

THE THREE DIVISIONS OF THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT  
OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE

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There are three groups of youth, according to age:

- 1) PREADOLESCENTS -- 7 to 12 years old with the name of JOY (JUNIOR ORTHODOX YOUTH). These children are directed by experienced youth advisors (teachers, psychologists, etc), assisted by all the parents.

PURPOSE: a) To become acquainted with the Church and its programs, for example, the Priest, the President of the Community, the Choir, Sunday School, Choir, etc.

b) To develop between them a family relationship with Orthodox Christian values. Consequently, it is necessary that their advisors be imbued with the Orthodox ethos in order to convey it to the children.

c) To learn the Feast Days of the Church, when their own Patron Saint is being celebrated.

d) To gain an introduction to self-government of the group, for example, duties of the Chairperson, President, Officers, etc.

COMMENTS: a) Let us have in mind that, according to psychology today, these children are ready to assume responsibilities and from their ranks their leaders emerge, from as young as the age of 7.

b) Today, these children are physically and intellectually more developed than their counterparts of the past. Apparently, nourishing foods, vitamins, etc. and today's life-style develop these children. Very often girls today mature at the age of 10 and boys develop adult characteristics at the same age.

ATTENTION: We can see that this age group requires a lot of attention because the children are very smart and are showing signs of entering adolescence at a much earlier age. It has been noted that among them suicide, drug taking and other bad practices are taking place. Much of this is due to the hopelessness that they feel as they see catastrophic world events on TV, as they hear in school and at home about the possibility of nuclear destruction, and as their homes and society become less aware of their spiritual and emotional needs. Psychologists concede that their research in this age group is still in a very stage. On the other hand, the educators are aware of the importance of this age and the necessity of the closer supervision that is required from the parents and from the Church. In the Church the child can find its identity, who he is and to whom does he belong. For example, when a child participates in Church programs, recites poems, makes friends with other children, is recognized by the congregation and applauded for its participation, this child senses a personal security and in its position

position among the congregation. The Theology of our Church conveys to the child his identity as the creation of God "in his image and likeness". The child learns in this way that God is his Father and that his fellow men are his brothers and sisters.

2) ADOLESCENTS -- 13 to 18 years old. These children are ready to learn more about organization and administration and to coordinate their various programs. They practice their privilege to vote and to be voted, to appoint committees and learn parliamentary procedure. Their program should encompass four characteristics:

- a) Liturgia - prayer.
- b) Koinonia - communion - love towards our fellow man as our brother in Christ.
- c) Diakonia - stewardship - to serve in the society in which they live and in their Church.
- d) Martyria - witness - to learn their Orthodox Faith and to convey it to others.

COMMENTS: Let us keep in mind that adolescents encounter extensive problems and need the attention from all the quarters of the Church, from the Priest, the Parish Council, Philoptochos, Schools, professional people, and all the congregation. Teen-agers undergo great pressures in society. They are often disappointed in their elders and especially their parents. They live in a pluralistic society where various cultures and identities do not encourage them in their own beliefs and so they are easily swayed. The Church is in a position to help them when the members of the congregation take the proper steps to assist them and when they show their concern.

ADOLESCENT COMMITTEE: This committee is comprised of all individuals in the community who work with the adolescent and preadolescent child, teachers, directors, school superintendents, youth advisors, altar boys advisors, scoutmasters, junior choir directors, etc. This committee will be headed by the Pastor, the Parish Council Representative to youth and the Youth Director (paid or unpaid) of the community. The Parish Council Representative to youth plays a prominent role in the youth work because he attends parish council meetings and as the representative of youth he requests monetary assistance for the youth program. All the members of this committee of course are under the direction of the Pastor.

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES: The youth offer assistance to community projects, festivals, they participate in athletic events, in Holy Communion as a group, in retreats, in socials, cultural and educational meetings, and they come directly into contact with the community as often as possible.

