



Η ΔΙΑ

ΠΕΛΑΓΙΑ

Ὁ ΤΥ ΓΩΜΗ
ΕΝΙΚΗΓΕΝ
ΟΥΤΟΣ ΦΥ
ΣΙΝ ΕΝΙΚΗ
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ΦΥΣΙΝ ΝΙΚΗ
ΣΑ Δ ΤΟΣ Ψ
ΠΕΡ ΦΥΣΙΝ
ΕΤΕ ΝΕΤΟ.

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 12, 2008

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor;
Father John Cmur; Deacon Kenneth E. Ellis and
Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris,
Cantors

Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158

We Are A Stewardship Parish Of Time, Talent and Treasure

The mission of our parish faith community is to teach the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Orthodox Church; to enable people to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in every day activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Orthodox believers in our Freehold area.

We of St. Paul the Apostle Parish dedicate ourselves to maintaining the sanctity of worship and spiritual enlightenment in a family environment that reaches and involves all ages and unifies all people.

We believe in the spirit of ecumenism in which we share our faith by word and example and extend our spiritual insights to all people.

We accept the responsibility of Christian Stewardship that through generous giving we may all experience a faith communion with Christ as the Center of our lives.

We dedicate ourselves to insuring the well-being of all people so that we may truly experience the message of Christ's salutary gospel.

We are a beacon on a hill with the eyes of many upon us; that beacon is the inspired Light of Christ which must shine brightly in our lives.

It is not ourselves we preach but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in us 2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 8.

GLAD TIDINGS

+++ Today at 9:15 AM, we celebrate a Memorial Service for the repose of the souls of +Zachary and +Pauline on the anniversary of their departure from this world, at the request of their beloved daughter, Mary Jacobs. We pray the merciful Lord continues to comfort Mary and her loved ones in their loss as Has we pray He grants a blessed repose to the souls of +Zachary & +Pauline and creates for them Eternal Memory.

+++ The weekly Scripture Study meets Tuesday evenings. Please join us at 7:00 PM until 8:30 PM to grow in faith response and commitment to our Saviour in prayer and study of his revealed word. The public is invited to learn with us, so please invite a friend to accompany you. Since it is the Pauline Year, we shall begin studies with the Acts of the Apostles and proceed to the epistles. We urge all to seriously think about this, pray about it and commit to learning together by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Father was very pleased with the response this past week.

+++ We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received this past week-end: Tithe Offering, ~~\$359.00~~; Candles, ~~100.00~~; Food Coupons, ~~200.00~~; Holyday, ~~100.00~~; Pennies From Heaven, ~~100.00~~; Kitchen, ~~100.00~~; Christian Fellowship, ~~100.00~~, for a total of ~~\$1,059.00~~. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offered their God-given treasure for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls! The attendance was 38 adults and 14 children last Sunday.

+++ As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Pani Lucas, Father Lucas, Paul Szmaida, Mary Jaakobs, Maria Garcia, Kent & Robin Pasquino, Maria Garcia, and Pani Buletza.

+++ We make a **PENNIES FROM HEAVEN** Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of ~~\$2,200.00~~ from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.

+++ Our religious education program takes place each Sunday following the Divine Liturgy. Please be certain your child is present for classes each week.

+++ For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals ~~\$1,000.00~~. As we thank the Lord for inspiring generosity in the hearts of our faithful, we also thank the donors for accepting the challenge of the Lord in building up His Body. We cordially invite and look forward to receiving additional and increased pledges from all our devoted parishioners.

+++ Please check the Sign-Up-Sheet for the weekly Christian Fellowship for the coming weeks. Simple foods without need for preparation are the best. Marilyn Korba coordinates this vital apostolate. Please assist her in making it a success by bringing your donation early so that all are present at the worship of our God.

+++ Please be certain to see **Helen Karpiak** or a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using **Shop Rite Food Coupons** available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite **ALL** to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized ~~\$450.00~~ on this project to date!

+++ Please see Marilyn Korba to sign up for the Alaskan Cruise next August, 2009 as well as for starting a new Ten Week Club.

