Your Eminence, Very Reverend Fathers, Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Master Bless!

Glory to Jesus Christ!

With the continued Coronavirus pandemic, we made the decision to again host a virtual summer camp this year. From July 4 through 14, 2021, thirty-nine registered campers, ranging in age from seven through seventeen, and sixteen counselors, from all over the United States and abroad, participated in our annual St. Tikhon’s Summer Camp. We have campers and counselors participating from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Missouri, Louisiana, South Carolina, North Dakota, Connecticut, Ohio, New Mexico, and Canada, representing the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania, the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, the Diocese of New England, the Diocese of the South, The Diocese of the Midwest, the Albanian Archdiocese, the Bulgarian Diocese, the Romanian Episcopate, the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, and the Archdiocese of Canada.

Our theme for camp this year was “An Attitude of Gratitude”, during which our campers were able to expand their knowledge about the Divine Liturgy as whole and the pieces that make the whole: the Liturgy of Preparation, the Liturgy of Catechumens, and the Liturgy of the Faithful. Throughout the two-week camp, our campers had the opportunity to participate in virtual activities posted on our website through a Choice Board format, so that they could choose to do as many or as few of the activities as they chose. Each age group’s choice board included activity categories of: “Grow in Orthodoxy, Watch a Service at the Monastery, Workshop – Learn about the Divine Liturgy, Orthodox Challenge, Swimming, Paddle Boating, & Fishing, Make a Camp Meal, Ethnic Dancing, Arts & Crafts, Sports & Recreation, and Story Time. As campers participated in the virtual activities, they also had an opportunity to share with fellow campers and counselors through the FlipGrid app. Additionally, throughout the two-week virtual camp, campers and counselors also had the opportunity to participate in scheduled and supervised Zoom meetings. Some Zoom meetings were with Fr. Timothy Hojnicki, Fr. John Parker, Fr. Samuel Davis, and Fr. Stephen Vernak for “Priest in the Hot Seat”, some were for age group fellowship, and some were for whole camp activities such as our Camp Kickoff and our Farewell. Given the circumstances, although the response was smaller than 2020, St. Tikhon’s Summer Camp 2021 was a great success.

With God’s help, we are in process of planning a winter teen retreat with official dates to be announced shortly. We will also continue with our annual St. Tikhon’s Summer Camp 2022, with the hope of camp returning to in-person. As we are able to, we will announce dates of future activities. We can’t wait to see all our returning and new campers in our upcoming events!

If anyone has ideas or suggestions for future department activities, please contact us at: info@sttikhonscamp.org.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Katya Hubiak, Rebecca Oliver, & David Drobish
Co-Directors of Youth & Young Adult Activities

December 2021