

DIAKONIA

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA



Winter 2014/2015

From all of us in



*The Diocese of
Toledo and the Midwest*

*To All Our Friends All
Around The World*

*May the Peace Of God
Fill Your Hearts
Today and Always*

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

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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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 Toledo & the Midwest

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>

TRUSTING IN THE LORD...

By His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH



Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

During this Holy Advent Season, I greet you all and wish you and your families a Happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Fast.

Every day of our earthly life brings new opportunities. Today is not like yesterday, and tomorrow will be nothing like today. Each and every member of this Archdiocese is now called to begin a new day. Just as the bricklayer must rely on the foundation of the bricks below for the structure to be strong, so we will rely on the foundation which has been granted to us and continue to build.

The key to all success is given to us by the above quote from the Book of Proverbs. It is not possible for fallen human beings to produce something perfect by way of our own understanding. This would be like trying to build a beautiful house by using broken tools. However, when we rely on the Lord and His strength, love, and compassion, and we completely trust Him, He can indeed accomplish amazing things through us. In His hands, the broken tools become shiny new tools which can then be used to build the beautiful house.

In any large group of people, there will be very different approaches to change. Some will be afraid, some will be hesitant, some will be defiant, and some will be positive and bold. It is no different with the members of our Archdiocese. Those who are afraid need not be, for the Lord is present with us. Those who are hesitant must not be, for we are instructed by our Lord to use the talents that He has given to us for the building up of His Church. Those who are defiant must not be, since there is no contention or anger among the members of the Body of Christ. Those who are positive and bold must not judge the others,

but rather seek, through their loving example to bring them along to the same place.

It is most important to remember that loving leadership will never exclude anyone from participating in the work to be done. Everyone is given unique gifts, and no one has been left without a gift. Everyone must commit themselves to the challenges which lie ahead of us, and that

commitment must be very strong, lest it be weakened by Satan who seeks to destroy.

It is also important to maintain, at all times, a positive, hopeful, and enthusiastic attitude. How could it be otherwise for those who are sons and daughters of the Most High God. How could it be otherwise for those who have been promised eternal life in His Kingdom, if we follow His commandments. Negativity, despair,

and indifference are tools of Satan, and they cannot exist in the Church, the Body of Jesus Christ.

As I have said to the Board of Trustees at our recent meeting in Miami, there can never be a sense of defeat, but always a sense of victory, for Jesus Christ has once and for all defeated the forces of darkness and death. My promise to all of you is that, with your help and support, I will lead this Archdiocese from victory to victory, and from glory to glory.

Assuring you of my prayers, I wish you all a Blessed Nativity Feast and a happy New Year.

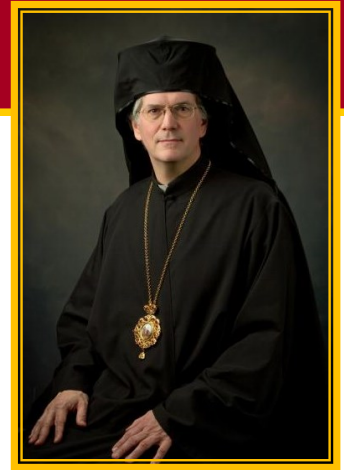
+Joseph

Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of All North America

“Those who are afraid need not be, for the Lord is present with us. Those who are hesitant must not be, for we are instructed by our Lord to use the talents that He has given to us for the building up of His Church”.

THE BEAUTY OF THE CHURCH: It's Place and Purpose

By The Rt. Rev. ANTHONY Michaels, Diocesan Bishop



When you have your wedding photo framed and hung in your home, you put that picture in the most expensive and elaborate frame you can afford. You do not think of the cost so much as the event it preserves and the feelings experienced. In this way, and with all family pictures, something more than paper and ink and color prints are present for us. It is the sacrament of the moment that counts. Material things become the conveyer or vehicle for an invisible and spiritual reality which is far more precious to us than the expense demanded to express it. Yet, if these special times in our lives are not adorned with the beauty and expense of frames and colors we would cheapen them, turn something that for us was wonderful into a common, forgotten and ordinary thing. The beauty of the material package attracts us to the lasting value of the experience which that package holds.

The icons we see in Church are material things: wood, paint, lamination, etc. But in them is the presence of the wonder-working saint. Material things deliver the presence of the person. Our material bodies, following our baptism and chrismation, carry our immortal and beautiful soul, which is invisible to the naked eye. St. Paul has written of this: "Do you not realize that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit that is in you?" [1 Cor. 6:19-20] Do we not ask the Holy Spirit to come down upon the bread and wine and make it the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Church? Do we not need the material church in order for the priest to say those words? Is not the Church the Body of Christ? Should we not clothe the Body of Christ in beauty? Is not the vested priest the presence sacramentally of the glorified Christ when the Divine Liturgy is served? Can we ever tolerate seeing Christ in street clothes?

