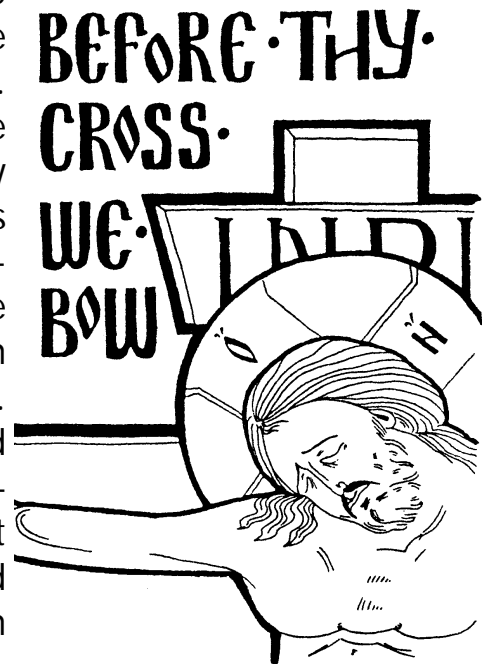


# Day Light

August 2006: Diocesan Youth Apostolate  
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate

## A Youth Reflection on the Cross

During the month of September, we will celebrate the feast of the Elevation of the Cross. We can't go anywhere, even in the secular society we live in, without seeing a cross. In any town we go through, we will no doubt see at least one Christian church, with a cross sitting atop it. When we look upon the cross, we should be filled with awe, because of the extraordinary amount of love God has for us. He took this violent symbol of defeat and death and transformed it into one of victory and life. And he did all of this because He loves us. The depth of this love is something we can't imagine. Think of it this way: if your parents were asked to make a list of all the people they would sacrifice you for, how many people would make that list? The answer is none, and no parent would be expected to. God's sacrificed His only Son and the list of people He did it for includes everyone who has ever lived, everyone who is living and everyone who will ever live. In the face of this large number, never forget that God loves each of us as individuals. He loves each of us, created in His image and likeness. If you were the only person on earth guilty of sin, Christ still would have died on that cross.



*Your Cross we adore, O Master. And Your holy Resurrection, we glorify!*

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# Hospitality of Abraham

Before you read any further, open a Bible and read in the book of Genesis 18:1-8. This story is commonly known as the hospitality of Abraham. In this story, three angels appear to Abraham and Sarah. They treat their three visitors with great reverence, and prepare a meal for them. It is the angels sitting at the table before this meal which we see depicted in the icon of these three angels.



This icon is a “type” of the Holy Trinity. A type is a figure or a representation. The guests are described simply as three men, but when Abraham talks to them, they respond as one (“they said”). The Lord appeared to Abraham, but when he looks to see who is there, he sees three men. Three men speaking as one; the one God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At other times, only one of the angels speaks to Abraham and he is referred to as “Lord.”

In the icon, it is most often felt that the angel in the center of the icon is the one referred to as Lord: Jesus Christ. In iconography, it is traditional for Christ to be depicted wearing a red undergarment, with a blue garment over the top of it (red representing His divinity, and blue His humanity which He put on”). In the icon of the Hospitality, the center angel is also wearing red with blue over top of it.

# Youth Sojourn 2006

This issue of DAYLIGHT is being distributed FIRST OF ALL to all the participants at the VERY FIRST YOUTH SOJOURN, August 25-27, 2006 at Camp Nazareth.

We learned a lot of things together.

On Friday night, we heard Fr. Mark Leasure during Vespers. He challenged us to follow the Orthodox Faith in our homes and families. Then, we went on a mini-Pilgrimage, led by Frs. Andrew Fetchina, Matthew Moriak and Michael Chendorain. The pilgrimage began with a movie about an Orthodox Bishop in the Republic of Georgia, who led a mountain-climbing pilgrimage to the Cave of the Nativity in the Caucasus mountains, and then a spiritual talk at the shrine of the Theotokos, and then a candle-light Compline in the Camp Church.

During the Saturday morning Divine Liturgy, Fr. Peter Paproski talked to us about the Feast of the Transfiguration, and how the new Diocesan Apostolate for Youth Ministry is working to actually carry out the meaning of this Feast.. Afterward, we saw a PowerPoint presentation, in the Main Hall, on "Life as a Pilgrimage."

In that presentation, we heard that we have a part to play in cooperating with

God's grace in our salvation. The presentation listed eight things that we are responsible to do, as Orthodox youth:

1. PRAY and FAST, by yourself and in the Church
2. RECEIVE the Holy Mysteries
3. LEARN the Orthodox Faith as much as you can
4. WITNESS by being proud of Orthodoxy and never leaving
5. SERVE others out of your thankfulness
6. LOVE by giving yourself away
7. Be ANGRY at sin, not people, and fight temptation
8. PREPARE for the day when you stand on your own.

