

## WELCOME PACKAGES FOR VISITING COLLEGE STUDENTS

Our greatest hope is that when one of our children walks into a church far, far away that God is watching over them and that some special person is taking care of them as one of their own. What we sometimes forget is that we may be that special person for someone else's child far, far from home. The Youth Ministry Program can prepare packages to be given to college students when they visit your parish for the first time. Keep in mind that when a young adult enters your parish for the first time they enter with shyness, self-consciousness and the desire to feel welcome. The college and young adult years are a time of self-discovery, that discovery may manifest itself in experimentation with fashion, hair color, and body piercing to name a few. Do not judge these young adults by these outward expressions of independence. What we are concerned with is the delicate soul on the inside.

Things to include in your Welcome Package

- Icon card with the name, address, phone number of your parish and name of your spiritual father on the back.
- A brochure or flyer that tells about your parish, its history, times for services.
- Information about the organizations in your parish, when they meet and what they do (UOL, YAL, Youth Ministry, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Sporting Groups, Youth Groups, Dance Group etc.)
- Names and phone numbers of people that are able to drive them to and from services or parish events.
- Information about Orthodoxy and the Orthodox Church (not all college students who wander through our doors may be Orthodox).
- Bus and subway schedules for buses that have stops near your parish with the stops highlighted.
- Additional information that you find important or useful.