5 Qualities of Healthy Orthodox Churches

Why Some Orthodox Churches Grow & Others Don't The Answer May Surprise You



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Healthy Parishes Combine The Great Commission With The Great Commandment

The Great **Commission: Go** therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you

Spiritual & Numerical Growth

The Great **Commandment: Love** the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.



A Spirit Of Community If your church membership is spread out geographically, then focus on becoming known as a joyful Christian church to nonmembers nearby. Do your non-members nearby know you exist and welcome visitors?

A Spirit Of Abundance
If your church is low on
membership/attendance,
then expand your
activities, such as daycare
and discussion groups.
Do visitors find your
church active and lively?

A Spirit Of Hospitality If your visitors do not return, then focus on hospitality. Have the friendliest people as greeters, a lively coffee hour, and pamphlets on Orthodoxy. Does your parish make visitors excited to return?

A Spirit Of Stewardship
If your congregation does
not tithe/volunteer, then
focus on the reasons for
stewardship. Encourage all
members to be good
stewards of God's money.
Does your parish
understand and value
stewardship?

Prayer & Fasting
Mid-week gatherings
such as fasting meals and
prayer groups. Does your
parish practice mid-week
gatherings?

What Do The 5 Qualities Have In Common?

Putting Belief Into Action

How Can You Put Belief Into Action?

Read On For A Possible Solution

Becoming Truly Human™

A new ministry helping churches overcome the following obstacles

- a stagnant or shrinking parish
- apathy, animosity, and stress around finances
- lack of direction & focus in outreach
- finding adult education curriculum
- empowering qualified lay leaders

*Available to all jurisdictions.

What Is Becoming Truly Human?

A weekly gathering of people exploring the deeper parts of life. A typical gathering consists of eating together, watching a film, and a group discussion. People from all religious (and nonreligious) backgrounds are welcome.

How Can Becoming Truly Human Help?

- A friendly way to share the faith with others.
- A great curriculum for adult education classes.
- A ministry for lay leaders, under the direction of the priest
- An effective tool for increasing stewardship.
- A powerful resource for helping a parish move towards the
 5 qualities of healthy Orthodox churches.

What Is The Next Step?

1. WEBSITE

Click **HERE** for more information at the website.

2. WATCH

Click **HERE** to watch the first four minutes of the film used in the ministry.

3. RECRUIT

Click **HERE** for help finding volunteers. This link will open/download a new pdf.

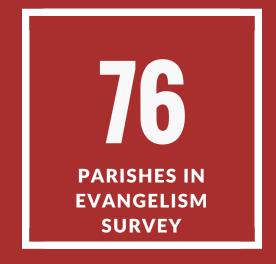
4. MATERIALS

Contact us for materials and training: bth@antiochian.org or 615-971-0000.

Where does this info come from?







The information in this eBook was gathered by Adam Lowell Roberts, full-time administrator for the Becoming Truly Human ministry of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdicoese of North America.

Since joining the Archdiocese full-time in 2014, Adam has completed 39 interviews for Ancient Faith Radio on Orthodox Evangelism. Adam has also visited 55 individual parishes, and most of those parishes were visited more than once. In 2015 Adam published a book on Orthodox evangelism titled 100 Natural Ways To Grow A Church. Since December of 2015 Adam has been helping with a study of 76 parishes on evangelism led by Alexei Krindatch for the Assembly of Bishops.