

DIAKONIA

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA



Winter 2012/2013

Featuring the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest



+ Memory Eternal!

His Beatitude Ignatius IV (1920-2012), Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, fell asleep in the Lord on Wednesday, December 5th, 2012, at St. George Orthodox Hospital in Beirut Lebanon, after having suffered a stroke earlier in the week.

Beloved Clergy of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest, Christ is in our midst.

You have likely already received notification from His Eminence Metropolitan Philip (through Fr. George Kevorkian) regarding the passing of His Beatitude Patriarch Ignatius IV. We are all saddened by the great loss suffered by the Patriarchate of Antioch, including this Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America.

As I mentioned in a previous e-mail, I had the opportunity to meet with His Beatitude one year ago as Archbishop Joseph, Bishop John, Bishop Nicholas, about 50 men, women and youth from this Archdiocese and I traveled to the "Beautiful Mountain" (Balamand) in Lebanon for the consecration of 3 new Antiochian Bishops and the elevation to Archbishop. Patriarch Ignatius personally greeted each member of the delegation in his home, constructed just steps from the Balamand Monastery and the University of Balamand. He served a beautiful Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning as he laid his hand upon the head of each of our new hierarchs. His love for the flock of Christ was evident in every way throughout our visit.

These are just a few of the memories that I will hold with me. I know that many of you know well or have met His Beatitude and have personal memories of your own.

And to remember, in the Orthodox understanding, is to "re"-member - to make present with us again. As we all have experienced his leadership of the Church of Antioch, with the directing hand of the Holy Spirit, let us all remember our beloved Patriarch Ignatius IV in our prayers and in the Holy Eucharist.

Please accept my personal condolences to you for your loss. May his memory be eternal.

+Bishop ANTHONY

Auxiliary Bishop of Toledo and the Midwest

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

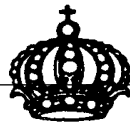
- All articles must be of interest to or regarding NAB, Diocesan or local Antiochian Women.
- All articles may be edited for length and clarity.

In this issue of the DIAKONIA we highlight the
The Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

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"**.



The Orthodox Advent Tradition

Contemplating the blessings of the Advent season, at times we ponder whether we have lost our blessings to the material world in which we live. Surrounded by ostentatious displays of wealth and unhealthy indulgences, we realize that they are slowly taking the place of more appropriate preparations for the celebration of Christmas. The very foundation of the Christmas Feast is the birth of an unassuming Child born quietly, humbly. The King of Glory was born of a mother who was turned away from every house, in a cave among the animals who could not speak.

Advent is the time of our preparation to meet the Lord of Lords. Certainly, we desire to offer our best gifts to the Christ Child, but they must be gifts of substance - the gifts of prayer, repentance, forgiveness and love. We want to adorn Him with our virtues.

In the words of King David, “A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise.” Advent gives us the opportunity to offer Him hearts that were broken but now healed, minds that were filled with turmoil now at peace and bodies once diseased now whole and healthy. These are the gifts that He desires of us – our entire person healed, changed and renewed through the despising and renouncing of sin.

Making the effort of fasting, heightened prayer and almsgiving during Advent prepare us to receive the Christ Child. How will He recognize us as His own if we are stained with pride, self-love and the stench of un-repentant sin? Meanwhile, when we repent truly and deeply, through our tears and His mercy, our sins are washed away and we are purified. He accepts us with great joy and is well pleased.

Advent is the time of year prescribed by the Holy Orthodox Church as an opportunity for renewal, for a

re-dedication of our lives to Him. Just as He was born to give His life for us, so, too we renew ourselves and are born in the Spirit. In so doing, we offer ourselves to God just as our Lord Jesus Christ offered Himself for us on the Cross.

While we speak of the birth of Christ, we remember His offering on the Cross. Just as Advent is the foreshadowing of Great Lent, one is the preparation for the joy of the Resurrection and the other lays the groundwork for the same event through His Incarnation. We are reminded that Christ was first born incarnate and then resurrected. We follow that example, seizing the opportunity for spiritual renewal.

Repentance in any moment gives us the gift of renewal. After Baptism, repentance through confession and liberating ourselves from sin, places us in a restored state and now properly prepared to experience the true joy of the Feast of the Nativity.

