



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

To the Parish of [St. John Chrysostom](#)--  
from Seminarian Andrew Summerson....

I am sitting in [Rome](#) right now, fresh from a 18 hours of travel and all I can think about is my amazing experience at St. John's. It was such a pleasure to be with you and get to know you a bit those days between St. Elias and the Dormition--how cool that I entered and ended between two feasts! You are a beautiful community and have everything that a priest-to-be would like to see, diverse, dynamic people of all sorts coming together to worship as Eastern Catholics. It was my treat to work with your young people at the Bible school, to sing with the cantors, and just to pray and share life with y'all (how is that for a Texasism!). Our liturgy is about coming together to become bigger than what we are, the [body of Christ](#). As I left your parish, I can honestly say I witnessed the Living God dwelling in our midst through our exchanges both social and spiritual. You have a great leader in Fr. Elias, please be good to him. I hope to be back at some point, until then, "preghiamo al Signore insieme!"

### **MOVIE NIGHT!!**

We will be having Movie Night this Friday, August 27 at **St. John Chrysostom** Byzantine Catholic Church . There will be babysitting available.

We will be watching **The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (2007)** directed by Julian Schnabel. This is the story of Jean-Dominique Bauby AKA "Jean-Do," the high-flying editor of French Elle and father of two, was renowned for his sense of humor and style, his joie de vivre and amorous energy, when, in an instant, his world was plunged into the depths of catastrophe. Faced with a harrowing predicament, Jean-Do will use enormous courage and determination but, most of all, his soaring imagination to escape from his trap. Tapping into the limitlessness of his memories, fantasies, wit and wishes, he finds a way to race through experiences of wonder and grief, sex and love, fatherhood and childhood, faith and questioning, ecstasy and absurdity--and touches the very essence of what it is to be human. Please bring an **appetizer, beverage or bottle of wine** to share. Also bring a **blanket and/or pillow**....whatever you need to be comfortable!

We are meeting at **7:00pm**, and will start the movie promptly at 7:15pm, so as not to run too late (so please try to be on time).

If you have any question please speak with Sergio Castillo.

(Email: [scastillo@archgh.org](mailto:scastillo@archgh.org) )

### **Thank You!!**

A heart-felt "Thank you!" to **Teresa Wells, Christina and Maria Dowgun, Christine Snelson and Cesar Canales** who assisted Seminarian Andrew in the [Vacation Bible School](#) held last month!

Thanks also to Larry Monks and Rich Dowgun who helped Fr. Elias with the Iconography Course registrations.

A special thank you to Winnie Pizzitola for her exquisite work and joyful collaboration in the preparation of the Shroud of the [Theotokos](#) used in the observance of the feast of the Dormition last weekend.

### **Deadline Extended for Holy Land & Jordan Pilgrimage!!!**

**The Protoperbyteral District of the South of the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan, led by Fr. Elias Rafaj (St. John Chrysostom Church-Houston, TX). Our group will depart for Amman, Jordan on Feb. 19, 2011 from Dallas and Houston (other departure cities are arranged at minimal cost if any-please inquire). The pilgrimage will focus on all the famous Holy Places and especially on the sites important to Byzantine & Roman Catholics. We will also spend time with the local Melkite Byzantine Catholics whose communities trace back to the apostles and their parishes are the heirs of the Ancient Faith. The Via Nazareth Tour Company that is organizing our stay in the Middle East is owned and run by Melkite Byzantine Catholics. Our Pilgrimage will return to the US on March 2, 2011. The cost (includes all meals, taxes, tips, entrance fees and more) is 2,799\$ pp. (including airfare). Land-Only Package is available for only \$1,499.00. For more information please contact or speak with Fr. Elias to receive a full detailed brochure. Fr. Elias can be reached by email at: [houstonelias@gmail.com](mailto:houstonelias@gmail.com) or on his cell phone at: 713-256-8953 or at the Parish Office: 713-681-3580.**

