



# Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 18, 2007

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

+++ On Monday evening at 7: 30 PM, we will have a dual celebration in preparation for the coming feast of the Lord's Nativity. The weekly welcoming service will be celebrated followed by anointing with the oil of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker as prayers for healing are also taken. Confessions will be heard before and after services.

+++ This Wednesday we have the solemn feast of the Entrance of the Mother of God in the Temple. In anticipation of the holyday, the vesperal Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Tuesday evening at 7: 30 PM Please come and join us in prayer and praise. Confessions are heard prior to and after the celebration.

+++ The Nativity Fast began this past week. We are called upon to forego the nourishment of meat products so that we strengthen our will in avoiding sin and resolve to seek after holiness and to be better able to practice charity and assist the needy. Plan on attending special services and devotions Monday evenings during this holy season to be armored with God's grace in welcoming the coming of the Messiah among us.

+++ 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, \$[REDACTED]; Candles, \$[REDACTED]; Kitchen, \$[REDACTED]; Pennies From Heaven, \$[REDACTED]; Cruise Donation, \$[REDACTED], for a total of \$[REDACTED]. Fore the previous Sunday: Offering, \$[REDACTED]; Holyday, \$[REDACTED]; Candles, \$[REDACTED]; Rental, \$[REDACTED]00; Food Coupons, \$[REDACTED]; November Bulletin, \$[REDACTED]; Pennies, \$[REDACTED], for a total of \$[REDACTED]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: Debbie Szmaida., Pani Lucas, Paul Szmaida, Father Lucas, Robert Gorbich and Pani Buletza.

+++ We acknowledge with gratitude the efforts of Marilyn Korba in behalf of the parish while on the Cruise to the Caribbean. A Fifty-Fifty Drawing was held and the parish benefited in the amount of \$[REDACTED]. In addition the cruise participants showed their appreciation to Marilyn for arranging the details of the trip and she in turn presented the parish with \$[REDACTED] for a total of \$[REDACTED]. We invoke the Lord's blessings upon her generosity and concern for the parish. God bless you and grant you and loved ones Many & Blessed Years!

+++ 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 \$[REDACTED] from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish!

+++ We are pleased to recognize the donation of Anna & Bill Zacharyczuk in sponsorship of the parish bulletin this month of November. We pray the gracious Lord continue to bless them with continuing good health for Many & Blessed Years!

+++ For the expansion of our much needed parochial facilities, our parish pledge support to date totals \$[REDACTED]. 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 \$3950.00 on this project to date!

+++ We express our deep and profound sympathies to our good parishioners, George and Debbie Szmaida on the recent death of his brother, +Paul. We pray the merciful Lord console and strengthen George & Debbie and their loved ones in their loss as He grants to the soul of +Paul a blessed repose and Eternal Memory!

+++ **The weekly sponsor list for Christian Fellowship Food for this year is available to be filled out on the table in the kitchen. We appeal to ALL our parishioners to participate, not just a few, so that it is equitable and the responsibility shared by ALL.**

**+++ Please be certain to take the candy order blanks and catalogues available in the vestibule for the coming Nativity Feast Day. We do depend on the support of our faithful to make it a success. Please start now and begin getting orders from friends and neighbors. Your efforts assist our parish immeasurably. Deadline is fast approaching: *Sunday, December 2.***

+++ The Thanksgiving Bake Sale took place this past Friday and Saturday. We are grateful for the helping hands in preparation, in actually working the Bake Sale, in distributing the orders, to make it a success. God bless you devoted souls with good health for Many & Blessed Years!

+++ The Bake Sale for the Nativity of our Lord will be conducted on Friday and Saturday, December 14 and 15. Home-made cookies will be available at \$15.00 for a beautifully wrapped package at the Nativity Bake Sale. Please begin now securing orders from friends and neighbors. The rolls sell for \$12.00 each and are available in walnut, poppy seed, apricot and prune fillings. The order sheet is available to be filled out in the kitchen for the Thanksgiving Bake Sale. As always, we invite ALL our faithful, men, women, children, to invest their time in the future of our parish and the success of this fund-raiser. There are tasks to be done for whatever kind of gift or expertise you have been endowed with. Come and join us! We begin 7:00 AM Friday. We are blessed to be a blessing for our fellow parishioners!

+++ We continue to be in need of Web Site donor-sponsors. The amount is \$25.00 per month. Please see Father as soon as possible.

