

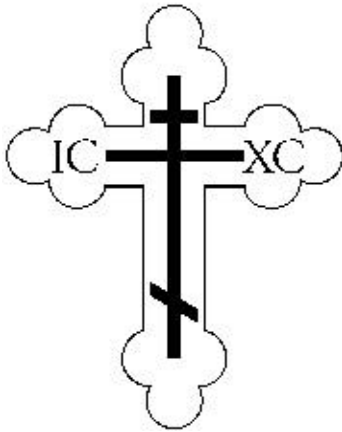
The Heavenly Host

Church Phone: (818) 994-2313
Church Fax: (818) 994-2352
newsletter@stmichaelvannuys.com
www.stmichaelvannuys.com

Volume 1, Issue 5

August 2001

Oratorical Submission by Chris Murr



Sayedna Joseph, Reverend and Very Reverend Fathers, fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. God is good and He made all things new! Thank you for your time and goodbye! I wish that were all I had to say, but let me clarify what I mean. God said, "Behold, I make all things new." Genesis 5:6. "The Lord was grieved that He had made man on earth, and his heart was filled with pain." In Genesis 5:7, God says, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth – men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air – for I am grieved that I have made them." He called upon a man that He knew would do as God instructed him to do. This man was Noah. God gave Noah one hundred twenty years to build his ark. Without question, Noah built his ark and brought with him "two of every kind of bird, or every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground," Genesis 6:20. At the end of the seven days, it rained for forty days and forty nights. After the rain had stopped, it took an additional one hundred fifty days for there to be dry land. This is what is known as the Great Flood. It killed everything that lived on earth except that which was on the ark. God then said in Genesis 8:21, "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done."

Man in today's world does far worse than what they did back then. Today it is not uncommon for teens to smoke some marijuana every once in a while, get drunk, have premarital sex, get pregnant, participate in random acts of violence, curse His name, pierce or tattoo the body shell that God gave us. The list goes on and on. These were just a few examples of what teens do. Adults are far worse, for it is through the example adults give that these teens learn. Adults get married, have a few kids, and then just get divorced because they love their spouse, but aren't in love with them. Maybe they don't get divorced. They just choose to break one of the Ten Commandments and have an affair. They claim it is better for the kids this way; they stayed together. Give me a break! We all know the story about President Clinton, in the oval office too. What class! There is the music industry that promotes antichrist music. Any hard rock group can be seen at various times holding up their index and pinkie fingers to form what is the devil's sign. Just rock on bro, rock on! There are so many things happening in science today. They have gained the ability to clone animals and possibly humans by now. Is science trying to play God or is it all in the name of science? God has stuck to His end of the deal but are we showing Him the same courtesy? He created us and has the power to end us at any time that He pleases. And this is how we repay Him? All He did was ask us to follow some simple guidelines; not to do a few things to His creations but we just ignore Him. I don't think that we are even worthy to live, but He is so gracious and allows us to endure the great experience of life. Not only does He give us life here on earth, but He has also given us a life in Heaven. Because of His unconditional love for us, He has reserved a life for us with Him; a NEW life in the paradise of heaven!

I'm not saying that everyone and everything that goes on in today's world is evil. So many of the things that exist out in the world are good and beautiful. There is actually a significant amount of teens and people that don't do any of the things I have said. People actually do go to church every Sunday and praise the Lord. Many teens don't smoke weed, don't have premarital sex, and don't abuse their bodily shell. They do exist out there. Some of them are here at this



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12th Annual St. Michael Golf Classic submitted by Katie Nassief & Don Meena

St. Michael's 12th Annual Golf Classic was held at Calabasas Country Club on June 4th, 2001. Sixty-nine golfers were greeted to a beautiful sunny southern California Day. Alice Andrews and Margaret Soffa checked-in each golfer as they arrived. Sharon Rowihab cheerfully sold mulligans and Emile Skaff handed out polo shirts and goody bags. Each golfer selected a lunch bag prepared by Adele Olivier, Esmā Khoury, and Jimmy Hagggar. Many of the golfers arrived early and could be found practicing on the driving range or putting green. Others renewed friendships from previous years mingling with friends. Golfers came from as far away as Irvine and other parts of Orange County to support St. Michael.

