ALEXANDER OSSIPOFF AND ANGELO KOUTOULAS NAMED 2013 FATHERS OF THE YEAR

Alexander Ossipoff, Jr

He was born on April 8th, 1930, in Shanghai, China to Alexander and Maria Ossipoff, who had migrated to China years earlier because of the Russian revolution. While in China, he attended Russian and French Catholic schools. During the yearly exams in Russian School, he had the privilege to be in the presence of Bishop John, who is now known as St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco. He attributes his strong Orthodox faith to him and to his mother.

In 1947, after the war, at 17 years of age, he and his parents immigrated to the United States and lived in San Mateo. They later settled in San Francisco. He attended College of San Mateo and received his Associate Arts degree. After college he joined the US Army. When he completed his Army tour, he was encouraged by his best friend from Shanghai, Bob Parr, to enlist in the US Air Force Reserves. He was assigned to the Pentagon, Intelligence Division, where he used his Russian language skills. He completed 30 years of service in the reserves.

Al's professional career was in computers and accounting. He worked for CPS/Blue Shield, Levi Strauss, Rathbone, King and Seeley, and Krames Communications, where he held positions of Computer Operator, Computer Manager, Vice President, and Facilities Design Manager. He retired in 1997.

While working for CPS/Blue Shield he met and worked with his sister and brother-in-law, Teia and Manuel Nuris. Years later in 1950, he met his wife, Lula Tamaras, who worked in the Sales Department. They met while bowling on the company team. They were married in the Annunciation Cathedral on September 25, 1960. A few years later their daughters, Maria and Alexia, were born. This September they will be married 53 years.

continued on next page
He became secretary of the Annunciation Cathedral Parish Council and has always been active during the food festivals, crab feeds, and whenever help was needed, for over 50 years. After his retirement from work, he was asked by the Church of All Russian Saints in Burlingame to become the Parish Treasurer. He will be retiring from this position after serving for 14 years.

He and Lula have devoted and divided their time between the two churches, especially during the Easter season. He is an extremely religious man and has brought up his family with strong beliefs. This has contributed to them all being active in Sunday School, choir, and church activities. His grandchildren, Anna and Christian, are now in Sunday School.

He was always active in sports, playing soccer, tennis, baseball and bowling. He now enjoys watching these sports on TV, as well as football. He also likes to read, play chess and board games, and do Sudoku, crossword puzzles and logic problems.

Al is a wonderful husband, father, father-in-law and friend. He and Lula love their family, friends, and church dearly!

Evangelos Koutoulas, the son of Konstantinos and Chrisoula, was born in Kandila, Tripoli, Greece in 1948. His parents had 12 children, and Evangelos is the 11th.

At age 13 he left his home town for Athens where he worked for three years. While in Athens, he found his way to Peraia, where he worked in a mechanic shop, and at night attended classes at the School of Aristotle for roughly four years.

In January of 1968, he began his required tour of service in the Greek army's artillery division, where he served for 27 months. Upon completion of his tour, he went back to work at the mechanic shop, where he worked another 8 months.

On February 11, 1971, he came to San Francisco. It was then that he began working in restaurants and acquired a love of cooking which he enjoys to this day.

During this journey of 42 years, he married his wife Victoria, with whom he had two children, Chrisoula and Kosta. Evangelos and Victoria have made every effort to raise their children and give them a good education. They are enjoying the fruits of their labors to this day.
WHAT DOES MY GIFT TO THE BUILDING FUND REALLY AMOUNT TO OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD?

Below are some different ways to look at how you can make a meaningful gift.

