

DIAKONIA

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA



Fall 2014

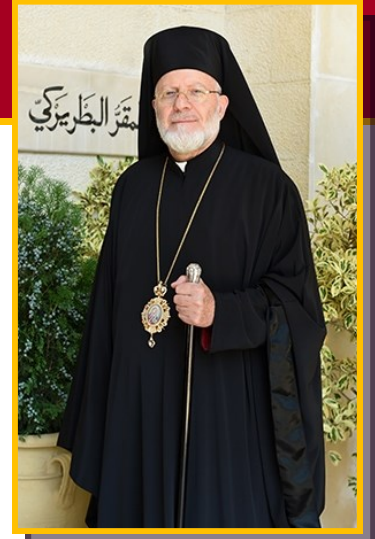
Archbishop JOSEPH Elected Metropolitan of All North America... AXIOS, AXIOS, AXIOS!

The Antiochian Women of North America join the whole Antiochian Archdiocese of North America in celebrating with greatest joy the election of our Father-in-Christ, His Eminence, Archbishop JOSEPH as the new Metropolitan of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. Led by His Beatitude, Patriarch JOHN X, the Holy Synod of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East elected Sayedna JOSEPH at its meeting on Thursday, July 3, 2014 at the historic Our Lady of Balamand Patriarchal Monastery in Northern Lebanon.

Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, Sayedna JOSEPH was one of three hierarchs nominated by the Special Convention of the Archdiocesan clergy and laity in Chicago, Illinois on Thursday, June 5, 2014.

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH was consecrated to the Holy Episcopacy on June 30, 1991 at the St. Mary Cathedral in Damascus, after many years of serving as a deacon and a priest. His Eminence was born in Damascus, Syria, in November 1950. He was consecrated with the title, Bishop of Katana in Syria, and served as Patriarchal Assistant and Secretary of the Holy Synod of Antioch. In 1995, he was sent by Patriarch IGNATIUS IV of blessed memory to America. Here in our Archdiocese, Bishop JOSEPH was assigned to the West Coast Chancery by Metropolitan PHILIP of blessed memory. After self-rule status was awarded to our Archdiocese,

Bishop JOSEPH was enthroned at St. Nicholas Cathedral by Metropolitan PHILIP as the first Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West on September 12, 2004. On December 11, 2011, at the Church of the Dormition of the



Theotokos in the Patriarchal Monastery of Our Lady of Balamand in Lebanon, Patriarch IGNATIUS elevated Bishop JOSEPH to the rank of Archbishop, in honor of his many years of service as a bishop both in our Archdiocese and in the Patriarchate of Antioch.

For the past 20 years, His Eminence has also served as Hierarchical Overseer for the Antiochian Women of North America.

To learn more about His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, go to the following site to read the tribute produced by the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West in 2010 on the occasion of his 15th anniversary of service to the diocese:

<http://www.antiochianladiocese.org/files/SayidnaCommemoration.pdf>



With His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X following the election of His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH in front of the Patriarchal headquarters.

*His Eminence, the Most Reverend JOSEPH,
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America,
May God Grant our Master and Chief Shepherd Many Years!*

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

❧ A SISTERHOOD SERVING CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OTHERS ❧

The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women Of North America

His Eminence, the Most Reverend JOSEPH,
Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of All North America

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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 Ottawa, Eastern Canada
and Upstate New York
With special dedication to our new
Metropolitan JOSEPH**

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 **Founder, Metropolitan PHILIP** of blessed memory, it is "**Theology in Action**".

To read the DIAKONIA online, or for general information regarding the Antiochian Women, please go to the Antiochian Women website at:
<http://www.antiochian.org/women>

To read past issues of DIAKONIA, go to:
<http://www.antiochian.org/AW-DIAKONIA>

Metropolitan JOSEPH's Vision for the Archdiocese

July 17, 2014

At the closing banquet of the 2014 Clergy Symposium, His Eminence JOSEPH, Metropolitan of New York and North America, addressed the clergy stating his vision for the Antiochian Archdiocese of All North America. The following was taken from a transcript posted on Ancient Faith Radio website and copied here with the blessing of His Eminence.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: one God. Good evening. I hope you enjoyed the dinner together, and before I go ahead with my remarks... You know, you have to know that once in a while the bishop has something funny at the airports, so let me start with that.

One time when I was at the security area at the airport, I had my crown in a carry-on case, they said to me, "Can we look at it? What's that?" I said, "This is my hat." They said to me, "Doesn't look like a hat." I said, "Whatever you call it." "No, really, what is it?" I said, "This is my crown." "Wow. Can we look at it? Can we see it? Are these stones real?" I said, "I wish." So the next questioner said to me, "Why do you call it a crown? Are you a prince?" I said, "Higher." "So what comes higher than the prince? Are you a king?" I said, "Higher." So finally he said to me, "No, really. Who are you?" I said, "I am a servant in the Orthodox Church."

Beloved in Christ, that's why we are here, to learn how to become servants and how to serve the real Prince, not any other human being. So we serve and we love our people because we know that when we show them love and mercy and compassion, the love goes to Him directly.

Beloved in Christ, my brothers, my brother-bishops and hierarchs, Bishop Antoun, Bishop Thomas, Bishop John, Bishop Antony, and Bishop Nicholas, and of course we have two brothers who are absent for some good cause—Bishop Basil and Bishop Alexander. They are in our prayer. Beloved clergy, from within our Archdiocese and from outside of our Archdiocese, beloved symposium leaders—Bishop Thomas is the overseer, Bishop Nicholas is the advisor, and Fr. Joseph Allen is the director, and the committee: Fr. Elias Bitar, Fr. Michael Elias, and Fr. Thomas Zain. Thank you very much to all of you for putting everything together within a short time and during this transition. It was very hard to expect a successful symposium, but, truly, it is meet and

right that *this* symposium was very successful. Thank you very much.

The Village family: thank you, John Scanlan. Thank you, John for everything. Thank you, Tim, for feeding us good food. Our

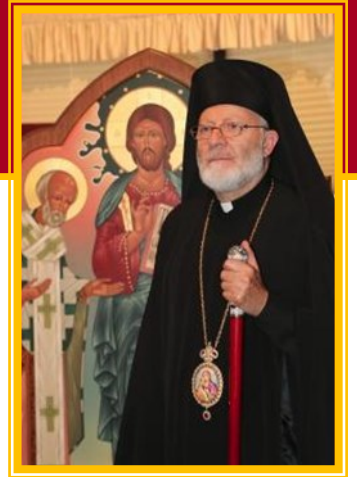
thanks to Tim and to the staff in the kitchen. Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen.

