
SERBIAN ORTHODOX METROPOLITANATE OF
NEW GRACANICA MIDWESTERN AMERICA SOC
YOUTH MINISTRY

October 17, 2024

Statement of Purpose

The **Youth and Young Adults Ministry** of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of New Gracanica Midwestern America is dedicated to serving the youth of our diocese, calling every young person to establish a deep relationship with Christ and lead an active life within the Church.

A vital component of our ministry is caring for teenagers (ages 12 to 19) and addressing their spiritual needs in their everyday lives. Our approach emphasizes **Church awareness**, a commitment to the core principles of the **Orthodox faith, active participation in the liturgical life, service to others**, and the joy of fellowship. These are the foundational expressions of our teenagers' commitment to the Church.

- **Church Awareness:** Christ invites us into union with Him. Accepting Christ means embracing a deeper understanding of life's purpose. The Orthodox Church draws its holiness from its founder, Jesus Christ, and we are called to partake in this holiness. As members of the Church, youth are invited to live this way of life.
- **Commitment to the Principles of the Orthodox Faith:** A clear and correct understanding of the Orthodox faith is crucial for the spiritual growth of every youth and young adult. This commitment to the Orthodox principles allows young people to deepen their faith and live out the basics of our Holy Tradition in their everyday lives.
- **Participation in the Liturgical Life of the Church:** Engaging in the liturgical life of the Church transforms the Orthodox faith into a unique, personal experience. Liturgical life should be a priority for young people, as it is through participation that they anchor their identity in Christ.

- **Serving Others:** A true Orthodox Christian demonstrates empathy not only to their parish community but also to the broader neighborhood in which they live. Serving others is the most authentic expression of growth as an Orthodox Christian, embodying Christ's love and compassion in tangible ways.

In Christ's Service,
Pdn. Jovan Anicic, *Director*
Youth Ministry
Serbian Orthodox Metropolitanate
The New Gracanica Midwestern America