

## Youth Gathering in Ellensburg

Silouan Sautter, one of our young adults here in Ellensburg, approached me the other day about an idea he, and a few friends (Innocent Lewis, etc.) have been talking about... and something I have been praying about for a while. With the blessing of Metropolitan JOSEPH, they would like to, on a once a month basis (at least in the beginning) gather Orthodox Youth from surrounding Parish's on a Friday evening in Ellensburg, (to begin with...it could be moved around eventually) and meet at the Mission for a meal, some mutual encouragement and fellowship, some good Orthodox teaching and discussion, Little Compline, followed by ??? (...I know young people like to stay up late!)

For those traveling from afar, (Goldendale, Wenatchee, the West Side if any come from there) the girls.... (and priests!) can sleep over at our home, and the guys could sleep at the Mission, Silouan's home next door, and other places if necessary. On Saturday for those who stay, we could join together for an Akathist at 9:00 AM as we already do, have breakfast together...and then for those who can stay longer, they could hike, play softball, (there is a field right next to the church) volleyball, etc. etc. The impetus at this point is to just get our Washington young people together once a month, and continue to build bonds of friendship and support. Young people need young people, and my sense is as the world continues to spiral further and further away from anything even remotely Christian, these deep and close Orthodox connections will be essential for all of you to maintain living faith in the living God!

We thought we could begin on **Friday evening, September 26th....** The age range to begin with would be **16-24 'ish'** or so. Fr. Michael Shanbour from Wenatchee, Fr. David Hovik from Arlington and I will provide oversight and lead some informal discussions, but our hope is that the future direction and energy of this get together, if the interest is there, will eventually come from you!

I have attached a flyer (forgive, it is a little goofy and I am NOT a graphic artist...next time one of YOU can do it! :-)) that you can pass around...

For those who can spend the night, I know there is some interest in doing something together on Saturday. If you want to spend the night, you will at

least have to bring a sleeping bag (NOT the Priests...we have a comfy bed for you!) and perhaps a mat or foam pad of some kind... We'll provide the main meals for evening (fasting) and morning time, but don't expect anything extravagant! (we are a poor mission! :-)) If you have food allergies or don't like things like rice and beans, and oatmeal etc., it would be best to bring your own food. No matter what, it would be good if you at least brought some snacks you could share, and some drinks...

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me @ [frpaulmoses1111@gmail.com](mailto:frpaulmoses1111@gmail.com) or call me @ [\(907\) 299-1087](tel:(907)299-1087).

And **PLEASE RSVP** if you are coming! ... and *whether you intend to spend the night*. We need to know how many to expect for food preparation, and sleeping accommodations!!!

I am sure we have forgotten something, because we are sort of "flying off the cuff" a bit...so please let us know. Fr. Michael, Fr. David and I are very excited in helping get this going... May God bless it if it is a worthy endeavor!!!

With much love in Christ, Fr. Paul+