

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Greek Orthodox Diocese of Pittsburgh
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Please make copies of all
pages for all staff
members!

REGIONAL DIOCESAN WORKSHOPS

As of the preparation of this Newsletter there is one confirmed workshop in September 22 at Camp Hill, PA (Eastern Region). Open dates are September 15, October 6, 13, November 3.

I am willing to lead either Regional or Parish Religious Education Workshops. Interested parishes are asked to contact me directly.

ORTHODOX INSTITUTE FOR CHURCH SCHOOL & YOUTH WORKERS

Sponsored by the Antiochian Department of Christian Education & Department of Youth Ministry at Antiochian Village October 18-21, 2001. Registration fee \$50. Accommodations at the Village: \$100 single per person per day; \$60 double per person per day. I'll be there with the Diocesan Display & to sit in on the sessions. For details and schedule go to www.antiochian.org/christianeducation/orthinstr.htm

SUMMER INSTITUTE

From June 28-30 over 100 clergy & catechists gathered at Holy Cross School of Theology to learn more about "The Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church." The 12 presentations were videotaped for purchase by parishes. Those that were there brought home many ideas and greater insight into the Feasts. The DRE will be sending order forms when the videos are available.

ISOS - INTERNET SCHOOL OF ORTHODOX STUDIES

lecture series will take place in September. For further information visit the DRE's website at www.religioused.goarch.org or phone 800-566-1088. Lectures have been archived.

WEBSITES

My website will be updated in early September. A family crisis has caused a delay in all my work. Check <http://home.neo.rr.com/pmonest> for Christmas plays, previously published articles, past Newsletters and Packet Inserts, the latest "Yellow Pages" of Resources for Orthodox Catechists, and more.

The Greek Archdiocese's Interfaith Marriage Ministries has conducted an extensive "Interfaith Marriage Research Project" whose results can be found on the Interfaith Marriage website <http://interfaith.goarch.org>. This can provide resource materials when talking about Marriage and Inter-Christian Marriage.

NEW RESOURCES

2001-2002 "Yellow Pages" has been updated and is included in this Packet. I have learned that some people just put them aside. Take time to look carefully at what is available and new this year.

The ARC - Annual Resource Companion - The Department of Religious Education has published the fourth volume entitled *The Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church* which includes the 2002 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Topics & Speaker Tips, plus a resource bibliography. \$5.00 plus SH. As part of the ongoing education of our teachers, please be sure that each one receives a copy, then consider discussing one of the articles.

PRAXIS Magazine - The newest issue is forthcoming. Keep in mind that it is by subscription at \$15.00 per year. Be sure that each teacher receives a copy for his or her ongoing education!

VIDEOS

Ellinas Multimedia has completed four 30-minute Video Documentaries on the lives of Saints Nicholas, Katherine, George and Basil. Each video integrates the interviews of clergy, iconographers and scholars to give us a fuller picture of each saint. A 2nd series will include SS. Nektarios, Demetrios, Constantine, Helen, & the Archangel Michael. Use with Teens and Adults. \$15.00 each. Ellinas Multimedia, 18 Country Walk Dr., Aliso Viego, CA 92656 / Phone/FAX: 949-305-2620/ Email: webmaster@ellinasmultimedia.com www.ellinasmultimedia.com

CD-ROMs

Put on Christ - Baptism & Chrismation, developed by the DRE of the GOA is a multimedia instructional tool that focuses on the theology, scripture, hymnology & patristic implications of these sacraments. It includes 22 animated presentations, 12 video clips, 14 hymns, integrated text search, 65 quiz questions, over 150 articles & more. Available from the Department of Religious Education [GOA] 50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, MA 02445-7415/ 617-850-1218 or 800-566-1088 /Email: religioused@goarch.org / www.religioused.goarch.org / \$39.95

MUSIC

How to Start a Youth Music Program in Your Parish is the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians

newest publication. This handbook, filled with practical tips and guidelines, was developed to stimulate the development of youth choir and hymnology programs in the parishes. It is an important addition to the literature of liturgical materials for Church Schools, Greek School, and other youth ministries. Thanks to a grant from Leadership 100, the National Forum distributed one copy of this publication free of charge to each parish in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in early May. Additional copies of the Handbook are available at \$15 plus 15% shipping and handling. For further information or to place an order, contact Vicki Pappas at pappas@indiana.edu. Fr. John Touloumes of Holy Trinity/Pittsburgh reports that his parish will be forming a Youth Choir now that he has guidelines.