+++ The Thanksgiving Bake Sale will take place on Friday and Saturday, November 14 and 15 while that for the Nativity of our Lord will be held Thursday and Friday, December 12 and 13. Cookies will be available at the Nativity Bake Sale.

+++ We are grateful to Nicetas and Angeliki Tsokris for providing us with a subscription to the *Orthodox Observer* for our Parish Library. We pray the gracious Lord continues to bless them and loved ones with good health for their kind thoughtfulness and generosity for Many and Blessed Years!

+++ Next Sunday following the Divine Liturgy we will celebrate a Memorial Service on the fortieth day for the repose of the soul of +Marie Szmaida, sister-in-law of our good parishioners, George and Debra Szmaida. We pray the merciful Lord continues to comfort George & Debra and loved ones in their loss and grants blessed repose to her soul and creates for +Marie Eternal Memory!

+++ Please make Pirohi Sale returns as soon as possible.

+++ We recently received from souls wishing to remain only known but to the Lord a large icon of the Dormition of the Birthgiver of God brought to us from the Holy Land. In addition, three icon prints from Russia of the Birthgiver and the Lord along with a Humility of the Lord icon of Christ which will be used in our new church on the sacramental table and analogion stands before the Icon Screen. They may now be viewed in the vestibule of the church. We happily invoke the blessing of the Lord on the devoted souls who love the beauty of the Temple of God.

+++ If anyone learns of available property with at least six acres, please advise Father immediately so it may be explored. Father checked out several parcels this past week and only one seems promising. Please offer prayers for guidance and success.

+++ May all glory, adoration and worship be accorded our God in the Holy Trinity by all the faithful of our parish with one mind, one soul and one heart each day of the week!

Let your *light* so shine before men,
that they may see your *good* works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



Increase of Knowledge and Light

Those who err in spirit shall acquire understanding, and those who find fault shall receive instruction Isaiah 29: 24.

Then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the dumb will sing. Streams will burst forth in the desert and rivers in the steppe. The burning sands will become ponds and the thirsty ground, springs of water; the abode where jackals lurk will be a marsh for the reed and papyrus. A highway will be there, called the holy way; no one unclean may pass over it, nor fools go astray on it. No lion will be there, or beast of prey go up to be met upon it. It is for those with a journey to make and on it the redeemed will walk. Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Sion singing, crowned with everlasting joy. They will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee Isaiah 35: 6 – 10.

I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory. I will set a sign among them; from them I will send fugitives to the nations: to Tarshish. Put and Lud, Mosoch, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have never heard of my fame, or seen my glory; and they shall proclaim my glory among the nations Isaiah 66: 18, 19.

No longer shall the sun be your light by day; nor the brightness of the moon shine upon you at night. The Lord shall be your light forever, your God shall be your glory. No longer shall your sun go down; or your moon withdraw, for the Lord will be your light forever and the days of your mourning shall be at an end. Your people shall all be just; they shall always possess the land. They, the bud of my planting, my handiwork, to show my glory Isaiah 60: 19, 20.

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord as water covers the sea Isaiah 11: 6 – 9.

Praying Together

At a country fair, the townspeople held a horse-pulling contest. The first place horse ended up moving a sled weighing 4,500 pounds. The second place finisher pulled some 4,000 pounds. The owners of the two horses decided afterward to see what these horses could pull together. They hitched them up and found that the team could move 12,000 pounds. By working separately, the two horses were good for only 8,500 pounds. When coupled together, their synergism produced an added 3,500 pounds. It is a hard lesson for us, but unity consistently produces greater results than individual endeavors.

Teamwork divides the effort and multiplies the effect. There is no limit to what we can accomplish when we call upon our heavenly Father to assist us. The Holy Spirit simply waits eagerly to make up in us what is lacking. That is what is spiritually described as synergy, our cooperation with the imparted grace of God to achieve the salvation of our soul.

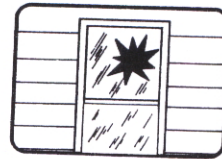
It is what the Lord seems to be telling us when He says "Again I tell you, if two of you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted you by my Father in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst" Matthew 18: 19, 20.

