

# 2023 MONTHLY MINISTRY SERIES



*Engaging our Youth  
and Young Adults*  
**in our post-COVID Era**

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GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

"ONE THING IS NEEDED"























**CLOSED**  
COVID-19



OVER 60%  
OF YOUNG  
PEOPLE FALL  
*AWAY* FROM  
THE  
CHURCH



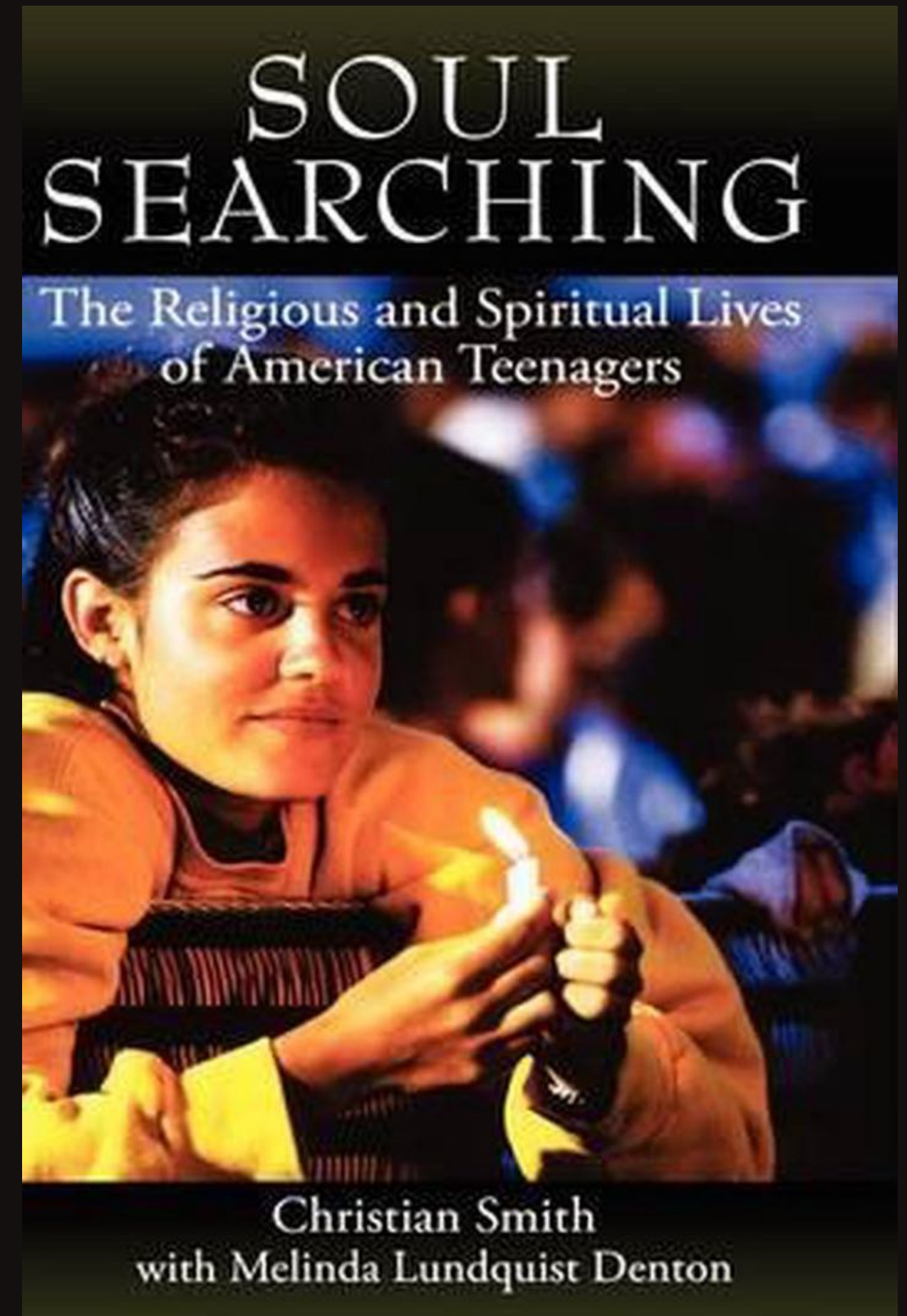


The widespread and persistent stereotype is that youth are being rebellious...