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“Behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord spoke to my father David, saying, ‘Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My name.’”
- 3 Kingdoms 5:17

THE CATHEDRAL IS NOW ON TWITTER

The Cathedral now has an active Twitter account and Cathedral event announcements and news are being delivered through Twitter. This will allow you to receive information from the Cathedral on your smart phone and IPAD. You can sign up to receive our “tweets” (posts) by visiting www.twitter.com/annunciationsf and clicking to follow us. The Cathedral follows the Twitter postings the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, Orthodox Wiki, Ancient Faith Radio, Mount Athos, Greek Orthodox TV, and the Ecumenical Patriarch. The new design of the web site currently in development will include a live Twitter feed.
Greetings from Philoptochos as we enter the summer season! Our members have been busy with good works and events the past months fundraising for our charities in His Name. By the time the July Herald is out we will have had our last meeting with elections for the next biennium to serve our Cathedral and those in need. Our summer months will still be active as we prepare for our Taste of Greece Festival. We will help underwrite the pastry booth and hope many will join us as we prepare the delicious assortment of pastries. A schedule of baking days will be provided. Look in the next Herald for it and join a fun group of bakers!

Philoptochos Father’s Day Luncheon

Our chapter was delighted to honor two very worthy men at a luncheon on June 16, 2013. Angelo Koutoulas and Al Ossipoff were voted “Fathers of the Year” and they represented all fathers on this special day. They were presented with special plaques and gifts and bios were read for each of them. Our committee consisting of Soso Dekaristos, Angie Leventis, Niki Ketchum, Vicky Moulas, Vivian Curd, Deedy Aleck, and Helen Markanton made the day very special. Angelo Koutoulas and the Chick N Coop catered a delicious luncheon. The day was warm and inviting and those in attendance enjoyed the day. We could feel the love of their families and the admiration of the community for these two exceptional men. Axios! Axios!

Metropolis Philoptochos Kids N Cancer Camp

Camp Agape, one of five Kids N Cancer camps under Metropolis Philoptochos, was held the weekend of June 8 thru 12 at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, California. Twenty five families, including parents and cancer children, enjoyed camping experiences. There were fourteen new families this year and about 150 into total attendance. Twenty eight Philoptochos women from across the Metropolis volunteered as camp counselors, either working with children’s activities or with parents, providing sessions to allow them a break to rest, enjoy and forget their constant medical issues with children. Our own Vice President, Niki Ketchum, was at the camp. She brought her equipment and gave messages and chiropractic treatment to those in her group. Niki worked all the days with parents and was warmly received by them. All appreciated her time and talents and many said it was the first time they felt pampered. These are wonderful experiences for the families and children to enjoy a normal enjoyable camp time. Great job Niki!

We hope more of our members can join Camp Agape to see how the funds raised reach many families with ill children across our states.

Our members wish all our Annunciation family a wonderful summer.

Patricia Aleck

Community Link Continues Ministering to Those in Need

Community Link, now in its ninth year of existence, is a group of Annunciation parishioners who meet once a month on a drop-in basis to visit members of our community who may be confined due to illness or age. We travel to hospitals, nursing homes and private residences. Many of those we visit no longer have family or friends to support them and just need to know there is someone who cares. A short visit or phone call can lift one's spirits a great deal. If anyone in the community knows of any other home bound parishioners to add to our list or would like to join us for a visit, please contact, please contact Pauline Oetzel at poetzel@hotmail.com. Upcoming Community Link dates for 2013 are: July 20, August 17, and September 21.

“I consecrated this house you built to place My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there all days.”

– 3 Kingdoms 9:3
BAPTISM – BEING BORN AGAIN OF WATER AND THE SPIRIT

by Marcelo P. Souza

“Already” and “Not yet”

The Church has a double nature and function: preparation and fulfillment. The Church points to and tends beyond itself, beyond the present, and its function is to make us enter into that preparation by transforming our life and referring it to its fulfillment into the Kingdom of God. The Church is preparation and fulfillment, for Christ has come, and in him man was deified and has ascended into heaven.

The Holy Spirit has come and his coming has inaugurated the Kingdom of God. We live in this double reality of the “already” and the “not yet,” and Baptism is that which marks the entrance into the Kingdom of God, through dying and rising again with Christ. This is an act of the whole Church as the Body of Christ which recapitulates his life, passion and ascension. The whole Church is changed, enriched and fulfilled when another child of God is integrated into her life and becomes a member of Christ’s Body.