Every day when I am here in this Village, I go walking or jogging in the morning. So they thought that, after I became the metropolitan of this Archdiocese, no more. But when clergy saw me in the morning with my hat and with shorts, they said, "Hi, Abouna! Hi!" and finally they realized that I am the metropolitan. But what I am saying every time I go around the learning center and going into the cemetery there where the holy man, St. Raphael, is buried, and where our metropolitan PHILIP is also there, and other bishops are there, I read on the gate, on the top, this verse from the book, the epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians. It says, "I can do all things, I can do everything, in Christ who strengthens me."

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Spirit be with you all. [And with your spirit.] The psalmist David wrote: "Behold now what is so good or so pleasant as for brothers to dwell together in unity?"

This psalm captures precisely what I have experienced this week as we have gathered together, working and praying in unity. The conference we just had at Balamand Monastery had a big title: "The Antiochian Unity". One week, the whole week, our father-in-Christ Patriarch John and all the hierarchs, many clergy from everywhere—imagine, during the troubles in Syria—60 buses came from Syria to Balamand to express their unity with the mother church, Antioch. They didn't fear. They didn't care about how difficult it was to travel from Syria to Lebanon. Many people were there, many clergy, from everywhere, even from North America; from Australia, from Europe, from Africa, from everywhere.

The Divine Liturgy was held under a tent. We have two churches in the monastery at Balamand, but even the two churches together would not or could not fit all the people who were there. So that's why they decided to



have a pavilion and to have the Divine Liturgy in the very hot weather outside. Over 5,000 people were there in the Divine Liturgy. All that for the glory and for the sacredness of the unity of the Church of Antioch.

Here we have gathered together, working and praying *in* unity. As we leave this holy mountain tomorrow after the Divine Liturgy, we will take this very message of unity back to our parishes and ministries. Our hope is that the various lessons we have all learned here will be incorporated into our everyday practice of priestly service to God and to those entrusted to our care. Tonight I am going to utilize my time by sharing with you my vision for the future of this Archdiocese.

I truly believe that each and every one of us is an important and integral part of this body. We are grateful for everything which our beloved Metropolitan PHILIP, of thrice-blessed memory, created over the past 48 years. We humbly accept the fruit of his labor as well as the labor of the faithful who worked alongside him and the legacy upon which we will now build. We have serious work ahead of us. We don't have time to waste.

While you are at lunch and after lunch during the selectives and until the time of vespers and even after vespers, I was receiving in my suite clergy one after one or group after group. I need to listen to everyone, and this is what I did in the West for over 20 years. The bishop is available for you. Some people here—and this is not a criticism; this is just an observation—some people in this room and this symposium have not greeted me. I understand that. I am not offended. I say it not with resentment or with negativity, but I'm trying to tell those who have not greeted me because maybe they are afraid or they are not accustomed to see a new metropolitan after 48 years. I think next time you have to come, you have to meet me, you have to greet me; I have to meet you, I have to embrace you. You don't have to fear the metropolitan, because the bishop in general and the metropolitan in particular is the father. We have to understand the fatherhood in the Church. There is no unity without fatherhood.

We have serious work ahead of us. We don't have time to waste. Although we begin a new chapter, let me remind you that we are not starting from the beginning. As good stewards, we will only continue the work with which we have been entrusted, and my expectation is that we will continue to work as a team. Yesterday I said to our beloved hierarchs when we met that you have a new metropolitan now, but the metropolitan is not by himself, is not alone. We are working together. We are one body. This is what unity means.

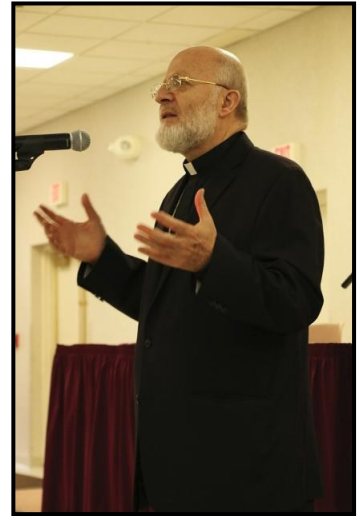
As for myself, I promise you that every decision that is

required of me will come by way of prayer, deliberation, and by the thorough consideration of all pertinent information. I can assure you that I will be acutely attentive to things requiring any significant decision, praying first for guidance in all matters. You need to know that I take very seriously that which our ecclesiology teaches. For direction, I will rely on St. Ignatius of Antioch. His vision of the Church is oneness of mind. This is not in the books. This is here, what we practice. And if we don't practice it, we are not obeying the Church.

His vision of the Church is oneness of mind, meaning that the bishop, together with the council of presbyters and deacons, will serve and guide the people of God. In addition, we must keep in mind that all our bishops are archpastors who, together with me, share the pastoral staff of our chief Bishop, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Bishops must be treated with the respect and reverence that is due to all hierarchs. Together with the effort of my brother-bishops, assisting me in the pastoral burden of this Archdiocese, we will counsel together, communicate carefully, and with their united support I will lead this Archdiocese in a concord of love and oneness of mind.

Now what about you, my dear presbyters? You are the ones whom St. Ignatius calls as counsel of God and as the band of the apostles. The bishop and the priests should never be separated from one another. Perhaps there are those who at times feel put aside or disregarded in some way, but this ought never to be the case. We always stand together. In standing together we are reminded that the Archdiocese of North America is strong, first spiritually and then in its resources. Its reputation precedes it. However, as good as things are and have been, we must never be satisfied with the status quo. As stewards, it is ours to inherit from God and then grow that which was given to me for you to fulfill the word of God.

First, everything we do must be rooted in unifying ourselves with our Lord Jesus Christ, just as the vine and the branches are united. Secondly, all our deeds must be for the good of our salvation. I want to make it very clear that I will respect and abide by all the holy apostolic canons and decisions made by the Holy Synod



and maintain ties with the mother church of Antioch, accurately and precisely, communicating all Church matters between North America and the mother church of Antioch.

In order to maintain true unity within the Archdiocese, I plan to actively visit all our dioceses, one by one, in order to maintain strong ties with our beloved hierarchs. My joy will come from working closely with each of them to first solidify and deepen our spiritual life. It will be important to continue our relationships with all other Orthodox jurisdictions through our work in various pan-Orthodox assemblies and committees. In doing so, the spirit of unity will reflect a global presence.