INTERACTION: The more the youth relate with the Orthodox youth of their age, the better their spiritual and intellectual development. It is valuable for them to become acquainted with the children of surrounding communities and to relate with them as Orthodox Christians. In this way,

their faith and value system is strengthened. The presence of numerous youth at Church activities excites their desire to belong to the Orthodox body of faithful. Their visitations with other communities, with the Hierarchs of the Church and with other Clergy makes them feel a part of whole Church throughout the Archdiocese.

PARENTS: Although it is regrettable, it is true that parents oftentimes are responsible for the problems of their children, usually out of ignorance or neglect. The parents are in need of spiritual and psychological direction in order to properly guide their children and raise them to meet the problems of life more adequately. The Parish should provide lectures, workshops and material to help make the parents aware of their responsibilities and the problems that should be addressed.

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCES OF PARENTS AND YOUTH DIRECTORS: We strongly recommend that those who direct the communities procure the services of professional educators and other professional people of the community to confer with the parents and with the directors of the youth program.

FINALLY: It is good periodically for the teen-agers to come into direct contact with the young adults 18 years of age and up at various specific functions in which they can participate. This way they will be introduced into the young adult world, which they will be joining eventually.

- 3) G.O.Y.A.L. -- GREEK ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE -- 18 and up -- GOYAL is a movement rather than an organization, in which men and women, married and unmarried, participate. They are members of the Church who share the same age and interests. Consequently, they are to gather for the following purposes:
- a) KOINONIA - fellowship - to become acquainted with each other in the environment of the Church, where they can exchange the love and the fellowship of Christ in the Orthodox ethos. They welcome each other, without discrimination of social or economic standing. There they find the compassion and concern of their person from the genuine Christian Orthodox Church. As brothers and sisters of Christ, they will plan functions, socials, athletic events, lectures and other beneficial programs.
  - b) LITURGIA - worship - The celebration of the Divine Liturgy is the basis from which the GOYAL movement is directed, as they experience the Holy Life of our faith and communication with eternity. Attendance in the Holy Services, Confession and Holy Communion are the major characteristics of this movement.
  - c) MARTYRIA - witness - They will be taught our religious precepts that they will relate to in their daily lives and will share this with others. With their good example of faith, they will bring others of similar age into the embrace of the Church. They will prepare religious gatherings and retreats corporately, they will receive Holy Communion and they will study

the Holy Tradition and the Church Fathers.

d) DIAKONIA - Stewardship - First and primarily, because they are young adults, they are urged to make their contribution to the Church and to support the Church projects. As members of the community, they are to observe the decisions of the general assemblies of the community and of the Parish Council. They are to serve on the Parish Council, Philoptochos, as teachers in the Sunday Schools, participate in the Choir and assist in the youth programs of the teen-agers and wherever else they are needed in the community.

FELLOWSHIP: We have stressed that GOYAL is in general a movement. However, every Parish should also have a GOYAL Fellowship to prepare the activities which will encourage the participation of young adults. Within its midst, the Priest of the Parish has a prominent position and together with him the Fellowship prepares the program which will serve the four aforementioned characteristics of the GOYAL Movement.

CONSTITUTION: The actual constitution of the GOYAL Movement is the Holy Scriptures and Holy Tradition. The Sermon on the Mount of the Lord especially presents the guidelines for this movement.

AT THE PARISH: The Fellowship will be administered by whatever system best serves its needs. The Fellowship has the right to develop their own constitution, as long as it is simple. They may have a council with president, secretary, etc., or simply they may wish to be governed by a chairperson and a committee, or any other administrative program that best fits their needs.

AT THE DIOCESE: The Bishop of the Diocese will organize the GOYAL in his Diocese, as he sees fit. All programs and direction of the movement are subject to his approval.

AT THE ARCHDIOCESE: Each Bishop appoints two representatives of his Diocese to the Archdiocesan GOYAL Committee. They will represent the Young Adults of their Diocese and help coordinate the activities of the Young Adults within their Diocese and across the Archdiocese.

ARCHDIOCESE YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE: The Director of the Archdiocese Youth Ministry Office is appointed by the Archbishop and his duties are to coordinate the programs of the Young Adults between the Dioceses, to be their spiritual advisor, to prepare written material and to assure the maintenance of the Orthodox ethos as it emanates from the Archdiocese and from the ecumenical Patriarchate.