We should read the scripture which talks about the anointing of Jesus before His Crucifixion: "Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head, as he sat at table. But when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, 'Why this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for a large sum, and given to the poor.' But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, 'Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me.'" [Mat. 26:6-11] Did Jesus ever condemn the beauty of the Temple or comment on the wealth it contained? No, He knew that the

beauty of the material Temple produces the presence of heavenly worship. He even praised the poor widow who loved God so much in His material sanctuary that she gave all her money to keep it beautiful:

"He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury; and he saw a poor widow put in two copper coins. And he said, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all the living that she has.'" [Lk. 2:1-4]

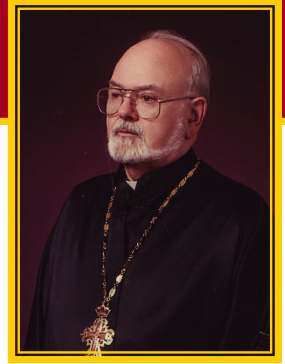
When the Hebrew slaves left Egypt after the plagues, the Egyptians gave them enormous wealth — as if paying them reparations for all that slave labor that built Pharaohs' monuments. "Speak now in the hearing of the people that they ask, every man of his neighbor and every woman of her neighbor, jewelry of silver and of gold." [Exod. 11:2] We know that this wealth was used exclusively for the building of the Tabernacle in the wilderness, for the Ark of the Covenant and the mercy seat and the furnishings of the Tabernacle (see Exod. 25:1-9, the rest of ch. 25 and all of chs. 26-31) Also, see the chapters 35 and 36 in the book of Exodus to see the generosity and expense of the Old Testament Tabernacle and how the people understood the purpose of their private wealth: it was for sacred and public worship! The building of Solomon's Temple in the books of Kings also makes this point.

Most of all the depiction of paradise after the Second Coming of Christ in the book of Revelation describes the beauty of the New Jerusalem — which we claim is already here, in anticipation, in the Church, the Kingdom of God on earth, according to our theology (Rev. 21:9-21).

If we are receiving the most important person we know, the person we love and need the most for dinner, wouldn't we put out our best china and utensils and table cloths and seat them on the polished dining room table? Don't we want to give Jesus our Savior who comes to visit us in His Church and to give us His Holy Body and Blood the best we have, our very best? It cost Him everything He is to save us, shouldn't it cost us something — much less than He gave for us — to receive Him. Doesn't love demand that?

DO WE NEED THE CHURCH

By V. Rev. Daniel Daly, Spiritual Advisor



In the middle of the third century, a bishop from North Africa wrote a letter which contained one of the most dramatic theological statements ever made. His name was St. Cyprian of Carthage. His affirmation was "Outside the Church there is no salvation."

His statement is contained in a letter to certain *Jubajanus*. The matter under discussion was the validity of the baptism of heretics. Were these baptisms real? Or should people coming from heretical groups be "re"-baptized?

The mid third century was a very troubled time for Christians. The Roman Emperor Dacian wanted to unify the Roman Empire by demanding not only a political allegiance to the Emperor but a religious allegiance that required a public demonstration by offering incense on a pagan altar. A document was required which testified to this religious act. Some Christians purchased one of these documents to avoid publicly denying their faith. But whether one put incense on the pagan altar, or purchased a false document, it mattered little. In either case what they had done was an act of apostasy. They had denied their Lord. For many the Dacian persecution was a matter of life or death. Many, including the pope of Rome were martyred.

After the period of persecution ended the question remained regarding the disposition of those Christians who had apostatized. How could they be restored to the Eucharist? Some, called the Novations were very strict. They required a "rebaptism". Others were more lenient. They readmitted the "lapsed" without great difficulty. Cyprian took the middle road.

One of the questions that arose was the status of the baptism of people who had been baptized by the heretical groups. Could the Church accept their baptism? Here St. Cyprian was quite firm. He regarded the heretical groups as outside the Church. As a consequence their baptisms were unacceptable. Part of his response to the question was the letter "*To Jubajanum Concerning Heretical Baptism*". In this letter he makes the statement "Outside the Church there is no salvation!" Here Cyprian was defining the limits of the church as rather narrow.

Rather than discuss the negative side of this issue...i.e., "who belongs to the church", I would like to look at his statement from a positive point of view. I prefer to consider the positive side of the question and to ask "what is the connection between the Church and our salvation". What do salvation and the Church have to do with each other? I will leave the issue of heretical baptism to others.

"Outside the Church there is no salvation", means, if put in positive terms, that "all salvation comes from Christ the Head through the Church which is his Body", and is not aimed at those who, through no fault of their own, do not know Christ and his Church.

Today it is commonplace for people to say "I am a Christian but I don't belong to any church." Can a person have a 'take or leave it' attitude toward the Church and still be considered a Christian? Many people certainly do. Some would say, "I have the bible. I have faith in Jesus and that is all that is necessary". "Why do I need the Church? It is really all about me and Jesus".

Is the Church simply an agency that has passed the story of Christ down through the ages? Was the work of the Church finished when the bible was complete? Did Jesus come simply to die for our sins and to tell us about the Father in Heaven?

In the very first chapter of his Gospel, St. John tells us what Christ has brought into the world. "*And the word became flesh and dwelt among us and we have beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth....And of his fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*" (John 1:14-16)

Christ came to give us the *truth* about God and about ourselves. But He also brought *Grace*. Jesus said "I have come so that you may have *life* and have it abundantly". Christian discipleship is more than knowing "about" Jesus. It is a matter of sharing in the life that He brought from the Father in heaven. We receive that life by being born again of water and the Holy Spirit in the Holy Mysteries of Baptism and Chrismation. Christian life is more than simply being a good person so that we might "earn" heaven. It is more than a life of morality. It is a life in union with Christ which is brought about being a member of his body which is the Church.

