

DIAKONIA

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA



Summer 2014

MEMORY ETERNAL, HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN PHILIP (1931-2014)

"We are never totally aware of how God is moving in our lives, how He is active in our existence. We do know that He is there, that 'in Him we live, and move, and have our being' (Acts 17:28). We are in Him and He is in us." + Metropolitan Philip



On Wednesday, March 19, 2014, the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, with great sadness, announced the passing unto life eternal of His Eminence the Most Reverend Metropolitan PHILIP, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America. May his memory be eternal!

Metropolitan PHILIP led this Archdiocese as a loving father for 48 years during which it has seen unprecedented growth in number and spirituality. He established different organizations that would help grow and move the Archdiocese into the 21st century. He founded the Antiochian Women organization, a sisterhood serving Christ through serving others, the Order of St. Ignatius, the charitable arm of the Archdiocese and many more. Through his efforts, the Antiochian Village, near Pittsburgh, PA, was purchased. The Village now has a Camp for our children, Heritage and Learning Center for conferences, the beautiful St. Ignatius Chapel, the shrine of St. Thekla, the burial site of St. Raphael of Brooklyn next to which will be the burial site of Metropolitan PHILIP as well. All this on vast and breathtaking grounds in the heart of the country.

Fr. Constantine Nasr wrote: "His was a spirit of charity, justice, wisdom and council. His vision and his dream was to spread the Gospel, praying always for peace and goodwill among mankind. Although we mourn his passing, we must rejoice, for we now have an intercessor in heaven who knows and recognizes us by name as a Shepherd recognizes his sheep".

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

NAB Board

His Grace Bishop. JOHN, Spiritual Advisor

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Program

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.

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:

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 Miami and the Southeast

In each of the next four 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**".

Metropolitan PHILIP - Founder of the Antiochian Women Organization

"**LAST, BUT NOT LEAST**, we must realize once and for all that women have a definite ministry in the life of the Church. Very often we have the tendency to confine women's roles in the church just to the kitchen. Both the Old and the New Testaments testify beyond doubt to the important role which women played in the history of salvation. Time does not permit me to speak in detail about Ruth, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachael, the Virgin Mary, the ointment bearers, the deaconesses and many others who ministered to the Church and to Christ and were instruments of His Divine purpose in history. We don't have to consult the past too much in order to prove our point. If you just look around you in your own parish, you find those devout ladies serving God as church school teachers, choir members, youth leaders and fund raisers.

"It is very disappointing that in some parishes women are not allowed to vote or to be elected to Church Councils. We must definitely do away with this Medieval and archaic outlook concerning women. Our church does not teach that women are inferior to men. Despite their different functions, men and women are equal in the eyes of God because both were redeemed by His Precious Blood. St. Paul said, *'There is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.'* (Galatians 3:28)

"I propose, therefore, that a National Sisterhood of Charity be organized in the Archdiocese. The structure and goals of this organization will be defined in the future. I also propose that the President of this Sisterhood, by virtue of her office, should become a member of the Board of Trustees of the Archdiocese and should report annually to this General Assembly."

Metropolitan PHILIP

Archdiocesan Convention - Los Angeles, California 1972



REFLECTIONS ON THE SERVICES FOR +METROPOLITAN PHILIP:

By Violet Robbat, President, North American Board of Antiochian Women



My husband, Richard, and I arrived at St. Nicholas Cathedral at approximately 7:30 P.M. on Thursday evening. As we walked in to the Bengari area, there to my immediate left was a beautiful portrait of +Metropolitan PHILIP of thrice-blessed memory, framed in white roses, white lilies and bay leaves. Standing beside it was Fr. Michael Elias, who greeted us with "Christ is Risen!". To my immediate right, a member of St. Nicholas handed us a booklet with +Metropolitan PHILIP's official portrait on the outside, and his life story on the inside. It included a bookmark which also had the official portrait of +Metropolitan PHILIP, his date of birth, when he was ordained a deacon, a priest, Consecrated Metropolitan, and fell asleep in the Lord, on one side and "Thoughts of Metropolitan PHILIP" on the other.

As I looked down the aisle, I saw a candle stand with white roses, lilies, and greens surrounding it, holding a large single candle, positioned at Metropolitan PHILIP's head and one at his feet. As I looked beyond Metropolitan PHILIP's casket I saw the beautiful Iconostasis and Holy Doors framed with the same beautiful white flowers as well. The Great Compline was being chanted at this time so we sat in one of the pews. At the end of the service, Fr. Antony Gabriel eulogized +Metropolitan PHILIP. Then everyone seated was asked to come forward and approach the front of the church where +Metropolitan PHILIP lay. With a heavy heart and tear-filled eyes I approached the casket. +Metropolitan PHILIP was fully vested in his beautiful robes and crown, holding in his hands the Holy Bible, which I am sure he read from many times while serving at St. Nicholas Cathedral. After pausing, praying and kissing the Holy Bible, I moved passed only to look up and see Archbishop JOSEPH and Bishop JOHN. We greeted each other with "Christ is Risen!". How comforting it was to see them both, especially at a time like this, and their connection to my dear Sisters in Christ. Trisagion Prayers were chanted at various times throughout Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



We returned to St. Nicholas at 4:00 P.M. on Friday afternoon for the Akathist Service. All of the Hierarchs from our Archdiocese and those who came from around the country and the world were there and were seated on either side of Metropolitan PHILIP, facing him. The chanters, stood behind those seated on the right, lifted up their beautiful voices and chanted with their heart and soul. At the completion of the Akathist Service, Fr. Thomas Zain, pastor of St. Nicholas Cathedral and Vicar General of the Archdiocese, informed all those in attendance, that if we were staying for the Funeral Service for a Bishop at 7:00 P.M., to please join them downstairs in the church hall as their ladies had prepared a light meal for everyone. These women were amazing. They had fed all of the Hierarchs two meals a day, beginning Tuesday of that week, and now they were going to feed us as well! They had

everything from Mjudara to Zaatar to Pumpkin Kibba, etc. God bless them they did a wonderful job. We all returned to the church for the Funeral Service. The Hierarchs and the chanters lifted up their voices, and chanted in unison, as if in one voice, in Arabic and English. At the end of the service, a Legislator from the state of New Jersey, read a series of Proclamations from the New Jersey Assembly, and presented Metropolitan SILOUAN a framed copy of the document. Then Bishop ANTOUN stood up and spoke to all of us and to his dear friend and brother in Christ, +Metropolitan PHILIP. He began with a few short stories on how they first met at seminary, how +Metropolitan PHILIP, who loved to tease, teased him incessantly, and how a beautiful friendship was formed. He spoke of +Metropolitan PHILIP's dreams and accomplishments, especially his love of children and wanting to build them a camp, which became Antiochian Village, how women were the backbone of the church and the founding of the Antiochian Women, and then the Order of St. Ignatius, which everyone doubted would be a successful organization,

except for +Metropolitan PHILIP. In the end, he turned toward +Metropolitan PHILIP, and cried out, "Good-bye my friend, good-bye!" There wasn't a dry eye in the entire church. It was extremely emotional, as we all know how close they were to each other.

