



St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
Sarasota, FL
2017-2018
GOYA Handbook / Social Media Best Practices

Mission (Ministry vs Club)

The parish priest (Father John Bociu) is responsible for the spiritual well-being of the entire parish. St. Barbara's is a Christ-centered place where parents and their children are welcomed and our young people can develop their self-identity as Orthodox Christians. GOYA is a way for our Church youth to come together in Christian Fellowship. GOYA is a part of Father John's overall Orthodox Christian ministry.

The mission and goal of GOYA ministry is to lead our young people into experiencing the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith. ***It is not an organization or club but rather a ministry of the Church.*** By developing a personal relationship with Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ and becoming active sacramental members of the living Church, our young people will be equipped with tools necessary to assist them in their journey toward salvation. These young people will undoubtedly one day become parish counsel members, Sunday School teachers, and stewards of the church. Simply put, we gather together in Christ's name. ***Friends Forever, Orthodox for Life!***

GOYA activities are meant to be focused events in which teens will have the opportunity to learn about the Orthodox Church, interact with other GOYAnS, and help prepare them for success in adulthood. ***This is critical for resilience in their physical and spiritual growth.***

The National Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries recommends that GOYA Ministry be based on 4 characteristics: ***Worship, Fellowship, Service (Diakonia), and Witness.*** All GOYA participants must register by filling out the registration forms every year. A medical and waiver form along with GOYA Rules of Conduct must be filled out completely and signed by a parent or guardian.

Eligibility

GOYA ministers to teenagers of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (7th to 12th grades).

GOYA Leaders (Officers)

GOYAnS interested in holding office are encouraged to apply for positions of leadership as defined by the GOYA Advisors. In general, the application process should explore why they want to serve, what talents they have to offer, and how their Orthodox Faith impacts their life (inside and outside the church). The GOYA Advisors, in consultation with Father John, shall decide the manner of selection and may also make special appointments as necessary in order to further the ministry's goal.



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Theme/Orthodox Instruction

This year's theme is: "Understanding Orthodox Identity." The English word, "apologetics," is taken from the Greek word apología (apó, of, from + logía, reflection on something, an eloquent argument). Apologetics does not mean saying "I'm sorry." We will expand on the Eastern Orthodox understanding of our Christian faith with special emphasis on the Nicene and Chalcedon Creeds as well as the Fathers of the Church. There will also be discussions and other presentations with Father John about our faith. The goal is to equip the GOYANs with knowledge in order to continue their search for truth. In the context of Peter's epistle (1 Peter 3:15), this means being able to explain our Orthodox culture to others.

A recent study indicates that **6 out of 10 college students leave the Orthodox faith** and over **50% see no value in attending church regularly**. See: <http://myocn.net/orthodox-campus-ministry-is-it-time-for-change/>

GOYA Advisors

Under the direction of the parish priest, the GOYA advisors are responsible for planning and carrying out all activities. The lead advisor oversees the delegation of responsibilities and coordinated efforts of the GOYA Leadership Team.

Guest Speakers – Career Awareness

The format of GOYA monthly meetings incorporates a different guest speaker from a variety of professions who, in most cases, are also Orthodox Christians. Our goal is to promote GOYA awareness on which areas of study offer the most job opportunities for students looking for a fiscally sound post-college life.

Good Standing

Participation in GOYA is voluntary. GOYANs are required to attend at least 2/3 of the GOYA meetings in order to have "good standing" status (with exception of special circumstances submitted in writing and approved by the Father John). Unless noted otherwise, regular GOYA meetings are the 3rd Friday of the month (6pm-8:30pm) between the months of September and June. ***Good standing status also requires that GOYANs volunteer at least four (4) hours during the annual church GLENDI festival (2 hours if also part of the Hellenic Dance Group) as directed by the lead GOYA advisor.*** This is part of GOYA fellowship. If these requirements are not met, any board member may be removed and an alternate appointed by the GOYA advisors.



