

In the Name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit,

This church is founded in honor and memory
of the Great Martyr St. George the Victorious
in the year one thousand nine hundred and
sixty seven after the birth of our Lord,
Redeemer and Saviour Jesus Christ in the
city of San Diego, the State of California
in the United States of America.

This new fortress of Orthodoxy and of
the religious heritage of Serbian people
has been founded through the efforts of
the Serbian Orthodox faithful of the
Parish of San Diego and vicinity during the
term of office of Lyndon Baines Johnson
President of the United States of America
at the time of His Holiness, the Serbian
Patriarch German and his Grace
the Most Reverend Bishop Gregory
Bishop of the American Western Diocese
and the Parish Priest Reverend Father
Velimir Petakovich.

This holy task was undertaken on
Sunday December 17, 1967.

In placing this document in the cornerstone
of our new church, we pray God that this
Holy Temple may ever serve to the
Glorious of His Holy Name, to the Salvation
of the Christian Serbian Orthodox souls,
and to the General Welfare of the
city of San Diego, through those who
worship here. Amen.



The Consecrator:

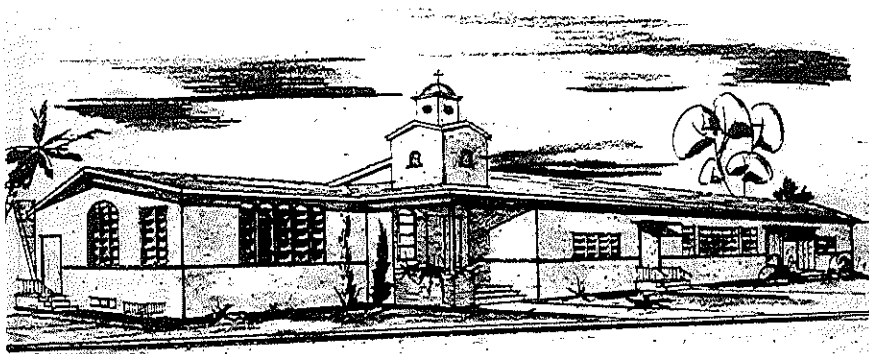
+ Bishop Gregory

HISTORY OF THE SAN DIEGO SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Seventeen years of hard work and unfaltering faith have brought us to this happy day of dedication.

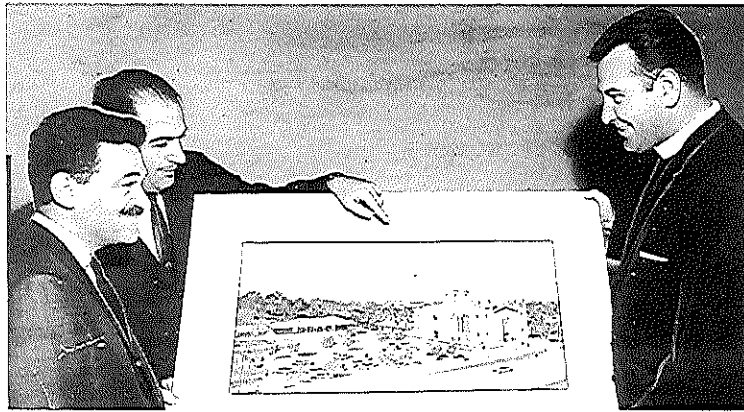
After World War II the population of the city of San Diego increased at a rapid rate, and the Serbian colony in this area experienced a similar growth. With God's help and the strong will of the members of this colony, our parish was founded on May 4, 1952. Through the efforts of the Reverend Harold Robinson of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the congregation of the new St. George Serbian Orthodox Church found a temporary home in the auditorium of St. Paul's Church.

Then, on October 16, 1953, we purchased a building site at 3265 Lincoln Avenue in San Diego. This site was consecrated on October 29, 1954. Groundbreaking for the sanctuary and hall took place on April 1, 1956, and dedication ceremonies were held on November 18 of the same year.



The Old St. George's Church building at 3265 Lincoln Avenue, San Diego

In 1960 Father Mladen Trbuhovich assumed the duties of our parish priest. This role he fulfilled for four spiritually rewarding years. When Father Trbuhovich left San Diego in



Mr. George Lykos, Architect; Mr. Predrag Mitrovich, Chairman of Building Committee; and Father Velimir Petakovich with the approved plan for the new church,

March of 1964 to serve a parish in Pennsylvania, he was succeeded by Father Velimir Petakovich, a youthful and dynamic priest whose dedication and artistic perception have been an inspiration to all of us.

The Department of Highways of the State of California purchased our Lincoln Street property on 1962, thus giving us the opportunity to construct a new and beautiful Serbian Orthodox Church in the great tradition of Byzantine architecture.

