

## Newsletter Summer 2012

Christ is Risen! The Monastery Brotherhood greets one and all with the joy of the Resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit as the feast of Pentecost draws near. As usual, the Monastery Brotherhood continues to be busy during this bright Paschal season. We have been blessed with beautiful feasts and fasts during the past year which have been challenging and spiritual uplifting, reminding us all again of the importance and centrality of the Liturgy and feasts in our life in the Church.



We are finishing our preparations for Memorial Day weekend and are hoping for a record number of pilgrims. The Myrrh-streaming Iveron Icon of the Mother of God from Hawaii will again grace our pilgrimage this year along with the Icon of St. Anna. Part of our Memorial Day preparations include the completion of our outdoor painting project which encompasses the All-Saints Bell Tower, Platon's Chapel, the old Bookstore, the Garage and the Dining Hall. Along with the painting, we will replace three of our roofs and will completely renovate the Mausoleum, giving it new paint, carpet and two beautiful frescos from our iconographer Ivan Roumantzev. If you would like to help with this project, donations are being taken to defray the costs of this important and much needed work.

The Brotherhood is doing well and continues to pray for the needs and intentions of our larger community and supporters everywhere through daily Liturgy and personal prayer, which is the heart of our life here. Since the fall newsletter, Fr. Igumen Sergius has given several retreats in Ohio, Michigan and Texas. Bishop Tikhon was recently made Archbishop by the Holy Synod at their spring session.



Two of the novices were tonsured Riassaphore monks, Fr. Konstantin and Fr. Silouan. On Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, Fr. Konstantin will be ordained to the Holy Diaconate and will serve the Monastery Church. Fr. Gabriel has been serving as the priest in Olyphant since January and has been providing pastoral care and liturgical services to the faithful of that community. Fr. Innokenty served in Brooklyn for Paschal Services. Fr. Athanasy has been busy visiting many parishes with the wonder-working Icon of St. Anna. Generally, we have all

been doing well, and welcomed one addition, Br. Anton who is a painter and iconographer.

During Holy Week this year Metropolitan Jonah consecrated Holy Chrism for the Orthodox Church in America at the Monastery. A beautiful and amazing event, the process began months ago, assembling more than 30 ingredients and organizing priests to take

shifts stirring the chrism and reading the Gospel for 72+ continuous hours. This process culminated with the consecration of the chrism during the Liturgy on Great and Holy Thursday at the Monastery Church. This marvelous process has only taken place every 5 or so years here at St. Tikhon's Monastery. It is amazing to think, if you have been chrismated in the OCA in the past couple of decades, the chrism was probably made here at our Monastery.



Ivan, one of our iconographers, continues his



icon project at Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church in Brick, New Jersey. He is painting the Church in four stages and is currently on stage two. One of our other iconographers, Fr. Silouan, is nearly finished with the iconostasis in the All-Saints Chapel and for all intents and purposes the Chapel is complete, and it is functioning and magnificently beautiful. Both of these iconographers continue to take commissions and sell their icons through the Bookstore. For more information, contact the Bookstore at 570-937-4390.

The Society of the Friends of St. Tikhon's met in the fall and decided to help us with repaving the asphalt around the Church. The Society has been in existence since the 1960's and has been a constant support and help to the monastery. If you would like to have more information about becoming a part of the Society of the Friends of St. Tikhon's, contact Thomas Donlick at [tddonlick@yahoo.com](mailto:tddonlick@yahoo.com).



The Bookstore continues to produce new material and we are working on a few new publications, reprints, and a new CD that will be available late this summer (a male choir Panikhida CD.) The Monastery and Bookstore's financial report from our auditors for 2011 will be available on-line this summer (we began having an independent auditor, Parente-Beard, examine and prepare our financial statements in 2010.)

We wish you all a blessed Pentecost and summer. Be certain of our prayers and love for you all and our desire to continue to make this Monastery a place of prayer and pilgrimage for all the faithful of the American Orthodox Church. May God bless you, one and all.

With love in Christ,

St. Tikhon's Monastery Brotherhood