

DIAKONIA



Summer 2010



Antiochian Women, at left, visit site of the Convent of St. Thekla at Antiochian Village with Mother Abbess Alexandra. At left below they hike into the woods to the 40-acre site. The North American Board met with diocesan officers, coordinators and delegates July 23 and 24; see page 9.



Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast are featured in this issue. Pictured above are officers and coordinators; see pages 3 through 8, and 10 and 11.

The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women Of North America

The Most Reverend
Metropolitan PHILIP
Founder

The Right Reverend
Bishop JOSEPH
Overseeing Hierarch

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Archimandrite John Abdalah, Spiritual Advisor

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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 fall, winter, spring and summer.

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.

Preferred Methods of Submission

- E-mail as an attachment to **Roberta Royhab, DIAKONIA Editor**, at bobbie@theblade.com.
- Submit your article on a CD to Roberta Royhab at 27262 Fort Meigs Road, Perrysburg, OH 43551.
- FAX typed, double spaced articles to (419) 874-9274.

Submission Details

- Please include your name and the phone number where you can be contacted for questions.
- Attach a hard copy for reference.
- Keep a copy. Articles will not be returned. Photos will be returned if requested.

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
Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

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

What is DIAKONIA

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

Many years to His Grace Bishop ANTOUN on occasion of the celebration of 50 years of priesthood!

Message from His Grace Bishop ANTOUN



Beloved in the Lord:

It has been said that the Antiochian Women of North America are the backbone of our God-protected Archdiocese. While I cannot speak on behalf of the entire Archdiocese, I know this to most definitely be true in the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast. Our women work tirelessly in the parishes and many missions in our diocese helping in every way possible.

On the diocesan level, I am grateful for our current president, Mrs. Lisa Phillips, as well as all the past presidents of our Diocesan Antiochian Woman over the years. I look forward to their letters and updates which come on a regular basis.

May the Holy Spirit continue to inspire our Antiochian Women as they, in turn, continue to inspire us through their tireless dedication, love and commitment.

In Christ,

+ANTOUN

Bishop of Miami and the Southeast and Assistant to the Metropolitan

Message from Lisa Phillips, President of Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

Thank God for another year to serve and be faithful to His calling! I am reminded of the verse "Commit your works to the Lord and your plans will be established" (Proverbs 16:3). As we have given our works to Him, He has truly revealed His plan.

The goal of the Antiochian Women is to continually anoint the Body of Christ. In the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast, we seek to fulfill obligations such as annual dues (for the efficient operation of the Diocese organization), annual offering for the Project (this year collecting for the Convent of St. Thekla) and donations for the Benevolence fund (for local outreach and ministry that God puts before us).

The officers of our Diocese communicate on a regular basis with the presidents of the local chapters and a few priests in some cases. We email, write letters and make phone calls to keep in touch. One of the main goals for me has been to educate our ladies on the workings of the Antiochian Women. We have worked hard to simplify the obligations we are committed to and we work hard to follow through. Khouria Dannie Moore simplified it best during her term with a summary of our responsibilities:

Five Major Events to Remember

First remember ---

- *Meet together often
- *Together, pray, read the Scripture, read the lives of the Saints, read a book, prepare your cards to "our friends" and plan your acts of mercy.
- *Then, take care of your business.

I. Dues -- Money that helps our local Diocese and our Archdiocese. \$75.00 of the dues from every parish is sent on to the Archdiocese and the rest remains in our Diocese for our expenses and ministry. We request that this be sent in October to the Treasurer.

II. Delegates Meeting - a meeting in mid-winter with AW officers and delegates from each AW chapter to plan for the Conference.

III. Project - Convent of St. Thekla (Mother Abbess Alexandra) at Antiochian Village; project money sent by April 15th to the Treasurer

IV. Parish Life Conference - All our churches come together with His Grace, Bishop ANTOUN, presiding for the purpose of

presiding for the purpose of planning, fellowship and fun.

V. Fundraiser or Donation at Parish Life Conference - proceeds for Children's Relief Fund and our Benevolence Fund: (scholarships for Camp St. Thekla; annual donation to Mother Nektaria; financial needs/emergencies that may arise; and financial help for Diocesan-elected officers to attend Parish Life Conference and Mid-winter meeting - at the discretion of the executive committee members).

