



Evangelist St. Luke painting, feast 10/18

# St. Innocent Orthodox Church

✙ **Founded in 1967** ✙ **Moscow Patriarchal Parishes** ✙

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St. Innocent Monastic Community: 9452 Hazelton, Redford, MI 48239 † 313-535-9080

**PASTOR:** Rt. Rev. Mitered Archbishop ROMAN STAR † Cell: 313-319-0590

Dean, *Central States Deanery, Patriarchal Parishes*

**OCTOBER 16, 2016**

**ASSISTANT PRIEST:** Rev. DANEIL SHIRAK † 313-295-3073

**EPISTLE:** 2 Corinthians 6:16– 7:1 (#182-ctr)

**DEACON:** Rev. Dn. Michael Comerford

**GOSPEL:** St. Luke 8:5 – 15 (#35)

**SUBDEACON:** Dr. Joshua Genig

**STONE:** 8

**ATTACHED:** Sister Ioanna

**CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Elizabeth Star Hatfield

**READERS:** Robert Joseph Latsko & George Hanoian

## ✙ 17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ✙

† 9:15AM — HOURS, AKATHIST and/or CANON †

† 10am — DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM †

**COMMEMORATED TODAY:** **Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council.** Martyr Longinus the Centurion, who stood at the Cross of the Lord (1st c.). Ven. Lóngin the Gatekeeper of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th-14th c.). Ven. Lóngin of Yarensk (1544-45).

**FOR THE REPOSE OF:** Estelle & Joseph Star; Anna & John Witkowski; Michael Sr. & Margaret Rusko; Mary, Andrew, Daniel, Michael & Lottie Yakuber; Ross & Margaret Falsetti; Helen, John & Carole Andrayko; Peter & Theresa Harvilla; Betty Martell; Frances & Todd Smoly; Peter Glover; Irene Adams; Ethel Elizabeth & Wayne Joshua deVyver, David Horka; Michael Rusko; Anna Lichagina, Yelena & Zinaida Korniyevskaya; Joseph Nossal; Michelle Tucker; Todd Comerford, John Manier, Jr.

**MEMORY** Peter Harvilla, whose anniversary of his repose is Today, Sunday, 16 October, *by daughter, Mary Ann Harvilla*  
**ETERNAL!**

**FOR THE HEALTH OF:** Archimandrite Seraphim; Priest Daneil, Matushka Debra & Corrina Shirak; Deacon Michael, Matushka Mary Ellen & Julius Comerford; Matushka Mary Donahue; Subdeacon Joshua & Abigail Genig; Reader Robert Latsko, Reader George & Betty Hanoian, Rose Nossal, Mary Glover, Nancy Cupp, Vasiliki Stamoulis, Gerald Martell, Azbehat, Donald Yakuber, Carl deVyver, Jo Anne Nicholas, Joan Rusko, Daria, Joseph Nossal, Ed Manier.

**ALSO FOR:** Julia Korniyevskaya, who celebrates her Birthday on Friday, 21 October  
Reader Robert Joseph Latsko, for safe flight home, Today, Sunday, 16 October

**\* MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS! \***

### **SCHEDULE FOR THE COMING WEEK** (regular Wednesday & Friday fasting)

Saturday	10/22	10am	MEMORIAL DIVINE LITURGY, for St. Demetrius Soul Saturday
		4pm	GREAT VESPERS
Sunday	10/23		<b>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost</b>
		9:15am	HOURS, AKATHIST &/or CANON; CONFESSIONS
		10am	DIVINE LITURGY; followed by Coffee Hour
		6pm	CHORAL CONCERT by the Orthodox Choir of Detroit, <i>Annunciation Greek Cath. 707 E. Lafayette, Det.</i>

### **PROSPHORA FOR TODAY IS OFFERED BY: John Andrayko**

**In Memory Eternal of:** Parents: Helen Andrayko (Anniversary 10/24) & John Andrayko, Sr. (Anniversary 1/28); sister, Carole Andrayko (Anniversary 6/5); all departed members of the Andrayko and Mehalacki Families; Joe Nossal; friends & loved ones; and

**for the Health of:** John Andrayko; Father Roman & Matushka Rose Marie; Rose Nossal & all parishioners; & all family & friends.