Divine Liturgy began at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday morning, followed by the Funeral Service, led by His Eminence Metropolitan SILOUAN. The reverence shown by all who attended, including Metropolitans and Bishops from Mexico, Chili, Brazil, France, Tripoli and Syria, to name a few, who had participated in all of the services, as well as a Moslem Cleric and Dignitaries, were a tribute to Metropolitan PHILIP's legacy. The Funeral Service and all of the beautiful chanting was in Arabic and English. At the end of the service, each spoke and shared their thoughts of +Metropolitan PHILIP as a leader, a firm believer in unity of all of the Orthodox Churches throughout the world, his compassion for all mankind, his love of children and wanting them to have a camp to go to each summer, which led to the Antiochian Village, and in time seven more camps throughout our Archdiocese, the role of women in the church who he believed to be the backbone of the

church, with the formation of the Antiochian Women, and the love and concern for his clergy. A message of condolence by His Eminence Patriarch JOHN X. who was unable to be with us, was read.

On Sunday morning, a beautiful Patriarchal Divine Liturgy, led by Metropolitan SILOUAN, was followed by Trisagion Prayers.

In closing, I would like to leave you with one of the "Thoughts of Metropolitan PHILIP":

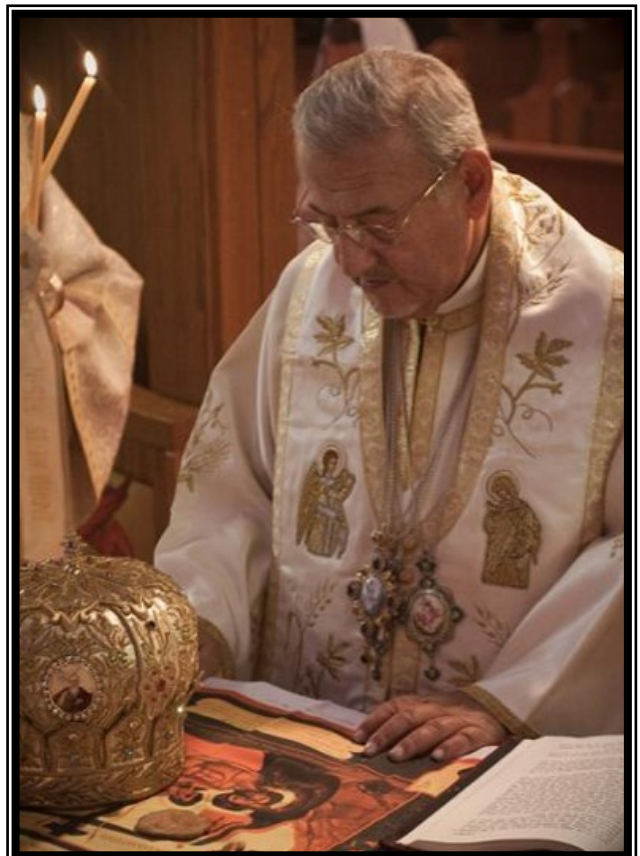
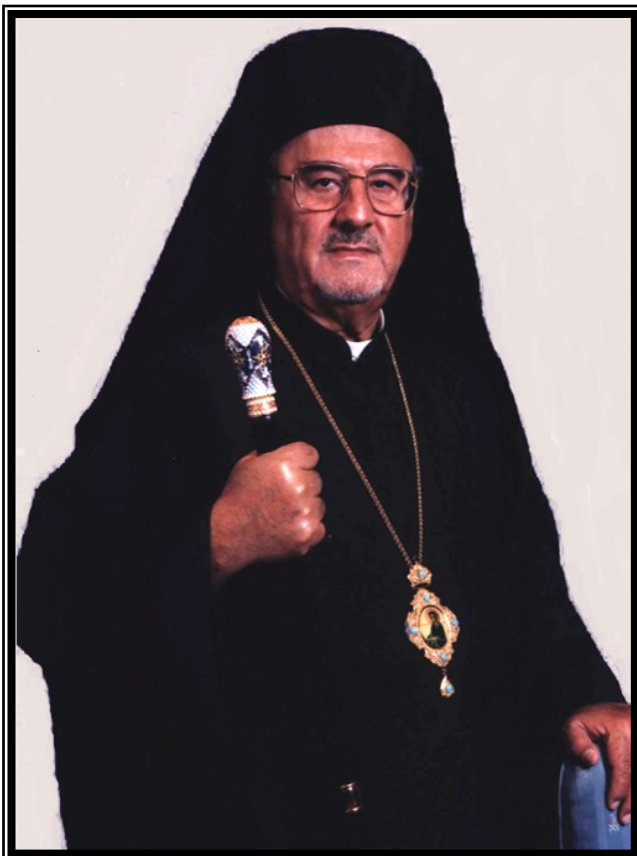
"What our future Church will be depends on what you are today. I have tried to serve you to the best of my ability and if I have stumbled along the way, it is because of human frailty. Do not forget, however, that I love you and care for each and every one of you."

+Metropolitan PHILIP

May His Memory Be Eternal!

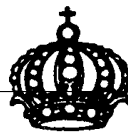
In Christ,

Violet





His Eminence Archbishop JOSEPH sends his greetings to all the Antiochian Women of the Archdiocese and assures them of his prayers. Because of the present circumstances of the Archdiocese however, and all his recent travels for the Funeral services and Hierarchical meetings which followed, he was not able to prepare a message for this issue of the DIAKONIA newsletter. Please pray for him and all the Hierarchs of our Archdiocese as they travel to Lebanon to meet with the Patriarch, and then back to Chicago for the Special Nominating Convention as part of the process in the election of a new Metropolitan for our Archdiocese.