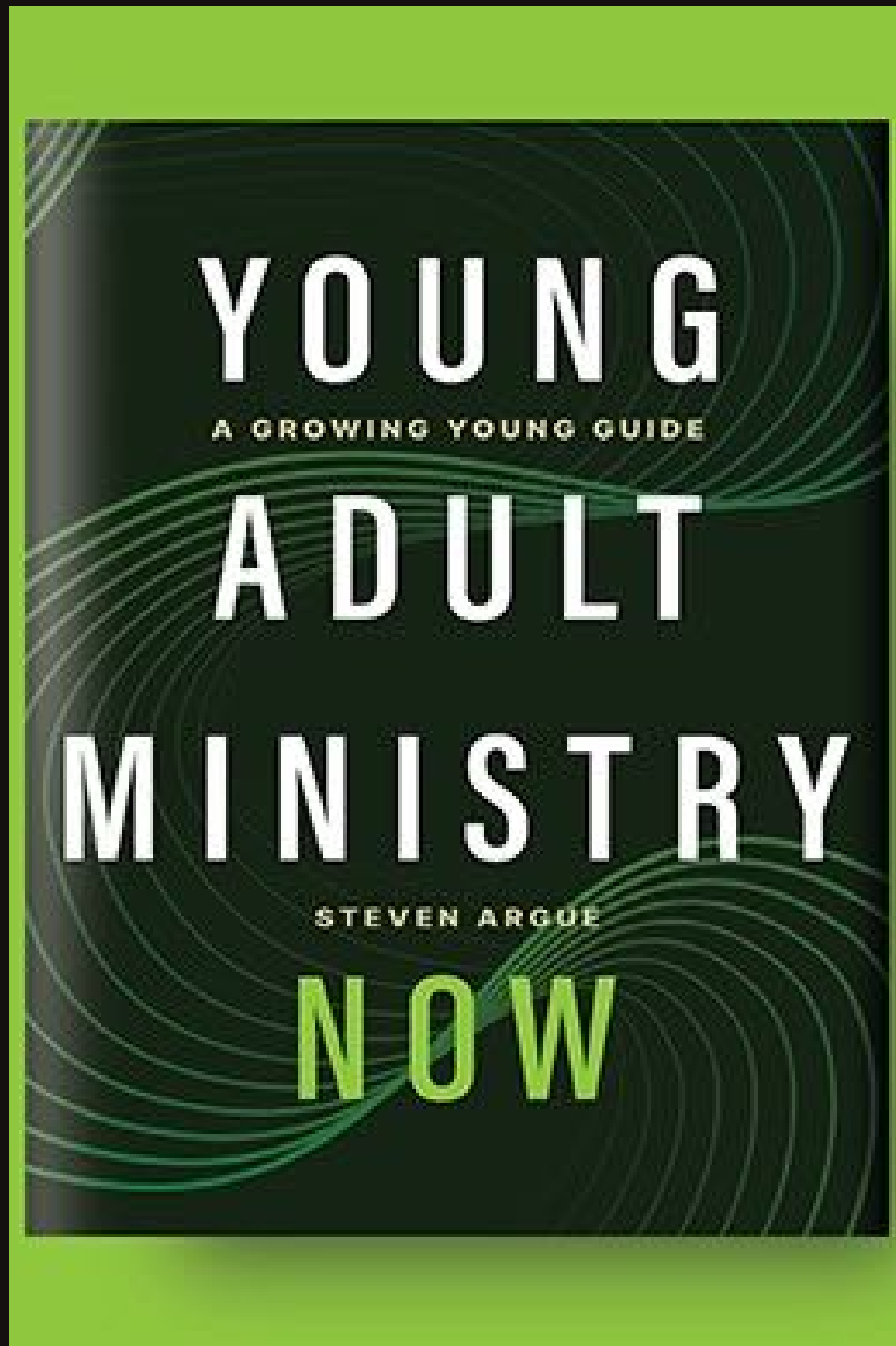
*"It's my life... I will do what I want."*

This impression is fundamentally wrong.

These assumptions can lead to dismissal of their curiosity, commitment, and passion.







"Even through life's challenges, young adults remain optimistic and hopeful. **And they still want and need the support of understanding faith communities.**"



# CHALLENGES FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS





Over half of teens and adults (so, the U.S. general population ages 13+) report that they've experienced doubts about their religious beliefs at least sometimes (12% frequently, 16% occasionally, 24% sometimes) in the past few years. (BARNA - March 1, 2023)



