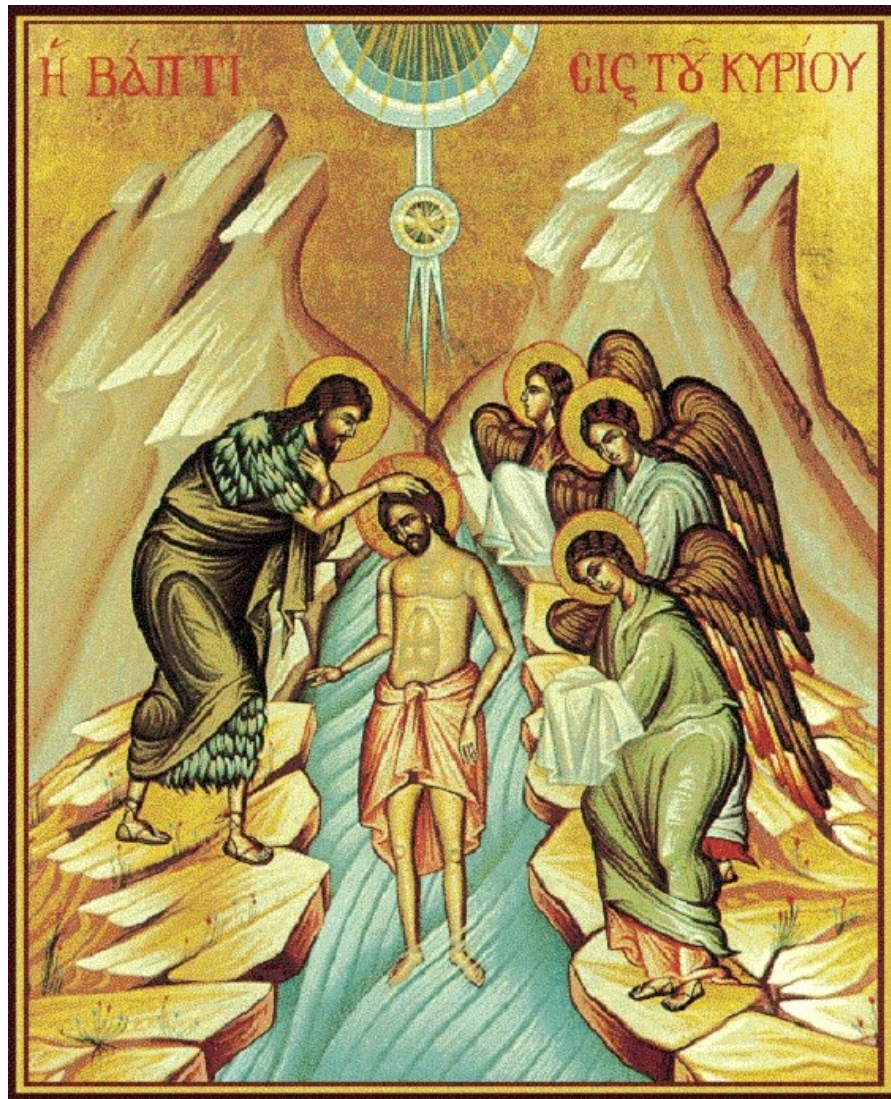


# DIAKONIA

WINTER 2010-2011



*Theophany, The Baptism of Christ, January 6*

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

A SISTERHOOD SERVING CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OTHERS

## The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women Of North America

The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan PHILIP  
Founder

The Right Reverend  
Bishop JOSEPH  
Overseeing Hierarchy

### North American Board

Archimandrite John Abdalah, Spiritual Advisor

#### Officers:

Cindy Nimey ..... President  
Violet Robbat ..... Vice-president  
Dianne O'Regan ..... Recording Secretary  
Sherry Abraham-Morrow ..... Treasurer  
Roberta Royhab ..... Public Relations  
Laila Ferris ..... Immediate Past President

#### Coordinators:

Kh. Dannie Moore ..... Humanitarian  
Kh. Suzanne Murphy ..... Membership  
Jamie Isaac ..... Religious  
Kh. Helene Hajal ..... Scholarship  
Alicia Atik ..... Constitution &  
Bylaws  
Kh. Barbara Baz ..... Widowed Clergy Wives 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 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 (419-340-4560)**, **DIAKONIA Editor**, at robertaroyhab@bex.net.
- Submit your article on a CD to Roberta Royhab at PO Box 1128, Perrysburg, OH 43552-1128.

##### **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 Toledo and the Midwest**

In each of the next two issues, we will highlight Antiochian Women of 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.