Beloved Ladies of our God-protected Diocese:

The Book of Acts tells us that after being empowered by the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the Apostles went forth preaching the gospel and all heard in their native tongue. Despite speaking different languages and coming from different places and backgrounds, all who heard were unified in the Spirit, hearing the same message and responding to the same truth.

In each of our churches, over the span of our diocese, and throughout the reaches of our archdiocese, it is the spirit of our Antiochian Women that brings about that same unity that binds us all together. No matter the location, in each of our churches, the women are unified in their love for God, their spirit of service, and their tireless efforts to spread the love of Jesus Christ through the support of various causes and ministries. Our Antiochian Women are the embodiment of the spirit of unity that was so much a part of the vision of our beloved father-in-Christ, Metropolitan PHILIP, of blessed memory. It was his vision that established the organization and that vision is continued through each chapter and each individual who comprise our Antiochian Women.

Just as the apostles were the vessels of the Holy Spirit, so to that same Spirit abides in our Antiochian Women, who through their efforts spread the love of God throughout the world. On behalf of all the ladies of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast, we pray that God may continue to bless and protect each of you.

In Christ,

+ANTOUN

Auxiliary, Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

In the days that span Holy Week to the Ascension of Christ, our Savior experiences every human condition that is imaginable. On Holy Friday, He is crucified. On Holy Saturday, He descends into Hell and preaches the good news of hope and salvation to those held in captivity. On Sunday, He rises from the grave. On Ascension, he takes our humanity into Heaven.

From the deepest and lowest, to the highest and most exalted, Christ takes on our human experience in its totality. There is no part of our life He does not touch and sanctify. He literally spans Heaven and Hell. But in the midst of these momentous events He is not alone.

At his crucifixion, holy women weep and watch from the foot of the cross. After his death and burial, holy women make way to the tomb to find it empty and discover the resurrection. On the Mount of Olives, holy women are present to witness the awe and joy of His Ascension. In the upper room, holy women await the descent of the Holy Spirit.

From his birth to his death to the establishment of His Church, holy women were present. In all the highs and all the lows, holy women were there to assist, comfort and prepare.

It is certainly no different today. If every aspect of church life, which is the continuation of Christ's earthly ministry, holy women are present. Within the church, we experience the greatest joys and the greatest grief. There are births, there is death, there is sickness, there is celebration and there is sorrow. And there are the holy women.

And at every baptism, every wedding, every funeral, every feast and every fast, in all of our churches holy women are serving, just as they did in every aspect of Christ's ministry. Probably a lot of their ministry in Christ's time went unnoticed and unmentioned. Perhaps today, all the service by holy women that goes on behind the visible events in the life

of the church goes unmentioned and unnoticed.

But not by Christ Himself. No act goes unnoticed. No service goes unmentioned. And perhaps on that great day of His triumphant return, no one will hear a louder "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," than the God-loving, holy women of our churches.

As a priest, I see their tireless service every day. From the placement of flowers at Pascha, to the preparation of a mercy meal, in every aspect of church life they are always there. Whether at the parish level, the diocesan level or throughout the God-protected archdiocese, the Antiochian Women are the heart and soul of everything that we do.

I cannot thank them enough. I cannot thank God for them enough. Antiochian Women, you bless us; in your service, you anoint us with the love of God. In every aspect of our lives, thank you for always being there.

V. Rev. Stephen Rogers

St. Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church

AW Spiritual Advisor, Diocese of Miami and the South



Message from the Diocesan President

Dorothy Tampary

June 2014

Glory to God! Glory Forever!

It is with great humility and joy that I have found myself among dedicated women who are serving Christ by serving others through a great Sisterhood, the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America. The inspiration and encouragement from our hierarchical leadership is of utmost importance in guiding us in this service – from our beloved Metropolitan PHILIP, of thrice-blessed memory; our NAB Overseer Archbishop JOSEPH and Spiritual Advisor Bishop JOHN; our own Diocesan Bishop ANTOUN and Spiritual Advisor Very Rev. Fr. Stephen Rogers; as well as the bishops and spiritual advisors of all other dioceses of our archdiocese; and, of course, our home parish priests. As Antiochian Women, we must be thankful for their leadership and feel the blessings bestowed upon us through them.

We must also be thankful for the women who serve and lead us by their faith and works: NAB President Violet Robbat and her officers and directors. The example and steadfast love for others exhibited by these women give us on the diocesan level the desire to continue in our own quests to live Christ-like lives and “do unto others

as we would have them do unto us.”

On a personal level, my husband, our family and I have been recipients of these blessings and outpouring of love from all corners of our amazing archdiocese upon the onset of the illness of my husband Anthony (Bubba) during the winter. We are truly grateful for the love and prayers of so many near and far from us. Thank you!



As we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, let us renew our faith in Christ our God, our faith in the goodness of human beings, and our knowledge that being made in the image of God, we have the gifts and instructions to continue to serve Him through worship, outreach, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Your Sister in Christ,

Dorothy Tampary

AW President, Diocese of Miami and the South

Personal Reflection

Khouria Kyra Lewis

Lord, Jesus Christ, grant me Your Peace, Comfort and Your Strength.

In October of 2009, this became my prayer. My husband, the Archpriest Michael, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. After the initial shock...so many questions. What were the treatment options, if any? Chemo? Radiation? Surgery? How much time did he have? How were we going to tell our families? How were we going to tell our St. Luke's family? How were we going to handle this “death sentence”? We hoped for the best; prepared for the worst. But we prayed, “Thy will be done”. “Thy will be done”... I pray it daily when I recite the Lord's Prayer; but when crisis strikes, do I really mean that? Do I want God's will to be done? As an Orthodox Christian, ***I believe anything that comes our way*** is somehow for our salvation...so yes, “Thy will be done”.

Lord, Jesus Christ, grant me Your Peace, Comfort and Your Strength.

After a month of chemo and radiation, surgery was on Bright Wednesday, 2010. It couldn't come at a more perfect time, three days after celebrating the glorious Resurrection of Our Lord! ***Surely God would hear the prayer of one of His priests and allow him to continue ministering to his flock.*** After many hours into surgery, the surgeon called us into a private room and told us the devastating news. Needless to say, that it took all my energy to listen to what the surgeon was telling us, while dealing with the shock, the disbelief that my husband was not going to be alright, but rather the total opposite. Lord, how was I going to tell the large group of parishioners that



have gathered in the waiting room? How was I going to be of comfort to them? How was I going to be of comfort to our daughters? How was I going to tell my husband, when he's out of surgery and in recovery?

