being Bread” which offers stories and reflections in celebration of our Lord, who in surprising ways and unexpected circumstances, becomes the precious and pure gift of our being bread so that we may live the mystery of becoming bread for others. Another of Dr. Muse’s books “When Hearts Become Flame: An Eastern Orthodox Approach to the Dia-Logos of Pastoral Counseling” (an incredibly important work in pastoral counseling) will be forthcoming from STM Press in June. The third book is a beautiful edition (and totally revised) service Book for Priests (for the daily cycle of Services) entitled “the Hieratikon.” Fr. Archimandrite Sergius will also publish a book in June entitled “Acquiring the Mind of Christ.” Please see the bookstore website stspress.com for more information on upcoming books and CD’s!



This summer we have many events happening at the Monastery: Continuing Education for Clergy June 16-19; Summer Camp for kids July 5-11; the PaTRAM Choir and Bell Ringing Workshop July 13-18 (open to all levels) For more information, see patraminstitute.org and finally St. Anna’s Feast Day July 26th with Moleben, Anointing and Procession at 2:00 pm.) Please consult the monastery website at stikhonsmonastery.org for more information.



We again thank you for all of your support and kindness to the monastery. Be assured of our continued prayers for your intentions during our daily prayers and services at the Monastery Church. We also offer a special note of thanks to all of our millennial members who offer their pledge of \$1,000.00 a year to support the work of St. Tikhon’s Monastery. In return, they are remembered by name at every liturgy, every day, as well as receive all of our new publications and CD’s as they are produced. If you are not yet a millennial member, please consider joining today. Please know that the monastery guest houses and facilities are always available to you for spiritual inspiration and retreat whenever you would like to visit. May God bless you and keep you all for many years.

With love in Christ,
St. Tikhon’s Monastery Brotherhood