

DIAKONIA

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA



Fall 2015

Highlighting our new North American Board
Elected July 2015 Archdiocese Convention, Boston MA



Celebrating the 2015 Convention with Patriarch JOHN X and Metropolitan JOSEPH



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

North American Board (NAB)

His Grace, Bishop JOHN, Spiritual Advisor

Officers:

President:	Dianne O'Reagan
Vice-President/ Project:	Kh. Suzanne Murphy
Recording Secretary:	Sheryl VanderWagen
Treasurer:	Fadia Juzdan
Public Relations:	Melinda Bentz
Immediate Past President:	Violet Robbat

Coordinators:

Constitution & Bylaws:	Lauren Ferris
Humanitarian:	Dorothy Tampary
Membership:	Mary Lou Catelli
Parliamentarian:	Anne Bourjaily-Thomas
Religious:	Kh. Dannie Moore
Scholarship:	Cindy Nimey
Finance Committee:	Sherry Abraham-Morrow Laila Ferris
Widowed Clergy Wives:	Deana Bottei

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.

PUBLICATION GUIDELINES:

Deadlines

- Please submit your articles by the first of the month prior to the month of publication so we can ensure they are included.

To submit articles, e-mail as a word attachment to:
antiochianwomenna@gmail.com

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 newly elected North American Board Officers and Coordinators With a message from His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH

In each issue 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.

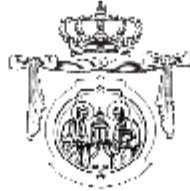
What is DIAKONIA?

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>

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

October 2015

With this October issue of *Diakonia*, we welcome Melinda Bentz in her new role as the NAB Antiochian Women Public Relations officer. We thank her for her spirit of service to the Antiochian Women and this Archdiocese and we ask our Lord Jesus Christ to bless every effort that she will undertake in this role. As I have said on many occasions, this Archdiocese needs every man, woman, and child, clergy and laity, young and old to come together and use their talents for the uplifting of the Church, the Bride of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we serve, we must be ever mindful of the teaching of St. Paul when he says:

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
(Galatians 5:22)*

As Christians, we are called to always maintain the spirit of love which our Lord Jesus Christ gives to us, joy in His Resurrection, the peace that can only come from above, longsuffering (patience) to endure trials and tribulations, gentleness and goodness in dealing with one another, and unwavering faith in our Lord Jesus Christ who has promised to be with us "until the end of the age." We must also remember that things do not change overnight, but good change requires thought, prayer, and time to implement. We are called to spread the seeds, but only God can cause them to grow and prosper.

It is my prayer that our gracious and loving Lord will continue to watch over this God-protected Archdiocese and bless every effort which we make to glorify His Holy Name.

Your Father in Christ,

+JOSEPH
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F

Antiochian Women Spiritual Advisor

Right Reverend Bishop JOHN

Diocese of Worcester and New England



Bishop John has served as the Spiritual Advisor for the North American Board of the Antiochian Women since 1997. He says that he has been enriched by his work with the inspirational women of the Archdiocese. The dedicated and hard working ladies genuinely care for each other and are examples of Christian leadership through service.

Bishop John is a native of Boston, Massachusetts where he grew up and studied. A widower, Bishop John was married to former NAB President, Joanne (Josephs) Abdalah and he is the father of Gregory (Phoenix, AZ), Joseph (Tulsa, OK) and Maria (Westborough, MA). Bishop John serves as Bishop of Worcester and New England as well as Overseer for the Western Rite Vicariate. He also is the Editor of The WORD.

Bishop John studied Business Administration at Suffolk University, earned a Master of Divinity degree at St. Vladimir's and a Doctor of Divinity in Pastoral Care at Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute. Bishop John teaches Priestly Formation at the Antiochian House of Studies and is the mentor of the Seminarian Program of the Antiochian House of Studies.

On Sunday, December 11, 2011, Bishop John was consecrated as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Worcester and New England, 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. Bishop John's namesday is September 26 (St. John the Theologian).