Lord, Jesus Christ, grant me Your Peace, Comfort and Your Strength.

After allowing my husband sufficient time to recover surgery, he began a 6-month round of chemo ... 3 weeks on/ 1 week off...trying to slow the growth of the cancer. So began a new phase in our lives; surely, this was not the life I signed up for when we were married. Or was it? "O Lord, Thou hast ordained for them an indissoluble bond of love". We tried to keep things at home "as normal as possible": enjoying Angel baseball games, going to a few concerts, skeet and trap shooting at the range, etc. As his health permitted, my husband continued to serve at the Holy Altar and go to the church office.

God is good! My husband was feeling as well as can be, with no major side effects from the chemo. So with the ok from his doctor, in August, 2010, we booked a cruise to Alaska. We had planned on a land trip to Alaska in 2011 to celebrate our 25th Wedding Anniversary, but we were not dumb about pancreatic cancer and we knew that the chances of us being together for our 25th were extremely slim. By God's grace, we were able to venerate the icon of "Our Lady of Sitka". In February, 2011, 6 months before our actual 25th anniversary, we spent 4 days at a bed and breakfast in Julian, CA, to celebrate. I noticed that he's rapidly losing weight and tiring more than usual. He said he just doesn't feel quite right inside.

Lord, Jesus Christ, grant me Your Peace, Comfort and Your Strength.

A CT scan in March, 2011, confirmed what we already suspected. The cancer was spreading, as the doctor said, with a vengeance. Forgive me. Selfishly, I thought only of myself. I was going to be a widow. How was I going to handle that? Who's going to be there for me? Who's going to walk our daughters down the aisle at their weddings? Who's going to baptize our grandchildren? With whom was I going to grow old?

When I attended the church services, my eyes were immediately drawn to the iconostasis, where our church has an icon of St. Sophia and her 3 daughters, Faith, Hope and Love. How could I possibly complain about what I was going through, as I was watching this horrific disease consume my husband, while this poor mother witnessed her daughters' martyrdom?

We went to the local funeral home to make arrangements. Surprisingly, or not, we were "comfortable" with everything and it wasn't as "creepy" as we thought is

would be. We even went to Starbucks when we finished. Afterwards, there was a deep sense of calm, peace, and I dare say, a type of holiness in our home and with all of us. We prayed together every evening and my husband anointed us with oil from the shines of many saints. Some may say that he was preparing to die, while I believe he was preparing to live...in the Kingdom!

Lord, Jesus Christ, grant me Your Peace, Comfort and Your Strength.

Mid-July, we set up hospice care in our home. We knew that time is drawing near. But when? My husband said he's ready; he was getting antsy. I spent my days and nights by his side. We talked; we prayed; yes, we even laughed.

August 12th, we noticed a huge decline; he could no longer get out of his chair, he was drinking very little, he could not swallow his meds. On Sunday, the 14th, Fr. Jon came to bring him, what would be, his final Holy Communion in this world. As Fr. Jon is reading the prayers, my husband's lips were moving, he was reciting the prayers. After he received the Holy Gifts, he smiled, looked upward and said "thank you".

Lord, Jesus Christ, grant me Your Peace, Comfort and Your Strength.

August 15th, the Feast of the Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos. My husband's breathing was shallow but not labored. He was not responsive to earthly voices. His face was very peaceful. My daughters, along with a dear friend, and I read the Canon for the Departing of the Soul from the Body. When we finished the canon, he breathed his last. We sang the Trisagion for the Departed and made the appropriate phone calls.

Lord, Jesus Christ, grant me Your Peace, Comfort and Your Strength.

On August 17th, on what was supposed to be our 25th Wedding Anniversary, we prayed the Panikhida. We sang "Memory Eternal" instead of "God grant you many years". ... it just didn't seem fair.

Lord, Jesus Christ, grant me Your Peace, Comfort and Your Strength.

I prayed this throughout the funeral service. It was the only way I could keep it together. And it continues to be my prayer, moment by moment, day by day.

Lord, Jesus Christ, grant me Your Peace, Comfort and Your Strength.

Introducing The 2013 - 2015 Board of Antiochian Women Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

The Rt Reverend Bishop ANTOUN - Diocesan Bishop



His Grace Bishop Antoun was consecrated to the Holy Episcopacy on January 9, 1983 at the Cathedral of St. Nicholas in Brooklyn, where he served as pastor. His consecrating bishops included Metropolitan Philip (Saliba). He became a diocesan bishop on October 9, 2003 and currently bears the title Auxiliary Bishop of Miami and the Southeast.

Bishop ANTOUN has served as a beloved pastor and educator in many settings, including St. Vladimir Orthodox Seminary in Crestwood, NY; St. George Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; St. George Church in Toronto, Ontario; St. George Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania; and St. Nicholas Cathedral in Brooklyn, New York.

Bishop ANTOUN was born Antoun Yssa Khouri on January 17, 1931 in Damascus, Syria. At the age of fourteen, he entered Minor Seminary at Balamand Monastery in Lebanon, where he met and befriended Philip Saliba, the future Metropolitan of North America. He received his diploma in theology from the Balamand Seminary.

On October 28, 1951, Antoun was ordained a deacon by Patriarch Alexander III at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Dormition of the Theotokos in Damascus. Upon graduation from Assiyat Orthodox College in 1957, he was assigned to the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Brazil. In 1959 he came to the United States to pursue a Master of Divinity at St. Vladimir Orthodox Seminary, from which he graduated in 1962. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 29, 1960, by Metropolitan Antony Bashir, and was elevated to Archimandrite by Metropolitan Philip (Saliba) on August 3, 1969.

Bishop ANTOUN resides in Pompano Beach, Florida. His name day is January 17 (Anthony the Great).

Very Rev. Stephen Rogers - Spiritual Advisor



The Very Reverend Stephen Rogers is the senior priest at Saint Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church in Franklin, TN. He has served as the senior priest since 1996. Fr. Stephen was ordained by His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP in February, 1987 and served as an assistant priest at St. Ignatius until 1990. With the

blessing of Metropolitan PHILIP, Fr. Stephen served as the assistant priest as Holy Cross-Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Birmingham, AL, in 1990-1992. He returned to Saint Ignatius as an assistant before being appointed senior priest in 1996. Fr. Stephen is married to Kh. Terry Rogers, a former president of the Antiochian Women in the Diocese of the South, and a former North American Board recording secretary. They have three adult daughters and six grandchildren. Fr. Stephen was appointed by His Grace Bishop ANTOUN to serve as spiritual advisor of Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast in 2008.

