

Diocese of Miami & the South East

His Grace Bishop ANTOUN
25th Anniversary in the Episcopate
May God grant Him Many Years!

November 6th, 2007

Beloved Clergy, Esteemed Members of the Parish Council and fellow parishioners in the Self-Ruled Antiochian Archdiocese of North America.

Christ is in our Midst

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We hope that this letter will have a good attention from each and every one of you.

As you well know that His Grace Bishop ANTOUN has dedicated almost 50 years of his life to service in this God protected Archdiocese, since his arrival in America in 1959. He has served with great distinction as a parish pastor, as an Episcopal Assistant, and as a teacher. His personal integrity, honor, wisdom, kindness, love and generosity have earned him the respect as well as love and affection from his students, parishioners, and all who have worked with him.

On January 9, 1983, at the Cathedral of St. Nicholas in Brooklyn, where he was the beloved pastor, Bishop ANTOUN was elevated to the see of Selefkia upon his consecration to the Holy Episcopate. Since then he has been named as the Bishop of Miami and the Southeast.

In each place of service, Bishop ANTOUN has given himself wholly and untiringly to those for whom he has been responsible. His students at St. Vladimir Seminary experienced his love and care as well as his great knowledge and gift for teaching. His parishioners in Philadelphia, Toronto, Allentown and Brooklyn experienced his love and care as well as his wisdom and untiring and unfailing energy. All of us in the Archdiocese have benefited from his amazing and heroic hard work and dedication as he worked in the Archdiocesan office for all of these years. He has traveled and visited almost every parish and mission in our Archdiocese. All of us have benefited from his wisdom, knowledge and dedication. And now his parishes in the Southeast are enjoying the limitless attention of his love and care for them.

As we recognize Bishop ANTOUN's nearly fifty years of service to the Archdiocese and his twenty-five years of service in the Episcopacy, we ask God to continue to support and protect him, and to pour out upon him every blessing and joy, and to grant him many, many prosperous, healthy, and happy years to come.

On this occasion the Committee in charge of the 25th Anniversary Celebration with the blessing of our Father in Christ, His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP decided to have a Commemorative Souvenir Journal to mark this happy event in the life of our Antiochian Family.

The proceeds from this Souvenir Journal will be designated toward the purchase of a Chancery for the Diocese of Miami & the South East in honor of His grace Bishop ANTOUN.

We hope that every parish and Mission in our God protected Archdiocese and as many parishioners as possible will participate in this Souvenir Journal.

On Behalf of:
The Committee,

Dr. Elias Hebekka, Chairman