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GOYAns must be in “good standing” in order to receive full GOYA-sponsorship to help defray the financial costs for participation in GOYA events such as the Diakonia Summer Camp and Tampa-area GOYA retreats. Full sponsorship does not guarantee that there will be no costs to you. It is your responsibility to comply with the requirements of GOYA for any possible reimbursement (full, partial, or otherwise specified). Your obligation to pay for any registration costs/fees is not contingent upon receiving any reimbursement from GOYA. In the event of a cancellation for an event that GOYA has already provided you a subsidy for, you agree to reimburse GOYA for the full amount of such. Any related cancellation fees are also your sole responsibility.

Good-Standing: GOYA Christmas/Easter Greeting Cards: Full sponsorship requires that GOYA families purchase *both* seasonal fundraiser cards (Christmas & Easter). Non-participating GOYA families will have that amount subtracted from any qualifying sponsorship such as the Diakonia Summer Camp.

Good-Standing: Sunday School Substitution: GOYAns may substitute two (2) Sunday School attendances for a missed GOYA meeting DURING THE SAME MONTH. This is limited to ***once*** per school year.

Good-Standing: One-Time Exception (OTE) for summer camp: GOYAns who have at least 50% meeting attendance (but less than 2/3) at the end of the year, may request a one-time exception to the 2/3 “good standing” attendance requirement **IF** their absences were for urgent, substantiated, non-convenience reasons. Offended (or hurt) feelings are not acceptable reasons. This request shall be submitted in writing, state the reason(s) for the OTE, and must be signed by the parent and GOYAn. The OTE may be invoked only ***once during a GOYAN's entire GOYA career and are non-transferable***. OTE approvals will be made by the lead GOYA advisor and Father John Bociu on a case-by-case basis. The OTE request will not be approved if there is evidence of dishonesty. ***Father John has the final say for all OTE decisions.***

Stewardship & Membership: GOYA families are strongly encouraged to complete a Stewardship Pledge Card. Whatever gifts God has given to His people are to be used for the glory of God and in a spirit of love. Stewardship is a form of our Orthodox Christian Identity. Together we witness the beauty of the Divine Liturgy and receive Holy Communion. Our beautiful church has created countless lifelong friendships which are strengthened through various fellowship activities. Sunday School also provides our youth the unique opportunity to learn about our faith and culture. Leadership Is Stewardship. 1 Peter 4:10 says, “As each has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” In order to meet financial obligations and to allow for proper planning and budgeting, our parish relies on our annual Stewardship Pledge Program.



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Oratorical Festival

All GOYAnS are strongly encouraged to participate at least once as a member of GOYA. The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival provides Greek Orthodox teenagers the opportunity to write and talk about their faith. Public speaking skills are ranked number one among the skill sets of professionals. Other guiding factors for developing public speaking skills include: Discovering an important component of leadership development; Increasing self-esteem, self confidence, and ability to accept feedback; and Expanding skills for planning, preparation and performance.

St Nicholas Cathedral (Tarpon Springs) Epiphany Celebration (Cross Dive)

All GOYAnS are strongly encouraged to participate at least once as a member of GOYA (subject to cross dive eligibility requirements).

Media

Photos and videos from GOYA events may be posted by GOYA on our Facebook page as well as church materials such as the weekly bulletin and Pyrgos.

Letters of Good Standing

Demonstrated leadership and initiative in extra-curricular activities are highly desirable strengths when applying for college. This includes work, community service, youth organizations, and religious groups. **Active involvement** is more meaningful to an admissions office; casual memberships are not.

GOYAnS may request a letter of good standing from the Lead GOYA Advisor, which includes their year of participation and current status. To request a letter of good standing, please send an email with the reason to: SarasotaGOYA@gmail.com. Please allow 5-10 days for the request to be processed. If you need the letter addressed to a particular person/organization, please specify such.

Note: A GOYA letter of good standing shall not in any way be considered a letter of good standing for purposes of serving as Orthodox sponsors of baptisms and weddings or for a parishioner's right to vote at General Assembly Meetings. Such a letter is available directly from the Church office.

