

SUNDAY AFTER THE
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of Saint Euphemia -- September 16th

Spiritual Counsel

But then there is another source of the sacrament of confession as we know it today. This is the practice of spiritual counsel, first found especially in the Egyptian monasticism of the fourth century, though no doubt the practice of using spiritual counsel goes right back to apostolic times. But we don't know very much about it until the emergence of monasticism.

In the desert of Egypt, as we have learned from the Gerontikon and the Apophthigmata – or Sayings of the Desert Fathers – an important part was played by the disclosure of thoughts. The disciple would go perhaps daily to his spiritual elder, his staretz, and open his heart to him. Now this is something clearly different from the system of public penance. First of all, it is regular, not exceptional. In many monastic centers, this happens daily. Secondly, it is private, not public. It is carried out under conditions of confidentiality. It doesn't directly involve the Church hierarchy.

The spiritual father – in a monastic context, the elder – may in fact be a layman, not a priest. Anthony

of Egypt was never a priest but he formed in many ways the prototype of the monastic spiritual father. Athanasius calls him a physician given by God to all of Egypt. The spiritual father of St. Simeon the New Theologian of the eleventh century – Simeon the Studite – was not a priest. Indeed, the giving of spiritual counsel can surely be done by a lay Christian – a man or woman – a person not in monastic vows at all, though that is more exceptional.

In this practice of spiritual counsel, the scope is far wider than in the formal penance of the Church. What you disclose to your elder is not just your sins, but your thoughts. You don't just speak of what you've done wrong, you share with him your inner state, your whole situation. The hope is that by revealing your thoughts to your elder, you will in fact avoid falling into sin. In other words, penance is retrospective, picking up the pieces after the breakage; but, through the use of spiritual counsel, you hope to avoid the breakage itself.

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"Slava Isusu Khristoo!"
"Glory to Jesus Christ!"

Sep. 16, 2012
The Holy Cross

FAMILY WEEKEND is here and now at our Parish, as we set aside this week to gather up and honor all our families. We hope that every parish family will bring their whole family group to the Liturgy to share in the celebration. We will serve all kinds of treats, food and drinks, after the Holy Liturgy, both Saturday and Sunday. Let's all get together for FAMILY WEEK this weekend!

THE PARISH SUNDAY SCHOOL will hold a registration and open house on Sunday, the 16th, at 10 am. Formal classes will commence next Sunday, Sep. 23. Every parish child must attend Sunday School, for it is the sacred duty of all parents and all pastors to see to the Christian education of our children. We have classes for all the grades, from Preschool through Highschool. Please sign up your young ones Sunday. It's all free and all for our children!

THE FEASTDAY of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Sep. 14) will be celebrated this weekend in our parish. We will honor Christ and His Holy Cross, His chosen means of redeeming the human race. After the Liturgy we will all sing the ancient hymn and kiss the holy cross.

TO YOUR CROSS WE BOW, O LORD,
AND WE GLORIFY YOUR HOLY RESURRECTION.

THE PARISH AUXILIARY met on Thursday and discussed plans for the upcoming season of our Catering Ministry. We have several events to cater this fall and some five events already booked for the spring. We trust that you will heed the call and give us a hand to serve these affairs when the time comes. We thank all the volunteers for that dedication to this all-important ministry and we thank the members for their contribution of \$2000 from their labors in the spring.

A FEW WHEEL-CHAIRS AND WALKERS are available at the parish for use by your family and friends. Just see Fr. Pastor about this.

TWO CURRENT PROJECTS are now underway at the parish. We will soon remove the oil tank, 500 gal. in-ground, from the church property. The cost for this project is about \$1500. Secondly, we will soon remove and replace two posts at the cemetery fence which were damaged recently, at the cost of about \$400.

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 6 pm For all our dear parish families

Sunday, 9 am +Peter Martinick (The Fonock-Maruszczak Family)

Thursday, 7 am Health of Irene Downing (Jim Deskiewicz)

Friday, 7 am Health of Olga Hustak (Roman and Kay Kruk)

Saturday, 8 am +Dmytro Macelak (The Michaels Family)

Sunday, 9 am +Boris Lewicky (The Luba Family)

+Oleh Pawluk (Brother Borys and Neonila Pawluk)

Saturday, 6 pm For all the parish Faithful

THE HOLY CROSS TROPAR: O Lord, save Your People and bless Your Inheritance. Help the faithful rulers to vanquish their enemies and protect Your Faithful with Your Cross. GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND THE SON AND...

THE HOLY CROSS KONTAK: O Christ God, You ascended the Cross for us willingly, give Your blessings to Your new Christian community. Gladden Your faithful rulers with Your power. Give them victory over their enemies. Your aid is a weapon of peace, a pledge of certain victory.

THE HOLY CROSS PROKIMEN: Praise the Lord, Our God, bow down before Him.

Welcome Home!
Fr. For