

The ^{FALL} ²⁰⁰⁷ Steward

The Lord said, "Well done, good and faithful servant: You have been faithful over a little, I will set you over many things; enter into the joy of your Lord." Matthew 25:21

A Message from FATHER EUGENE

It is with joy that I greet you and all members of the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards as we begin the Church New Year.

Twenty seven years ago, when the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards was established, the Church was rediscovering the central importance of Christian Stewardship. Many individuals responded to the challenge of practicing Christian Stewardship each day by following the Biblical principles of stewardship. Perhaps you are one who responded and became a Charter Member by accepting the invitation to join FOS. If this is the case, your unwavering support and prayerful assistance have significantly helped the Orthodox Church in America fulfill the Mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Giving to the Lord is a personal decision and growth in freewill giving is naturally felt most by regular and faithful stewardship in our parishes. In most parish communities, FOS members are leaders in giving their time, talent and treasure to the Lord. Thus, as FOS grows, so does voluntary giving in our parishes.

When the Church embraced the voluntary funding of all of our Ministries and Departments, by decision of the 11th AAC in 1995, voluntary giving rose to an all-time high. Nearly 70% of the budgets of the OCA Ministries were funded by FOS and other freewill efforts.

I am not able to say that this is the case today. With the financial crisis affecting our Church over the past two years, FOS has felt the impact, as voluntary giving decreased on both the individual and parish levels of giving. As of October 8th, FOS income has reached \$71,999.68 of its budgeted goal of \$96,500.

I am grateful for the continued individual and parish support for FOS in 2007. The Lord continues to offer us great opportunities to be His servants and stewards. I pray that He will guide us through these difficult and challenging times in our beloved OCA and that we will always be ready to accept His call to servanthood.

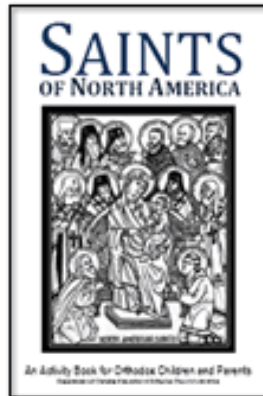
Archpriest Eugene Vansuch

Department Publications

Department of Christian Education

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Department of Pastoral Life



The Orthodox Church in America's Department of Christian Education recently released its newest on-line resource, the **"Saints of North America Activity Book."**

Available free of charge in downloadable PDF format at <http://dce.oca.org/Sections/Resources/american-saints.asp>, the 74-page book offers biographical information about 12 saints whose lives and witness built up the Church in America. In addition, it includes striking black and white drawings of each saint, based on their icons, and an array of puzzle activities that will offer students a challenging and enjoyable way to learn more about each saint.

A special feature of the book is a series of maps tracing the path of each saint's travels and witness.

"Teachers and educators are seeking materials that address multiple intelligence and learning styles," said Mat. Alexander Safchuk, depart

ment co-chair. "The activity book, with its variety of resources, answers that need."

The book also offers many ways for teachers to help students develop further study. The activity book is a result of the creative cooperation of Christine Zebrun, Maria Proch, Kathryn Kessler, and other department members.

The DCE welcomes your input and comments. We invite you to contact us to ask questions or offer comments and suggestions for further educational projects. We are here to serve you as educators in Christ's Holy Church, and hope to be of service where needed.

ChristianEducation@oca.org



In recognition of the demands placed upon clergy in parish life and contemporary society, the Department of Pastoral Life and Ministry assists clergy in the fulfillment of their ministries through workshops, seminars, retreats, and publi-

cation of the **Pastor to Pastor** newsletter. The Department also develops resources equipping clergy to address issues involving their own ministries, family concerns, and needs of clergy widows and widowed clergy.

The **Pastor to Pastor** newsletter is the official publication of the Department of Pastoral Life and Ministry. It is published four times a year.

The Department is also responsible for a series of pastoral reflections called **"Life in Christ,"** edited by the V. Rev. John Breck. The series is posted to The Orthodox Church in America's web site twice a month.

