



# North American Council of SOYO

Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center Meeting  
March 22 – 23, 2016

The mission of SOYO is to enable and equip Orthodox Christian Teens in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America to “Live the Orthodox Faith in Christ, through Worship, Witness, Service and Fellowship.”

NAC and Diocesan SOYO Constitutions declare that the purpose of SOYO is as follows:

WHEREAS: It is a primary goal of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (hereinafter "Archdiocese") to promote the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith, and;

WHEREAS: It is a primary goal of the Archdiocese to foster and encourage the involvement of its youth in the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith, and;

WHEREAS: We believe that the Goal of Orthodox Christian Youth Ministry is the integration of each young person fully into the life of the Church and that Orthodox Christians must commit themselves to living the Orthodox Faith daily. We believe that Worship, Witness, Service and Fellowship are the natural expressions of that commitment and we define them as follows:

Worship - For Orthodox Christians, corporate worship is the sacramental expression of and participation in Holy Tradition, and is the indispensable foundation of ministry at all levels. Upon this foundation, we must cultivate a daily personal prayer life and reading of Holy Scripture.

Witness - Christ calls us to be His witness in the world. We must enable our members to express their faith both for themselves and to others in order to be true witnesses to Christ and the Orthodox Faith.

Service - Christ came not to be served, but to serve. We need to motivate our members to do the same. We honor and glorify God by loving and serving mankind in the name of Jesus Christ, using our God-given gifts and talents.

Fellowship - The Holy Trinity is the perfect model of fellowship; the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit share perfect communion and exists in perfect love as a community. By gathering together in fellowship, and by showing love for one another in Christ, we emulate the life of the Holy Trinity in our daily life, and;

WHEREAS: Our ultimate goal must be to see that our youth grow to love Christ and His Church and to pursue a righteous way of life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that an organization be created to provide a common forum for these expressions of commitment and that the goal of this organization shall be to see that the members grow to love Christ and His Church, and to pursue a righteous way of life.

The exact nature of the work of SOYO takes place on three levels; On the North American (NAC) level, the Diocesan and the Parish levels. For purposes of this report I will focus mostly on the North American level and then provide short reports from each of our Diocesan SOYO Presidents that list some of the unique things they did as a diocese. The SOYO year on the Archdiocese level is facilitated through a number of projects and ministries listed below. These projects are also facilitated through the diocese and in most cases are implemented on the parish level. A great deal of work takes place on the local level through the ministry of local SOYO chapters, its clergy, youth workers and teen members, much of which is not listed below. SOYO is really about a dialogue with our youth in words and in actions that brings them into a deeper relationship with Christ, the Church, and the faithful members of our Church Communities.

### **SOYO Elections**

The SOYO Year starts with local chapters electing their officers and sending delegates to the Diocesan SOYO Summer Meeting at the Parish Life Conference where the Diocesan Officers are elected. The newly elected Diocesan Officers are delegates to the NAC SOYO Meeting which takes place each July and from the Diocesan Delegates NAC SOYO elects its new officers.

1. There are parish, diocesan, and NAC SOYO Nomination Forms that are filled out prior to a teen running for office. On the diocesan and NAC level, this is carefully followed.
  - a. The Nomination forms require that a teen think ahead of time and to what office they are running, eliminating the problems of teens not knowing what is expected of them and what their new office entails.
  - b. Pastors must approve their teen SOYO member running for Diocesan and/or NAC SOYO Office, ensuring that the teens are active members of their parish.
  - c. Parents must sign the Nomination Form for teens running for SOYO office, even if the teen is of age (18 or 19). This ensures that the parent is aware of the expectations on their child if they are elected and at the same time ensures that the teen has their parents' permission to travel for the NAC SOYO Meetings and Leadership Training prior to their election.
2. All newly elected Diocesan and NAC SOYO Officers are required to attend SOYO Leadership Training where we work to equip them to carry out the duties of their office.

### **SOYO Leadership Training**

In an effort to appropriately train, equip, and empower our teens to carry out their SOYO Office, all Diocesan and NAC Officers elected must attend the SOYO Leadership Conference.

1. On a Convention Year, SOYO Leadership Training takes place from Monday evening through Wednesday Evening. The teens would benefit from a longer training session but the cost of arriving a day earlier is beyond our budget.
2. On the non-Convention year, SOYO Leadership Training runs from Friday evening following the clergy Symposium until the following Wednesday at noon. This extended time provides 4 ½ days to accomplish a great deal of training and work for SOYO on the diocesan and NAC SOYO levels, three days that the teens are the only ones on site.
3. 2015 saw a very successful Leadership Training event in Boston. In my assessment, this was the best SOYO Leadership Training hosted during an Archdiocese Convention.
  - a. This was the first Archdiocese Convention of our new Metropolitan and in addition, the visit of his Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X to the Convention elevated the level of the work accomplished this year to the SOYO meeting

- b. The teens this year were highly focused, ready to work, and very disciplined in their efforts to serve as new officers. The speakers we had this year and the teens themselves worked very well together.
- 4. A strong recommendation, as reflected in the youth department report, is that we work to greatly enhance and expand Leadership Training so that it reaches well beyond the diocesan officers of SOYO and has greater impact on the teens and young adults of this archdiocese.
- 5. 2016 will be our 11<sup>th</sup> year of SOYO Leadership Training. A great deal of time will be devoted to reviewing, rewriting and deliberating upon the various committee work that took place throughout this year in evaluating all of SOYO's programs and ministries.
- 6. The last SOYO Leadership Manual produced was done in 2014 and we are slated to print a new manual for the 2016 SOYO Leadership Conference. This should coincide with the revised SOYO Programs and materials that will result from the current work of teen SOYO and the Advisors listed under the Mid-Winter Meeting and in this section of the report.
  - a. The Leadership Manual gives our teens a physical in-hand tool for working through the SOYO Year.
  - b. In some of the past years we tried an electronic version of the manual, but the teens told us that it was much easier to work with a printed manual. In the three years in which we did not print a manual, the Diocesan officers were not very effective in knowing where and how to quickly find materials they needed during their meetings. In many of the dioceses, the teen Officers bring their manuals with them to the meetings and utilize them often.
  - c. In 2014, we sold out the additional 45 manuals we printed, to parishes who wanted copies. I continue to receive such requests each year for manuals for parish use, but will continue to print only a very limited number due to the extensive work required and the expense of such printings.
  - d. We are currently updating major sections of the SOYO leadership manual to raise the level of our work. One such section is the SOYO Officers duties section and the committee working on that section writes: "We need to edit officer duties to be more specific on the roles and what the responsibilities are. We would like to establish a mentoring program of past officers to support current officers. We need to bring a more spiritual aspect into the officer roles and duties." Also, we are still finalizing the specifics to possibly restructuring the duties and how it is presented to the new officers. The committee hopes to have most of this work completed by SOYO Leadership Training for review and approval by the NAC SOYO General Assembly Meeting this summer.
- 7. SOYO Leadership training continues to be the most effective means we have of equipping our SOYO officers and raising them up as leaders in the Church. SOYO Leadership Training has great benefits to the success of SOYO and is essential to the continued growth of SOYO as the Youth Movement of this Archdiocese.

**SOYO Midwinter Meeting 2016 – Garden Grove California (March 3- 7).**

- 1. The Mid-Winter Meeting is the first time that the teens reconvene as the North American Council following SOYO Leadership Training.
  - a. This provides an opportunity for the teens to personally reconnect with other diocesan teen SOYO Officers and to give each diocese and NAC time in-person to work on their various ministries.
  - b. It should be noted that most of the teens work electronically through Skype, Go-to-Meeting, e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, and phone throughout the year, but none of these replace the in-person meetings at the Mid-Winter and Summer Meetings.

2. All of the NAC and Diocesan Officers were assigned to work on various committees led by a teen leader and supervised by a Youth Director and a Spiritual Advisor. Each person reviews current SOYO Programs, ministries and materials, makes recommendations to the Mid-Winter Meeting and completes as much of this work as possible for final review and approval during the 2016 SOYO Leadership Conference.
  - a. This effort is further enhanced by a two-day meeting in Garden Grove at the beginning of the SOYO Mid-Winter Meeting during which the Diocesan Youth Directors and Spiritual Advisors will further work on these evaluations in preparation for the following days of the teen's presence for the meeting.

### **Diocesan Parish Life Conference SOYO Meeting**

1. Parishes send up to three delegates to Diocesan SOYO Meetings that take place during the Parish Life Conference. This is one of the few times that the local parish connects with SOYO members from other parishes and from across the diocese to work on SOYO programs, ministries and efforts.
2. The PLC meeting is typically the first time that the newly elected Parish SOYO Officers are brought into the life of the Diocesan SOYO work. These meetings are important for local teens to understand their place in the Church and in the ministries of SOYO.
3. The PLC gives opportunities for teens to bond with fellow Orthodox teens and to know that they are not alone but connected to other Teens in the Church here in North America. This is crucial to the identity of teens as belonging to the Church beyond the local parish.
4. Further, while it should be noted that many teens go to our camps, many teens do not attend our camps and for them this is the only opportunity to connect in the summer with other Orthodox teens from across the Diocese and Archdiocese. Parish Life Conferences give teens the unique experience of gathering together with the whole Church.
5. In many of the dioceses there are several programs specifically geared towards the teens and enriching their lives, such as workshops, outreach, fellowship and the various festivals.

By way of assessment, we need to actively work on increasing teen and adult attendance at the Parish Life Conferences. Thinking that camp replaces SOYO life is a mistake, as they are not the same – they complement each other, but do not replace each other as they have very different functions and outcomes. We need to give some thought to how we can enhance these Diocesan gatherings and create a better environment for our teens, young adults and families to meet and work together as one diocesan family.

### **Monthly NAC SOYO Conference Calls**

1. Each Month the NAC SOYO Officers hold an online conference call to discuss the work of NAC SOYO and to further efforts to meet the needs of the youth of this archdiocese.
  - a. This was done in 2015 and was valuable in contributing to the success of the work of NAC SOYO.
  - b. Already in 2016 NAC SOYO has held several conference calls and will continue to do so. This has been very beneficial especially in moving forward the work of evaluating and revising various SOYO programs.

### **Diocesan Delegates Meetings**

1. While our teens work together electronically by phone, e-mail, social media and the like, the Diocesan Delegates Meeting provides real in-person time for our teens to bond and to work side by side in accomplishing the work of SOYO on the diocesan level.
2. Often the delegates meeting has opportunities for teens to experience and learn Outreach to those in need. Many of the delegates meetings also provide time for spiritual growth through workshops and/or conversations, as well as time to worship together.

3. In addition to the Diocesan Delegates Meetings many of the dioceses meet for retreats, sports and other events to create more opportunities for time with one another.
4. In 2015 all of the diocesan SOYOs met for at least one delegates meeting in addition to their Parish Life Conference and in some dioceses they met two or three times.
5. 2016 – These in-person meetings are essential to the success and work of SOYO. Social Media is an important medium in this ministry and should be used as a tool to bring our youth together. The actual coming together of the youth in-person is essential as real bonding allows a real sense of belonging.

### **Programs of SOYO**

On the Archdiocesan level SOYO provides several Programs to engage the local parishes and dioceses to work together as members of SOYO. These programs form the base of SOYO ministry and act as a starting point for involvement of youth on the local level. Each parish and diocese is expected to build upon these programs and to add many works throughout the year that bring the youth of the parish together and to help form them as members of the Church. Below are listed the base programs of SOYO upon which each parish is expected to build upon.

#### **1. October Youth Month**

- a. October was set aside many years ago as the month in which teens would be given the opportunity to actively participate in the life of their local communities by reading the Epistles, giving sermons, ushering, taking parish collections, chanting, singing in the choir, hosting coffee hour, etc.
- b. The current situation in many parishes is that teens do these activities throughout the year. In many parishes teens regularly read the Epistles, chant the Saturday Vespers and the Sunday Orthros and sing in their choir.
- c. In some parishes, Youth Month is essential as teens are often forgotten and not given opportunities to serve in Church.

#### **2. Special Olympics Awareness Day**

- a. The third Sunday of October continues to be the day in which teens across the Archdiocese raise awareness of their Special Olympics Sports Camp Ministry. Teens, especially those that have participated in this ministry, share their personal experiences of Special Olympics and for those who have not been participants in this ministry they share a prepared statement from teens that have participated in SOYO Special Olympics.
- b. Each parish is asked to raise funds in October to pay for all the expenses of this ministry, which is held in August at the Antiochian Village hosted, run and paid for by Teen SOYO. This is a SOYO ministry and not a ministry of Antiochian Village.
- c. In 2014 and in 2015 we exceeded our fundraising goals. This past October's Special Olympics Awareness Day raised nearly \$66,000 of SOYO's \$65,000 goal and that amount is still expected to grow as donations from the collection in October continue to trickle in and proceeds from donations during the camp session will grow that amount by a few thousand dollars (The SOYO fundraising year for Special Olympics runs from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year).

