

O. N. E.

ORTHODOX NEW ENGLAND

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Young Adult Group Launches

Right: Participants in the Young Adult Group's Sleeping Giant hike. The day's hikers came from the Boston, Meriden, and Southbury parishes.



With the blessings of His Grace, we are thrilled to announce the launch of a new young adult group within our diocese! This initiative aims to foster community and fellowship among young adults across our diocese through monthly activities. It's a wonderful opportunity for participants to share their journeys, connect with

peers, and explore our beautiful diocese together.

Each event is designed to be casual and focused on fellowship. After each gathering, we'll have the chance to visit a different parish for Vespers, so each meeting will be a time for fun

"Young Adults" continued on page 10

Stewards of the Diocese of New England

“Giving Above and Beyond”

The Youth Rally in August is approaching and needs our additional support. Enclosed with this ONE Newsletter is a “Stewards of the NE Diocese” return envelope. Please consider sending a donation. If you have already donated, please consider a second donation.

Thank you!

In 2008, our ever-memorable Archbishop Nikon began the “Bishop’s Circle Challenge,” asking us to join him in donating \$500 or more to “Stewards of the Diocese of New England.” Please help grow the number of Bishop’s Circle Donors. Your donations enable the Diocese to support the following essential programs:

- ◆ Youth Rally and other Youth Programs
- ◆ Seminaries and Scholarships for Seminarians
- ◆ Diocesan Missions
- ◆ Programs like IOCC, OCMC, and OCA Stewards



Use the Stewards of the Diocese of New England reply envelope enclosed in the newsletter or donate online at our Diocesan website, <https://dneoca.org/>

Thank you for your continued support.

Checks should be made payable to “Diocese of New England.” Please note the new mailing address for donations:

**Rev. Justin Griffing
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
1304 North St.
Pittsfield, MA 01201**

ONE +

Scout Sunday at St. Mark's, Kingston

Archpriest John Bacon

On March 10, St. Mark of Ephesus Mission, Kingston, Mass., commemorated Scout Sunday. Every year since the mid-1940s, religious communities around the USA have celebrated "Scout Sunday." This is usually done in February or any time deemed convenient by the local faith community. In 1955 when Joseph A. Brunton, Jr., was Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, he hosted a luncheon in honor of the leading hierarchs of the Eastern Orthodox jurisdictions in America: Archbishop Michael [Greek Orthodox Archdiocese], Metropolitan Anthony (Bashir) [Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese], Bishop Orestes

(Chornock) [American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of America] and Metropolitan Leonty (Turkevich) of what would become the Orthodox Church in America. The prelates came attired in their robes of office to the national office of the BSA in North Brunswick, NJ, they said, "to bestow their blessing on the Boy Scouts of America and to make known to their constituents that they wanted Scouting to become a part of the youth programs of the local churches." This was one of the first cross-jurisdictional enterprises of the Orthodox Churches in North America. As a result of this historic meeting, in 1960 the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas created the Eastern

Right: Father Kevin Kalish, Pastor, Juliana E. Pascar [Girl Scout Leader], Fiona Sutton, Zachary Bacon, Reader Daniel P. Bacon [Boy Scout Leader], and presenter, Father John T. Bacon.

Photo by Laura Geigle, Past Council President, St. Mark's Mission



Above: His Grace, Bishop Benedict visited Holy Transfiguration Church, New Haven, during Great Lent on April 14.

Orthodox Committee on Scouting (EOCS), whose purpose is to conduct the mission of our Lord and His Church via the Scouting programs on a national level.

Today, the EOCS is working as part of the Orthodox Youth and Young Adult Ministries (OYM) of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA. As time progressed, the EOCS included the Girl Scouts of America, Campfire USA, American Heritage Girls, and Trail Life USA. In 2016, His Beatitude, our Metropolitan Tikhon wrote: "As the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America, I wholeheartedly support the work of the Eastern Orthodox Committee on Scouting on behalf of Orthodox Scouts in the United States. I encourage all parishes to support their work in any way that they can, sponsoring Scout troops and packs as well encouraging the Scouts in their parishes to earn their religious award. May God bless the EOCS and their continuing good work on behalf of all Orthodox Churches in the United States."

