

Newsletter Winter 2015

Greetings in the Lord! This winter season we reflect again with you on the past year at St. Tikhon's Monastery with its struggles and strivings. Memorial Day was a wonderful success and continues to be an inspiration to all who attend. We always marvel just how much God blesses that day of pilgrimage! We warmly invite one and all to again experience that great grace and blessing the Lord provides for the faithful who make pilgrimage to this holy place. We now invite all canonical Orthodox Clergy to serve (with their Bishop's blessing) at the big Liturgy on Memorial Day Monday at 10 am. We hope that everyone will consider visiting next year at Memorial Day when the Holy Myrrh Streaming Icon of the Mother of God will be present with us again.



In June, the Monastery Chamber Choir, under the direction of our Monastery and Seminary Choir director Benedict Sheehan, recorded its first premier CD. A concert in New York City in November brought many from far and near to listen to the wonderful new tracks from the CD "Till Morn Eternal Breaks." The CD is now available at the Bookstore for purchase. Please stay tuned for more upcoming events from the Monastery Chamber Choir.

This past summer, Fr. Sergius and Br. Stephen went to the Monastery of St. John the Baptist in Essex, England to visit with Fr. Zecharias, Fr. Kyril, and their community on behalf of St. Tikhon's. The warm and rich tie continues to be a great support for the community here at both the Monastery and Seminary. As a part of their pilgrimage, they were also able to visit and venerate the relics of St. Nicholas in Bari, Italy.



St. Anna's Day in July is getting bigger every year as Her Icon draws many from the surrounding area. St. Anna continues to visit many parishes throughout America bringing comfort, hope and growth in spiritual life for many. She visited parishes in New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Pennsylvania, California and Oregon over the past six months! If you are interested in having St. Anna visit your parish, contact the Monastery Bookstore at (570) 937-4390. Please also consider making a pilgrimage next year for St. Anna's Day on July 24th.



Several renovation projects have taken place at the Monastery over the past six months: Br. Anton and Fr. Basil fixed the roof at the Monastery well and renovated the structure, along with the Cross located close to the well (it is looking very beautiful). The Seminary Dorm received all new windows, as well as some much needed new carpet for the hallways! The main structure at St. Arseny Skete is also being renovated and looks amazing inside, providing an opportunity for the monastics to have another place for retreat.

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In July, Fr. Sergius was able to address the Church at the 19th All-American Council in the fourth Plenary Session. Fr. Sergius spoke about the present state of life at the Monastery as well as the many good things that the Monastery continues to do for the entire Church. Even more importantly, he addressed the Council about the place and importance of monasticism in the Church today and the need to encourage vocations and education in spiritual life. For the entire address, please see the Monastery's Website at: sttikhonsmonastery.org, under "Archived News" or visit our Facebook Page.



The bookstore published several new titles including *Being Bread* and *When Hearts become Flame* by Dn. Stephen Muse, as well as a book written by our Abbot Fr. Sergius *Acquiring the Mind of Christ*. For more information on these new titles visit our bookstore at stspress.com or contact us at (570) 937-4390.

In September, the Monastery Bookstore awarded a \$1,000.00 grant to an OCA mission parish in San Diego, California. For your mission parish to be considered for next year's bookstore grant, please contact us today!



In October, the Monastic Council of Superiors met in California and enjoyed fellowship and dialogue concerning mutual questions and problems as well as affirming the place of our monasteries in the Church today.

The monastics not only came to get support but also realized through the meeting the necessity of this Council of Superiors as a point of support for the entire Church. The Council seeks to be able to advocate for the good order of the Church in America today and hopes to publish a conglomerate book sharing stories from our monasteries in America both past and present... so stay tuned.

We wish one and all a blessed Nativity and hope and pray that God's abundant grace and blessing will be with you always. Be assured of our love, our prayers and our gratitude for your continued support of America's oldest Orthodox Monastery.

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