



ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY

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***“Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)***

Dearly Beloved in the Lord:
Christ is in our midst!

Inspired by the wise words above, written by King Solomon over 3,000 years ago, the Orthodox Church in America and our Diocese continue to make every effort to “train up” the youth of our Church in the Faith ... while they are still in school amidst the pressures of their peers ... as they prepare to go off to college, where they will face a philosophy, a schedule and a lifestyle far different from the Orthodox way of life ... and as they look to marry and raise their own families, spiritually formed as servants and leaders in their parishes for decades to come, and as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven for eternity.

The summer camping experience at St. Andrew’s Camp in Jewell, New York, remains an invaluable way to link Orthodox Christian children to one another, grow their faith, and cement them to the Church. Each year, I oversee the religious education program of the Camp, spending at least 2 days each week with the campers, celebrating the services with our visiting diocesan clergy, instructing our youth in the Scriptures, the Liturgy and Sacraments, and the Saints’ Lives ... and having evening campfire chats with them about their faith, the moral issues facing them, and any questions they have. It is incredible to see the interest they express, the depths they probe, and the love for which they yearn – all of which is only realized in the love of God in Christ Jesus.

The benefits of the St. Andrew’s Camp experience are evident throughout the Church. Among the camp’s “alumni” are many priests, deacons, teachers, Parish Council members and supporters of our parishes. Married people have met their future spouses at camp. And this year, the campers even did their share of outreach, mission and evangelization! They converted the cook to Orthodoxy! Our camp chef of many years, a former Roman Catholic, asked to be chrismated at the camp, because he wanted to receive Holy Communion with those kids that he has come to love!

While this year’s attendance at Camp was improved over last year, it seems to me that a major problem for many of our diocesan young people is the need for scholarship assistance for their camping experience. The cost of Camp is \$300 per week per individual – that includes room and board, meals, and all activities, including at least one special excursion each week. Some families cannot afford this.

Therefore I am appealing to individuals across our Diocese, who realize that they have been blessed by God and are in a position to share in those blessings, to provide a Christmas “gift of Camp for a week” for young people who otherwise could not attend St. Andrew’s because of financial constraints.

In the spirit of St. Nicholas, the patron of those in need; and honoring the Birth of our Savior, Who gave His life for our salvation, those who are able and willing to offer such a gift, should make their check payable to **St. Andrew’s Camp Scholarship**, and mail it to: Diocesan Chancery, 33 Hewitt Ave., Bronxville, NY 10708.

Your gift will enable young people who otherwise could not go to St. Andrew’s Camp, to do so. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and may the Infant Messiah bless and keep you in His loving care!

+ Michael
+ MICHAEL

Bishop of New York and the
Diocese of New York and New Jersey