



Office of Young Adult Activities

Report to the 2010 Diocesan Assembly

In the past year, a great deal of work has been accomplished by the Office of Young Adult Activities (OYAA). We were pleased to be accepted as an office of the Diocese in November 2009, after seven years of operating independently as the Teen Activities Committee.

Events

Winter Retreat

The annual Winter Teen Retreat was held at the Fatima Renewal Center in Dalton, PA, the weekend of February 12-14, 2010. There were a total of 27 attendees this year (ages 12-17), including 22 students and five adult chaperones. The 2010 theme was 'Relationships'. Both Fr. Timothy Hojnicky and his grace, Bishop Tikhon, were present for workshops with the students on Saturday, February 13. Saturday evening Vespers was celebrated by Bishop Tikhon, and Sunday morning Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Joseph McCartney.

Attendance Statistics:

- There were four fewer student attendees in 2010 than there were in 2009.
- Of the 22 students who attended, 13 were returning from a previous year. The remaining nine had been drawn to the retreat through their participation in the Teen Camp program at St. Tikhon's Summer Camp.

Teen Camp

The 2010 Teen Camp at St. Tikhon's was held the week of July 4-11, and our theme was 'Feast Days of the Theotokos.' The theme will continue into 2011 with 'Feast Days of Christ'. It is our intent that the young adults of our faith are continuously provided with quality education to build a solid foundation of Orthodoxy in their lives.

45 students (ages 14-17) were in attendance, one-third of whom were from the Diocese of Eastern PA. We were fortunate to have five speakers from the Diocese to present workshops to our group, including Bishop Tikhon, Fr. Michael Demko, Fr. Dn. Gregory Moser, Fr. Stephen Vernak, and Fr. Timothy Hojnicky. We also had several Diocesan guests working with us during the Cultural Education sessions, bringing a variety of experience to share with the teens. We had an excellent week and we look forward to next year.

Attendance Statistics:

- 2010 is the sixth consecutive year that the Teen Camp program reached 100% capacity by Memorial Day.
- 35% of all the participants of St. Tikhon's Summer Camp 2010 were in the teen program.
- 87% of the teens were returning campers.
- Two-thirds of our 2009 Graduates returned as counselors.

One-Day Retreat

A Fall Day Retreat at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Philadelphia, which had originally been scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2009, was postponed due to a speaker cancellation. We then rescheduled the retreat for Saturday, May 15, 2010, but we were unable to attract any registrants to the event. We do not believe there is a lack of interest in a one-day event for teenagers in the Philadelphia Deanery, however, we were informed that the May date was inconvenient for most of our usual attendees. We will make another attempt after we can get more feedback from our students as to a date that would better suit their school schedules.

Marketing

Website

The Office of Young Adult Activities' website, www.ocayouth.org, went live in November 2009 and features information about our upcoming youth activities. We enjoy an average of about 350 visits per month. (Please see the attached graph for more detailed information about our web statistics from the past year.)

Facebook

The social networking website, www.facebook.com, has been a wonderful way for us to stay in touch with the teens from our Diocese in their own element. In November 2009, we established a Group Page entitled 'Office of Young Adult Activities - OCA Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania.' We currently have 58 fans of the group, most of whom are current or former program participants and their parents. The Facebook page has been a great way to keep our teens informed about upcoming events, as well as to drive them to our website for more detailed information and downloadable registration forms.

Mailings and Visitation

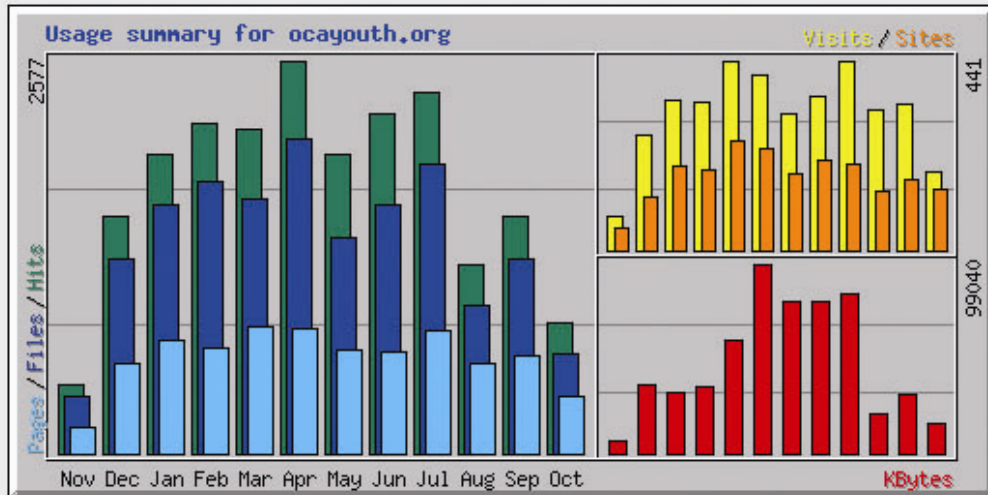
Each year, a mailing is sent to each parish regarding the Winter Retreat and St. Tikhon's Summer Camp. The intention is that each parish will post the information and registration forms, or share them with the youth group or Sunday School. Any parish that is not currently receiving these mailings may contact us at 610-554-1079 or info@ocayouth.org to be placed on the mailing list. As always, we ask for the support of priests and youth group leaders in encouraging the children of their parishes to participate in our programs.

Any parish that would like us to visit with their youth to talk about the Winter Retreat or Summer Camp in greater detail, please contact us at 610-554-1079 or info@ocayouth.org.

In closing, we would like to thank all the faithful of our Diocese for their continued support of our programs and for having faith in our young people, who truly are the future of the Orthodox Church in America.

Respectfully Submitted by Tatiana Bohush, Nicholas Macura, and Kimberly Metz

Website Statistics for www.ocayouth.org
 November 2009-October 2010



Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
Oct 2010	31	24	14	6	140	15456	184	380	659	863
Sep 2010	51	42	21	11	164	30661	338	640	1277	1557
Aug 2010	39	31	19	10	137	20523	326	591	971	1234
Jul 2010	76	61	26	14	201	83668	441	808	1894	2373
Jun 2010	74	54	22	12	209	78941	360	669	1631	2234
May 2010	63	45	21	10	180	79132	318	681	1412	1955
Apr 2010	85	68	27	13	237	99040	406	817	2066	2577
Mar 2010	68	53	26	14	254	58931	440	835	1668	2122
Feb 2010	77	63	24	12	187	35305	343	691	1784	2162
Jan 2010	63	52	23	11	195	31715	347	742	1636	1955
Dec 2009	50	41	18	8	126	36140	266	587	1274	1558
Nov 2009	22	18	8	4	50	6680	81	176	370	449
Totals						576192	3850	7617	16642	21039