

# DIAKONIA

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA



Summer 2012

Featuring the Diocese of Miami & the Southeast



Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Consecration Service  
of St. Paul Church Orthodox Church, Naples, Florida

During the Archdiocese Winter Meetings, February 2012

See also article and photo on page 14

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

☞ A SISTERHOOD SERVING CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OTHERS ☞

# The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women Of North America

The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan PHILIP  
Founder

The Most Reverend  
Archbishop JOSEPH  
Overseeing Hierarch

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His Grace Bishop. JOHN, 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 months of September, December, March and June.

### **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.

**To submit articles**, e-mail as an attachment to your diocesan Public Relations Director or to:  
lucy.hanna@sbcglobal.net

#### **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.

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In this issue of the DIAKONIA we highlight the

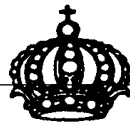
### **The Diocese of Miami and the Southeast**

In each of the next seven 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.

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### **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**".



## *Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen!*

We consider the myrrh-bearers who witness to the Resurrected One as this newsletter goes out on this, the Sunday of the Myrrhbearers. What message do we receive from these holy women? What can we learn from their example and their experience? How can you Antiochian Orthodox Christian women benefit from their holy lives?

On Good Friday at 3 PM Jesus breathed His last breath upon the Cross and at about 6, His body was placed in the tomb. The women stood by “at a distance.” Then the Sabbath transpired, the last solemn day of the Passover of the Jews. But this time that annual feast was about to be overshadowed and brought to a final culmination, never to be repeated. In Jerusalem, on that high Sabbath day, the crucifixion of Christ held the attention of all as the latest news. On the next day, the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb for the third-day rituals. The rising of the sun found them already there. Their purpose was to anoint the body of the dead, so that it would not smell—the standard Jewish burial practice. The human sorrow of the women and their duty in behalf of the dead show that they could now keep in mind the promise of Jesus, that He would arise on the third day. They had believed also as did the disciples, that the Jesus-affair had come to an end. Nevertheless, they did not despair or “throw in the towel” as we say. Indeed, this is their greatest example to us. Despite their loss of heart and heavy sorrow, they got up and attended to their duties. Christian women never shirk their duty. What a surprise they will have in the doing of good works!



They arrived at the grave. At the last moment, they remembered the heavy rock, but oddly they noticed that the doorway of the grave was open. They automatically thought of desecration, not resurrection. They drew near to the tomb, to confirm the suspected crime of grave robbery. But, before they could even figure out the situation, they were confronted by another unexpected and welcome surprise. They saw a young man, who had just removed the heavy rock of the tomb so he could sit upon the right side. From the intensely white robe and the lightning-like face, they understood that they had a heavenly visitor before them.

The angel calmed their fear and quieted them, “do not be afraid,” he says to them, “do ye seek the crucified Jesus? I gladly inform you that He has risen and He is not here. Look, the place in the tomb which had held His body is empty. Remember that He had told you that He would be delivered over into the hands of sinful men, that He would be crucified and on the third day that He would arise.” Now the Lord’s sayings came back to mind for the women. So then the angel continued: “Go now and tell His disciples and Peter, that He goes to Galilee ahead of them and there they will see Him as He had said to them before He was crucified.” He mentioned Peter by name, because they were sure to have needed it, for Peter’s sake. After that unfortunate denial, Peter was overwhelmed with the sense of rejection. But Christ knew his tears and already forgave him, and now the Lord does not separate him from the others. There is for Peter a two-fold joy—resurrection and forgiveness! And the women would bear the wondrous news. How we love to hear comforting words in a woman’s tender voice! The Lord gave the agonized disciples such a comfort to open the Gospel to them through the sweet, tender voice of the women.

