

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Youth Sobor 2007

Chairpersons –

Taylor Gladys – St. Vladimir, Pittsburgh, PA

Gregory Markiw – St. Peter & St. Paul, Carnegie, PA

Nicholas Perkins – St. Michael, Woonsocket, RI

Secretary – Iryna Krekhovetsky..... – St. Mary – Rochester, NY

Delegates:

Alexander Carman – St. Luke – Warners, NY

Konstantin Hamilton – St. Andrew, Silver Spring, MD

Janeen Linck – St. Demetrius, Carteret, NJ

Alina Ulici – St. Rochester, NY

Sofiya Kreminskaya - St. Rochester, NY

Victor Obrizan – St. Demetrius, Carteret, NJ

Nicholas Obrizan – St. Demetrius, Carteret, NJ

Katie Zimmerman- St. Mary – Allentown, PA

Advisors: Natalie Kapeluck Nixon – Director Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Aleksandra Hucul – Holy Ascension – Maplewood, NJ

Michelle Chubenko – St. Demetrius, Carteret, NJ

We, the 2010 Youth Sobor delegates, have reviewed the vision statement and added suggestions for implement instituted by 1st and 2nd Youth Sobor. Additions and affirmations to these documents are listed below:

“We the participants of the 1st Youth Sobor envision our Church of the future as a place where our main focus is on Christ and our faith, while not forgetting to honor our heritage.”

This statement is explored in our second session discussions.

“A place where our people encourage and pray for our clergy and our clergy are an active part of parish life”.

- In order to build a close relationship with your parish priest, or with any clergy, you cannot be afraid of them; one must feel comfortable with clergy, this must begin at a young age.
- One way to become comfortable with them would be to have a sleepover at the parish with chaperones and the priests attend to be a part of the event.
- Clergy have more frequent get-togethers with one another to expand friendships.
- Clergy should dress appropriately during all church functions, especially involving the community.

3RD YOUTH SOBOR:

- PROMOTE, ORGANIZE AND PARTICIPATE IN MORE PAN-ORTHODOX ACTIVITIES
- DRESS APPROPRIATELY WHEN ATTENDING CHURCH SERVICES REPRESENTING YOURSELF AND YOUR CHURCH

“A place where religious education would not always be segregated by age and that all people would be well informed, educated Orthodox Christians about all aspects of our faith—who would then fully participate and live all of those aspects”.

To expand our religious education, we suggest the following:

- Adult Education Classes, Classes that would encompass people of all ages within the parish, youth should attempt to attend church school up until at least 18 years of age.
- Classes to train parishioners to be knowledgeable and personable greeters for the church
- We should utilize access to the Library at the Consistory by using the online catalog.
- There should be books that would explain the services as you are participating in them.
- Bulletin articles about the weekly Gospel reading or printed sermon.
- Children’s Gospel lesson in Bulletin
- Print Religious Education opportunities in the bulletin
- Provide mini lock-ins
- Provide pamphlets about Orthodoxy in the pews or vestibule
- Parish workshop days/sessions on topics such as the eight tones, feast days, bible study, etc...

3RD YOUTH SOBOR – WE UNANIMOUSLY RE-AFFIRM THE ABOVE RESOLUTIONS OF THE 1ST AND 2ND YOUTH SOBORS

“A place where it is normal for there to be regular prayer and liturgical services, more than just on a Sunday”.

Within our own parishes, and throughout the country, we need to do more than just write the times of services in the Bulletin every Sunday.

- We can, however, do things such as set up a prayer place in the forest or on the parish property
- Have the church open all the time, if possible
- Have services with shut-ins, at nursing homes, etc
- A radio show
- Traveling services, in which the entire parish can go and visit surrounding parishes

3RD YOUTH SOBOR

- PROVIDE TEACHING LITURGIES IN THE PARISHES
- CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES FOR TEENAGERS UTILIZE THE QUESTION AND ANSWER FORMAT MORE OFTEN
- DEVELOP AND PROVIDE CLASSES AND MATERIALS FOR THE FAITHFUL TO MORE EASILY UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE
- ORGANIZE AND PROVIDE REGIONAL LOCK-INS FOR THE YOUTH OF THE CHURCH
- ORGANIZE, HOST AND/OR PARTICIPATE IN PAN-ORTHODOX LOCK-INS, RETREATS AND WORKSHOPS

“A place of peace”.

- To promote peace, we could think about having uniting activities, an anonymous suggestion box, and give more hugs.
- The Kiss of Peace during the Liturgy is important and should be taken part in and mean it.
- Be open to change, and talk about problems one-on-one, face-to-face, rather than talking behind people’s backs.
- Hold meetings outside of the church building.

“A place welcoming to all people, where converts will be given proper introduction to the faith”.

In order to make converts feel more comfortable, we need to make them feel welcome.

- Provide introduction to Orthodoxy classes,
- Provide/produce Orthodox booklets (i.e. Orthodoxy in a Nutshell)
- Invite visitors to coffee hour after church and spend time with them.
- Talk about Orthodoxy openly with friends.

