

# The Torch

The official  
publication of the  
Midwest Antiochian  
Women

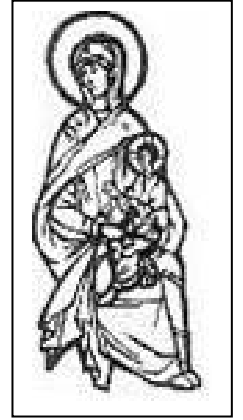
DECEMBER 2005

## Antiochian Women

Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan PHILIP  
Founder

The Right Reverend Bishop MARK



### From TheTorch Editor.... Elfriede Daly

Dear Sisters in Christ,

At the Fall Delegates Meeting I was “selected” the new Public Relations Director of Antiochian Women, the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest. I will try my best to keep all of you informed of the things pertaining to our lives as ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN.

The newsletter will be the only mailing you will receive from the Antiochian Women, Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest. All the reports for the chapters will be found in this newsletter, The Torch.

If any of you have a good idea, please let me know. My e-mail address is:

[elfitolle@yahoo.com](mailto:elfitolle@yahoo.com) or  
[stnicholasgr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stnicholasgr@sbcglobal.net)

During the day you can call me at St. Nicholas Church in Grand Rapids, MI. Our phone number is 616-954-2700.

### ***Message from Roberta Royhab, President of Midwest Antiochian Women***

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Please mark your 2006 calendars—we are **planning a retreat at Mother of God Dormition Orthodox Monastery in Rives Junction, MI, for the weekend of May 5-7.** More information will be forthcoming.

Although the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest is not having a “spring gathering”, **Midwest Antiochian Women will meet in Canton, OH, on Jan. 28, 2006**, in conjunction with the Teen SOYO Basketball Tournament. Rooms for January 27-29 are reserved under “St. George” at Four Points Sheraton, 4375 Metro Circle, NW in Canton. Phone number is 330-494-6494.

Recently, and by coincidence, Midwest Antiochian Women have been asked to direct several efforts towards a challenge—the challenge of keeping our young people in the Church.

Firstly, we are requested by Laila Ferris, president of the North American Board (NAB) of Antiochian Women, and Elaina Matook, of the Archdiocesan Department of College Ministry, to have our chapters assign a woman, in each parish, to serve as a **“college contact.”** Women at parishes near colleges/universities are encouraged to show hospitality to the out-of-town students.

Secondly, Midwest Religious Coordinator Roxanne Marks asks us to encourage youth, in grades 7-12, to participate in a mission project, **Orthodox Youth Outreach.** Please see her report.

Thirdly, our Humanitarian Coordinator Ann Durkin suggests outreach projects that young people can assist us with in the parishes. Please read her report on **“Gift of the Heart” Kits.**

Continued on next page...

## From the Religious Coordinator

I AM ROXANNE MARKS, AND I ALSO SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF MY WOMEN'S GROUP AND TEACH SUNDAY SCHOOL AT MY PARISH, ST. MARK IN YOUNGSTOWN, OH.

MY GOAL, AS RELIGIOUS COORDINATOR AND AS DIRECTED BY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BOARD FOR 2005-2007, IS TO HIGHLIGHT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH OFFERED THROUGH MISSION SERVICE.

TOO OFTEN WE AS ACTIVE MEMBERS OF ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN RECIEVE INFORMATION THAT SEEMS OBVIOUS AND REDUNDANT, FORGETTING THAT WOMEN MOVE AMONG THE DIFFERENT JURISDICTIONS OR INTO INQUIRERS' CLASS OR HAVE VERY SMALL MISSIONS THAT DO NOT HAVE THE BENEFIT OF REPEATED EXPOSURE TO INFORMATION THAT OTHERS MAY TAKE FOR GRANTED. THE MORE WE SERVE OTHERS, THE MORE WE SEE OF THE INVISIBLE WORLD AND THE LESS DEMAND THE MATERIAL WORLD IS ABLE TO MAKE ON OUR TIME AND ATTENTION.

