

Illuminated Church Youth Chatter

May, 2016

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE SOUTH ANTHRACITE DEANERY YOUTH

This Publication, a Gift to the Youth and Young Adults of this Deanery, is, I hope, interesting to you and will help you grow in your relationship with God. Please send your comments and ideas for future issues. Thank you to everyone who submitted suggestions for the title to this publication--20 great titles were received. The one chosen is a combination of 2 submissions: **Church Chatter** by Alan Evens and **Youth Illuminations** by *no name*. Together, the first letters form the word **ICYC (Jesus)**.
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Pentecost - The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The Descent of the Holy Spirit - Pentecost - is one of the greatest feasts of the liturgical year. It is, in fact, the birthday of the church.

Before His death on the cross, Jesus promised the disciples that when He returned to the Father, "The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you." (John 14:26)

After Christ's Ascension, the Apostles waited for this promise to be fulfilled. St. John Chrysostom wrote of that day-Pentecost, "Today we have arrived at the peak of all blessings, we have reached the capital of feasts, we have obtained the very fruit of our Lord's promise."

The Holy Spirit gave the Apostles the courage and understanding to share all that they had learned, to proclaim the Gospel. This same Spirit is among us today, giving us that same courage and understanding.

We can share the love and teachings of the Lord Jesus in whatever career or profession we choose. These athletes are examples of the many sports figures who have the courage to share their faith.

Randall Cunningham - Philly Quarterback who is considered by many to be the first great black QB.

Eric Liddell (1902-1945) - the Flying Scotsman- Olympic runner immortalized in the movie "Chariots of Fire," who gave up the chance to win a 1924 gold medal in the 100-meter run because it meant racing on a Sunday.

Mariano Rivera - Rivera was an outstanding pitcher with the NY Yankees. In an interview, he said, "Everything I have and everything I became is because of the strength of the Lord, and through him I have accomplished everything. Not because of my strength. Only by His love, his mercy, and his strength."

Allyson Felix - This Olympic runner is one of the fastest women in the world. Allyson won a 2012 Olympic gold medal, two Olympic silver medals and three world championship golds and describes her running ability as a gift from God, "For me, my faith is the reason I run. I definitely feel I have this amazing gift that God has blessed me with, and it's all about using it to the best of my ability."

Michael Waltrip - driver and owner of Michael Waltrip Racing, is known as one of the NASCAR's most outspoken people of faith.

Michael Waltrip said, "I talk to God and I talk to Jesus when I'm racing and before I race." Waltrip is also active in his support of Motor Racing Outreach, a Christian ministry that aims to introduce NASCAR drivers, crews, and their families "to a personal faith in Christ, to growth in Christ-likeness, and to active involvement in the church through relationships that provide care in times of stress, knowledge of God's word, and assistance in the development of leadership skills."

Shaun Alexander - Former running back for the Seattle Seahawks and Washington Redskins, said in his book, "Touchdown Alexander," "Everyone has been given gifts that can be used to bring glory to God," he writes. "And when we bring glory to God through the gifts He has given us, we are blessed. For me, the gift was athletic ability."

Gabby Douglas became the 1st African-American gymnast and 1st woman of color to become the individual all-around champion in Olympic history at the age of 16. After winning Olympic gold in 2012, she wrote "It's a dream come true! Gotta give God the Glory! Thank you everyone for praying for me!" on her Facebook page.

People of faith can be found in all professions and at all ages. Athletes are role models, willing to work and strive for their sport, but here are role models in every profession, who are committed to doing their best, no matter how much work it takes, and they have the same commitment to grow in their relationship with God and to share it with others.

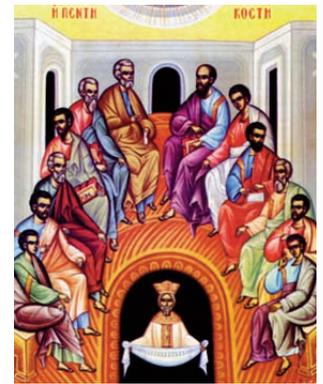
How about you? How committed are you to develop your gifts? Do you have the courage and commitment to deepen your relationship with God?

