

Monastic Musings

News and Views of the Eastern Rite Monastics
of the
Ohio Orthodox Catholic Church

January 2011

From the Idle keyboard

by: schema-Archimandrite Barb

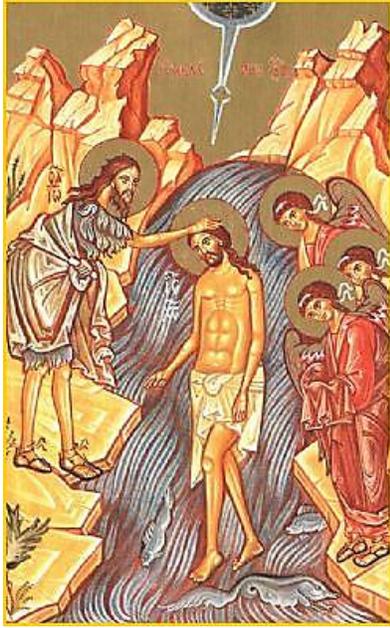
Another new year is starting. What shall it bring for each of us, I wonder? I pray that it will bring the peace and joy of God's love. Everyone in life is looking for something and very few ever find what they are looking for. What they don't realize is that the more you look outside of yourself, the less you will find that God has already provided everything you need right in your heart! This year, take the time to quiet your mind, search your heart and mind, and let God be your true Guide in everything that you do. You will be really surprised at just how "rich" you are and discover that what you were looking for is right in front of you!

Slowly, I have been adjusting to my new position within the church -- not that anything really has changed for me. I have always tried to guide the Eastern Rite Monastics but now I have a responsibility to work side by side in a greater capacity with Archbishop Charles and the Board of the Church in addition to guiding the monastics. Projects have been started for the Church as a whole, and we continue to work on the necessary legal items needing to be put into place as we grow as a church. The monastics continue to grow spiritually, which is a true blessing for each individual and the church as a whole.

January 6th – A Feast of Revelation

by: Mother Myrella LeClair

For both the Eastern and Western Church, January 6th is one of the Feast Days in which God is manifested. Originally, it was common for both churches to celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. This celebration included the commemoration of his birth, the visit of the Magi, all of Jesus' childhood events up to and including his baptism by John the Baptist. Around the late second to early third centuries, the focus and emphasis of the feast for the East became Jesus' Baptism, and the Feast became known as the Feast of Theophany ("manifestation of God"). Eastern Churches celebrate this day as the day the Holy Trinity appeared to mankind for the first time:



When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." (LK 3:21-22 NKJ)

In the Western Church, the Feast of the Epiphany is actually the commemoration of three scriptural events: the Visit of the Magi to see the Baby Jesus, Christ's baptism in the Jordan, and Christ's first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana. However, the feast is primarily a celebration of the manifestation of the divine nature of Jesus to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi. Clearly, Jesus is not just the Jewish Messiah but is a universal king – a savior for all people.

In both the East and the West, the "essence of the feast is the same: the manifestation of Christ to the world (whether as an infant or in the Jordan), and the Mystery of the Incarnation."

Jesus revealed Himself as God.

Even to this day, God continues to reveal Himself to us through those moments we refer to as "epiphanies" (a moment of spiritual perception or a spiritual awakening). He reveals Himself through the Holy Spirit, who is our guide and our Counselor.

*"O Christ, our God, You have revealed Yourself
And have enlightened the world, glory to You!"*

Wishing you all a blessed 2011 filled with the Peace and Love of God!

Heartfelt Thanks!

by: schema-Archimandrite Barb

I really don't know where to begin to say Thank You for such a wonderful weekend!



Thursday I arrived at the airport just hoping I would be able to locate Bishop Chuck. Well, little did I know a surprise was going to be awaiting me! Just a little behind Bishop Chuck stood Fr. Rick in from Canada. To say the least, the tone for the weekend was set. I knew that I was to expect almost anything to happen.

Thursday evening was spent with the Hadley family. It was a perfect way to unwind and have fun. The company was great and well, what can I say about the food. All of you know that Sam can certainly cook and loves to cook!

