



Department of Youth and Parish Ministries

Living the Orthodox faith in Christ

SPRING 2011 ARCHDIOCESE BOARD REPORT



Our work and travels this year led us to our May meeting at the White House, with the White House Director of Drug Free Communities, Jack Claypoole. We continue to receive good support in our efforts to reduce substance use and abuse among our Orthodox Population from both the White House Office of Drug Free Communities and from General Arthur Dean of CADCA and his staff. This past February, Kh. Kathleen and I received our second week of intensive coalition training and will receive our third week completing 120 hours of training provided by CADCA this July. Coalition members from our Cicero and Cleveland Coalitions also started their training. All of this training is being provided free of charge by the Federal Government.

I am also pleased to share that our invitation to R. Gil Kerlikowske, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Director, has been placed on his calendar to speak to our Clergy during their Tuesday Meeting at the Archdiocese Convention. We welcome the Order of St Ignatius and the members of this Archdiocese Board to come in at the time that Director Kerlikowske speaks.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COALITION FOR HEALTHY YOUTH - "OCCHY"

www.HealthyYouth.com

Since my last report in October 2010, my wife Kathleen and I have continued to travel as much as funds permitted to establish additional Parish Coalitions. Additionally, we attended meetings in Washington D.C., training events at the CADCA - National Leadership Forum, (where I presented the Invocation for the Awards Luncheon attended by over 1,700 Government officials and coalition leaders across the United States), and the Coalition Academy at Fort Indiantown Gap Pennsylvania. We have established coalitions in Cleveland, OH; Cicero, IL; Portland, OR; Louisville, KY; and Indianapolis, IN. We will continue our efforts to reach out to other dioceses to establish additional coalitions to address the issues of substance use and abuse by our youth and encourage respect for the sanctity of the human body.

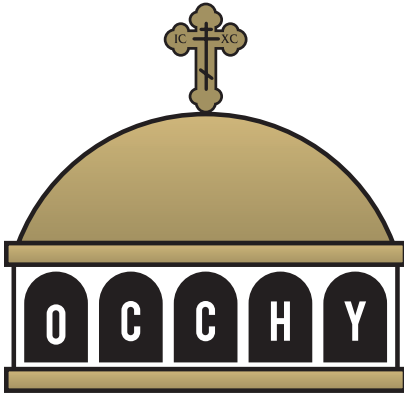
We are in the process of re-designing our Orthodox Christian Coalition for Healthy Youth website at www.HealthyYouth.com. The redesign will allow our local coalitions to submit and place material online as well as to present a better user experience for Clergy, Parents, Youth Workers, Coalition Members and Teens.

CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL PREVENTION, HEALTH PROMOTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH COUNCIL

On December 15th I was invited by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, as one of their five representatives of major stakeholders in the United States, to comment on the developing US Department of Health and Human Services, National Prevention Strategy. During the conference held at the U.S. Department



of Health and Human Services, I was able to address the need for more funding and support of faith based initiatives to address health issues, particularly those relating to substance use and abuse.



Orthodox Christian Coalition
for
Healthy Youth

Challenges: Our major need and concern currently is funding for our Archdiocesan OCCHY work so we can maintain the coalitions we have established, assist our newly developing coalitions, and create new coalitions to reach out to each diocese and other jurisdictions. The \$10,000 budget cut experienced this year coupled with the increased cost of travel and other related expenses makes maintaining and expanding our Youth Department offerings very challenging. We continue to seek other avenues of funding. Our Executive Director of OCCHY, Kathleen A Purpura, will turn her attention in the summer months to finding sources of revenue for our Orthodox Christian Coalition for Healthy Youth Ministry. Your assistance in this endeavor, through your individual contributions and/or helping us find streams of income would be greatly appreciated.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH

Over the past several months, as the Permanent Consultant to the Committee for Youth, I have been assisting his Grace Bishop THOMAS, who chairs the Committee for Youth. We have catalogued a directory of Diocesan Youth Directors across the Assembly, begun compiling a catalogue of the youth organizations and programs across the Assembly in the United States, and developed additional materials to work towards greater cooperation across the various Youth Ministries of the Assembly. In May, we hosted the first gathering of some of the Jurisdictional Youth Directors to begin the discussion of assisting our Bishops on the Committee for Youth and to define the "Characteristics" of Youth Programs for comparison of the various Diocesan Youth Programs; set plans for future gatherings with a more extensive list of jurisdictional Youth Chairs and National Program Directors; started development of various models for cooperation, sharing, and amalgamation of redundant youth efforts. At the invitation of Bishop THOMAS, I attended and assisted with the May 24th meeting of the Committee for Youth held at our Cicero, IL parish the day before the Assembly of Bishops' General Sessions. Our 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.

The official website of the Assembly of Bishops recorded the following outcome of the 2nd Assembly of Bishops Meeting held May 24-26. "The Assembly stressed the great importance of the Church's ministry to the youth, and as a result, has endorsed three projected conferences to bring together Orthodox youth workers from all over North America. It is hoped that this will help to encourage them in their ministry, eliminate redundancy and divided resources among the various churches, and create a common vision for youth ministry in the Church in North America. We pray that we will be successful in this work.

HISTORIC YOUTH WORKER CONFERENCE

A 2012 Orthodox Camp and Youth Worker Conference will 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.



THE NATIONAL COVENANT FOR CHURCH YOUTH WORKERS

On April 4th, I was invited to participate in a National Conference of leading Youth Specialists from the various Christian Denominations, particularly Roman Catholic and Protestant. I represented Orthodox Christians towards developing a National Charter for Youth Ministry. The meeting was held at Washington Theological Union, in Washington, DC on April 4, 2010. I was later asked to join **The Launch Team**, which will become the Steering Committee for the National Charter for Youth Ministry.

CONFERENCES 2011 AND 2012

Dates for the 2011 and 2012 Conferences have been set and we have addressed the issue raised at our last meeting of too many conferences on the same weekend as you can see in the chart below starting with the 2012 conference cycle.

Diocese	2011 Conference Dates	2012 Conference Dates
Eastern Dioceses (New York - Charleston/Oakland)	June 29-July 3 (Hunt Valley, MD)	July 4-8 (Bergenfield, NJ)
Diocese of Los Angeles	June 29-July 3 (Irvine, CA)	July 4-8 (Los Altos, CA)
Diocese of Miami	June 15-19 (Memphis, TN)	June 13-17 (Davie, FL)
Diocese of Ottawa	June 30-July 3 (Mississauga, ON)	June 28-July 1 (Prince Edward Island, Canada)
Diocese of Toledo	June 15-19 (Cleveland, OH)	June 27-July 1 (Alsip, IL)
Diocese of Wichita	June 15-18 (Shreveport, LA)	June 13-17 (Houston, TX)
Diocese of Worcester	June 16-19 (Dedham, MA)	June 28-July 1 (Norwood, MA)
Archdiocese Convention - Chicago	July 25-31 (Chicago, IL)	
SOYO Leadership Conference - Chicago	July 24-27 (Chicago, IL)	July 20-25: SOYO Leadership Conf. July 20-22: Antiochian Women and the Fellowship Meetings
Clergy Symposium - Village		July 16-20 (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 will appear in late fall on www.orthodoxyouth.org/Romans.

SOYO LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

We train our young people in “meeting management skills” as NAC and Diocesan officers. Workshops and discussion groups address public speaking competence and other leadership proficiencies. We are compiling and printing our 5th addition of the SOYO Leadership Binder which will be distributed to the NAC and Diocesan Officers and Advisors at the SOYO Leadership Conference for use in these seminars and for practical use at diocesan SOYO meetings. If funds are available we will also produce the 2011 SOYO Leadership Binder in DVD data format to be distributed to all of our Parish Teen Presidents, Advisors and Clergy. Plans are well underway for our sixth SOYO Leadership Conference to be held from Sunday to Wednesday of our Archdiocese Convention – July 24 - 27, 2011.



