

Small Parish Forum in Canton, Ohio: July 14-16 2016
“The 8-Person Sunday School & 4-Person Youth Group”

Handout on Sunday School and Parish Education

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Vital Signs for a Living Parish:

- **Worship** of the Lord in an Orthodox manner with focus not only on the Eucharist, but also on praying the services that prepare us for the Eucharist, too (Vespers, Vigil, Matins, daily services, etc.)
- **Fellowship** together as the Body of Christ in the local area
- **Outreach and Service** as a conscious effort and real sacrifice
- **Christian Education** not just as one class, but as a way of being the Church. Christian Education not just for children, but for everybody!

What unites all of these themes? _____

3 Pillars for Christian Education of Children

- Normal (yet serious) Orthodox life in the home
- Liturgical life in the parish
- Thought-out Christian catechesis/formation (both at home and at church)

5 Broad Objectives for Christian Education (Prof. Sophie Koulomzin)

- To impress upon children the **Reality of God**
- To emphasize God's people as the **One Body** in Christ
- To focus on importance of spiritual **Growth**
- To expose children to and explore the reality of God as **Holy Mystery**
- To place the goal of **Wholeness** before the children

Practical Options for the 8-Person Sunday School

- What's off limits? What's not? What works for your parish?
- Sunday School before Liturgy
- Sunday School after Communion
- Weekly meetings at other times
- “3rd Saturday” model & “home-school-style” models