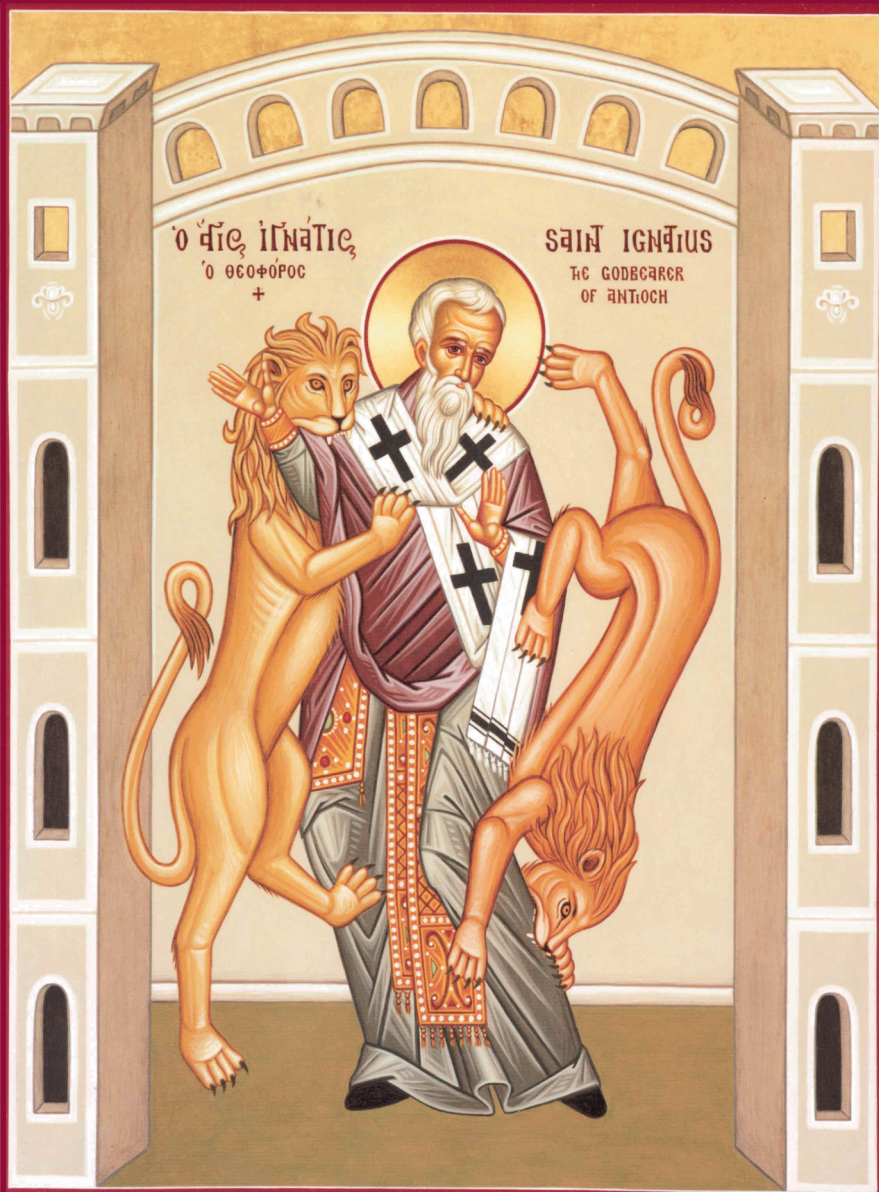


EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT



THE ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

Q: What is "The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch"?

A: The "philanthropic arm" of the Archdiocese is an organization of men and women who maintain on an annual basis proper spiritual credentials and financial commitment. The Order is under the authority of the Metropolitan Primate, Archdiocese Board of Trustees, and the Governing Council of The Order.

Q: Why was it created?

A: To establish an organization of Antiochian laity who would function at the highest level of ministry for Christ and the Church. It is a spiritual movement manifested through financial giving.

Q: Why is St. Ignatius our patron saint?

A: St. Ignatius was one of the first Bishops of the See of Antioch, the spiritual source of our Archdiocese. He was a witness for Christ by his life and deeds and serves as a model for all members of The Order.

Q: Who can be a member?

A: All who share a common love for Christ and his Church and are willing to work so that the Antiochian Archdiocese can continue its ministry. Each member must receive the blessing of his parish priest and be sponsored by a member of The Order. A spiritual commitment is a pre-requisite for membership in The Order.

Q: Some say The Order is all about money. Is this true?

A: Jesus sanctioned financial giving when he honored the poor widow who gave her last two coins. The Order only asks that we give from our surplus.

