

DIAKONIA

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA



Summer 2013

Featuring the Diocese of Worcester & New England

THE ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF SERVICE....

PROJECTS

- 1975-1976 Pastoral Education
- 1977 Balamand Seminary
- 1978 Missions
- 1979 Orthodox Missions
- 1980-1984 Antiochian Village
- 1984 Married Seminarians
- 1985 Patriarchal Charities
- 1986 Married Seminarians
- 1987 West Coast Chancery
- 1988-1989 St. George Hospital
- 1990-1991 AV Heritage & Learning Center
- 1992 Balamand University & Bishop's Endowment Fund
- 1993 IOCC
- 1994 Balamand University Housing
- 1995 AV Camp Expansion
- 1996 AV Dining Hall Expansion
- 1997 Theological Education
- 1998-1999 Orphanages
- 2000-2004 Orphanages Endowment Fund
- 2005-2008 Retired Clergy Fund
- 2009 Children with Special Needs
- 2010-2011 Convent of St. Thekla
- 2012 AV Tornado Relief Fund
- 2013 TBD at the Archdiocese Convention in July

The Convent of St. Thekla



Married Seminarians

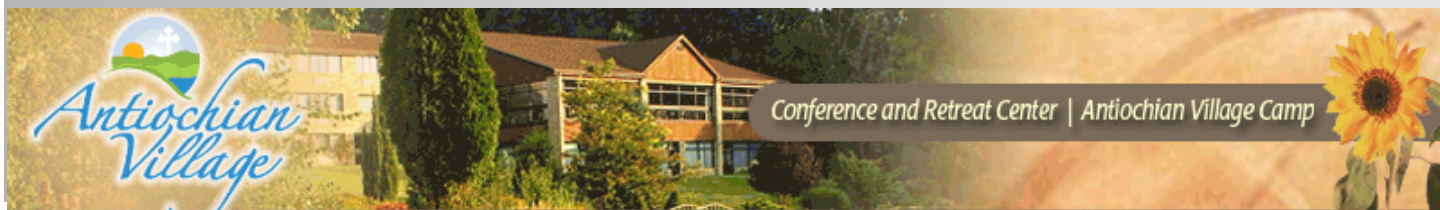


Pastoral Education

*Antiochian Village
Tornado Relief Fund*



For more information
about the Antiochian
Women of North
America, go to
[http://
www.antiochian.org/
women](http://www.antiochian.org/women)



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

❧ A SISTERHOOD SERVING CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OTHERS ❧

The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women Of North America

The Most Reverend
Metropolitan PHILIP
Founder

The Most Reverend
Archbishop JOSEPH
Overseeing Hierarch

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Antiochian Women's Prayer

*In the Name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
O Christ our God, we are all pledged to
serve Thee with our whole being.
Help us to continue to work for Thee
through our Church, without seeking praise,
without seeking personal gain,
without judging others, without a feeling that
we have worked hard enough
and now must allow ourselves rest.
Give us strength to do what is right and
help us to go on striving and to remember
that activities are not the main thing in life.
The most important thing is to have
our hearts directed and attuned to Thee.
Amen.*

DIAKONIA is a Newsletter of the North American Board of the Antiochian Women, an organization of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, and is published quarterly in the months of September, December, March and June.

For archived issues of DIAKONIA, go to:
<http://www.antiochian.org/AW-DIAKONIA>

PUBLICATION GUIDELINES:

Deadlines

- Please submit your articles by the first of the month prior to the month of publication so we can be sure they are included.

To submit articles, e-mail as an attachment to your diocesan Public Relations Director or to:
lucy.hanna@sbcglobal.net

Submission Details

- Please include your name and the phone number where you can be contacted for questions.

Content

- All articles must be of interest to or regarding NAB, Diocesan or local Antiochian Women.
- All articles may be edited for length and clarity.

In this issue of the DIAKONIA we highlight the
The Diocese of Worcester and New England

In each of the next seven issues, we will highlight one of the Dioceses. We encourage everyone however, to submit news and articles from all Antiochian parishes of North America for publication in every issue so we may keep in touch with each other.

