

March is ONE Stewards Month!

Each year, the Diocese of New England sets aside the month of March as “ONE STEWARDS” Month. It is in this month, usually in the midst of Great Lent, that we ask each and every one of our diocesan faithful to look inside their hearts and generously support the *only* diocesan-wide appeal.

If one looks at the annual budget of the Diocese of New England, two things stand out:

1) Not one penny of the donations made to ONE STEWARDS goes to the administration of the diocese. The annual diocesan fair share that each parish forwards to the diocese funds the administration. ONE STEWARDS goes towards



A volleyball game at Youth Rally '04, one of the programs supported by ONE Stewards.

the programs and outreach of the diocese.

2) The amount donated by the faithful to the ONE STEWARDS appeal *does not* cover the expenses of the outreach and programs of our diocese. Last year was the one of the most successful ONE STEWARDS campaign in our history, but it still only collected *part* of the amount necessary just to maintain the current programs of the diocese.

What happens to your donation to ONE STEWARDS? Actually, many things. The mission parishes of our diocese have been growing and flourishing. Those parishes and their clergy have assisted through the generosity of ONE STEWARDS donors.

ONE STEWARDS TO 6



Lenten Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman

*The Law has no power over you, O my soul.
You have made the Gospel fruitless, scorned the
Scriptures, and reaped yourself no value from the
Prophets or the writings of the just. Your
wounds have increased and you have
no physician to heal you.*

(Kanon of St. Andrew of Crete, Monday)

GREAT LENT 2005

To the Reverend Clergy and Faithful
of the Dicoese of New England

Dearly beloved,

Once again the Church calls us to the holy season of Great Lent – a forty day journey away from ourselves and to the Kingdom of Heaven. It is so easy in our society to believe that all is “well.” Simply watch the news and hear about some heinous crime: child abuse, murder, adultery and theft. What is the first thing that we hear from someone who knows the accused? “He was so nice. I can’t believe he would do such a thing.” Yes, brothers and sisters, we are all so “nice.”

But our lives reveal otherwise. When we have the humility to look at ourselves through the eyes of Christ, we cannot help but be moved to repentance. Although we may not be murderers, abusers, adultrers and thieves, we know that these are not the only sins.

Our darkness is more insidious. We struggle with impatience, anger, hatred, hardheartedness, greed, covetousness and all sorts of other sins that we wave away with a sweep of the hand and a hearty “that’s no big deal.”

The Blessed Andrew of Crete reminds us in his moving penitential Kanon that we cannot simply will away sin. We try to obey the Law. It is useless, because we transgress it immediately. We do not heed the living Word of Gospel. We scorn the rest

MESSAGE TO 6

Diocese of New England • Orthodox Church in America

Volume 15 • Number 3 • March 2005

<http://www.dneoca.org>

O.N.E. (ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND)

Diocese of New England, Orthodox Church in America
Published monthly except for July-August

His Beatitute, Metropolitan HERMAN, Locum tenens
His Grace, Bishop NIKON, Administrator
The Very Reverend John J. Dresko, Editor

Advertising: This publication will accept advertisements. However, we reserve the right to refuse any advertising that we find unacceptable for a publication of this type. **Rate:** \$50.00 per quarter page, \$100.00 per half page, \$175.00 per full page.

Subscription: Distributed free of charge to diocesan members. \$10.00 per year or any part thereof for others. Subscription outside of U.S.: \$15.00 (U.S. Currency).

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Hardware: This issue was composed on an Apple Power Macintosh G5 with 1.5 gb RAM, a Umax Astra 3450 scanner, and a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet 5MP laser printer. **Software:** Microsoft Word X & PageMaker 6.52. Reproduction done at GT Graphics, Forestville, CT.

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ON THE DOCKET

A listing of upcoming events in the Diocese.
Please forward any dates you wish to be included to the Editor.

