



The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco
PRESS RELEASE, YALIYB NATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT

St. Nicholas Sacks with FOCUS

This holiday season, YAL In Your Backyard (YALIYB) local chapters are giving back! This National Service Project pairs local YAL chapters across the nation with FOCUS North America to provide essential toiletries and necessities to the most needy. Emulating St. Nicholas' works of charity, Young Adults will purchase a reusable tote bag and an assortment of hygiene items, AND deliver it to someone in need. They will have the opportunity to share material blessings and help those who may not always have access to such necessities. Through such *philanthropia* our young adults seek to grow closer to Him who supplies all our needs!

The Lord teaches us: "Assuredly, I say to you, in as much as you have done to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you have done unto Me." +Matthew 25:40

YALIYB Metropolis of San Francisco Leader Nick Dudler speaks about the goal: "St. Nicholas teaches us through this project that although we are spiritually impoverished, together we can grow in love and faith through acts of service, especially during the Nativity fast period."

FOCUS emphasizes the customization of St. Nicholas sacks to meet local needs. Local YALIYB chapters will fundraise together and customize the packs with items most applicable to the local community. Parish young adults are expected to host their service project between December 6th and January 6th, in recognition of the feast day of St. Nicholas.

Kenny Kidd, FOCUS Executive Director, reflects on the project's impact: "Whenever Orthodox faithful come together to build Christ's Kingdom in their communities, it is beautiful what the Holy Spirit makes possible. FOCUS North America is excited to come together with YAL during this Nativity Season, for the YAL in Your Backyard initiative, and look forward to future opportunities to serve at their side."

Ready to get involved? Connect with your parish priest or Young Adult leader to schedule this fundraiser! View the [website](#) or informational slide deck [here](#) to learn more. Any questions please contact yallyourbackyard@gmail.com. May St. Nicholas and Christ our Lord bless the efforts of our young adults!

In His Service,

Hon. Steven & Stacia Counelis, *Co-Advisors to the Young Adult Conference Committee*
George Anagnostopoulos, *YAL Conference Chairman*
Yianna Papadeas, Eva-Marie Kailas, *YALIYB Co-Chairs*

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