As my beloved in Christ, I urge you not to be ‘distracted with much serving’ as was Martha during Jesus’ visit. In gratitude for all that He has blessed you with, “choose the good part which will not be taken from you”. This Advent, make a change and prepare the best gift possible for the Greatest Guest. Prepare yourselves in order to receive the true joy of this Holy Season - the realization that the Savior is born within you.



Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

News from St. George Church of Indianapolis

New Temple Construction Project

On Saturday, August 25, 2012, Fr. Nabil Hanna and about 350 parishioners and friends of St. George parish joined for the service of Founding a New Church and the Groundbreaking Ceremony, presided over by His Grace Bishop Anthony.

On September 19, construction began as the big Diesel Engines fired up on the earth movers.

Construction continued despite the rain and the foundations were poured and progress was made under the able supervision of the construction manager, Mr. David Mouck. Forms for the lower level walls were up and filled with concrete.

On Saturday, November 17, the lower level slab was blessed and the Cross, icons, photos, prayers and mementos were placed into the foundation, under where the altar will be, before the workers poured the concrete for the floor. Next the bell tower was poured. In the photo on the bottom you can clearly see the concrete floor of the lower level through the large daylight openings. You can also see the steel structure for the columns and the horizontal beams that will support the main level floor. Completion is expected by Summer 2013.



May God continue to bless and lead Fr. Nabil and the parishioners of St. George Church to the completion of their new temple and grant them many years.

Metropolitan PHILLIP Award

The Metropolitan PHILIP Award was created by the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest in 1991 on the occasion of Metropolitan PHILIP's 25th year in the episcopacy. The purpose of establishing the award was to recognize outstanding leadership qualities and contributions by the members of Midwest Antiochian Women to the diocesan organization. Award recipients must have been active at both the parish level and the Diocesan level of the Antiochian Women.



Each year the Midwest Antiochian Women forms a nominating committee of five previous recipients to solicit and review nominations received from parishes throughout the Midwest. The award is announced at the annual Parish Life Conference and consists of a certificate and an engraved sterling silver pin.

Any member who was previously in good standing of a parish within the boundaries of the Diocese of Toledo regardless of where she currently resides, is eligible to receive the Award. She must be active in local parish programs and be certified by the priest. Further, she must be

active and contribute regularly to the programs of her Diocesan Antiochian Women for a minimum period of five years. The recipient must represent the ideals of the Antiochian Women: Christian leadership, awareness and commitment, sense of fellowship and expression of love and service and charitable deeds.

To date the Midwest Antiochian Women have presented the award to 22 women. The most recent recipient was JoAnn Shahin Hawkins (pictured above), of St. George, Flint Michigan who received the award at the Midwest Parish Life Conference held in Oak Brook, IL in June 2012. Pictured below are previous recipients of the award. The present diocesan coordinator of the Award is Geri Ferris.



St. Andrew Church, Lexington, Kentucky

At St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Lexington, KY we have an active women's group that dedicates their time to charity and working in the Church. Nancy Holloway, one of our members, does Bible Study once a week at the local women's prison. She has developed a relationship with these women the last few years and during the Christmas season we collect small gifts for these women to give their children. This helps them show their love and encourages them to make different choices than their mother's did. We also make Linus blankets in November and donate them to the local Children's Hospital to be

used for children with long term illnesses. This year the women with the parish started a relationship with Habitat for Humanity and built raised vegetable garden bed and will teach them how to grow vegetables in the Spring to help subsidize their income to help feed their family. Each year we help at God's pantry, a local food pantry, to help sort items as well as do a food collection. And last but not least, our women help with our Heritage Festival in all aspect from cooking, baking, crafts, silent auction, set-up and clean - up.

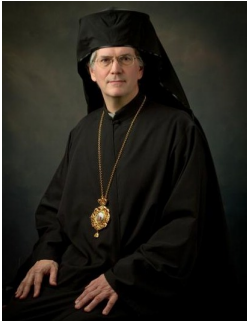
St. George Church, Troy, Michigan

On September 21, 2012, the Ladies Society of St. George (Troy, MI) presented their 40th Annual Fashion Show. The elegant event was themed "Fashions on the Red Carpet/Oscar Night" and evoked themes from Hollywood including strobe lights at the entrance, vignettes of movie scenes, Oscars as the centerpiece and lots of additional glitz and glamour throughout the show. The evening included dinner, fashions from Lakeside

Lord & Taylor modeled by St. George parishioners, musical interludes and a surprise visit from Marilyn Monroe. Over 320 people enjoyed the evening and took home many lovely gifts donated as theme baskets, raffle prizes, and door prizes. Event co-chairs, Joanne Ayoub and Jackie Lyszak, definitely took home the Oscar for "Best Producers" of an award winning show!