Baptism and Easter

The connection between Baptism and Pascha is key not only to Baptism but to the totality of the Christian faith itself. The celebration of Baptism by the Church, i.e., with the participation of the people of God, is an event in which the whole Church acknowledges herself as passage from this world into the Kingdom of God. Whenever Baptism is celebrated, we find ourselves on the eve of Pascha, at the very end of the great and holy “Sabbath,” the night that gives way to the day of eternal light. The use of water makes clear the cosmic content, depth, and significance of the sacrament, for water is one of the most ancient and universal of all religious symbols; it is the symbol of destruction and death, and it is also the symbol of creation, of life, of purification, of regeneration.

Creation, fall and redemption, life and death, resurrection and life eternal, are all realities that are cosmic and comprise the content of the Christian faith. In the blessing of the waters, the petition says, “that we may be illumined by the light of understanding and piety, and by the descent of the Holy Spirit;” in this way the Church acknowledges the corporate character of Baptism at the very beginning of the celebration.

Baptism is not an affair between the priest and the one being baptized; rather, just as water represents and stands for the entire cosmos, the entire Church receives the illumination of the Holy Spirit, and is involved in this act of recreation and redemption. Baptism is not a magical act adding some supernatural powers to our natural faculties, but the beginning of life eternal itself, which unites us here in this world with the world to come, and makes us, even now in this life, partakers of God’s Kingdom.

Is Baptism only a Symbol?

Baptism unites a person to Christ, in his life, death, and resurrection. Thus the Christian life begins with an event, not with a mere representation; Baptism is what it represents. The new life that begins at Baptism is a life lived in and through the Church, into the Kingdom of God actualized through her in the Holy Spirit – and so by definition Baptism is an ecclesial event. Baptism is not a mere ritual that is validly performed, but most importantly, it depends upon faith - but this faith that gives substance and reality to Baptism is the faith of Christ.

There is a difference between the faith which converts an unbeliever to Christ, and the faith which constitutes the very life of the Church and of her members, and which St
Paul defines as having in us Christ’s mind, i.e., his faith, his love, and his desire. Both faiths are gifts from God, but while the former is a response to God’s call, the latter is the very reality of that to which the call summons.

Therefore, Baptism depends totally and exclusively on Christ’s faith. Those who are baptized “put on Christ,” and receive his life as their life and thus his faith, love and desire as the very content of their lives. And the presence in this world of Christ’s faith is the Church because she is his Body, we are his members; she has no other task in the world but to communicate Christ to us. Therefore, it is on the faith of the Church that Baptism depends. It is in the faith of the Church that Baptism becomes both tomb and womb. Baptism has the Church as its reality and fulfillment; it is by nature an ecclesial event.

Prophets, Priests, and Kings

In Baptism we are united to Christ, who is Prophet, Priest and King, and so we are also anointed with him as prophets, priests and kings. As kings, we restored unto liberation from slavery and idolatry, so we may reign with Christ in the Kingdom of God. The world acquires its intended meaning, and we begin to perceive it and experience it, not in itself, but in God and as the sign of his Kingdom.

As priests, we participate in the Church’s work of being God’s gift, presence and new life in the world, for the Church is offering, sacrifice and communion. The Church is priestly in her relationship to herself, for her life is to offer herself to God, and she is priestly in her relationship to the world, for her mission is to offer the world to God and thus to sanctify it. United to Christ, our anointing as priests calls us to sanctify and transform ourselves and our lives, as well as the world given to each of us as our kingdom. We constantly offer our life, our work, our joys and our sufferings to God; our lives become a liturgy.

Finally, as prophets, we become, in and through the Church, the ones who earn God’s voice, respond to it, and proclaim it in the world. Prophecy is the power given to man always to discern the will of God, to hear his voice and to be his witnesses and agents of divine wisdom. Therefore, our restored image as prophets, priests and kings is exercised in the womb of the Church and through her life. This restoration is given us in our union with Christ, and this takes place through Baptism as an ecclesial event.