GOYAL GROUP FELLOWSHIP: The gatherings of GOYAL groups should always be informative, sharing in Christ's love, and spiritually edifying. A good format for meetings could be as follows:

- a) PRAYER: "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal..."
- b) The GOYAL PRAYER: "Lord, as we struggle for meaning and purpose in life,

guide us with your helping hand. Teach us to be aware of God's abiding love, and stir our concern for our fellow man. We commit to you our lives in the spirit of dedication and obedience, so that we may be spiritually renewed through the teachings of our faith and the guidance of the Greek Orthodox Church. We ask for this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. AMEN."

c) BIBLE READING: Quotes from "Come Receive the Light..."  
(1 JOHN 4:7-21) (1 COR. 12: 1-11).

d) SHORT BUSINESS MEETING: Forthcoming events and activities planned in the spirit of the four GOYAL characteristics. To conserve time, announcements of events and other activities should be made only with flyers.

e) DISCUSSION: For every general meeting, a related subject of moral and social concern can be presented in less than seven minutes and a discussion among the group can ensue. It has been found that this type of lecture/discussion meets with good success and can last as long as the interest exists. Experts can be brought to the Fellowship to deliver the lectures and lead the discussions. The handling of the material is, of course, subject to the discretion of the Pastor, who preferably should be present at every official GOYAL gathering.

Sharing the fellowship of Jesus creates an infectious atmosphere of brotherly love that prevails at all their sessions, without discrimination of one's status in society. At the Fellowship gatherings, young adults are brothers and sisters, as Christ exhorted, "For whoever does the will of the Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." (MATT. 12:50). As they become acquainted with other young adults from other communities in their Dioceses and Archdiocese, their interest in the Church increases and their faith is strengthened. In this interaction, they are able to experience Christ's Gospel of Love.

REGIONAL ACYOA OFFICE (four regions)

Staff: Full-time Youth Coordinator (trained professionals)

The Regional Office will:

1. Work with youth leaders of ACYOA chapters in the region.
2. Assist in coordinating Diocesan and regional programs.

The Regional Office will work directly with the parishes in its region setting up activities and programs for the parish as well as organizing and coordinating activities and events that bring regional youth together.

(The Regional Office will work under the direction of the DYM and be salaried by the Diocese.)

Programs - Seniors

1. Regional religious retreats.
2. Cultural retreats.
3. Youth Ministry seminars.
4. ACYOA conferences
5. Campus ministry
6. Regional Committee

Programs - Juniors

1. Retreats
2. Recreational and social activities.
3. Sports Weekends
4. Seminars
5. Regional Committee

PARISH ACYOA CHAPTERS

Staff: Parish Youth Leader

Options: Paid full-time youth leader

Paid part-time youth leader

Volunteer youth leader

(Youth programs should be part of the parish budget.)

The parish youth leader would work with both Junior and Senior chapters and be responsible to the pastor and Parish Council. He/she would work with the Regional Coordinator and directly with parish youth in implementing a variety of programs based on the Diocesan Youth Ministry model (Service, Education, Fellowship, Worship). He/she would also on occasion work directly with the DYM.

