

PRIEST'S RECOMMENDATION



CROSSROAD
ORTHODOX YOUTH TAKE THE CHALLENGE

50 Goddard Ave. Brookline, MA 02445
(617) 850-1310 crossroad@hchc.edu

September 2009

Dear Father,

Greetings in our Lord Jesus Christ! As they approach the beginning of young adult life, the teens in your community are developing questions about their future and how it relates to their faith. The CrossRoad summer institute, now in its seventh year, welcomes annually sixty high school juniors and seniors to participate in a ten-day Orthodox Christian program developed to help them discover answers. CrossRoad dates for the summer of 2010 are June 19-29 (June session) and July 6-16 (July session). This youth program, focused on the vocational exploration, will be held on the campus of Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, MA. Through grants from the Lilly Endowment Inc., Leadership 100, and generous donors, each accepted applicant receives a full scholarship and is only responsible for travel costs to/from Boston. Participants' home churches are encouraged to help with travel costs and to have their student(s) offer a presentation after attending.

For ten days participants will

- experience a full liturgical life, praying together at daily services both in the school's chapel and at different Orthodox churches in the Boston area.
- study their faith in an Orthodox Christian academic setting—two seminary professors will offer mini-courses.
- serve their neighbor—they will participate in outreach projects at different ministries in the Boston area.
- spend time together as a group, with fun and fellowship with other Orthodox Christians their age, forming friendships that will last a lifetime.

In all of this we're hoping to help them discern their life callings, matching their personal gifts with the needs of the world. The staff of CrossRoad believes that in just about any direction they choose for their life, it can be of service of God and neighbor, which is Christ's call to us all.

In selecting CrossRoad participants, our committee depends on recommendations of the applicants supplied by persons who know them well. We are eager to select those individuals whose interests indicate that they have the greatest potential to benefit from this program. Please provide a frank appraisal of the applicant.

We greatly appreciate the time you devote to this evaluation. For more information please see the CrossRoad website, <http://crossroad.hchc.edu>. Please feel free to contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns at (617) 850-1310 or crossroad@hchc.edu.

Sincerely,

Mary Long, Director
The CrossRoad Team

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50 Goddard Ave. Brookline, MA 02445
(617) 850-1300 vocations@hchc.edu

Applicant's Name _____

Your Name _____

Your Phone _____ Your E-mail _____

Parish Name _____ Jurisdiction _____

Parish Address _____
Street City State Zip

What is the best way to contact you? _____

How long have you known the candidate? _____

Please respond to the following items candidly, to the best of your knowledge.

1. How well and in what capacity do you know the applicant?

2. What has been the history of the applicant's involvement in your parish?

3. Is the applicant emotionally and mentally stable?

4. Does the applicant seem to work well with others in a group setting?

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Applicant's Name _____

Your Name _____

5. What do you consider to be the applicant's greatest strengths?

6. What do you see as being the greatest challenge the applicant could face in this program?

7. What would be the greatest benefit that you feel the applicant would take away from this program?

8. What is your overall evaluation of this person as a candidate for the CrossRoad summer institute (highly recommend as a candidate, or with reservations, etc.)? Why?

Of the following list, please circle what you see as the applicant's *top five* qualities.

- | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Energetic | Follower | Leader | Creative | Talkative | Expressive |
| Inquisitive | Responsible | Trustworthy | Industrious | Funny | Empathetic |
| Studious | Ambitious | Diligent | Prayerful | Reflective | Committed |
| | Giving | Problem-solver | Compassionate | | |