The liturgy of Baptism is not for baptizands only, since the Church gave that celebration a double focus, expressing the double experience of Pascha: the end and the beginning. Pascha is the end of the history of salvation, and entrance into the new day without evening into the Kingdom of God. The Sabbath is the last day of the old time, and Baptism makes us partake of that blessed end. But the end is also the announcement of the new day, when the Resurrection of Christ is celebrated as telos and fulfillment.

Pascha reveals the time and the life of the Church as being always the epiphany of the end, and by its nocturnal and eschatological celebration, it reveals them always as the beginning. Baptism participates in the same functions; the waters of Baptism bring death to the old man, the old eon, sin and death, and the beginning of the new life in Christ.
Baptism, Chrismation and the Eucharist

Baptism is an organic part of the three-fold structure of the liturgy of initiation: Baptism, Chrismation, and Eucharist; and only within this original structure can the full meaning of Baptism be grasped and understood. Chrismation is the fulfillment of Baptism, and the Eucharist is the fulfillment of Chrismation. In Baptism we are born again of water and the Spirit, and so we become open to the gift of the Spirit in our personal Pentecost. The gift of the Holy Spirit also opens to us access to the Church and to Christ’s table in his Kingdom. We are baptized so that we may receive the Holy Spirit, and we receive the Holy Spirit so that we may become living members of the Body of Christ, growing within the Church into the fullness of Christ’s stature.

This is why the Fathers saw the Eucharist as the sacrament of all sacraments, because it fulfills the entire life of the Church. In this way, Baptism cannot be separated from the Eucharist because it is fulfilled in it. Baptism is an ecclesial event unto the fulfillment in the crowning point and climax of the Eucharistic liturgy, which actualizes the Church as new creation, redeemed by Christ, reconciled with God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and given access to heaven.

Baptism and Personhood

Just as the whole life of the Church stems from Pascha and takes us through Pentecost unto another Pascha, our whole life stemming from Baptism has been made into a passage: the pilgrimage and ascension toward the “day without evening” of God’s eternal Kingdom. As we proceed, fight, and work, the light of that Day already illumines our path, for we live not only in the “not yet,” but also in the “already.” Baptism is indeed a means of grace, but it is not aimed just at the individual. It is an intrinsic part of the Church and her life as that new reality which precisely overcomes and transcends all individualism, and transforms individuals into persons.

Human beings are persons only because and inasmuch as they are united to God, and in him, to one another and to the whole of life. To be and to fulfill itself as family is the very essence of the Church. Mankind was created as a family, whose natural unity was to be fulfilled as unity with God. It is not by accident that the first fruit of sin is presented in Scripture as the murder of one brother by another.

Baptism and Redemption

The redemption of man consists in his redemption as member of a family, in the restoration of life itself as family. In and through the Eucharist, Christ gathers us into one, in the Holy Spirit. The Church gathers us into one. We are grafted into the Church and united to Christ by Baptism – a thoroughly ecclesial event.

As the Priest blesses a child just baptized, he says, “O Lord God Almighty . . . Thou hast brought him into being, and hast shown him the physical light, and hast appointed him to be vouchsafed in due time spiritual light, and that he may be numbered among Thy chosen flock . . .” Baptism is not one isolated means of grace among many, but that essential act by which the Church always reveals and communicates her own faith, her experience, of man and the world, or creation, fall and redemption, of Christ and the Holy Spirit of the new life of the new creation, as indeed the source of the whole life of the Church and of the Christian life in each of us.
**Altar Group Schedule for July**

The schedule for the month will be as follows:

- **July 6**- Group 1
- **July 13**- Group 2
- **July 20**- Group 3
- **July 27**- Group 4

The altar group rosters are as follow:

