



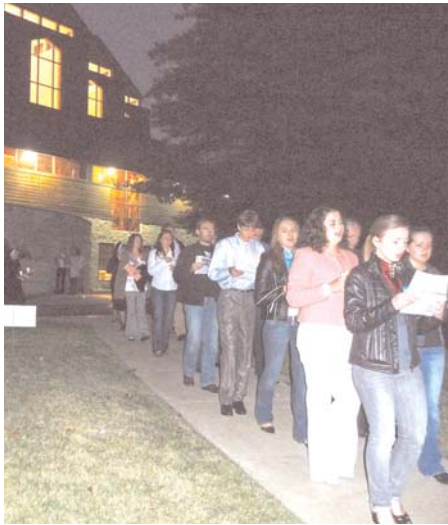
# Gladstone Light

*A newsletter of the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great  
Jesus Lover of Humanity Province*



## *2008 Pilgrimage, under the Protection of the Mother of God*

Enjoying the perfect October weather, over 700 pilgrims joined the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great for their 77th annual Pilgrimage, under the Protection of the Mother of God. The Pilgrimage, held on October 4 and 5, 2008, was centered on the theme "Nurturing Oneself in the Image of the



Young adults processing by candlelight for Saturday evening's Moleben

*Mother of God."* which incorporates caring, compassion, understanding, good works, and prayer - which all make up the fabric of unconditional love that is personified by and exemplified by the Mother of Christ.

One of the featured highlights of 2008 was an exhibit dedicated to Mother Helena Langevych, OSBM, the foundress of the Philadelphia monastery whose motherly concern for the Sisters, orphans, and others under her care was legendary and a sparkling reflection of the attributes inspired by the Mother of God. In addition, many pilgrims seized the opportunity to walk to Mother Helena's gravesite, seeking guidance, inspiration, and intervention with their worldly troubles. During the two-day event, Sister Laura Palka, OSBM, Provincial Superior, introduced the newly established Mother Helena Langevych Society, whose members perpetuate the legacy of Mother Helena by supporting her cause and by serving as a praying, healing, and life-giving presence in the lives of others.

## *"One in Spirit"*

On Tuesday, March 3, 2009 during the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great's evening Vesper Service, Kathi Grace, Kathy Notarfrancesco, Joe Notarfrancesco, Mary Quinn, and Danuta Sawicky rededicated themselves as Basilian Associates.

In this spiritually moving ceremony, the Associates recommit themselves to a closer relationship with the Sisters and to a life of prayer through:

- \* devoting time everyday to Scripture reading, meditation, spiritual reading and/or Psalm recitation
- \* participating frequently in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and Liturgical Services in their local Parish
- \* Praying the Divine Office during group gatherings
- \* Joining the Sisters of the Jesus, Lover of Humanity (Fox Chase) Province in Liturgical Worship and Days of Prayer

Sister Rita, the Basilian Associate Program Director explains, "While it does not involve vows or communal living, the program encourages participants to use their gifts and talents in service to their Parish ministries, Basilian ministries, and all in need."

To learn more about becoming a Basilian Associate, please feel free to contact Sister Rita Stremba, OSBM at 215.379.3998. She will answer your questions and help you to begin the period of preparation. This period of preparation allows prospective members to; learn more about the Basilian spirit, identity, and mission, meet with a contact person (sponsor) on a regular basis, attend gatherings of local Associates.



From left to right, Joe Notarfrancesco, Sister Rita, Mary Quinn, Kathy Notarfrancesco, Danuta Sawicky, Kathi Grace

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Visit our redesigned website at [www.stbasils.com!!](http://www.stbasils.com!!)



Dear Friends,

The rhythm of the Liturgical Cycle of the Church leads us once again through the time of the Great Fast into the glorious Season of the Resurrection of Christ. Along the way, a 'change of heart' takes place to the steady beat of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Then, all creation resounds with the quiet explosion of New Life.

*A Message from Sister Laura*

We are the created work of God's hands. As such, we lift our hands to God, in the language of Vespers psalm 140, "as an evening sacrifice", and then, stretch them out to meet "the needs of the time" as paraphrased from our Mission Statement.

The reality of things past, present, and yet to come impacts the role of the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great in the 21st century.

We face the challenge of reading into the precarious global issues of our era and attempting to identify and grab workable solutions. Remarks made in reference to the directions in which the economy, unemployment, right to life, and global security are going hinge on a common expression: "We just don't know". Yet, "we do know" that Christ lives in us as we plan, handle imminent situation, and make life-choices day by day, with speculation on the future and Divine promises in mind.

It is you who give inspiration to our endeavors and arouse our passion to believe. Belief is the core of our

prayer, enthusiasm, excitement, and good will. Your friendship sparks our mutual call to follow Christ and spurs our dedicated ministry to God and Church.

In this light, I challenge each of us to take time every month, every week, every day to notice the people around us who could use an open ear, a listening heart, a hot meal, a warm coat, or just a word of encouragement. This is much each of us can do! The best part is that as we help others, the stress and preoccupation of our own worries fade away.

Saint Basil also lived in a time of great struggle and turmoil. His words brought encouragement to those around him and continue to speak to us today.