**✙ CHRIST IS IN OUR MIDST! ✙ HE IS NOW & ALWAYS SHALL BE! ✙**

## **CANDLES FOR LAST SUNDAY, 9 OCTOBER**

### **YEARLY CHURCH VIGIL LAMPS:**

*Royal Doors Lamp:* In Memory of Husband, Joseph; Son, Kenneth; parents, Michael & Margaret Rusko, & John & Martha Nossal, *by Rose Nossal*

*Altar Candelabra:* In Memory of Parents, Nicholas and Susan Yakuber, *by son, Donald Yakuber*

*Altar Candles (2):* In Memory of Irene Adams, *by Goddaughter, Rose Ann Everhardt*

*Iconostasis Lamps:* In Memory of Parents, Ethel Elizabeth & Wayne Joshua; Robert David H; & Health of brother, Carl, *by Sister Ioanna*

*Candles on the Solea:* In Memory of Peter & Theresa Harvilla, Norman & Monica Holst, & Ricky Ellis, *by Jason & Debra Truskowski*

*Table of Oblation Lamp:* In Memory of Parents, Helen & John Andrayko, Sr. & sister, Carole Andrayko, *by John Andrayko, Jr.*

*Reliquary-Icon Lamps: Sts. Innocent, Tikhon & Herman:* Health of Joseph/Sue; Robert/Diane; Pat/John; Joseph B., Jared, Jay; Rachelle/Aaron, Gabriel; Tricia, Lindsey; & In Memory of sisters, Anna, Margaret, Theresa & Irene; & brothers, John, Edwin & Michael *by Rose Nossal*

*Reliquary-Icon Lamps: Sts. Elizabeth & Raphael:* Health of the Genig and the Just Families, *by Subdeacon Joshua & Abigail Genig*

*Reliquary-Icon Lamps: St. Seraphim & St. Alexis:* In Memory of Ross & Margaret Falsetti, *by daughters, Rose Ann Everhardt & Margie Martell*

*Reliquary-Icon Lamps: St. Hilarion & Sts. Alexandra & Martha (AVAILABLE)*

*Reliquary-Icon Lamps: St. Nestor & St. Gerontius (AVAILABLE)*

### **IN MEMORY OF (MEMORY ETERNAL!)**

Joseph & Estelle Star, *by son Father Roman and family*

Paul & Alexandra Yupco, Basil & Ellen Starinshak, *by grandson, Father Roman and family*

John & Anna Witkowski, *by daughter, Matushka Rose Marie and family*

Samuel & Mary Kupec, *by granddaughter, Matushka Rose Marie and family*

Parents, Helen & John Andrayko, and sister, Carole Andrayko, *by John Andrayko + + + My husband, Michael Rusko, by Joan Rusko*

My husband, Joe; my sisters, Margaret & Ross Falsetti, Anna & Mike Elascat, Theresa & Pete Harvilla, Irene, & brothers, Michael, John & Edwin Rusko; niece, Rose Mary & Dean Hough; Joe's brothers, Raymond & Walter Nossal, & sisters, Theresa, Florence & Helen Nossal, *by Rose Nossal + + + Pete & Theresa Harvilla, by Mary Ann Harvilla & Kay Truskowski + + + Jaimie Truskowski, by daughter Kay T.*

Parents, Ethel Elizabeth & Wayne Joshua; David H; Nina I; Marion P; Fr. Photius; Mo. Benedicta; Archm. Roman; Lillian; Mollie, *by Sr Ioanna*

Child Lana, Shirley, Betty, Marsha, Paul, *by Becky Jurczynszyn + + + Lev Chernukhin, by Marianna Wess*

Thelma Ratcliff, Louis Pitts, Gloria Robinson, Reginald Bell, Lessie Favor, Lois Hamby, John Manier III, *by Manier Family*

