The 3rd Annual Oriental Oricclox Churches of Atlanta youth Retreatl

By the Grace of the Lord, the 3rd annual Oriental Orthodox Churches of Atlanta youth retreat was a success. It was held on Saturday December 8th, 2007 at the Simpsonwood Conference in Norcross, Georgia. The Oriental Churches consist of six communions known as The Church of Armenia, the Church of Antioch (Syriac), The Church of Alexandria (Coptic), The Church of Ethiopia (Tewahedo Church), The Church of Eritrea (Tewahedo Church), and The Church of India. They are up held by three Ecumenical Councils of the Orthodox Church: the councils of *Nicea I, Constantinople I and Ephesus*. These churches rejected the dogmatic definitions of the Council of Chalcedon.

The guest speakers were Fr. Luka Wassif from St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church of Atlanta and Deacon Matt from Indian Orthodox Church from St. Louse have touched the mind and heart of the youth by elaborating the theme verse.

The theme verse was from Ecclesiastes 12:1 "<u>REMEMBER now your Creator in the days of your youth</u>, before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them."

The fun filled activities were based on the theme verse. Mimi Mogos, who works as a banker, showed them that the relation and benefit of knowing God and of investing money at the early age. There were many activities that stressed the "know God at early age". It's hard to describe all the activities. At the end of the day, we were able to analyze and conclude that the youth indeed grasped the teaching.

Due to the unusual warm weather in December they were able to play basketball and other out-door sports. Thanks to those who worked hard to organized the event as well the priests and leaders of these churches.

God bless!



Ecc 12:1 TREMEMBER now your Creator in the days of your youth

















