

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West Teen SOYO
Delegates Meeting 2005
October 14-16, San Dimas, CA
Minutes

- I. Meeting was Called to order at 9:55 A.M., opening prayer by Fr.Christopher Salamy.
- II. **Roll Call-** 29 teens were in attendance, including the officers, and 14 churches were represented. All officers were present.
- III. **Executive Reports:**
 - a) **Secretary Report-** Amanda Sahawneh read minutes, written by past secretary Lauren Malouf, from the Conference in San Francisco. Miriam Hasou moved to pass the minutes and they were second by David Abujaber.
 - b) **Treasurer Report-** Lauren Malouf introduced the new dues policy, which pertains to the amount of dues depending on how many active teens are in the parish SOYO: 1-5...\$150, 6-15...\$200, 16-25...\$250, 26+...\$600. She also told us that the current total in the SOYO account is \$2,560.00.
 - c) **Vice President Report-** Rachel Abrahams gave a short description of what her job entails, coordinating activities, and also gave us her e-mail address: Rachel.Abrahams@asu.edu.
 - d) **Youth Director Report-** Katrina Bitar gave the teens a picture of what SOYO is. The goal of SOYO in parishes is to go out and serve the community as much as able, to understand why, as well as have fun while doing it, and most important witnessing to each other. She also took a poll on how active parish SOYOs were and the results included: Active-6, Somewhat active-2, Non-active-5.
 - e) **Spiritual Advisor Report-** Fr. Chris read to us the parable of the Sower from the book of Luke and discussed with us about being good soil and accepting the will of God by loving our neighbor.
- IV. **Chapter Reports:**
 - a) **St. George, Upland- Murielle Shomali-** They participated in the Bible Bowl at the 2005 Parish Life Conference in San Francisco, CA.
 - b) **St. Athanasius, Sacramento- Monica Whitcomb-** They have Bible Studies with the adults in their parish.
 - c) **Holy Cross, Palmdale- Bill Bentz-** They have gone on trips to Six Flags, the beach, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and have gone on hikes.
 - d) **St. Nicholas, San Francisco- Natalie Abujaber-** They are working on putting together Bible Studies.
 - e) **St. Mark, Irvine- Elizabeth Mamey-** They have monthly meetings, sent teens to Project Mexico, and put on a teen ball.
 - f) **St. Athanasius, Santa Barbara- Tyler Speier-** They have monthly Bible Studies, meetings, and an ask Abouna, as well as a speaker every few months.
 - g) **St. Raphael Mission, Palm Springs- Cayce Kruse-** They are currently non-active but try to interact with a Greek church and other near by churches.
 - h) **St. Peter, San Dimas- Elly Pettygrove-** They meet once a week and are working on getting a Bible Study together.

- i) **St. Luke, Garden Grove- Alexis Stanford-** They put on Sunday night discussions and have done a Tiki dance as well as a fund-raiser for Hurricane Katrina relief.
- j) **St. Nicholas, Los Angeles- Aline Mardelli-** Their officers are getting organized at the time.
- k) **Sts. Peter and Paul, Ben Lomand- Elise Washburn-** They elected officers, have Bible Studies, service projects, and plan to go trick-or-treating for canned foods.
- l) **St. George, Phoenix- Amanda Sahawneh-** They had a new members party, visited a men's monestary, go on OYO trips, visit a nursing home and have a meeting once a month, with weekly Bible Studies and Pathways. They also are planning to go trick-or-treating for canned foods and have a turkey raffle.
- m) **St. Timothy, Fairfield- Sandra Abughazaleh-** They have a meeting every Thursday and have studied the gospel of John. They also go on camping trips, snow trips and celebrate Halloween as a day to the saints and dress up as saints and people from the Bible.

V. Old Business:

- a) **Convention in Detroit-** Amanda Haddad shared with us about the leadership training program, led by Fr. Joseph and Fr. Anthony, and how to communicate with teens as well as the duties of the officers.
- b) **Special Olympics Awareness-** Amanda informed us about Special Olympics Awareness month held in October and that it takes place at the Antiochian Village in Pennsylvania at the end of August.

VI. New Business:

- a) **Calender-** Katrina shared with us that the Winter Retreat will be held on Dec. 9-11 at Camp St. Nicholas in L.A. and the Dessert Deanery Retreat will be held on March 24-26 in Phoenix, AZ.

VII. Fr. Joseph's Address to the teens: Fr. Joseph notified us that the dates for the Parish Life Conference are May 24-28. He also shared with us how important education was, especially for our youth workers and about the Youth Workers fund, as well as Special Olympics Awareness Day on Oct. 20. In addition to that, Fr. Joseph proposed that we educate Parishes on the Churches view on abortion so that we may one day participate in the March For Life which is held in January.

VIII. New Business Cont':

- b) **OYO-** John Mahfouz told us about Orthodox Youth Outreach which is throughout the U.S. and Canada and that 13 teens attended Project Mexico. Mary-Lynn Zweers told us about CSM housing, missions, serving the homeless and service to those in need.
- c) **T-Shirts-** We need designs for region shirts, and if anyone has any suggestions to email them to Amanda Haddad at Buttercup5887@cox.net by Nov. 15, 2005.

IX. Weekend Schedule: After lunch we will put together survival kits and write letters to Hurricane Katrina victims as our outreach project and will go bowling after Vespers.

- X. The Bishop's Address to the teens:** Bishop Joseph explained to us that we are the fruit of the church and that others are learning from us not us learning from them. He also said that everyone has a role in the church and that the teens presently are the church. He also mentioned that when we listen to evil, we ruin everything. Also that listening more than talking is good. He as well persuaded us to read more spiritual books in addition to the Bible to bring more joy and knowledge to ourselves and others.
- XI. Forum:** We reflected on how to make connections with the teens in our parishes and that it is not something that can be forced but something that takes time and effort. We also addressed the Youth Ministry books.
- XII.** Closing prayer by Fr. Chris. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda June Sahawneh

Teen SOYO Secretary
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West