Christ is Born! Glorify Him! As Christ’s holy Incarnation and Nativity approaches, it’s my joy to share with you some of the many blessings in our ministry to the midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy and to the students at St. John’s College, which your faithful prayers and contributions make possible.

USNA Plebe Summer Ministry Ends, Fall Semester Begins

In our last newsletter this summer I reported after our first Plebe Summer Bible study that over 25 plebes participated. Amazingly, that number grew to over 40 by summer's end. As the academic year began, we continued our outreach to the midshipmen. Every week, they are personally invited to come to church on Sundays and to join us for our weekly Sixth Hour Prayer service at the St. Nicholas Orthodox Chapel at the USNA. I am also available to meet with them to encourage them in their spiritual lives, meet for coffee, or hear their confessions.

Holy Dormition at the St. Nicholas Orthodox Chapel

On August 15 we were able to offer the midshipmen the opportunity to participate in the Divine Liturgy for the Great Feast of the Falling Asleep of the Virgin Mary, the Holy Theotokos. St. Nicholas Chapel was packed and trapeza (lunch) was provided for the mids following the service. We were also joined by long-time ACM supporter, Deacon Nicholas Dujmovic, who served with me at the altar.

New Bible Study Begins at St. John’s College

This Fall we began a new Bible study series on the St. John’s College campus which will be continuing throughout the academic year. In the Fall semester we have been studying St. Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians, which has been very fruitful for the students in their striving to apply the life in Christ to their daily lives and gain the courage to stand up for Christ and the holy Orthodox Faith in this age of relativism. The Bible studies have proven not only a great opportunity for those already Orthodox to grow in their faith, but also an opportunity to invite others—about half of those participating are from outside the ministry. We finish our study on Ephesians by the end of the semester and begin a new Bible study in January.
Students inviting their friends to our Mission, Holy Archangels

Holy Archangels Orthodox Mission, which began through Annapolis Pan-Orthodox College Ministry (ACM), continues to offer the midshipmen at the USNA and the students at St. John’s the opportunity (for the first time) to walk to church to participate in the sacramental life of Christ’s holy Church and worship on the weekends. We provide Great Vespers on Saturdays and the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, as well as Feast Days. The students also avail themselves of the opportunity to invite friends to “come and see,” to experience the life and truth of Christ in the divine services. We have had upwards of six or more students coming to services. Glory to God!

Annual Akathist to St. Nicholas at the USNA

On December 6, St. Nicholas Day, we prayed the Akathist to the Saint at our St. Nicholas Orthodox Chapel at the Naval Academy, an annual tradition. St. Nicholas is the patron Saint of sailors, mariners, and those at sea. This is the second time we’ve been able to pray the Akathist at our own Chapel, which is such a special blessing. The midshipmen who attended were also joined by several St. John’s students, parishioners from Holy Archangels Mission, and others. All who participated were anointed with holy myrrh from the myrrh-streaming icon of St. Nicholas for healing of soul and body.

Growing Annapolis Pan-Orthodox College Ministry (ACM)

Our ministry’s budget has remained static for many years, even as our ministry’s needs have grown. We are prayerfully asking for those of you with a heart for our college students and our ministry, with a connection to the USNA, or those who care about evangelism, discipleship, and outreach at the USNA and St. John’s College, to consider increasing your faithful, monthly support for 2017. We are also seeking some new participants in this ministry. Monthly contributions on any level help provide for the needs of this ministry and enable me to be available to minister to the students weekly year round. Can you help us increase our support and share the opportunity to become a contributor to ACM with your friends and brothers and sisters at your church?

We are so grateful for your faithful prayers and support, which helps sustains this ministry, now in its twelfth year! Please help us keep ACM going strong!

As a thank you for your participation in this ministry that is making an important difference for Christ in the lives of the midshipmen and students of Annapolis, I invite you to include with your contribution the enclosed commemoration card. All those received will be commemorated at the Divine Liturgy for Nativity (only baptized Christians, please). The Lord bless you!

Yours, in Christ’s love,
Fr. Robert+