Parental Expectations

Please take into consideration that GOYA advisors are volunteers and put their *free time and lots of*



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energy into the ministry in order to assure that our children are able to participate in events. ***It is a tremendous undertaking!***

Parents are the “holy grail” in terms of influencing their child’s participation in the life of the Church. ***GOYA starts with you.*** Our kids need to see us pray, and they need to see us make Church a priority. And what if they tell you they don’t want to go? Go anyway. You’re the parent! Kids need structure, and *they need to see you as an example of someone who strives to put God first, before everything else.* Saint Paul writes, “Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12). In other words, Saint Paul tells Timothy (and us too!) not to worry that he is young. Instead, this young man can show people what it means to be a Christian. He can still be loving, faithful, and pure.

Please understand that our youth are learning by our example and we should ALWAYS try to act accordingly. “Behold how good and pleasing it is when brothers dwell in unity.” (Psalm 133:1).

Gossip and idle talk are distractions. Anger, bitterness, and resentments lead to a host of problems such as unhappiness. This includes criticizing the bishops, clergy, fellow parishioners or other GOYAnS in front of the youth or with one another. If a situation needs discussion, please contact the lead GOYA advisor or Father John first. Conversation requires mutual respect. *Let’s work together toward finding a reasonable solution (when appropriate).*

Parents should ensure that their teen is: ***aware of all events, properly dressed, dropped off on time, picked up on time, fees paid for all events on time, attend monthly meetings and mandatory events.***

Feedback

GOYA welcomes feedback from GOYAnS (and their parents), both positive and negative, and may use the information in order to improve GOYA in furtherance of our stated mission. ***Feedback should be civil in tone and reflect the charity and respect that marks Christian discourse.*** Slanderous or libelous statements are detrimental to GOYA and Christian fellowship.

Suggestions/Ideas

Every parish is unique in its own challenges and there’s no shortage of good ideas. ***It’s important to keep in mind that ideas are much easier to talk about than do.*** In order for the GOYA leadership to fully consider a new idea, the following is requested (*at a minimum*): A) How the idea furthers the stated mission of GOYA; B) The anticipated expenses (including travel, fees, etc), estimated



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labor/volunteers/participants, and cash flow analysis (if applicable); C) Where else the idea has been used (e.g., parish name/location, contact information for reference); D) How the idea can be applied for us here in the Greek Orthodox Community of Sarasota and Manatee counties; and E) What SPECIFIC tasks you are willing to do in order to make sure that the idea is implemented and maintained (if successful).

Parent Volunteers/Chaperones

Please consider volunteering. Volunteers are the backbone of any ministry. **Great volunteers are reliable and dedicated.** Parents interested in volunteering to assist with GOYA events must contact the lead GOYA advisor for direction. All chaperones must be at least 25 years of age.

Overnight Trip Guidelines

Unless specified otherwise for a particular event by the Metropolis, no adult chaperone is to be housed in the same room as the youths unless the chaperon's own child is one of the occupants in that same room. Chaperones also need to be of the same gender as all of the youths in the same room. Parents who do not want an adult chaperone to share a room with their child can make alternative arrangements (at their own added expense) to include reserving a room where their child will sleep on their own and unsupervised.

Parent Communications/Schedule

In order to ensure that you receive all GOYA-event communications, parents must provide their **primary email address and cell phone contact information to: SarasotaGOYA@gmail.com. GOYA uses a text message broadcast service as it's primary means of communication. If a parent chooses not to participate in the text message service, it is solely their responsibility to seek timely updates from their child. All parents are also strongly encouraged to "friend" our Facebook page for another way to view photos and keep up to date on exciting things that are happening with GOYA. The address is: [facebook.com/SarasotaGOYA](https://www.facebook.com/SarasotaGOYA).

Parents and GOYAns can also link their smartphones to the GOYA calendar. For additional information, send an e-mail to: SarasotaGOYA@gmail.com.

Truth Will Always Offend Some People

St. Barbara's is a private, Christian religious entity, and has a First Amendment right to communicate the truth about Jesus Christ and salvation. We receive the grace of Christ's sacrificial offering by coming to Him in faith and by receiving Holy Communion (John 6:53, 54). Faith transforms the whole person, heart, soul, mind, and body (Rom. 10:9). It is not our desire to offend anyone, but truth, even if it is presented in love, will offend some people.



