

# 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.**  
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## My Trip to Constantinople

This summer I was given the opportunity to join our Diocesan delegation to the 2nd Ecumenical Patriarchate Youth Conference in Constantinople (located in Istanbul, Turkey). I had a lot of expectations for this trip to Constantinople. A few of them included making new friends, exploring a whole new environment, and managing to not get sick on my first flight ever. But most significant of my expectations was to learn more about Orthodoxy, and about others who share that faith.

As you may have guessed, all my expectations were met, and a few surprises came along the way. I made lots of new friends from around the world. Some were from Canada, and others were from England. I even met the two delegates from Estonia. While exploring Istanbul, we were able to go to the Grand Bazaar, which was full of colorful shops selling everything from ceramics, to fake Coach handbags, to genuine Turkish carpets. We also saw Hagia Sophia, the historic church built by the Emperor Justinian. The Patriarchate also arranged a few excursions for the entire group. We visited the beautiful island of Halki, where there is a monastery and seminary. We also got to visit Chora Monastery, where there are some of the most beautiful icons in the world, over a thousand years old. However, it was easy to feel the presence of the Islamic majority of Istanbul. Though the government is strictly secular, Islam is the prevalent religion.

However, I think I will most remember the pleasant astonishment at the many, many other Orthodox Christians who came to be part of this conference. It is easy in our day and age to sometimes feel alone as an

Orthodox Christian. Our religion is not the one that offers its people twenty-minute sermons, rock bands, and Starbucks coffee. Sometimes we feel left out among our friends at school, because they are Protestant, Catholic, or not even Christian at all. But at this conference, it was we who were the majority. The whole conference



Marisa enjoys a cup of tea at a sidewalk cafe.

room was full of Orthodox people from around the world. Some were from the United States, like us; others were from Greece, Canada, Estonia, Syria, Hong Kong, Japan, England, France, Brazil, and twenty other nations all around the globe. However, it was not as intimidating as you would think. Each of us shared one faith; each of us wished to expand our knowledge about it, and attend to the issues concerning our fellow Orthodox Christians. Plus, we had translators that made understanding the presentations much easier.

The other memory that I am grateful for is our visit with Patriarch Bartholomew. Growing up, I remember hearing the priest pray for “His All-Holiness, the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Archbishop of Constantinople”. As a child, I never really thought of him as a real person – just a figure who was in charge of the Church, who would be very intimidating to meet. Meeting the Patriarch, in fact, was not intimidating. It was an unbelievable experience – to think that this man is in charge of Orthodoxy for so many people in the world, and in such an unwelcoming place: Istanbul, Turkey. It was obvious at once why he is entitled “all-holy”. However, he was very pleasant, and he had a good sense of humor.

It was with mixed feelings of excitement, anxiety, and reverence that all twelve-hundred of us lined up in the courtyard of the Phenar to receive our blessing from the Patriarch. I couldn't help but feel that day, as we made our way out of St. George's Cathedral, among all those Orthodox Christians, that this beat Starbucks coffee by a landslide. ✱

DAYLIGHT PULL-OUT SECTION



## A Very Busy Summer...

Another summer has come and gone. With fall here, most of you are probably back to school. It could be elementary school, junior high, high school or college. Some of you may have finished school and are starting your jobs. Whatever you're up to now, it's always nice to look back at what you did over the summer

and what a busy summer it was-especially for the young people in our Diocese! There are the usual things that we look forward to every summer: the Diocesan Altar Boy retreat and Camp Nazareth. But our youth were involved in a lot more than that. The beginning of the summer saw the final tally come in from the Jr. ACRY's Lenten

project. Needless to say, it was a huge success. Our youth also took part in the Second Youth Conference hosted by His All-Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew I, in Constantinople. More recently, in late August, the second annual Youth Pilgrimage was held at Camp Nazareth. This historic event allowed our children to venerate the miraculous weeping icon of St. Anna. The children also planted a nine foot cross off of the Beatitude trail!

Summer may be over, but we want to be sure we look back and remember all of these great things that you did over the summer. Over the next couple of issues, you, the youth, will be sharing your thoughts and feelings on some of the things you took part in. As always, anyone wishing to write for the newsletter can contact me at the following address: [daylight@acrod.org](mailto:daylight@acrod.org). God bless you all and good luck in school! ✱



# Reflections on Camp Nazareth

FROM A VETERAN STAFF MEMBER

by Kris Carlisle

Every March, I look forward to one thing. No, it is not March Madness, but it is knowing that I will be receiving my staff application from Camp Nazareth very soon. I have been working at the camp for five years now, and whether it is working maintenance or counseling, I know it is where I HAVE to be during the summer.

