

Feast Day of the Holy Trinity Parish in Oxnard, California

ON PENTECOST, 2008, our Exarchate parish in Oxnard, California, celebrated its annual Feast Day. His Eminence, Archbishop Chrysostomos, His Grace, Bishop Auxentios, Archimandrite Akakios, and Hierodeacon Nectarios, from the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery, the Very Reverend Dr. James Thornton, Rector of the parish, and Archdeacon George Skvor, who serves the parish of St. Seraphim of Sarov and St. John of Kronstadt in San Diego, California, officiated at the Divine Liturgy. The choir of the Convent of St. Elizabeth the Grand Duchess in Etna, California, travelled to Oxnard to sing for the parish Feast, beautifully chanting the services in Slavonic, Greek, English, and Romanian.

During the service, Father James, in the final fulfillment of a blessing given by Metropolitan Cyprian a number of years ago, was raised to the rank of Protopresbyter by Archbishop Chrysostomos and presented with a beautiful gold Cross by the parishioners of the Church, as well as a *Gramata* in recognition of his unselfish and dedicated service over the years.

The long festal services were followed, in the afternoon, by a parish *Agape* meal and a program of traditional Russian folk music. The beauty and success of the festivities were a tribute to the work, dedication, and fidelity to the Orthodox Faith of the Church Council and its officers and the remarkable faithful, among whom are still found some of the founders of the parish, who built the magnificent Church with their own funds and labors.

