

**“COME AND SEE”**

**Our Orthodox Church, after 2000 years, is still a missionary Church. Even in this Modern era, it is still our commission to “go and teach all nations,” bringing the unchurched to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. As we struggle to bring the truths of Holy Orthodoxy to others, what approach should we take? If we are attending to share our Faith with a potential convert, what should we EMPHASIZE?**

**The essence of Orthodoxy is a unique blending of three distinct elements. First, we are a SCRIPTURAL FAITH. All that we teach - - all that we believe has its basis on God’s word in the Holy Bible. Indeed, we must show others that we “practice what we preach,” and what we preach is the same message that our Lord and His apostles after Him took out to every nation.**

**We are LITURGICAL FAITH. The services of the Orthodox Church readily reveal the doctrines and dogmas that are dear to us. A prospective convert can gain tremendous insight into what Orthodoxy is all about simply by listening to the profound lyrics of our many liturgical hymns.**

**Finally, we are a VISUAL FAITH. When Nathanel questioned Phillip if “anything good could come out of Nazareth”, Phillip responded “COME AND SEE.” Perhaps these words offer us the best “plan of attack” in allowing the light of Orthodoxy to shine on others. Through the holy icons and liturgical objects found in magnificent Cathedrals and humble parish churches, our Faith comes alive. Invite someone to “come and see” your church. Let their eyes take in the mysteries of our Faith that are revealed in our sacred images and holy places. Many will, no doubt, echo the sentiments of the emissaries of Vladimir the Great when they entered the Church of the Holy Wisdom: “WE KNEW NOT IF WE WERE IN HEAVEN OR EARTH.”**