

Stewardship Message
George Athas, President GOYA
1985

Today marks an annual event with which we are all familiar.

Spotlight on Youth is a Sunday set aside every November so that youth of our Church may experience what it is like to manage the Church for a full day. The concept of Spotlight on Youth ties in nicely with the concept of Stewardship.

As Father Ernie defined last week, Stewardship is the giving of our time, talents and treasure to God. Insuring the growth of the Church is just one way the youth in our GOYA are doing that.

My personal growth in the Church, like many of the Goyans, began at a very early age. Thanks to my parents and Grandparents, when I came of age, I attended Sunday School and Greek School. I learned the beliefs of our religion and the language and customs of our heritage. Together, they cemented the foundation of my life within the Church. My involvement steadily grew with my joining the Altar Boys, GOYA and the Sons of Pericles. I meet people my own age with the same upbringing and the friendships I've formed will unquestionably last me a lifetime.

It is these friendships that inspired eight of us to visit the Ionian Village Camp in Barthalonios, Greece this summer. I know I will never forget the experiences or the people at the camp who helped me strengthen my relationship with God and others.

I have learned a lot about life, who I am, and who I can group up to be. In the Book of Mark, Chapter 4, verses 31 and 32, the parable of the Mustard Seed is stated. It reads, "a man takes a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world, and plants it in the ground. After a while it grows up and becomes the biggest of all plants. It puts out such large branches that the birds come and make their nests in its shade". The Church starts out as that little mustard seed. The more time and care put in to its future the stronger it grows.

I hope we all make a commitment to cultivate that "mustard seed" insuring that our Church will grow to provide a form of guidance and support for us all.