Concerning the current state of our Archdiocese, in all administrative matters my priority will be to create complete and whole transparency to improve the function of the administrative offices in order to better serve the Archdiocese, to implement updated, fast, professional, and efficient methods of working and communication using technology to our advantage.

I look forward to familiarizing myself more with our clergy, their families, and their needs in order to serve and support them. I anticipate selecting the highest level of quality candidates for the holy diaconate and for the holy priesthood.

It is imperative to focus on evangelism and outreach as the main part of our apostolic mission. It is imperative to focus on evangelism and outreach as the main part of our apostolic ministry, to reach out to the entire nation of North America.

In developing methods of addressing 21st-century

challenges through which the Church will inspire active spiritual life, stronger educational programs are needed on every level, from clergy to laity. The need to develop stronger means by which to reach and encourage our youth to seek a greater commitment to their faith and to their Church will be a priority. This will be realized in part by working more closely with existing organizations, namely, Teen SOYO, Fellowship of St. John the Divine, Antiochian Woman, and the Order of St. Ignatius.

The Archdiocese Board of Trustees has the potential to become more dynamic and effective in a variety of ways. From a bounty of resources, we are in a position to utilize and invest available talents from among the clergy and laity in order to advance the ministries of the Church. It is necessary to unify liturgical practices and establish and encourage serious monastic life as an option for the faithful, both young and old.

By reviewing the status of each individual department within the Archdiocese, we will gain the necessary knowledge in order to effect change or improvement where needed. Having shared just a few thoughts with you here briefly, I ask your prayers. My prayer for all of you comes from the gospel of St. Luke, chapter 12:11-12, where we read: *"Now, when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say"*.

Know that you have my utmost respect, love, and constant prayer, as a father with his children. Peace be with all of you. Thank you for listening.



Left: Clergy from around the Archdiocese gathered at the Antiochian Village for the Bi-Annual Clergy Symposium.



Right: The Clergy singing many years to the new Metropolitan in the St. Peter and Paul Chapel at the Antiochian Village.



I want to begin by saying how much I admire the efforts of the Antiochian Women in our Diocese, as well as in the Archdiocese. I am very proud of them. They have faithfully helped the Archdiocese with all the various projects set out by our late Metropolitan PHILIP, some of which include helping orphans in Lebanon and Syria, the Antiochian Village Camp for our children and contributing to the fund for our retired clergy. And within our own Diocese (and subsequently the Archdiocese), it is the Antiochian Women who developed the scholarship fund to help struggling Orthodox women with their education. Besides this, there is the work that they do in their own parishes. These dedicated mothers, grandmothers, care-givers and often professionals, work hard and continually give of themselves. While it is important to do all this ‘good work’, I question whether the spiritual needs of our women are truly being met. Let’s look at this issue for a moment and ask some important questions.

What things are important for a woman’s spirituality? How can they be provided and on what scale? Are our women educated about their faith, an especially important issue since we live in a society that entices us to believe things contrary to our Orthodox way? Are they being taught about Orthodox family life as a place of spiritual growth and nurturing (especially our women with young families) which includes good and wholesome ways to raise children? Are they being educated and mentored in the role of marriage as taught by the Holy Fathers, a topic that includes the immensely sanctified role of women? Are there Orthodox places for spiritual rest for themselves and their families (e.g. monasteries and retreat centres, etc.)?and I’m sure that there are many more things that each woman could bring to the discussion table as well.

In the years that I’ve been involved as spiritual advisor for the Antiochian Women in our Diocese, the aspect of the spiritual feeding of our women has often been brought up in our meetings as a frequent recurring theme. Many wish it but few feel equipped to do it, is the essence. Perhaps some resources in the Church can be directed towards this. Who knows, perhaps this is the next area for the Antiochian Women’s organization to turn their efforts towards. Charity is always a part of what our women do. It is something that is simply born out of their immense love, but their own spiritual growth is of equally great importance. It affects not only them but the family as a whole, our relationships, our children and our Holy Church. And so I feel it can be said that if we ‘feed’ our women, they will ‘feed’ everyone around them. So after all that I’ve said above, I now ask all of you, “What do you think?”

•THE MYRRHBEARERS•



Beloved Hierarchies, Reverend Clergy and Dear Sisters in Christ.

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We have had a busy year, as have many other Dioceses. I believe we have turned a corner. Our Fall Gathering was very well attended and many of our Sisters in Christ joined us at the Antiochian Women's meeting at the Parish Life Conference.

There is no magic secret to this except constant communication. I have made a point of visiting some of the parishes that are closer to me and contacted by phone the ones that are not as close. As you get to know the presidents of each parish, you realize who is comfortable communicating by email and who would prefer a phone call. I enjoy working to improve our communication and constantly updating our email list. We need to visit each other. We are sisters, so why are we not visiting and getting to know other parishes?



During the month of March, I received a great deal of feedback from the ladies. The "I am an Antiochian Woman" stickers were a unanimous success. I hope we will continue to celebrate March with the "stickers". During Lady's month, many fund raisers were held, and the ladies took on their responsibilities in the Church with pride. We also used March to remind everyone of our special project this year. Our small Diocese raised \$23,305.00 USD towards "Help the Orphans of War in Syria". May God Bless and keep them all safe.

March was also a very sad time for our Archdiocese, with the passing of our beloved Thrice Blessed Metropolitan PHILIP. With very sad hearts we traveled to the funeral in Brooklyn. And signed the memory book: "Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate New York". Upon my return from Brooklyn, I was able to request souvenir bookmarks. I received them within a few weeks, and was able to share them with our Antiochian Women at the PLC. The Ladies were very happy to have the beautiful souvenir photo of Metropolitan PHILIP, memory eternal. We will truly miss his caring heart.

This spring we awarded a \$500.00 Scholarship to a deserving lady from our Diocese. All of our parishes are busy with their Humanitarian work. When I request an update, the ladies are quick to reply. I am constantly reminding them that it does not have to be fancy, just a few lines. Our Diocese has prepared many of the Humanitarian kits for the IOCC, all the while continuing with their local outreach programs. I am so pleased with the generous souls we have had the opportunity to get to know over the years and the good works that are ongoing within the local parishes.

