

“Dealing with doubt” topic of February 9 live stream meeting with Bishop Paul

“Dealing with doubt” will be the topic of an interactive live stream video meeting with His Grace, Bishop Paul of Chicago and the Midwest at 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET on Sunday evening, February 9, 2020.

The live stream will be hosted by the [Midwest Diocese Centre for Family Life](#). It offers an exciting opportunity for parents, grandparents, godparents, teachers and others to pose their questions “live” to Bishop Paul. Videos of previous live streamed meetings, in which Bishop Paul addresses such topics as “Fasting as a family,” “Sex, Gender, and Identity,” “Why Can’t Church Be More Fun,” “Making Friends, Loving Enemies: Helping our kids navigate an unorthodox world,” and other topics also are available for viewing online.

To register for the event, [subscribe to the Midwest Family website](#) online. An email with connection information will be sent prior to the event.

Preparing Kids for Leaving Home, Part 6 and Final

I conclude this series of notes on leaving home by speaking to kids who go to College or pursue other endeavors. This is an important issue to address. Most people know how important it is to encourage college students to stay connected to church and to be part of an OCF group on campus. However, I would like to focus on the issue of student debt and ways this might be mitigated. It is not unusual today to have people obtain a bachelor’s degree and finish school in debt \$30k to \$80k from student loans. This is just undergraduate debt.

First, I would ask parents to consider the idea of their kids living at home and commuting to school for the first two years. This is for several reasons. I have often found the first two years of college can be a difficult adjustment time for kids being away from home. A lot of acting out occurs among some college students, especially in the first year. Sexual acting out and substance abuse can be a problem. Could this be why so many drop out of church during this time? I also wonder if this might be do to the fact that our kids are not as mature as we think,

to live away from home when they begin college study.

The first two years involve taking more required courses than electives, which might contribute to a lack of motivation, especially when kids are undecided in their major. Staying home and working part time can noticeably reduce the cost of college. So if people need to apply for student loans, the debt would hopefully be less. Students can maintain their connection to their home church as well.

Once college students have picked their majors and know what they want to do, perhaps they could finish the remaining two years at a campus-based school. Hopefully they will be more mature and able to cope properly with the temptations faced in going to a public secular university. They can graduate from school with a debt of only \$15k to \$20k instead.

Finally, if prospective college students want to delay studies and maybe work for a year, this may not be a bad idea. It would be a great reality check, giving them a taste of working in the “real world” and what is involved in supporting oneself. Depending on what kind of work they get, this may help prospective students figure out why they want to go college. Or they may want to learn a trade or skill and not pursue college study.

People may consider enlisting in the military instead of college. There are perks for enlisting, such as financial support for future university/college study. People who enlist also receive valuable education and on the job training in certain fields that may assist them in determining what they want to do over the long run.

Speaking for myself, I was by far a better college student when I knew why I was attending Wayne State University in Detroit back in the 1970’s. It took me a couple of years to figure that out. Once I did, it made a big difference in my studies and gave me a solid direction for the future. I welcome any questions or issues you may want to speak on regarding this theme.

The blessing of the Lord be upon you,
The unworthy +Paul

Bishop Paul's Travel Schedule

St. Nicholas Cathedral, Washington DC, January 24th to 25th

- *Consecration of Bishop-elect Alexis Trader to the Episcopacy*

St. George Cathedral, Chicago, IL, January 26th

St George Romanian Cathedral, Southfield, MI, January 31st to February 1st

- *Consecration of Bishop-elect Andre to the Episcopacy*

Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia, MI, February 1st to 2nd

Chicago Deanery 50th Autocephaly Celebration, February 7th to 8th

- *February 7th, Akathist to North American Saints, talk by Fr. Andrew Harrison at Holy Resurrection, Palatine, IL, at 7 pm, Refreshments at 6 pm*
- *Discussion with Deanery Youth during presentation*
- *February 8th, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at Ss. Peter & Paul Burr Ridge IL, 9:30 AM, Entrance of Hierarch at 9:10 AM*

Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL, February 8th and 9th

Ss. Peter & Paul, Lakewood, OH, February 14th to 16th

PRAY FOR OUR CATECHUMENS

Rachael Adamcio

Luke Welch

Tristen Welch

Lydia Welch

Jake Muscaro

Possible Catechumens:

Loreen Welch

Cheyenne Welch

May God & the Holy Spirit guide them in their journey in the Orthodox Church and the Orthodox way of Life.

BUILDING / RESTORATION FUND

Our 125th Anniversary is coming!

Fund Purpose: To collect funds to pay for the restoration, repair and beautification of the building and parish room. This will avoid using general funds which are earmarked for budgetary items.

Please consider contributing generously to the *Building/Restoration Fund*.

Why do we bless houses (and almost anything else that we can sprinkle) with Holy Water?

This world, this creation, is in captivity; it is enemy held territory. The evil one, having enslaved all of creation at the fall, has laid claim to every nook and cranny of this earth. And for a while it looked as though he might be able to hold onto it. But then he reached too far and attempted to enslave the Master of All and to bind Life with the chains of death and his power was broken. But creation is still fallen, it is still contested land in the spiritual battle.

We, as Christians, are engaged in this struggle to reclaim fallen nature for the Kingdom of God. We often talk about this in terms of our own salvation, but the Church, addressing all of creation in a wholistic manner, also reaches out and reclaims a bit here and a bit there of creation in general. We do this in order that we might restore the usefulness of creation for working out our own salvation. Hence we bless anything that might help us in our salvation - and by blessing it we reclaim it for the Kingdom of God.

There are few things more vital to our lives than our homes. In our homes we pray, we work, we talk to others, we order our lives, we work out our marriages, etc. What more important place to reclaim for the Kingdom of God - or is it better to continue living in a place which is occupied by the enemy. For the most effective working out of our salvation, we must drive the enemy out of our homes, and keep him at bay by our prayers, our righteous life, and the annual sprinkling by Holy Water at Theophany.