

Department of Home Schooling

Submitted May 17th by Archpriest Noah Bushelli, Director

*With us everything should be secondary compared to our concern with children,
and their upbringing in the instruction and teaching of the Lord.*

-St. John Chrysostom

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Goals:

1. Promote, support and unite homeschooling throughout the Archdiocese.
2. Remind all parents that their children's education is their responsibility, whether or not they outsource this task.

Strategies:

1. Organize a Home-Education.
2. Publish articles in "The Word" about parenting in a column.
3. Host an online presence, publish curriculum, curricular guides, and guides to online education opportunities.
4. Host Events: diocesan homeschooling Retreats/Conferences, workshops at Parish Life Conferences, Electives at Clergy Symposia.
5. Provide guidance in the establishment Parish-based Co-ops.
6. Develop Orthodox Curriculum.
7. Cooperate with other departments of the archdiocese.

Recent Ministry Highlights

Column in the *The Word*

A professional-educator, wife, parent, and pious life-long Orthodox Christian will be writing articles on parenting topics on behalf of the department. The proposed title is: "Hearth Notes: Musings from the Orthodox Home". God willing, back-articles will be available on the department webpage.

Clergy Symposium

We hosted an elective ("Effectively Ministering to Homeschool Families") at our archdiocesan Clergy Symposium July 2016. 35 Priests attended the presentations with excellent and fruitful discussion. Discussion ranged from an introduction to homeschooling, reasons for homeschooling, pitfalls and weaknesses of homeschool families, how to start co-ops, the philosophy of education, socialization, balancing tensions between parishioners of educational choices.

PLC Workshops

We hosted a "Home-Education Workshop" at the Parish Life Conference of the Eastern Dioceses. We are open to expanding to other diocese. Please contact us.

Educational Support -

We continue to support, pray for, advise, catechize and recruit for St. Raphael School - <http://www.raphaelschool.org/>.

Home-Education Sunday

Proposed for February 4th, 2018, feast of the Mothers of the Three Hierarchs.

Department Webpage

I'm thankful for <http://antiochian.org/department-homeschooling> and the cooperation and assistance of the webmasters!

Manual Development

Working on a Manual for the Department which will have key contacts, dates, procedures, to make sure that the knowledge of the department is available for others as the times dictate.

Trying to Secure Funding

Requested Funds from the Archdiocese to hire a part-time assistant.

St. Emmelia Homeschool Conference:

Our Flagship Ministry, the St. Emmelia Homeschool Conference 2017 was a great success; glory to God for His generosity in blessing our humble efforts! The theme was "touching heaven" and we really did touch heaven in many various ways as we came together for encouragement, equipping, and refreshment in the God-ordained task of raising His children.

Please save the dates for the next conference at Antiochian Village on April 19–22, 2018; this will be the twelfth event of its kind, the second under the oversight of the department. The theme of the conference is "Be Not Afraid" and we're pleased announce Fr. Josiah Trenham as our keynote speaker.

There is serious planning regarding expanding to another St. Emmelia Conference in California. Please pray for this work to continue to flourish and follow the development of the conference community at: <https://www.saintemmeliacommunity.com/>



A Prayer for God's Continued Help

O Lord Jesus Christ, Wisdom, Word, and Power of God, Our Teacher and Enlightener, reared by the Virgin Mary, trained by Saint Joseph the Betrothed, help us to raise our children in Thy love and fear so that they may live lives well pleasing to Thee and inherit the Kingdom of Heaven, through the prayers of Thy Holy Mother and the Holy Mothers of the Three Hierarchs, Saints Emmelia, Nonna, and Anthousa, and their godly sons. Amen!