While all of this is important and essential to the proper functioning of our organization, we must keep in mind what is of greater importance. Our souls must be fed and nourished regularly that we may truly be servants of God.

Thus, we encourage our local chapters to meet first for prayer, reading God's word and fellowship. As the spiritual needs are met, we will find the strength and ability to fulfill our obligations.

We are especially blessed to have Mother Nektaria living in our Diocese. She lives at St. Paul Skete in Grand Junction, TN outside Memphis.

We were blessed to hear from her at the Parish Life Conference in 2009. Several of our local chapters invite her to visit for retreats from time to time.



Mother Nektaria speaks to the Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast at their Parish Life Conference in 2009. Fr. Andrew and Kh. Dannie Moore of St. Stephen Church, Hiram, GA, are at right.

It is also a blessing that we are able to be with each other and not serve alone.

The relationships we have and the friendships that grow are gifts from God. This is one reason the Delegate's meeting, the Mid-winter meeting at Antiochian Village, the Parish Life conferences and the summer meeting at Antiochian Village or National Convention are essential. It builds friendships.

The Antiochian Women call themselves a sisterhood - we must strive to make that happen. When we all do our part, life is not so complicated and the work is accomplished.

So as we commit ourselves to Him, He will lead. Let us also be reminded "Let all that you do be done in love".

May God be glorified with the works of our hands!

In His love,
Lisa Phillips

Introducing the 2009-2011 Officers & Coordinators of the Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

Very Reverend Stephen Rogers - Spiritual Advisor

The Very Reverend Stephen Rogers is the senior priest at Saint Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church in Franklin, TN. He has served as the senior priest since 1996. Fr. Stephen was ordained by His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP in February, 1987 and served as an assistant priest at St. Ignatius until 1990. With the blessing of Metropolitan PHILIP, Fr. Stephen served as the assistant priest as Holy Cross-Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Birmingham, AL, in 1990-1992. He returned to Saint Ignatius as an assistant before being appointed senior priest in 1996.



Fr. Stephen is married to Kh. Terry Rogers, a former president of the Antiochian Women in the Diocese of the South and a former North American Board officer. They have three adult daughters and six grandchildren.

Fr. Stephen was appointed by His Grace Bishop ANTOUN to serve as spiritual advisor of Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast in 2008.

Lisa Phillips - President



I am Lisa Phillips, the president for the Antiochian Women in the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast. I live in Hiram, GA and attend St. Stephen Orthodox Church. My husband, Timothy Phillips, is the current president of the Fellowship of St. John the Divine in our Diocese. We are the

parents of Rebecca, Rachel, Anna Ruth and Marissa. We have one child, Seraphim, who is with God.

When asked what I do with my life I respond: I do what needs to be done from day to day. I have been blessed to be able to stay at home, live near the church and my extended family, and be free to serve as needed in several capacities. I have home schooled all my girls through eighth grade. Rebecca will be a senior in college next year, Rachel graduated from high school this year and Anna Ruth has completed her freshman year in high school. I teach Marissa at home and she will be in third grade.

Besides seeking to be active at St. Stephen, I have been blessed to help with the Antiochian Women, serving in various positions in our Diocese through the years. I am also actively involved in the Georgia Right to Life organization and serve as president of the Paulding County Right to Life chapter. I feel it is essential that Orthodox Christians must raise their voice to defend the unborn, the disabled and the elderly. I strive to please God by standing up for what is right and good.

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

I have met many beautiful people in this Archdiocese and will have the joy of meeting many more in the future. As president of the Antiochian Women in our Diocese, I hope to encourage all of us in serving God and His Church. I seek to communicate often about all aspects of our organization and relay information from the North American Board. We have certain obligations to meet, but we also have opportunities to “be Christ” to those around us.

Dorothy Tampary - Vice-President



To introduce myself and our chapter of Antiochian Women to the diocese we must look at the establishment of our mission, St. Andrew the Apostle, in Pensacola, FL in late January, 2007; our chapter of Antiochian Women began in September of that year. I am currently president of our chapter, Sisters of St. Photini. We are very active in the support of fellowship, outreach, spiritual development and special events at St. Andrew's. As an Orthodox Christian for over 40 years, I am committed to spreading the Gospel to build the Body of Christ, both within the framework of St. Andrew's, the diocese, the archdiocese and beyond.