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GOYA Shirts

GOYA shirts are provided at no charge to GOYANs that actively participate in GOYA events such as the Tampa-area GOYA volleyball tournament. GOYA shirts must be returned if not a graduating senior-in-good standing or if a GOYAn resigns. The replacement fee is \$20.

Use of Cell Phones (smartphones, tablets, electronic devices) during GOYA meetings

GOYA recognizes that technology can play an important and positive role in teenager's lives, both educationally and socially. GOYA is committed to helping all GOYANs understand both the benefits and the risks, in order to equip the youth with the knowledge and skills to be able to use technology safely and responsibly.

We understand that many parents want their teens to have cell phones. ***All electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, iPods, and iPads, may not be visible, turned on, or used during GOYA meetings.*** We discourage teens from bringing cell phones in order to prevent any opportunity for losing them and causing distractions during GOYA meetings.

Code of Conduct

Inappropriate or disrespectful behavior, pranks, or items inappropriate for an Orthodox Christian event will not be permitted. If any child exhibits inappropriate behavior or any inappropriate items are found (such as tobacco, illegal drugs, e-cigarette, weapons, etc), they will be confiscated and parents will be called immediately to pick up their teen.

Social Media - Background

Being a teenager can be very confusing and difficult. Social media websites such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat, etc., allow us to communicate in real-time with "friends" or the public. These communities of users can share messages, content, photos, videos, and other material electronically. ***Understanding the risks involved in using social media may prevent potential adverse personal and professional consequences.***

Online speech can be cruder and crueler than our real-life interactions, in large part due to the literal distance from the people that we're talking to (and ***not seeing their reactions in-person***). According to a CNN study, "almost all parents -- 94% -- underestimated the amount of fighting happening over social media." This document is not meant to be all-inclusive and parents are encouraged to research other risks of online teen use such as sexual predators, identity theft, gambling, drug use, violent material and other topics.



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Impact on Teen's Moral Consciousness

The use of social media occurs simultaneously with their developing identity, emerging sexuality, physical development, and moral consciousness. ***Social media can become a highly influential teacher for youth. Their moral, ethical and intellectual values can be formed by what they read and experience online.*** They may desire to become what the social media community espouses and portrays. Social media also increases our children's ability to be exposed to negative influences such as drugs and alcohol.

In a world where our youth are torn between reality and virtual reality, we need to ensure that they are equipped with the knowledge of the truth as revealed by Christ. ***Communications on such sites are not necessarily monitored by GOYA, but GOYAn conduct may be brought to the attention of GOYA advisors when they are seen as possible violations of the GOYA Code of Conduct.***

Golden Rule

As a general matter, the social media world is no different than the in-person world. The same laws, rules, policies, guidelines, and best practices that govern our in-person relationships with fellow GOYAnS, friends, parents, and the community all apply online. ***GOYAnS and GOYA advisors are responsible for their online posts*** just as they are for their personal, verbal, or written interactions.

NOTE: Any reference to "bullying" in this handbook includes cyberbullying (via computer, tablet, smart phone or any other electronic device), whether or not specifically stated.

Youngsters 'addicted to mobile phones'

A study from the Pew Research Center indicates that 92% of teens report going online daily — including 24% who say they go online "almost constantly." ***More than half (56%) of teens — ages 13 to 17 — go online several times a day.*** <http://pewrsr.ch/1NaUOUU>

A Leading Australian chiropractor has warned about dangers of '***text neck' (hunch back)*** and an 'alarming increase' in teenage patients caused by bending over smartphones for several hours a day. The condition can lead to cognitive problems and depression. Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3274835/Shocking-X-rays-teenagers-text-neck.html>



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Positive use of technology

- **Technology for GOYA and GOYA-related events can be used in a positive manner.**
- GOYA seeks to promote safe and responsible use of social media.
- GOYA seeks to explore ways of using technology to support assertiveness, self-esteem, and to develop friendships.

