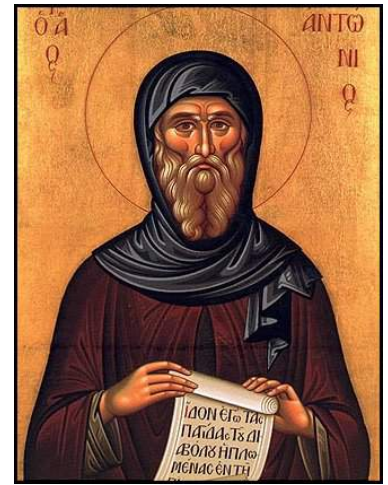


# St. Anthony's Scroll



A publication of  
St. Anthony the Great  
Orthodox Christian Church

VOLUME 8 ~ NUMBER 10  
OCTOBER 2017



## “My House Shall Be Called a House of Prayer”

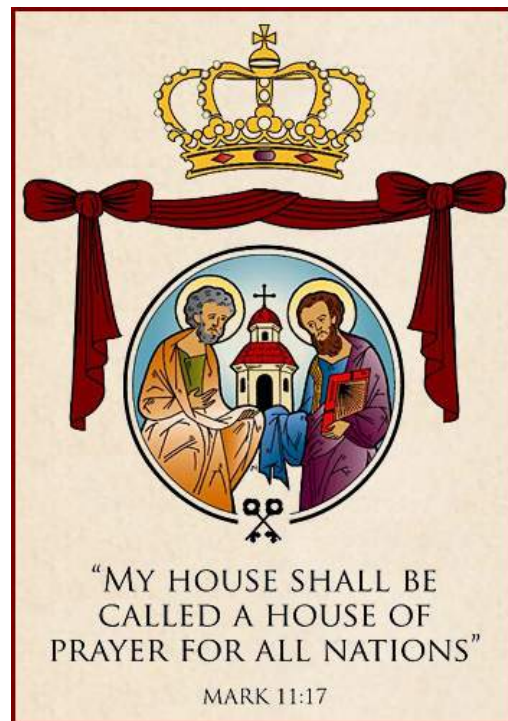
The following article was the sermon given by Fr. Anthony at the Archdiocese Convention in Miami

I recently learned that the most racially segregated hour in America is at 10:00 AM on Sunday morning. In almost every church in America, on Sunday mornings at 10:00, every cultural group flock together. White people go to predominately white churches; black people go to predominately black churches, Hispanic people go to Hispanic speaking churches, and the list goes on. It's a pretty interesting fact, but what's even more interesting than that is that the second most racially segregated hour is during Coffee Hour in just about every Orthodox Church. At coffee hour, the birds of a feather flock together...the “convert table” is where folks sit and discuss how they learned about the Orthodox Faith, or what recipes they use for fasting meals. The “Arab table” and the “Greek table” who sit in separate sections; discussions vary from week to week. And then of course the “*Tabouleh*” table that's just a mix of everyone else who don't really fit into any specific category.

When we hear the theme of our convention, “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations”, we tend to think of it in very general terms, that basically our churches should be for everyone. It's a no-brainer. We wouldn't tell people they can't come to our church because of how they look or how they dress. We don't refuse people when they walk in our doors, however, our

minds may have questions about who a certain person is and perhaps what their motives are. The wheels in our minds begin to turn and even judge the people who walk in, especially if you work in the Church and “they” come to the office during the week. Homeless people come and ask for money. Mothers come who need diapers for their babies. Solicitors come in because they want our business, parishioners come in because they may want or need to talk.

They're all coming to a house of prayer because they want to see it. They want to experience it. And so we, who work in the church, whether you're a clergymen or laymen, are called to be a reflection of what it means to be a House of Prayer. People want to see and experience in each one of us that our own personal temple is a House of Prayer. If we don't have this spirit of peace, then our interaction with every nation that comes to us, will not be the House of Prayer they are subconsciously seeking in their hearts and minds. The homeless who ask for money are also seeking for compassion. Mothers who need diapers are seeking comfort and relief. Solicitors, though they're coming for business purposes, could also be seeking for some encouragement. And those parishioners who like to stop by...God knows what they need, but if we offer them our love, they will leave with their spirits filled. *(continued on next page)*



