

AWE

Antiochian Women of the East

*In awe of our Creator
and His work in us and through us.*

January 2008



LOTS OF LOCKS OF LOVE



HAIR - thick, luxurious hair - long, beautiful hair. That's what college student Daniela Drăghici a member of St. Philip Church, Souderton, PA, had until just a few months ago. Then her mother cut it all off - and I mean ALL of it. When she was done, she had a half-inch buzz cut. Why? Why

would a mother do such a thing to her daughter?

Actually, it was Daniela's idea. When she was in fifth grade, she saw a TV special about Locks of Love, and decided then that someday she would donate her hair. Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis.

Daniela's hair was short when she was a young girl, though she very much wanted long hair, and she wanted other girls to have the opportunity to have long hair if they wanted it. In her teens, Daniela started to grow her hair long several times, but always got it cut before it was long enough for Locks of Love. Finally, as a high school student and into college, she didn't cut her hair for three and a half years. Finally, when it was about hip-length, her mom cut it so she could donate it to Locks of Love.

The minimum length hair Locks of Love can use is ten inches. When Daniela cut

her hair, it was 32 inches long - braided! A 10-inch donation can only be used for a short hairpiece (chin-length); Daniela's hair will help a needy girl to have a long-hair prosthesis. Although both boys and girls are recipients of these hairpieces, most are girls, and most want long hair. Every donation is welcome, however, since the prostheses provided by Locks of Love help to restore the children's self-esteem and their confidence.

Daniela's new buzz cut was a shock to everyone, and especially to Daniela. She didn't go out with her head uncovered for two months. "It made me realize a little bit what these kids go through, and I did it willingly. I can't even imagine what it would be like to have this happen to me without being able to stop it," she says.

Would she do it again?

Probably, says Daniela, "but not as drastically as I did this time. I'll probably only cut it to about shoulder length. It will be a couple of years, though. I want to have my long hair back for a while before I cut it off again."

Daniela has also set an example for others at St. Philip's. A mother and daughter have recently donated their hair, and others also plan to do so.

Visit locksoflove.org to get more information about donating hair or applying for a hairpiece. Cash donations are also welcome.



A Message from our President

Greetings in the name of our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ.

I am Joanne Bitar, President of the Eastern Diocese of the Antiochian Women. I pray everyone had a wonderful & blessed holy season and is ready to begin another year of fellowship, spiritual enrichment, etc. I am honored to serve as your president and know that with this wonderful group of officers and coordinators, we will have a great year. A few things I would like you to remember is our NAB Project, which is the Retired Clergy Fund, and our annual Retreat, which is set for the weekend of April 11-13, 2008, at the Antiochian Village. Please mark your calendar. You will be getting more information in the coming issues of the Newsletter and also from the Coordinators.

Your Sister In Christ,
Joanne Bitar, President

Calendar:



•April 11-13 - AWE Lenten Retreat at Antiochian Village. Our speaker will be Fr. Michael Dahulich, who inspired us at our retreat a few years ago. More information will be mailed soon.

We Need YOU ... To give us your thoughts, ideas & information. Send us anything you think would be encouraging or of interest to others. Your submission doesn't have to be long—a few lines or a short paragraph will do. (Articles will be edited to fit our space.)

Send all submissions to: Vera Acker 1576 Salford St. Harleysville, PA 19438 vab_acker@yahoo.com

Remember: Every woman in our Archdiocese is an 'Antiochian Woman'

Introducing ...

Our new officers and coordinators are pleased to be serving the Antiochian Women of the East. Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions on our activities or events.

Spiritual Advisor, V. Rev. Fr. Don Shadid abeenad@yahoo.com
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ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN'S PROJECT:

The Antiochian Women continue to support the RETIRED CLERGY FUND Project. Joining with the other dioceses over the last two years, the AW have now raised over half of our goal of \$500,000 in five years. Keep up the good work! It is crucially important, since 25% of our clergy will reach possible retirement age in the next five years! Please be sure to send in the funds raised as soon as possible. Please contact Treasurer Kh. Yvonne Butts at ybutts@comcast.net if you have questions. Thank you for your support!