

THE ST. GEORGE Grapevine

Mar/Apr 2011 • Vol. 15, No. 4

St. George Orthodox Cathedral • Charleston, WV

Pastor's Corner

By Fr. Olof Scott



(Reprint from Vol. 1, No. 4, March, 1997)

A hymn of the Church that leaps out at us at this time of the year is one sung at Matins:

“Open to me the door of repentance, O Life-giver; for my soul goes early to the temple of Thy holiness, coming in the temple of my body, wholly polluted. But because Thou art compassionate, purify me by the compassion of Thy mercies.” It is sung beginning with the Sunday of the Pharisee and Publican and is repeated each week until the end of Great Lent.

The hymn speaks of my soul living in the temple of my body, wholly polluted and in need of repentance. St. Paul reminds us in his First Epistle to the Corinthians, “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?” (1 Cor. 3:16) And in his second epistle to these same Christians he said, “What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God.” (2 Cor. 6:16)

We Christians tend to lead a dual life. We are in the Church, one with Christ, in Whom and through Whom we abide in God’s Kingdom. And, we are in the “world,” still corrupted from the results of the “Fall” of Adam and Eve. St. Paul’s words remind us that we tend to become too friendly with the “world.”

Great Lent is one of those times that the Church prescribes as a “Cure.” We are called upon to remind ourselves of the “Fall” in a personal way through real self-examination. It’s not fun to do! The “world” tells us that we are not really bad people, and comes up with philosophies to make us feel better—remember “I’m OK; you’re OK?”

The Church, however, holds up a mirror and tells us the TRUTH! God is OK; you’re NOT OK! You have some seri-

ous work to do, and the time to begin is yesterday! But, since that’s already past, you better get started today!

How will you react to the reflection you see in the mirror that God holds before you in these next two months? Will you pretend that you didn’t look? Will you look at your reflection through the “rose-colored glasses” that the “world” gives you and say to yourself, “Well, well! I don’t look half-bad?”

I suggest that you take off the glasses and take the “Cure.” The lenten prescription calls for more prayer, fasting and the giving of alms. Add to that, true self-examination and repentance, Scripture reading, worshiping at the extra services, and reading a spiritual book, and you may have some hope for recovery.

Let’s move boldly toward the Kingdom of God and further away from the “world.”

The Lenten Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, faint heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own errors and not to judge my brother;

For Thou art blessed unto ages of ages Amen.

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian is said in the following traditional manner:

- A prostration (or low bow) follows each section of the prayer

- Following the third prostration, say: “O God, be gracious to me a sinner.” (12 times)

- The prayer is then repeated in its entirety, followed by one final prostration.

Basic Class in Orthodoxy

Another Basic Class in Orthodoxy will be held with Father Olof during Great Lent on Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9:00 PM, starting March 8. Topics to be covered are Worship Space, Salvation History, Great Ecumenical Councils, Church Doctrine and Sacraments.

The class is open for everyone to refresh their knowledge of Orthodoxy or for those who are interested in becoming members of the Orthodox Church.

Pan-Orthodox Services for Lent

The southern West Virginia Orthodox parishes are hosting three Vespers services to bring our faithful together during Great Lent. Each service begins at 6:00 P.M. followed by a presentation and a lenten food reception. The schedule is as follows: Sunday, Mar. 13: St. George Orthodox Cathedral, Charleston; Fr. Samuel Haddad speaking; Sunday, Mar. 27: St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Huntington; Fr. Lou Scoulas speaking; Sunday, Apr. 10: St. Mary Orthodox Church, Bluefield; Fr. John Dixon speaking.

RADIO PROGRAM

“Come Receive the Light”

Don’t forget that our church sponsors the national Orthodox Christian Network’s radio program, “Come Receive the Light” every Sunday morning at 8:00 A.M. on WCHS, 580 AM on your dial. Get out of bed early every Sunday morning and tune in to experience our Orthodox heritage and spirituality.