Introducing The 2011 - 2013 Board of Antiochian Women Of the Diocese of Toledo and the Mid-West

The Right Reverend Bishop ANTHONY -



Diocesan Bishop

Bishop Anthony was born Richard Anthony Michaels on the feast day of St. Anthony the Great (January 17, 1956) to parents Anthony and Gertrude Michaels and was baptized at St. Symeon the Stylite Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church in Ironwood, Michigan. Rick was raised with his sister,

Joanne, and brother, Craig. The Orthodox church in Ironwood is pan-Orthodox and, therefore, included all ethnic Orthodox communities in the city. Fr. Anthony's father is Lebanese and his mother is Serbian. As a teenager, he was active in all varsity athletics at Ironwood High School, including his role as the starting quarterback of his football team.

Bishop Anthony attended the University of Michigan, where he received his B.A. in Literature, Science and the Arts, having a double major in History and English literature. Following his university degree he attended St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, New York, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree and graduated as a valedictorian of his class. Besides English, he has a reading knowledge of biblical Greek and is currently learning Arabic, at the request of His Eminence Metropolitan Philip.

He taught modern philosophy at Gogebic Community College in Ironwood, Michigan, before becoming a pastoral assistant and youth director at St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, for two years. He and fellow seminarian Fr. Patrick Kinder held positions of youth coordinators at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church in Akron, Ohio, while they toured the country giving concerts and retreats as part of the group KERYGMA. Fr. Anthony also spent two years based in Nashville, Tennessee, at St. Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church in Franklin, Tennessee, recording for KERYGMA with Fr. Patrick and Fr. Michael Shanbour. Bishop Anthony has lectured extensively in North America, speaking to youth groups and church retreats for various jurisdictions besides his own.

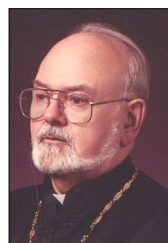
His Grace was ordained to the diaconate on September 18, 2004, and to the priesthood on September 19, 2004,

at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in West St. Paul, Minnesota, under the pastorate of the Very Rev. John Khoury, of blessed memory, and by the laying on of hands of Bishop Antoun. He was able to serve his home parish for seven months before he was given his assignment to lead the faithful of St. John Chrysostom Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Bishop Anthony inspired and oversaw the design and construction of the new church facilities at St. John Chrysostom Church in Fort Wayne. On the sixth anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood, he had the great honor of hosting Metropolitan Philip for the consecration of the new church on September 19, 2010, at which time he was elevated to the dignity of Archimandrite by the laying on of hands of the Metropolitan. He was subsequently appointed dean of the Indiana Deanery by Metropolitan Philip.

On Sunday, December 11, 2011, Bishop Anthony was consecrated as Auxiliary of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest, for the Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. The consecration took place at the Church of the Dormition of the Theotokos in the Patriarchal Monastery of Our Lady of Balamand, Balamand, Lebanon.

Very Rev. Daniel Daly - Spiritual Advisor



Fr. Daniel Daly is the pastor of St. Nicholas Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He entered the Antiochian Archdiocese in 1980 with his wife. Both had served as missionaries in Rhodesia. He served parishes in Detroit, Danbury, CT, Bergenfield, New Jersey and Beaumont Texas. Father and his wife have two sons, Fr. Raphael Daly and John Daly.

Sheryl VanderWagen - President



I am a member of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan where I serve as Sunday School Co-Superintendent and sing in the choir. I will soon be completing my 2nd term as president of the Midwest Antiochian Women. Along with my husband, Guy and two daughters, Abby (21) and Emily (16), we have been members of St. George for 16 years.

Guy and I were both raised in and attended various Protestant churches before becoming Orthodox 16 years ago. I enjoy reading, cooking, baking among other things. Several years ago a very dear friend, memory eternal, taught me how to bake the Holy Bread for Divine Liturgy. I enjoy doing that for church families when they ask.