St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Christian Church

7202 FM 2920 ~ Spring, TX 77379 ~ (281) 251-6000 ~ [www.stanthonythegreat.org](http://www.stanthonythegreat.org)

Many of the priests we know and love in our Archdiocese are good priests because they were taught by good priests, and not only that, some of them come from a line of priests, perhaps their fathers or grandfathers served as priests. My father wasn't a priest, but I can tell you, strangely enough, that I learned how to be a priest because of his example as a Grocer. He and my mother owned and operated a neighborhood convenient store that I worked in for twenty years of my life. I learned how to be a priest from my father because in order to make a living, he in a sense, had to serve all nations – people from all different walks of life. From the rich to the poor, from the young to the old and everything in between. He treated people with respect. He served them with love and care. When customers died, he and my mother would attend their funerals. They were invited to baptisms and birthday parties. If a customer who lost his job couldn't afford to buy groceries, my parents would provide his family with basic necessities. If a single mother needed their unruly child to be disciplined, my father would lecture him as any father would, and even reward them if they made good grades in school. He was a father-figure to the entire neighborhood, and he became this way because he and my mother, by their loving example, made their place of business feel more like a House of Prayer. It was a business, yes, but it was a place where unchurched people could receive the mercy and love the Church freely gives to us. So in them, I as their son, learned that a House of Prayer must begin with me. Every interaction I have with whoever it may be, must come from a place of peace, Christ Himself – Who is the Prince of Peace.

So whether a person is a black or white or any color in between, or whether a person sits at the Greek table or the convert table at coffee hour, the common denominator in every nation we encounter is me and how I respond. We must ask ourselves, "Does the temple of my body, my own House of Prayer, reflect Who Christ is?" St. Seraphim says, "Acquire the spirit of peace and thousands around you will be saved." May God grant us His Spirit of Peace so that we might save ourselves and the thousands around us.

## GENERAL PARISH MEETING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>



Important  
DATE!

**IMMEDIATELY AFTER DIVINE LITURGY  
PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND  
THIS ANNUAL MEETING!**



October 27th - 29th



Register at [YESNorthAmerica.org](http://YESNorthAmerica.org)  
by October 13th.

## To Gala...or *Not* to Gala

Weeks and months went into planning our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mediterranean Night Gala! However, the planning didn't begin immediately after our 10<sup>th</sup> Gala last year, and the reason being was that the four-person committee was feeling a little burned out. It was just too much work with too little help. Thoughts and even announcing at the General Parish Meeting last year that we would cancel the Gala because we didn't have enough help was prevailing. However, that quickly turned around thanks to a whole lot of work done by the response from you! Our four person committee from last year was multiplied by four! Actually, it was seventeen to be exact. The committee from last year, led by the Parish Council, created sub-committees with a brief job description for each. The plan was laid out and the response was remarkable!

But then...Hurricane Harvey came. To Gala, or not to Gala? The storm landed just three week and half weeks before one of our biggest fundraising events of the year. Should we continue? Should be postpone? Should we cancel? But then we saw how our resilient city responded in this tragic time. Everyone pulled together, in fact, the entire country came together at a time when we needed to see it most! Our committee, after discussing what we should do, was in agreement that we would continue the event as planned, and in addition, we would give a portion of the proceeds from the event to

families who have been directly affected by the storm.



To Gala or not to Gala was still the question. We still weren't sure and in fact, we were feeling unsettled because of the number of attendees. Last year, we had over 400 people! This year, just ten days before the event, we only had 250 registered. Not sure what happened in those ten days, but apparently people were calling for tickets from all

throughout the city! By the end of the week, just two days before the event, the count was up to 400!

To Gala was DEFINITELY the answer! And thankfully, the event proved to be another successful year! We are very thankful to the hundreds of people who attended, the Parish Council for their leadership, and the committee who worked tirelessly to make this such a memorable and worthy event. Cheers to next year!

***Pictured Top Row L to R:***

Stuart, Betsy, Rae, Fr. Anthony, Barbara, Manuel & Stephen

***Bottom Row L to R:***

Deanne, Randa, Meloney, Layal, Elaine, Donna, Adella & Penny

***Not Pictured:***

Pierre ☺ and Susan ☺

# *St. Anthony's Scroll*

---

**St. Anthony the Great Orthodox Church**

7202 FM 2920

Spring, TX 77379

[www.stanthonythegreat.org](http://www.stanthonythegreat.org)

## **CHURCH CLERGY & STAFF**

Rev. Fr. Anthony Baba ~ Priest

Rev. Fr. John Ballard ~ Attached Priest

Rev. Dn. Photios Beekman ~ Deacon

Ms. Adella Winder ~ Youth Director

Mrs. Bonnie Kokkinis ~ Secretary

A poster for a Fall Festival. The background is light gray with a large white circle in the center. The circle is surrounded by various colorful leaves in shades of yellow, orange, red, and green. The text "FALL FESTIVAL" is written in a large, orange, hand-drawn font across the center of the white circle.

# FALL FESTIVAL

Thursday, OCTOBER 26th  
5:30pm-8:00pm

TRUNK-OR-TREAT,  
ACTIVITIES IN THE NEW  
FELLOWSHIP HALL, COSTUME  
CONTEST & MORE!

For more information, contact adella at [adellawinder@gmail.com](mailto:adellawinder@gmail.com)