



Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Van Nuys

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Theophany of Our Lord

January 6, 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is Baptized! In the Jordan!

Today we celebrate the Feast of Theophany, Jesus receiving Baptism and the blessing of the Father in the Jordan River. Through our Baptism, we share in the blessing and the work to build the Church. As the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Van Nuys in the West nears its quarter century mark, more work is needed to expand.

Thank you for your generous response to last year's appeal. It is through your generous giving that the Eparchy of Van Nuys is able to continue programs such as "Alive in Christ" for young men. As you read the enclosed brochure, you can see how your contributions supported the Retirement, Vocations, Seminary, and Medical Funds of the Eparchy.

In response to your suggestions, we have added new distributions for Pro-Life Activities, Eparchial Pilgrimage, and a donation to the Eastern Catholic Churches in Europe. The 2005 Bishop's Appeal goal of \$250,000 will continue to fund other Eparchial needs to further educate our clergy and faithful, for Vocation programs and Evangelization, Youth Retreats and Safe Environment Program. The low interest loans from the Parish Loan Fund continue to help the parishes with their financial obligations.

In 2004, the rebates earned by the parishes of the Eparchy assisted the Byzantine communities in different ways. Last year's rebates to the parishes helped to repay loans. Other Churches used the rebate for repairs. And, some were able to purchase land and begin new construction.

Again this year, each parish has the opportunity to receive a 30% rebate by reaching or exceeding their 2005 goal. If every family in your parish makes a pledge of \$200 or more, the parish goal will be reached. Prayerfully encourage each other.

Take time now to renew your commitment to the Church in 2005. Return the enclosed Pledge Form to your parish today. Whatever you are able to give will be your contribution to continue the work begun by Jesus at the Jordan River. With God's help, our work in His name will continue in the Eparchy along the shores of the rivers here on the West Coast in the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Van Nuys.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William C. Skurla, D.D.
Bishop of the Eparchy of Van Nuys