

Conducting a Successful Oratorical Festival

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Introduction

Goals of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival:

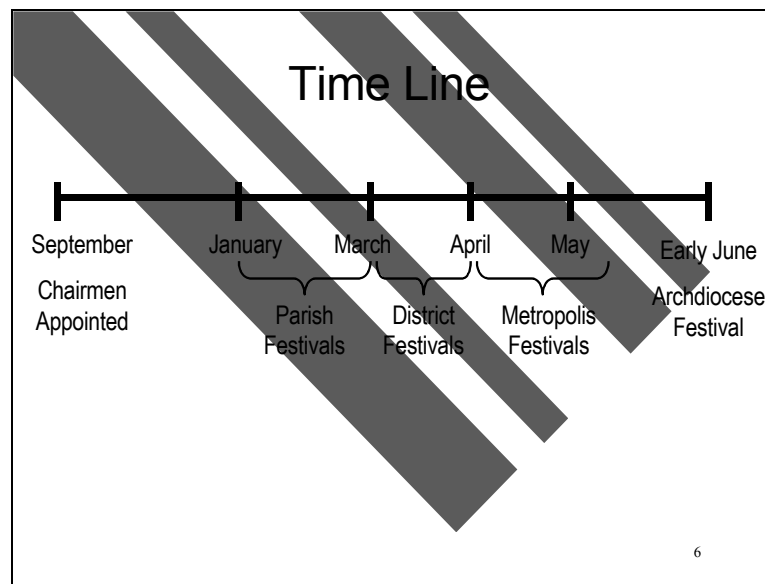
- To give teenagers the opportunity to learn, write and speak about their Orthodox Faith
- To help teenagers develop poise and self confidence when speaking before an audience

Topics of Discussion

- Networking the Oratorical Festival
- Time Line
- Participants and Topics
- Chairman Responsibilities
- Enjoying the Results

Networking the Oratorical Festival

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Participants and Topics

Participants

- Junior Division-Grades 7-9
- Senior Division-Grades 10-12
- All children should be encouraged to participate regardless of their likelihood to win.

Topics

- Are posted to the Department of Religious Education Web site www.religioused.goarch.org in September

Parish Chairman Responsibilities

Preparation:

- Select the date
- Form a committee of resource people
- Submit registration form to the Department of Religious Education and your district chairman (Page 9)
- Get list of topics and topic tips
- Order reference materials
- Find qualified and impartial judges
- Order certificates and other awards for all participants
- Check with your District Chairman to confirm dates and the number of finalists permitted from each division

Parish Chairman Responsibilities

Working with the Participants:

- Encourage speaker participation
- Ensure each participant fills out a registration form
- Provide each with a copy of the topics, the topic tips and access to reference materials *
- Schedule brainstorming sessions or writers' workshops
- Proofread the speeches
- Coach the speakers to help them improve their presentation style

* PMO – I provided the Teachers and the Students with the Bibliography. Some resources are online or the students may have access to elsewhere.

District Chairman

Preparation:

- Select the date
- Form a committee
- Decide how many finalists can be sent to the District Festival before Parish Festivals are held
- Find out the names of the parish Oratorical Festival chairmen and communicate with them regularly
- Encourage more parishes to have an Oratorical Festival
- Communicate with your Metropolis Chairman to see how many finalists per division advance to the Metropolis level
- Order certificates and awards for all participants
- Find qualified and impartial judges *

* PMO Consider having 2 set of Judges for each level if there is a large number of speakers in a Division.

Metropolis Chairman

Preparation:

- Select the date
- Form a committee
- Find qualified and impartial judges **
- Discuss raising funds with your Metropolis Hierarchy
 - Travel expenses for finalists to attend Archdiocese Festival
 - Contribution to Oratorical Festival Scholarship Foundation
- Communicate with your District Chairmen to offer or ask for assistance
- Order certificates and awards for all participants

** PMO @ sets of Judges for each Division

All Chairmen

At the Event

- **Speaker Orientation Session**
 - Welcome all participants
 - Have them select a speaking order number
 - Attach the pre-typed labels on "Speaking Order-Form A" (Page 22)
 - Have them practice their opening greeting with the microphone
 - Introduce the speakers to the Time-keeper
 - Ask them sit in speaking order
 - Introduce each speaker to the podium (reference the speaking order number and the full topic of the speech)

All Chairmen

At the Event

➤ Judges' Orientation Session

- Provide a folder with: *
 - "Instruction for Judges" (Pages 25-30)
 - "Speaker Evaluation Form" for each speaker
 - Two copies of the "Judges Ranking Sheet-Form-C" (color coded for juniors and seniors)
 - The Topics and Topic Tips, pencils, clip boards and calculators
- Carefully review the "Instruction for Judges" and the topics that the speakers will be addressing.
- The judges should not be seated together
- Depending on the number of participants in each division, the judges may convene in between the junior and senior divisions

PMO – Judges have related that they found it useful to have all the paper work before the day of the Oratorical Festival. They had an opportunity to look over the Topics & Topic Tips without being rushed. As a result, they felt better prepared to hear the presentations. Having the scoring information ahead of time was also good. A few came with questions to be answered, rather than attempting to assimilate information about the Topics and the manner of Judging during the same session. It appeared that the Judges' Orientation was more relaxed.

All Chairmen

After the Event

- Return the "Summary of Ratings and Rankings" (Pages 21-33)
- Follow-up with finalists advancing to the next level to ensure they have made travel arrangements
- Write notes to pass on to the next chairperson
- Provide feedback to Department of Religious Education at religioused@goarch.org or me at morfanyakos@p2k.net

Enjoying The Results

- Every participant should be congratulated and recognized for participating in the Oratorical Festival
- College scholarships
 - First Place--\$2000.00
 - Second Place--\$1500.00
 - Third Place--\$1000.00
 - Honorable Mention Finalists are awarded a \$500.00 United States Savings Bond.

Networking the Oratorical Festival