THE RESIDUAL EFFECTS OF MISSION SERVICE LAST A LIFETIME. SO, FOR THE 4TH QUARTER OF 2005, THE MISSION OPPORTUNITY OPEN TO THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF OUR ARCHDIOCESE IS PROVIDED THROUGH **ORTHODOX YOUTH OUTREACH**. THIS MINISTRY IS AVAILABLE TO JR. AND SR. HIGH STUDENTS (GRADES 7-12) BEGINNING WITH WEEKEND OPTIONS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY: (JAN 14-16) IN HOUSTON; (FEB 17-19) IN NASHVILLE; (MARCH 10-12) IN TORONTO. COST IS \$135.00 PLUS TRANSPORTATION TO THE LOCATION. YOU CAN DO RESEARCH AND APPLY AT [WWW.ORTHODOXYOUTHOUTREACH.ORG](http://WWW.ORTHODOXYOUTHOUTREACH.ORG) OR YOU CAN CALL 925-258-4255 WITH QUESTIONS, OR REQUEST A HARD COPY.

REMEMBER THAT IF WE DO NOT KEEP OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH WE WILL LOSE OUR CHURCH. IF WE DO NOT TEACH THE YOUNG TO PRAY FOR US, THEN WHO WILL?

Continued from Roberta...

The Fall Gathering of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest at St. George Church in Terre Haute, IN, Oct. 30-Nov. 1 was most inspiring and enjoyable! His Grace Bishop MARK spoke about "Christ the Good Shepherd." Fr. Daniel Daly of St. Nicholas Church, Grand Rapids, MI, continued the topic with his excellent talk.

At our meeting we discussed the following:

- ◆ **Retired Clergy Fund.** We are a sisterhood of charity, serving Christ through serving others. Through the Antiochian Women's Project we are responding to the needs of our priests. Please see Vice-President/NAB Project Margaret Simon's letter on the Retired Clergy Fund.
- ◆ **DIOCONIA.** This publication written by Lucy Hanna, NAB director of public relations, was distributed/mailed to the parish priests. Please make copies available to your chapter members.
- ◆ **NAB Mid-winter meetings.** We will have six delegates at the meetings Feb. 3-5, 2006, at Antiochian Village. Any Midwest Antiochian Woman also may attend.
- ◆ **Parish Life Conference June 28-July 2, 2006.** St. Matthew Church in North Royalton, OH, is hosting this event in honor of His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP's 40<sup>th</sup> year as primate of our Archdiocese.
- ◆ **Constitutional Change.** NAB has proposed an amendment to allow an officer to serve two consecutive two-year terms. We will vote on it at the parish life conference. This is important because Midwest and the chapters follow the NAB constitution.

## **From our Midwest Diocese Spiritual Advisor**

*"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose going forth have been from of old, from everlasting."*

Dear Antiochian Women:

The above words of the Prophet Micah foretell the coming of Christ. Yet, even though there were numerous prophecies fulfilled in the birth of Christ, there was, and still is, to this day, many who reject this reality. One is reminded of the words of Nathanael who, in the Gospel of John (1:46), exclaimed with some skepticism, *"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"* The Pharisees elsewhere protested: *"Search and look: for out of Galilee arises no prophet"* (Jn. 7:52).

Even though the Bible tells us that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in exact fulfillment of Micah's prophecy, what is of greater importance is that *"Never a man spoke like this man"* (Jn.7:46); *"He taught them as one having authority, and not as scribes"*(Matt. 7:29). The answers to all of human life lie in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Mankind has looked to governments and human institutions for peace and well-being. But governments and human institutions, down through history have failed. Mankind has and continues to look to man-made religious sects, which fail. Mankind has placed faith in science (which is nothing more than the sum total of systematic human learning) and due to human insufficiency and frailty has moved closer to self-destruction. Mankind has attempted to escape problems through chemical substances, illicit moral behavior, temporal pleasures and materialism, but none of that has worked. Too many people never seem to understand that *"Whosoever drinks of this water shall thirst again"* (Jn. 4:13).

Much of mankind has, in short, looked to everything and everybody except to the One Who was born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. Whatever one considers to be mankind's most basic need, be it peace, security, love, self-purpose or whatever, it's all available in Jesus, the Christ, but only through Him.

For that child *"increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man"* (Luke 2:52). And that child grew and revealed Himself to be the Savior of the world, conquering death by His resurrection, *"ascended into heaven...and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end."*

In the midst of all our preparations for Christmas, we need to ask ourselves, are we ready to fully embrace the One from *"everlasting,"* Who has come and is coming again! We only have so much time to respond, let's not wait another day, another hour, another minute. Let us, this Advent/Christmas season, fully unite ourselves to Christ.

