

March 23, 2011

Dear Fr. Peter; Parish Council Members; Women of Philoptochos; and Parishioners of St. Athanasios,

By the Grace of God I am once more able to bring you news of my life at the Seminary. I hope that this letter finds you well and in a state of vigilance during our shared Lenten journey. I am sure that you have discovered, as in fact this year has illumined me, that each and every time we undertake the struggles of Lent we are facing something new, and yet all together familiar. The fast is the same, the hymns and services recognizable, however each of our individual endeavors take on a new and unique face from that of previous years. The labors of years past have become internalized, providing the strength and tools to engage the next round of spiritual work, and in this way the Lenten period offers us arguably the greatest period of growth.

My Lenten experience last year was earthshattering and formative, and yet seems to be eclipsed by my current efforts, which I recognize as just another step on a lifelong voyage of growth. I am constantly amazed at just how beneficial it can be to suspend the instinct to speak whenever an opportunity presents itself. A clear sense of calmness has presented itself as the fruits of an increased spirit of observation and quiet.

I find it hard to believe that I will have completed half of my Seminarian education within a few months' time. With my forthcoming status as an upperclassman next year, I will be taking on increased responsibilities on campus. I have accepted the position of Assistant Ecclesiarch for the '11-'12 school year. The Head Ecclesiarch and I are essentially responsible for coordinating everything that happens within the chapel; from scheduling service and the respective clergy, to cleaning, and instructing the Altar Groups as to the proper way to perform the services. It is a large responsibility, and I attribute my accomplishment in this arena to the time spent with Fr. Peter in the Altar at St. Athanasios.

I cannot explain just how excited I am to join you for Pascha this year. Because my undergraduate studies were done out of state, this will be only the second Pascha in the last six years that I will be able to spend with you. What a joy it will be to herald in the resurrection amongst the community which nurtured me.

Your Brother in Christ,

Peter Boznos