



THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH MINISTRY

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA
METROPOLITAN PHILIP, PRIMATE

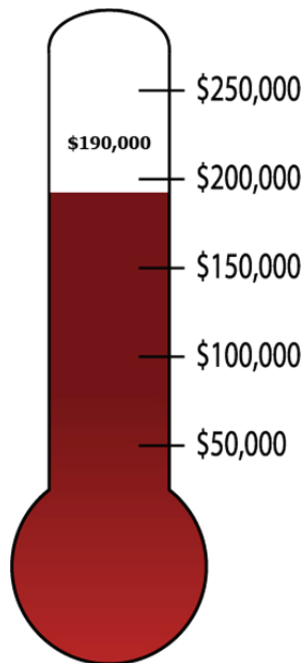
PO Box 389 ▪ Westwood, MA 02090-0389 ▪ www.antiochian.org/youth

December 2011

Dear Teen SOYO Officers, Advisors, and Members,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Teen SOYO across North America, is working towards raising \$250,000 for a scholarship Fund to benefit local parish youth workers/SOYO Advisors to continue their education in Youth Ministry through the St Stephens Youth Ministry Concentration, so they can better serve the teens in parish. You and your teen SOYO peers have already raised over \$190,000 towards this goal. Your help and that of your teens towards this worthy goal are greatly appreciated.



This year we are asking each Parish Teen SOYO/Youth Group to sponsor the coffee hour(s) during the month of January (place a basket on the Coffee table) or host a parish dinner and for you to send the monies collected for the coffee hours for January or the parish dinner you host for this Scholarship Fund. We ask that you work with your teen group, advisors and pastor to help make this happen. Checks should be made payable to "SOYO Youth Worker Scholarship Fund" and mailed by February 5th to:

NAC SOYO Youth Worker Scholarship Fund
Department of Youth Ministry
PO Box 389
Westwood MA 02090

Bulletin Insert

Please note we have mailed to your pastor a bulletin insert for SOYO Education Month - January. We have asked your Pastor to include these in the Parish bulletins for the month of January. Please check with your pastor to be sure he received these inserts. We have also sent him a notice for you to place on the Coffee Table next to a collection basket. The electronic file of these flyers is also available online www.teenSOYO.org.

Thank you for your help with this important ministry. I pray that the remainder of your Christmas Fast is healthy, joyous and profitable.

Yours in Christ,

Archpriest Joseph F Purpura, Chairman,
Department of Youth and Parish Ministry
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura, Chairman
Telephone: 1-781-255-1757 FAX: 1-781-634-0213
E-mail: FrJoseph@orthodoxyouth.com



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PO Box 389 ▪ Westwood, MA 02090-0389 ▪ www.antiochian.org/youth

December 2011

Dear Brother in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I pray that all is well with you, your parish and your family.

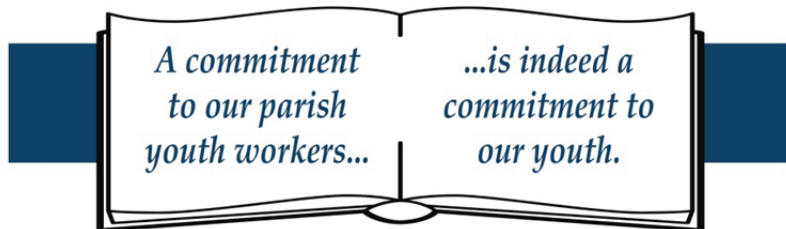
Bulletin Insert

Please find enclosed a bulletin insert for SOYO Education Month - January. We ask that you place the letter size version in your monthly bulletin you mail to the homes and the weekly bulletin sized insert into your weekly bulletin for the entire month of January. The electronic file of these flyers is also available online www.teenSOYO.org.

Teen SOYO

NAC Teen SOYO is working towards raising \$250,000 for a scholarship Fund to benefit local parish youth workers to continue their education in Youth Ministry through the St Stephens Youth Ministry Concentration. Our teens have already raised \$190,000 towards this goal through the efforts of you and your faithful. Your help and that of your teens towards this worthy goal are greatly appreciated.

