



Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

11 Wilkins Station Road - Box 805 - Medford, NJ 08055

Rectory Phone: 856-665-2491 - Fr. John's Cell Phone: 609-315-2894 - Email: frjs@aol.com
www.holycrossmedford.org

OCTOBER, 2007

Note: We will offer our **2nd Environmental Day** on **Saturday October 20** on the theme of ***Justice, Mercy, and Ecological Footprint: To Whom Much is Given, Much will be Required..*** We will be coordinating this day with members of the local "Friends/Quaker" community. An Orthodox service, and then presentation and discussion led by Ed Dreby will follow along with the opportunity for participants to plant bulbs outside and a tree. Refreshments will follow.

Our Moral Footprint

by Vaclav Havel

Over the past few years the questions have been asked ever more forcefully whether global climate changes occur in natural cycles or not, to what degree we humans contribute to them, what threats stem from them and what can be done to prevent them. Scientific studies demonstrate that any changes in temperature and energy cycles on a planetary scale could mean danger for all people on all continents.

It is also obvious from published research that human activity is a cause of change; we just don't know how big its contribution is. Is it necessary to know that to the last percentage point, though? By waiting for incontrovertible precision, aren't we simply wasting time when we could be taking measures that are relatively painless compared to those we would have to adopt after further delays?

Maybe we should start considering our sojourn on earth as a loan. There can be no doubt that for the past hundred years at least, Europe and the United States have been running up a debt, and now other parts of the world are following their example. Nature is issuing warnings that we must not only stop the debt from growing but start to pay it back. There is little point in asking whether we have borrowed too much or what would happen if we postponed the repayments. Anyone with a mortgage or a bank loan can easily imagine the answer.

The effects of possible climate changes are hard to estimate. Our planet has never been in a state of balance from which it could deviate through human or other influence and then, in time, return to its original state. The climate is not like a pendulum that will return to its original position after a certain period. It has evolved turbulently over billions of years into a gigantic

complex of networks, and of networks within networks, where everything is interlinked in diverse ways.

Its structures will never return to precisely the same state they were in 50 or 5,000 years ago. They will only change into a new state, which, so long as the change is slight, need not mean any threat to life. Larger changes, however, could have unforeseeable effects within the global ecosystem. In that case, we would have to ask ourselves whether human life would be possible. Because so much uncertainty still reigns, a great deal of humility and circumspection is called for.

We can't endlessly fool ourselves that nothing is wrong and that we can go on cheerfully pursuing our wasteful lifestyles, ignoring the climate threats and postponing a solution. Maybe there will be no major catastrophe in the coming years or decades. Who knows? But that doesn't relieve us of responsibility toward future generations.

I don't agree with those whose reaction is to warn against restricting civil freedoms. Were the forecasts of certain climatologists to come true, our freedoms would be tantamount to those of someone hanging from a 20th-story parapet.

Whenever I reflect on the problems of today's world, whether they concern the economy, society, culture, security, ecology or civilization in general, I always end up confronting the moral question: what action is responsible or acceptable? The moral order, our conscience and human rights — these are the most important issues at the beginning of the third millennium.

We must return again and again to the roots of human existence and consider our prospects in centuries to come. We must analyze everything open-mindedly, soberly, unideologically and unobsessively, and project our knowledge into practical policies. Maybe it is no longer a matter of simply promoting energy-saving technologies, but chiefly of introducing ecologically clean technologies, of diversifying resources and of not relying on just one invention as a panacea.

I'm skeptical that a problem as complex as climate change can be solved by any single branch of science. Technological measures and regulations are important, but equally important is support for education, ecological training and ethics — a consciousness of the commonality of all living beings and an emphasis on shared responsibility.

Either we will achieve an awareness of our place in the living and life-giving organism of our planet, or we will face the threat that our evolutionary journey may be set back thousands or even millions of years. That is why we must see this issue as a challenge to behave responsibly and not as a harbinger of the end of the world.

The end of the world has been anticipated many times and has never come, of course. And it won't come this time either. We need not fear for our planet. It was here before us and most likely will be here after us. But that doesn't mean that the human race is not at serious risk. As a result of our endeavors and our irresponsibility our climate might leave no place for us. If we drag our feet, the scope for decision-making — and hence for our individual freedom — could

be considerably reduced.