What is DIAKONIA

The word **DIAKONIA** is a Greek word meaning *Service*, usually pertaining to service in the Church. The purpose of the Antiochian Women's organization is primarily spirituality and humanitarian service. In the words of our beloved Metropolitan PHILIP it is **"Theology in Action"**.



Beloved in Christ, the Antiochian Women of North America:

Christ is risen! Greetings and blessings in the Name of our risen Lord.

In the past 40 years, the Antiochian Women have played a pivotal role in the ministry of this God-protected Archdiocese to all the people of North America. Throughout the United States and Canada, the Orthodox Faith is being proclaimed through our more than 270 parishes, with the Antiochian Women at the forefront of the effort to plant and sustain these communities.

The Bible is not a book simply to be read, but the witness of God's glory and one of the essential guides to our spiritual life in Jesus Christ. We are commanded to love one another, and the Bible shows us how men have loved God and acted according to spiritual love.

The Bible does not describe many meetings, but it does tell us about holy action. The Antiochian Women are known for their action as well. For four decades, this blessed ministry has acted out the Gospel through many forms of service.

This has required strong and devoted leadership, and I am happy to say that the leadership of the Antiochian Women is without a doubt the best we could ever hope for or imagine. The faithful women who help guide the many activities of our various local chapters of the Antiochian Women are not only talented but very spiritual.

This spirituality of the Antiochian Women, I believe, is inspired in part by the example of the Myrrh-bearing Women, who rose early on the third day to anoint the Body of Christ. They sought to serve their Lord, and in this simple act of charity were the first to proclaim the Resurrection.

They bore witness to the 'Metamorphosis' of Christ's old humanity into the New Humanity through His death and Resurrection. So now, many of our women also receive such spiritual insight through their efforts to serve in our Archdiocese.

Just as the proclamation of the Gospel seen by them brought the Apostles together with all the believers who formed the Church, so even now the work of the Antiochian Women helps bring unity and love to our entire Archdiocese. It is ministry to others that

strengthens our bonds of love and fellowship, and so we must never forget that true love seeks to give rather than take.

The challenge for the Orthodox Church in North America is to embody this lesson of service and to reach out not with words, but with works of love and charity. We must not shout 'proof texts' and engage in 'apologetics' that are merely words, but rather seek to heal the world around us with the grace we have been given.

Just as Christ's Resurrection is the healing of our humanity, our own spiritual resurrection requires us to be healers of this broken world. This requires strong parishes, which the Antiochian Women help maintain through their local and diocesan activities.

Then our parishes, strengthened by the work of the Antiochian Women, will be ready to receive the broken and hungry people who need Christ most of all. We should never think only of ourselves, but those who truly need to be helped. Our Antiochian Women model this good work that God commands us to carry out.

Service is the most eloquent sermon and the finest catechism. To give to others is real evangelism, and so the Antiochian Women is by far one of our most effective means of evangelizing North America.

We cannot forget to thank the founder of this great organization, His Eminence, Metropolitan PHILIP, for his great vision and leadership. I am personally proud and blessed to be the hierarchical overseer of the Antiochian Women of North America.

Thank you Antiochian Women for the past 40 years!

Assuring you of my constant love, prayers and support, I remain,

In the risen Lord,

+ ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



The Antiochian Women's Philosophy is three-fold: Deep Faith, Courage, and Leadership!



“The women of the Diocese of Worcester and New England are always willing to share what is on their minds and make things happen”.



In 1976 I left New England for seminary. As I embarked on my new life in the Church, I took with me many wonderful warm memories of the women from my family, the women of my parish and the women of the parishes of New England. The Antiochian Women of New England are women of action, dedication and love. They are nurturing and accomplished. Their example and love toward me as a child has allowed me to better serve the women of the parishes that I served as well as the North American Board. My preparation for working with the women in the Church came from blessed Antiochian Women from New England.