#### **3. Youth Worker Education**

- a. For many years SOYO raised funds to provide Scholarships to parish youth workers furthering their Orthodox Education in accredited graduate programs.
- b. SOYO raised \$200,000 and for the first time granted six \$800.00 scholarships to our parish youth workers furthering their theological education in accredited Orthodox Youth Ministry Programs.
- c. It should be noted that these Funds are managed by Merrill Lynch and are perhaps not as well managed as they could be, in that the funds continue to not grow. I have raised this issue many times with Merrill Lynch and our Archdiocese Financial

team. I am pleased to say that the new financial person in charge of investments has promised to review this account in detail to see what can be done to grow these funds so we may continue to provide scholarships for parish youth workers.

- d. A scholarship Committee exists of Teen SOYO Diocesan Officers and Advisors along with the Chair of the Department of Youth to manage the selection of recipients for these scholarships each year.

#### **4. January Education Month**

- a. Originally January was the month in which teen SOYO raised funds to purchase books for the Antiochian Village Library.
- b. In 2007, January was designated by SOYO as “Sacred Gift of Life Sunday” during which time the teens taught one another and the parishes the Orthodox teaching on the Sacredness of Life. This was accomplished on the Sunday closest to the U.S. Supreme Court decision on Roe vs Wade. Teens share in conversation in SOYO Youth groups, classes and give sermons and presentations to the parish.
- c. In 2010, SOYO added to this program, teachings on “Purity, Virginity, Chastity” from an Orthodox perspective. This was largely in response to the results the teens saw in the Archdiocese-wide survey done in 2009.
- d. January continues to be the month in which we encourage teens to raise awareness of the Church’s teaching on social issues. While we hope that the Church will teach and share in conversation important social, moral and ethical issues all year long with our teens, we continue to designate January as the month when teen SOYO specifically asks that this take place on the parish level.
- e. **New Initiative for Purity, Virginity and Chastity – SaGE** as discussed and approved by the Diocesan Youth Directors and Spiritual Advisors on March 4, 2016: PVC Committee - One of the biggest topics in our culture today is sex. Young people are inundated with images and scenarios that are very difficult to understand and comprehend. On the one hand, the culture is telling them "anything goes" and the Church is saying "wait until marriage." What do we do? In the past, we attempted to address this issue with the Purity, Virginity, Chastity Packet (PVC). A committee of advisors and teens went through the material and determined that it was time to update the material as well as provide a comprehensive curriculum that a parish can use to address these issues with their teens. Instead of reinventing the wheel, the committee read through a curriculum being used at St. Elijah in OKC, SaGE (Sex and God Education). This curriculum includes material on Orthodox theology and understanding of sex as well as the practical, biological understanding of sex. The curriculum is designed for use in different age groups and includes discussion questions. The hope of the PVC committee is to take the SaGE material and further update it to include such hot button topics as transgender issues, pornography, etc. This updated curriculum would then be made available on the teen SOYO website. We are at the beginning stages of these updates but look forward to working through them.
- f. **New Initiative for Sacred Gift of Life - Sacred gift of Life summary from the Youth Directors Meeting on March 3-4, 2016.**
  - i. The committee reviewing the Sacred Gift of Life material has begun reviewing the material and come to the following conclusions.
  - ii. The material though valuable was never organized as a standalone curriculum. It focuses on abortion, and human cloning. The statistics on abortion need updating.
  - iii. We would propose that we rework the material to begin by focusing first on understanding that all human life is a gift from God and from

this perspective address abortion. We would like to include other issues to be addressed from this foundation that all life is a gift and therefore sacred. Such topics would be:

1. Contraceptives that are abortive
  2. Self-harm
  3. How we treat one another (issues related to bullying)
  4. Suicide & Euthanasia
  5. Treatment of the elderly
  6. Awareness of and treatment for Mental Health Individuals
- g. We would like to present the material primarily in video form on our Teen SOYO website to be a resource for teens and teen groups.

#### **5. Great Friday Vigil**

- a. Vigil is held each Great Friday starting with the end of the Vespers Service and continuing until the “Rush” Service of Pascha.
- b. Teens and in some cases families take turns keeping vigil at the tomb of Christ, reading from the Psalms and other books of the New Testament.
- c. This is a unique opportunity for teens to spend time in the quietness of the church and to contemplate on what God has done for us and to experience the Orthodox tradition of respect for the dead. This also aids in preparation for our teens to do the same in the church for their loved ones.
- d. Each year, we distribute posters and pamphlets on how and why we conduct this vigil. SOYO is currently looking at updating this flyer for 2017 when our current stock of flyers will be depleted.
- e. This is a long standing tradition of SOYO started in the 1980’s and brought to SOYO from my experience as a teenager in Seminary. Just as this service had a profound impact on me as a teenager we continue to hear, year after year, similar comments from current teens of the tremendous spiritual impact this experience has on our teens of being in the quiet of the church, reading Scriptures before the tomb, and contemplating on what God has done for us out of His Love for us.
- f. We plan to continue this effort and in 2016-2017 hope to encourage even more parishes to keep this tradition and to make the following revisions: to the **Holy Friday Vigil materials and program:**
  - o A committee has been formed to address the need to update the promotional materials for the Holy Friday Vigil. The impetus for updating these materials came primarily from a recognition that they should provide more guidance regarding the purpose of the Vigil. Specifically, there is a need for them to give concrete examples of activities that would be appropriate (and those that would be inappropriate) for a Holy Friday Vigil. In addition, there was clearly a need to specify the traditional order of readings to be used during the Vigil. Along with providing these guidelines, the committee hopes that the updated materials will strengthen the connection between the burial of Christ and the burial of our departed loved ones. Our quiet vigil at the Tomb of Christ is closely linked to our keeping vigil beside our newly departed loved ones in preparation for burial, and both provide the opportunity for us to ponder our own mortality and the hope we have in the Resurrection.

#### **6. Spiritual Growth**

- a. SOYO is about raising up a generation of disciples and leaders, and worship and witness stand at the very core of SOYO. SOYO creates and supports many opportunities for Spiritual Growth in our teens on the Parish, Diocesan, and North American levels through a variety of efforts. Just to name a few of them:
  - i. Parish, Deanery, Diocesan Retreats

- ii. Participation in the Bible Bowl amongst its membership in hopes that daily Scripture reading will become an essential part of each young person's life.
  - iii. Encourage participation in the Oratorical as a means of deepening one's faith and ability to express that faith to others.
  - iv. Praying at all meetings.
  - v. Holding discussions on the lives of the saints, moral and ethical issues from the fathers, Scriptures and modern day theologians.
  - vi. Participation in the worship life of the Church by having worship as a core means of SOYO life and seeing to it that daily services are served at SOYO meetings on the diocesan and NAC levels. Teens are taught and encouraged to participate in these services by reading and chanting the services from the chanter's stand and in the body of the Church.
- b. SOYO strives to encourage its members to explore and express their faith in a safe environment created by SOYO, a process essential for teens to live their faith daily.
  - c. Through the efforts of our NAC and Diocesan Spiritual Advisors and Diocesan Youth Directors we will continue to raise up our young people in the faith with courage to stand up for Orthodoxy and express and live their faith daily.
  - d. **New initiative on Prayer and Fasting Resources** - Members of Teen SOYO have expressed that there is a need for resources accessible to them to help them approach the spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting. In response to this expressed need, a committee has been formed to work on providing such resources. The work of this committee includes addressing both the content and the medium for these resources.
    - i. The content should include passages from Scripture as well as from the Church Fathers that provide inspiration for and instruction in the disciplines of prayer and fasting. It could also include stories, anecdotes and reflections from clergy, youth advisors, and teens that might be helpful to other teens. Lastly, it should include practical elements, such as an explanation of the actual fasting practices of the Church on Wednesdays, Fridays and during fasting periods. For the support of a prayer discipline, it should provide a compilation of recommended prayers and practical guidelines for beginning a rule of prayer.
    - ii. The best mode of presentation of these resources is through electronic media. Teens are much more likely to make use of resources found on a website and through social media, than those found in printed materials. While some of the content may be presented in text form, the committee is working on developing video presentations that could be offered via Youtube or shared in similar ways. The final product is envisioned as a web page that would have links to videos of both documentary-style and instructional-style original presentations, recorded talks of well-known elders pertaining to prayer and fasting, written introductions to the disciplines of prayer and fasting, compilations of quotations from Scripture and the Fathers, texts of prayers, and charts providing fasting guidelines.

## 7. SOYO Special Olympics Camp

- a. Established in 1980 as a ministry of SOYO, this year SOYO will host its 35<sup>th</sup> Annual SOYO Sports Camp for the Special Olympics Athletes of Pennsylvania.
- b. Teen SOYO members come from across the Archdiocese and minister to the Athletes and to one another during this week-long camp.
- c. This ministry creates the opportunity for teens to learn to minister to the other person in an intense and profound manner that is often new and eye-opening for many of our teens.
- d. Teens take responsibility for the training and daily care of Athletes throughout the day and night for this week.
- e. We conduct a day long orientation at the start of camp and a day of debriefing at the end of camp to help teens process what they experienced and to comprehend



this week of service and witness as the start of a lifelong experience of serving others in the name of Christ.

- f. Each year we hear the comment, “I came to give, but I received so much more.” This comment reflects our Lord’s teaching and makes His Words come alive, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” As quoted by Paul in Acts 20:35.
- g. In 2015, we hosted and ministered to 189 athletes with 136 Coaches and Staff members for a total of 325 people for this one-week ministry. We expect to do the same in 2016. This program has now grown to the largest number of people that the camp can safely host given the requirements of staff to camper ratios required for Special Olympic Athletes.
- h. Teen SOYO raises Ninety-Two percent of the total costs of this ministry (\$65,000) with the order of St Ignatius providing an annual grant of \$8,000.

## **8. Service Projects and Outreach to the Poor**

- a. Service is a core part of SOYO life and in many ways one could say that Service stands at the heart of SOYO.
- b. Teens across the Archdiocese from the parish level to the Diocesan level to the North American level host and run numerous service projects and ministries in their local communities. Some of these service efforts are:
  - i. Visits to Senior Centers
  - ii. Work at Homeless Shelters and Soup Kitchens
  - iii. Visits to Orphanages
  - iv. Feeding the homeless on the streets of our cities
  - v. Bringing warm clothes to those on the streets in the winter
  - vi. Visits to the homes of the elderly in their parishes
  - vii. Cards of thanksgiving and prayers to the widowed Priests wives in our dioceses
  - viii. Visits to children’s centers to assist in learning and care of those in need.
  - ix. Help with the needs of the local church buildings, lands, and community.
  - x. The above list is but a few of the things our teens do on the parish and diocesan levels to reach out and serve those in need. In each of these efforts our teens learn and fulfill the Gospel message of when I was hungry you gave me food... thirsty you gave me drink...sick... and in prison ... you visited me.” (Matt 25:35)
  - xi. On the diocesan and parish level, SOYO continues to lead participants and leaders in the ministry of Y.E.S. (Youth Equipped to Serve) a ministry founded and grown by SOYO first as OYO (Orthodox Youth Outreach) and later named Y.E.S. when gifted to FOCUS so it could grow, be more Pan-Orthodox, and be appropriately funded
  - xii. SOYO Members continue to work at Project Mexico
  - xiii. SOYO members participate in the work of I.O.C.C. and FOCUS both as individuals and as parish and diocesan SOYO movements
  - xiv. SOYO members serve in local soup kitchens and other Orthodox and non-Orthodox service ministries and missions to the poor and needy.
  - xv. SOYO members continue to support ministries such as the Tree House in Wichita, KS and ZOE for Life (Parma, OH), amongst other Orthodox outreach ministries on the local level.
  - xvi. SOYO members in some diocese support our Healthy Youth Initiative and some diocese member ask for more Mental Health Awareness initiatives.

## **9. SOYO Day of Service**

- a. As a means of encouraging and growing their Service work and ministry to those in need, in 2015 SOYO established “SOYO Day of Service”.

- b. SOYO Day of Service takes place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of March each year. It is a day on which all SOYO Parish Chapters are asked to do a service project in their community and share it on Social Media with the tag @NACSOYO using the hashtag #SOYOService in their posts on Social Media.
- c. By sharing their stories in photos and words, teen SOYO hopes to encourage many more teens to engage in outreach ministry to those in needs.
- d. 2015 was a modest start with a little over twenty parishes posting their work. We hope to grow this in 2016 with our SOYO Day of Service on March 19, 2016.
- e. Last year, we awarded St George of Little Falls New Jersey a beautiful hand painted Icon of St Raphael as an award for their good work on SOYO Day of Service. Each year as a means to encouraging participation in this event we will award one parish an icon from NAC SOYO for their good work.

