



ELDER AMVROSII OF OPTINA ANSWERS QUESTIONS

What does it mean to sincerely confess?

To hide nothing, speak plainly and not beat around the bush.

Sometimes stinginess attacks.

Give whatever you can, whatever your hand allows. One pilgrim begged alms. One woman was stingy and gave him a worn kerchief, while another was kind and gave the pilgrim whatever he asked for. As soon as he walked away from them they had a fire, and everything burned. The pilgrim turned back and returned to them all they had given him: to the one who had given him much he gave much, but to the stingy one he said: "Here's your kerchief".

What does it mean: Cast thy care upon the Lord (Ps. 54:25)?

This means living simply and placing all your hope in the Lord, not worrying about what someone else did, or about what will happen and how. When King David thought and reasoned in human terms, he came to a hopeless state, not finding any consolation: my soul is troubled greatly (Ps. 6:2), but when he placed all his hope in God he was comforted: I remembered Thy judgments of old, O Lord, and was comforted (Ps. 118:52). The enemy attacks man with passions, and the man does everything that the enemy suggests to him; all of this leaves its mark on man. Be condescending to others. Symeon the New Theologian wrote: "If you make peace with a hundred men but offend one, it all goes to waste".

Father, pray for me, that I would be able to bring peace to others.

First, be at peace yourself, then you will be able to bring peace to others. You must have love, a love with wings: on one side — humility, and on the other side — mercy and condescension toward your neighbor.

When I am angry then I pray absent-mindedly.

When one gets angry, he is deprived of God's protection. One must pray without the remembrance of evil.

What does it mean to live according to one's heart?

Not to meddle in the business of others and to see only good in others.

Sunday, July 10

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Liturgy 9:30 A.M.

Commemoration of Righteous Joanna the Myrrh-bearer (†1st century), Venerable Sampson the Hospitable (†530) and uncovering (in 1998) of relics of Venerable Amvrosii of Optina (†1891)

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Wednesday, July 13

Moleben 5:30 P.M.

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Sunday, July 17

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Liturgy 9:30

Commemoration of Holy Hierarch Andrew of Crete (†740), Venerable Andrew Rublev, the iconographer (†15th century), the Holy Royal Martyrs and Passion-bearers Emperor Nicholas II, Empress Alexandra, Prince Aleksii, Princesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia (†1918)

ON CHASTITY AND PREMARITAL COHABITATION

By Priest Paul Gumerov

Part V

One modern psychologist called 'common-law marriage' an open-ended ticket: "The partners always know that they have a ticket out, and therefore, if something isn't just right, they can give up and wave good-bye at any moment. With such an approach, there is no motivation to fully invest in a relationship; for it would be like remodeling a rented apartment."

That is why so few 'common-law marriages' end in legal marriage. People from the outset do not perceive their union as something significant, serious, and permanent; their relationship is not deep. Freedom and independence are dearer to them. Even the years they spend together do not give them any assurance, or give their union any stability.

'Common-law marriage' can also be called a 'school of irresponsibility'. Two people have come together with no obligations. If they don't like it, they can walk out: the door is open to both of them. The partners came together for mutually irresponsible pleasure, and not in order

to “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2). No one owes anyone anything, and the relationship itself does not offer any depth. Life in a “common-law marriage” can be compared with a joy ride on a bus, and the riders can get off at any stop.

But it sometimes happens that a ‘common-law marriage’ turns into a sort of psychological slavery. Of course, it is usually the women who suffer from ‘common-law marriages.’ They often find themselves in a very degrading situation. It would seem that both are free to leave any time; but quite often, the woman finds it rather difficult to get off the ‘bus.’ Women are by nature more dependent and less decisive than men, and their unconscionable cohabitants take advantage of this. Everyone knows that the vast majority of women who are in a cohabitation situation would like to legalize their relationship. Any woman would want stability and reliability for herself and for her children. But usually, the choice remains with the man. Some ‘slaves of love’ end up suffering for years, waiting and begging their partners to marry them legally, but the latter only give them promises and pretty words about their ‘romantic, informal relationship.’ Meanwhile, the years fly by like the birds—the best years, the young years. Then, at age 35, the woman begins to understand that her chances of getting married at all are decreasing, but she often doesn’t have the strength to get out of the relationship. She thinks: what if she doesn’t meet anyone else, and remains alone for the rest of her life? So it turns out that this abnormal, suspended state prevents her from building a normal relationship with her mate, or from perhaps finding true love, starting a family, having children, and being happy.

Conclusion is following

..... News From All The Ends Of The Earth



Rotterdam, Netherlands: Jewish and Muslim organizations in a rare show of unity have condemned the adoption of a law in the Dutch parliament that would ban ritual slaughter. Jewish ritual slaughter is universally considered extremely gruesome: when the cow’s throat is cut by a specially taught *shochet* (slaughterer), the animal is left agonizing for some time while the blood runs out. Only this kind of butchering renders the meat kosher. Yearly, over 1 million heads of cattle are ritually butchered in the Netherlands. The Muslim and Jewish communities regard the law as having been passed mainly on the back of growing anti-Muslim sentiment in Holland and the rest of Europe. In France, a campaign to ban ritual slaughter was launched in January, and Switzerland, which has a long-standing ban, is

considering extending it to meat imports. At least some Islamic groups in Europe accept a form of stunning before the ritual slaughter of animals, although most mainstream organizations reject it. But in Judaism the prohibition on stunning is absolute. While the ban appears to be primarily aimed at the country’s more than 1 million Muslims, it may come as more of a blow to the tiny Dutch Jewish community (55,000). The Dutch chief rabbi, Binyomin Jacobs, said: “The very fact that there is a discussion about this is very painful for the Jewish community.” The ban on brutal ritual slaughter in the Netherlands garnered widespread support in parliament, including the left-wing parties as well as the extreme right-wing Party for Freedom, PVV, led by

Geert Wilders. The ban on ritual slaughter comes amid renewed debate on immigrants and Islam in the Netherlands. Last week Wilders was acquitted on charges of incitement to hatred. The court's main conclusion was that he targeted Islam, a religion, rather than Muslims as a group.



