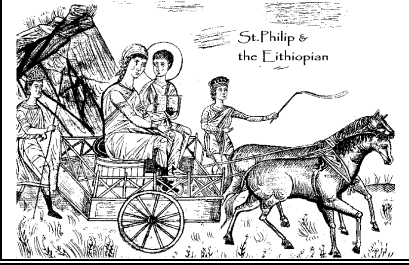


RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH
VOL. XIII NO. 1, FALL 2006
PHYLLIS MESHEL ONEST, M.DIV., DIRECTOR



2007 ORTHODOX INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

November 2 (after dinner) - 5 (after Liturgy)



Theme - "Sharing Your Faith"

Keynote Speaker
Bishop Mark
Of Toledo & the Midwest

Sponsored by
Antiochian Orthodox
Archdiocese, Department of
Christian Education

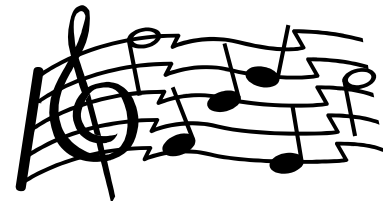
- ✦ Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA
- ✦ Certificates are offered in three tracks:
 1. *Church School Director*
 2. *Teacher Training*
 3. *Orthodoxy*
- ✦ Courses for Teachers, Church School Directors, and others seeking to learn more about the Orthodox faith

Information available at
<http://www.antiochian.org/christianeducation>

Service Announcements for the Director of Religious Education

1. **I want & need to get the Fall & Spring Packets to the current Church School Director. Has there been a change?** If you received this and you are no longer the Director, then I did not know. As the former Director, please be sure to (a) give this packet to the New Director & (b) send me all the details about the new Director.
2. **The fastest & least costly means to contact Clergy & Directors is by Email.** Please make sure I have your email address. Do not have one. Find a reliable Family or Staff member to receive email for you.

Phyllis



YouthMusic Connection

Want to learn how to get our youth involved in the liturgical music of our Church? Wondering what churches across the country are doing? Good News! Vicki Pappas, Chairman of the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians, and Forum member Joanne Kambouris are publishing a bi-monthly *e-Newsletter* that focuses on youth music - the *YouthMusic Connection!*

To view the inaugural issue of the *e-Newsletter* in color, go to:

<http://www.goarch.org/en/archdiocese/affiliates/nfcm> then click onto "view the Newsletter." Feel free to make copies to share it with others in the parish. The youth of your parish may be interested in learning what others their age are doing. The *eNewsletter* may pique their interest in getting them involved if that is not the case!

Comments, ideas or information regarding *YouthMusic Connection* are welcome.

Anyone working in Youth Music who wishes to receive hard copies of the *e-Newsletter YouthMusic Connection* must first to be added to the National Forum's contact list. Send name, one's role in church, email, parish, city and state, to Vicki Pappas at 3814 Regents Circle Bloomington, IN 47401 / pappas@indiana.edu /

IDEAS – INSIGHTS – INSPIRATION



THE QUESTION BOX
provides the teacher with a means to fill "unexpected waiting periods."

PRAYER PROMPTERS
Great "tips" to share with students as reminders to pray throughout the day.

Included with this Newsletter

LESSON PLAN WITHOUT A TEXTBOOK



Q: *Do you need an alternative to the Textbook Curriculum?* It does not fit your Church School's needs? Or your Church School is small in number. Or one Sunday all but 3 teachers will be gone. Or Father wants a once a month class during the summer.

A: Over the summer I tailored programs for two parishes. The **Lesson Plan without a Textbook** this outline and online sources:

- Prayer
- Gospel Reading
- Saint of the Day/Week
- Lesson
- Closing Prayer

These are the basic components for all lesson plans. The *Lesson Plan* can be a tool for *substitute teachers*.