Any other reason needed why our presence at worship every Sunday is vital? Ninety percent of those who seemingly fail to be present are not actually defeated; they simply quit and are losers.

A Lesson In Virtue

As a teenager, former Philippine statesman, Carlos Romulo learned an important lesson about graciousness from his father. After winning a high school debate, young Romulo ignored a congratulatory handshake from his opponent. This prompted the elder Romulo to question his son's rude behavior. The son defended his actions by explaining how the boy had bad-mouthed him in the days leading up to the contest. Unimpressed by his excuse, the elder placed an arm around his son's shoulders and said, "The taller the bamboo grows, the lower it bends."

It's Never Too Late To Right What's Wrong



It seemed like great fun at the time; Jerry and his best friend took turns throwing rocks onto the roof of a neighbor's house. The roof had just the right slant to it, so that the rocks rolled down and projected into the yard like comets falling to earth. But when Jerry's

rock smashed through a window, he knew that he had acted irresponsibly.

He was filled with both shame and fear. He knew that he should not have been throwing rocks and that the woman would be upset about her broken window. He didn't have enough money to replace the window, so he decided to keep quiet about it.

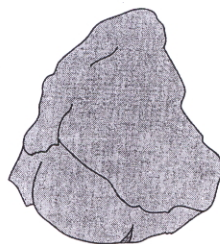
For weeks, his embarrassment kept him from even looking at the woman when he delivered her morning newspaper to her. Yet, every day she continued smiling at him and thanking him, as if nothing had happened. Maybe she didn't even know who broke her window. Even so, Jerry felt overwhelmed with guilt every time he saw this woman.

Many weeks passed before Jerry saved enough money to cover the cost of the window. He placed the money and a note of apology in the lady's mailbox late one evening when no one was around. He felt so much better now that it was all over.

The very next morning, the woman handed him a bag of cookies when he delivered her paper. He nibbled on them as he finished his route and was surprised to find an envelope in the bottom of the bag. Inside was a note that read, "I'm proud of you," along with the money for the window. That day, Jerry realized that it's never too

late to say you're sorry and make restitution for damage done.

Effort Reaps Its Own Reward



Long ago, a ruler had a boulder placed in the middle of a village road. It was just large enough to make passage difficult for villagers who traveled that way. One day, a monk on his way to study at a nearby monastery came upon the boulder. He considered what he ought to do; move it or simply move around it. Figuring that the next passerby would be confronted with the same dilemma, he chose to move it from the road.

The monk pushed and pulled at the rock. Many villagers weaseled by him, offering neither help nor encouragement. "You're wasting your time," some muttered, "that boulder has been there for ages. Besides, once you get to the monastery, it will be years before you return to this village again, so why bother?"

After much effort, the monk was able to inch the rock away from the road. Then he took a handful of dirt from a nearby mound to fill the crater the boulder left in

the road. As he started to throw in the dirt, he noticed something. It was a pouch bearing the royal emblem!

He opened it and to his surprise, found several gold coins. "Oh, how lucky you are to have uncovered a treasure from the king," remarked a passerby.

The monk simply smiled as he filled the hole with handfuls of dirt. He knew that it wasn't simply luck. The best rewards are never given freely; they are earned by sincere effort and hard work.

Being A Parent

When we are chosen to be parents, we accept another human being as part of ourselves and a large part of our emotional selves will stay with that person as long as we live. From that time on, there will be another person on this earth whose orbit around us will affect us as surely as the moon affects the tides, and affects us in some ways more deeply than anyone else can. Our children are extensions of ourselves in ways our parents are not, nor our brothers and sisters, nor our spouses.

The Human Condition

The French poet, Germain Saint-Foix had a large income, but perhaps because he was a poet, was always broke and in debt. One day Saint-Foix was in the barber's chair, lathered up, waiting to be shaved. Just then a tradesman entered the shop.

It happened that Saint-Foix owed him a large amount of money. When the man recognized the poet, he angrily demanded that he be paid – now! Saint-Foix calmed him down by saying, "Won't you wait for the money until I am shaved?"

