



# Department of Youth and Parish Ministries

*Living the Orthodox faith in Christ*

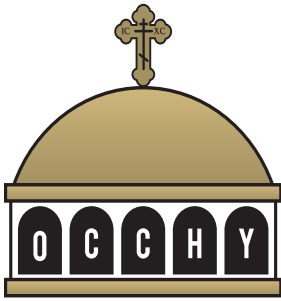
## FALL 2011 ARCHDIOCESE BOARD REPORT

Your Eminence, Your Graces, Esteemed Members of the Archdiocese Board of Trustees, my Brother Priests and Deacons, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**In the short time between my Archdiocese Convention Report and this Fall Archdiocese Board Report, a great deal of activity and achievements were realized for our Youth Ministry efforts.**

- Our Cicero Coalition, the first of our coalitions established, has received the exciting news of a \$625,000 Federal Grant to reduce the use and abuse of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Prescription Medication abuse, in the Greater Chicago area amongst our Orthodox population and the Villages of Skokie, Lincolnwood, and Niles.
- The Orthodox Christian Coalition for Healthy Youth Executive Director has been working towards bringing two to three more of our coalitions to grant application. A new coalition is forming in Tucson, Arizona.
- NAC SOYO held its election and its new officers are off to an exciting and energetic start to the new Ecclesiastical Year.
- Preparations are in full force for the first official Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America Committee for Youth Meeting this coming week.
- Plans are well underway for the first Assembly wide endorsed gathering of our Orthodox Youth Workers, Camp Directors and OCF Chaplains from across North America to be held January 2012 at the Antiochian Village.

This is just the start of what is shaping up to be an exciting and challenging year in Youth Ministry in this Archdiocese and across the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America. Needless to say the only issue holding us back from further success is the lack of funding to do what needs to be done.



Orthodox Christian Coalition  
for  
Healthy Youth

### ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COALITION FOR HEALTHY YOUTH - CICERO/GREATER CHICAGO AWARDED A \$625,000 GRANT

[www.HealthyYouth.com](http://www.HealthyYouth.com)

We are very pleased to inform you of the Awarding of \$625,000, over five years, to our Cicero Coalition led by Fr. Nicholas Dahdal. These funds will be allotted as needed in the amount of \$125,000 per year. Additionally our Cicero Coalition has pledged to match these funds through "in-kind" non-dollar contributions of time, resources and facilities. Our Cicero coalition is in the process of hiring a full-time Coalition Coordinator to facilitate the work of the Coalition.

#### **Additional Coalition Efforts:**

During the Archdiocese Convention the Orthodox Christian Coalition for Healthy Youth hosted two tables of resources and materials to help parishes, pastors and parents reduce substance use and abuse. Over \$18,000 in free material was distributed during the convention to raise awareness and to put resources in the hands of our conventioners. Our Archdiocese OCCHY Office leaders and our Cicero Coalition members have completed their three weeks of intensive coalition training offered free of charge by our federal partners. We are working to place more of our coalitions in this training cycle. Since the Archdiocese Convention Report, my wife Kathleen, Executive Director of OCCHY and I have continued to work to establish additional Parish Coalitions. A new Coalition



is rapidly forming in **Tucson Arizona** under the guidance of Fr. Philip Nixon and several of his parishioners. The Tucson coalition is developing so well that if we secure the funding for consultants and travel, we will attempt to secure Federal funding for them in the 2012 funding cycle. Likewise we hope to seek federal funding for our Cleveland Coalition, as well as one or two other developing coalitions, if we can secure the funds to do this work.

As part of our Coalition work we are drafting policy to submit to the Department of Conference and Convention Planning to address the issues of young adult alcohol consumption and tobacco use at Conferences and Conventions. We believe the time has come for us to address this serious issue in a meaningful way.

### **Raising the level of our Young Men**

Additionally, our OCCHY Executive Director hopes to begin to address the issue of our young men falling behind in leadership, education, career and other opportunities in raising the standards of our young men. She is in the very early stages of looking at a mentoring program to address the national and local problem of our young men failing to reach their potential. We have seen a downward slide in their leadership positions in Church organizations and in their educational and work achievements. With sufficient funds, we could establish and train a formidable Young Men's Council to mentor our teens on an Archdiocesan level. We would also establish a Young Women's Council in order to guide our young adult women on a healthy and mature path and offer mentors to our teen girls.