Golfing began in earnest at 12 Noon with shotgun start. A Scrambles format was used with an added feature of four special hole-in-on prizes on the 3-par's courtesy of Leon Saliba. The feature prize was \$10,000 (\$5,000 for the golfer and \$5,000 for St. Michael) on hole #3. The other three prizes were round trip airline tickets for two anywhere in the United States, a Sony View-Camcorder, and a set of Callaway Irons. As the golfers worked their way around the course they were met with the challenges of trying to hit their drive closest to the line or closest to the pin. On the third hole they were greeted by Sondra Love, basking in the sun, who witnessed their attempts to make a hole-in-one and win the Big Prize. Unfortunately none were successful and will have to wait until next year. Hole sponsor signs were prominently posted at each tee block for each golfer to see. Those arriving for dinner were met at the reservation table by Neda Toomey and Lillian Meena. Members of St. Michael sold raffle tickets. Golfers and diners walked around deciding which of the fabulous gift baskets were worthy of receiving their raffle tickets. An ice cream bar topped off a fabulous barbecue dinner. The evening festivities began with awarding door prizes and raffling off the gift baskets. Eddie Milkie, substituting for his brother Freddie who became a father that day, then conducted a spirited auction for several coveted items. The evening was then concluded with Don Meena and Katie Nassief awarding trophies to the winning golfers. The following is a recap of the golfing awards:

Low Net Score 1st Flight

First Place

Peter Petros	Greg Ajalat
Mark Nassief	John Stanley

Second Place

Bert Coury	Jay Coury
Don Meena	Lenny Slatko

Ladies Low Net

Geri Thabit	Carole Van Dam
Ardell Stewart	Barbara Ausburn

Closest to the Pin #12

Geri Thabit

Low Net Score 2nd Flight

First Place

Danny Simon	Rob Phillips
Jim Siegrist	Todd Huddick

Second Place

George Schwary John Kudsi

Overall Low Gross

Teddy Hage	Ross Parker
Corey Stamp	Chris Campochario

Straightest Drive #1

Men – David Soffa

Ladies – Katie Nassief

Special thanks to the committees, donors and hole sponsors who made this 12th Annual Golf Classic a big success:

Committees:

Co-chairpersons

Katie Nassief	Don Meena
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Hole Sponsors

Carl Andrews	Sharon Rowihab
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Shirt and Golf Goody Bag Distribution

Emile Skaff

Dinner Reservations

Lillian Meena	Neda Toomey
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Lunch Preparation

Adele Olivier	Esmā Khoury
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Jimmy Hagggar

Door Prizes

Sondra Love

Golfers & Foursomes

Don Meena	Tina Coury
Katie Nassief	Gloria Mittry

Registration

Alice Andrews	Margaret Soffa
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Mulligans

Sharon Rowihab

Program Book

Philip Nassief

Golf Signs

Richard Tamoush

Gift Basket Packaging

Babe Mittry	Gloria Mittry
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St. Michael Church

www.stmichaelvannuys.com

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Regular Services in August</i>			Paraklesis Prayer Service in the Homes—Dormition Fast			
Saturdays: <i>Great Vespers</i> at 5 pm in the Chapel.					6:30 pm-Marriage Seminar Classrooms (1-6)	10:00 am-Marriage Seminar Classrooms (1-6)
Sundays: <i>Orthos</i> at 8:45 am & <i>Divine Liturgy</i> at 10:00 am in the Church.			1	2	3	6:00 pm-Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented 4
Confessions are arranged by appointment or prior to services.						
1:00 pm-Arabic Education Foundation Scholarship Luncheon (Sheraton Universal Hotel) 5	Paraklesis Prayer Service in the Homes—Dormition Fast					2:00 pm-Laguna Arts Festival
4:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 6	7:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented 7					6:00 pm-Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented 11
Paraklesis Prayer Service in the Homes—Dormition Fast		7:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented				
7:30 pm-Parish Council Meeting in Conference Room 12	7:30 pm-Vespersal Divine Liturgy 13		THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS 15			
4:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented 19	7:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented 20					6:00 pm-Kitchen & Banquet Room Rented 25
10:00 am-St. Mark's Golf Tournament (Cypress Golf Club) 26	4:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented 27	7:00 pm-Classrooms (1-6) Rented 28				