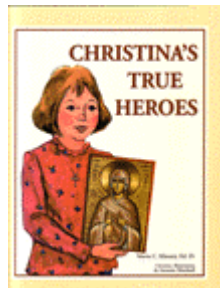
Included with this Newsletter

NEW RESOURCES

NEW IN THE

"CHRISTINA SERIES"

In *Christina's True Heroes* Grandpa and Christina enjoy a special day when he reads about the lives of these women saints - St. Anna, St. Photini, St. Brigid, St. Theodora, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Mary of Egypt and St. Elizabeth. Grandpa adds other information from his knowledge of the saints. By Maria C. Khoury, Ed.D. *Christina illustrations* by Antonia Marshall. 8.5"x11" icons of each saint. 23 pages \$14.95. Available from Conciliar Press.



LITTLE FALCONS CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE

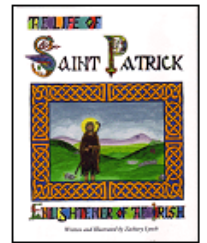
Each issue contains supplementary information for lessons on a specific topic. The topics for 2005-2006 were *Creed, Heroes, Prayer and World*. Forty - 40 - issues have been published; 39 are still available at \$5.00 each. Purchase all 40 and have what I call "A *Children's Encyclopedia of the Orthodox Faith*." The Order Form for *Little Falcons* is available at www.phyllisonest.com. Check the website in late September for the new topics. Subscription - 4 issues / \$15.00

PUBLISHED BY CONCILIAR PRESS

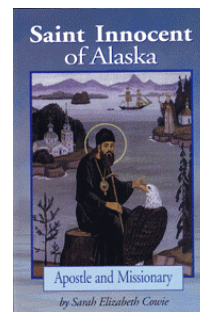
<http://conciliarpress.com>

I am excited to recommend the following books published by Conciliar Press. Let me share some thoughts.

Zachary Lynch both illustrates and tells **The Story of Saint Patrick** of Ireland. Using St. Patrick's book of Confessions as his source, Zachary recounts the true story of Saint Patrick—from his kidnapping and enslavement as a young man, to his death as a revered bishop of the Irish people.



The author's Celtic heritage is seen in the bright and colorful illustrations. The story plus the pictures give us insight to the real St. Patrick. Children ages four (pictures only) and up. Reading level 4th and higher. \$15.95



Saint Innocent of Alaska: Apostle & Missionary by Sarah Elizabeth Cowie For Youth, \$10.95. Saint Innocent of Alaska began his ministry as a married priest with children. He and his family trekked across Russia (Siberia) by horse-drawn cart, barge and packhorse, then by sea to Alaska. (Part of the Russian Empire and under the Tsar in those years.)

He converted and baptized thousands of native Alaskan people into the Christian faith. He learned the language of the different people of Alaska, gave them a written language and wrote the church services in their language. He was a wonderful and godly man who lived a *missionary life full of adventures*. The boys will especially like the different modes of travel – kayak, canoe, dogsled, reindeer, bull, snowshoe, horseback, horse drawn sleigh and on foot. He is an example of a man who loved God and God's people.

The Three-Day Pascha Series

by Mother Melania (formerly Sister Elayne) relates each day's events in rhymed couplets, and as in the Feast Day Series, each book ends with how we celebrate that day of Holy Week in the Church today.



Bonnie Gillis is a gifted illustrator and again offers icon-like pictures for each day's story. Each book begins with a "theme" hymn of that day which is a good way for all of us to identify the days of Holy Week. *Holy Friday*: "Today He Who hung the earth upon the water is hung on the tree." *Holy Saturday*: "When Thou did descend to death, O Life, Immortal" *Pascha*: "Christ is Risen!" These are special books to add to the special series on the Feast Days. \$5.95 each.

IOCC RESOURCES

Online Video just out "UNCONDITIONAL LOVE"

Go to: <http://www.iocc.org/news/6-22-06.shtml>

ORTHODOX PRAYERS – all on one sheet

- Prayers in Time of Trouble
- Prayer to Your Guardian Angel
- Prayer for Guidance and Peace
- Prayers for the Departed

1. Available online: Go to www.iocc.org
2. Locate "News & Information"
3. Download IOCC Materials in PDF Format
4. Orthodox Prayers - Print For Newsletters

IOCC Frequently Asked Questions is on the same page.

