

With the Blessing of His Grace Peter, Bishop of Cleveland
The Chicago and Mid-America Diocese (ROCOR) presents the

2008 St. Herman Youth Retreat "Midwest"



"Meeting God: Real life in a virtual world"

NEW DATE December 26-28, 2008
St. Herman's Orthodox Church, Lake Odessa, MI

Open to Orthodox youth (15 and older)

Cost: \$75

For more information visit
www.chicagodiocese.org/stherman08

ST. HERMAN'S YOUTH CONFERENCE "MIDWEST"

December 26-28
Hosted by St. Herman's Orthodox Church
Lake Odessa, Michigan

For the first time, the Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America (ROCOR) will be holding a St. Herman's Youth Conference "Midwest". The goal of the conference is to bring together high-school aged and older youth from around the Midwest for lectures and discussions, Church services, and fellowship. Please join us for this great opportunity to explore the Orthodox Faith and make some new friends!

What is the St. Herman's Youth Conference? The St. Herman's Conference is an annual gathering of high school and college aged Orthodox Youth. The conference is held near the feast of St. Herman of Alaska, which is the same day as Western Christmas.

Isn't there already a St. Herman's Conference? In past years, there was one St. Herman's Conference, and it was held at different sites around the US. Beginning last year, it was decided to have more regional conferences. This year, there will now be a St. Herman's Conference 'Midwest', along with St. Herman's Conference East and West.

Who can come to the St. Herman's Conference? The conference is open to high school and college aged Orthodox Christians (or those interested in Orthodoxy). The minimum age is 15.

What can I expect at the St. Herman's Conference? The Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America has very active youth groups. The past youth retreats have been very rewarding for young people, not only in lectures and discussions, but in meeting other Orthodox Youth who share their same experiences. This Conference will have lectures and discussions about contemporary issues that effect your life. There will also be opportunities for interaction and fellowship among the gathered Youth.

Does the registration fee include 'the beer'? NO! This conference will be short and there will be a lot going on. Any kind of bad behavior or disruption -- particularly underage smoking or dringing -- will not be tolerated. The offending persons will be asked to leave the conference immediately. All participants are expected to participate in all lectures, discussions, Church Services, and other events of the Conference. There will be no exceptions and the group will stay together at all times.

Will there be more than just lectures and Church services? Yes! The Retreat Center has activities including snow tubing and cross country skiing(if there is snow), a game room, and climbing wall. You are also encouraged to take the opportunity to meet and interact with other Orthodox Youth.

Where will the Conference take place?

The Conference will take place at Michawana Retreat Center and St. Herman's Orthodox Church. There is a tentative schedule below.

Where is Lake Odessa? Lake Odessa is a small resort community nestled around Jordan Lake in central Michigan between Grand Rapids and Lansing. It is less than a 4 hour drive from Chicago, a 2 hour drive from Detroit, and 4 hours from Cleveland.

How do I get there? Besides being within easy driving distance from major Midwest cities, there are other ways to get here. The **Megabus** has 2 trips daily from Chicago to Ann Arbor (University of Michigan). Generally, these tickets can be purchased for \$15-\$30. You can also fly into the Detroit airport. If you plan to arrive in one of these cities (or another nearby city), please indicate that in your registration, and transportation to the Retreat can be arranged.

How much does the Conference cost? The registration fee is \$75 per person. This includes all meals, accomodations, and activities at the Retreat Center.

OK! I want to come to the St. Herman's Conference 'Midwest'. What do I do now? First, you need to fill out the registration. If you are under 18, you will have to have your parent fill out a simple waiver as well. There's no need to send money yet, you can bring your fee with you to the Conference. If you like, you can simply send an email with all the registration info to:

stherman08@chicagodiocese.org

More information on the web:

Retreat Website

chicagodiocese.org/stherman08

St. Herman's Orthodox Church

stherman.net

Michawana Retreat Center

michawana.org

Megabus

megabus.com

2008 St. Herman's Youth Retreat "Midwest"

Guest Speakers

As the world around us drifts away from Christian life and values, Orthodox youth are met with unique challenges. Even though living an Orthodox Christian life becomes more of a struggle, the opportunities to express our Faith become even greater. The speakers for this Conference will provide insight and guidance on this path through their experiences.