We broke up into smaller discussion groups, led by the Apostolate priests, in talking about the specifics about following these eight steps.

Later on, we practiced our Plain Chant responses for Vespers on Saturday night -- we were the official chanters for the evening!

After practicing Plain Chant, we were able to spend some time in the pool to cool off, because the day was pretty

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*To the Orthodox college student:  
Warfare on campus*

By Father Matthew D. Moriak

*“...the kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force.”  
(Matthew 11:12)*

**Warfare.** In today's world, we are surrounded by it. The current war in Iraq dominates the news, be it on television, the radio, or in the newspaper. War is seemingly all around us. There is another kind of war that is around us all the time. This war is not reported on the news or in weekly periodicals. It is a war, however, that affects each and every one of us every day of our lives. It is a war fought in the home, when we are at work, at play, on vacation, and even when we are in prayer or in Church. It is the war being fought for our very souls. Each day, whether we realize it or not, we battle against Satan and his demonic forces. Each day, we are engaged in spiritual warfare.

This war is very evident to Orthodox Christians in college. Staying connected to your faith and the Church throughout your childhood and young adult life is of great importance in our world today. You grow up in the Church, part of a spiritual family, with the love and guidance of your family, your priest and your fellow parishioners. Then, you go away to college and all of the sudden, those supports aren't right there. Rather, there are distractions and temptations of the worst kind. Being less than ten years removed from my own college experience, I can remember all too well the warfare that went on in my own life. The temptation is there to let one's faith fall by the wayside. Keeping connected to your faith during this time can be a difficult struggle. This is why I began with the above quote from the Gospel of St. Matthew. Being "forceful" in one's faith can be the only way to get through this struggle. The Kingdom of Heaven, which we all strive for in our daily lives, does not belong to those who are "sleepy" or "lazy" in their faith. It belongs to those who, being lovers of Christ and His teachings, earnestly cling to their faith with strength and a true desire to see God. You will fight this battle for the Kingdom each and every day, and when you go into this battle, there are weapons you can use.

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.” Matthew 10:34

Christ came into a world largely under the authority of Satan. Christ himself

calls Satan the “ruler of this world” who “must be cast out.” (John 12:31). When Christ says that He did not come to bring peace but a sword, it is because He came to wage war against Satan. We also carry these spiritual swords. We fight Satan, the leader of vice, by arming ourselves with the weapons of virtue. St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain, author of the book, “Unseen Warfare” writes:

But if this is the hardest of all wars... victory in it is the most glorious of all .... If you really desire to be victorious in this unseen warfare and be rewarded with a crown, you must plant in your heart the following four dispositions and spiritual activities, as it were arming yourself with invisible weapons, the most trustworthy and unconquerable of all, namely:

- a) never rely on yourself in anything;
- b) bear always in your heart a perfect and all-daring trust in God alone;
- c) strive without ceasing; and
- d) remain constantly in prayer

Likewise, in St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians (6:10-18), we are given, you might say, the rules for engagement in our spiritual battle. We are to trust in the Lord for strength (v. 10), and gird ourselves with all the weapons of God’s armor (v. 11 and 13) prayer, fasting, the Holy Mysteries, Holy Scripture, and watchfulness (vs. 10, 17 and 18).

**Prayer:** Prayer is such a powerful weapon in our spiritual struggle. Don’t just pray when you haven’t studied enough for that exam, or need to pull an all-nighter to finish a paper. Make prayer part of your everyday routine, in the morning and in the evening. Pray for strength and guidance. Pray to know God’s will in your life. In the hustle and bustle of daily life, we need to take the time to slow down and talk to our heavenly Father.

**Fasting:** It may seem daunting to go down to the dormitory dining hall on a Wednesday or Friday and find something to fit into our fasting schedule, but it is important to do so. Fasting sharpens our spiritual awareness, and reminds us of the sacrifices Christ made for each and every one of us.

**The Holy Mysteries:** St. Basil the Great tells us that the mysteries move us to “boldness...increase of virtue...(and) keeping of God’s commandments.” They shape our lives to be firm in Christ. When you’re looking in that phone book to find the pizza joint that still delivers at 2 A.M., find the nearest Orthodox Church. Meet the priest, find out if they offer transportation if you don’t have a car. Receive the sacraments as often as you can. It’s the spiritual nour-

ishment that sustains us.

**Holy Scripture:** Christ's teachings and the life-giving words of God contained in Scripture can be so very useful in helping us to discern the will of God in the conflicts we encounter. There is a lot of required reading on a college campus. Make the sacred scripture part of it. Our Diocesan website has a link to the daily scripture readings.

**Watchfulness:** Be alert and ready. The devil never rests and will never stop tempting us to sin, so we always need to be on guard. That means being careful and safe and knowing when we are heading into situations that we shouldn't be. Carry a small icon with you, a prayer rope on your wrist, a cross around your neck--anything that will remind you to keep on guard against the snares of the devil. Seek out other Orthodox Christians on campus, especially if your college has an OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) Chapter. Call on the name of Christ through the Jesus Prayer to aid you in your struggle. "O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner."

