



September 24, 2026

Dear Reverend Fathers, Beloved Youth Workers, and Friends in Christ,

On September 27, 2026, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America will once again observe Youth and Young Adult Sunday, a day set aside for the whole Church to reflect on our shared calling to walk with the next generation of Orthodox Christians.

Since the Assembly established Orthodox Youth and Young Adult Ministries (OYM) in 2022, we have served as its official agency for this work, connecting and equipping youth and young adult ministries across every Orthodox jurisdiction in the country. We do not exist to replace the incredible, life-giving work you are already doing in your parish. We exist to make sure you are not doing it alone.

This past year, that network kept growing. Our Ministry Support Coordinators are now on the ground in more cities, working directly with clergy and youth workers like you. The Godparent Project, a new video resource, is now available to help parents and godparents prepare for one of the most important relationships a young person will have in the Church. Our course, *Removing the Veil*, continues to equip parents, clergy, and youth workers to build the kind of relationships that help faith take root and last. Outdoor Orthodoxy helps families and parishes encounter God, one another, and creation through the outdoors. And *What's Your Ministry?* (whatsyourministry.org) remains a home for materials gathered from across jurisdictions and routinely has thousands of clergy, youth workers and families utilizing these precious resources .

Enclosed with this letter, you will find this year's Youth and Young Adult Sunday encyclical from His Grace Bishop Thomas, our Episcopal Liaison, along with a flyer introducing these initiatives. We ask that you share both with your parish, whether in the bulletin, at coffee hour, or from the ambo.

We also ask you to consider a gift to OYM this Youth and Young Adult Sunday. Your support helps us keep connecting the youth workers, clergy, and volunteers who show up week after week for the young people in their care, so that fewer of them have to do that work alone. You can give at theoym.org/donate.

Thank you for the faithfulness you bring to this ministry and for the time you give to it. We are grateful to walk alongside you.

With Gratitude in Christ,

Dr. Christopher Krampe
Executive Director
Orthodox Youth and Young Adult Ministries