March 3, 2005
Connecticut Deanery Meeting, 7:00 P.M.
Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, CT

March 14, 2005
GREAT LENT BEGINS

March 20, 2005
Connecticut Deanery Orthodoxy Vespers, 4:00 P.M.
Holy Trinity Church, New Britain, CT

March 27, 2005
Connecticut Deanery Mission Vespers, 4:00 P.M.
St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Church, Clinton, CT

April 2, 2005
Northern Deanery Meeting, 9:00 A.M.
with His Grace, Bishop Nikon
St. Johnsbury, VT

April 3, 2005
FORCC Mission Vespers, 4:00 P.M.
TBA

April 10, 2005
Connecticut Deanery Mission Vespers, 4:00 P.M.
Nativity of the Holy Virgin Church, Waterbury, CT

April 17, 2005
Connecticut Deanery Holy Unction, 4:00 P.M.
Three Saints Church, Ansonia, CT

April 18, 2005
Metropolitan Council Meeting
OCA Chancery, Syosset, NY

April 24, 2005
PALM SUNDAY
Connecticut Deanery Bridegroom Matins, 4:00 P.M.
Ss. Cyril & Methodius Church, Terryville, CT

May 1, 2005
THE HOLY PASCHA

June 4, 2005
Consecration of New Church
Christ the Savior Church, Southbury, CT

July 17-22, 2005
14th ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL, Toronto

O.N.E. Press Fund

YES, I enjoy the articles, correspondence and editorials of *O.N.E. (Orthodox New England)* and would like to contribute towards the expenses of publishing this periodical. Find enclosed my check made out to "Diocese of New England."

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ADDRESS _____

PARISH _____

AMOUNT OF DONATION: _____

Please add a subscription to O.N.E. in my name with this. (\$10.00 per year – free to diocesan members)

NEW _____

RENEWAL _____

Please mail donations and subscription requests to: V. Rev. John Dresko, 95 Butternut Lane, Southington, CT 06489.

Around the Parishes

Clinton, Connecticut

In preparing for “Souper Bowl Sunday” the youth of St. Alexis Church challenged Fr. Steven Voytovich by meeting a set goal for the local food bank and IOCC. The goal to raise 200 cans and \$500.00 by February 6th. Father would shave his hair off if the monetary goal was attained and his beard only leaving a goatee if the can challenge was met. They exceeded the challenge and raised 394 cans and \$1,100 for IOCC so Fr. Steven’s barber shaved the hair and beard during coffee hour on the 6th. Matushka Cindy got to make the first swipe with the razor. Ideas for next year’s challenge are already being plotted by the youth of the parish. This was a lot of fun and raised much needed cans and monies for worthy causes.

New Britain, Connecticut

Our annual parish meeting was held (one week late due to the Blizzard of ‘05) and the following were elected to the 2005 Parish Council. Congratulations and Many Years to



Newest member of the “clean-cut” set, Fr. Steven Voytovich, with the youth of St. Alexis parish in Clinton, CT.

Auditors; and at-large members Marion Bichun, Barbara Burrill, Kevin Delaney, Chris Dresko, Amber Fiedler, George Matyczyk and Diane Polzun.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <h1>OUR DIOCESE</h1> | <p>PEOPLE PLACES EVENTS</p> |
|--------------------------|--|

all of them for their service and stewardship!
 Michael Wanik, *Warden*; Rosemary Delaney, *Vice Warden*; Lydia Dorsey, *Recording Secretary*; Jennie Everson, *Financial Secretary*; David Bartos, *Treasurer*; Nancy Martin, *Assistant Treasurer*; Paul Culton and Alan Hromi,

New Haven, Connecticut

On Sunday, January 9th, following Liturgy and Coffee Hour, the Sunday School Children, under the direction of Barbara Pope, held their Yolka. Greatly enjoyed by all. On January 16th, we held a parish luncheon in the auditorium following Liturgy and coffee hour. Special thanks to Natasha Fillyaw and Annie Cooper, for coordinating this scrumptious chicken dinner.

The Ladies Auxiliary and the “R” Club planned to hold their holiday dinner at Brazi’s, on January 23rd. Barbara Pope was coordinating this event. The parishioners were invited to attend on a “Dutch” treat basis. Unfortunately, Old Man Winter had other plans and decided to send the Blizzard of ‘05, canceling out our day of fun.

Congratulations to our outstanding students: The Orange Foundation, Orange, CT, presents a mini-grant twice a year to the student who writes a winning essay. Caitlin Mitchell was this year’s winter recipient. She was awarded \$200.00, and decided to use the funds to beautify her school module. In the spring, Caitlin assisted by her fellow girl scouts of Troop 333, Orange, will place plants and flowers around their school module.

