



**Metropolitan Council Meeting**

**Spring 2012**

**Post AAC Working Group  
Presentations**



**Meeting of the Metropolitan Council  
February 21 to February 23, 2012  
Post AAC Working Group Presentations  
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**Implementation Plans  
for  
the Strategic Plan for the OCA:**

# **This session will be comprised of 3 major elements:**


- ▶ Overview: from the AAC to now (12 min)
- ▶ Implementation Plans for each of the 7 goals – 12 min each (100 min)
- ▶ Lunch & informal discussion (60 min)

**Because of the many ‘mini-presentations’ time limits will be strictly enforced**

# The AAC overwhelmingly approved proceeding with the Strategic Plan

- ▶ The Workshops were very successful
  - Greater than 400 participants
  - Participants felt their voices were heard
  - Identified 30+ promising first steps
- ▶ “Sense of Council” show of cards overwhelmingly approved:
  - Proceeding with the implementation of the plan
  - Forming a Post-Conciliar Committee
  - Urging pursuit of novel funding sources

# Since the AAC, we have

- Revised and published the Strategic Plan
  - Have established a management structure to implement the plan:
    - Post-Conciliar Committee to oversee & facilitate
    - Implementation Facilitation Teams to facilitate the actual implementation
  - Reduced the number of goals from 10 to 7
  - Developed implementation plans for those goals
- 

# Our implementation structure is:

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>PoCC Coordinator</b>	<b>Implementation Facilitation Team Lead</b>
Evangelization & Parish Development	Fr. John Reeves	Fr. John Reeves
Leadership & Management	Fr. David Lowell	Fr. David Lowell
Youth & Young Adults	Fr. John Vitko	Fr. Christopher Rowe
Diocesan Revitalization	Fr. John Shimchick	Donna Karabin
Inter-Orthodox Relations	Ray Lanier	Mat. Wendy Cwiklinski
Contemporary Issues	Pdn Michael Myers	Fr. Caleb Abetti
Continuing Education	Fr. Chad Hatfield	Fr. Ian Pac-Urar

# We believe that parts of the Plan will be applicable to most parishes

- ▶ E.g. for a struggling parishes in an economically declining area:
  - the portions on evangelization & parish revitalization; leadership and management, youth, and continuing education might be of direct help
  - It will also show how to break seemingly 'insurmountable problems' into more manageable pieces
  - Seeing progress in the rest of the Church can be uplifting

**Different parishes, deaneries and dioceses will be interested in different portion of the plan !**



# To achieve its full potential, implementation needs **YOUR** active support

- ▶ The AAC has placed their trust in us (the Church)
- ▶ The proposed projects are initial modest steps
  - Initial successes will lead to bigger steps
- ▶ Volunteers are often ‘overwhelmed’: **YOUR** support can be the ‘boost they need’
- ▶ If you see something in the plan you don’t like, speak up so we can try to fix it – but **please** don’t simply ‘opt out’

**The plan is a living plan, so  
provide your input during lunch  
or during the next month**

# Evangelization and Parish Revitalization



**THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA  
STRATEGIC PLAN PROPOSAL**

**February 22, 2012**

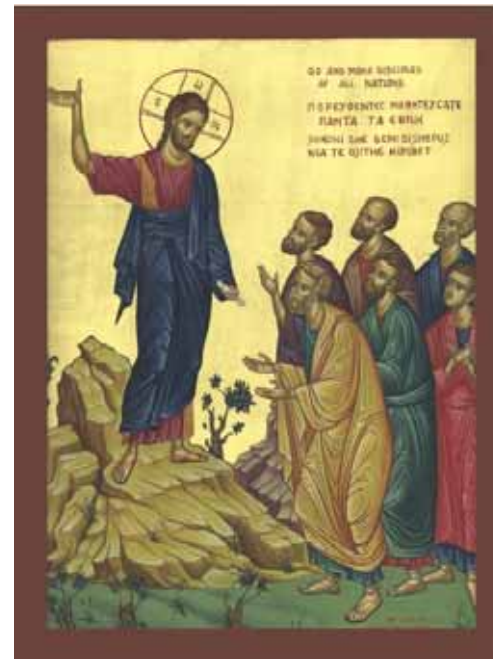
**Archpriest John Reeves, Implementation Team Leader**



## Evangelization and Parish Revitalization

# The Goal

Equip the OCA for the  
ministry of Evangelization  
and Parish Revitalization.





## Evangelization and Parish Revitalization

The Goal: Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

## Key Issues

- The trends are alarming.
- From 1980-2000, OCA membership **declined 6-9%**, while the U.S. population increased by 24%.
- A 2002 study found that membership in **77%** of OCA parishes was declining. **47% were in “serious decline.”**



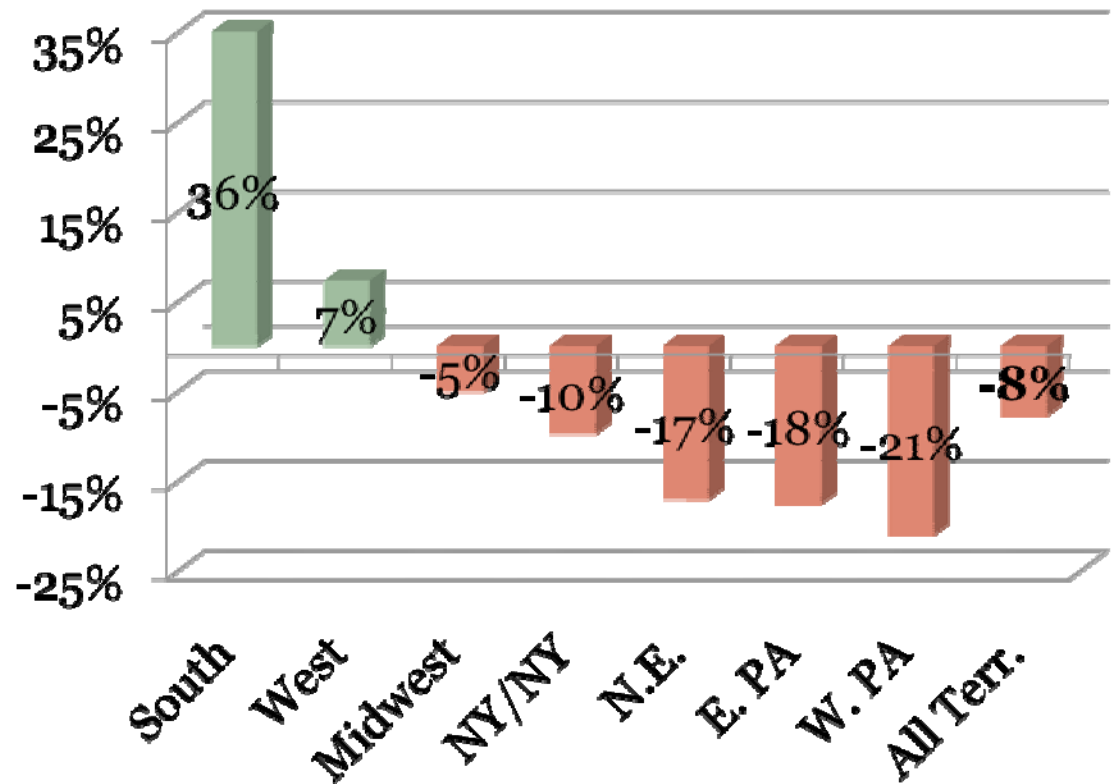
## Evangelization and Parish Revitalization

The Goal: Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

Source: Ivanoff. Years  
Represented: '00-'06

## Key Issues

- Since then, all but two territorial dioceses continued to decline.





## Evangelization and Parish Revitalization

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

## Key Issues

- **Evangelism**—*Sharing the Good News about Christ*—is not only planting new missions:
  - It is the reason for the Church's existence.
  - It is the cornerstone of Christian living in existing parishes and new churches as well.
  - It is the key means by which declining parishes will be revitalized.



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

## **Key Issues**

- To turn around the OCA,  
we must train mission teams  
composed of clergy and laity:
  - To develop parishes,
  - Revitalize declining parishes, and
  - Plant new missions.
- Teams to operate on Diocesan  
and Deanery levels.





## Evangelization and Parish Revitalization

The Goal: Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

## Key Issues

- Teams require a unique set of skills.
- Teams will be trained:
  - To diagnose and revitalize stagnant parishes.
  - To help develop existing parishes.
  - To plant and develop healthy missions.
- Effective **coaching** is essential for ongoing success.



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

## **Objective**

To train clergy and laity to  
articulate the Orthodox faith  
in the context of varying  
North American cultures.



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

# **The Project: Training**

- **Develop 6-day training programs for clergy and laity.**
- **Delivered on a deanery by deanery basis over several weekends/Saturdays.**



## Evangelization and Parish Revitalization

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

# The Project: Training

- Rather than “reinventing the wheel,” training modules will be based on existing curricula.
- These include *Sharing the Hope*, a DOMW evangelism course that prepares people to explain the Orthodox Faith.



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

# **The Project: Focus**

- **Internal Evangelism.**
  - E-0
- **External Evangelism.**
  - E-1: growing of existing churches
  - E-2: planting of new churches
  - E-3: cross-cultural church plants



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

# **The Project: Handbook**

- **Develop online “Handbook,” pooling existing resources and personnel.**
- **Collect and disseminate existing information.**
- **The Handbook will also facilitate ongoing training of mission workers in the Field.**



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

**The Project:** 6-Day  
Training Programs for  
Clergy and Laity

# **Key Milestones**

*September 2012*

- **Effective evangelism workers and existing programs identified.**
- **Support and cooperation of mission workers enlisted.**
- **Existing programs and materials collected and readied for online distribution.**



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

**The Project:** 6-Day  
Training Programs for  
Clergy and Laity

# **Key Milestones**

*March 2013*

- **Training module developed.**





## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

**The Project:** 6-Day  
Training Programs for  
Clergy and Laity

# **Key Milestones**

*September 2013*

- **First training sessions scheduled and held in selected deaneries in up to four dioceses.**



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

**The Project:** 6-Day  
Training Programs for  
Clergy and Laity

# **Key Milestones**

*March 2014*

- **Additional training sessions scheduled and held in additional dioceses.**



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

**The Project:** 6-Day  
Training Programs for  
Clergy and Laity

# **Key Milestones**

*September 2014*

- Supervision and coaching of existing deanery teams continues.
- Additional training sessions scheduled and held.