Dorothy Tampary - President



“Coming home” to the Orthodox Faith in my early twenties has been and continues to be a great blessing in my life. My husband Anthony (Bubba), a cradle Orthodox, introduced me to the fullness of Orthodox Christianity. I have embraced it ever since. Bubba and I have been married for 47 years this

summer. We have two married children and four grandchildren. Along with our son Tony, daughter-in-law Stacy, and grandchildren Mason and Marina, we are founding members of St. Andrew Orthodox Church (2007) in Pensacola, Florida. We continue to enjoy service to Christ through our active participation in the life of St. Andrew. Bubba and I, with great joy, teach the Middle School Sunday School class and I sing in the choir. In addition to serving as Diocesan AW President, I have also served as President of the Sisterhood of St. Photini AW of St. Andrew.

My youth was spent in Starkville, Mississippi, home of Mississippi State University. Bubba and I met while he was a student there. I attended Millsaps College, graduating with a B. S. in Biology. I joined Bubba as a resident of Pensacola, Florida, his hometown, after marriage. Our two children, Tony and Mary Alex, grew up with the white sand beaches of Perdido Key FL and Orange Beach AL and the beautiful waters of the Gulf of Mexico as their playground! In addition to Tony's wife and two children, Mary Alex is also married. She and her husband David and children Ella and Lena reside in Decatur AL.

Vocationally, I loved teaching biology, anatomy & physiology, science research, and other science classes for thirty-one years to high school students. Upon retirement from teaching in 1998, I switched from a part-time to full-time agent in resort real estate sales and condo rentals with Tampary Brothers Real Estate, owned by Bubba and his brother and located in Orange Beach AL. We still maintain our sales business.

As an Orthodox Christian for almost fifty years, I am committed to spreading the Gospel to build the Body of Christ, both within the framework of my home parish of St. Andrew, our diocese and archdiocese, and beyond.

Sh Myrna Martin - Vice President



I'm originally from Guatemala, C. A. Married to H. Edward Martin II of Nashville 37 years ago who is the CEO of a small college in Pulaski, TN and a Deacon in our church. I'm a graduate of the children's program Sesame Street (concerning the English language) and I'm one of those blessed

women whom Metropolitan Phillip of Blessed memory welcomed the Evangelicals 27 years ago. I'm growing! Every time I attend Great Vespers, I feel green leaves growing within me, The Divine Service is filling my heart with the Living Waters of Life, the Midweek Vespers keeps me fertilized constantly, and best of all knowing that the teaching and example of all who follow Christ will keep me grounded.

We have three adult children: Miriam, Henry and Stephen. The first two are engaged to be married in May and November of this year. Very exciting events. I'm very sold on the work in the church, and I love what I do. I'm very active in our community and I enjoy teaching Spanish. I'm a Preschool teacher as well as a tutor. I enjoy embroidering, reading, gardening, and cooking. I'm small in stature but big in ideas and a

willing heart concerning the welfare of the place where God placed us to live.

Coming from another country and finding the Pearl of Great Price in middle Tennessee is a miracle of miracles, with the Church's teaching in my heart I walk and thank God for all those who pray continuously for ALL.

Sh. Sydney Werthmuller - Recording Secretary



I am Sh. Sydney Werthmuller but I go by Sh. Syd. I have been happily married to Dn. Ted for 35 years this coming October. He just became a Deacon 3 years ago.

I grew up an Air Force brat and got to travel all over the South and West of America and visited Japan for 2 years. It was a wonderful childhood except for constantly having to make new friends. That taught me how to get my feet wet in new situations, however.

I belong to St. Andrew's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Pensacola, FL where we have been happily ensconced for about 7 years now. I sing in the Choir and teach our youngest children in Sunday School which enlightens me to no end. They are so involved and know so much.

I have 2 wonderful children: Mary, who is a nurse outside of Atlanta, GA and is married to Blake King who is a manager; and, Ted, who is a student at Florida State University. He will graduate in the summer. He plans to come home for a year and then attend the Seminary to become a priest. He has wanted this since he was seven years old.

I work at the Escambia County Tax Collector's office. I collect tax payments, issue car titles and registrations, driver's licenses and take people on road tests. The last part is very interesting. I've had two teens hit parked cars, even though I've warned them to STOP! I do enjoy the work as I love working with people, rather than just computers, although that factors in, as well.

I have been Secretary of the Antiochian Women's Board of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast for three years and have enjoyed the conferences and meeting all of you. It is fulfilling work and my pleasure to fill this position.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Parish Life Conference in Orlando in June.

Salma Zacur - Treasurer



I am excited to serve as the Treasurer for the Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast. This position is allowing me the opportunity to meet new friends throughout the Diocese and learn more about what we can do to support our churches and communities.

Born and raised in Zaidal-Homs Syria and immigrated to the U.S. after meeting my husband of 34 years, Yamil Zacur. The church community has been a part of my life since as long as I can remember.

I have been blessed to be an active member of the Saint George Cathedral family in Coral Gables Florida for over 30 years. A family and community who cares, share and work together towards a common goal of fellowship and worship. At St. George Cathedral, I have held offices in the Fellowship of St. John the Divine, Antiochian Women and served as the Teen SOYO advisor. Currently, I am the Stewardship Committee chair for our Cathedral. Our AW local chapter is very active and faithful group of women that strive to serve our Cathedral and glorify God in all endeavors. We receive much encouragement from Father Fouad Saba and Kh. Diana. We truly are Blessed.

Professionally, I have been working at the Florida Department of Financial Services, Division of Rehabilitation and Liquidation for the past 22 years. Currently, I serve as an Estate Manager / Deputy Receiver for Insurance Companies placed in Receivership.

For me, it is a blessing to have learned about commitment, dedication and the importance of involvement with the church. As Antiochian Women we should be thankful and grateful to have the opportunity to bring people together, get others involved and serve in the church.

