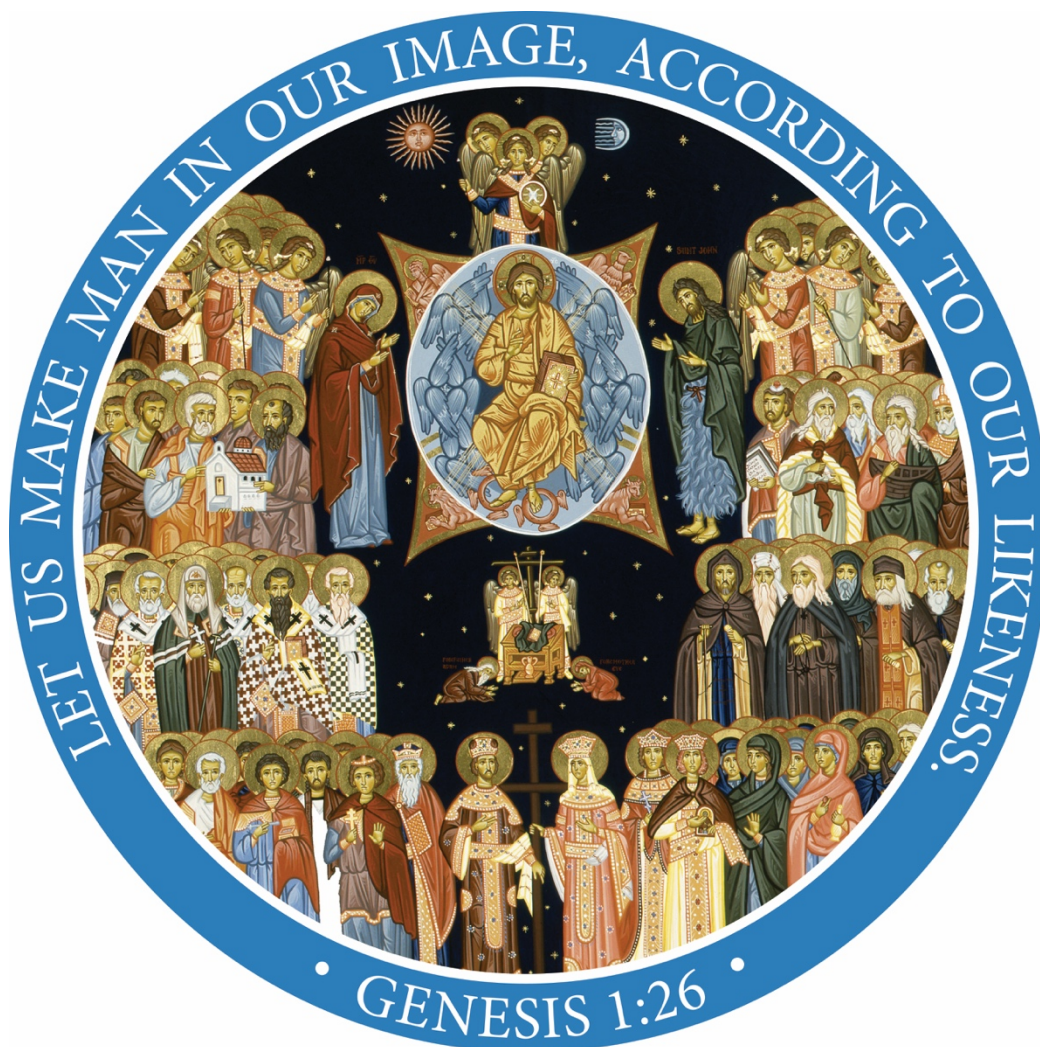


2023 Antiochian Archdiocese Oratorical Festival





JUDGES INFORMATION GUIDE

June/July 2023

Dear Oratorical Judge,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! On behalf of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, I thank you exceedingly for your participation and assistance with the Oratorical Festival.

The Oratorical Festival was designed to serve as an avenue for our youth to learn, enhance and share the knowledge of their faith based on the Conference theme listed above. This wonderful Festival is made possible with the help of those who give selflessly of their time as you have.

Enclosed you will find the official rules that guide the Festival, along with copies of the score sheets that will be used on the day of the Oratorical.

Again, thank you so much for your time and service. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at any time. I hope you enjoy listening to these orations as much as the faithful of the Archdiocese and Dioceses will. More importantly, thank you for supporting our youth. Your presence and participation here have given our teens an arena to express their Christian faith.