Below: Protodeacon Paul Nimchek proclaims the Gospel at the Hierarchical Liturgy on April 14.

Congratulations to Boy Scout Zackery M. Bacon, and Girl Scout Fiona M. Sutton! Each Scout and Volunteer leader, including Fr. Kevin, was presented with a special Scout Sunday patch.

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My Bi-Vocational Priesthood

Ordination of Peter Condrick to the Holy Diaconate

On January 14, 2024, His Grace, Bishop Benedict made his first archpastoral visit to St. Mark of Ephesus Mission, Kingston, MA, where he ordained Deacon Peter Condrick. Photos from the Liturgy are presented on pages 5–8.

Above: The decorated icon of St. Mark of Ephesus.

Below: Bishop Benedict prays over Peter Condrick as he is ordained to the Holy Diaconate.

V. Rev. Marc A Vranes

Having a bi-vocational priesthood for over three decades, I am often asked about the experiences of such a life, especially in terms of the demands and blessings of working outside the parish, while at the same time managing the parish on a daily basis. This life was not the one I intended to have after ordination. It evolved, and now as I reflect on the past thirty years, I will remain ever grateful for the opportunities that I was presented with, and how they have shaped my life. The demands are many, and time management and self-care are crucial to maintaining a balanced and productive life.

The ***Demands*** include, but are not limited to the following:

Self-Image: The bi-vocational priest is not a second-class citizen,



nor should he be marginalized due to his inability to keep his finger on the pulse of the parish 24/7. Most clergy



Above: Bishop Benedict presides at the Holy Table.



easily recognize the cyclical nature of their ministry. It keeps repeating itself, which makes it a challenge to create space and find time to be away.

Time Management: It is intense and real. The bi-vocational priest needs to work from a daily routine in order to maximize his work. The luxury of having an entire day, and then possibly the following one as well in order to complete his work, simply does not exist. One box is checked, yet there are many others.

Family Priorities: The temptation that the bi-vocational priest often confronts is to short-change his family in order to attend to the

Below: Dn. Peter Condrick, leads his first litany.



Above: Bishop Benedict lays his hands upon Dn. Peter Condric at his ordination.



needs of the parish, often leading to resentment which must be closely guarded against.

Isolation: This is an island unto itself. Most clergy associate with those who, through no circumstances of their own, are forced to work outside the parish, but they are still called to do the work that God has called each of us to without exception, and to do it with zeal and a joyful spirit (Romans 12:11). Those who have a bi-vocational priesthood often feel alone. There are few who can fully understand this experience.

It is important for the bi-vocational priest that his second ministry, and the nature of that work, be consistent with his priestly ministry. There must be overlap in which the same Christian values are lived between both ministries.

The following are some of the **Blessings** that I have enjoyed through my own bi-vocational priesthood:

Self-Awareness: If I viewed Holy Trinity exclusively as my parish assignment, I would be much poorer in spirit. The world is my parish, so every time I leave home, I am immediately placed in the midst of others and am able to share my faith with those whom encounter. I am effectively able to minister to whoever it is that God puts in my life, as they become neighbors. This remains a great treasure which I continue to warmly embrace.

Improved Listening Skills: There are many opportunities that come to me each day where I am able to engage in interfaith dialogue. Listening to the thoughts and feelings of others is a sacred activity and says more about the Divine than many sermons I have heard, and even myself delivered.

Every time I participate in an interfaith conversation, there is room for personal spiritual development for me. As my purpose is not to convert but instead to affirm the other, then

each day is full of opportunities for me to do God's work. I feel my ministry allows me to continue to do God's will.