Georgette Ioup - Public Relations Director



I grew up in the Orthodox Church - literally. My late grandfather, Protosyngellos George Kattouf, was the priest of our parish of St. George in Altoona, PA. We grandchildren spent a great deal of time at the church and rectory with our

grandfather and aunts. Of course, we had to attend all the services and were expected to behave, all this while not understanding a word because the services were in formal Arabic.

After high school I left Altoona and moved around quite a bit, finally finishing my studies by getting my masters and Ph.D. in linguistics in New York City. My research focuses on language acquisition in children and adults. Since graduation I have taught at Queens College in New York, the University of Washington in Seattle, University of Texas in Austin, and at the University of New Orleans for the last 25 years. I am now a retired professor emerita. At various times I spent a spaced out total of 5 years teaching at the American University in Cairo, a city I have come to love and feel at home in and where my heart aches seeing the turmoil there.

I have two children, a daughter who is a school teacher in New York City and a son who lives in New Orleans with his wife and two-year old baby and who works as a computer scientist. I was motivated to move to New Orleans because one of my brothers and his wife were living here and were both also teaching at the University of New Orleans. It has been a blessing to be surrounded by family.

Since moving here in 1985, I have been a member of St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church in Metairie, LA where I was a Sunday school teacher for almost 20 years. I served as a past president of our parish Antiochian Women and have been treasurer for the last eight years. For the past three years it has been my privilege to serve on the board of our Diocese Antiochian Women as public relations coordinator.

Lisa Phillips- Immediate Past President



I am Lisa Phillips, the past president for the Antiochian Women in the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast. I live in Hiram, Georgia and attend St. Stephen Orthodox Church. I am the mother of Rebecca, Rachel, Anna Ruth, and Marissa. My daughters are truly my joy!

When asked what I do with my life I respond: I do what needs to be done from day to day for the glory of God. I am blessed to live near the church and my family. I have home schooled my three older girls through 8th grade. I am now home schooling Marissa who is in 4th grade. I work part-time as a hostess at a local restaurant and

serve as secretary/treasurer for our parish.

I have been blessed to help with the Antiochian Women in years past, serving in various positions in our Diocese. I now serve on a local level as president of the Myrrhbearers of St. Stephen, working with a wonderful group of women who love God and His Church. I am also actively involved in the Georgia Right to Life organization and serve as president of the Paulding County Right to Life chapter. I feel it is essential that Orthodox Christians must raise their voice to defend the unborn, the disabled, and the elderly. I strive to please God by standing up for what is right and good.

It brings glory to God when we serve from the heart! Oh, there are many days when I want to sit and do nothing, but I continue and strive to be and do what God asks. I am reminded often "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58). As Orthodox women may we see that God has given us many opportunities to serve in everyday life. We can "be Christ" to those around us if we will only watch, listen, and obey.

Dawn Evanchos - Humanitarian



My name is Dawn Evanchos and I am the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Southeast and Miami. I grew up in Upstate NY where I met and married my high school sweetheart, Ron. I converted to Orthodoxy when we were married in 1991, and I have never looked back!! We have been blessed with two beautiful daughters.

Sarah is a freshman in college studying biochemistry and Lauren is about to start middle school and is an aspiring singer and avid piano player. In fact, this year she joined our church choir and absolutely loves it!

Our family has been attending All Saints Church in Raleigh since we moved to this area in 1997. I have served as the secretary, vice chair and chair of our ladies group over these past 16 years, as well as teaching Sunday School for about 13 years. The past two years, I have also been co-chair of the teen SOYO, which has been, by far, the biggest challenge I have faced in a long while! (My favorite saying about teens: organizing teens is like trying to herd cats- nearly impossible!) In my off time, I work as a family practice physician assistant in our local community. I thank God, and our ladies, for letting me humbly serve this past year.

Andrea Abu-Akel - Membership Coordinator



I was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan where I spent my teen years involved in the Midwest Region SOYO as Secretary, Vice-President, President and later, Advisor, until I moved to Miami in the mid-80's. Without delay, I joined St. George Cathedral, Coral Gables and continued to be active in all our organizations throughout the last 30 years.

Currently, I serve as vice-president of our Cathedral Parish Counsel, was President of our local AW for three years prior, and continue to be an active member of our AW chapter. I am married to a wonderful, multi-talented man, Atalla, also known as "Mr. Fix-It" in our parish! We are blessed with twin 8-year old boys, Michael and Andrew, and a beautiful teenage daughter Natalie. Our family is very active in all aspects of our Cathedral life and we are fortunate to have such a loving extended family at St. George. I work full time as a paralegal for a large law firm based out of Tampa and in my 'spare' time, I love to bake and watch old classic movies. It is an honor to be a part of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Board working alongside my fellow sisters.

Religious Coordinator—Vacant



AW DMS Board at Delegates Meeting, January 25, 2014

Left to Right: Andrea Abu-Akel, Sh. Myrna Martin, Salma Zacur, Dorothy Tampary, Fr. Stephen Rogers, Sh. Syd Werthmuller, Lisa Phillips, Dawn Evanchos

Happenings Around The Diocese Of Miami and the Southeast

The Antiochian Women of **St. George Cathedral in Coral Gables, Florida**, as is the case in every parish, are the mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers, aunts, and sisters of everyone in the Church. This is the reason the AW are able to make a difference in the community by helping others in need, supporting the Church in every endeavor, and keeping the harmony of the parish intact by uniting their individual families into the one life of the Church. This is only made possible by the AW working together as one unit, as one laboring hand and in one spirit!

A few examples of this God-loving labor are below with photos:

1. **"Family Night"** - The AW of St. George Cathedral in Coral Gables, FL have hosted a series of events entitled, "Family Night." The photos below are from the January 2014 Family Night, when families learned some

new recipes before enjoying an evening of food, fun, and fellowship.

2. **March was "Antiochian Women Month."** In addition to assisting during the Liturgy with several tasks during the month of March, the AW hosted a few fundraisers such as the "Cheesefare Luncheon," "Soup and Salad Luncheon," and, most importantly, the "Walk for Orphans," which raised \$7620.00 for this year's Archdiocese AW project.

3. **Great Lent, Holy Week, and PASCHA** - The Antiochian Women helped prepare for the Holy Season by decorating the Bier (Tomb of Christ) and the whole Church, preparing the Lenten meals after the Madayeh services on Friday nights, and much more.