Vaclav Havel is the former president of the Czech Republic. (**New York Times**, 9/27/07)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON - SATURDAY OCTOBER 6 at 9AM**
- **ST. HELENA'S GUILD MEETING – SUNDAY OCTOBER 7 AT 9:15.**
- **INREACH/OUTREACH MEETING – SUNDAY OCTOBER 7, after the liturgy.**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL DAY – SATURDAY OCTOBER 20 from 10 AM – Noon.**
- **CAREGIVERS' MEETING – OKTOBERFEST at the Dowiak's, October 23 at 7PM**
- **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – OCTOBER 24, 7 PM**
- **BRASS RUBBING WORKSHOP on NOVEMBER 10 from 9:30 – 3:00**

FALL/WINTER SCHEDULE TO BEGIN ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 7: The liturgy will begin at 10:00 AM.

WEDDING BANNES: Patricia Connelly & Dustin Robinson will be married in our church on Sunday October 14.

CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM will begin on **Sunday October 7** at 9:15 The younger classes will be working through Old Testament stories and the teenage classes will examine themes from **Sweeter than Honey: Orthodox Thinking on Dogma and Truth.**

ONE BOOK – ONE HOLY CROSS PARISH: This year the adult education class and a variety of sermons and other events will be based on the book, *Sweeter than Honey: Orthodox Thinking on Dogma and Truth* by Peter Bouteneff, assistant professor of dogmatic theology at St. Vladimir's Seminary. Copies of the book are available from Fr. John for \$12.00 a piece.
THE ADULT CLASS WILL BEGIN ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 14.

INREACH/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES: The next meeting will be on **Sunday October 7, following the liturgy.** During August we collected and delivered over \$250 worth of school supplies for children in Burlington county involved with free school lunch programs, sponsored by Emergency Services/Catholic Charities Program. Emergency Services collected these supplies from participating parishes assembled them into bookbags and delivered them throughout the county.

ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST FOR CAREGIVERS--If you haven't had the chance to come to a caregivers meeting yet, or haven't been to one in awhile, this would be a great one to attend. It's our annual Oktoberfest with a fantastic array of whatever foods remind you of fall, hosted by Sue Dowiak at her home at 706 Chester St., Moorestown, on **Tuesday, October 23 at 7 p.m.** YOU are a caregiver if you provide any kind of support to someone else and just need a night out. It is pot luck, so please call Sue at 234-6318 and let her know what you'll be bringing.

A BRASSRUBBING WORKSHOP will take place at our church on **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10** from 9:30 – 3:00 (9:30 – 10:00 will registration with coffee/etc).

Registration will be \$10.00 and there will be a \$5-8.00 additional fee depending on the size of the item one wishes to work on. An example of a brass rubbing is in the side glass case in the vestibule. A sign-up sheet will be located on the bulletin board near the kitchen.

ST. HELENA'S GUILD: NEXT MEETING – *Oct. 7, 9:15 am* - downstairs. Please join us. All are welcomed. We need to begin planning for the new year. Please help be a part of it. *We need you to help us get those church projects completed!*

- **OCTOBER 27** – Mark it in your calendar. We will decide on Oct. 7 if we can have a session for making something. More info to follow
- **EYE GLASSES COLLECTION with SUNDAY SCHOOL** –We are still collecting unwanted eye glasses for helping people gain the gift of sight. Thank you for supporting our children's efforts in their community service work/ fundraising activities.
- **COFFEE HOUR DONATIONS** – Your generous donations are greatly appreciated as they help defer the cost of all the supplies for coffee hour. Please contact **Donna Woodhull (609-654-7093)**- if you cannot find a replacement for your coffee hour. There are a few openings during the year. If you would like to host one of those weeks contact Donna Woodhull. Please remember to keep it simple when you are hosting. ****Special note:** we have a few parishioners that are highly allergic to peanuts, please label items if possible or keep all ingredient labels if purchased. Please don't be offended if we ask you to remove certain items from the table.**
- **ACME GROCERY RECEIPTS** – Remember to save your grocery receipts from **ACME only**. Place them in the little bag on the bulletin board. We do all the leg work and get “cash” back from participating ACME stores.
- **NEXT MONTHS GUILD MEETING** – *November 4, at 9:15 am*. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend – no cost – just your warm friendly spirit.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OCTOBER, 2007

These individuals will be notified.