At the meetings that I have chaired over the past few years as president, I tried to review the same four items. 1. To explain what it is to be a Delegate and encourage the ladies to think about it. 2. To review the due dates for the remittance of the Dues and Project monies, and stress the importance of the timing of receipt of the funds. 3. To remind everyone at the meetings that they are Antiochian Women, we have solidarity and need to be proud of it. I remind everyone that if they are female and attend an Antiochian Orthodox Church, then they are Antiochian Women. It is that simple! At the PLC I gave out many of the Antiochian Women pins and encouraged the ladies to wear them. 4. Lastly, I remind the ladies that they are sisters, and as sisters they should visit each other and pray for each other. After each meeting, I send out a summary, in point form, with important dates highlighted. I think it helps people to stay organized, if everything is on one piece of paper.

We had the pleasure of Violet Robbat attending our PLC this summer in Syracuse, NY. It was so very kind of her to make the trip to Syracuse, and the ladies of our Diocese were so glad to have met her. We loved her visit and the story she told us about her trip to Lebanon. While Violet was in Syracuse, we received the news of the election of our new Metropolitan JOSEPH. May God grant him many years.

Please continue to Pray for Peace in the Middle East and for each other.

Thank you to our Bishop ALEXANDER, and our Spiritual Advisor, Father Iskander, for their spiritual guidance and thank you to Violet Robbat, for her constant support.

Introducing The 2013 - 2015 Board of Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York

The Rt Reverend Bishop ALEXANDER - Diocesan Bishop



His Grace Bishop ALEXANDER was consecrated to the Holy Episcopacy on December 5, 2004. His consecrating bishops included His Beatitude IGNATIUS IV at the Patriarchal Cathedral in Damascus, Syria. He was

enthroned as the first Diocesan Bishop of Ottawa, Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York at St. Elias Cathedral in Ottawa, June 12, 2005.

Bishop ALEXANDER served as priest of St. Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Hunt Valley, Maryland from 2000-2004.

Bishop ALEXANDER was born into an Orthodox Christian family in north Lebanon in 1956. He attended Tripoli Boys' School and after passing the Lebanese Baccalaureates I and II, he enrolled in the American University in Beirut. Due to fighting in Lebanon, he was unable to continue his education there and instead moved to the U.S. to attend the University of North Texas. He graduated with a B.A. in 1978 and an MBA in 1980. He returned to Lebanon, where he worked from 1981 to 1985 for a company that imported raw materials for factories.

In October 1985, he returned to the U.S. and found work as a supply manager at Prince George's Hospital in the Washington, D.C. area. After eight years in that job, he worked for a local company that exported medical supplies to the Middle East and then in 1995 was hired by Federated Stores to work as a sales associate for Bloomingdale's in Rockville, Maryland. While there, he wrote to Metropolitan PHILIP requesting his blessing to enter seminary. He was directed to attend St. Vladimir's Theological Seminary in Crestwood, NY, from which he graduated in 2000.

Bishop ALEXANDER was ordained to the Diaconate on January 9, 2000 and to the priesthood on April 9, 2000. He was elevated to the Archimandrite on July 4, 2004. Bishop ALEXANDER's name day is August 30 (St. Alexander, Archbishop of Constantinople).

Very Rev. Fr. Iskander Younes - Spiritual Advisor



Father Iskander was ordained in July, 1993 and served with Fr. Ghattas Hajal as assistant priest at St. Elias Cathedral in Ottawa for 2 years. He moved to St. George Orthodox Church in Richmond Hill (a city near Toronto), Ontario in 1995 and has faithfully served this parish for the past 19 years.

In service to the Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate New York, Fr. Iskander serves as the Dean of the southern Ontario deanery, a position to which he was appointed by His Eminence, the late Metropolitan PHILIP. Besides this, he has begun 2 missions, been the spiritual advisor of the teens, followed by the Order of St. Ignatius and, of course, currently serves as spiritual advisor to the Antiochian Women under the headship of Bishop ALEXANDER.

Father Iskander is married to Khourieh Deborah and has 7 daughters, two of whom are nuns: Sr. Elysia at Dormition Monastery, Michigan, USA and Sr. Tabitha (Sarah) at Monastere Vierge Marie la Consolatrice in the province of Quebec, Canada. He is also blessed with 5 delightful grandchildren.

Susanne Zeidan - President



As a long time Parishioner of St. Elias Cathedral in Ottawa, I grew up in a Christian environment. At the age of 15, my father arrived in Canada and brought with him a strong Orthodox base. From an early age, I remember so clearly attending Sunday School, picnics,

and many Feast Day celebrations, especially for our patron Saint Elias. My mother converted to Orthodoxy when she married, and I believe because she was not Lebanese, my father ensured we knew our heritage. Because of this, we traveled to Lebanon many times as children.

I met my husband in Ottawa shortly after he graduated Engineering from Ottawa University. Due to the situation during 1983, we were married in my father's hometown of Kframishkey, in the southeast of Lebanon. Upon our return to Canada, we continued to attend St. Elias Church. While working full time and raising our family, we maintained a close connection with our Church family.

Both my husband, Dimitri and I have been involved with the operations of the Church and Organizations. I have been active with the Antiochian Women of our Cathedral for many years. We have assisted with the Parish Life Conferences, and have held several positions, including the Church Board. We were on the committee to consecrate our Cathedral in 2000, and to welcome our new Bishop ALEXANDER, to the Diocese.

I have been the Diocesan Antiochian Women President for the past three years and prior to that I held the position of Treasurer for 2 terms.

Thankfully, we are able to travel together often. As a family, we have attended many of the Parish Life Conferences and Archdiocese Conventions. When we can fit it in, we travel to Lebanon to strengthen the family ties we have there. Our three children are in Post Graduate Studies. Katya, Krista and Marcus were raised in the Church, and have devoted many summers to Camp Transfiguration, and belong to many of the Church organizations.

My grandparents and my parents were involved in our local church and we grew up knowing it was our responsibility to continue their legacy. Through the church we have been blessed with many friends and a large Orthodox family. It has been an honour to serve as President of our Diocese, and to get to know the women from the different dioceses. It feels natural to be part of our wonderful parish. We receive much encouragement, support and love from Abouna Hajal and Kh. Helene. I feel we are truly Blessed.

Gehane Ephtimios Zahran - Vice President



I was born in Port-Said (Egypt) where I lived until 1969 when my family moved to Cairo. This is where I met my husband George and we have been married for 39 blessed years. On December 7, 1975 we arrived in Montreal where our life began in a land we adopted by choice!

I come from a Christian Orthodox home. Both of my parents were born in Egypt of Palestinian and Lebanese background. I learned from my parents that volunteering was not an option and that I must always give back to the community. My parish for the past 39 years is St. George church of Montreal. I am on the Adoption committee, was once responsible for the Scouts' movement, and served with the Antiochian Women of our parish over the years as recording secretary, corresponding secretary, co-president and now president.