Social Media Risks

Information in electronic form is easily distributed, archived and downloaded. The person posting the information may have very little control over who sees it and its use. **The words, ideas, pictures, and things that you put online can later be used against you.** This is true even if your “privacy settings” are restricted.

Permanent Records

Postings to social media sites are generally permanent records that cannot be easily deleted. You must assume that everything you post is public, will be available to the public forever, and can be forwarded well beyond where you think your comments might land. Copies of deleted information may still exist on search engines or in friends’ (or others’) electronic files.

“What you chose to post is unfortunately something that cannot be undone.... There’s no delete button on the internet. Those things float forever on the internet.” “Even Deleted Material on Social Networking Sites Can Be Used Against You.” If you wouldn’t say what you’re saying to a reporter or in a public space, then you probably shouldn’t say it online.

Reputation Damage (College Admissions)

Postings may come back to haunt you. **Many employers (and college admissions) check social networking profiles looking for misconduct or inappropriate behavior.** A report conducted by the National Association for College Admission Counseling indicates that “[a] significant proportion of schools are beginning to research students via search engines (26 percent) and social networks (21 percent).” More @ <http://www.nacacnet.org/research/research-data/Research%20Member%20Only/SocialMediaDiscussionPaper.pdf>
Before communicating on a social media site, always consider what is said, who might read it and the impact it may have, if viewed by parents, relatives, employer, school, or other group (like GOYA) that is important to you.



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Be careful and accurate.

Before you post or comment, check your facts. Review your comments for clarity, grammar, and spelling. ***It's your reputation, and you don't want to look foolish.***

Be thoughtful.

Always take care in the way you present yourself and your relationship to GOYA. Even with a disclaimer in place, ***a personal posting may be interpreted as reflecting the official positions of GOYA and the Church.***

Prohibited Use of Email/Internet/Social Media (GOYA)

Harassment of any kind is prohibited. ***No messages with derogatory or inflammatory remarks regarding race, age, disability, religion, national origin, physical attributes, or other preferences should be transmitted about any GOYAn, GOYA advisor, GOYA event, or member of the Church.*** No abusive, profane, or offensive language should be transmitted through any social media that is sponsored by the Church or GOYA.

Messages (including posts and photos) should be polite and reflect Orthodox Christian values, and should not be abusive or include vulgar language. Each person should use the same degree of care in drafting a message as would be put into a written memorandum or document. Nothing should be transmitted in a message that would be inappropriate in a letter or memorandum. Social Media is not private and may be subject to public disclosure by a third party. ***Great care should be taken, therefore, in the composition of such messages and how such messages might reflect on the name and reputation of the GOYA and the Church.***

Photos – GOYA events

In certain instances, with permission from the lead GOYA advisor, GOYAns may take digital images/photographs or video record participants in GOYA programs, classes, events, or using the Church's facilities. Personal photos should comply with GOYA code of conduct rules; ***immodesty or inappropriate physical contact should not be displayed.***

Photos, videos, and comments made online usually can't be taken back once they're posted. Even after a teen thinks something has been deleted, it can be impossible to completely erase it from the Internet.



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Be respectful of others.

Do not post information or content that is false, misleading, defamatory, abusive, harassing, threatening, discriminatory, obscene, or harmful to others. GOYA policies on a Christ-centered and harassment-free environment apply in the online community as well as in-person.

If a GOYAn sends a mean-spirited tweet (or post) as a joke, it could be very hurtful to someone else and even taken as a threat. ***GOYAns are expected to never use technology to hurt anyone else (through bullying or gossip).***

The GOYA advisors shall respect GOYAns' privacy while making an effort to be part of the social media world (this means GOYA advisors can "friend" and observe GOYANs online activity, but not intentionally post cruel or embarrassing comments about them).

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the use of Internet-based communication technology, commonly a mobile phone or the internet, deliberately to upset someone else.

It can be used to carry out all the different types of bullying; an extension of face-to-face bullying. It can also go further in that it can invade home/personal space and can involve a greater number of people.

It can take place across age groups and school staff and other adults can be targeted.

It can draw bystanders into being accessories .

