



Crossroads

The Monthly Newsletter of the Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

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JULY, 2019

Will Gen-Z Save the World?

The revolt against Boomer morality.

by David Brooks

New York Times, July 4, 2019

There is some sort of hard-to-define spiritual crisis across the land, which shows up in rising depression rates, rising mental health problems. A survey that the Pew Research Center released late last year captures the mood. Pew asked people to describe the things that bring meaning to their lives. A shocking number of respondents described lives of quiet despair:

“I no longer find much of anything meaningful, fulfilling or satisfying. Whatever used to keep me going has gone. I am currently struggling to find any motivation to keep going.”

“It would be nice to live according to my being rather than my blackness. I will never know how a totally worthwhile life will feel because of this.”

“Drugs and alcohol are the shining rays of light in my otherwise unbearable existence.”

“I don't feel very satisfied with my life. I'm a stay-at-home mom and my life is endless monotony and chaos.”

[The Pew survey](#) reveals a large group of Americans down the income and economic ladders, who are suffering from economic scarcity, social scarcity and spiritual scarcity all at once. Less educated people were less likely to say that friendship was a source of meaning in their lives. They were less likely to say hobbies were a source of meaning, nor was learning, nor good health nor stability.

When people overall described the [sources of meaning](#) in their lives, they stuck close to home. Nearly 70 percent identified family as a source of meaning, followed by career, making money, and practicing a spirituality or faith. Only 11 percent said learning added meaning to their lives. Only seven percent said that helping others was a meaningful part of their life.

If you ask philosophers how people fill their lives with meaning, they usually point to some version of serving a cause larger than self. William James said that meaning was found in tireless struggle on behalf of some sacred ideal. Susan Wolf says that meaning is found in active engagement in important projects.

But the meaning of meaning seems to have changed. When people in this survey describe meaning, they didn't describe moral causes or serving their community, country or God. They described moments when they felt loved, satisfied or good about themselves. They described positive personal emotions. As one respondent put it, "It's easy to forget what's wrong in the world when you are pretending to be a puppy with your daughter."

It's as if people no longer see life as something that should be organized around a specific vocation, a calling that is their own way of doing good in the world.

Everything feels personalized and miniaturized. The upper registers of moral life — fighting for freedom, struggling to end poverty — have been amputated for many. The awfulness of the larger society is a given. The best you can do is find a small haven in a heartless world. One respondent said he found meaning in the tiniest things: "Small-scale nature — individual bugs and plants — are quite pleasing. I like to be able to focus on things that don't care about me or the larger world."

I've just finished a four-month tour for my book "*The Second Mountain*," talking with thousands of people, and I certainly encountered the disillusioned America described in the Pew survey. But the big thing I encountered was the seismic generation gap. People my age rag on the younger generation for being entitled, and emotionally fragile, etc. But this generation is also seething with moral passion, and rebelling against the privatization of morality so prevalent in the Boomer and Gen-X generations.

They can be totally insufferable about it. In the upscale colleges on the coasts, Wokeness is a religious revival with its own conception of sin (privilege) and its own version of the Salem Witch Trials (online shaming). But the people in this movement have a sense of vocation, moral call, and a rage at injustice that is legitimate rejection of what came before.

I recently met a group of high school kids from around the United States and Africa involved in the Bezos Scholars program. In our conversations they didn't define their identity by where they were from, or even by their ethnicity and race. They defined themselves by what project they work on — serving Native Americans, working for clean water. Similarly, high school students generally are more likely to define themselves by their political stances and their vocations, rather than whether they are jocks or drama kids.

I've also found that college students are eager to talk about a moral project entirely absent from the Pew survey: Doing inner work, growing in holiness. Many seem to have rediscovered the sense, buried for a few decades, that one calling in life is to become a better person. Your current self is not good enough. You have to be transformed through right action.

It's often uncomfortable and over the top, but we're lucky to have a rebellion against boomer quietism and moral miniaturization. The young zealots may burn us all in the flames of their auto-da-fe, but it's better than living in a society marked by loneliness and quiet despair.

On the Way to Emmaus Icon Project



FR. JOHN will be presenting a break out session at the **NJ Hospice Volunteer's Conference** at Rutgers University on Saturday, July 13 on the topic of: "*The Gift We Try to Give: Finding Words in the Poetry of Mary Oliver.*" Vespers will be cancelled that day.

He and his family will be travelling to Michigan at the end of July to celebrate his son, Michael's wedding to Paige Miller. He'll be away from Wednesday July 24 – Wednesday July 31. On Sunday July 28, Fr. Alexander Smida will serve the Divine Liturgy.

2019 FANTASY AUCTION RESULTS

We had an exciting "FUN"draiser on June 8th! Many thanks to all who helped make this event a success especially Dan Dowiak, our fabulous Auctioneer, Valerie Olesnovich, Phyllis Pritchard, Co-Chairs, Fr John and the Council, Carol Ann Curry, Andrea Mazur, the set up and cleanup crews, and everyone who solicited donations, everyone who donated items, time and talent, money, and all that delicious food. With minimal expenses of \$20, the net profit was \$ 4561 (minus pending credit card fees) for the Parish plus \$ 415 raised for The Helpers of God's Precious Infants. Please remember to support the businesses of our generous corporate sponsors!