Who were they? According to the evangelists they were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and John, and Salome. Luke adds others, such as Joanna. Each woman is instructive as to womanly virtues evident in them. Let us consider the three “apostles to the Apostles” mentioned by all the Gospels. There is

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

Mary Magdalene from whom seven demons were cast out (not to be confused with the adulterous woman, as some do)—she is the woman over which the demonic-inspired passions no longer hold sway. The Magdalene is a woman of God! She did not hesitate to carry the good news, because she did not care any longer about what others thought about her. She lived only for the Lord and loved Him with her whole heart. Nothing can dissuade her from sacred duty. Remember, she grasped the Lord's glorified feet! There is Salome, whose name means "peace." Salome is always quiet, looking out for the needs of the Lord, for she was the one "who followed after Him in Galilee and ministered unto Him" (Luke 15:41). Salome is an example of womanly liberality and leadership in supporting the upbuilding of the Church, for these supported the Lord. Let us not think that is only men's work! Where were the contributions from the wealthy men?

Then, most importantly, there is Mary "the mother of James and John," also called "the other Mary" by Matthew and Luke, is the mother of the resurrected One. She is none other than the God-bearer who shares with the Magdalene the burial anointing duty. The saints tell us that she is referred to in this humble way in the resurrection accounts, so as to avoid placing motherly attentiveness to the resurrected One in front place. This would distract us from the full focus on the risen Lord Himself. But consider this: How we must reflect upon the grief she felt, despite which she gathers courage and fortitude to go finish the burial rituals for her dear son. Mary the Mother of the Crucified did not hesitate to complete her loving care for the Body of her dear Son. But let the saint, St John of Damascus in his Paschal Canon, give us the God-inspired words of the angel proclaiming to her at the empty tomb, "The angel cried out unto her who is full of grace, "O pure one, Virgin, rejoice; and again I say, rejoice! Thy Son hath arisen from the tomb on the third day!" How her sorrow was turned to joy! The Theotokos as a myrrh-bearer shows us how womanly duty performed in love always meets with the divine surprise. What an antidote to worldly self-pity! We can follow her good example with great profit: when affairs in our personal lives, in our families, and in our communities become difficult and there are serious, seemingly unresolvable issues, you can be myrrh-bearing women and fulfill your Christian responsibility, knowing that the Lord never forsakes those who trust in Him.

It is not by chance that the first witnesses to the resurrection were women. This indicates their equality and indisputable and just honour which the resurrected One renders to the weaker sex in an era in which as all know women were ignored. The facts are simple! Women fulfill their unique role in the economy of salvation. Many great saints had saintly women who formed them and supported them, just as the myrrh-bearers had supported the Lord "out of their substance." Consider the saintly mother and sister of Basil the Great, Macrina the elder and Macrina the younger, also St Olympias the deaconess who stood by St John Chrysostom, supporting him out of her substance. We could continue in this vein, but it is enough to laud the myrrh-bearers as those women who live up to what womanhood is all about. They "rise while it is yet night" and "gird their loins with strength" and "open their mouths with wisdom" (Proverbs 31: 15, 17, 26) as they announce for the first time, "Jesus is risen as He foretold!"

Let us now follow their good example in our families, our churches, and our circle of influence, radiating the resurrection joy in all our good words and works.

*Christ is risen!*

Yours in Christ,

† **ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH**

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



Beloved Ladies:

I greet all of you as we leave behind the glorious days of the Paschal season and are filled with the grace of the Holy Sprit from the feast of Pentecost. Indeed, this is the most joyous period of the entire Church year. As we reflect on the importance of the Antiochian Women, we can not help but be reminded of the Myrrh-Bearing Women who were among the last to remain with Christ at the foot of the Cross and were the first to see the empty tomb. Some 2000 years later, it is still the women of the Church who have the greatest faith and work most diligently in our parishes. As such, we are eternally grateful for your efforts at all levels: the parish, the diocese and the archdiocese. Your good works touch the lives of our children, our elderly, the orphans, the sick and countless others.



On behalf of the ladies of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast, we pray that our Lord will continue to bless all of our Antiochian Women and give you the strength and faith to continue your mission now and in the days to come.

In Christ,

+ANTOUN

Auxiliary, Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

A NOTE FROM OUR NAB PRESIDENT VIOLET ROBBAT

Dear Bishop John and My Dear Sisters in Christ,  
Christ Is In Our Midst!

I pray that you and your families are all well.