After being elected to serve in New England, I have been further blessed with many opportunities to be with the Antiochian Women of this Diocese. We have had two retreats together, gatherings for Seminarians and many meetings. Meeting with the Antiochian Women of the Diocese of New England always reminds me of my grandmother and the ladies of the Church. These women are always willing to

share what is on their minds and just as willing to roll up their sleeves and make things happen. If it is cooking, serving the poor or gathering to study or pray together, these women are there and I have already grown to count on them. These women are the grand-daughters, daughters and sisters of the very women I remember as a child. They have continued to carry the torch and their predecessors have much to be proud of in them.

Meeting with the Antiochian Women has fed my heart. I am grateful to God for their leadership, the leadership of Fr. Ed Hughes who has served as the spiritual advisor for many years and for the guidance, support and love that the New England Diocese has enjoyed from Metropolitan PHILIP throughout all of the years of his ministry. I want the Antiochian Women throughout the Archdiocese to know what a blessing the Antiochian Women in New England are.



Prayers for the Safety of Abducted Bishops

The Antiochian Women of North America join Metropolitan PHILIP and all the Hierarchs, Clergy and Laity of the Archdiocese in remembering His Eminence Paul (Yazigi), Metropolitan of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo, as well as Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim of the Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo, in prayer, asking our Almighty Risen Lord for their safe release and for a peaceful resolution to this crisis.

40 YEARS!



Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!

Since the founding of the Antiochian Women by Metropolitan PHILIP in July, 1973, our organization has thrived and grown to what it is today. A small nucleus of women was chosen and entrusted by Metropolitan PHILIP, to write our Constitution and By Laws, and our purpose and primary areas of focus namely, Religious, Humanitarian and Project.

Over the years we have had many strong leaders in our Presidents, Officers and Coordinators not only on the North American Board, but also on the Diocesan and Chapter levels as well. Without their leadership and support to make us who and what we are today, we would not continue to exist, and are forever grateful. It is so important that we continue to grow

and be open to new ideas that put us in the forefront, without losing sight of our purpose and focus, and to remain "A Sisterhood Serving Christ Through Serving Others".

May God bless Metropolitan PHILIP, our Founder, His Eminence Archbishop JOSEPH, our Hierarchical Overseer, His Grace Bishop JOHN, our venerable Spiritual Advisors, and all of our women who have been involved from the inception of this wonderful organization to the present, and who have helped shape us into who we are and will become in the future. Please join us on Wednesday, July 24, 2013, at the Archdiocese Convention in Houston, as we officially celebrate our 40th Anniversary!!



Sisters in Christ

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!

The Diocese of Worcester and New England is truly blessed in so many areas. We are comprised of eleven parishes. The traveling time between us is two hours maximum. This gives us the opportunity to rotate our meeting locations and enjoy our dinner together. We conduct fall and spring General Assembly meetings in late October and late February (weather permitting) and culminate with the Parish Life Conference in June.



We sincerely thank His Grace Bishop JOHN and also our Spiritual Advisor, the Very Reverend Father Edward Hughes for their prayers and encouragement and strength.

Heartfelt thanks to all the Officers and Coordinators of the North American Board for their dedication and tireless efforts.

In closing I call upon all of your Guardian Angels "God commands angels to guard all who hope in Him that nothing should harm them, neither should any evil draw near to their dwelling" Psalm 81: 10-12

Introducing The 2011 - 2013 Board of Antiochian Women Of the Diocese of Worcester and New England

The Right Reverend Bishop JOHN - Diocesan Bishop



Bishop John (Abdalah) holds a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Care from Pittsburgh Theological School, a Master of Divinity from St. Vladimir's Seminary, a Master's equivalency certificate in Pastoral Counseling from Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from

Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts. He is a clinical member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. He taught Pastoral Counseling in the graduate program at the St. John of Damascus Institute at the Balamand in Lebanon. Bishop John served as a priest of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America for 33 years and has been Dean of St. George Cathedral in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the past 16 of those years. Before that, he served 16 years in New Kensington, and one year in Little Falls.