Oratorical, continued

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gathering with us today. So many of them pray in their hearts and not out loud. They feel it inside of them. I admire so many people that I know because they have been strong in a world that can be so tempting. There is an excellent song by a band called the *Supertones* and it goes like this, "Well if you were a Christian then you never was, just sittin' up in church sayin' what a Christian does. The world's got a gun but the devil's got the trigger. Stand tall, struggle faith." This is what makes me think of what it means to be a Christian. God could have stopped the existence of man when He became disgusted with them, be He didn't. He gave us a new life, a second chance. Maybe the world should sit back and look at what happened. We were spared, given one more shot at it and look at what we are doing with it. Unless you really, truly, feel the presence of God in your heart and in your everyday life, then you're not going to earn that right to eternal bliss in heaven.

Although we cannot change what is done or what other people do, we can change the way that we act and lead our lives. Who really needs drugs, premarital sex, and tattoos? Some people become addicted to them, how pathetic! You don't really need any of the stuff to live. All you need is Jesus Christ and you'll be fine. That high that people get while being drunk will be absolutely nothing when compared to the feeling that you'll receive in heaven; and (Guess What?) that feeling never wears off! Have you ever gotten the feeling that you're in heaven and said, "This is heaven on earth?" This is what I like to think about that feeling; it is just a glimpse of what to expect; a fractional piece of heaven. If God gives you that feeling here on earth, try to imagine what heaven is going to be like! Awesome is the only word I can think of!

Some people say that it is impossible to live the way Christ wants us to. Maybe it is, but if you put forth your best effort, He will know. *Limp Bizkit* says it best in one of their songs, "Life is a lesson. You learn it when you're through." Of course you are going to sin, yeah you're going to fall, He knows that. Someone once told me that success isn't a destination; it's a journey. You have a place that you want to get to, heaven, but you need to go on a journey to get there, life. Your getting there is the success not the actual destination. The successful journey to overcoming our failures and making wrongs right becomes our renewal from death to life. It is our stepping-stone as we strive for the Kingdom.

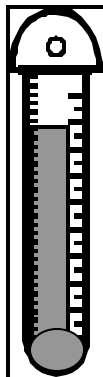
See you at Church!

Stewardship News

Membership: If you see somebody new at church, please tell the ushers or pick up a welcome letter at the entrance of the Church and hand it to them.

Pledge Cards: A few more pledge cards have been received. Thank you for continuing to submit these forms since they are vital to the well being of the church.

Information Sheets: In July, the data from the information sheets was entered into the Church computer. Thanks to everyone who took the time to update their personal information. For those of you who have not submitted a form or need a blank form, please contact the Church office. Also, **please remember to inform the office of any changes to your address or phone numbers.** Thank you.



Other Announcements

The bookstore is open after Liturgy each Sunday. Please see Andy or Bobbie Monsue for gift ideas for any occasion.

To date, the church office has received about 72% of the pledge cards. Our goal remains at 100%. Please fill out your card and submit to the church office.

Advertise in our newsletter to help defray our costs. Business card sized ads are available and will be placed in every issue at \$15 per ad per issue.

Did you know you can use your *credit card* to pay your pledge? You can have funds charged monthly or annually; what a great way to earn bonus miles. Either way you're writing a check.

Teen News

We sincerely thank George & Christina Younes for their work these past 4 1/2 years with our teens. May God grant them, Robert & Justin continued good health and many years!

Parents, please urge your children to participate and encourage them to join Teen SOYO.

Congratulations to *Chris & Mallory Murr, Nathaniel & Marja Tensen* and *Karoleen Ababseh* for their participation in this year's Bible Bowl at the Irvine Convention.

