

September 14, 2017

Dear Reverend Fathers and Youth Advisors:

We invite you and your junior and senior high age young people (grades 6 to 12) to participate this year in our annual Southern California Bible and Church History Tournament! Our junior division is for grades 6 to 8, and our senior division is for grades 9 to 12. Our young people in the Southland love this tournament--they enjoy learning about the Scriptures and our Church as well as meeting other Orthodox young people from different parishes of our various jurisdictions. The day includes games, activities, lunch, the presentation of trophies to the winning teams, and concludes with the Service of the Ninth Hour. This year our tournament is scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 2nd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Steven's Serbian Orthodox Church at 1621 W. Garvey Ave., Alhambra, CA 91803; 626-284-9100; <http://saintstevens.org/>. We thank the pastor of St. Steven's, Fr. Nicholas Ceko; and the assistant pastor of St. Steven's, Fr. Norman Kosanovich; and the lay pastoral assistant at St. Steven's, Mr. Jonathan Braun, and all of St. Steven's parishioners for their kindness and hospitality.

Attached are the rules and regulations--please read these over carefully. Also attached are the registration form and the flyer and the COMPLETE TEXTS for our Bible and Church History Tournament this year. The texts include: 1) Psalm 50/51; 2) St. Ezekiel Chapter 18; 3) Gospel of St. John Chapter 6; 4) I Corinthians Chapter 13; 5) The Life of St. Sebastian of Jackson; 6) The Life of St. Mardarije of Libertyville; 7) St. Porphyrios of Kafsokealia; 8) St. Paisios of Mount Athos; 9) The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America Response to Racist Violence in Charlottesville, Virginia; 10) "Humility" from Fr. Thomas Hopko, "The Orthodox Faith: An Elementary Handbook on the Orthodox Church--Volume 4: Spirituality--The Virtues." There is a total of five two-sided sheets--10 pages total. Please make photocopies of these texts so that each of your young people receives a complete set for study purposes. You should be able to access the flyer, registration form, rules and regulations form and all the texts at our Bible Bowl website at <http://www.socalbiblebowl.org/>; we sincerely thank Mr. Dean Tripodes for setting up and maintaining our Bible Bowl website!

Please complete the team registration forms--please make copies so you may have a separate registration form for each of your team(s). Although you

may not have more than 4 people on a team, you may have fewer than 4 people on a team (you can have a 3-person team or a 2-person team or theoretically even a 1-person team!). The registration fee this year is \$35 per team and must be included with the registration form(s). This covers our costs for lunch, materials, and trophies. You may return the registration forms and fee to Dean Langis c/o St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church at 4949 Alton Pkwy, Irvine, CA 92604-8606, or you may bring them with you on the day of the tournament. Please return the registration forms and fees to St. Paul's as soon as possible so that we may know how many to prepare lunch for. For directions to St. Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral you may go to <https://www.mapquest.com/directions> or to below or go to <https://maps.google.com/> or you may call St. Steven's at 626-284-9100.

Please encourage all your young people to participate--they will enjoy learning these wonderful texts as well as having fellowship with the other Orthodox young people from our various parishes. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the following tournament organizers/advisors:

Father Norman Kosanovich--St. Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Alhambra--fnorman@saintstevens.org

Father Constantine Trumpower--St. John's Greek Orthodox Church in Anaheim--frconstantine@stjohnanaheim.org

Khouria Elaine Manneh--St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Temecula--emanneh@hotmail.com

Lydia (Kemi) Ingram--St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Temecula--orthodoxyandculture@gmail.com

Dean Langis--St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church--dlangis@stpaulsirvine.org

We are looking forward to seeing you and your youth on December 2nd!

Respectfully yours,

Dean Langis

Pastoral Assistant at St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church