



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

Reverend Clergy, GOYA Advisors and Youth Workers of the Metropolis of Atlanta

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ and co-workers in our Lord's Vineyard,

"Grow in Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"
(2 Peter 3:18)

I greet you with love in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and I pray that He bless you with abundant joy in fellowship and strength in service.

On my travels throughout our Holy and God-protected Metropolis of Atlanta, I often hear from concerned parishioners, "What can our Church do to assist us on our journey of faith?" I am asked this question about our children and youth constantly, particularly, "How can we keep our children connected to their Church and their faith through the difficult college and young adult years?" In an attempt to answer this question, I am both pleased and proud to announce that we are offering a weekend retreat designed specifically for high school students, "Upward Bound: The College Years – A Weekend Journey for High School Juniors and Seniors," June 8-10, 2007 at our Diakonia Center.

This event has been designed to give our high school juniors and seniors an overall view of college life, with all its advantages and potential downfalls. "Upward Bound" will emphasize the fact that our Orthodox young people will experience many unique choices, conflicts and challenges, and the discussions will be focused on real life situations and needs. It is our hope that we can help supply our young people with some of the tools that they will need to enjoy the opportunities and advantages of college life, while keeping them anchored in the rich heritage of our Orthodox faith. We look forward to involving all our young people who are considering furthering their education at institutions of higher learning both here and abroad in "Upward Bound."

For further information, please contact Father Spiro Bobotas, 954-467-1515 or Michelle Cassimus, 404-634-9345, or check our website www.atlanta.goarch.org/youthsite.

May the blessings of our Lord's precious gifts of mercy, love and abundant joy fill your heart and enfold all your loved ones in His peace. With faithful commitment to His service, I remain,

Paternally yours,

+ALEXIOS
Metropolitan of Atlanta