My husband Anthony (Bubba) and I have been married for 42 years. Our son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, Tony, Stacy, Mason and Marina, are also active members of St. Andrew's. Bubba and I enjoy teaching Sunday School and serving on several committees for our mission. I also sing in our choir and enjoy serving as a volunteer at our diocesan summer camp, Camp St. Thekla.

I am retired from teaching high school science for 31 years. Bubba and I are real estate agents of our personally owned and operated company. With more time on our hands, in addition to selling real estate, we now enjoy grandchildren and help where we can at St. Andrew's.

I enjoy serving the women of our diocese as Vice-President and helping our President Lisa Philips and other officers as we all try to fulfill the mission of the Antiochian Women during our term. It is an honor as well as a responsibility to assist the chapters of our diocese in their efforts to raise funds for the annual archdiocese project.

Thank you to His Grace Bishop ANTOUN and the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Antiochian Women for allowing me to serve.

Amber Gorski - Secretary

Amber Gorski serves as secretary for Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast.

She lives in Raleigh, NC and serves also as president of the women's group at All Saints Orthodox Church in Raleigh.

Danna Lewis - Public Relations Director & Religious Coordinator



As Public Relations Director and Religious Coordinator of the Antiochian Women, Diocese of Miami and the Southeast, I have the privilege of being able to meet and stay in touch with all of the wonderful women in our region. This has been a true joy.

I live in Hiram, GA and attend St. Stephen Orthodox Church along with my husband and best friend, Mark. Mark and I have been blessed with four beautiful children: Julianna, John, Justin and Katherine. They are truly my "reason for living." As they grow and mature, we never cease being amazed at what wonderful gifts God has given us in them. We pray for nothing more than that they will be the people God created them to be.

Service to the Church is a very important part of my life. I am an active member in our Antiochian Women Chapter, teach Church School and sing in the choir. Also, I am a teen SOYO advisor to a group of kids who are deeply close to my heart.

At the present, I am a full time homemaker and home school three of my children. In the near future, I plan to continue my education in order to enter the Nursing field.

Besides spending time with my husband and children, which is undoubtedly my favorite activity, I also enjoy writing, reading and cooking. And, even though I am almost embarrassed to admit it, I keep up with sports, NASCAR being my favorite.

God has blessed me tremendously and although I am unworthy and inadequate, I have no greater aspiration in life than serving Him.

As I have trusted in Him with all my heart, He has truly given me "the desires of my heart." I will forever "be thankful to Him and bless His name, for He is good"!

Continued on page 8

Kh. Sharon Meadows - Treasurer



I was born in Jackson, MS, the oldest of six children, and have lived in the Jackson area for most of my life. I was a member of the second graduating class at Callaway High School, and later received a B.S. in Nursing from the University of Mississippi. Following graduation I worked in Neonatal ICU with premature and sick infants.

The week after graduating from college I met my husband, Fr. James Meadows. Although we had actually attended the same high school during our sophomore year and had acquaintances in common, we had never met (or even heard of each other during that time). Fr. James was a graduate of Mississippi State University with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He soon became my best friend, and he remains so even after 38 years.

We have two wonderful daughters, Joanna and Amanda, and a delightful son-in-law, Joseph. We feel that God has blessed us very richly indeed. While our daughters were young, I was able to stay at home with them. During their early school years I was active in PTA, serving as Secretary, Vice President and eventually President.

I also worked with a Great Books reading group at the elementary school. Later, after the girls were older, I worked as an administrative assistant and Jill-of-all-trades for a very small agency with the State of Mississippi.

Fr. James and I are converts to Orthodoxy, along with many in our parish, having been chrismated in 1987. It was like finding our way home after a very long journey. The solemnity of the liturgies, the beauty and majesty of the hymnody, and the security of a faith that does not change with the tides of culture were a balm to my soul.

We have been members of St. Peter Orthodox Church in Madison, MS since that time and Fr. James has served as an Assistant Pastor to Fr. John Henderson.