## 10. Social Media

- a. SOYO has been utilizing Social Media to serve our young people, parents, clergy, and SOYO Advisors for some time in its ministry and the encouragement of Metropolitan JOSEPH has increased those efforts.
- b. SOYO has already begun plans for its March 19, 2016 SOYO Day of Service utilizing Social Media as the vehicle of promotion and sharing of its North American wide activities on that day.
- c. The Teens and Youth Directors continue to utilize the various Social Media platforms to engage our teens.
- d. We will again promote the Bible Bowl and utilize Social Media such as Facebook and Twitter to educate and prepare our teens for the 2016 Bible Bowl taking place in every diocese.
- e. Social Media sites currently utilized by Teen SOYO on the Diocesan and NAC levels are as follows. It should also be noted that many local teen SOYO chapters also utilize Social Media in their SOYO work.
  - i. **Department of Youth** Twitter - @FrPurpura, Instagram – FrPurpura
  - ii. Websites: [www.antiochian.org/youth](http://www.antiochian.org/youth) - [www.healthyyouth.com](http://www.healthyyouth.com) - [www.orthodoxyouth.org](http://www.orthodoxyouth.org)
  - iii. **NAC SOYO** Twitter - @NacSOYO, Instagram – nacsoyo
  - iv. Websites: [www.teenSOYO.org](http://www.teenSOYO.org) - [www.SOYO.ngo](http://www.SOYO.ngo) - [www.antiochian.org/soyo](http://www.antiochian.org/soyo)
  - v. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nacteensoyo> and <https://www.facebook.com/nacsoyo>
  - vi. E-mail list for SOYO and the Youth Department go to: [www.antiochian.org/youth](http://www.antiochian.org/youth) and join our e-mail list at the top right of the page.
  - vii. Additional NAC and Diocesan SOYO Social Media sites can be found at the following URL: <http://www.teensoyo.org/Pages/Links.aspx> . Listed below are some of the diocesan SOYO Social Media efforts.

### Diocese of the Eastern Region:

- Twitter - @DOWNYDCOMA
- Instagram - [downydcoma](https://www.instagram.com/downydcoma)

### Diocese of Worcester and New England:

- Email - [newenglandteensoyo@gmail.com](mailto:newenglandteensoyo@gmail.com)
- Facebook Group - Diocese of Worcester and New England Teen SOYO (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/downesoyo/>)
- Instagram - [downesoyo](https://www.instagram.com/downesoyo)

- Twitter - [@DOWNESOYO](#)

#### **Diocese of Miami and the Southeast**

- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/miamidice> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/265851040095435/>
- Email - [miamisoyo@gmail.com](mailto:miamisoyo@gmail.com)
- Twitter - [@miamisoyo](#)
- Instagram - [miamisoyo](#)

#### **Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America:**

- Website - [dowama-soyo.squarespace.com](http://dowama-soyo.squarespace.com)
- Twitter - [@DOWAMAsoyo](#)
- Instagram - [dowama\\_soyo](#)
- Email - [dowamasoyo@gmail.com](mailto:dowamasoyo@gmail.com)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dowamasoyo>

#### **Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest:**

- Email - [midwestsoyo@gmail.com](mailto:midwestsoyo@gmail.com)
- Twitter - [@Midwestsoyo](#)
- Instagram - [MidwestSOYO](#)

#### **Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York:**

- Website - [doecunysoyo.weebly.com](http://doecunysoyo.weebly.com)
- Twitter - [@DOECUNYSOYO](#)
- Instagram - [DOECUNYSOYO](#)
- Facebook Person - Diocese-of Ottawa-Soyo
- Facebook Group - [Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York SOYO](#)
- Soundcloud - <https://soundcloud.com/doecuny-soyo>

### **11. Opportunities to build community**

- Establishing and maintaining SOYO chapters in every parish has been an ongoing effort of Teen SOYO over the years.
- SOYO provides a guide for establishing and building SOYO chapters in its leadership manual and online at the following URL: <http://www.teensoyo.org/Pages/HowtoStartaSOYO.aspx>
- In addition to our SOYO guides for starting and maintaining a parish SOYO, Fr Joseph Purpura and other Diocesan Spiritual Advisors and Youth Directors work closely with parishes on establishing and/or growing SOYO chapters and at times make visits to local parishes to encourage and guide their efforts.
- The greatest need on the local level to establish healthy teen SOYO chapters is having committed adults that are educated in the Orthodox Faith and in Youth Ministry. While we have established the Youth Ministry Concentration in the St Stephens Program we need to do more.
  - The St Stephen's Youth Ministry Concentration needs to be better promoted and encouraged by the bishops, clergy and local parish

- councils to those doing and seeking to do Youth Work. Perhaps even with parish council's providing the funding for this training.
- ii. Developing a one, two and three-year program in the St Stephen's program for Youth Ministry would help in getting more parish youth workers to enroll in furthering their theological and youth ministry training, in that it might be easier to make commitments for parish youth workers on a yearly basis rather than a four-year commitment.
  - e. More contact between NAC and Diocesan SOYO Officers and Advisors is needed. The greatest challenge to this happening is that the Diocesan Spiritual Advisors and Youth Directors are all volunteers and have no budgets to visit parishes and to help them with their SOYO ministry.

**Communication with our Hierarchal Overseer Bishop THOMAS** – Communication with Bishop THOMAS takes place in several ways:

1. E-mail
2. Telephone
3. In person, during SOYO meetings, Leadership Training, Assembly of Bishops Youth Committee Meetings, etc.

**SOYO fits in the overall picture of the Archdiocese** as the Youth Movement of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. SOYO raises up active young people in the Church to currently serve in their parishes and across the archdiocese in a variety of ways from Chanting, to Church Schools, to leading their fellow teens. We are raising up SOYO members to become faithful lay members and leaders of our parishes, as well as our future clergy and monastics, as we have already seen from the history of SOYO in this archdiocese. SOYO also works to help our young people succeed in their current education and future professions with the expectation that they will bring their gifts, talents, and fruits of their labor to the Church in a variety of ways.

### **The Target Audience of the Department**

1. SOYO primarily targets teenagers (and in some cases pre-teens) in the parishes of our entire archdiocese. SOYO also targets others that interact with the Youth of our archdiocese:
  - a. The parish **Youth Directors**
  - b. **SOYO Advisors**
  - c. **The Pastors and other Clergy** of the parishes across the archdiocese **Parish councils**
  - d. **Parents**

### **Within our Target Audience we serve:**

1. All the young people of our parishes (we do not have current numbers, but if there are just 25 teens on average in our 270 parishes that number would be 6,750)
2. The Clergy and parish Youth Advisors of this Archdiocese in that we provide resources and opportunities for them to interact with their young people (numbering approximately 1,000 to whom we communicate on a regular basis just amongst these two groups).
3. The Diocesan and NAC SOYO Officers, Youth Directors, and Spiritual Advisors.
4. The Teens of SOYO through our various ministries and works. While we have not done

a survey of our parishes to collect numbers in recent years, the last time we did this we estimated based on the clergy responses received that we were directly reaching about 50% of the teens of the entire archdiocese (as active SOYO members) and many others indirectly.

5. Additionally, we reach out to all of the youth and their advisors across the archdiocese through Facebook and other social media sites and they in turn repost or share our posts reaching many thousands of people on a regular basis with our news, information, scriptural teachings, prayers and other offerings on a regular basis.
6. The Outreach Communities - Thousands of others are reached through the work of this department and that of teen SOYO both within and outside the Church through our various outreach efforts on the streets, in the shelters, in senior citizens' homes, in the parishes and through Special Olympics.

**Communication Methods** – SOYO utilizes a variety of means of communication in its efforts across the archdiocese.

1. Direct phone conversations where needed to SOYO members, Officers and even the clergy where needed.
2. Telephone and Internet (video) interactive Conference Call Meetings for the NAC Officers and Directors. For example, NAC SOYO has a monthly teleconference utilizing Go-to-Meeting and other similar conferencing tools. Likewise, Diocesan SOYO Officers on a regular basis do likewise.
3. By e-mail – through direct personal communication in response to questions, by direct e-mail targeted to specific audiences utilizing SOYO's e-mail databases both in-house and through Constant Contact where we can track clicks and response rates, through personal appearing mail merges, etc., as well as through each diocese's mail list servers.
4. In person at conferences, meetings, parish visits, workshops, etc.
5. By direct postal mail.
6. Through Social Media utilizing Facebook, twitter, Instagram, Slack, Go-to-Meeting, Skype, Zoom, YouTube, websites, etc. Each Diocese, in addition to NAC SOYO, have at least their own Facebook and twitter accounts amongst many of the other social media sites listed above.

**Tracking our E-mail Communication - NAC SOYO tracks its major mailings** through the use of Constant Contact which allows us to see who is opening our e-mails and what they are clicking on for links within that e-mail. This is an area if we chose that could be increased and professionalized, but with professional help and resources to accomplish.

**Five Year Plan** – much of what has been set forth above directly represents our short term and long term goals over five years. SOYO is currently in the process of evaluating all of its resources and programs since the fall of this past year. During its Mid-Winter Meeting of March 2016, SOYO agreed upon a number of improvements and additions to its ministry, much of which is outlined above. SOYO intends to continue this process growing and improving upon its current ministries and adding new ones listed above. SOYO members have expressed their desire that they have better trained parish youth directors that both know SOYO and know their Orthodox Faith and while SOYO itself cannot address this need directly, they have asked us to do so and they will continue to provide resources and information to the local parishes to help in this effort.

**Overlap** – Since SOYO appropriately ranges in ages from 13-19 (20 years of age if elected while they were 19) SOYO overlaps a number of other ministries: Christian Education (in that Christian Education serves the same age group, yet differently). Christian Education in the class room teaches about the faith and SOYO's task is to take what is learned in the class room and help our teens live those teachings through SOYO experiences and ministries on a regular basis. College Ministry (overlaps for one or two years as SOYO members are at colleges that have an OCF and some of our college and graduate students are teen Advisors), Home Schooling and Parochial Schools likewise overlap and SOYO, especially for the homeschooler, provides a safe community for those young people to come together with other Orthodox youth in the local area. While the age group of SOYO overlaps our Camping ministry they are different in their intent and nature that there is not an overlap in programming – each enhances the other and neither can replace the other. Camps are one or two-week programs that serve to inspire our youth, while SOYO Serves this archdiocese, dioceses, parishes and young people in providing an all year long effort and source of local community, education, inspiration, courage and a place for young people to live out their faith daily in a safe nurturing environment for all teens of the parish. SOYO seeks to raise up disciples and leaders and our task in SOYO is to raise committed young people to Christ and the Church in a manner that causes our young people to look beyond themselves and their own personal wants. It is in the parish setting where we will keep or lose our teens and young adults. SOYO provides our parishes the ministry and opportunity to build the essential community for the youth on the local level and our efforts need to increase locally if we are to succeed in the long term. In short, I believe we really keep or lose our youth on the local level and this needs much more work and attention on all of our parts. SOYO is the start of our efforts locally to engage, equip, inspire, encourage and welcome our youth to stay fully integrated and rooted in the life of the Church.

**Dependent upon others** – we are all dependent upon others for our success. This department is directly and fully dependent upon the support of the Metropolitan, the bishops, the clergy the archdiocese board of trustees, the Order of St. Ignatius, parents, parish councils and many others, without whose support we cannot function. Locally we are directly dependent upon our parish priests, deacons, youth workers, parish councils, and parents at the very least. We are grateful that our Sacred Music Department has over the past few years taken over more of the effort of training our youth musically and for having worked directly with SOYO and our members in increasing their music skills. This year our SOYO members have asked our Sacred Music Department to help them produce their second NAC SOYO Music CD. Locally we need pastors and parish councils to seriously commit their resources and time to ensuring that they create a safe nurturing environment for youth on the local level. Parish Councils ought to be mandated that they must provide a serious line item for youth ministry (in addition to Church School) in the annual parish budget that allows at least for the needs of the local youth group to flourish, grow, participate in Diocesan events. Funds need to be allocated for bringing in speakers and other youth leaders to help the youth grow and to train the local youth leaders. Best would be to provide full budgets that would provide for the training of the local youth workers, at least one well educated trained full-time youth director, and the financial resources for them to operate and provide a full youth ministry to the parish and the local community.

**Collaboration** – SOYO by its nature is collaborative. Young people and advisors from parishes across the diocese and archdiocese collaborate on all of its ministries and programs. SOYO decisions on the parish level all the way to the North American level are derived through discussion, research and the work of many adults and teens. Over the years, SOYO has



collaborated with the Order of St Ignatius in that its members interact with us during leadership training. In the past, the order was the funding source for many of teen SOYO's special projects such as Special Olympics, Leadership Training, the SOYO music CD, the SOYO Leadership Manual and many other initiatives. Most recently NAC SOYO has collaborated with the Antiochian Women in raising awareness and communicating with the widowed clergy and clergy wives of this archdiocese. This March (2016) the teen women of NAC SOYO met with and worked together with the women of the NAB Antiochian Woman to write and send greeting cards to the widowed clergy across our Archdiocese. SOYO has worked over the past two years to increase their collaboration with the Antiochian Women in hopes that our Teen SOYO women will move into the Antiochian Women when they move on from Teen SOYO. Recently with the blessing and direction of Metropolitan JOSEPH, I have led the effort to expanded our collaborative efforts to include the directors of Camping, Christian Education, OCF, Young Adults, Home Schooling, Parochial Schools and the department of Youth (which includes this organization of SOYO) in hopes that we can all better collaborate.

**Funding** – SOYO raises most of its own funds on the North American level through dues paid by its SOYO diocesan organizations. There is an approximate \$2,000 that a few Archdiocese Board members have donated to SOYO through the Archdiocese office on an annual basis. SOYO continues to collect small amounts of money on a monthly basis from online digital sales of its SOYO Music CD that was produced many years ago. The Order of St. Ignatius provides two grants to SOYO on an annual basis; 1. \$23,000 to help fund SOYO Leadership Training (the diocesan teens provide more than an equal match in meeting the costs of transportation and other needs for this training). 2. An additional \$8,000 comes from the Order of St. Ignatius to help meet the approximate \$70,000 cost of Special Olympics, most of the costs are associated with our renting the Antiochian Village and paying for the food served through our camp. SOYO raises the rest of the \$70,000 through their annual appeal for Special Olympics on the third Sunday of each October. Our Diocesan SOYOs raise their funds through parish chapter dues, sales of various items and other sources as reflected in the financial reports included at the end of this report.