Spiritual Delusion

By Subdeacon George M. Damous

The term prelest is a Russian word which has come into English usage for lack of a precise equivalent, although it is often translated as "spiritual delusion," "spiritual deception," or "illusion." Prelest carries a connotation of allurements in the sense that the serpent beguiled Eve by means of the forbidden fruit.

Bishop Ignatius Brianchaninov states that spiritual deception is the wounding of human nature by falsehood. Spiritual deception is the state of all men without exception, and it has been made possible by the fall of our original parents. All of us are subject to spiritual deception. Awareness of this fact is the greatest protection against it. Likewise, the greatest spiritual deception of all is to consider oneself free from it. We are all deceived, all deluded; we all find ourselves in a condition of falsehood; we all need to be liberated by the Truth. The Truth is our Lord Jesus Christ (John 8:32-14:6).

The means whereby the fallen angel brought ruin upon the human race was falsehood (Gen. 3:13). For this reason did the Lord call the devil "a liar, and the father of lies... a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44). We see that the Lord closely associated the notion of falsehood with the notion of murder; for the latter is the inevitable consequence of the former. The words "from the beginning" indicate that from the very start the devil has used falsehood as a weapon in murdering men, for the ruination of men. The beginning



of evil is in the false thought. He that is not faithful to Christ's teaching, who follows his own will and knowledge, will submit to the enemy, and will pass from a state of self-deception into a state of demonic deception, will lose the remnant of his freedom, and in the end he will become totally enslaved to the devil. The more advanced a man is in holiness, the deeper is his awareness of his own sinfulness. Conversely, the less refined a man is, the weaker is his awareness of his own sinfulness.

The information provided by our fathers of the Church in explaining prelest helps us to see the potential arrogance we have in ourselves. This arrogance occurs when we do not notice our sinfulness. We may also think ourselves righteous and good. Remember in the Gospel Jesus is told by the Disciples that He is good. Jesus responds, "Who is good, but the person who follows the law of God." Prelest also is found in people who believe they understand things that no one else does. For example, a Christian was describing an event from Scriptures but was incorrect in the understanding of Jesus' meaning. An argument ensued and when asked what church professed this inaccurate teaching, the person responded, "I am not stupid, I can interpret Scriptures without the Church." Needless to say it is best to stay away from such a person who is so deluded they believe they interpret Scriptures with no guidance.

As we enter this Lenten season preparing for the coming of Holy Pascha, let us not be deluded and arrogant in thinking we do not have to change our ways. Attend the services and learn from the teachings offered in order to come closer to God and appreciate the magnificence of Pascha. ✠

Congratulations to 2011 Parish Council Members

At our annual congregation meeting in January, parishioners elected 9 members to the 2011 council and new officers.

The elected members were: Tom Barrick, Steve Cassis, Mary Dooley, Loretta Haddy, Ganim Howard, Mike Jarrouj, Philip Michael II, Alex W. Skaff and M.G. Skaff.

Those members remaining on the Council for 2011 were: Nick Cassis, Mark Choueiri, Adam Edstrom, Cy Farris, Makhoul Ghareeb, John Haddy III, P. Alex Skaff II, Andre Haikal and Steve Summers.

The representatives from the organizations include: Laila Khoury - Church School, Anne Marie Haddy - Ladies Guild, Becky O'fiesh - FSJD, Beverly Howard-Choir.

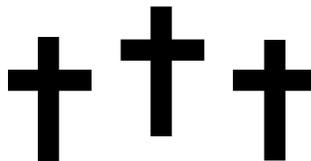
Officers elected for 2011 were: President - Loretta Haddy; Vice-President - Ganim Howard; Secretary - Steve Cassis, Treasurer-Mary Dooley.

Two people were elected to the St. George Foundation for a 4-year term: Nicholas Cassis and Ronald Murad. Other members of the Foundation include: Geoffrey Haddad, P. Alex Skaff II, Edward Howard-President, Muhib Tarakji, David Cassis - Secretary, Alex W. Skaff, Nicholas Cassis - Vice-President, and Ronald Murad - Treasurer.