Friday was spent working on the needed projects to prepare for Saturday. Out of town guests were starting to arrive and we had a “dry run through” of the Liturgy. I must admit that it went quite well. Then it was off to dinner and to close up the restaurant. I enjoyed the interaction at the meal and watching the response of people to Bishop Chuck in the restaurant. I can image what was going through people’s minds when they saw me in my eastern monastic vestments!!!! But you know what? I did not worry about what they thought but just enjoyed the fun at the table. I was getting a big lesson of being out in public wearing my monastic habit!



Saturday, well now that was a day for me. I was not sure how things would go. You know, there is always a hitch or two when there are important activities. First, there was meeting of all the people from the Our Lady of Peace Cathedral. Very quickly, however, any anxiety I had about the day was soon gone! Everyone who attended made the day so very special for me. I know that for a moment, Bishop Chuck was not too sure that I would go through with the consecration



when I paused a moment during the pledge of obedience to the Church and to him. Oh well, a little curve is always needed. Besides, I was having to remember what the words were! It will be a day I will cherish forever! Thanks for being a part of that day with me!

I want to take a moment to thank some of the people from Our Lady of Peace Cathedral that made the day very special for me. To the Board of Directors of Ohio Orthodox Catholic Church – thanks for taking a chance on

me to be a bishop within the Church. May I live up to the responsibilities that you have entrusted to me. Bishop Chuck – What can I say? You have been there walking with me from the very first day I reached out to you about joining the Church. Deacon Mary – thanks for being there and being my Deacon for the day. You really helped to put me at ease and to get me through the very emotional parts. Nick - you did such a great job of taking photos. I will cherish them forever!!!! Nancy – thanks for the lovely organ music! Music is always a wonderful part of any worship service. Sam - now I really know you are a man of so many talents! Thanks for all the love and great food!!! Chloe and Keilly - you are both great servers within the Church. It shows that you really care to do things correctly and that you can sit quietly through a very long service! And Chloe, the song you sang to me later after the meal was beautiful. There are so many others that I cannot even name them all, but know that I loved all of the food that was prepared by the members, as well as the friendship and love that you shared with me and with all my guests. I keep hearing many wonderful things about all of you from my guests.



Our Lady of Peace Cathedral is my new parish home and I have found a parish that truly practices what they preach! It is a parish full of love, full of caring for one another, and caring for every guest that comes through the doors. May you never lose that. It is very special part of a parish! Each of you has a gift that you bring to the parish and it is very evident when someone comes to visit for the first time. Not once did I feel like an outsider. I was made to feel as though I had been there a very long

time with you. What a wonderful thing it is to see all of the children that you have in the parish! A parish without children is a parish that will die. But that will not be the case with your parish. You have lots of kids that will grow up in the love you all share.

Thank you for being part of a special day in my religious life! I will visit with all of you again at some point. But in the meantime, ALL of you will remain in my prayers. Please keep me in your prayers.

Desert Wisdom

A hermit said to a brother, "Do not measure yourself against your brother, saying that you are more serious or more chaste or more understanding than he is. But be obedient to the grace of God, in the spirit of poverty, and in love unfeigned. The efforts of a man swollen with vanity are futile. It is written, 'Let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall' (I Corinthians 10:12); 'let your speech be seasoned with salt' (Colossians 4:6) and so you will be dependent on Christ."

Hyperichius said, "He who teaches others by his life and not by his speech is truly wise."

Prayer Requests

Mom LeClair
Br. Yosi and Jim
Bill and Trish
Linda and Wayne
Liz and Courtney
Carol and Leonard
Fr. David and family
Br. Damien and family
Fr. Rick Hobbs
Our Archbishop -- +Charles Smith, OSF

Eastern Rite Monastics within Ohio Orthodox Catholic Church

Br. Damien Simmons (Riasaphor monastic)
Mother Myrella LeClair (Stavrophor monastic)
Mother Barbara Martzall (schema-Archimandrite)

Newsletter is copyrighted by:

***Holy Theotokos of Mercy Community
for the
Ohio Orthodox Catholic Church***

Theophany (Baptism) of Jesus