**Group 1** - Niko Pezo, Demetri Rally, Stelio Kyriacou, Kosta Lyberopoulos, Andrew Vellis

**Group 2** - Anthony Obester, Demetri Kontonis, Bobby Kontonis, Niko Manetas, Hari Manetas, Matthew Nuris

**Group 3** - Steven Flynn, Clint Flynn, Tony Selianitis, Taumae Selianitis, Dimitri Selianitis

**Group 4** - Anthony Tadesse, Jonas Tesfai, Nathan Tesfai, Steven Monolakis, Panagioti Sogotis, Yianni Sogotis

If any families are interested in their boys joining an altar group (and they are above the age of 10), feel free to contact **Father Niko Bekris** at fatherniko@annunciation.org. Thank you also to **Nektarios McKnight** for guiding and instructing our altar servers each Sunday. As always, if anyone has any questions or suggestions, feel free to let us know. Thanks!

**YOUTH NEWS**

**Sunday School Korner**

We finished the Sunday School year with a lot of excitement! Graduation and our FREE luncheon was held Sunday, June 9 to honor our students. Metropolitan Gerasimos joined us and made it a very special day. Congratulations to Jacob Reidel, Anna Kleinkorte and Christian Kleinkorte for perfect attendance during the school year. Maria Allen announced her retirement as a Sunday School Teacher after more than 10 years of service. Thank you very much Maria! The community appreciates all your efforts.

Over the summer we will continue to organize and work on our Sunday School classrooms. Sunday School will resume with a welcoming celebration Sunday, Sept. 8th.

Have a wonderful Summer! See you all in September!

Denise Yeilding
Sunday School Principal

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**2013-2014 School year Volunteers Needed!**

Please contact Denise Yeilding to volunteer at dyeilding@yahoo.com. Areas to assist include:

- Assistant teachers
- Write monthly article for Herald
- Coordinate Xmas Play
- Food Drive coordinator
- Angel Coordinator
- Oratorical Festival Chair
- UNICEF coordinator
- Special Projects

“For He prepared an everlasting covenant with me, keeping it prepared for every time.”

– 2 Kingdoms 23:5
Anyone interested in joining any of the groups, please contact Irene Kyriacou at (650) 591-0690 or email sassygrk@aol.com.

The dance groups are as follow:
- **To Mellon** (4-5 year olds)
  - directed by Shareen Fousekis, Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos and Lea Papavasiliou
- **Thisavri** (6-8 year olds) – directed by Irena Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos and Lea Papavasiliou
- **Spithes** (9-13 year olds) – directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos & Lea Papavasiliou
- **Ekrixi** (14 & up) – directed by Michael & Nicole Garibaldi

The will resume practice on August 18.

**JOY Pool Party at Monolakis House**

Our Cathedral JOY finished the 2012-2013 school year with a wonderful pool party at the Monolakis house! Parents and children, alike, enjoyed the wonderful weather in Alamo, CA for the second straight summer, as well as the hospitality- thanks John and Demetra! After lunch, the kids also had a talk with Father Niko, who presented using scenes from the Disney movie “Wreck It Ralph.”

We wish our JOY kids and their families a wonderful summer. We look forward to resuming our events this September.

**Junior Orthodox Youth (JOY) is open to all youth grades 3-6 and meets the second Tuesday of the month**

**Dance Groups to Resume Practicing in August**

Anyone interested in joining any of the groups, please contact Irene Kyriacou at (650) 591-0690 or email sassygrk@aol.com.
Young Adults Assemble Care Packages for Graduating GOYAns

Our Cathedral Young Adults put together seven care packages for our graduated GOYAns last month. Packages included snacks, gift cards, icons and more, as a way of sending a nice message to our young people as they move into a new chapter of their life and a new environment. Afterwards, a wonderful dinner was enjoyed.

Next month, Giants game!

**The Cathedral Young Adult group is open to all young adults 22-35(ish)**

For more information on any of our youth groups, feel free to contact Father Niko at fatherniko@annunciation.org, or visit the “Youth of Annunciation Cathedral San Francisco” Facebook group page.

