

"Roots" Coffee Hour (Parish Event)

Levels 1-6 — (A good *final event* for the conclusion of the "I Am Orthodox" study unit. It can be planned by students 12 & up: *Note: contributions to the program can be made by children or adults at any level.*)

When all of your "ancestry projects" have been completed, plan a "Roots" Coffee Hour or similar special event. Invite all the members of the parish and their relatives and friends, as well as people who live in the neighborhood of the church. Display the projects in the largest room or conduct tours of classroom areas to view and explain what you discovered about your **church family**. Encourage people to dress in clothes their ancestors might have worn. Learn some songs or favorite games from different cultures, and bring foods representative of those cultures (don't forget to include the culture you live in today!)
(cf. *Resource Handbook* for more details.)

Materials Needed:

1. List of students' ancestral countries (some may have several countries)
2. Music from ancestral countries (tapes, CD's)
3. Stories from ancestral countries
4. Foods (with recipes), costumes, other items to put on display
5. Tape and/or CD player
6. Blank tapes
7. Any family history stories, anecdotes, etc.
8. Photos and materials for displays
9. Paper and pencils for notes
10. Recipe ingredients
11. Paper products for coffee hour or luncheon
12. Drinks and other implements needed
13. Tables and chairs in church hall for program, displays, eating, etc.
14. Folk costumes (optional)
15. Scrapbook and scrapbooking materials (optional)

Procedures:

1. Ask students to share with the class any family history stories or anecdotes. (See also: "My Story" and other projects done during the *I Am Orthodox* study unit that can be brought together for a "Roots" Coffee Hour or special parish event.
2. Have students interview or talk with fellow parishioners about their family histories. Encourage students to speak especially to seniors, for they have much to share! Students should brainstorm and list key questions to be asked (see "My Story" activity). Add their names to the class family history map.
3. Record any stories or anecdotes they may have to add to those already collected.
4. Research recipes and have each student cook a dish (with parental help) for the coffee hour or a luncheon.
5. Have students choose music from tapes or CD's representative of various ancestral lands/cultures and make a single tape or CD to play during the luncheon.

6. Plan a special coffee hour or pot-luck luncheon, with music, displays of different heritages/countries represented in the parish, and storytelling.
Wear costumes (optional), display a large map of the world that shows where the ancestors of parish members lived.
7. Display scrapbooks or make bulletin board displays or posters with pictures, letters, stories shared by students, their families and parishioners.