**DOUBT**



# SELF-PREOCCUPATION

**WORKING:  
ON MYSELF  
BY MYSELF  
FOR MYSELF**



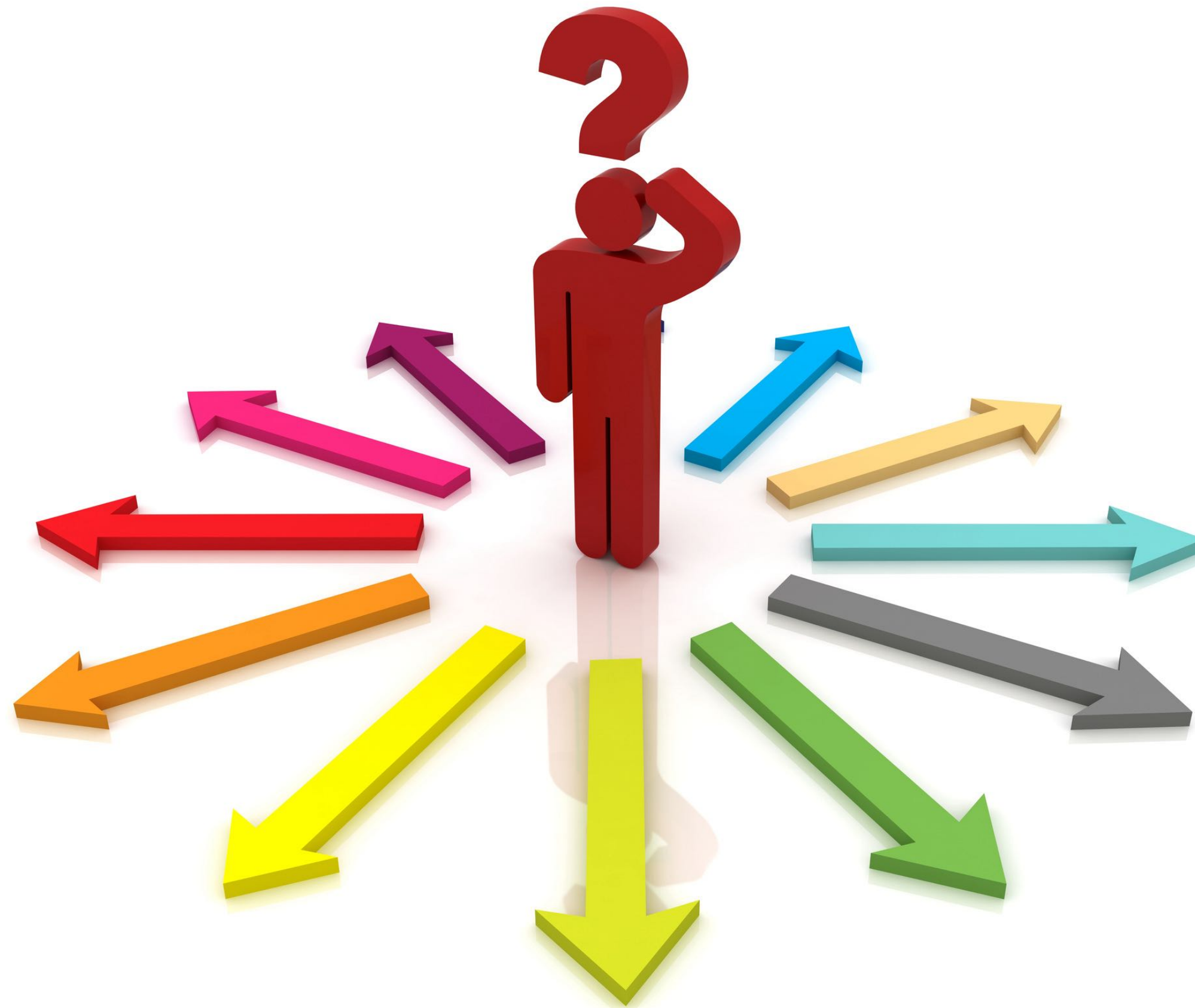


# LONELINESS

On May 2, the U.S. surgeon general, Dr. Vivek Murthy, sounded the alarm about an American epidemic which predated COVID-19: the phenomenon of reported loneliness, now affecting half of all Americans. It is a serious problem. Lack of social connection, according to one dramatic formulation, has been found to be as dangerous as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day. (NEWSWEEK - May 16, 2023)