*"We secure steadfastness in our soul by asking God to prosper our works in every undertaking."*

May these words of Saint Basil bring peace to your heart as you confirm and celebrate the truth that Christ is Risen! Christ is alive! Alleluia!



Icon of the Resurrection

*Living a Beautiful Life*

Frank Lloyd Wright once wrote "The longer I live the more beautiful life becomes." We see that maxim embodied in our Sister Lucy Malanczyn, who turns 99 years young this March. Life is beautiful, not only for her, but for all who are blessed to know her.

Sister Lucy is an inspiration to all with her deep spirituality, sunny disposition, positive outlook, inquisitive mind, and kind words. Always the life of a gathering, Sister Lucy does not intend to slow down. She is always willing to share stories of her time as a novice and as a teacher at several different parish elementary schools, especially Newark, NJ and Chester, PA. Sister still remembers specific youth who were her students, and they lovingly remember her. But, Sister Lucy doesn't only live in the past - she is always willing to give a review on the latest movie she has seen! She stays current watching the news and listening to radio. Sister pays special attention to the weather reports and provides accurate forecasts for anyone that asks. Still very observant, she generally knows what is happening at the Motherhouse, Saint Basil Academy, the Basilian Spirituality Center, and Manor College and is always affirming the Sisters in their various activities. She knows each of the Motherhouse staff by name, enjoys their companionship, and joins in their conversation at lunchtime.

Please join us in wishing Sister Lucy "Many Happy Years" on her 99th birthday!!



Unable to find a card that expresses your thoughts in troubling times?? Say it with prayer!!  
Send a Saint Basil the Great League of Prayer Remembrance Card!  
Call 215.379.3998 for more information

# Pilgrimage 2008



# A History of the Order of Saint Basil the Great - Part 1

In preparation for our Centennial Celebration in 2010-2011, we will include in each edition of *Gladsome Light* a segment of the history of the Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great, beginning with Saint Basil the Great, and continuing until we reach the present day.



Saint Basil the Great

Saint Basil the Great, Bishop and illustrious doctor of the church, was born in 329 at Caesarea, the capital of Cappadocia, in Asia Minor to Basil the Elder and Emmelia. His family, equally illustrious for their nobility and piety, were extremely wealthy, owning landed property in five provinces. Basil, one of nine children, was the eldest of the four sons; the others were Naucratus, St. Gregory of Nyssa, and St. Peter of Sebaste. St. Macrina was the eldest of the five daughters. Another sister, Theosebia, was a deaconess. Little is known of the other three daughters, other than they were married.

Basil's early experiences profoundly shaped his spirit in later years. His parents took great care to see that he received not only secular learning but religious training as well. His grandmother, the elder Macrina saw to it that Basil was formed in habits of piety. His father ensured he was educated in the best schools of the time; first, in Caesarea, then in Constantinople and Athens, where he received a liberal education studying the classics, astronomy, geometry, mathematics and medicine. Basil was extolled for his brilliancy of mind and seriousness of character.

Returning home Basil taught rhetoric in Caesarea where he distinguished himself as a teacher. But the brilliant success of Basil, first as a student and then as a professor, left him excessively puffed up with vain glory at his accomplishments and popularity. This was to change as Basil experienced a true transformation. Greatly influenced by his sister Macrina, who was already practicing a form of asceticism with her mother and their household in Annesi, and his friend Gregory, Basil experienced a profound change of heart. In his own words he tells of his metanoia: "*Then I read the Gospel, and saw there that a great means of reaching perfection was the selling of one's goods, the sharing of them with the poor, the giving up of all cares for this life, and the refusal to allow the soul to be turned by any sympathy towards things of earth*". The

lessons of renunciation imparted by Macrina and Basil's insights into the plight of the poor remained constant throughout his life

Fired up by Macrina's lessons and desiring a life of asceticism, he visited the monasteries in Egypt, Palestine, Coele-Syria, and Mesopotamia to observe the various forms of religious life. Returning back to Pontus he founded a monastery on the banks of the Iris River across from the monastery of his mother and sister. Living a cenobitic, or community form of life, Basil began to write and preach. Most notable were his Shorter and Longer Rules, which systematized religious life and a great number of moral-ascetical treatises for his monks and the faithful. The Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great lives as a praying, healing, life-giving presence have as its basis the teachings and writings of St. Basil the Great.

St. Basil the Great is most known as a prolific writer, eminent theologian and founder of Eastern monasticism. He was also socially conscious and had a deep love for the poor. In order to carry out his mission to the poor he developed a complex that became known as "The Basileiad" or "New City". (prepared and written by Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM)

(continued in the next edition of *Gladsome Light*)

*People naturally desire that which is beautiful and good. After all, nothing is more beautiful, more pleasant, than good. God is good, and when someone desires that which is good, desires God.*

*Saint Basil the Great*

## Centennial Request

The Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great are quickly approaching our 100th Anniversary in the United States in 2011. For our centennial celebration, we will be producing a book and DVD on the life of the Philadelphia/Fox Chase Province. We need your help though! We are asking anyone who has pictures, publication, items, or specific recollections and stories of our Sisters to share them with us as we gather the many pieces of our activities over the last 100 years. Please contact Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OSBM with any information or with any questions at 215.379.3998 or [dabusowski@stbasils.com](mailto:dabusowski@stbasils.com)