



“Champions of Faith Celebrating 100 Years of Ukrainian Orthodoxy in America

Published by the
Office of Youth Ministry and the Ukrainian History & Education Center
(2017-2018)

Leader Notes - Session Two:

These praxis sessions are intended to be used in conjunction with the Champions of the Faith Curriculum which may be downloaded at <http://www.uocyouth.org/championsofthefait.html>

This curriculum is designed to be carried out in one session per class meeting, but please feel free to adjust in response to the children. If you find that they want more time to discuss a particular idea or session, others may be shortened or abbreviated, as long as the main understandings above are addressed. Youth can take turns reading the text to the class, or you may choose for them to read it to themselves if they need to adjust the pace.

These special praxis sessions are for varying age groups. We recommend previewing each session so that you plan accordingly.

Objective:

In conjunction with the Centennial Celebration of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA, which is taking place in parishes throughout the United States from September 2017 until September 2018, the Office of Youth Ministry is partnering with the Ukrainian History and Education Center (Somerset, New Jersey) to provide materials and lesson plans to be utilized in the parishes to educate the youth of the parish of the history of the Church in America, as well as celebrate this historic event.

This teacher’s guide provides five (5) lesson plans, each with suggested activities to use in the parish and regular youth ministry program. Each lesson plan can be tailored to fit any age group.

In addition to the monthly lesson plans, we ask all parish youth to create a poster board (tri-fold board) documenting the history of the parish which will be placed on display at the Metropolia Center during the celebration in July 2018 (see “Parish History Project” for further instructions). In addition, these boards can be displayed either before or after July in the home parishes, showcasing the work of the youth. It is our goal, that through the lesson plans, the youth of the parish will learn more about their home parishes, as well as the history of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA.

This teacher’s guide is supplemental to the exhibits at the Metropolia Center which document the history of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA.

Shepherding Ukrainian Orthodoxy in the New Land: The Metropolitans of the Church
On view November 2017 until April 2018

Ukrainian Orthodoxy in the New Land: 100 Years in the United States of America
On view July to September 2018

The exhibits are on view at the UHEC Library Gallery and the Cultural Center (135 Davidson Avenue / Somerset, NJ 08873). Contact the Center for exhibit hours, guided tours, and/or to schedule "The Immigration Experience" Workshop for school groups (info@ukrhec.org or call 732-356-0090)

Sessions provided for the Champions of the Faith - Centennial Celebration

Lesson One: History of the UOC of USA

Suggested Month: January 2018

Lesson Two: Oral History Project

Suggested Month: February 2018

Lesson Three: UOL Essay Contest

Suggested Month: March 2018

Lesson Four: The Importance of Primary Documents & Archives

Suggested Month: April 2018

Lesson Five: Musical Harmony

Suggested Month: May 2018

Parish History Project

Ongoing project to be completed for display at the Metropolia Center in July 2018

Session Two:

Oral History Project



This session is divided into two age categories: Grade School Students and Middle/High School.

The drawings and interviews produced during this session may be displayed in the parish hall with a written explanation of the story presented. These drawings may also be shared during the year end Gallery Walk, as explained in the praxis sessions of the main Champions of the Faith curriculum.

Items Needed for Grade School:

- Drawing Paper
- Crayons, Colored Pencils, Markers
- Copy of Oral History explanation. Verbally convey the information to younger children.

Items Needed for Middle/High School:

- Copies of the following Oral History explanation for older elementary, and middle/high School Students.
- Refer to list provided in session page

Activity for Grade School Students

Select a member of your parish community and invite them to speak to your group of younger students. With your help, have the guest speaker pick an event that they have witnessed in their life to tell as a story to the entire group. For instance, it can be a story about the founding of the parish, their missionary experience, or the parish priest's story of when they were ordained. Select a date that they would come to your class or youth session and present their "oral history". After the students have listened to the story and asked questions, have the students draw a picture of the event(s) told during the class. They can then present their drawings to the entire class.

Collecting Oral History

The collection and preservation of oral history is another way historians can keep a record of events that have happened. Oral history allows for history to be recorded directly from a primary source who has actually witnessed an event. This tool can also be utilized to learn more about one's family history, and in this case, the history of the parish.

