



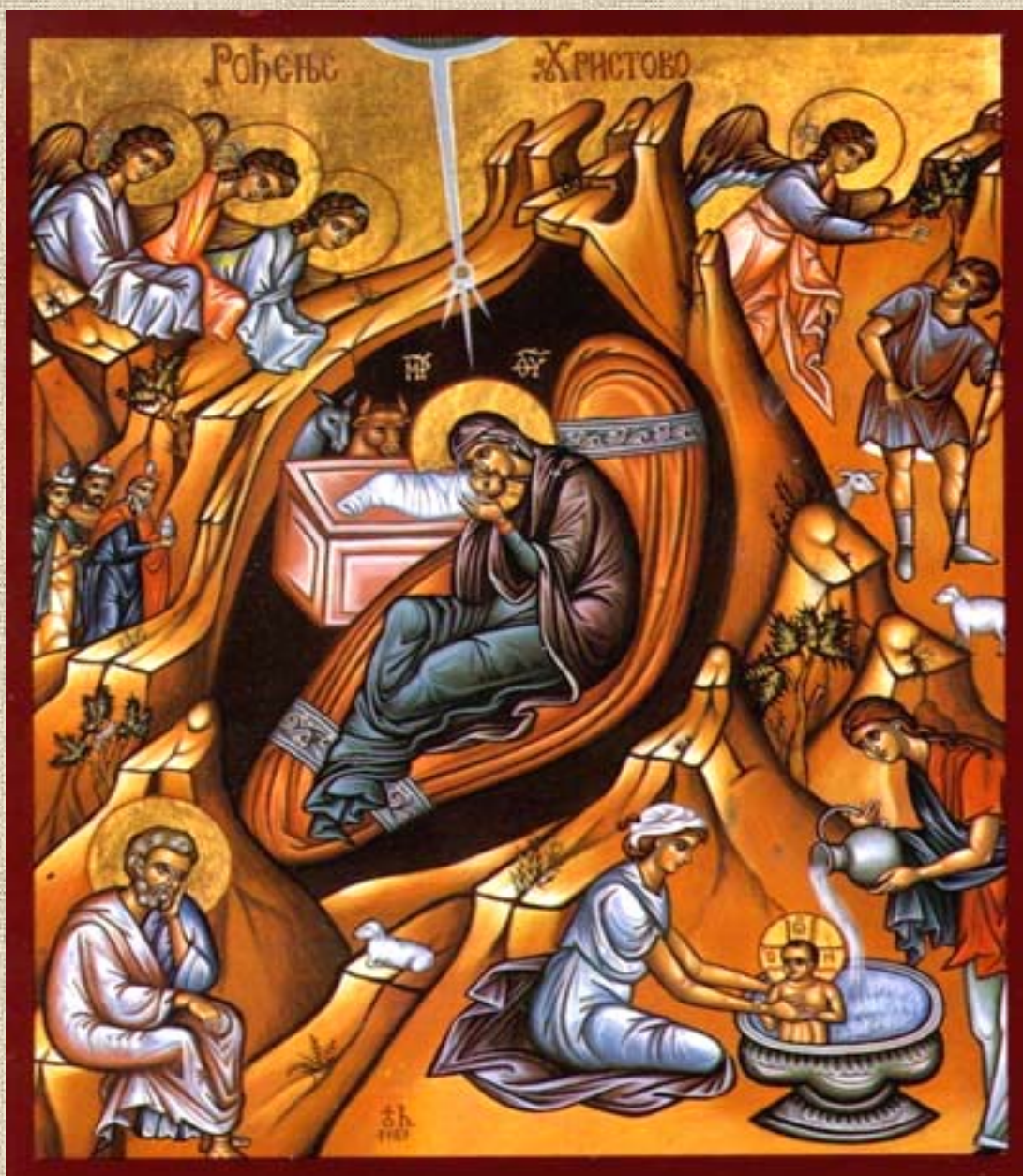
Gracanica Herald

Грачица Гласник

Christmas/Fall 2007

Saint John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Cathedral

Мир Божји, Христос се роди!
Peace on Earth, Christ is Born!





Protopresbyter Djurica Gordic - Cathedral Dean, Parish Priest

**Protopresbyter-stavrofor Dusan Bunjevic,
Dean for New Gracanica Western Deanary**

The Gracanica Herald is regular publication of Saint John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in San Francisco, California. The purpose of the **Herald** is to educate faithful members and parishioners in the teaching of the Orthodox Faith and Tradition in order to assist in their commitment to Christ and His Church. In addition, the **Herald** keeps our parishioners informed as to the activities taking place at the parish and other news of interest to our community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members and parishioners for their help and support of **Saint John's Cathedral**.

If any parishioner or member has news of either religious or social interest that they would like to have published in the Gracanica Herald please mail it to: 900 Baker Street San Francisco, California, 94115 or e-mail to ***stjohnsoc@yahoo.com***



Гласник Грачаница
Gracanica Herald

Saint John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Cathedral

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Very Rev. Djurica Gordic

And Parish Board

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**СРПСКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦРКВА
СВОЈОЈ ДУХОВНОЈ ДЕЦИ О
БОЖИЋУ 2007. ГОДИНЕ**

+ П А В Л Е

**ПО МИЛОСТИ БОЖИЈОЈ
ПРАВОСЛАВНИ АРХИЕПИСКОП
ПЕЊКИ, МИТРОПОЛИТ
БЕОГРАДСКО-КАРЛОВАЧКИ И
ПАТРИЈАРХ СРПСКИ, СА СВИМ
АРХИЈЕРЕЈИМА СРПСКЕ
ПРАВОСЛАВНЕ ЦРКВЕ,
СВЕШТЕНСТВУ, МОНАШТВУ И
СВИМА СИНОВИМА И КЋЕРИМА
НАШЕ СВЕТЕ ЦРКВЕ:
БЛАГОДАТ, МИЛОСТ И МИР ОД
БОГА ОЦА, И ГОСПОДА
НАШЕГА ИСУСА ХРИСТА, И
ДУХА СВЕТОГА, УЗ РАДОСНИ
БОЖИЋНИ ПОЗДРАВ:**

**МИР БОЖИЈИ - ХРИСТОС СЕ
РОДИ!**

*„...Данас Витлејем прима
сапрестолног Оцу, данас анђели
богољепно славе МЛАДЕНЦА
кличући:*

*СЛАВА БОГУ НА ВИСИНАМА, НА
ЗЕМЉИ МИР, А МЕЂУ ЉУДИМА
ДОБРА ВОЉА."*

У свом свакодневном мољењу Црква се, драга децо духовна, пре свега моли за ВИШЊИ МИР. Не молимо се за неки неодређени мир из неког неодређеног света, већ онај МИР који собом донесе и нама предаде сам Господ Исус Христос. „Мир вам остављам, мир свој дајем вам; не дајем вам га као што свијет даје" (Јн 14, 27). Ево, и на почетку овогодишњег празновања најрадоснијег празника рођења Сина Божијег, Господа нашег, Исуса Христа, почињемо молитвама за ВИШЊИ МИР. Упућујемо Вам поруку небеског МИРА који нека се усели у срца ваша, у душе ваше, у животе ваше, као што оне благословене ноћи рођења Емануилова уђе у срца и душе витлејемских пастира. Имати МИР БОЖИЈИ значи имати мир са Богом, са братом са човеком, са свеукупном творевином Божијом. То је привилегија светих хришћана. Чак и онда када валови овог немирног света запрете да све потопе и униште, као што је то у ово наше време, ми



облагодаћени и испуњени божанским миром остајемо мирни и спокојни, јер знамо да је веран Онај Који све хришћане свих времена храбри речима: НЕ БОЈТЕ СЕ! и додаје „...ја сам са вама у све дане до свршетка вијека" (Мт 28, 20).

У божанском миру између Бога и Пресвете Богородице, оствареног у тајни БЛАГОВЕСТИ, зачео се Јединородни Син Божији као Мир и Љубав Божија и родио се у тишини витлејемске пећине. Пресвета Дјева Марија прима поздрав МИРА - „Радуј се благодатна!" (Лк 1, 28), који јој упућује анђео Господњи, а она прихватајући тај мир Божији одговора: „...Ево слушкиње Господње - нека ми буде по ријечи твојој" (Лк 1, 38). Управо то је била воља Божија, да она Која је нашла милост пред Богом буде Богородица, јер роди оваплоћенога Бога - Месију и Спаситеља света, Господа нашег, Исуса Христа.

Поздравом: ХРИСТОС СЕ РОДИ! - ми верујемо и исповедамо да се у Витлејему јудејском роди ХРИСТОС - Помазаник Божији, који је по Божијој вољи! Ми не само да верујемо већ из искуства знамо и исповедамо да је ХРИСТОС ЕМАНУИЛ, што значи С НАМА ЈЕ БОГ! Е, да би заиста и истински БОГ БИО СА НАМА отворимо срца своја, очистимо их и претворимо их у обиталиште Божије. Нека срца наша данас постану нови Витлејем, нове јаслице у које ће се сместити несмествиви; облагодатељни орган у који ће се трајно сместити у Витлејему рођена Љубав Божија. Данас и ових радосних празничних дана будимо домаћини Господу своме. Примимо Га и поздравимо у својим домовима примајући оне најмање као

Њега самога, не гледајући ко је ко. У својим храмовима прославимо Га на начин који Њему приличи и припада. Задржимо Га као живот нашег живота, као светлост нашег бића. Оно што је наше и само наше људско нека се данас и заувек покори вољи Божијој да и ми можемо, као Пресвета Богородица рећи: Господе, ево слуге, односно ево слушкиње твоје, нека и на мени и са мношћем буде воља твоја. Зашто то кажемо? Зато што из године у годину око празника Рођења Господа нашег Исуса Христа све се више и више истиче оно што је наше људско, а све мање оно што је Божије. Заиста у опасности смо од комерцијално-фолклорног празновања и слављења које потискује суштину празника. Држањем само наших обичаја, наша срца потонула у властите немире и буре овога света и даље ће остати далеко од Господа, далеко од Богомладенца Христа. Наше срце и наш живот створени су за Господа. Срца и душа испуњених миром Божијим моћи ћемо славити Богомладенца Христа песмом: Слава на висинама Богу, на земљи мир, а међу људима добра воља! Рођење Христово је, пре свега и изнад свега, чин Божије љубави која се открила цела и потпуна у оваплоћеном и рођеном Христу Исусу. Свети Јован Богослов ту тајну Божије љубави посведочава речима: „...Бог тако завоље свијет да је Сина својега Јединороднога дао, да сваки који вјерује у њега не погине, него да има живот вјечни" (Јн 3, 16).