## BUDGET

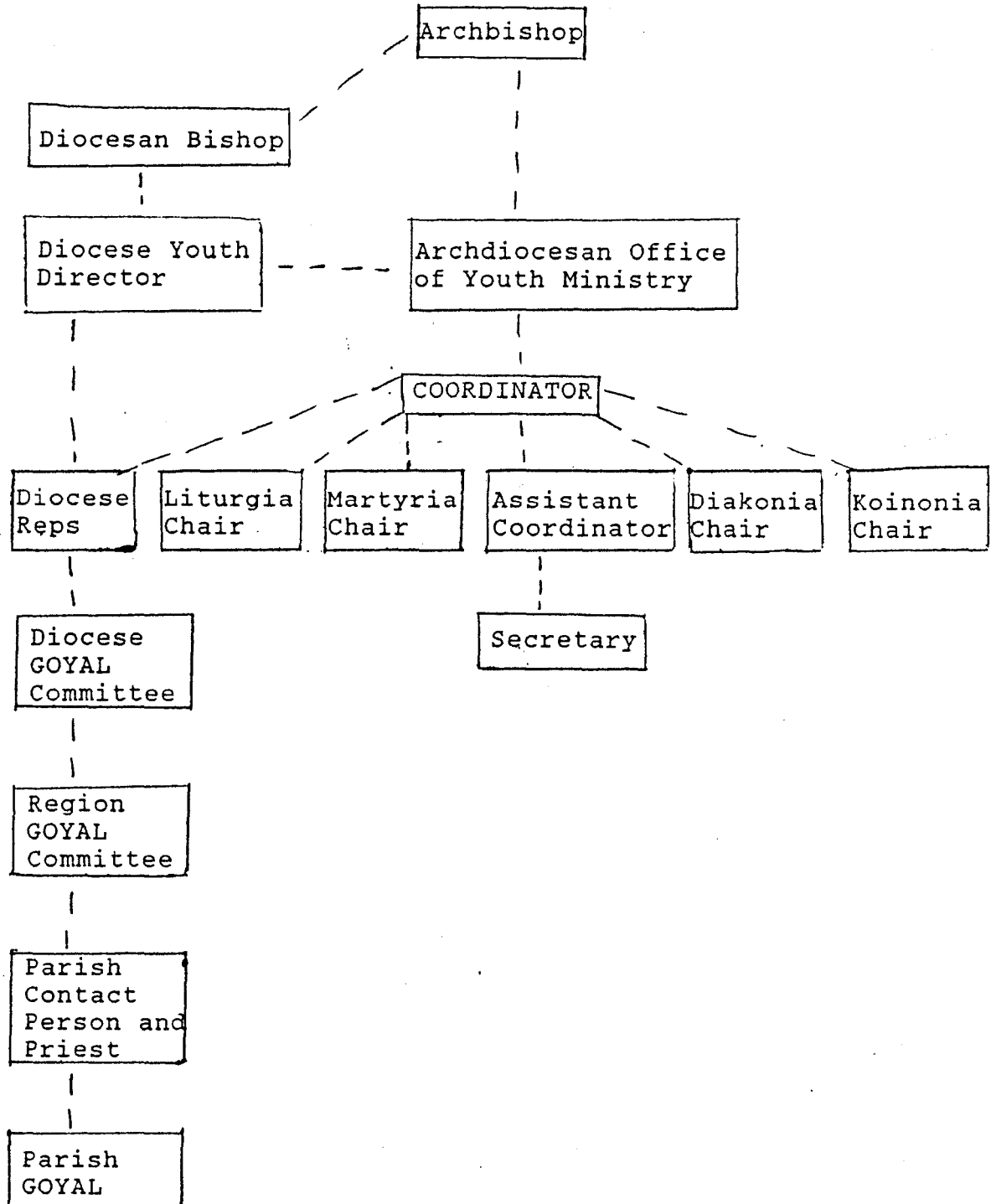
A budget should include the following:

1. Salaries
  - a. Director - Senior Office
  - b. Director - Junior Office
  - c. Administrative Assistant
  - d. Four Regional Coordinators
2. Expenses
  - a. Travel
  - b. Resources
  - c. Programs
  - d. Publications
  - e. Training
  - f. Operational expenses



Archdiocesan GOYAL Committee

FLOW CHART



## COORDINATOR

Length of Term: One year  
Initiative Date April 1st

Back Round: Having served as Assistant Coordinator,  
or as a part of Archdiocesan GOYAL  
Committee during the past two years.

### Job Description:

- \* Coordinates activity of Assistant Chairperson, and Characteristic Chairpersons and Diocesan Representatives.
- \* Chairs meetings of Archdiocesan GOYAL Committee.
- \* Assists in defining Archdiocesan needs and direction.
- \* Advises Archdiocesan events such as Conferences.
- \* Communicates decisions and trends of the Movement on a Archdiocesan scale.
- \* Makes the necessary appointments for positions in the Archdiocesan GOYAL GOYAL Committee.

