

Department of Religious Education

December 11, 2012

Your Grace, Bishop +MICHAEL, Very Reverend & Reverend Clergy, Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

On June 1, 2012 Bishop +Michael appointed me to be the Lay Chairperson of the Department of Religious Education for the Diocese of New York and New Jersey. The goal of this Department is:

“...to further the religious education and spiritual development of the children and adults of our Diocese — through worship, witness, service, and fellowship. This department will also organize conferences to exchange ideas and search for solutions to common educational problems, help train teachers, develop and share curricula, and make available educational materials and offer support services to our parishes, as well as oversee future programs for the Diocese.”

This department works closely with OCEC.

Updates/Goals

In August we held three conferences to train teachers and directors of Church School, in conjunction with OCEC: 37 people attended on August 4 in Wayne, NJ; 13 people attended on August 11 in Whitestone, NY; 21 people attended on August 18 in Endicott, NY. A survey was sent out on August 22 to all 71 attendees, asking various questions regarding, time, place, length and location of future events. A total of 18 people responded. Although this may seem like a small number, I will be using the information gathered to prepare for future events. Those who have not responded should understand that we would try our best to take everyone into consideration.

Clergy and faithful are also sent updates and notices through the Diocesan website. In the future, we hope to be adding a quarterly e-mail newsletter and a Facebook page. Both of these will have the goal of increasing awareness between our department, the clergy and faithful of our Diocese, as well as to create opportunities for increased communication and sharing of ideas. We will also be planning half-day events where participants can brainstorm, share ideas and increase fellowship among Church Educators. The first 2 events will be based on the topics of adult Bible Study, and children's Vacation Bible School. We also hope to develop a Bible Study track with OCEC.

If you have an education program in your parish for either adults and/or children and would like to be added to the database, please contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matushka Andrea Diamantis
Chairman
Department of Religious Education