May Trivia

-  May 6, 1937 - The Hindenburg exploded over Lakehurst, NJ, killing 36.
-  May 6, 1954 - In Oxford, England, Roger Bannister broke 4-minute mile (3:59.4).
-  May 9, 1914 - President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mother's Day as a holiday.
-  May 13, 1981 - Pope John Paul II was shot by Mehmet Ali Agca.
-  May 17, 1792 - The NY Stock Exchange was formed.
-  May 20, 1873 - Levi Strauss patented copper-riveted jeans, designed to help prevent tears in the fabric.
-  May 20, 1927 - American aviator Charles A. Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field on Long Island, NY, on the world's first solo, nonstop flight across the Atlantic Ocean (New York to Paris.)
-  May 24, 1884 - Samuel F. B. Morse sent the 1st public telegraph message - "What Hath God Wrought?" through the Washington-to-Baltimore telegraph line.
-  May 29, 2004 - The National World War II Memorial was dedicated in Washington, D.C.
-  No other month begins on the same day of the week as May.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit - The Icon of Pentecost

In the icon of Pentecost we see the fulfillment of the mission of Christ and beginning of the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church through the presence and work of the Holy Spirit. It is a reflection of the baptism of the church with Spirit and Fire. As we look at the icon of the Feast, we see the following elements:



- ✧ The 12 Apostles are depicted in the same size and seated at the same level facing each other as an indication of equality, harmony and unity.
- ✧ At the center of the icon between the Apostles Peter and Paul, there is an empty seat, which represents the seat of the "Teacher", Jesus Christ, who gathers the Disciples around Him. This seat, however, is shown empty because Jesus Christ has already ascended into heavens in glory and reigns invisibly in the Church through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- ✧ At the end of the two rows of the Apostles, at the edges of the semicircle, the icon depicts Sts. Philip and Thomas. Their beardless face is a sign of their young age. They are seated purposely at the edges as an indication to the continuous renewal of the apostolic succession in the church through the Holy Priesthood, who will continue the teaching mission in the church.
- ✧ Above the Apostles, there is a semicircular shape from which there are 12 luminous rays radiating and descending on the Apostles as a sign of baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- ✧ Below the Apostles, in the center-bottom, there is an elderly king that is depicted inside a black background. The elderly king symbolizes the World - *Cosmos* - signifying the sinfulness of the world. The black background around him symbolizes *the darkness of sin and the shadow of death*. The crown on the head of the king symbolizes sin that dominates and ruled the world. The elderly king is holding in his hand a white cloth containing 12 scrolls, which represent the 12 Apostles, who brought light to the world through their teachings. The white color of the cloth reflects the "light in the world" which entered through the teachings of the Apostles.

Attention Youth

Youth Day at Knoebel's:

The Deanery Youth Day is set for Sunday July 10th at Knoebel's Amusement Park beginning at 11am.

Mark your calendar.

More information will be available in your parish in the near future.

For more information and/or questions, please contact any of our South Anthracite Parishes:

Mt. Carmel - Centralia www.sspeterandpaulmc.org

Shenandoah - St. Clair www.first-ukrainian.com

Minersville - Middleport
St. Nicholas Parish www.saintnicholasminersville.com

Frackville - Maizeville www.stmichaelucc.com

Shamokin www.transfigurationchurchshamokin.com

McAdoo - Hazelton
Patronage of the Mother of God Church
210 W.Blaine St. McAdoo, PA 18237
570 -929-2804

There are many 'odd' holidays that are celebrated everyday. We have never heard of most of these 'holidays'. Some are fun, but all can allow us an opportunity for kindness.

Celebrate:

- May 8 - Mother's Day / No Socks Day
- May 12 - National Nutty Fudge Day
- May 14 - National Chicken Dance Day
- May 15 - International Day of Families / Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
- May 21 - National Learn To Swim Day / Neighbor Day
- May 23 - National Taffy Day
- May 24 - Brother's Day
- May 28 - National Hamburger Day / National Polka Day
- May 30 - Memorial Day

Pet Month / Photo Month / Smile Month / Egg Month /
Get Caught Reading Month / Barbeque Month / Water Safety
Month / International Respect for Chickens Month / Salad Month