

This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>

**A few years ago, a book called "Soul Searching" investigated the spiritual lives of teenagers. It found that religion can be important to teens, but it also determined that many of them adhere to what it called "moralistic therapeutic deism." This can be defined as a belief in a kind, loving God who is not connected to any particular faith tradition, and who is there largely to help in solving personal problems.**

"Souls in Transition" is author Christian Smith's follow-up to the earlier book, and it gives valuable insights into the lives of those he terms "emerging adults" between the ages of 18 and 23. Emerging adults marry relatively late, may spend several years in higher education, and rarely stay for decades at the same job because of the unreliable global economy. Many are unaffiliated with any institution, and have no commitment to a worshipping community.

So which, if any, of these emerging adults might make or keep a commitment to faith? Smith answers that it is those who, as teenagers, had examples of older people who practiced their faith. There are other factors (such as prayer, reading of Scripture, multiple religious experiences and the absence of strong doubts in the teen years) but the example of practiced faith is the strongest indicator of future commitment. Teens who have had no such example are unlikely to develop their spiritual lives as emerging adults, and will probably follow the societal trend of indifference, and sometimes hostility, to faith.

Smith rejects the idea that parents (or adult caretakers) become less significant in their children's lives during the teen years. In fact, parents' perception that their children don't want them to promote or "impose" religious beliefs, and their resulting fear of doing so, leaves the teens "floating in a directionless murk to figure out completely on their own some of life's most basic questions concerning reality, truth, goodness, value, morality and identity." It isn't that these children don't want their parents' involvement, Smith says. It's rather that they want it on "renegotiated" terms that "take seriously their growing maturity and desired independence."

Not only teens, but also the emerging adults who are the subject of this book benefit from the counsel, mentoring and simple presence of caring older people. Smith calls on the churches in America to recognize the unsettled and often disconnected years of emerging adulthood as a fairly new phenomenon in our fast-changing culture. Churches should create ways to reach out to emerging adults, just as they have created ways to reach out to other groups such as the elderly and families with young children.

But it really begins in the teen years, and well before. Children need relationships with adult faith models. Smith, being interviewed about "Souls in Transition," put it this way: "The most important factor is parents. For better or worse, parents are tremendously important in shaping their children's faith trajectories. That's the story that came out in "Soul Searching." It's also the story that comes out here."



**Help our church raise funds by making your purchases at**

**Foodland Stores from 9/1/2020 - 9/30/2020.**

**For more information visit [www.greekorthodoxhawaii.org](http://www.greekorthodoxhawaii.org) and click on the Give Aloha tab at the top of our home page or call the church office, (808) 521-7220.**

## Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



August 23, 2020

11th Sunday of Matthew

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August 23, 2020

## 11th Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration of: Leave-taking of the Dormition; Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons; Lupos the Martyr & Slave of St. Demetrios of Thessaloniki

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Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

*En ti gennisi* (Dormition) Tone 1  
*You gave birth yet preserved your virginity. You fell asleep in death yet did not desert the world, O Theotokos. You were transported to life, as you are Mother of Life and, by virtue of your intercessions, deliver our souls from death.* (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

*Ote katilthes* (Hymn of the Day) Tone 2  
*When You descended to death, O Life immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your radiant Divinity, and when from the depths of darkness You raised the dead, all the power of Haven were crying out to You, O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to You.*

*En ti gennisi* (Dormition) Tone 1– \*Repeated\*

*Tu Stavru su ton tipon* (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8  
*Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which forever you guard in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone are the lover of mankind.*

Kontakion Tone 6

*Tin en presvies*  
*The Theotokos is undying in intercession. \*Immovable is our hope in her for protection. \* Neither death nor burial prevailed over her. \* As she is Mother of Life, she was removed to life by Him, \* the Lord who lived in her ever-virgin womb.* (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

BRETHREN, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:23-35

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailors, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Today

SUN, 8/23– 11th Sunday of Matthew

This Week

- ✘ THU, 8/27– Prayer Ministry 11 a.m., Greek Class 4 p.m.
- ✘ FRI, 8/28– Metropolis Clergy Zoom Meeting 10 a.m.
- ✘ SAT, 8/29– Beheading of St. John the Baptist: Orthros 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy \*Fast Day with Wine and Oil allowed\*
- ✘ SUN, 8/30– 12th Sunday of Matthew

**Prayer Ministry**

Prayer Ministry meets every Thursday by phone at 11 a.m. For information, email [prayer@greekorthodoxhawaii.org](mailto:prayer@greekorthodoxhawaii.org) or call the church office at 521-7220.

**New Greek Class**

The new Greek Class, based on Papaloizos Publications, will meet via Zoom every Thursday at 4 p.m. Contact Stelio Scordilis for information, [sscordilis@gmail.com](mailto:sscordilis@gmail.com).

**Facebook Link to Sunday Services**

Please check the "footers" of your email in which you received this Electronic Weekly Bulletin.

**Zoom Link for all Weekday Services (Monday thru Saturday)**

Meeting ID: 645 401 0911; Password: 990890

**Act Now Honolulu Order**– Effective Thursday, August 20th thru Wednesday, September 16th, 2020: "Face coverings required at all in-person spiritual services, no singing, no wind instruments." \*\*\*Note: This Order applies to our regular Sunday Services, but not at our Weekday Services which are via Zoom.\*\*\*