Yours in Christ,
Julie Abboud,
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of North America Archdiocese
Oratorical Coordinator
immalbert@aol.com



2023 ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
An Opportunity for Orthodox Christian Teens to Share their Faith with Others

Below are the oration prompts given to each orator.

ORATORICAL INSTRUCTIONS

Oratorical

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" - Genesis 1:26a

This year's theme from the book of Genesis calls our attention to many theological truths. In writing your oration, you do not need to reference all of these points, but some are presented below so that you have an idea of the importance of this one, seemingly simple verse.

First, there is something special about what it means to be human. Of everything that God created, it is only human beings that are said to be created in the image and likeness of God. What does this mean? Why or how are we unique?

Second, this verse opens us up to reflecting on the dogma of the Holy Trinity. It is very subtle, but the use of the words 'Us' and 'Our' is considered to be a foreshadowing of the full revelation of the Holy Trinity in the New Testament. Upon reflecting on the dogma of the Holy Trinity, what are ways we can more fully understand what it means to be truly human in relationship with God and others?

Third, all of this together can help us to know that each person is challenged to carry the image of God and restore his/her own humanity to the True Likeness of God. While we all share this high calling, we were created as unique persons with varying gifts and talents and life circumstances, meaning our way of working out this calling in our lives will be unique. It is for this reason the Archdiocese chose the theme of "Vocations" for the ecclesiastical year. While reflecting on the Trinity and our creation, you may choose to touch on what it means to consider vocational callings as a young person in the Church.

Keep in mind:

- You can/should consider using direct quotes from the Church Fathers and other Orthodox theologians in your oration. Many Church Fathers reference the creation account and this verse. Research what they share and teach and offer applications to the lives of young people journeying toward unity with God.
- A few verses later in Genesis we read about the Fall of mankind. Many of the fathers differentiate that the Fall does not remove the image of God in us but our participation in the corruption of the fallen world tarnishes the likeness of God in us. In this light, explore how the Incarnation of the Son and Word of God perfectly reveals to us what it means to be in the image of God and restores to us the means of attaining once again to His likeness.
- The icon chosen to represent this theme is “All Saints.” Consider examples of saints and other holy people who shine forth with the brightness of God’s image and whose lives demonstrate the path to attaining His likeness.

For Oratorical Registration and more information go to <http://teensoyo.org/oratorical>



ARCHDIOCESE RULES AND GUIDELINES ORATORICAL FESTIVAL (Revised 2020)

1. All orators must be communicants in a parish or mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.
2. The topic will be generated by the Department of Youth and will be sent to the parishes by October 1st of that year.
3. Each contestant must meet the following age requirements:
 - A. Junior Division: for persons who have reached their 13th birthday but not their 16th birthday on or before June 1 of the Conference year. In other words, junior contestants must be ages 13-15.
 - B. Senior Division: for persons who have reached their 16th birthday but not their 20th birthday on or before June 1 of the Conference year. In other words, senior contestants must be ages 16-19.
4. Anyone who has been selected as the Judge's Choice at an Archdiocese Oratorical Festival (Archdiocese Convention or off-year festivals) is ineligible to participate again in a Diocesan Oratorical Festival.
 - A. A Senior Division Diocesan Judge's Choice may not compete in the next conference year, but can return the year after that if he/she meets the age requirements (See Rule 3).
 - B. A Junior Division Diocesan Judge's Choice may not compete in the next conference year, but can return the year after that if he/she meets the age requirements (See Rule 3), unless he/she was the sole competitor in that division.
 - C. However, the junior division winner (if age allows) may compete in the senior division the next conference year.
5. The Diocesan Oratorical Festival will take place during your Diocesan Parish Life Conference.

6. A Judge's Choice will be selected in each of the two Diocesan Divisions and awards will be presented by the Diocese, not NAC. There will not be any certificates or awards presented by NAC, but you may choose to do so in your Diocese.
7. In years when there is an Archdiocese Convention, the Judge's Choice in your Diocesan Senior Division will represent his/her Diocese at the Archdiocese Oratorical Festival. His/her travel expenses and two nights lodging will be covered by your Diocesan Fellowship of St. John the Divine. In non-Archdiocese Convention years, all Diocesan oratorical winners in the Senior Division will compete in the Archdiocese Oratorical Festival to be held in conjunction with the summer meeting at the Antiochian Village. Transportation and two nights lodging will be paid by the respective Diocese.

