

# Daylight

A Ministry of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A.

“...now you are  
light in the Lord.  
Walk as children  
of light...”  
(Ephesians 5:8)

**D.A.Y.**  
Diocesan Apostolate for Youth

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## “Heaven on Earth”

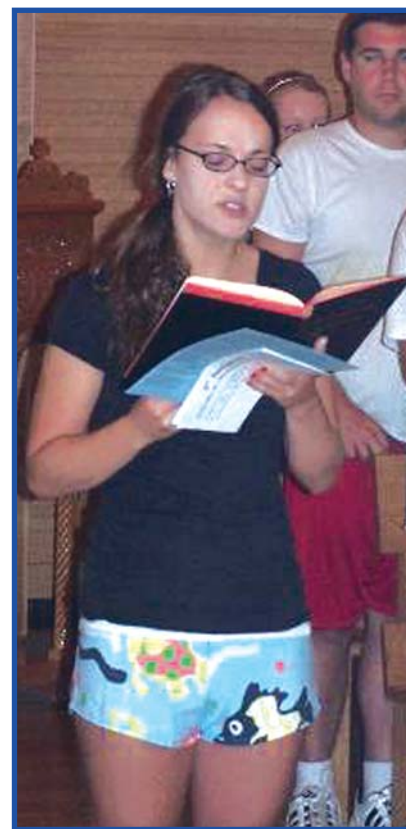
Father Matthew Moriak, Editor, *Daylight*



For over 30 years, Camp Nazareth has been the “home away from home” to our Diocesan youth. Another summer session has come and gone, and we felt the best way to show the impact the Camp has on our young people was to ask

them to tell us. Over the course of the three Diocesan camping sessions, our younger campers were asked what they liked best about Camp and our older teen campers were asked what attending Camp Nazareth means to them. We received hundreds of

responses and are sharing some of them with you. Our children enjoy all the same things that kids can find at just about any camp: sports, swimming, hiking, arts and crafts, dancing, etc. You name it. But what sets apart Camp Nazareth is that our children are able to do all of these things in the context of living their Orthodox faith to its fullest. A day of sports and games and crafts is always book-ended by prayer, supported by the guidance of our Diocesan clergy, and filled with opportunities to grow in their faith. That is what came through in the responses our children shared with us. If you have not yet experienced a week at Camp Nazareth, plan to do so in the summer of 2009. It will have a tremendous impact on your life. Don't believe me? Read what your peers are saying about it themselves in this issue. In keeping with that theme, I close with the words of camper Jenna Goetz (pictured to the left). Jenna is 17 years old from Bridgeport, Connecticut and has been attending camp for many years. What does Camp Nazareth mean to her? “Coming to camp, personally, has the feeling of coming home, and being here is like achieving the closest parallel to heaven on earth.”



*WHAT DOES ATTENDING CAMP NAZARETH MEAN TO YOU: a “booster shot” of faith*

Maryann Kokus, 17, Sts. Peter and Paul Church Windber, PA

“Being my last year at camp, this acted as a last chance to reconnect with my camp friends as well as my faith before entering the college world. Originally, I wasn't going to go because I felt I was too old, but as I went to get my shots and vaccinations, I realized camp was another needed booster shot of faith in a complete Christian environment.”

DAYLIGHT PULL-OUT SECTION



# WHAT DOES CAMP MEAN TO YOU?

**"Camp has probably been one of the most wonderful experiences I've ever had. Learning about God with my fellow campers made the Church teachings understandable and all worthwhile."**

**Adrienne Fedyna-Dembeck, 13  
Danbury, CT**

**"Attending Camp to me, means that it is possible to live a Christian life only caring for each other and God, and that gives me hope for my future and the future of society."**

**Alicia Kleer, 17  
Carnegie, PA**

**"It means everything. It is a wonderful Camp."**

**Cade Kelleher, 13  
Binghamton, NY**

**"Attending Camp is the ultimate experience living life how God intended! I wouldn't trade anything in the world for my unexplainable experiences at Camp!"**

**Michael Stan, 18  
Warren, OH**

**"It means I get to see the friends who I can worship with and relate to even though they are far away. I also have a chance to make my faith stronger and make it strong enough to take home with me."**

**Samantha Moyer, 14  
Phoenixville, PA**

**"Where we all as a whole come together and understand the true values of life. Camp takes us away from the outside world and gives us an opportunity to find our true selves."**

**Chrissy Ayala, 17  
Trumbull, CT**

**"I love Camp so much. I always learn a lot about God and my faith and I always get the feeling that I'm doing something right. After three years, I wouldn't miss Camp for the world."**

**Kate Rael, 13  
New York, NY**

**"A never ending feeling of utter happiness."**

**Emily Tusick, 13  
Pittsburgh, PA**

**"It's meeting with my friends and learning the word of God with them. I also like it because I never have to think about anything but God in here."**

**Ananya Habtemariam, 17  
Rockford, IL**

**"For me, Camp is a place where you can be yourself and talk about God freely as much as you want. I met so many great people that I will never forget and will keep in touch with."**

**Julia Korenaski, 14  
Johnstown, PA**

# WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT CAMP?

**"Swimming, learning about Saint Paul and praying."**

**Luke Maltais, 12  
Bridgeport, CT**

**"I like the sports, game room and religious education."**

**Alexa Fitzgerald, 9  
Rockway, NJ**

**"I like being with my friends best!"**

**Anna Lee, 10  
Rahway, NJ**

**"Going to Church."**

**Seth Dyess, 9  
Bridgeport, CT**

**"I really really liked religious education and free time."**

**Samuel Laposky, 9  
Corning, NY**

**"I like going to Church and learning about Orthodoxy."**

**Amber Estma, 9  
Transfer, PA**

**"Spending time with my friends and getting to know more about God."**

**Danika Dykeman, 10  
Binghamton, NY**

**"Everything! What's not to like when you have a big heap of fun?"**

**Emily Pervuznik, 12  
E. Pittsburgh, PA**

**"Talking about Church because it makes me learn."**

**Ariana Riselvato, 10  
Wake Forest, NC**

**"Making friends."**

**Jacob Myers, 10  
Potomac, MD**



*WHAT DOES ATTENDING CAMP NAZARETH MEAN TO YOU: A vocation fostered*

**Nate Choma, 16, St. Nicholas Church Warren, OH**

Attending camp means "Being one with God, truthfully and fully since there is no pressure against religion. The world just falls away."