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

**The Project:** 6-Day  
Training Programs for  
Clergy and Laity

## **Role of the Central Administration**

- **Help identify workers in the Field.**
- **Assign personnel to receive and post information collected for the Handbook and post it on a special section of the Website.**
- **Actively promote and coordinate the Deanery Training Program across Dioceses.**



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

**The Project:** 6-Day  
Training Programs for  
Clergy and Laity

## **Role of the Central Administration**

- **Fund matching training grants to dioceses, up to \$2,500 per year, per diocese, beginning in 2013.**



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

**The Project:** 6-Day  
Training Programs for  
Clergy and Laity

## **Role of the Dioceses/Deaneries**

- **Dioceses:** Match \$2,500 per year to initiate and sustain training program locally in deaneries.
- Funds will support clergy and lay trainers to facilitate regional training programs.
- It's the Dioceses' responsibility to keep the programs running.



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

**The Project:** 6-Day  
Training Programs for  
Clergy and Laity

## **Role of the Dioceses/Deaneries**

- Attendance of Bishops at initial training is mandatory for their own commitment to the process and to encourage participants.



## **Evangelization and Parish Revitalization**

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

**The Project:** 6-Day  
Training Programs for  
Clergy and Laity

## **Role of the Parishes**

- Participate in local training.
- Cooperate with deanery churches to set and obtain goals.\*
- \$500 yearly fee to provide coaching support to each participant parish and its clergy.

\* No training on a parish-by-parish basis.





## Evangelization and Parish Revitalization

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

**The Project:** 6-Day  
Training Programs for  
Clergy and Laity

# Required Resources

	2012	2013	2014
<b>Central Admin.</b>	\$0*	Up to \$10,000	Up to \$20,000
<b>Diocese(s)</b>	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>Parishes</b>	\$0	\$500	\$500

- \* Existing personnel will collect information for the Handbook to post online.

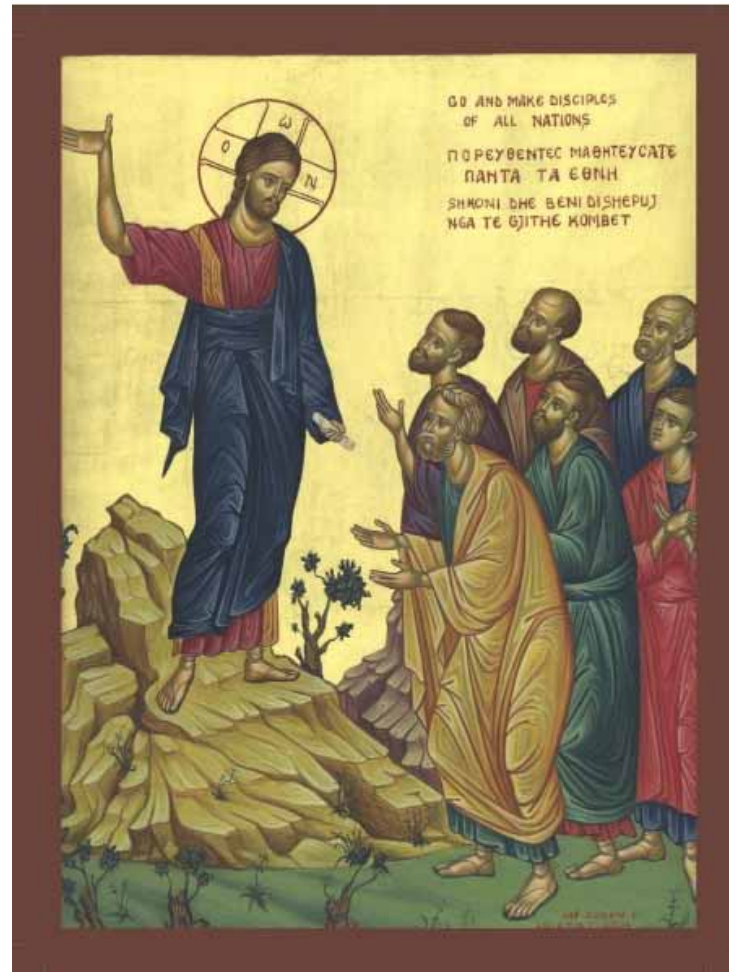


## Evangelization and Parish Revitalization

**The Goal:** Equip Our  
Church for Evangelism

**The Project:** 6-Day  
Training Programs for  
Clergy and Laity

# Thank You!



# **Goal 4: Leadership and Management Skills – Communicating our Plans**


IT Leader: Fr. David Lowell

PoCC Coordinator: Fr. David Lowell


February 22, 2012



# Rationale

- ▶ Our people at all levels within the Church are asking for mature, qualified and effective leadership, closer communication and health spiritual guidance
  - ▶ Leadership is shared through Bishops, Priests, Deacons, lower clergy and laity within the Orthodox Church
- 

# Rationale (cont'd)

- ▶ Mentoring and shared experience are an essential part of increasing our capacity to be good leaders
  - ▶ The regional deaneries provide the greatest proximity for front-line mentoring and spiritual support
- 

# Recommendations

1. Ask regional deanery clergy to meet regularly during the course of the year to examine struggles and provide peer mentoring
2. Ask that the clergy discuss the kind of communication they have, want and need from their bishop, both in their life as clergy and in the life of their parish

3. Share the results of deanery activities with all hierarchs and deaneries after each year for 3 consecutive years



# Project: Standard Parish Procedures

Project Team: Kh. Irene Khouri, Lisa Mikhalevsky, Dave Zavednak

## Project Goals and Objectives

- ▶ Develop a series of administrative high standard guidelines to increase efficiency of day to day operations within the church, allowing for more time and energy to be devoted to living a fuller life in Jesus Christ
- ▶ Distribute the Guideline documents and related training materials that include suggested steps to facilitate completion of day to day tasks
- ▶ Provide the opportunity for increased participation at all levels within the Church.





# Standard Parish Procedures (cont.)

## Key Milestones

- ▶ Review Appendix A (16<sup>th</sup> AAC study guide for LMT) to create a resource of Project reference material (March 31, 2012)
- ▶ Reach out to priests and parishioners who perform specific functions to gather information regarding areas of need (July 15, 2012)
- ▶ Rank areas of need, select top 10 examples to be written and complete research on cost effective training delivery tools (August 15, 2012)
- ▶ Create an standardized template and a standard release process (September 30, 2012)
- ▶ Pilot uses and training presentations (December 31, 2012)
- ▶ Complete remaining with corresponding training presentations (December 31, 2013)
- ▶ Complete Study Paper for next AAC (March 31, 2014)

**GOAL 3: MORE FULLY  
INVOLVE OUR HIGH  
SCHOOL AND COLLEGE  
AGE MEMBERS IN THE LIFE  
OF THE CHURCH**

IT Leader: Fr. Christopher Rowe

PoCC Coordinator: Fr. John Vitko

February 22, 2012



**ORTHODOX  
CHURCH in  
AMERICA**

# Our goal is to strengthen and allow our youth to interact more and provide a structure that allows for personal connections to take place in a safe way.

## ▣ Key issues:

- The challenge is to allow our young people to continue to grow in their faith, by connecting Christ and His Church to all aspects of their lives.
- They need a place where they can experience community
- We need to address contemporary cultural and moral issues they encounter
- Provide opportunities for them to socialize and bond with Orthodox of their own age.
- Strengthen our lines of communication – Collaborate!



# Major steps to accomplish this:

- ▣ Relationships are built through worship/prayer, fellowship, education and service. We need to provide these opportunities.
- ▣ These opportunities can occur in various ways.
  - Regular events that allow time for young people to interact face to face
  - Social media that allows young people to interact on their own schedule and in their own way
  - Availability of knowledgeable and approachable adults for counsel
- ▣ It is important to understand what our youth need. We need to hear from them, not assume we know.



# Drawing on the SP and the AAC input we are proposing 2 initial projects

- ▣ **Project 1:** Going Viral: a Facebook and YouTube internet outreach to youth
- ▣ **Project 2:** An effective organization in dioceses that facilitates relationship building.

**All of these can be accomplished by the end of 2013.**



# Project 1: Development of Social Media – Facebook and YouTube

- ▣ **What is it:** We hope to create an informative, yet safe location for young Orthodox Christians around the world to interact and grow in the knowledge of their faith.
  
- ▣ **Key Milestones:**
  - *Develop and launch a Facebook page (June – July 2012)*
  - *Launch a group responsible for social media page monitoring (April - June 2012)*
  - *Develop and launch a YouTube Channel that will interact with the Facebook page (December 2012)*



# Project 1 (cont.)

## ▣ Roles of the parish, diocese & central administration

- *CCA to develop and host viral outreach in coordination with YYACM and with inputs from dioceses. Diocesan youth coordinators to provide input on format and content.*

## ▣ Required Resources:

### ▪ Funding:

▣ *No initial cost*

▣ *Possible video production or application development costs later*

### ▪ Skills & Staff:

- *People interested to develop and monitor Facebook group*

▣ *The monitoring group will be organized by the YYA Dept. Oversight will be provided by the monitoring group*

- *People interested to develop and monitor YouTube Channel*

# Project 2: Youth Organization

- ▣ **What is it:** Provide a template for an effective organization in the church to meet the needs of our youth. To facilitate the building of community. This will include a design for the overall structure as well as provide a ‘Help Desk’ that would provide a one-stop shopping experience for youth leaders to obtain information.
  
