



# Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

## Consistory Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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Dear Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ!



The **Great Lent Giveaway (GLG)** is designed to give our youth the opportunity to do good works for others during Great Lent. In addition to doing good works, they learn more about their faith and devote additional time to learning, prayer and fasting during this season of preparation for Pascha. The GLG is a joint project with the Jr. Ukrainian Orthodox League. With the blessing of our Hierarchs, the GLG of 2017 will benefit the ZOE for Life.

This year we are asking that all youth of our church support this effort by helping to raise funds/collecting for and raise awareness through the Great Lent Giveaway about the work of ZOE. Our financial goal is to raise \$2,000 and collect 100 baby/child blankets for this program.

You will find in this packet a suggested outline for conducting the GLG. We encourage you to construct a program using the full program materials, as well as your own ideas, to make the GLG more than just a fundraising effort. A program that is carried out throughout Great Lent will help the youth of your parish to more fully understand the importance and beauty of almsgiving during fasting periods.

The full program is designed for the target ages of 11-18. However, it may easily be reworked for younger ages. There are also additional resources available on-line for all ages groups. The GLG program may be used any time throughout the year, not just during Great Lent. Please modify it for your needs.

In an effort to reduce consumption of resources and live as better caretakers of our Lord's creation, the full program is available is available online.

You may download the organizational session at [www.uocyouth.org](http://www.uocyouth.org). The organizational session includes: *Great Lent Giveaway How To and Opening Discussion: What is Zoe for Life and Who is Zoe, and Fundraising Ideas*. Posters are also available for download.

Please send us with any questions at [uocyouth@aol.com](mailto:uocyouth@aol.com) or by phone at 412-977-2010.

In Christ's Love,  
Natalie Kapeluck Nixon  
Director

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it” Proverbs



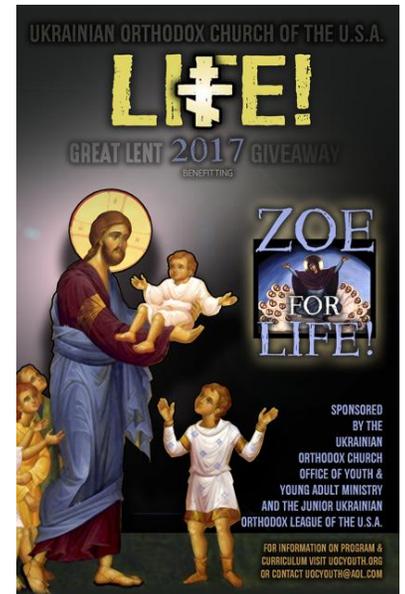
# GREAT LENT GIVEAWAY

## Life!

### How To.....

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA  
Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and the  
Jr. Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA

2017  
*Benefiting Zoe for Life*



Objective: To instill in our youth the true meaning of Great Lent by:

1. Providing for at risk mothers and families
2. Learning more about their faith
3. Discovering Christian Compassion and Christ's Unconditional Love
4. Devoting more time to prayer

GLG Project: Collecting funds, awareness and blankets for Zoe for Life and deepen our faith during Great Lent.

Steps for initiating and sustaining the Great Lent Giveaway throughout Great Lent – this program may be divided into several sessions or one retreat:

1. Each Wednesday of Great Lent, a new session of the GLG programming curriculum will be provided for download at [www.uocyouth.org](http://www.uocyouth.org) or email [uocyouth@aol.com](mailto:uocyouth@aol.com)
2. At your first gathering/meeting discuss the Great Lent Giveaway. See the attached outline for your first discussion. At this gathering you will want to decide how you will raise your funds.
3. Have the youth present their ideas for collection of the items. Take time to discuss all of the proposals. Ask them to decide, based upon the presented plans, on a game plan as to how you will accomplish your goals.

Establish with the participants a regular time to gather and to utilize the provided curriculum to learn more about Zoe for Life, Compassion in Action, God's Unconditional Love and the importance of Life!

4. Discuss progress with the collection.
5. Collect and forward the donations to the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry or the National Jr. UOL Financial Secretary. For questions contact the GLG Coordinator or OYM Office.

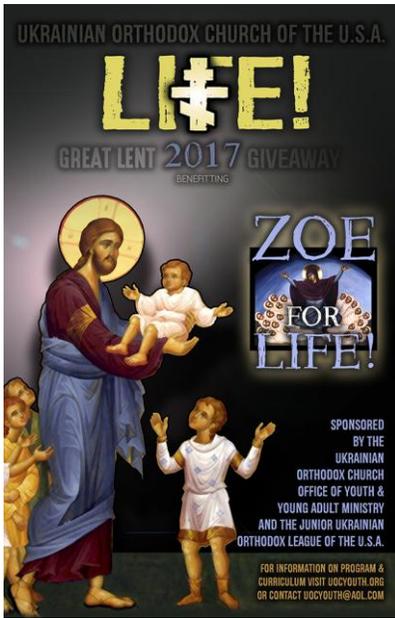
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Contact for Address

6. Wrap up the project and have a celebration event with the youth on St. Thomas Sunday – you may continue collecting funds until July 20, 2017 or bring them to the Ukrainian Orthodox League Convention in Woonsocket, RI July 27 -30, 2017. Funds MUST be submitted no later than July 27<sup>th</sup>.

