

NAC Fellowship of St. John the Divine  
Mid-Winter Meeting  
Antiochian Village  
February 8th - 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002

*The meeting was opened with a prayer at 7:30PM by Fr. John Nosal.*

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the Archdiocese Convention in LA were reviewed and accepted. Motion by Julie Aboud, second by Diane Angelo. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: The financial report (document attached) was presented by treasurer Michael Srour. Motion to accept by Fr. Michael Abdalahad, second by Julie Aboud. Motion passed.

There was a motion from the floor to take \$2000.00 from the Leukemia Project and offer it to Bishop DE:M:ETRI as a spiritual bouquet. The motion was amended to take \$1000.00 from the general fund instead of \$2000.00 from the Leukemia project and have it be given directly to Bishop DEMETRI for the family. Motion by Michael Srour, seconded by Diane Angelo. Motion passed.

Regional Reports:

CAN-AM: Discussed forms handed out at delegates meetings designed to improve communication between local and regional people and their new participation this year in the college gift project. The region and it's parishes are doing very well. Report on file.

Midwest: Reported on the Bishop DEMETRI endowment fund to missions, they have a goal of \$200,000, thus far they have raised \$72,000. They are concentrating of getting the various churches to pay their dues. Report on file.

Western: Discussed the success of their regional retreat. This is the 7th year of the Saint Romanos Chanting program, it is very successful and the region would like to offer the materials to other regions if they are interested in beginning such a program. Report on file.

New England: The New England Council of Churches has an endowment fund of \$360,000+ , the Fellowship will vote that the interest be used to hire a full time regional youth director. The Cabin project and the Library project have been assigned people to work on them and there is movement toward a new Mission in Southeastern Mass. Report on file.

Southeast: Has newly established the Bishop ANTOUN Missions Endowment Fund and had a very successful workshop on the life of Saint John the Divine. Report on file.

Southwest: Sponsored two regional retreats a northern and a southern. This year they will do a retreat in each deanery. They have established a Bishop BASIL Endowment Fund for Missions and they are enjoying the success of the concept of a leadership team as opposed to a traditional Executive board. Report on file.

NAC President Gigi Baba closed the evenings discussion with ideas on vision and how the regional reports were inspirational and showed great vision.

*Closing prayer at 10PM by Fr. John Nosal.*

*Meeting was reconvened Saturday morning at 9:55AM.*

Eastern Region Report: created a college contact group called SOCS (Society of Orthodox College Students). They are beginning an "Adopt a SOC" program which will allow parish families to adopt area college students all over the country. They have established a regional newsletter. Report on file.

Spiritual Advisor's Report: Fr. John Nosal was pleased with how far we have come and commented that we should be patient because we are not in a place to see the progress we are making yet.

Special Projects: Sonia Daly discussed offering a resource book to parishes on how to start a young adult group. All three age groups that are under the Fellowship "umbrella" (see diagram attached) can do things together but we should also minister to each group individually. Retreats were discussed as a good way to bring age applicable topics to each group. Gigi strongly suggested we work very hard to motivate parishes as well as regions to have retreats! Gigi said each region needs to go back and have a retreat.

Discussion Held upon entry of Marilyn Robbat, President of the North American Board of Antiochian Women.

The Women were able to raise over \$145,000.00 for the orphan project in 2001. They have a quarterly newsletter and a fund for married seminarians with the gifts given around Christmas time. She is on a crusade to reach out to other Orthodox Jurisdictions.

#### Reconvened Special Projects

The structure of these different groups and their leadership was questioned, Gigi noted there should not be officers for each group but rather a contact person. She also stated, more importantly, we need to have a Fellowship chapter in each parish. Fr. Don Hock suggested a system to have this filter down to the deaneries, possibly having deaneries sponsor 1 or more representatives to go to a "Master Retreat" so that they may be introduced to the concept and the resource book.