Bishop John has also served as Editor of The WORD for the past 14 years, the Spiritual Advisor for the Antiochian Women for the past 14 years, and Dean of the Western Pennsylvania clergy and churches the past 24 years. Fr. John also served for 7 years as NAC Spiritual Advisor for the Fellowship of St. John the Divine. Fr. John teaches Priestly Formation for the Antiochian House of Studies and mentors our full-time seminarians for the Antiochian House of Studies programs. Bishop JOHN was consecrated to the Holy Episcopacy by His Beatitude Patriarch IGNATIUS IV on December 11, 2011.

V. Rev. Edward Hughes - Spiritual Advisor



I was born in Kingston, Pennsylvania and graduated from Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA in 1977 with a BA in Religion, Near East Culture and Archeology, and from St. Vladimir Seminary in 1980. I worked full time with Fr. John Namie during the first three seasons of the Antiochian Village Camp. In May, 1982, I was married to

Anna Timko and then was ordained deacon and priest in July at the Antiochian Village by Metropolitan Philip. In August I was assigned to St. Michael's in Beaumont TX where I also served as the Ladies' advisor to the SW Region. In 1985, I was assigned to St. Mary's in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

I have served as Antiochian Women's Spiritual Advisor in the Southwest, Eastern, and New England Regions. In 1989 I was assigned to St. George in Lawrence, MA where I started out as the senior SOYO advisor and later was made Ladies advisor for NE Region, now the Diocese of Worcester. In addition, I was appointed Dean of the Clergy of New England after Fr. Niphon Abraham's retirement in 1995. I also serve the Archdiocese as the chairman of the Department of Liturgics and Translations. In 1986 I became Commissioner and since January 2009 the Vicar General of the Western Rite.

We have four children – Sarah, Michael, Martha and Elizabeth. Khouriya Anna teaches high school and also serves on the Archdiocese Department of Christian Education and on the Orthodox Christian Education Commission.

Delores George - President



I was born and raised in Worcester, MA as a member since birth of St. George Orthodox Cathedral. My parents, Memories Eternal, emigrated from Lebanon, and my father was a Church founder including being a Chanter virtually all of his life. I had 5 brothers and 2 sisters, Memories Eternal. My youngest brother,

Archpriest Victor, was born on the Feast of the Transfiguration, and was named after our relative Bishop Victor AbouAssaley. Three brothers were lifelong Arabic Chanters, and also worked diligently in the Church. Coming from a large family was a lot of fun.

I was a Sunday School teacher, I actively worked organizing the youth group, The Knights of St. George, and I have been in the Church Choir for so many years. I am currently serving as Recording Secretary of our St. George Women's Club and also The Brotherhood organization and The Young Mahiethett Society.

In 1978, I became an Executive Recruiter in the Staffing and Placement industries. Thereafter, I opened 2 large staffing and recruiting agencies in 1986, and also opened my own agency, and have been self-employed ever since. I have been serving as the Recording Secretary to the Mass. Association of Personnel Services for several years, and was awarded the "Good Citizen Award." I am also a Certified Personnel Consultant with a SOMWBA (Mass.) and a DBE (Federal) Certification.

The Patron Saint of our family is St. George. I ask for His

assistance and intercession, along with our most Holy Theotokos in carrying out the Will of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for us all.

Salwa Khoury - Vice President/NAB Project



I was born in the famous Jerusalem of the "Holy Land". In 1948 I moved with my parents to Damascus, Syria where I met my husband Nabil. We got married and moved to the USA. God blessed us with four Children and eight Grandchildren. I am a member of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church in Pawtucket, R.I. I am involved in my Church activities and in the Antiochian Women at the Diocese of Worcester & New England level.