Рођење Христово је историјски догађај, - догађај који се десио у конкретном историјском периоду и дефинисаном географском простору. Родио се у време управљања Римском империјом ћесара Августа и пописа народа по његовој наредби, те



управљања Јудејом од стране Ирода Великог. Родио се у Витлејему јудејском. Његово рођење не остаде непримећено како у самој Јудеји, тако исто и у великој Римској империји, првенствено на просторима Средњег истока. Прво Га анђели посведочише пастирима из околине Витлејема који отидоше славећи и хвалећи Бога „... и објавише све што им је казано за то дијете" (Лк 2, 17). Њихово сведочење брзо се прошири по свој Јудеји и самом Јерусалиму и „ сви који чуше дивише се томе што им казаше пастири" (Лк 2, 18). Вест о томе дође и до самога Ирода, који самовољно и окрутно владаше племенима народа Израилског. Иако је у први мах потцењивао приче и приповедања потчињеног и покороног му народа, узнемири се срце његово тек онда када у Јерусалим пристигоше мудраци са Истока и распитиваху се о цару јудејском, питањем: „Гдје је цар јудејски који се роди? Јер видјесмо његову звијезду на Истоку и дођосмо да му се поклонимо" (Мт 2, 2). То питање узнемири лукавог Ирода, а суштина постављеног питања постаде разделница времена - старог и новог, времена најаве и праслика, и времена испуњења истих. Наднесен над овом тајном Свети апостол Павле узвикује: „...старо прође, гле, све ново постаде" (2. Кор 5, 17). У рођеном Богочовеку Христу „све ново постаде", а пре свега ми препорођени Њиме и у Њему - синергијом Бога и човека, дакле Творца и творевине, постадосмо „НОВА ТВАР". Не митолошки како би можда хтели да то тумаче митомани, већ истински и суштински, потпуно постадосмо нова богочовечна твар.

На нашу велику жалост, због помањкања хришћанске љубави и врлине у свету, свакодневно слушамо и гледамо како свуда у свету владају немири, сукобљавања и велике људске трагедије и природне непогоде. Гледајући то и слушајући о томе многи се питају: нису ли ово последњи дани света? Нису ли ово времена испуњавања речи Господњих о знацима који ће претходити крају света и другом доласку Христовом? С разлогом се људи питају и стрепе. Међутим, било би много боље да се више испуњавамо страхом Божијим, те да уместо немудрих економа повереног нам

наслеђа Божијег у свету постанемо мудри; уместо свакодневних кваритеља света будемо со земљи, светлост свету, пролаз и капија кроз које ће и којим ће се свет спасти. Разлози свих ових трагичних догађања јесу нарушени мир између Бога и човека с једне стране, те нарушена равнотежа између човека и природе, с друге стране.

У једном оваквом усковитланом свету покрећу се различите мировне иницијативе - појединаца, група и организација. И поред тога не назире се мир у свету. Зашто? Зато што се МИР БОЖИЈИ одбацује, и покушава се надоместити људским миром, миром острашћеног човека, који уместо мира још више распламсава немир. Да парадокс буде потпун, чак и креатори ратова у свету, и на нашим просторима, без имало стида и срама обмањују свет својим такозваним мировним иницијативама. Заправо, ради се о псевдомировним намерама које служе за обмањивање света. Њима је важан интересни мир, мир из којег ће овакви „мировоторци" стећи политичке интересе и материјалне профите.

Данас посебно поздрављамо нашу браћу и сестре на Косову и Метохији и молимо се Богомладенцу Христу да их (Он) заштити и укрепи у ношењу крста који им на нејака њихова плећа метнуше силници овога света. Као и претходних, и ове године делимо тугу и забринутост са свима вама због дешавања на Косову и Метохији, - око ове наше свете земље - срца и душе Српског народа; око нашег духовног Витлејема, колевке наше културе. Гле, за нашу светозаревску земљу данас моћници овога света бацају коцку и бесрамно вређају наша осећања и наше достојанство. Данас, они у име својих интереса на Балкану и Европи, газећи при том све норме међународног права на којем почива данашњи свет, хоће да отму Српском народу његову колевку, његову душу и срце које ће заувек остати и бити на Косову и Метохији. Нек се пред овом чињеницом добро замисле сви они који на најбезочнији начин крше све норме Божије и људске правде, а пре свега права Српског народа на колевку његове Отаџбине.

У празничном расположењу и радости не смео заборавити нашу браћу и сестре прогнане из Босне и

Херцеговине, Хрватске, те Косова и Метохије. Апелујемо на све органе власти у Србији и Црној Гори да им омогуће нормалан и пристојан живот, да се заузму за њихова права на повратак и поврат њихове отете имовине. Посебно апелујемо на све вас, драга децо духовна, да овај празник хришћанске радости поделите са вашом браћом и сестрама прогнаницима. Сетимо се данас и свих оних који су остали на својим огњиштима или се вратили на њихова згаришта. Пратимо и видимо да свакодневно трпе дискриминације и понижења, само зато што су Срби и што су смогли снаге и храбрости да се врате и опстану на својим огњиштима.

Апелујемо на државне органе власти Хрватске и Босне и Херцеговине да покажу добру вољу у решавању горућих проблема прогнаних њихових грађана српске и других националности. Позивамо све да поштују основна људска, национална и верска права нашег и других народа загарантована свим међународним конвенцијама. Да једнако као и друге - ни мање ни више - уважавају наш Српски православни народ који кроз дугу историју свог постојања и деловања на просторима поменутих држава има неизбрисив печат у култури и историји поментих држава и народа са којима дели вишевековну историју. Ми смо увек и свуда у љубави и сарадњи са другим народима стварали културу мира и љубави. У духу тог божанског мира и љубави, толеранције и уважавања обнављајмо порушене мостове међу људима добре воље. Одбацимо реметиоце мира ма који они били. Мир, љубав и добру вољу са свим и свакима имајмо.

Поздрављамо наше младе - децу и омладину. Непрестано наше молитве управљамо ка Господу, драга децо и омладино, да вас сачува од кужних искушења нашег доба: дроге, алкохолизма и других порока. Знајући да на младима свет остаје желимо да се, стасавајући у људе и наше наследнике, наоружате врлинама и добром, те да се одбраните од свакојаким искушења која вам свет нуди и намеће. У најтежим тренуцима вашег живота сетите се кушања која је претрпео сам Господ Исус Христос. Призовите Га у помоћ и Он ће вам сигурно помоћи. Посебна



опасност вреба вас у смишљеном програму наметања псевдокултуре и подражавања исте. Животни путеви имају своје раскрснице. На вама је да изаберете онај правац који води у живот вечни, на крају којег се нећете кајати већ радовати са свима светим прецима нашим.

Не можемо а да се овог празника не сетимо и наше драге духовне деце у расејању - у Америци, Аустралији, Европи, Африци и Азији, удаљене од својих древних огњишта, светиња и гробова предака. Иако сте силом историјских прилика и неприлика приморани да живите расејани по целом свету не заборавите да ћете у слављењу Божића наћи свој родни завичај, своје дечије радости и топли мајчин хлеб. Сећајте се својих древних цркава и светих манастира и учите своје потомство да их не заборави. Чувајте као зеницу ока свога тешко стечено јединство наше Цркве. Око својих епископа, као деца око родитеља, окупите се и сложите у добру, врлину и слављењу Бога. Данас Богомладенац Христос сабира нас у наше свете храмове да се мирбожимо, сложимо, обојимо и умножимо, ако Бог да!

Нека светлост витељемске пећине обасја све људе и све народе света, Вишњи Мир дарујући свима и свакоме. Поздрављајући вас, драга децо духовна, још једанпут позивамо вас и све људе добре воље да празник Рођења Господа нашег Исуса Христа прославимо у миру, радости и духовном расположењу.

МИР БОЖИЈИ - ХРИСТОС СЕ РОДИ!

БЛАГОСЛОВЕНА НОВА 2008. ГОДИНА!

Дано у Патријаршији српској, у Београду,
о Божићу 2007. године.

Ваши молитвеници пред
Богомладенцем Христом:

Архиепископ пећки,
Митрополит београдско-карловачки и
Патријарх српски ПАВЛЕ и сви
архијереји Српске православне цркве



"Всјаческаја днес радости испољнајутсја, Христос родисја от Дјеви"

Овим речима, драга браћо и сестре, сваке године о Божићу црквени песник потврђује истину о свеопштој радости због рођења Христа Спаситеља. И ваистину све се радује данас. Сва васељена, јер се Христос рађа због свеукупне творевине своје. Он својим чудесним рођењем све обнавља, а човека, као круну свога стварања, удостојава изузетном чашћу: рађа се као један од нас. И ове године, посебно молимо Богомладенца да својом неисказаном љубављу, греје срца наше браће и сестара на Косову и Метохији, да их подржи да истрају у очувању њихове и наше свете земље. Нека би Богомладенац отворио духовне очи моћних овога света, да разумеју да је бесправно и нечасно трговати освештаном земљом Српскога народа.

Свима вама, нашим епархијотима, као и прогнаницима из свих српских земаља, ма где да су, шаљемо наш Архиепископски благослов и остајемо ваш молитвеник пред колевком Богомладенца.

Мир Божји - Христос се роди! Срећна и благословена Нова 2008. година!

+ 
ЛОНГИН

Епископ Америчко-канадски
Новограчаничке митрополије

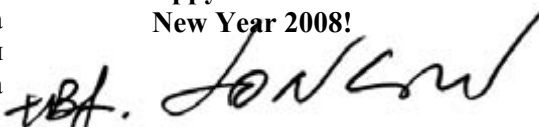
"All creation is filled with joy today, for Christ is Born of the Virgin"

By these words, dear brothers and sisters, each year at Christmas time the Church hymn reaffirms the truth of the great joy over the birth of Christ the Savior. Indeed, all creation rejoices today. The whole universe rejoices, since Christ is born for the sake of His whole creation. He restores everything by His miraculous birth, and He gives a special honor to man as to the crown of His creation - He is born as one of us.

This year also, we pray the Christ-child to warm the hearts of our brothers and sisters in Kosovo and Metohija by His indescribable love, and to thus help them persevere in preserving their and our holy land. May the God-child open the spiritual eyes of the powerful of this world so that they may understand that it is unjust and dishonorable to trade with the consecrated land of the Serbian people. To all of you members of our Diocese and to all the refugees from the Serbian lands, wherever they may be, we send our Archpastoral blessing and remain your intercessor before the cradle of Christ-child.

God's peace - Christ is born!