HATHAWAY CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES FOSTER FAMILY PROGRAM

Hathaway's Foster Family Program is a community based program for children 0 to 18 who are not able to live in their own homes because of neglect, abuse or abandonment. There are many abused children who could "make it" later in life if they were given the opportunity to be part of a safe and nurturing family.

Foster parents come from all walks of life and share the desire to help children. Married, single, retired, they are around you and they care.

Hathaway Children and Family Services makes every effort to match the interests and strengths of the foster family with the needs of the potential foster child. Single active foster parents are excellent caretakers for adolescents and teens.

At Hathaway each foster family receives the support of a clinician, available 24 hours a day by pager and cell phone to provide consultation and support to the foster family and crisis intervention to the child, if necessary.

The foster family receives monthly child support (between \$700 and \$800) to provide for the child's needs. Children's medical, psychological and dental needs are covered by Medi-cal. Hathaway has been committed to helping children since 1919 and has developed an effective continuity of care that works. We need your help. We need foster parents. Together we can change the world one child at the time.

For more information, please contact Muriel Gaudin-Khoury, Program Director, or Corrado Militi, Recruiter-Trainer at (818) 897-3346.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

From the Ladies Guild

Gift certificates are available each Sunday in the Community Center. A portion of each dollar is donated to our Church and is applied to our mortgage. Buy your scrip today!

You're all invited to sign up for Holy Bread & to host a coffee hour. Please call Leila Abu-Ghazaleh for more information on open dates at (805) 522-4797.

Spiritual Bouquets: Donations are offered in memory of the deceased in lieu of flowers. If you wish to participate, please see Jeannette Aboud.

Laguna Pageant of the Masters is on August 11. Please contact Carrie Skaff.

ST. MICHAEL ANTIOCHIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

V. Rev. Fr. Timothy Baclig, Pastor

16643 Vanowen Street
Van Nuys, CA 91406-4622

Phone: (818) 994-2313
Fax: (818) 994-2352
newsletter@stmichaelvannuys.com
www.stmichaelvannuys.com

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Donors:

Hole-in-one donor Leon Saliba

Invitation Donor Ramez Hage

Gift Basket Donors

Fred & Barbara Nicola	Robert & DeAnne
Joy Farr	Abraham
Charlotte Murr	Tina Coury
Sondra Love	Joni Slatko
Marcelle Rowihab	Nasseeb Saliba
Adeeb & Carolyn Sadd	Richard & Janice
Vi Kavan	Khoury
Shawn O'Dea - Trader Joe's	

Recipes of the Month

Pineapple Relish

Ingredients:

1 cup diced fresh pineapple
½ cup unsweetened pineapple juice
¼ cup fresh lime juice
2 Tbsp. finely chopped scallion greens 1 tsp. minced
jalapeno pepper (optional)

In a small bowl, combine all the ingredients. Mix well.
Serves 4.

Mango Relish

Ingredients:

1 ripe mango, peeled, pitted and diced
1 small red onion, finely chopped
3 Tbsp. fresh lime juice
2 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
1 Tbsp. finely chopped jalapeno pepper
1-2 dashes Tabasco
Salt & freshly ground pepper to taste

In a small bowl, stir together all the ingredients. Serves 4.

Scallion-Ginger Relish

Ingredients:

1 Tbsp. sesame seeds
1 cup thinly sliced scallions (about 5)
¼ cup drained, canned water chestnuts, sliced
2 Tbsp. reduced-sodium soy sauce
2 Tbsp. fresh orange juice
2 Tbsp. rice wine vinegar
1 Tbsp. minced peeled gingerroot
2 tsp. sugar
1 tsp. chili paste or hot sauce
Freshly ground white or black pepper to taste

In a heavy skillet over medium-high heat, toast sesame seeds for 2-3 minutes, shaking the pan, until lightly browned. In a small bowl, combine the sesame seeds with scallions, water chestnuts, soy sauce, orange juice, vinegar, ginger, sugar and chili paste or hot sauce. Season with pepper and toss well.
Serves 4.

Each relish will keep, covered and refrigerated, for up to six hours. Use each relish as you would a cranberry relish with turkey or to compliment any food.