Those who would say "I do not need the Church" are missing an essential part of being a Christian. St. Augustine taught that the person who does not have the church as his mother cannot have God as his Father.

The great Orthodox theologian of the last century said it well "Outside the Church there is no salvation, because salvation is the Church" (G. Florovsky, "Sobornost: the Catholicity of the Church", in *The Church of God*, p. 53).

WHO WILL MIND OUR CHILDREN

Compiled by Sheryl Vander Wagen, Diocesan President



The heart of every Antiochian Woman, indeed every Orthodox Christian woman, are her children, grandchildren and godchildren. We pray for our children, we worry about our children, we love our children, we advocate for our children, we rejoice with them in happy times and weep with them in sad times. They are our very life blood.

Having watched my own two daughters, age 23 and 18 grow into adulthood, I am so very concerned about all of the children of their generation. At no time has coming of age been more difficult. They are bombarded with social and peer pressure via social media, educators with an agenda counter to our Christian morality, peers who scoff at them for holding traditional Christian values and beliefs and so much more. I find myself worrying every day and I find myself turning to constant prayer for not only my two daughters but all of our Orthodox youth. And I find myself concerned about how we are equipping our youth to withstand these pressures. So I turned to writers who are far more eloquent than me to share with you my burden for your children. And I pray that some of the following quotes will inspire and burden you as well.

From Children in the Church Today by Sr. Magdalen from Chapter 8 titled “Christian Life in the Teenage Years”:

“A teenager who believes in Christ, who attends church, and who wishes to remain pure until marriage, is already rare among his contemporaries. We must realize how much even this demands of those who are spending much of their time among people who take liberal ethical and spiritual values for granted as “normal.” Even among the minority of churchgoers in our children’s schools there will probably be no one else who ever fasts, or venerates icons, or goes to confession. There will be people of all religions and Christian denominations and people who may never have prayed. To preserve the ideal of the Gospel, and at the same time to get along with people who directly or indirectly challenge the Gospel—that is the “asceticism” of our teenagers. At the same time they are struggling to sort out a set of values for themselves; gradually the faith they have received must become their own conviction, and this process does not always take place smoothly. Our teenagers need all our understanding, attention, love and prayer”.

From Raising Them Right: A Saint’s Advice on Raising Children by Theophan the Recluse from chapter 6, “Understanding a Young Person”:

“What will happen to the youth if he has not been trained in advance to put his movements into a certain order and has not placed upon himself the obligation to preserve them in strict subordination to certain higher demands? If these principles have been deeply impressed upon the heart in his upbringing as a child, and then have been consciously accepted as rule, then all these agitations will proceed as if on the surface, fleetingly, without moving the foundations or shaking the soul.

The state in which we emerge out of the years of youth depends a great deal upon the state in which we enter into them. Water falling from a cliff foams and swirls below, but then it goes its quiet way in various courses. This is an image of youth, into which everyone is thrown as water into a waterfall. From it there come out two kinds of people: some shine with virtue and nobility, while others are darkened by impiety and a corrupt life.

He who has earlier made himself firm by an obligation has taken shelter, as it were, in a strong ship which allows no water to come into it, or has made a calm channel through a whirl-pool. Without this even a good upbringing will not always save a person. It may be that a young person might not fall into crude vices, but all the same, if he is not concentrated within himself and if his heart is not separated from everything by means of a vow, it will be pulled this way and that by things that attract him, and he will unfailingly come out of the years of youth in a state of coldness, without reaching harbor anywhere”.

From Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home by Anthony M. Coniaris from the first chapter titled “Who is Raising the Children”:

“More than 30% of school age children are living with parents who have been divorced at least once....One sixth of all U.S. children under 18 live in one-parent families. Six million pre-school children have working mothers. At least one million young Americans run away from home every year. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for young American between the ages of 16 and 24....Drug abuse and alcoholism among teenagers are becoming serious public health problems.

Where do our children receive their values? How do they learn to evaluate and judge for themselves the things they meet and hear?

Many will ask, “Well, what’s the Church for? Isn’t this the Church’s responsibility?” How much time do children spend in Sunday School and Church? If they come regularly, 36 hours a year! That adds up to about a day and half a year! In whose hands are they supposed to be the remainder of the time? The parents!

