

February, 2005

To my Coworkers in the vineyard of Jesus Christ,

... to equip the saints for ministry and for building up the body of Christ...
(Eph.4:12)

I hope and pray that this letter of request finds you in good health and uplifted spirits.

With these words from the book of Ephesians St. Paul challenges each and every Orthodox Christian. We as priests and the lay leaders of the Church are called to *equip the saints and build up the body of Christ*. The *saints* in the body I am referring to are our young faithful who are preparing to graduate in 2005. His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios has appointed me as the chairman of the Graduate Retreat Committee. The vision of His Eminence is to invite our future (2005) graduates to the Diakonia Retreat Center in an effort to impress upon them who and what they are as Orthodox Christians as they prepare to leave their homes for work or for college. My committee and I are working very hard to accomplish that task; but I need your help.

Please encourage each other to seize this opportunity and promote the 2005 graduate retreat. The graduate retreat will be a unique opportunity to gather all our graduates together as they finish their high school years and prepare to leave their homes for college or work. This may be our final attempt to engage and inspire our young people in a retreat setting as they begin another chapter in their lives, a chapter that may or may not include the discernment of their parents and church. Please take the time to encourage your 2005 high school graduates to attend this worthwhile retreat at our Diakonia Retreat Center this June.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you and your family.

In His Service,

Fr. Andrew Scordalakis, Presbyter
frandrew@annunciationgoc.org

Cc: His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios
Michelle Cassimus- Metropolis Youth Coordinator