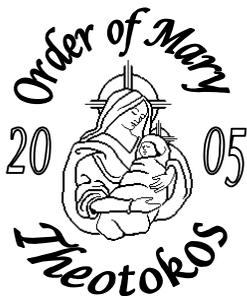


# The Theotokan

October 1, 2007

Volume 3, No. 4



~Mark your  
Calendar~  
**Important dates  
to put on your  
calendar:**

**Your Profession  
dates because you  
need to remember  
to request First  
and Final  
Profession  
documents from  
the Abbot.**

**ECC+USA 2007  
Synod**

Will be held in St. Louis, Missouri on October 12-14, 2007. Please pray that the Synod is both a time of spiritual and organizational growth, discernment, and good fellowship. "Come, Holy Spirit be our guest of honor."

**Order of Mary Theotokos**

[www.ecc-usa.org/OMT.html](http://www.ecc-usa.org/OMT.html)

## Perpetual Profession

Two OMT members will make their final and perpetual profession at the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA 2007 Synod in October. Sisters Christy and Sara have been members of the OMT for over three years and have asked to make their perpetual profession at the Synod. Perpetual profession is the final step in OMT membership and specifically involves a life-long dedication to living the virtues shown to us by the life of the Mother of God (the Theotokos).

Final (perpetual) profession follows the six months postulancy and minimum one year of first profession. A member who decides to make final perpetual profession is making a very special orientation of his/her life and work to the honor of Almighty God and our Lord Jesus Christ through Mary. What a beautiful gift to the honor and glory of God!

Through this dedication of life and work, the members join with Jesus through Mary to build the earth and humankind toward the restoration of the reign of God in this world of ours. That reign is the goal of all human history. It is the purpose of Jesus' saving death and resurrection. Each in our own way, within our sphere of influence, contribute to this inexorable movement led by Christ to re-build creation to the goodness intended by the Creator. It is a noble work accomplished by prayer, good works, and conformation of self to the virtues of Mary.

We join in prayer with these two members making this important profession. God bless them and us through Jesus and Mary.

## The Sacredness of God's Handiwork

by Henri Nouwen

How do we live in creation? Do we relate to it as a place full of "things" we can use for whatever need we want to fulfill and whatever goal we wish to accomplish? Or do we see creation first of all as a sacramental reality, a sacred space where God reveals to us the immense beauty of the Divine?

As long as we only use creation, we cannot recognize its sacredness because we are approaching it as if we are its owners. But when we relate to all that surrounds us as created by the same God who created us and as the place where God appears to us and calls us to worship and adoration, then we are able to recognize the sacred quality of all God's handiwork.

## Shrine of St. Mary's House in Ephesus



Pious legend has it that Mary lived in this house near Christ's beloved disciple, John the Evangelist.

Altar in St. Mary's House



## October 1: Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos

This feast, celebrated by the Orthodox Catholic Church, commemorates an event that happened at Constantinople in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century. In the year 911, during the reign of Emperor Leo the Wise, a large army of Saracens was preparing to attack the city and conquer it. The pious people of Constantinople reacted to the threat by turning to prayer. They thronged to the church of Blacernae (where was preserved the Robe and Veil of the Mother of God) and there raised their voices to Christ the Lord, and to his Mother, the All-Holy Theotokos, pleading for mercy and help against the foe. As the soldiers raised their arms in battle, the church was filled with hymns and prayers. Suddenly they saw a vision of the Virgin Mary surrounded by a choir of angels, prophets, and apostles. Mary, with outstretched arms, was holding a veil over the city as a sign of protection and imploring God's mercy upon the people. The tide of battle turned against the enemy and the defenders of Constantinople emerged with a decisive victory.

In this feast, we entreat of the Queen of Heaven to protect and help:  
"Remember us in your prayers, O Lady, Virgin Theotokos, that we not perish for the increase of our sins; protect us from all evil and cruel misfortune. For we put our hope on you, and honoring the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you!"  
*from: These Truths We Hold (St. Tikhon's Seminary Press, 1986), page 200.*

The Order of Mary the Theotokos is a ministry  
of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA.  
Professed membership is open to all men and women of faith,  
married or single,  
regardless of their denominational affiliation.