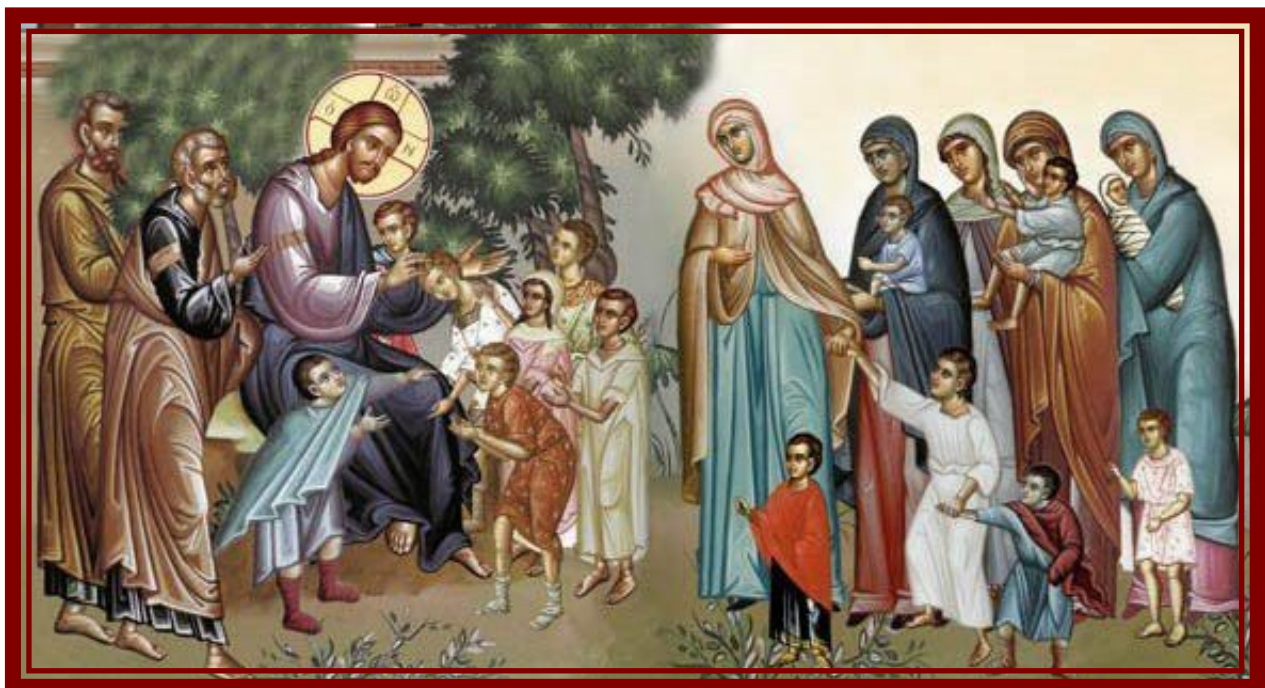
The Church can do nothing without the home. The most influential school in the world is not Oxford or Harvard or the Sorbonne or Yale or Cambridge. It is the home.”

Deuteronomy 6:3-7

“Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise”.

Our public schools, colleges and universities have an agenda. That agenda is to eradicate our children’s Christian faith, values and morality from their lives. They are open and public about this agenda. They will do everything they can to convince our kids the sin is not sin, that traditional morals are passé, and that “if it feels good do it” and “everything is relative.” Social media is used to bully our children into turning their backs on their faith and belief. The idea that if something is “on the Internet” it must be true, it must be right is rampant. There are no filters anymore.

Our first call as mothers, grandmothers, godmothers is to instill a deep faith and love for God in our children. We must equip them with the tools they need to counter the poison they will encounter in today’s societal norms. This is the biggest charitable act before us, to give the gift of faith to our children.



**Introducing
The 2013 - 2015
Board of Antiochian Women
of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest**

***The Rt 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 (also St. Simon the Zealot is commemorated)

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. Bishop Anthony's father is Lebanese and his mother is Serbian. As a teen-ager, 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 of blessed memory.

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 (Alan) 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 current 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.

Most recently, Bishop Anthony has given seminars on a book that he is in the process of writing: *Between Utopia and Despair: A Study of the Intellectual History of the West and the Advance of the Secular World View*. Bishop Anthony continues his pastoral ministry in Fort Wayne, providing a consistent liturgical life for the faithful. It is his honor to serve the parish family of St. John Chrysostom Church.

Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Daly - Spiritual Advisor



Fr. Daniel and his wife, Kh. Elfriede, met in Rhodesia in the 1970's. Both were Catholic missionaries at that time. In the summer of 1980 both were received into the Orthodox Church in St. George Church in Detroit. A year of special studies followed at St. Vladimir's Seminary in 1980

and 1981. During that year Fr. Daniel served as the temporary pastor of St. George Church in Danbury, CT.

In the summer of 1981 Father was assigned as an assistant pastor in St. George Church in Detroit under Fr. John Badeen. After a period of three years he was reassigned to Danbury where he and Kh. Elfriede remained for another eight years. Their oldest son Richard (now Father Raphael) was born during the first stay in Danbury. Their second son John was born in Detroit.

During their stay in Danbury, the community built a new church which was consecrated in September of 1987. In 1992 Metropolitan PHILIP asked Fr. Daniel to serve as pastor of St. Antony Church in Bergenfield, NJ. After a period of two years, he was reassigned to St. Michael Church in Beaumont, TX. Father was pastor in Beaumont for six and one half years when he was assigned to St. Nicholas Church in Grand Rapids, MI where he has served since.

Sheryl VanderWagen - President



I am a member of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan where I am active in the Antiochian Women chapter, serve as Co-Superintendent of the Sunday School, and sing in the choir. I will soon be completing my 3rd term as president of the Midwest Antiochian Women.

