Office of Communications

Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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Session 5 of the **Orthodox Growth and Evangelism Series** will be held Wednesday evening November 28 at 8:00 pm EST.

Our new members are singing, *"We have found the true Faith!"* They're attending, communing or preparing to do so as catechumens. They may be tithing as good stewards, but...now what? What do we do with them? Where do they fit in? What more would they want to do - and, believe me, new members want to do a lot! How much of parish life and ministry is really open to them, and how much might be closed without us realizing it?

Assimilating new members into parish life is not easy: there are natural groups of parishioners based on longstanding friendships or demographics, new and perhaps unfamiliar ministries, and possibly even the idea of a new member discovering real personal faith in the Triune God for the first time. This next stage is crucial but also critical - integrating and assimilating new members into the ethos, the culture, and the wonderful new place they've discovered - your parish. New members will leave a church they've thought of joining if they are not "handed off" from the priest and greeters to other parish members who can connect them to the parish ministries and - more importantly - to the very people who are now their brothers and sisters in Christ.

In session 5, course leaders Father Jonathan Ivanoff and Joseph Kormos will collaborate to address the actions necessary for properly welcoming new members into the parish and its life.

1. The importance of connecting and integrating new members QUICKLY into parish life
2. How to determine the right areas of ministry to involve them in
3. Who are the best parishioners to connect new members with - and who are not
4. The right - and wrong - forms of follow-up
5. When to approach them about stewardship - and other un-pleasantries
6. Encouraging them to "pass it on"

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

Title: *Assimilation and Integration: Incorporating New Persons into the Life of the Parish.*
Date: Wednesday, November 28, 2012 **Time:** 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm (EST)

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar. **REGISTER** at https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/666562520

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