



Office of Young Adult Activities

Report to the 2015 Diocesan Assembly

The Office of Young Adult Activities (OYAA) is entering its sixth year as an established department of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania. We continue to see the fruits of our labor in a strong and growing network of young adults who want to remain members of the church, even after they have left for college or entered the workforce.

2014 EVENTS

Winter Teen Retreat

The annual Winter Teen Retreat was held at the Fatima Renewal Center in Dalton, PA, the weekend of February 7-9, 2014. There were 38 attendees in 2014, including 33 students (ages 12-17) and five adult chaperones.

- Our keynote speaker was Mother Raphaela (Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, NY), marking the first time in recent memory that a female monastic was present as the speaker for this Diocesan event.
- Fr. Timothy Hojnicky (Holy Apostles, Mechanicsburg, PA) was present as our Youth Chaplain.

With the closure of the Fatima Renewal Center in June, it was necessary to locate a new venue for the event. The 2015 Retreat will take place at Trout Lake Retreat Center in Stroudsburg, PA on February 6-8.

St. Tikhon's Summer Camp

The 2014 season of St. Tikhon's Summer Camp was held from July 6-12. A total of 128 campers ages 7-17 came from across the country (and various jurisdictions) to participate in the program. Our hardworking staff of 50 adult volunteers helped make the event successful despite the stormy weather and power outages we experienced at the beginning of the week.

- Our theme for the week was *In The Beginning Was the Word*, in which the campers learned about Holy Scripture. Our youth education program remains under the direction of Anna Marie Black (Holy Trinity, Pottstown, PA).
- In addition to field games, boating, swimming, and arts & crafts, campers also had the opportunity to participate in iconography classes (Susan Shiposky; Holy Cross, Williamsport, PA) and ethnic dancing classes (Emilia Resanovic; Serbian Orthodox Monastery Marcha, Richfield, OH).
- Forty-eight of the campers were in our separate Teen Camp program, led by John D. Bohush IV (St. Elia, Akron, OH). Rev. Timothy Hojnicky, who was present as the Youth Chaplain for the week, presented the workshops for the teens. Bishop Michael (Diocese of NY/NJ) visited with the teens and conducted a question and answer session.

The OYAA is seeking young adult volunteers from our Diocese who enjoy working with children and can contribute their talents to Saint Tikhon's Summer Camp. Specifically, we are in need of primary educators and kitchen staff for the 2015 season.

The 2015 season will take place July 5-11. Registration packets for campers and counselors will be available in late January at www.sttikhonscamp.org.

PARISH VISITATION

If you would like for a member of the OYAA to visit the youth of your parish to talk about our special events and encourage participation, please contact us at info@ocayouth.org or 570-493-0108 for more information.

MANY THANKS

The prayers and encouragement of the people and clergy of our Diocese are vital to the success of our youth programs. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

Respectfully Submitted by Nicholas Macura, Tatiana Bobush, and Kimberly Metz