Theodosia, Crimea (Ukraine): On July 2, a fight broke out between the Orthodox Cossacks and the Ukrainian special operations forces. The conflict erupted after the Cossacks tried to restore the Cross which a few days before had been cut down by the police, since the Cross ‘offended’ the members of the Crimean Tartar *mejlis* (Muslim governing body). According to the Cossack ataman Sergei Yurchenko, the Cossacks together with other Orthodox faithful walked in a procession with the Cross through the streets of the city of Theodosia. About 300 people came the place where the Cross was to be replanted. However, “there already were waiting for us about 600 members of the special unit of the Ukrainian police in full assault gear. When we tried to approach the place where the Cross was to be replanted,

the fight broke out. The fight was long and bloody: about 15 Cossacks were severally wounded, one of them still in a coma (the police tried to break the people’s legs and arms, as well as aiming at their heads). When the police vans were leaving with the arrested Cossacks on board, we blocked the road and demanded for a doctor to look at the wounded among those arrested. When the doctor examined



them he said that the blood-covered men should be taken to the hospital, not to the police.” Nevertheless, the Cross was erected 300 feet from where it stood before, although it is likely to be cut down again. The current Ukrainian government of Crimea is trying to appease the Crimean Tartars who have recently returned to the area after being deported in 1944 for their collaboration with the Nazi occupation forces during the WW2.



Indianapolis, IN: A massive 80% of pilots from an aircraft advertising company refused to fly banners by an atheist group which has funded a \$23,000 campaign to fly banners across the skies of America on Fourth of July saying “God-LESS America” and “Atheism is Patriotic.” The stunt was organized by the group American Atheists to see planes fly banners over 27 locations. Another group, the American Humanist Association (AHA), sent its 15,000 supporters specially designed “Happy Human” pins, intended to promote that people can be “good” without God. The group asked its members to wear the pins on Independence Day. The

AHA executive director, Roy Speckhardt stated: “The 4th of July presents ample opportunity for all nontheist Americans to come out of the closet and openly identify as such.” However, *USA Today* has reported that four in five pilots working at the company refused to fly the banners. Out of the 85 pilots asked to drag the banners across the sky, only 17 signed on to do the work. Red Calvert, president of Pro-Air Enterprises in Indianapolis, said: “I respect our country and I respect our churches and we’ve got enough problems in our country without stirring up some more.”



Archbishop Chrysostom of Cyprus

Nicosia, Cyprus: In a recent meeting, Štefan Füle, Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy, and Archbishop Chrysostom of All Cyprus talked about Turkey’s plan to destroy every trace of Christian present on the island of Cyprus. “We told him,” related the Archbishop upon his return from Brussels, “that the Turks want to wipe every trace of Christian presence on our motherland, which is occupied by Turkish forces, from the face of the earth, and that the majority of all monuments all already under threat of total eradication”.

Hyderabad, India: Following the arrest of a *qazi* (sharia judge) for trying to forcibly marry off a poor Muslim girl to an Arab Sheikh, police arrested two Sudanese nationals, two *qazis* and two female pimps for forcing a minor girl to enter into a contract marriage with one of the foreigners. Though there have been instances of Arab Sheikhs marrying young girls from the city, this is the first case where an African national was involved. The contract marriage came to light after the 16-year-old girl escaped from her kidnappers’ clutches and approached the police. Police suspect that six to seven similar marriages have taken place in the past six months.

Washington, D.C.: Altar screens, or altar rails, which have almost disappeared during the epoch of the Roman Catholic liturgical reforms after the Second Vatican Council, are coming back to the Latin churches in the US, reports the *National Catholic Register*. Architects are starting to include in their blue prints the barriers separating the altar from the nave, in order to stress the importance of the sacred space around the altar table and to increase people’s reverence when in church. Restoration of the altar barriers in the church where they were removed in the past is met with approval by both clergy and faithful. “In Eastern Orthodox churches, there is an iconostasis, rather than altar rail separating the sanctuary. While the altar rail is usually about two feet high, the iconostasis veils most of the sanctuary. The altar rail is nothing compared to that,” says Duncan Stroik, a Roman Catholic church architect, “and these are our Eastern

brethren. We can benefit and learn something.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. July bulletin covers’ sponsor is Ann Hakos — birthdays.
2. This Sunday, the votive candles on the Holy Altar Table are offered by Anne Springman, Madge Petri and Helen Urban for the blessed repose and eternal memory of the servants of God: their father Michael Feryo and their niece Stephanie Eaton. May Our Lord rest their souls with the righteous!
3. Our preparations of the Lake Front Fest are on the way. The highlight of the last week was arrival of very generous donations. We are most grateful to all our sponsors and benefactors. Among other things pertaining to our participation in the Lake Front Fest, we are looking for sponsors who would finance printing of the raffle tickets.
4. Our next Bake Sale is scheduled for July 24th. It is time to start planning and, perhaps, even baking and freezing our products. Our June sale was a success: we could buy some delicious things, while the parish received some financial help.
5. Fr Sergii is going on vacation after next Sunday and is to be back to serve the Liturgy on Sunday of August 14. On Sunday, July 24, a Reader Service will be held, followed by the Liturgy on Sunday, July 31, and another Reader Service on Sunday, August 7. The Liturgy will be served by Fr Christopher Sarafin. He is also to be contacted in cases of emergency. Fr Christopher’s phone number is 219-252-0019.