## **ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH**

The next gathering of Jurisdictional Youth Directors, with the Bishops who form the Committee for Youth, will take place at the Diakonia Center in South Carolina from October 19-21, 2011. During this meeting we will finalize plans for the upcoming Orthodox Christian Youth Worker Conference, endorsed by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North & Central America and hosted by the Antiochian Archdiocese Departments of Youth and Camping - January 24-28, 2012, at the Antiochian Village.

We will continue to discuss:

- means of cooperating in our youth ministry efforts
- methods of bringing our young people together from across the Continent
- methods to organize youth groups locally, regionally and nationally.

This meeting will have national youth director representation from all of the major Orthodox jurisdictions in the United States.

## **HISTORIC YOUTH WORKER CONFERENCE**

Plans are well underway for the 2012 Orthodox Camp and Youth Worker Conference endorsed by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America and to be hosted by the Antiochian Archdiocese Departments of Youth and Camping at the Antiochian Village January 24-28. This year we will bring the seventy-plus Diocesan Youth Directors from across the Assembly of Bishops for a two-day working conference prior to the start of our regular training conference, to which all diocesan and parish youth workers will be invited. This will be the first time that all Orthodox Diocesan Youth Directors in the United States have been called to gather and work together and this will be the first gathering of Orthodox Youth Workers and Camp Directors endorsed by the Assembly of Bishops. Following the days devoted to the work of the Committee for Youth of the Assembly of Bishops, a Youth Worker/Camping/OCF Chaplain Conference will take place for all Jurisdictional Youth Directors, Diocesan and Parish Youth Workers, and OCF Chaplains. The theme will be "Presenting the message of the Gospel to today's Youth." The Keynote Speaker: Fr. Bogdan Bucur, Pastor of Saint Anthony Orthodox Church in



Butler, PA and Assistant Professor of Theology in Bible and Early Christianity at Duquesne University. Workshops will be offered for all Youth Workers, Camp staff, and OCF Chaplains throughout the conference. Registration and more information is available at: [www.orthodoxcamps.org](http://www.orthodoxcamps.org).

## THE NATIONAL COVENANT FOR CHURCH YOUTH WORKERS

Work continues on the portal and booklet designed to promote the well-being of parish youth workers, by several Christian Youth Workers and Directors across the United States and England. Fr. Joseph was invited to participate in this effort and has worked with this group to develop a booklet and strategy to help parishes care for their youth workers, so we may improve the longevity of their ministry to our young people. More information is available at the newly launched web portal: <http://weloveouryouthworker.com>

## CONFERENCES 2012

Dates for the 2012 Conferences have been set and we have addressed the issue raised at our Fall 2011 meeting of too many conferences on the same weekend as you can see in the table below.

Diocese	2012 Conference Dates
Eastern Dioceses (New York/Charleston/Oakland)	July 4-8 (Bergenfield, NJ)
Diocese of Los Angeles	July 4-8 (Los Altos, CA)
Diocese of Miami	June 13-17 (Davie, FL)
Diocese of Ottawa	June 28 - July 1 (Prince Edward Island, Canada)
Diocese of Toledo	June 27 - July 1 (Alsip, IL)
Diocese of Wichita	June 6-9 (St. Joseph - Houston, TX)
Diocese of Worcester	June 21-24 (Norwood, MA)
Clergy Symposium - Antiochian Village	July 16-20 (Bolivar, PA)
SOYO Leadership Conference - Antiochian Village	July 20-25 (Bolivar, PA)
Antiochian Women and Fellowship of St. John	July 20-22 (Bolivar, PA)

### 2012 Conference Theme and Topics

The 2012 Parish Life Conference Theme is **The Bible**: “The Bible . . . fills us with eternal joy.” *St.. John of Damascus, On the Orthodox Faith – The Font of Knowledge Book 4 Chapter 17.*

*Fuller quote:* “The Bible is a scented garden, delightful, beautiful. It enchants our ears with birdsong in a sweet, divine and spiritual harmony, it touches our heart, comforts us in sorrow, soothes us in a moment of anger, and fills us with eternal joy.”



### Bible Bowl

The 2012 Bible Bowl text to be studied will be St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans. The Bible Study Guides for 2012 are available on:

[www.orthodoxyouth.org/Romans](http://www.orthodoxyouth.org/Romans).