Cindy Hayes - Recording Secretary



It has been a pleasure to serve as Secretary of DOWNE these past two years. And not to let down my home parish, St Mary Pawtucket, where I am also serving as secretary of both the Ladies Society and Parish Council. She must be crazy you say! Being secretary to all these organizations; keeping track of records is the basis of what I do. Working at the RI Department of Transportation for the past 29 years I have taken the road program from its pencil and ledger roots to the computer age; I have also served on the boards of all of the sports organizations that my children were active in over these many years, as well as being "Mama Hayes" to my three children, Donald (25), Daniel (23) and Sarah (19) and many extended nieces, nephews and friends. I have been fortunate in my life to find balance and be able to balance many things. This year Pascha is bitter sweet for me, as it is the 6 year anniversary of my husband, Don's passing; but in reflection I am thankful to him for being there to allow me the time to serve and time to be the person that I am; wife, mother, teacher, friend, boss, aunt, chairperson, treasurer, secretary...the one thing I continue to hope I can instill in everyone is that serving God and being there to help others is the most important thing you can do.

Valerie Torpey Irving - Treasurer



For the past four years, I have enjoyed serving as Treasurer for the Antiochian Women, Diocese of Worcester and New England. It has been a wonderful learning experience and an opportunity to meet many new people. It is amazing to see the work of the ladies in their parishes and in the Diocese, and how they care for each other and others around them.

Personally, it has been a busy and exciting time. My husband and I just celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary, and in my professional career, I have been in private practice as an attorney for 20 years. I am grateful to God for all the blessings He provides to us.

I look forward to passing on the duties of Treasurer to someone new at our next meeting in June at the Parish Life Conference. I hope and pray to continue my service to the Diocese and my Parish for many years to come.

Pamela Samara - Public Relations Director



My husband, George, and I are lifelong members of St. George Cathedral in Worcester. Our children are Leila and Jamil in Boston, and SubDeacon Khalil, his wife Dr. Mariah (Salloum) and their baby Jonah, in Cleveland. I was a Family & Consumer Science (Home Economics) teacher for 28 years in Worcester. On the local level, I have been a Sunday School Teacher and Director, Women's Group Secretary and presently the Treasurer. At the Diocesan level, I have been Humanitarian Coordinator, Recording Secretary, and now am the Public Relations Director. For the past 24 summers, I have enjoyed being a Volunteer at Antiochian Village Camp.

Marilyn Robbat - Immediate Past President



I am a cradle Orthodox and have been a member of St. Mary Orthodox Church in Cambridge MA for some 39+ years since my marriage to Michael in November of 1973. My home parish was St. John of Damascus Church, now in Dedham, MA, where I attended Church School, was active as a teen, sang in the Choir for many years and ultimately became Choir Director and was president of New England Region SOYO, prior to my marriage.

Marrying Michael brought me to a special place: St. Mary Church in Cambridge, where I again sang in the Choir, brought up our three daughters, now all grown and ages 38, 36 and 30 (all married), served as Choir Director, President of the PTA & Women's Club, and have been employed as the Church Secretary/Administrator for the past 24 years, which I consider more of a Ministry than a job.

I have been a part of Antiochian Women for a number of years holding offices on a local, regional/diocesan level as well as serving on the North American Board as previous Regional/Diocesan President, Public Relations, Vice President and President from 2001-2003. I am Immediate Past President of the Diocese of Worcester & New England, as well as current NAB Religious Coordinator for the past two years. This experience has afforded me an opportunity to pray, work, laugh and enjoy the friendship

and love of many wonderful women throughout the country.

My interests OUTSIDE the Church include cooking, movies and reading—with not a great deal of time left for those endeavors!! We are expecting two grandchildren—one in July and one in October—God willing. So our efforts will be directed to them and the miracles they will bring to our lives.

Kh. Louise Ferguson - Humanitarian Coordinator



I was born and raised in Quebec, Canada. Trained as a nurse in Quebec, I worked in nursing in Quebec, Colombia SA, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Currently working as a records clerk for Sullivan's Pharmacy in Boston, a large family owned compounding and medical supply

pharmacy.