Q: Why do members of the Order wear a cross and red ribbon?

A: It serves as our witness to Christ and a reminder of Him who accepted the Cross for our salvation. We are on display before the world as examples of the Christian Faith. It is an awesome responsibility we bear. The crimson of the ribbon recalls the blood which the Martyr Ignatius shed for Christ. The Cross and ribbon remind us that sacrificial giving is our obligation as Antiochian Orthodox Christians.

Q: Where does the money go?

A: Within the Archdiocese: Departments such as Missions & Evangelism, Youth Ministry, Campus Ministry, and Christian Education.

Other intra-Archdiocese contributions: Camping Scholarships, College Conference scholarships, Married Seminarian Assistance, the Antiochian Village, Teen SOYO Special Olympics, Theological and Religious Education, and Clergy Retirement.

Contributions outside our Archdiocese: Project Mexico, International Orthodox Christian Charities, The Treehouse Family Ministry, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, and other worthy needs throughout the world.

Q: How many members are there?

A: Currently, there are 3,900 members including 324 Life Members. There are 158 Clergy and/or Clergy spouses who are members.

Q: Why should I join?

A: Membership in The Order is a doorway to increasingly renewed personal faith. Through this spiritual ministry of giving, many others receive much needed help, resulting in great Thanksgiving to God.

Q: What is the annual financial commitment?

A: Membership in The Order is roughly the equivalent of buying a cup of coffee every day.



There are three levels:

Dame & Knight @ \$500.00 per year or \$41.67 monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank account (EFT).



Dame & Knight Commander @ \$1,000 per year or \$83.34 monthly automatic withdrawal from your bank Account (EFT).



Life Member @ \$15,000 one time contribution or \$5,000 annually for three consecutive years or \$416.67 for 36 months (EFT).

Q: How much does The Order give annually?

A: The budget for the year ending January 31, 2010 is \$1,400,000.

Q: How much has The Order contributed since inception?

A: Over \$20 million

Q: Why should I join The Order; I already give to my local parish?

A: The Order supports 38% of the annual Archdiocese budget of which each parish and each Antiochian Orthodox benefit.

Q: I already give to many other secular charities; isn't that enough?

A: The Order always asks God for guidance which the secular charities do not. If we do not step forward to help our fellow Orthodox, who will?

Q: Can I give anonymously?

A: We strongly urge each candidate to make his commitment publicly. Christ commands us in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." First we ensure that our giving is from our heart and then we can be a true witness to Christ by our example. Suppose our saints and martyrs witnessed to Christ in secret? They witnessed to Christ in a very public way, but not for recognition by their fellow man.

Q: What's in it for me?

A: Your spiritual commitment grows stronger. More importantly, young people learn at an early age that adults put their money where their hearts are. You are an example to our children that our Church is a good investment.

Some two thousand years ago, our Lord Jesus Christ sat on a hillside with His disciples preaching to more than five thousand people. As the day progressed people who said, "We are hungry", approached the disciples. Yes, these people had need.

The disciples asked Jesus what to do. Jesus said to them, "You feed them". It was St. Philip who said to Jesus, "Where will we get the money to feed these people?" Jesus then told them to go out among the people and see what they had to offer. There was one boy who had five loaves and two fish. He gave this to the disciples, keeping none for himself. The disciples took this meager offering to Jesus who blessed it and then told the disciples to distribute it to the people. The people were all fed as the food was miraculously multiplied. There was even some left over.

Thirty years ago, the hierarchy of our Archdiocese was approached with the many needs of its people. I don't want to be presumptuous but maybe what happened next went something like this. The hierarchy approached God saying, "The people have needs. What should we do?" God said to them, "You meet their needs". It is no coincidence that it was Metropolitan Philip who said, just as his patron saint said so many years ago, "Where will we get the money to meet their needs?" And just as the Lord answered St. Philip two thousand years ago, He likewise answered our Metropolitan Philip, "Go to the people and see what they have to offer."

Thus, Metropolitan Philip went to the people and asked for their offerings. And people gave. This was the beginning of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch. And people, including you here, continue to give your offerings to the Church. The Church brings these offerings before God to be blessed and then distributes them to meet the needs of its people.

I am both humbled and grateful to be joining such an organization and I look forward to serving Christ with you, my brothers and sisters, in the years to come.

by Danna Lewis – St. Stephens, Hiram, GA
excerpt from an address on the eve of her induction into
The Order
at the Miami and Southeast
Parish Life Conference, June, 2003





*"We make a living by what we get;
we make a life by what we give"*

The Icon of St Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch on our cover is
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