



## The Monthly Bulletin March 2010

# Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines

PRIMATE HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP PAUL SALIBA

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### Pascha 2010- Christ is Risen.



To all of our Reverend Clergy & esteemed members of the Churches of our God Blessed Archdiocese.

I greet you all on this great victory bearing Feast of Feast- the Resurrection of Our Lord, with the most heartfelt and joyful greeting. The Resurrection means Glory, triumph and opening of our eyes, of our hearts. That will help us to free our everyday lives from all prejudice and blindness. It is necessary for all the faithful in His Resurrection to overcome themselves and all of their imperfection and allow the Resurrected Lord, to realise for us our own personal resurrection.

Is this Pascha different than the last Pascha? Are we able to discern the real Pascha from the worldly one?

Do we realize how much the world has lured us to our moral ruin?

Do we realize how much the family and the youth suffer distancing from the church and from God? And becoming so vulnerable to the temptations of secularism?

If we do not open our eyes and confront reality, will we not, knowingly or unknowingly, become the sons and daughters of the ungodly world?

But, where Christ is the Victor, there also is our hope. For truly, Christ victory over "the last enemy" is indeed a complete and final victory. It is up to us to accept and to apply this with our own free will to our daily lives.

However, that same victory requires of us a whole hearted and sincere transfiguration which arises from our Christian effort, endurance and stamina, and mostly, from our love. For according to St. Paul words in the 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1-13: "if I speak in the tongues of People and angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging symbol". And the beginning of every human transfiguration must begin within with our soul and mind.

So that we may realise our own personal resurrection, sincere repentance and cleaning, turning to God through spiritual renewal and moral regeneration is necessary for all of us. Otherwise, if all of that is omitted, we will, sadly never have a future, our present is our future! Only a life in Christ represents an alternative to disunity and division, disfigurement and corruption, immorality and all that is sinful and bears death, both spiritual and physical. However in spite of everything that befalls us, let us rejoice and be glad, because Christ is Risen from the dead.

Very Happy Easter.

#### **A reminder:**

Palm Sunday will fall on 28<sup>th</sup> March (His Eminence will serve at St.Mary-Mays Hill).

Holy Week, Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> of March.

Holy Pascha, 4<sup>th</sup> of April (His Eminence will serve at St.George – Redfern).

Pentecost, 23<sup>rd</sup> of May.





### **Archdiocese Clergy Retreat:**

The annual clergy retreat to be held beginning Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2010, until Friday the 7<sup>th</sup>. The clergy must have with them a vestment.

We would like to offer our sincerest thank to Nick Daoud and his family for paying the expanses of the hotel for the sixth years in the row.

### **Decision of the Board of Trustees:**

1-Retirement of the Clergy: After a very extensive research the Committee completed the work on the retirement of the clergy and the help they will receive and the support offered to the wife (Khouriah & family) in case of emergency. More information on how it work, and what and how much will cost the church and the Priest. The information will be posted on our internet. The Board of Trustees meetings were hosted by St. George Church- Melbourne.

2- It was decided to remodel and furnish a house next to St. Nicholas Melbourne to be used as a Headquarter in Victoria. The members of the Board were very generous in their pledges to the project.

3- Agreed to use the Committees system as a way of work in the Board. All the Committees must prepare their reports and mail them to the secretary of the Board before the date of the Board meeting.

4- Agreed on the Metropolitan report about the progress in the Archdiocese, especially the part which refers to the church in the Philippines and other places.

5- formation of two Committees, one in Sydney and one in Melbourne for the celebration of His Eminence "Golden Jubilee". Serving as clergyman for fifty years.

The date for Sydney celebration is the 26<sup>th</sup> of November.

The date of Melbourne is not set yet. More information will follow.

### **New Clergymen:**

Our Archdiocese will have two new Clergymen added to its family.

One Archimandrite and the other Deacon. Both Clergymen will stay at the Headquarters for training.

### **Construction of a new Parish:**

The Parish of St. Michael Sylvania began the demolition of the house to build a church.

A program is prepared for the occasion by the Parish: on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30PM.

A Vesper will be celebrated at the current location of the church.

Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, His Eminence will celebrate the Divine Liturgy in the current location to be followed by blessing of the ground for the New Church.

We expect all the clergy and many of our faithful to participate and encourage this important EVENT

### **The visit of His Eminence to a New Mission:**

On Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2010, His Eminence flew to Pomona QLD to visit our New Mission there with the Priest Fr. James Savage and Deacon John Hubbur.

His Eminence spent hours on Saturday night with the youth and the children and their parents, following the Vesper.

On Sunday and following the Divine Liturgy a luncheon was served and another hours were spent with the Parishioners.

A good beginning.

### **A New Mission:**

His Eminence accepted Rev. Walkber after hours of meeting, as a member of our Archdiocese. Rev. Walkber is a clergyman in the Anglican Church. He is planning to establish a New Mission in Mount Ridley-VIC.

Welcome home Rev. Walkber.

The next Board Meeting to be hosted by St. Paul Brisbane on the weekend of June 25 – 26 & 27.