**Happy and blessed
New Year 2008!**

+ 

+ LONGIN

Bishop of Diocese of America nad Canada
New Gracanica Metropolitanate





The Serbian Orthodox Church to her spiritual children at Christmas, 2007

+PAVLE

By the Grace of God

Orthodox Archbishop of Pec, Metropolitan of Belgrade Karlovci and Serbian Patriarch, with all the Hierarchs of the Serbian Orthodox Church to all the clergy, monastics, and all the sons and daughters of our Holy Church: grace, mercy and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, with the joyous Christmas greeting:

Peace from God! Christ is Born!

*"...Today Bethlehem receives Him Who is
co-enthroned with the Father,
Today angels marvelously praise
the New Born Child exclaiming:
Glory to God in the highest
and peace on earth;
good will among men."*

The Church, in her daily supplications, dear spiritual children, prays first of all for the PEACE FROM ABOVE. We don't pray for some undefined peace from an unknown world; rather we pray for the PEACE which was brought and given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you." (John 14:27) Here at the beginning of the celebration of the most joyous Feast Day of the Nativity of the Son of God, our Lord, Jesus Christ, we start with prayers for the PEACE FROM ABOVE. We send to you the message of the heavenly PEACE which we hope enters your into your hearts and your souls and into your lives, as on that blessed night of the Nativity of the Emanuel it entered the hearts and souls of the shepherds of Bethlehem. To have God's peace means having peace with God, with our brother and our fellow man, and with God's entire creation. This is the privilege bestowed upon holy Christians. Even when the waves of this restless world threaten to drown and destroy everything, as is the case in our time, we remain calm and serene, filled with grace and divine peace, because we know that He Who encourages Christians of all times is faithful: DO NOT BE AFRAID! And He adds "...I am always with you even unto the end of age." (Matthew 28:20)

In the divine peace between God and the Most Holy Theotokos fulfilled in the mystery of the Annunciation, the Only-begotten Son of God was conceived as the Peace and Love of God and He was born in the quietness of Bethlehem's cave. The Most Holy Theotokos received the salutation of PEACE – "Rejoice, o blessed one!" (Luke 1:28) uttered to her by the angel of God and, accepting that peace from God, she responded: "...Here is the maiden of God – let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38) This actually was the will of God: that she who found favor before God would become the birth-giver of God, for she give birth to God Incarnate – The Messiah and Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ.

With the greeting: "Christ is Born!" we believe and confess that Christ — God's anointed One — was born in Bethlehem of Judea, according to the will of God! We not only believe but also know from our experience and we confess that CHRIST IS EMANUEL, which means GOD WITH US! So that GOD WOULD TRULY BE WITH US let us open and cleanse our hearts so that they may become His dwelling place. May our hearts today become a new Bethlehem, a new manger for Him Who is the uncontainable; a grace filled organ in which the birth of God's Love in Bethlehem will find its permanent abode. So, today and during these joyous Feast days, let us be hosts to our Lord. Let us receive and greet Him into our homes, receiving the least ones as Himself, without distinguishing who is who. In our churches let us celebrate Him in a way which is worthy and which befits Him. Let us keep Him as the life of our life, as the light of our being. Let all that which is ours and only human in us be submitted forever to God's will, so that we may say, as did the Most Holy Theotokos: Lord, here is your servant or handmaiden, let it be with me and in me according to your will. Why do we say this? Because from year to year around the Feast Day of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, that which is human is being more and more emphasized, and that which is



divine is emphasized less and less. Truly we are endangered by commercial and folklore celebrations and commemorations that suppress the true essence of the Feast. If we reduce the meaning of the Feast to simply keeping our customs, our hearts will remain submerged in our individual restlessness and in the worldly tempests, and they will continue to be far away from the Lord, far away from the Divine Child Christ. Our hearts and our life are created for the Lord. Only with hearts and souls filled with God's peace will we be able to celebrate Christ the Divine Child with the song: "Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men!" Christ's birth is, above all, the act of God's love, which is fully and completely revealed in the incarnate and born Christ Jesus. St. John the Theologian attests to this mystery of God's love with the following words: "... God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

The birth of Christ is a historic event — an event which took place in a concrete historical time and a particular geographical place. He was born during the reign of the Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus and the during the census of the people which he ordered. Christ was born during the reign of Herod the Great, who at the time ruled Judea. He was born in Bethlehem of Judea. His birth did not go unnoticed in Judea and the great Roman Empire, especially in the regions of the Middle East. First the angels gave witness to Bethlehem's shepherds, who then went out glorifying and praising God, making "...known all they had been told concerning this child." (Luke 2:17) Their witness quickly spread throughout Judea and Jerusalem "and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them." (Luke 2:18) The news about this also reached King Herod who cruelly had ruled the tribes of Israel. Even though he at first belittled the stories and narratives of the people subjugated to him, his heart was shaken only when from the East the wise men had arrived and had inquired about the Judean King with the question: "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." (Matthew 2:2) This question greatly disturbed a crafty Herod, and the essence of this posed question has become a divider of time into old and new, of the time of foretelling and foreshadowing and the time of the fulfillment of the same. Elevated by this mystery the Holy Apostle Paul exclaims: "the old has passed away, behold, everything has become new." (II Cor. 5:17) In the newborn God-Man Christ "all has become new", but above all we are reborn in Him and by Him — with the synergy of God and man, that is synergy of the Creator and created, we have become "A NEW CREATION". This not in a mythological way, as some would interpret; rather we truly, essentially, and completely have become a new divine-human creation.

Sadly, because of the lessening of the Christian love and virtues in the world, we daily hear of and see instability, clashes and great human tragedies and natural disasters. Seeing this and hearing about it many ask: "Aren't these the latter days of the world? Aren't these the times of the fulfillment of the words of our Lord about signs of the end times and of the second coming of Christ?" People have reason to ask this and to fear. But it would be much better if we would become more filled with the fear of God, so that we might become wise stewards of the inheritance God has given us in this world instead of unwise, and that instead of constant perverters of this world we become the salt of the earth, the light to the world, the way and gate through which the world will be saved. The reason for all of these tragic events is the broken peace between God and man on one side, and the broken equilibrium between man and nature, on the other.

In this tumultuous world a various initiatives for peace are being made by individuals, groups and organizations. Yet despite this, peace in the world is not on the horizon. Why? Because the PEACE FROM GOD is being rejected and man's peace is trying to replace it — a peace of passion-controlled men which, instead of bringing peace, inflames restlessness. To make the paradox complete, even the creators of wars in the world and on our own soil, shamelessly try to deceive the world with their so called "peace initiatives." Actually, these are pseudo-peaceful intentions that serve to deceive the world. What is important to them is a peace with interest, a peace from which these "peacemakers" will gain political interests and material profit.

Today we especially greet our brothers and sisters in Kosovo and Metohija and we pray to the Divine Child Christ that He protects and strengthens them in carrying of the cross that has been laid upon their weak shoulders by the mighty of this world. As in previous years, we this year also share in sadness and concern because of the events in Kosovo and Metohija — our holy land — the heart and souls of the Serbian people and our spiritual Bethlehem and the cradle of our culture. Behold, the mighty ones of this world are today casting lots for our holy land of St. Lazarus and shamefully offend our feelings and our dignity. In the name of their interests in the Balkans and Europe, and trampling upon all the norms of international law upon which today's world rests, they want to take away from the Serbian people their cradle, their soul and heart, which will forever remain in Kosovo and Metohija. May all those who continue to break all norms of God's and human justice, and above all the rights of the Serbian people for their Homeland's cradle, pause and rethink about this fact.

In this festive spirit and joy let us not forget our brothers and sisters exiled from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Kosovo and Metohija. We appeal to all government officials in Serbia and Montenegro to provide a normal and decent life, doing everything that is possible for their safe return and the return of their personal property. We especially appeal to all of you dear brothers and sisters, that you share this Holy Day with all those exiled. Let us remember today all of those who have remained on their homesteads and those who have returned to their burned homesteads. We know and see that they suffer daily discrimination and humiliation, just because they are Serbian and because they found the strength and courage to return and remain on their homesteads.

We appeal to government officials in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina that they show good will in solving the pressing problems of their exiled citizens of both Serbian and other nationalities. We call upon everybody to respect the basic human rights, national and religious rights of our and other peoples, all the rights guaranteed by all international conventions.



That they equally – no more nor less – respect our Serbian Orthodox people, who throughout the long history of their existence and through their contributions in the aforementioned countries have left an indelible seal on the culture and history of these countries, with whom they share a centuries-old history. We have always and everywhere in love and cooperation with others created a culture of peace and love. In the spirit of that Divine peace and love, tolerance and esteem, let us renew torn down bridges among the people of good will. Let us reject disturbers of the peace, regardless of who they are. Let us have peace, love and good will with all.

We greet our young people – our children and youth. We unceasingly offers our prayers to the Lord, dear children and youth, for your protection from all the contagious temptations of our time: drugs, alcohol, and other vices. Knowing that the world remains for the young, we wish that you, in maturing and becoming our inheritors, will arm yourselves with virtues and good, so that you may defend yourselves from all temptations that the world offers and imposes upon you. In the hardest moments of your life remember the temptations suffered by our Lord Jesus Christ. Call upon Him for help and He surely will help you. A deliberate program of imposing pseudo-culture and succumbing to it poses a particular danger. Life's roads have their crossroads. It is up to you to choose the direction which leads to life eternal, at which end you will not have sorrow, but joy with all of our holy ancestors.

We are also mindful of our dear children in the Diaspora – in America, Australia, Europe, Africa and Asia, who live far away from their ancient homesteads, holy places and cemeteries. Even though you under historical circumstances and misfortunate have been forced to live in the Diaspora worldwide, don't forget that in celebrating Christmas you will find your homeland, your childhood joy, and mother's freshly baked bread. Remember your old churches and holy monasteries and teach your descendants to do the same. Safeguard the unity of our church as you would the pupil of your own eye. Gather around your bishops as children around their parents; gather and agree in good, virtues and glorifying God. Today Christ the Divine Child gathers us in our holy churches to exchange the greeting "God's Peace" with one another, to unify, to become Christ-like and to increase, God willing!

May the light of Bethlehem's cave shine upon all the people and all the nations of the world, granting the Peace from Above to all and to everybody.

Greeting you all, dear spiritual children, we once again call upon you all and all people of good will to celebrate the Feast Day of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ in peace, joy, and a spiritual disposition.

PEACE FROM GOD—CHRIST IS BORN!

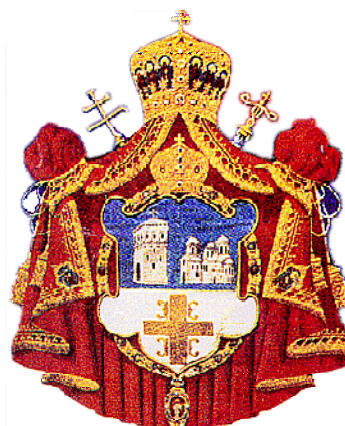
And may you have a blessed New Year!