Congratulations to all members of the Parish Council and Foundation., May God guide them in their endeavors! ✠

Traditional Easter Greetings

Christ Is Risen. Truly He Is Risen
Al Maseeh Qam - Ha' An Qam (Arabic)
Kristos Anesti - Alithos Anesti (Greek)
Christos Voskrese - Vo Istinu Voskrese (Slavonic)



Matching Game

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. 1st Sunday of Great Lent (John 1:43-51) | a. St. John of the Ladder |
| 2. 2nd Sunday of Great Lent (Mark 2: 1-12) | b. St. Mary of Egypt |
| 3. 3rd Sunday of Great Lent (Mark 8:34-38, 9:1) | c. Orthodoxy Sunday |
| 4. 4th Sunday of Great Lent (Mark 9:17-31) | d. St. Gregory Palamas |
| 5. 5th Sunday of Great Lent (Mark 10:32-45) | e. Veneration of the Holy Cross |



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St. George Orthodox Cathedral
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<http://www.stgeorgecharleston.org/>

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DID YOU KNOW....?

As Orthodox Christians begin fasting practices for the Great and Holy Lent, it might be helpful to know the Lenten periods and fast days in the Orthodox Church during 2011. Only those who are physically and spiritually able are to keep the fast. Others who are elderly and need daily medications should consult their clergy. Orthodox Christians observe the following periods:

1. Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year except when designated as permissible.

2. January 5: Eve of Theophany.

3. February 28 to March 6: Dairy Week - abstention from meat only; dairy products and fish are permitted.

4. MARCH 7 TO APRIL 23: Great Fast (Great Lent).

5. June 20 to 28: Holy Apostles Peter and Paul Lent.

6. August 1 to 14: Dormition Fast of the Virgin Mary (Theotokos).

7. August 29: Beheading of St. John the Baptizer.

8. September 14: Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

9. November 15 to December 24: Nativity of the Lord Lent.

Dispensation of Fast Days -

Eating of meat is permitted on the following days:

1. The period after Christmas: December 25 to January 4.

2. The first week of the Triodion: February 14 to 20.

3. The week after Pascha (Easter), called Bright Week: April 25 to May 1. The Antiochian tradition allows those who fasted for 40 days before Pascha to dispense from fasting for 40 days after Pascha. However we still fast on Wednesdays and Fridays during this period.

4. The week after Pentecost: June 13 to 19.

Eating of fish is permitted on the following days:

1. The Annunciation: March 25.

2. Palm Sunday: April 17.

3. The "Week of Dairy": February 28 to March 6.

4. The Transfiguration: August 6.

5. St. Nicholas: December 6.

6. On Saturdays and Sundays during the Nativity of our Lord: November 15 to December 24.

In all of the above, only those who are able to keep the fasts should do so.

Have a blessed and healthy fast! ✝

REMEMBER THE DATES

Saturday, April 16, 2011 is Lazarus Saturday. Plan to attend Liturgy and hear our Junior Choir sing the Liturgy.

April 15, 2012 is the 100th Anniversary of the Sinking of the Titanic. The Antiochian Village has an exhibit about the Syrian/Lebanese passengers aboard the Titanic. ✝

Joining St. Ignatius

Now that you have learned about the Order of St. Ignatius in our last two newsletters, perhaps you would like to join.

All who share a common love for Christ and His Church and are willing to work so that the Antiochian Archdiocese can continue its ministry are welcome. Each member must receive the blessing of his pastor and be sponsored by a member of The ORDER. A spiritual commitment is a pre-requisite for membership in The ORDER.

Membership in The ORDER is roughly the equivalent of buying a cup of coffee everyday.

There are three levels:

Dame & Knight @ \$500.00 per year or \$41.67 monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account (EFT).

Dame & Knight Commander @ \$1,000.00 per year or \$83.34 monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account (EFT).

Life Member @ \$15,000 one time contribution or \$5,000 annual contribution for three consecutive years or \$416.67 for 36 months (EFT).

Consider becoming a member of St. Ignatius and "let our light shine so we can be an example to others." as St. Ignatius said. ✝

Kid's Corner - Q & A

Q: WHY WAS IT AGAINST THE LAW TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH A GENTILE?