# The Mission of the Church

by Fr. Daniel Daly, Spiritual Advisor for Midwest Antiochian Women

*(Editor's note: Fr. Daniel took excerpts from his following sermon in a talk he gave to Midwest women in the fall.)*

*"Going therefore teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you..."*

The Church is in the world to carry out the mission given to it by the Lord Himself. The church must carry out the ministries of : 1. **evangelization and witness**, 2. the **sacramental mission of worship and sacrament**, 3. the ministry of **fellowship**, 4. the ministry of **charity**.

Our ministry of evangelization is carried out in various ways in the church. In addition to the Sunday sermon we have our church school programs and our adult education series. We have bookstores, which can be very popular with our visitors. We are very blessed in Orthodoxy that our building and our icons proclaim the message of the Gospel. In addition to all these things we have the individual witness of each of you. We have a duty to witness both to the people within this faith community and to those outside. In all that we do here in our church we do so with the realization that our church does not only exist for those within this parish, but it also has a mission to those outside it as well.

Our ministry of worship and sacrament goes beyond our Sunday Divine Liturgy. The Sunday Liturgy is the climax of all our other activities. These involve the baptisms, chrismations, marriages and funerals throughout the year. The Church is uniquely a "worshipping community". Our worship is not something that was written by some sincere person last year. Our worship goes back to the commands of Christ Himself. In fact our Eucharistic worship is the worship of Christ.

Each church is called to the mission of fellowship. Christian fellowship is primarily our fellowship with Christ and His Heavenly Father, (Read the First Chapter of St. John's First Epistle) but like everything in the church it has its human side, its human component. Spiritual fellowship needs basic human fellowship. Our church at one time was a group of immigrant people from the Middle East. We stand on their shoulders, and must be grateful for what they did. Today, as you know the parish is more diverse. We have people from many backgrounds. We thank God for our new people. Without growth a parish will die. Our fellowship with Christ and the Father is dependent upon our fellowship with other members of the church. And that can be for better or for worse.

Like the ministries of witness, worship and fellowship, our ministry of charity is also diverse. Our food for hungry people collection was a great success. Each time we pass a special tray here, you are very generous. There are many of you that I can approach without hesitation to assist others. The ministry of charity touches every aspect of our lives, not just in what we can do materially. Above all "let us love one another" here in St. Nicholas. Let us never speak unkindly about a brother or sister. Let us be courteous to one another. All that we do and say to each other, and about each other is not missed by our children. Let them grow up in a family of faith, hope and charity.

In all these areas of ministry we must look both within and without. We must witness to each other, worship with each other, have fellowship with each other and help each other. But we must never lose the vision that we must look outward. The church is a community with a mission. The Lord called us to teach all nations, baptizing them. St. John in his first epistle calls people into the fellowship of the church. We are called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and to visit the sick and imprisoned.

I believe that our parish is conscious of its mission. Do we do it perfectly? Of course not. We must strive to do all these things better and more fervently. As your priest I can only judge from a human point of view. Our Lord sees these things that we do. Only He truly knows how well we do them. But I believe that all of us are striving to be that kind of church. We can improve in every area of parish life, that is true; but I believe we are going in the right direction.

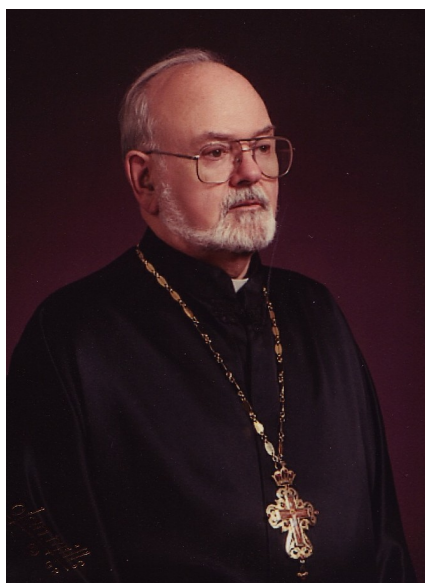
Let us not fear if a member of the church reminds us that we are not doing what we might in any one of these four missions that we are called to be carrying out. At times we will be doing one mission better than the other. **If someone says "our church should be doing this, or that", we can always ask ourselves "does that activity belong to one of these four missions?" If it does, then it might become part of our church life. If it has nothing to do with these four missions, then we should examine it carefully.**

# Meet the Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest

## BIOGRAPHIES :

*Sheryl VanderWagen – President*

*The V. Rev. 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 for the past ten years.



I am a member of St. George Church in Grand Rapids, MI where I am active in the Antiochian Women chapter, serve as Co-Superintendent of the Sunday School and sing in the choir. I play the piano and have directed children's choir. I am also coaching our church's Bible Bowl Team this year.