"Certainly," said the creditor, well-pleased at how easy it had been.

"Barber," said Saint-Foix, "you just witnessed this agreement, yes?"

"Of course," said the barber.

Saint-Foix took a towel, wiped off his face, happily left the shop. From that day on, until his death, he always wore a beard.

Madame Curie

An American newspaperman tracked the Curies down to the remote village in Brittany where they were vacationing. He found a rather dowdy woman sitting outside the door.

"Are you the housekeeper?" he began.

"Yes."

"Is your mistress inside?"

"No."

"Will she be back soon?"

"I don't think so."

The reporter then sat down. "Can you tell me something confidential about your mistress?" he went on.

"Madame Curie has only one message that she likes to give to reporters," said Marie Curie. "That is, be less curious about people and more curious about ideas."

Wrong Emphasis

The late Protestant Bishop, G. Bromley Oxnam told of giving the annual Memorial Day address at the National Monument at Gettysburg. Like most other speakers, he felt the need to conclude his speech by reciting Lincoln's famous address.

After he finished, he felt all had gone well. That is, until an old, old man made his way forward and remarked, "Son you made an awful mess of Lincoln's speech."

Oxnam asked, "What do you mean? I didn't miss a word of it. Here, look at my notes."

The old man replied, "Oh, I don't need your notes. I know it by heart. You see, I heard it the first time 'round."

By now Bishop Oxnam realized that this man had been present when Lincoln originally delivered his words. He was curious about how his recitation had differed from that of the slain and martyred President so long ago.

The old-timer explained it this way, "Abe put his hands out over the people like a benediction, as if he were blessing them, and said, "That the government of the people, by the people and for the people should not perish from the earth."

"You got the words right, son, but missed the message. You emphasized *government*; Lincoln talked about *people*."

God's Revelation Enough

Years ago, after some Washington political scandals erupted, President Harry Truman was asked if government officials shouldn't sign a code of ethics. He said no, that the Ten Commandments and Sermon on the Mount were all the code of ethics anybody needed. So he signed nothing and never needed to.

Only Pretending

Have you ever heard the story about a driver who put a note under the windshield wiper of a parked car? The note read, "I have just smashed into your car. The people who saw the accident are watching me. They think I am writing down my name and address and telephone number and how you can contact me. I am not."

Good Advice

Whatever your lot in life is, build on it.

Even The Fallen World Is Offended

Show-oafs

He has such a big mouth, he can eat a banana sideways, or sing duets by himself.

He's like a Christmas tie—loud and uscless.

When they go to a party, his wife warns him, "Remember, when the party is over, be sure to go up to the host and apologize."

At almost every party, his wife is sure to be asked by someone, "What does your husband want to be when he grows up?"

They call him the "Mastoid of Ceremonies"—he's a pain in the ear.

He claims he lives by his wits. It's remarkable how a person can live on so little capital.

His wisecracks are always greeted with a tremendous burst of silence.

When he leaves a party, the guests know the meaning of comic relief.

He won't have to wait till he dies to be at his wit's end.

He thinks he's a born wit—he sure must have lost a lot of ground ever since.

He thinks he's a real funnyman, but he couldn't even entertain a doubt

He thinks the world will beat a path to his door because he's built a better claptrap.

A monkey took one look at him and yelled, "To heck with the Darwin theory—they're not going to make a man out of me!"

He has a cute hobby that burns his friends—hotfoots.

He's perfecting waterproof matches so he can even give hotfoots on rainy days.

His idea of a practical joke is to go into a Home for the Blind and flatten out the Braille.

He's driven a dozen friends crazy by sending them wires reading "IGNORE FIRST WIRE."

He has a well-earned reputation as the death of the party.

Pandemonium doesn't merely reign when he's around—it pours.

There are people who are liked wherever they go—he's only liked whenever he goes.

He claims he lives by his wits—that accounts for that half-starved look on his face.

If you want to see unmatched technique, just watch him making a fool of himself.

As the "life of the party," he needs more effective gags—right across the mouth.

