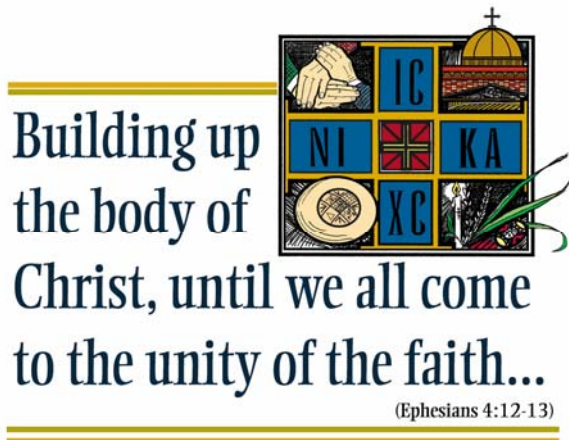


Using the Theme Throughout the Year

2006 – 2007



THEME IDEAS: construction, tool belt and tools, yellow caution tape, hard hats, and blueprints. Teacher stores have a fun set of bulletin board materials called “Kids at Work”. There’s also a religious education version that is “Christians Under Construction” that you may find at a Christian Book Store in their Sunday school section. The yellow signs can be used to include words from our theme instead of the ones included...such as:

- “Unity Ahead”
- “Member - Body of Christ”
- “Building Up In Progress”

DECORATING THE BULLETIN BOARD can be a visual lesson on our theme. Using bricks to represent individual parts of the whole, a few ideas may include:

- Each child’s name on a brick
- Each grade/classroom on a brick
- Families that make up your church
- Organizations/Ministry Teams in your church
- Churches in your Diocese, Archdiocese
- Orthodox jurisdictions that make up the Orthodox Church worldwide

MUSIC:

- Communion Hymn “Receive the Body of Christ”
- Theme Song by Gigi Shadid (TBA)
- Bible Song “The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock”

PRAYER:

- Prayer of St. John Chrysostom before Communion – “I believe and I confess...”

CREATIVE FESTIVALS – see downloadable lesson plans provided by AODCE
(www.antiochian.org/festivals)

SERVICE PROJECTS/CHARITY:

- Habitat for Humanity’s Web site www.habitat.org states “Habitat for Humanity is about tearing down walls and building bridges. It is about bringing hope and transforming lives. It is about serving God by serving others.” There is a minimum age to do any actual building, but there are many opportunities for people of all ages to get involved with this worthwhile organization. They even have a Vacation Bible School program called “Under Construction” where you may find some ideas for teaching this theme.
- Project Mexico – [Click here: Project Mexico & St. Innocent Orphanage | Building hope for boys without families and families without homes](#) - OCF from all over the Archdiocese are familiar with the work being done at Project Mexico...but church schools can be a part of this exciting ministry as well. Visit their website and click on “home building” to see how our kids can help.

PROJECT:

- Build something for your classroom – an icon corner, a bookshelf, or something simple like pencil boxes or holders for any supplies
- Build something for your church - a picnic table, bench, birdhouse, outside shrine, pavilion or gazebo. Or possibly your church is undergoing some major building project this year...find a way to involve the kids!!
- Build something - out of canned goods (or boxes of food, clothing, money, etc.)....then donate them to the needy.

GAME DAY/FAMILY NIGHT:

- Have a team competition using different things that can be built: Legos, puzzles, Lincoln Logs, Race Track, blocks – time the teams then rotate them. This could be kept simple or made very involved...like an Olympic event.
- Team Building – There are many activities that encourage teamwork, cooperation, and communication that can be done with a class or the whole church school. You could also extend it farther and attend a facility in your area that has a ropes course and wall climbs. They usually have the staff that will conduct the team building activities there. It’s a changed group of individuals that attend these types of places!! (Ask a teen who has participated in the “challenge course” at Antiochian Village!)

These ideas are only suggestions to tie in the theme with Church School activities for the year. If you have an idea that can add to this, please share it with the rest of us! E-mail the Christian Education office at AODCE@aol.com