A: A Gentile was anyone who was not a Jew. It *wasn't* against the law to make friends with a Gentile. Instead, God wanted the Jewish people not to copy and be like Gentiles because they didn't follow the Jewish laws and didn't worship the true God. Some Jews wouldn't even walk through Gentile towns. Jews did accept some Gentiles into their religion. They were called "God-fearers." By breaking down this barrier, the message about Jesus could be taken to everybody, not just Jews. God wants us to accept all people and not think we're superior just because we know God.

KEY VERSES: Peter told them, "You all know about the Jewish laws. They say it is wrong for me to come into a Gentile home like this. But God has shown me in a vision that I should never think of anyone as impure." (Acts 10:28)



RELATED VERSES: John 4:9; Acts 10:1-11:30; Galatians 2:11-16

RELATED QUESTIONS: What is a Gentile?

From 102 Questions Children Ask about the Bible. ✝



St. George Foundation News

by Dr. Edward Howard, President

With spring in the air and the winter months behind us, we begin once again our journey through the holiest of seasons in our Orthodox faith, the journey to Holy Pascha.

Through the Lenten season and into Holy Week, the sights and sounds within our sanctuary are spiritually uplifting as well as emotional as we are filled with the spirit of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. As Orthodox Christians and St. George parishioners, we are fortunate to experience the many traditions of our church and the richness of those rituals each year as spring rolls around.

Those traditions that we have come to love and savor were built on the founda-

tion of the work and service to the Lord from years past and into the present.

And so it is with our St. George Foundation. It is this commitment that provides us with the opportunity to continue to build upon that solid foundation we all know here at St. George so that we may continue to relish and enjoy the sights and sounds of our faith while preserving them for future generations to come. Even after a parishioner has passed away, remembering our Church through the Foundation can be done by leaving a legacy in one's Will/Estate that ensures the goals and enrichment of St. George Cathedral continues to be solid for those who follow us. ✠

Word Search

Royal Women Of The Bible

M	I	C	H	A	L	H	T	H	T	A	N	E	S	A
C	O	Z	B	I	A	A	E	G	A	H	S	I	B	A
B	R	I	C	H	H	P	S	A	I	D	O	R	E	H
G	R	T	C	P	H	J	N	E	H	U	S	H	T	A
N	O	A	E	Z	J	E	C	H	O	L	I	A	H	X
O	A	N	I	A	T	H	A	L	I	A	H	Y	I	E
M	E	B	E	H	A	I	B	I	Z	E	E	B	S	J
S	A	A	B	E	H	S	O	H	E	J	A	T	L	E
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Z	E	B	U	D	A	H	D	R	I	E	I	A	T	A
E	D	V	A	S	H	T	I	I	R	Z	Y	O	U	D
A	B	E	H	S	H	T	A	B	D	O	P	N	M	N
J	E	H	O	A	D	D	A	N	J	E	S	A	A	A
W	J	D	K	J	E	R	U	S	H	A	J	S	H	C
Y	H	A	S	S	A	D	A	H	T	I	G	G	A	H

ABI	ESTHER	JEDIDAH	NEHUSHTA
ABISHAG	HADASSAH	JEHOADDAN	RIZPAH
ASENATH	HAGGITH	JEHOSHEBA	TAHPENES
ATHALIAH	HAMUTAL	JERUSHA	VASHTI
BATHSHEBA	HEPHZIBAH	MAACHAH	ZEBUDAH
CANDACE	HERODIAS	MERAB	ZIBIAH
COZBI	JECHOUAH	MICHAL	

Antiochian Women - (Ladies Guild)

March is women's month in the Archdiocese so the women of St. George will participate in the Divine Liturgy by reading the Gospel, passing the tray, and ushering for Communion.

March and April will keep the women busy. We are members of Church Women United who will have a program for World Day of Prayer on March 4 at Christ Church. Anyone interested in attending contact Jewell Haddad. After Breakfast, a program about the country of Chile will be provided.