**+++ In the vestibule is the collection basket for Thanksgiving Food to receive the fruit of your generosity. Please pray about it, please think about and then bring in some foodstuffs which are not perishable to help needy families. We have been providing help**

**to three families each year. Let us continue this worthy tradition in praise of the generosity of our Lord God to all of us!**

**+++ The offering for flowers to beautify the church for the coming feast of the Nativity of our Lord will be taken on Sunday, December 2. Please plan on being generous with your offering.**

**+++ The annual St. Nicholas Covered Dish Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 9 in the parish center. Please be certain to join us for the celebration at which the saint will visit our parish to greet everyone, particularly the children. The fool donation form will appear in a few weeks so everyone can participate in making it a success.**

**+++ May all glory, adoration, 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!**

### **Web Site Address**

**Parish: [www.stpaul-freehold.com](http://www.stpaul-freehold.com)  
freehold.com**

**Father's address: fatherbob@stpaul-**

# Why be a volunteer?

Why freely invest your time, talent and energy in helping someone in need? There are obvious rewards of volunteering – a feeling of satisfaction, personal fulfillment, or an unexpected smile.

However, you can discover a more powerful gift of volunteering – one of spiritual growth. By offering yourself, you possess a great opportunity to nurture your relationship with God while assisting someone in need, a double blessing indeed!

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# Why be a volunteer?

**“You always receive more than you give.”**

Those who recruit volunteers and those who have volunteered, say that repeatedly. Often many remember hearing it and thinking, “You must be kidding, or at least exaggerating.” Most people who volunteer their services, time and treasure and talent to their parish do so because they feel they have something worthwhile to offer, some talent, treasure or time to share with the faith community for God’s glory. They are not looking for anything in return beyond a simple *thank you* and the satisfaction of knowing they have helped at least in a small way.

Maybe it is because we often receive the most valuable gifts when we are not expecting them that volunteering rewards people so richly. Talk with anyone who has volunteered, and he or she will testify they have at least one memorable moment to relate: an unexpected smile from a shy catechism student, simple thanks for increased revenues in the parish that contribute to its financial stability, a memorable story shared by a lonely elderly person they visited in a nursing home. Experiences such as these enrich a volunteer’s life in such a way that it will never again be the same.

Beyond such cherished moments of personal contact is an even more moving gift: an encounter with God. In giving freely of their time and treasure and talents to assist those in need in the faith community known to us as a parish, volunteers embark on a journey of spiritual growth. This is

perhaps unexpected, but the joy of meeting Christ among those in need pulls people back for more such experiences and enrichments.

The pious believer gives voluntarily of his time, treasure and talent for the benefit of others because of our Lord's admonition, "...give and it shall be given to you" Luke 6: 38. We eagerly give of ourselves because Christ first provided the example. "Christ loved us and gave himself up for us" Ephesians 5: 2, and this occurs only because of "...the grace that is given me by God" Romans 15: 15.

God's revelation to us in Scripture reminds us, "When much has been given a man, much will be required of him. More will be asked of a man to whom more has been entrusted" Luke 12: 48. Therefore, if we have been blessed, we should not withhold our gifts for our own use alone.

"I tell you, even he does not get up and take care of the man because of friendship, he will do so because of his persistence, and give him as much as he needs" Luke 11: 8. Thus our Lord teaches us it is our persistence in sacrificing and investing ourselves in the needs of others, particularly, but not limited to members of our own faith community that will ennoble and enrich us for eternity. We ought not simply be concerned or preoccupied with earthly or temporal even legitimate needs. Our sensitivity of soul should direct our vision to eternity. "Do not lay up for yourselves an earthly treasure. Moths and rust corrode, thieves break in and steal. Make it your practice instead to store up heavenly treasures, which neither moths nor rust corrode, nor thieves break in and steal. Remember where your treasure is, there is your heart also" Matthew 6: 19 – 21.

Who indeed can harm you if you are committed deeply to doing what is right" 1 Peter 3: 13? "Give to the man who asks of you. Do not turn your back on the borrower" Matthew 5: 42. So, we see that the person who has need of what God has gifted you with, has a legitimate request for you to fulfill.

"My command to you is love your enemies, pray for your persecutors. This will prove you are sons of the your heavenly Father...In a word, you must be made perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" Matthew 5: 44, 48, because we "...give God the praise..." John 9: 24, since "...all cannot receive, save those to whom it is given..." Matthew 19: 11.