It includes: threats and intimidation; harassment or 'cyber-stalking'; vilification/defamation; exclusion or peer rejection; impersonation; unauthorized publication of private information or images ('happy-slapping'); and manipulation.

Complaints/Investigation

Any GOYAn or GOYA advisor who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in harassment, bullying, or intimidation that is GOYA-related will be ***subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.***

Any GOYAn, parent, or GOYA advisor that knowingly makes a false accusation regarding



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harassment, bullying, or intimidation will likewise be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination from GOYA participation.

GOYAnS who engage in cyberbullying should be subject to discipline if such conduct occurs on Church property or at a GOYA event, including if the electronic information such as a photo was created or received on Church property or at a GOYA event. ***GOYAnS who engage in cyberbullying may be subject to discipline if the conduct has the effect of disrupting the mission of GOYA.***

Misconduct

Generally, misconduct is any activity (*including online and social media*), on or off Church property, during or outside of GOYA events that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects GOYA, its advisors, other GOYAnS, or the Church. Misconduct may result in disciplinary action.

Inappropriate or disrespectful behavior, pranks, or items inappropriate for an Orthodox Christian event will not be permitted. If any GOYAnS exhibits inappropriate behavior or any inappropriate items are found, they will be confiscated and parents will be called immediately to pick up their child.

In severe cases, it may be necessary to involve social or law enforcement agencies.

Due Process for Suspension and Expulsion

Disciplinary actions shall be matched to the seriousness of the infraction (with suspension being the last alternative reserved for serious misconduct). In the unfortunate event that disciplinary actions reach the level of suspension or expulsion of a GOYAn, the following due process process procedures shall be followed: The GOYAn and their parent/legal guardian will be advised of the charges/accusations; Be provided an opportunity to respond to the charges and present their side of the story in detail; Be provided the names of their accusers and given an opportunity to examine them (when appropriate); Be provided an opportunity to submit a list of names of other individuals who might have witnessed the incident; Be advised why they are being suspended or recommended for expulsion.

Discipline

Above all, remember that a GOYAn is a member of the Church, and we must make sure that we not unintentionally drive them or their family away from the Church. Therefore, discipline should be approached with great consideration, love and respect. Remember that no matter what they did,



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God still loves them. Likewise, no matter how hard it is, you must love them as well. That is not to underscore that what they did was wrong—but ***God can still love without liking a person's behavior.*** This does not excuse a GOYAn from the consequences of any misconduct though. Forgiveness does not throw wisdom and common sense out the window. Sins have consequences, and forgiveness does not make those consequences go away. For assistance in dealing with this issue, read the Parable of the Prodigal Son. ***Father John has the final say in terms of disciplinary action.***

Personal Social Media Accounts/First Amendment

This policy is not intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression (or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views) that are protected under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

It's "free speech," ***not*** "free from consequences speech" (and remember, it's only government suppression of speech that is illegal). In the court of public opinion, your words can be used against you.

This policy does not prevent GOYAnS or GOYA advisors from having their own personal social media profiles; it simply notifies GOYAnS what is acceptable and unacceptable conduct with regard to their status as a member of GOYA.

4 Simple Rules for Social Media Use (excerpts from USA TODAY)

Don't become the next 'what-not-to-do' example. Keep in mind these simple rules for using social media.

RULE 1: YOU ARE WHAT YOU 'TWEET' (or POST)

Every post, retweet, link and picture that you share is a reflection of who you are. Your social media profiles tell your story and give you the chance to create a brand for yourself. ***In short, you are what you 'tweet' (or post).***

RULE 2: THE GRANDMA, FIRST GRADER, BOSS RULE

Ask yourself, "Would I want my grandma to see this post? What about a classroom full of first graders? My boss?" If the answer to any of those questions is 'no,' do not post it. What you share online can be found, even when you hit that delete button two hours later. It's



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better to learn this now than in 20 years when you're running for Congress. ***Make a vow to your "future" adult self that you will refrain from over-sharing.***

RULE 3: FACE YOUR PROBLEMS, DON'T FACEBOOK YOUR PROBLEMS.

Remember what Lou Holtz said. "Don't tell your problems to people: 80% don't care; and the other 20% are glad you have them."