SOYO

Our NAC Council and Diocesan SOYO continue their many programs and ministries across North America. This year SOYO has added Al-Kafaàt Foundation as a ministry it supports. Our Teens will run the five booths of Al-Kafaàt Foundation at this year’s Archdiocese Convention, as well as their SOYO booth. The Al-Kafaàt Foundation booth will promote awareness of the Al-Kafaàt Foundation ministry in Lebanon as well as sell items produced by the people of Al-Kafaàt University.

I especially wish to make note of the excellent progress our teens in the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest have made this year under the guidance of their new Spiritual Advisor Fr Fouad Saba, Youth Director Elizabeth Ayoub and Teen President Dana Zawahri. The Midwest Teens have come to life with excellent attendance at their meetings and events and have focused their efforts in growing the SOYO movement in the Midwest.



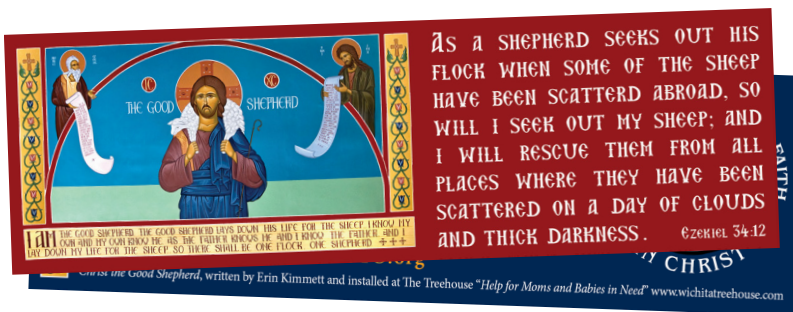
DISCIPLES AND LEADERS

SOYO continues Youth Month work each October, PVC and Sacred Gift of Life Sunday each January, the Great Friday Vigil each Holy Week, The Good Samaritan Project throughout the year, and ongoing Charitable work efforts across North America including its support and participation in Y.E.S., project Mexico and numerous charitable efforts in virtually every community of this archdiocese. SOYO continues to be a force at delegates meetings, the Annual Midwinter Meetings, as well as Parish Life Conferences where SOYO continues to excel in its many programs and ministries in raising a generation of disciples and leaders for the Holy Orthodox Church.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS AWARENESS DAY 2011

This was the best collection SOYO has made over the thirty years SOYO has been raising money for this ministry. The amount raised coupled with the \$8,000 grant from the Order of St Ignatius, should cover the approximate \$52,000 cost of this year's SOYO/PASO Special Olympics Sports Camp. Most of the funds expended go to the Antiochian Village Camp for use of the camp facilities and food.

Special Olympics Income as of October 1, 2011	
Special Olympics Awareness Day (October collection)	\$ 43,459.27
Disney	\$1,000.00
Total Raised for 2011 Special Olympics	\$44,459.27



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

2011 FRANCIS MARIA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

We will grant six \$2,500 Scholarships to College Students this July at the Archdiocese Convention. The Francis Maria Scholarship Fund, as of April 30, 2011, had a balance of \$350,000. To date the Francis Maria Scholarship Fund has granted thirty-seven (37) scholarships totaling \$92,500 from 2003–2010. As of this July, we will surpass the \$100,000 mark for scholarships granted through this Archdiocese Fund.

**SOYO FINANCIAL INFORMATION: AS OF APRIL 30, 2011**

SOYO Finances as of April 30, 2011	
NAC SOYO General Operating - Checking	\$ 7,990.29
Special Olympics Fund - Merrill Lynch Investments	\$ 58,879.23
Special Olympics - Bank of America Savings and Checking	\$ 50,497.64
Youth Worker Education Fund - Merrill Lynch Investments	\$ 182,900.17
Youth Worker Education Fund – Bank of America Savings	\$ 5,154
Total NAC SOYO Funds	\$305,421.33

Other SOYO Funds overseen by the Department of Youth	
Diocese of Ottawa SOYO Account	\$202.97
Diocese of Worcester SOYO Account	\$1,732.65
Diocese of Los Angeles SOYO Account	\$2,615.23
New England "SOYO" Fund	\$132.48
Diocese of Miami and the Southeast	\$5,358.22
Total other SOYO Funds	\$10,041.55

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 this great 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