Introducing
The 2015—2017
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America
North American Board

President: Dianne O'Regan

I am a convert to Orthodoxy, having been raised in the Roman Catholic Church. I have been a member of St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church in Louisville, Kentucky for almost 20 years. I graduated with my Associate of Arts in Political Science from Bellarmine University, and my Bachelor of Arts (Summa Cum Laude) in Political Science with an Emphasis on Russian/Soviet Area Studies from the University of Louisville. I have been employed as a Legal Assistant for 35 years, having worked in the fields of criminal prosecution, criminal defense, and civil and corporate law. Since 1996, I have been employed at the law offices of Stites & Harbison.

On the local parish level, I currently sing in our choir, but have also served as a church school teacher, editor of our monthly newsletter, member of our adult Bible Bowl Team, and serving the Antiochian Women in various capacities. On the Diocesan level, I have held the offices of President, Vice President/NAB Project Coordinator, Recording Secretary, Public Relations Coordinator, and Archivist/Historian. I was also honored with the Metropolitan PHILIP Award for the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest.

On the NAB level, I have served as Recording Secretary (from 2003-2007 and 2009-2011) and Religious Coordinator (2007-2009), for which I compiled and edited "Orthodox Women Saints" for the Antiochian Archdiocese website and a CD-ROM entitled, "Holy Women of the Orthodox Church" in honor of the Antiochian Women's 35th Anniversary. More recently, I served as Vice President/NAB Project Coordinator (from 2012-2015).

In my spare time, I love to read (with a fondness towards history), and serve on the Board of Directors of the Kentuckiana Shetland Sheepdog Club and the Kentuckiana Cluster of Dog Shows, which puts on the largest five-day dog show in North America. I'm also a long-time member of the Louisville Kennel Club, and a recipient of the American Kennel Club's Good Sportsmanship Award.

I'm honored to be serving the Antiochian Women of this blessed Archdiocese.

Dianne conducting the first meeting of the new board in Boston.



Dianne and +Fr. Alexander Atty of
blessed memory

Vice President and NAB Project: Kh. Suzanne Murphy

Kh. Suzanne Murphy is the wife of Fr. Gregory-Lazarus Murphy. They serve as the clergy family of St. Michael's Parish in Geneva, which is in the Finger Lakes area of Upstate New York. Fr. Gregory says that Kh. Suzanne and he have a true "team ministry" at St. Michael's -- she is the director of the choir and the sole chanter of the parish, so she is at every service, either chanting or leading the choir (or both). She also serves as his liaison with the Church School faculty, and with the Antiochian Women. She also looks forward to accompanying Father when he visits the elderly and homebound, especially when he brings the Holy Mysteries, as he values her help in singing the service with him.



In the secular world, Kh. Suzanne also has a full-time job as an elementary music teacher in the Geneva Public Schools. She also teaches in the Academic Intervention/Reading Recovery Program of the Geneva school system, where she helps "at risk" children to keep pace with grade-level reading. When they lived in the Boston area before coming to Geneva, Suzanne was named a "Teacher of Distinction" as one of the faculty members of a "National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence." She was also named as one of the "40 Outstanding Teachers in the Arts" by the Boston Symphony Orchestra Education Outreach Committee and the Massachusetts State Department of Education's Massachusetts Cultural Council. Since moving to Geneva, Suzanne has also been an Adjunct Faculty member in the Music Department of Hobart & William Smith Colleges, where she teaches voice. Additionally, she is a faculty member of the St. Peter's Arts Academy, which is a private arts school serving the greater Finger Lakes area. Suzanne also sings in local and regional ensembles, including the Hobart and William Smith Colleges Chorale, the Syracuse Vocal Ensemble, and as the alto soloist in several productions sponsored by The American Landmarks Concerts Series. She recently sang the role of "The second lady" in Mozart's The Magic Flute with the Geneva Light Opera Company. Suzanne has also been grateful to be a long-time member of the Boston Byzantine Choir.

Kh. Suzanne and Fr. Gregory have been blessed with four children: David, Aaron, Adam, and Moriah. In her spare time (whenever she can find any), Suzanne loves to knit and make handmade gifts for her family and friends. She feels blessed to be able to serve as the NAB Vice-President/Project Coordinator, and as the Scholarship Coordinator for the Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada, and Upstate New York.