Additional Festival information is available at: [www.antiochian.org/festivals](http://www.antiochian.org/festivals).



## SOYO LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

We held our sixth annual SOYO Leadership Conference from Sunday through Wednesday of the Archdiocese Convention. We are grateful to the host parish St. George of Cicero for their help throughout the SOYO Leadership Conference. We are currently working on designing the 2012 SOYO Leadership Conference that will be held at the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center from July 20-25, 2012.



Additionally, we made the SOYO Leadership Manuals available for sale to our Parishes. An e-mail offer was sent to all of our clergy. A number of parishes ordered and received copies of the SOYO Leadership Manual for their local SOYO group.

## SOYO

During the Archdiocese Convention NAC SOYO Elected Officers for the 2011-2012 SOYO Year. Newly Elected NAC SOYO Officers:

- |                          |                              |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| •NAC SOYO President      | Laney Taylor Wagoner         | Diocese of Wichita     |
| •NAC SOYO Vice-President | Melissa Michelle Khoury      | Diocese of Los Angeles |
| •NAC SOYO Secretary      | Timothy Eleftherios Markatos | Diocese of Worcester   |
| •NAC SOYO Treasurer      | Matthew Shportun             | Diocese of Miami       |

- Also newly appointed is Fr. Fouad Saba - Diocese of Toledo as the new NAC SOYO Spiritual Advisor.
- Fr. Anthony Yazge will continue as the NAC SOYO priest in charge of SOYO Special Olympics.

The NAC SOYO and diocesan officers are actively working on their plans and goals for the current and coming SOYO years.

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS AWARENESS DAY 2011

Sunday October 16th is Special Olympics Awareness Day across the Archdiocese. To cover the approximate \$55,000 cost of the August 2012 SOYO/PASO Special Olympics Sports Camp, our teens will need to raise \$47,000 in addition to the \$8,000 granted by the Order of St. Ignatius. Most of the funds expended go to the Antiochian Village Camp for use of the camp facilities and food.



The October 2011 Icon Bookmark for Special Olympics Awareness Day, features Christ the Good Shepherd Icon, written by Iconographer Erin Kimmett and installed at the Tree House in Wichita Kansas.



## 2011 FRANCIS MARIA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

On behalf of His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP and the Francis Maria Scholarship Committee, we granted six \$2,500 Scholarships to College Students this past July at the Archdiocese Convention. To date, the Francis Maria Scholarship Fund has granted forty-three (43) scholarships totaling \$107,500 from 2003–2011. This July, we reached a milestone of granting over \$100,000 in scholarships through this Archdiocese Fund, solely through the money earned on the funds given by the Francis Maria Foundation for Justice and Peace. On behalf of the Maria Family and the Scholarship Committee we thank the Archdiocese for having done an excellent job in guarding and growing these funds.

## SOYO FINANCIAL INFORMATION: AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2011

SOYO Finances as of October 1, 2011	
NAC SOYO General Operating - Checking	\$ 4,817.06
Special Olympics Fund - Merrill Lynch Investments	\$ 47,839.91
Special Olympics - Bank of America Savings and Checking	\$ 6,480.10
Youth Worker Education Fund - Merrill Lynch Investments	\$ 154,487.91
Youth Worker Education Fund – Bank of America Savings	\$ 7,830.93
<b>Total NAC SOYO Funds</b>	<b>\$221,455.91</b>

Other SOYO Funds overseen by the Department of Youth	
Diocese of Ottawa SOYO Account	\$626.57
Diocese of Worcester SOYO Account	\$2,953.41
New England Council "SOYO" Account	\$2,121.05
Diocese of Los Angeles SOYO Account	\$3,649.34
Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Account	\$3,183.84
<b>Total other SOYO Funds</b>	<b>\$12,534.21</b>

## INCLOSING

I thank his Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP and all of our Diocesan Bishops for their support and prayers. I thank this Archdiocese Board, The Order of St. Ignatius, the Spiritual Advisors, Youth Directors, Officers of SOYO and the countless number of volunteers across the Archdiocese who minister to our young people, financially support this ministry and who have made this ministry a great joy.

Yours in Christ,

V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura, Chairman  
Department of Youth and Parish Ministries  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America