Your Unworthy Servant in Christ,

V.Rev. Fr. Joseph Cervo

Spiritual Advisor, Midwest Antiochian Women

## **From the Vice President / North American Board (NAB) Project**

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I am Margaret Simon, the newly elected Vice-President/North American Board Project of Midwest Antiochian Women. I am a member of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church of Grand Rapids, MI.

I pray this letter of introduction and information find you all in the very best of health. Last year His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP announced that the new project of the Antiochian Women would be the **Retired Clergy Fund**. All the project monies will go toward this very worthy project. The goal is to raise \$500,000 over five years.

The Retired Clergy Fund is a very important project. The clergy are always there for us! This is a way we in turn can show our love and appreciation to them for all their dedicated years of service. NAB President, Leila Rizk Ferris, reports that \$115,000 was raised in 2005. Lord willing, let's try to make our goal (\$500,000) before the five-year deadline!

Project money should be mailed to the Midwest Treasurer, Julie Abraham, no later than May 15, 2006. Her address is 1357 Winterwood Dr. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525.

There are several different money-making projects that could be earmarked for this worthy project. A few are pastry sales, meat pie sales, mini-bake sales, a luncheon after church for parishioners, Christmas ornament sale, cheese bread sales. You could designate a certain Sunday, pass a tray, then have a coffee hour that Sunday, etc.

If you have ideas for other projects, please let me know so they could be shared with other Antiochian women. My address is 2155 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Yours in Christ,  
Margaret Simon, Vice-President/NAB Project

## **From the Humanitarian Coordinator**

I am Ann Durkin, the Humanitarian Coordinator for Midwest Antiochian Women. I attend St. George Church in Canton, OH, where I serve as the President of the Ladies of St. George. I look forward to working with the ladies of the Midwest and of the North American Board.

Recently I received a letter from Sherry Abraham-Morrow, NAB Humanitarian Coordinator that outlined a new Humanitarian Outreach Program. It is designed to reach out and help others with "Gift of the Heart" kits. These kits, often used to help victims of catastrophes, are to be used to help people who are close to our homes—those in homeless shelters, women's crisis centers, schools in poor areas, and foster homes, and those who knock on our church doors asking for help. This project allows everyone to help, and can easily be extended to include school children, teens, and other parishioners. If anyone can be of assistance to anyone, please feel free to contact me at [annjdurkin@hotmail.com](mailto:annjdurkin@hotmail.com)

Your Sister in Christ,  
Ann Durkin, Humanitarian Coordinator

The **"Gift of the Heart" Kits** project proposed by Ann Durkin, Midwest Antiochian Women Humanitarian Coordinator, will benefit people in need of help in your own communities. The kits contain specific items and can be organized in different ways: ask people to provide all items needed for one kit; ask people to provide a specific item or items to go into a kit; put an announcement in your newsletter and bulletin and put a box for the items in the church hall; take a collection for the kits. Allow about five weeks to organize/publicize the project.

"Wrap" your love and prayers in every "Gift of the Heart" kit that you put together and include young people to help assemble and distribute them. (Other items can be added, but be sure that all kits include the same items. Please do not include personal notes or money and do not include religious items or decorate with religious symbols, as the kits will be given to people in need regardless of faith belief.) Three kits suggested are:

### **"GIFT OF THE HEART" KITS**

#### **BABY KIT**

4 cloth diapers  
2 shirts  
2 washcloths  
2 gowns or sleepers  
2 diaper pins  
1 sweater or sweatshirt  
2 receiving blankets (1 can be a knitted blanket)

Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins. Baby kits also can be provided by donating \$35 per kit.

### **SCHOOL KIT**

1 pair blunt scissors  
pads or notebooks of ruled paper approximately 8 1/2" by 11", containing 150-200 sheets of paper  
1 twelve-inch ruler  
1 pencil sharpener  
6 new pencils with erasers  
1 large eraser  
12 sheets colored construction paper  
1 box of 24 crayons  
1 cloth bag, approximately 12" by 14", with cloth handles  
Pack these items in the cloth bag, fold over, and secure with 2 large rubber bands. School kits also can be provided by donating \$11 per kit.