We are also **asking each Parish Teen SOYO/Youth Group** to sponsor the coffee hours during the month of January or host a parish dinner and for them to send the monies collected for the coffee hour for January or the parish dinner they host to this Scholarship Fund. We ask that you work with your teens to help make this happen. I have also enclosed a water proof notice for the Coffee Hour Table. Contributions may be mailed to:



Get more information on the web: www.antiochian.org/youth

NAC SOYO Youth Worker Scholarship Fund

Department of Youth Ministry
PO Box 389
Westwood MA 02090

Thank you for your help with this important ministry.

Yours in Christ,

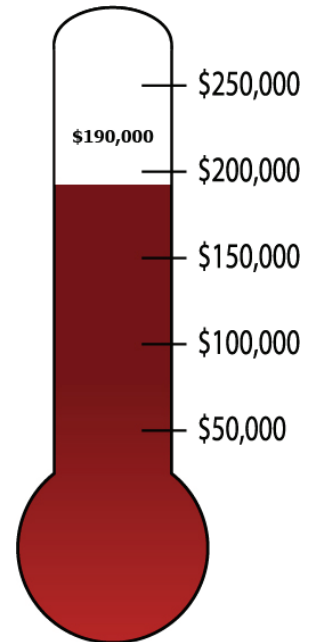
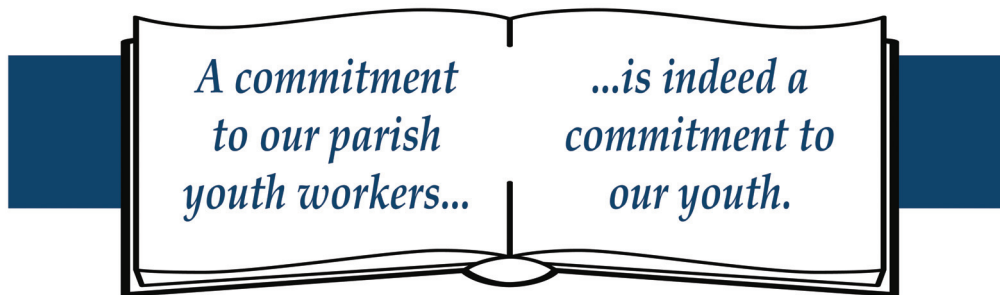
Archpriest Joseph F Purpura, Chairman,
Department of Youth and Parish Ministry
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Telephone: 1-781-255-1757 FAX: 1-781-634-0213
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Coffee Hour Proceeds to Benefit the *SOYO Youth Worker Scholarship Fund*

Be generous and help educate Parish Youth Workers through the Antiochian House of Studies St Stephens Youth Ministry Concentration*



Fund Raising Goal \$250,000

*This is an Accredited Graduate Education Program that leads to a Certificate or Master Degree in Applied Orthodox Theology with a concentration in Youth Ministry.

More information is available at www.teenSOYO.org

ANTIOCHIAN HOUSE OF STUDIES



YOUTH MINISTRY COURSE CATALOG

ST. STEPHEN'S COURSE IN
ORTHODOX THEOLOGY

YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM

MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN APPLIED
ORTHODOX THEOLOGY WITH A
CONCENTRATION IN YOUTH MINISTRY



385 Ivy Lane • Bergenfield, N.J. 07621-4598
Tel: 201-569-0095 • Fax: 201-568-6933
Email: theoedul@aol.com

General Information

On December 29, 1980, His Eminence, Metropolitan PHILIP, Primate of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East), gave his blessing for the establishment of a religious theological education program to be offered through a Directed Reading Curriculum. The program was placed under the patronage of Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen and is entitled the St. Stephen's Diploma Program in Orthodox Theology.

St. Stephen's Diploma Program, with its program of guided readings, written examinations and required field ministerial projects in the local parish, offers a unique home-study opportunity for Orthodox Christians, and others, to increase their knowledge of the faith and to acquire practical skills in church work.

Areas of study include fundamentals of Orthodoxy, scripture, doctrine, liturgical theology, pastoral theology, church history, patristics, canon law and spirituality. After each year of study, the student must complete one residency program at the Antiochian Heritage and Learning Center in Ligonier, PA. Upon successful completion of the program described herein, a diploma is issued to the graduate.

The Master of Arts in Applied Orthodox Theology begins when the student completes the St. Stephen's Diploma Program, to which is added a research component. The research component consists of the composition of a fifty (50) page research paper with full scholarly apparatus under the guidance of a faculty member (see below).

