

**THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN . . . . VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY**

**THE EXAMPLE ST. NICHOLAS SET FOR US**

**Each year, as we approach the celebration of our Lord's Nativity, our church honors the memory of SAINT NICHOLAS, as the 4<sup>th</sup> century Archbishop of Myra. He is revered and remembered by us primarily because he dedicated his life to following Christ's uncomplicated dictate: TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

**And what a shining example of love this holy hierarch was! St. Nicholas loved his fellow man so much that he gave way everything he possessed to those who were in need. Perhaps the most popular tale of his generosity centers around his secretly throwing three bags of gold through the window of a house one night when he heard that a father was being forced to sell his three daughters into slavery because he was so destitute! This beloved bishop had a special foundness for children, a love that has transcended time itself, for even in today's world, his kindly spirit touches the hearts of youngsters everywhere. St. Nicholas loved his Orthodox Faith so deeply that he was willing to defend it at any costs. He faced exile and possible execution at the hands of the Emperor Diocletian. He risked being removed from his episcopal office for striking the heretic Arius at the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical council in 324 A. D. Through these and others trials and tribulations during his lifetime, his love for Christ's Church never wavered!**

**Truly the life of St. Nicholas steaches us that love does conquer all. Without this Great virtue, as St. Paul writes to the Corinthians, we are NOTHING AT ALL! May his memory inspire us.**