The believer does not excuse himself from offering and investing of self because he is at perceived odds with the one who is making the request for helping assistance. If we cannot respond to their legitimate request because we label them enemies, we are still bound by Christ's insistence, to transform them and "love your enemies" Matthew 5: 44, since "...if you with all your sins know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to anyone who asks him" Matthew 7: 11?



The spiritual basis for volunteer work in our parish faith community is based on an eagerness to respond to the needs of others as Christ has first met our needs. It is fundamentally proving our faith commitment in works that praise the Lord. If we are genuine believers, we will do what believers do. If we are followers of Christ, we will involve ourselves in activities that Christ introduced for us to reinforce our beliefs. It is living response to God's initial gift to us. "Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above, descending from the Father of heaven..." James 1: 17. Further, he elaborates for our benefit, "My brothers, what good is it profess faith without practicing it? Such faith has no power to save one, has it?" If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and no food for the day, and you say to them, 'Good-bye and good luck! Keep warm and well-fed,' but do not meet their bodily needs, what good is that? So it is with faith that does nothing in practice. It is entirely dead!" James 2: 14 - 17.

Without a manifestation of faith commitment, freely and generously presented by the believer, there is no salvation because there is no Christian identity.

Unquestionably the faith of our parish community must be fed by our practice of living faith. No doubt, all that the Church does in the locale of our parish needs our support, example and investment. No one can excuse himself. Volunteering for the good of the parish and the enrichment of the faith community is incumbent upon all believers without exception. What is necessary in all honesty is an evaluation of how best one can contribute, what one can invest and how best talents, treasures and gifts can be offered so they are effectively used for the salvation of souls. Some pray best, some can labor best, others can invest time and talent best. But all, without exception in prayerful consultation with their spiritual father should take seriously volunteering for the sake of the Lord.

Spirituality that is enriched by Christ is a gift of personal growth that can lead to a lifetime of volunteering for the sake of Christ. It is motivated by Christ and finds its fulfillment in Him. It has nothing to do with the multiplicity of other volunteers, thereby incorrectly and mistakenly inferring particular individual volunteering is no longer necessary. The Lord does not force or coerce us to do anything. He freely offers opportunities for our service to express our faith commitment. We should literally grab the opportunity and glorify Him in the process. "Freely you have received, freely give" Matthew 10: 8.

### What Is Volunteer Work?

Volunteering is something people do of their own free will. Most of what is done in life is not really "voluntary." We have to go off to employment or we do not get a check to pay our bills. We have to cook dinner so we can feed our hunger. We have to sleep at night to renew our energy for all things we have to do on the morrow. Volunteering is one of the most "free will" activities anyone can imagine. It truly is our choice to be a committed volunteer.

And of course, everywhere we look in our parish, there are opportunities for volunteering. We can only continue our educational program if we have volunteers who wish to subject themselves to the standards of the Lord. The physical properties of the parish can look cared for and loved as the local dwelling place of the Lord if we make them so. Our parish library succeeds because of volunteers. Parish volunteers are very important because we should develop outreach programs, fund-raising activities which contribute to the financial stability of our faith commitment. Parish needs require volunteers for a wide variety of talents. Minor repairs can be made for God's glory by the gifted and talented. Enhancements can be planned only by those souls who are genuinely interested in investing their time and talent with God.

Because we volunteer of our own free will, we approach volunteer work with a different attitude than we have for the other activities we are required to do. We look forward to the experience and the new opportunities we will encounter. Often, these opportunities provide us with a chance to stretch our talents and skills, and perhaps, even discover new ones. We get to try new things we might not have dreamed of attempting before. In the process, we often learn about ourselves and begin to appreciate the many gifts of those around us and how they also enrich us in our response to God's first shown love.

Bookish college students and some mothers who thought their greatest skills were in the kitchen and in child rearing can find that they may contribute to building, repairing or replacing items at the church. Those who never considered their gifts as useful can offer themselves as examples and teach our youngsters each and every Sunday. These discoveries can be a confidence booster, personal opportunities for growth and a better opportunity at salvation. We do not need to be able to list a skill on a resume to offer it to God through volunteer work!