God has a plan for each one of us; I saw mine unfold during my career. Since my husband and I have not had children of our own, I dedicated my working years, until my retirement, in the adoption and the protection of children where I occupied the position of Executive Assistant in Social Services. Today more than ever, I am closely involved with families from St. George assisting in their adoption process. I truly believe that this was the plan.

I feel honored to be part of the Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada & Upstate New York, and to foster new friendships with my sisters in Christ. May we see the face of God in each other so that we may deserve the love of God!

Nadea Saikaley - Recording Secretary



Born and raised in Ottawa, Canada. I am the eldest of six siblings. My parents came to Ottawa from Lebanon in the very early 60s, both from small villages.

Since joining the Antiochian Women at St. Elias Cathedral, Ottawa about five years ago, I

have been very active in the various events we organize. I have three biological sisters, but have gained more sisters and friendships that will last a lifetime. I am happy to serve as the recording secretary for our Diocese since being elected in 2013.

I have worked for 30 years at the Ottawa Hospital in various departments/divisions for various specialists and continue to work as an administrative assistant. Travelling is one of my favorite past times.

Kh. Helene Hajal - Treasurer



My name is Kh. Helene Makhoul Hajal, married to Archpriest Ghattas Hajal for 48 years.

We are blessed with three children Marlene, Gabriel and Rose-Mary and we feel extremely blessed with seven grandchildren. Katrina, Charles,

Nicholas, Marialena, Gaby Jr., Alexander and Mia.

We relocated to Canada from Lebanon in 1990, at which time I joined the Antiochian Women's organization. This is an organization of sisterhood and friendship and that's where I met wonderful dedicated women who keep working on so many levels for the Glory of God and do not allow themselves rest.

Since we moved to Ottawa in 1992, I have been very involved with the ladies of St. Elias Cathedral in Ottawa in both spiritual and social aspects. In the same year, I was elected President of the A.W. of the Can-Am region. Over the years, I have served as Public Relations Director and Scholarship Coordinator for NAB. I served as Treasurer for one term and many years as the Scholarship Coordinator for our Diocese. Presently I am once again the Treasurer of the Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and upstate New York.

Holding different offices as an A.W. makes me cherish the friendship of all the women with whom I worked and it is a very humbling experience.

I continue to encourage all women to join our organization, especially the young ones and to serve in different capacities.

Lianne Nimey - Humanitarian



I am a 37-year-old Italian. I was born and raised Catholic, attended Catholic schools and have always loved church. I remember being a young girl and walking myself to my neighborhood parish every weekend. I was very upset when my home parish closed. I began

visiting other Catholic churches in my area in hopes of finding a new home, but never did. In 2006 I met my husband Matthew and was introduced to Orthodoxy. I had never heard of the Orthodox Church before I met him. I enjoyed my visit to Saint George and wanted to learn more about the faith. The more I learned the more I knew it was the perfect fit for me. Meeting my husband opened up a whole new world for me. God, as always, provided the path and the rest is history. In the last 8 years I was Chrismated, married and gave birth to two beautiful children whom I am proud to be raising Orthodox. Since my mother-in-law, Cindy Nimey, was at the time the NAB president, it didn't take long until I attended my first meeting at the Antiochian Village. While at the village I met so many wonderful women, some of whom are still active and do so much for their parishes. I began attending meetings at my church and became acclimated and active very quickly. I served as my chapter's president for 3 years but just stepped down after my son was born. Having a 3 year old and a 5 month old, in addition to working full time, gave me a reason to cut back a little. I am however, still the Sunday school superintendent and commit as much time as I can to the ladies group and our endeavors. I am also the Humanitarian Coordinator for our Diocese. This role gives me the opportunity to attend diocesan and national meetings semi-annually if life permits. When I went to the summer meetings at the village a few weeks ago I was able to visit with the women I met 8 years ago and had the privilege of meeting more wonderful women.

Being an Antiochian Orthodox Woman is not something you do for a little while and stop. It is who we are and what we do all the time. May God grant us the strength to continue doing all that we do.

Kh. Suzanne Murphy—Scholarship



Kh. Suzanne Murphy is the wife of Fr. Gregory-Lazarus Murphy. They serve as the clergy family of St. Michael's Parish in Geneva, which is in the Finger Lakes area of Upstate New York. Fr. Gregory says that Kh. Suzanne and he have a true "team ministry"

at St. Michael's -- she is the director of the choir and the sole chanter of the parish, so she is at every service, either chanting or leading the choir (or both). She also serves as his liaison with the Church School faculty, and with the Antiochian Women. She also looks forward to accompanying Father when he visits the elderly and homebound, especially when he brings the Holy Mysteries, as he values her help in singing the service with him.

In the secular world, Kh. Suzanne also has a full-time job as an elementary music teacher in the Geneva Public Schools. She also teaches in the Academic Intervention/Reading Recovery Program of the Geneva school system, where she helps "at risk" children to keep pace with grade-level reading. When they lived in the Boston area before coming to Geneva, Suzanne was named a "Teacher of Distinction" as one of the faculty members of a "National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence." She was also named as one of the "40 Outstanding Teachers in the Arts" by the Boston Symphony Orchestra Education Outreach Committee and the Massachusetts State Department of Education's Massachusetts Cultural Council. Since moving to Geneva, Suzanne has also been an Adjunct Faculty member in the Music Department of Hobart & William Smith Colleges, where she teaches voice. Additionally, she is a faculty member of the St.

Peter's Arts Academy, which is a private arts school serving the greater Finger Lakes area. Suzanne also sings in local and regional ensembles, including the Hobart and William Smith Colleges Chorale, the Syracuse Vocal Ensemble, and as the alto soloist in several productions sponsored by The American Landmarks Concerts Series. She recently sang the role of "The second lady" in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* with the Geneva Light Opera Company. Suzanne has also been grateful to be a long-time member of the Boston Byzantine Choir.

Kh. Suzanne and Fr. Gregory have been blessed with four children: David, Aaron, Adam, and Moriah. In her spare time (whenever she can find any), Suzanne loves to knit and make handmade gifts for her family and friends. She feels blessed to be able to serve as the NAB Religious Coordinator, and as the Scholarship Coordinator for the Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York.