Given at the Serbian Patriarchate in Belgrade, at Christmas, 2007.

Your intercessors before the divine Christ-Child:

Archbishop of Pec,
Metropolitan of Belgrade-Karlovci and
Serbian Patriarch PAVLE

With all Serbian Orthodox Bishops





Драга браћо и сестре, драги парохијани,

Очекујући радосни празник Христовог рођења поздрављам вас и ваше породице са жељом да новорођени Богомладенац донесе мир, радост, срећу и благослов у ваше домове.

Сетимо се у нашим молитвама свих оних којима је потребна помоћ, посебно нашег напаћеног и страдалног народа на Косову и Метохији, као и свих избеглица са својих вековних огњишта.

Овом приликом желим да се захвалим свима за материјалну и моралну помоћ нашој Цркви и нашој парохији Светог Јована Крститеља у Сан Франциску. Молим вас да и у будуће наставите да помажете нашу Цркву како би наставили Свету Мисију проповедања и сведочења наше вере Православне на овом континенту.

**МИР БОЖЈИ,
ХРИСТОС СЕ РОДИ!
СРЕЋНА И БОГОМ БЛАГОСЛОВЕНА НОВА 2008 ГОДИНА!**

Ваш молитвеник пред колевком Богомладенца,

Протојереј Ђурица Јордић
Са Управом Саборног Храма

+++++

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Dear Parishioners:

As we wait for the most joyous day of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, I greet you and your families, wishing that the Newly born Christ-child brings peace, joy, happiness and God's blessing to your homes.

Remember in your prayers all of those in need, especially our people suffering in Kosovo and Metohija, and all refugees away from their homes.

I would like to thank you for your material and moral support to our Church and our Parish of Saint John the Baptist in San Francisco. Please continue to support our Church so we may continue our Holy Mission of witnessing and preaching our Holy Orthodox Faith on this continent.

**PEACE ON EARTH,
CHRIST IS BORN!
HAPPY AND BLESSED
NEW 2008 YEAR!**

Your intercessor before the cradle of New-born Christ,

Protopresbyter Djurica Gordic
With Cathedral parish Board



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the spirit of the Christmas Holidays I address you with

Christ is Born, and Indeed He is Born!

This is a time of rejoicing, a time of being merry, a time of giving and forgiving, a time of love toward the family and friends, a time to help those that need help, a time to heal and rejuvenate spiritually, a time to rebuild our strength...

The pressures of everyday life may seem to be taking all of that away from us. We may feel depressed, old and weak, and think that this hardship and race is the only way through life...

But, just consider how much easier it would be if we would take a spirit of Christmas and apply it to our everyday life. Really, stop and think... It can be done! We have that strength. We can be kind. We can be calm. We can forgive. We can help. We can love, and we can be happy, very happy in doing it...

So, in spirit of Christmas I call on you to choose this better path, a better way for your life.

With my best wishes for the Holidays, your brother in Christ



St. John's Cathedral Parish Board President





THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2007

The year started with a visit from our Bishop Longin of New Gracanica Metropolitane and the newly appointed Bishop of the Western Diocese, Maxim, informing us that our priest Fr. Marko Matic was being transferred to St.Sava Parish in Gary, Indiana. After meeting with Fr. Marko and the Bishops we realized that this was a good opportunity for Father Marko and his family. Although we were sad to see him go, we prepared a lovely going away party for Fr.Marko, Popadija Vesna and their children, Dusan and Milena.

With our sincere thanks and appreciation, we bid them farewell and the best of luck in their new parish...and the search for our new priest began.

Within a short time, the Bishops provided an excellent solution as they recommended Protodeacon Djurica Gordic, Secretary of the Western Diocese. Within a month we held a welcome party for our new priest Fr. Djurica Gordic, Popadija Marija and their sons, Petar and Jovan. It was at this time that His Grace Bishop Longin elevated Fr. Djurica to Protojerej and officially proclaimed St. John's Church to St. John's Cathedral, or Srpska Saborna Crkva.



As our new parish family settled into their new home and duties, the church board focused on the year's upcoming events and several necessary improvements to our facilities. The St. Sophia Sisterhood met the challenge of hosting many of the year's events. Further, through their generous contributions, we were able to meet our objectives for the year's planned improvements.

Our St. John's Choir attended SOCA (Serbian Orthodox Choral Association) Festival in Gary, where they were greeted by our past priest Fr. Marko and Popadija Vesna. With all modesty we were one of the best choirs.



Our Sunday school continues to grow and be active, led by Protinica Marija, as they enjoyed a winter trip to the snow in Lake Tahoe and a summer outing to Coyote Point.

Throughout the year we had many visitors and church dignitaries grace us with their presence. Along with our Bishop Longin and Western American Bishop Maksim, we were honored with

a visit by His Eminence Metropolitan Amphilohije, Bishop of Montenegro-Coastal and Skenderijski and exarc of the Holy Throne. His Eminence played a critical role in bringing together the Russian Orthodox Church in Exile with the Mother Church in Russia. Another one of our guests was the great Serbian Bishop Atanasije of Zahumlje. We enjoyed his wit and his thoughts regarding the unity of Orthodoxy.



On the first Sunday in November we enjoyed a visit from Metropolitan Nikitas from the Greek Orthodox Church and the Director of Athenagoras Institute at the University of California, Berkley. He conducted the Holy Liturgy with the assistance of V. Rev. Stavrofor Dusan Bunjevic, our parish priest V. Rev. Djurica Gordic and visiting clergy.



Lastly, our parish priest, V. Rev. Djurica Gordic, our parish president, Mita Postich and many parishioners attended services on the occasion of returning the remains of the first Serbian priest in America, Sebastian Dabovich. On Saturday, August 4, 2007, Fr. Sebastian's remains were exhumed from their grave in Zhicha Monastery. Before the exhumation, the Divine Liturgy was served in the thirteenth-century Zhicha Monastery church. Archimandrite Gerasim of Zhicha presided, with Protopresbyter Djurica Gordic concelebrating and two deacons assisting. It was by God's Providence that this priest from Fr. Sebastian's birthplace and hometown in America was granted to be present in Zhicha for the event of Fr. Sebastian's exhumation.



Father Dabovich's remains were brought from Serbia to be buried in Jackson. Father Dabovich was born and educated in San Francisco. He bestowed his religious teachings as the first Serbian missionary throughout the world and built the first Serbian church in Jackson, Ca.

Thank you as parishioners of St. John's Cathedral for all your support and participation. We look forward to 2008!



Text by Milorad Golubovic

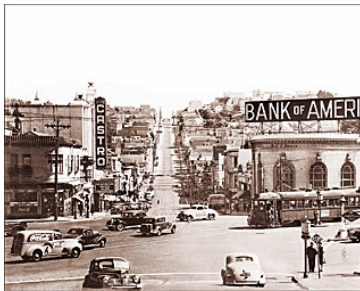


OUR PARISH HISTORY

(Talk presented by Robert Lazich on the Cathedral Day, at the St John's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in San Francisco, California on April 22, 2007)

When Mita Postich asked me that I give a little talk about this church, which is now a cathedral, it was suggested I do a short history of our church. And keep it short. I promised.

But found that the history of this church goes back many years before the construction of this building in 1954. I mean wayyyyyyy back. Into 1800's. When General Custer was losing his life at the battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana, Serbians were practicing their Orthodox faith in San Francisco. When Ulysses S. Grant was a president, when Alexander Graham Bell was inventing the telephone, Orthodox Christians were practicing their faith in the Bay Area much as we do today. Mind you, this was less than 30 years after gold was discovered at Coloma up in the mother lode. The civil war had ended little more than a decade earlier. It was 18 years before the church was built at Jackson.



So, who were these people practicing their Orthodox faith so many years ago? They were Serbians, Russians, Greeks, Syrians, and others. They were under Russian jurisdiction, but some of their priests were Serbians from Montenegro - Fr. Matanovic, and Fr. Zet-se from Herceg-Nov, Boka. Later in the 19th century most of the clergy were Russians but the faithful included a heavy Serb representation, with most of those from Boka, Crna Gora, and Hercegovina.

Alongside the religious activities of the Serbian community in San Francisco was a cultural and literary center that dates back to the Orthodox Society in 1854 – that's before the civil war, and only five years after gold was discovered over in the gold country. And later came Montenegrin Literary and Benevolent Society that dates back to 1880.



We all know about the church in Jackson, routinely identified as the first Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States. Built in 1894 - 113 years ago, with funds from organizations in San Francisco as well as support from Serbian miners in Alaska. Remember, they had a gold rush up there, too. The credit for that church goes to Archimandrite Sebastian Dabovich. Born in San Francisco in 1863, he became the first American-born apostle of Holy Orthodoxy in America. DHe laid the foundation for the church in Jackson in 1894 when he was 31 years old. Fr. Dabovich's remains are buried at the Monastery in Serbia but there are tombstones in his memory at the cemetery in Colma ... and at the church in Jackson.

And what about THIS church? This building was built in 1954, but its history goes back much further. Early in the century, the Rt. Rev. Fr. Archimandrite George Kodjic arrived in San



Francisco. It was 1919. World War I had ended a year earlier. The roaring twenties were about to begin. Fr. Kodjic had served in the Serbian Army during the “war to end all wars”. And in San Francisco, to survive, he did hard manual labor while doing his missionary work. In 1937, Fr. Kodjic bought a small house at 281 Castro Street in the Mission District. This is in the depth of the depression, when few Serbs had any resources. That small house on Castro street became a missionary home and chapel. The house is still there. His first service in that home was on Easter Sunday, May 2, 1937. Fr. Kodjic organized the auxiliaries of this church – the St. Sophia Sisterhood we know today was a result of his work. Archimandrite Kodjic died in 1945. In his will he left everything – little house on Castro Street, his savings, all his possessions – to the church. He not only preached God’s work, he lived it. A genuine hero, Fr. Kodjic is buried at the Serbian Cemetery in Colma.

So, now we come to this building. And credit must go to another hero of Serbian Orthodoxy in San Francisco, R. Rev. Fr. Archimandrite Dositei Obradovich. When the charter for this church was granted in 1945, he became our first parish priest. Job one for Fr. Dositei was to build a church. He organized the rigorous fund-raising campaign that got the job done. Ground was broken in August of 1953 ... and the church was consecrated on September 5, 1954, just over a year later. And less than seven years after that the mortgage was retired. Fr. Dositei went to build other Serbian Churches, including the one in my hometown of Butte, Montana. They are monuments to his lifelong dedication to the church and to the Serbian people.

