

SOYO Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C.

January 19-21, 2019

MEMORIES FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

37 Teen SOYO Members and Advisors from Saint George Cathedral in Coral Gables, Florida, boarded a flight early on Saturday, January 19, 2019, and began their pilgrimage to Washington, D.C., where participants visited the Antiochian Churches in the D.C./Maryland area, and the National, Greek, and OCA Cathedrals. The Teen SOYO was also blessed to



see so many of our Nation's beautiful sites, many of which have religious significance. In addition, many bonds were formed creating memories which will last forever. Some of those memories are below.

The following are favorite memories of the participants of the 2019 SOYO Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C.:

Andrea Abu-Akel: "The teens riding in the vans, they interacted with new groups each time we traveled. You could see new friendships develop. It was great to see them interact with the other teens from the other Churches."

Andrew Abu-Akel: "Seeing the historic monuments, meeting with other SOYOs and seeing the other Churches' history and their architecture."

Michael Abu-Akel: "At the pizza place where Andrew, George, Chris and I were telling stories and having fun."

Sdn. Chris Abdelahad: "Seeing all the gorgeous Churches, our government buildings and sites."

Amani Barakat-Wanna: "Getting closer to our members of SOYO and getting to meet other teens in our Archdiocese."

Christopher Barakat-Wanna: "Sitting with everyone in the lobby watching the football game."

Jackie Barakat-Wanna: "Visiting all the Churches and meeting their SOYOs, but mostly spending time with our SOYO, chaperones and Father Saba."

Tony Barjoud: "The party at Saint Mary's and meeting their SOYO members."

Noah Ede: "Touring our nation's Capitol. Seeing the rotunda of the U.S. capitol was a moment I will never forget."

Emma El-Haj: "Visiting all the historic sites."

Said El-Haj: “The tour of the Capitol was amazing.”

Cynthia Khoury: “Meeting all the wonderful SOYO members from the Churches we visited.”

Daniella Khoury: “Visiting all the wonderful Churches.”

Nadine Khoury: “Meeting with all the different SOYOs.”

Sabah Khoury: “Visiting the National Cathedral.”

Sarah Khoury: “Seeing the monuments, Churches, interacting with new people and the cold weather in Washington, D.C.”

Sanad Fanous: “I loved the snowball fight with everybody and falling on the pile of snow.”

Christian Georges: “The party we had on Saturday night.”

Joelle Georges: “Spending time with everyone and visiting the monuments and the beautiful Churches.”

Maria Georges: “Interacting with new people, visiting all the beautiful Churches, but, most importantly, spending time with my Church family and taking pictures with all of them.”

Amira Ghawali: “We all got closer.”

Ramon Ghawali: “Being together in the snow and the snowball fights.”

Louis Hatem: “Meeting the different SOYOs and visiting all the historic sites in Washington, D.C.”

Natalie Jadon: “Meeting new people and visiting different Churches.”

Nisreen Jadon: “Gathering together, getting to know each other and getting united. Visiting all Churches and having Father Saba with us.”

Farid Jahjah: “The service on Sunday morning at Saints Peter and Paul Church. I was fortunate enough to serve in the Altar at one of the most immaculate Churches I have been blessed enough to see.”

Jorgina Jahjah: “The bus rides and getting closer to other SOYO members.”

Christian Mounayyer: “Meeting all the SOYO teens in Washington, Virginia and Maryland. Also, I enjoyed seeing my friends from camp.”

Hannan Mounayyer: “Seeing all the kids mixing made my heart warm inside and seeing other SOYO Churches welcoming us.”

George Samaan, Jr.: “Meeting new SOYO members, telling hilarious stories in the pizza place, it will be a memory.”

Gianna Soufia: “The laughs and the conversations we shared.”

Hanna Soufia: “Meeting new SOYOs alongside seeing our nation’s great monuments and buildings.”

Brian Yousif: “Being able to get along with each other in the bus and making friends that will hopefully last a lifetime.”

Salma Zacur: “Beautiful memories we made with our Saint George Cathedral SOYO and family.”

Shadi Sami Zattam: “Looking at new things every day.”

Admon Zattam: “Meeting new people and new Churches.”

Father Fouad Saba: “Favorite Memory? Not an easy task. Glorifying God with this group of people on this pilgrimage was a memory which is now engraved on my heart. The most precious thing in life is not what we see or know, the most precious thing in life is time, how we spend it and with whom we spend it. Thank you, SOYO, it’s been an honor.”

“GLORY TO GOD!”