



The Voice of Holy Apostles
Greek Orthodox Church of Indianapolis
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Howdy! How ya'll doin'? Just a little Texas greeting for a change! I pray this finds everyone well, and not up to too much mischief, unless it's fun and harmless mischief!

To start with: "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:" (Ecclesiastes 3:1) This is an extremely important point to remember. Although what we think, say and do have far-reaching consequences, we must never believe that absolutely everything and everyone are subject to our control. ("Man proposes, God disposes."). Everything of worth is an on-going process of a co-operative interface with God. God won't do everything for us, but without God, we won't succeed in everything.

I know we've all heard this countless times, and have probably said it countless times, but do we really believe it? Do we really believe in continually calling upon God, of continually seeking to know and co-operate with God? This is a real and applied principle and key to our growth as individuals, and as a parish. Change and growth are demanded, and they are not always comfortable. Are we so set in how things were in the past that we refuse to change, to grow, to move forward? If you really and truly want our parish to grow, then each and all of us is going to have to be willing to change and to grow. If you refuse to do this, then at least be honest, and stop blaming other people. His Eminence and I cannot do this for you, if it is against your will. The things that were done in the past have little or nothing to do with how things go forward, unless clinging desperately to the past stops our forward progress, which it most assuredly will.

Greek Orthodoxy, along with Orthodoxy in general, has key central elements that are indeed eternal and unchanging. But that has to do with spiritual beliefs and principles, not with the more social side of the Church, which does change with time, place and overall context and circumstances. Problems arise when the inner, eternal elements get confused with the outer, more temporal elements, which are subject to flux and change. The Holy Spirit, unless blocked or hindered, constantly seeks to transform, motivate, heal, enlighten and uplift. He continues to make the Church, the Living Body of the God/Man Jesus Christ, alive and functioning and forward-looking and -moving. The Church is a living organism, not a museum. That which has life and movement grows and changes. This happens (or can happen) in the Church without sacrificing the Real and the Eternal. The choice is ours, each one of us.....to learn and grow and change and move forward.....or to remain unhappy and frustrated by staying stuck in the past.

Choose wisely, my friends, choose wisely. God bless!

Your Brother in Christ,
Fr. John

NOTED DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR:

July 4: Independence Day

THANK YOU TO HELEN KOSTARIDES:

Helen donated the beautiful frame that will now be home to our Epitaphios, in memory of her father Anastasios Kostarides. The frame was made so that it may be removed during Holy Week.

Also, thank you to Debbie O'Reilley for getting it framed, and Steve O'Reilley for hanging it, which finished the project.