- ▣ **Key Milestones:**
  - *Identify a youth coordinator in every diocese. Key element to building the organization (June 2012)*
  - *Develop strategy to staff ‘Help Desk’ (Project team, YYACM and diocesan coordinators, August 2012)*





# Project 2 (cont.)

## ▣ Key Milestones (cont):

- *Diocesan youth coordinators, in conjunction with local and parish coordinators, develop a survey to determine immediate priorities (August - October 2012)*
- *Share lessons learned, continue to stress the importance of moving toward a effective organizational model in all diocese (1<sup>st</sup> Q 2013)*
- *Complete YYA internet page upgrades to include one-stop shopping for youth resources (1<sup>st</sup> Q 2013)*
- *Use the Youth Organization to provide content to the Social media websites (1<sup>st</sup> Q 2013 and beyond)*



## Project 2 (cont.)

### Roles of the parish, diocese & central administration

▣ *We recommend diocese consider the following organization structure as a starting point for their youth programs, tailoring it to their specific needs:*

- *This structure will start with a youth coordinator in every parish.*
- *The second tier of the organization will be a regional youth coordinator – someone to facilitate the activities of a local area.*

# Project 2 (cont.)

## ▣ Roles of the parish, diocese & central administration

- *The third tier is diocesan youth coordinator – providing a consistent ‘go to’ person for the regional and parish coordinators. All trained, educated and caring facilitators.*
- *The last element is a national youth coordinator. A single leader responsible for issues that effect the church nationally. Recommend that we move toward a paid CCA position in the future. Projected growth of responsibilities will require additional resources.*

## ▣ Required Resources: Funding

	2012	2013	2014
Central Admin			Half-time to Full-time position
Dioceses	Travel / Event(s)		



**Goal 2:**  
**Diocesan Revitalization**  
**Communicating our Plans**

Acting IT Leader: Donna Karabin

PoCC Coordinator: Fr. John Shimchick

February 22, 2012

# **This presentation will address several major areas:**

- Overview of the top level Goal and approach
- Implementation plans for the 2 initial projects

# Our overall goal is to Revitalize our Diocesan-Parish Relationships

- **Key issues** (as stated in Strategic Plan, pg. 16-18):
  - The Church Fathers envisioned a bishop surrounded by his clergy and his people, united in Christ, and ministering to the particular needs of a given geographical area. This assumes and requires an intimate relationship between them.*
  - All too often the ‘demands of the day’ and geographical distances have led to less than desired interactions and parishes and their clergy can develop a sense of isolation.*

# Diocesan Revitalization

- **Key issues (cont.):**
  - *Visits from diocesan bishops are always welcomed by parishioners – but tend to be more formal and so are met with some amount of trepidation and anxiety.*
  - *Clergy brotherhood meetings have proven to be very successful in a number of dioceses, with the degree of success dependent upon the support of the Hierarchy.*
  - *Orthodox Church in America Departments provided some support and resources to priests in the past, but the effectiveness of these programs alone at avoiding burnout and alienation is questionable.*

# Diocesan Revitalization

- **Key issue discussed in AAC workshop:**

*–There is a viewpoint that the large, sometimes expansive, geographical size of most dioceses impedes objectives of this overall Goal. Presently, most of these objectives depend rather on participation with other Orthodox jurisdictions on a city-wide or regional basis.*



# Diocesan Revitalization

- **Major steps in achieving Revitalization:**

- 1) Re-energize the Clergy Brotherhood*

- Establish ongoing face to face gatherings of clergy as a fundamental principle of diocesan life.*
    - Formalize a clergy mentoring network*

*(Holy Synod of Bishops and individual diocesan hierarchs, 2012 and ongoing)*

# Diocesan Revitalization

## *2) Improve Bishop-Clergy-Laity Relationships*

- There is a need to break down the barriers with mutual exchange of churchly concerns. These relationships can be further strengthened through joint service projects and deanery/diocesan gatherings of special ministries.*
- Help to improve the communications within and between Dioceses.*

*(Diocesan hierarchs in cooperation with deans, rectors and parish council representatives, 2012 and ongoing)*

# Diocesan Revitalization

## *3) Develop Diocesan-level Outreach Ministries*

*Compassion in Action: Parish Ministry Training,  
and/or other grass-roots charitable outreach*

*(Diocesan leaders, Parish priests and laity in collaboration  
with OCA Departments of:*

- Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid*
  - Institutional Chaplaincies*
  - Office of Military Chaplains*
- 2012 and ongoing)*

# Drawing on the SP and the AAC input we are proposing two initial projects

- Project 1: Diocesan Resource Bank
- Project 2: Orthodox Youthbook

**These can be accomplished by the next  
AAC in 2014.**

# Project 1: Diocesan Resource Bank

## What is it:

*The Diocesan Resource Bank is a web-based directory of members within an individual diocese who submit their names and contact information along with their ministry interests, skills and, if desired, their career field and vocational experience.*

*e.g. Ministries: music, outreach, eldercare, pro-life*

*e.g. Skills: leadership, trade skills, foreign language*

*e.g. Career: finance, insurance, medical, social work*

# Diocesan Resource Bank

- **It can be used to:**
  - Facilitate communication, consultation and collaboration within the diocese*
  - Network parish ministries within the diocese*
  - Match needs with resource persons*

# Diocesan Resource Bank

- **Key Milestones:**

- *Identify a diocese with interest to serve as a pilot program (I-Team leader and PoCC liaison, April 2012)*
- *Recruit experienced IT person(s) and others, both clergy and laity, for the Project Team (Diocesan hierarch with Diocesan Council, July 2012)*
- *Determine the desired data to be gathered, the style for its storage and display, and protocols for security and privacy (Project Team with approval of Diocesan hierarch and Council, Fall 2012)*

# Diocesan Resource Bank

- **Success story:**

*–Publicize its usefulness in the Resource Handbook and oca.org Special Features (Diocesan appointee with Dept. of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid, and OCA Web Team, 2013)*

*–Make the Resource Bank model available to other dioceses to tailor to their needs (Project Team, ongoing)*



# IT Consultation Comments

## Ryan Platte, oca.org Tech. Manager

- *This is a wonderful idea and I think there are a number of ways this could be done well, if it can be kept simple enough to get engagement and be implementable on a reasonable budget.*
- *Options range from quick raw data collection by using Facebook-type approach to doing a section of a website using customized art in creative design, and all options in between.*
- *People respond more enthusiastically to a specified event or a cause, e.g. Operation Buffalo or March for Life sign up, than they will to collection of data for later use.*
- *How to drive people to it? Must have “soft skills” (people and strategy) to market for data submissions and ongoing use.*

# Diocesan Resource Bank

## Roles of the parish, diocese & central administration

- *Diocesan and deanery leaders along with parish representatives will define the needs and requirements*
- *Central administration, in coordination with the Dept. of Christian Service & Humanitarian Aid will publicize a successful project*
- *Other dioceses may tailor materials to their particular needs*

## Required Resources:

- Funding:

	2012	2013	2014
Central Admin	-0-	-0-	-0-
Dioceses	TBD	TBD	TBD

- *Skills/Staffing: Experienced volunteer or professional IT person(s) with other diocesan clergy and laity support staff*

# Project 2: Diocesan Youthbook

- **What is it:**

*The Orthodox “Youthbook” will be a web based resource for publicizing and implementing projects to foster cross-generational interactions among our diocesan youth and the elderly.*

*It is intended to encourage the development and sharing of interests, outreach ministries, talents and gifts of both generations. The website planning and implementation will be carried out by representatives of both age groups.*

# Diocesan Youthbook

- **Key Milestones:**

- *Follow development steps as in Project 1:*

- *Identify a diocese for a pilot program*

- *Recruit IT support; depending on their talents and interests, the youth and elderly may serve as webmasters and content contributors*

- *Determine content, style, etc.*

- *Etc.*

# Diocesan Youthbook

## Roles of the parish, diocese & central administration

- *Parish and diocesan youth leaders will define needs;*
- *The Dept. of Youth & Young Adults (Central Admin) will advise;*
- *Other dioceses may adapt materials to their particular needs.*

## Required Resources:

### - Funding:

	2012	2013	2014
Central Admin	-0-	-0-	-0-
Dioceses	TBD	TBD	TBD

- *Skills/Staffing: Volunteer or professional IT person(s) with diocesan clergy and lay youth leaders, diocesan youth*

# **Goal 7: Nurture Strong Inter-Orthodox Relations**

IT Leader: Matushka Wendy Cwiklinski  
PoCC Coordinator: Judge Roy Lanier February  
22, 2012



# Our overall goal is to

## Nurture Strong Inter-Orthodox Relations

- Key issues:
  - *We have a historic opportunity to achieve Orthodox unity in North America, allowing us to more effectively witness to Christ and to reach out to others*
  - *We are actively cooperating and participating in the formation and establishment of a fully united territorial and autocephalous Orthodox Church in North America, embracing all Orthodox Christians, with one Synod of Bishops*

# Orthodox Unity



Assembly of Bishops  
Policy and practical matters



Laity  
Becoming the One Body of Christ



# **SP and the AAC input resulted in the proposal of 4 initial projects:**

- Project 1: Web-based calendar of Orthodox services and events.
- Project 2: Increase cross jurisdictional events, groups, and organizations
- Project 3: Increase Clergy interactions and exchanges
- Project 4: Expanded rubrics book

**All of these can be accomplished by the  
next AAC in 2014.**



## Project 4: Expanded rubrics

- **What is it:** Current rubrics would be expanded to have a more cohesive, integrated liturgical cycle inclusive of saints of all nationalities represented in the OCA
- *Why do it?*
  - *To foster awareness of the diversity of traditions in the OCA*
  - *contribute to a more welcoming and recognizable experience for the faithful of other jurisdictions visiting our parishes*

# Major steps

- **Key Milestones:**
  - *National level*
    - *Create rubrics committee to identify saints that are not included (March 2012)*
    - *Propose changes to the Synod of Bishops for approval (Fall 2012)*

# Projects 1- 3 Implementation:

...

## **It's already happening!**

...at least it is in many states, regions, and major cities

# National Multi-jurisdictional Directory of Churches

...



In 1794, a small group of missionaries landed on Kodiak Island, Alaska, bringing to the New World the Orthodox Faith of the Apostles. Over the next two hundred years, with the help of immigration from Europe and the Middle East, the Apostolic Faith spread throughout all of the North American continent.

Today, the Orthodox Church in North America, as throughout the world, is characterized by her diverse ethnic and cultural expressions of "the faith once delivered to the saints."

