

DOCUNY Fellowship Announcements

Dear to me: Reverend Fathers, fellowship officers, and local fellowship contacts,

The beginning of the ecclesiastical New Year marks a time of rejuvenation in the life of the church. It also marks the beginning of the month of the Fellowship of St. John the Divine in the life of our Archdiocese. So I wanted to send the following important announcements your way:

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1. Fellowship month is usually marked by a more active presence of the Fellowship in the life of your parish. Traditionally, members of the fellowship help with tray collections, epistle readings, serving coffee hour, and (with the blessing of the parish priest) delivering short sermons on the life of the fellowship. I'm attaching the original article I wrote on the Fellowship for the June 2009 issue of The Word magazine before it got butchered in the editorial process. Some might find it useful in preparing sermons.
2. The feast of the repose of our patron saint falls this year on Saturday September 26. We would like to encourage parishes to celebrate the services of the feast if possible. This could also be a great time for your local fellowship to plan a kick-off/come-back event for the year, or an event with neighboring (pan-orthodox) parishes.
3. Finally, I'd like to announce the almost-finalized plans for the Fall Gathering for this year. We will be gathering again at the [Quality Hotel in Brockville](#) on October 23–24, 2009. A special room rate (84.99+TAX) is available under Group Name: DIOCESE OF OTTAWA. ***Please book your rooms BEFORE SEPT 23rd. After that date, our group rate will still be honored but the hotel will not hold the rooms for us.*** Some details for the Teen SOYO schedule are being finalized. We will send out more complete information to every parish once that's done. Our speaker for this year's gathering will be **Khouriyeh Juliana Schmemann**, wife of the late Father Alexander Schmemann. It's a real honor to have her with us. She will be speaking on a personal topic entitled: ***"Remember me O Lord, in your kingdom"***. This is a wonderful opportunity so please encourage attendance from your parish (not just delegates).

I pray the New Year will bring many blessings to our diocese and all our parishes. I can't wait to see you all in Brockville again. Please continue to pray for the ministry of the Fellowship.

In Christ,

Nicolas Ellaham
DOCUNY Fellowship of St. John the Divine