Gregory Swan received a letter from Amey Marella, First Selectman of Woodbridge, congratulating him on his academic achievement. Gregory met the requirements for recognition by obtaining a grade of A in all his major courses (advanced placement classes in Algebra,



His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman, and His Eminence, Archbishop Job, lead hundreds of faithful including those from New England, in the annual March for Life in Washington, DC on January 24, 2005.

Needed: A Concentrated Orthodox Effort to Evangelize

by His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel

Unless there is some civil law stating to the contrary, “faith groups” may use whatever descriptive adjective they wish to entitle themselves. The proliferation of titles which include ‘catholic’ or ‘orthodox’ indicate the depths of the morass into which Christians have fallen in their desire to be “true” to what they perceive to be the Gospel and to some identity to nation or particularity.

Eastern Orthodox know that they all hold the same faith (some differences in typikon, i.e., “Byzantine”); Oriental Orthodox know that they, too, have a unity under that banner. The Roman Catholic Church, under the Bishop of Rome, all have the same faith plus a central and unique authority even if there are many rites (which Vatican II has dignified with the term “Church,” i.e., Ukrainian Catholic Rite is also Ukrainian Catholic Church, although it does not have autocephaly, although striving for some kind of “patriarch.” One can stretch it to say that it has some form of “autonomy” in that the candidates for the head of this Church/Rite will not be other than a Ukrainian national.

There are hundreds of differing “Baptist” churches, Methodist, Presbyterian, not to speak of the numerous evangelic denominations, et aliae. Society lumps all Christians together; polls separate us into two major groups, Roman Catholic or Protestant according to percent of the population. Orthodox Christians around the world often find themselves as a minority, but this should not imply some form of government control. The Church in Finland, although a recognized second “national,” carries on her mission as a minority and does well.

An administratively united Orthodox Church in the USA will not make Orthodoxy more or less acceptable or known per

se. What will make Orthodoxy known is, I believe, a concentrated effort to evangelize.

We need an institution that trains people for outreach to America. I believe that the main thrust of education and preparation for home evangelism must be the scope of a unique institution. Seminaries will continue their present mode of serving the existing and accepted parish life.

Outreach must be emphasized. It seems that those who embrace the Orthodox faith in North America easily position themselves into the “status quo,” even though some may rally against the “ethnic” identity of parishes and dioceses; others have no problem in entering an existing (“ethnic”) parish and find its acceptance of them spiritually and socially satisfying.

Is the Church in America mature?! Of course she is! She demonstrates this through her obedience to the unity of the Church by listening to the Mother Churches. Those “jurisdictions” which are still tied to the Mother Churches are like the servant in the Psalm which says (Vespers of weekdays, Aposticha verses) “like the eyes of a servant on their master’s hand...,” meaning that they are waiting for the Mother Church to act in behalf of administrative unity in, among other places, America (Europe, Australia, South America, Asia).

The local Synod of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Metropolia in 1905 asked the Russian Church for total Autocephaly and it came, in the strangest of manners of time, 65 years later in 1970, while atheistic communism was governing Russia.

Is there a need for administrative unity in Orthodoxy in the US and also in Canada? Of course. The bottleneck is that Constantinople pretends to be the sole author of autocephaly; the Mother Churches deem it their individual right; the Russian Church claimed it by authority of establishment through

missionary efforts.

What is needed is that the Church around the world be more open to the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, so that we discern the will of God and shake off the hold of governments and lay aside personal arrogance.

We are living in a time when we need to reflect on how to best live the faith and share the promise according to the world of today. We perceive the general fall of communism; secularization of Europe and North America; the advance of Islam; the world economic unification ideal.... What the Church needs now is a general council!

Shame on those who are leaders and lead not! Shame on those who should speak out but remain quiet, tacit for paltry gain! While we muddle in titles and past glories, the non-Christian world is upbuilding around us.

The Church is One Body, but at this time in history we are acting as the one in the Scripture who throws himself into the fire, who tears at his own flesh, who spews out self-inflicting anathemas and knows not that before us is the Christ who heals those who come to him with and in faith.