"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

On behalf of the North American Board of the Antiochian Women, I urge you to download the promotional poster and begin to plan projects and events that will raise these much-needed funds.

Please contact Kh. Suzanne with any questions about our NAB 2015-2016 project.

<http://antiochian.org/women/project-2015-2016>

Recording Secretary: Sheryl VanderWagen



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. Along with my husband, Guy and two daughters, Abby and Emily, we have been members of St. George for nearly 20 years. Guy and I were both raised in and attended various Protestant churches before becoming Orthodox over 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 14 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 Diocesan President for 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.

Treasurer: Fadia Juzdan

I was born in Jaffa, Palestine and was baptized and married in St. George Church in the old city of Jaffa. I graduated with an Accounting degree from Bir-Zeit University in Bir-Zeit, Palestine. I work as a senior financial analyst at Cytec Industries. I enjoy cooking, reading, traveling and entertaining guests.

I moved to the United States in 1987 after marrying my husband Ziad Juzdan. We currently live in Woodland Park, New Jersey and belong to Saint George Church in Little Falls. My husband and I have four wonderful children: Paul age 26, George age 24, Nicholas age 22, and our youngest Janine age 18, is a freshman at Montclair State University.

In my home parish of Saint George Church in Little Falls, I am very active; I was a Sunday school teacher, PTA President, first female Parish Council President, and Lady Society President. I was very active on the Diocesan level. I held the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and President of the Eastern Diocese Antiochian Woman. My family is also very active in our church community.

Being a part of the Ladies Society has impacted my life in many wonderful ways and I am delighted to continue serving as Treasurer of the NAB.



Public Relations: Melinda Bentz



Born in the Midwest and baptized Roman Catholic, my family converted and I grew up singing in the church as a Nazarene Preacher's daughter. Throughout my early life I kept coming back to the Catholic church searching for something more. It was not until I met my husband Bill Bentz that I finally found my way home to the Holy Orthodox Church. We attend Holy Cross in Palmdale California where I serve as choir director and have served as the Ladies President and Church Secretary. On the Diocesan level I have served for the past 11 years in the positions of President, Vice-President and Public Relations. Most importantly, I am someone who said YES when asked to serve and was open to learning from my sisters in Christ.

When I am not at church, you can find me in my car working as a field Sr. Aesthetic Sales Representative and National Field Sales Trainer for Galderma Aesthetics & Correctives division. I have been in medical sales and marketing or over 20 years and despite the stress of quarterly selling, I still find enjoyment in my job.

Our bustling home is now quiet since my youngest daughter Brittany is away at college and my 2 step-daughters, Ginger and Brigette are on their own, in-fact the oldest, Brigette, is married with 2 kids. We do have 1 inside cat, 4 outdoor cats and 6 doves—affectionately known as the Bentz zoo. Photography is my hobby and those who know me, know that despite usually having a camera around, I am actually pretty camera shy.

I am excited to serve on the NAB as Public Relations Director. I will do my best to highlight the good work our ladies do across this Archdiocese. If you are on Facebook, find our page: Antiochian Women North America "Like us" and bookmark the page to see the newest information. Please feel free to share photos and highlights of the activities of your church chapter with us on our page as well.

Immediate Past President: Violet Robbat



I was born in Boston, MA and am a former member of St. John of Damascus Church, Dedham, MA, where I was active as a Church School teacher, Teen SOYO Advisor and President of Senior SOYO (known today as St. John the Divine). I graduated from Northeastern University with a Degree in Cytology, and became a member of the Massachusetts Cytology Society and the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. Cytology is the study of cells, and my job, at Massachusetts General Hospital, entailed diagnosing Cancer. I am married to my husband Richard (42 years), and we are members of St. Mary Orthodox Church, Cambridge, MA. Our children are son Michael, daughter Andrea, and son-in-law, Steve Plasko.

At St. Mary's, I am active in our Women's Club, as Bible Bowl Coach, and have been a Church School Superintendent and Teen SOYO Advisor. I have been active in the Antiochian Women since its inception holding many positions on the Regional/Diocesan Level, including President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Public Relations, and both Cultural Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator. On the NAB Level, I have been honored to serve as Public Relations Director, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President.