Administratively, the churches in the New World developed as missionary dioceses or extensions of their mother churches abroad, thus resulting in several Orthodox jurisdictions in this land. The oldest of these missionary dioceses was granted ecclesiastical independence from her mother church in 1970, thereby becoming one of the fifteen autocephalous churches of the world, taking the name of the [Orthodox Church in America](#) (OCA).

The Orthodoxy in America project is an online directory of the parishes, monasteries, and seminaries of the twelve major Orthodox jurisdictions in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. It is offered as a free service of [Orthodox Web Solutions](#).



**ABOUT ORTHODOXY**  
an introduction to the Orthodox Christian Faith



**JURISDICTIONS**  
a list of the jurisdictions in this directory



**FIND A CHURCH**  
use the church locator to find a parish in your area



**WEB SOLUTIONS**  
get your church or organization online



To find a church in the directory, simply enter your location in the search panel to the right.

To [add](#), [modify](#), or [remove](#) a listing, please fill out our [online forms](#).

Last updated February 17, 2011.

There have been 1001 total updates processed since May 1st, 2005.

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- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALB | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ANT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUL | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAR | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UKR |

Please select your listing type:

- Parishes
- Monasteries
- Educational Institutions
- Other



State sites

...

# ARIZONA ORTHODOX

SPONSORED BY THE ARIZONA COUNCIL OF EASTERN ORTHODOX CLERGY

[Home](#) [About](#) [Parishes in AZ](#) [Events Calendar](#) [Find A Church](#)

February 19, 2012

[NEWS](#) [FESTIVALS](#) [CAMPS](#) [WORKSHOPS](#)

## FESTIVALS ON THE HORIZON

[More Posts about Festivals](#)

## RECENT NEWS



**Patriarch of Serbia to Visit Phoenix on Sat. Dec. 3rd**

We have just been informed that Serbian Patriarch, His Holiness Irinej, is coming to St ... [\[More...\]](#)



**How A Southern Baptist Found His Way To Eastern Orthodoxy**

The Story of Pastor Robert Frisby A parishioner at St. George Church in Prescott, Bob ... [\[More...\]](#)

[Read More News Articles](#)

## LINK TO ARIZONAORTHODOX.ORG



## CAMPS



**All Saints Camp: Prescott, AZ**

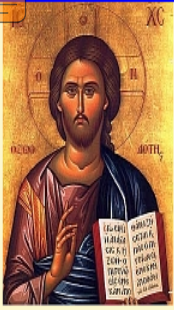
All Saints Camp

[More Posts about Camps](#)

[^ Return to top of page](#)

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Orthodox Christian Churches of New Jersey



New Jersey Counties

Atlantic

Bergen

Burlington

Camden

Cape May

Cumberland

Essex

Gloucester

Hudson

Hunterdon

Mercer

Middlesex

Monmouth

Morris

Ocean

Passaic

Salem

Somerset

# Orthodox Christian Churches of New Jersey

This website is a directory of all Orthodox Churches in New Jersey. All Orthodox Churches in New Jersey will be listed according to New Jersey county and by jurisdiction and/or diocese. If you know of a New Jersey Orthodox Church or an Orthodox Monastery in NJ that is not listed please submit it here. To find an Orthodox Church in a particular New Jersey County, please use the navigation column on the left, or you may click on any of the Counties in the map below.

Please feel free to bookmark this site, as it will updated often, and will eventually come to include a Classifieds Section for Orthodox Churches in New Jersey ( A place for a vestment exchange, candles, icons, etc...), as well as a Bulletin Board for events and activities that are taking place at the Orthodox Churches in and around New Jersey (brand new ---see below). The Staff of Orthodox Christian Churches of New Jersey is receptive to ideas and suggestions to enhance and improve our website. Please email the site administrator with ideas, and most importantly with Orthodox Churches in NJ that we might not have listed or have omitted in error.

Several times a year, an Orthodox Church in New Jersey that has a Website, will be featured in the area below the map. The Church will randomly be selected. If your Orthodox Church does not have a website, and if would like to have a page and/or a Website for your New Jersey Orthodox Church please contact the site administrator who will help you develop one.

Thank you.

Deacon Michael, Website Administrator

Christ is Amongst Us! He is and Always Shall Be!



## Damascene Gallery

An Orthodox Icon Website and Friend of Orthodox Christian Church Links - Highly Recommended!

Antique Icons, beautiful newly painted icons, brass icons and a unique series of High Quality Mounted Icons

**Check out our Brand New  
"List Your New Jersey Orthodox Church Event" Forum!**

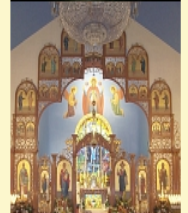
**Is your New Jersey Orthodox Church having a guest speaker or a visiting choir? Are you hosting a Cultural Fair or Festival?  
A Picnic? Pierogi or Nutroll Sale? A Charity Fundraiser or Event?**

**List it here for free for the rest  
of Orthodox Christian New Jersey to see!**

Free Forums by Bravenet.com



St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, Perth Amboy, New Jersey



# Orthodox Washington

Washington Orthodox Clergy Association

Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas |  Orthodoxy in America



## *Christ is in our Midst! He is and ever shall be!*

Welcome to Orthodox Washington



### *Glory to God!*

Welcome! This site is designed to be of service to Orthodox Christians who are residing in or visiting Washington State. We hope this site will aid you in your search for an Orthodox Church within a particular jurisdiction, city or locale.

The Priests who comprise the Washington Orthodox Clergy Association or WOCA, sponsor this site as a service to those who seek an Orthodox Church in Washington State. Please also check out the various topics, articles, and events included in this website.

You can access this site via [orthodoxwashington.org](http://orthodoxwashington.org) or through [orthodoxwashington.com](http://orthodoxwashington.com). Your suggestions regarding our website are welcome.

### **Daily Prayers**

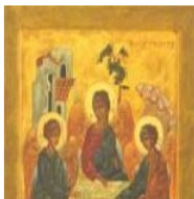
column under construction

### *Orthodox Churches in Washington State are categorized by Location and Jurisdiction*

You can find Monasteries and Convents in Washington State in the Monasteries tab. Those outside of Washington State are found in the "Who We Are" tab, under Member Jurisdictions.

Again, Welcome to Orthodox Washington, sponsored by the Washington Orthodox Clergy Association (WOCA).

- Home
- Parishes By Jurisdiction
- Parishes by Location
- Monasteries in Washington
- Who We Are
- Annual Events
- Special Events
- Youth Activities & Interests
- Articles & Topics
- About Orthodoxy
- Spiritual Life
- Contact Information
- Administration



# Regional Sites

...



# ORTHODOX NORTH

*Pioneering an ancient faith in the north woods of Lake Superior*

## What is Orthodox Christianity?

[The Earliest Christians](#)  
[What Orthodox Believe](#)  
[The Church in America](#)

## Articles of Interest

## Announcements and Notices

[Monthly Calendar of Saints](#)  
[Visit your Local Churches](#)

## Churches: Upper Peninsula of Michigan

## Churches: Northern Minnesota

[New priest at St. Archangel Michael in Hibbing](#)

## Churches: Northern Wisconsin

## Orthodox Resources and Links

[Archdiocese Contacts](#)  
[Orthodox Information](#)  
[Books and Music](#)  
[Icons and Art](#)  
[Miscellaneous Orthodox Links](#)  
[The North Woods and Lake Superior](#)

## New Church Photos: Fr. Anthony (Rick) Michaels

## Contact Us

"Christianity is more than a theory about the universe, more than teachings written down on paper, it is a path along which we journey - in the deepest and richest sense, the way of life. No one can be an armchair traveler on this all important journey."

*Bishop Kallistos Ware:  
The Orthodox Way*

We Orthodox of the far north woods are the second wave of pioneers, following in the footsteps of the original Orthodox Christian ethnic groups who emigrated to Michigan's "Upper Peninsula", northern Wisconsin and northern Minnesota at the beginning of the 20th century.

These first pioneers were the working and merchant class of the Middle East and Eastern Europe: Lebanese, Serbian, Greek, and Russian, who came because the work was plentiful. They labored in the woods, in the mines, on the fledgling railroads, and in the camp towns that were springing up across the Lake Superior basin.

The women soon followed their men. It was then that the towns began to take shape - schools and Churches were quickly built to accommodate the large families. For these early Orthodox, the Church represented the center of their community. While each ethnic group tended toward building its own Church, some built together like the Lebanese and Greeks in Ironwood.

These first Orthodox pioneers are now gone as are the plentiful jobs. Many of their children have also moved away, leaving behind a tiny fraction of their original numbers who still maintain the Churches of their forefathers and mothers.

But a new kind of "pioneer" is emerging to fill the empty pews. Some are new converts to Orthodoxy. Others have left the cities and larger Church communities for the snowy serenity of the far north. Quietly, they are building and shaping new Orthodox Christian communities. Together, they are the trail blazers for a new American Orthodoxy that transcends ethnic or geographic boundaries. This site is dedicated to the faith, strength and perseverance of all these pioneers.





# North Texas Orthodox Missions

The Orthodox Church is evangelical, but not Protestant. It is orthodox, but not Jewish. It is catholic, but not Roman. It's not non-denominational – it's pre-denominational. It has believed, taught, preserved, defended and died for the Faith of the Apostles for 2000 years.

[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [CONTACT](#) [PARISHES](#) [PRODUCTS](#) [REGISTRATION FORM](#) [RESOURCES](#) [RSS](#)

## NEWS & EVENTS

[Dallas Women's Lenten Spiritual Retreat March 17, 2012](#)

[Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers Schedule](#)

[Orthodox Conference on Missions and Evangelism — Jan. 20-22, 2012](#)

## ORTHODOX QUESTIONS?



[Journey to Orthodoxy](#)  
[Talk To A Priest](#)  
[Contact NTOM](#)

## SUPPORT NEW LOCAL WOMEN'S MONASTERY



Monastery friends is a group dedicated to the support of the **Nativity of Our Lord Jesus**

## Dallas Women's Lenten Spiritual Retreat March 17, 2012

Save the Date & Plan to Attend!