It is with deep appreciation that I send this message to all of you to thank you for all of the cards, phone calls, and e-mails that you sent at the time of my sister Diana's passing. Your love and support has been such a comfort to my family and I as we continue to struggle with the loss of such a beautiful person, both inside and out. Diana was only 57 years old and left two sons, one of whom is still in high school. She was loved by everyone. Her husband Scott, and sons Rob and Ryan have been overwhelmed with the outpouring of love and support from friends, family, colleagues, etc.



May God Bless you and your families always and grant you good health.

Wishing you all a Happy and most Glorious Pascha.

With Grateful Appreciation,

Love,

Violet



Nothing is more elemental to life than water. Water sustains life; all the processes of our bodies are dependent on it. In fact, more than anything else, our bodies are composed of water. To thirst is to desire that which sustains us on the most basic level.

carrying water from the pool of Siloam and pouring it as a libation in the temple. This ceremony commemorated the water that flowed from the rock that Moses struck in the wilderness. On this occasion, Christ proclaims, “If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water” (John 17:37-38),

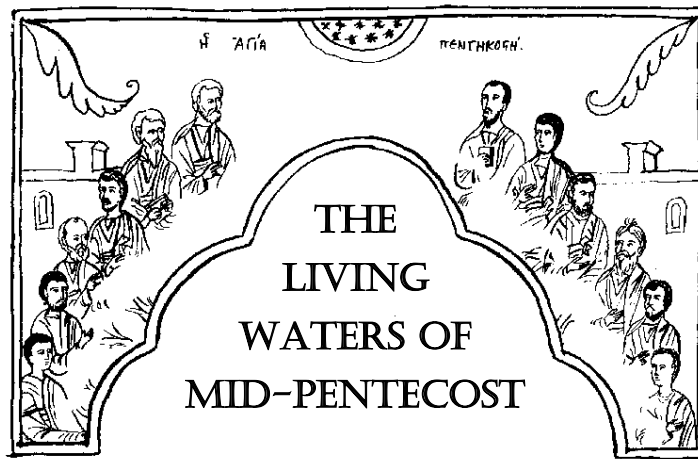
On May 9 of this year, the Church celebrates the Feast of Mid-Pentecost, that Wednesday marking the mid-point between Pascha and Pentecost. On that day the Church continues to celebrate what has already come – the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, the second person of the Holy Trinity – while looking forward to what is to come – the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity.

On this day we celebrate both the establishment and the experience of our salvation, our union with God. For it is the Cross and Resurrection that establishes the means of that salvation and it is in the Church, established on the Day of Pentecost, where we experience that salvation.

At Mid-Pentecost we celebrate the enormity of God’s love for us, the full revelation of the means established for our salvation. On the Cross, Christ conquers sin and death, the empty tomb proclaims the fruit of that victory and the Church is the kingdom established by the Holy Spirit and headed by Jesus Christ – the One who conquers.

At Divine Liturgy for the feast, the Gospel read is John 14:14-30. This gospel relates the account of Jesus speaking at the Mid-feast of the Feast of Tabernacles, an eight-day harvest festival during which the nation of Israel commemorated the wanderings of ancient Israel in the wilderness of Sinai. During the feast, one ceremony consisted of

The fathers of the Church have always seen this living water to be the Holy Spirit who was poured out on the Day of Pentecost, establishing the Holy Church. And so we stand at the feast of Mid-Pentecost gazing in awe and joy at this living stream – its headwaters being the Cross (“out of His side flowed blood and water”); its course flowing through God’s Church, sustaining and nourishing us in this life; and its culmination being Heaven itself. “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of



the Lamb” (Rev.22:1). And again: “And the Spirit and the bride say ‘Come’ and let him who hears say ‘Come’. And let him who thirst come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely” (Rev.22:17).

How wondrous is God’s love! How grand His purposes for those who love Him! He has immersed us in the streams of eternal life. The living water that flows from the cross through the Church to Heaven itself is given by God to sustain us and nourish us in the fullness of eternal life.

Even as it is the tradition of the Church to bless gardens with Holy Water at Mid-Pentecost asking God for the fruits of the earth, so too, here at Mid-Pentecost let us contemplate and celebrate the fruits nourished within us by streams of living water – the waters that flow from the cross through the Church to eternal life in heaven.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, God bless you!