Vacant - Public Relations Director

Janice Saba- Immediate Past President



No biography available

Hoda Saba - Membership Coordinator

No biography or photo available

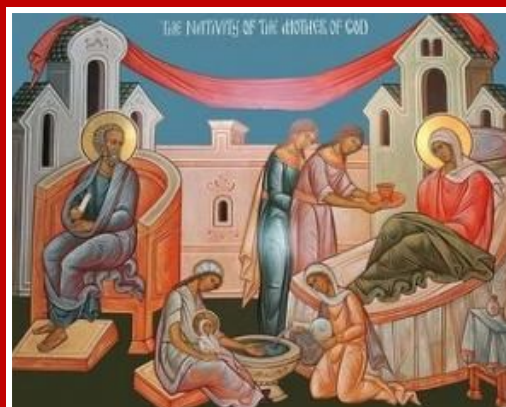
Kh. Adma Shaheen—Religious Coordinator

No biography or photo available

Nativity of the Holy Theotokos (September 8)

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

Apolytikion in Tone 4)



St. Nicolas Church, Montreal, Canada

The Antiochian Women of St. Nicholas Church of Montreal meet regularly to discuss, organize and plan future projects to enrich our community; reach out to the less fortunate and ensure that our faith and culture stay alive.

In October 2013, we organized a pilgrimage to the Monastery of the Virgin Mary the Consolatory. The sisters offered us a tour of the beautiful grounds where they invited us to learn about their daily activities such as icon and candle making. For all, the experience was enlightening and peaceful!

In August 2013, we joined hands in unity with our sister churches, St. George and St. Mary's of Montreal - 3 churches, 1 spirit - for the 1st Annual Antiochian family gathering. Over 275 people came to enjoy a wonderful dinner blessed by all three parish priests.

God has blessed us with a wonderful year and we look forward to many more.

Submitted by Marie Azakie

AW President / St.Nicholas Church of Montreal



St. George Church, Niagara Falls, NY

This year the AW of our Parish, St. George of Niagara Falls, N. Y. decided to answer the many questions regarding making Holy Bread in the Gifted Pan by holding a demonstration on a Saturday morning. We now keep the freezer filled with Gifted Pan bread for those who wish to provide the Prospora.

This has led to a demonstration on making Kibbee. \$200 profit was made by selling the Kibbee.

And many enlightened converts will be adding Kibbee to their menus.

We have a line up of traditional specialties to be demonstrated by some of our talented ladies who are eager to share their expertise with those inquiring.

The rewards are far more than monetary profit that may or may not occur. The "bonding" is priceless!

Submitted by Lorraine Pealer, Antiochian Women President

St. Elias, Syracuse, NY

Saint Elias Orthodox Church of Syracuse has been a place of hustling and bustling activity this year. With the love and support of our dear Fr. Elias Nasr, we have flourished spiritually, personally, as well as physically.

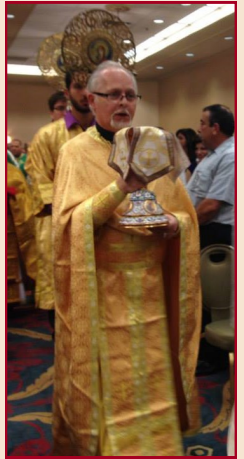
To start, this year marks our church's 85th anniversary, and Father Elias Nasr's 35th anniversary in the priesthood. God grant our beloved Father Elias and our beautiful church many years. In celebration, our church has been further beautified by the installation of a new Iconostas and brand new marble floor for the altar with a grand stairway front arched in the middle. We are thankful for the efforts of all involved to make this possible.

During this year of celebrations, we were also honored to host the 61st Annual Parish Life Conference, Co-chaired by Anna Jabaji and Hala Sawalha, and at which we were blessed to

have Sayedna ALEXANDER presiding. It included social and personal growth, as well as spiritual enlightenment. It was a great time for members from different churches in the diocese to bond and further build a sense of community. What a great turnout. The conference was made successful by all who attended. We attended beautiful church services with Bishop ALEXANDER and more than 15 clergy. Other highlights were the Dabke night with John Rezak as our DJ, and the Grand Hafli with Yousef Shamoun entertaining us with his band. They brought everyone to their feet on the dance floor. After the Antiochian Women's Meeting, the ladies luncheon was honored to have Kh. Erin Kimmet, an iconographer, as their speaker. She shared with us stories of women portrayed in icons, and their importance in our faith. Also, bravo to the participants of the Bible Bowl and Oratorical Contest. Everyone did a great job and it was a well spirited competition. Congratulations to the winners. The winner of the Junior Bible Bowl was St Elias Ottawa, and the Senior Bible Bowl was St George Toronto. Also, the senior Oratorical Winner for 2014 was Nick Watson. The weekend then climaxed with the spiritually uplifting Divine Liturgy with Bishop ALEXANDER and all the clergy, choir, chanters, and partakers. Fr. Elias was recognized for his 35th year in the priesthood. This was all followed by a lovely Awards Brunch in the grand ballroom of the hotel as the grand sendoff.

AND, the fun doesn't stop there. The weekend after the PLC weekend, St Elias Syracuse celebrated its annual cultural festival weekend chaired by Holly Sousou. This was another weekend of food, dance, and fun for all. The ladies of our church labored for months in preparing food, our dancers practiced their moves, and the men helped with meat preparation and festival setup. It was all a labor of love by all.

In all, we are thankful for such a wonderful year to celebrate and share with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The greatest thanks be to God.



*The beautiful new Iconostas and marble flooring
at St. Elias Church, Syracuse, NY*



Happenings Around The Diocese Of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate New York

St. George Church, New Hartford, NY

Last September we celebrated our 3rd Annual Mediterranean Festival. We hold this festival the first weekend after Labor Day. All members of our parish work very hard to prepare for the event and to work our two day festival. In addition to the wonderful Mediterranean dishes and home baked desserts our ladies prepare, we also have vendors from our local community, games and rides for the children, a Chinese auction, and various entertainment during each day. Our favorite entertainment, of course, is when our children perform some traditional dances. We are very proud of our beautiful church and Father James Guirguis gives tours and answers questions from our visitors. We also have our bookstore open which has many books, icons, and various other Orthodox items for purchase.

We have been blessed to have made a profit each year. We gift a portion of our profits to a local charity. In the past we have given to the Abraham House (a home for the terminally ill) and Care Net (an organization that provides free confidential services for pregnant women). Last year, we donated to the Breast Cancer Center.

This festival is a wonderful event that brings our local community to our beautiful church for them to get to know us and to learn about the Orthodox faith. We are looking forward to another successful festival on September 6 and 7, 2014.