### **HEALTH KIT**

1 hand towel  
1 wash cloth  
1 comb  
1 metal nail file  
1 bar of soap (bath size)  
1 tooth brush  
1 tube of tooth-paste (4-7 ounce)  
6 band-aids

Bundle all items into the towel and tie with ribbon or yarn.

Health kits also can be provided by donating \$12 per kit.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Chapter Dues: Due by Dec. 15 (\$125)

Midwest Winter Meeting: Jan. 28

NAB Mid-Winter Meeting: Feb. 3-5

Retreat: May 5-7

Antiochian Women's Project Monies:  
Due by May 15

Parish Life Conference: June 28 –  
July 2

### **Prayers for the Sick**

Please pray for our Sister in Christ,  
Khourieh Joanne Abdalah

**(The following minutes are not yet approved.)**

**ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN  
DIOCESE OF TOLEDO & THE MIDWEST  
FALL MEETING  
ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
TERRE HAUTE, IN  
October 29, 2005**

**Bobbie Royhab, President** called the meeting to order at 10:15.

**Opening Prayer**—Deacon Basil Shaheen opened with prayer.

**MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2005 MEETING-Recording Secretary Sheryl VanderWagen** read the minutes of the June 23, 2005 meeting held in Circero, IL. **Former Recording Secretary, Bobbie Royhab** had recorded the minutes which were accepted as read. One Deacon and 17 women from 10 parishes were present.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**—**In the absence of Treasurer Julie Abraham, President Bobbie Royhab** gave the report which she had received from Julie via email. Accounts at Fifth Third Bank were: Total of \$9,553.40 with \$7,000 in Savings, \$2553.40 in Checking. Julie is doing the banking on line. She is changing the address for the Scudder Investment which has a balance of \$3,944.12. The checking account is in both Julie and Bobbie's names. NAB Project money was received from St. George, Canton OH, St. George, Cedar Rapids, IA and dues from St. George, Cleveland OH. The report was filed for audit.

**CORRESPONDENCE : Milia Durkin**

Not present, no report

**REMARKS by the Rev. Fr. Joseph Cervo, Spiritual Advisor**

Fr. Joe Cervo was unable to attend the meeting but sent his love and blessings to all of us. He regrets not being able to be with us. Deacon Basil Shaheen gave the remarks in the absence of Fr. Cervo.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT from Bobbie Royhab**

The letter that Bobbie sent out had incorrect information about the dues breakdown regarding the amount that goes to the North American Board (NAB) and the amount that we keep. The correct amount is \$75.00 to the NAB and \$50.00 for us for a total of \$125.00. Dues deadline is December 15, 2005. NAB Project monies are due by May 15, 2006. The NAB meeting will be held at the Antiochian Village Feb 3-5, 2006. We can send 6 delegates. Let Bobbie know if you can serve as a delegate. Bobbie thanked St. George, Terre Haute, IN for their hospitality and hosting us this weekend. Helen Corey welcomed us and said how pleased they are to have us here this weekend.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORTS**

**Vice-President/NAB Project: Margaret Simon**

Margaret read a letter introducing herself to the Antiochian Women. She discussed the NAB project, the Retired Clergy Fund and its importance to our clergy. \$115,000 raised in 2005.

This will be the second year of the Retired Clergy Fund project. Monies are due prior to May 15, 2006.

Funds must be sent to **Treasurer, Julie Abraham**. In addition, to information from Margaret, the NAB will be sending a reminder about the project to all the chapters too.

**Religious: Roxanne Marks**

Not present, no report.

**Metropolitan PHILIP Award: Jan Metry**

Not present, no report.

**Humanitarian: Ann Durkin**

Not present, no report.

**Membership: Kay Swais**

Not present no report.

**Finance: Libby Kohl**

No report at this time. She asked about whether or not we need to revise the budget. Libby will audit the books at the PLC in North Royalton next summer.

**Historian: Dianne O'Reagan**

Not present, no report.

**Antiochian Women's Tea: Dottie Malooley**

Dottie reported good attendance at the Parish Life Conference (PLC) in Cicero, IL. She encouraged us to attend the tea in North Royalton, OH and to bring ideas for programs, projects, special stories that we can share with each other. Dottie requested volunteers to bring ethnic pastries for North Royalton. They must be ethnic because of hotel restrictions. Give her your name and contact information if you are able to bring a couple of dozen pastries. The mailing has gone out to conference attendees. Elinor Bourjaily noted that the tea will be held in a suite so there is some lifting of restrictions regarding pastries. The tea will probably be on Friday of the Parish Life Conference. The program has not been finalized.

