

Nativity Newsletter 2013

Beloved of God, on behalf of the Monastery Brotherhood, we greet you with the Nativity Fast of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. The winter fast brings us again to focus on the important part of our life in the Church: coming together with prayer and fasting as we prepare to meet the Lord.

Fr. Sergius finished his tenure as interim Dean on August 15th as the community welcomed



Fr. Steven Voytovich as the new Dean of St. Tikhon's Seminary. We offer our prayers and support to Fr. Steven as he begins his ministry with us and have already found a wonderful connection with him and his family. In October of this year, the Seminary celebrated its 75th Anniversary. We ask and pray that God would continue to bless the fruitful and good relationship between the Monastery and Seminary till

our Lord comes again.

In the early summer, the Monastery was finally approved to have a cross walk between the Monastery and Seminary buildings (a project which was in the works for two decades). This will help continue to ensure the safety of pilgrims, visitors and students on our busy roadway. We were so very excited and thank God for this blessing.



In September, the Monastery in conjunction with Michael and Arlene Pasonick, opened a Food Pantry at 982 Robinson Street in Scranton. The food pantry services the general public and is open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m.

For information about receiving assistance, please contact the Bookstore for more details.

St. Anna has been busy visiting and blessing many parishes with Fr. Athanasios over the past six months. Parishes in Canada, Western and Eastern PA, Michigan, and New York are just a few of the places that she has travelled to. If you are interested in having the miraculous Icon of St. Anna visit your parish, please contact the Monastery Bookstore for more details (570) 937-4390.



The Mausoleum recently received a new cupola, courtesy of Michael and Arlene Pasonick. The cupola was blessed and placed on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14th). The addition of the cupola completes the renovation of the Mausoleum...Glory to God!

The Monastery continues to labor to produce CD's and revisions to its liturgical publications: the Divine Liturgy book was recently revised and reprinted in a beautiful edition including a more readable format and page ribbons! We hope to have a new pocket-sized edition of the priest service book by Memorial Day...so stay tuned! Also, the CD "Hymns of Holy Russia" was recently released with world famous conductor Vladimir Gorbik conducting the Seminary Choirs from St. Tikhon's, St. Vladimir's and Holy Trinity. The Monastery is hoping to begin production of bottling the Monastery water for general public sale by Memorial Day. If you would like to help fund this project, please contact us!

The Patriarch Tikhon Choir, as part of their inaugural event, assembled and rehearsed at the Monastery with Vladimir Gorbik for the Feast of the Elevation of the Cross then went on to perform at large venues in New York, D.C. and Pittsburgh. The Patriarch Tikhon Choir is a group of professional Orthodox singers who gathered in an attempt to raise the level of Church singing in the American Orthodox Church. This summer, the Patriarch Tikhon Institute will hold an institute at the Monastery the first week of July. For more information, see the Patriarch Tikhon Institute website at patraminstitute.com or check the Monastery website at sttikhonsmonastery.org for updates.



The Monastery brotherhood continues to stay busy: Fr. Sergius travels here and there giving talks and caring for the various needs and projects of the Monastery. Fr. Gabriel is again teaching Greek at the Seminary and continues to serve Holy Annunciation Greek Orthodox Parish in Wilkes-Barre, PA. Fr. Innokenty is working hard to get all of the rubrics books and bookstore orders out from the shipping department. Fr. Silouan and Br. Maximimos are working in the studio making icons and beautiful artwork to sell at the Monastery Bookstore. Fr. Nicodemus continues to work hard preparing the Church for daily services. Fr. Kyril had a wonderful harvest of honey of the highest quality and many jars are available for sale at the Bookstore. Fr. Konstantin is in charge of the cemetery and can be reached for questions or sales at stmcentery@gmail.com (plots are currently \$1,350). Br. Stephen is our candle maker and provides countless hours dipping candles for the Church and local parishes. Br. Basil is our maintenance man and is able to solve almost all the problems in our maintenance universe. Fr. Michael is still assisting in the Seminary Library, helping the students and faculty. And finally, Br. Anton continues to help renovate the orphanage with his painting skills.



Recently, many of our Millennial Members received the Order of St. Tikhon of Moscow. This Order was created by the Monastery Brotherhood to recognize persons who have contributed to the life and work of St. Tikhon's Monastery. In order to become a Millennial Member, a person must pledge \$1,000.00 per year for one to three years. Members receive all new Bookstore publications (which donations help to produce) as well as they, and their loved ones, are prayed for daily at Divine Liturgy. We hope

you will consider becoming a millennial member today! If you need more information, contact us at abbotsergius@gmail.com.

The Monastery Brotherhood continues to have Divine Liturgy every day, offering prayers for all of our family of supporters. You are always welcome to come to stay and we hope to see you sometime in the near future. We wish you all a blessed Nativity Season and look forward to seeing you again whether you visit, call or support us in whatever way you can. May God bless you all!

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