St. Stephen's offers specialized training on a professional level and the support system to buttress the training. Each course is guided by a mentor who is a specialist in his field. For the field projects, Fr. George Kevorkian is the coordinator. This mentor guidance, the projects and residency programs, place this distance program on the highest professional level and makes it more than a mere reading program.

As is true of any distance education program, the keys to deriving maximum benefit are the SELF-MOTIVATION and SELF-DISCIPLINE of the student. It is strongly recommended that the student dedicate specific study hours-totaling five to seven hours per week to the program from the start.

Application for Admission

All applicants must submit a complete application package to:

St. Stephen's Studies Antiochian House of Studies
Attention: Registrar
385 Ivy Lane
Bergenfield, NJ 07621-4598

Telephone: 201-569-0095

For questions regarding the Youth Ministry Program, please contact the Director of the Youth Ministry Concentration Program.

V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura
Department of Youth Ministry
PO Box 389
Westwood MA 02090

Office: 1-781-255-1757
e-mail: FrJoseph@OrthodoxYouth.com

A complete application package for the Diploma programs consists of the following:

1. the completed application form (last page of this catalog)
2. a recent full-face photograph of the applicant
3. a brief autobiography with an emphasis on church activities
4. a statement of the reason for application to the program
5. FOR LAYMEN, a letter from the applicant's pastor
FOR ALL CLERGY, a letter from the applicant's bishop or pertinent ecclesiastical authority
6. a non-refundable application fee of fifty dollars (US \$50.00) by check or money order (Payable to "Antiochian Archdiocese", designated for "Antiochian House of Studies".)

Master of Arts Degree in Applied Orthodox Theology

To apply for the Master of Arts Degree in Applied Orthodox Theology, the student must have finished the complete St. Stephen's Diploma Program, including the three directed projects and three residency units with no failures. A Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university and two academic references are required. This accredited degree is given in partnership with the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology, University of Balamand, which is accredited under the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch in the Republic of Lebanon.

The Studies

The original curriculum is structured to be completed in six semesters covering three academic years. Tuition is due and payable prior to the start of each semester. Once an applicant has been accepted into the program and tuition has been received, the student will be provided with the syllabi, listing course goals, objectives and requirements, and bibliography for the entire program, as well as a list of texts and bookstores. Each student is responsible for purchasing personally the required texts.

Written examinations are administered at the conclusion of each reading period. The grading scheme is as follows: P+ (pass with distinction); P (pass); P- (pass, below average), and F (fail). Students may continue in the program while carrying up to two failing grades. If the student desires, he may attempt to improve them once per course failed later in the program. (See "Policy", below, regarding rewrites.) Nevertheless, the student will be issued a Diploma at the conclusion of the course as long as he or she has no more than two failing grades. N.B., no failures can be carried in order to obtain the M.A. in Applied Orthodox Theology.

All students must complete three ministerial projects. The projects are to be coordinated with the local pastor and should include practical leadership experience with the parish youth group, church school, choir, adult education program, senior citizens' program, retreats, etc. Guidelines for all field ministerial projects are included with the syllabi.

Financial Information

The tuition for each unit of study is Four hundred fifty dollars (US \$450.00). Checks and money orders for tuition should be made payable to "The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese" and designated for "Antiochian House of Studies." In addition, students are expected to purchase their own textbooks in accordance with the syllabi. The cost of participation in the M.A. research paper component is a \$50 application fee: upon acceptance there is a \$1,250 tuition fee, the cost for the entire year, i.e. Units VII and VIII. Also, there is a one-time \$25 library fee paid with the first tuition payment.

Policy

Each of the units of study lasts five months, a four month reading period plus one month during which examinations are written. A student must begin the program with the Fall unit, which extends from October through February of the following year. The Spring unit lasts from March through July. To be considered for admission to the Fall unit, the applicant's complete application package must be received by the Registrar no later than August 15.

Examination questions will be sent to the student at least one month prior to the date the completed examinations are due. Completed examinations must be submitted to the appropriate mentors on or before the deadlines given with the examination questions. If necessary, the student may request an extension of the deadline from the appropriate mentor.

If the student desires to rewrite an examination for which he or she received a failing grade, he or she may do so with the consent of the mentor. Only one rewrite per examination is permitted.

Library Fee & Use

Students will be assessed a library fee of \$25 when accepted into their program. Students may use the House of Studies Library at the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center, Bolivar, PA in person.