We will also be providing breakfast after Communion on Holy Thursday and dyeing Easter eggs for distribution after Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday for Pascha.

Our next meeting will be Monday, March 14 at 7 PM. All ladies 18 and over are welcomed to attend meetings, participate and plan projects and socials.

Your ideas and suggestions are welcome, so let President Anne Marie Haddy or other long-standing members of the Guild know your interest to assist the Guild.

Watch the bulletin for the Basketball Luncheon details - St. George Day Luncheon will be the first weekend in May. Volunteers are needed!

May you have a blessed Pascha Season and we hope to see you ladies on March 14. ✠

Senior Fellowship

As the March winds breeze through the trees, we begin the Lenten Season, March 7. Senior Fellowship will not meet again till May. We will be planning our 25th anniversary of the Senior Fellowship organization in May or June. Watch the bulletin for details and join us for our Silver anniversary! ✠

The Jelly Bean Prayer

RED is for the blood He gave.
GREEN is for the grass He made.
YELLOW is for the sun so bright.
ORANGE is for the edge of night.
BLUE is for the sins we made.
WHITE is for the grace He gave.
PURPLE is for His hour of sorrow.
PINK is for our new tomorrow.
 A bag full of jelly beans
 colorful and sweet
 Is a prayer, is a promise,
 is a special treat.
Happy Easter!



Church School News



By Lilah Michael

I would like to start off by telling everyone that we are already half way through the year. Usually during this time of year we start to see a decline in attendance in the Church School. Please remember that Church School is still in session every Sunday starting at 9:45 a.m. Please do your best to be on time so that the children, and teachers can both make use of the time we do have.

The 2011 Creative Arts Festival is right around the corner. The children have been working hard on preparing poems, writings, photography and art to turn in. Please help your children with these projects so that we can be well

represented. The total number of entries that have been turned in over the past couple of years have been lacking. We are the leader of this diocese and we need to show this leadership and have our number of participants increased substantially.

This year Lazarus Saturday is on April 16, 2011. We will have fun activities planned, further details will come soon. We would like to remind everyone that at the end of the school year the children are required to learn a special prayer or Bible verse. Each child that completes their project will receive an award. Please help your child at home to reinforce the lesson to them. We can all make a positive impression on our young children while celebrating our Orthodox faith together.

Thank you to all of the Church School staff and parents who help make Church School a success. ✝

Who was St. Patrick?



As the day named in his honor approaches, the patron saint of green beer and plastic sham-rocks

... wait, that's not right. Who was this St. Patrick guy anyway?

The man who would become St. Patrick was born in Britain around the end of the fourth century A.D. His father was a local Christian official, but maybe just because the job offered a tax break.

When he was 16, Patrick was taken prisoner by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland where he spent six years as a prisoner. He often worked as a solitary shepherd and turned to his religion for solace. He later wrote that a voice, which he believed to be God, told him to leave

Ireland, and he escaped.

After his return to Britain, Patrick wrote that an angel told him in a dream to return to Ireland as a missionary. He began his religious training, which lasted more than 15 years, and returned to Ireland with a dual mission: to minister to Irish Christians and convert more of the Irish to Christianity.

Once he returned to Ireland, Patrick used his knowledge of Irish language and traditions to ease the shift to Christianity. He celebrated Easter with bonfires, for example, because the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed the sun on the Christian cross, creating what is known today as a Celtic cross.

SOURCE: *History.com*



Fasting Guidelines for Great Lent

Many of us ask each year, so the following fasting criteria is presented: Meat (beef, lamb, pork, veal, chicken, etc.)—total abstinence from Monday after Meatfare Sunday until Pascha; Dairy (milk, cheese, butter, eggs, yogurt, cream, etc.)—total abstinence from Monday after Cheesefare Sunday until Pascha; Fish (any fish with a backbone; shellfish and crustaceans not included)—abstinence but allowed on Annunciation and Palm Sunday; Wine (includes all alcoholic beverages)—abstinence but permitted on Saturdays, Sundays, Annunciation and Great Thursday; Olive Oil—abstinence but permitted on all Saturdays (except Great Saturday), Sundays, Annunciation and Great Thursday.

