Office of Communications

Orthodox Church in America Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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The Fields are White for Harvest: Welcome to College Ministry

The Department of College Ministry held its inaugural event, "The Fields are White for Harvest: Welcome to College Ministry" on Saturday, 18 August 2012, at Holy Trinity Church (OCA) in Yonkers NY. Feedback from amongst the 20 participants included "amazement," that it was "energizing" and one clergyman went so far as to call it "the best conference I've ever attended." Participants overwhelmingly commented appreciated the "straightforwardness," "practicality" and "thoroughness" of the event.



In conjunction with Andrew Boyd (Director of the OCA's National Department of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministries) and Edward Ryan (a student at the University of Connecticut), the goal of the conference was to lay the groundwork for interested clergy, college students, and laity of all jurisdictions to engage in college ministry.

Father David Cowan opened the day with prayer, welcoming everyone to his parish. He read a message from Bishop Michael conveying his greetings and encouragement; His Grace was unable to attend due to a previous commitment elsewhere in the diocese. Deacon John Diamantis (Chairperson, Diocesan Department of College Ministry) offered an introduction and overview of why college ministry is so important and the exciting possibilities for it to flourish throughout New York and New Jersey.

The conference was divided into four sections. Edward Ryan offered his testimonial about "The Impact of Campus Ministry on College Students." Andrew Boyd spoke about "Challenges and



Strategies in Ministering to College Students." Deacon John Diamantis spoke about "How to Begin College Ministry" and "The Effects of College Ministry in a Parish." Each speaker fielded a litany of questions from eager conference participants following their presentations. Attendees were then invited to ask the three-man panel questions about anything related to college ministry.

585-458-5627

In addition to the information shared by the presenters, conference participants returned home with a folder of useful information and tools including forms to help identify colleges with which they might engage themselves, detailing items they should bring to campus to engage in this work.

All indications are that the event was a success. The Department of College Ministry hopes to have similar events in the coming months around the diocese in which all jurisdictions might participate.

If you are interested in college ministry in New York or New Jersey please contact Deacon John Diamantis at JCDiamantis 13@gmail.com. He serves New York and New Jersey in the field of college ministry in a two-fold capacity: appointed as Chairperson of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey [OCA] Department of College Ministry, and concurrently in a similar capacity with the national Orthodox Christian Fellowship [OCF] as District Chaplain.

The Department of College Ministry extends special thanks and appreciation to: His Grace, Bishop Michael, for his prayers, vision, and blessing in creating this department and endorsing this event; Father David Cowan, his family, and the parishioners of Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Yonkers NY for hosting and catering the event; the speakers who presented and gave of their time to make this event a success; and, all who participated and offered feedback.

Photos from the Conference

For additional information, updates, news, and to listen to portions of this conference in MP3 format, please visit the new Department of College Ministry website at:



nynjoca.org/deptartment college ministry.html

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