**Successes** – There have been a multitude of SOYO successes over the past five years. The constant success of SOYO is that it provides community and identity to our young people across this archdiocese. SOYO members will tell you that their friends at school are their friends for now, but that their SOYO friends are their friends for life, because their SOYO friends understand them, know why they love the Church, why they love God, why they fast, why they pray and why they believe what they believe. They will tell you that they feel safe with their SOYO friends because they do not have to constantly explain themselves to each other. This sense of community and Orthodox identity is essential to keeping them in the life of the Church. This success comes from the number of successful leadership programs and numerous personal and social media contact initiatives. The stronger our programs are and the more we host, the more success we have in forming strong Orthodox Christian leaders.

Another long standing success of SOYO has been its outreach efforts. There are many outreach efforts that take place through SOYO locally and regionally. It is common to find our teens serving the poor and the needy in soup kitchens, shelters, nursing homes and the like. SOYO gave birth to OYO (Orthodox Youth Outreach) which is now the Y.E.S. Program of FOCUS North America and SOYO continues to provide the majority of participants to that ministry.

Many years ago SOYO started, funded and ran SOYO Special Olympics. Over the past five years SOYO has greatly grown that ministry and now funds nearly 90% of its total costs which now hovers around \$70,000. More importantly SOYO provides half the staff for this ministry and in the past several years many of the adult staff also working for PASO are former SOYO members who are now adults. Many of our SOYO participants have gone on to become special education teachers and serve in many of the other helping professions.

SOYO Leadership Training, while the Department of Youth designs and carries out this training, the SOYO participants have had a strong hand in making this training successful. This conference has greatly enhanced the work of SOYO in general and in particular has greatly benefited the individual members of SOYO in their own lives and careers as many former SOYO participants have expressed over the years.

The Great Friday Vigil continues to stand out as one of the success stories of our teens going beyond the typical parish life as they continue to participate, lead and enhance the experience of keeping the vigil at the tomb of Christ from the Vespers of Great Friday to the Paschal Rush Service.

Likewise, we see across the archdiocese that the love for the Church Services that SOYO has instilled in the youth of this archdiocese has born great fruit. SOYO has encouraged and equipped teens across the archdiocese to have a place in the liturgical life of our parishes. Each diocesan and NAC SOYO event has worship at its core. Typically, teens participate in and often lead Orthros, Vespers and Compline whenever they meet on the diocesan and NAC levels. I believe that this practice and encouragement over the years has led to the growth of the number of our teens that we find at the chanters stands across the parishes of this archdiocese. Our camps have also helped in this effort and together this deliberate training up of our youth has made a major difference in the liturgical life of our archdiocese.

**Challenges** – Our greatest challenges are **well equipped trained youth workers on the parish and diocesan levels**. Our SOYO teens have told us on numerous occasions that they want parish Youth Directors and Advisors that know SOYO and know their Orthodox Faith. So often I have heard the comments that those adults put in front of our teens either do not know SOYO or do not know their Orthodox faith or both. We have begun efforts of training but we need much more, including the expectation from our bishops and clergy that this will happen in each parish. We need to eventually reach the point where only Orthodox Educated Youth Leaders who know Orthodox Theology and Orthodox Youth Work are put in front of our young people on a full time basis.

We are ever challenged by the growing number of **clergy** who have never known SOYO or youth ministry in an Orthodox Christian setting here in North America. We need to better engage our clergy in our efforts to reach our teens. Clergy need to know that SOYO and the needs of teens on the local level are a deep concern to our Metropolitan and diocesan bishops and that these Shepherds expect the clergy to spiritually feed these young people and build community and identity for them locally. It is not enough for parishes to send their children off to camp and somehow expect that their young people will be sufficiently fed for the rest of the year let alone for their life. We need clergy that are committed to vibrant local youth ministry efforts (SOYO) that will feed our young people on a weekly (if not daily) basis, otherwise we stand to lose our young people as they seek other avenues to be fed, to find community, and to develop their identity.



The world itself continues to present ever increasing challenges to our young people. Our efforts must rise beyond those challenges if we are to succeed. Life in general has become much more complex, faster paced, and more confused for our young people and we must increase our efforts and methods to break through those ever increasing roadblocks and interference that work to take away our young people. SOYO and the Youth Department continue their efforts to meet these growing challenges and are very grateful to the hundreds of people that help us on a regular basis. We need a deliberate and coordinated effort of all of our organizations, clergy, and departments working together to transform the lives of our young people, our local Church communities and our entire archdiocese.

**Changes** –Change is a necessary ingredient in youth ministry as our young people come to us in ever increasing pain, stress, loneliness, depression and at the very same time with a great thirst for Christ, for life, for joy, for community, for truth and for healing. While there are many recommended changes listed above in this report, the ones listed below need the approval and support of the Metropolitan.

One change that I recommend given the Metropolitan’s desire to increase our Social Media is that SOYO officially add in the position of Social Media Director on the parish, diocesan, and NAC SOYO levels. This will raise the level of this work to the level that I believe the Metropolitan and others see as essential given the current place social media holds amongst our youth and at the same time this would add official teen positions and deliberately involve hundreds of more teens in leadership positions of SOYO each year.

## **For the Metropolitan**

### **1. 2016-2018 Mental Health Awareness.**

Our teens have asked us to work with them and raise Mental Health Awareness and to try and take the stigma away from it within our population, so that teens in need of help will seek mental health care and not seek out alternatives to help such as suicide, alcohol, drugs and premarital sexual relations. Teen SOYO has raised this as a new project and it would make sense to have our Healthy Youth effort support this work, utilizing existing Orthodox programs such as OCAMPER and the U.S. and Canadian Departments of Health and to work these resources through Teen SOYO and our Parishes. This effort would need a budget created just for awareness resources and teen/parent workshop events. During the NAC SOYO Meeting in Garden Grove California on March 4-5, 2016 our teens unanimously endorsed the work of this SOYO committee and asked that we move forward on this effort. The following comments and direction come from our SOYO Mental Health Committee with the recommendation that we start now and build upon this over the next several years.

Mental health concerns are very real and far-reaching. Each one of us will deal with or know someone affected by mental health issues in our lifetime. Mental health struggles affect one in ten people today. If they are left unaddressed and unrecognized, mental health struggles can have a detrimental impact on those affected. This can lead to negative outcomes such as suicide, drug abuse and unnecessary suffering. It is important to recognize signs of emotional struggles in ourselves and others. We need to take steps to avoid treating ourselves, not getting help, and ultimately making ourselves worse. Mental health issues are linked to negative thoughts, experiences, beliefs, and feelings. Building a life in Christ, sharing our struggles with another,

channels these negative emotions and leads us to love and identity with Christ and our neighbor.

The mental health awareness program aims to remove the stigma around mental health issues, so that teens in need of help will seek mental health care rather than seek out alternatives such as self-medicating with alcohol, drugs, and sexual activity that will impede the teens' positive start to life. The program will provide education to help recognize signs of emotional struggles at their outset and where to get help. The important role of Christ, the Physician of our souls and bodies, in the healing process is emphasized. Gaining insight into ourselves and learning how our thoughts and emotions work will also be emphasized. There will be strong emphasis on the relationship between the emotional and spiritual life. This will be the platform for the initiative. The importance of utilizing one's spirituality, faith, education on our emotional world, and need for connection with others will be addressed. The issues confronting our teens are changing the moral landscape of our culture and this must be addressed through a Christ-centered platform which reaches our youth through sermons, Healthy Youth workshops, teen SOYO meetings, etc. Many of young people have never been told that premarital sex is wrong, or that bisexual experimentation is unhealthy. Many youth are in unsupervised homes adding to the numbers of depressed and emotionally pained teens.

## **2. Youth Ministry Education**

We need the help of the Metropolitan and Bishops to encourage and financially enable (through the parish) every Parish Youth Worker to further their theological and Youth Ministry education. This may work in conjunction with requiring at least one year of the St Stephens Youth Ministry Concentration (Specially designed as a one or two-year program that could allow the person to then do the third and fourth year if they choose) for all those in the parish doing youth work. Since even a one or two-year training series may be too much of a commitment for many of our parish youth workers, another option would be to develop a basic online training series utilizing video (YouTube style) as a basic series on youth ministry to train parish youth workers in an effort to begin their training.

## **3. New SOYO Officer Position – Social Media Director**

Add in as an official officer position on the parish, diocesan, and archdiocesan levels of SOYO. Electing and or appointing a person specifically to see to the needs of social media will ensure that SOYO utilizes social media in conveying its news, programs, ministries, information and teachings across a broad reach of teens and adults. To help this office succeed we will need to provide training and resources across this archdiocese, both through the department of Youth and in collaboration with our Internet Ministries Department. Funding for this training will need to be sought out, especially in that just on the SOYO Leadership Training level it will mean an additional eight officers in attendance and traveling to Leadership Training, NAC SOYO Meetings and Diocesan Delegates meeting, but also resources will need to be provided to these people to successfully be trained and to carry out their work.

## **4. Youth Protection**

We need the help of legal counsel and our Insurance Company to design and distribute to all parishes and youth workers a manual that clearly states how we work with youth and protect the youth in our ministries and in our parishes and to protect the advisors to the youth. Several of the parishes this year asked (at the request of their insurance companies) for our Archdiocese and parish model Youth Protection policies. These policies do not exist. The Greek Archdiocese did such a policy for the Metropolis and Archdiocese programs and currently are working on a parish model. We need to either partner with them in their effort or develop our own in the very near future.

## **5. Manuals for SOYO Advisors**

In 2016 and 2017 we need to develop the following three manuals to assist youth workers and spiritual advisors to better work with SOYO:

- b. Diocesan Spiritual Advisor and Diocesan Youth Worker Guides
- c. Parish Youth Directors
- d. Parish SOYO Advisors

## **6. Restructure Parish Life Conferences**

Provide more time for the teens to interact with one another in meetings, outreach work, SOYO training workshops for Parish SOYO Officers and Parish SOYO Advisors. Further, deliberately set aside time for SOYO (all teens) to have workshops with the hierarchs, clergy and other lay leaders on the diocesan levels to create an atmosphere of community and to build relationships with the clergy and hierarchy as part of developing an Orthodox identity amongst our young people. The primary goal of these workshops should be to build bonds and just as importantly to address current issues, spiritual needs, and to create a sense of belonging and inclusion amongst our young people.

**The following pages contain brief reports from each of our SOYO Diocesan leaders.**



**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
and the West  
Financial Report**

**His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate**

V. Rev. Fr. Michael Laffoon, Spiritual Advisor

Amanda June Sahawneh, Youth Director

Elias Bahou, President

Paul Rodriguez, Vice President

Elizabeth Lengyel-Leahu, Secretary

Danielle Rayyan, Treasurer

**Events and Activities: February, 1 2015- January 31, 2016**

- Mid Winter Meetings
- Desert Deanery Retreat hosted by St. George Phoenix
- Parish Life Conference 2015
  - Q&A with Metropolitan JOSEPH
  - Teen Dance
  - Teen Meeting
- Leadership Training in Boston
- Teen Week at Camp St. Nicholas
- Many teens and officers present at Special Olympics Sports Camp
- Collection for Special Olympics in local parishes
- Youth Month-Many parishes involved and sent pictures/posted on instagram
- Fall Gathering 2015
- Parish participation in Holy Friday Vigil
- Pan Orthodox Bee the Bee retreat hosted in Phoenix by St. George
- Soyo day of Service-Many parishes involved and sent pictures/posted on Instagram
- Winter Camp at Camp St. Nicholas
- Instagram-regular postings for feast days, promoting SOYO activities, and facts about the faith
- St Andrew church along with other Southern California parishes participated in walk for life
- Soyo Facebook Page for teens to connect and promote upcoming events

Amanda June Sahawneh  
Youth Director  
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West



## Diocese of Miami and the Southeast SOYO

### 2015-2016 Executive Board

Rebecca Schuler, President  
Becky Bandy, Vice President  
Eleni Lemoine, Secretary  
Christianna Lemoine, Treasurer  
Mara Schuler, Youth Director  
Fr. Philip Rogers, Spiritual Advisor

### February 2015 - February 2016

- Attended and participated in Mid-Winter Meetings at the Antiochian Village
- Encouraged and participated in SOYO Day of Service
- Parishes participated in Great Friday Night Vigil
- Attended and participated in Parish Life Conference hosted by St. Ignatius
  - Parishes participated in Bible Bowl and Oratorical festivals
  - Made a variety of holiday cards for the widowed Khourias in the diocese
  - Lead the Teen SOYO business meeting and elections at the PLC
- Attended and participated in Leadership Training at the NAC Convention
- "Serv-X-Treme" Youth Leadership Conference attended by diocesan officer
- Deanery Retreat in Oxford, MS with over 60 teens present
- Parishes participated in Youth Month
  - Encouraged a Youth Month photo challenge
  - Special Olympics Awareness Day
- Attended and participated in Delegates Meeting hosted by St. George in Jacksonville
  - Pan-Orthodox Retreat with guest speaker, discussion, and bonfire
  - Assembled over 70 health kits for IOCC
  - Over 50 teens present from several different parishes
- Active Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts
- Attended Camp St. Thekla as campers, counselors in training, and staff members

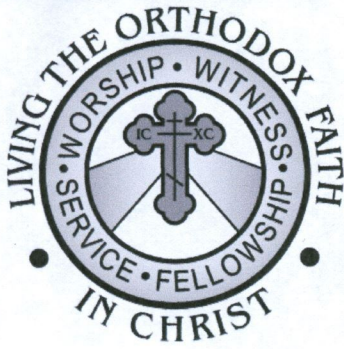
Yours In Christ,

Mara Schuler

Youth Director

Diocese of Miami and the Southeast





**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**  
The Combined Diocese of Washington D.C. and New York & The Diocese of  
Charleston, Oakland & Mid-Atlantic!