This is my first term as president of the Midwest Antiochian Women. Prior to that, I served two terms as secretary. Along with my husband, Guy and two daughters, Abby (19) and Emily (14), we have been members of St. George for 14 years. Guy and I were both raised in and attended various Protestant churches before becoming Orthodox 14 years ago. I have always been active in whatever church we attended but in coming to St. George, I found meaning in working for the Church.

I owe my gratitude to His Grace, Bishop MARK for encouraging me to become active in the Antiochian Women for the Diocese. It has enriched my life and been a rewarding experience.

I am the ILS (Integrated Library System) Manager for the Lakeland Library Cooperative based in Grand Rapids, a position I've held for eight years; prior to that I was Library Director at the Georgetown Township Library in Jenison, MI for 18 years.

We live in Coopersville, MI, a small town located midway between Grand Rapids and Muskegon. Guy and I were both raised in Coopersville and have chosen to raise our family there too. I graduated from Hope College in Holland, MI and earned my Master's Degree in Library



Science from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI.

**Kh. Elfriede Daly—Vice-President**

Kh. Elfriede is a native of Austria, having been raised near the famous "Sound of Music" City of Salzburg. She was born in the town of Braunau on the German border. She has two sisters and two brothers still living in Europe. Fr. Daniel was born in Ann Arbor, MI but was raised in the suburbs of Detroit. Father and Kh. Elfriede are the grandparents of a 15 month old girl named Athena Anne Daly. She is the joy of their lives.

Kh. Elfriede and little Athena are now able to use a device on the computer called a "skype". They like to look at their Austrian and German relatives as they talk to them on the internet. As with most modern electronic devices, Father Daniel did not understand them. Father has a Doctor of Ministry Degree from St. Vladimir's Seminary but they did not talk about "skypes" at that time.

**Karen Mann—Recording Secretary** Karen is a member of St. Andrew Church in Lexington, KY.

**Kh. Jeanette Gallaway—Public Relations**



My name is Kh. Jeanette Dragelevich Gallaway (photo above was taken during August trip to the Holy Land). I was

raised in a small town outside of Pittsburgh, PA in a Serbian Orthodox family and was very active in the life of the Church. While attending nursing school I worked at the Serbian Diocese in Pittsburgh as the technical editor of the *Path of Orthodoxy* and with the college student ministry. I then attended St. Vladimir's Seminary and received my Masters of Divinity in 1980. In 1982 I married my wonderful husband, Fr. Tom, and had 3 lovely boys. I work as a Critical Care Nurse in an Open Heart Unit in Lexington, KY and direct our choir at St. Andrew Church in Lexington. The Church has been my life, God

willing raising my children to be good Christians and someday to get married and give me lots of grandchildren.

**Libbie Kohl—Treasurer**



I am a cradle Orthodox being raised at St. George Church in Cedar Rapids, IA. I've taught Sunday Sunday school for 11 years. Then I graduated to the choir which I am still directing after 25 years. I've held President, Vice-President and Treasurer positions on the parish level and on the parish council. On the diocesan level I've been Vice-

President, Public Relations and now hold the office of Treasurer.

My family consists of my husband Joe who travels with me to all the meetings, and two children, David and Julie. David lives in California with his son Jeffrey and two great grandchildren. We lost our daughter Julie four years ago.

**Roberta Royhab— Immediate Past President and Religious Coordinator** Roberta, of Perrysburg, OH is public relations for the NAB, see her biography in the October 2009 issue of the *DIAKONIA*.

**Margaret Simon—Humanitarian Coordinator**



God blessed my brothers, sister, and me with God-fearing parents, Alexander and Eva Simon, who were born in Seidnaya, Syria. They both were very pious Orthodox Christians and church always came first.

There was a lot of love in our family, and we were taught that

Sundays were always reserved for church and God. We were also taught that when starting to work, you first set aside a portion of your earnings to support your church. I truly believe the saying "Whatever you give to the church, it comes back to you a thousand times over." And, of course, how true that is!!

I have been a member of St. George Church in Grand Rapids, MI all my life. I served as a Sunday school teacher and as a member of the Board of Trustees. I sing in the choir and am a member of the Georgian Stars and The Ladies Golden Links Society (our Antiochian Women chapter). I have held several offices in the different organizations, as well as being president of our local chapter of Antiochian Women for several years.

I have served two 2-year terms as Vice President of the Midwest Antiochian Women and have held several coordinator positions; currently I am Humanitarian Coordinator for the Midwest. I thank God that church is the most important part of my life. In June 2003 I was honored to receive the Metropolitan PHILIP award from the Midwest Antiochian Women.

