

ST. LUKE PARISH ACTIVITIES

Annual Fundraiser for St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church, Washington, D.C.



by Milos Rastovic

On February 9, 2018, I represented the Serb National Federation at the Annual Fundraiser event sponsored by the St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church in Washington, D.C. This event was organized at Sts Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Hall to support their new church by raising funds toward their mortgage.

Tatjana Rajic, Mistress of Ceremonies, introduced the honored guests and host His Grace Bishop IRINEJ of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Eastern America; Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander and Princess Katherine of Serbia; the Honorable Branko Terzic, Royal Adjutant and Member of the Privy Council and Delegate of HRH Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia in the United States; the Honorable Zeljka Cvijanovic, Prime Minister of the Republic of Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina; the Honorable Vladimir Marinkovic, National Assembly Deputy Speaker of the Republic of Serbia; Obrad Kesic, Director of the Republic of Srpska Office for Cooperation, Trade and Investment; Mark Rasevic, President of the Trusteeship of St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church; and Rev. Dr. Vasilije Vranic of St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church.

The event began with the Doxology served by Father



His Grace Bishop IRINEJ, HRH Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia, and Rev. Dr. Vasilije Vranic

Vasilije and continued with the Lord's Prayer by His Grace Bishop IRINEJ and singing of the national anthems by the Liturgical Choir. Father Vasilije warmly welcomed guests and supporters of the Serbian parish and community in Washington, D.C. "It is our distinct honor to be able to celebrate this occasion with such distinguished guests, our Bishop IRINEJ, under whose wise leadership the Diocese has been reinvigorated,

Their Royal Highnesses who have graced us with their visit to our new church-home for the first time, and Mrs. Cvijanovic, who by her presence conveys to us the love and care of our people in Serbian lands. This gathering is a celebration of generosity and kindness. We are tremendously grateful to every one of you for your kindness and graciousness in supporting our church community by your presence at this fundraising dinner."

Mark Rasevic, President of the Trusteeship, welcomed everybody to come to "the room where it happens – our Nation's Capital" with the following words: "We come together here this evening to raise funds for our cherished parish, started 57 years ago this upcoming May. Since then, it has experienced most of the same things which all other Serbian Orthodox parishes experienced in the United States: the schism of 1963, holding services in borrowed spaces, the purchase of its first modest worship facility (on 16th St. in NW DC), ecclesiastical and administrative reconciliation of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and then the purchase of our current facility where by the grace of God we were able to complete our building project in 2014 after 13 years of pre-construction & fundraising work. We now find ourselves with a considerable loan of \$2,000,000 (among the highest, if not

continued on page 11

SNF MID-WINTER GOLF WRAP UP

We did it! Phoenix St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church community and SNF Kosovo Lodge 40 hosted a very successful 50th Annual Mid-Winter golf tournament during the week of February 7 through 10. Thankfully, we were graced with absolutely perfect weather for the entire week. Our guests from our neighboring "tundra" communities were only too happy to be outdoors for days either at the golf course, sitting poolside, or mingling under the pavilion at the church grounds.

The 100+ golfers played at the Talking Stick Resort and Golf Course in Scottsdale and whether they golfed their best or their worst games, the golfers enjoyed the reunion with fellow golfers and friends. Win or lose, a good time is always what you get at the SNF golf tournaments.

As promised, the committee went all out to ensure that everyone, golfers or guests, were treated to a good time matched up with good food and equally good music. Each night the hall visitors were entertained by the musical strains of our own Jedinstvo, or danced to the music of Orkestar Srbija. Specialized menus were prepared for every evening - Mexican, BBQ, Serbian - and our Chef Stevan Kosanovich outdid himself with the menus. All welcome meals to sunburned and tired golfers and guests.

Saturday, following a musical fun-filled day at the pool, our chef and his crew set out a wonderful and tasty setting of hors d'oeuvre on the pavilion where the guests mingled and enjoyed the pleasant evening air. Saturday's banquet featured ors d'oeuvre Saturday's menu choices of steak, salmon or vegetarian squash



continued on page 10

79TH ANNUAL SNF BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
June 1-2 • Milwaukee, Wisconsin • info on page 14

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continued from page 1

the highest in our Diocese) and we are working diligently to grow as a parish and reduce our debt. We work very hard at raising funds via a variety of means: stewardship, festivals, and this fundraiser among others." All honored speakers stressed the importance of supporting the Serbian community and parishes.

Mrs. Zeljka Cvijanovic, Prime Minister of the Republic of Srpska, underlined the importance of building a relationship between the homeland and the Diaspora as well as relating problems the Republic of Srpska is facing now.

She also emphasized the economic success which the country had last year. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Srpska, she donated \$10,000 to the St. Luke parish. HRH Crown Prince Alexander donated a tour package of the Royal Palace with accommodations in Belgrade for an auction.

This wonderful event was followed by music of the Bay Strings Quartet, Kalca Band, and performers Olga Radosavljevic Gradojevich, Katherine Gradojevich Manker, and Milica Sekulic.

All of the participants had an enjoyable time. The event

ended on a high note by dancing a traditional Serbian kolo when His Grace Bishop IRINEJ and HRH Crown Prince Alexander led the kolo dancing followed by other participants.

Thanks were expressed to all members of the organizing committee for the enjoyable event: Drina Rajic, Father Vasilije, Tatjana Rajic, Mark Rasevic, Judy Terzic, Joyce Visnick, and Popadija Jelena Vranic. Anyone wishing to donate and support the new St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church can visit its website at <http://www.svluka.org/SvLuka/Donations/default.aspx>.



Judy Terzic on left, followed by His Grace Bishop IRINEJ, HRH Crown Prince Alexander and Princess Katherine, Branko Terzic, and Father Vasilije with children in traditional Serbian costume



From left are Vanessa Rastovic, Hon. Zeljka Cvijanovic, Prime Minister in the Government of Republic of Srpska, Milos Rastovic, Cultural Outreach Coordinator in the SNF, and HRH Crown Prince Alexander and HRH Princess Katherine



Guests included, from left, Mark Rasevic, Father Vasilije, The Honorable Vladimir Marinkovic, The Honorable Zeljka Cvijanovic, Tatjana Rajic, Mistress of Ceremonies, His Grace Bishop IRINEJ, and HRH Crown Prince Aleksandar and HRH Princess Katherine



HRH Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia presented the gifts of a book and picture to Father Vasilije. Branko Terzic is displaying the picture



Leading the Kolo are HRH Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia, His Grace Bishop IRINEJ, and HRH Princess Katherine



Kolo dancing was a highlight of the event