The early Church pleaded, “Come, Lord Jesus, come without delay.” Can we pray the same?

Is our household in order?

Is the Bride watching and waiting in love for her Bridegroom?

(Reprinted from the January 2005 issue of The Solia, Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America [OCA])

His Eminence, Archbishop Nathaniel, is Archbishop of Detroit.





The word game - a social event at Youth Rally '04

The Eucharist

Every time we approach the holy chalice to receive Communion to the Body and Blood of Christ we say a prayer that contains words that must become true on our lips, otherwise they are a lie before God. We say to God that we are the worst sinner, we are the chief sinner that there is.

And isn't it natural that so often we say these words thinking, 'This was true of the saints, who could feel that way, but I can't feel that I am the worst of sinners'. When we look around, when we look at the state of the world in which we live, we can see a number of people who in our eyes are worse than we are. And regarding this I would like to remind you of a passage in the diary of Saint John of Kronstadt, who also asked himself the same question, and in the end answered it in the

affirmative: 'Yes, I am the worst of all the sinners I know'.

And the reason he gave for this judgement of his was that he was aware of how much God had given him, and how little he had given to God in response.

I think we must all of us begin in this frame of mind, ask ourselves: What are the gifts which God has bestowed upon us? What is it that makes us so happy in ourselves, or makes others so happy in us, rightly or wrongly? And when we have come to understand how much we have received, then we can ask ourselves: what are the fruits which we have borne of these gifts?

And we will see that, according to the first Beatitude, there is nothing in us, in our life, which is our own, of our own making. God gave us life. He gave us a body, a soul, a mind. He gave us all that fills our lives with richness. All that we are and all that we possess are gifts of his. Do we give

EUCARIST TO 6



Young people enjoy the day at Lake Canobie during Youth Rally '04

Youth Rally 2005

To pre-register (and to be placed on the list to receive registration materials) please immediately call or email

**Fr. John Hopko, Youth Rally Director,
at phone number (860) 582-3631,
or email address saintcyril@snet.net**

Pre-register today for the Diocesan Youth Rally!

Here are the details:

What: Diocesan Youth Rally 2005

Who: All diocesan youth who have completed fifth grade and have not yet celebrated their 18th birthday are eligible to attend Youth Rally, (together with adults who are interested in and eligible to serve as leaders!)

When: August 15-20, 2005

Where: At the Campgrounds of the Greek Orthodox Diocese of Boston Camp, Contoocook, New Hampshire, (the same place as last year!)

We can't wait to see you at Youth Rally this year!

2005 SVS Lenten Retreat

St Vladimir's Seminary announces this year's Lenten Retreat, scheduled for April 16, 2005. Fr Steven Belonick will speak on "Growth in Life and Faith and Spiritual Understanding."

The schedule is as follows:

| | |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 9:00 AM | Divine Liturgy |
| 10:30 AM | Brunch and registration |
| 11:30 AM | First Presentation |
| 12:30 PM | Sixth Hour of Prayer, Refreshments |
| 1:30 PM | Second Presentation |
| 3:00 PM | Closing Prayer |

The bookstore will be open for part of the day and participants are welcome to return for the 6:30 PM Vigil service. This event is offered at no cost, but pre-registration is required. There will be an opportunity for a free-will offering.

To register, send an e-mail to events@svots.edu with "2005 Lenten Retreat" in the subject line. Include your name, address, daytime phone number, and e-mail address. If you are registering multiple people, please be sure to provide the complete contact information for each person. Registration may also be sent by mail to 575 Scarsdale Road, Crestwood, New York, 10707.

EUCHARIST FROM 5

Him gratitude for it, or do we appropriate these gifts, thinking no, they are our own really? And even when we are aware of the fact that they are not of our making, that it is God who has given us all that we are and all that we have, do we know how to be grateful and also to ask ourselves the question which I have already mentioned: what have I done with all the gifts of God? And if we go ever more deeply within ourselves and in our lives, can we begin to be able to say: yes, I really am the worst of all the sinners around me because I am so richly endowed by God and look how little, how very little, I have brought to God and to my

ONE STEWARDS FROM 1

We have been able to assist those from our diocese who wish to offer their lives in service to the Lord by studying at one of our seminaries with scholarships every semester.