### **FOR THE HEALTH OF: (MANY YEARS!)**

Elizabeth & Lawrence, Caitlin & Zachary, *by parents & grandparents, Father Roman & Matushka Rose Marie*

Gregory & Tamiko Star, *by parents, Father Roman & Matushka Rose Marie*

Children, Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren; Monk Fr. Sdn. Tikhon (Dade); *by Rose Nossal*

Father Roman & Matushka & family; Sister Ioanna; John Andrayko; Nancy; Mary G; Jo Anne N; Grandson Joey (*in the Navy Reserves*) & all people in the Armed Forces; & all St. Innocent Church parishioners, *by Rose Nossal + + + Family & Friends, by Mary Ann Harvilla & Kay*

Brother, Greg & Donna; nephew, Gregory & Liz; & nephew, Alex, *by Mary Ann Harvilla & Kay + + + Ed Manier, by Mary Ann Harvilla & Kay*

Archimandrites Nafanail, Gregory & Seraphim; Fr. Roman & Mat. Rose Marie; Fr. Lawrence & fam; Fr. Laurence & fam; Fr. Daneil & fam; Dcn.

Michael & fam; Mat. Mary D; Carl; Monk-Sdn. Fr. Tikhon; Sdn Andrew; Sdn Joshua, Abigail & children; Rdr Robert (safe travel); Robert M; David Samuel, Sky & Avi; JoAnne/Nick; Athanasius; John A; Ed/Tiffany; Kim & fam; Vasiliki; Rose; Emil; Billy/Fonda; Donald, *by Sr Ioanna*

John Andrayko (May God watch over him), *by Rose Nossal + + + Rose Nossal, by John Andrayko + + + Sdn. Joshua Genig, by Genig Family*

Leia, Mike, Reece & Wyatt Wilson; Bob/Joan Jurczynszyn; Toni /Richard Bussen; Pete, Krista, Jacob, Clair, Matt & Paul Stelmaszek; Damon

Trestain, Levi Troyer, Briana Saylor, *by Becky Jurczynszyn + + + Connie Mullins (stroke), by friends, Rdr. George & Betty Hanoian*

Marianna, Jason, Amilia, Liliana & Andrew Wess + + + Galina & Oleg Chernukhin + + + Olga Ludwick, *by Marianna Wess*

H & S of Children & grandchildren, Brittany & Bronte (*personal relationships*); Jennifer Kelley (*cancer*); Donna Williams (*MS*), *by Tiffany*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1) OUR ANNUAL FALL BLANKET DRIVE IS HERE.** Every year we collect blankets and donate them to the homeless and poor. We now are giving them to the Redford Interfaith Relief (RIR), where Fr. Roman is on the Executive Board. Founded by Redford clergy, the RIR ministers to many hundreds of the needy who live in Redford, with food, clothing, household items, and blankets. We have been donating 150-200 for a number of years and our parish is known as the "Blanket parish." Our goal is 200 blankets. The need is so great, that they are given out almost as fast as we deliver them. Rather than you having to buy the actual blankets and bring them in, we now are collecting the money, and we special-order them at a local Walmart. The price has gone up this year to \$6 each. Please donate as much as you can afford. See Mary Ann Harvilla.

**2) LISTEN EACH SUNDAY TO THE COCC'S DETROIT'S OWN ORTHODOX RADIO HOUR [DOOR] ON WNZK 690-AM, 4-5pm ON YOUR RADIO, OR LIVE ON COMPUTER AT <http://www.doorradio.org>.** You can also listen to their archives of past programs at the same website. Our Subdn. Josh Genig is doing a weekly segment for the program about the "Saints' Lives." The programs are always superb!