Greek School Finishes 2012-2013 School Year

We thank our wonderful teachers and the families that supported our Greek School this past year. Our wonderful program continues going strong, with an excellent staff of teachers and growing enrollment each year. Classes will resume this Fall on September 7, the same weekend Sunday School resumes.

If you have any questions, or would like to sign up your child up for the 2013-2014 school year, please contact Anthi Janssens (anthij@comcast.net) or Philip Athanasiades (philippos1cy@yahoo.com).
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Summer Camp at Saint Nicholas Ranch 2013

On-line Registration Now Open at www.gosfyouth.org

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco is proud to announce the 33rd year of its Summer Camp Program at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA. The theme for camp will be “Love One Another” following the directive of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to his disciples in John 13:34 - 35.

Campers will participate in all of the traditional camp activities such as swimming, canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, Olympics, campfires, daily worship services, Orthodox Life discussions and visits to the Monastery of the Theotokos the Life-Giving Spring. However this year there are many new additions to the program so campers will have an even broader and more exciting experience. You won’t want to miss it!

Summer Camp is for children 8 years old (or entering 3rd grade in Fall 2013) to 17 years old (or just graduated from High School in Spring 2013).

Dates:  
Session I:  July 7 - 13  
Session II:  July 14 - 20  
Session III:  July 21 - 27  
Session IV:  July 28 - August 3

Pricing:  
$425 - Early registration  
$445 - Normal registration  
$465 - Late registration

A $25 discount is offered for each additional child in the same family.

Through a generous grant from Leadership 100, scholarships will again be available this year for families seeking financial assistance. Information is forthcoming so check back to the website.

Registrations are still being accepted for Weeks 2-4! Register online today at www.gosfyouth.org!

For questions or additional information please contact Paul Gikas, Director, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, 415-814-1186, pgikas@sanfran.goarch.org.

“The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.”  
– 2 Kingdoms 23:2
WEEKLY CRETAN MUSIC & DANCE WORKSHOP, RIZITES

Mission Statement: A Cretan dance, instrumental, & song hobby group/parea, where those who want to learn more in general and for the popular Cretan Glendia they participate in regularly during the year throughout California and the U.S. and Crete, can meet to apply and develop their skills confidently and in an authentic way that maintains strong roots.

Content: The study and style execution of Cretan dances and music from the original provinces in Crete they came from.

Moderator/Teacher/Director: Petros Papageorge petrosp@athertonappliance.com

“You have given me the protection of my salvation, and your gentleness fulfills me.”

-2 Kingdoms 22:36
Nia Vardalos signing books at the Cathedral on June 9

Our parishioners lining up to have their copy of ‘Instant Mom’ signed by Nia
Our 2013 graduating seminarians of the Metropolis of San Francisco with His Eminence and Pat Aleck

Some of the Leventis Family enjoying the Philoptochos Mother’s Day luncheon in May
**J U L Y C A L E N D A R**

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**Chronia Polla for Namedays in July!**

Best wishes to the following individuals who celebrate their namedays in July:

- Anna Marie Karsant
- Annamaria Vafiadis
- Annamarie Balian
- Annette Eliopoulos
- Elias Stratiotis
- Elias Papadokonstadakis
- Elias D. Gulema
- Ellias Taptelis
- Magdaline Panagiotopoulos
- Prophet Elias (Elijah), July 20
- Saint Mary Magdalene, Equal to the Apostles, July 22
- The Dormition of Saint Anna, July 25

You may wish to consider sponsoring a coffee hour on the Sunday closest to your nameday, as a way of celebrating with our parish family. For more information, please contact Mike Canellos at (415) 864-8814.

**The information above was taken from the data submitted on our 2013 stewardship pledge cards. If your name does not appear on this list, please feel free to give your information to our stewardship data table in the gallery, or by filling out a 2013 stewardship pledge card.**
“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11