I am married to V. Rev. Timothy Ferguson, Protosyngelos of the Antiochian Archdiocese and pastor of St. George Church of Boston. We are the parents of two married children and soon to be grandparents of our first grandchild.

My favorite hobby is gardening. I am active in my parish chapter of the Antiochian Women and have served as the Diocesan Humanitarian Coordinator for the past four years.

Mary Lou Catelli - Religious Co-Coordinator



I am a lifelong member of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church of Pawtucket, RI. I have been married to Bill Catelli for 39 years. I am the eldest of 4 children, my siblings being Joanne Abdalah (Memory Eternal), Lois Kilsey, and Leon Josephs. I am the proud aunt of 10 nieces and nephews.

I graduated from Rhode Island College in 1970 with a B.S. in Education and from Providence College in 1976 with a M. ED. I had the pleasure of pursuing a fulfilling career as a Special Education Teacher for 35 years retiring in 2005. Presently I teach in the Graduate School of Providence College, fulfilling another lifelong dream.

My introduction to Antiochian Women came from my mother, Matilda Tahmoush Josephs, who followed her mother, Jameela Samra Tahmoush, a founding member of "The Ladies' Society" in the early 1920's. My involvement in the church community includes singing in the choir, member of St. Ignatius, member of Antiochian Women, and Epistle reader. I have been a Sunday School teacher, superintendent, member of the Charitable Giving committee, and choir director. I am a member of the Education Committee of Theophany School, Quota

International, Women's Auxiliary of Memorial Hospital, Lincoln Garden Club, and Council for Exceptional Children.

My involvement with Antiochian Women at the Diocese level was prompted by my sister, Joanne, when she was President of her local church group. I began as the Diocese Humanitarian Co-ordinator and when Joanne became the National President she appointed me as her Humanitarian Coordinator. I presently cochair the Religious Coordinator position with Kh. Erin Kimmett. Antiochian Women is a rewarding ministry of the Antiochian Orthodox Church and I encourage all women to join us since we all can claim "I Am An Antiochian Woman".

Kh. Erin Kimmett - Religious Co-Coordinator/Retreat



Erin Kimmett was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas where she was an active member of Saint George Cathedral. In 1993, she was blessed to meet and later marry her wonderful husband, Father Joseph Kimmett. They were assigned to Saint George Church in Norwood, Massachusetts where they have lived and served for the past 17 years. Together they are raising their two boys, Nicholas, 16, and Zachary, 14.

Inspired by her Sitty's love and dedication to parish work, Erin is involved with the Antiochian Women in the parish and the diocese. She loves to chant and sing in the choir, and of course, as with her Sitty (known to many as "Aunt Vi") you will often find her in the kitchen!

Erin is a trained Byzantine iconographer and has written icons for churches and individuals across the country for nearly 20 years; she also owns the Annunciation Press.

Melissa Nassiff - Website Coordinator



I grew up in a series of Protestant churches, including Baptist, Presbyterian (where I was baptized) and Episcopal, with side trips into Pentecostal and Evangelical, and spent most of my adult life as an Episcopalian. My husband had been raised Orthodox, but became an Episcopalian when we were married. I

had been so unfamiliar with Orthodoxy that when I first met him and he told me he was Orthodox, I thought he was telling me he was Jewish!

About 15 years ago we left the Episcopal church, and eventually visited an Orthodox church. This was what I'd been looking for all my life, it seemed, and we've been Orthodox ever since. I was chrismated in 2000. Since then I've been active at St. Mary's Church in Cambridge, MA, serving in the Women's Club and the Fellowship of St. John the Divine, coordinating a discussion group, serving

as secretary of the parish council, issuing the parish's weekly e-mail newsletter, and being website coordinator for the Antiochian Women of the Diocese.

I am happily retired, after a career as a paralegal, managing legal compliance for employee benefits administration companies. My husband and I have three adult children and three grandchildren, and are blessed to have all of them within easy visiting distance. One of my greatest pleasures is spending time with those grandchildren.

