

2019 ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN TEENS TO SHARE THEIR FAITH WITH OTHERS

ORATORICAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please utilize one or more of the following focus points in developing your Oration.

I can do
all things
through
Christ
who strengthens
me.

Philippians 4:13



The Oratorical Festival is run by the
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
Department of Youth and Parish Ministries

ONE

What is the significance of Philippians 4:13 for your life and for the Church? Look at the words of St. Paul throughout Chapter 4 to understand this line in the broader context of the chapter.

Keep in mind that:

- The verse is referring to all things profitable for our souls and for the sake of the Gospel.
- The verse describes a relationship of love between Christ and ourselves. The greater our love grows for Him, the more His grace is drawn to us and emanates from us towards others. We become the living Gospel. (e.g. He first loves us which allows us to emulate His example - we learn to love Him through many things around us such as the Church, its services and sacraments, other people, nature and especially prayer.)
- The Gospel is best spread by both our words and our way of living, matching Christ's example.
- Whatever we do, it is for the sake of the Gospel and the spreading of the Good News, and it must always be in service of Christ and our neighbor.
- When St. Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me..." the context indicates that he can endure whatever happens *for the sake of preaching the Gospel*; it has nothing to do with encouraging people to follow their personal desires, as some people often interpret.

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For registration and more information go

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TWO
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In the Service of Baptism, we sing, “As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27). Describe how living your life in Christ strengthens you.

Consider how your love for our Lord is increased by:

- Nurturing your life through prayer
- Participating in the Church and its services
- Learning how the Saints lived a life in Christ
- Other exercises of your spiritual strength

THREE
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How does Christ strengthen us in the special places and events organized by various ministries of the Church, such as at the camps and conference centers, Parish Life Conferences, SOYO retreats, delegates meetings, SOYO gatherings, Creative Arts Festivals, Bible Bowl, Vacation Bible Schools, etc.?

Our Scriptural Theme appears on the arch over the entrance of the Antiochian Village Camp. Reflecting on this, Metropolitan Joseph writes:

“

Since 1978, the Antiochian Village has been the Mount Tabor of our Archdiocese. It has been our home where we gather to encounter our transfigured Lord; to be ourselves transfigured. As much as we can bear our Lord's glory, we can bring His glory to the world. The Antiochian Village is where our bishops, clergy, adults and children gather to study, worship, have fellowship and rejuvenate our faith. We have invested much of ourselves in this place where we meet and are fed by God.

”

How does Phil. 4:13 relate to your activities at various church settings such as the Antiochian Village, Camp St. Nicholas, Camp St. Thekla, Camp St. Raphael, Camp St. George, Camp Transfiguration and other settings across North America where our youth and adults gather? How have your experiences in this type of setting strengthened you to participate in the other areas of your life?

FOUR
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The early Church gathered for both worship and fellowship. Share your experience and discuss the importance of finding places and opportunities where we can gather together as members of the Holy Orthodox Church. Explore how these gatherings and relationships with other Orthodox youth strengthen your love for Christ, your faith and your knowledge of God.

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