Over the past year, I have not spent much time at my home in Pittsburgh due to work or school. Being at Camp Nazareth in the summer is kind of like being at home for me because of the Orthodox Christian environment that is established there. With great friends who work there, an outstanding director, and a program that is nothing short of phenomenal, Camp Nazareth is a second home to me. At the end of each summer, I know I am going home to Pittsburgh, but I also feel like I am leaving home.

Each year that I have worked at Camp Nazareth has been better than the last. Each staff member that is employed there is there for a specific reason. It could be because they work hard on maintenance. It could be their talents in the kitchen. It could be because they enjoy working with children. Although these seem like three entirely different things, the staff's goal as a whole can be

summed up in our them from this past summer: "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31) We are all there so we can do God's work. Working at Camp allows me to put God first while making everlasting friendships and getting paid as a wonderful bonus.

After working there all summer for five summers now, I find myself missing this extraordinary place

more and more. This summer was the best one I have ever had at camp. Having just graduated from college and preparing to go into the work force, I have to ask myself one question every summer: "How can I make sure I am back at Camp Nazareth this summer?" If you are looking for an amazing experience, then maybe you should ask yourself the same thing. ✱





## SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA: Doing ALL to the Glory of God!

This summer, the theme at Camp Nazareth was the following quote from St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians: "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Keeping that in mind, it was very appropriate that the summer activities at the Camp came to end with us having the opportunity to venerate a miraculous weeping icon of St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos and the Grandmother of Christ. After all, St. Anna and her husband, St. Joachim, are perfect examples of people who did all for the glory of God.

Joachim and Anna had reached an old age without having any children. Despite not having children, they never once blamed God. They continued to live as holy a life as they could, and continued to pray to God that He would bless them with a child. They even promised that if they had a child, they would dedicate the child's life to God! God did answer their prayer, and miraculously, Anna conceived in her old age and gave birth to Mary, the Mother of God.



Joachim and Anna kept their promise and when Mary was only three years old, they brought her to the temple, where Mary would live until the time the angel Gabriel told her that she would give birth to Christ.

Joachim and Anna kept God in mind in everything they did, to the point that they offered their only daughter to Him in thanksgiving for the blessings they had received. This is something we should always keep in mind. Always be aware of God's presence in your life, in good times and bad. We should think about the things God blesses us with each and every day, and remember to offer back to God of ourselves, just like Joachim and Anna did. In this way we truly will be doing "all for the Glory of God."

Joachim and Anna's feast day is celebrated on September 9th on the New Calendar and September 22nd on the Old Calendar. If you listen closely to the priest at the end of the Liturgy, he always remembers the "holy, righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna!" ✱