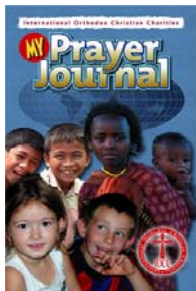
IOCC KIDS' PAGE

To access the following IOCC Resources, go to

<http://www.iocc.org/kidspage.shtml>

MY PRAYER JOURNAL

My Prayer Journal encourages children ages 7 - 12 to consider the needs of children living in countries where IOCC works. Full-color 12-month booklet. Check the 2006 issue for the different countries.



To order more than one copy, contact the *Department of Religious Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese* [800-566-1088]. The

prayer journal is free, shipping charges may apply.

Check out "GIFT OF THE HEART" SCHOOL KIT" for Needy Children Worldwide Project

To view a slide show on how IOCC is distributing "much needed aid" in Lebanon, go to:

www.iocc.org/giving/giving_donatemiddleeast7-06.shtml

IOCC Activities for Children

Based on Jesus' *Parable of the Good Samaritan*.

- ✦ **The Level 1 activity sheet** has an Icon that children can color on one side and a discussion guide on the other side.
- ✦ **The Level Two Activity Sheet** for older children has five (5) activities for the children to complete, a Bible Application section and a closing prayer.
- ✦ **The Teacher's Guide for Levels One and Two** contains suggested answers to the five activities and general comments to help facilitate the discussion.

For a copy of IOCC's recent video, "*New Beginnings*" (running time 7:30) referenced on the Activity Sheets, check with your parish priest, or call IOCC toll-free at (877) 803-4622. With the video you can "extend the session" and learn how Orthodox Church School children in America are helping needy children in other countries.

IOCC Activities for High School Students Lessons about IOCC & International Orthodoxy

Lesson 1: *The World Around Us*

Lesson 2: *The IOCC*

Lesson 3: *A Personal Viewpoint*

Lesson 4: *How We Help*

The Teacher's Background Information

For more info: Phone 410-243-9820 or Email:

relief@iocc.org / <http://www.iocc.org>

IOCC is an agency of [SCOBA](http://www.sco.org) Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas.

DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

<http://dce.oca.org/>

Whether you need a supplement to a lesson or several lessons to make a unit, the lessons or activities that you want may be just a click away.

The 122 lessons and materials are for the whole family, from pre-school through adult study groups.

FOCUS UNITS

A treasury of resources for teachers, parents and children of all ages on the following TOPICS:

- Journey to Pascha
- The Nativity Season
- The Theotokos
- My Orthodox Family
- Monastism

SUPPLEMENTAL UNITS

15 Mini Units of one or two lessons on special topics or for all parish education sessions. Topics: *Mission, Repentance and Champions of Faith*.

MIX AND MATCH

Teacher Resources: 181 Activities, Articles, Handouts, and Music

WHY USE PICTURES?



Pictures are a great way to get students to focus on the theme of the lesson, as a starting point for questions, to "grab" their attention, and more! Try one of the ways listed in "Why Use Pictures?" and see what happens!

Included with this Newsletter

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL PITTSBURGH METROPOLIS



Archdiocese	June 15-17	Atlanta Met. Miami, FI
Metropolis	Saturday, May 12	Metropolis Center
Eastern	Saturday, April 21	Annunciation / York
Central	Saturday, April 21	Holy Trinity / Pittsburgh
Wes0tern	Saturday, April 21	SS Con - Helen/Cleveland

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PRISON

MINISTRY - UPDATE BY FR. DAVID OGAN

Fr. David's June letter included an excerpt from a letter by Asgia, a prisoner in Utah.