Several years ago in speaking to a Muslim man and as the conversation unfolded, he stated that identifying himself exclusively as a Muslim would put him in a box that he might have difficulty escaping. He went on to add that he wanted to make friends and share meaningful conversations with people of all faiths: fellow Muslims, Christians, Jews, agnostics, and even those who have no faith at all. Putting him in a box would not make that possible for him. This conversation was pivotal to my changed world view, and continues to serve as a personal guiding light.

Humility: Not everything associated with religion is beneficial or essential, and it is healthy to acknowledge that. Humility is a great virtue; to acquire humility is to have a great teacher.

As I reflect on my life and three-decade bi-vocational priesthood, I would not have changed a thing. I would never have wanted my life to be anything different from what I have experienced from my own unique calling from God.

Father Marc is the pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Willimantic, Connecticut.

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Right: Assembled priests hold the Aer above Bishop Benedict. St. Mark's pastor, Fr. Kevin Kalish, is pictured in the foreground.



News from St. Alexis Church, Clinton, CT

Vinny Melesko

On April 27th, Lynn Miller (pictured right) was received into the Orthodox Church through Holy Chrismation by Father Steven Hosking during the Lazarus Saturday Liturgy. May God grant her many years!

Parishioner Marlene Melesko recently entered an icon of St. Mary of Egypt, that she painted for the National Eucharistic Sacred Art Society, which sponsored a contest of religious artwork with a Eucharistic theme, through St. Edmund's Sacred Art Institute at Enders Island, Mystic, CT. Marlene has been writing Icons for only five years, after taking Iconography classes at the Enders Island Sacred Art Institute. Marlene's icon was one of 650 pieces of artwork entered from across the United States. She was not one of the 109 winners, but she was chosen as one of ten alternates, a very high honor.



St. Alexis was honored to have Bishop Benedict attend the Divine Liturgy celebrating the Feast of St. Alexis on Tuesday May 7. He is pictured below with Father Hosking at the conclusion of the service. **ONE** †



St. Alexis "Souper Bowl"

St. Alexis in Clinton held its annual Souper Bowl Sunday on February 11. This year we had eight different chilis submitted. Every chili submitted was very tasty, but there can be only one winner. The winner is determined by the amount of money collected for that chili.

So people donate not only based on their taste buds, but also based on their hearts. This year everyone was very generous, with the money going to International Orthodox Christian Charities.

The winner (pictured here with Father Steven Hosking) was Christine Jankura.
Vinny Melesko



Young Adults from page 1

and relaxation but also for spiritual enrichment. Moreover, by rotating locations, we hope to accommodate young adults from various areas, ensuring that everyone can join in.

Summer Plans So Far

- ◆ May 18th: a hike at Pawtuckaway Mt. We met at the North Mountain Trail in Pawtuckaway State Park, NH, at noon.
- ◆ June 15th: a hike at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden, CT. We started at 200 Mount Carmel Ave, Hamden, CT, at noon, with Vespers following at Saints Peter & Paul, Meriden.
- ◆ Potential July 13th Event: We're planning a relaxed beach day at Charleston Beach, R.I. Spend the day by the sea, and around 5 PM, we may journey together to St. Nicholas in Norwich for Vespers.

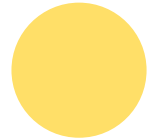
His Grace has appointed Dimitrios Rentel as the coordinator of this new group, under the guidance of Father Moses Locke, the Director of Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Ministry, and Assistant Director Ephraim Mosher.

We invite all our young adults to join these gatherings. Learn more and get connected with an online conversation from our diocesan website: https://dneoca.org/news_240511-1. You can also join the young adult WhatsApp group via the QR code below.



Youth Rally

2024



August 5th - 10th

For ages
9 - 17



At:

St. Methodius Faith and Heritage Center
Contoocook, NH

www.dneyouthrally.com



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Upcoming

July 10

Deadline for next issue of the ONE

July 13

Young Adults Day at Charleston Beach, RI

Aug 5-10

Diocesan Youth Rally

Oct 25-26

Diocesan Assembly hosted by Dormition of the Virgin Mary, Cumberland, RI