

Department of Homeschooling – Report April 4, 2016

Archpriest Noah Bushelli, Director

*With us everything should be secondary compared to our concern with children,
and their upbringing in the instruction and teaching of the Lord.*

- St. John Chrysostom

Goals:

- To promote and support and unite homeschooling throughout the Archdiocese.
- To remind parents that their children's education is their primary responsibility, whether or not it is full-time, home-based.

Strategies:

- Home-Education Sunday
- Publish articles in “The Word” and on Antiochian.org about homeschooling,
- Host orthodoxhomeschooling.org), with collaborative, free, open-sourced homeschooling curriculum development, curricular guides, and guides to online education opportunities.
- Support and Develop Events: diocesan homeschooling Retreats/Conferences, workshops at Parish Life Conferences, Electives at Clergy Symposia.
- Establish Diocesan Coordinators, who guide Parish-based Co-ops and help them transition to Parochial Schools.
- Cooperate with other related departments of the archdiocese
- Bring attention to the post-traditional, anti-Christian agenda that dominates of public education and support parents in responding.
- Educate priests and hierarchs on the best ways to care for homeschooling families

Benefits:

- Bring these very dedicated and pious families (10% of our archdiocese) together so they remain strong.
- Stem the tide of secularism that is taking the under-catechized children of our archdiocese.
- Bring new people to Parish Life Conferences
- Reach out to non-Orthodox homeschoolers who are interested in the doctrinal stability of Orthodoxy and the incarnational theology of our Archdiocese.

Funding:

- The Department is self-funded and is looking for donors to help increase its effectiveness by hiring for project-based contracts.

Our Archdiocese, like Orthodoxy in America and like our beloved nation, desperately needs strong youth. A strong family produces strong children just as a healthy vine produces abundant grapes. We need to support our families in sanctifying their children, no matter what educational path they choose. This is even more important as our country and society become not only post-Christian but also anti-Christian. We have to be purposeful, diligent, and faithful in forming our children with an Orthodox Christian Worldview, and not rely on the world, the schools, and the media to do so. History has proven Homeschooling is the ideal educational modality. Yet not every family is equipped for it. The Department of Homeschooling is here to encourage and support all our archdiocese families in raising Godly-children regardless of their chosen educational options.

Prayer:

Please prayerfully join me in the monumental task of fighting secularization and keeping our children in Christ in His Church! Lord, have mercy on us and our children through the prayer of the Holy Mothers of the Three Hierarchs, Saints Emmelia, Nonna, and Anthousa. Amen!