

The Patriarchy of Romania
Department “The Church and the Society”
Palace of Patriarchy
Aleea Dealul Mitropoliei 23, Bucharest

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To His Sanctity
Varsanufie Prahoveanul,
Bishop – Vicar of Bucharest Archiepiscopate

Your Sanctity,

As You know, starting April, this year, the Romanian Patriarchy, in association with the International Organization for Christian Orthodox Charity, and the Ministry of Education and Research, has initiated the implementation of the project “The Consolidation of Community Initiatives for Prevention of HIV / AIDS, and of Domestic Violence in Romania.”

One component of this project consists in the creation of 32 initiative clubs for youth, in order to orient the students from the districts where we work, towards the objectives and the activities of the project. This component is developed by the New Horizons Foundation. The concept on which the process of development and management of these clubs is based is that of service learning, a method that has already been used by many organizations worldwide.

Taking into consideration the complexity of such endeavor, the age of the target group and the novelty of the methodology, we – as main agents of the project implementation – have sought as necessary a scientific study to assess the compatibility between the applied methods and techniques and the process of learning, the tradition, and the Christian Orthodox ethos. This study has been performed, upon our request, by Pr. Prof. Dr. Nicolae Achimescu, from the Faculty of Orthodox Theology, Iasi.

The results of the above study have shown that the proposed education model can be easily applied to promote moral values, as the model excludes any potential risks (such as moral, or social, for example). This methodology has all the chances to be beneficial and efficient, as long as its completion is done under the guidance of the religion professor, or that of the priest who has to be one of the club's leaders. Against this background, the advantage of this model consists in offering the Christian Orthodox theology, more applicability, concreteness and liveliness.

Hoping that this presentation has clarified the aspects remained imprecise at the beginning of the project, concerning the founding and the activity of the youth clubs, we attach to this letter the study performed by Pr. Prof. Dr. N. Achimescu.

Bishop Ciprian Campineanul

Patriarchy Vicar