★ **3) DON'T MISS FREE ANNUAL ORTHODOX CHORAL CONCERT NEXT SUNDAY, 10/23, 6PM,** Annunciation Greek Cathedral, 707 Lafayette, Greek-town, Detroit; by the COCC's Orthodox Choir of Detroit. Free-will offering benefits 3 local Orthodox charities. ★

### **4) UP-COMING SCHEDULE OF SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Tuesday–Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>,** Central States Deanery Clergy Meeting, Nativity of Christ, Youngstown, OH

★ **Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>,** Visitation of Bishop John to **St. Innocent, Redford,** Hierarchal Divine Liturgy★

**Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>,** Visitation of Bishop John to **St. Michael's, Redford,** Hierarchal Divine Liturgy for Patronal Feast Day

**Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>,** Visitation of Bishop John to **St. John Chrysostom, Grand Rapids,** H.D. Liturgy,celebration, **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**5) WEEKLY "ST. INNOCENT ORTHODOX STUDY GROUP,"** most Wednesday Evenings, 6:30-7:30 at St. Innocent Church hall.

**6) NEW ON OUR CHURCH WEBSITE:** Photo-slide-show, Baptism, [http://stinnocentchurch.com/9\\_11\\_16\\_baptism\\_andrew\\_wess.html](http://stinnocentchurch.com/9_11_16_baptism_andrew_wess.html)

## **“TRY TO LIVE SO THAT PEOPLE DEPART FROM YOU COMFORTED”**

### **Spiritual Advice of Igumen Nikon (Vorobiev) — (1894-1963)**

*From [www.pravoslavie.ru](http://www.pravoslavie.ru), Translated by Jesse Dominick. 9/7/16*

On September 7<sup>th</sup> we remember Igumen Nikon (1894-1963). Fr. Nikon, (in the world Nikolai Nikolaevich Vorobiev), was born in Tsarist Russia and became witness to all the tragic and great events of the twentieth century: the revolution, several wars, repression, social upheaval and scientific discoveries.

The son of a peasant, intelligent and talented, he was distinguished among six brothers in seriousness, especially honesty, meekness and a kind-hearted disposition. He always wanted to get to the essence, to discover the meaning of life. He was never a shallow person, always searching for the depths. Fr. Nikon maintained these characteristics his entire life.



It was foretold already in his childhood that he would be a monk, and having become a monk in the years of the closing of monasteries and destruction of churches, he struggled ascetically until the end of his days in the world, in a parish.

He survived arrest, imprisonment, and exile to Siberian camps. He lived as an ascetic, relating to himself with utmost strictness, and to others with love. He acquired the unceasing Jesus Prayer and the gift of spiritual discernment.

His advice on the spiritual life was based on personal experience and full of the light of God's grace.

### **IGUMEN NIKON'S ADVICE ON THE SPIRITUAL LIFE**

#### **Peace of soul and with others**

Don't retreat from the Lord until He has forgiven you and granted you peace of soul. Peace of soul is a sign of forgiveness from the Lord.

Preserve peace with yourself, and then with others.

It's better to ruin business, but keep peace with others. Don't forget it.

Try to live with everyone so that they depart from you comforted and thanking the Lord for you.

Sins against our neighbors weigh very heavily on our conscience. The Lord forgives such sins only when we have ourselves made peace with our neighbors.

In my opinion, we should relate to people as a doctor to the sick. We are all sick with every illness—it's just that one is more obvious in one man, and another in another.

There, that is, in a hospital, they don't berate someone who is sick in his lungs, heart, or stomach. They don't say: "Oh, you blind scoundrel, sick in your eyes!" And similarly we must not abuse one another for spiritual illnesses, but endure and pity one another: *Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ*—says the apostle.

#### **The flame of the true "I"**

People are in essence, in their depths, better than the manifestations we see in their lives.

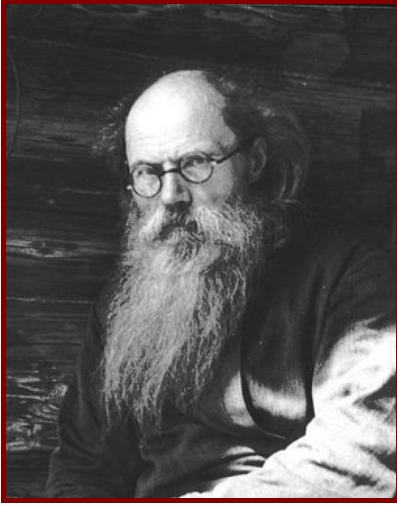
We are all covered over with garbage, but nonetheless the flame of the true "I" glimmers out from under it.

