Office of Communications

Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

RELEASE NUMBER 2012.34.1

Webinar on October 24, 2012
Parish Hospitality:
Creating Positive First Time Experiences for Inquirers

Session 4 of the ***Orthodox Growth and Evangelism Series*** will be Wednesday, Oct 24th at 8 p.m.

Father Jonathan Ivanoff (Director, Diocesan Commission on Mission & Evangelism) and Joseph Kormos will collaborate to address the actions necessary for creating positive first time experiences for inquirers.

Understanding America's religious landscape and the needs of the un-churched, reaching out to the neighborhood, effectively communicating the parish, planning for growth AND inviting people to church are all part of the array of efforts for effective Orthodox Evangelization in 21st century North America. Eventually those efforts result, God willing, in inquirers arriving at your church. Whether they come for Divine Liturgy, Vespers or a parish event how will they experience your parish? What can be done to show warm Christian hospitality? What are potential turnoffs? How can we improve the prospects of building a relationship with them? In session 4 we will explore these questions and more.

Topics covered in this session:

- Preparing for a warm welcome -- understanding the visit from the inquirer's perspective
- Equipping a greeters ministry -- good practices for the entire parish to help inquirers feel comfortable
- Eliminating seeker insensitive behaviors -- one by one!
- Greeting at the conclusion – overcoming reticence to visit fellowship hour; the bookstore and more.
- Good follow up -- increasing the likelihood of return visits.

PLUS BONUS COVERAGE: David Adrian, President Adrian Associates, will share his 40 years of communication experience to help you create better parish news releases.

The Evangelization Webinar series covers practical and theoretical aspects of sharing the Gospel -- as lived and taught by the Orthodox Church -- with America.

Date: Wednesday, October 24, 2012
Time: 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM [EDT]

REGISTER NOW: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/121771712

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