Accountable To: The Office of Youth Ministry and to  
the Archdiocesan GOYAL Committee.

Chosen By: The Director of Archdiocesan Youth  
Ministry.

## ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

**Length of Term:** One year  
Initiative Date April 1st.

**Back Round:** Having served as Archdiocesan Assistant Coordinator, or Archdiocesan GOYAL Committee or leadership role of an Archdiocesan program/project.

**Job Description:**

- \* Chairs the finance committee of the GOYAL Movement.
- \* Cultivates replacements for Diocese Representatives.
- \* Ensures that Diocese Conferences occur.
- \* Trouble Shooter for Diocese Problems

**Accountable To:** Coordinator

**Chosen By:** The past Coordinator in conjunction with the and approved by Office of Youth Ministry.

## DIAKONIA Chairperson

Length of Term: One year  
Initiative Date April 1st

Back Round: Active as a Diocesan Representative, Assistant to a Characteristic Chairperson or having served in some sense of Leadership to the GOYAL Movement.

### Job Description:

- \* Chairs Hope In Action
- \* Motivates Service activities on a parish, diocese and an Archdiocese Level.
- \* Develops Diakonia-Service Idea Books, Pamphlets, Videos etc.

Implementation: Chairperson shall organize and develop committees and task forces to affect and complete responsibilities.

Accountable To: Coordinator

Chosen By: By past Diakonia Chairperson and GOYAL Coordinator in conjunction with and the approval of the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Office.

## MARTYRIA Chairperson

**Length of Term:** One to two years  
Initiative Date April 1st

**Back Round:** Active as Diocesan Representative,  
Assistant to a Characteristic  
Chairperson or having served in some  
sense of leadership to the GOYAL  
Movement.

**Job Description:**

- \* Coordinates GOYAL Stewardship  
Activities
- \* Handles Publications and News Releases
- \* Coordinates Mailing and Newsletter
- \* Maintains a speakers bureau
- \* Developing Pamphlets on Faith for  
GOYAL readership

**Implementation:** Chairperson shall organize and develop  
committees and task forces to affect and  
complete responsibilities.

**Accountable To:** Coordinator

**Chosen By:** Past Martyria Chairperson and  
Coordinator in conjunction with and the  
approval of the Archdiocesan Youth  
Ministry Office.

## LITURGIA Chairperson

**Length of Term:** One year  
Initiative Date April 1st.

**Back Round:** Active as a Diocesan Representative, Assistant to a Characteristic Chairperson or having served in some sense of leadership to the GOYAL movement.

**Job Description:**

- \* Conference Worship Assistance and Direction ensuring liturgical participation (i.e. singing responses, partaking and preparing gifts occurs.
- \* Ensuring that retreats on the Archdiocesan, Diocesan and Parish level occur.
- \* Developing Liturgical resources for the GOYAL

**Implementation:** Chairperson shall organize and develop committees and task forces to affect and complete responsibilities.

**Accountable To:** Coordinator

**Chosen By:** Past Liturgia Chairperson and GOYAL Coordinator in conjunction with and approval of the Archdiocesan Youtrh Ministry Office.

## KOINONIA Chairperson

**Length of Term:** One year  
Initiative Date April 1st

**Back Round:** Active as a Diocesan Representative, Assistant to a Characteristic Chairperson or having served in some sense of leadership to the GOYAL Movement.

**Job Description:**

- \* Coordinate and Maintain Archdiocesan mailing list.
- \* Develop and implement Peer Support System in the GOYAL.
- \* Develop quality fellowship ideas for parish, diocesan and Archdiocesan events.

**Implementation:** Chairperson shall organize and develop committees and task forces to affect and complete responsibilities.

**Accountable To:** Coordinator

**Chosen By:** Past KOINONIA Chairperson and GOYAL Coordinator in conjunction with and the approval of the Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Office.