There are people who meet him who never forget a face; in his case they're willing to make an exception.

He has a waterproof voice—no one can drown it out.

He's a live-wire—wired mostly for sound.

There was a minute at one party when a guest didn't recognize him. It was the most enjoyable minute the man had ever spent.

There's something about him at social gatherings that definitely attracts women—to other men

Did You Know That ...

...ideas are great arrows, but there has to be a bow?

...the greatest gift is not being afraid to question?

...a kind and compassionate act is its own reward?

...if we dwell on the positive, we will achieve the positive?

...many times it is better not to follow where the path may lead, but to go instead where there is no path and leave a trail?

...we are always paid for our suspicion by finding what we suspect?

...before you throw water over the embers of a relationship, be certain you don't need the warmth?

...there is no surer or more painful way to learn a rule than to be penalized once for breaking it?

...while just about everything is more complicated than it seems there is also almost nothing which is hopeless?

...there is great honor in doing your best?

...every person born in this world represents something new, something that never existed before, something original and unique?

...if we plant a seed of friendship, we will reap a bouquet of happiness?

...in order to have a reason to get up in the morning, you have to have a guiding principle, a living faith commitment to Christ, a bumper sticker if you will?

...if there is something to gain and nothing to lose by asking, by all means, ask?

...if you have much, give of your wealth, if you have little, give of your heart?

YEAR OF ST. PAUL

Pauline Year # June 29 # 2008-2009



2000th Anniversary # Birth of St. Paul

WHAT HE WROTE

Letter to the Romans

First Letter to Corinthians

Second Letter to Corinthians

Letter to the Galatians

Letter to the Ephesians

Letter to the Philippians

Letter to the Colossians

First Letter to Thessalonians

Second Letter to Thessalonians

First Letter to Timothy

Second Letter to Timothy

Letter to Titus

Letter to Philemon

Letter to Hebrews



As we celebrate this jubilee year in honor of St. Paul, we commemorate the two thousandth anniversary of the apostles' birth, which is believed by historians to have occurred between 7 and 10 AD.

The aim of the Pauline year is to learn about St. Paul, to increase our knowledge of the Orthodox faith, to learn about Christ and the pathway of righteous life. St. Paul's mission was to bring the salutary Gospel to the ends of the earth. Since Catholics also are celebrating this event, the year of St. Paul should send a strong appeal for Christian unity as well, thus expressing the insights and fervor of the saint for the Church of Christ.

It is necessary to learn more about the cultural and historical context in which St. Paul lived in order better to understand his life and work.

St. Paul was a citizen of Tarsus and Rome and a Jew of the Diaspora which was the body of Jews dispersed among the gentiles after the Babylonian captivity. He was of the tribe of Benjamin, the same tribe as that of Saul, the first king of the Jews, after whom he had been named. Tarsus, the city in which he grew up was a Greek city. He was also a Roman citizen, a privilege probably purchased by his father for gold. As a Roman citizen, he was exempt from being flogged crucified and could appeal to Caesar the emperor for justice. He was executed by beheading.

St Paul was sent to Jerusalem at about the age of fifteen to study under a great rabbi named Gamaliel. He had to commit the Old Testament to memory. In addition he had to memorize the oral tradition called Mishna. We know from his own words that he was a Pharisee and may also have been a scribe. The obligation of Pharisees was to discharge, interpret and uphold the Law, especially the regulations and the payment of tithes. Although condemned by Jesus as hypocrites because of the weak points of their piety, their positive side was that they submitted their whole life to God and as such were admired by the common people. The Scribes were both lawyers and theologians. They taught the

mystery of God's Being and apocalyptic teachings. This gave the Scribes respected positions as successors to the prophets.

This young man, called by his Jewish name of Saul, is identified in the history of the early Church as the witness of the execution of St. Stephen (Acts of the Apostles 7: 58), the first martyr and as a persecutor of the Church of Christ (Acts of the Apostles 8: 3). The story of his conversion is well known: "Now Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he would find any men or women, who belonged to the Way, he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains. On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He said, 'Who are you, sir?' the reply came, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.' ...After his baptism, he began at once to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God" Acts of the Apostles 9: 1 – 20.

