

Champions of the Faith

His Eminence

Metropolitan Antony - Leader



Utilize this handout as a supplement to the Champions of the Faith curriculum. This was created for younger children ages 4 -8. Read or paraphrase the information given to them about Vladyka Antony. Have a map on hand to show the children the various locations presented. You may make copies of the photos to give to the youth to take home or to add into their Champions of the Faith book (from the full curriculum.) Utilize the provided photographs during your session.

Begin by explaining that we are all called to become Champions of the Faith. We are celebrating 100 years of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in 2018. The hierarchs of our church have had many struggles in helping to establish and maintain Christ's Church here in America. We will be learning about our hierarchs present and past to honor their commitment to Christ, learn about our history and discover new champions of the faith.

We will begin with our current spiritual father, His Eminence Metropolitan Antony!

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony has two names! His names given to serve God, Antony, and the name his parents gave him of John Scharba. –He was born on 30 January 1947 to John and Dorothy Scharba, and was the oldest five siblings (*do you all know what siblings are? - how many do you have?*). He was baptized in St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Parish, Sharon, PA. (*If you have a map show them where you live and where he lived as a child*). He went to regular school and church school faithfully. Young John began receiving a call to the holy priesthood at a very young age and was involved in the youth and young adult groups in his parish. He went to college at Pennsylvania's Edinboro State University to prepare for a worldly career as a foreign journalist. After two years our Lord made it very clear to him that he was on the wrong path and led him to St. Andrew College-Seminary in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. At the same time he went to the University of Manitoba. He stayed for a while in Canada and worked for the church. *Stop and take some time to look at a map and find the locations mentioned. Ask the youth if they have been to any of these places.*

John was ordained to the Holy Deaconate on 1 October 1972 by then Bishop Constantine at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Parma, OH and then to the Holy Priesthood on 26 November 1972, again by Bishop Constantine, in his home parish of St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Sharon, PA. *Ask the children to explain who a deacon is. Allow their answers to guide your explanation - a deacon is a helper.*

Fr. John's first parish was St. Vladimir UOC, Ambridge, PA. He also served St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Parish, Hammond, IN. *Have you visited either of these parishes?* He was very much involved with the youth of his parishes and within the Ukrainian Orthodox Church all over the United States. He was the Spiritual Advisor for our Teenage Conference camping program. He also served as the Spiritual Advisor of the Jr. Ukrainian Orthodox League of the USA as well as many other UOL and church organizations. *Have you ever been to our summer camp? If you have a UOL chapter, ask them if they know about it.*

Fr. John knew that school and education is important so he continued going to school as an adult.

Stop and ask the youth what they remember so far about Vladyka Antoy's journey. Why is it important for champions to continue learning during their whole life? As we move forward, you may have to stop and ask if the participants understand the meaning of all referenced places and occasions, such as Sobor , Metropolia, or omophorion.

A Sobor is a special meeting of the church. During a Sobor, Fr. John was elected as a bishop of the Church. To become a bishop you must also become a monastic or a monk. When he became a monk - his new name was Antony, he chose this name after St. Anthony the Great (also a monk), whose feast day falls exactly on the Bishop's birthday. *Ask what the children know about bishops and monks. Ask if they have ever met a bishop or monk and what that was like.* He was consecrated as Bishop at St. Andrew Memorial Church at the Ukrainian Orthodox Church's Metropolia Center in South Bound Brook, NJ. He was immediately assigned as Rector and Administrator of St. Sophia Seminary.

Bishop Antony was not only a bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church here in the USA but for a time he also cared for the church in Australia and New Zealand. *Take time to show this on the map.* Bishop Antony was elevated to the rank of Archbishop by the Council of Bishops of the UOC of USA. Being an archbishop is a special honor and tells us that he has more responsibilities than a bishop.

Archbishop Antony has gone on many journeys to visit the faithful of Ukraine ([show on the map](#)). The majority of these trips included the delivery of millions of dollars' worth of aid of all kinds to the faithful and the needy of the nation – including religious educational materials, prayer books, medical supplies, opening of soup kitchens, aid for the rebuilding of Churches in both urban and rural village settings. The Archbishop continually reminds the faithful of his Church that their Christian responsibility means so much more than simply attending Church on a Sunday morning and making a small donation. He invites them to reach out with their whole bodies, minds and souls to help heal those who need healing. [How does helping other people help you to be a champion?](#)

Archbishop Antony continued to serve Christ's Church in many different ways over many years. One of his most special ways to serve was by helping the UOC of the USA adopt three orphanages in Ukraine ([do you know what an orphanage is? An orphanage is a place for children to live who don't have parents to care for them](#))

When Metropolitan Constantine of blessed memory (21 May, 2012) passed away/died, a new metropolitan needed to be chosen.

During a special Sobor of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (October 6, 2012), His Eminence Archbishop Antony was nominated and elected as Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

His Eminence Metropolitan Antony was formally Enthroned as the 4th Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA in St. Andrew the First Called Apostle Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Silver Spring, MD. Many important people came to be a part of this special day. 20 hierarchs ([different types of bishops](#)), representing various Orthodox churches of North America and representatives of Catholic and other Christian communities. His Eminence received his Archpastoral staff ([take a moment to look at the photo of His Eminence with his staff](#)) of the Prime Hierarchy of the Church. [Ask the children if they know why a bishop receives a staff. It is because he becomes the shepherd of his flock of sheep - us! He takes care of us just the way a shepherd takes care of his sheep.](#)

Vladyka Antony has experienced many things so far in this life. What stands out to you? Have you ever met Vladyka Antony? As we have been discussing how to become a champion of the faith, how has His Eminence exemplified some of the traits of a champion? Allow time for discussion on these questions. Additional discussion questions may include: What did you learn about Vladyka Antony? What did you learn about the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA? What did you learn about the Orthodox Church?

At this point, you can have the children add His Eminence Metropolitan Antony to their Champions Books (see the Champions of the Faith curriculum www.uocyouth.org) They could also put together a presentation board using the photos, decorate it and place in the parish hall for others to see. You may also provide them with materials to send a card to His Eminence wishing him well!

*Metropolitan Antony receiving his
Archpastoral Staff*



At All Saints Camp - 2008 & 2012

(Then) Archbishop Antony, Metropolitan Constantine (of blessed memory), and (then) Bishop Daniel - St. Thomas Chapel Blessing and with children at Mommy/Daddy & Me Camp.



*Metropolitan Antony with Ukrainian President,
Petro Poroshenko. 2017*



*(then) Archbishop Antony at the orphanage in
Znanyanka, Ukraine*