**A SPECIAL NOTE:** Due to the sensitive subject with which Zoe for Life ministers, we suggest that certain aspects of this program only be utilized for teenagers only. You may want to inform parents if the topic of abortion arises or may be touched upon during discussion - such as in the Zoe for Life informational video. You may want to invite parents to watch the video prior to viewing. You may choose to only show the video up to the 8:30 minute mark.

The sessions on Compassion in Action and God's Unconditional Love are appropriate for the prescribed ages.



# GLG 2017 Life! Outline for Initial Discussion

## Needed Items:

- White Board or a notebook for you to keep notes on discussion
- Zoe for Life! Factsheet
- Life! GLG Fundraising Ideas
- Suggested Youtube videos listed below

## Calendar

1. Begin your gathering in Prayer. Being that Great Lent has begun you could choose to have your first discussion following one of the weekday services. If choosing the weekend, perhaps plan to cook a lenten meal together. This is a great way to teach our youth a possibly families, how simple it is to prepare a lenten meal.

### *Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian*

Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, faint-heartedness, lust of power and idle talk. But rather, grant unto me thy servant, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love. Yes Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother for blessed are you to the ages of ages. Amen.

2. Take a moment to discuss the purpose of the Great Lent Giveaway. Ask the participants, “*What is Great Lent preparing us for?*” *Pascha* “*The Church in its wisdom always provides us with tools in our journey to Christ to help us along the way. Many tools are given to us during Great Lent on our journey to Pascha – can you name them?*” *Increased Prayer, Additional Divine Services, Fasting, Almsgiving/ Christian Love and Charity. For younger children, you could play a game such as Snowman ( a type of Hangman) to learn the lenten "tools".*

At this point choose one or more of the provided episodes of Be the Bee to watch.

**Being a Servant** - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUqmSQcv-R0&list=PLbyQMR-\\_r8bJTTrcWpWxSUPdJHdZJsq\\_zG&index=21](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUqmSQcv-R0&list=PLbyQMR-_r8bJTTrcWpWxSUPdJHdZJsq_zG&index=21)

**An Invitation to Give** -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93nGD27fM2o&index=27&list=PLbyQMR-\\_r8bJTTrcWpWxSUPdJHdZJsq\\_zG](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93nGD27fM2o&index=27&list=PLbyQMR-_r8bJTTrcWpWxSUPdJHdZJsq_zG)

**The Kings Stewards** -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xs2muBCSQI8&index=39&list=PLbyQMR-\\_r8bJTTrcWpWxSUPdJHdZJsq\\_zG](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xs2muBCSQI8&index=39&list=PLbyQMR-_r8bJTTrcWpWxSUPdJHdZJsq_zG)

Ask the group what their thoughts are concerning what they watched. How is the video relevant to the Great Lent Giveaway?

3. Proceed with the following, “*Now that we have a jumping off point as to why we participate in the Great Lent Giveaway, let’s learn about the who will be benefitting from our work – ZOE for Life.*” If possible, watch the promotional video from *ZOE for Life* on Youtube.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PmLjMWU5zE&t=2s>  
Please reference the note about age appropriate content and previewing the *Zoe for Life* video prior to viewing, provided at the end of the *How To* page.
4. Once you watch the videos, review the ZOE Fact Sheet with the participants. If you are unable to view the videos, begin with reviewing the Fact Sheet. **For younger children**, briefly explain that *ZOE for Life* helps moms, moms-to-be, and babies who may need help with money, doctors visits, clothing etc. The blankets will be sent to ZOE House, where moms will go to choose a new blanket for their baby. If questions arise, you may need to further explain simply that people go through difficult times and may need help. God calls us to help those when they are in need or "downtrodden".
5. Lead the group in a discussion concerning the work of ZOE. Some possible discussion questions:
  - Did you know about *ZOE for Life!* before today?
  - What are your thoughts about the work of ZOE?
6. Allow time for discussion. For teenagers, you may receive questions about abortion or the church's teaching on abortion. This is something you may want to refer to your parish priest. Please keep in mind that our youth may very well know a peer who has had or has contemplated terminating a pregnancy and we want to be sensitive to the emotions that come along with such knowledge. In addition, many younger teens may not know much about abortion and it is the right of parents to have those discussion first. As noted earlier, you may wish to notify parents ahead of time that this topic may arise due to the nature of the work of *ZOE for Life!*
7. *Let’s discuss how we are going to participate in the GLG this year!*” Wrap up the discussion by moving into the final points of the “*GLG How To*”. Encourage the youth to take on leadership roles, making publicity, organizing any fundraising event, creating items to sell, or coordinating blanket collection. Even young children may take on a simple task.
8. Complete the session in prayer. Perhaps the meeting could be held prior to a lenten service and the youth could pray together in this way.