January 30, 2016

Christ Is In Our Midst !

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate  
His Grace Bishop THOMAS  
His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS

**2015-2016  
ER Board**

**President**

Zaid Sharafudin  
537 Bigelow St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207  
Cell: 412-708-6726

[Zaid3243@yahoo.com](mailto:Zaid3243@yahoo.com)

**Vice President**

Stephanie Basel Batarseh  
770 Peach Tree Lane  
Franklin Lakes, MA 07417

[stebat@bergen.org](mailto:stebat@bergen.org)

**Treasurer**

Jacob Firek  
179 Regal Street  
New Kensington, PA 15068  
Cell: (724)-681-8327

[jefirek@comcast.net](mailto:jefirek@comcast.net)

**Secretary**

Hilda Souid  
820 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Whitehall, PA 18052  
Cell: (484)-929-4515

[xhildasouidx@gmail.com](mailto:xhildasouidx@gmail.com)

**Spiritual Advisor**

Fr. Demetrios Makoul  
635 Miranda Rd  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
Cell: (412) 721-5828

[Athos1999@yahoo.com](mailto:Athos1999@yahoo.com)

**Youth Director**

Kh. Hend Kevorkian  
25 New Meadow trail  
Parsippany NJ 07054  
Cell: (201) 715-4514

[HendK99@optonline.net](mailto:HendK99@optonline.net)

The Diocese of the East has been very busy. The youth director and the spiritual advisor along with the board members hold a conference call every month to discuss new ideas and any problems in any of the Parishes.

We post everything on our web site, which is called DownyDcoma on Facebook and we are also on Twitter and Instagram.

Every year we develop new ideas to help us raise funds. This past year we sold lanyards in memory of Metropolitan Philip of blessed memory and we sold T-shirts.

As a Diocese we have a few activities that most Parishes participate in, for example:

- 1- Visiting Monasteries for the East and the West,
- 2- Holding retreats and encouraging teens to invite other teens from different Parishes.
- 3- Visiting nursing homes.
- 4- Supplying IOCC with health kits.

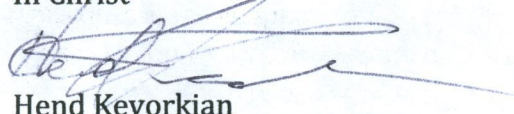
During our Fall Delegates meeting, which was held at the Antiochian Village, we had 2 "Ask Abouna" sessions and discussed a movie with Bishop Nicholas that we watched together.

Within individual SOYO's the teens read the Epistle, they usher in Church, and a few present their own Orations during Youth Month in October.

The teens also hold their own retreats and help out at Special Olympics. They feed the hungry, and visit old age homes, hold bake sales, help out their Parish with festivals and raise money for Syria. Perhaps the most important thing that every teen participates in is the All Night Vigil on Holy Friday. Last year many Parishes participated in the Day of Service.

It has been such a joy working with these amazing young men and women. We teach them about their faith and how to be a good Orthodox Christian, but we also learn a lot from them.

In Christ



Hend Kevorkian

# Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate New York SOYO

February 1, 2015 – January 31, 2016

## Summary of Events

February 6-8, 2015	Midwinter Meetings at Antiochian Village
March 21, 2015	SOYO Day of Service throughout the Archdiocese
April 10, 2015	Good Friday Vigil throughout the Archdiocese
May 1-3, 2015	Annual Basketball Tournament and Retreat in Brockville, ON
July 2-5, 2015	Parish Life Conference in Geneva, NY
July 20-26, 2015	Leadership Training / Archdiocese Convention in Boston, MA
September 4-6, 2015	Diocese Soccer Tournament in Toronto, ON (hosted by FSJD)
October, 2015	Youth Month throughout the Archdiocese
October 16-17, 2015	Fall Gathering in Brockville, ON
October 18, 2015	Special Olympics Awareness Day throughout the Archdiocese
January 27, 2016	Bell Let's Talk Day across Canada, promoted by Diocese (for Mental Health Awareness)

## Internet and Social Media Ministry

- Diocese newsletter every 2 months
- Monthly Diocese Board Skype conference calls (more frequent when necessary)
- Social Media presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
  - o Saint of the Month Facebook Page: Saint is selected, research and presented by a teen monthly.
  - o Facebook account: "Doecuny SOYO"
  - o Facebook group: "Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate New York SOYO"
  - o Instagram: "doecunysoyo"
  - o Twitter: @DOECUNYSOYO
  - o Website: <http://doecunysoyo.weebly.com/>

**Current ongoing fundraising initiative:** IC XC black and grey hats

(We have sold over 1000 hats and counting!)







# Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest SOYO

Find us on Facebook: "Midwest Diocese SOYO"

Email: [MidwestSOYO@gmail.com](mailto:MidwestSOYO@gmail.com)

Website: [www.MidwestSOYO.org](http://www.MidwestSOYO.org)

January 2015 to February 2016

**His Eminence**  
**Metropolitan JOSEPH,**  
**Primate.**

**His Grace**  
**Bishop ANTHONY,**  
**Diocese of Toledo and the**  
**Midwest.**

V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura  
Department of Youth Ministry

#### *Diocesan Executive Board*

##### President

Gianmarco Petrelli  
St. George, Cicero, IL

##### Vice President

Gloria Sultani  
Basilica of St. Mary,  
Livonia, MI

##### Secretary

Sophia Miller-Martinez  
St. Mary, Goshen, IN

##### Treasurer

Marissa Zayed  
St. George, Cicero, IL

##### Diocesan Youth Director

Amal Michael  
St. George, Canton, OH

##### Spiritual Advisor

The V. Rev. Fr. Mousa Haddad  
Saint Mary, Palos Heights, IL.

- SOYO education month
- SOYO Gospel reading challenge
- Attended and participated in annual basketball tournament
- Attended and participated in Mid-Winter meetings
- March SOYO Day of Service
- Attended and participated in Spring Gathering
- Parishes participated in Great Friday Vigil
- Attended and participated in Parish Life Conference
  - Participated in Bible Bowl and Oratorical
  - Participated in Service Project at PLC
  - Lead the Teen SOYO meeting at PLC
- Created monthly newsletter via all social media
  - SOYO Spotlight
  - Theology section
- Attended Leadership Training at NAC Conference in Boston
- SOYO officers attended Special Olympics
- Attended and participated in Fall Gathering
- Deanery Teen Retreat
- Participated in Youth Month
  - Encouraged a Youth Month challenge
  - Special Olympics Awareness Day
- Attended YES trips
- Parishes participated in Widowed Khourie Project
- Christmas cards sent to all parishes

Hope this note finds you well and God willing I will see you soon. It was great to see you, even if was only for a short time.

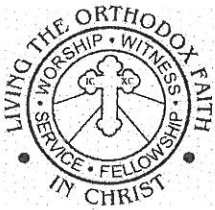
Yours in Christ,

Amal Michael

Youth Director

Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest





# Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America SOYO

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

## 2015-2016 SOYO Executive Board

### Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Daniel Bethancourt  
9100 Youree Drive  
Shreveport, LA 71115  
(318) 797-2226  
frdanielb@gmail.com

### Youth Director

Erin Ghata  
2825 NW 168 Terrace  
Edmond, OK  
(405)-410-9456  
erin.learned@gmail.com

### President

Munir Pavez  
6355 Sierra Circle  
Beaumont, TX 77708  
(409)-201-8823  
mpavez7@gmail.com

### Vice-President

Joleen Najjar  
10638 Madison Way  
Northglenn, CO 80233  
(720)-280-6657  
joleen.najjar@colorado.edu

### Treasurer

Mark Saber  
848 W 25<sup>th</sup> St. Unit C  
Houston, TX 77008  
(713)-302-4722  
msaber3@comcast.net

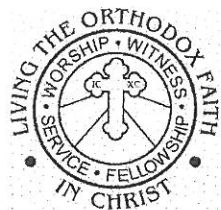
### Secretary

Sarah Mabardy  
2642 E 58<sup>th</sup> St  
Midland, TX 79705  
(918)-437-6633  
srmabardy@bishopkelley

## February 2015 – February 2016 Activity Report

- Created Monthly video updates on the diocese Facebook page
- Attended Mid-Winter meetings at Antiochian Village
- Parishes participated in SOYO Day of Service
- Parishes organized Great Friday Vigils
- Pascha cards sent to all parishes
- Purchased new icons for PLC awards
- Attended PLC and ran SOYO business meeting/elections
  - PLC Service Project: Assembled a monthly mailing for Denver Food Bank.
- Divided Parishes among officers for monthly communications via phone calls or email
- Attended Leadership Training at the NAC Convention in Boston
  - Won the Bible Bowl!
- Hosted DOWAMA SOYO Basketball Tournament for 147 teens and their advisers.
  - Tournament Service project: Wrote Thanksgiving cards to the widowed Khourias of the diocese
- Parishes participated in Youth Month.
  - Collected offerings for Special Olympics Awareness Day
- Sent Nativity cards to the parishes of the diocese
- Created “Shirts for Syria” t-shirts to raise money for IOCC
  - Shirts are \$15 and will be sold across the diocese and potentially the archdiocese – almost \$10 from each shirt will be donated directly to IOCC for Syrian refugee relief as directed by Metropolitan JOSEPH.
    - More than 50 shirts sold as of January 29, 2016
- Had the largest ever annual Winter Camp “WAMP” retreat with 193 teens and advisors featuring Fr. Nick Belcher as our speaker
- Several parishes host SAGE (Sex and God Education) retreats throughout the year
- Several parishes hosted YES Trips in their cities
- Several parishes host family night classes for children, teens and adults





# Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America SOYO

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

## 2015-2016 SOYO Executive Board

### Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Daniel Bethancourt  
9100 Youree Drive  
Shreveport, LA 71115  
(318) 797-2226  
frdanielb@gmail.com

### Youth Director

Erin Ghata  
2825 NW 168 Terrace  
Edmond, OK  
(405)-410-9456  
erin.learned@gmail.com

### President

Munir Pavez  
6355 Sierra Circle  
Beaumont, TX 77708  
(409)-201-8823  
mpavez7@gmail.com

### Vice-President

Joleen Najjar  
10638 Madison Way  
Northglenn, CO 80233  
(720)-280-6657  
joleen.najjar@colorado.edu

### Treasurer

Mark Saber  
848 W 25<sup>th</sup> St. Unit C  
Houston, TX 77008  
(713)-302-4722  
msaber3@comcast.net

### Secretary

Sarah Mabardy  
2642 E 58<sup>th</sup> St  
Midland, TX 79705  
(918)-437-6633  
srmabardy@bishopkelley

### Social Media and Website Information:

*Facebook:* **DOWAMA TEEN SOYO** *Instagram:* **dowama\_soyo**

*Twitter:* **@DOWAMAsoyo** *Website:* [www.dowama-soyo.squarespace.com](http://www.dowama-soyo.squarespace.com)

(currently under construction)

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Ghata  
Youth Director  
Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America





Diocese of Worcester  
& New England  
Teen SOYO  
Executive Board  
2015-2016

President:

Kamal Hourani  
443 E. Foxboro St.  
Sharon, MA 02067  
khourani3@gmail.com  
617-955-0745

Vice-President:

Valerie Tokatli  
14 Gunnarson Rd.  
Worcester, MA 01606  
ValerieTokatli16@gmail.com  
508-579-9822

Recording Secretary:

Sabrina Veo  
145 Strawberry Hill Rd.  
Concord, MA 01742  
SabrinaVeo18@gmail.com  
617-908-2172

Treasurer:

Kameel Rachmani  
408 Bridge St.  
Dedham, MA 02026  
kameel\_rachmani@hotmail.com  
781-686-8500

Youth Advisor:

John Abud  
34 Bradwood St.  
Roslindale, MA 02131  
abudjohn@gmail.com  
810-252-5769

Spiritual Advisor:

Fr. Joseph Kimmett  
17 Austin St.  
Norwood, MA 02062  
geonorwood@aol.com  
781-762-4396

Email us at

[newenglandteensoyo@gmail.com](mailto:newenglandteensoyo@gmail.com)

Follow us on Instagram

@newenglandteensoyo

Join our Facebook group: Diocese of  
Worcester and New England Teen SOYO

# Diocese of Worcester and New England Teen SOYO

Your Eminence Metropolitan Joseph, Your Graces, and to Whom It May Concern:

Over the course of the last year, the Diocese of Worcester and New England Teen SOYO has tried in earnest to develop a consistent presence. We have—with acceptable regularity—held monthly conference calls with the executive board to increase our accountability and awareness of SOYO activities. This has allowed for better communication and increased involvement from all the board members. We have also started a new social media initiative to post weekly content on Facebook and Instagram that provides theological inspiration and education to our followers. We also use our social media presence to disseminate information about upcoming events. Aside from these two new initiatives, I will briefly highlight the rest of our diocesan activities in chronological order.