In the instance when the Judges' Choice of the Senior Oratorical division is unable to attend either the Archdiocese Convention or the Antiochian Village Summer Meetings (during non-Archdiocese Convention years), the runner-up for the Senior Division will represent their Diocese at the Archdiocese level and will receive any Archdiocese rewards or stipends given and will also have his/her oration appear in The Word Magazine.

8. Time limits for orations are as follows:

Division	Minimum	Maximum	Leeway
Junior	3 minutes	5 minutes	15 seconds
Senior	6 minutes	10 minutes	30 seconds

If the orator speaks BEYOND the leeway time, points will be deducted from his/her final score. THESE POINTS ARE DIVIDED AMONGST THE THREE JUDGES. Consult the following table for these deductions.

JUNIOR DIVISION		SENIOR DIVISION	
Time of Oration	Penalty	Time of Oration	Penalty
2:45-2:59 or 5:00-5:15	None	5:30-5:59 or 10:00-10:30	None
2:30-2:44 or 5:16-5:30	9 points	5:00-5:29 or 10:31-11:00	9 points
2:15-2:29 or 5:31-5:45	15 points	4:30-4:59 or 11:01-11:30	15 points
2:00-2:14 or 5:46-6:00	21 points	4:00-4:29 or 11:31-12:00	21 points
1:45-1:59 or 6:01-6:15	27 points	3:30-3:59 or 12:01-12:30	27 points
Under 1:44 or Over 6:16	Disqualification	Under 3:29 or Over 12:31	Disqualification

9. The speech is an oration, not a sermon or dramatic presentation; therefore, the following guidelines will apply:
 - A. Only gestures, intonation, eye contact, and other methods of physical communication can be utilized. Props and costumes are not allowed.
 - B. Contestants are not to use the opening: "In the name of the Father...etc." They will be given a standard greeting to recite from the coordinator, commemorating the hierarchy, the clergy and the laity; timing will begin at the first word of the oration, whether or not it is part of the "greeting."
10. The orator may use 8 ½" x 11" pages, or 3" x 5" note cards to present the oration.
11. Prior to the Diocesan Oratorical Festival, the orator must provide the Diocesan Oratorical Coordinator with the following at least two (2) weeks before the conference:
 - A. Four (4) double-spaced, 8-1/2 x 11" typewritten copies of his/her oration; please make sure that contestants do not include their names and information on these, as the judges will be provided with these copies.
 - B. A brief personal résumé (including full name, age, address, phone number, email address, parish and city, grade in school, church school and civic activities, awards, future vocational goals or plans, etc.) using the form at the end of this section.
 - C. In years when there is an Archdiocese Convention, each Senior Division entrant must submit written authorization from his/her parents stating that he/she will be permitted to attend the Archdiocese Convention for the Archdiocese Oratorical Festival in the event he/she is selected as the Diocesan Judge's Choice.
 - D. In the off-year, the contestant must also submit written permission to attend the Archdiocese Oratorical Festival at the Antiochian Village during the Mid-Summer Meetings. These forms appear at the end of this section.
12. The Oratorical topic may not be altered by any Diocese. We will ask for input; however, topics will be formed around the conference/convention theme.
13. The Archdiocese Oratorical Festivals, both convention and off-years, will fall under the direction of the Archdiocese Oratorical Coordinator. All questions and requirements should be submitted to the Archdiocese Coordinator.
14. The orator is not to make references by name to themselves, family members, city or parish. The orators must remain completely anonymous to the Judges.
15. Each orator must write his/her own oration. They may seek guidance and advice from their parish priest, parent, advisor, etc., but must be the author of their oration.
16. **Senior division diocesan winners must present in large part the same oration that was delivered at their Diocesan Festival.** Corrections/amendments are permitted only when grammatical or theological inaccuracies were noted by the Diocesan judges and or the contestants Pastor. Minor polishing of the grammar and delivery style of one's oration may be done by the orator to fix delivery problems they experienced on the diocesan level.

The updated Oration must be presented, in writing, by e-mail or in person, to the NAC Oratorical Coordinator at least seven days prior to the Archdiocese Oratorical event.

17. Collectively, judges may only select one choice (winner) per division, according to the rules set forth above. Judges must also use the guideline set forth on the "Oratorical Rating Sheet", which reads: The lowest total score (of the three added ratings) determines first place. Please enter the "rating" number from the bottom of each judges score sheet for each contestant. If there is a tie for judges' choice (first place) after this procedure, please consult the Tiebreaker Procedures.

