

October 29, 2014

The Very Reverend Father Marc Vranes
Holy Trinity Orthodox Church
414 Valley Street
Willimantic, CT 06226

Dear Fr. Marc,

Bless!

Certain that you were not expecting this unsolicited letter from a brother priest, but prayerful that you will accept it not only in the ecclesiastical spirit with which it is being offered but also for whatever helpful purpose it may serve you in exercising your pastoral judgment with respect to the inquirer referenced herein, I sincerely ask for your forgiveness should I have taken it upon myself to offer my priestly opinion without it having been requested of me nor without it necessarily even being needed.

It suffices, I believe, to say that I am, at the very least, absolutely overjoyed, thrilled even, to learn, having known her since 1987, that, inspired in no small part by your priestly concern, deeply anchored as it is in your pastoral insight, Diana Lindsay Chapdelaine is to become a catechumen.

"Αξια!" That is, "Worthy!"

Neither "when" nor "how" I ever would have expected it, I met Diana at a significant, even, I would say, a particularly defining time, for both of us: A time when, for many and varied reasons, she already long had faced uncommon challenges, intimately personal ones regarding herself and her family situation, and a time when for reasons of my own, I was searching for a kindred spirit, one whom I found in her.

What impressed, and continues to impress, me about Diana, and what I suspect you, as well, certainly have come to appreciate among her many other notable qualities, is her determination, her persistence, and, above all else, her steadfast resolve – indeed something that Saint Paul does not, in addressing the Thessalonians, overlook: "To this end we always pray for you, that God may make you worthy of his call, and may fulfill every good resolve and work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)

In here affirming, then, Diana's embarking on this journey toward Theosis, one on which each of us, of course, finds himself as we continue, with God's help, our respective ministries, do know that I honestly cannot think of anyone more ready, willing and able to begin this new chapter of her earthly life.

This Sunday, the eve of her birthday, please do offer her, if you would remember to do so and would not mind doing so, a copy of this letter in support of her. I really would be hard pressed to imagine any better "birthday present," so to speak, that I could give her, considering, that is, this outset of her Orthodox self, which, given that I find myself in Athens, prevents me from being present so as to be able to share in it with her.

Asking for your prayers,
With agape and filia in the Lord,



Very Reverend Protopresbyter Constantine A. Constantopoulos
Church of Greece

Director

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