**Single supplement is 150\$**

**Deadline for Registration is Sept. 20. Space is limited!**

**An exact itinerary can be found on our parish website: [www.stjohnchrysostom.com](http://www.stjohnchrysostom.com)**

### **2010 Calendar**

Thursday	Sept 9	Iconography Open Studio 9am-5pm
Saturday	Sept 11	Iconography Open Studio 9am-5pm
Tuesday	Sept 14	Iconography Open Studio 10am-7pm
Saturday	Sept 18	Iconography Open Studio 9am-5pm
Saturday	Sept 18	Diaconal Discernment Meeting (Houston & Irving)
Saturday	Oct 16	Diaconal Discernment Meeting (Houston & Irving)
Saturday	Oct 30	Catechetical Workshop
	Oct 31-Nov 2	Presbyteral days in Pittsburgh, PA
	Nov 1-4	Eastern Catholic Eparchial Directors of Religious Education (ECED) meet in Houston.
Sunday	Nov 7	Parish Anniversary Celebration & Luncheon
Saturday	Nov 13	Diaconal Discernment Meeting (Houston & Irving)
Saturday	Dec 11	Diaconal Discernment Meeting (Joint Session in Irving)

# Muslims in Spain campaign to worship alongside Christians

By **Atika Shubert**, CNN

August 17, 2010

**Cordoba, Spain (CNN)** -- Muslims in Spain are campaigning to be allowed to worship alongside Christians in Cordoba Cathedral -- formerly the Great Mosque of Cordoba. Today, at the original Cordoba mosque in Spain, there is no call to prayer, only the ringing of church bells. That's because the former mosque is now a working Catholic cathedral, performing a daily mass.

It's been a Cathedral since Spain's Christian monarchy conquered Cordoba in the 13th century and more than a million visitors walk through its doors every year.

Depictions of Jesus' crucifixion hang underneath the distinctive red-and-white arches of what was once the Muslim prayer hall. Cordoba's dazzling "mihrab" -- the sacred alcove from where Muslim prayer is led -- still stands as a separate part of the site and is one of the main attractions for tourists.

In fact, the site remains significant for Muslims as a symbol of Islam's golden age of learning and religious tolerance. The Mosque of Cordoba was once famed for allowing both Christians and Muslims to pray together under the same roof.

Now, some Muslims are trying to repeat that history. Mansur Escudero, a Spanish convert to Islam, is leading the movement that is pushing for the right of Muslims to pray at the Cordoba Cathedral.

"I don't think it's important for Muslims. I think it's important for humankind," Escudero says. "We think this is a beautiful paradigm of tolerance, knowledge, culture. People of different religions living together."

Spain has more than a million Muslims, little more than two percent of the population. Most of that growth is made up of migrants from countries such as Morocco. But the southern European country has a significant community of Muslim converts inspired by its Islamic history.

In April, more than one hundred Muslim visitors staged a protest by unrolling their prayer rugs inside the site and beginning to pray. When security tried to remove them, the protest got violent and two were arrested.

According to Cordoba's Bishop, Demetrio Fernandes, this incident shows it is impossible to share a house of worship. It would be like sharing a wife between two husbands, he told CNN.

"Would they be happy to do the same in any of their mosques?" he asked. "Absolutely not. Because I understand their religious feeling and they have to understand ours as well. The religious feeling is the deepest one in the human heart, so it is not possible to share." Bishop Fernandes points to the basilica of San Juan in Damascus as an example of a Christian site that has been converted into a mosque. "We wouldn't think of asking for the Damascus mosque, because it belongs to the Muslims and for them it is an emblematic place.

"It is [the same] for [Christians] because the San Juan's basilica is very important to us, but we understand that history doesn't go back. It only goes forward. So, it doesn't make sense to ask for the Cordoba [cathedral] to convert it into a mosque, it doesn't make sense because history is irreversible," he said.

Escudero insists this is not about winning a victory for one religion or the other. He said: "They pretend that we are trying to conquer the mosque again. That's not the intention at all. We want it to be a place where anyone -- whether Muslim, Christian or Jew -- can do his meditation or his internal way of worshipping, or praying or whatever he wants to call it."