#### **Enmity renders useless all our deeds**

I held onto enmity for so long that it rendered useless all my deeds. The Lord receives neither prayer nor repentance nor charity from a man who has enmity with others.

There's no earthly truth which can justify enmity. I say "earthly" because heavenly truth gives both internal and external peace. If someone whom you consider your enemy dies, you will suffer, because sooner or later you will feel your guilt. Usually it comes during prayer. If you die in enmity (may it not be so), then know that all of your good works and all your hope for salvation will perish. You will go into the hands of your sown hatred. The Heavenly Kingdom is a kingdom of love and peace. Enmity cannot enter therein.

If we want someone to overcome himself and alter his attitude towards us, then we ourselves should first completely banish from our hearts any dislike towards him. Then the Lord will inform his heart.



### **Don't judge anyone**

Never speak badly or ironically about anyone... Your words can be transmitted even not out of spite or ill-will, but simply from inattentiveness or as a joke—and now you have gained an enemy.

The path to salvation is by repentance for your sins, not in judging others. If a person judges others then it means he doesn't feel his own sins and has no repentance. And conversely—non-judgment of others is a sign of consciousness of our sins and repentance. Take care of your business with which you have been entrusted; don't bother with others' business; keep quiet as much as possible; never burden others; as a rock in the sea, let all the words that you hear drown within yourself; pity all, and bid farewell to all in your soul, and in reality if you have such a chance.

Close your eyes to others' sins, but if it's impossible not to see, then pray for these sinners, as for yourself, that the Lord would forgive them, and you will receive grace from the Lord.

### **Those who offend us are our best teachers**

It's also needful that someone should offend us, but not without any basis, and to reveal, although exaggeratedly, our deficiencies. I speak not from theory, but have myself experienced more than once this benefit, and I say with complete conviction that those who offend us are our best teachers.

### **Read good books more**

I advise you again: read good books more. There are few people from whom you can benefit, and they're always busy or sick, but you can always read a book.

### **Don't fear anything**

Don't fear anything. Embed into yourself the thought that in the whole world not even the slightest movement occurs without the knowledge and permission of God.

The Lord guides and arranges circumstances such that it's easier for a man to be saved.

Sometimes a man finds himself in such circumstances that in a given city, in a given place, he cannot find salvation. Then the Lord arranges it so that there arises a need for him or his family to relocate to another place. There he meets believers who become his friends and facilitate the strengthening of his faith. There, perhaps, there will turn out to be a nearby church or some faithful people who help his family find salvation.

Here's a man suffering from alcoholism and depravity. All his free time is wasted searching for pleasure in drunkenness and debauchery. The merciful Lord sees it, pities his family, and pities this man. What to do with him? The Lord sends him such an illness that he can't dream about vodka or debauchery. On the contrary, he begins to consider his former life, its meaninglessness, and begins to repent of his transgressions, confessing them, and in this way is saved.

If a man cannot, for example, conquer gluttony, or alcoholism, or fornication, the Lord sends him an illness. A proud and pompous man the Lord will demean before all so that he becomes the least of men in the eyes of all. If this man—a Christian, is bound to the earth and all his strength, all his desires, all his dreams are aimed towards it, whether by truth or falsehood, thievery, deception—by any means—to acquire earthly prosperity, then the Lord will take away all that he has. Thus to all our labors in our own battle with sin, the Lord sends involuntary grief as an aid in our battle.

### **The Lord attends to the needs of those who trust Him**

Seek the Kingdom of God and its righteousness, and, according to the immutable word of the Lord Himself, a word more sure than heaven and earth, all your material needs will be added to you. The Lord tests all of His servants, and looks after them, after their spiritual and bodily needs, and provides everything at the necessary time to those who trust in Him, and not in their abilities, strengths, skills, and so on.