On Saturday, March 17, 2012, the Ladies Philochochos Society of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is pleased to host a Women's Lenten Spiritual Retreat. Read [the fiver](#) for details.

Posted January 31, 2012

## Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers Schedule

Please join us for our Pan-Orthodox Vespers during Great & Holy Lent! All vespers start at 6pm.

- **March 4** — Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Dallas
- **March 11** — Falling Asleep of the Ever-Virgin Mary Romanian Church, Colleyville
- **March 18** — Sts. Constantine and Helen Antiochian Orthodox Church, Dallas
- **March 25** — St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Euless
- **April 1** — St. Seraphim Cathedral, Orthodox Church in America, Dallas

Posted January 10, 2012

## Orthodox Conference on Missions and Evangelism — Jan. 20-22, 2012


How do we communicate the "Good News" of Jesus Christ to those around us?

Attend the 2012 Orthodox Conference on Missions and Evangelism in Dallas and Ft Worth

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK

 [Click here](#) to become a "fan" and receive NTOM news.

## FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

 Receive NTOM news automatically! [Click here](#) to follow us.

## CDS AND TAPES

 View our exclusive list of CDs and tapes by featured speakers such as

Fr. Peter Gillquist, Dr. Clark Carlton, and Frederica Mathewes-Green.

[▶ View Products](#)

## FIND A PARISH

Find a North Texas parish near you using our [parish directory](#).



Use this [national parish locator](#) to search and get maps to an Orthodox parish near you.

## ORTHODOX RADIO

Ancient Faith Radio is



# City sites

...



[Links](#)

[About Us](#)

[Officer Info.](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Parish Directory](#)

Minnesota Eastern Orthodox  
Christian Clergy Association



#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [HHS Infringes on Religious Liberty](#)
- [Sunday Lenten Vespers Schedule 2012](#)
- [Introduction to Orthodox Christianity Catechism Class is free and open to anyone who is interested.](#)
- [MEOCCA Photo Album is now posted!](#)

# INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

*Mondays 7:00-9:00PM, Winter 2012*

DATE	TOPIC	INSTRUCTOR
January 9	Introduction	Fr. Richard Andrews
January 16	God- Holy Trinity	Fr. Paul Wesche
January 23	Mankind- Creation, The Fall, The Messiah	Fr. Jonathan Proctor
January 30	Christ I - Incarnation, Theotokos and Saints	Dcn. Paul Gavrilyuk
February 6	Christ II - His Work and Teachings	Fr. Thomas Begley
February 13	Church I - Birth, Mission, Structure	Fr. Jonathan Proctor
February 20	Church II - Councils, Creeds, Bible, Tradition	Fr. Paul Wesche
February 27	NO CLASS - Great and Holy Lent Begins	
March 5	Sacraments I - Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Unction	Fr. Jonathan Proctor
March 12	Sacraments II - Eucharist, Liturgy, Worship, Prayer	Fr. Thomas Begley
March 19	Sacraments III - Marriage and Monasticism	Fr. Andrew Morbey
March 26	The Goal - Second Coming & Living the Christian Life	Fr. Richard Andrews
April 2	Conclusion - Orthodox in America, Jurisdiction, Q&A	Fr. Andrew Morbey
April 15	GREAT & HOLY PASCHA	

## TEXTS

Introducing the Orthodox Church by Coniaris, The Orthodox Church by Ware, The Orthodox Way by Ware, The Faith by Carlton.

## COST

FREE (Sponsored by Clergy Association)

## LOCATION

[St. George Greek Orthodox Church](#)

## REGISTRATION

[Click Here for Registration Form!](#)

## INSTRUCTORS

*Fr. Richard Andrews is pastor of St. George Greek Orthodox Christian Church in St. Paul, MN and a volunteer chaplain with the*





[Home](#) [Calendar](#) [Churches](#) [Map](#) [Resources](#) [Contact Us](#) [Spread The Word](#)



## Northwest pan-Orthodox retreat for young adults, 4/20-4/22

Posted on [February 18, 2012](#)

**In View of God's Mercy,  
Offer Your Bodies as Living Sacrifices**  
*A Study in Romans for Today's Christian*

- Richard Benton, PhD, OCF University of Washington
- Fr. Stephen Soot, Northwest Regional OCF Chaplain
- And Workshops by Northwest Clergy and Lay Leaders

All ordained Orthodox clergy and those who minister to young adults are welcome to attend. For clergy and leaders who plan to attend, please consider offering a workshop at the retreat for our young adults.

For more information, contact:

- Fr. Stephen Soot, St. Anne's Orthodox Church and Northwest Region OCF Chaplain, [frsoot@comcast.net](mailto:frsoot@comcast.net), [541-745-6982](tel:541-745-6982)
- Hollie Benton, OCF UW-Seattle, [htiegs@yahoo.com](mailto:htiegs@yahoo.com), [206-729-0161](tel:206-729-0161)

### Email subscription

Enter your email address to receive notifications of new posts by email:

### Portland Area Events

Today

- [Cappella Romana singing Divine Liturgy](#)

Sat, Feb 25

- [Sunday of Orthodoxy choir rehearsal](#)

Sun, Mar 04

- [Sunday of Orthodoxy Orthros & Liturgy](#)
- [Annunciation Homeschool Enhancement open house](#)

Sat, Mar 17

- [Pan-Orthodox Mission Seminar](#)

[All our Portland area events...](#)



ORTHODOX CLEVELAND  
 GREATER CLEVELAND COUNCIL OF  
 ORTHODOX CLERGY



SHARE

Orthodox Christianity in Greater Cleveland, Ohio

- ✦ Home
- ✦ Ministries
- ✦ Churches - Downtown/Tremont
- ✦ Churches - East Side
- ✦ Churches - West Side
- ✦ Churches - South & West Side
- ✦ Churches - Lorain
- ✦ Monasteries
- ✦ Orthodox Christian Fellowship
- ✦ About Orthodoxy
- ✦ Contact Information

The twenty nine Orthodox Christian parishes and three monasteries of the Cleveland and Lorain, Ohio, area welcome you. The Orthodox Church, which was established at Pentecost, proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ, sanctifies its adherents through sacraments and serves humanity through many charitable endeavors.

Everyone is welcome to visit an Orthodox Church; however sacraments are reserved to practicing Orthodox Christians. The information provided in this web site is presented to aid the public in locating a church, attending its services, and learning the doctrine that it proclaims.

[Map of Orthodox Churches in Cleveland area](#)

Upcoming Events

March 4 - Pan Orthodox Vespers - St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, Rocky River

March 10 - 10 AM - [Women's Lenten Retreat: "Are You Ready for the Resurrection?"](#) - St. Matthew Church, N. Royalton

May 9 - 5:30 PM - Potluck Dinner & Lecture - "A Newly-Discovered Icon of the Mother of God: Its Acquisition and Conservation by the Cleveland Museum of Art" - Sts. Constantine & Helen Cathedral, 3352 Mayfield Road - sponsored by the Hellenic Preservation Society

September 30 - 2 PM - John & Helen Collis Lecture - "From Byzantium to El Greco: Icon Painting in Venetian Crete" - Cleveland Museum of Art

## Welcome!

List your event by sending an email to [pittsburghorthodox@gmail.com](mailto:pittsburghorthodox@gmail.com)

February 2012

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		
<a href="#">« Jan</a>						

## The Orthodox Church

Many cultures: One Christ! Many nations: One Christ! Many people: One Christ! Many priests: One Christ! Many bishops: One Christ! Many churches: UNITED IN CHRIST! VISIT OFTEN!

## Wisdom!

The more a person loves God, the more he loves other people. He loves them with holiness, respect and refinement, as images of God. When a person lacks inner warmth, he will be frozen and cold, even in the summer. Please put this commandment into practice. Cultivate love towards the Person of Christ to such an extent that, when you pronounce His name, tears fall from your eyes. Your heart must really burn. Then He will become your teacher. He will be your Guide, your Brother, your Father, and your Elder. Elder Amphilochios Makris of Patmos

## Pittsburgh Orthodox Events



### Orthodox College Fellowship (OCF)

2012 Real Break: For information, click on the picture:



### February:

Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23

**Perogie (Pyrohy) Kitchen Open – 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

St. Vladimir's Church (Social Hall)

73 S. 18th Street

Pittsburgh (Southside, PA) 15213

Telephone: 412-431-9758

*(Potato, Kraut and Cottage Cheese)*

Monday, February 13, 2012: 7:00 PM

Book Discussion Group:

**St. Nicholas Orthodox Church**

(412) 331-1053

320 Munson Avenue

McKees Rocks, PA 15136

The Monday Book Discussion Group will begin a new discussion and a read through of Charles Dicken's "Bleak House." The group will consider themes of self-emptying (or *kenosis*) found in this work. Everyone is invited to join in this compelling discussion held every other Monday in the parish house.

Friday, February 17, 2012: 12:00 Noon



# Atlanta Orthodox Churches

Click on the name of a parish below to access its website.

Annunciation Cathedral  
GOARCH

St. Mary of  
Egypt  
OCA

St. Elias  
Antiochian

St. Andrew's  
Ukrainian

St. Philothea  
GOARCH

St. Mary  
Romanian

St. Raphael, Nicholas & Irene  
GOARCH

St. Stephen  
Antiochian

St. John the  
Wonderworker  
OCA

St. Christopher  
GOARCH

Holy Transfiguration  
GOARCH

St. Innocent Orthodox Church  
OCA

St. Elizabeth Orthodox Mission  
Carpatho-Russian

Holy Cross Orthodox Church  
GOARCH

Sts. Peter & Paul  
Serbian Orthodox Church

## MAIN MENU

- Home
- Orthodoxy in Atlanta
- Orthodoxy in Georgia
- Jurisdictions
- The Orthodox Faith
- Discussion

## ARTICLES

- New** God Ain't Got No Grandchildren
- More Articles...

## AUDIO

- New** Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council
- More Audio...

## DAILY WISDOM OF THE FATHERS

Saturday 3/17/07 St. Gregory Dialogos  
 "O Almighty Lord, who hast made all created things in wisdom, and by Thine inexpressible providence and great goodness hast brought us to these all-holy days,

## USER LOGIN

- Login...
- Register...