Please forgive my brevity:

- Kamal and I attended the Midwinter Meetings at the Village.
- We held our Spring Meeting at St. John of Damascus in Dedham in conjunction with a diocese parish council workshop.
- A few of our churches participated in the newly organized SOYO Day of Service.
- We held our annual weekend Lenten Retreat at the St. Methodios Faith and Heritage Center (GOA) in New Hampshire.
- We worked with a lapsed SOYO to host an event at their parish: bowling, Vespers, dinner, and making blankets for the homeless.
- We attended our PLC in Pawtucket and held our Summer Meeting.
- Advisors and newly elected officers all attended Leadership Training in Boston in conjunction with the Archdiocesan National Convention.
- We have continued our tradition of attending a minor league baseball game near the end of the summer to send off our seniors to college.
- We organized a lock-in sleepover at St. George Cathedral in Worcester that led into our Fall Meeting.

Please see the next page for a financial summary of the last year. Feel free to contact me, Fr. Joseph Kimmett, or any of our officers for more information. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

John Abud



## THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & PARISH MINISTRIES

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA  
METROPOLITAN JOSEPH, PRIMATE

PO Box 389 ▪ Westwood, MA 02090-0389 ▪ [www.antiochian.org/youth](http://www.antiochian.org/youth)

February 12, 2016

### **NAC SOYO and Diocesan SOYO Financial Reports February 1, 2015 – January 31, 2016**

The following pages contain:

1. NAC SOYO General Financial Report
2. SOYO Special Olympics Camp Financial Report
3. SOYO Special Olympics Awareness Day Income listed by Diocese and Parish
4. Individual Diocesan SOYO Financial Reports

Yours in Christ,

V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura,  
Department of Youth and Parish Ministry  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America  
PO Box 389  
Westwood MA 02090



# SOYO

2015-2016 Treasury Report

## North American Council

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

His Eminence,  
Metropolitan JOSEPH,  
Primate.

V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura  
Department of Youth Ministry

V. Rev. Michael Laffoon  
NAC SOYO Spiritual Advisor

### NAC Executive Board

President  
Kamal Hourani  
St. George, West Roxbury, MA.

Vice President  
Munir Pavez  
St. Michael, Beaumont, TX.

Secretary  
Rebekah Bandy  
St. Elias, Atlanta, GA.

Treasurer  
Gianmarco Petrelli  
St. George, Cicero, IL.

**Beginning Balance as of February 1st, 2015.....\$5,709.17**

### Income:

<u>CD Baby Sales</u>	\$294.54
<u>Donations</u>	
Fr. Louis Mahshie	\$100.00
<u>Diocesan Dues 2015</u>	
07/28/2015- Dioceses of the East Dues	\$2,200.00
04/30/2015- Diocese of Los Angeles Dues	\$3,450.00
Diocese of Worcester Dues	\$1,050.00
02/25/2015- Diocese of Toledo Dues	\$2,500.00
Diocese of Wichita Dues	\$1,500.00
Diocese of Miami Dues	\$2,025.00
Diocese of Ottawa	\$900.00
<b>Total Income:.....</b>	<b>\$14,019.54</b>

### Expenses:

<u>Misc.</u>	
Intuit Online Charge	\$127.45
Checks	\$24.00
GoToMeeting Charge	\$49.73
Card Charge	\$500.00
<u>Lodging</u>	
Midwinters 2015 Rooms	\$725.82
Leadership Training Rooms	\$1,024.92
<u>NAC Funds</u>	
Department of Youth	\$500.00
SDS Winner Icon	\$400.00
Midwinter Registration	\$375.00
<u>Flights</u>	
Midwinters 2015	\$576.20
Summer Meetings	\$417.50
Leadership Training Flights	\$1,790.95
<u>Enthronement</u>	
Gift to Metropolitan Joseph	\$1,000.00
<u>Advertisements</u>	
Facebook Promos	\$276.94
Youth Workers Scholarship Transfer	\$4,000.00
<b>Total Expenses:.....</b>	<b>\$7,788.51</b>

### Transfers and Expenditures

SOYO Special Olympics Transfer from SOYO Special Olympics Savings	\$45,642.63
SOYO Special Olympics Payment	\$-45,642.63
<i>Note: Transfer was made to pay for 2015 Camp</i>	
Transfer 9/21/2015- from SOYO Special Olympics Savings	\$3,000.00
Transfer 9/21/2015- to SOYO Special Olympics Operating Checking Account.	\$-3,000.00
<i>Note: Transfer was made into the wrong account and corrected that same day</i>	
Youth Workers Scholarship Transfer	\$4,800.00
Youth Workers Scholarships	\$-4,800.00
<i>Note: Transfer was made to send individual scholarships to recipients</i>	

**Ending Balance as of January 31st 2016.....\$11,940.57**

**SOYO Account Balances as of January 31, 2016**

**Bank of America**

SOYO General Checking Account	\$12,740.20*
Special Olympics Checking Account	\$ 9,087.87
SOYO Special Olympics Savings	\$64,126.02

**Merrill Lynch Investments**

SOYO Metropolitan PHILIP Youth Worker Scholarship Fund	\$186,931.99
SOYO Special Olympics Reserve Fund	\$ 70,630.71

Yours in Christ,



V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura

\*The Balance above reflects \$800 more than on the SOYO Treasurers Report as his Balance reflects an \$800 check that has been written and sent but remains uncashed as of the date of this report.



# SOPA / SOYO MULTI-SPORTS TRAINING CAMP



Hosted by NAC Teen SOYO • 201 St. Ignatius Trail • Bolivar, PA 15923 • (724) 238-9565 • (724) 238-6415 Fax

## 2015 Camp Financial Summary 2015 Camp & SOA Day

DVD Sales	1,745.00	
Donations	<u>1,816.05</u>	
<b>TOTAL DEPOSITS</b>		<b>\$ 3,561.05</b>
Lodging	20,135.00	
Food	32,667.63	
Teen SOYO Coaches Travel	6,742.21	
T-Shirts (400)	1,907.00	
Evening Program	225.27	
Golf at Champion Lakes Golf Course ( <i>donated</i> )	0.00	
Bowling at Ligonier Lanes ( <i>paid for by SOPA</i> )	0.00	
Yearbooks (350)	875.00	
DVDs (200)	660.00	
Water Bottles (350)	402.50	
Miscellaneous	<u>10.00</u>	
<b>CAMP EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>63,624.61</b>	
2015 SOA Day Non-Postage Expenses	2,009.91	
2015 SOA Day Postage	<u>1,400.31</u>	
<b>TOTAL SOA Day Expenses</b>	<b>3,410.22</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b><u>67,034.83</u></b>

Respectfully Submitted,

V. Rev. Anthony G. Yazge

<b>Camp Attendance:</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2008</b>
Athletes	189	196	182	175	174	169	147
Coaches & Staff	<u>136</u>	<u>131</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>94</u>
Total Attendance	325	327	299	289	285	271	241

## SOYO Special Olympics Awareness Day Collection

October 18, 2015

**Total Collected \$65,736.62**

<b>Account Name</b>	<b>State Province</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Amount Received</b>
<b>Charleston-Oakland- Mid-Atlantic</b>			
Holy Cross Church	MD	Linthicum	416.00
St. Gregory Church	MD	Silver Spring	50.00
St. James the Apostle Mission	MD	Westminster	205.00
St. George Church	PA	Altoona	135.00
St. John the Evangelist Church	PA	Beaver Falls	320.00
St. George Church	PA	Bridgeville	281.00
St. Ellien Church	PA	Brownsville	50.00
St. Anthony Church	PA	Butler	70.20
St. Mary Church	PA	Chambersburg	203.55
St. Paul Church	PA	Emmaus	615.00
St. Michael Church	PA	Greensburg	160.00
St. Mary Church	PA	Johnstown	194.00
St. Michael Church	PA	Monessen	93.00
St. Elias Church	PA	New Castle	280.00
St. George Church	PA	New Kensington	400.00
St. George Cathedral	PA	Pittsburgh	350.00
St. Philip Church	PA	Souderton	1,000.00
Holy Ascension Church	PA	West Chester	100.00
St. Mary Church	PA	Wilkes Barre	250.00
St. John Chrysostom Church	PA	York	314.00
St. Patrick Mission	VA	Beaeton	100.00
St. Basil the Great Church	VA	Hampton	71.00
Craig Moller "John" Hove	VA	Lynchburg	50.00
Holy Trinity Mission	VA	Lynchburg	147.00
St. Nicholas Church	WV	Beckley	245.00
St. George Cathedral	WV	Charleston	680.00
Holy Spirit Church	WV	Huntington	251.00
<b>Charleston-Oakland- Mid-Atlantic Diocesan Total \$7,030.75</b>			
<b>Eagle River and the Pacific Northwest</b>			
Church of the Annunciation	AB	Calgary	500.00
St. Philip Church	AB	Edmonton	345.00



<b>St. John Cathedral</b>	AK	Eagle River	300.00
<b>All Saints of America Church</b>	AK	Homer	50.00
<b>St. Herman Church</b>	AK	Wasilla	140.00
<b>St. Joseph the Damascene Church</b>	BC	New Westminster	250.00
<b>Holy Transfiguration Church</b>	ID	Boise	100.00
<b>Holy Myrrhbearing Women Mission</b>	ID	Bonnors Ferry	260.60
<b>St. John the Baptist Church</b>	ID	Post Falls	146.00
<b>St. Ignatius Church</b>	ID	Twin Falls	113.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	OR	Portland	222.00
<b>St. Vincent of Lerins Church</b>	SK	Saskatoon	100.00
<b>Ss. Peter and Paul Church</b>	UT	Salt Lake City	200.00
<b>St. Andrew Church</b>	WA	Arlington	100.00
<b>Prophet Elijah Mission</b>	WA	Ellensburg	50.00
<b>St. Innocent Church</b>	WA	Everson	200.00
<b>St. Katherine Mission Station</b>	WA	Pullman	100.00
<b>St. Nicholas Church</b>	WA	Spokane	100.00
<b>Christ the Savior Church</b>	WA	Spokane Valley	87.00
<b>Three Holy Hierarchs Mission</b>	WA	Wenatchee	150.00
<b>Holy Cross Church</b>	WA	Yakima	100.00
<b>Eagle River and the NW Diocesan Total 3,613.60</b>			
<b>Los Angeles and the West</b>			
<b>St. Ignatius Church</b>	AZ	Mesa	218.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	AZ	Phoenix	635.00
<b>Holy Resurrection Church</b>	AZ	Tucson	180.00
<b>St. Gabriel Mission</b>	CA	Angels Camp	100.00
<b>SS. Peter and Paul Church</b>	CA	Ben Lomond	583.00
<b>St. Stephen Church</b>	CA	Campbell	267.00
<b>St. Barnabas Church</b>	CA	Costa Mesa	600.00
<b>St. Timothy Church</b>	CA	Fairfield	584.00
<b>St. Luke Church</b>	CA	Garden Grove	1,568.00
<b>St. Mark Church</b>	CA	Irvine	400.00
<b>St. Timothy Church</b>	CA	Lompoc	67.00
<b>Orthodox Church of the Redeemer</b>	CA	Los Altos Hills	300.00
<b>St. Nicholas Cathedral</b>	CA	Los Angeles	581.00
<b>St. James Church</b>	CA	Modesto	284.00
<b>St. John the Evangelist Church</b>	CA	Orinda	439.00
<b>St. Andrew Church</b>	CA	Riverside	110.00
<b>St. Athanasius Church</b>	CA	Sacramento	200.00

