

47th Annual Diocesan Assembly
November 19-20, 2010
Office of Church School Education and Curriculum
Maria Proch - Coordinator

Memorial Day – Children’s Activities

The highlight of this year's pilgrimage was the children’s’ activity booth coordinated by the Diocesan Department of Education and Curriculum and staffed by the National Department of Christian Education. Seventy-three children participated in the following activities: Tour of the Monastery.Museum, presentations on North American Orthodox: history, and stories relating the lives of North America's Orthodox saints. Resources recently produced by the DCE were featured. Children enjoyed making sand crosses, prayer bracelets, and the always popular and often requested bird feeders. Maria Proch directed the activities, assisted by her mother, Marie Proch; DCE members Valerie Zahirsky, Alexandra Safchuk, John Pusey, and Daria Petrykowski; and Anastasia Bilas. The children were delighted to have Bishop Melchisedek join them. Thank you to Fr. John Perich for preparing the museum for the Children’s Activities I would like to see the children from the Diocese participate more fully in the activities. The majority of the participants were from the Diocese of New York/New Jersey, ROCOR, and the New England Diocese.

Teacher Trainings

The Department of Church School Education and Curriculum in a joint effort with the OCEC, offered Teacher Trainings in the Wilkes-Barre, Frackville, and Philadelphia Deaneries.

On June 5, 2010, Eight Church School Teachers and Coordinators attended the Teacher Training at Holy Resurrection Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre. The teachers received instruction on lesson planning, questioning strategies, book selection, and available websites.

On September 25, St. Stephen’s Cathedral, Philadelphia hosted the Teacher Training for the Philadelphia Deanery. Twenty Church School Teachers and Coordinators participated in the training. Participants were from churches in the Philadelphia Deanery, Diocese of New York/New Jersey, Greek Archdiocese, and the Albanian Diocese. Participants created age appropriate lesson plans for the Nativity of Christ and Preparing young children for Pascha.

October 9, concluded the Teacher Trainings for 2010. The training was held at Christ the Saviour, Harrisburg. Twenty-one teachers from the Frackville Deanery, Antiochian Archdiocese, and Greek Archdiocese attended the training. Due to the large group of Preschool through Grade One teachers, some of the Training focused on the special needs of the Early Learner. Also discussed at Training was adapting lessons to the Exceptional Child.

Some of the participants asked for individual parish visitations, the possibility of having Teleconferences throughout the year, or a Chat Room to discuss ideas or classroom issues.

I would like to thank the parishes for hosting the trainings, as well as Mat.Myra Kovalak and Carole Buleza, OCEC certified Trainers.

I would like to see future Education Projects supported by parishes within the Diocese.

I would like to end my report with comments from two participants in the Frackville Deanery Teacher Training.

“Thanks so much for all your time and effort. I got some really great ideas and had a marvelous time. I am looking forward to sharing my book with teachers who couldn't make it to the training. We have already decided to start class with The Lord's Prayer.”

“The feedback I received from our teachers was wonderful, and I thoroughly enjoyed the sessions I was able to stop in for. May God continue to bless this Ministry!”

Respectively Submitted,

Maria Proch