Lama Elhaj, Antiochian Women President



Happenings Around The Diocese Of Miami and the Southeast

The Antiochian Women of the **St. Ignatius chapter in Franklin, TN** have just completed a successful fund raising effort for our NAB project, Orphans of War in Syria. Raising over \$8,000 in support of the orphans, as well as a tribute to His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP of blessed memory, has been a blessing.

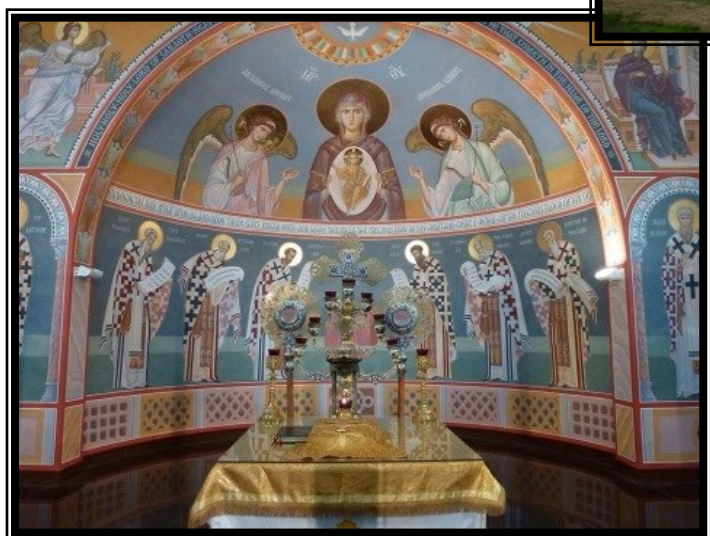
Another area to which our women have donated funds is our church school program, the “*Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*”. Now, in its third year of training and implementation, our children are learning about their faith in a practical, hands-on way. It is our women’s love for our growing population of children that inspired us to donate funds for the making and implementing of the materials necessary for this program.

The Antiochian Women of St. Ignatius meet throughout the year to fellowship at luncheons hosted by parishioners, participate in the “*Friends in Need*” mailing to others in our diocese and provide meals for functions as well as for those who are sick or recovering from childbirth, for mercy meals, and the list goes on!

Each fall a retreat committee arranges an inspirational retreat for the women of St. Ignatius as well as to women from sister parishes. This past fall, we were inspired and taught about iconography. Our Topic was “The Glory of Byzantine Iconography (Theology in Color)”. The speakers were Jennie Gelles and Mary Lowell who are parishioners from St. Michael Church in Louisville, KY. As our iconographers return for the second phase of iconography in our new temple, the Antiochian Women will step up again to make sure they don’t go hungry during the weeks they will be with us!

Life at St. Ignatius is vibrant, busy, and blessed! The Antiochian Women of St. Ignatius work ceaselessly as they serve Christ through serving one another!

—Kh. Terry Rogers, Fund Raising Coordinator



Happenings Around The Diocese Of Miami and the Southeast

We are blessed at **St. Stephen in Hiram, Georgia**, to be actively involved in anointing the body of Christ through acts of mercy. We strive to love God by loving others and giving to those in need.

We have been seeking to raise money for the Orphans of War in Syria with various fundraisers throughout the year. This year we have sponsored several “shops”: a Christmas Shop during Advent, a Candy Shop during February for Valentine’s Day (see picture below), and a Spring Shop during March and April. Our people have enjoyed these shops and have contributed to this worthy effort.

We have also committed to making kits to be sent to the IOCC for the people of Syria. During Advent we collected baby kits and then purchased items from the church. On the Sunday before St. Nicholas’ Day the ladies helped the young people and we assembled these kits. We were able to send 26 kits to the IOCC (see picture below). During Lent we collected health kits and again purchased items from the church, assembling these kits on the Sunday of the Adoration of the Holy Cross. With these and those donated, we collected 154 kits (see picture below)! We plan on collecting and assembling school kits during the summer months.

We seek to serve our parish, our Diocese and Archdiocese, and above all, God by serving others. May all that we do bring glory to Him!

Submitted by Lisa Phillips



At **Holy Trinity Orthodox Church Antiochian Women in Little Rock, Arkansas** raised over \$2,000 for the orphans of war in Syria on Sunday, February 16th. Congregants brought their favorite sandwiches and specialty dishes to auction during coffee hour and participated in both a live and silent auction to raise the funds. Donated items included fly fishing trips, home weatherization, cooking and sewing lessons which were sold to the highest bidder.



Julia Campbell with the local auctioneer



Father Joseph Biddle at the auction

Happenings Around The Diocese Of Miami and the Southeast

As parishioners of **St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Springdale, Arkansas** entered church on Sunday March 9th for the Sunday of Orthodoxy Divine Liturgy, they were greeted at the door by Kate Salem, Jessica Browne, and Talitha Lourie who took turns passing out the “I am an Antiochian Woman” stickers. After the singing of Holy God, Susan Campbell (pictured), chanted the Epistle. During the Megalynarion Hymn to the Theotokos, Hannah Scherer and Isabella Kavouris were blessed to collect the offering. At the end of the service, Hannah Mindeman (pictured) received the blessing to read the Sermonette. Throughout Antiochian Woman’s month Ladies of St. Nicholas (accompanied often by younger girls) were scheduled to participate in ushering, taking the collections, holding the antidoron, and chanting the Epistle.

This year has been an important year in parish growth and vision for St. Nicholas. The University parish (serving the University of Arkansas Orthodox Christian Fellowship), only this past year, had its status upgraded from “Mission” to “Middle-Sized Parish” following the ordination of three subdeacons by Bishop Antoun in February 2013, all of which has slowly begun to amend the identity of the St. Nicholas community. We are blessed to have a wonderful pastor in Fr. John Atchison and a loving mother of our community in Kh. Marilyn, who offered us a thoughtful homily this year at the Liturgy for the Feast of Annunciation (pictured). After our chapter President (Jennifer Mary Fox) made a personal connection with Fr. Konstantine Lautillo at Antiochian Village, The Ladies of St. Nicholas with joy embraced the project of *diakonia* and love of supporting our sister Antiochian Mission Church, St. Theophan the Recluse in Manila, Philippines (see picture) by selling their beautifully hand-crafted prayer ropes and using full-color photos of Fr. Konstantine and Kh. Marina Lautillo and their parishioners (many of whom are children) to convey the significance. Sponsoring this mission has helped us grow in love and has reengaged a sense of purpose and a larger sense of community.