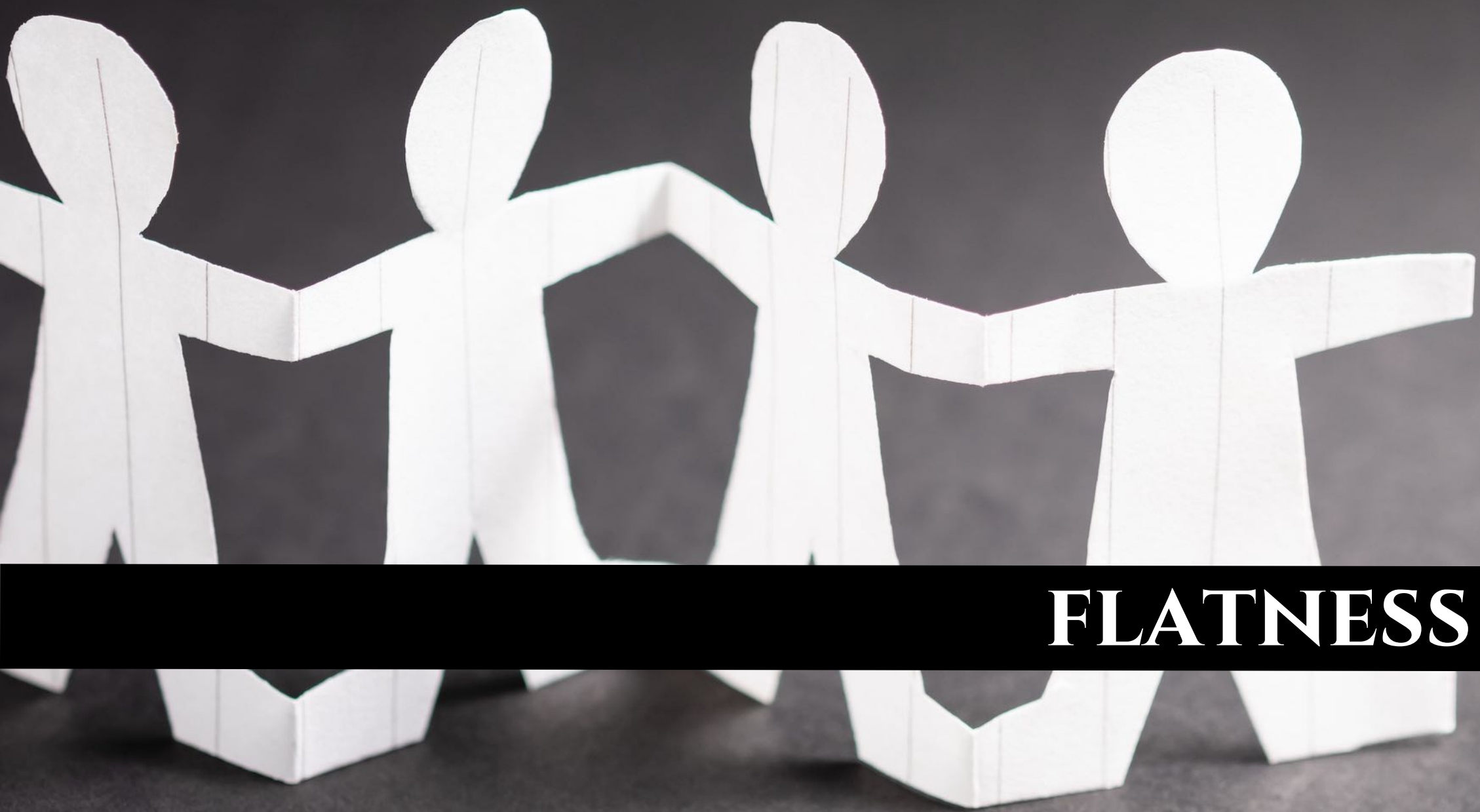






**CHOICE PARALYSIS**





**FLATNESS**



A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a red octagonal sign with a white border. The sign contains white text in a serif font. The background is a blurred image of a person in a dark suit and light shirt.

HOW DO WE  
ENGAGE YOUNG  
PEOPLE (POST-  
COVID) AND  
PREVENT THEM  
FROM FALLING  
AWAY?







KNOWING THE NEEDS OF  
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

TO ACTUALLY KNOW JESUS CHRIST

TO KNOW WHO THEY TRULY ARE

TO BELONG TO THE FULL COMMUNITY  
OF THE CHURCH

TO BE EMPOWERED WITH FAITH THAT  
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

TO BE EQUIPPED WITH THE  
TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH







**"Are we who we SAY we are?  
Do we practice passion,  
transformed by a Love who  
never disappoints, and live by a  
faith so convincing that we stake  
our lives on it? Or are we just  
another sagging social  
convention, like Dracula, that  
needs young blood to survive?"**



# WHAT IS WORKING ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE?

## FOCUS ON THE “MOUNTAIN OF MINISTRY”

- WHAT (OR WHO) DO YOUNG PEOPLE  
ENCOUNTER AT THE TOP OF THAT MOUNTAIN?