I recently retired after eighteen years of working with high school students who have learning disabilities, as a Special Education Instructional Assistant and as a Teaching Assistant in Biology. I am a member of the Lexington Education Association, the Massachusetts Teachers Association and the National Education Association. I enjoy traveling, reading, cooking, gardening, and embroidery, among many other interests.

Constitution and Bylaws: Lauren Ferris

Biography & Photo not available

Humanitarian: Dorothy Tampary



With humility, I ask for the prayers and help of each of you, the Antiochian Women of our God-protected Archdiocese, as I find myself following in the gracious, loving footsteps of our former NAB Humanitarian Coordinator of six years, Kh. Dannie Moore. Kh. Dannie has been my mentor in so many ways since I first met her at the 2007 Parish Life Conference. What an inspiration she is!

My home parish is St. Andrew Antiochian Church in Pensacola, Florida. My husband Anthony (or “Bubba”), our son Tony, daughter-in-law Stacy, grandchildren Mason and Marina, and I were part of the founding families of St. Andrew in 2007. Along with our pastor Fr. David Bleam, his family and the other founding families, we have found ourselves on an amazing journey in the Orthodox faith.

My personal introduction to Orthodoxy was in 1964 when Bubba and I met. We were married in 1967. I was chrismated in 1969. I thank God each day for allowing Bubba to help guide me into the Orthodox fold.

After teaching high school for 31 years, I retired in 1998. It was my joy to share my love of biology, anatomy and physiology, science research, life sciences in general, to teenagers. At my retirement, I joined Bubba and his brother in their business, Tampary Brothers Real Estate, in Orange Beach, AL and Perdido Key, FL. We still enjoy working together in the family business.

In addition to Tony, Stacy and their two teenagers, our daughter Mary Alex, son-in-law David, and their two daughters, Ella and Lena, keep our lives full of great joy!

As for my experience with the Antiochian Women, I have served as President of the Sisterhood of St. Photini, the St. Andrew AW chapter for seven years and am the current Treasurer. On the Diocese level, I served as Vice-President in 2009-2011, President 2011-2015, and am now serving as Treasurer for 2015-2017.

The Antiochian Women of our Archdiocese are blessed to be able to serve Christ in so many ways and on so many levels. To be a part of this service is an unbelievably wondrous experience. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve, along with dedicated, faithful women such as our NAB President Dianne O’Regan and the other members of the North American Board.

Matthew 25:40 (OSB)

And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

NAB Humanitarian Common Act of Mercy for 2015-2016 is to continue with assembling and sending Emergency Kits (school, baby and hygiene) to Church World Services to be distributed by International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and other similar relief organizations to peoples in areas of crisis and devastation and emergency living conditions throughout the world.

International Orthodox Christian Charities <http://www.iocc.org/kitsfaq.aspx>



Membership: Mary Lou Catelli

I am a lifelong member of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. I have been married to Bill Catelli for 40 years. I am the eldest of 4 children, my siblings being Joanne Abdalah (Memory Eternal), Lois Kilsey, and Leon Josephs. I am the proud aunt of 10 nieces and nephews.

I graduated from Rhode Island College with a B.S. in Education in 1970 and received a Masters of Education degree from Providence College in 1976. I had the pleasure of pursuing a fulfilling career as a Special Education teacher for 35 years retiring in 2005. Presently, I teach in the Graduate School of Providence College, fulfilling another lifetime dream.

My introduction to Antiochian Women came from my mother, Matilda Tahmoush Josephs (Memory Eternal), who followed her mother, Jameela Samra Tahmoush, a founding member of “The Ladies Society” in the early 1920’s. My involvement in the church community includes singing in the choir, member of St. Ignatius, and member of Antiochian Women. I have been Teen SOYO President, Sunday School teacher and superintendent, member of Charitable Giving committee, and choir director. I help my community through working in Quota International, Women’s Auxiliary of Memorial Hospital, Boys and Girls Club of Pawtucket, Lincoln Garden Club, And Council for Exceptional Children.

