

# EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

**14 - TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL OUTREACH** - Technology- we are seeing an increase of online apologetics for Orthodoxy on platforms like Youtube /TikTok/etc. These types of channels are becoming responsible for leading people to the church. (I have personally spoken with people who were lead to the church as a result of such people). These types of content creators are handing us zealous young men and women who often study more about church history and theology than many cradle-born Orthodox. I myself have learned a great deal listening not only to such online personalities, but also from the people in our church that have embraced the faith later in their lives. I'll argue they're better Christians than I am. We MUST capitalize on this and help ensure that these people get properly catechized. They are brought to us while the iron is hot, it is up to us to make sure that they get tempered into strong Orthodox Christians; New technology such as communication with parishioners and non-parishioners; Certainly as new technologies present themselves, we should look to incorporate them into our Parish so that our daily functions operate smoothly. Things like website capability, messaging systems, and security would be items to consider; Advances in technology (livestreaming, online giving, digital signage); Technology and social media, when used appropriately, could be very helpful to increase our footprint in the community, enhance Sunday School materials, and even help connect with our youth as they graduate; Keeping up with technology with other parishes is an added tool; Technology is constantly changing and could provide opportunities for improvement in many areas from communications, accounting systems, security and the promotion and sharing of our Orthodox faith; Online orthodox community and web based platforms promoting Orthodoxy; Technology and specifically online presence or Orthodoxy resulting in number of people with hunger for faith – strike while the iron is hot; Online orthodox community and web based platforms promoting Orthodoxy; Technology and specifically online presence or Orthodoxy resulting in number of people with hunger for faith – strike while the iron is hot;

**11 - PAN-ORTHODOX PARISH PROXIMITY AND PARTNERSHIPS** -

Partnerships with local businesses and nonprofits; Strengthen ties with surrounding Orthodox parishes and partnering and share opportunities to work together and grow; Many orthodox churches within 1-2 hour drive that can grow together and help each other and support pan Orthodoxy – piggyback on what others are doing well; Within 9 minutes there are 5 Greek parishes and 2 OCA 1 Antiochian, Romanian Serbians, Russian plus the monastery Ethiopian and Eritrean; - IPA possibility - their priest is vicar for district and running Greek parishes an knows the other priest (they had 13 priests for the name day celebration); - amount of other Orthodox in vicinity to create pan orthodox panes of officers and like takes people – and eve support each other with physical tasks to build trust and can become clannish tendencies; Strengthen ties with surrounding Orthodox parishes and partnering and share opportunities to work together and grow; Many orthodox churches within 1-2 hour drive that can grow together and help each other and support pan orthodoxy – piggyback on what others are doing well; Within 9 minutes there are 5 Greek parishes and 2 OCA 1 Antiochian, Romanian Serbians, Russian plus the monastery Ethiopian and Eritrean; Large and growing community of Palestine and Ukrainian immigrants in Greensboro; - amount of other Orthodox in vicinity to create pan orthodox panes of officers and like takes people – and eve support each other with physical tasks to build trust and can become clannish tendencies;

**8 - SURGE OF INTEREST IN ORTHODOXY & CATECHUMENS** -

Large number of people outside the faith are searching; Wave of interest in Orthodox Christianity: This is still ongoing and is the source of the potential catechumens coming into the narthex on Sunday mornings. Often these people are young men who are serious, faithful Christians from other Christian traditions; they volunteer, they will start families of their own within the Orthodox Church, and some of them may become clergy; Orthodox Christianity is still relatively obscure in America: We “fly under the radar” in a culture defined by Evangelical Protestantism, so there aren't a lot of attacks specifically on Orthodox Christianity in America (for now anyway). We're a breath of fresh air to disaffected Protestants, of whom there are many around us. While this is somewhat ambivalent because it means that people who might be interested in Orthodoxy just haven't heard of us, it does mean that those who seek us out are genuinely interested and motivated; Orthodoxy is seeing a surge in interest from either side of Dormition's fields are ripe for harvest; Surge of interest in Orthodoxy across all groups especially among young men and those seeking solid and consistent in a ever changing and wishy washy world; Orthodoxy is seeing a surge in interest from either side of Dormition 'fields are ripe for harvest; Surge of interest in Orthodoxy across all groups especially among young men and those seeking solid and consistent in a ever changing and wishy washy world;

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**6 - GREENSBORO COMMUNITY & DEMOGRAPHIC GROWTH** - Growing local population may bring new families and visitors; Greensboro is growing; North Carolina are growing; Large and growing community of Palestine and Ukrainian immigrants in Greensboro; Increased cultural and community interest in heritage, traditions, and wellness; Greensboro is growing; North Carolina are growing;

**3 - EXTERNAL FINANCIAL & RESOURCES** - Availability of grants from foundations and charitable organizations; Setting up a vendor list on preferred companies that we can go to and all can view;

**3 - COLLEGES & STUDENTS** - There are 6 colleges and universities in Greensboro; The Greensboro area is home to 6 colleges and universities; There are 6 colleges and universities in Greensboro;

## **INTERNAL TO DORMITION AND THUS NOT AN EXTERNAL THREAT**

- Some parishioners are on a fixed income and cannot pay the dues the church wants;
- Make magnetic name badges for incoming guests so we all know and can welcome them properly;
- A bus or shuttle to help those in need come to church or religious trips;
- Taking advantage of obtaining more speakers for our church and guests;
- General economic uncertainty adversely effects stewardship contributions;
- Finding more ways to use all of social media to advertise for our festival; especially in the days before our glendi;
- InterOrthodox Parish Association possibility - their priest is vicar for district and running Greek parishes an knows the other priest (they had 13 priests for the name day celebration);