



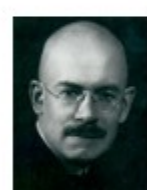
Features for this month:

- [Orthodox Youth Self-awareness](#)
- [You are Seen, Known, and Never Abandoned: A Reflection on "O Heavenly King"](#)
- [From Beirut to Paris: Serving Orthodoxy Beyond Limits](#)

Dear Friends,

In two weeks, 90 students from 20+ countries will gather for [SUPRASL 2025](#)—our fourth annual global Orthodox youth gathering. Over the past four years, 1,000+ students have joined our events, continuing a legacy that began a century ago.

In the 1930's, Russian émigrés like Lev Zander, a professor at St Sergius Seminary in Paris, envisioned a pan-Orthodox youth movement.



“In exile, deprived of our country and with little hope of returning, it was always a joy for us to serve Orthodoxy beyond the limits of our national community.” Lev Zander

Just as a pan-Orthodox youth movement gained momentum, World War II brought everything to a halt. But the vision endured—thanks to a group of young Orthodox in Lebanon, who, unbeknownst to Zander and others, had been inspired by the Russian émigrés’ work.

In 1945, Lebanese student Edouard Laham wrote to Zander, inspired by their efforts to “fight against the fossilized understanding of an Orthodoxy comprising merely a nation or a social class in society.” Laham represented MJO, 'Orthodox Youth Movement' of the Patriarchate of Antioch and was dealing with students who had been at the point of turning their back on the Orthodox Church for its lack of pastoral guidance and spirituality.

Zander responded with heartfelt hope:

“Your letter has given me great spiritual comfort. Knowing our work was not in vain—that somewhere, Church life is stirring—makes our struggles meaningful.”

This exchange sparked a new wave of collaboration. By 1947, Lebanese students like the future Metropolitan George Khodre went to stay at St. Sergius Seminary, and began advocating for projects to enhance awareness of the unity of the Orthodox Church.

Deeply moved by the Orthodox life in Paris, Khodre wrote home:



“Provincialism, abuse of autocephaly, and divisions of language and race plague Orthodoxy. Phyletism is our practical heresy. The Church must unite to fulfill its mission—only then, can it witness to the world.”

Their efforts led to the foundation of SYNDESMOS (1953–2010s). Though SYNDESMOS itself has faded, its legacy persists. Initiatives like SUPRASL, though modest in scale, continue to echo that original call to unity, proving that the vision of those early pioneers was neither fleeting nor in vain. Their question remains as urgent today as it was in 1949: How will we, the Orthodox, overcome our indifference and truly become one body?

75 years later, this legacy of Lebanon continues. Inspired by their predecessors and supported by *Metropolitan Antonios of Zahle* (a former SYNDESMOS board member), young Lebanese participants helped establish the work of SUPRASL in 2022. Led by *Fr. Seraphim Makhoul*, they carried forward this tradition, continuing the work to enhance the awareness of the unity of the Orthodox Church.

And while many things have changed since 1949 one thing remains, the need for support. Will you consider supporting this mission? Your donation—whether large or small ensures Orthodox youth from Lebanon and beyond can continue to gather and promote awareness of the unity of the Orthodox Church.

[DONATE HERE](#)

To read more about the story of Edouard Laham, Metropolitan George Khodre and Lev Zander read: *From Beirut to Paris: Serving Orthodoxy Beyond the Limits* [here](#).

Quotes are taken from: Fr. Hildo Bos, ed., The Bond of Unity: Syndesmos Fifty Years of Work for Orthodox Youth and Unity (published by Syndesmos, 2003)



Since 2022 students from Lebanon have been participating in SUPRASL.
Watch here as they discuss the power of participation.
Please help make it possible for students from Lebanon to continue to be part of
SUPRASL.

Give a gift today so that we can offer scholarships.

[DONATE NOW](#)



FROM BEIRUT TO PARIS Serving Orthodoxy Beyond Limits

By Fr Hildo Bos

Excerpt from *The Bond of Unity: Syndesmos Fifty Years of Work for Orthodox Youth and Unity*

SUPRASL is made possible by generous donations from parishes, organisations and individuals. Please consider supporting us today with a gift of any size by clicking [here](#).

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