

## • MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL •

would like to welcome everyone back from summer break. I hope you all had a relaxing summer with your family and friends.

### FEASIBILITY STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATE:

In the April monthly newsletter "*The Shepherd*," I informed you that the St. Spyridon Parish Council & the St. Spyridon Hellenic Foundation had formed a Feasibility Study Committee. It was agreed that the committee would consist of 7 community members and the parish priest. Each group elected 3 members to represent their organization and both agreed on the seventh member.

The committee drafted a Request for Qualification (RFQ) to solicit consulting companies that are interested and qualified to conduct the feasibility study. The RFQ was published in the San Diego Daily Transcript. The committee received over 30 interested consulting firms. The committee reviewed all the proposals and narrowed it down to 18. Out of those 18 the committee again reviewed the proposals and narrowed it down to a "short list" of 6 firms.

The 6 firms were notified that they were part of the "short list". They were invited to a walk-through tour of the site. The committee interviewed the 6 firms. The interviews were held at St. Spyridon. Each firm was allowed 30 minutes to present their qualifications and to answer questions.

In the meantime, the committee drafted a Request for Proposal (RFP) that was issued to the top 4 qualified consulting companies to submit their proposal on the cost to complete the feasibility study.

The committee has narrowed it down to two firms, **The London Group** and the **M W Steele Group**. Both of these firms are qualified to help us with our vision. The committee will sit down with each group and go over their proposals.

Once a finalist is selected and a price is negotiated, each organization will be asked to approve the funding for the feasibility study. **The Parish Council will hold a Special General Assembly Meeting to present the proposal to the community for their approval.**

The feasibility study will be phased to help answer if it is feasible to develop the block to accommodate the future needs of our community.

### GOLF TOURNAMENT:

**Hellenic Fairways XIV Golf Tournament** will be held on **Friday, November 20th** at **Coronado Municipal Golf Course**. In this bulletin you will find a page asking for golfers to join us for a great day of golf. In addition, you can help by sponsoring a hole. You or your company can sponsor a hole for \$200 or co-sponsor a hole for \$100. We are also asking for your donated items to be used for the raffle. For more information, please contact me at (619) 561-1061 ext. 12.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Please mark your calendars for the General Assembly on **Sunday, November 15th** after church services. The agenda will be mailed out in early November.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

The next parish council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 13th** at **6:30 PM**.

### 41ST ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL:

The Parish Council is looking for any community member that is interested in serving as the chairperson for our **41st Annual Greek Festival** to be held in June 2010. If you are interested, please contact the church office. ❀

I wish you all good health and happiness.  
Spero Tzathas, Parish Council President

### FATHER - Continued from page 1

My Friends, it was in a very real and practical way that Jesus expressed His compassion. His inner feeling of compassion moved Him to action. Jesus had compassion and showed His mercy through His actions. He *bore every infirmity*. An infirmity is a weakness and we all have them, some more than others. An infirmity inhibits us to produce (positive) results. As Orthodox Christians we are instructed to *bear each others burdens*. From the book of Romans St. Paul drives the point home: *We who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak not pleasing ourselves...for Christ did not please Himself (15:1-15)*.

In other words, we too are called to express our *inner* compassion by showing *outward* mercy and we can show mercy in many different ways. Mercy assumes a need, be it emotional, physical, financial, or spiritual but it also requires the resources to meet the need: *We who are strong...in other words those who have what it takes to help ought to help, this is what it means to show/give mercy*.

I am truly grateful to my yia yia for having (indirectly) taught me these three beautiful words *Lord have mercy*. They have been the words I have leaned on for as long as I can remember; and God has truly shown me His compassion in so many different ways on so many different occasions. God is great and merciful and desires to show us. He wants to *heal our diseases and bear our infirmities* if only we truly believe *He can do so*.

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ, throughout the Divine Liturgy we say these three words *Lord have mercy* over and over again. They are offered as one part to our prayer; as a response i.e. (Priest) *For travelers, by land sea and air, for the sick, the suffering, and for those held in captivity, let us pray to the Lord (People) Lord have mercy*. We are asking Jesus to show us His compassion by having mercy and He does, and we must try to do no less, for by doing so Jesus reminds us *blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy (Matthew 5:7)*. ❀