## NEWS

- Ancient faith faces an uncertain future - added 11/30/06
- MP and ROCOR Open Talks on Reunification - added 06/27/06
- Russian Faithful Venerate Holy Relic - added 06/13/06
- Anniversary of Russian Patriarch's enthronement celebrated - added 06/09/06
- Anniversary of Russian Patriarch's enthronement celebrated - added 06/09/06
- More posts...

## PARISHES

- Pascha at St. John the Wonderworker - added 04/23/06
- Marietta Greek Festival - added 04/13/06
- Sunday of the Cross Vespers - added 03/27/06
- Atlanta Orthodox Celebrate St. Gregory Palamas Sunday - added 03/20/06
- Lenten Class on Wounded by Love - added 03/16/06
- More posts...

## LISTINGS

- More posts...



# Orthodox Christian Synergy

A Pan-Orthodox Ministry of Chicago



Jurisdictional Link |



Orthodoxy in America

The Orthodox Christian Churches of Chicago welcome you!



Home

Find a Church

About Orthodoxy

Annual Symposium

Calendar of Events

Saints of Chicago

Sanctity of Life Resources

Orthodox Christian Radio

Synergy Leadership

Contact Information

Links



*Looking for an Orthodox Church in the Chicago area? Interested in learning more about the Orthodox faith? Let us help you! Click on "Find a Church" in the toolbar for a listing of Chicago-area churches.*

This site is sponsored and maintained by ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SYNERGY, a pan-Orthodox organization consisting of clergy and lay representatives of Chicago-area Orthodox Christian parishes who seek to project awareness of Orthodox Christianity to the public at large. SYNERGY works together with its parent organization, the Orthodox Christian Clergy Association of Greater Chicago, and with the blessings of the Chicago-area Orthodox Hierarchs.



*SYNERGY is always looking for new members! E-mail the webmaster [contacts](#) if you are interested in joining us.*

### Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, March 22 at 7:30 pm  
St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church  
7373 Caldwell Ave  
Niles, IL

### Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers



### Triumph of Orthodoxy Pan Orthodox Vespers

Sponsored by the Orthodox Christian Clergy Association of Great Chicago

Sunday, March 4 at 6 pm

# ORTHODOX HOUSTON

[Parishes by Jurisdiction](#) | [Parishes by Name](#) | [Parishes by City](#) | [Area Map](#) | [Clergy Association](#) | [News](#) | [Contact](#)

SERVING THE ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC, AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

## Welcome to OrthodoxHouston.org

This site is organized and promoted by all the Orthodox Christian clergy in the greater Houston, Texas area — from cathedrals, churches, and mission parishes of all canonical Orthodox jurisdictions. If you are interested in finding out more about this ancient and continuing Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, we hope this site will be a valuable resource to you. **Browse the parish profiles and find a service to attend near you!**

## A Brief Introduction to Orthodoxy

The New Testament Church was founded by Jesus Christ and preached by the Apostles. Its beginning dates back to Pentecost, 33 A.D. The Patriarchate of Antioch, for example, was originally founded in A.D. 34 by Saint Peter and Saint Paul, and is referenced in the Bible Acts 11...

[read this whole article](#)

## Orthodoxy in the United States

North and South America were colonized by the empire-building nations of Western Europe — which were predominantly either Roman Catholic or Protestant. By the time the immigrants from the Orthodox countries began arriving in large numbers in the early 1900s, Roman Catholic and Protestant churches were permanent fixtures on the



## The Prodigal Son

Orthodox Lent Begins February 27, 2012

"Brethren, let us learn the meaning of this mystery. For when the Prodigal Son ran back from sin to his Father's house, his loving Father came out to meet him and kissed him. He restored to the Prodigal the tokens of his proper glory, and mystically He made glad on high, sacrificing the fatted calf. Let our lives, then, be worthy of the loving Father Who has offered sacrifice, and of the glorious Victim Who is the Savior of our souls."

*-From Vespers of Prodigal Son Sunday*

"Let us set out with joy upon the season of the Fast, and prepare ourselves for spiritual combat. Let us purify our soul and cleanse our flesh; and as we fast from food, let us abstain also from every passion.

Rejoicing in the virtues of the Spirit may we persevere with love, and so be counted worthy to

## Orthodox News From the Area

### Orthodox Houston Events Yahoo Group

The Orthodox Clergy Association of Southeast Texas has started a new Yahoo group on which will be posted announcements of upcoming events. You can subscribe to receive posts via e-mail, or simply read it on the web.

[Click here](#)

### New Podcast



Listen to Sermons and Lectures from Parishes and Events in the Houston Area.

## Do you have news to report?

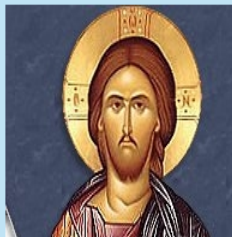
If you are a representative of one of the area parishes, please advise **OrthodoxHouston.com** of news that is of general interest to the larger Orthodox community (including inquirers looking for a parish) in the Greater Houston area. Among other things, we are interested in:

- Clergy changes, including ordinations
- Contact and location changes
- Altar consecrations
- Patronal feastday celebrations
- Guest speakers and hosted events
- Community outreach festivals (like Greek & Slavic festivals)
- Pan-Orthodox events
- Episcopal visits

[Contact Webmaster](#)

## What Orthodox Believe

The Creed is the *Statement of Faith* for the Orthodox Church. It is the statement of



# Orthodox San Diego

Sponsored by the  
Eastern Orthodox Clergy Council of San Diego

A website for all Orthodox churches in San Diego to post Service Schedules and Events

## UPCOMING San Diego Orthodox Events:



[Orthodox San Diego Calendar](#)

[San Diego Church Listings](#)

[FOCUS San Diego](#)

[Sunday of Orthodoxy and Lent 2011](#)

[San Diego, Orange County & Los Angeles Area Church Events](#)

[2009 Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers Schedule and Pictures](#)

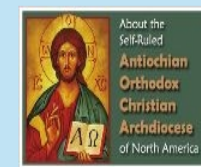
[Orthodox Links](#)

[2009 Pan Orthodox Advent Vespers Pictures and Music!](#)

Visit us on [Facebook](#)

### From Facebook:

- » [We're trying to get together a group to go to Project Mexico's Ortho](#)
- » [Orthodox superstitions. never heard of some of these, but anyway...](#)
- » [American Saints are the topic of this issue of the "WonderBlog":](#)
- » [Sunday evening, March 4 - Save the Date! Pan-Orthodox Vespers c](#)
- » [New Executive Director for FOCUS NA](#)
- » [Tonight @St. Katherine College: Join us tonight for another Forum L](#)
- » ["Renewing the Apostolic Vision" A Pan-Orthodox Mission Seminar](#)
- » [Feb. 26 - Mission Sunday](#)
- » [IOCC has a Matching Dollar-for-dollar fundraising campaign throug](#)
- » [Letter to a New Convert - a link that's making the rounds of Orthodo](#)
- » [It's time for Lent again! I'll post some links below for resources for yo](#)
- » [The Romanian Orthodox Church demonstrated their faith with a "tou](#)
- »
- » [Religious education becomes compulsory in Russia](#)
- » [ONLINE LENTEN BOOK STUDY FORUM - 2012 LENTEN SEASO](#)
- » [From today's email: RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS' WORKSHOP, ONL](#)
- » [On Saturday, February 4, 2012 63 people from the Orthodox comm](#)
- » [Article on Christian unity from a Catholic perspective - interesting re](#)
- » [St. Katherines sponsors free lecture on Monday, February 6](#)



### Orthodox Feasts and events

Sunday, February 19 ▾



Sunday, February 19

Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

Monday, February 20

Cheesefare Monday

Cheesefare Monday

Tuesday, February 21

Cheesefare Tuesday

Cheesefare Tuesday

Wednesday, February 22

Cheesefare Wednesday



Wall

Hidden Posts

- Info
- Friend Activity (1+)
- Insights
- Photos
- Events
- Notes
- Welcome

EDIT

About

Edit

News and Events for Orthodox Christians living in the San Diego area

210

like this

16

talking about this

Likes

See All



FOCUS NORTH A...



The Rudder: Str...



St. Spyridon Gre...



Eastern Orthodo...



St. Mary Protect...

# Orthodox San Diego

Church/Religious Organization · Edit Info



Wall

Orthodox San Diego · Everyone (Most Recent)

Share: Status Photo Link Video Question

What's on your mind?



### Orthodox San Diego

An online resource of discussions originally aired by the Pittsburgh Clergy Brotherhood - Enjoy!

Orthodoxy Now - Episodes  
orthodoxynowtv.com

Like · Comment · Reshare · 2 seconds ago



### Orthodox San Diego

We're trying to get together a group to go to Project Mexico's Orthodox Basic Training June 19 - 25: Interested? Get your passport in order and join us for a fruitful week South of the Border!



Orthodox Basic Training  
projectmexico.org

Orthodox Basic Training, or OBT, is part of our home-building program at Project Mexico. Just like the traditional Project Mexico Work Trip in which 20-30 volunteers come together to build a home for a family in need, 100-300 volunteers give their time and effort to build multiple houses during our ...

Like · Comment · Reshare · Friday at 3:08pm

Peter Yancey likes this.

Write a comment...



### Orthodox San Diego

Orthodox superstitions. never heard of some of these, but anyway.....



Stupid superstitions for true Christians  
english.pravda.ru

The energy atmosphere in an temple is very strong. That is the reason why a woman is supposed to cover her head with a veil to protect herself from this energy. Men do not need to cover their heads with anything just because they...

Like · Comment · Reshare · Friday at 2:33pm

Profile

Edit Page

Admins (1) [?]

See All



Use Facebook as Orthodox San Diego

Notifications

Promote with an Ad

View old Insights

Invite Friends

Invite Email Contacts

### You and Orthodox San Diego



60 friends like this.

Children in Orthodox Churches, Orthodox Episcopal Assembly, International Orthodox Christian Ch...

### Sponsored

Create an Ad

#### Attn: Military Families

servicesarmedforces.reddcross.org



Want help with reintegration, identifying depression, exploring stress, working through anger? This workshop can help. Sign up today!

