



The Consecration of The Holy Church of Saints Raphael, Nikolaos and Irene, took place in Cape Town on Saturday 19 May at the Metropolis of Good Hope (Cape Town), in the presence of His Beatitude, Pope and Patriarch of the Orthodox Christian Church of Alexandria and all Africa.

It was a weekend to remember and will be fondly cherished by the community as one of the milestones in the life of the Orthodox Church in Cape Town. The Orthodox community, comprised of Greeks, Bulgarians, Afrikaners, Russians, Ukrainians, Serbians and new local converts, were introduced to a whole new level of awareness, good pride and real gratitude for the Historical Orthodox Church and faith.

The arrival of the Patriarch and his entourage ushered in three days of ecclesiastical ceremony that is a rare event in our everyday lives and judging by the overwhelming attendance everyone felt that it was a "must" and worth every moment.

written by, Pepe Sofianos

Before the Consecration Service begins, all Articles on the Altar Table are removed, and the Altar is left uncovered with nothing on it. When the Bishop enters the Church he will bring with him the relics of the Saint. The relics will be placed on a Paten (Diskarion), which will remain on the Altar Table overnight, together with a Vigil Light

- Introduction
- Vespers Service
- Matins. Consecration Service
- Official Banquet
- Saint George's & Sunday School
- Ordination of Deacon Michael Simos
- Enthronement of Bishop Gennadios of Botswana

Andreas Christodoulou honoured with the honourable Order of Saint Savva the Sanctified



His Beatitude Theodoros II carrying the Holy Relics to the Church

INTRODUCTORY SERVICES AND VESPERS

The Consecration of the Church began on the Eve of the celebration with a short Prayer Service honoring the memory of Martyrs. The Vespers, a very joyous celebration follows, and many Priests participate in it to share in the joy of the coming event.

The following morning the order of services is:

Matins (Morning Prayer),

Consecration Service

Divine Liturgy in the newly consecrated Church



MATINS (Orthros)

The Matins morning service is held prior to the Divine Liturgy. It begins with the reading of the six Psalms (3, 37, 62, and 87,102,142) and ends with the Great Doxology. During Matins resurrection and consecration hymns are sung. The Priest will also celebrate part of the Proskomidi Service (preparing the Gifts which will be used during the Divine Liturgy). At the appointed time Bishop will enter the Church wearing the Ceremonial Robes. At the end of Matins the Service of Consecration began.



The Consecration is a special service which "changes" an ordinary building into the House of God. This change takes place through the Grace of God and the Holy Spirit. Many symbolic actions take place such as:

1. The Three Processions around the Church Building.
2. The Placing of, and Sealing of, the Holy Relics in the Altar Table.
3. The Washing and Anointing of the Altar Table.
4. The Placing of the new Altar Coverings and other Holy Articles on the Holy Table
5. The Lighting of the Vigil Light



The Three Processions represent the setting aside of an area which will separate the sacred from all other areas. The Bishop raises the covered Paten on which the Holy Relics were placed, and prepares to leave the Church. The procession is led by the Altar Boys, followed by the Choir and Cantors, the Priests, the Bishop carrying the Relics, and the Faithful, leaving the Church empty



THE DEPOSITION OF THE HOLY RELICS

The Bishop enters the Sanctuary, carrying the Paten with the Holy relics. Uncovering the Paten, he places the Holy Relics in a small gold box. He then pours Holy Chrism over the Relics; this act symbolizes the union between our Lord, and His Martyrs. Having done this the Bishop prays for the founders of the Church who have fallen asleep.

THE WASHING OF THE ALTAR TABLE

Since the Altar Table represents the Tomb of Christ and His body lies therein. The Altar must undergo its own "Baptism" (washing) and "Chrismation" (anointing). Before washing and anointing the Altar Table the Bishop puts on a white linen garment called the Savanon. **While the faithful kneel, the Bishop reads the prayer of Consecration.**

THE VESTING OF THE ALTAR TABLE

The Altar Table is now covered with the "Katasarkion". This white linen cloth represents the Lord's burial shroud. The Katasarkion is tied with a cord which represents the cord with which our Lord's hands were tied as He stood before the High Priests. The Katasarkion will never be removed and will remain on the Altar for as long as the Church remains standing. As the Katasarkion is being placed on the Altar, Psalm 132 is read by the psalti:

LIGHTING OF THE VIGIL LIGHT

During the service the faithful are invited to come forward and to offer a few drops of oil in a Vigil Light. This they do as an offering to the Church. The Bishop will later light the Vigil Light and will place it on the Altar Table near the Artoforion. This light will be kept burning at all times and is symbolic of the never failing light of Christ which came into darkness of the world to be a light to enlighten all people. The Bishop then removes the Savanon. The Savanon will be cut up into small pieces and each person in Church will receive a piece of it to keep as a "Phylacton" (a blessed object worn to help ward off evil).