Not many people take classes to learn how to lead a church youth group or visit homebound parishioners and offer them some daily help with ordinary house chores. Yet our parish can offer these opportunities to willing volunteers. With the opportunity comes an occasion to learn fresh skills and take a chance in trying out something new. Through volunteer work in our parish, a generous soul can find personal fulfillment as a communicator, an entertainer, an evangelizer, a unity builder all of which needs are met in our parish faith community. And of course if what we try first does not quite feel responsive to our talents and gifts, we can easily adjust ourselves in another situation where building up the Body of Christ is vital and important. And if we are learning new skills along the way, our volunteer work stretches our trust in God as we ask for the ability to complete tasks we've never tried before.

### Were The Apostles Volunteers?

As Orthodox Christians who should seriously consider volunteering to help our parish grow and provide the kinds of service faithful believers deserve, we perhaps want to ask if Jesus was ever a

volunteer. It seems clear that Jesus and His followers volunteered their whole and entire lives to God's work. Scripture does not tell us that they made weekly trips to the bank to deposit a pay check. Rather it tells us that the apostles dropped whatever it was they were doing to follow the Lord. They traveled to unknown territories, extending themselves generously for the sake of Christ our Saviour. These men stepped beyond the routines of their society to spread the Good News, and they did it all out of loving free will response.

When Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John to abandon their fishing nets and follow Him, they certainly did not know what they were getting themselves into. They knew how to fish from a boat for food. They did not know how to be fishers of men. They did not have any formation in theology or evangelization. Yet, they did not turn down the call to contribute their free efforts to Jesus' mission. They volunteered to help Him!

What happens, when, like the apostles, we step beyond the comforts of our daily routines to try something new? That is when we build our trust in God. We learn that our heavenly Father will be there to lead us, to guide us, to put the needed words in our mouths, just as the Holy Spirit did for the apostles. If we open ourselves to being vessels of God's love, to imitating Christ, then God will not abandon us in these times of need. We will develop that trust which is the foundation of every good relationship.

Volunteers who do people-to-people work learn to trust that this will be true in their lives. One young woman who volunteered to help victims of domestic abuse went through culture shock when she first learned the realities of the women and children she encountered. Having been raised in a loving and supportive Orthodox family, she had no experience from which to draw that would show her how to respond with these people, to ease their burdens and help them create new lives for themselves.

So she initially simply listened to their stories, growing from the trust they showed in sharing the intimate, painful details of their lives with her. And she prayed intensely, daily, and asked God what she could do in return. The Holy Spirit moved her to listen further and to share the faith. God helped her find the words she needed to serve these families for an entire year.

Before His death, Jesus said to His disciples, "I solemnly tell you, anyone believing in me shall do the same miracle I have done, and even greater ones, because I am going to be with my Father. You can ask him for anything, using my name, and I will do it, for this will bring praise to the Father because of what I, the Son, will do for you. Yes, ask anything, using my name and I will do it" John 14: 12 - 14!

Volunteers are likely to share how God has done just this. A local Birthright director (Birthright is an organization that offers pregnant women alternatives to abortion) prayed that God would

send her some volunteers. Without them, she could not be able to keep the office open for counseling five days a week. Within a few weeks, she received enough calls for five new volunteers. What is more, she did not keep the success to herself; she shared it with them, demonstrating to everyone who volunteered in that office how the Lord works among us in response to prayer.

“Ask and it shall be given you; seek and you will find. Knock, and it will be opened for you. For everyone who asks, receives. Anyone who seeks, finds. If only you will knock, the door will open”  
Matthew 7: 7, 8.

Jesus assured the apostles that when they were arrested for doing His work, they would not need to worry about what to say because the Holy Spirit would be with them to use their tongues with the correct words and message. We, too, can ask the Holy Spirit to guide us when we doubt our abilities. In doing God’s work, we will not be left alone.

Those involved in the educational ministry in the parish often count on this promise when educating our youngsters in the ways of the Lord. They see and encounter children who are prone to ask difficult questions. Answers from a book are not always good enough and these teachers seek guidance from the Lord, for words and wisdom, for the intervention of the Holy Spirit when the questions seem a little bit too much. When a light of understanding and acceptance brightens a child’s face, the teacher knows the Spirit is at work in our midst.

Though our humility can cause us to doubt that we can make a worthwhile contribution to our faith community, it helps to remember the Scriptural assurance that everything is possible with God. “For if you had faith even as small as a tiny mustard seed you say to this mountain, ‘Move’ and it would go far away. Nothing would be impossible” Matthew 17: 20.

And when we fear that the right words will never come, it is reassuring to remember that Jesus did more than simply preach. He acted in charity to produce charitable results. He spent time with His followers in the streets and in their homes. Through His actions, they could see the Good News, not only hear about it. Our actions can reveal the Good News as well. Volunteer work in our parish is not simply words; it is deeds and genuine heart-felt example.