## ENGAGEMENT/EDUCATION OF PARENTS AND OTHER ADULTS

- PROVIDING RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR  
PARENTS TO ENGAGE WITH THEIR CHILDREN
- INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY





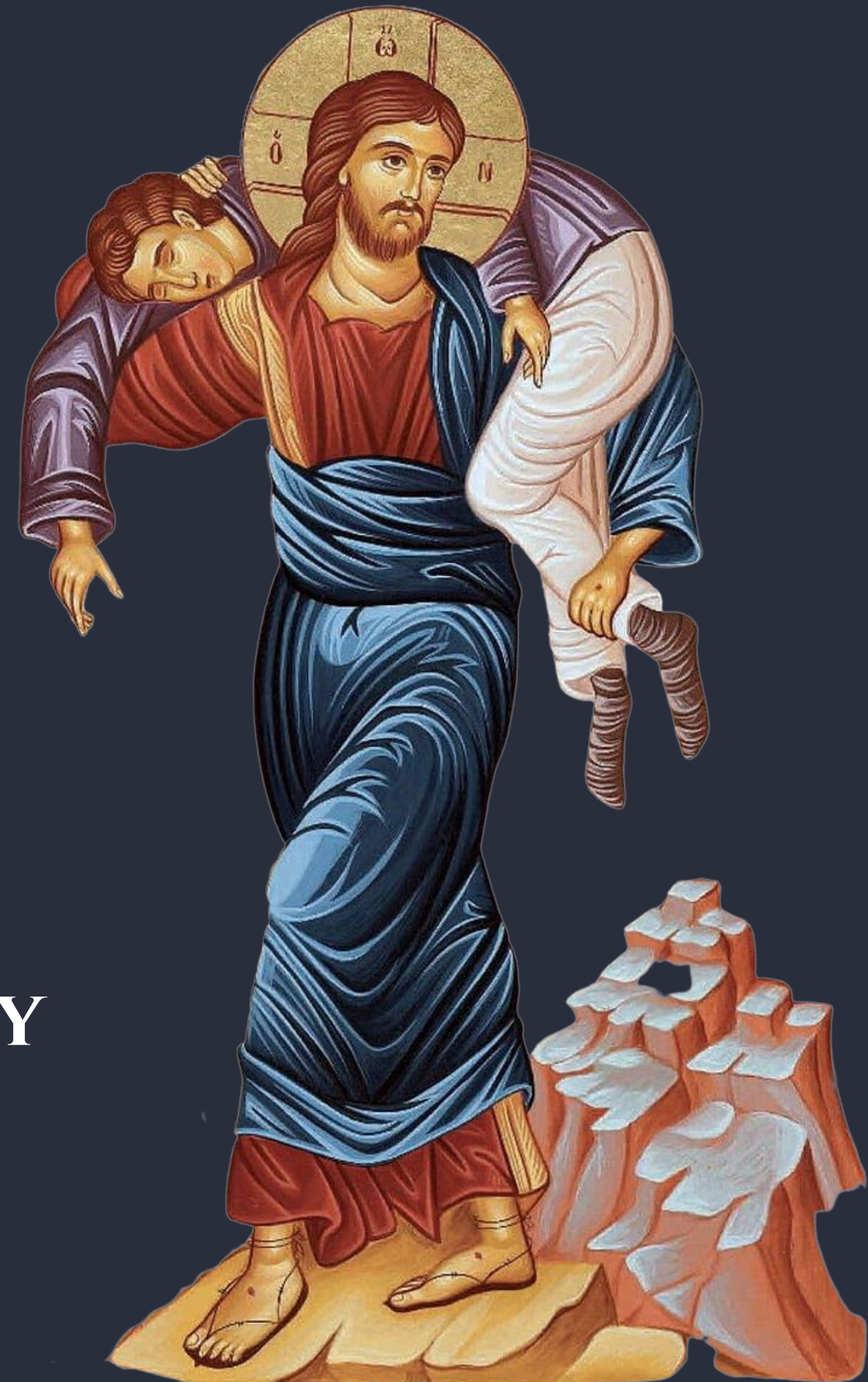
# WHAT IS WORKING ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE?

## REENGAGEMENT OF YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

- SPIRITUAL FED YOUNG ADULTS LEAD TO STRONGER, HEALTHIER PARISHES.

## CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO SERVE IN A MEANINGFUL WAY

- MOVING BEYOND DONATING TIME OR SUPPLIES, BUT ACTUALLY EXPERIENCING THE PARABLE OF THE LAST JUDGMENT.









# ONLINE MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE



## EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

BUILDING FAITH TO MOVE MOUNTAINS

[www.effectivechristianministry.org](http://www.effectivechristianministry.org)





Y<sup>2</sup>AM

Youth & Young Adult Ministries  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

## **Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**

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