



With the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH

*“Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers,
For by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.” (Hebrews 13:1-2)*

Tuesday, October 26, 2021
Great-martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-streaming

Dear Reverend Fathers,

As our young adults move away from home to begin their college education, they are faced with numerous challenges in maintaining their life within the Church. Being in an unfamiliar location away from their support system may make it difficult to attend church and remain engaged. This comes at a time when their spiritual life is of utmost importance as they are faced with many significant changes and making life-altering choices. **We are pleased to announce that the HOST program, launched in fall of 2019 with the blessing of His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, is once again active now that our youth are back on campus.**

Helping Orthodox Students Thrive (HOST) is a program aligned with the declaration from the Assembly of Bishops of the “Year of the Youth,” as well as Sayidna JOSEPH’s [“Encyclical for the Year of the Youth”](#) calling all parishes to action in support of youth and young adult ministry.

HOST matches Orthodox college students with Orthodox families and communities that are willing to serve as a local contact in a new city and parish. The directory of active HOST parishes and their contact information is published on the Archdiocesan website (<http://www.antiochian.org/dashboard?name=host>).

As a reminder, the HOST program seeks to provide the following to our young adults:

- A warm welcome within the first week of arrival.
- Transportation to and from church, for services and other church events.
- Opportunities to meet other young adults, parish members and clergy of their new community.
- Invitations to dine together, possibly after Vespers or Liturgy.
- Inclusion during the holidays for any young adult unable to return home.

This program is available to any Orthodox Christian young adult who has recently relocated to a new city to attend college away from home. **Please be sure that the young adults of your community who are relocating for school are aware of this program and please be sure they have the HOST contact for their destination city.**

Finally, if you are a college student in a community without a HOST parish, or if your parish is not currently listed as a HOST community and would like to join in this important ministry, please email me at host@antiochian.org. We will gladly add you to the directory of active HOST parishes and advise you on how to support our young adults traveling to your city.

In Christ,
Karen Kinan
HOST Program Chair