

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Greek Orthodox Diocese of Pittsburgh
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Phyllis Meshel Onest, M.Div., Director

Please make copies of all pages for all

Dear Clergy, Directors, Teachers, and others interested in the Education of the Faithful, Before we know it Triodion beings then Holy Week and Pascha will be upon us. In this packet I have included Lenten resources, the Yellow Pages update, and reviewed new materials. There are also some reminders that I need you to check out.

*I wish you and yours a Blessed Lenten Season.
Phyllis*

A REVIEW

Orthodox Institute for Church School & Youth Workers - In October 2001 I attended this excellent Institute sponsored by the Antiochian Archdiocese Christian Education and Youth Ministries Departments. I URGE each of our parishes to send the Director and as many teachers as they can. The Youth Ministry and Christian Education Departments offered some 20 sessions.

The sessions were led by professional educators from across the country. The participants were invited to be actively involved. Some sessions were a presentation plus participant involvement; while others were group discussions. I came home with a variety of ideas, made new friends, and felt renewed in my teaching ministry. I hope to have brochures to include in the Fall 2002 Packet. You don't want to miss out on this. For further information, check out this website.

www.antiochian.org/christianeducation/orthinst.htm

WEBSITE UPDATES

A new site for Great Lent. Lots of resources for all.
http://www.monachos.net/great_lent/

Since Blue Mountain has begun to charge for the icon e-cards that were free, the Greek Archdiocese Department of Internet Ministries has a new website - www.iconograms.com. The cards developed by the Department are once again free.

ENCLOSURES

LENTEN RESOURCE LIST

To help identify the resources that are available for Lent - children & adult books, CD-ROMS,

activities, bulletin boards, games, websites, etc. - a list of resources has been compiled. It is not exhaustive. Please let me know of others.

"MINING THE ORTHODOX INTERNET"

Ever wonder where to start looking for information about the Orthodox Church on the Internet? Fr. John Touloumes' article is just the guide we need.

CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR'S JOB DESCRIPTION

Frequently I am asked, 'What's the job of the Church School Director?' Several years ago I developed one. The revised list is a series of tasks that need to be done, but not necessarily by the Director. It is his/her job to make sure they get done. It takes many hands to keep a Church School running smoothly and growing.

50 AFFIRMATION IDEAS FROM THE GROCERY STORE

What an easy and relatively inexpensive way to say "thank you" to your teachers and staff? Check out this list and try a few in your Church School.

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR HOSTING A WORKSHOP

Over the years I have been asked how does one go about inviting me to offer workshop or conference. I recently revised the guideline to reflect what I am able to do, how much time it takes me to prepare, load and unload display materials, and the driving distance. Fees can be adjusted.

NEW RESOURCES GAMES

LOGOS, The Orthodox Word Game is a fun, fast-paced, word game for teens, young adults and adults (age 13 and up, 4 player minimum). Team members attempt to communicate one of the 1,000+ different Orthodox and Biblical words before time runs out, while not using certain designated clue words. [Similar to TABOO] Points are given for each word successfully guessed. LOGOS is an educational tool that's fun and entertaining for Church groups and home

gatherings. Concepts come from Old & New Testaments, Liturgy, Hymnography, Doctrine, Sacraments, Church Architecture, Church Administration & more. Game cards, accessories, and game instructions come in a colorful & attractive game box.

LOGOS was developed by Fr. Michael Shanbour & the teens at Ss. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Topeka, Kansas.

Price: \$24.95+SH To Order: Email - Michaelmak@aol.com By Mail: Send checks (payable to "Kids TLC") to Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 2516 SW Huntoon Ave., Topeka, KS 66604. Phone inquiries: 785-354-7718. *Fr. Jerry Hall & family [Akron, OH] have played LOGOS and found it to be both educational & a good time!*

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Christina Learns the Sacraments is the latest book by Dr. Maria Khoury, publisher and author of the popular *Christina Goes to Church* series. This book concentrates on the seven sacraments with text, coupled with colorful illustrations by Antonia Marshall, and contains *Notes for Parents* written by Marilyn Rouvelas, author of *A Guide to Greek Traditions and Customs in America*. The Parents' Notes are helpful to adults wishing to discuss God with young children. An excellent way to teach and review the Sacraments with elementary students. It's an ideal gift or end-of-the-year award for elementary children. [Available from Light & Life, \$9.99+SH]