Stirred to prayer when the Metropolitans in Syria were kidnapped, the Ladies were inspired to initiate an Intercessory Prayer rule. Then, this Lent the chapter began a first-ever attempt at a *Praying the Psalter* Project (see picture). It has been a rewarding challenge to find the moment each day to do our Trisagion prayers, our assigned daily Kathisma, and conclude with a commemoration of each person in our virtual prayer group and the Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim. Although only a fraction of our community can claim Middle Eastern ancestry, we have all identified with the plight of the Syrian orphans of war and have been moved by the 2014 Project initiated by our Father and Metropolitan Philip, of eternal memory; to that end we have distributed collection jars and will be having a Palm Sunday Fish Soup & Salad Fundraiser. While we now mourn the passing of our beloved Metropolitan Philip, it is our prayer that our ministry in the service of Christ according to the principles of *Antiochian Women* founded by our Father, Metropolitan Philip, will continue the fruit of his labors to God’s glory. Memory Eternal, + Sayedna!



Happenings Around The Diocese Of Miami and the Southeast

The Antiochian Women of **St. John in Memphis, Tennessee**, hosted their 4th Annual Dinner & A Show event. This evening of fun provides our parish with a lovely meal (provided by the ladies of the AWSJ), a talent show showcasing the many talents of our parish and a dessert auction (more fun than you can ever imagine!). The proceeds and donations from this evening were for the NAB Project, Help the Orphans of War in Syria.



At **St. Basil in Metairie, Louisiana** we had two events of note. One is a performance by the Golden Gate balalaika dance troop from Moscow who performed at St. Basil during their U.S. tour, on their way to performing at the White House.

We also had the ordination of our Deacon Mark McNary to the priesthood in December. He was ordained by Bishop JOHN because he became the new priest at the Western Rite parish of St. Peter in Fort Worth, TX. Bishop JOHN is in charge of the Western Rite parishes.

—Georgette Ioup, Antiochian Women Public Relations Officer



At **Holy Cross in Ormond Beach, Florida**, we continue to support our Deacon, an O.C.M.C. Missionary family heading for Guatemala, and the homeless in our area. We also continue our connection to a local domestic abuse agency offering financial help for women and children. We have recently reached out to several members of our Parish who struggle with medical and financial challenges.

As always, we meet monthly for fellowship and spiritual guidance from our Father Michael. It is at these times that we discuss how best to use our talents and resources in reaching out to our sisters and brothers in need. By the Grace of God, our Guild is continually blessed with hardworking and committed women who are truly Sisters in Christ.

Your Sister in Christ, Fran Brown, President

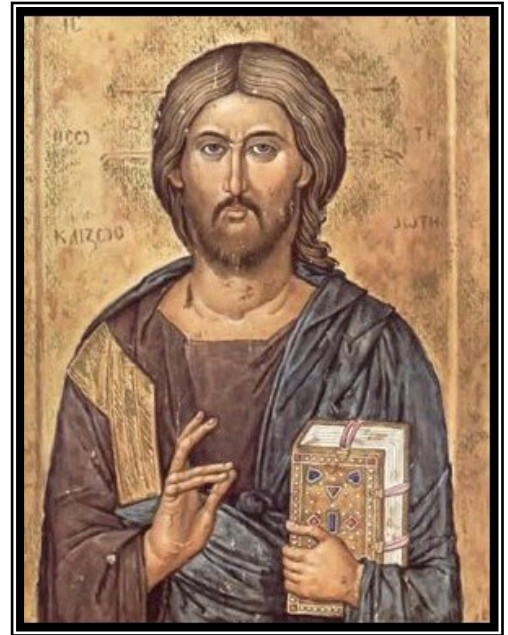
A NOTE TO DIOCESAN PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTORS:

All articles, news from parishes, photos, bios and messages are due the first of the month PRIOR to the month of publication.

Please collect and email them to lucy.hanna@sbcglobal.net according to the schedule below:

The following items are needed to highlight your diocese:

1. Bios and photos from your Diocesan Bishop, Spiritual Advisor and Board Members.
2. Messages from your Diocesan Bishop, Spiritual Advisor and President.
3. Photos and news articles from the diocese or parishes.
4. Notices of diocesan gatherings, retreats, conferences, etc.



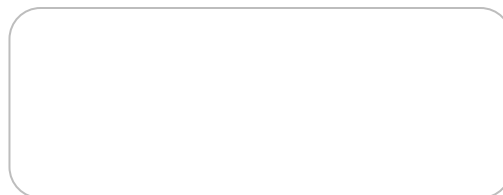
	Diocese	Date of Publication	Date Due
1	NAB Board (His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP, His Eminence Archbishop JOSEPH, and His Grace Bishop JOHN)	September 2013	Done
2	Diocese of New York and the Archdiocesan District (His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP & His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS). Diocese of Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic (His Grace Bishop THOMAS)	December 2013	Done
3	Diocese of Los Angeles and the West and the Diocese of Eagle River and the Northwest (His Eminence Archbishop JOSEPH)	March 2014	Done
4	Diocese of Miami and the Southeast (His Grace Bishop ANTOUN)	June 2014	Done
5	Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate NY (His Grace Bishop ALEXANDER)	September 2014	<u>August 1, 2014</u>
6	Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest (His Grace Bishop ANTHONY)	December 2014	November 1, 2014
7	Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America (His Grace Bishop BASIL)	March 2015	February 1, 2015
8	Diocese of Worcester and New England (His Grace Bishop JOHN)	June 2015	May 1, 2015

To ensure publication in the next issue, please submit your news and articles by this date.



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

Lucy Hanna
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Mark your Calendars for the 2014 Parish Life Conferences

Diocese	Dates	Host Parish
Diocese of Wichita	June 11 - 15	St. Ephraim Church, San Antonio, TX
Diocese of Miami	June 11 - 15	St. George Church, Orlando, FL
Diocese of Worcester	June 19 - 22	St. George Church, Boston, MA
Diocese of Toledo	June 25 - 29	St. John Church, Ft. Wayne, IN
Dioceses of Los Angeles and Eagle River	July 2 - 6	St. Nicholas Church, San Francisco, CA
Dioceses of Charleston and New York	July 2 - 6	St. George Church, New Kensington, PA
Diocese of Ottawa	July 2 - 6	St. Elias Church, Syracuse, NY