Course Requirements for the Youth Ministry Concentration

UNIT I:

- Fundamentals of Orthodoxy
- Church History I
- Liturgical Theology I

UNIT II:

- Church History II
- Fundamentals of Youth Ministry
- Youth Ministry Project 1

UNIT III:

- Relational Ministry and Spiritual Development in Youth
- Holy Scripture II: New Testament
- Patristics

UNIT IV:

- Holy Scripture III
- Doctrine I
- Youth Ministry Project 2

UNIT V:

- Doctrine II
- Moral and Ethical Issues Confronting Orthodox Youth
- Pastoral Theology I

UNIT VI:

- Pastoral Theology II
- Designing and Building a Parish Youth Ministry
- Youth Ministry Project 3

Research Component for the Master of Arts Program:

UNIT VII:

- Guided Research

UNIT VIII:

- Research Paper Composition

Course Description for Youth Ministry Concentration Unit

Unit I

Fundamentals I: An Introduction to Orthodoxy

Introducing the student to the basics of Orthodox Christian beliefs and practices, it surveys the Church's history, doctrines, worship, sacraments, and spirituality. It provides a broad-based overview of the topics dealt with in the remainder of the program.

3 Credits
Fr. Allen

Church History I: The Christian Church from Its Foundation through the Seventh Century

This course provides a survey of the history of the Christian Church from an Orthodox perspective from the coming of our Lord to the resolution of the monothelite heresy at the Sixth Ecumenical Council (681). Topics to be covered include the Apostolic period, the Early Fathers, the first six Ecumenical Councils, and the development of the Church's ecclesiology noting the beginnings of east-west divergences.

3 Credits
Fr. Najim

Liturgical Theology I: Introduction to Liturgical Theology, Baptism and Eucharist

Here the student is introduced to the subject of Christian initiation. The readings emphasize the integral character of Baptism, Chrismation, and Eucharist constituting together the beginning of the Christian life. Also, it emphasizes the understanding of sacrament or mystery as an action of the Church, rather than a "private" rite.

3 Credits
Dr. Meyendorff

Unit II

Church History II: The Orthodox Church from the Seventh Century to 1453

This course completes the Church History sequence. It continues the focusing on the Orthodox Church per se covering events from the heresy of iconoclasm to the fall of Constantinople in 1453. Topics presented include the restoration of the icons by the Seventh Ecumenical Council (787), the development of the east-west schism, the Crusades and their impact on east-west relations, and the progressive encroachment of the Islamic states on the Orthodox Byzantine world culminating in the fall of the Byzantine Empire.

3 Credits
Fr. Najim

Practical Aspects of Youth Ministry: Fundamentals of Youth Ministry

This course is designed in two parts.

3 Credits
Fr. Purpura

1. The first half will establish basic definitions and visions of youth ministry in the Orthodox Christian Church. Students will research common characteristics of adolescence and discuss how those characteristics manifest the life of today's adolescent at home, school, work, the parish, and at play. Various models of youth ministry will be explored and critiqued in the light of the life and teachings of the Church.
2. The second half of the course will seek to develop criteria for parish programs to meet the needs of youth and foster their responsible participation in church life. Topics will include: organizing youth group meetings, locating parental release and medical forms, starting a youth ministry from scratch, recruiting volunteers, etc.

Unit III

Practical Aspects of Youth Ministry: Relational Ministry and Spiritual Development in Youth

The purpose of this unit's reading is to discover and develop a philosophy of youth ministry, which is consistent with Eastern Orthodox ecclesiology, and that leads to a healthy praxis of relational ministry and adolescent spiritual development. This goal will be accomplished by critically examining and reacting to several contemporary youth ministry models in light of Orthodox ecclesiology.

3 Credits
Fr. Scherer

Holy Scripture II: The New Testament

A survey of the New Testament, this course covers the life and redemptive work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the early development of the Church through the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles. Readings outside of scripture set the historical background for the reading of the primary texts.

3 Credits
Fr. Tarazi

Patristics: The Fathers of the Church During the First Five Hundred Years

This course covers the teaching of the Fathers from the period of the Apostolic Fathers through the refutation of Monophysitism including the development of Orthodox dogmatic formulae rejecting Gnosticism, Modalism, Adoptionism, Arianism, and Nestorianism.

3 Credits
Fr. Najim

Unit IV

Holy Scripture III: Biblical Topics

Following on the first two scripture courses, the student now learns to expound the Bible with a view to its use in teaching the Church's doctrine.

