

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor." - Ecclesiastes 4:9



CALLED TO WITNESS

Martura MGOCSM Camp

2015 Newsletter

Two Areas United

This summer, for the first time, the MGOCSM area of Brooklyn/Queens/Long Island and the MGOCSM area of Bronx/Westchester/Northern NY/Boston/CT held the annual combined camp, *Martura*. The two areas joined together for two days on Friday, August 7 and Saturday, August 8 at St. George Orthodox Church, Port Chester, NY. Over 140 youth, ranging from ages 12-27 took part in this event. We thank God for allowing this to be an awesome fellowship experience for all those involved.

Martura is the Greek word for "witness". The camp name and theme: "Called to Witness," were taken from Acts 26:16, "But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you."



We were blessed to have Rev. Fr. Aju Philip Mathews as the main speaker. Achen presented to the youth the lives of saints, who with bold confidence in Christ, gave up their lives to bear witness to

the cross. Aju Achen spoke passionately about how we must strive to imitate the faith of the saints. We must use their lives as examples of how we can be strong Christian witnesses.



"Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."- James 1:12

The crown of life is not just for those martyrs who were killed for their faith; it is for all who endure through all the struggles and temptations of this life.

We are all called to the witnessing spirit of martyrdom.

Through the power of the cross we gain the strength to overcome trials. The red color in the background of the logo represents blood. By the power of Christ's blood, and the blood and witness of the martyrs and saints before us, we can stand strong and encouraged.

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."- Tertullian

** All Bible verses are quoted from the New King James Version*



Worship. Study. Service.



MGOC S.M. Northeast America Council Members

Mr. Robin Monichan

Brooklyn/Queens/Long Island

Ms. Bethsy Jacob

Bronx/Westchester/Northern NY/Boston/CT



Thank you to everyone who supported the camp through their prayers, contributions, and encouragement.

This camp could not have been possible without your help!

We would like to thank our donors:

- St. Gregorios, Elmont - \$200
- St. Gregorios, Underhill - \$100
- St. Mary's, Bronx - \$100
- St. Mary's, Jackson Hts. - \$100
- St. Mary's, Suffern - \$100
- St. Mary's, West Sayville - \$100
- St. Thomas, Long Island - \$100
- St. Thomas, Yonkers - \$80
- Individual Donations - \$200

Thank You!

Over the two days, the sessions led by Aju Achen helped us to understand more about our faith and posed to us some thought-provoking questions. Are we ready to face a world that continually challenges our Christian values? Can we stand secure in our beliefs in light of all the pressures that we face? God has called each one of us to use our lives to the fullest to bear witness to His glory.



In addition to learning about our Orthodox faith, the camp was a chance for us to grow in unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ. During Martura, participants spent time praying and

singing together. In addition, workshops and games allowed for discussion, promoted teamwork, and helped foster a fun camp environment.

It is our hope that this camp provided an opportunity to inspire the youth of our parishes to be true witnesses of the gospel. We pray that Martura left participants feeling more connected to the Church, excited to serve God and spread His love to others.

Please keep Martura MGOC S.M. Summer Camp and the various projects of the MGOC S.M. in your prayers.

MARTURA: CALLED TO WITNESS

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Martura MGOC S.M. Summer Camp Planning Committee 2015