Cielito Lindo Mexican Restaurant : Giambri's Chocolates : Ginger Restaurant : Hildegard and Blaise : Indian Springs Golf Course : Johnson's Corner Farm : Lamp Post Diner & Bakery : P J Whelihan Restaurants : Salon Luxx : Shear Serenity Salon : Spotts Hardware & Garden Center : St Helena's Guild : Tarantella Ristorante

To help us improve this event, please fill out the 2019 Auction Survey by August 25th– available in the church vestibule and via email. Extra copies of this year's program will be available for your reference. We are trying to improve attendance and would appreciate your input.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Lane, Co-Chair

WOMAN2WOMAN ACTIVITIES: Ladies' Luncheon, **Tuesday, July 16, Harvest House** in Moorestown Mall. Please RSVP with Genie.

DORMITION FAST — ALMSGIVING PROJECT (August 1-15) to benefit **Helpers of God's Precious Infants** once again. This time gift card donations are being sought. For every \$25 gift card given, a tree bud will "bloom." The goal: fill the tree with blooms! Gift cards can be from: ACME, Shoprite, Wegmans, Target, Dollar Store, Wawa, Visa or MasterCard. **COLLECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ON**

SUNDAYS AUGUST 4 AND 11.

CHURCH PICNIC – SUNDAY AUGUST 17 – at Chartwell Swim Club, Marlton. The price of **\$25.95 person** (children under 18 will be free) features: hamburgers, hot dogs, and side items. It includes access to the pool and other facilities. More info will be forthcoming.

INREACH-OUTREACH COMMITTEE: At its most recent Meeting, **Diana Pasca**, announced that though continuing her involvement with the Committee and other areas of activity, she will step down as its Chairperson. While the leadership question will be worked out over the next few months, it has allowed for a discussion of how the Committee sees its functions and responsibilities.

Here are some initial thoughts:

In its efforts to respond to the Gospel teachings in Matthew 25:34-36, the Committee tries to find ways to respond to the needs of our parish and for those within our greater community. Some examples include:

Inreach

- Visitation to homebound parishioners, the sick at home, in hospitals, or other facilities
- Provide food to homebound parishioners on a monthly basis, as well as meals to the sick as needed. At times, food and meals are provided to other families and parishioners.
- *Healthy Options Series* which offers educational and practical information during Coffee Hour.
- Veterans Day celebration/recognition of parishioners who have served in the Armed Forces.

Outreach

- Provide food to the Community Luncheon in Mt Holly over the past 25 years. The food is prepared monthly at our church and delivered to the Luncheon. This includes donations from the Harvest Food Project of Wawa Corporation – we were particularly invited to collaborate with Wawa's and have been doing so for 3 years.
- Provide assistance to *Helpers of God's Precious Infants* through a variety of activities: fundraising dinners, a collection of layette items during last year's Dormition Fast, and direct donations – both financial and handmade items for babies, etc. Another activity for this summer's Fast is mentioned in this *Crossroads*.
- The Committee makes recommendations to the Council for the distribution of the parish's Local Charity Monthly Collection: This has included: *Community Services*, *Covenant House*, the Medford EMT, and *St. Vincent De Paul*. A Souper Bowl Sunday event as suggested by IOCC, held over the past 2 years, has collected food items for the pantry of the *Community Luncheon*.
- Blessing of Animals Service for parishioners, their pets, and attended by friends of the community.
- Assist the Interfaith Hospitality Network in hosting homeless families at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Marlton, providing food and hospitality several times a year.
- Recently, through Diana Pasca, we have learned of the establishment and the needs of the St. Basil House Program in Trenton, sponsored by Mother of God Church in Princeton.

For more information on the work of this important group, come to the next Meeting on **Sunday July 21.**

ST. HELENA’S GUILD: SAVE THE DATES FOR FALL FESTIVAL FOOD PREPARATION:

Pierogie Session - Aug 16 and 17 / Stuffed Cabbage- Sept 6 & 7 / Borscht Session - Sept 17

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: June 27, 2019 by Trudy Ellmore

Account Balances:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| General Fund | \$10,015.02 (as of 06/27/19) |
| Memorial Fund | \$16,958.78 (as of 06/24/19) |
| Capital Improvement Fund..... | \$3,117.80 (as of 06/24/19) |
| Food Coupon Fund | \$8,030.15 (as of 06/24/19) |
| Choir Fund..... | \$4,204.26 (as of 06/24/19) |
| Father’s Supplemental Checking..... | \$289.54 (as of 06/24/19) |
| Fundraising Account | \$4,173.94 (as of 06/24/19) |
| Mortgage Balance..... | \$57,009.07 (as of 06/24/19) |
| Capital Improvement Fund..... | \$30,502.00 (as of 06/27/19) |
| Memorial Fund | \$20334.88 (as of 06/27/19) |
| St. Helena’s Guild | \$15,399.00 (as of 06/24/19) |

MAINTENANCE

HVAC Contract with Shamrock: One of the two AC requires repair of blower bearings and additional parts. This will cost: \$777 and will completed ASAP.

