



Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (OYM)

an Agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America

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Dear Orthodox Clergy & Faithful,

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops has designated the 4th Sunday of September as the annual **Youth & Young Adult Ministry Awareness Sunday**. In this inaugural year of this commemoration, the day falls on **Sunday, September 24, 2023**.

With approximately 60% of youth leaving the church once they become adults, it's vital for everyone – clergy, lay leaders, parents, and other caring adults – to work together in helping our young people find joy in Christ and become full participants in the life of the Church.

Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (OYM) is here to help parishes, priests, parents, and others accomplish this.

Can you help us promote this day of awareness for the future of our youth and young adults?

We would be grateful if you could:

- **Speak to your parish about the spiritual needs of youth and young adults**
- **Share our Youth & Young Adult Ministry Awareness materials with your parish**
- **Encourage parishioners to sign up for OYM's newsletter at: TheOYM.org/newsletter**
- **Take up a collection in support of OYM**

Please let us know if you would like to have an outline of talking points.

The following materials and other information are available at www.TheOYM.org/oym-sunday

- The Assembly of Bishops' **OYM Sunday Encyclical**
- **OYM 1-page flyer** to distribute during coffee hour
- **OYM insert** to enclose with church Sunday bulletins
- Suggested **OYM Sunday blurbs** to insert in bulletin or email announcements

We invite you to print copies of these materials for distribution to your parish on Sept. 24th or insert one of the blurbs in your bulletin.

Please contact Sandra Glisic at sglisic@TheOYM.org with any questions.

We greatly appreciate your support!

In Christ,

Fr. Nicholas Belcher
President