Attending camp means having "the chance to grow spiritually to better ready myself for entering the priesthood."

## My Experience at the Altar Boy Retreat

*By Nicholas Fazekas (age 10)*



Before I got to the Altar Boy Retreat, I was kind of nervous, but at the same time, happy because I knew the retreat would be a blast. The ride down was fun even though the old van was packed to the top and not very comfortable. I got to talk with my friends, relax and look at the sites. When I got there, I felt great because at the first service, I knew every person in the pews would be singing and having a good time.

When we arrived at the retreat, we had to go to our sleeping areas, pick out our cots and unpack our stuff. I was glad to know that my friends were sleeping in the same area. Our sleeping area was great because the eating area was right next door to us. The food was made perfect and tasted so sweet and good. The people who cooked for us really seemed to care by making such great meals.

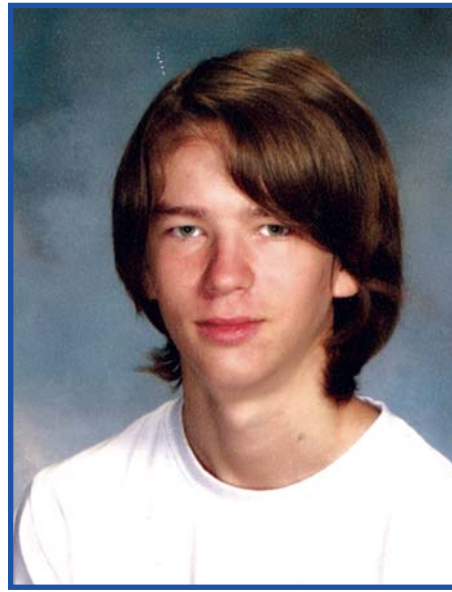
When we were at the retreat, we took a bus to a couple of places. On the bus ride, we saw a huge stadium and other cool sites in the town. We got to do a lot of cool things like going to this huge pool with this way big slide. We also got to go to the science center and see a real submarine. But what made it really cool was making new friends and meeting new priests who were nice and kind.

While at the church services, I noticed that the church wasn't painted gold like our church. Instead it was wooden and smaller than our church. Behind the altar, there wasn't a place to put on robes like at our church. It felt different being in the pew during the service. As an altar boy in my church, I am more involved in the service. The services for each day were different than our normal service. There were booklets for the morning and evening services.

At the retreat I bought a pendant so I would always remember the great time I had at the retreat and how much fun I had with my friends and meeting new people who share the same religion as me.

Next year when I go to the retreat, I won't be as nervous because I've already made new friends by being an altar boy, going on the pilgrimage to New York and going to Camp Nazareth. I am beginning to feel like my church family goes beyond Bridgeport.

## INTERVIEW WITH ALOSHA



During the summer months, between vacations and the usual sort of neighborhood activities, Alosha Riddle invested a bit of time and energy helping others this year. But, before we go any further, we need to get to know Alosha. He emigrated from Russia to the United States four years ago at the age of twelve. That first year, with a very limited knowledge of the English language, he entered Middle School and along with the expected course load he participated in the English Second Language Program (ESL). Since that time, he has become so proficient that he has earned a place on

the Honor Roll. While working on his studies he was invited to participate in a special program offered through his High School called "Foundation for Peace". During the summer, students and teachers would work together in the Dominican Republic to build a school in an impoverished village. So in July, Alosha, along with some classmates and teachers, set off to give some children a school of their own.

*Daylight:* What did you gain from your experience this summer helping to build the school in the Dominican Republic?

Alosha: I gained a lot of experience, being in a different culture and being away from home. It was hard work. We began building the walls of the school with cement blocks. They were very heavy. Every time we made a line to pass the blocks or the cement to where the work was being done, the young children would get in the line and take our place. Everyone wanted to help. I made some new friends this summer.

*Daylight:* Would you recommend our readers to follow your example?

Alosha: Yes, it makes you feel good to help others and to see that you have accomplished something. It is much better to get out and help others than to stay at home. You can choose a mission trip or a project and just do it. It was helping others that made the trip so enjoyable.

*Editors note:* Alosha Riddle lives in Westfield, New Jersey and serves as an Altar Boy at Saint John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church in Rahway. If you would like to get involved helping others, consider these resources:

Contact your Priest for information on local projects or missions trips within your Deanery or Diocese.

The Orthodox Christian Mission Center at [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org) offers both long and short term mission opportunities.

International Orthodox Christian Charities [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org) offers opportunities to respond to needs locally and globally.

Orthodox Christian Fellowship [www.ocf.net](http://www.ocf.net) offers college students the "Real Break" an alternative to the usual Spring break.

Foundation for Peace at [www.foundationforpeace.org](http://www.foundationforpeace.org) organizes church, civil and school groups for humanitarian work in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Kenya.



**Pictured are some of the children from the Dominican Republic.**