Official Banquet Townhouse Hotel

ANOINTING OF THE CHURCH

The Patriarch anointing the four walls of the Church and the Holy Icons making the sign of the Cross on them with Holy Chrism. This act symbolizes the sanctification of all creation with the Grace of Christ



Sunday 20 MayHoly Cathedral of Saint George



**Nontsikelelo Arts Group
with
His Beatitude, Pope and
Patriarch of Alexandria and all
Africa Theodoros II
And
The Metropolitan Bishop of
Good Hope
His Eminence Sergios**



Music ensemble performance On Sunday the 20th of May, three of our Prep boys, Theodore Psillos (clarinet), Alex Rodinis (violin) and Nicholas Taplanis (violin), were part of an ensemble that performed in honour of the presence of His Beatitude, Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and all Africa, Theodoros II, at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St George in Woodstock. His Beatitude was so impressed with the group and the music they performed that he made a special point of thanking them personally. A big thank you to Mrs. Psillos and our violin teacher Mrs. Scott for preparing the boys for this event.

Bishops School Magazine

The Bulgarian Orthodox Community celebrate their National Day

Dedicated to Saints Methodius and Cyril

Traditionally the orthodox Bulgarian community of Cape Town celebrates their National Day at Holy Metropolis in Cape Town. This year the feast day (24 May) coincided closely with the Consecration of Saints Raphael, Nikolaos and Irene. This year they had the honour of celebrating in the presence of the Patriarch on that day.

Saints Cyril and Methodius were Byzantine Greek brothers born in Thessaloniki in the 9th century. They were Christian missionaries among the Slavic peoples of the First Bulgarian Empire, Great Moravia, and Pannonia. Through their work they influenced the cultural development of all Slavs, for which they received the title "*Apostles to the Slavs*". They are credited with devising the Glagolitic alphabet, the first alphabet used to transcribe Old Church Slavonic.^[11] After their deaths, their pupils continued their missionary work among other Slavs. Both brothers are venerated in the Orthodox Church as saints with the title of "*equal-to-apostles*".

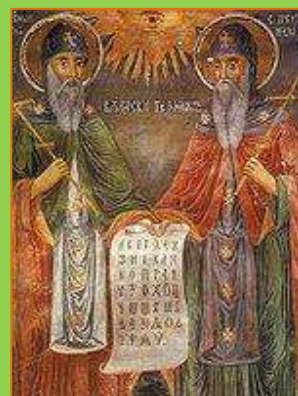
БЪЛГАРСКАТА ИЗТОЧНО-ПРАВОСЛАВНА ОБЩНОСТ ПРАЗНУВА

ПРАЗНИКА НА СЛАВЯНСКАТА ПИСМЕНОСТ ПОСВЕТЕН НА СВ. КИРИЛ И СВ. МЕТОДИЙ

По традиция Българската Общност в Кейптаун празнува техния национален празник в Светата Митрополия. Тази година празника на писмеността (24 Май) съвпадна с датата на освещаването на Параклиса Св.Рафаил, Николай и Ирина. Г-жа Васка Иванова имаше честта да представи фактите на Негово Светейшество Патриарха и общността. Св. Кирил и Методий бяха двама братя Византийски гърци, родени в Тесалоники през 9 век. Те бяха християнски мисионери между славянските народи по време на Първото Българско Царство, Моравия и Панония. Благодарение на тяхната дейност и влияние върху развитието на културата на всички славяни, те Получиха титлата „АПОСТОЛИ НА СЛАВЯНИТЕ“. Те създадоха азбуката ГЛАГОЛИЦА, първата азбука Използувана да се превеждат старите църковни книги на славянски. След тяхната смърт, техните Ученици продължиха тяхната мисионерска дейност сред славяните. Двамата братя са признати в Източно Православната Църква, като СВЕТИИ, което е адекватно на АПОСТОЛИ.



Mrs Vaska Ivanova with
Michel and Angela
Georgievi



"Saints Cyril and Methodius
holding the Cyrillic alphabet,"
a mural by Bulgarian
iconographer Z. Zograf,
1848, Troyan Monastery

Ordination of Deacon Michael Simos



Sunday 20 May 2012

Michali (Michael) enrolled in the school of Social Theology in September 2000

In April 2004 he entered the Holy Monastery of Saint Irene Xrisovalantou in Iraklion, Crete.

He graduated and received his Theology Degree in May 2005 and returned to Cape Town in 2006.

Michali married Marika, in April 2010 and continued with his work in the Church as well as his career. He was blessed by being ordained Deacon by His Beatitude Pope and Patriarch Theodoros II and at present he continues to serve our Church and community on Sundays, assisting our Pater Nikolaos.