For over eight years we made trips once a month during the school year to Mississippi State University. There Fr. James celebrated the Divine Liturgy for our college students and I functioned as the choir. It was

an experience that we treasured.

I now serve as the part-time secretary for our parish and also sing in the choir. I enjoy reading, sewing, baking and, most of all, spending time with my family and friends.

Anne Dugan - Humanitarian Coordinator



I am honored to serve our diocese as Humanitarian Coordinator. As such, I have some mighty big shoes to fill — the women who have held this position in my memory have offered a beautiful service to our parishes by faithfully sharing names and details of those in our communities who are in need of special care. Those in my

home parish who receive greetings look forward to them and are greatly appreciative of each card and prayer!

To introduce myself, I am a member of St. John — Memphis, TN, where I am also president of the Antiochian Women through this summer.

I am a freelance graphic designer blessed with the option of working at home. It's a joy to be more self-directed after years of working for others, and it allows me to be more involved in women's activities in our parish.

I am a retired member of our choir and will be part of the committee planning our Parish Life Conference for June 2011!

I enjoy getting to know others in our diocese and encourage them to send me the names, addresses and email addresses (if available) for those in their parish who are unable to regularly attend services, have a serious illness or otherwise are in need of encouragement. We review these names once or twice a year to make sure the contact information is current (and that they still desire to be on our list) and distribute a revised list on a quarterly basis.

I'd like to encourage each of you to use this ministry in your diocese as a means of bringing your women closer to each other, as well as to fill this important need in your diocese. I try to pass along suggestions for communicating with those on our list, as well as ideas for community outreach in your city.

North American Board, Diocesan Officers and Delegates meet in July

At the NAB summer meeting held July 23-24 Antiochian Women were happy to present a check for \$113,031.97 to His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP for this year's NAB project, the building of the Convent of St. Thekla at Antiochian Village.

NAB President Cindy Nimey and Vice-President/NAB Project Violet Robbat also gave him a check for \$6,802.56 for the 2009 project, Al Kafaat of Lebanon. This amount, sent to NAB since last July's meeting, was earmarked specifically for this project.

The NAB meets two times a year with diocesan officers, coordinators and delegates.

It was a wonderful time for the women to get together; they also had the opportunity to meet with Mother Abbess Alexandra of St. Thekla and to tour the serene site of the new monastery at Antiochian Village.

Other business included:

1. *Distribution of the Antiochian Women Membership Handbook which NAB Membership Coordinator Kh. Suzanne Murphy updated and reformatted.* The excellent new 68-page handbook covers the focus and purpose of the organization and includes articles such as "Recruitment & Retention of Members" and the constitution and by-laws.

2. *Announcement of the NAB scholarship winners.* They are Melanie Keel Wilkes, Martha Stewart, Lamees Mukiar and Mary Curry.

3. *Discussion of/participation in the making of the Antiochian Women's video.* It will be showcased at the archdiocesan convention in Chicago, IL, in July 2011.

4. *Clarification of deadlines and procedures for sending donations to past years' projects.* This information will be sent to the diocesan officers.

5. *Correction to the reimbursement policy.* The revised version will be sent to NAB and diocesan officers/coordinators.

6. *Announcement of the mid-winter meeting, Feb. 4-6, 2011, at Antiochian Village.*

Following are highlights from diocesan reports; the amount given to this year's NAB project is in parentheses at end of paragraphs.

Diocese of Charleston, Oakland the Mid-Atlantic and the Diocese of New York and Washington D.C.: The women sponsor a retreat at Antiochian Village during the fifth weekend in Lent. The icon in memory of Kh. Joanne Abdalah is displayed at Antiochian Village. (\$17,457.95)

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West: The women gave \$200 to diocesan seminarians at Christmas, offered six full retreat scholarships and donated to IOCC and Focus America. (\$12,390.80)

Diocese of Miami and the Southeast: The women are encouraged to simplify business and focus on the spiritual at their meetings. The officers communicate with the chapters on a regular basis. See article on pages 4-5. (\$29,402.70)

Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate NY: They awarded a scholarship to a deserving woman and a camp scholarship; at the PLC a child psychiatrist spoke. The religious coordinator led an interactive marriage workshop. (\$11,390.00)

Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest: The Metropolitan PHILIP Award was presented to Daisy Isaac of Flint, MI. Mother Alexandra was guest speaker at their annual retreat (weekend after Mother's Day at Dormition Monastery in Rives Junction, MI). The diocesan project was sale of Ukrainian Easter Egg Decorating Kits. (\$15,100.00)

Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America: Their retreat is Oct. 22-24 in Oklahoma City. Because there are over 50 churches, some with as few of 25 members, they found it necessary to tier their dues structure. They donated \$1226.00 to Camp St. Raphael from sales of assorted items. (\$14,876.09)

Diocese of Worcester and New England: They sponsored a Lenten retreat with Mother Alexandra. They donated to the Teen SOYO Special Olympics; the icon in memory of Kh. Joanne Abdalah; Haiti and Chili relief funds; Bishop ANTOUN's anniversary celebration; the Children's Relief Fund. The 11 parishes will honor spiritual advisor Fr. Edward Hughes at a Sept. 19 reception. (\$12,211.00)



DID SOMEONE SEND A CARD?



BY KHOURIYE DANNIE MOORE

THE LAST DAYS OF SUMMER in the year 1975 had come to the beautiful rolling hills of East Tennessee. The flowers in the gardens no longer had the brilliant colors of early and mid-summer. Many plants had ceased to flourish and some were struggling to keep a few blossoms alive. In either case, as one looked around the plants sent a message — “We will stay as long as we can.”

It was in this setting that a neighbor and I walked one day. It was the end of summer, late in the day and with enough beauty left in her garden for one to know, “The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof” (Psalm 24:1).

While talking about her garden she grasped my hand and looked me straight in the eye. Then from her heart came the words, “You know, it takes ‘guts’ to grow old.” I offered a few words and we lingered a while longer. We said goodnight and promised we would see each other the next day.

Spring and summer had come and gone in my friend’s life. She was now in the time of autumn and winter was coming. After twenty-five years, it is easy to remember her standing amidst the flowers and with all her strength saying, “It takes ‘guts’ to grow old.”

Now, travel with me down the road of life. It is January, 1998. Father Andrew and I are attending a Delegates’ meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida for the Southeast Region. The AOCWNA (Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America) meeting has ended, so I join my husband at the Fellowship of St. John the Divine meeting. As I quietly find a vacant seat, the words float through the air, “Father (a



retired priest) has written a note and would like for us to correspond with him occasionally.” Upon hearing the words, the thought came, “How many in our region need to hear from someone? How many are in their last days and are like my friend from East Tennessee?”

Over the next few days guidance was given by the Holy Spirit. Within a few weeks, names were gathered by the local Antiochian Women Presidents and Humanitarian Coordinators. After the names and addresses were sent to me, a list was compiled and mailed with a letter of how we could implement a ministry of words and love. We now had a way to keep in touch with those who, for various reasons, must stay home or be in a place where others care for them. Each local ladies’ group was asked to divide the names among themselves and every month send a card with a few encouraging words. With the power of words on a

card there would also be the power of prayer.

Now, it is the year 2000, and for two years many of the Antiochian Women chapters in our Southeast Region have been faithful and diligent in reaching out and blessing the lives of our friends. At present, we have thirty-four parishioners with whom we correspond monthly. And as we give a blessing, God, through these precious friends, sends a blessing back to us.

Here are a few examples of these blessings:

One woman, upon receiving her first card, sleeps that evening with it under her pillow.

A parishioner who visits one of our friends in a nursing home calls and relates how much the cards have meant to her as she reads them while she visits.

One of our friends, once an avid gardener, now looks at her garden from the window, and writes, “Your caring for me gives me great joy.”

The sister of one of our friends writes to thank us and ask that we light a candle often for her sister.

The khouriye of a dear priest departed this life writes to us often and gives us back a hundredfold of love and blessings.

The words spoken by Jameely Saad will forever ring in our ears, “Angela, did someone send a card?”

From a mother and daughter, “Your prayers and the love of God you send do us so much good.”

From the mother of young Alex, now ten years old and near death, “I know people care because we receive so many cards.”