My involvement with Antiochian Women at the Diocesan level was prompted by my sister, Joanne, when she was President of her Parish. I began as the Diocesan Humanitarian Coordinator and during her presidency of AW she appointed me as her Humanitarian Coordinator. I presently serve as the Membership Coordinator for the NAB. I encourage all women to join us since we all can claim, “I AM AN ANTIOCHIAN WOMAN”!!

Religious: Kh. Dannie Moore

To serve the Holy Church through the Antiochian Women organization is an honor. Through the love and guidance of Ernestine Ede, Jean Sam and Jean Arcos, I became involved in the work of the Antiochian Women in 1993.

My husband, Father Andrew, and I with our children and several other families were received into the Antiochian Archdiocese by His Eminence, Metropolitan PHILIP, in 1987. That was the beginning of our parish, St. Stephen Orthodox Church. Before we entered the Antiochian Archdiocese, we were a part of the Evangelical Orthodox Church (EOC) and working in the inner city of Atlanta. Previous to being a part of the EOC, we were in the Presbyterian Church for 18 years. I grew up in the Methodist Church and Father in the Baptist.

Fr. Andrew and I have been married 50 years and have six children and fourteen grandchildren.

St. Stephen is located on 25 acres with some of our parishioners living on the land. We thank God for the beauty of the land and for having our own cemetery. We help serve the poor in our county by having a food pantry. Many single mothers and grandmothers raising grandchildren come for assistance. The food is provided by our parishioners. Many come and are blessed by the beauty of the Orthodox Church and the quietness of the land.

Having graduated from Crawford W. Long School of Nursing many years ago, I chose to stay home with my children. A cherished treasure in my heart! Now I help with these beautiful grandchildren.

Working with the Antiochian Women, I have served in the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast as Humanitarian Coordinator, Membership Coordinator, Vice-President and President. I have served as Humanitarian Coordinator for the NAB. It is a joy to now serve as the Religious Coordinator for the Antiochian Women!

“One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.” Psalm 27:4



Scholarship: Cindy Nimey



My home parish is St. George Antiochian Church in New Hartford, New York. It is a small parish but one that I love with all my heart and do my best to support not only for my faith but for the parish. My membership in the Antiochian Women began in my home parish where I have served numerous positions over the past thirty years, then to the Diocese level and onto the NAB level serving as Treasurer, Vice-President and President. I have made many friends from as far as the northeast corner of Canada to the southern shores of California. I encourage more women to get involved with their local Antiochian Women's group and benefit from the sisterhood and friendship.

My husband Richard and I have three sons, a daughter-in-law and our first grandchild, Amelia Rose. I am already encouraging her to be an Antiochian Woman! I spend much of my spare time trying new recipes, cooking and baking for family and friends as well as many, many trays of Baklava for a church fundraiser.

We thank God every day for all the wonderful blessings he has bestowed on us and ask him to bless the work of the Antiochian Women. I look forward to now serving as the Scholarship Coordinator and am happy to answer any questions about qualifications and how to apply for the Antiochian Women Scholarship.



Finance Committee: Sherry Abraham-Morrow & Laila R. Ferris

Sherry Abraham-Morrow: I belong to St. George Cathedral in Wichita, KS. I have held several positions for the Antiochian Women throughout the years including President, Vice President, and Secretary of the St. George Cathedral Guild. In the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America, I served as Vice President, President, Treasurer and Secretary. I have been the DOWAMA Product Sales Coordinator since 2001. On the North American Board, I have served as Treasurer, Secretary and Humanitarian Coordinator.

In addition to my church activities, I am also a member of the Bona Dea Club, a ladies' social club in Wichita, and have served as President, Vice President, and Secretary of that group. I also volunteer at Music Theatre of Wichita and am a member of the Music Theatre Guild. I have served as Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer on the Music Theatre Guild Board, and am currently Chairman of the Social Committee.

I was born and raised in Woodward, OK and graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. Shortly after I graduated from OSU, I married Don Abraham and moved to Wichita. We had two beautiful daughters. Don and I owned and operated Ali Baba Bakery for 19 years. We specialized in pita bread, but eventually made over 100 different varieties of breads. I worked full time at the bakery with Don until he was diagnosed with cancer in 1994. At that time, we sold the bakery. Don passed away February 28, 1995.