He who seeks to please God will not be abandoned by God, as long as he doesn't abandon Him.

### **The only path — patient suffering**

There remains for our times only one path: patient suffering.

There will be no personal *podvigs* [spiritual struggles/labors] for those seeking the Kingdom of God. Finding salvation will come only through patience in sickness and sorrow. And why not *podvigs*? Because people won't have humility, and without humility, *podvigs* bring more harm than good, and can even kill a man, because they involuntarily cause a high opinion of oneself for the one who has labored, and they bring forth *prelest*. [severe spiritual delusion]

Only with the guidance of very spiritually experienced people should this or that *podvig* be permitted, but we don't have such now—they can't be found. Now the Lord Himself is our guide and partially books for those who have them and can understand them. How does the Lord lead? He permits persecution, abuse, sicknesses, and prolonged old age with its burdens and infirmities.

The sorrows necessary for a man's salvation can be received either more difficultly or more easily, depending on his constitution. If a man accepts on faith the word of God about the necessity and inevitability of sorrows for salvation, if he acknowledges his innumerable sins in word, deed, and thought, and considers himself fully deserving of not only those sorrows sent, but even of much more, humbling himself before God and man, then his sorrow will become easier.

If a man murmurs about his sorrows and illnesses and looks for the perpetrator of these sorrows in people, demons and circumstances, using all means to try to avoid them, then the enemy will help him in this, showing him the alleged perpetrator (supervisors, orders, neighbors, and so on), and arousing enmity and hatred and the desire for revenge, and to abuse them, and so on.

People and circumstances are merely God's instruments, often not understanding what they do.

The wise and believing man uses sorrow for great success in the spiritual life, but the unwise and grumbling man loses the opportunity to acquire it, hurting himself, unnerving both his body and soul.

### **If you don't want afflictions then don't sin**

If you don't want afflictions then don't sin, and sincerely repent of your sins and unrighteousness, and do no evil to your neighbors, neither in deed nor word nor even in thought. Attend church more often, pray, and treat others with mercy, and then the Lord will have mercy upon you, and if it's useful [for your salvation], He will free you from your afflictions.

### **Cure for sadness and grief**

The cure for sadness and grief is prayer or psalmody and thanksgiving to the Lord. If you compel yourself to read the Psalter with attention and intersperse it often with the Jesus Prayer and prayers to the Mother of God and all the saints, then your grief will subside and you will receive great spiritual benefit.

When you battle with despondency or sadness, then compel yourself to mentally say: "Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee, O God! I thank Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast sent me this illness for the salvation of my soul. Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee." Say these dozen words a hundred times, with conviction, from your whole heart, and in a short time you will feel relief in your heart, peace and tranquility, strength and patience. It is a sign of the visitation of the grace of God.

### **The best path is the middle path**

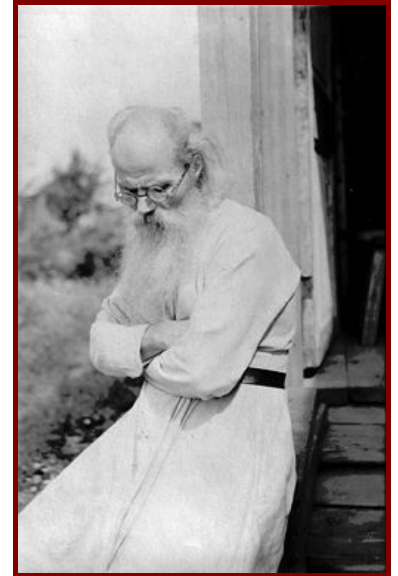
If we get too upset over external difficulties, it's a sign of little faith; if too upset over those internal, it's a sign of pride. Don't demand from yourself more than you're capable of. Hope on the mercy of God and not on your own virtues.

