



75th Annual Parish Life Conference Diocese of Worcester & New England

Hosted by Saint George Orthodox Church, Lowell, 27-30 June 2013

New England's Got Taste • New England's Got Talent

To all our friends in the Diocese of Worcester and New England:

Friday evening May 17, 2013 will be a night to remember! As part of the program for the 2013 Parish Life Conference, Saint George of Lowell will be hosting the event “**New England's Got Taste – New England's Got Talent**”. The event will take place in the hall of our sister parish, St. John of Damascus Antiochian Orthodox Church in Dedham, starting at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. **Only advanced purchased tickets will be allowed to enter; we will not be selling any tickets at the door.** All event proceeds will be used to help keep conference prices affordable for all.

On Saturday evening of the Conference (June 29th), we are planning a take-off on the popular TV show *America's Got Talent*, but with a twist - it will be a showcase of the best talent in our diocese! The May 17 event will serve as the elimination round for the June 29th Conference event. Each church in our diocese may submit up to three acts to participate in the elimination round, from which the final participants in the June 29 event will be selected. Acts can be anything from singing to dancing to comedy to magic...the only limit is your imagination! A panel of impartial judges and you, the audience, will decide who goes on to the finals at the Conference. Please see the attached rules for the event. There will be prizes for the TOP 5 winners at the Conference!

In addition to this elimination talent round, there will be a food challenge on May 17, called “New England's Got Taste”. Before the show, everyone will be able to sample appetizers prepared by our parishes. Everyone who attends will be given five votes to use to vote for the appetizers that they enjoy the most. Guidelines for this food challenge are also attached.

Don't be shy to showcase your talents - whether it be cooking or entertaining! It's all for a good cause and we can have some fun at the same time! Along with the Talent finals at the Conference, the Awards Brunch will be held Saturday, June 29, during a delicious brunch, but the awards for America's Got Talent will be made that night after the finals. This year to honor the 75th Anniversary, we will combine the finals along with our Haffle featuring Mitchell Kaltsunas!!

We are asking that you submit the names of your acts and chefs by **Monday, April 22, 2013**. Chefs: please provide the name of your item, ingredients and paper products you may need (i.e., forks, plates, bowls, etc.) Talents: please provide name(s) of your act and possible video/description; it **must be family-appropriate**.

Please feel free to contact me directly or email us at LowellPLC2013@gmail.com with any questions. **Remember only advanced paid tickets are accepted at the door.** Please send checks too: Saint George Orthodox Church Lowell, 44 Bowers Street, Lowell, MA 01854. Make checks payable to: Saint George Orthodox Church Lowell.

As a reminder, the 2013 Parish Life Conference will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in North Andover, MA from June 27-30, 2013. We need your participation to make all of our events a success!

On behalf of everyone in Lowell, we look forward to hosting this Conference and to showcasing our God-given talents!

+ In Christ,

Soraya Belgacem
Conference Chair

Rt. Reverend Leonard Faris
Conference Co-Chair

**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Participation Rules
New England's Got Talent**

**Elimination Round – May 17, 2013 – St. John of Damascus Antiochian Orthodox Church, Dedham, MA
Finals Round – June 28, 2013 – Parish Life Conference, Wyndham Hotel, Andover, MA**

Each church may submit up to three acts for the May 17, 2013 elimination round (to be held at St. John of Damascus Antiochian Orthodox Church, Dedham, MA).

If we have more than 12 acts present, we will be having elimination rounds to make it more time feasible at the finals.

Each act must be limited to 3 to 4 minutes maximum. Each act must be “appropriate” and “professional” enough for a large mixed audience.

The name/description of each act (including participant names) must be submitted to the Conference Committee no later than April 8, 2013 by email to LowellPLC2013@gmail.com or via US mail to New England's Got Talent, c/o St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 44 Bowers Street, Lowell, MA 01854. If possible, a video of the act should accompany the submission (either attached to the email or sent via US mail). The Committee has the right to deny participation to any acts deemed unsuitable or inappropriate.

At the elimination round, the audience will have a chance to vote as well as the judges. The scoring will be 60% judges and 40% audience. After each act, the judges will provide a brief critique. At the end of the evening, all of the acts will return to the stage for the announcement of the acts that will participate in the finals on June 29 at the Conference. There will be three impartial judges at the May 17 elimination round.

The acts that are in the finals at the Conference on June 29 are not allowed to repeat their May 17 performance – instead they must perform a completely new act. Similar to the elimination round process, there will be three impartial judges, with scoring 60% judges and 40% audience at the finals.

Each act at the finals must not exceed four minutes in length. After each act the judges will provide a critique of the performance.

Five prizes will be awarded to the top five acts. Participation awards will be presented to all other acts that perform in the finals. The home parish of the grand prize winner will also receive an award to display.

Please contact Father Leonard Faris at 978-452-4816 or send an email to LowellPLC2013@gmail.com with any questions.

Good luck and thank you for your participation and support!

**St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
Participation Rules
New England's Got Taste
May 17, 2013 – St. John of Damascus Antiochian Orthodox Church, Dedham, MA**

Each parish should select one person (or more, if you like) to be their representative "Church Chef." He/she will create one "signature appetizer" – enough to serve approximately 200 people.

Each Church Chef should bring a team to help serve at the event.

We encourage each chef to dress up their station and make it unique to them and their item; part of the vote will be based on that.

If guest approaches chef and lets them know they have an allergy, chef must recommend that they do not eat the item to avoid risk.

Appetizers should be prepared off-site prior to the event but may be heated at the hall (some facilities will be available for heating.)

Small appetizer plates will be provided for the attendees. Separate plating by the Church Chefs and their teams is not necessary unless the Church Chef chooses.

The name of the appetizer and a description must be presented to the event committee no later than April 22, 2013 via email at LowellPLC2013@gmail.com or via US mail to New England's Got Taste, c/o St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 44 Bowers Street, Lowell, MA 01854.

Event attendees will be given five tickets when they arrive at the event. The tickets will be used to vote for their favorite appetizer(s) by placing their voting tickets in the ballot box(es) at the appetizer station(s) of their choice. Please note that attendees can use all of their tickets to vote for one Church Chef if they so choose, or vote for their top five choices (one vote each) or anything in between!

No dishes may be duplicated at the event, for example: two chefs will make their own version of hummus.

The Church Chef with the most tickets in their ballot box will be declared the winner at the end of the evening. The tickets will be counted by three impartial ballot counters.

The winning Church Chef will receive a prize and there will a runner-up prize.

Please contact Father Leonard Faris at 978-452-4816 or send an email to LowellPLC2013@gmail.com with any questions.

Good luck and thank you for your participation and support!