Joan. Hanna - Parliamentarian



St. George Church of West Roxbury (Boston) has always been my home Parish, except for a five year stay in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, while my husband pursued a Doctor's Degree in Mathematics. We have three sons and six grandchildren; four girls and two boys. I

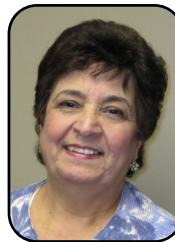
always say the girls bring sugar and spice and everything nice to the home.

When my youngest son entered high school, I decided to complete my education and returned to Boston University where my husband was a Professor. I received a B.S. in Business Administration and went on to a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice which led to my present volunteer position at the West Roxbury District Court. I did advance studies while at B.U. in Gerontology and as a result I am a licensed Emergency Medical Technician. I also have a Real Estate Brokers License. In my spare time, I play duplicate bridge with my husband. It is very challenging.

I have always been active in my Church as a former Sunday School teacher, and for several years President of our very active Ladies Society. I was Regional New England President from 1997 to 1999. I enjoy the company of all the Ladies because they really live the

words of the Antiochian Women Prayer.

Joyce N. Hanna - Presidents' Task Force Coordinator



I was born in Detroit, Michigan. At the age of 2, my family went on a vacation to visit family in Mexico City – where we stayed 10 years! There, I was fortunate to learn the Spanish language. At the age of 12, my family moved to California. I became active in SOYO and the Choir of St. Nicholas Cathedral in Los Angeles. In

1968, as president of the Western Region of SOYO I attended the Archdiocese Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. There, I met my husband, John A. Hanna, Jr. (Jack), who was the president of the New England Region of SOYO. Later, Jack as NAC President, and I as NAC Treasurer, attended several meetings and Leadership workshops across the country. We married in 1970 and have been living in the Boston area ever since.

We attend St. George Church of Boston where our three boys, Steve, Dan, and Greg, were a part of the Church School, Altar Boys, SOYO, and the Parish Council. Through the years, I've been active in our church's Parents' Guild, Ladies' Society, and the local and diocesan Choirs. I was president of the New England Region Antiochian Women from 1991 to 1993. Presently, I am coordinator of the Presidents' Task Force heading such projects as updating the diocesan constitution and by-laws, special celebrations honoring our spiritual advisor and welcoming the local seminarians. I am now a proud "Sitti" of Nick, Alex, Will, Owen, Cameron, and Connor.

It's been a wonderful experience being a part of the growth of the Archdiocese from coast to coast, and I thank God for steering my life in that direction.

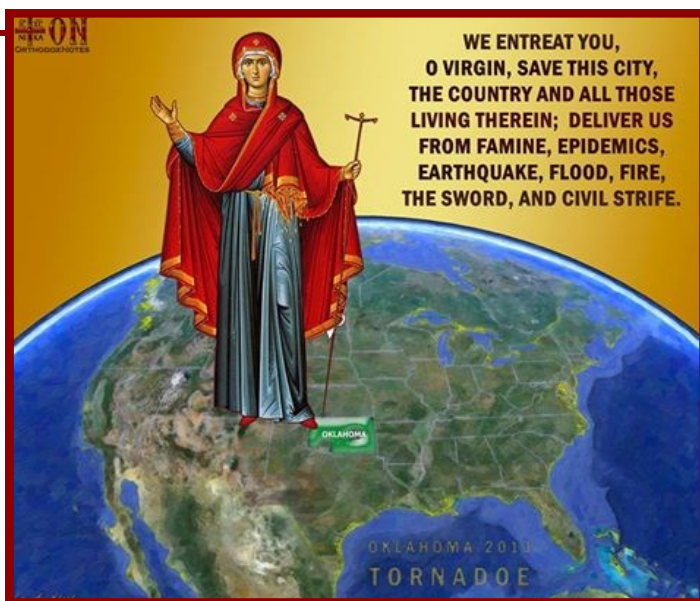
Membership Coordinator - Vacant

Lighting a candle and sending prayers to Moore, Oklahoma.

