

Department of Family Life

(www.midwestfamily.org)

Report to the delegates of the 2023 Assembly of the Diocese of the Midwest, OCA

The Department of Family Life was created by Archbishop Paul to operate his passion project, the family life website (www.midwestfamily.org). Since His falling asleep, the website has gone dormant, and the department has engaged in zero public activity. Behind the scenes, however, there was an effort this past fall and early spring to renew family ministry on a diocesan scale through the founding of Orthodox Family Camps. This idea was hatched in response to a call for proposals from Lilly Endowment for grants of up to \$1.25 million over five years to organizations trying to help families pass on their Christian faith to the next generation. From October 2022 to February 2023, we conducted research into the logistics and costs of partnering with an existing family camp in the Minneapolis region and establishing new family camps in four different regions of our diocese. These would operate out of existing facilities rented by the diocese for weekend events led by our own staff. We then prepared the grant application, complete with a detailed budget proposal and timeline and submitted it to Lilly on February 13 of this year. We asked for \$417,522 over five years. Unfortunately, our proposal was not chosen for funding, so the family camp initiative has stalled, and the Department of Family Life remains defunct.

Respectfully submitted in XC,

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