Along with my husband, Guy and two daughters, Abby (23) and Emily (18), we have been members of St. George for 18 years. Guy and I were both raised in and attended various Protestant churches before becoming Orthodox 18 years ago. I enjoy reading,

cooking, and baking. Several years ago a very dear friend, memory eternal, taught me how to bake the Holy Bread for Divine Liturgy. I bake almost every week. It is always an honor to be a participant in the remembrances of our parish's loved ones, many of whom were our own dear friends too.

In my daily life, I am the ILS (Integrated Library System) Manager for the Lakeland Library Cooperative based in Grand Rapids, a position I've held for 12 years. Before that I served as the public library director for 18 years in Jenison, Michigan. We live in Lamont, Michigan, a small town located midway between Grand Rapids and Muskegon. 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 so privileged and blessed to have been a part of the Antiochian Women for so long, first as secretary for 4 years and then president for these last 6. I have met so many women from all over the Archdiocese who have had an impact on my life. In a very real sense I have so many sisters. I am so very grateful to be part of this sisterhood of believers.

With my youngest daughter a high school senior this year and through our college visit and application process that began earlier this year, I have been increasingly aware of the very urgent need that we have to equip our children with the faith and skills they will need to survive an increasingly hostile attitude toward Christianity in our colleges and universities, even in some religious college and universities, not to mention the public education system in this country. I urge you all to do everything you can to educate your children, grandchildren and godchildren in the faith, do not leave it to your church school teachers and to your priests alone. Did you know 30 minutes in church school once a week equates to about 3 days in a single year and in 4 years of high school only 12 days? Compare that to the hours they will spend in school listening to instructors whose goal is to eradicate their Christian belief. Is it any wonder that some of our kids are side tracked when they get to college by the ways of society and popular culture? This has become a special burden on my own heart and I pray that it will be on yours too.

Kh. Jeanette Gallaway - Vice President



I am an identical twin born in Midland, PA which is a small steel mill town north west of Pittsburgh, to first generation Serbian Orthodox Christians. Our town had a population of 10,000 but the Serbian Orthodox Church had 350 families with over 100 children in our

Church School on Sunday morning. All of our activities centered around the Church which included a youth choir, folklore Tamburitza group who travelled around the country performing Serbian and Eastern European song and dance, and Church youth group. We were raised to love the Church and practiced many traditions in our home to help us live a life focused on Christ. After graduating high school, I attended nursing school and became a Registered Nurse. At the same time, I also worked at the Serbian Diocese in Pittsburgh and wanted to learn more about the church. While working with the College Student Ministry, I became motivated to learn more about Christ and His Church and decided if I could get an education in my profession I should get an education in my way of life, "being and Orthodox Christian". Soon I entered St. Vladimir's Seminary and received a Masters of Divinity in 1980. Shortly after, my sister's husband decided to go to the Seminary and is an Orthodox priest in the Serbian Orthodox Church in McKeesport, PA. We truly are identical twins, both nurses, both have 3 children, both are married to Orthodox Priests. Never thought that would happen, but it's nice to have someone to talk to who truly knows what the challenges are of a priest's wife and his family.

After graduating from seminary I continued my education in nursing and specialized in Critical Care where I have been working for the past 35 years. In 1981 I was swept off my feet by my now husband, Father Tom Gallaway and started a whirlwind summer in 1982. We were married in May, he was ordained to the diaconate in June, the priesthood on August 1, and we moved to Beckley, WV on August 15th to our first parish serving for 6 years. There we had 3 beautiful boys Patrick, Michael, and Timothy who are the joy of our lives.

One day we received a phone call from the Archdiocese and were informed we were to move to Lexington, KY. St. Andrew was a mission parish and had just built a building which would become the church. We had services in the basement in the middle of a daycare for about a year. We took down daycare

on Saturday, and put up Church, and took down Church on Sunday and put up daycare. Wow that seemed so long ago. We have been here at St. Andrew for over 26 years and have had the joy of seeing it grow to a wonderful Pan-Orthodox Parish.

Now we are beginning to enjoy another phase of our lives – grandchildren! We have one grandson, William, who is 1 year old and have a granddaughter on the way in March. God is Good. When I had my children, I learned how wonderful God's Creation is by seeing it through the eyes of my children and now I am blessed to see it through the eyes of my grandchildren. I continue to work in the CardioThoracic Unit at St. Joseph Hospital as I have for the past 26 years, direct the choir at St. Andrew, love to cook, work on crafts, and travel. Our lives have always centered around the Church and I pray I can help my grandchildren to learn the Love of Christ and walk in His way.

Cynthia Beckes-O'Connor - Recording Secretary

Cynthia came to the Orthodox faith, because she was working for an individual who lived his faith on a daily basis. "I could see how important his faith was to him and how it effected every decision he was faced with. I wanted that for myself." She was chrismated into the Orthodox faith in her early 30's. Now, 30 years later, she serves as clerical assistant for Fr. Daniel Rohan, Pastor of St. Mark's Church in Youngstown, Ohio. She is also currently Vice-President of the Parish Council there and works tirelessly with the Antiochian Women in their various fundraising activities. She attained two master degrees from Kent State University, focusing on International Education. Cynthia and her husband, John, live on a 30 acre farm north of Youngstown with their two Border Terriers, Toby & Trixie, and three lovable cats, Lily, Jett & Joe. In her spare time Cynthia volunteers with Grow Youngstown, a community-supported agricultural association, the Mahoning County Historical Society and the Trumbull County Master Gardener Alumni Association.