In November, 2003, I married Mark Morrow. Mark belongs to St. Elijah Church in Oklahoma City, OK. Our wonderful blended family consists of two sons, three daughters, two son-in-laws, two daughter-in-laws, and nine grandchildren. Mark and I maintained both of our homes when we got married, and we split our time between Wichita and Oklahoma City. So I have now become active at St. Elijah Church in Oklahoma City, as well as St. George Cathedral.

I have enjoyed serving the Antiochian Women very much, and feel very blessed to be a part of this wonderful organization. I will always cherish the many friends I have made throughout the Antiochian Archdiocese.

May our All-Merciful God visit and heal our sister Sherry as she continues in her battle against cancer.

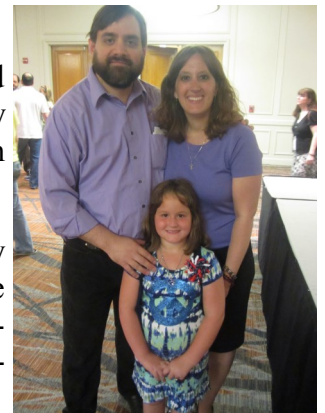


Laila Ferris: I have held several local, Diocesan and NAB positions in the past, including President, Vice-President and Recording Secretary on the local level; President, Vice President and Cultural Coordinator on the Diocesan level; and on the NAB level I have held the positions of Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Vice -President and President.

Along with having a great time working in the above positions, I am married to Paul Ferris. We have three children - Paul, Jr. (PJ) and his wife Jaclyn, Christopher and Lauren. I was born and bred in El-Paso, TX and absolutely love the desert life (no humidity). My home parish is St. George, El-Paso, TX, and with my family, am very active in all events and organizations. I work in the world of education and am presently Principal of Mesita Early Childhood Development Center and Mesita Elementary School, El-Paso Independent School District. I truly love working with children and those adults dedicated to teaching and learning.

Widowed Clergy Wives Program: Deana Bottei

I am blessed and grateful to be a representative of the DOWAMA region. My husband Edward – who I met at church -- supports me and keeps me sane through all of my involvements. He always encourages me to fulfill my passions. For the past seven years I have worked full-time as the school secretary at a local middle school.



I am a lifelong member of St. Thomas Orthodox Church in Sioux City, Iowa. My church involvement includes being a member of our choir for the past 20+ years, the director of our choir for the past three years, and a member of our Antiochian Women’s group for the past 11 years. I have previously served as our Sunday School Superintendent as well as a teacher.

My commitment to the DOWAMA region began seven years ago when I took on the position of Public Relations Coordinator. Two years later I was elected to serve as the President of our amazing region. This past June I was blessed enough to be reelected to one final term. I have also served as the NAB Widowed Clergy Wives Coordinator for the past two years, renewing my term this past July at the Archdiocesan Convention in Boston. Serving the church is one of my greatest passions.

I am mom to a wonderful ten-year-old daughter, Sadie, who is one of my other great passions. You will often find her tagging along with me to Antiochian Women meetings, both local and national! She is in fifth grade this year and loves school. Sadie keeps me on my toes, as she is involved in many activities. Sadie is a Girl Scout Junior and I serve as her troop leader. This year she joined band, playing the clarinet, and choir. Sadie loves to dance and recently joined the Emerald Team at the studio.

In the little spare time that I have, I love to read, do crossword puzzles, sing and play my violin. We enjoy travelling as a family and experiencing new adventures. During the summer we spend lots of time outside, riding our bikes and swimming in our pool. When the cold Iowa winter takes its toll we spend our time indoors, cuddled up watching a good movie, playing with our two puppies, or having a family game night.

I am so thankful for my involvement with this fantastic organization. The people I have met and friends I have made fill my heart. I look forward to our time together with every meeting. Keep up the great work at your local parish level, and remember.... we are ALL Antiochian Women!