Kathryn Saclarides

"The Sacrifice of Love: Service in the Orthodox Church"

Kathryn has worked with numerous Orthodox service organizations around the world, from Albania to Africa. She will first discuss the dilemmas that face many young people as they grow into a "life of their own in Christ"- beyond attending Church services, then opportunities for young people here in the States to serve others. Her goal in this presentation is to inspire young people to accept their responsibility as an Orthodox Christian to serve the Church through ministering unto others.

Nikolai Breckenridge

"All things needful: The importance of Orthodoxy in a changing world"

Nikolai is a former Episcopalian, now enrolled in St. Tikhon's Orthodox Seminary. He will tell his story, that of a convert, and why he feels that in today's world, living Orthodoxy is the only thing that really matters.



Matushka Anna Lardas

"Why to say no"

The mother of teenagers, Matushka Anna will entertain everyone with her stories and experiences. She will talk about the struggle of being young and Orthodox, and how being a good Orthodox Christian can be a positive example among peers.



ST. HERMAN'S YOUTH RETREAT 2008 – 'MIDWEST'

SCHEDULE

Friday, December 26

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| 12PM-3PM | Check-in for Retreat at Michawana Retreat Center Time for outdoor activities |
| 3PM-4PM | Moleben and opening remarks to conference by Bishop Peter |
| 4PM-6PM | Presentation |
| 6PM-7PM | Dinner |
| 7PM-830PM | Free time/games |
| 830PM-10PM | Film "From the little mountain" and discussion |
| 10PM | Prayers before sleep – Lights out |

Saturday, December 27

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| 8AM | Morning prayers and breakfast |
| 9AM-1030AM | Lecture by Kathryn Saclarides with discussion |
| 1030AM-12PM | Lecture by Nikolai Breckenridge with discussion |
| 12PM-1PM | Lunch |
| 1PM-230PM | Lecture by Matushka Anna Lardas with discussion |
| 230PM-430PM | Free time for outdoor activities |
| 430PM-530PM | Dinner and Preparation for Church service |
| 530PM | Prayer Rule before Communion |
| 630PM | All-Night Vigil |
| 9PM | Tea and social time |
| 10PM | Lights out |

Sunday, December 28

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| 8AM | Pack up and check out of Retreat Center and travel to St. Herman's Orthodox Church |
| 10AM | Divine Liturgy |
| 12PM-2PM | Lunch and closing remarks. |
| | End of Conference |

St. Herman's Youth Retreat 'Midwest' - 2008

December 26-28, 2008

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Age: _____ (if under 18, liability waiver is required to be filled out)

Email: _____

Parish: _____

Cost of Registration: \$75

(make checks payable to St. Herman's Orthodox Church)

Please list anyone who you would like to room with below.

_____.

Email completed Registrations to sthermanretreat@chicagodiocese.org

OR mail to: St. Herman's Orthodox Church

126 Reese St.

Lake Odessa/Woodbury, MI 48849

**DIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND MID-AMERICA (ROCOR)
AND ST. HERMAN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH**

CONSENT AND LIABILITY WAIVER FORM

I, _____ hereby give permission for _____
(parent/guardian) (name of youth)
to participate in the St. Herman's Youth Retreat 'Midwest' 2008, sponsored by the Youth Committee of the Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America (ROCOR) and hosted at St. Herman's Orthodox Church (Lake Odessa, MI)

In consideration of the attendance of my child at the above named activity by the Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America/St. Herman's Church, and for allowing my child to participate in this activity, I do hereby release and discharge the Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America, St. Herman's Orthodox Church, and all of its Pastors and adult leaders acting officially or otherwise from any and all claims, demands, actions, or causes of action on account of any injury sustained by my child during said above named activity. I hereby authorize any Pastor or adult leaders of the Diocese of Chicago and Mid-America/St. Herman's Orthodox Church to obtain emergency medical treatment for my child at any time during the above named activity. I understand that an attempt will be made to notify the parents first. If the parents are not available, however, the youth will be taken to the emergency room at the nearest hospital as circumstances may warrant.

If any conduct of the participant warrants them to be excused from participation in the event, I assume all responsibility for disciplinary action and picking up my child upon being notified by the Pastor/adult leader. Should it be necessary for the participant to return home due to medical reasons, disciplinary action or otherwise, I hereby assume all transportation costs.

Please list any special medical/health information (including medication) concerning youth member listed. _____

I, the undersigned, hereby acknowledge that I have read the foregoing, understand its contents, and have signed the same as my own free act and deed.

(signature of parent/guardian)

(date)

(home phone)

(cell phone)