

The Self Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of North America

Department of Liturgics and Translations
Report to the 50th Antiochian Archdiocese Convention
Chicago, Illinois, July 2011

“Worship is the primary and eternal activity of redeemed mankind... [it is] the offering of all our faculties to the glory of God ... a prayer of out-going to the Supreme Good, unmindful of self: for adoration is the movement not of the mouth only, but of the heart, of the mind, and of the will, as well: in short, of the entire being toward God.” (Winfred Douglas, Canon of Denver, *Church Music in History and Practice Studies in the Praise of God*. NY 1949)

The goal of this Department is to provide the Liturgical texts and resources needed and desired by the parishes of our Archdiocese for the enrichment and support of their Liturgical life according to the vision of Metropolitan PHILIP.

In addition, the Department seeks to educate and encourage the clergy toward an increased appreciation of our Liturgical heritage, toward the recovery of a fuller Liturgical life, and the best and most appropriate practice of Liturgics according to our unique Antiochian - American Liturgical customs, especially those handed down to us by our own St. Raphael of Brooklyn.

The Department works closely with the Department of Music, inasmuch as that Department is concerned with the sung musical texts of our Liturgical services, and the participation of choirs and chanters in the celebration of these services. During the past two years, the Dept. of Music has been very busy typesetting the Byzantine Music Project, and at the same time, trying to develop a single, official text for every musical piece. Our department has been very happy to cooperate in this important task. The Department also works with the Western Rite Vicariate through the St. George Institute to provide Liturgical support, texts, and music for our Western Rite parishes as well.

We are very grateful to the Very Rev. Elia Shalhoub for his work on the *Liturgical Guide* since 1998. Fr. Elia very carefully checks both the Typikon rubrics and the Lectionary to provide a high quality Guide each year. It is very important to note that we try very hard to maintain the unique American Antiochian tradition as it was handed to us by St. Raphael (Hawaweeny) as found in his *At-ta'ziya al-haqiqiya as-salawat al-ilahiya or Service Book of the Holy Orthodox-Catholic Apostolic Church in the Arabic Language*. (New York, 1909). This work remains for us the “gold standard” for liturgical practice; and supersedes, for us the work of his contemporary, the *Typikon of the Great Church*, by Metropolitan George Violakis in 1888. This is why we are often at slight variance with contemporary Greek sources.

We are very indebted to Elaine (Hayeck) Moore for doing all the work in posting the on-line Liturgical Notes. She uses the *Liturgical Guide* prepared by Fr. Shalhoub and fills it out with the appropriate texts from the approved books of the Archdiocese.

We are very grateful to the Rev. Bernard Kinnick for his work on the *Ordo*, which is the Liturgical Guide for the Western Rite parishes and missions of our Archdiocese. Unlike the *Liturgical Guide*, the *Ordo* provides an outline for Matins, Liturgy, and Vespers for each and every day throughout the year. Benjamin Andersen

also has provided detailed instructions and resources for those who use the Benedictine Breviary, and his work is being continued for now by Fr. John Winfrey.

All of these people go to an awful lot of work, which they volunteer to the Archdiocese. We do this because it has been requested by our parishes and blessed by our Metropolitan. We are doing our best to provide everything which people want, but according to the order and wishes of the Metropolitan. It is not a good idea to add to our services using outside sources without first checking with us or the Metropolitan to see if it will have his blessing.

The Liturgical texts for the regional Parish Life Conferences were prepared bi-lingually and mailed to each host parish, as well as the texts for the Archdiocese Convention, Clergy Symposium, Antiochian House of Studies, and individual parish needs such as an Episcopal visit or joint Orthodox celebration. Please remember, however, that we need time to prepare these texts. They cannot be put together overnight.

Four years ago, in Montreal, we announced that a translation of the 1888 Typikon of George Violakis was being prepared by Bishop Demitri and edited by the Very Rev. John Morris. While not in itself the norm or custom of our Archdiocese, it is a very important resource for understanding how to organize the services, and can be used to supplement the material available from St. Raphael. This is still in need of some proof-reading, and has not yet been sent to the printers, but has been made available for now as an e-book that can be downloaded from the following web-site: <http://almoutran.com/2011/04/2968>.

Our department wishes to serve the needs of the parishes in our Archdiocese. Comments and suggestions from the priests and people throughout the Archdiocese enable us to continue our ministry in a responsive and responsible fashion. Please feel free to contact us whenever we can be of service to you.

We would like to thank all the Priests, Deacons, Choir directors, and other members of our Archdiocese who have helped us in our projects, provided their expertise and time, and have shared their comments and criticisms with us.

We also thank our Metropolitan PHILIP for his leadership and guidance, as well as Bishop Antoun, Bishop Joseph, Bishop Basil, Bishop Demetri, Bishop Thomas, and Bishop Alexander (our own Episcopal overseer) for their on-going interest, help, and support for the work of this Department. Without their active participation and cooperation we would have no ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

V. Rev. Edward Hughes