Fr. Dositei, like Fr. Kodjic, is gone now. But good work has been carried on by others, and we are thankful for that. Among them, a name that will stand out for decades in the memories of parishioners, is that of Fr. Dusan Bunjevic, who has had numerous titles justifiably bestowed upon him - Very Rev., Vicar General, and lastly Protojerej Stavrofor – the highest rank in the Serbian Orthodox Church for a married priest. Fr. Dusan served this parish from 1964 until 2000, and with his wife DDProtinica Lilliana, continues to provide service for the church whenever needed or called upon.

It is because of their good work that we have reached another milestone in the life of this church. Last year, His Grace Metropolitan Longin proclaimed St. John’s Church a Cathedral. And with God’s help we will live up to that title.

Thank you very much.



(Archimandrite Sebastian Dabovich with his family)



СЕДАМ ПРИНЦИПА ХРИШЋАНСКОГ СТАРАТЕЉСТВА	SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP
Апостол Павле поставља седам принципа Хришћанског Старатељства у 8. и 9. глави друге посланице Коринћанима:	The Apostle Paul presents seven principles of Christian Stewardship in the 8th and 9th chapters of his second Epistle to Corinthians:
ОДГОВОРНОСТ Сваки хришћанин има старатељску одговорност: <i>"Свако како одлучи у срцу"</i> .	RESPONSIBILITY Every Christian has a stewardship responsibility: <i>"Every man according as he purposes in his heart"</i> .
ЛИЧНО Сваки хришћанин мора донети личну Старатељску одлуку: <i>"Како одлучи у срцу, нека даје"</i> (9,7).	PERSONAL Every Christian must make a personal Stewardship decision: <i>"As he purposes in his heart, let him give"</i> (9,7).
СТАВ, ДРЖАЊЕ Став према давању је важан: <i>"Не са жалашћу или принудно; јер Бог љуби онога који драговољно даје."</i>	ATTITUDE Attitude in giving is important: <i>"Not grundgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver"</i> (9,7)
ВОЉНОСТ Хришћански старатељ ће са жељом и вољно да даје Господу: <i>"Добровољно даваху"</i> (8,3) <i>Јер ако има ко добру вољу</i> " (8,13).	WILLINGLY The Christian steward will give willingly to the Lord: <i>"They were willing"</i> (8,3). <i>"First, a willing mind"</i> (8,12).
ПРОПОРЦИОНАЛНО Хришћанско давање ће бити у пропорцији зараде и поседовања: <i>"Мно је по ономе што има, а не по ономе што нема"</i> .	PROPORTIONATE Christian giving will be in proportion to income and possessions: <i>"It is accepted according to that which a man has, and according to that which he has not"</i> (8,12).
ЖРТВА Хришћанин ће приложити са жртвом: <i>"И преко могућства добровољно даваху"</i> (8,3) и <i>"Ко шкрто сије шкрто ће и жњети"</i> (9,3).	SACRIFICE A Christian will give a sacrifically: <i>"Beyond their power"</i> (8,3), and <i>"He who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully"</i> (9,6).
СИСТЕМАТСКИ Верујући хришћански старатељ ће давати систематски: <i>"Сваки како одлучи у свом срцу"</i> (9,7).	SYSTEMATIC The faithful Christian steward will give systematically: <i>"Every man according as he purposes in his heart"</i> (9,7).
<i>"А Бог је кадар да вас обогати сваком благодаћу, да у свему свагда имајући довољно свега, изобилујете у сваком добром дјелу"</i> (2. Кор.9,8)	<i>"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abudance for every good deed"</i> (II Corinthians 9,8).

2007 Stewards

Phil and Marie Bowman
Bill and Alicia Davidovich
Alexander Davidovich
Jerome Davidovich
Philip Davidovich
Stephanie Davidovich
Stevan Davidovich
Sasha and Olivera Djordjevic
Micaelee Ellswythe

Mico and Teresa Golubovich
Marisa Gray
Stan Grgich
Suanna Gurovich
Stephen Kardum
Don and Bitsy Kosovac
Christine Milutinovich
Carlo and Diane Kresevich
Bob Lazich
Danilo Maksinovich
Mitar Mijatovic

Dushan Medan
Milivoy Mikovich
Maria Perchevitch
Barbara Petrovic
Mita and Zlata Postich
Sister Seraphima
Gloria Shapona
Zora Sweeney
Darko Vujetich



Overcoming the "Dues Mentality"

by *Brian Gerich*

For the past several years I, like many, have been very encouraged in witnessing a change that is occurring in several of our church-school congregations. This change is from a "dues mentality" to Christian Stewardship. Our hierarchs and most of our clergy have been very supportive of this change. This is not to imply that change will be automatic or immediate. Sadly many of us often resist any change to the "status quo," and will talk negatively about stewardship. We need to be mindful that sometimes people speak not simply from ignorance but also from a lack of Orthodox Christian Spirituality. One could say that, unlike early Christians and many over the centuries, we have not sufficiently understood that everything that we possess, our lives, our families, our jobs, our special talents and, yes, even our money, are gifts from God. Nor have we learned that a portion of our money and talents (our first fruits) are to be used for helping our brothers and sisters and to proclaim the Gospel and God's love to all.

I have personally observed over the past many years that most of the Serbian churches in the United States would be unable to financially support themselves if they did not have outside fund raising activities, i.e. "Las Vegas nights", "Days at the Races," as well as raffles and bingo which thank God are being discontinued. One can not say that our churches are running deficits due to the "high salaries" that are paid to our clergy, because in fact they are among the lowest paid of our brother Orthodox jurisdictions, not to mention other communities. Now I would say that there are many reasons we experience financial problems at our parishes.

In my opinion the primary reason for our problems is that we have had a "dues mentality" for as long as the Church has been in this country. When someone joins a private club whether it is a golf club, a health club, etc., they are assessed monthly or annual dues. The management of those organizations develop an annual budget and divide that budget by the number of members and the resulting number is the amount of "dues" that must be assessed to each member in order to meet the annual budget. When the operating expense increase, the annual "dues" assessment increases. Members of those organizations have the right to expect that as long as they pay their annual dues that they do not have to "pay" anything more.

We often have that same type of thinking in our Serbian churches in this country and yet our "dues," besides being spiritually opposed to Christian Stewardship, do not come close to paying the annual operating costs of our parishes. I have personally heard Serbs say "I paid my dues, i.e. \$150 and I do not have to give any more money." Lord have mercy on us! The Bible teaches that we reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7). For 100 years we have sown "dues" and predictably we have reaped a "dues mentality."

Recently I had a discussion with a lay leader from one of our larger parishes who stated "our parish will never give up the dues system because it forces an individual to submit an application and to be voted upon by the board before being allowed to become a "member." When I asked, "what about an individual who is Orthodox, attends church every Sunday, goes to confession and communion regularly, whose children are in church school and who pledges \$1,000 a year as a steward. Is this person a member of the parish and can he vote at the annual meeting? His response was a firm "no because he failed to complete an application and be voted upon!!" So one can see that if you pay \$200 in dues, fill out an application, attend church two or three times a year, you are considered a member of the Church-School Congregation and can vote on congregation policy, as opposed to the practicing Orthodox Christian steward who is an active part of the parish but not allowed to vote at the Church-School Congregation just described. I guess that I have to re-read the book of Acts because I do not remember reading about the Apostles requiring a "membership application and dues" in the early church or the unhealthy dualism of "Church-School Congregation" and local parish.

Thank God this is not the case in every parish. In 1998, St. George Serbian Church in San Diego, California under the spiritual guidance of V. Rev. Stavrophor Bozidar Draskovic terminated its dues system, switching completely to a stewardship program under the leadership of congregation board President Wayne Papac. I am happy to report that they went from 66 dues paying members to having 228 stewards today generating more in donations and gifts than ever before. The faithful of St. George parish understand that Orthodox Christians are called to be faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to them and that they are to give sacrificially for the continuation of God's work and ministries.

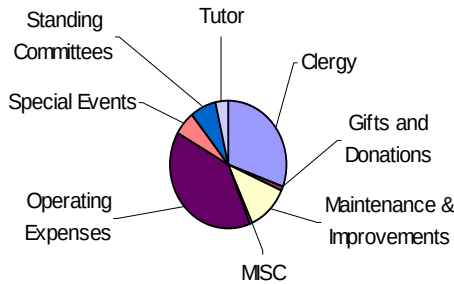
May the seeds of "stewardship" that are being sown in San Diego (Ca), Fresno (Ca), Alhambra (Ca), Seattle (Wa), Lake Forrest (IL) and in Lackawanna (NY) be examples for all of our Serbian parishes that our future in this country depends upon teaching our leaders, the parents and grandparents, and especially our youth that God's earthly kingdom does not run on a "dues system" but rather is based upon love - first God's love toward us and in return our love to Him, demonstrated through sacrificial giving of our time, our talent and our treasure back to Him for the furtherance of His Kingdom on earth.



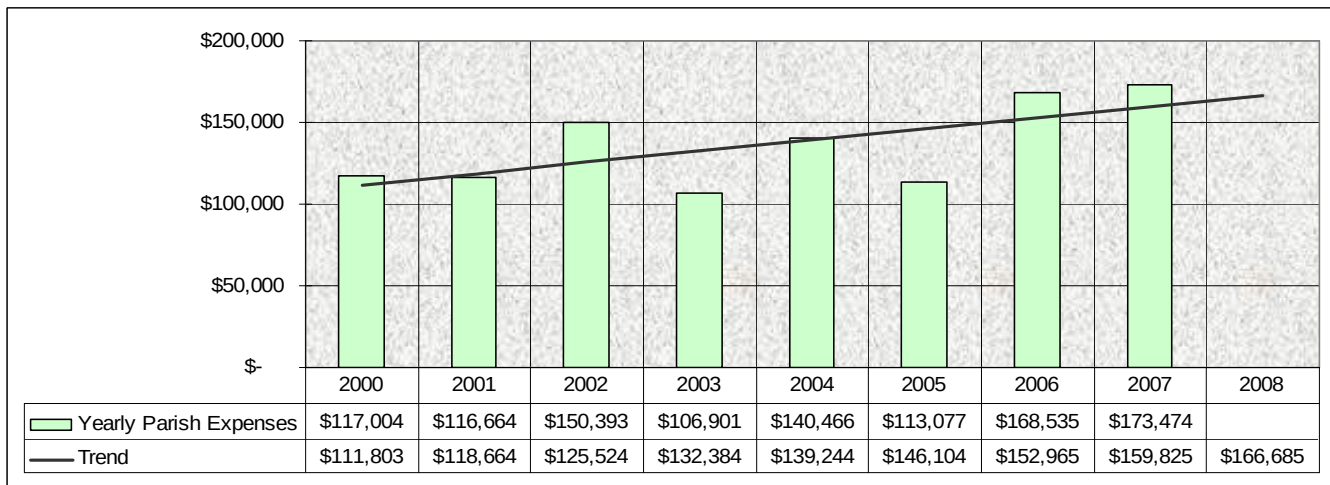
Cathedral Budget for 2008

By Stevan Davidovich

One of the duties of our Opstina is to review our expenses and establish our funding priorities. At our annual meeting in December, the Opstina approved a budget of \$167,136 for 2008 that is \$451 above our projected eight year trend. Of special note is our increased support to our Sunday school and choir. A summary of this budget and our expenses for 2007 are shown, with a bar chart of our spending since 2000 and trend line. The bar chart does not include the expenses associated with the buying, building and sale of the 920 Baker apartments from 2000 to 2005.