MUSIC UPDATE

Fr. Seraphim Dedes, Superior of St. Gregory Palamas Monastery [Perrysville-Hayesville, OH] has recently updated the monastery's website. Now we can see, hear, and print Byzantine hymns in Western Notation. In order to use these MIDI music files, download and install a free plug-in for your browser from NoteWorthy. This plug-in works with Internet Explorer, Netscape, and AOL. For more information check <http://www.pngusa.net/~palamas/BCWN/Index.htm> *Sunday Matins Music - Mode III - Western Notation can be located at* <http://www.pngusa.net/~palamas/BCWN/OC/M3M/M3Mcontents.htm> Email: palamas@bright.net

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY "RESURRECTION WITNESS REPORTS"



Here's a good Bible research exercise for 5th or 6th graders. Divide the class into 4 groups. Make each group a copy of the following questions. (Leave space for writing answers.) Assign each group one of these references: Matt 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, or John 20:1-18. Ask each group to complete their "Resurrection Witness Report" using only the information found in their assigned verses. The surprise comes when the students share their results. After discussing the differences in each account, invite the students to discover the similarities.

1. Who went to the tomb?
2. What was the first thing that person (or persons) saw when he/she/they reached the tomb?
3. Who did he/she/they see at or in the tomb instead of Jesus?
4. What did that person or persons tell him/her/them?
5. Did he/she/they see Jesus? If so, was he alive or dead?
6. If he, she/they did see Jesus alive, what did He tell him/her/them?
7. To whom did he/she/they tell the news?
8. How did that person (or persons) react to the news?

(Reprinted from "Ideas: Hands-On Help for Your Classroom," April 1996, p.9)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"WHEN YOU DON'T GET NO RESPECT"

Maybe it's a "funny" student who loves to wrestle classmates' attention away from you with a smart remark. Or kids who ignore you. Or an adult who openly yawns then checks his watch with a sigh.

Respect. Sometimes it's tough to get. Here are four sure-fire steps to building a class where students respect you...and each other.

1. **The Golden Rule rules.** No way around it: To get respect you've got to give it. Some students don't see consideration, cooperation, or courtesy modeled at home...or they simply don't think before acting. You *must* take the

first step by demonstrating the behavior you want to see.

2. **Be clear.** If you have expectations, state them clearly. Review class rules often, particularly when new students enter your class. Jot them on the board so they're visible from week to week.
3. **Hold your fire.** Don't assume a remark or action is intended to offend – take students' backgrounds and attitudes into consideration. Give everyone the benefit of the doubt.
4. **Enlist help – quietly.** You probably have some students who don't wish to tolerate rude or disrespectful behavior. Simply pause and wait in silence when disrespectful behavior is underway. One of the more respectful students will often intervene – and peer pressure can work wonders.

[Reprinted from "Update, Update," a quarterly publication of Group Publishing, Inc. (Spring, 1996). "OK to copy" printed on each page.]

PLANNING FOR THE FALL INTERIM CURRICULA FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Carole Buleza, Director of Christian Education for the Antiochian Archdiocese and Curriculum Department Chairperson for the OCEC will offer another suggested curriculum for the Middle School and High School classes, using existing materials. As you plan for the 2002-2003 school year, consider this option. Check the OCEC's catalogue this summer. Let's use what we already have in a creative way. It's preferable to each parish "doing its own thing." www.antiochian.org/christianeducation/

UPCOMING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WORKSHOPS

Whether I have taken staff members or just gone myself, I come home excited about teaching and with a handful of ideas. Make a point to go if there's one in your area. Registration begins at 8:30 & the day is over at noon. For more information: 1-800-704-6562 or <http://www.childrensministry.com> click onto Children's Ministry Workshop LIVE!