On the recommendation of a Building Committee appointed by the congregation, we acquired a two and a half acre parcel of land in the Clairemont-Morena



The Bishop and Clergy after the Groundbreaking Ceremony



The beginning of our new building project

ceremonies at which Bishop Gregory of the American Western Diocese officiated. (Our church first came under the jurisdiction of that diocese on May 10, 1963, through a broad reorganization of the Serbian Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada.)

Final services at our Lincoln Avenue location were held June 5, 1966, marking the closing of one era in the history of our parish and the beginning of a glorious new one, which held much promise.

Services were conducted in a rented auditorium until the social hall was ready for occupancy. The first service in the new hall overlooking Mission Bay was held on December 11, 1966, with the Sunday School

president of St. George's parish, and Mr. Milivoj Vuksanovic, also a past president.

The building committee immediately proceeded with plans for a new parish home and a church sanctuary. On December 17, 1967, Bishop Gregory officiated at the consecration of the church grounds, and construction of the church commenced thereafter. On March 16, 1969, the parish home was blessed by His Grace

Originally Mr. Cukich was to paint frescoes in the style of 13th and 14th Century Byzantine art. However, a visit by Mr. Giovanni Maria Nastrucci, general director of a large mosaic manufacturing company in Mexico, resulted in a change of plan. Father Petakovich, the artist, the architect and the building committee conferred and decided to take advantage of Mr. Nastrucci's offer to manufacture mosaics especially for our church. The artist is



Procession before ceremony for the blessing of the Church foundation



Bishop Gregory and Father Petakovich with Kumovi: Mr. Andrew Todorica and Milivoje Vuksanovich at Ribbon-cutting Ceremony before the Dedication of the Church Hall, February 18, 1967



Banquet celebrating the dedication of the Church Hall

room serving as a chapel. The icons from our old church were used by Father Petakovich in the improvisation of a beautiful altar.

February 18, 1967 marked the official dedication of the social hall, with many friends from throughout California attending this historic event. Kums for the occasion were Mr. Andrew Todorica, the first

Bishop Gregory.

We were exceedingly fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Stevan Cukich, a well-known Yugoslav artist who designed the magnificent mosaic interiors of our sanctuary.

working on schedule, and the walls are being rapidly enriched with Byzantine mosaics of rare beauty and splendor.

The towering structure and domes of our magnificent edifice can be seen from many parts of



View of the Church Hall and parking lot



Mosaic of St. Steven Shtiljanovich over the church's south door

San Diego, attracting visitors and generating new interest in Byzantine art and the Orthodox faith. It is particularly fitting that our church is being dedicated during this 200th anniversary year of the city in which our dreams have been realized.

His Grace Bishop Gregory recently visited His Holiness, the Patriarch German, who gave him a particle of the remains of Saint Stevan Stiljanovic. This parish is honored and grateful to receive these remains which will be placed in the relic-way and will forever bless St. George's

Church.

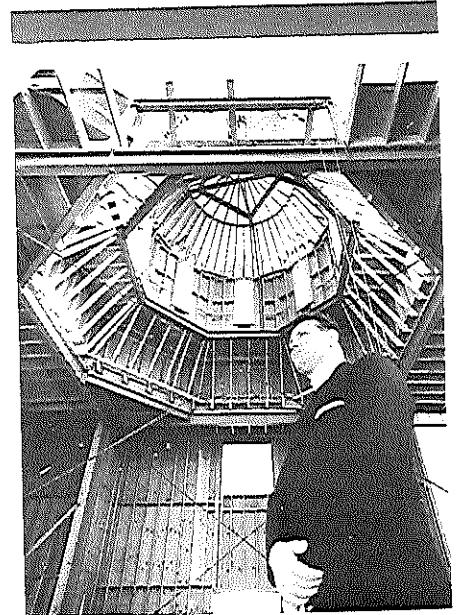
The tireless efforts of a dedicated and united group of faithful parishioners led by our priest Father Velimir has been instrumental in the accomplishment of this program. The foundation was laid with love, the building constructed by inspiration, and the beauty of the interior of the church was created by spiritual insight and the love of God.

May we always prove to be worthy of the blessings bestowed upon us, and be eternally grateful to our Patron St. George for His guidance!

Best Wishes

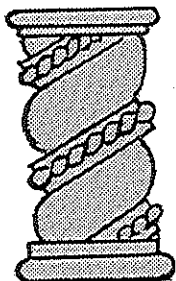


LOUIS & DOROTHY COTTON

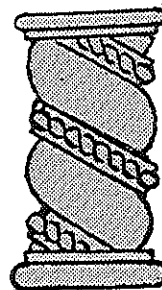


Construction of the Church Dome

Congratulations



on your
Dedication



HOLY TRINITY SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Butte, Montana
Pastor, Very Rev. Dr. Jovan Kovacevic

Congratulations and

Best Wishes



Mr. & Mrs. Frank V. Gregorcich
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur T. Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. F. Leon Edlefsen