### Parenting + Autism in CA



MyAutismTeam is the social network for parents of kids w/ autism. Meet parents in California + find reviews of local autism providers.

17,291 people like MyAutismTeam.

### Leave Strong Divorce Coaching



How to protect your most precious treasure when your world is falling apart. Professional, Confidential, Essential 760-809-3869

4 likes · 1,524 people like this



# “Town hall” meetings:

...

Many Hands make Light work

## Pan-Orthodox Town Hall Meeting at St. Elijah, Oklahoma City, OK



The evening of August 12th, 2010 will go down in history as another leap forward in the journey towards Orthodox unity in North America. Over a hundred clergy and lay people from seven Orthodox Churches in the greater Oklahoma City area came together to pray the Paraklesis service to the Mother of God, which was chanted by the teens of [St. Elijah Church](#), followed by a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the future of Orthodoxy unity in America. This was the first such Town Hall Meeting to take place since the historic Episcopal Assembly.

The first part of the Town Hall Meeting was dedicated to watching the video of His Grace, Bishop BASIL's address at the 2010 DOWAMA Parish Life Conference, hosted by St. Elijah, Oklahoma City. His Grace, who was elected at the Episcopal Assembly as Secretary, explained to all of the clergy and laity some of the progress that the fifty-five Hierarchs who met had accomplished, and the next steps in preparing North America to be united administratively.

The Priest's panel then took questions and concerns from the mixed congregations, concerning this unity. Fr. Constantine Nasr commended the congregations in the area for having a Pan-Orthodox spirit, as they have had for many years.

The Oklahoma City Churches for years have been holding Pan-Orthodox "Family Nights", liturgical services, mission and evangelism outreach, Vacation Bible School, Annual Parish Council dinner, State Fair and "Come Receive the Light" radio station, as well as genuine love and support for each other's parish families.

The Churches that are a part of these events are [St. Elijah](#) (Antiochian - Fr. Constantine Nasr & Fr. Jeremy Davis), [St. George](#) (Greek - Fr. John Tsaras), [St. Andrew](#) (Western Rite Antiochian - Fr. Mark Wallace), [St. James](#) (Antiochian - Fr. Basil McMurry), [St. Mary](#) (Ukrainian - Fr. Raphael Moore), [St. Benedict](#) (ROCOR - Fr. Anthony Nelson), and [Holy Ascension](#) (Antiochian - Fr. Justin McFeeters).



# Orthodox San Diego “Together as one”



February 4, 2012

# Orthodox San Diego

## “Together as one”

Our mission is to witness as one church in communion and fellowship to the Orthodox Christian Faith within the greater San Diego region.

The mission will be accomplished by providing opportunities to participate in the following:

Worship – Education – Service - Celebrations – Outreach

- Leadership of following groups invited:

- Ladies groups (Sisterhood, Philotoptochos, etc.)

- Youth group leader

- Youths

- Parish council presidents/representatives

- Choir directors/chanters

- Christian Education director

- Outreach leaders (FOCUS, OCMC, Project Mexico, IOCC, etc.)

- 63 people in attendance representing 16 parishes



## Major steps in accomplishing this:

- *Have bishops strongly encourage their clergy to participate in the local Brotherhood*
- *Bless and encourage participation in Pan-Orthodox or cross-jurisdictional events*
  - *Attend patronal feast services for neighboring parishes*
  - *Sunday of Orthodoxy and other Lenten Services*
- *Inspire/found Pan-Orthodox organizations:*
  - *Local/Regional Clergy Brotherhood from all canonical Orthodox churches*
  - *Participation in FOCUS NA, OCMC, IOCC, Project Mexico, etc.*
  - *Encourage clergy and lay participation in Regional/Local Pan-Orthodox services (e.g. Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers)*
- *With other jurisdictions, create a regional or local “common” web calendar listing services, retreats and other Orthodox related events if one does not already exist*
- *Publicize the website and the “common” calendar within the parish/region*

*"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!" Psalm 132*

# Goal #10:

# Contemporary Moral & Social Issues



IT Leader

Fr. Caleb Abetti

PCC Coordinator

Protodeacon Michael

February 22, 2012

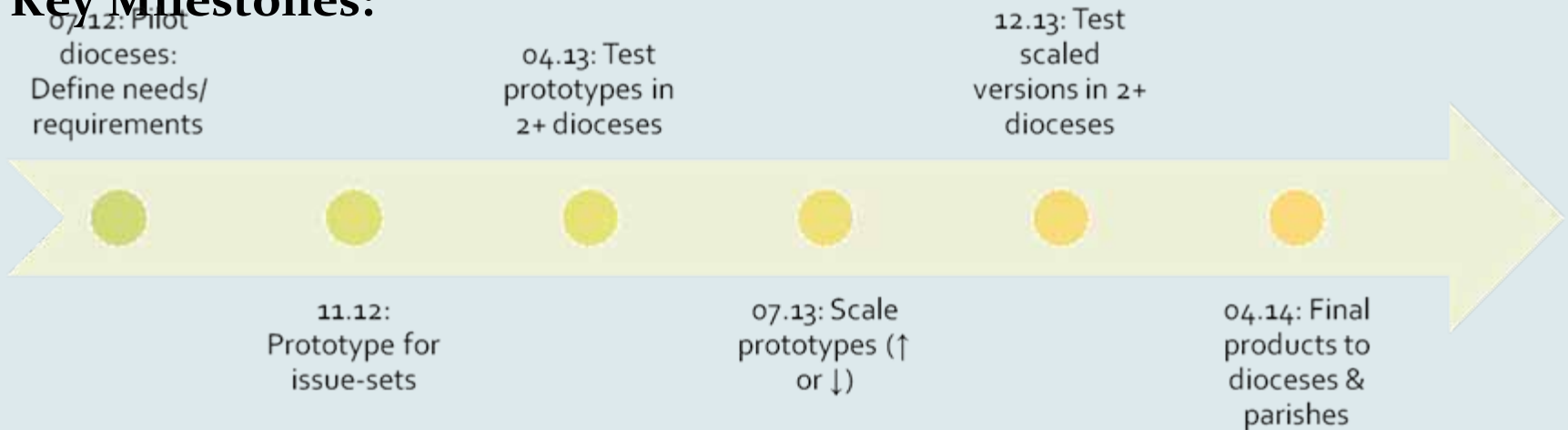
# Project 1: “Holy Conversations”

## Description:

*Full day diocesan conferences to equip the faithful to address issues from Orthodox Tradition faithfully, charitably, and effectively. First two issues:*

- marriage & sexuality
- beginning and end of life

## Key Milestones:



# Project 1: "Holy Conversations"



## **Roles of the parish, diocese & central administration**

*Diocesan / deanery reps will define needs / requirements; Strategic Plan Committee & Goal 10 Team, together with the Dept of Theological Education and special consultants, will develop human & material resources; dioceses will select and tailor resources to their particular needs)*

## **Required Resources:**

- Funding:

	2012	2013	2014
Central Admin	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Dioceses	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$3,000

- Skills/Staffing: Volunteers on Implementation Team / special consultants in Orthodox theology, ethics & technical fields



# Project 2: Resources



## **Objective:**

Provide resources to guide those in need with the teachings and love of Christ in the Church, and to make available accompanying prayers in words and images that are fitting and beautiful.

## **Description**

Identify/collect/develop resources to support pastors and the faithful in prayer and practical encounters with the variety of contemporary issues that arise in parish life.

- a) A collection of prayers for church and home use.
- b) Resources embodied in pamphlets, with content also available from [OCA.org](http://OCA.org)
- c) A directory of expert people /agencies with to provide practical help and support.

# Project 2: Resources



## Key Milestones

09.12: Catalog resources, recruit editors/writers, consult with web team

03.13: Draft pilot pamphlet & prayers for review

11.13: Prayers & pamphlet published via OCA.org

12.12: Survey parishes and Dioceses

06.13: Directory launched via OCA.org

12.13: Select next topics

## Funding

	2012	2013	2014
<b>Central admin.*</b>			
Expenses	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Salary alloc.	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
<b>Dioceses</b>	\$500	\$ -	\$ -
	<i>*Grants to be sought to underwrite</i>		

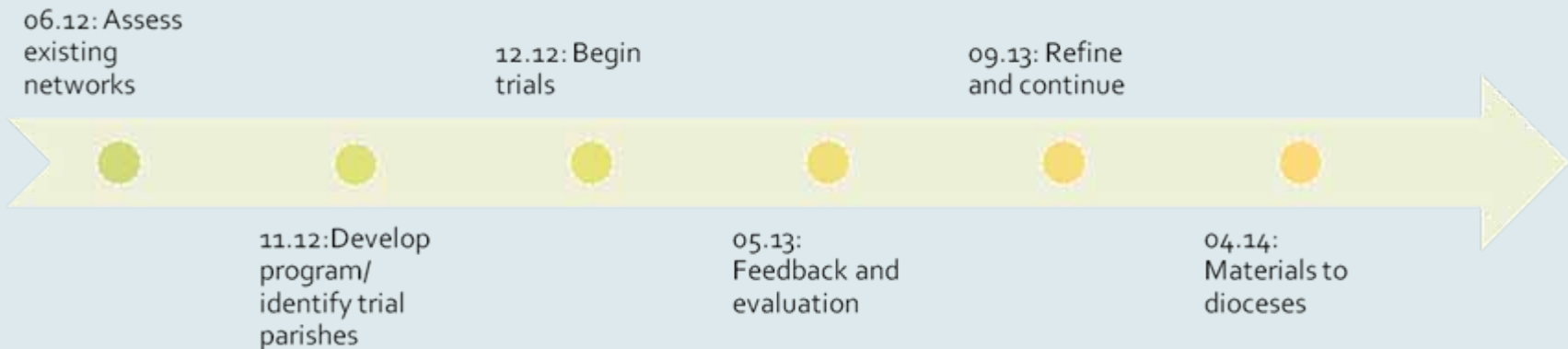
# Project 3: Network



## Description:

*Establish a parish-level network of coordinators to promote the sanctity of life and to identify and build relationships with local individuals and groups that help us uphold our commitment to the sanctity of life in practice.*

## Key Milestones:





# Project 3: Network



## Required Resources:

- Funding:

	2012	2013	2014
Central Admin	\$500	\$500	\$0
Dioceses	\$0	\$0	\$1,000

- Skills/Staffing: Volunteers on Implementation Team; volunteers with connections and knowledge of relevant agencies, concerns, and possible avenues of work

# CONTINUING EDUCATION:

the KEY



# Continuing Ed: Agreed

The 2011 AAC session agreed:

- ▶ This *is* an **Urgent Need**
- ▶ **Require** Continuing Education for Clergy (All Levels)
  - Pastoral Skill Training, Counseling Skills, Parish Management, Be a Good Confessor, Run Council Meetings, Visit the Sick, etc.
  - **Strongly Encourage** Equipping/Training for Lay Leaders
- ▶ **Share Resources** Across Jurisdictions

# CONTINUING EDUCATION

This presentation will address the following:

- ▶ Continuing Education as key to the success of the OCA Strategic Plan
- ▶ Implementation proposals for three projects:
  1. Needs Assessment for Continuing Education
  2. Resource Inventory for Continuing Education
  3. Office of Continuing Education

# CONTINUING EDUCATION IS KEY

Continuing Education  
is one of the seven top level goals,  
and reaches into each of the other  
six.