For all of the innocent men, women and children who have lost their lives, and the many more who will have to live with

the aftermath for years to come, our thoughts, love and support are with you.

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD!



A Note from the Editor...

Christ is Risen!

It has been my pleasure and my privilege to serve you and our God-Protected Archdiocese as Public Relations Director for the North American Board of Antiochian Women, and Publisher of this Newsletter for the last two years as well as in years prior. Everything good (or bad) however, eventually comes to an end. My term ends this July when another Director will be elected at the Archdiocese Convention in Houston, Texas.



As a brief history of how the DIAKONIA started, when I was first elected as PR Director in 2001, my duty was to highlight the Antiochian Women organization and publicize their work. The best and only way I could think of, was by starting a newsletter that would highlight one diocese in every issue. Thus, the NAB Newsletter was born, and appropriately named DIAKONIA which is a Greek word meaning “Service”.

I served as PR director for one 2-year term (2001 - 2003). In 2005 I was re-elected to that position and picked up where I had left off two years earlier, and served for two 2-year terms (2005 - 2009) and then again for this last term, 2011 - 2013).

We have so many talented and computer savvy women in our Archdiocese, one of whom will pick up where I leave off and continue producing the DIAKONIA which is now one of the publications of our Archdiocese and posted on the Archdiocese website. I urge any woman with a God-given talent to submit her nomination form as soon as possible to the NAB Immediate Past President and Nominating Committee Chairman, Cindy Nimey. If you do not have the form, you may contact her by email at: cindycnyhondas@gmail.com and she will send you one.

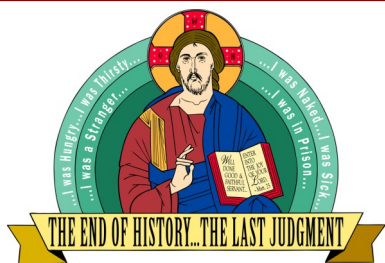
I would like to thank all the diocesan Public Relations Directors who have made my job easier by collecting information from their respective officers, coordinators and others to send to me for publication. I would also like to thank His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP, Their Graces the diocesan Bishops, NAB Spiritual Advisor, His Grace Bishop JOHN, and all the Diocesan Spiritual advisors for their support and for the wonderful and edifying articles and messages they were kind enough to submit for publication.

Special thanks go to our Hierarchical Overseer, His Eminence Archbishop JOSEPH for continually supporting us and for the excellent articles he wrote for each and every issue of the DIAKONIA. May God grant him many years.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Vi Robbat and ALL the officers and coordinators of the North American Board, the diocesan boards and all the chapters across North America, for their love and dedication to the Antiochian Women and to the causes and principles for which they stand. I especially thank them for their contributions to the DIAKONIA. You are all truly ***“A Sisterhood Serving God Through Serving Others”***. God bless you all and grant you many more years of service to God and to His people.

In the service of Christ,

Lucy Hanna



Welcome to the Diocese of Worcester and New England 75th Annual Parish Life Conference

St George of Lowell, MA is pleased to be the host for the 75th Annual Parish Life Conference. The conference will be held at the Wyndham Hotel in Andover, MA. To make this a special year, we will be offering some events such as a Caribbean-themed dinner featuring a Calypso Band, a Hafli featuring singer Mitchell Kaltsunas and events for the entire family.

For hotel reservations go to: http://www.wyndham.com/groupevents2013/BOSAM_STGEORGE/main.wnt%20%20. Early bird prices for hotel rooms end on June 6th, afterwards, rooms will become normal priced.

For a list of events please go to: <http://saintgeorgelowell.org/events.html>

Online Registration is also available at: www.antiochianevents.org/event/96

For more information go to: <http://saintgeorgelowell.org/plc.html>



Deadline for Early Bird Registration: June 1st.

Deadline to submit Souvenir Journal Entry: June 1st.

Deadline to reserve Hotel Room at \$149 p/n: June 28

Visit www.ACHouston2013.com to Register today!





ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

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