3RD YOUTH SOBOR:

- CONDUCT WORKSHOPS ON HOW TO PRAY
- CONNECT PARISHIONERS THROUGH A “PRAYER BUDDIES” PROGRAM – (PRAY FOR AN ANONYMOUS [OR NOT ANONYMOUS] PERSON, OR PRAY WITH THEM, KEEP IN CONTACT WITH THEM AND PRAY WITH THEM)
- CREATE A PAMPHLET ON PRAYER OR MAKE THEM MORE AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE TO FIND
- PROMOTE YOUNG COMPOSERS TO UTILIZE THEIR TALENTS TO COMPOSE NEW LITURGICAL MUSIC THAT MAY REFLECT THE CURRENT TIMES
- CONDUCT PARISH BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS TO DISCUSS NEW, CREATIVE WAYS TO LEARN TO PRAY WITHOUT CEASING
- NOT ONLY ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO ATTEND OUR CAMPING PROGRAMS, BUT HELP IN ALL WAYS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO ATTEND (FINANCIAL, TRAVEL, ETC.)
- HOST A PARISH PICNIC PUBLICIZED TO THE COMMUNITY
- “UNPLUGGED” CONCERTS OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS OR PEOPLE IN YOUR PARISH/LOCAL ORTHODOX COMMUNITY
- ASK FOR DONATIONS OF ORTHODOX CD’S FOR DISTRIBUTION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY (ie. AT PARISH FESTIVALS, VISITORS TO PARISH, SHUT-INS, HOSPITALIZED PARISHIONERS)
- PUBLISH IDEAS FOR OUTREACH SERVICES THAT ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN CHARITIES
- TRAIN PARISHIONERS HOW TO BE GREETERS TO YOUR PARISH (DEVELOP A PARISH GREETERS PROGRAM)
- BRAINSTORM WAYS IN WHICH YOUNG CHILDREN MAY PARTICIPATE IN PARISH LIFE (UTILIZE SUGGESTIONS FROM THE OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)
- GET RID OF CRYING ROOMS IN CHURCHES. ENCOURAGE FAMILIES TO HAVE THEIR SMALL CHILDREN BE A LIVING PART OF THE PARISH DURING SERVICES. PARISHIONERS EMBRACE SMALL CHILDREN BEING IN SERVICES AND TRY NOT TO BE FRUSTRATED BY THEIR PRESENCE DUE TO CRYING OR THE NEED TO “MOVE AROUND”. WE ARE A FAMILY – WE NEED TO WORSHIP AS ONE. A FAVORITE SAYING OF METROPOLITAN CONSTANTINE IS, “IF THERE ARE NO KIDS CRYING IN CHURCHES THEN THERE IS NO FUTURE FOR THAT CHURCH”.
- CREATE A “KID FRIENDLY” ENVIRONMENT AT YOUR PARISH

“A community that supports all life”

- Encourage people to go and participate in the Walk for Life.
- Support Zoe for Life.
- Parish should welcome new babies and families.
- Become good stewards of resources.

3RD YOUTH SOBOR: THE BEST WAY TO CREATE A COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS ALL LIFE IS TO ACTIVELY LIVE THE FIRST FOUR POINTS OF THIS VISION STATEMENT.

- DO NOT OSTRISIZE TEEN MOTHERS BUT SHOW THEM EVEN MORE COMPASSION AND LOVE
- SUPPORT AND LOVE EVERYONE – NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE
- FIND TIME TO SPEND TIME WITH YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE OR GROUP HOMES
- ADVERTIZE THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY AS A HAVEN FOR TROUBLED PEOPLE – PEOPLE IN CRISIS

“Exposes non-Orthodox to Orthodoxy and raises awareness about Orthodoxy which will bring to it the same respect within the secular world as others faiths”.

It is imperative that we raise awareness about the faith through out the church. Parishes could create informational pamphlets, pod casts, hold Church fairs, make/sell Orthodox related bumper stickers and DVD s and hold dances.

We need to be open about our religion and when confronted about our faith, be comfortable in responding and defending what we believe in.

Participate in Bring a Friend to Church Day, during which you could bring in missionary speakers (and other presentations), not only in your own parish, but also to those of other religions.

3RD YOUTH SOBOR:

- UTILIZE FACEBOOK AND TWITTER (WITH THE PROPER SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE AND OVERSITE) TO PROMOTE THE FAITH
- INVITE NON-ORTHODOX TO YOUR PARISH EVENTS

“A community that begins by helping those outside of the church so that when we meet our Lord He will say to us, “for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me”. (Matthew 25:35-36)”

- It is important that we become involved(if not already) in charity and missionary work.
- It would also be very helpful to offer spiritual and financial support (i.e high school/college mission teams).
- Raise awareness about Orthodox Prison Ministry.
- Support our troops by:
 - Phone cards, helping to provide video conferences between troops and families.
- Go to a food bank and volunteer.
- Hold a clothing drive for the orphans in Ukraine and/or the poor in your community
- Volunteer at hospitals
- Reach out to pregnant girls in your school.
- Parish Guardian Angels – individuals that would:
 - Keep in touch with families/individuals in the parish that have been laid off, are alone or that have nothing left and provide support as appropriate
 - Provide transportation to those who may need it.

3RD YOUTH SOBOR

- JOINT-PARISH FUNDRAISERS AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES
- ENCOURAGE PARISH UNITY
- Volunteer at nursing homes, hospitals, fundraisers, Walkathons

Pray for those whom the Lord has put before us that are in need spiritually, financially, and physically.