Barbara Thomas - Treasurer



As a life long member of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, I have been active in several organizations. Going back many, many years, I was active in Teen SOYO. I taught Church School, and later was Church School Superintendent for ten years. As an

active member of our ladies group, I have been treasurer for many years, so stepping into Midwest Treasurer was an easy transition.

My husband of 46 years, Steve, and I are the parents of three daughters, grandparents of seven, and great grandparents of two. Hard to believe! We are both retired, so there is plenty of time to spend with the grandkids and to help chauffeur them around.

As the end of my second term draws near, memories of serving and meeting many of the ladies in the archdiocese for the first time and meeting many again after many years will always remain with me. It has been a pleasure serving.

Kh. Michelle Dresdow - Public Relations Director



I am from St. Barnabas the Apostle Antiochian Church, in Sunbury, Ohio, a town northeast of Columbus. My husband is the priest assigned to St. Barnabas. It brings joy to my heart to minister to the people here in our parish, especially in our Antiochian Women's group and in the Sunday School. I teach

4th through 6th graders. Our AW chapter hosted a women's tea and silent auction fundraiser benefitting the Antiochian Women's project last year. A highlight of our Sunday School year is the annual St. Nicholas Day party and Christmas play.

My husband and I came to Central Ohio from the Chicago area. He was formerly the Deacon at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in Warrenville, IL. We both joined the Orthodox Church in 1994, at that parish, and have many good memories of our time spent there. I was on the parish council, and served as parish council chair for two years.

We have two daughters, the oldest, Elizabeth, is enrolled at Asbury University and attends St. Andrew's in Lexington, KY while at school. Christina is in 11th grade and sings in our church choir here.

I also volunteer as a 4-H club advisor throughout the year, with our big events being a square dance fundraiser and our county fair. Our club is quite large for a 4-H club in our county, with about 35 - 45 members on average. My other interests include oil painting, organic gardening, and sewing

Dianne O'Regan - Archives/Historian



I am a convert to Orthodoxy, having been raised in the Roman Catholic Church, and have attended St. Michael the Archangel Church in Louisville, Kentucky for over 16 years. I graduated with my Associate of Arts in Political Science from

Bellarmino University, and my Bachelor of Arts (Summa Cum Laude) from the University of Louisville in Political Science with an emphasis in Soviet/Russian Studies. Having been employed as a Legal Assistant for over 30 years, I have worked in the criminal prosecution, criminal defense, civil and corporate law fields. Since 1996, I have been employed at the law offices of Stites & Harbison. I also work on a part-time basis to index and copy edit academic books for national publishing houses.

On the local level, I serve as a church school teacher, choir member, and editor of the monthly newsletter, in addition to serving the local women's organization in various capacities. On the Diocesan level, I have held the offices of President, Recording Secretary, and Public Relations Coordinator, as well as currently holding the positions of Vice President, and Archivist/Historian. In the summer of 2009 at the Midwest Parish Life Conference, I was honored and blessed to be presented the Metropolitan PHILIP Award in recognition of outstanding leadership qualities and contributions to the diocese.

On the NAB level, I served as Recording Secretary from 2003-2007 and 2009-2011. I also served as NAB Religious Coordinator from 2007-2009. During that period, I compiled and edited "Orthodox Women Saints" for the Antiochian Archdiocesan website, which later was recreated into a CD-ROM entitled "Holy Women of the Orthodox Christian Church" in honor of the Antiochian Women's 35th anniversary. I also published religious programs every other month, entitled, "Sophia!," which were distributed throughout the Archdiocese.

Geri Farris - Met. PHILIP Award



No biography available

Suzanne Perry - Humanitarian

No biography or photo available.

The Diocese of Toledo & the Midwest Parish Life Conference in pictures.



Antiochian
Women
Meeting at
the PLC

Past and present
Recipients of the
Metropolitan
PHILIP Award
with H. G. Bishop
ANTHONY and
Fr. Daniel Daly,
Spiritual Advisor.



Metropolitan PHILIP Award

The Metropolitan PHILIP Award was established in the Midwest Region (now the Diocese of Toledo & the Midwest) during the year of Metropolitan PHILIP'S Silver Jubilee in 1991. This prestigious award is given every year during the Midwest Parish Life Conference. The recipient of the award must represent the ideals of the Antiochian Women Christian leadership, awareness and commitment, sense of fellowship and expression of love, service, and charitable deeds. Please go to the next page of a list of the recipients of the Metropolitan PHILIP Award from 1991-2014.

