**TEACHER AIDES**

**Total Parish Education** Curriculum for the Christian Home and Parish

The curriculum of the OCEC enables parishes to evaluate materials as well as the methods by which they are taught. It enables parishes in unique situations to develop their own curriculum. The Curriculum is outlined in the accompanying “Scope and Sequence” chart which shows which materials are taught in each grade level. The goal of the OCEC curriculum essentially is preaching the Gospel and integrating the whole person into the life of the Church. This is summarized in our “Total Parish Education” approach to education for all age groups. All members of the parish are teachers, and all are learners throughout all stages of life. No curriculum is perfect. All people learn differently, and all materials can be organized in different ways. The curriculum has a formal aspect which is listed in the table of contents: experience and explanation, cognition and affection, the theme, intentionality, graded materials, categories of planning and evaluation, curriculum content, teacher guides, adapting to a small church school, application to home use, and the curriculum in the day school.

**Scope and Sequence**

The “Scope and Sequence” chart presents a synopsis of the OCEC curriculum under five major categories: Biblical, Church History and Tradition, Liturgical (under two sub-categories of Prayer, Worship & Sacrament), Doctrine, and Spiritual/Moral Development. It includes a section on the stages of faith and their application to Christian development in the home and church. It also describes the birth to toddler age (for which there is no formal curriculum) providing brief information and ideas for parents. This 24.75” by 19.75” chart can be mounted for display.

**Orthodox Faith I: Doctrine**

152-page introduction to the major sources of Christian doctrine, step-by-step explanation of the Creed, and a chapter on the Holy Trinity. Includes a basic bibliography.

**Orthodox Faith II: Worship**

200-page book explaining the basic cycles and services of worship in the Orthodox Church. Includes church building, vestments and symbols, the Sacraments, the daily cycle of worship, the church year with its fasts and feasts and the Divine Liturgy.

**Orthodox Faith III: Bible & Church History**

234-page explanation of the contents and interpretation of the Bible; plus a basic historical presentation to the Church, emphasizing the main theological, liturgical, and spiritual developments of each century.

**Orthodox Faith IV: Spirituality**

200-page introduction to the main themes of Christian life: prayer, fasting, repentance, the virtues, witness in the world, and communion with God. Contains an excellent chapter on Christian virtue as expressed in the Beatitudes.

**Youth Dynamics (Tapes)**

This 4-tape series, which includes extensive study guide, recommended activities, and films covers topics such as recruiting and training youth volunteers, activities for high school classes, an introduction to adolescents and how they grow and develop.

**Our Church and Our Children**

This re-release of a classic work by distinguished religious educator Sophie Koulomzin addresses the task of Christian education, the challenges and opportunities of the church school, and a vision for the Christian teacher. The contents of the book comprise a deep understanding of children, as wise appropriation of educational and developmental theory, a lived knowledge of the Orthodox faith tradition, and a keen sense of Orthodox church life in America. With a new Forward and Study Guide by Ann Mitsakos Bezzerides, it makes an excellent book for either group or personal study and is an indispensable resource for Christian educators.