What is oral history?

Oral history is the collection and study of historical information using sound or video recordings of interviews with people who personally experienced past events.

Why is oral history important?

Oral history interviews are valuable sources of knowledge about the past, because they provide information about everyday life and insights into the thoughts and feelings of the "ordinary people" that often aren't in written sources.

Primary Source v. Secondary Source

Even if they're recorded recently, oral histories are still primary sources, because the person being interviewed actually experienced the events. What are some other types of primary sources?

A secondary source is something that was created after the fact by someone who did not experience it first-hand or participate in the events or conditions you are researching. What are some examples of secondary sources?

Activity Middle and High School Students - Collecting/Preserving Oral History of your Parish

Record history & conduct your own interview!

All of us can help preserve history for future generations.

Before you begin, you will need to gather your supplies and consider potential subjects to be interviewed.

Step 1: Gather Supplies

- Pen
- Paper
- Recording Device (phone, recorder, etc.)

Step 2: Preparation

First choose your subject. Whom would you like to interview? Consider the following points:

- What historical information could be obtained from this person?
- Would this person be willing to participate?

Find a member of your family or someone in your parish community who is willing to be interviewed. Each member of your group can interview different members of the parish community. Maybe you can find someone who was present at the founding of the church, interview your parish priest or local clergy, or interview someone who has witnessed a historic event in the life of the Church (examples include church founding, anniversary celebrations, ordinations, enthronements, the founding of All Saints Camp, etc.).

Step 3: Planning the Interview

Write an introduction to your interview. Introduce yourself if necessary, and include an explanation of this project and its purpose. You can work together as a group to write a list of questions you would like to ask the person who you will interview. Don't forget to prepare a few follow-up questions. These questions should help you to clarify and expand upon the information from your interview.

You can start with basic questions about their life (Where were they born? Where did they grow up?). Let them reminisce and tell you about things that may just "pop up". You never know what kind of cool stories you may hear. Then begin to ask them questions about the history of the parish.

You can work together as a group to write a list of questions you would like to ask the person you will interview.

Step 4: Conduct the Interview

- Make an appointment with your subject and be on time.
- Explain to your subject that you will be using the information in your Youth Ministry program as you study the history of the UOC of USA.
- If you record the interview, be sure your subject agrees to it.

- Bring along your notes to help you guide the interview. Your subject may wander off with an interesting story. Continue with it as long as it adds to your understanding of the topic. If it does not, politely return to your list of questions.
- When the interview is finished, be sure to write your subject a thank you letter.

Tips for Oral History Interviews

1. An interview is not a conversation. The whole point of the interview is to get the narrator to tell his or her story. Limit your own remarks to a few pleasantries to break the ice, then brief questions.
2. Ask open-ended questions, ones that require more of an answer than "yes" or "no." Start with "why," "how," "where," "what kind of. . ."
3. Ask one question at a time.
4. Ask brief, understandable, and clear questions.
5. Start with questions that are not controversial; save the sensitive questions, if there are any, until you have become better acquainted. A good place to begin is with the narrator's youth and background.
6. Don't let periods of silence fluster you. Give your narrator a chance to think of what he or she wants to add before you hustle him or her along with the next question.
7. Don't interrupt a good story because you have thought of a question, or because your narrator is straying from the planned outline. If the information is pertinent, let him or her go on, but jot down your questions on your notepad so you will remember to ask it later. Be willing to let the interview wander – but if you're not getting interesting material, put it back on track with a question.
8. Be accurate: After the interview, confirm the spelling of names or places used by the subject. Write the spellings in your notebook.
9. Be respectful.
10. Try to establish at every important point in the story where the narrator was or what her role was in this event. It is important to ask about their perception of these events: "How did hearing about this event affect you?" or "What did you think this event meant?"
11. End the interview at a reasonable time.
12. Thank the person you interviewed. You might even wish to send them a note or a copy of your final report.

Oral History Project Worksheet

Name _____

Date of Interview _____

Make a list of 10 questions that you may ask in an interview. Leave room in between each question to write down the answer from the interview. You can use the back of the sheet for more room.

Oral History Project Worksheet (Continued)