Lots of Titles for the Priest’s Wife

Every “traditionally Orthodox” country has a special title in its language for the priest’s wife. In America, we tend to bring these terms into our parishes based on the ethnic background of the majority of the parishioners, as our own English language really has no “comfortable” equivalent. Here are a few:

Presbytera (pres vee TEAR a) — Greek, for ‘priestess’ Matushka (MA toosh ka) — Russian, for ‘mother’

Khouria (ho REE ya) — Syrian

Parliamentarian: Anne Bourjaily Thomas

I am Anne Bourjaily Thomas. My home parish growing up was St. George Church in Cleveland, Ohio . Many of you know my mother, Elinor, past President of the NAB and the Midwest Diocese and a friend to many all over the Archdiocese and “Aunt” Elinor to the Antiochian Village campers..



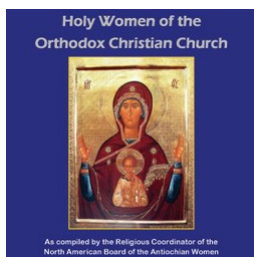
Over the years I was very active in the church, Teen SOYO, SOYO and served on the Parish Council for many, many years. In 1986 I was a founder of St. Matthew Orthodox Church in North Royalton and in 2002 a founder of St. Luke Orthodox Church in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. During this time I worked with Fr. Peter Gillquest with Missions and Evangelism and later became active on the Archdiocese level of the Order of St. Ignatius where I have served as Projects Chair and presently Treasurer. Presently, I am Parish Council Chair at St. Luke's.

In my non-church life, I am an educator by trade and taught at the Jr. and Sr. High School levels in Cleveland Public Schools. After attaining a Ph.D. in Secondary and Higher Education Administration I left teaching to become a community college administrator. I finished my law degree and passed the bar in 1994 just three days after the birth of my son.

In 1993 I married George Thomas, D.O. and we have two beautiful children together, Michael, a college senior, and Katherine, a college sophomore. I also have two delightful step-daughters, Farrah, a clinical psychologist, and Tiffany, a veterinary technician, (married to Casey) and two grandsons. We do at least one family vacation together each year usually to the beach which gives all of us time to have fun together.

I have been a member of my local school Board of Education for ten years, serving as president twice. I currently work for the Ohio Education Association a part of the National Education Association (NEA), the largest professional union in the country. I represent educational professionals. It is very rewarding and needed work.

I am happy to serve on the Board of NAB. In the past I was Parliamentarian and Treasurer. Presently, I am Parliamentarian. I look forward to working with all of you over the next two years.



Resources and Links

<http://www.antiochian.org/women/orthodox-women-saints>

Learn about the lives of women Orthodox saints with this compilation of saints for each day of the year.

“Like and Follow” us on our Facebook page:

[Antiochian Women North America](#)

<http://antiochian.org/women/project-2015-2016>

Find information on our 2015-2016 project and available material to help promote our project in your parish.



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 antiochianwomenna@gmail.com 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)	October 2015	Done
2	Diocese of New York and the Archdiocesan District His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS). Diocese of Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic (His Grace Bishop THOMAS)	January 2016	Dec.1,2015
3	Diocese of Los Angeles and the West and the Diocese of Eagle River and the Northwest (His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH)	April 2016	Mar. 1, 2016
4	Diocese of Miami and the Southeast (His Grace Bishop ANTOUN)	July 2016	June 1, 2016
5	Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate NY (His Grace Bishop ALEXANDER)	October 2016	Sept.1, 2016
6	Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest (His Grace Bishop ANTHONY)	January 2017	Dec. 1, 2016
7	Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America (His Grace Bishop BASIL)	April 2017	Mar 1, 2017
8	Diocese of Worcester and New England (His Grace Bishop JOHN)	July2017	June 1, 2017

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

A NOTE TO ALL OUR READERS:

As the new Public Relations Officer, I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of our dear Lucy Hanna, who has truly taken this newsletter to a near professional publication. It is my challenge to do my best to listen to suggestions, improve content, flow, readability and the availability of this newsletter for all our sisters in this Archdiocese. I am always open to suggestions and welcome solutions with the suggestions to improve this publication.

Like you, all of us who serve on the board do so voluntarily and to the best of our ability. Pray for us as we embark on the beginning of our term of service. May God bless our work and the work of each woman in this Archdiocese to His glory!

In Christ,
Melinda Bentz