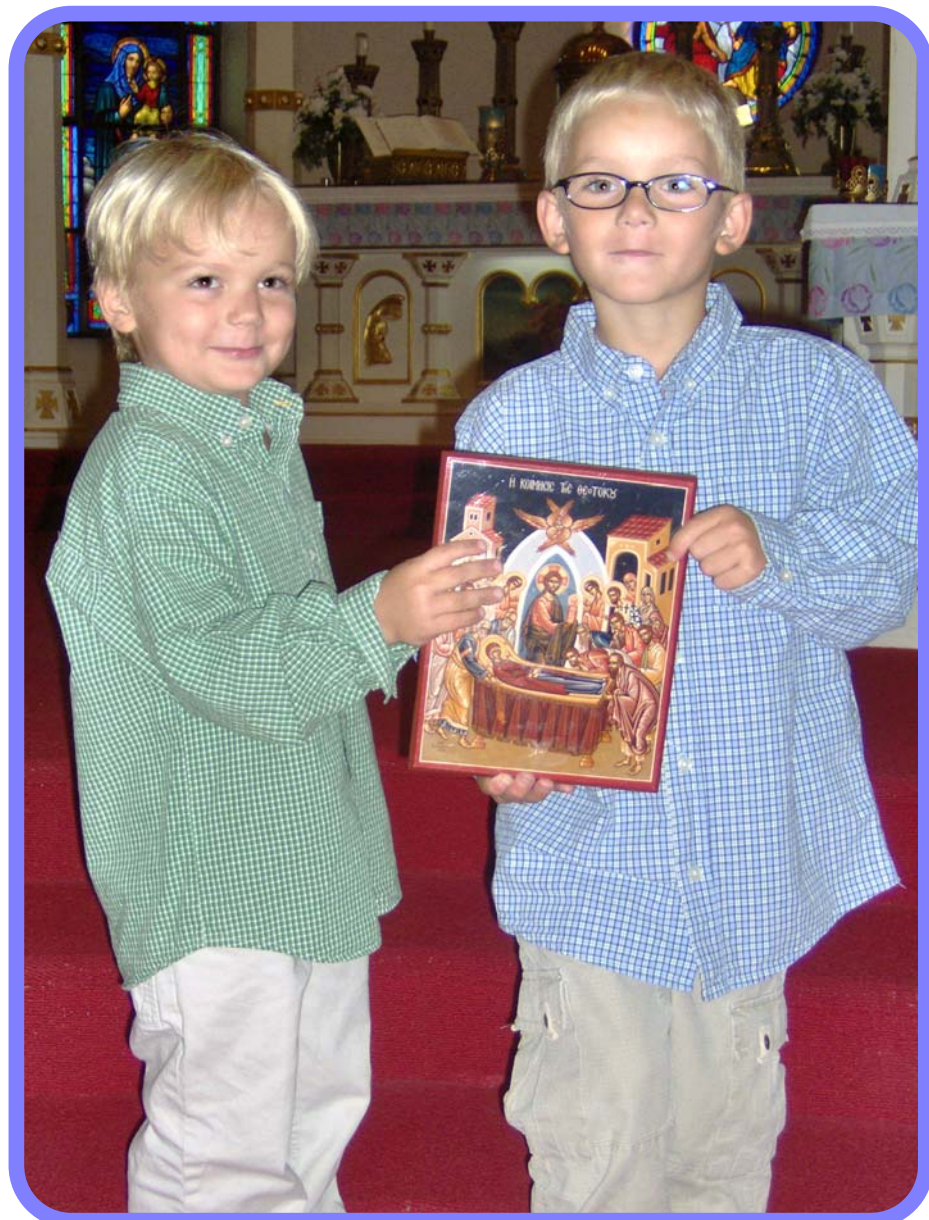
## CAMP REFLECTION



When I felt the end of July drawing near, I knew it was time to hop on that familiar school bus brimming with the other Johnstown Deanery campers eager to begin their camping week. Writing this now, I smile as I think how accustomed to that day's activities I have become through my eight years of attending Camp Nazareth. But while I can expect to see the friendly faces of Mr. Don Koval, his daughter Helen, and our bus driver, every year I find myself greeted by the fresh countenances of new campers and missing the older fun-loving ones who have graduated. However, when we arrived at the camp, I was reminded that though this constant rotation of people has always been and will always occur, the fundamental feeling of Camp Nazareth, its staff, and attendees continues.

When I was little I took it to be merely the bliss of being surrounded by the beautiful camp and the fun of fellow Orthodox Christians. As I matured, however, I began to notice something more spiritual and attributed my love for the camp to its religious core. This year though, a few things struck me. First of all, the people. We constantly hear how the faith will bring individuals with nothing in common together at this home away from home. And while this may be true, I found that every person I met did in fact, have one striking similarity as a result of their shared faith: a good heart. Of course they showed it in a variety of ways, some more veiled than others: patience with younger family members, an eagerness to please, an assurance in morals, or humility. However displayed, the presence of these core values was ultimately indisputable, intensifying bonds quicker than ever possible in life outside of the camp where these qualities in people have all but disappeared.

But as I look at the staff and clergy returning every year, I realize they hold an even deeper understanding of the camp that perhaps one day I will be able to grasp. As one grows through stages in their faith, each individual rediscovers every year the benefits of Camp Nazareth, whether it be to them a getaway, a familiarity, or an opportunity to kindle or strengthen friendship. Whatever the case, it has always been to me a place of growth, both as a person and as an Orthodox Christian. ✱



LANSFORD, PA - Holding the icon of the Dormition of the Birth-giver of God for veneration are Matthew (left) and Mark (right) Kokinda of St. Nicholas Church of Lansford, PA.

### Special Thanks!

This issue of the *Daylight* newsletter was sponsored by the National ACRY. We thank them for their support of our efforts. If you are interested in sponsoring an issue of the *Daylight*, please contact either Fr. Matthew Moriak, the editor of *Daylight*, or Fr. Andrew Fetchina, Youth Apostolate Director. Thank you for your support!

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