In addition, the Very Rev. Vladimir Berzonsky writes a series of articles, **"Thoughts in Christ"** that are posted on The OCA's web site on a weekly basis.

The Department coordinates the **Seminarian Internship Program**, which provides seminarians with an opportunity to spend a summer working in a parish setting under the direction of an experienced pastor/mentor. An article appears on the inside of this issue concerning this summer's Program.

The **DCE** and **DPLM** are just two of the Departments sponsored by the **Fellowship of**

Orthodox Stewards (FOS).



RENEW YOUR FOS MEMBERSHIP FOR 2007 AND HELP US REACH OUR BUDGETED GOAL: \$96,500

Thank you!

A Spotlight on the work of our FOS-Sponsored OCA Departments!

The Department of Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministry

Fr. Deacon Joseph Matusiak invites all to visit the Department website, www.yya.oca.org, for the latest information on:

- ⇒ Yo-Mail - subscription form is back online! Subscribe to YO-Mail now!
- ⇒ Latest News from YYA!
- ⇒ Check out the YYA Q&A section!
- ⇒ Download a poster for A Day of Prayer for Creation!

The Mission of the Department is to foster ongoing growth and integration into the life and ministry of the Orthodox Church through Fellowship, Worship, Service and Education.

When you visit yya.oca.org you will gain more information by clicking on the tabs for the Youth, Young Adult/Campus Ministry sections, a NEW photo gallery, valuable resources from Hub Resources, and access to other Orthodox youth organizations.

The Department of Evangelization

The Orthodox Church in America's Department of Evangelization is receiving applications for the 2008 Mission Planting Grants.

"Each year, the department awards up to five planting grants to qualified OCA missions across North America," according to the Rev. Eric Tosi, department chairman.

"The grants are for \$15,000.00 per year and can be awarded up to three years. The grants are to be used specifically to assist in the salary of a full-time resident priest and must be matched by the same amount by the qualifying mission."

To date, some 20 missions have received the grant and have successfully transitioned to full-time resident priests.

After a review and visit by a member of the department, recommendations for qualified missions will be submitted at the fall session of the Holy Synod of Bishops (mid-October) for final approval. Grants begin on January 1, 2008.

If you are thinking about 2009 grants, all questions and concerns should be directed to Father Eric by calling 702-898-4800; by sending an e-mail to marsaba@aol.com; or by writing to the Department of Evangelization, c/o Saint Paul the Apostle Church, 5400 Annie Oakley Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89120.

The Department of History and Archives

Alexis Liberovsky, archivist of the Orthodox Church in America, authored the article, "*A Century of Councils*" for the current issue of TOC. In his article, he provides a summary of several of the 27 *sobors* and councils, of the last century, that mark significant anniversaries this year.

The Department of Youth, Young Adult & Campus Ministry

For the past 5-1/2 years the Department has produced "downloadable" sheet music on a weekly and seasonal basis on the OCA website. As of September 2007, a total of 1,355 individual settings of troparia and kontakia have been posted.

Texts for liturgical services continue to be posted with regularity. Postings covered Great Vespers for all Sundays, the feasts and saints that called for a Vigil, the Presanctified Liturgies during Great Lent, all Saturdays of Great Lent and all Sunday evening Vespers of Great Lent. The texts for the propers for all services for the celebration of the Feasts of the Nativity of Christ, Theophany and Pentecost were also posted. These texts can be downloaded and then easily adapted for local and particular use.

In 2007, a new section was added to the website: "*Outlines for Liturgical Services*." This section is especially useful not only to pastors, choir directors and church readers but to all those who are interested in learning more about the structure and the liturgical components of our church services. According to David Drillock, Department Chairperson, the Department hopes to add two new sections in 2008, one dedicated to Vocal Culture and Tonal Production and one devoted to music for children.