St. Paul's letters refer to certain situations and problems in the various churches to which they are addressed, with the result that very different aspects of his deeply expressed faith assume prominence, according to the circumstances. The following are various examples.

To the Thessalonians (5: 13, 14), at the close of the first letter he goes from explaining that we do not know when the day of the Lord will come and that we must not be caught unprepared, to simple maxims such as, remain at peace with one another, admonish the unruly, cheer the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient toward all, see that no one returns evil to another, and always seek out another's good and, for that matter, the good of all.

To the Galatians (5: 13 – 26), he reminds the people that they have freedom, but not a freedom that gives free reign to

the flesh which might better be described as license. He reminds them they are alive by the Holy Spirit and not by flesh, the flesh is always in conflict with the spirit of man. What proceeds from the flesh is lewd conduct, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, bickering, jealousy, outbursts of rage, selfish dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies and the like. In contrast, the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience endurance, kindness, generosity, faith, mildness and chastity.

To the Colossians (3: 8), you must put aside now all the anger and quick temper, the insults, the foul language. Stop lying to one another. We must put aside our old self with its past deeds and put on the new man, one who grows in knowledge as he is formed anew in the image of his Creator.

To the Romans, St. Paul tells followers not to seek vengeance, but (12: 20, 21), if your enemy is hungry, feed him, if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

It is in the first letter to the Corinthians (13: 4 – 8), that he writes his beautiful treatise on love, a passage often used to ideally describe what marriage and family life should proclaim. "Love is patient, love is kind. Love is not jealous, it is not inflated; it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, is not quick-tempered; it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrong-doing but rejoices with truth. It believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails."

Orthodox faithful in any local parish church can obtain heavenly blessings by participating with devotion in the Divine Liturgy, preparing themselves to worthily receive the Eucharist and avidly living the life of Christ. This will witness to the world an upright faith and concurrence with the majesty of faith response of this great warrior for Christ and apostle to the Gentiles.

Even St. John Chrysostom admired and paid tribute to this astounding warrior for souls in the name of Christ. He insisted that individual example of Christians was vital and paramount and pointed out the singularity of the richness of St. Paul's life and how many it brought to the Saviour among those outside the confines of Old Testament Chosen People. Just one life richly and sincerely and seriously lived for Christ reaped an abundant harvest of souls. Our individual value therefore in the sight of our God cannot be discounted if we seriously and generously offer ourselves to be used by the Lord.

Increased prayer life should be characteristic of those who wish to assume the mind and soul pattern of St. Paul the Apostle and our heavenly parish patron!



**God's
Greatest
Classroom
Is Your
Living Room.**



**And You Are
His Chosen
Teacher.**

DISCOVERING ONE'S TRUE BEAUTY

The story of our HOLY MOTHER PELAGIA is remarkably similar to that of Mary of Egypt. She was born a pagan in Antioch, endowed with great physical beauty. Sadly, she chose to use her attributes in a spiritually harmful manner. She turned to a life of prostitution, acquiring great wealth and notoriety in the process. One day as she was walking past a church, the hand of God led her inside. A certain Bishop Nonnus was preaching a sermon on the Last Judgment. His powerful words penetrated Pelagia's sinful heart! In an instant, she realized that her life was taking her down a path leading to eternal damnation. She was so moved by the bishop's sermon that immediately after services, Pelagia humbly approached him, confessed her sins and begged to be baptized! She was mentored by the Blessed Romana, a deaconess who gave her an excellent catechetical background in the Christian Faith.

Pelagia became absorbed in practicing her new-found religion. She gave away all of the vast fortune she had amassed through her immoral lifestyle and went to Jerusalem, where she secretly entered a monastery, disguised as the monk "Pelagius." She secluded herself in a cell in her new "home" on the Mount of Olives, spending her time in prayer and fasting. After spending three years in this manner, Pelagia emerged with a radiant inner beauty that far exceeded her physical appearance! She peacefully fell asleep in the Lord around the middle of the fifth century.

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