



“THE HAURAN CONNECTION”
DOWAMA’s 2009 College Mission Trip

As part of the sister diocese relationship between the Archdiocese of Bosra-Hauran and the Diocese of Wichita and Mid America, Father Richard Petranek of St. Paul Church and Father Matthew MacKay of St Joseph Church of Houston, Texas, have been blessed by Metropolitan PHILIP of New York, Metropolitan SABA of Bosra, and Bishop BASIL of Wichita to lead a group of eighteen college age students from the Diocese of Mid-America on a Mission Trip to the ancient Archdiocese of Bosra in southwest Syria.

The purpose of the two week Mission Trip (May 24th-June 7th, 2009) is to join with Metropolitan SABA and his clergy and laity who are valiantly laboring to rebuild the church temples, shrines and ministries of the Archdiocese. Our group will assist in refurbishing some of the church temples and properties of this ancient See. In addition, the group will go on pilgrimage to several of the most famous monasteries, shrines and historical sites of the Patriarchate of the Great City-of-God Antioch and all the East.

Cost is \$2,000.00 per person (including round-trip airfare from Houston, lodging and meals).

Sunday May 24th Depart Houston’s George W. Bush Intercontinental Airport at 11:52AM via American Airlines.

Monday, May 25th Arrive Bahrain at 6:30PM and overnight in Bahrain.

Tuesday, May 26th Depart Bahrain at 11:25AM via Gulf Air.
Arrive Damascus at 2:05PM and travel to Suweida to and have dinner at the residence of Metropolitan SABA.

Wednesday, May 27th Tour the Archdiocese and observe its various ministries.

Thursday & Friday, May 28th-29th Work projects within the Archdiocese.

Saturday, May 30th Travel north to the ancient Aramaic-speaking village of Ma’aloula to make pilgrimage to the 1st century Women’s Monastery of St Thekla the Protomartyr. Then continue north to make pilgrimage to the 6th century Men’s Monastery of St George Al-Humayrah in the “Valley of the Christians” (Wadi al-

Nasara) and the 20th century Women's Monastery of the Theotokos near the mountain village of Al-Muqa'abriyah.

Sunday, May 31st

Attend Divine Liturgy in the port city of Lattakiya (ancient Laodicea), the See City of Metropolitan YOUHANNA of the Archdiocese of Lattakiya. Then travel east to the city of Homs (ancient Emessa), the See City of Metropolitan George of the Archdiocese of Homs, to make pilgrimage to the Church of St Julian (Mar Ilyan), a 3rd Martyr and Unmercenary Healer, where his sacred relics are enshrined.

Monday & Tuesday, June 1st and 2nd Work days within the Archdiocese.

Wednesday & Thursday, June 3rd and 4th Travel north to Damascus, the capital of Syria and the See City of our Father-in-God Patriarch IGNATIUS IV, to visit the Patriarchal Cathedral and other ancient sites in the Old City. Then continue north to the village of Saydnaya to make pilgrimage to the Holy and Patriarchal Women's Monastery of Our Lady (built by the Emperor Justinian), where we will pray before the famous wonder-working icon of the Most Holy Theotokos known as "Al-Shagoura," and to the other monasteries in and around the village, including the Monastery of the Cherubim and that of St Moses the Ethiopian in Nabak. That evening we travel south to overnight in Suweida.

Friday, June 5th
Depart

Work day within the Archdiocese.

Saturday, June 6th

Depart Damascus and arrive Bahrain at 5:35PM.

Sunday, June 7th

Depart Bahrain at 1:15AM and arrive Frankfurt 6:40AM.
Depart Frankfurt at 10:55AM arrive Dallas at 2:30PM.
Depart Dallas at 5:10PM and arrive Houston at 6:20PM.

It is our hope that we will have young people from every DOWMA Deanery on this trip!

Questions? Contact Father Richard at Frrichardpetranek@yahoo.com or 281-703-5133.

To apply for a spot on this Mission Trip complete and mail the following application form, together with a deposit of \$500.00 (checks payable to "St Paul Church"), to:

St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church
17461 Memorial Drive
Houston, Texas 77079

The second payment in the amount of \$1, 000.000 must be made by February 15th, 2009.
The final payment in the amount of \$500.00 must be made by April 1st, 2009.

Insurance: Travel and Health insurance is recommended and may be purchased before departure.

Refunds: All claims for refunds must be made in writing to Father Richard Petranek at least ten (10) days prior to departure. No refunds will be made thereafter or for services not used. All cancellations must be made in writing and sent to Father Richard, St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church.

Liability: Father Richard Petranek and Father Matthew MacKay and/or their representatives abroad act only as agents for those passengers traveling on the Mission Trip described herein (herein after collectively mission trip members) in making arrangements for lodging, transportation, meals and /or any services in connection with the itinerary. The Archdiocese of New York and All North America, The Archdiocese of Bosra-Hauran, the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America, St Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church, St Joseph Antiochian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan PHILIP, Metropolitan SABA, Bishop BASIL, Father Richard and Father Matthew do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity to any person (including but not limited to members of the mission team) or property because of any act or failure to act or default of any hotel, carrier, entity or person rendering any services. The mission trip leaders do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity sustained by a mission trip member due to the actions or inactions of any person or entity who is not the leader of the trip. The mission trip leaders reserve the right to accept or deny acceptance of any person as a member of the mission trip.

Release, Covenant Not To Sue, and Indemnity Agreement: In return for a Student's being permitted to travel on the mission trip and participate in the activities described above, Student and Parent do hereby release, acquit, and forever discharge the Archdiocese of New York and All North America, The Archdiocese of Bosra-Hauran, the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America, St Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church, St Joseph Antiochian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan PHILIP, Metropolitan SABA, Bishop BASIL, Father Richard and Father Matthew, and their employees, agents, board members, clergy, representatives, successors, and assigns ("the Released Parties") from any and all actions, causes of action, claims, demands, damages, costs, expenses, and all consequential damages arising out of, on account of, or in any way resulting from Student's participation in this trip and activity, including but not limited to any claim or cause of action for property damage, personal injury, or death resulting from Student's participation in this trip and activity; Student and Parent promise that neither Student, Parent, nor anyone else acting for and or on behalf of Student will bring or cause to be brought against any of the Released Parties any claim or cause of action for property damage, personal injury, or death resulting from Student's participation in this trip and activity; and Student and Parent do hereby indemnify and hold the Parties Released harmless from any claim or cause of action for property damage, personal injury, or death resulting from Student's participation in this trip and activity that may be brought or filed by anyone acting or purporting to act for and on behalf of Student.

Governing Law: This agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Texas.

<p>PLEASE NOTE THAT BY SIGNING THIS APPLICATION, STUDENT AND PARENT ARE AGREEING TO ALL OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS STATED HEREIN AND WILL BE BOUND BY THE RELEASE, COVENANT NOT TO SUE, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT.</p>
--

APPLICATION FOR DOWAMA's 2009 COLLEGE MISSION TRIP

Name as on Passport _____

Birthdate _____ Sex ___ or ___ Passport # _____ Exp. Date _____
mm/dd/year M F mm/dd/year

Home Address _____
Street & Number City & State Zip Code

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Name of College _____
Name City & State

Home Parish _____
Name City & State

Name of Parish Priest _____

Signature of Student _____ Date _____
mm/dd/year

Signature of Parent _____ Date _____
mm/dd/year

Signature of Parish Priest _____ Date _____
mm/dd/year

ACCEPTANCE

The foregoing Application to Register for the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America's 2009 College Mission Trip is hereby accepted on this the ___ day of _____, 200__.

 Father Richard Petranek