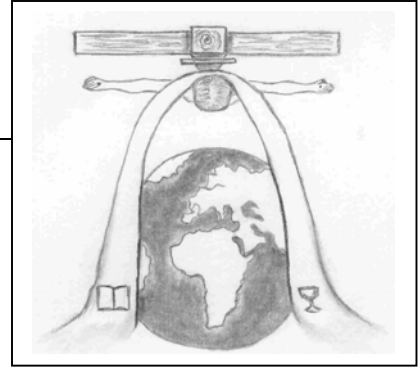


Good News for the Diaspora



A word or two about offerings.

The Law shows us our sin and the futility of trying to accomplish our own salvation by means of good deeds, works or merits. The Law always accuses the old sinful nature in each of us and causes the soul to be most unsettled. The Good News that Jesus is the Christ – true God, begotten of the Father from eternity and true man, born of the Virgin Mary – and that this Jesus died on the cross for the sins of the world and rose again on the first Easter morning to demonstrate an accomplished salvation, defeat of the devil and victory over death itself, and that all this is the gift of God through His Word and Sacraments, comforts the repentant soul and grants peace to troubled consciences. This is the Gospel.

In grateful response to the forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation earned by Jesus and given to them by the Holy Spirit through the means of grace, Christians desire to bear fruit in accordance with God's will. Such a fruit of faith includes providing an offering that the faithful, God-pleasing mission of the Church may continue. *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7 KJV).*

You may want to provide an offering to support and to further the work of *Good News for the Diaspora*. That would be truly appreciated and gratefully received. Plans are already underway to provide another resource CD for next year. If the *scholia resource disk 2006* is favorably received and of benefit to many, those plans for 2007, the Lord willing, will continue.

However, please consider a suggestion before sending an offering to *Good News for the Diaspora*. **Support the faithful work of your home congregation and pastor first.** Even if you are living away from your congregation and are not able to attend the services there, please let your first fruit offerings be sent there.

Then, if you have some left over and are looking for a way to support the Word of God going forth to accomplish the Lord's purpose, then please consider *Good News for the Diaspora*. To do this, go to the [scholia.net](http://www.scholia.net) website for the details on sending an offering. (Those details are not included in this letter since they might change.) www.scholia.net — Thank you.

The peace of the Lord be with you always,

Rev. Michael L. McCoy