3 Credits
Fr. Tarazi

Doctrine I: The Doctrine of Knowledge In the Tradition of the Church

This course focuses on the experiential nature of the knowledge of God in the practice of Orthodox Theological method. It identifies that methodology with the cure of the soul and salvation.

3 Credits
Fr. Antypas

Unit V

Doctrine II: The Orthodox Doctrine of the Holy Trinity

Here the student comes to an understanding of the Orthodox approach to the mystery of the Holy Trinity, i.e., a personal encounter between the believer and community of believers with the three hypostases of the Godhead.

3 Credits
Fr. Antypas

Practical Aspects of Youth Ministry: Moral and Ethical Issues Confronting Orthodox Youth

The purpose of this unit's reading is to (1) examine the moral and ethical issues confronting young people today; (2) examine the Church's teachings on these issues, (3) enable youth workers to effectively impart the Church's teachings on these issues to young people in a way that brings young people into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

3 Credits
Fr. Purpura

Pastoral Theology I

This course provides the student with an introduction to the theory and practice of pastoral theology in the context of the faith of the Orthodox Church. It includes the ministry of the liturgy, the word and of spiritual counsel.

3 Credits
Fr. Allen

Unit VI

Pastoral Theology II

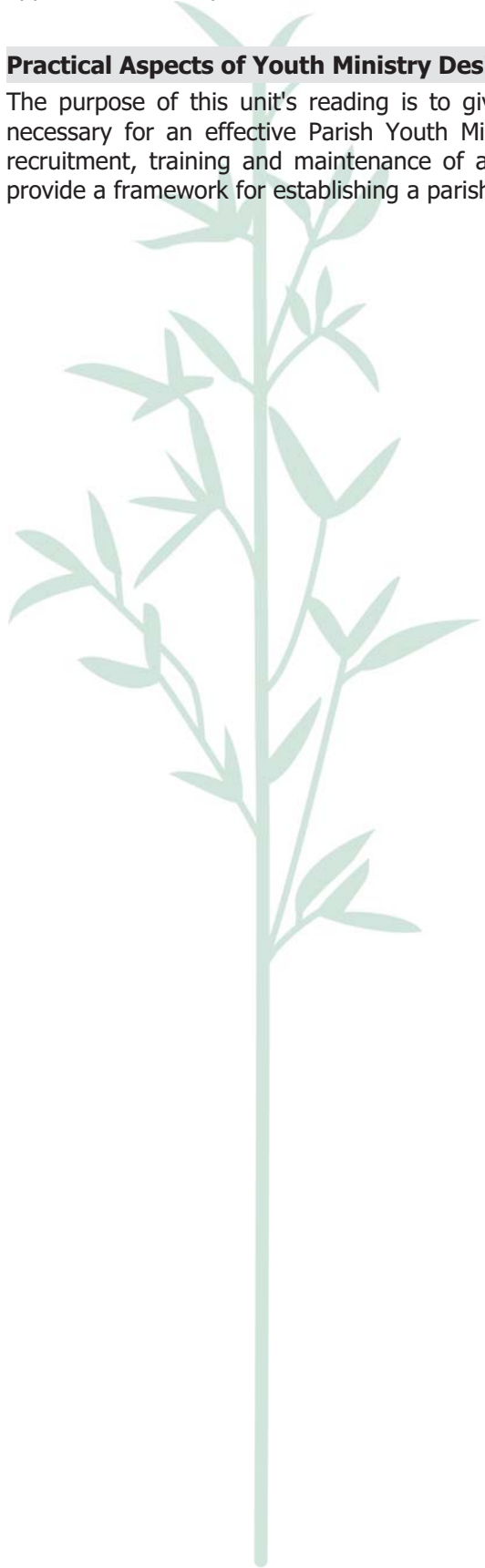
Building on the first course in pastoral theology, this course examines a variety of "case study" applications of the pastoral method in an Orthodox context, including the Ministry of Spiritual Direction.

3 Credits
Fr. Allen

Practical Aspects of Youth Ministry Designing and Building a Parish Youth Ministry

The purpose of this unit's reading is to give the reader an understanding of the essential elements necessary for an effective Parish Youth Ministry Team. In particular, the readings will focus on the recruitment, training and maintenance of a volunteer team of youth workers. The readings will also provide a framework for establishing a parish youth group.

