

Orthodox Church in America Diocese of the Midwest

Youth Communications Diocesan Report – September 2023

The focus of the Youth Communications role in the Midwest Diocese is to provide information to parishes and families about youth events and issues within the diocese. During 2023 we began using the Diocesan app for communications, but we have struggled with adoption throughout the diocese. As users increase, the app can and should be a good venue for communication with church school teachers, youth directors, families and youth themselves. We have discontinued use of Slack for communications in an effort to move to the app, but we continue to post on the DOMOCA Youth Facebook page and use email lists at times for communication.

This year we supported efforts to advertise and distribute scholarships for diocesan camps for families throughout the Midwest Diocese. The Youth Communications Liaison was responsible for advertising the scholarships, providing an application process, receiving and reviewing applications, and notifying families of scholarship awards. Through this effort, we were able to provide full or partial scholarships to almost 70 youth in the diocese to attend six camps, distributing scholarships totalling just over \$9000. In addition, the scholarship funds made possible the inaugural year of a new camp in Missouri - Annunciation Family Camp. The system and application process that was created will now be used to offer and provide scholarships for winter camps and college conferences for DOMOCA youth in 2023 and 2024.

In 2024 youth communications expects to be involved in supporting communication efforts related to summer events including diocese camps and conferences, scholarships, and the Suprasl Youth event in Chicago, as well as other upcoming retreats or other youth events. We hope to see an increase of use in the diocese app or other forms of communication. These tools are only as good as the information submitted.

Erin Moulton always welcomes ideas and suggestions as we build communication across the diocese to support our youth. Please feel free to contact youth communications at domyouth@domoca.org or directly at moultonnee@gmail.com.