



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Quarterly Update

July-September 2025



AoB XIV

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2025

DENVER, CO

The Assembly of Bishops is excited to announce the dates for the 14th Assembly of Bishops meeting hosted in Denver, CO

Stay tuned for more updates! [#AoBXIV](#)

[Learn More About the AoB](#)



As the fall kicks off, Inter-Parish Associations are beginning their work again!

Highlights:

- The Manhattan IPA hosted two enriching focus groups for clergy and laity.
- Representatives from Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), FOCUS North America, the Assembly of Bishops, and the Atlanta IPA clergy met for a synergistic meeting on collaborative ministry in Atlanta. Check out the press release [here](#).
- Parishes in Long Island came together for an info session on Inter-Parish Associations at the end of September.
- The Denver IPA met for the first time to get to know each other. They are looking forward to the 14th annual meeting of the Assembly of Bishops being held in Denver.



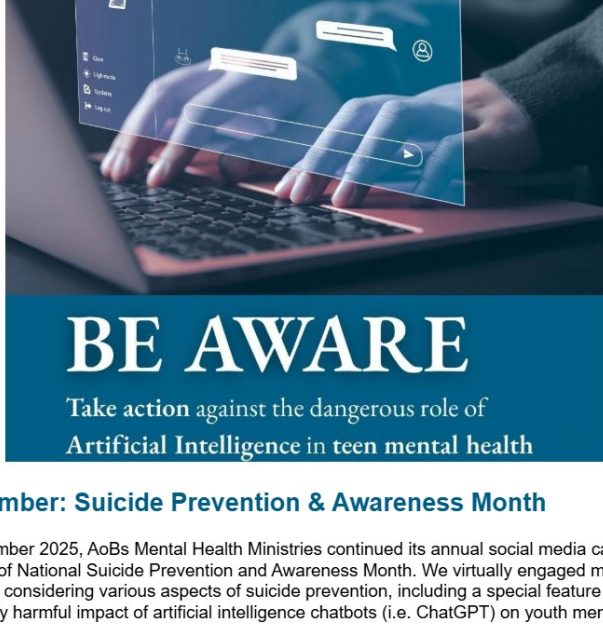
Upcoming:

October 11: Spyridoula Fotinis will be speaking at the Orthodox Christian Laity Conference. [Learn more here](#).

October 13: In-person IPA info session for the Indianapolis area.

[Learn More & Get Involved](#)

Mental Health Ministries



Take action against the dangerous role of
Artificial Intelligence in teen mental health

September: Suicide Prevention & Awareness Month

In September 2025, AoBs Mental Health Ministries continued its annual social media campaign in honor of National Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month. We virtually engaged many of our faithful in considering various aspects of suicide prevention, including a special feature on the potentially harmful impact of artificial intelligence chatbots (i.e. ChatGPT) on youth mental health.

According to a large-scale safety test and report published in August 2025 by the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDM), ChatGPT was found to be "generating dangerous advice about self-harm and suicide, eating disorders and substance abuse" that encouraged users with specific and disturbing instructions for further engaging in such behaviors rather than redirecting them to trained mental health or crisis professionals (source: CCDM, link below).

We encourage all clergy, parents, and youth ministry workers to (1) familiarize themselves with the CCDM report and (2) discuss cyber safety and mental wellbeing with young people. You can learn more at: <https://counterhate.com/research/fake-friend-chatgpt/>

News From Our Agencies



Jordan: Renewed Hope in Azraq Camp

Bashar is a Syrian refugee residing in Azraq Camp, Jordan. After a shell fell on his house in Syria, Bashar suffered a stroke and was left with hemiplegia, a neurological condition leaving him unable to use his legs. He struggles to carry out daily tasks because of his disability, and now uses a wheelchair or moves by crawling on his hands.

[Learn More](#)

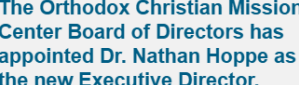


When Faith Finds Its Footing in College: A Parent's Reflection on OCF

Featuring: Dr. Randa Karadsheh Anderson
Parent of Elias Anderson, Former Student Leadership Board Chair, Orthodox Christian Fellowship

When Orthodox Christian students begin college, they face a world full of opportunities and challenges. Amid late-night study sessions, complex ideas, and newfound independence, their faith can either grow deeper roots or begin to fade. For students like Elias Anderson, Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) became a steady source of guidance, community, and growth during those pivotal years.

[Read Now](#)



The Orthodox Christian Mission Center Board of Directors has appointed Dr. Nathan Hoppe as the new Executive Director, effective January 1, 2026.

July 10, 2025

Today, on behalf of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center Board of Directors, Board Chair Dr. Gayle Woloschak announced the selection of Dr. Nathan Hoppe as the organization's new Executive Director. Dr. Hoppe will succeed Fr. Martin Ritsi and transition into his role in January 2026, following Fr. Martin's retirement after more than 26 years of dedicated service.

[Learn More](#)



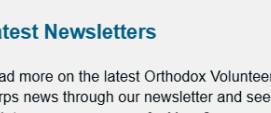
Beyond the Bars: "Offer Yourself to God as a Doer." Fr. John Chagnon on the Universal Appeal of Prison Ministry

Fr. John Chagnon of St. Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church in Madison, Wisconsin, has had a heart for people in prison for many years, ever since he personally knew Fr. Duane Pederson, founder of Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. "I had a natural attraction to both him and his work. He clued me into what prison ministry could look like from a truly Christlike man."

[Read Now](#)

Applications for the Spring 2026 cohort of the Certificate Program in Prison Ministry are open now through November 10

[Apply Today](#)



Latest Newsletters

Read more on the latest Orthodox Volunteer Corps news through our newsletter and see updates on our progress for Year 3 Programming.

[Latest OVC News](#)



Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (OYM) Receives \$1.25 Million Grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

The official youth ministry agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America, Orthodox Youth & Young Adult Ministries (OYM), has been awarded a \$1.25 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to launch a groundbreaking national program designed to engage children ages 5–12 in Orthodox Christian worship.

[Learn More](#)



LATEST NEWS

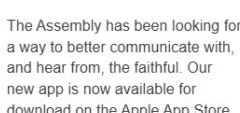
AoB, OCF and FOCUS meet with Representatives of the Atlanta Inter-Parish Association
September 10, 2025

Youth and Young Adult Sunday 2025
September 1, 2025

College Student Sunday 2025
August 4, 2025

Manhattan Inter-Parish Association hosts CrossRoad Summer Institute
July 10, 2025

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Assembly of Bishops Mobile App

The Assembly has been looking for a way to better communicate with, and hear from, the faithful. Our new app is now available for download on the Apple App Store and Google Play.

[Learn More](#)



AoB Directories

Our directories include:
Jurisdictions, Bishops, Parishes, Mental Health Professionals, Monastic Communities, Military Chaplains, Theological Schools, Camp Programs and International Assemblies.

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