<b>St. Anthony the Great Church</b>	CA	San Diego	566.00
<b>St. Nicholas Church</b>	CA	San Francisco	100.00
<b>St. Athanasius Church</b>	CA	Santa Barbara	120.00
<b>St. Raphael of Brooklyn Church</b>	CA	Thousand Palms	202.00
<b>St. Matthew Church</b>	CA	Torrance	35.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	CA	Upland	106.00
<b>St. Michael Church</b>	CA	Van Nuys	455.00
<b>Holy Virgin Mary Church</b>	CA	W Sacramento	155.00
<b>St. Michael Church</b>	NV	Las Vegas	75.00
<b>LA and the West Diocesan Total 8,930.00</b>			
<b>Diocese of Miami and the Southeast</b>			
<b>Holy Trinity Church</b>	AR	Little Rock	206.00
<b>St. Nicholas Church</b>	AR	Springdale	220.00
<b>St. Ignatius of Antioch Mission</b>	FL	Boca Raton	100.00
<b>St. Peter the Apostle Mission</b>	FL	Bonita Springs	50.00
<b>St. George Cathedral</b>	FL	Coral Gables	2,360.00
<b>St. Philip Church</b>	FL	Davie	380.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	FL	Jacksonville	265.00
<b>St. Anthony the Great Church</b>	FL	Melbourne	269.00
<b>Our Lady of Regla Church</b>	FL	Miami	25.00
<b>St. Paul Church</b>	FL	Naples	355.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	FL	Orlando	60.00
<b>St. Nicholas Church</b>	FL	St. Petersburg	173.00
<b>St. Mary Church</b>	FL	West Palm Beach	600.00
<b>St. Elias Church</b>	GA	Atlanta	1,040.00
<b>St. James Mission</b>	GA	Buford	50.00
<b>St. Stephen Church</b>	GA	Hiram	321.00
<b>Archangel Gabriel Church</b>	LA	Lafayette	100.00
<b>St. Basil Church</b>	LA	Metairie	382.51
<b>St. Peter Church</b>	MS	Madison	198.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	MS	Vicksburg	535.00
<b>All Saints Church</b>	NC	Raleigh	1,175.33
<b>St. Catherine Church</b>	SC	Aiken	50.00
<b>Christ the Savior Church</b>	SC	Anderson	63.00
<b>St. Barnabas Church</b>	SC	Lexington	50.00
<b>St. Ignatius Church</b>	TN	Franklin	500.00
<b>St. Nicholas Mission</b>	TN	Jackson	50.00
<b>St. John Church</b>	TN	Memphis	100.00
<b>St. John Church</b>	TN	Memphis	203.00

<b>Miami, SE Diocesan Total 9,880.84</b>			
<b>St. Nicholas Church</b>	CT	Bridgeport	336.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	CT	Danbury	591.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	DC	Washington	311.00
<b>Ss. Peter and Paul Church</b>	MD	Potomac	1,150.00
<b>St. Anthony Church</b>	NJ	Bergenfield	700.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	NJ	Little Falls	550.00
<b>St. Stephen the Protomartyr Church</b>	NJ	South Plainfield	425.00
<b>St. Nicholas Cathedral</b>	NY	Brooklyn	700.00
<b>St. Mary Church</b>	NY	Brooklyn	405.00
<b>St. Ignatius Church</b>	NY	Florida	395.00
<b>St. John the Baptist Church</b>	NY	Levittown	140.00
<b>Virgin Mary Church</b>	NY	Yonkers	235.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	PA	Allentown	173.00
<b>NY, DC Diocesan Total \$6,111.00</b>			
<b>Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canadian and Upstate New York</b>			
<b>St. Anthony Church</b>	NS	Halifax	300.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	NY	Albany	50.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	NY	New Hartford	198.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	NY	Niagara Falls	242.25
<b>St. George Church</b>	NY	South Glens Falls	142.25
<b>St. Elias Church</b>	NY	Syracuse	141.00
<b>St. Elias Cathedral</b>	ON	Ottawa	638.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	ON	Richmond Hill	695.00
<b>St. Ignatius of Antioch Mission</b>	ON	St. Catharines	42.66
<b>Ss. Peter and Paul Church</b>	PE	Charlottetown	120.00
<b>St. Mary Church</b>	QC	Montreal	445.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	QC	Montreal	440.00
<b>St. Nicholas Church</b>	QC	Montreal	100.00
<b>Diocese of Ottawa Total \$3,554.16</b>			
<b>Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest</b>			
<b>St. George Church</b>	IA	Cedar Rapids	324.00
<b>St. Raphael of Brooklyn Church</b>	IA	Iowa City	42.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	IL	Cicero	619.00
<b>St. Mary Church</b>	IL	Palos Heights	904.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	IL	Spring Valley	50.00
<b>St. Nicholas Church</b>	IL	Urbana	50.00

All Saints Church	IN	Bloomington	228.00
St. Ananias Mission	IN	Evansville	107.00
St. George Church	IN	Fishers	443.00
St. John Chrysostom Church	IN	Fort Wayne	235.00
St. Mary Church	IN	Goshen	64.27
St. Mary of Egypt Mission	IN	Greenwood	100.00
Holy Apostles Mission	KY	Bowling Green	136.00
St. Andrew Church	KY	Lexington	200.00
St. Michael Church	KY	Louisville	1,000.00
Holy Cross Mission	MI	Dorr	100.00
St. George Church	MI	Flint	362.00
St. George Church	MI	Grand Rapids	731.00
St. Nicholas Church	MI	Grand Rapids	379.00
St. Mary Church	MI	Iron Mountain	100.00
Basilica of St. Mary	MI	Livonia	560.00
St. George Church	MI	Troy	250.00
St. James Church	MI	Williamston	100.00
St. George Church	MN	West Saint Paul	247.00
St. John the Theologian Mission	MO	Cape Girardeau	50.00
All Saints of North America Church	MO	Maryland Heights	77.00
St. George Church	OH	Akron	660.00
St. George Church	OH	Canton	200.00
St. Luke the Evangelist Church	OH	Chagrin Falls	211.00
St. George Church	OH	Cleveland	355.00
St. James Church	OH	Loveland	120.00
St. Matthew Church	OH	N Royalton	294.00
St. Barnabas the Apostle Church	OH	Sunbury	100.00
St. Elias Church	OH	Sylvania	110.00
St. George Cathedral	OH	Toledo	461.00
St. Mark Church	OH	Youngstown	600.00
St. Nicholas Church	WI	Cedarburg	542.16
St. Ignatius Church	WI	Fitchburg	955.00
St. Elias Church	WI	La Crosse	106.00
<b>Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest Total \$12,172.43</b>			
<b>Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America America</b>			
St. Mark Church	CO	Denver	25.00
St. Augustine of Hippo Church	CO	Denver	50.00
St. Luke Church	CO	Erie	130.00

<b>St. James Church</b>	CO	Fort Collins	100.00
<b>St. Columba Church</b>	CO	Lafayette	185.00
<b>St. John Chrysostom Mission</b>	CO	Lakewood	295.00
<b>Three Hierarchs Mission</b>	KS	Garden City	16.00
<b>St. Basil the Great Church</b>	KS	Kansas City	300.00
<b>St. Michael the Archangel Church</b>	KS	Park City	107.00
<b>All Saints Church</b>	KS	Salina	137.00
<b>SS. Peter and Paul Church</b>	KS	Topeka	32.70
<b>St. George Cathedral</b>	KS	Wichita	1,276.00
<b>St. Mary Church</b>	KS	Wichita	229.35
<b>St. John the Divine Church</b>	LA	Lake Charles	25.00
<b>St. Nicholas Church</b>	LA	Shreveport	204.00
<b>Holy Trinity Church</b>	NM	Santa Fe	379.00
<b>St. Elijah Church</b>	OK	Oklahoma City	644.85
<b>St. James Church</b>	OK	Stillwater	50.00
<b>St. Antony Church</b>	OK	Tulsa	200.00
<b>St. Luke Church</b>	TX	Abilene	50.00
<b>St. Elias Church</b>	TX	Austin	163.00
<b>St. Michael Church</b>	TX	Beaumont	437.50
<b>SS. Constantine and Helen Church</b>	TX	Carrollton	514.00
<b>St. John the Forerunner Church</b>	TX	Cedar Park	65.00
<b>St. Silouan the Athonite Church</b>	TX	College Station	140.19
<b>St. Sophia Church</b>	TX	Dripping Springs	29.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	TX	El Paso	114.00
<b>St. Peter Church</b>	TX	Fort Worth	467.00
<b>St. Thomas Mission</b>	TX	Fredericksburg	25.00
<b>St. Joseph Church</b>	TX	Houston	600.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	TX	Houston	1,177.25
<b>St. Paul Church</b>	TX	Katy	250.00
<b>St. Ephraim the Syrian Church</b>	TX	San Antonio	248.00
<b>St. Anthony the Great Church</b>	TX	Spring	245.00
<b>Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebaste Church</b>	TX	Sugar Land	193.00
<b>St. Benedict of Nursia Church</b>	TX	Wichita Falls	100.00
<b>St. Andrew Mission</b>	TX	Woodway	50.00
<b>Holy Resurrection Church</b>	WY	Gillette	100.00
<b>Diocese of Wichita Total</b>			<b>\$9,353.84</b>
<b>Diocese of Worcester and New England</b>			
<b>St. Mary Church</b>	MA	Cambridge	547.00

<b>St. Michael Church</b>	MA	Cotuit	200.00
<b>St. John of Damascus Church</b>	MA	Dedham	488.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	MA	Lawrence	312.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	MA	Lowell	462.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	MA	Norwood	644.00
<b>St. Stephen Church</b>	MA	Springfield	500.00
<b>St. George Church</b>	MA	West Roxbury	1,115.00
<b>St. George Cathedral</b>	MA	Worcester	500.00
<b>St. Mary Church</b>	RI	Pawtucket	322.00
<b>Total for the Diocese of Worcester, New England</b>			<b>\$5,090.00</b>
			<b>Total for All Dioceses \$65,736.62</b>

Notes:

1. It should be noted that the Conversion Rate loss of Canadian Dollars to U.S. Dollars was \$1,082.93
2. Our Fund Raising Goal for the October 2015 SOYO Special Olympics Awareness Day was \$65,000. Even after the Canadian Exchange Rate this Goal will be exceeded by the time Camp takes place in August 2016. Our goals have always been listed in direct dollar donations combining both U.S. and Canadian dollars as being equal. It is so noted this year due to the large difference in the value of the two dollars.
3. The Collection period for the October 2015 Fundraising runs from October 1, 2015 to September 31, 2016, so additional funds most likely will be added to this total as a few parishes tend to send funds in very much after the collection date and additional funds will be received during the SOYO Special Olympics Camp itself, as will also the income from sales of SOYO Special Olympics Camp Video CD, which will be included in this overall total.



**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
and the West  
Financial Report**

**His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate**

V. Rev. Fr. Michael Laffoon, Spiritual Advisor

Amanda June Sahawneh, Youth Director

Elias Bahou, President

Paul Rodriguez, Vice President

Elizabeth Lengyel-Leahu, Secretary

Danielle Rayyan, Treasurer

Financial Report: February, 1 2015- January 31, 2016

*Income:*

-PLC Proceeds: \$4,708.94

-Chapter Dues: \$6,837.29

-T-Shirt Fundraisers: \$20

*Expenses:*

-NAC Dues: \$3,450

-T Shirts: \$812.70

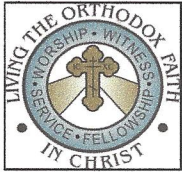
-PLC Souvenir Journal: \$350

-Travel Expenses: \$5,729.56

-Lodging Expenses: \$1,756.70

-Registration: \$130

Amanda June Sahawneh  
Youth Director, Teen SOYO  
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West



The Self-Ruled  
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North  
America  
Diocese of Miami & the Southeast

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH,  
Primate

His Grace Bishop Antoun

Diocese of Miami & the Southeast  
Teen SOYO  
Executive Board  
2014 - 2015

President:

Rebecca Schuler  
1244 Poinset Place  
Decatur, GA 30033

[purplegirlbecca@gmail.com](mailto:purplegirlbecca@gmail.com)  
(404) 333-2052

Vice-President:

Becky Bandy  
975 Vistavia Circle  
Decatur, GA 30033

[triplebee.bandy@gmail.com](mailto:triplebee.bandy@gmail.com)  
(404) 316-7177

Recording Secretary:

Eleni Lemoine  
104 Bradbury Crossing  
Lafayette, LA 70508

[eleni.lemoine@gmail.com](mailto:eleni.lemoine@gmail.com)  
(337) 853-3654

Treasurer:

Christianna Lemoine  
104 Bradbury Crossing  
Lafayette, LA 70508

[christianna.lemoine@gmail.com](mailto:christianna.lemoine@gmail.com)  
(337) 354-7789

Spiritual Advisor:

Fr. Philip Rogers  
750 N Avalon  
Memphis, TN 38107

[frphilprogers@gmail.com](mailto:frphilprogers@gmail.com)  
(337) 296-3955

Youth Advisor:

Mara Schuler  
1244 Poinset Place  
Decatur, GA 30033

[mgs16sept@gmail.com](mailto:mgs16sept@gmail.com)  
(404) 358-0436

Opening Balanc 2/1/15 \$5,679.09

INCOME

Donations	\$0.00
Dues	\$5,875.00
Event Sales	\$0.00
Conference proceeds	\$139.69
Event Projects	\$225.00
Event Collections	\$657.00
Misc.	\$0.00

Total Income: \$6,896.69

EXPENSE

Dues	\$2,025.00
Travel	\$3,380.49
Lodging	\$598.08
SOYO Leadership Conference	\$500.00
AD Book	\$0.00
Event Sales	\$0.00
Event Projects	\$680.37
Office Supplies	\$0.00
Event Collections	\$0.00
Misc.	\$93.78

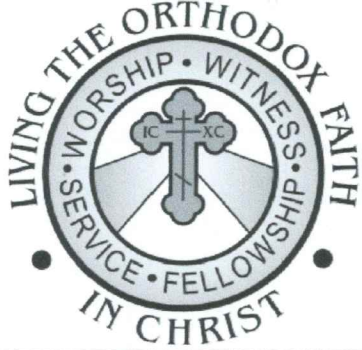
Total Expense: \$7,277.72

Current Balance 1/31/16 \$5,298.06

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christianna Lemoine  
Treasurer

*Christianna Lemoine*





Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America  
The Combined Diocese of Washington D.C. and New York &  
The Diocese of Charleston, Oakland & Mid-Atlantic.