Don't overload your body with labors. The best path is the middle path. A body too healthy and a body too weak are equally obstructive.

### **Not works, but humility inclines the Lord to mercy**

Success in the spiritual life is not measured by spiritual consolations, which could come from the evil one, but by the depth of humility.

Not works, but humility inclines the Lord to mercy.



## **AKOOABA! IT MEANS “WELCOME”**

By Bishop Narkissos of Accra

From: [www.pravoslavie.ru](http://www.pravoslavie.ru), February 19, 2016

By the grace of God and with the blessing of His Beatitude Patriarch Theodore of Alexandria, on January 13 I arrived at the capital of Ghana, the seat of my new diocese, after a long journey starting from Athens to reach the Western African shores of the Atlantic. Leaving a frozen Athens and getting off the airplane, you are received by a 33°C heat and 90% humidity and forthwith you understand that you are somewhere else.



With your first contact with people, at once you see how dignified and naturally peaceful they are, which is reflected on their eyes. They love foreigners and their first word is Akooaba! Welcome! Everywhere around people are working. I didn't notice any beggars at the traffic lights, on the road junctions, anywhere. This I confirmed the following days. Early in the morning they rush to work, whence it is regarded as one of the most rapidly developing countries in Africa.

Arriving at our missionary center, where lie the see and the Transfiguration cathedral, immediately I perceive that I was preceded by persons who have labored there a lot, so that I can find this organized missionary unit. Afterwards followed prayer and veneration at the church, a short tour of the place and my settlement in the bishop's residence, which obviously looks like it was built to become a clinic, not a house to live in. My first care was to settle in my place and adjust it to my own needs and my daily life schedule.



On the second day, we planned our first moves: a clerical assembly, where I and my direct associates could meet each other, a meeting with the Orthodox youth groups and the arrangement of the enthronement. Phone calls, briefings and a lot of procedures, residence permit, telephone contracts and some initial matters. Finally, it was an important priority for us to be informed of and prepare the annual retreat for our Orthodox communities that takes place in late January. This retreat is a four-day program, when the Orthodox from all over Ghana join in Fomena village, where there is a big lot of our Church with the Annunciation chapel on it and the place is configured much like a summer camp in Greece.

There gather the Orthodox faithful of all ages to attend a program of worship, sermons, evening prayers. Each group presents a musical or dance performance. The youth, the children, everyone participates. Of course, all the priests of our diocese are present. Generally, this retreat helps to strengthen relations between the Orthodox communities around the liturgical life and the spiritual nourishment which our Church offers and they tremendously need.

I cannot hide my satisfaction and joy I felt seeing their piety and devotion and great faith. Maybe this sign we meet everywhere in Ghana is no coincidence: Gye Nyame, “nothing except for God”, which is a symbol of God's supremacy. This unique and beautiful symbol is ubiquitous in Ghana. It is the most popular decoration denoting the deep religious character of Ghanaians. Gye Nyame, “nothing except for God.”

Then I gave praise to God for the missionary work, because it has been done systematically for many years by all my predecessors, and I realized that these efforts should be continued, for they bring forth such fruits for the glory of God's holy name.

However, it is necessary to stress that, though it is important to create a structure by raising a church, a school or a clinic, it is even more important for all these buildings to be glorified in a durable operation, which needs constant help and support for the proper functioning of these facilities. Unfortunately, in case that this support is absent, we lose what we earned by investing in the construction and we cannot operate them in the long term. Here comes the most difficult aspect: functional expenses. It is matter that few people pay attention to, namely only the people who can see more than their eyes, who have a vision and insight and are not confined in a picture, but this picture becomes the occasion for reflection and action.



Dear members and supporters of the Orthodox Missionary Fraternity, you are people of reflection and action, which is why you came to be involved with the Orthodox Missions. May our good God bless and give grace to you! I am grateful, for many times you have delivered us in your own way from problems we face in our ministry, hence I thank you.

Your brother in Christ's love, Narkissos of Accra

Source: *Orthodox Missionary Fraternity*