2008 Budget		Actual 2007 Expense	
30.5%	\$ 51,000	Clergy	\$ 51,540 29.7%
0.9%	\$ 1,500	Gifts and Donations	\$ 1,499 0.9%
12.0%	\$ 20,000	Maintenance & Improvements	\$ 34,318 19.8%
0.6%	\$ 1,000	MISC	\$ 1,388 0.8%
39.2%	\$ 65,436	Operating Expenses	\$ 62,803 36.2%
6.0%	\$ 10,000	Special Events	\$ 10,085 5.8%
7.3%	\$ 12,200	Standing Committees	\$ 6,123 3.5%
3.6%	\$ 6,000	Tutor	\$ 5,717 3.3%
\$ 167,136		\$ 173,474	



In 2007, our 1st year as a Cathedral, our expenses included the \$18,220 spent on the urgent repair of our Hall Patio Deck. We did see a reduction in our utility expenses (gas, electric, water, garbage), but that was offset by increases in property insurance and taxes. Since 2000 our average expenses have increased 5.7% per year. During this same period the average USA inflation rate was 2.8% per year. Over the last eight years our commitment to increase our clergy salary and make repairs to our 50 year old building has resulted in an overall average increase in our spending, after inflation, of only 2.9% per year.

With our budget in place, we turn our attention to our income for 2008. Our 920 Baker apartment rentals will provide us \$48,000 a year which almost covers our clergy costs. Our candle sales and Sunday plate donations is expected to provide us \$13,000 for a total of \$61,000. Historically our donations during, Christmas, Easter, Slava, Memorials, associated events like New Years Dance, Savin Dan, various banquets, hall rentals and stewardship generates about \$110,000 and closes the gap.

There has been much discussion on the board on how to build up our cash reserves to provide more fiscal security for our Parish. For 2008 we want to make an extra effort in two areas. The first is our desire to expand the use of eScript. Last year we generated over \$600 to the Parish through eScript. This program costs the parishioner nothing and automatically brings income to the Parish on a monthly basis. We will provide enhanced instructions on our web site for this program.

The second area is our continued commitment toward stewardship. We did not see much growth of this program in 2007. We were distracted by the demands of our new Cathedral status and the transition of our new Parish Priest. If each of our 200 Parish families would commit to \$1 a day, this would provide the Parish with \$73,000 a year. Stewardship, combined with our rental income, covers the cost of our clergy and operating expenses. A \$1 a day stewardship family commitment is \$30 a month, less than a restaurant dinner in San Francisco. Look to our web site, www.sjsoc.org for more information and the ability to make credit card stewardship donations on-line.



БОЖИЋНИ ОБИЧАЈИ

Печеница – је врста жртве која се приноси Богу и вуче корене из прехришћанских веровања, а помиње се и у старозаветним књигама.

Слама – се у кућу уноси заједно са Бадњаком и не износи све време божих празника. Она симболизује сламу на којој је рођен Исус Христос. Сматра се да се уношењем сламе у кућу уноси и божји благослов.

Бадњак – је обично младо храстово дрво које домаћин на Бадњи дан ујутру сече. Када одабере одговарајуће дрво, домаћин се окрене истоку, три пута се прекрсти, баца шаку жита а затим га укоси са источне стране отсече. Уношење Бадњака представља уношење самог Христа у домове и у срца наша.

Чесница – је погача, умешена од пшеничног брашна без квасца. У чесници се ставља златан или сребрни новчић. На Божић се она ломи и ко у свом парчету пронађе новчић, имаће свакојаког берићета у наредној години.

Положајник – је прво лице које уђе у кућу на сам Божић. Положајник поздрави дом и све укућане са Христос се роди, а онда приђе ватри, узме гранчицу бадњака и цара ватру говорећи:

- Колико варница, толико здравља, колико варница, толико среће и весела, колико варница, толико парица... набрајајући све чега се сети да се то у кући умножи, обавезно завршавајући говор са речима: Амин, Боже дај!

WHY DO WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH A HRISTOS SE RODI!

When we say 'Hristos se rodi' (Christ is born), it is the same as saying: the Messiah is born, or the King is born, or the Saviour is born. By greeting one another in this way, we are affirming and witnessing that He who was to come to save mankind is here and that there is no need to await anyone other than Him.

He whom God promised to our progenitors who were ousted from heaven, whom the heathen peoples and clans foretold, whom the Jewish Prophets foretold, for whom help-less mankind had been yearning for thousands of years, has been planted on the earth like the sun after dark night. And so, when we say 'Hristos se rodi', we are witnessing that the Almighty fulfilled His promise and that the presentiments of mankind were also fulfilled, and that the prophets' predictions also came true, and that human yearning has been relieved by this joy.

The Messiah is born, the Wondrous, simultaneously Man and God - that the weary eyes of the world may rest on His countenance and not seek another Mes-siah.

The King is born, the Most Powerful, with the strength of a sceptre and the gentleness of a kandilo - that the smallest may stand erect and shout: "We are the children of the King!"

The Hero is born, Invincible, to defend the righteous, to conquer the sinners, to destroy the evil spirits under Heaven.

The Leader is born, the Most Discerning, to guide the directionless.

The Teacher is born, the Most Enlightened, to dis-purse the darkness and to bring light into this dark world.

The Shepherd is born, the Most Devoted, to serve His flock from the wolves and to bring them into His fold.

The Provider is born, the Most Wealthy, to feed the hungry, not with the earth, but with the heavens, with His heavenly Body and the flame of His Blood.

The Lover of Mankind is born, the Most Unique, to enfold in His arms and to revive with His love the innumerable orphans who have long looked at life from the grave and looked at death in the grave.

The Truth is born, the Greatest, to pull the veil and to uncover with His death the eternal Kingdom of Heaven.

All this gives meaning to those warm words with which Christians greet one another at Christmas and with which I greet you, my brothers: Christ's se rodi! Christ is born!

Saint Bishop Nikolai Velimirovich



ЊЕГОВА СВЕТОСТ АРХИЕПИСКОП ПЕЋКИ МИТРОПОЛИТ БЕОГРАДСКО-КАРЛОВАЧКИ И ПАТРИЈАРХ СРПСКИ ГОСПОДИН ПАВЛЕ

Пола века архијерејске службе (чланак преузет из Православља)



Његова Светост Патријарх српски Павле рођен је 11. септембра 1914. године у селу Кућанци, срез Доњи Михаљца (тада у Аустроугарској, а сада у Славонији) у земљорадничкој породици. Гимназију је завршио у Београду, шесторазредну Богословију у Сарајеву, а Богословски факултет у Београду.

Рано је остао без родитеља - отац је отишао да ради у САД, тамо је добио туберкулозу и „вратио се кући да умре“ кад је дечаку било три године, а исто се убрзо догодило и с мајком. Одгајила га је тетка. Схвативши да је дете „врло слабачко“, поштедела га је сеоских послова и тако му омогућила да се школује: иако је мали Гојко био склон „предметима где не мора да меморише, као што су математика и физика“, утицај родбине је превагнуо и његов коначан избор био је Богословија. После завршене ниже гимназије у Тузли (1925-1929) и Богословије у Сарајеву (1930-1936) дошао је у Београд где је уписао Богословски факултет. Ту је ванредно завршио и преостале разреде гимназије, да би могао да упише упоредо и Медицински факултет. На Медицинском факултету је стигао до друге године студија, а Богословски је завршио и ту га затиче Други светски рат. На позив свог школског друга Јелисеја Поповића, одлази у овчарско-кабларске манастире где почиње свој монашки живот.

Најпре је био у манастиру Свете Тројице у Овчару, а потом и вероучитељ деци избеглица у Бањи Ковиљачи. Тада се тешко разболео, а лекари су дијагностиковали туберкулозу, предвиђајући му још три месеца живота. Извесно време провео је у манастиру Вујан, где се излечио и у знак

захвалности изрезбарио и поклонио манастиру један дрвени крст. Замонашен је у манастиру Благовештењу 1946. године, када је рукоположен у чин јерођакона. Од 1949. до 1955. био је сабрат манастира Раче. Школску годину 1950/51. провео је као учитељ заменик у призренској Богословији Св. Кирила и Методија. У чин јеромонаха рукоположен је 1954, а исте године је постао протосинђел, а архимандрит 1957. Од 1955. до 1957. године био је на постдипломским студијама на Богословском факултету у Атини. Изабран је за Епископа рашко-призренског 29. маја 1957, а посвећен је 21. септембра 1957. године, у београдској Саборној цркви. Хиротонију је обавио Патријарх српски Викентије. За Епископа рашко-призренског устоличен је 13. октобра 1957. године, у призренској Саборној цркви.

У Епархији рашко-призренској градио је нове цркве, обнављао старе и порушене, посвећивао и монашио нове свештенике и монахе. Старао се о Призренској богословији, где је повремено држао и предавања из црквеног певања и црквенословенског језика. Често је путовао, обилазио и служио у свим местима своје Епархије.

Српски патријарх постао је 1990. године, када је на том месту наследио патријарха Германа. Он је 44. поглавар Српске православне цркве.

Бави се и научним радом. Објавио је монографију о манастиру Девичу. У Гласнику Српске православне цркве, од 1972. године објављује студије из Литургике у облику питања и одговора, од којих је настало тротомно дело Да нам буду јаснија нека питања наше вере, I, II, III (1998). Приређује допуњено издање Србљака, које је Синод Српске православне цркве издао 1986. године. Такође, приређује Христијанскије празници од М. Скабалановича. Аутор је и издања Требника, Молитвеника, Дополнителног требника, Великог типика и других богослужбених књига у издању Синода. Питања и одговори чтецу пред производство објављује 1988. године, а Молитве и молбе 1990. Заслугом патријарха Павла умножен је у 300 примерака Октоих из штампарije Ђурђа Црнојевића.