For example . . .





# EVANGELIZATION and DEVELOPMENT

## Train

parish and regional mission teams  
regional level revitalization teams.



# PARISH RENEWAL

Develop parish- and deanery-based  
adult education programs . . .

Tell, and re-tell, the **STORY** . . . of your parish  
and of the Orthodox Church in America.

# LEADERSHIP/MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR CLERGY AND LAY LEADERS

(Need we explain?)



# YOUTH INVOLVEMENT/ ACTION

**Train youth workers**

in the specific pedagogies and ministries  
appropriate to teens and students.

# DIOCESAN REVITALIZATION

Re-energize the clergy brotherhood through

. . . continuing education . . .

# INTER-ORTHODOX RELATIONSHIPS

**Continuing Education** provides a unique arena for building Inter-Orthodox relationships.

**Sharing of resources,** expertise and experience in an environment of mutual respect, love and empowerment, setting a ground for real unity in faith and practice.


# CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL/ SOCIAL/ MORAL ISSUES

Develop curriculum and content  
to enable our clergy and laypeople

Develop appropriate educational tools  
on Contemporary Culture and  
Moral Issues.




# IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

1. NEEDS ASSESSMENT for CONTINUING EDUCATION
  1. RESOURCES INVENTORY (Project FORCE)
  1. OFFICE of CONTINUING EDUCATION
- 




Project #1

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT  
For  
CONTINUING EDUCATION**




# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- What are the Continuing Education needs for Clergy & Laity in the OCA?
  - Establish database to begin program and resource development
- 

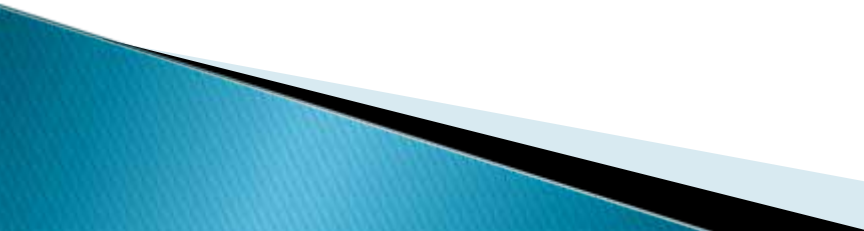
# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## *Methods*

- ▶ Mail survey
  - ▶ Online survey
  - ▶ WAPsite
  - ▶ Shotgun and targeted lists
  - ▶ Deanery & Diocesan levels
- 

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## *MILESTONES:*

- (Mar.-Apr. 2012) Review existing assessment instruments
  - (May-June 2012) Draft surveys for clergy & laity
  - (July 2012) Send out surveys
  - (Sept. 2012) Present results
- 

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- ▶ *Resources:*

  - Liaison/Coordinator (Dc. Gabe Aldridge)

  - OCA.org Server space

- ▶ *Funding:*

  - Any additional fees for webhosting

*(IT'S PRACTICALLY FREE!)*




Project #2

**FREE ORTHODOX RESOURCES**

for

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

(Project F.O.R.C.E.)



# PROJECT F.O.R.C.E.

(Free Orthodox Resources for  
Continuing Education)

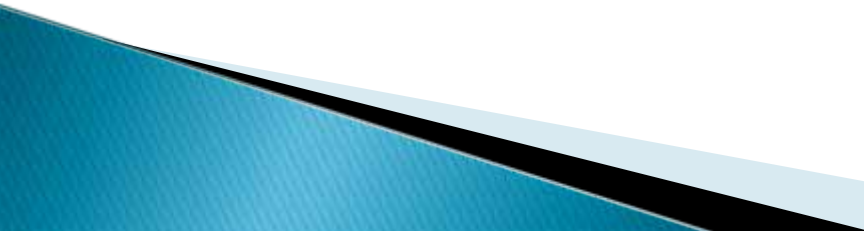
A directory  
of free Orthodox educational materials  
for laity and clergy  
vetted by experts for appropriateness and  
quality.

Accessible and Updatable Online



# PROJECT F.O.R.C.E.

## Key milestones

- ▶ (April 2012) Identify/assemble project team
  - ▶ (Aug. 2012) Identify subject matter experts to review resources
  - ▶ (Sept. 2012) Create online repository for the resource directory
  - ▶ (Dec. 2012) Locate and review Orthodox educational resources to populate the repository
  - ▶ (Jan. 2013) "Grand Opening"
  - ▶ (2013, ongoing) Continue to add resource listings
- 



# PROJECT F.O.R.C.E.

*The Central Administration* will provide:

- ▶ oversight
- ▶ hosting for the resource directory
- ▶ expert reviewers

*The Dioceses* will provide expert reviewers.

# PROJECT F.O.R.C.E.

## Required Resources:

### ▶ *Staffing:*

- Coordinator/liaison (Mike Stickles)
- volunteer researchers to locate resources.
- OCA webmaster to set up the online repository.
- Subject matter experts (music, liturgics, history, etc.) to review resources for quality and appropriateness.


# PROJECT F.O.R.C.E.

## *Funding:*

- Webhosting fees for the online repository
- Part-time compensation for the coordinator

*(DID I MENTION IT'S PRACTICALLY FREE?)*

Project #3  
OFFICE  
of  
CONTINUING EDUCATION  
(why?)



CONTINUING EDUCATION

IF IT'S EVERYONE'S JOB,

THEN

IT'S NO ONE'S JOB




# OFFICE of CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Office of Continuing Education is responsible for  
development and delivery  
of continuing education programs  
for clergy and lay leaders  
in the Orthodox Church in America.

The Office is located at the OCA Chancery, at a diocesan or parish facility, or at a seminary.

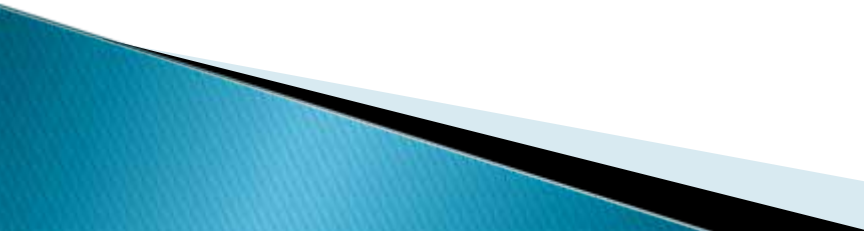
# CONTINUING EDUCATION

THE C.E. OFFICE does this by:

- ▶ **fostering networks** of skilled educators in the dioceses and parishes,
  - ▶ **working with seminaries and other jurisdictions to share and develop** resources and programs,
  - ▶ identifying and **growing extant diocesan and parish programs,**
  - ▶ and introducing new programs **in response to regular needs assessments.**
- 

# OFFICE of CONTINUING EDUCATION

## INITIAL MILESTONES

- ▶ (Feb. 2012 ) Metropolitan Council creates Office of Continuing Education, begins Director search.
  - ▶ (March – June 2012) Implementation Team Leader works with Chancery and Seminaries to establish location
  - ▶ (Sept. 2012) Office opens
  - ▶ (Nov. 2012) Director presents Needs and Resources analysis, and 2012-2014 action plan, to Holy Synod and MC
  - ▶ (Dec. 2012- 2014) Program development and delivery per action plan.
  - ▶ (Nov. 2014) Self-sufficiency plan
- 



# CONTINUING EDUCATION

## SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The Office will present a plan  
at the 2014 AAC  
for becoming **self-funded by 2017.**

*(FREE AT LAST!)*



# OFFICE of CONTINUING EDUCATION

## ROLES

### CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION:

- ▶ Establish and fund the Office of Continuing Education
- ▶ Hire the Director
- ▶ Provide oversight

### DIOCESAN PARTNER:

- ▶ Consult with the Office regarding needs
- ▶ Provide support resources
- ▶ Develop diocesan level networks.

### SEMINARY PARTNER:

- ▶ Provide planning, content and delivery expertise
- ▶ Provide support resources.

# OFFICE of CONTINUING EDUCATION

## RESOURCES

### Skills/Staffing:

Director: Skilled in **program development, staff development**, other qualifications as determined by search committee.

Support: Secretarial staff **provided by partnering body** (seminary, diocese, parish).

# OFFICE of CONTINUING EDUCATION

## RESOURCES

Funding (Central Admin):	2012	2013	2014
~ 2017			
Salary (1/2 position):	\$15K	\$40K	
	\$40K	\$0	
Travel:		\$5K	\$15K
	\$0		\$15K

**Administrative and support** costs to be subsidized  
by use of **shared resources at partner location.**

# CONTINUING EDUCATION

The 2011 AAC session agreed that Continuing Education

- ▶ Is an Urgent Need
- ▶ Should be Required for all Clergy
- Includes Equipping/Training for Lay Leaders
- ▶ Promotes Resource Sharing Across Jurisdictions

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**  
**is Key**

**DO IT NOW**