His Grace Bishop ANTOUN wants you to actively promote participation in the activities of this coming year's Parish Life Conference. The theme of the conference is "The Bible fills us with Eternal Joy" (St. John of Damascus).

He would very much like to see an increase in the number of youth and adult Bible Bowl teams. Please begin recruiting teams now. The Bible Bowl for 2012 will be centered on the Epistle to the Romans. Materials to help prepare your teams can be obtained at: <http://www.orthodoxyouth.org/romans/>. Please remember, all Bible Bowl questions will come directly from the text and not from the website.

Please also encourage your senior and junior SOYO to participate in all of the festivals of the conference. Please go to <http://www.antiochian.org/festivals> for additional information on the festivals

contests, which will be added to the site in the coming weeks.

Lastly, please talk to your church school directors, youth directors and Teen SOYO advisers, and encourage them to include time in their activities to prepare for the Oratorical, Creative Arts, Photo, Writing and Poetry contests for the upcoming church year. Please send all your Entries to St. Philip Church address. 4870 Griffin Rd. Davie, (Ft. Lauderdale) FL. 33314. The deadline is approaching soon April 10th.

On behalf of Bishop ANTOUN , thank you for your cooperation in making this coming 2012 PLC a success.

Your servant in Christ,

Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Host Pastor



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**Please Contact your Hosts for Questions:**  
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# Introducing The 2011 - 2013 Board of Antiochian Women Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

## ***The Rt Reverend Bishop ANTOUN - Diocesan Bishop***



His Grace Bishop Antoun was consecrated to the Holy Episcopacy on January 9, 1983 at the Cathedral of St. Nicholas in Brooklyn, where he served as pastor. His consecrating bishops included Metropolitan Philip (Saliba). He became a diocesan bishop on October 9, 2003 and currently bears the title Auxiliary Bishop of Miami and the Southeast.

Bishop ANTOUN has served as a beloved pastor and educator in many settings, including St. Vladimir Orthodox Seminary in Crestwood, NY; St. George Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; St. George Church in Toronto, Ontario; St. George Church in Allentown, Pennsylvania; and St. Nicholas Cathedral in Brooklyn, New York.

Bishop ANTOUN was born Antoun Yssa Khouri on January 17, 1931 in Damascus, Syria. At the age of fourteen, he entered Minor Seminary at Balamand Monastery in Lebanon, where he met and befriended Philip Saliba, the future Metropolitan of North America. He received his diploma in theology from the Balamand Seminary.

On October 28, 1951, Antoun was ordained a deacon by Patriarch Alexander III at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Dormition of the Theotokos in Damascus. Upon graduation from Assiyat Orthodox College in 1957, he was assigned to the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of Brazil. In 1959 he came to the United States to pursue a Master of Divinity at St. Vladimir Orthodox Seminary, from which he graduated in 1962. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 29, 1960, by Metropolitan Antony Bashir, and was elevated to Archimandrite by Metropolitan Philip (Saliba) on August 3, 1969.

Bishop ANTOUN resides in Pompano Beach, Florida. His name day is January 17 (Anthony the Great).

## ***Very Rev. 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 at 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 recording secretary. 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.

## ***Dorothy Tampary - President***



Originally from Mississippi, I received a B.S. in Biology from Millsaps College in Jackson. My husband Anthony (Bubba) and I were married in 1967. We have resided in Pensacola, Florida, Bubba's home town, ever since.

We thoroughly enjoyed raising our two children as they grew into wonderful adults. Anthony (Tony), Jr. and his wife Stacy have two children; Mary Alex and her husband David have two children also. I loved my career of 31 years teaching high school biology, anatomy & physiology, marine biology, science research and other science classes. In addition to teaching, I helped my husband with his real estate sales, development and rental business. Since my retirement from teaching, we work full time together in the real estate business. However, we take



time to volunteer at our grandchildren's school and to help in various capacities in our church.

