

Report on the 2008 Family Camp

by Ihab Banna

Dear Friends,

I was so pleased upon my return from the St Nicholas Family Camp, that I thought to write this brief note in the hope that it may encourage you to participate in the next warm and caring environment that such a camp provides.

Although I am a long standing parishioner who has always enjoyed St Nicholas Church with all it offers since the early 70's and I had previously sent my children along to the camp, this was actually the first time my wife and I stayed at camp.

Father Dimitri, Father John and Father Themis provided somewhat brief but nonetheless fantastically engaging material on the family unit, caring for teenagers and gave an eye opening insight into the valuable work of Father Themis's Orthodox Mission in Sierra Leone.

Other activities involved fun interaction between parents and children allowing adults to get to some of the other children of the parish whom I am pleased to say really impressed me as fine upstanding teenagers who should make their parents proud.

To sum up my observations, I would say that this was 2 days very well spent with my family and many other like minded parents all seeking a quality environment within which we can nurture our most precious families.

I personally got to know other parents and children of the parish far better than I would normally have done and I have developed new friendships that I believe will endure well into the future.

I thoroughly recommend all parishioners try to attend the next camp and extend my warmest congratulations to the organizers, our Church's Sunday School leaders and the Clergy on a job well done.