The annual Diocesan Youth Rally is a program that has been emulated in other areas of the country. The funding for the rally and the ability to have a Youth Director is provided by ONE STEWARDS.

The publication of *Orthodox New England* is partially underwritten by your donation. Charitable outreach to groups and individuals is also funded by ONE STEWARDS. No one who has approached the diocese in genuine need has been refused assistance, and help has been offered in situations where no request was made but need was evident.

If you have not received your annual ONE STEWARDS appeal envelope by the time you read this publication, be assured. It is coming. Please look inside your heart and find the generosity to help protect and even expand the work of the Church in caring for the faithful of the Diocese of New England. If you do not receive a mailer, you may still forward your donation to:

ONE STEWARDS
P.O. Box 1182
Torrington, CT 06790-1182

neighbour as a result of it?

Let us all reflect on this. And when we come next time to Communion and we think or say these words, let us say them with at least a beginning of understanding that yes, it is true, and I know why. But come with an incipient understanding, because it takes a very long time for us to see how richly God has endowed us and how poorly we have responded to Him. But gradually, step by step, these words will become true and we will receive Communion with a new depth of broken-heartedness and with gratitude. Amen.

©Estate of Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh (†2004). Originally a sermon preached in 1998.

MESSAGE FROM 1

of the Scriptures as "unrealistic," not speaking to "today's world." We do not know the prophecies about the Savior of the world. We ignore the writings of the countless witnesses, theologians, and Saints of history – the guides of the Way. We are bleeding to death, and we do not turn to the Physician.

But Great Lent is the gift that Christ and the Church gives to us that helps us transcend our own feeble efforts. Through the prayer, fasting and almsgiving that is the work of Lent, we come to the realization that we cannot accomplish anything by ourselves.

In the community of the Church, through common effort (liturgy), we journey together on the road of repentance. The destination of the road is not just the celebration of Pascha, but our entrance into the risen Lord, in Whom we receive forgive of sins and salvation.

Join me in the holy forty days, beloved sisters and brothers. Use the time wisely. Together, may we be granted the joy of the Resurrection!

Forgive me in all my offenses.

With love in Christ,



†HERMAN
Archbishop of Washington
Locum tenens of the
Diocese of New England
Metropolitan of
All America and Canada

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

May Issue
April 1st

June Issue
May 1st

PARISHES FROM 3

English, French, Science and Social Studies). He attends Amity Junior High in Bethany and has been accepted to Notre Dame High School. Greg also trains six days a week, two hours a day with the Woodbridge Aquatic Club, and was recognized by Connecticut Swimming (the local US Swimming Organization) for finishing last year's short and long course season's in the top eight for swimmers of his age group. Greg, currently rehearsing for a piano recital, is an accomplished pianist and studies classical music.

Heidi Crosby is coordinating a Sunday School Program to be held on Saturday, May 14. This will be in a conference format with guest speakers, breakout sessions and review of available Sunday school material, followed by a luncheon. This is a FORCC sponsored event.

- submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon

Southbury, Connecticut

January, with its cold and snow has also brought new life and growth to our mission family. On January 9th, Michael Warburton, taking the name of St. Silouan, was chrismated. We joyfully welcomed Mike into the fullness of the Church, after his dedicated studying and preparation.

Filling Mike's spot on the catechumen list, Tilde Hungerford was received into the catechumenate on Feast of the Entrance of the Lord into the Temple. Tilde has been and continues to be a most faithful and helpful part of our community, and we look forward to her chrismation.

New life was reborn on Sunday, January 30th, as Lucien Alexei Austin was baptized during the Liturgy. His smile and exuberance were beautiful to see as new life began. We wish his parents, Mitch and Jessica, and his brother Michael, many happy, blessed years together!

In a continued outreach effort, a Saturday series of inquiry classes, "Under the Dome" and open houses will



(L-R) Dawn Pryzbeck, parents Jessica and Mitch Austin, and Anthony Velesiz, with the newly-baptised Lucien Alexei Austin, at Christ the Savior parish in Southbury, Connecticut.

begin in February. We look forward to welcoming visitors and neighbors and sharing our faith.