LANDSCAPING: Estimates were received for various projects and will be considered.

PAINTING SOCIAL HALL & VESTIBULE) is being planned for after the Fall Festival.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Iconographic Plan: Seraphim O’Keefe is planning to come in August to complete “*On The Way to Emmaus*” icon in August. Fr. John will coordinate the details with him.

EDUCATION

Education – Adult Bible Study: Ed Siecinski and Fr. John will offer several educational sessions this Fall on weekday evenings and Sunday mornings.

OTHER OPEN BUSINESS

Gaming License will be renewed.

Elder “care” fellowship opportunities were discussed.

Time and Talent Survey results have been received and additional input will be explored.

Defibrillator & CPR Training: Several estimates for an AED were received. It was decided to coordinate the purchase with Dr. John Hamaty. The cost will be \$1350.00 and Dr. Hamaty can provide training. CPR Classes also will be offered this fall.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 1, 2019

AMAZON SMILE:

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our parish. You can choose from over one million organizations to support.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, search for and select "Church of the Holy Cross." (link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3505878>) The selection will be remembered, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

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JULY-AUGUST 2019 COFFEE HOUR will be coordinated around purchased bagels.

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CHURCH CALENDAR: JULY (see attached Calendar)

AUGUST

Thursday, August 1: Dormition Fast Begins — *"Helpers of God's Precious Infants Fundraising Project"* — coordinated by the Inreach/Outreach Committee
Parish Council Meeting – 7 PM

Saturday August 3: No Great Vespers

Sunday August 4: Divine Liturgy — 9 AM / *Helpers Fundraising Project*

Monday August 5: Vespersal Liturgy for the Transfiguration — 7 PM

Friday August 9: Divine Liturgy for St. Herman — 9 AM

Saturday August 10: Great Vespers — 5 PM

Sunday August 11: Divine Liturgy — 9 AM / *Helpers Fundraising Project*

Monday August 12: W2W Meeting

Wednesday August 14: Vespers Liturgy for the Dormition —7 PM

Friday August 16: Pierogie Session —9 AM

Saturday August 17: Pierogie Session —9 AM (St Helena's Meeting to follow)

Great Vespers — 5 PM

Saturday August 17: Great Vespers — 5 PM

Sunday August 18: Divine Liturgy — 9 AM

Church Picnic at Chartwell Swim Club (12:00-5:00)

Tuesday August 20: W2W Luncheon / Deptford

Saturday August 24: Great Vespers — 5 PM

Sunday August 25: Divine Liturgy — 9 AM

Thursday August 29: Divine Liturgy for the Beheading of St. John the Baptist —9 AM

Saturday August 31: Great Vespers — 5 PM

SEPTEMBER

Sunday September 1: Divine Liturgy - 9 AM

Friday Saturday September 6: Stuffed Cabbage Session —9 AM

Saturday September 7: Stuffed Cabbage Session —9 AM

Saturday September 7: Great Vespers —5 PM

Sunday September 8: Nativity of the Theotokos - Divine Liturgy —10 AM

Appreciation Lunch-Coffee Hour

Monday September 9: W2W Meeting

Friday September 13: Vespers Liturgy for the Elevation of the Cross —7 PM

Saturday September 14: Great Vespers —5 PM

Sunday September 15: Divine Liturgy — 10 AM

Tuesday September 17: Borscht Session —10 AM

Wednesday September 18: W2W Luncheon @ Blue Fig, Moorestown - Noon

Friday September 20: Fall Festival Set Up

Saturday September 21: Fall Festival

Sunday September 22: Divine Liturgy — 10 AM

Saturday September 28: Marriage Celebration of Christopher Shimchick & Cynthia
Nguyen — 3:30

Sunday September 29: Divine Liturgy — 10 AM

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross – JULY, 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|--|---|---|--------|-----------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i> |
| <i>7 DIVINE LITURGY—9:00</i> | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 NO GREAT VESPERS |
| <i>14 DIVINE LITURGY—9:00</i> | 15 | 16 W2W Luncheon — Noon: Harvest House / Moorestown | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 <i>Great Vespers: 5</i> |
| <i>21 DIVINE LITURGY -- 9:00 Inreach/Outreach Meeting</i> | 22 | 23 | 24 Fr. John will be on vacation from (7/24-7/31) | 25 | 26 | 27 NO GREAT VESPERS |
| <i>28 DIVINE LITURGY –9:00</i> | 29 | 30 | 31 | August 1 Parish Council Meeting – 7 PM | 2 | 3 NO GREAT VESPERS |