He is a familiar and much-loved presence and we are proud that one of our own young Greek Orthodox Capetonians is now in the service of God.



In His ministry Christ ordained or "set in place" the Twelve, assuring them, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain" John 15:16. Both the New Testament and the Church Fathers recognize the Twelve as the first bishops or overseers in the Church. When Judas had fallen away and the disciples were considering his successor, Peter said, "Let another take his office" (Gr. Episkopen, lit. "Bishopric"; Acts 1:20). This bishopric was given to Matthias (Acts 1:26). The apostles, these first bishops, in turn ordained presbyters and deacons.

The account of the first ordination of deacons (Acts 6:1-6) is quite detailed. "Seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom," the apostles said, "whom we may appoint [Gr. Kathistemi, "to set down" or "ordain"] over this business" (Acts 6:3). The manner of this appointment is clear: "They laid hands on them" (Acts 6:6). The ordination of deacons in the Orthodox Church takes place in the same manner today, through the laying on of hands by the bishop.

From The Orthodox Study Bible

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The vestments of the deacon are the sticharion, the orarion, and the epimanikia.

All degrees of clergy wear the sticharion. The sticharion is a long-sleeved tunic that reaches all the way to the ground. It reminds the wearer that the grace of the Holy Spirit covers him as with a garment of salvation and joy. For deacons, the sticharion has wide sleeves and is made of a heavier fabric than that of the priest and bishop, who wear their sticharia under other vestments. The second part of a deacon's vestments is the orarion. A narrow band of material that the deacon wears wrapped around his body and draped over his left shoulder. It represents the grace of the Holy deacon's vestments are the epimanikia. Cuffs that are worn around the wrists, tied by a long cord. These are also worn by the bishop and priest. They serve the practical purpose of keeping the inner garments out of the way during the services. They also remind the wearer that he serves not by his own strength but with the help of God's Spirit that in an ordination anoints the deacon like oil. It is the principal vestment of the deacon and without it he cannot serve. When the deacon leads the people in prayers or invites them to attention he holds one end of his orarion in his right hand and raises it.

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While the choir is chanting the Troparia, the sponsors lead the candidate around the Holy Table three times. Each time, the candidate kisses each of the four corners of the Holy Table followed by the hand and epigonation of the Bishop who is seated at the northwest corner of the Holy Table. After the third time, the Deacon kneels in front of the altar, places his right hand over his left hand on the edge of the Holy Table, and places his forehead on top of his hands.

The Bishop then begins the Prayers of Ordination:

The new Deacon rises, kisses the Bishop's right hand, turns and stands facing the people next to the Bishop in the Holy Doors. The Bishop takes each piece of the new Deacon's vestments, blesses it and shouts to the people:

Bishop: AXIOS! HE IS WORTHY!

People: AXIOS! HE IS WORTHY!



While the people are singing AXIOS, the Bishop, with the help of the Bishop's Assistant, puts the pieces of the vestment on the new Deacon. The above is repeated for each piece of the vestment. Once the new Deacon is fully vested, he kisses the Bishop's right hand. The Bishop hands the new Deacon a Service Book. The new Deacon stands on the solea and intones The Ektenia before the Lord's Prayer.

*The weekend of
18-20 may 2012
will forever be imprinted
in our minds and hearts.
It's not often one gets so
many blessings in three
short days.*

Axios!



Enthronement of Bishop Gennadios Botswana



The Enthronement Ceremony of His Grace Bishop Gennadios of Botswana took place on the morning of Saturday 2 June 2012 by His Holiness Theodoros II Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and all Africa.

His Holiness also performed the sanctification and foundation of the first Orthodox Church in Phakalane, Botswana.

Holy Church of the Dormition of The Mother Of God Port Elizabeth



ANDREAS CHRISTODOULOU HONOURED WITH THE HONOURABLE ORDER OF SAINT SAVVA THE SANCTIFIED

The citation of the Order of Saint Sava the Sanctified is a very highly-revered award and blessing given only on rare occasions to dedicated members of the Orthodox Church, acknowledging their exceptional service to the Church.

On Sunday 17 June 2012, Andreas Christodoulou of Port Elizabeth received this great honour from His Eminence, Archbishop Sergios on behalf of the Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria and all Africa, Theodoros II.

Mr Christodoulou is also known as the "Nonos" or godfather of the Greek Orthodox Church in Port Elizabeth, the Holy Church of the Dormition of the Mother of God and he also played a leading role in establishing the Apostolic Orthodox Mission at St. Albans. He has given extraordinary service to the Church and community both in Port Elizabeth and surrounding areas for many years. He and his wife Thelma, have long been well-known and respected in Port Elizabeth as hoteliers and Andreas was also a past chairman of the Hellenic Community.

Read the full story on our "Peoples" page..... www.goarch.co.za