

Ministry Resources: Youth learn about homelessness—first hand!

In the Spring of 2017, the Church of the Holy Cross, Medford, NJ organized a unique youth event that would bring to life the Gospel message of caring for others in need. Archpriest John Shimchick, Pastor, and the event coordinator, Phyllis Pritchard, worked with Camden, NJ's Covenant House and local police and social services to help the youth of the parish learn about homeless children and teens.

“What’s It Like?” is a new article written by Father John that highlights the important life lessons gained from their “Covenant House Sleep Out” experience. It appears on the Orthodox Church in America’s web site as yet another offering in the Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid’s Parish Ministry Resources.

“Our youth spent the night in cardboard boxes and their sleeping bags on the parish’s parking lot, away from the comfort of their homes, experiencing something of the uncertainty and discomfort of life on the street,” Father John writes. “While raising funds to benefit the efforts of Covenant House in Camden, they learned about the plight of homeless young people — not the kids thousands of miles away or on TV — but the kids just a few miles away, who slip by unnoticed.”

Father John recounts the activities and overnight hours not only as an important event, but as a guide for other parishes to organize similar programs for the youth in their communities.

The OCA Department of Christian Service and Humanitarian Aid welcomes your comments and feedback, which may be sent to csha@oca.org.



Danbury Township Volunteer Firefighters Association, INC

I received the following letter from the Fire Department:

The focus of the Danbury Township Fire Department has always been the health, safety & preservation of property for the residents of Danbury Township. The Fire Department has been providing first class emergency response services to our area. Last year the Fire Department was evaluated by ISO which lowered our rating from a 6 to a 4. This was a testament to the dedication of our personnel, training and equipment. The direct result is lower Insurance rates for home owners. We have been continuously researching ways in which to improve our service without having to constantly ask for increasing the taxes that fund our operations. The department has been largely funded through existing fire and EMS levies. The levies are collected by the Ottawa County Auditor’s office.

The Fire Department has made concerted efforts to purchase, and maintain top notch equipment in order to suit our community needs. WE also recruit, and train new members in order to answer our calls whenever we are needed. The levels of fire and EMS service have been increased through the dedicated personnel on the department. All of the training takes an incredible amount of time and effort, not to mention time away from family and home.

In 2016 the Danbury Township Fire Department responded to 833 calls of which 684 calls were EMS. Last year the firefighter’s Association purchased 5 self contained breathing apparatus with spare tanks which will be used on our rapidid intervention unit to rescue firefighters in trouble. A new 2017 Sutphen pumper was purchased by Danbury Twp and the Association has purchased several items for the new truck including a new monitor nozzle and small tools.

The Danbury Township Volunteer Firefighters Association which is a private 501© 3 support agency to assist in financially supporting the fire department. Although the majority of our funding is based from tax levies, there is a need for money so that we may provide the most effective fire and EMS services.

You can read the rest of the letter posted on our bulletin board downstairs. We will have a special collection in December for the Association.

THANK YOU FROM STEIN HOSPICE CENTER

A copy of the following letter from Stein Hospice Center, will be posted on bulletin board downstairs.

Dear Hospice Friends,

Thank you for the baked goods you donated to the stein Hospice Center on October 15, 2017. Someone once said that whatever we possess will double in value when we share it with others. Your generous gift reminds me how much we depend on your on your support to accomplish our mission “to provide comfort, compassion and support during life’s final journey.” Please know how much your kindness is appreciated Again, thank you for stepping out in good faith and “helping us help others.” It is noted that you are indeed a special friend.

Sincerely, Marge Basilone, Donor Relations Coordinator, The Stein Hospice Memorial Team

YOUR STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION: For the Life of Our Children

The Orthodox Church in America relies on the stewardship of its faithful to support ministries in communities across America and around the world. As the Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America Annual Appeal approaches on November 19, 2017, David Lucs, in the article below, writes about how the Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry has been able to strengthen the life of our children with the generous support of the Church's dedicated Stewards.

Young people today face serious challenges to their personal faith in and relationship with Jesus Christ much earlier than previous generations. Social and technological influences quickly and subtly reshape what they believe, becoming trusted sources of truth while parents and clergy get left out of crucial conversations in their lives.

What Orthodox Christian teens and young adults hear from friends and society varies widely—and sometimes runs counter to the teachings of our Orthodox Christian faith. The more difficult or personal the topic, the more a young person is likely to see the Church as irrelevant and out of touch. And that's why we're rigorously developing initiatives to help young people remain engaged in the life of the Orthodox Church in America.

We'll soon be launching the "I Am Orthodox" initiative—a web-based platform that will engage young people through videos, reflections and curated content from—and for—Orthodox youth. We will use social media to meet young people where they are, answering their questions and reminding them that their parish community is a place to call home, a place where they can always feel welcome, safe and loved.

The Divine Liturgy is foundational to our Orthodox faith, so we're producing a "Teaching Liturgy" video with lessons and resources for independent and classroom study. It's important to illustrate how our personal life in Christ begins with the Liturgy, gathered in communion, nourishing us for our daily lives as we connect with neighbors, friends, classmates, co-workers and family to be examples of Christian love in the world.

We're also busy planning for next year's [19th All-American Council](#) in St. Louis, which will provide our youth with an opportunity to meet their peers in an atmosphere of worship, fellowship, education and service to the Church. The camp-like program will not only engage them in the life of the Church, but will allow them to meet young people from across North America.

Expanding on the previous Council's call to "expand the

Mission," we are launching the Orthodox Youth Ambassador program to make it possible for young people from Alaska and Mexico to participate in the Council. It is our hope that in providing this opportunity to our youth, they will return to their communities with the confidence to live as Orthodox Christians united "for the life of the world."

These initiatives address the core of Orthodox Christianity in North America, drawing the Church to the center of a young person's life. Our goal is to help young people make connections in the Church and to celebrate their rich diversity of traditions and customs while residing within the unity of our Orthodox Christian faith. We are committed to meeting young people where they are in life, and to helping them stay connected to and engaged with Jesus Christ through His holy Church.

The support of our Stewards of the Orthodox Church in America makes it possible for us to bring quality resources, programs and events to the young people of our Church. The results last generations!

—David Lucs, Chair, Department of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

The Marblehead Police Association invites you to the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Friday, November 24TH at James Park in Marblehead at 7:00pm. (The day after Thanksgiving)



There will be a free Bike raffle, gifts, cookies, hot chocolate, caroling, tree lighting and a special visit from SANTA CLAUS!

NOTE: Monetary donations are needed and can be dropped off at the Marblehead Police Department. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

QUARTER FOUR FINANCIAL'S

October:	
Income:	\$4,821
Expenses	<u>\$5,784</u>
Total	-\$ 963

Note: We finished the third quarter: -\$2,507.