Too often, we let our emotions get the best of us and post updates without thinking. This could be posting an angry subtweet (or post), making a Facebook status about the boyfriend that broke up with you or even making an insulting comment on someone else's post.

My advice? ***Sleep on it. Most unnecessary, emotional posts can be avoided by just giving you some time to think it over.***

RULE 4: DON'T TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY.

Highlight positive stories and give your followers a reason to smile. Trust me, they will appreciate it. ***It's okay to show your personality (actually I encourage it). Just be sure you are not being offensive, vulgar or uploading an embarrassing photo or video of you.***

In short — use your head. Social media was never meant to be a journal for your every thought or action. When in doubt, remember, ***"whenever I'm about to do something, I think, 'Would an idiot do that?'"*** And if they would, I do not do that thing."

REMEMBER

- ⚡ Everything we do, whether in word, deed or "text", we are accountable for. "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." Matthew 12:36-37.
- ⚡ We should assume that anything posted on facebook, text to friends or emailed is not going to remain private. Digital cameras and video cameras are on everyone's cell phones these days. Something that seems innocent when hanging out with friends can come back to haunt us later on.
- ⚡ Once something is out there on the World Wide Web (Internet), there's no taking it back. It's there for good! Think about how easy it would be for something to copy and paste, for instance, an AIM conversation and post it anywhere!
- ⚡ As with other things, resist peer pressure and pressure from the opposite sex. 47% of teens



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- say “pressure from guys” is a reason girls send sexually suggestive messages and images.
- ▲ Viewing sexually explicit images takes away from our ability to focus on God. When viewing graphic sexual images our mind is on anything but Christ. These images cause us to direct our focus on ourselves and our own pleasure, instead of on Christ.
 - ▲ Remember that we are made in the image and likeness of God and our bodies are our temples. Is sending sexually explicit photos of yourself the right way to honor yourself and God?
 - ▲ 15% of teens say they have sent sexually suggestive images or texts to someone they know only online. In other words, someone they’ve never met in “real life”. That person could be a sexual predator! Let them know that they should not be talking to strangers online at all.

Source: Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries - Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Code of Conduct

As a participant of GOYA Ministry and the Greek Orthodox Church, I realize that I represent my parish and church in all activities. This includes in-person, online, telephone, and social media. As a participant of GOYA Ministry, I agree to comply with all of the rules and meet all of the expectations stated below:

- I will come to GOYA activities with an open heart and mind, ready to have fun, learn, and grow in my faith.
- I will fully participate in the GOYA activities that I attend.
- I will treat the clergy, my advisors, my fellow GOYAnS, and visitors with love and respect.
- I will not bring tobacco, alcohol, drugs, weapons, fireworks, or pornographic material to any GOYA event, and I will not use them at any GOYA event. I understand that my parents will be notified, and that I may be sent home at my parent’s/guardian’s expense if I do so.
- I will wear appropriate clothing while at GOYA activities. None of my clothing will exhibit vulgar, suggestive, gang related, or irreligious language or images. None of my clothing will advertise or promote the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, weapons, or violence. I will wear clothing that covers my stomach and underwear. I will dress in a modest fashion and I understand that the dress code will be enforced at the discretion of the GOYA advisors.
- I will use appropriate language and will not curse, use obscene hand gestures, or participate in vulgar conversations (including on social media, phone, online, etc.). I will not harass my advisors, fellow participants, or visitors in any way including through the use of social media.



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- I will treat the property of others and the church with respect. I understand that I will be held responsible to pay for any property that I willfully or recklessly damage, destroy, or steal.
- I understand that I am responsible for my social media conduct and that it may be brought to the attention of GOYA advisors when there are possible violations of the Code of Conduct.
- I understand that for my safety and the safety of others, GOYA advisors may search my baggage and belongings on GOYA excursions. I will be present if my items are searched and I will know why they have decided to search my belongings.



Policy adopted on:

Date: 8/20/2017

Signature of Father John Bociu, Proistamenos:

Signature of GOYA Advisors:

Signature of Parish Council President: