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The "Life & Miracles" of Fisher Alumnus...

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Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"I was asked if I would write a brief piece concerning my post-graduation activities for an issue of *Verbum*. There is a lot to tell. More than I can remember. More than I am able to express clearly."

Alumni Corner



Alumni Advisors

Jodi Rowland Schott, Class of 2004

Youth Minister at Holy Trinity, Webster

Jonathan Schott, Class of 2002

Coordinator of Faith Formation at Church of the Transfiguration, Pittsford, NY

Contributions from the Department of Religious Studies Alumni



The "Life and Miracles" of Fisher Alumnus...

I was asked if I would write a brief piece concerning my post-graduation activities for an issue of *Verbum*. There is a lot to tell. More than I can remember. More than I am able to express clearly.

The two years that I spent at SJFC seem so far away. I find it hard to remember the look of the buildings, the feel of the classrooms, and I never did experience much of the landscaping; my flights from building to building were mostly spent with my eyes to the ground, thinking. All in all I was extremely introverted at Fisher. Even so, I did manage to make some friends there, whom I hope to keep very close for many years. I came to Fisher with an aching desire for knowledge. Life had risen before me then, bewildering me. In the face of existence we are confronted with a heavy demand, to search; and more than in books, I found what I was looking for at Fisher in people, especially in Father Costanzo, and Professor Brimlow. Their hospitality was the first emerging relief to much of my confusion. Always illumined in our conversations, was a clear path of self-sacrificial love.

In the fall of 2006 I entered Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Boston, MA to pursue a Masters degree in Theological Studies. It took a great deal of effort to relocate our family but thankfully it was well worthwhile. The campus here is full of children, so it is a wonderful place for my daughters and son. Shortly after we moved here we began attending Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral. After meeting several times with the parish priest, Fr. Robert Arida, we were received as catechumens. And on Lazarus Saturday (the Saturday before Palm Sunday) we became full members of the Orthodox Church by rite of Chrismation. I am writing this on Easter Sunday at the end of a vigorously trying and at the same time indescribably beautiful Holy Week. I have been learning many things since coming here. The depth of Orthodox theology seemingly has no end, for one reason: it is not theology that can be learned through books, it is theology that can only be experienced in a life of worship and community. The faculty here reminds the students of this point frequently and adamantly: Christian theology is not about ideas, it is about a person, Jesus Christ. Everything is not merely relative, but is truly relational.

As I begin my second year at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, I am not sure what will become of me and my family in the future. Boston seems too expensive for a family of five to scrape by. Perhaps a Phd? Perhaps Priesthood? God only knows. Peace to all.

Jeffrey Frate



Jeffrey Frate and Family in Boston