Be reminded that the purpose of fasting is to focus on the things of God's Kingdom and be freed from dependence on worldly things. Fasting in itself is not a means of pleasing God. Fasting is not a punishment for sins. Nor is fasting a means of suffering and pain to be undertaken as some kind of atonement. Christ already redeemed us on His Cross. Salvation is a gift from God that is not bought by our hunger or thirst.

We fast to be delivered from carnal passions so that God's gift of Salvation may bear great fruit in our lives. We fast and turn our eyes toward God in His Holy Church. Fasting and Prayer are meant to go together.

Most of all, it is important that we do not "eat" each other. We ask God to "set a watch and keep the door of our lips."

Fasting is not irrelevant, is not obsolete, is not something for someone else. Fasting is from God, for us, right here and right now.

We fast faithfully and in secret, not judging others and not holding ourselves up as an example.

Finally, do not fast if you are pregnant or nursing a newborn. And, do not fast during any serious illness or if your medication requires that it must be taken with a certain amount of food.

"Love and self-control free the soul from passions; spiritual reading and contemplation deliver the intellect from ignorance; and the state of prayer brings it into the presence of God Himself."

—Saint Maximos the Confessor



You are cordially invited to honor the Patron Saint of our Church at our annual **St. George's Day Luncheon**

Sun. May 1, 2011

(immediately following the Divine Liturgy)
St. George Conference Center Ballroom

Mark your calendar
and make plans to attend!!

Troparion of St. George

As deliverer of captives, and defender of the poor, healer of the infirm, champion of kings, Victorious, Great Martyr George; intercede with Christ our God, for our soul's salvation.



MAR 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

CALENDAR

26: Manna Meal Preparation, 9:30 AM
 27: Third Sunday of Lent, Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 6:00 PM (see article)
 28: FSJD Meeting, 7:00 PM

APR 2011						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Christ Is Risen

Christ is Risen from the dead,
 (O Christ is Risen from the dead),
 Trampling down death by death,
 And upon those in the tombs,
 Bestowing life.

Kristos aneste ek-nek-ron,
 Tha-na-to tha-na-ton pa-tee-sas,
 Kay-tois-en-tois mnee-ma see-zo-een,
 Khar-i-sa-may-nos.

Al-ma-sih Qam-minby-ni l-am-wat,
 Wa-wa-ti-a l-mowt bil-mowt,
 Wa-wa-ha-ba l-hay-ya,m
 Lil-la-dhi-na fil-qu-bur.



2: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
 6: Great Lent begins—Forgiveness Vespers, 6:00 PM
 7: Great Compline, 6:30 PM
 8: Basic Class, 7:30 PM (every Tues. through Apr. 12)
 9: Presanctified Liturgy/Cover Dish, 6:30 PM (every Wed. through Apr. 13); Parish Council, 7:30 PM
 11: Akathist Hymn, 6:30 PM (every Fri. through Apr. 8)
 13: First Sunday of Lent, Basketball Challenge after services; Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 6:00 PM (see article)
 14: Ladies Guild, 7:30 PM
 20: Second Sunday of Lent, Vespers, 6:00 PM
 24: Evening Liturgy—Annunciation, 6:30 PM



2: All Souls Liturgy, 10:00 AM
 3: Fourth Sunday of Lent, Vespers, 6:00 PM
 4: Ladies Guild, 7:00 PM
 5: Parish Council, 7:30 PM
 10: Fifth Sunday of Lent, Pan-Orthodox Vespers, 6:00 PM (see article)
 16: Lazarus Saturday Liturgy, 10:00 AM
 17: Palm Sunday (see mailed schedule)
 17-23: Holy Week (see mailed schedule)
 24: Easter—Pascha
 29-30: Easter Dioceses Spring Mtg., York, PA

Answers to Puzzle



Answers to Matching-Game

- 1. c
- 2. d
- 3. e
- 4. a
- 5. b

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