



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Dear Father,

As you know, life in modern American society presents many challenges for families in our Orthodox Church. The work-related stress of parents, the over-involvement of children in extracurricular activities, and the decline in traditional family values—this is the reality that we all have to face. It is the responsibility of the Church to help our faithful cope with these challenges.

In order to examine these issues, the Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese is launching its first national study on Orthodox Family Life. *With the blessing of your Metropolitan*, we request and require your assistance to complete this important study project.

Enclosed are copies of a survey covering a wide range of subjects pertinent to family life, family needs, and family-oriented church programs. Please distribute these questionnaires to 10 parishioners **who have children living at home** and ask them to complete and return the questionnaires to you in the provided envelopes, sealed so that the confidentiality of the study participants will be fully ensured. After you receive **all 10 completed** questionnaires, please return them **as one package** to the Center for Family Care in the enclosed envelope **by August 7, 2009**.

Please follow three basic guidelines when choosing the 10 parishioners to participate in this study:

1. Select 5 men and 5 women who have children **ages 18 and under living with them at home**. These people should NOT be married to each other. In other words, we need 10 households from your parish. Please give the survey to single-parent as well as two-parent households.
2. Give questionnaires to the “ordinary parishioners” and NOT to those in leadership positions such as parish council members or Sunday School teachers.
3. **It is important** that some of the questionnaires are given to parishioners who are married to non-Orthodox Christians so that the voices of **intermarried families** will be reflected in our study.

Additionally, there is a 2-page parish profile survey that we would like you to complete and include when you return the surveys to us. This profile will help us learn more about your parish and how we can better serve and collaborate with you in the future.

The participation of your parish in the Orthodox Family Life study is essential and vital. With this data, we hope to produce a full report on the state of our Orthodox families and develop resources to help you in your ministry to them. Should you have any questions regarding this study or the Center for Family Care, please contact our office, at 646-424-8175 or familycare@goarch.org for further assistance.

With brotherly love,

Fr. Constantine L. Sitaras, Director
Center for Family Care