## THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULLETIN .... VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

## THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

We have been taught that the Church is the Body of Christ. As a baptized believer, we come together in faith, to work towards a common goal: HEAVEN! We look after our fellow brothers and sisters, using our resources for the care of each other. Nowhere in the New Testament is this expressed clearer than by Apostle Paul in his Epistle to the Ephesians.

His instructions begin by reminding us that the Church is ONE. The Church is like an organism: All grow as each grows. UNITY is the key and vital for us to be effective. Power flows through a united Church while grace enables us to forgive those who have wronged us. Put away your differences. Always remember that there is one God and one doctrine.

The Church is made up of PEOPLE, men and women energized by the Holy Spirit. Although we are not all blessed with the same gifts, working together we are able to accomplish God's will.

But most of all, we must focus on JESUS as He is the head of the Church. It is He "from whom the body is joined and knit together." (Eph. 4:16). People may fail us but Christ never does. He is the perfect One, leading us up to a higher ground. Focus on our Lord's teaching on truth and love. They make a dynamic combination. The Gospel is the truth and love. They make a dynamic combination. The Gospel is the truth and presenting it in love brings sinners to Jesus. New converts are the result, which help build up a church and bring it new life.

Lord, carry us beyone our petty andworldly personal concerns. Stretch our vision to the eternal as we ascent TOGETHER and experience a "ONENESS" with Jesus Christ.