

## Two Founders of Holy Trinity Parish Honored

On Sunday, November 9, 2008 (New Style), the Holy Trinity parish in Oxnard, California, celebrated the hundredth birthday of one of its founders, Mr. Jakob Popov. Archbishop Chrysostomos and Bishop Auxentios, who were in Greece for a meeting of the Holy Synod, sent Archimandrite Akakios and Hierodeacon Nectarios from the St. Gregory Palamas Monastery as their representatives to the celebration. The Archbishop used the occasion to send a congratulatory note both to Mr. Popov and to another of the parish's founders, Mr. Victor Bublick, who celebrated his ninetieth birthday last month, commending both men for their years of service to the Holy Trinity Church and to Orthodoxy:

Dear Brothers in Christ,  
Jakob and Victor:

*Mnogaya Lyeta!* Many Years.

I am in Bulgaria with Vladyka Auxentios, having come here from Greece, after a short pilgrimage to the holy sites of Constantinople. We will be leaving tomorrow for Greece again and, thereafter, our return to the U.S. In all of the sacred places that we have visited, we have remembered you, two pillars of the Holy Trinity parish, along with your families and the parish faithful.

I am truly sorry that His Grace and I could not be present for the celebration of your birthdays, but we wish you, from across the world, a wonderful celebration, all of the blessings of God, every reward for your sacrifice for the Church, and health and happiness.

You are an inspiration to all of us, having lived lives of sacrifice and dedication to the Church—examples that are fast disappearing and inspirations which should encourage and inspire all of us.

May God bless and keep both of you. I greet you with my own humble blessing and the blessing of Bishop Auxentios.

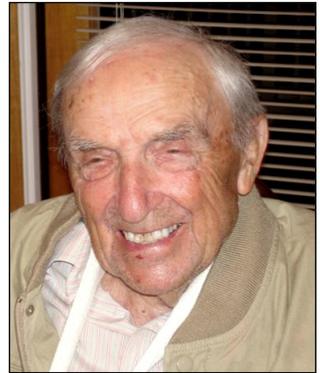
• **JAKOB POPOV** (*see photograph at left, below*) was born in Kharkov, Ukraine, on November 5, 1908. His mother died when Jakob was very young and he was reared by his father and a loving stepmother who instilled in him, among other things, a love of education. After receiving a degree in agronomy, he specialized in the new science of the development of natural rubber.



In 1935, Mr. Popov married Olga Vevkin, who has been at his side for seventy-three years. During the Second World War, he was one of millions who were required to work in Germany. After the war, he and his family became refugees and remained in a displaced persons camp until 1949, when they emigrated to the United States under the auspices of the Ventura County Citrus Growers Association, for which they picked fruit to provide a living.

In 1955, the entire family became citizens of the United States. Subsequently Jakob was employed in a professional position by the County of Ventura, where he remained until his retirement. Mr. Popov's family consists of his loving wife Olga, two daughters, Victoria and Tania, a son Boris, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

• **VICTOR BUBLICK** (*see photograph at right, below*) was born in Yeisk, Russia, on October 10, 1918. A Kuban cossack (i.e., a cossack from the Kuban region of Russia) by birth, he spent the first few years of his life in his native Russia. After the Russian Revolution, he and his family began a new life in Yugoslavia, where he had a happy childhood. He married his wife, Tatjana Werbizky (who was the proverbial "girl across the street"), on October 14, 1942.

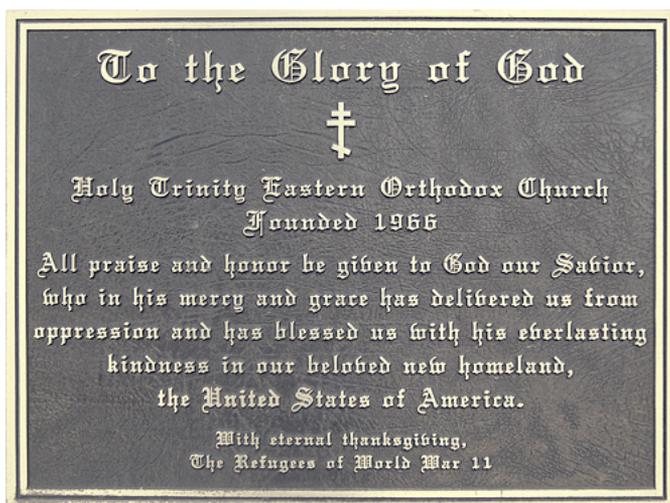


His family was uprooted by World War II, but Mr. Bublick was able to finish his education in dentistry in Germany, where he worked for a short time. He and his family finally came to the U.S. as refugees and worked in the fields as agricultural workers, in the grocery business, and eventually in the real estate industry. When Victor and his family arrived in the U.S., they immediately asked permission to use one of the homes in the lemon orchard where they first worked as a church. It was the first Holy Trinity parish.

Victor, a widower, has two daughters, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, all of whom are lovingly dedicated to him.

As the Russian immigrant community and the first Holy Trinity Church left the fields for better opportunities and prospered, Mr. Popov and Mr. Bublick were instrumental, in the 1960s, in establishing the present-day Holy Trinity parish, which came under the jurisdiction of our Synod of Bishops after our former Sister Church, the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, to which it belonged, reversed a long-standing policy of opposition to the collaborative policies of the Moscow Patriarchate, which was revived in 1941 by Joseph Stalin. The Patriarchate was known to have collaborated with the Communist government and is said to be infiltrated by KGB agents—some masquerading as clergy—who still have influence in the Church’s administration.

The beautiful Holy Trinity Church, built by the hands of its parishioners, has served for many decades as a refuge for Russian Orthodox emigrants fleeing Communist persecution. It has also, of late, become a refuge for American converts to Orthodoxy and for Orthodox of other ethnic backgrounds, who have been welcomed into the congregation in their search for a theologically-traditional and conservative Orthodox witness. In other words, Holy Trinity is now offering others the very refuge which America provided its founders. This witness is perhaps best captured on the moving “Founders Plaque” at the front entrance of the Church, which is a fitting tribute to Mr. Popov and Mr. Bublick and to all those who helped establish this traditionalist Orthodox fortress:





Holy Trinity Church  
Oxnard, California