Fr. Seraphim Dedes, Superior of St. Gregory Palamas Monastery in Perrysville-Hayesville, OH, continues to produce books & tapes to assist the faithful in learning to sing our Orthodox hymns in the traditional byzantine melodies in English. Order by mail, telephone or email from St. Gregory Palamas Monastery 934 C.R. #2256, Perrysville, OH 44864/419-368-5335 / Email: palamas@bright.net. Check the Monastery's website for the latest additions <http://www.bright.net/~palamas/CyberPsalti>

INTERIM CURRICULA FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

Carole Buleza, Director of Christian Education for the Antiochian Archdiocese and Acting Curriculum Department Chairperson for the OCEC has offered a suggested curriculum for the Middle School and High School classes. It makes good use of existing materials. I am concerned that each parish of the Diocese is "doing its own thing" As you plan for the 2001-2002 school year, consider this option. The new High School Curriculum that the DRE speaks about will be a few years in the making. Let's use what we have in a creative way. A Guideline for each level will be available in September. www.antiochian.org/christianeducation/

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

St. Vladimir's Seminary Press has donated the newest children's book in the series that began last year to the Diocesan display - *North Star: St. Herman of Alaska*. Written & beautifully illustrated by Dorrie Papademetriou it captures the divine spark that shone in the monk Herman and reflects it across the pages. \$15.95

St. Paul, the Apostle of Reconciliation by Peter Kalellis provides the reader with the life of St. Paul in 96 pages. For older students. Ecumenical Publications, PO Box 717, Westfield, NJ 07091 / 908-232-6118 / FAX: 908-232-6767 /\$8.00 + \$2.00 SH

Journey Across North America And Other Stories Of Saints Innocent, Tikhon and Herman by Ann Marie Gidus-Mecera . This colorful adventure storybook attempts to bring to life the lives of these key American saints for children ages six and up. \$11.95 plus 10% postage. Available from St. Ignatius of Antioch Press, 442 Charles St., Lima, Ohio 45805-3365 / 419-222-2029 / Email: presbytera@juno.com <http://home.surge.net/orthodox/stignatius/index.html>

ADULT STUDIES

TREASURY OF BLESSINGS SERIES (Pericope Press). *Liturgy & Scripture* (4th in a series, \$15.00) by Frs. Peter Salmas & Christopher Flesoras and Johanna Manley. This volume has 8 lessons; Short studies for special occasions throughout the Orthodox liturgical calendar followed by questions. Brings together Scripture with hymnology, hagiography, iconography, doctrines, liturgics, festal cycles, the Holy Fathers, and orthopraxia. Orders, contact PERICOPE PRESS 287 Bay Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025-1730/ Phone & Fax: 650-322-7941 /Email: jmanley@best.com Sample lessons are available at <http://www.best.com/~jmanley/>

ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

The *2001 Topics*, Speaker Tips & Bibliography are printed in this year's ARC – Annual Resource Companion. The theme for both the Festival & The ARC is "The Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church." When scheduling local competitions, don't forget: Parish Festivals in March; Regionals in April; Diocesan in May, and Archdiocesan in June.

REMINDERS

FOR FASTER COMMUNICATION

Since many individuals and parishes now have Email, I am compiling the email addresses of both Clergy and Church School Directors. If either the Priest or Director do not have email, identify a staff member with email who would be willing to see to it that the information disseminated.

HAS YOUR PARISH CHANGED CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR? If so, please let me know ASAP by phone, mail or email.

ENCLOSURES

2001-2002 Planning Calendar
2001-2002 "Yellow Pages" of Resources

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