I am the ILS (Integrated Library System) Manager for the Lakeland Library Cooperative based in Grand Rapids, a position I've held for 10 years. Before that I served as the public library director for 18 years in Jenison, Michigan. We live in Coopersville, Michigan. I graduated from Hope College in Holland, Michigan and earned my Master's Degree in Library Science from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

I have been truly blessed by the friendships I have gained with my involvement in the Antiochian Women. I have had the privilege of worshipping in many of the churches in our Diocese. That has been a favorite part of attending meetings in various communities both large and small. I encourage everyone to get involved; the rewards far outweigh cost of the time and energy spent. I echo the words of our beloved Apostle, St. Paul who expressed several times in his epistles how much he thanked God for the believers to whom he was writing (Romans 1:8, I Corinthians 1:4, I Corinthians 14:18, Philippians 1:3, Philemon 1:4). In the same manner I thank God for Antiochian Women in all of our parishes. Each and every individual has a contribution to make to the life of their Church and through the Church, to the Diocese and our beloved Archdiocese and beyond.

Dianne O'Regan - V. President/NAB Project/Historian

For Dianne's biography, please see the Fall 2011/Winter 2012 issue of DIAKONIA. You can find it at <http://www.antiochian.org/AW-DIAKONIA>

Kh. Michelle Dresdow - Recording Secretary

No information available.

Barbara Thomas - Treasurer



I am a lifelong member of St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. As a "cradle" Orthodox, I have been an active member of church school, teen SOYO, Parish Council, and Ladies Guild. I have served as church school teacher as well as superintendent, Parish Council president, am currently Ladies chapter treasurer and most recently Midwest treasurer. My husband Steve and I have two daughters, seven grand children and one great granddaughter.

Being raised in a strong Orthodox family, my brothers and sisters have also been very active in the church. This includes my sister, Joanne who is married to the recently retired Fr. Elias Bitar of New Jersey and their daughters Sister Ignatia and Katrina Bitar.

Kh. Jeanette Gallaway - Public Relations



I am presently from Lexington, KY, but born in Midland, PA I am married to Fr. Tom Gallaway and we have 3 wonderful boys Patrick, Michael, and Timothy who are the joy of my life. I am also a registered nurse working in a Cardio Thoracic Intensive Care Unit. I am a graduate of St. Vladimir's Seminary where I obtained my Masters of Divinity, and am the Choir Director in our parish. My parents were of Serbian descent and I was raised in an Orthodox home with many traditions filled with aromas of food and incense reminding us of the beauty of the Orthodox Church. Hospitality was the most important thing I remember from my youth. Being the wife a priest and active in the Antiochian Women is just part of being the Body of Christ. We as Christian women have an obligation to do everything we can to help our Church live and grow. Here at St. Andrew we volunteer at God's Pantry as well as collect food for the needy. We organize retreats for the parish as well as take an annual pilgrimage to the Dormition Monastery during Great Lent. We also collect items for the children of women in the local prison, support a mission priest, give Bibles to each child in the Church School when they complete the 3rd grade. We make Lynus blankets for children with cancer.

Suzanne Perry - Humanitarian Coordinator

I am a member of St. George Antiochian, West St. Paul, MN, where my grandparents, parents, and my family attend and grew up. My husband Tom and I have been married 18 years. We have two wonderful children TJ (15) and Francine (12). I am presently serving as the President of our local Antiochian Women Chapter after a two-year term as Vice President. I teach Sunday School and am the contact person for FOCUS Minnesota. I have Chaired, Co-Chaired Church Fundraiser events for our Bazaar/Dinners/Festivals over the past years. Most of all I attend Church services where I get my strength from above to continue serving and know we can make a difference in this world. Glory be to God!

My career is a Registered Nurse on a Cardio/Thoracic floor at a Christian Hospital in St. Paul, MN. I have been an RN for 26 years. My passion is to help those in need and to serve our Church. We serve Jesus Christ by serving each other and others in need.



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

Lucy Hanna
1853 Kensington Road
Corona, CA 92880



A REMINDER 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	September 2011	Done ✓
2	Diocese of New York and Washington, D.C., Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic	December 2011	Done ✓
3	Diocese of Los Angeles and the West and the Diocese of Eagle River and the Northwest	March 2012	Done ✓
4	Diocese of Miami and the Southeast	June 2012	Done ✓
5	Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate NY	September 2012	Done ✓
6	Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest	December 2012	Done ✓
7	Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America	March 2013	February 1, 2013
8	Diocese of Worcester and New England	June 2013	May 1, 2013

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