**Archives Coodinator: Romona Darmour**

Not present, no report.

**Teen Coordinator: Kh. Irene Khouri**

Not present, no report

**Secret Sisters: Daisy Ann Isaac**

Daisy reported that we're going to start this program again. We will make the plans now and have the program ready for the Parish Life Conference in North Royalton, OH.

**Adopt-A-Mission: Bobbie Royhab**

Bobbie is keeping track of this program and will forward information received.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Election of Public Relations Coordinator**

Bobbie reported that Kh. Elfriede Daly is interested in serving in this position. There were no other nominations. Elfriede was elected by acclimation.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Constitutional change**

Bobbie reported that the NAB is considering a constitutional change to allow officers to run for a second consecutive term. Currently officers are allowed to serve one 2-year term. We will be asked to vote on this at the next convention. Elinor Bourjaily noted that there are often things that an officer wants to compete and that an opportunity to serve a second term would allow this. Dottie Malooley noted that often it takes a year to learn the position and then the second year often isn't enough for what you want to accomplish. Bobbie noted the coordinators can serve two terms but not the officers. The terms are two-year terms because they are coordinated to time with the national convention.

**Teen contacts**

Fr. Joe Purpura asked the women to consider becoming mentors to young teen women our churches as a way of keeping the young women in the church. Once they have left Teen Soyo, they need to come into the Fellowship of St. John the Divine and the Antiochian Women.

Beverly Gantos told about her daughter who was president of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) at her university. She reported that she experienced a great frustration with lack of support from local churches. She asked that the churches with colleges and universities with OCF ministries get in touch with these students. She asked that we target college women within our towns as well as younger teens in our churches.

Due to privacy restrictions, it is not possible to get lists of students with their religious affiliations from the colleges and universities anymore. Bobbie noted that we will be asked to get the names of the college students within the churches and their colleges to the OCF so that contacts can be made.

All Saints, Bloomington, IN maintains a list of college students in their church directory with addresses and they are added to church mailing lists. They recommended that other churches do the same.

Bobbie is getting additional information from the OCF. We need a contact at each parish who will get the names and addresses of each college students within their parish and forward that to the NAB and the OCF. There will be more information forthcoming.

**Retreat for Antiochian Women:**

Bishop Mark has recommended that we hold a retreat in the spring in lieu of the Spring delegates meeting. The Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction was suggested as a location. We would bring our own speaker. Bobbie has a friend in Idaho who may be available. She asked for a committee to put this together. Volunteers would work with Fr. Joe Cervo and Roxanne Marks, our Religious Coordinator. Bobbie will contact some people to help plan the event.

There was a question about how to get involved with groups going to the orphanage in Guatemala. OCMC has groups that go regularly. There are some new rules for groups going to the orphanage in Guatemala. Bobbie recommended contacting the OCMC. The IOCC also has trips although their focus is more on fundraising than on mission trips. The OCMC is more focused on recruiting missionaries for short-term or long term missions.

The national Public Relations director has distributed a new edition of the DIAKONIA. Kh. Elfriede Daly will also be doing copies of our Diocese newsletter, The Torch.

Elinor Bourjaily reported that she had ordered the pin with the Theotokos but they did not get here on time for the meeting. They were supposed to have been delivered to the church in time for this meeting. She is working with church staff to get them forwarded to her when they arrive. The cost is \$3.00.

Elinor Bourjaily announced that North Royalton will be hosting the PLC June 28-July 2 and passed out preliminary information about the conference. She welcomes suggestions from anyone. She noted that they are trying to keep down the price of the Antiochian Women luncheon and asked about having a lighter lunch as opposed to something heavier. There is no evening meal event but sentiment was expressed for something lighter. Bobbie asked about vegetarian options. They can do a lighter choice for \$25 rather than the \$35 that was charged last year. We normally have around 80 women in attendance.

The Antiochian Women scholarship information will be available in January and will be due in June.

Deacon Basil Shaheen asked the women to send a card to the Ellison family and a card to Fr. Joe Cervo.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40

Deacon Basil Shaheen closed with prayer.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Sheryl VanderWagen**  
**Recording Secretary**