



Grounds of Fellowship



"We're taught to mold ourselves into someone we're not, to downplay the things that make us different. But I really believe that God knew exactly what He was doing when He gave us those little quirks and interests. Sometimes we even feel like those things are a burden—but over time, we start to see that they're actually the things that make us special, that help us love and serve others in a way no one else can."

For Presbytera Laura Elaides, the initial idea was the result of doing a simple equation: hot coffee in a styrofoam cup simply wasn't what people wanted on a 120° summer day. Rather than watch parishioners disperse after liturgy in search of a cooler caffeine fix, she set up a cold brew coffee bar. The reception was one of wild enthusiasm (especially from young parents) and so she decided to do it for a few more Sundays.

Nearly a year later, the coffee bar has become a fixture at the church and generated buzz far beyond the fellowship hall. "It's been really fun to see more people stick around [after Divine Liturgy]. It feels more alive," says Presbytera Laura.

At OYM, we believe that by encouraging every member of the Body of Christ to recognize their own God-given talents and use them to serve their families and neighbors we can build stronger communities and a stronger Church. **By making a donation to OYM, you're enabling us to provide resources, training, and on-the-ground support to families, clergy, and youth ministry workers across the United States.**

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