- submitted by Sarah Cole

FORCC News

We have tentatively scheduled the following events: February 17 – Brian Brown from the Family Institute of Connecticut; March 31 – Representative from Christ the Savior Church in Southbury will present "The Building of a Church"; June 16 – Youth camp and Orthodox Youth Activities; September 15 – Subdeacon Wylie Meath will put together a presentation on Prison Ministry; September 17 – Pan Orthodox Liturgy at the Holy Ghost Park in Shelton.

Our two major events will be a Sunday School Program to be held on Saturday, May 14. This will be in a conference format with guest speakers, breakout sessions and review of available Sunday school material, followed by a luncheon. Heidi Crosby of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, New Haven is coordinating this event.

The second will be our annual benefit dinner. The banquet is scheduled for October 2, 2005 at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Hall, Park Avenue, Bridgeport. Father Costas Sitaras will be the guest speaker, discussing the Orthodox Family.

Letters regarding Orthodox holy days were mailed to all School Superintendents. Several school districts responded and advised the information had been forwarded to the staff at various schools

Paschal billboards will once again be placed throughout Connecticut. Details regarding locations will be forthcoming.

- submitted by Barbara Ann Dixon



Children in Southbury collecting for "Souper Bowl Sunday," with food going to a local pantry and funds to the IOCC.

2005 SVS Summer Institute Set

CRESTWOOD, NY—Join us this summer at St Vladimir's Seminary for the Liturgical Institute of Music and Pastoral Practice from June 19–24, 2005. This annual event is an opportunity for adults to benefit from the seminary's rich resources during a week of theological education and personal edification. As in previous years, participants may choose between two tracks, the one focusing on liturgical music, and the other on theological and pastoral themes. They may also enroll in the institute for academic credit. This year's theme will be "The Church and Culture," the first in an eventual series of institute topics related to the broader theme of "Church and World."

"The way in which the Church interacts with culture has always been a rich theme," says Prof. Peter Bouteneff, who is charged with organizing this year's institute, "from the beginning of the Church's history to the present day. In our own day, questions of the Church's relationship to society, to politics, as well as to music and literature, are as vibrant as ever, with profound missionary implications. We are especially excited about the theme and the institute faculty this year."

All participants will attend both general sessions on the institute topics, as well as sessions that are specific to their chosen track. Those

in the liturgical music track will receive training in singing, conducting, and composition according to their skill level. A full cycle of services in the seminary's chapel provides the context for work, study, and fellowship during the week.

The institute faculty will include special guests such as Dr Albert Raboteau, professor of religion at Princeton University, Fr Irenej Dobrijevic, Executive Director for the Office of External Affairs for the Serbian Orthodox Church in the USA and Canada, and Bishop Savas of Troas, who will just have taught a course at the seminary on *Looking for God in Modern Culture*.

Please visit the events section of our website, www.svots.edu, for details on registration, fees, accommodations, and the week's schedule. More information will be added to this site as the date of the institute approaches. Inquirers may also e-mail events@svots.edu or call (914) 961-8313.

Youth Institute

The seminary is now accepting applications for this year's Youth Institute for High School Juniors. Each year, three males and three females are chosen and given full scholarships to attend. Except for travel to and from the seminary, all

expenses are covered by the scholarship. Held from June 18–24, 2005, the program coincides with the Liturgical Institute of Music and Pastoral Practice for adults. Participants in the youth institute join in some of the facets of the adult institute, but break off into their own discussion groups and take special excursions.

"Teenagers challenge this year's institute theme in a singular way," says Prof. Albert Rossi. "They must live in a world of corporate and political corruption at high levels, violence of every sort, and at the same time try to live a life in Jesus Christ and His Church. My expectations of teens today are higher than ever. The stakes are high and the battles are ferocious. Teens must reach down deeply and choose their battles. I have seen the commitment of some teens to high values and I look forward to their contribution at this year's summer institute."

High school juniors who are active in their faith and motivated to spend a week of their summer in this fun but challenging program are encouraged to apply. More details are available in the events section of the SVS website, www.svots.edu, along with a downloadable application form. Inquirers may also e-mail Fr Steven Belonick, the program coordinator, at belonick@svots.edu, or call him at (914) 961-8313, ext. 328.

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