Tuition (per person): Single Registration: \$39 or \$29 early bird [register 7 days before the workshop]
Groups of 2-9 from the same church: \$35 or \$25 early bird
Groups of 10 or more, \$29 or \$19 early bird

Locations within the Pittsburgh Diocese
Canton, OH
Saturday, April 13, 2002

First United Methodist Church
301 Lincoln Way E. /Massillon, OH 44646

Cleveland, OH

Saturday, March 9, 2002 /Bay Presbyterian Church
25415 Lake Rd. / Bay Village, OH 44140

Columbus, OH

Saturday, October 5, 2002 /Genoa Baptist Church
7562 Lewis Center Rd. / Westerville, OH 43082

Harrisburg, PA

Saturday, September 21, 2002
Wesley United Methodist Church
64 Ann St. /Middletown, PA 17057

Lancaster, PA

1) Saturday, April 20, 2002 / Calvary Church
1051 Landis Valley Rd. / Lancaster, PA 17601
2) Saturday, September 14, 2002
Church of the Apostles
1850 Marietta Ave. / Lancaster, PA 17603

Pittsburgh, PA

Saturday, May 4, 2002 [Holy Saturday]
The Church of the Covenant
267 E. Beau St. / Washington, PA 15301

Charleston, WV

Saturday, April 27, 2002 [Lazarus Saturday]
First Baptist Church
6th Avenue and 2nd St. /St. Albans, WV 25177

REMINDERS PLANNING FOR

REGIONAL DIOCESAN WORKSHOPS

In planning for the Fall, I would ask parishes to consider hosting a Regional Workshop *now*. I am willing to lead either Regional or Parish Religious Education Workshops, as well as sessions on Orthodox Parenting and Orthodox Family Life. Interested parishes may contact me. Refer to "Revised Guidelines for Hosting a Workshop- Revised" included in this mailing.

DOES YOUR PARISH HAVE A NEW CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR?

If so, please let me know ASAP by phone, mail or email. Be sure he/she gets this packet.



ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

The theme for the 2002 Festival is “The Theology & Dogma of the Orthodox Church.” *Topics, Speaker Tips & Bibliography* are printed in this year’s *ARC – Annual Resource Companion*.

March - Parish Festivals

April - Regionals

Western: April 13, Annunciation/Akron

Central: April 13, Holy Cross/Pittsburgh

Eastern: April 20, SS Constantine & Helen/Reading

May 18- Diocesan

June 7-9- Archdiocesan: Norfolk, VA

I NEED YOUR HELP! E-MAIL ADDRESSES

I need updated **email addresses of Parishes, Clergy and Church School Directors**. If neither the Priest nor Director has email, identify a staff member with email willing to see to it that the information is disseminated. As new resources are identified, I can get the information out immediately rather than waiting for the next Newsletter or Workshop.

“CROSS & QUILL”

An online Teen Magazine

A magazine for teens and written by teens, *CROSS & QUILL* can offer lesson and discussion ideas for the Jr. & Sr. High classes, &/or be distributed to students to take home to read. Parents might get to see it, too. The January issue has been out; the February issue should be out soon.

www.antiochian.org

UPDATED 2001-2002 “YELLOW PAGES”

Under “Christian Education Workshops” (p.3) add

Fr. Frank Marangos, Greek Archdiocese DRE

50 Goddard Avenue

Brookline, MA 02445-7415

Phone: 800-566-1088 or 617-850-1218

Email: frfrank@goarch.org

Under “Icon Pins, Jewelry, & Gifts (p.4) add

Creative Printing by Theodora

[Saints card & book marks]

26522 Loma Verde

Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Phone: 949-348-9444 / Fax: 949-348-9020

Email: teddie_peterson1@yahoo.com

Under “Book Publishers” (p.2)

St. Innocent/Firebird...

Please note the Dr. Jane deVyver also has educational materials about the Orthodox Faith.

Under “Cassette Tapes-Adult Education” (p.2)

Orthodox Christian Cassettes also has books on tape.

Eikona’s new address (p. 5)

PO Box 4674

Englewood, CO 80155

Phone: 303-221-1355

Website: www.eikona.com

Email: eikona@eikona.com

On page 23, under TREASURY OF BLESSINGS SERIES, Joanna Manley’s new email address is
jmanley11@earthlink.net

ENCLOSURES

- ❖ *Lenten Resources List*
- ❖ *“Mining the Orthodox Internet”*
- ❖ *Job Description for a Church School Director, revised*
- ❖ *50 Affirmation Ideas from the Grocery Store*
- ❖ *Revised Guidelines for Hosting a Workshop*

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