



FDF DIAKONIA PROJECT

F.D.F., a ministry of the Metropolis of San Francisco, is a celebration of youth, through Greek traditional dance and song in the context of our Greek Orthodox Faith, traditions values and life styles. FDF is a gift to our Metropolis youth ministry that not only highlights KOINONIA (fellowship), but also requires an in-kind response from the participants for DIAKONIA (services to the community) above and beyond self.

DIAKONIA, is based on Christian Agape for our fellow human beings regardless of race, ethnic background or social status. Because our Lord Jesus Christ first gave Himself to us and saved us, He taught us to also love and serve. Our Lord said: “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many” (Matt:20:28). We ought to imitate the Lord’s example.

As FDF participants live and witness the values and teachings of the church, DIAKONIA becomes an important element of every parish dance and choral team participating in the programs. *This brochure offers 33 “hands on” DIAKONIA ideas.* Dance and choral teams many ***adopt at least ONE***, for implementation, before the FDF, February 12-18, 2009.

Documented DIAKONIA projects will be highlighted at FDF in a special “show and tell” exhibition area. Public recognition will be given to the DIAKONIA projects of special note and merit. All projects listed below can be implemented by working with and through non-profit agencies and organizations in the locations of local parishes thought the Metropolis.

FDF DIAKONIA projects will:

1. Build and enhance Orthodox Christian values and spirituality in the individual participants.
2. Have a positive impact on the community at large served by F.D.F. teams.
3. Be a witness (MARTYRIA) of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through His church.
4. Be “Agents of Change” in the lives of those around you.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven” Matthew: 5:16

**DIAKONIA IDEAS –
WHAT YOU CAN DO**

1. Find a non-profit organization in your area. Find a need and volunteer.
2. Volunteer at Project Mexico Orphanage; find a need and fill it.
3. Develop a relationship with a nursing home. Find a project to help patients.
4. Collect clothes for the homeless and deliver to the pre-selected agency.
5. Collect non-perishable food for the hungry and homeless. Work with pre-selected shelter or agency.
6. Volunteer to serve food at a homeless shelter.
7. Volunteer to serve as mentor and or tutor for at risk-inner city kids.
8. Do special “hands on” fundraiser (walk-a-thon, bike-a-thon, etc.) and donate money to IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities).
9. Volunteer at a local children’s hospital. Find a need and fill it.
10. Volunteer at a hospice. Find a need and fill it.
11. Find needy elderly people in your parish. With supervision, repair and paint their homes, clean their yard. Find a need and fill it.
12. Adopt a highway. Clean and pick up trash.
13. Adopt a needy neighborhood. Clean, paint, plant a tree. Meet and greet community residents.
14. Find a “free clinic.” Offer to clean and paint the facility.
15. Collect significant numbers of books, especially reference books and encyclopedias and donate to prison libraries. Help promote literacy programs for prisoners.

16. Collect and donate significant numbers of books and school supplies for needy schools. Find a need and fill it.
17. Sponsor an FDF Greek party, complete with food and dancing, at a homeless shelter, nursing home or senior center.
18. Make significant gift packages of dishes, sheets, towels and other household necessities for battered women and their families and deliver as a group to specific shelter and group homes.
19. Make Greek pastries and sweets and deliver them as a group to a veterans' hospital. Visit with injured soldiers.
20. Make toiletry kits of soap, shampoo, toothpaste and other hygiene necessities for the homeless and distribute them as a group to a specific facility.
21. Help deliver "Meals on Wheels" to critically ill people who cannot leave their homes.
22. Do Sunday morning brunches...as a group...cook and serve the homeless in a specific shelter nursing home or senior center. To top it off, demonstrate one or two Greek dances to them.
23. Make gift packages of clothes, toys and other infant necessities for babies from families where someone has AIDS. Deliver the packages personally.
24. Pack school supplies for needy kids. Help provide the pencils, paper, crayons and other supplies they want and need.
25. Spruce up a playground. Help paint, stencil, clean it up, cheer it up and make it great for kids.
26. Stamp out graffiti in your own town. Team paints it out. Work with local agencies.
27. Volunteer to serve meals in area homeless shelters during designated days and periods.
28. Do a parish garage sale of donated items, and donate proceeds to a pre-selected needy cause. i.e. Commission on Orthodox Missions and Evangelism (COME).
29. Volunteer as a group at a specific animal shelter. Clean facilities, donate pet food and needed items.
30. Sponsor parish wide blood drives for specific agencies and hospitals.
31. Work on a team schedule to drive "shut in" parishioners to church on Sundays.
32. Sponsor a parish wide youth "Planned Fast" as a fundraiser for IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities).
33. Be creative. Develop your own substantive DIAKONIA project.

"Do not hold back from doing good for others when you have the power to do so."

Prov. 3:27