“You are the light of the world – a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see. Do not hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father” Matthew 5: 14 – 16.

Volunteers are like the apostles whom Jesus sent forth to preach the Good News. Today, the Good News needs people who can balance church accounts, lead prayer groups, organize marches on Washington, help keep the parish kitchen clean, dust the pews in the church, offer

hours upon hours for the success of Pirohi or Bake Sale. It is up to all of us to imitate the apostles in their trust and faithfulness to Jesus. When we emulate this spirit of volunteerism, we too will grow in understanding with our purpose on earth. We will have found our destined place in the life of our faith community. And our relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will be enriched and enlivened; it will grow into something more than we ever hoped for!

### Experiences of Volunteerism

People can grow in a number of surprising ways through their volunteer work in the parish. Sometimes growth takes the form of little personal discoveries, or of hidden talents or interests, perhaps, or of simple truths revealed for the first time. Such may be the case with those keep the church clean because they come to discover in the physical building of the church ancient truths about faith. Other times, growth can be quite dramatic and insights gained through volunteering can persuade us to examine our lives and refocus our goals. Practical knowledge can be gained at the bake sales and the Pirohi endeavors of the parish where loving Christian camaraderie abounds.

Volunteering can show us that when we are willing to start with a simple principle, "Do unto others...", we can accomplish quite a lot for Christ and for ourselves. We can therefore enrich the lives of our loved ones by our example. Some discover an appreciation on the simplicity and beauty of a more relaxed lifestyle that allows people to focus their energies on relationships which can mean leading others to Christ in our parish by introducing our precious Orthodox faith in conversations and personal witness.

For some, it might be that what one person can not accomplish alone, can be achieved by uniting with similar minded devoted faithful. When society tries to dampen idealism, one may learn from the example of other devoted souls that Christ's purpose will be achieved in the world through individual effort and example.

### Why Volunteer?

If we truly know the magnificence of God's enthralling love, then why should we be surprised that we get more from being a parish volunteer than we give? As our Lord teaches us, "Try to show as much compassion as your Father does. Never criticize or condemn – for it will all come back on you. Go easy on others; then they will do the same for you. For if you give, you will receive! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together, to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give – large or small – will be used to measure what is given back to you" Luke 6: 36 – 38.

Sometimes we get so busy with the routine of our lives that we do not think we have the time to give back. But when we seriously think about it, we realize we cannot afford to neglect such a gift! When people make the time to channel their caring into a volunteer activity that benefits the entire parish, they usually discover that they feel good because they are contributing wholly and totally of their whole selves. They also discover that there is no better way than volunteering for Christ, to experience the strength of God's abiding love for us. We will find it reflected back to us through those we serve, and in those who serve with us. In all of these people we meet the risen Christ and encounter the Holy Spirit in action!

**Be immortalized  
in salvation history  
like the  
Good Samaritan,  
who volunteered  
to do good!**

## GREGORY THE WONDERWORKER OF NEOCAESAREA

**G**regory the Wonderworker is often referred to as a “Second Moses.” Born in the city of Pontus of wealthy and eminent parents in 203 A.D. Gregory, whose given name was Theodore, grew up receiving the best of educations. He was extremely interested in philosophy, but somehow felt the Greek and Egyptian thought of his time was not complete or fulfilling for his intellectual needs. He went off to study in Alexandria, where he fell under the influence of Origen and other Christian teachers. The young scholar soon embraced Christianity and was baptized into the faith, taking the name of Gregory.

By the time Gregory returned to his home region of Neocaesarea, he had but one goal to fulfill: winning souls for Christ. A gathering of fellow Christians found that they were only 17 in number! Indeed, Gregory had his work cut out for him. A lesser man would have been discouraged, but Gregory was not a lesser man! He was consecrated bishop and soon his tiny flock began to grow. It is said that Gregory had the power to drive away evil spirits and to heal illnesses and diseases. When a plague hit Asia Minor in 253 A.D., Gregory tirelessly ministered to those suffering its effects. His inspiring example led to the conversion of thousands of pagans.

Gregory fell asleep in the Lord in 270 A.D. At the time of his death, the spiritual environment of his city had been completely reversed. Now there were only 17 pagans to be found in what this “Second Moses” had molded into a vibrant Christian community.