Geri Farris- Metropolitan PHILIP Award Coordinator



*Sheryl VanderWagen receives the
2014 Metropolitan Philip Award
from His Grace Bishop ANTHONY*

Metropolitan PHILIP Award Recipients 1991 - 2014

1991	Elinor Bourjaily	Memory Eternal - 2008
1992	Rachel Blair	Memory Eternal - 2003
1993	Beverly Zaine	West Paul, MN
1994	Adele Abraham	Grand Rapids, MI
1995	Libbie Kohl	Memory Eternal - 2012
1996	Sadie Kannam	Canton, OH
1997	Marie Bojrab	Ft. Wayne, IN
1998	Geri Farris	Seven Hills, OH
1999	Ramona Darmour	Parma, OH
2000	Elaine Shaheen	Flushing, MI
2001	Ann Freije	Indianapolis, IN
2002	Dorothy (Dottie) Malooley	Spring Valley, IL
2003	Margaret Simon	Grand Rapids, MI
2004	Guinevere E. Haddad	Charleston, WV (no longer in Diocese)
2005	Jan Metry	Louisville, KY
2006	Helen Corey	Terre Haute, IN
2007	Jean Sam	Bonita Springs, FL (formerly from Detroit, MI)
2008	Roberta Royhab	Marblehead, OH (no longer in Diocese)
2009	Dianne O'Regan	Louisville, KY
2010	Daisy Anne Isaac	Flint, MI
2011	Kh. Ruth Meena	Parma, OH
2012	JoAnn Shahin Hawkins	Flint, MI
2013	Kh. Jeanette Gallaway	Lexington KY
2014	Sheryl VanderWagen	Grand Rapids, MI

Happenings Around The Diocese Of Toledo and the Midwest

St. George, West St. Paul, MN

by Sue Perry

St. George West St. Paul hosted a Pan Orthodox Tea. Our Speaker was Matuska Vera, from Holy Trinity OCA church, who spoke on the Myrrh Bearing Women. We shared ideas of how we serve others in need to be Christ like. We shared cookie recipes and most of all love. Forty women attended from five Orthodox Churches in the Twin Cities. What a wonderful event!



Beverly Zaine said they had pan Orthodox events when she was in her 30's. Now she is 80. She is glad this is started up again



Holy Apostle Church, Bowling Green, KY by Denise M. Reetzke

The crinkle of cellophane, the touch of sticky baklava, and the taste of a broken cookie are just some of ways that your senses might be stimulated as you enter the Fellowship Hall of Holy Apostles Orthodox Mission the first week in December. The Holy Apostles Orthodox Church Ladies Society began a Christmas Basket selling project in the Fall of 2013. The idea began innocently when one of our parishioners, Wes (our resident laugh-maker and welcome man) asked if we could “get some Christmas Baskets together” for his company. He thought the Christmas Baskets would be a great present for his customers, as well as being a great way to do a little mission work. Anna Norris, our Ladies' President, along with her daughter Mary Polson put their heads together and created a list of items to be placed in the baskets. This was the beginning of “getting some Christmas Baskets together”. Wine, Cheese, and homemade cookies made the list. The baskets grew to include cheeses, Christmas Ornaments, and icons. 53 Christmas Baskets were assembled with all the love a bunch of young and old women could muster.



Flash forward, Fall 2014! Our new Ladies' President, Carolyn Krieg has taken the idea to a whole new level. The Ladies are now creating Christmas Baskets of different sizes.

The Ladies look forward to getting our senses stimulated once again with the smells, tastes, and touches of Christmas. Our Father Michael encourages us!!! We look forward to remembering where all the fuss and hoopla is all centered...our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is Born...Glorify Him.

Happenings Around The Diocese Of Toledo and the Midwest

St. George Church, Fishers, IN (formerly Indianapolis IN) by Vicki Mesalam, President

The Ladies Aid Society of St. George, as it used to be called, was for many years an active and very vibrant part of our Church. They were called the “backbone” of our Parish, and were responsible for a large part of the activities throughout their many years of existence. Over a period of many years, one by one, this beautiful group of women were taken from us and sent to their deserved Heavenly reward. While our generation attempted to carry on, we were unable to properly continue the tradition. Slowly and sadly the organization dwindled until it became dormant and lay so for approximately five years. This past July we decided enough is enough and it is now time to rejuvenate, re-establish and get the organization back to where it should be. So with Father Nabil’s blessing, the reorganization began.

We sent an invitation to all women in the Parish ages 18 and older, inviting them to a Saturday afternoon Tea where we would define our new mission in the Church. The response was overwhelming; we had 36 positive responses and an additional 22 responding that while they would be unable to attend the Tea, they would like to become active in the organization attending meetings and working. Our first meeting was held in August and we had 56 women in attendance. We elected officers and appointed Coordinators for many of our ministries. Getting volunteers was no problem. We left the meeting with a Coordinator and volunteers for every committee, and since that time, we have not stopped.

We had a very successful Fall bake sale and made more money than any bake sale in our history. We then made and sold 122 dozen meat pies, worked diligently on our Festival, and currently are hosting a Family Night Turkey Dinner, a Christmas Bible study with Father Nabil, and a family New Years Eve Party.

We added two new ministries to our organization; a Carpool Ministry whereby we have volunteers who transport people to Sunday Liturgy who would be otherwise unable to attend. We have 5 such persons and each one of them now has a ride to Church. We have also added a Caregivers Ministry which has been extremely busy. This ministry serves anyone in any kind of need. We have several people in this ministry. So far we have visited 3 new mothers taking a small gift, a cooked meal and offering babysitting services, cooking meals, transporting older children, cleaning, and other needed things. We have a group visiting shut-ins and we have a large number of women who give 2 to 4 hours of their time each week staying with a parishioner who is in hospice care, and fixing meals for the spouse and children. The women who participate in this ministry give of their time whenever and wherever needed.