Submitted by Beth Nimey, Antiochian Women President

St. Elias, Ottawa, Canada

The Antiochian Women of St. Elias, Ottawa has had a very busy and fruitful year. We have experienced success in attracting the younger women of our parish to our monthly meetings and we now realize that this next generation wants to embrace and learn more of our beautiful Orthodox faith. This past year, our monthly meetings have been focused on “The Beatitudes”, wherein a member studies and prepares a full explanation of her chosen beatitude followed by an open discussion. This has proven to be a wonderful learning experience for both the presenter and the members and we look forward to continuing with the Beatitudes at our fall meetings.

On a sad note, St. Elias Cathedral regretfully announces the falling asleep in the Lord of the Very Reverend Father Daniel Matheson on July 5, 2014 at the age of 98. Father Dan—just saying his name brings a sense of peace and comfort, served our parish for almost 30 years. His passing saddens us, but we realize that the time had come for him to depart this life. We also realize that he was fully prepared for this and in complete acceptance of it. Not only was he our Spiritual Father, but to many he also was a father figure, a confidante, an adviser, a comforter—a very dear friend. We will miss him greatly, but at the same time we rejoice at the knowledge that he has gone to be with his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

One of Father Dan’s most endearing qualities was that he had the capacity to make you feel special and important. Of all the virtues, I believe that humility is the most difficult to achieve—but Father Dan had this in spades. For all the wisdom, knowledge, creativity, kindness and gentleness that he possessed—he always acted as if he could learn something from you.

The Antiochian Women loved Father Dan! Several years ago when we learned that he was going to be elevated to the dignity of Archpriest we were so excited for him and wanted to give him something to congratulate him on this occasion. It was decided that new vestments would be an appropriate gift. We all wanted to share in this so a small donation was collected from every one of us and the beautiful blue vestments in which he was laid to rest were presented to him from all of the Antiochian women of St. Elias parish.

May he rest in peace and may his memory be eternal!

Submitted by Faye Thomas, Antiochian Women Religious Coordinator, St. Elias Cathedral, Ottawa, ON.

Happenings Around The Diocese Of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate New York

St. George Church, Montreal, Canada

This year, St. George Church of Montreal will be celebrating a dual anniversary; **75 years** in our present address on Jean-Talon Street, as well as **115 years** of Antiochian Orthodoxy in Montreal!

We are forever grateful to the first immigrants, the first Antiochian Women, who set foot 115 years ago on the Canadian soil, may their Memory be eternal. These women worked tirelessly side-by-side their fathers, husbands and brothers, who had a dream and a vision and 75 years ago, fulfilled it by building a church, one brick at a time.

The “Ladies Benevolent of St. George” became **41 years ago**, “The Antiochian Women of St. George” when the sisterhood organization was founded by +Metropolitan PHILIP, of thrice-blessed memory, throughout the Archdiocese of North America.

Today, all Antiochian Women of St. George have a strong sense of belonging. As we share in the history that became intertwined between *the keepers of the old memories* and *the builders for the future*.

The first know the land of their grandmothers, through stories told, and they are keepers of old memories; *the second*, are newer immigrants (**50 years and less**), and they still carry stories to tell about the lands they left behind - they are keepers of more recent memories. Memories rooted them both deeper and deeper in St. George.

Today the story of the Antiochian Women intertwined as they stand proudly together as one. Tirelessly working together, share stories, laugh and cry together, for both histories melted into one another and built the new Antiochian Women of St. George.

We are not necessarily always related by blood, but we carry in our blood one thing in common “our sense of belonging to St. George” and the traditions instilled from lands far away.

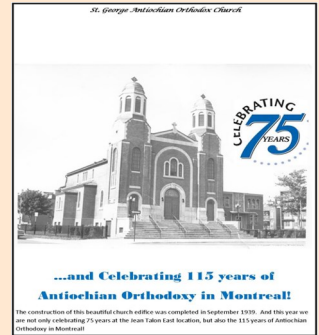
May we continue building deep together, with “our hearts”. Our Clergy keep us guided and the projects keep us unified with all our sisters in Christ throughout the Archdiocese.

When the vision of the past built for our present, in their footsteps, we dare to hope for the future!

Other News from St. George, Montreal:

1. On the Feast of the Nativity, the AW offered the Service of the Lita and Artoklasia for the health and salvation of all the women of the church, their families, and for their departed loved ones. Memory eternal.
2. A busload of parishioners went on a pilgrimage to the Monastery of the Virgin Mary the Consolatory.
3. The AW from the 3 Churches of Montreal, St. George, St. Nicholas and St. Mary joined in the “*Walk for a Cause*” Third Annual Walkathon for the benefit of the Lymphedema Association of Quebec.
4. Raised funds for “*Helping the Orphans of Syria*” project and for “*Food for the Hungry*” campaign.
5. Organized 2 Pisanki Workshops.
6. Extended their helping hands to other suffering children and their families in Montreal as well as Egypt, Syria, Jerusalem and Guatemala.

Submitted by Géhane Ephtimios Zahran President, Antiochian Women of St. George



Highlights from the 2014 Mid-Summer Meetings At the Antiochian Village

Antiochian Women Surpass Goal to "Help the Orphans of War in Syria"

At the July 2014 Archdiocesan organizational meetings at the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center, the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America, represented by NAB President, Violet Robbat, and Vice President/Project Coordinator Dianne O'Regan, announced the total contributions received to date for the **2013-2014 Project: "Help the Orphans of War in Syria."** On behalf of the Antiochian Women across North America, these women were honored to present a check to His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH for \$283,055.55, the largest amount *ever* raised in a single year during the forty year history of the Antiochian Women!

This Project was tasked to the organization last summer by His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP of Blessed Memory, who set the fundraising goal at \$200,000. Upon Metropolitan PHILIP's falling asleep in the Lord in March of this year, the Antiochian Women sought to raise even more funds in his honor.

One hundred percent of all monies raised will be hand-delivered to the Antiochian Patriarchate for distribution to the most needed areas.



His Grace Bishop JOHN, the Antiochian Women of North America Spiritual Advisor, addressing the Women at the meeting.

Antiochian Women Delegates to Midsummer meetings at the Antiochian Village, July 2014.



Antiochian Women Visit the Grave of +Metropolitan PHILIP

The Antiochian Women visited the grave of +Metropolitan PHILIP of thrice blessed memory while they were at the Summer Meetings in July.