TIEBREAKER PROCEDURES

- A. Should a tie occur after the three judges' ratings are added up, add the total points awarded by the three judges.
- B. Should a tie still occur; the choice will be determined by secret ballot amongst the judges. Abstentions are not allowed, and each judge can only vote for one contestant.

In addition, in the instance when an individual judge incidentally marks the same score for two or more contestants, he/she is required to make a judgment to reflect which oration was better by ranking them with a "rating" number of 1, 2, 3 and so forth. No two contestants should receive the same rating.

18. Once the contestants have arrived at the Festival, whether it is the hotel chapel, ballroom, and so forth, they are to be undisturbed. Parents, clergy, coaches, friends and especially judges cannot talk to the contestants, as it may lead to bias for the Festival.



CLERGY / Theological Judging FORM 1

Contestant Identification Number: _____

Time: _____

Use of Theological Resources:

- Use of biblical citations (10 points) _____
- Use of extra-biblical sources (10 points) _____
 (Patristic texts, liturgical texts, creeds, etc.)
- Accuracy of theological statements (15 points) _____
- Appropriate application of theological concepts (20 points) _____
 (Did orator invoke pertinent concepts and use them in an effective manner?)
- Overall Presentation from an Orthodox Perspective (15 points) _____

Presentation and Delivery:

- Eye Contact (10 points) _____
- Voice (volume, inflection, diction and pace) (10 points) _____
- Impression, Effect, Style, Dramatic Balance, Honesty, Creativity (10 points) _____

Constructive Comments:

Rating: For each judge please number your contestant with the highest number of points as a rating of 1, the next lower as 2, and on down.

Total Points (100 points): _____

Rating: _____



CLERGY / Theological Judging FORM 2

Contestant Identification Number: _____

Time: _____

Use of Theological Resources:

- Use of biblical citations (10 points) _____
- Use of extra-biblical sources (10 points) _____
(Patristic texts, liturgical texts, creeds, etc.)
- Accuracy of theological statements (15 points) _____
- Appropriate application of theological concepts (20 points) _____
(Did orator invoke pertinent concepts and use them in an effective manner?)
- Overall Presentation from an Orthodox Perspective (15 points) _____

Presentation and Delivery:

- Eye Contact (10 points) _____
- Voice (volume, inflection, diction and pace) (10 points) _____
- Impression, Effect, Style, Dramatic Balance, Honesty, Creativity (10 points) _____

Constructive Comments:

Rating: For each judge please number your contestant with the highest number of points as a rating of 1, the next lower as 2, and on down.

Total Points (100 points): _____

Rating: _____



Academic Judging FORM

Contestant Identification Number: _____

Time: _____

Presentation and Delivery:

Eye Contact (10 points) _____
 Voice (volume, inflection, diction and pace) (10 points) _____
 Impression, Effect, Style, Dramatic Balance, Honesty (10 points) _____
 Sub-Total: _____

Material and Organization:

Theme development (15 points) _____
 Subject Adherence (15 points) _____
 Overall Organization (10 points) _____
 Usage and Grammar (10 points) _____
 Sub-Total: _____

Creativity: (10 points) _____

Personal Qualities:

Appearance, appropriateness, neatness and poise (posture, facial expressions, gestures) (10 points) _____

Constructive Comments:

Rating: For each judge please number your contestant with the highest number of points as a rating of 1, the next lower as 2, and on down.

Total Points (100 points): _____

Rating: _____



2023 ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

JUNIOR DIVISION RATING COMPILATION SHEET

The lowest total score determines first place. Please enter the "Rating" number from the bottom of each judges score sheet for each contestant.

Contestant Number	Clergy / Theological Judge #1	Clergy / Theological Judge #2	Academic Judge	Total Score
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				



2023 ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

SENIOR DIVISION RATING COMPILATION SHEET

The lowest total score determines first place. Please enter the “Rating” number from the bottom of each judge score sheet for each contestant.

Contestant Number	Clergy / Theological Judge #1	Clergy / Theological Judge #2	Academic Judge	Total Score
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				



ORATORICAL JUDGE RÉSUMÉ

Name: _____

City: _____

Occupation/Title: _____

Activities (Professional/Personal): _____

Achievements/Awards: _____



ORATORICAL JUDGE RÉSUMÉ

Name: _____

City: _____

Occupation/Title: _____

Activities (Professional/Personal): _____

Achievements/Awards: _____



ORATORICAL JUDGE RÉSUMÉ

Name: _____

City: _____

Occupation/Title: _____

Activities (Professional/Personal): _____

Achievements/Awards: _____

