



# The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

## The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

*Works of The Order in Action!*

### **Theophany School**

Sixteen years ago, at the tender age of twenty-one, Sonia Daly had a vision to open an Orthodox School near her hometown in Massachusetts. With her hard work and God's grace, Theophany School opened its doors in 1997. Since then, have been working hard to foster the intellectual, moral, and social development of our students by engaging their minds, nurturing their spirits, and enriching their God-given gifts and talents through the teachings and life of the Holy Orthodox Christian Church. Our small class sizes and child-driven curriculum allow us to educate the whole child, thereby cultivating each child's strengths, and encouraging them to be independent thinkers and thoughtful members of our School, their families, and their communities, ultimately guiding us all along the path to Christ.

Theophany School remains a beacon of hope for the future of our students, their families, and our society at large, given the current state of our economy, the instant gratification of technology, and the violence exhibited in the media and in our schools. We believe that we are called to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Theophany School's educational philosophy is based on the faith, life, and teachings of the Orthodox Church: to recognize and respect God's presence in all things, to constantly challenge each other to grow, and to engage our senses, minds, souls, bodies, and families as we endeavor to become who God means us to be. At Theophany School, our students not only learn the fundamental building blocks that enable them to soar academically, but they also develop the social skills that will help them to become great leaders, family members, and friends: patience, humility, self-control, empathy, how to take turns, how to share, and how to communicate. Research shows that learning these skills in preschool is crucial for preparing future generations to succeed in a competitive job market later in life<sup>1</sup>. We know, however, that a successful career is just one thread in the rich tapestry of our lives. By interweaving Orthodoxy into the everyday lives of our students and families, our students will not only be better prepared to face the challenges of an increasingly secular world, but they will also be better prepared to become the next generation of leaders in our parishes and communities. It is no wonder that we agree with St. Theophan the Recluse: "Of all holy works, the education of children is the most holy"!

Theophany School strives to provide these faith-based educational opportunities to all families, regardless of their economic status. In this tough financial climate, Theophany School is still able to provide an affordable Orthodox education for its families through fundraising and through generous grants from such organizations as The

Order of St. Ignatius. In addition to helping to keep our tuition costs low, the Order funded expansion of Theophany's program offerings through the creation of a week-long summer enrichment camp. This camp, which runs each June, provides opportunities for current and future students and families to explore our programs and philosophy. Additionally, Theophany School is currently in the process of adding enrichment programs, such as music, dance, and language, as supplements to our child-centered curriculum. We know that our students, families, and communities are benefitting from the strong foundation that we are building here, as our alumni are going on to become leaders of SOYO, GOYA, and OCF, to participate in community service, and to thrive in their academic programs. We look forward to seeing the ways in which they change the world. Knowing how our students flourish following their preschool and kindergarten experiences at Theophany School, we look forward to expanding into a full elementary program, fulfilling Sonia's dream. These opportunities would not be possible without the generosity of philanthropic organizations such as The Order of St. Ignatius. From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to thank The Order for their continuing patronage as Theophany School and its students change the world, one child at a time.