3 Credits
Fr. Yazge



St. Stephen's Program of Studies for Youth Ministry Concentration

The St. Stephen's Program is a graduate-level directed-reading course of studies in Applied Orthodox Theology. Successful completion of the program leads to a Diploma in Applied Orthodox Theology.

Youth Ministry Concentration Overview

The Youth Ministry concentration in the St Stephen's Program comprises 15 directed-reading courses, three projects, and three weeks of residency (one week each year). Each entering Class completes the coursework, projects, and residency on the same trimester schedule (two long sessions and one residency) during the course of the Program. Each Fall session includes three directed-reading courses; each Spring session includes two reading courses and one directed-project course; and each Summer session includes one week of residency in the Antiochian House of Studies.

Directed-Reading Courses

The directed-reading courses for the Youth Ministry concentration are identical to those in the standard Applied Theology concentration of the St. Stephen's program, with the exception of four courses, which specifically focus on preparing the student for Youth Ministry. The directed-reading courses are offered in the Fall and Spring trimesters. In general, the coursework includes:

- Reading the Required Texts for each course and additional recommended reading, which often is relevant across multiple courses.
- Successful completion of the required Exam Papers (typically three for each course) at the end of the semester.
- Students without sufficient background in the subject may find it necessary to undertake some amount of remedial reading in order to establish an appropriate basis and context in which to understand the required readings.

Directed-Project Courses

The St. Stephen's Program directed-project courses are offered in the Spring trimesters (Sessions II, IV, and VI). The directed-project courses for the Youth Ministry concentration are to focus on and area of Youth Ministry. They generally will address a particular need in this area. The Youth Ministry Project courses include:

- A Project Proposal (abstract)
Submitted at the beginning of the Spring trimester before undertaking the project to 1) the Chair of the Department of Youth Ministry for acceptance of relevancy and 2) the Project Mentor for approval upon acceptance by the Chair of the Department of Youth Ministry
- The directed Project itself
- A Project Paper with supporting detail

Residency

The required residency courses are offered in the Summer trimesters (the last week of August or the first week of September). All students in the St. Stephen's Program are required to attend one week of residency in the Antiochian House of Studies each year (alternating week one or week two). Students in the Youth Ministry concentration will attend the second week of the House of Studies each year and will also attend an intensive Saturday session at the beginning of the week.

Masters Degree Program

Students who successfully complete the St. Stephen's Diploma program and who satisfy the other prerequisites, may apply to enter the Masters Degree Program, leading to a Master of Arts in Applied Orthodox Theology. Upon successful completion of the Youth Ministry concentration of the St Stephen's Diploma program, students may apply for acceptance into the Masters of Art Degree Program in Applied Orthodox Theology with an emphasis on Youth Ministry. This accredited degree is offered by the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch through partnership with St. John of Damascus School of Theology, Balamand University.

The Masters Degree Program with the Youth Ministry concentration focuses on a practical need in Youth Ministry and, in general, includes:

- Presentation of a Thesis Proposal (abstract)
- Two Trimesters (Fall and Spring) of thesis research and preparation.
- Completion and defense of the Master's Thesis.

In the Masters Degree program, the Thesis must be focused on Youth Ministry and the Thesis topic must be approved by the Chair of the Department of Youth Ministry before it is submitted to the Thesis Committee.

Examples of Youth Ministry Projects

- Extended Teen Ministry Outreach project, including preparing teens, implementing project and debriefing teens
- Designing, building and training a Parish Youth Ministry Team
- Developing and implementing a Teen Weekend Retreat
- Developing and teaching a Semester Course in Moral and Ethical Issues Confronting Orthodox Youth to teens (for at least a 4 month period)
- Designing, implementing and evaluating a Youth Group Calendar of Events (for at least a 6 month period)
- Teaching teens Orthodox Liturgical Music, performed and useable in an Orthodox setting (quality recording of the event required)
- Developing a web-based Youth Ministry Program
- Developing a CD-based Youth Ministry Teaching Tool for teens
- Developing and implementing a Teen Bible Study Program

Faculty and Administration of the Antiochian House of Studies

V. Rev. Dr. Joseph J. Allen, *Director*

Most Rev. Maximos (Aghiorgoussis), Metropolitan of Pittsburgh

V. Rev. Dr. John P. Abdalah

V. Rev. Joseph Antypas

V. Rev. Dr. Elias Bitar

Rev. Dn. Peter N. Boulukos, D.C.