## Archdiocese Financial Report

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH,  
Primate  
His Grace Bishop THOMAS  
His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS

2015-2016  
ER Board

President

Zaid Shararudin  
537 Bigelow Street  
Pittsburgh PA 15207  
Cell: (412)-708-6726  
[zaid3243@yahoo.com](mailto:zaid3243@yahoo.com)

Vice President

Stephanie Basel Butarsch  
770 Peach Tree Lane  
Franklin Lakes NJ 07417  
Cell: (973)-396-7416  
[steban@bergen.org](mailto:steban@bergen.org)

Treasurer

Jacob Firek  
179 Regal Street  
New Kensington, PA 15068  
Cell: (724)-681-8327  
[jefirek@comcast.net](mailto:jefirek@comcast.net)

Secretary

Hilda Soud  
820 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Whitehall, PA 18052  
Cell: (484)-929-4815  
[shildasouds@gmail.com](mailto:shildasouds@gmail.com)

Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Demetrios Maknoul  
635 Miranda Rd  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
Cell: (412) 721-5828  
[Arhos1999@yahoo.com](mailto:Arhos1999@yahoo.com)

Youth Director

Kh. Hend Kevorkian  
25 New Meadow trail  
Parsippany NJ 07054  
Cell: (201) 715-4514  
[HendK99@optonline.net](mailto:HendK99@optonline.net)

**Starting Balance (January 31, 2015):** **\$3,665.79**

**Income:**

Chapter Dues:	\$7000.00
PLC Profit	\$143.17
T-Shirts	\$1311.00
Other:	\$155.00

**Income Subtotal:** **\$8609.17**

**Expenses:**

NAC Dues:	\$2200.00
Travel, Room, Registrations	\$5725.68
Donations:	\$200.00
Fundraisers:	\$1895.00
Leadership Training Assessment:	\$500.00
Other:	\$66.13

**Expenses Subtotal:** **\$10,586.81**

**Current Balance (January 31, 2016):** **\$1,688.15**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacob Firek-Treasurer of DOWNY DCOMA  
Kh. Hend Kevorkian- Youth Director of DOWNY DCOMA

# Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate New York SOYO

February 1, 2015 – January 31, 2016

## Financial Summary

.....  
**American Account**  
.....

Balance as of January 31, 2015 (from statement) .....	\$1896.12
Cash Float .....	\$50
<u>Income:</u>	
SOYO hats .....	\$230.00
PLC Return Deposit .....	\$875.26
TOTAL .....	\$1105.26
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Leadership Training Contribution .....	\$500.00
Convention Rooms .....	\$341.64
NAC dues 2015-2016 .....	\$900.00
TOTAL .....	\$1741.64
REVENUE .....	-( \$636.38)
TOTAL (using Jan 31 balance and float) .....	\$1309.74
Balance of Account as of January 19, 2016 .....	\$1259.74

Canadian Account

Balance as of January 26, 2015 (from statement) ..... \$3744.98

Cash Float..... \$250.00

Income:

Basketball Tournament Income ..... \$2429.25

Hats Sales:

CAD Cash Deposit..... \$3468.55

USD Cash Deposit.....\$270.00 USD

Parish Dues:

St Mary's Montreal ..... \$450

St Antonios Halifax ..... \$500

St Elias Ottawa ..... \$450

St Nicholas Montreal..... \$350

St Mary's Mississauga ..... \$350

St George Montreal..... \$350

St Peter and Paul PEI ..... \$250

St Michael Geneva .....\$250 USD

St George Utica .....\$250 USD

St George Niagara Falls .....\$250 USD

St Elias Syracuse .....\$250 USD

Interest (Jan 26, 2015 – Feb 10, 2016)..... \$1.03

TOTAL INCOME ..... \$8598.83 + \$1270 USD converted to CAD

TOTAL INCOME IN CAD ..... \$8598.83 + \$1703.11 = \$10301.94

Expenses:

Midwinter Meeting 2015 expenses ..... \$1340.36

Basketball Tournament 2015 expenses

Hotel Rooms and Banquet ..... \$1568.49

Miscellaneous ..... \$111.10

Parish Life Conference 2015 expenses

Rooms .....	\$1105.16
Awards .....	\$144.00
Supplies .....	\$21.41

National Convention expenses:

Rental car and gas .....	\$175.91
Flights .....	\$2245.30

Fall Gathering Hotel Rooms .....	\$215.94
Balance of Second Hat Order Payment.....	\$1823.17
Third Hat Order (500 hats).....	\$3592.97
TOTAL.....	\$12343.81

REVENUE .....-(\$2041.87)

TOTAL (using Jan 26 balance and float) .....	\$1953.11
Balance of Account as of February 10, 2016 .....	\$1703.11



The Self-Ruled  
 Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North  
 America  
**Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest**  
**SOYO**

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, "MidwestSOYO"!

Email: [MidwestSOYO@gmail.com](mailto:MidwestSOYO@gmail.com)

Website: [www.MidwestSOYO.org](http://www.MidwestSOYO.org)

His Eminence,  
 Metropolitan JOSEPH,  
 Primate.

His Grace  
 Bishop ANTHONY  
 Diocese of Toledo and  
 The Midwest.

V. Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Purpura  
 Department of Youth Ministry

*Diocesan Executive Board*

President  
 Gianmarco Petrelli  
 St. George, Cicero, IL.

Vice President  
 Gloria Sultani  
 Basilica of St. Mary, Livonia,  
 MI.

Secretary  
 Sophia Miller-Martinez  
 St. Mary, Goshen, IN.

Treasurer  
 Marissa Zayed  
 St. George, Cicero, IL.

Diocesan Youth Director  
 Amal Michael  
 St. George, Canton, OH.

Spiritual Advisor  
 The V. Rev. Fr. Mousa Haddad  
 St. Mary, Palos Heights, IL.

**Beginning Balance as of February 1st, 2015.....\$12,259.49**

*Incomes:*

<u>Chapter Dues 2015-16</u>	\$5,300.00
<u>Uncategorized</u>	
Remote Online Deposit	\$185.65
Parish Life Conference SOYO Income	\$7,283.20

**Total Income:.....\$7,283.20**

*Expenses:*

<u>Travel</u>	
Midwinters 2015 Flights	\$1,202.98
Leadership Training 2015 Flights	\$1,788.26
<u>Supplies</u>	
T-Shirt Bags	\$40.00
<u>Lodging</u>	
Canton Basketball Tournament	\$298.70
Parish Life Conference 2015	\$835.80
Leadership Training 2015	\$1,020.20
Fall Gathering 2015	\$811.20
<u>Misc. Expenses</u>	
Department of Youth and Parish Ministries	\$841.64
Toledo Mission Fund	\$1,000.00
PLC Registration	\$712.00
PLC Service Project	\$100.00
Fr.Louis Mahshie Memorial Donation	\$50.00
Invoice Postage	\$41.89
Wisconsin Deanery Retreat	\$400.00
Flint Deanery Retreat	\$400.00
2015 Christmas Card	\$64.71
Youth Month Challenge Prize	\$180.00
Bishop Antony Birthday Gift	\$50.00
Father Patrick Farewell Gift	\$81.00
NAC Dues	\$2,500.00

**Total Expenses:.....\$12,629.13**

**Ending Balance as of January 31st, 2016:.....\$12,289.21**



# Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America SOYO

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

## 2014-2015 SOYO Executive Board

### Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Daniel Bethancourt  
166 Arthur Ave  
Shreveport, LA 71105  
(318) 797-2226  
frdanielb@gmail.com

### Youth Director

Erin Ghata  
2825 NW 168 Terrace  
Edmond, OK  
(405)-410-9456  
erin.ghata@gmail.com

### President

Munir Pavez  
6355 Sierra Circle  
Beaumont, TX  
(409)-201-8823  
Mpavez7@gmail.com

### Vice-President

Joleen Jihan Najjar  
10638 Madison Way  
Northglenn, CO  
(720)-280-6657  
Joleen.najjar@colorado.edu

### Treasurer

Mark Saber  
848 W 25<sup>th</sup> St. unit C  
Houston, TX 77708  
(713)-302-4722  
Msaber3@comcast.net

### Secretary

Sarah Rachelle Mabardy  
2642 E 58th Street  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
(918)-437-6633  
srmabardy@bishopkelly.org

## 2016 Mid-Winters Treasurer's Report

**Balance as of February 1, 2015** **\$12,752.98**

### Income

Description	Amount
Chapter Dues	\$4,300.00
Winter Camp 2015	\$14,875.70
Basketball Tournament 2015	\$3,923.73
Winter Camp 2016	\$15,932.13

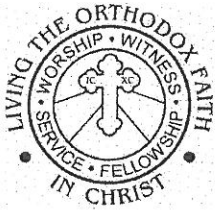
**Total income as of January 29, 2016** **\$39,031.56**

### Expenses

NAC Dues 2014/2015	\$1,500.00
Winter Camp 2015	\$13,593.64
Travel	\$3,043.06
Lodging	\$966.78
Greeting Card Ministry	\$188.71
PLC Registrations	\$625.00
PLC Icon Awards	\$1,010.45
Leadership Training Fee	\$500.00
Syria Shirts	\$762.45
Basketball Tournament 2015	\$2,123.64
Winter Camp 2016	\$3,164.37

**Total expenses as of January 29, 2016** **\$27,478.10**





# Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America SOYO

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

## 2014-2015 SOYO Executive Board

### Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Daniel Bethancourt  
166 Arthur Ave  
Shreveport, LA 71105  
(318) 797-2226  
frdanielb@gmail.com

### Youth Director

Erin Ghata  
2825 NW 168 Terrace  
Edmond, OK  
(405)-410-9456  
erin.ghata@gmail.com

### President

Munir Pavez  
6355 Sierra Circle  
Beaumont, TX  
(409)-201-8823  
Mpavez7@gmail.com

### Vice-President

Joleen Jihan Najjar  
10638 Madison Way  
Northglenn, CO  
(720)-280-6657  
Joleen.najjar@colorado.edu

### Treasurer

Mark Saber  
848 W 25<sup>th</sup> St. unit C  
Houston, TX 77008  
(713)-302-4722  
Msaber3@comcast.net

### Secretary

Sarah Rachele Mabardy  
2642 E 58th Street  
Tulsa, OK 74105  
(918)-437-6633  
srmabardy@bishopkelly.org

**Balance as of January 29, 2016: \$24,306.44**

\*All checks written in January have not been processed yet; this figure is based on what had been deposited as of January 29, 2016.

## Pending Checks (Income)

Description	Amount
Winter Camp Registrations	\$4,585.00
Syria Shirt Purchases	\$825.00

Pending Deposits as of January 29, 2016

\$5,410.00

## Pending Checks (Expenses)

Description	Amount
NAC Dues 2015/2016	\$1,575.00
Winter Camp 2016 Rental	\$13,337.00
Fr. Nick Belcher Flight and Honorarium – Winter Camp	\$810.20
Winter Camp Shirts	2,416.30

Pending Expenses as of January 29, 2016

\$18,138.50

**Projected balance after checks go through: \$11,577.94**

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Saber

Treasurer

X Mark Saber

Erin Ghata

Youth Director

X Erin Ghata







Diocese of Worcester  
& New England  
Teen SOYO  
Executive Board  
2015-2016

President:  
Kamal Hourani  
443 E. Foxboro St.  
Sharon, MA 02067  
khourani3@gmail.com  
617-955-0745

Vice-President:  
Valerie Tokatli  
14 Gunnarson Rd.  
Worcester, MA 01606  
ValerieTokatli16@gmail.com  
508-579-9822

Recording Secretary:  
Sabrina Veo  
145 Strawberry Hill Rd.  
Concord, MA 01742  
SabrinaVeo18@gmail.com  
617-908-2172

Treasurer:  
Kameel Rachmani  
408 Bridge St.  
Dedham, MA 02026  
kameel\_rachmani@hotmail.com  
781-686-8500

Youth Advisor:  
John Abud  
34 Bradwood St.  
Roslindale, MA 02131  
abudjohn@gmail.com  
810-252-5769

Spiritual Advisor:  
Fr. Joseph Kimmett  
17 Austin St.  
Norwood, MA 02062  
geonorwood@aol.com  
781-762-4396

Email us at  
newenglandteensoyo@gmail.com  
Follow us on Instagram  
@newenglandteensoyo  
Join our Facebook group: Diocese of  
Worcester and New England Teen SOYO

# Diocese of Worcester and New England Teen SOYO

## Financial Report

<b>Opening Balance (2/1/15):</b>	\$4395.51
<b>Income:</b>	
Chapter Dues	\$1500.00
Event Registration	\$408.00
Retreat Registration	\$1630.00
Donations	\$2250.46
PLC Proceeds	\$1516.08
<b>Subtotal:</b>	\$7304.54
<b>Expenses:</b>	
NAC Dues	(\$600.00)
Events	(\$662.67)
Travel	(\$1087.19)
Meetings Registration and Lodging	(\$1418.26)
Retreat	(\$3820.46)
<b>Subtotal:</b>	(\$7588.58)
<b>Income less Expenses:</b>	(\$284.04)
<b>Ending Balance (1/31/16):</b>	\$4111.47