Патријарх Павле дуго година био председник комисије Светог Архијерејског Синода за превод Светог Писма Новог Завета, чији је први превод, који је званично одобрен од Цркве, објављен 1984. године, а исправљено издање овог превода 1990. године. Исто тако, био је председник Литургичке комисије при Светом Архијерејском Синоду, која је припремила и штампала Службеник на српском језику.

Од када је изабран за српског патријарха, обновљено је и основано више епархија. Обновљена је Богословија на Цетињу 1992. године. Отворена је 1994. године Духовна академија Светог Василија Острошког у Србињу (Фоча) и Богословија у Крагујевцу 1997. године, као одсек Богословије Светог Саве у Београду. Основана је Информативно-издавачка установа Српске православне цркве. Ове године на мајском заседању основан је и Православни богословски факултет Универзитета у Нишу. У његово време основана је 1993. године у Београду Академија Српске Православне Цркве за уметности и конзервацију, са неколико одсека (иконопис, фрескопис, конзервација). Године 2002. настава веронауке је враћена у школе, као и Богословски факултет у оквиру Београдског универзитета из чијег корпуса је Богословски факултет избачен 1952. године.

Имајући у виду заслуге патријарха српског Павла на научном богословском пољу, Богословски факултет Српске православне цркве у Београду, доделио му је 1988. године звање почасног доктора (хонорис цауса) богословља.





SOCA Festival June 2007 St. Sava Church Gary, Indiana



The Serbian Orthodox Choral Association (SOCA) holds a festival each year during the first week of June, inviting choirs from all over the United States and Canada to participate. This year's festival was being hosted by the St. Sava Church of Gary, Indiana, Father Marko's new parish. Though St. John's Choir had hosted a SOCA festival in 2005, we had not traveled to one in over ten years. Needless to say, we were anxious to finally make an appearance and especially because we would be appearing for the first time as a Cathedral Choir.

Wanting to attend the festival and actually getting there gave us a real challenge, because the choir did not have enough funds to cover the travel expenses for the fourteen members making the trip. The only way to get there was to raise the money by asking for donations. We got a real boost immediately from the First Serbian Benevolent Society who started us off with \$2000 in seed money. This was followed by donations from the Sisterhood, the Kisich Fund through Father Bunjevich, and from the many friends of our choir who recognize and appreciate our singing and friends who made contributions in Voy Cheyovich's name.

With airline tickets in hand and motel reservations confirmed near the Gary (Merrillville) Church, we made the journey, arriving in Chicago on Thursday, June 5th and then shuttled to by van to Merrillville. Father Marko met us and immediately rolled out the welcome mat by hosting a private dinner in a very special restaurant a few miles from the church. Friday was left open for rehearsals, sightseeing, and an official welcome by the St. Sava Church. On Saturday we had a brief morning rehearsal and then joined the other choirs in the Merrillville High School auditorium where the festival was being held and awaited our turn to perform.

Nine choirs were on the program with the tenth being the guest choir from Nis, Serbia. We were given the prominent position of ninth on the program, just before Nis, which we were pleased to have. We opened our program with a moment of silence in memory of our long time director, Voj Cheyovich. Our nine selections which included three solo, accompanied numbers by Bojan Knezevich. Having Bojan with us to sing Velicanije Simeone, Ninje Otpuscajesi, and Vostani Srbije literally brought the house down. Our program, along with these three numbers, was extensive by SOCA standards, but the selections made by our director, Marija Drezgich, were effective in the brevity and punch that they carried. Following the Nis performance and at the concerts end, St. John's retired to the St. Sava Church where we sang the responses to the Vesper Service served by Father Marko and Father Djurica. The acoustics in the St. Sava church bring out the best in choral singing as it did for the Vesper Service, and especially as it did the next morning when the Nis Choir did a magnificent performance of the entire liturgy, producing the kind of sound found only in the best choirs in Serbia.

The festival weekend closed with a Saturday night dance and a wonderful banquet following Sunday's liturgy. We returned to San Francisco, one tired group but very gratified about having made the trip and having represented our newly anointed Cathedral as its choir.

Don Kosovac





Parish Events



Coyote Point Park—September 29, 2007 Back to School Picnic



The Sunday School community enjoyed a wonderful picnic at the Coyote Point Park and the visit to the museum.

The Back-To-School Picnic was sponsored by the Church and Sunday school parents.

This was a great opportunity for our kids to learn and play.

Special Thanks to Crnogorac and Rosic families for great grilling and cooking!



Champagne Brunch

On August 12, 2007, St. Sophia Sisterhood sponsored their annual champagne brunch. All proceeds from the brunch go towards the funding of our Arts & Crafts and Evening Activities programs for the first week at St. Sava Camp in Jackson. This event would not have been a success if it was not for the hard work of Petar and Angelica Lucich and their crew. Many thanks to them and may God always bless them for their love and support of our St. Sava Childrens Camp. Not only were guests treated to a superb brunch, but they were also treated to the viewing of the first week at St. Sava Camp that was produced on a DVD by V3 Productions (Alexa Vezmar, Nicholas Vezmar and Vera Bunjevic). Many thanks to them for putting it together.

Harvest Dance

On November 10, 2007, St. Sophia Sisterhood sponsored a Harvest Dance with music provided by Trio Passage from Serbia. A grand time was had by all. Having music direct from Serbia was something new for our parish and the group was a big hit. Not only did we have great music, but a great menu, which included cevapcici, Serbian salad, gibanica, and palacinke, was served throughout the night from the kitchen. Many thanks to those ladies who made gibanica's and palacinke's for this event. A big thank you to Yvonne Gielniak, Mary Ann Rothery, Slavka Thomson and Vera Bunjevic for being co-chairs of this event.





Parish Krsna Slava October 7-8, 2007



During the weekend of October 7th and 8th, 2007, our Saint John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Cathedral celebrated its Krsna Slava. We were honored to have His Grace Bishop Longin for our Slava celebration together with visiting clergy, Very Rev. Stavrofor Dusan Bunjevic, Very Rev. Stavrofor Budimir Andjelic, Very Rev. Stavrofor Vasilije Cvijanovic and Very Rev. Slobodan Jovic.

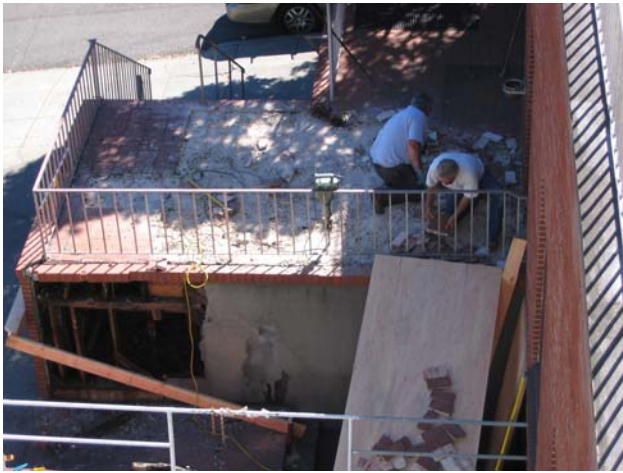
This year slava banquet was sponsored by our Church Board President Dimitrije Postich and Saint Sophia Sisterhood President Zlata Postich. They made great effort to make this years Slava a memorable and joyful event!

I thank them and I wish them Many Years!

Fr. Djurica



PATIO REPAIR COMPLETED!



On behalf of our Church community and parish board, I would like to thank all of you who responded to our appeal for an urgent facility repair - the big hall entrance patio deck.

Through your donation, you have shown your care and love for Christ's Church - Saint John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in San Francisco.

May God bless you and return you hundredfold!
Fr. Djurica

**His Grace Bishop Longin supervising
Dusan's and Stan's work!**





FOUR KOLOS HUMANITARIAN FUNDRAISER

On December 9, 2007 the Four Kolos of Serbian sisters of the Bay area hosted the second Humanitarian Fundraiser Banquet to support and benefit refuges and orphanages in Serbia , Montenegro , Kosovo, and Republika Srpska.. This momentous event was held at St. Archangel Michael church in Saratoga under the leadership of Protinica Ljiljana Bunjevich.

In attendance was father Djurica Gordic from San Francisco and Father Slobodan Jovic from Saratoga .

Presidents from the Kolo's attending Zlata Postic- San Francisco , Natalija Vukmirovich-Conkel-Oakland, Dorothy Pratte- Moraga and Dragana Siljak from Saratoga and also President of the Western region, Ellen Nelson from Oakland . Our masters of ceremony were Paul Bunjevich and Bill Davidovich.

After the blessing children who take participation in the first week of St. Sava Camp performed a several songs from our homeland, followed by the folklore dance group from Saratoga under instructions of Paul Bunjevich.



All Four Kolos participated in preparing and sharing lunch expenses. A special thanks to all participants, workers and donors that made this event so successful for the second time in Bay Area. Over 200 guests were there to support and enjoy this auspicious occasion in a total of **\$24,000.00** to date.



Atending this event also were representatives from San Francisco- Mita Postich, Saratoga- Radmilo Boznovich, Moraga- Vesna Vejnovich, Oakland- Ilija Dukic and George Banovich. Included were Vice President of Western Diocese Ron Radakovich and Petar Djokovich of St. Sava Mission Foundation.



Parish news—Парохијске новости

Baptisms—Крштења

New members of our Holy Orthodox Church are the following who have received the Holy Sacrament of Baptism:

Anya Perazich
Brett Atha
Danilo Petrovic



Marriages—Венчања
Congratulations and best wishes to newly married:

Mira and Stephen Blendstrip
Jenny and Marko Postich
Marisa and Brett Atha
Marie-Tereze and Donovan Cole





ВОЈИСЛАВ-ВОЈО ЧЕЈОВИЋ

Поводом полугодишњег помена

Још један од наших прво-бораца придружио се својим саборцима из рата који су положили свој живот у одбрани српства и вјере. Војо Чејовић иако је био из Сан Франциска био је врло добро познат широм Америке читавој нашој емиграцији како по свом патриотском држању тако и по своме дивном гласу и музици коју је ширио међу нама.