Glory be to God!

In the last two years, eight of our precious friends have fallen asleep in the Lord. Memory Eternal! We hope

that a day or two before, a card came giving them love and encouragement.

There are those on our list who are not elderly but are at a time in their lives when it is better to remain at home. Having been faithful in their parishes, it is now time for us to meet them where they are.

Christ met people where they were and touched their lives. The simple, ordinary things on this earth were used, and with and by the power of God, lives were transformed and healing came. We are now servants of God on this earth to reach out and touch people. Small, simple things, with God's power, can be used to penetrate the soul of a person. By the Holy Spirit, the words we write, the love we convey, the care we give will bring peace. To know someone loves you enough to keep in touch with you will bring healing in some way.

God so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son, and He has made it possible through Holy Scripture that we can read of that great love every day. Our hearts should swell with gratitude at this mighty act. Our hearts should tremble within us until we share words of love, comfort, courage, peace, and joy with those in need. So many are waiting just to hear or read simple words ... "I thought of you today," "I am praying for you," "God loves you and so do I."

With the haunting words of my friend in East Tennessee, "It takes 'guts' to grow old," I also hear our friend Jameely Saad ask, "Angela, did someone send a card today?"

God help us to show His loving kindness and to give our friends words that will impart strength and courage.

Thank you to those who take the time to share in this ministry of written words. "May the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all" (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

Kh. Dannie Moore of St. Stephen Orthodox Church in Hiram, Georgia presently serves as Humanitarian Coordinator of the Southeast Region of the Antiochian Women.

NOTE from Lisa Phillips, Antiochian Women President, Diocese of Miami and the Southeast:

As you can see the article, "Did Someone Send a Card?" was written by Kh. Dannie Moore and was published in the WORD magazine in January 2001. We thank God for leading Kh. Dannie to begin this ministry that has continued and grown in our Diocese since then. There has always been about 40 names on the list, but many of the dear friends have departed this life from time to time. We want to keep their memory eternal by keeping this ministry alive.

In our parish, St. Stephen in Hiram, GA, we regularly hear from some of those on our friends' list. Many of them are not able to attend services and functions of the church but they are able to communicate. We want them to know they are not forgotten and more importantly that they are loved. We consider it a privilege to show our love for those who have loved the church, have lived their lives in the church and now for various reasons cannot be physically in the church as often.

Occasionally we even hear from family members who are grateful for the words of encouragement we send. Most of them contact us when one of these friends departs this life.

Our humanitarian coordinator keeps our friends' list current and contacts the parishes and missions regularly for changes, updates and additions. It is suggested that each ladies' chapter appoint a woman in their parish to coordinate this ministry. Chapters can send cards every 4-6 weeks, and especially for Christmas, Lent and Pascha. At St. Stephen we have our church school classes make cards and send them at least twice a year. Sometimes we send group cards, signed by several of us, and other times we divide the cards and write personal notes from one person. It will depend on your parish and those who want to be involved in this ministry.

Be creative and think of those beautiful people who will be receiving the uplifting cards and words. Anoint these people as you would the Body of Christ.



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women
of North America

Roberta Royhab
27262 Fort Meigs Road
Perrysburg OH 43551-1230



REMINDER to Diocesan Boards: Please remember the following schedule for submitting your articles and profiles for the *DIAKONIA*. One diocese is highlighted in each issue according to the following schedule. However, articles and news from all dioceses and parishes of the North American Antiochian Archdiocese of North America are welcome in every issue.—Roberta Royhab, Editor

	Diocese	Date of Publication	Date Due
1	NAB Board	(Fall) October 2009	Done
2	Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic and the Diocese of New York and Washington D.C.	(Winter) January 2010	Done
3	Diocese of Los Angeles and the West and the Diocese of Eagle River and the Northwest	(Spring) April 2010	Done
4	Diocese of Miami and the Southeast	(Summer) July 2010	Done
5	Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate NY	(Fall) October 2010	September 1, 2010
6	Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest	(Winter) January 2011	December 1, 2010
7	Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America	(Spring) April 2011	March 1, 2011
8	Diocese of Worcester and New England	(Summer) July 2011	June 1, 2011

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