His Grace Bishop JOHN, assisted by Fr. Edward Hughes and Fr. Donald Shadid, prayed at the grave of our late Metropolitan and Founder, as well as those Antiochian Women who had passed away and those who were ill or had a family member who was ill.

After the prayers, Bishop John, Frs. Edward and Donald, all of the Antiochian Women in attendance, and those visiting the gravesite were handed red and white roses which they placed on the grave.

Metropolitan JOSEPH said Trisagion Prayers for Metropolitan PHILIP at Vespers that evening.



Congratulations to the winning Bible Bowl Team

Representing the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest this year at the annual NAC Bible Bowl was St. Mary Church of Palos Heights, Illinois. Team St. Mary, composed of members Salena Ibrahim, Marlana Sweiss, Sandra Khouri, and Elizabeth Khouri, achieved a near perfect score of 104 points (out of 105). Under the leadership of their coach, Kh. Delia Haddad, and their clergy, Fr. Mousa Haddad and Fr. Malek Rihani, team St. Mary won first place. Afterwards, the team was congratulated by His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH and Bishop ANTHONY of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest.



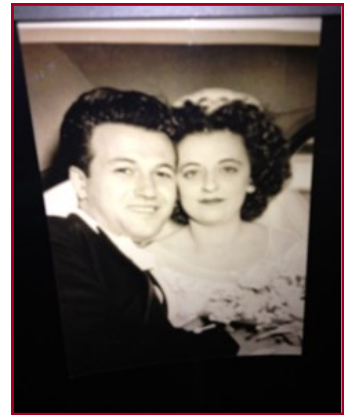
Congratulations also to Gresham Olson from the Diocese of Toledo for winning the Senior Division Oratorical Festival. Gresham is from St. Nicholas Church in Grand Rapids, MI.

Miracles Are Still Happening

By Lianne Nimey

Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada & Upstate NY Humanitarian Coordinator

The first miracle occurred 60 years ago when my Nanie and Poppy (picture on right) were trying to have children. After many miscarriages my grandparents, Amelia and Larry, decided to travel to the Saint Anne Shrine in Canada. My grandparents were very faithful individuals who had a close relationship with their church. While at the Shrine, they both climbed the steps to Saint Anne on their knees. Once they returned home to Utica New York they conceived a daughter whom they named Suanne. They made sure that her name had Anne in it to honor Saint Anne and the miracle that she had granted them. When Suanne married and had children of her own she named her first daughter Lianne (me) and her second daughter Diandra. Needless to say Saint Anne has been the patron Saint of our family for many years. To some, this conception may not be considered a miracle but to my family it is. I didn't follow suit and name my daughter after Saint Anne, instead I named her after my Nanie, Amelia. Maybe one day she or my son Matthew will include Saint Anne in the name of one of their children. Every night when we say our nighttime prayers we pray to Saint Anne.



The second miracle that I would like to share occurred recently. On July 18th 2014 my mother-in-law Cindy, her mother, Grandma Theresa, and myself took a road trip to the Antiochian village with my two children. As we settled in our room and got ready for our ladies meeting a miracle was occurring back at home in New Hartford New York. Many of you might know that my father-in-law, Rich, has had MS for over 30 years and has been in a wheelchair for over 20 years. MS robbed him of his ability to walk and he only has use of his left side. Since the day I met my in-laws I knew they were special people who have tremendous faith and strength. For those of you who know my mother-in-law Cindy, you can agree with this testament. Ok, back to my story. So on Friday afternoon my father-in-law was watering his gardens as he does every day. At the same time two of our cousins were mowing the lawn around the house with head phones on. When dad went to refill his water wagon he backed up too far and he and the chair fell into the deep end of the pool. This is when the miracle occurred.



The first part of the miracle happened prior to his fall in the pool. While he was in the garden he couldn't reach something and had unbuckled his seatbelt. If his seatbelt was buckled when he fell in the pool, he would have drowned instantly. The second part of the miracle was that the solar cover did not return to its position on the surface of the water and instead a hole was left open so he could float to the top. While on the top of the water half of his body was sinking and he had to use all his might to keep above water using only his left arm. Struggling to keep afloat, he was choking and slowly drowning. Using one hand he scrunched the solar cover and kept placing it under his head to try and keep him afloat. Fortunately he is a resourceful man and thought to use that cover to his advantage. Lastly, but I think the most intense part of the miracle, is how he was saved. A young man who lives 1000 feet away heard someone calling for help and started running to find the source. I bet you are questioning the same things I did; first, how did he hear someone calling for help from that distance with two lawn mowers between him and the source, and second, how did he know where the call was coming from? I get the chills every time I think about this scenario. In my opinion the only logical explanation is **divine intervention**. God, along with his Angels and Saints, saved my father-in-law from drowning in that pool.

Many Christians think that miracles only happened back when Jesus roamed the earth but we are wrong. These real life miracles happened to my grandparents, father-in-law and to many others everyday in our lifetime. We are all so overwhelmed with joy and thankfulness that a miracle was granted to my father-in-law. This Jiddo has many more years to love his family and friends, especially his grandchildren Amelia and Matthew whom he calls his baby Jiddos.

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 chapters. All articles must be about or of interest to the Antiochian Women.
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	Done
6	Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest (His Grace Bishop ANTHONY)	December 2014	Nov 1, 2014
7	Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America (His Grace Bishop BASIL)	March 2015	Feb 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.

A NOTE TO ALL OUR READERS:

We are very grateful for the suggestions that were presented at the Mid-Summer Meetings of ways to improve and make the DIAKONIA more interesting. We are listening and welcome your suggestions. Some of the suggestions will be addressed in each issue as space permits until we “Get it Right” to please the majority. In this issue we address 3 issues.

1. Column format not easy to navigate online: *We have removed the columns from most pages.*
2. Less bios and more news with pictures: *We have edited the bios where possible and request that future submissions of bios be as concise as possible. We include all news we receive from chapters with as many pictures as we could fit.*
3. Too long: *We will certainly try to make it shorter. In the past we were receiving fewer entries, then we were asked to include more news from chapters in the diocese featured. We are pleased to report that we are now receiving more entries which result in a longer newsletter. Please note that the newsletter must be in multiples of 4 pages for the printed version. If we can't fit the material in 16 pages for example, we have to stretch it to 20 even if the material fits in 17 or 18 pages. Otherwise we will have to eliminate some entries which would upset those who submitted them.*

MORE SUGGESTIONS WILL BE ADDRESSED IN FUTURE ISSUES. WE WELCOME ALL YOUR SUGGESTIONS.



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

Lucy Hanna
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