

The First Council



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2023 Alexandra Houck. Email is orthodoxchildrensword@gmail.com. Find it each week at myocn.net.

The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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Pray for our Church!

Do your parents ever go to meetings?

Sometimes you might wonder what they do at all these meetings. Well, usually they probably meet with other people so they can discuss things, and work out something important.

Did you know the bishops of our Orthodox Church have important meetings too? Yes, they have had important meetings ever since the very beginning of the Church. Today, we celebrate one of the very most important meetings that ever happened in our Church. It was a council that happened 1,700 years ago. The bishops talked about who Jesus Christ is (some people had some mixed-up ideas about Him!) They talked about celebrating Easter (Pascha). They talked about baptism. They talked about other things too. That meeting lasted a whole month long!

Did you know the priests and bishops of our Orthodox Church meet together sometimes? And your church has a parish council, a group of people who meet together to make decisions for your church. Our church leaders talk about many things so that our Church family can stay close to Christ. In the Gospel today, we hear about how our Lord, Jesus Christ, prayed for His followers. He prayed, "Holy Father, keep them in your name...that they may be one, even as we are one." Let's pray too! We can pray that our Orthodox Church will be one strong Church, close to our Lord!



The Holy Fathers

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Chlotilda
- Christian
- Council
- France
- Holy Fathers
- Meetings
- One Church
- Prayer

C C X Z H X W M F P S N Q W A
 W P I S X J K L Q B R I M G L
 M E E T I N G S F G E A O O X
 N Y E C N A R F L L H U Y N T
 Z A F W B T M L I L T F J E D
 Q L I V J K Y C B X A Y F C R
 S N D T P V N P C L F T D H N
 B Y I J S U S H J C Y G D U F
 N M I K O I L A D Q L E W R T
 B O X C J O R H L X O B Y C K
 H O O X T J R H O G H X I H F
 J K N I I T C B C F M J V P H
 M Z L O X Y C Y U M X O H L J
 J D S E N M K T R J D R A Z P
 A Q D I R Y E N Y E J O D B Q

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

Here is another icon of the first council, the first big meeting of the bishops.

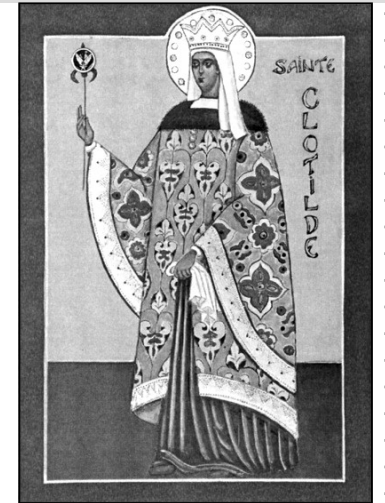
Do you know who is in the middle (with the crown)? It's Saint Constantine! He's the emperor who called the meeting!



SAINT CHLOTILDA

QUEEN OF FRANCE

Did you ever wonder how the Christian Church grew and grew? The world is a big place, of course! Well, some people became Christian after they heard the good news of Jesus Christ from the apostles. Other people heard about Him from missionaries. But other people became Christian because their kings or queens became Christian first! They were really leaders in the faith!



Saint Chlotilda

Saint Chlotilda was queen of France about 1,500 years ago. Her husband was Arian (he didn't believe that Jesus is God), but Chlotilda convinced her husband to believe the truth of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They baptized their children in the name of the Holy Trinity. Then, after that, more people in France followed their king's beliefs too.



A statue of the saint in France

When Chlotilda grew old, some of her children fought about who would be in power in France. But Chlotilda tried to stay away from these sad fights. She tried to grow closer to God too. She spent lots of time in prayer. She gave lots of money to build churches and monasteries. Saint Chlotilda, pray for us!

We remember St. Chlotilda on Saturday, June 3rd (OC: June 16th).