The Department of Institutional Chaplaincies

The main work of this department is supporting the ministry of those in hospitals, hospices, crisis care, and other settings through endorsement, assistance in obtaining certification, and networking with one another. The Orthodox Church in America is a formal "Religious Endorsing Body" within the Commission on Ministry in Specialized Settings (COMISS) bringing an Orthodox perspective within the greater national pastoral care and counseling community.

Since our joint conference with military chaplains last November, we are currently working on a Commissioning Service for chaplains as well as designing a pin for Orthodox institutional chaplains. Our department is also represented within the Departments of Pastoral Life and Ministry and Christian Witness and Service. We are working with the latter department in building ministry development models for use in aiding parish communities discern and develop outreach ministries.

Please contact us at:
institutionalchaplains@oca.org

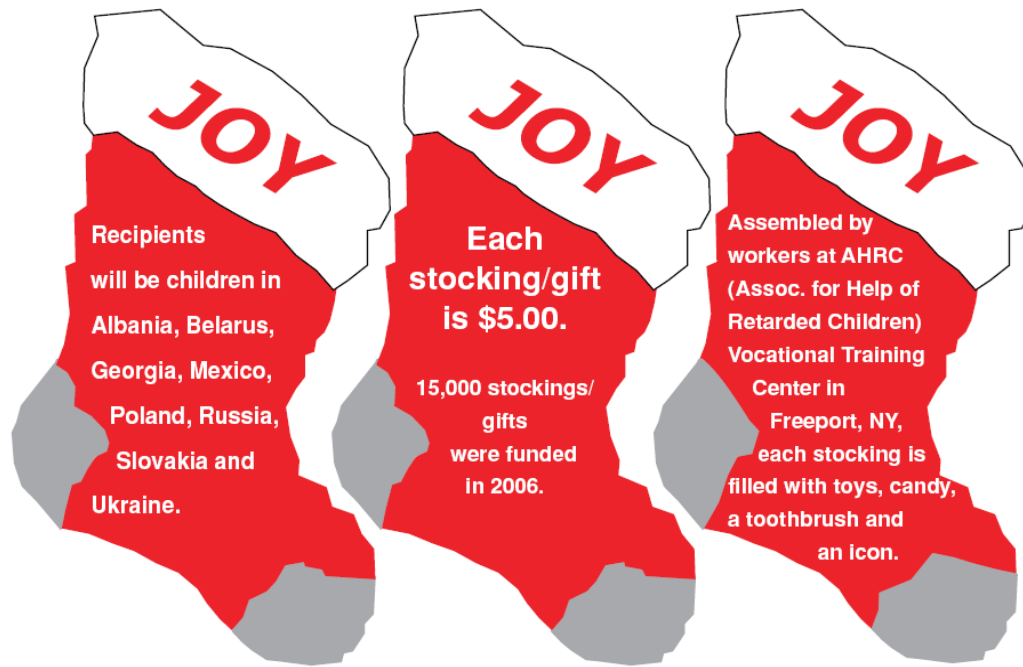


▲ Mat. Myra Kovalak leads a workshop on teacher training at the religious education conference in Parma, OH, sponsored by the Orthodox Church in America's Department of Christian Education [DCE].

Attention all Youth Groups, Parishes, Church Schools, Organizations and Supporters

14th Annual OCA Christmas Stocking Project

We are asking your help once again to bring extra joy to needy children around the world by raising funds for Christmas stockings or an equivalent gift.



When you sponsor an event to raise money for the Christmas Stocking Project, please take photos of the event and send via e-mail to: arlene@oca.org for posting on the OCA's website. Log onto the OCA website, www.oca.org and visit the Photo Gallery (miscellaneous events) to view past projects and photos from recipients.

Please send donations as close as possible to October 31st to:
 2007 Christmas Stocking Project c/o Arlene Kallaur P.O. Box 675 Syosset, N.Y. 11791-0675
 Make checks payable to: The Orthodox Church in America

Arrange to have Fr. Eugene visit your parish for a presentation on the work of our Church Ministries and how you can support their efforts. He may be reached at the Chancery by phone, 516-922-0550, ext. 124 and by email: evansuch@oca.org

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