Rev. Dr. James V. Dougherty

V. Rev. Anthony Gabriel

Nicolae Gavriuiu

V. Rev. Peter Gillquist

V. Rev. Dr. David Hester

Rev. Dr. Robert Holet

Ms. Christine Holet

V. Rev. Edward Hughes

Rev. George Kevorkian

Mrs. Genevieve Mandalakis

Stratos Mandalakis

Dr. Paul Meyendorff

Cheri Mullins

V. Rev. Dr. Michel Najim

V. Rev. Dr. Joseph Purpura

Rev. Kevin Scherer

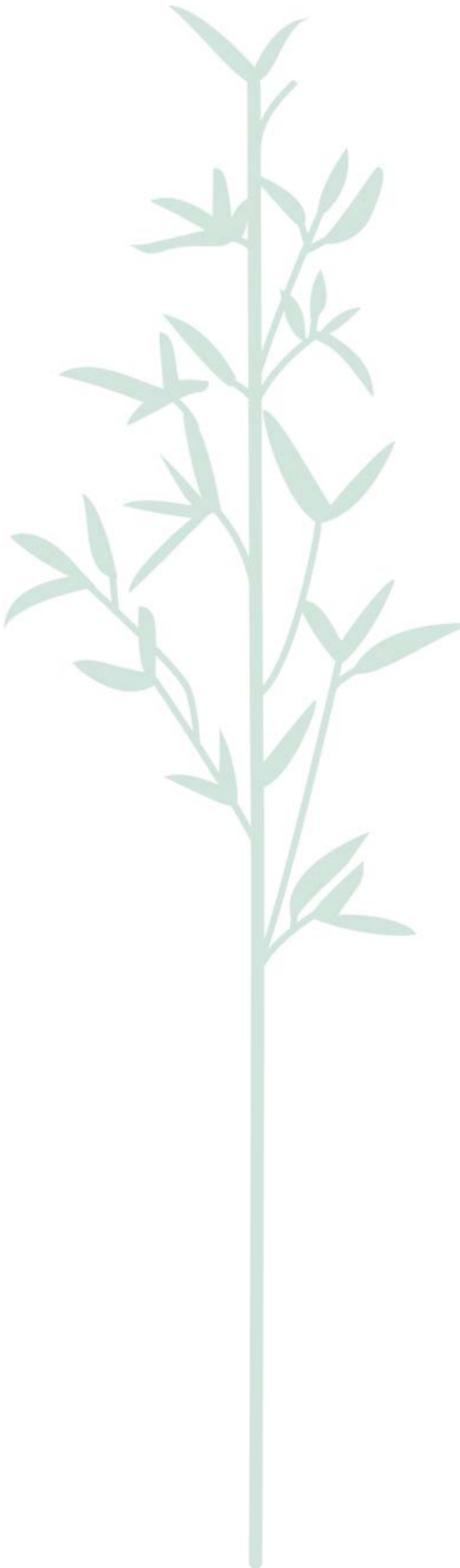
V. Rev. Dr. George Shaloub

V. Rev. Dr. Paul Tarazi

Rev. Dr. Patrick Viscuso

V. Rev. Anthony Yazge

[Application is on the following page.]



Developing a Schedule.

Determine how you spend a typical 24-hour day:
Enter the hours you spend on each activity.
"Tab" through each item.
Watch as your time slips away. . .

10	Classes
2	Studying
8.5	Sleeping
1	Exercise/sports
8	Work/internship
1	Family commitments
1	Personal care/grooming
20	Meal preparation/eating/clean-up
7.5	Transportation (school, work, etc.)
1.5	Relaxing/TV/video games, etc. (alone)
1	Socializing/entertainment (with friends)
8	Other

2
Hours Remaining



Antiochian House of Studies

Youth Ministry Concentration

St. Stephen's Course of Study in Orthodox Theology
385 Ivy Lane, Bergenfield, N.J. 07621

YOUTH MINISTRY CONCENTRATION APPLICATION

(Please type or print all information)

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street Address City State Zip Country

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Birth date: _____

Jurisdiction: _____
(if Orthodox)

Employment: _____

Name and Address of your parish priest or other significant ecclesiastic authority:

Please note:

1. You must include all items listed on Page 2 with this application
2. A separate application must be completed for the Master's Degree during the 3rd year in the course.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