I am Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Engineering at Blackmer/Dover Corporation. June 1, of 2010 I celebrated 51 years at Blackmer.

**Dianne O'Regan—Archives and Historian** Dianne, of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Louisville, KY, is recording secretary for the NAB, see her biography in the October 2009 issue of the *DIAKONIA*.

**Elaine Shaheen—Midwest Fundraising Coordinator** Elaine is a member of St. George Church, Flint, MI.

## Midwest women sell baby bibs to raise funds for Convent of St. Thekla

Kh. Elfriede Daly is shown at right with granddaughter Athena who is wearing a “where’s grandmother” bib, with grandmother written in purple in 10 languages. A “where’s grandfather” bib, with grandfather written in green in 10 languages, is also available for \$7.00 each from the organization of Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest. Profits from the sale of the baby bibs go to the annual project, the building of the Convent of St. Thekla at Antiochian Village. Made of terry cloth, with vinyl backing and snap closures, the bibs are made in the U.S.A. Elaine Shaheen is taking orders with payment; you may contact her at 810-733-8114 or Elasha@aol.



## Mother Abbess Alexandra spoke at Midwest Antiochian Women’s annual retreat



*Mother Abbess Alexandra of the newly-established Convent of St. Thekla at Antiochian Village, shown at left, spoke at the fifth annual Midwest Antiochian Women’s Retreat, held at the Orthodox Monastery of Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery in Rives Junction, MI, May 14-16.*

*Her topic was “Create in me a New Heart.” Today the Holy Spirit appears to us every time we receive the Eucharist, she said. “When we invite the Holy Spirit in, there is always unity...unity in ourselves, unity with each other and most importantly, unity with Christ.”*

*More than 50 women attended the weekend retreat, one of many gatherings where Mother Alexandra spoke this last year throughout the Archdiocese. The Midwest women’s sixth annual retreat is tentatively scheduled for May 13-15 at Dormition Monastery. All women are invited to attend.*

# Rejoice in Theophany

from "Orthodox Way of Life" blog

Reference from On the Day of Christ's Baptism by John Chrysostom

We now approach the day of Theophany, the day in which the divinity of Jesus is revealed to us through His baptism by John in the Jordan River. On this day we know Him as the Son of God who came for our salvation. Although one could argue that His birth should be seen as Theophany, up to this time Jesus was not known by many. As John the Baptist says at this event, *"Amidst you stands Him Whom you know not of"* (John 1:26). Therefore, we call the day He was baptized Theophany because He became known to many at this time.

We can also see that this was the beginning of His work to create the path for our salvation with Baptism being the first step. Later He would establish the Church with its clergy where those who were joined with Him in baptism could continue to benefit from the grace filled sacraments.

Prior to this time there was a Jewish baptism which cleansed the body from impurities such as touching the bones of the dead, eating unclean foods, or being with lepers, but it did not remove sins. In Scripture it says, *"Let one wash his body in pure water--and he will unclean until evening, and then he will be clean."* (Lev 15:5, 22:4) This Jewish practice was a preparation of what was to come. The baptism that was established by Christ was much more as it was for the forgiveness of sins though the Holy Spirit and they were more than forgiven, they were absolved through grace. John the Baptist baptized those who repented of their sins but did not grant forgiveness through grace. Sins were not absolved through his baptism. John says, *"I baptize you with water...That one however will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."* (Mat 3:11)

Jesus came to be baptized by John not because he needed to be forgiven His sins, being sinless, nor to receive the Holy Spirit, being one with the Spirit already, but to show us the path we are to take to be relieved of our sinfulness and to receive the Holy Spirit to abide within us. John's baptism in water was also a preparation so Christ would be known and so we could receive this sacrament. Because John was known as a prophet, his baptism of Christ had great meaning to the people so they would believe that Jesus was the Son of God.

On this day, as John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, the Holy Spirit visibly descended in the form of a dove. St. John Chrysostom tells us that this descent as a dove was like a pointer. He says, *"Did you see, that the Holy Spirit did not descend as in a first time then coming down upon Him, but in order to point out that preached by His inspiration--as though by a finger, it pointed Him out to all."*

We rejoice at this Theophany for Jesus showed us the way for our renewal to begin. He was announced as the Son of God for all to see, submitting to John's baptism with humility.

Jesus says, *"Except you be converted and become as little children, you shall not enter into the Heavenly Kingdom."* (Mat 18:3)



## Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women

Roberta Royhab  
PO Box 1128  
Perrysburg OH 43552-1128



**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 Antiochian Orthodox Christian 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	Done
6	Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest	(Winter) January 2011	Done
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