There are chances for you to not only stay connected to your faith, but to grow even stronger in it as well. All you have to do is choose to seek them out. When Spring Break rolls around, instead of jetting off to Cancun or Daytona, seek out "Real Break" through OCF and OCMC where you can bring the faith to those who need it most and are less fortunate than yourself. Many students who have done so have had life-altering experiences, made lasting friendships, and truly grown in their faith. Can you really do that in Cancun?

It is true that your time in college is filled with many distractions, but it can also be filled with many wonderful opportunities to grow in your Orthodox faith. The battle is never easy, but it is one that is ongoing. Again, as St. Nicodemus writes:

*...as warriors who take part in this unseen war are all who are Christians; and their commander is our Lord Jesus Christ, surrounded and accompanied by His marshals and generals, that is, by all the hierarchies of angels and saints. The arena, the field of battle, the site where the fight actually takes place is our own heart and all our inner man. The time of battle is our Whole life.*

Your years in college will be one part of your life, one battle to be fought. Fight hard, be strong. Live your faith, be proud of it, and take the kingdom with force, as that is Christ's will for each of us in our lives.

# Getting to know the 12 Apostles

See if you can identify the names of the 12 Apostles based on the clues below. You can use your Bible or look them up on the internet if you aren't sure of the answer. Once you've identified them all, find them in the word search next issue. Good luck!!!

1-This apostle was the first called \_\_\_\_\_

2-This apostle proclaimed that Jesus was "the Christ." \_\_\_\_\_

3-There were two apostles with this name, and they both had brothers who were apostles  
\_\_\_\_\_ (**find this name only once in the word search**)

4-This apostle was a tax collector before he became a follower of Christ \_\_\_\_\_

5-Christ saw this man sitting under the fig tree before calling him \_\_\_\_\_  
(**he is also known as Bartholomew. Find both names in the word search**)

6-This apostle told #5 to "come and see." \_\_\_\_\_

7-This apostle was not present when the Risen Lord  
first appeared to His followers \_\_\_\_\_

8-This apostle was part of a group known as the Zealots \_\_\_\_\_

9-This apostle replaced Judas amongst the 12 \_\_\_\_\_  
(**also find Judas amongst the 12**)

10-This apostle is named Jude, but he also has another name \_\_\_\_\_  
(**find both names in the word search**)

11-This apostle was the one whom Christ loved \_\_\_\_\_

## Read the Fine Print

### *Matters of interest for Priests & Advisors*

Remember that DAYLIGHT is not copyrighted at all. Please print as many copies as you need. Copy the PDF file, which is available to you at the [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org) website and send to as many e-mail addresses as you like.

We just ask, of course, that the content not be modified.

Here are some more ideas:

1. Stay in touch by clicking on the [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org) website, and tabbing to the DAYLIGHT section for continuously updated material. New issues of DAYLIGHT will be posted here, as well as curricula and other resources!
2. Build service and charity into your overall program. Some groups collect food for foodbanks, others collect shoes for charity. It is important to go beyond raising money: young people need a tangible, face-to-face experience in ministry. Yardwork for a shut-in is a great idea. Delivering gift baskets to nursing home patients is another.
3. Practice Prostopinije plain chant with your group. They have a musical flexibility that is often lost in later years. It is never too early to build enthusiasm for one of the greatest gifts God has given our Diocese.
4. Hold a Scripture knowledge contest once a year. Challenge your group to memorize the books of the New Testament. Give out certificates as prizes.
5. Don't be afraid to talk about vocations to the priesthood, and to the Christian Orthodox family.

*(Continued from page 3)*

hot. Then, we had a nice meal in the Hall, and got ready for Vespers.

Metropolitan Nicholas presided at Vespers, and Fr. Jonathan Tobias spoke on preparing for the vocation of the Orthodox Family. After Vespers, our group split up into two groups, boys and girls, to different campfires. The boys listened to Fathers Kenneth Bachofsky, Mark Leasure and Miles Zdinak talk about the priesthood. The girls listened to two monastics from the Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City talk about how women serve in the Orthodox Church, especially as monastics.

On Sunday, we attended a beautiful Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Camp Church. It was led by our bishop, Metropolitan Nicholas. Fr. Lawrence Barriger spoke, and the singing was beautiful, led by the Homestead Choir and a group from Jarabina.

During the Liturgy, six men became Readers, and some of these were made Sub-Deacons. It was beautiful to see more people entering the service of the Church as clergy!

The dinner was wonderful: Fr. Michael, Pani Jessica and the Staff really outdid themselves making chicken parmigian for all those people.

After dinner, there was a special prayer service called a Moleben. Metropolitan Nicholas blessed us as we left.

We can't wait until next year!