Becoming Orthodox a year after our marriage. I continually thank my husband for introducing me, through the grace of God, to the Orthodox faith. We are members of St. Andrew Antiochian Orthodox Church in Pensacola. The opportunities I've had to serve Christ and His Body through teaching Sunday School, serving in officer capacities for women's groups, singing in the choir, etc., have provided avenues to increase my love for the Orthodox faith and for its teachings.

It is an honor and an awesome responsibility to lead the women of our diocese formerly as vice-president and now as president. Thank you to His Grace Bishop ANTOUN and the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast Antiochian Women for allowing me this blessing.

***Ann Dugan - V. President and NAB Project Coordinator***



I was introduced to the Holy Orthodox Church through a professional associate (now friend) in the fall of 1993 and chrismated at St. John Orthodox in Memphis in June of 1994. I was blessed to work with the teen group for seven years, sang in the choir for 15 years (serving as director for three), and held a number of committee positions in our Antiochian Women's group, culminating with president. The past two years I served as humanitarian coordinator for our diocese. Each of these roles has brought me closer to the women of my parish and our diocese, for which I am grateful.

***Sydney Werthmuller - Recording Secretary***



I was born in California into a military family, and moved around a lot. I spent most of my time in the Southeast and my father retired in Fort Walton Beach, FL where I met and married my husband, Deacon Ted, in 1979. We moved to Queens, NY for 12 years until I convinced him to bring me back South – it was just too cold for too long up North. We are blessed with two wonderful children: Mary, who has just graduated from Nursing School and will be an RN as soon as she passes her boards; and Ted who is just finishing his Sophomore year at

Pensacola State College and who has plans to become an Orthodox Priest. Mary has been married for three years to her husband, Blake. I work for the Escambia County Tax Collector's office in Pensacola where I collect property taxes, process titles and registrations, and issue driver's licenses.

I became Orthodox after attending services with Dn. Ted for the first seven years of our marriage. We formerly attended the Greek Orthodox Church where I was the Church secretary, Sunday School and Vacation Church School directors, sang in the choir, and worked in the kitchen for 3 full days every October during the annual Greek Festival. We are now members of St. Andrew Antiochian Orthodox Church in Pensacola, which is where Dn. Ted was ordained just last December 3rd. I have been blessed to serve in the choir, and teach the pre-schoolers in Sunday School.

I was blessed again when Khouriya Dannie Moore approached me about serving the Antiochian Women as Secretary of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast. I look forward to attending the meetings and conferences over the next two years and getting to know the Antiochian Women of the Southeast.

***Kh. Sharon Meadows - Treasurer***



I was born in Jackson, Mississippi, 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 39 years of marriage.

We have two wonderful daughters, Joanna and Amanda, and a delightful son-in-law, Joseph. Joanna will be getting married in May and then we will have another wonderful son-in-law, Jay. 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, Mississippi 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.

***Georgette Ioup - Public Relations Director and Membership Coordinator***



I grew up in the Orthodox Church - literally. My grandfather, Protosyngellos George Kattouf, was the priest of our parish of St. George in Altoona, PA. We grandchildren spent copious amounts of time at the church and rectory with our grandfather and aunts. Of course, we children had to attend all the services and were expected to behave, all this while not understanding a word because the services were in formal Arabic.

After high school I left Altoona and moved around quite a bit, finally finishing my studies by getting my masters and Ph.D. in linguistics in New York City. My research focused on language acquisition in children and adults. Since graduation I have taught at Queens College in New York, the University of Washington in Seattle, University of Texas in Austin, and at the University of New Orleans for the last 25 years. I am now a retired professor emerita. At

various times I spent a spaced out total of 5 years teaching at the American University in Cairo, a city I have come to love and feel at home in and where my heart aches seeing the turmoil there.

I have two children, a daughter who is a school teacher in New York City and a son who lives in New Orleans with his wife and eight-month-old baby and who works as a computer scientist. I was motivated to move to New Orleans because one of my brothers and his wife were living here and were both also teaching at the University of New Orleans. It has been a blessing to be surrounded by family.

Since moving here in 1985, I have been a member of St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church in Metairie, LA where I was a Sunday school teacher for almost 20 years. I served as president of our parish Antiochian Women and have been treasurer for the last six years. For the past year it has been my privilege to serve on the board of our Diocese Antiochian Women as membership/public relations coordinator.