Thank you for the weekly teachings and your newsletter. I have enjoyed them, and with excitement I am eager to learn more about the Saints of God. I also get the opportunity to share them with others as I am the religious librarian here. I put each lesson in a binder that I made so we can flip thru them as we study. I just wanted you to know how much I appreciate them.

In addition to sending cards at Christmas and Pascha, please consider taking a collection for postage and materials among the students and staff or in the parish to send to Fr. David for this worthy ministry.

We are all called to repent of our sins. So are these incarcerated individuals. Now they have time to repent for their actions against their fellow human beings, individuals who bear the image of Christ, a concept they probably never learned.

Each year on Judgment Sunday, we read Matthew 25. Each year Jesus states that whatever we have done for the least of our brothers and sisters - the hungry, poor, homeless, imprisoned - we do to Jesus Himself.

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry
PO Box 822169 - Vicksburg, MS 39182
ogand@bellsouth.net / 601-636-8392

OCPM is an agency of [SCOBA](#)

2006-07 PLANNING CALENDAR

DIRECTORS: Do not forget to download the Word format of the Calendar from

www.phyllisonest.com then edit it for your parish. Ex. add Scheduled Teachers' Meetings; Parish, District, Metropolitan, and National

Oratorical Festival Dates; dates of Lenten or Mission Projects; dates for the Christmas Program; End-of-the-Year Awards Program; Social gatherings or Recognition Day for the Staff; Teacher Training Sessions, etc.

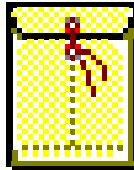
TEACHERS: By using the Calendar you can plan when to do the lessons for the year. The edited calendar informs you if a Sunday is available for a lesson or another activity is scheduled. The calendar was modified to provide more writing space.

Included with this Newsletter

2006-2007
Church School
Planning Calendar
Sept 10 _____
Sept 17 _____
Sept 24 _____

Included with this Newsletter

- IDEAS – INSIGHTS – INSPIRATION (1 page)
- Lesson Plan without a Textbook (1)
- Why Use Pictures? (2 pages)
- 2006-2007 Church School Planning Calendar [Julian Calendar on Website.] (3 pages)



CONGRATULATIONS.....



go to **Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Erie, PA.** Fr. Theophanis Nacopoulos is the parish priest.

In the March Parish Newsletter, Church School Director Faye Carrig shared how

this parish celebrated the Sunday of Orthodoxy and the Oratorical Festival on March 16.

Four elementary-age students presented essays on topics dealing with the Orthodox Faith. "Ruth" by Alexis Carrig, "Holy Communion" by Vanessa Latzer, "Ten Commandments-Do Not Tell a Lie" by Sonia Katsadas and "Joseph" by Anna Latzer.

As I read the essays, I remembered the Scripture verse, "Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength." Psalm 8:2 (Communion Hymn on Lazarus Saturday; sung during Palm Sunday Matins.)

The children shared their inner beliefs unmarred by the world. May their desire to learn and share what they learned, and to understand how we are to relate to Jesus, stay with them always. To their parents: Continue nurturing them in the Orthodox Church. You are on the right path.

This can be a project at any time of the year, perhaps with a specific grade. We need to offer our youth the opportunity to speak about what they learn and believe. Then, when the time comes or they need to, they can talk about faith and Orthodox Christianity with confidence.

Such activities pique early interests in participating in the Oratorical Festival, too.

REMINDER OF YEARLY PROJECTS

1. ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PRISON MINISTRY Christmas Cards

Go to www.phyllisonest.com Church School Directors, Church School Projects or Christmas

2. IOCC SOUPER BOWL

Participate in **Souper Bowl for Caring** on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4, 2007. A local charity benefits from the canned food collection and IOCC benefits from the \$1.00 per person collection. Go to <http://www.souperbowl.org/> now, and later in the Fall check <http://www.iocc.org>



3. Advent Activities

Go to <http://www.phyllisonest.com/>, Church School Directors, Advent Resources or Advent

PLEASE NOTE: The Contents page of my website will be revised. Anticipate new sections such as Advent, Christmas and Feast Days