

A Prospectus of the Mission School Orthodox Church in America

1. Introduction

The Mission School is an initiative of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America based on a proposal of a task force on the use of a bequest. The Mission School seeks to train clergy and lay people on fundamentals of mission planting, operation and evangelism. It is not meant to be theoretical but rather practical training for those either in or going to a mission. This will be accomplished by gathering experienced experts in the various fields and having an interactive week-long training with representatives from the various dioceses of the Orthodox Church in America. The School will also be made available to recommended seminarians. The school would consist of classes and practical instruction which will equip clergy and lay people to establish, operate and grow their mission. Sources would be used within the Church and the Department at a centrally located facility. The School will be fully funded from the bequest and will be no cost for the teachers and students.

2. Objective

The objective of the Mission School would be to have all priests who are assigned to a mission or in a mission, as well as interested clergy, seminarians and lay people, attend a standardized school that would specifically address the needs of the mission. The five-day of classes would address a spectrum of issues and allow these priests to interact with experienced mission priests. It would be incumbent upon Diocesan bishops to require attendance for their mission priests and selected clergy. The School could be moved to different location during the year. It will also be explored that successful completion of the school would qualify for academic credit at the seminaries and Continuing Education credit for clergy. All applications to the school must be approved by the Diocesan Bishop and the Department of Evangelization with an established system of determining who can attend and if there is a need for any scholarship assistance. Criteria for admission needs to be established.

3. Details

- A. Date/Time:** The School will be held from April 20 to April 2015. The school would begin on Monday and end on Friday. A Sunday arrival and Friday departure would be best.
- B. Location:** The School will be located at St. Andrew House located at 23300 Davison Avenue, Detroit, MI 48223. Phone number is 313-533-3437.
- C. Cost:** The cost of travel, lodging and food will be covered by the bequest. Additional study material will also be covered.

D. Course Outline: There are twelve approved courses. A complete agenda is below and a complete outline is available. Students would be expected to complete the readings prior to the school. Each day would also have a roundtable discussion integrated to discuss the instruction of the day, share experiences and solicit questions. A cycle of liturgical services would be integrated as well as free time.

The following is a list of the course with the instructors

1. Missiology and Evangelism Theory - Fr. Chad Hatfield, Fr. Eric Tosi and Fr. David Rucker.
2. Creating and Understanding a Mission's Vision – Fr. John Matusiak
3. Community Building – Fr. Eric Tosi
4. Mission Management – Fr. Dan Kovalak
5. Finance/stewardship – Fr. John Reeves
6. Catechism – Fr. John Parker
7. Education Programs – Fr. Chad Hatfield
8. Liturgical/music - Fr. Timothy Hojnicky
9. Ethnic approaches/challenges – Fr. David Rucker
10. Revitalizing a Parish – Fr. John Pierce
11. Mission Community in Sacramental and Developmental Practice – Fr. Steven Voytovich
12. Mission in the Secular Age – Fr. John Jillions

4. Reading Assignments:

These books will be provided free of charge to the students:

Bria, Ion, *The Liturgy After the Liturgy: Mission and Witness from an Orthodox Perspective*. Geneva, SW: WCC Publications, 1996.

Huneycutt, Joseph, *One Flew Over the Onion Dome*, Regina Orthodox Press, Salisbury, MA, 2006.

Stamoolis, James J., *Eastern Orthodox Mission Theology Today*. Minneapolis, MN: Light and

Life Pub., 1986.

Veronis, Luke. *Missionaries, Monks and Martyrs: Making Disciples of All Nations*. Minneapolis: Light and Life Publishing, 1994.

Yannoulatos, Anastasios., *Mission in Christ's Way: An Orthodox Understanding of Mission*. Brookline, MA: Holy Cross Press, 2010.

Chapters of these book are available online to download and read:

Bosch, David J., *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1991. (Introduction, Chapter 6, Chapter 12)

Hopko, Thomas, *Speaking the Truth in Love: Education, Mission, Witness in Contemporary Orthodoxy*. Crestwood, NY: St Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2004. (Pp. 49-96)

Oleksa, Michael J. edit., *Alaskan Missionary Spirituality*. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir Seminary Press, 2010. (Emphasis on *Instructions to Missionaries* Pp. 238-251)

Stone, Bryan, *Evangelism After Christendom*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2007. (Part 4: The Evangelizing Community)

These books are recommended to read:

Orthodox Christian Catechism: A Basic Instructional Guide to the Ancient Christian Faith, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry, Hollywood, CA, 1996.

Carlton, Clark, *The Faith: Understanding Orthodox Christianity*, Regina Orthodox Press, Salisbury, MA, 1997.

Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. 2002.

St. Innocent of Alaska: *Indication of the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven*. Jordanville, NY: Holy Trinity Publications, 2013.

Woolfenden, Father Gregory, *A Practical Handbook for Divine Services*. Jordanville, NY, Holy Trinity Publications, 2011.

Basic 1st Year Course

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30 AM	<i>Opening Prayer</i>	<i>Morning Prayers</i>	<i>Divine Liturgy (7:00 AM)</i>	<i>Morning Prayers</i>	<i>Morning Prayers</i>
8:00 AM	<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>
9:00 AM	Introduction/Goals of Course <i>Clergy</i>	Assignment 1: Evaluate your Mission Community <i>Fr. John Parker</i>	Assignment 2: List and Evaluate the Challenges <i>Fr. Chad Hatfield</i>	Assignment 3: List and Evaluate Programs <i>Fr. Tim Hojnicky</i>	Assignment 4: Evaluate the Lessons Learned <i>Fr. John Matusiak</i>
10:00 AM	Theology of Mission <i>Fr. David Rucker</i>	Theology of Evangelism <i>Fr. Eric Tosi</i>	Understanding A Parish Community <i>Fr. Steven Voytovich</i>	Liturgics and Music <i>Fr. Tim Hojnicky</i>	Closing Session: What to Bring Back <i>Fr. John Matusiak</i>
Noon	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00 PM	Creating a Vision <i>Fr. Eric Tosi</i>	Mission Management <i>Fr. Dan Kovalek</i>	Catechism Program <i>Fr. John Parker</i>	The Ethnic Elements <i>Fr. David Rucker</i>	<i>Departure</i>
3:00 PM	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	
3:30 PM	Building a Community <i>Fr. Eric Tosi</i>	Stewardship/Finance <i>Fr. John Reeves</i>	Education Program <i>Fr. Chad Hatfield</i>	Revitalization as Mission <i>Fr. John Pierce</i>	
5:30 PM	<i>Vespers</i>	<i>Vespers</i>	<i>Vespers</i>	<i>Vespers</i>	
6:00 PM	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	<i>Dinner</i>	
7:00 PM	<i>Roundtable</i> <i>What is the definition of mission/evangelism/proselytism?</i>	<i>Roundtable</i> <i>What are the challenges in the communities?</i>	<i>Roundtable</i> <i>What is effective mission/evangelism?</i>	<i>Roundtable</i> <i>What do we need in communities?</i>	
8:00 PM	<i>Free Time</i>	<i>Free Time</i>	<i>Free Time</i>	<i>Free Time</i>	