***Lisa Phillips - Immediate Past President***



I live in Hiram, Georgia and attend St. Stephen Orthodox Church. I am the mother of Rebecca, Rachel, Anna Ruth, and Marissa. My daughters are truly my joy!

When asked what I do with my life I respond: I do what needs to be done from day to day for the glory of God. I am blessed to live near the church and my family. I have home schooled my three older girls through 8th grade. I am now home schooling Marissa who is in 4th grade. I work part-time as a hostess at a local restaurant and serve as secretary/treasurer for our parish.

I have been blessed to help with the Antiochian Women in years past, serving in various positions in our Diocese. I now serve on a local level as president of the Myrrhbearers of St. Stephen, working with a wonderful group of women who love God and His Church. 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! 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 that God has given us many opportunities to serve in everyday life. We can “be Christ” to those around us if we will only watch, listen, and obey.

***Kim Fortner - Humanitarian Coordinator***



I live in the beautiful Smokey Mountains of east Tennessee and attend a very small parish, Holy Resurrection Orthodox Mission in Johnson City. Fr. Michael Keiser is our priest and we very blessed to have

him. My husband (Stan), two daughters (Erin & Caitlin), and myself entered the Orthodox Church about 14 years ago, being Chrismated at St. Ignatius Orthodox Church in Franklin, TN. Like most converts from Protestantism into Orthodoxy, the process was a slow one but once begun, we've never looked back. I have served three years as the president of my parish's chapter of Antiochian Women and continue to be an active member. One of my interests is iconography and I began my endeavors in this with Ksenia Pokrovsky about two years ago. Hopefully, I will continue classes with her this summer. I am very honored to serve the ladies of the Miami and Southeast Diocese as Humanitarian Coordinator.

***Religious Coordinator - Vacant***

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Message from the Diocesan Antiochian Women President

*Dorothy Tampary*

“A Sisterhood serving Christ through serving Others”

What does the Antiochian Women motto “A Sisterhood serving Christ through serving Others,” mean? How does it apply to me personally? To the Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast? To the Antiochian Women of the Archdiocese?

With the Feast of Pentecost upon us, let us turn to what we are taught in *The Book of Acts of the Apostles*. They “all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication...” (1:14) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...” (2:4) Ultimately, they surrendered themselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit. Antiochian Women strive to emulate the acts of the apostles as we “serve Thee with our whole being,” as we “continue to work for Thee through our Church,” and “have our hearts directed and attuned to Thee” as we recite throughout the Archdiocese altogether in the Antiochian Women Prayer.



How do we surrender ourselves to the guidance of the Spirit? Through prayerful acts of mercy and compassion: helping our parish priests; working within our churches - cleaning, singing and chanting, teaching, cooking, writing cards, doing whatever needs to be done; offering charitable help to others in need within and without our churches. The youth of our parishes benefit financially and spiritually through help with summer camp, retreats, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Youth Choir. The elderly, sick, and shut-ins are cared for and remembered with meals, cards, visits and transportation. Many are clothed and are fed from clothes closets and food pantries. Spiritual enrichment is offered through libraries and gift shops/book stores that we Antiochian Women maintain.

Antiochian Women, individually and “with one accord” continue to respond with heartfelt love, care and the joy of Christ’s Resurrection whenever and wherever we are needed “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.” (*from Antiochian Women Prayer*)

God bless you in your service to Christ our God as you serve others,

Dorothy Tampary

President, Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

## News from around the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

### Ordination of Fr. Matthew Snowden at 2011 PLC in Memphis, Tennessee

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!



Fr. Basil (Sponsor), His Grace Bishop ANTOUN, Fr. Matthew, his wife, Kh. Hannah and their two children, Peter and Ada, Metropolitan Kallistos, Fr. John Troy (Sponsor) and Kh. Pamela.



Sponsors, Frs. Basil and John Troy, lead Father Matthew around the Altar



### Ordination of Subdeacon Mark McNary to the Holy Diaconate

AXIOS! AXIOS! AXIOS!