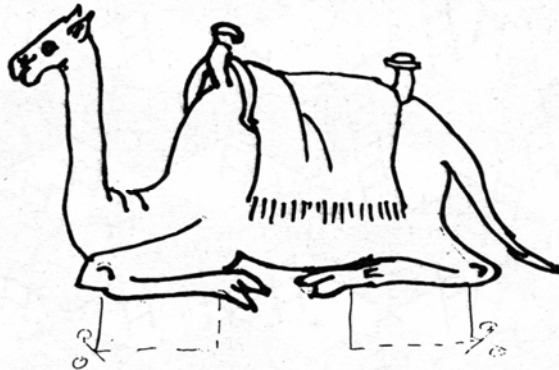
Војо Чејовић је рођен у Дубровнику и још тамо се истакао са својим духом одбране српства и православне вјере. Као омладинца затекао га је

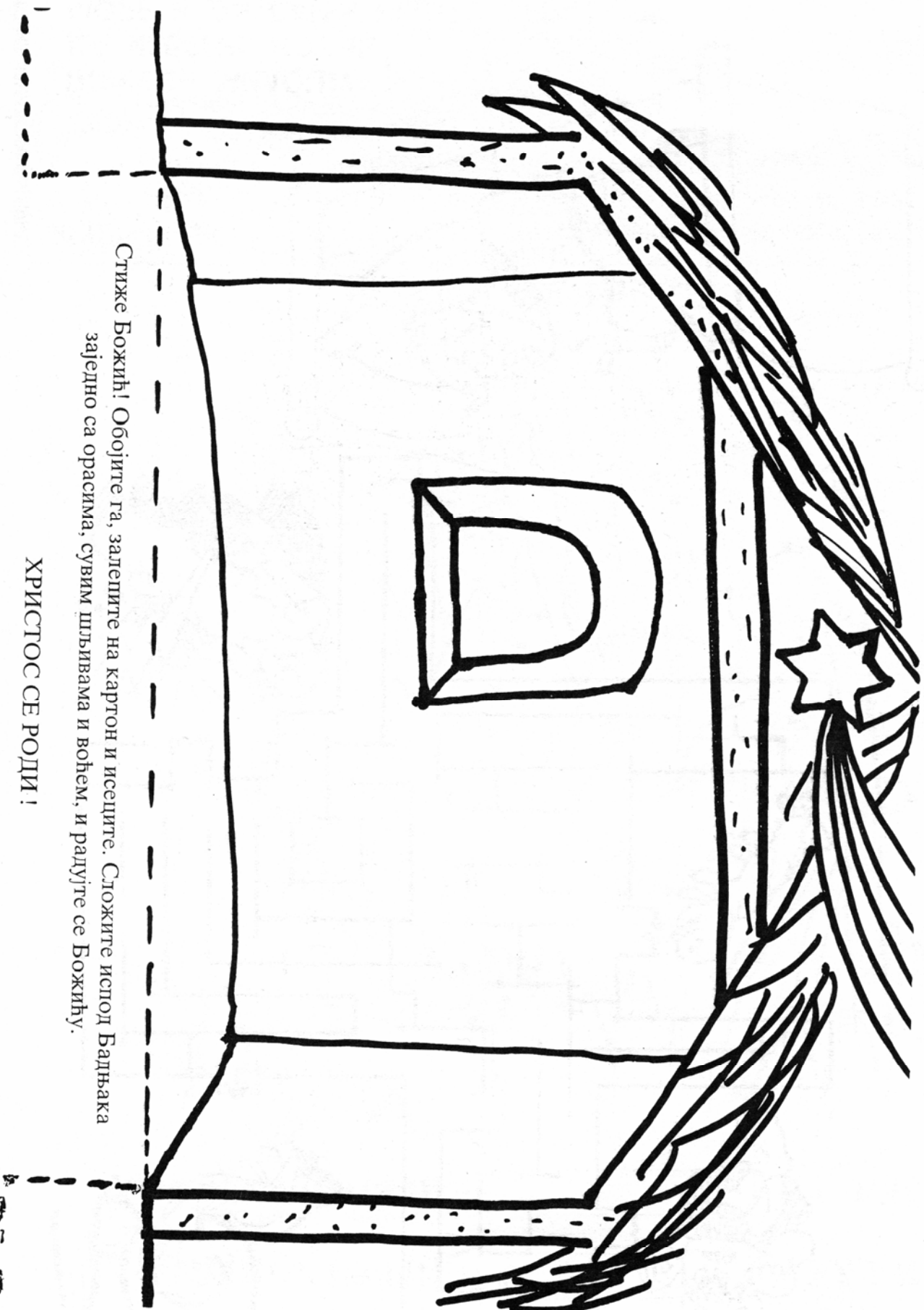
Други светски рат, био сведок усташког терора и уништавања српског народа како од усташа тако и од комуниста. Са групом омладинаца из Дубровника приступио је четничком покрету у одреду војводе Петра Баћевића, где се борио све до краја рата када је успео да се пребаци у Италију где је провео једно време у избегличком логору. Судбина је хтела да је успео да дође бродом у Сан Франциско, заједно са још пет његових дубровачких сабораца. Ту су затражили и добили политички азил од стране америчких власти. Оженио се са Дорис-Дики Маиерс и био у браку преко 50г. Ови група омладинаца одмах се уклопила у живот наше колоније у Сан Франциску, пришла црквеном хору и певачком друштву "Косово".

Са својим полетом унели су нову енергију у наше активности не само у Сан Франциску већ и у суседним градовима северне Калифорније. Убрзо су организовали певачка друштва "Љубомир Бошњакловић"-Сан Франциско и "Николај Велимировић" - Оакланд. Војо Чејовић скоро све до своје смрти био је хоровођа у Сан Франциску, "Љ. Бошњакловића" а касније црквеног хора "Св.Јована Крститеља". Његова оданост цркви одразила се и онда када се преселио у Џексон (130 миља од Сан Франциска) - долазио је сваке недеље да води хор у цркви. У најтежим данима црквене неслоге, Војо је успео да окупи и сачува чланове црквеног хора и да одржи дух црквеног појања и традицију наше тамбурашке музике. Својим познавањем музике и њеном интерпретацијом, како са својим дивним гласом тако и са оркестром Војо може да се упореди са нашим најбољим музички школованим кадром. На националном пољу, приликом првог Конгреса СНО за запад 1955 г. Војо је био један од оснивача МО СНО Сан Франциско и као такав остао веран и активан, такође је био дугогодишњи потпретседник ЦО СНО. Осим СНО био је члан Српских четника, Првог Српског Добротворног Друштва и активан члан Епархијског Савета Новограчаничке Митрополије, бивши претседник парохије Св.Јована Крститеља-СФ, и дугогодишњи члан и бивши претседник Мисије Св.Саве-Џексон, где је био један од најјачих поборника да се створи "Српско Село" и дом за наше старије генерације. Одласком Воја Чејовића изгубили смо још једнога врлог Србина из оне генерације која је знала шта је вера и српство и која је све од себе дала за Слободу нашег народа.

Нека ти је слава и хвала Војо!

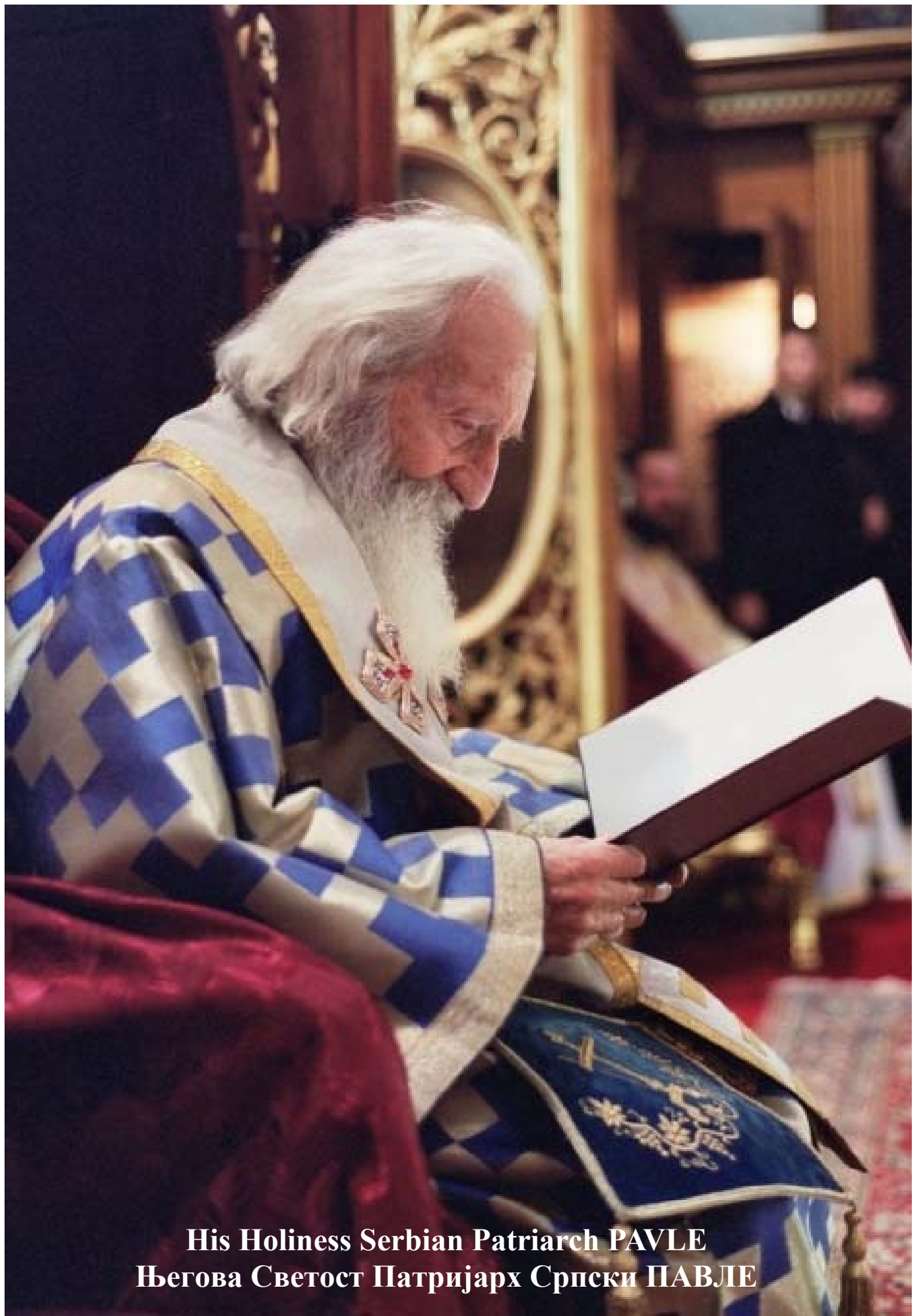
Милорад ГОЛУБОВИЋ





Стиже Божић! Обојите га, залепите на картон и исеците. Сложите испод Бадњака
заједно са орасима, сувим шљивама и воћем, и радујте се Божићу.

ХРИСТОС СЕ РОДИ !



His Holiness Serbian Patriarch PAVLE
Његова Светост Патријарх Српски ПАВЛЕ