#### Discussion on Deanery Retreats and how to coordinate them

Steps are to understand the model, submit things to create a resource book, when book is complete provide deanery training to implement the vision of the model. Committee to work on the project Fr. Michael Abdalahad, Sonia Daly, Sara Bitar, Katrina Halasa. The job is to create a list of all the deaneries and priests in them. Hand pick a priest and 2 laypeople from each deanery who would be interested. Present this to the body at the summer meetings.

#### Library Project

Suzanne Nahas discussed the goal of 2004 books by the year 2004. Every year another set of books will be chosen. Fr. Michael suggested contacting St. Vladimir's Seminary, they already have library packages.

#### *Bishop ANTOUN entered*

The discussion continued with focus on that the projects are for the children to learn about the theme not see how good artists they can be. The goal needs to be remembering it is for the children.

Gigi gave an update on what we discussed so far. Almost every region has an

endowment for missions, this is very important to Metropolitan PHILIP. Bishop ANTOUN said the Metropolitan wants the Fellowship, as a parent organization, to send people to the missions to help them establish their own organizations.

Department of Christian Education

Carol Buleza proposed the idea of Khouriyeh Victoria Ziton to have a girls tea. Girls would come to talk to girls in the parish about their role in the church. A woman would dress as a saint and would talk to the group, at the end the group would have to guess what saint she is.

*Fr. Joseph Purpura discussed the Oratorical Festival*

Within the New-England region there are efforts to enhance participation in the oratorical festival. The suggestions that resulted from their efforts are as follows

- 1) Have festival workshops on deanery levels to help them learn what it's about.
- 2) Define the criterion on the scoring forms
- 3) Develop a feedback process between judges and the orators.

*Break for Lunch 1PM - Reconvened at 2PM*

Saint Philip's Prayer Discipline

Fr. Boniface Black needs someone to take on his committee and publicize it.

Fr. Joseph Purpura on communications on behalf of Fr. Nabil Hanna

A major company, Oxion, has offered us a much more efficient way to run our website. 250 parishes have some form of a website, with this model we can provide a host to all of our parishes in the archdiocese at no cost to them and provide them with a database to manage all their information. They will give us our own server. The cost during the first 2 years will be approximately \$60,000. Development will be done within about 90 days and at the end of the 2 years we will own it. They are asking that we commit \$20,000 over the next 2 years to this project.

Mike srour made a motion to pay \$20,000 over the next 2 years, \$10,000 a years for 2 years. Bob Laham seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

Update on the Department of Youth

The second youth workers CD is done and will be sent out to all the clergy, youth workers and teen officers very soon. The CD is made of the children singing during the summer services.

Rat Race, Young Adult Retreat

The retreat will be held August 16th-18th at the Antiochian Village. There will be different workshops, free time, ropes course, iconography, chanting and meditation.

Student Board entered

The Pan Orthodox National OCF is now handling 2 of the old student board projects, College Conference and Real Break. An important project being worked on now is the internship program and the student board is sending out Highlighters to all the college students, thanks to the funding of the Fellowship.

Regional Summer Camps

Camp St. Raphael - June 30th - July 6th.

Camp St. George - August 11th

[www.antiochian.org/camps](http://www.antiochian.org/camps) for information on other camps.

#### Constitution

Discussion on this topic will be held off until the summer meetings.

Constitution should be read and comments ready for the summer meetings.

#### Parish Life Conferences

It was asked that a parish always go to more than one hotel before selecting and that

George Darani needs to review the contracts before they are signed.

Mike Srour proposed to have an endowment for the regional camps. Fr. Joseph Abud commented that it might be better to allocate money to each region and allow them to have their own endowments.

Mike Srour made a motion to adjourn.

Fr. Michael Abdalahad seconded the motion.

*Meeting adjourned at 3:30.*

*Closed with a prayer*

Respectfully Submitted

Yours in Christ,

Claudia Zain  
NAC Secretary