We meet on the first Sunday of every month after Liturgy during the coffee hour. Our meetings last no more than 30 minutes as the majority of our work is done in committee. The committees report to the president and the president reports to Father Nabil. This system seems to be working well for us at this time.

We are currently working on a calendar for next year which will include many activities and charitable events, and with this group of amazing women, and the wise spiritual guidance of Father Nabil, we can do nothing but succeed.



The women in attendance at the November 2nd meeting (*with a couple of future Antiochian Women in the mix*)

2014 - 2015 Antiochian Women Project

Nurturing the Seeds of Orthodoxy Across North America

The Antiochian Women look forward to a new Project, and a new vision, as tasked to us by His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH. For 2014-2015, the Antiochian Women will work towards “Nurturing the Seeds of Orthodoxy Across North America”.

Our Project is divided into two parts. The first is towards the ultimate establishment of “Regional Camping and Learning Centers”. Metropolitan JOSEPH’s vision is to offer programs throughout all of North America that focus on Orthodoxy: our way of life, our worship, and our faith. We must reach out to children and adults of all ages. Our goal is to promote, inspire and develop our Holy Orthodox Faith which, like the mustard seed in Christ’s parable, will grow and thrive.

The second part of this Project is the establishment of “Monastic Communities”. Monasteries are where the Gospel is lived on a daily basis. The monks and nuns within the walls pray for us and the world unceasingly. Monasteries are also where we go for spiritual nourishment and refreshment and into a place of beauty and holiness. Overseas, Antiochian Orthodox monasteries are plentiful but, in North America, they are sorely lacking. The goal is to make Antiochian Orthodox monastic communities prevalent across our continent.

Metropolitan JOSEPH’s vision is to encourage and inspire us to plant the seeds for this Project. Are we to now sit because we have achieved such magnificent growth? Are we to be satisfied and now give ourselves rest? Of course not! We must use the talents that God gave us by blessing us with the magnificent gift of Orthodox Christianity. Let us spread the word of our faith to the peoples of North America!

We now come to the parable of the mustard seed where Jesus said, “To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? ... It is like a mustard seed which, ... when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.” (Mark 4:30-32.) We as Antiochian Women must help to nurture these mustard seeds, and Orthodoxy, across North America.

Also remember that March is “Antiochian Women’s Month.” We recommend that you start the planning and fundraising for this Project now. Everyone in your church – men, women and children – should know about the Project.

As in the past, all monies collected on behalf of the NAB Project should be sent to YOUR DIOCESAN TREASURER at a date determined by each diocese (we would recommend a deadline of May 1). The Diocesan Treasurer will then forward the funds by May 15, 2015 to NAB Treasurer Anne Bourjaily-Thomas, 590 Solon Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022.

As always, I look forward to hearing from my fellow Vice Presidents/Project Coordinators in each diocese. This Project gives us a new and important future for the Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. I urge you to embrace this vision.

Yours in Christ,

Dianne O’Regan

Vice President/NAB Project Coordinator
North American Board of the Antiochian Women

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of
North America*



Project 2014-2015 ***Nurturing the Seeds of Orthodoxy***



***Regional Camping
& Learning
Centers***



***Monastic
Communities***



Across North America

***“To what shall we liken the kingdom of God?
It is like a mustard seed which ... when it is sown, it grows up
and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large
branches, so that the birds of the air may
nest under its shade.” (Mark 4:30-32)***

@ Sisterhood Serving Christ Through Serving Others

By the time you receive this newsletter, the enthronement of His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH will have come and gone. If you were not able to attend this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, it is not too late to get in on some of the festivities celebrating this event. There will be an Enthronement Gala on the West Coast on January 31, 2015. See the details in the flyer below.



*By the grace of God
We invite you to prayerfully participate
in the*

*Diocese of Los Angeles and the West
Enthronement Gala Celebration
of*

HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN JOSEPH
ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND
METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015
SHERATON UNIVERSAL HOTEL & UNIVERSAL CITY, CALIFORNIA
Benefitting St. Nicholas Camp and Youth Education Programs

3:30 PM CLERGY AND CLERGY WIVES RECEPTION
5:00 PM VESPER SERVICE
6:00 PM COCKTAIL RECEPTION
7:30 PM DINNER AND PROGRAM

*Please note there will be a
Youth and Young Adult Brunch with Metropolitan Joseph
SATURDAY 11:00 AM*

And
*Hierarchical Divine Liturgy beginning with Orthros
SUNDAY 9:15 AM*

*Both events will take place at St. Nicholas Cathedral
2300 West 3rd Street, Los Angeles 90057*

"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us"
1 JOHN 3:1

Tickets are \$185 per person and \$100 for Young Adults (18-30 which includes the Young Adult Brunch on Saturday morning).

To order tickets online visit: www.antiochianladiocese.org

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 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	Done
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.



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

Lucy Hanna
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Corona, CA 92880