During his visit to St. Basil in Metairie LA, His Grace Bishop ANTOUN presided in the ordination of Subdeacon Mark McNary to the Holy Diaconate.



## *St. Ignatius Orthodox Church, Franklin, TN*

Dearest Sisters-in-Christ,

On the last weekend of October 2011, we had the privilege and honor of a visit from our Beloved Bishop Antoun. The purpose of his visit was to consecrate the land for our new temple which hopefully will be completed by December of 2012. The weather for that weekend was just beautiful and our ground breaking ceremony photograph shows our clergy: Fr. Stephen Rogers; Fr. Gordon Walker, Dcn. Edward Martin with Bishop Antoun.

The photographs of the model for our new temple depict a magnificent three dimensional miniature.

The miniature had a gold dome with lights in the windows and even an icon of St. Ignatius. This model was not only terrific but delicious, too! The cake was based on the temple drawings and designed by our parishioners, Laurie and Eric Toft. The cake was displayed at the reception on Saturday night following Great Vespers and eaten during Coffee hour following our Sunday service. The weekend celebration with Bishop Antoun was enjoyed by every parishioner of St. Ignatius! All of us are looking forward to enjoying our new temple and cannot wait till it is completed!

Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!

Blessings and Love to all,

Jane Ann Mirse, President

St. Ignatius Antiochian Women



## Saint Paul Orthodox Church, Naples, Florida

Very Reverend Father Joseph Shaheen, Pastor



Our beloved Metropolitan Philip has asked the Antiochian women to embrace and imitate the compassion of Christ in our lives. We have done this in a threefold manner. We have heard the needs of our diocesan appeals. We have funded the education of a Lebanese child, the Convent of Saint Thekla, the Treehouse organization, and are preparing to answer the plea for camp support and the Benevolence Fund.

In our community we have provided food for the needy, worked with young ladies who have become mothers out of wedlock, local organizations who help children and working poor and the disabled.

In our church we encourage fellowship by preparing the coffee hour, the special luncheons, and the joyous Christmas party. We have also worked with the parish council in their fundraising activities. We were able to give a small gift to the council to help with expenses. In our Consecration Journal we dedicated a page to express our thanks to the spiritual leaders.

As a small group of women we have kept alive the Spirit and Knowledge of Christ to foster greater understanding and compassion for all. Our spiritual lives involve our own daily prayers. With the strength of our prayers we strive to be good examples to our families, friends and fellow beings. We participate in our Liturgy services by singing in the choir, reading the epistle and chanting during the Lenten services. This year we prepared the relics from Metropolitan Philip's robe that he used to Consecrate Saint Paul Church.

Catherine Moukios

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## Holy Resurrection Orthodox Mission

Johnson City, Tennessee

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Mission was filled with joy to hear that our beloved priest Fr. Michael Keiser was appointed Head of the Archdiocese Department of Missions and Evangelism on December 31, 2011. Fr. Michael is truly like a father to this small mission. This picture shows him preaching at our mission.



This year, we have two wonderful catechumens, Amanda Leonard and Jason Heoden. They are already a great help in church.

Recently we had incredibly beautiful icons of the Evangelists Mathew, Mark, Luke and John donated to our church. They are painted and donated by the icon painter and pottery artist Bess Crider who lives in Asheville NC and is a great friend of our church.

For Holy Week this year, we met Father Stephen Mathewes who did a full Holy Week of services with us. We are very grateful to get to know him and everybody is praying that we can have him visit us again or even maybe stay a little longer with us. He is amazing.

## St. John Orthodox Church, Memphis, Tennessee



Some of the original 42 members of St. John Orthodox Church, Memphis, TN, who were chrismated on March 14, 1987 at St. George Orthodox Church, Vicksburg, MS. Those pictured are: Front row: Christine McGee, Tim Elliott, Michael Elliott, Sh. Corinne Elliott, Kh. Susan Cushman, Sh. Margaret McKelroy, Fr. Basil Cushman, Karen Wells, Sh. Mary Elliott, Fr. Don Berge, Kh. Martha Berge, Kh. Pamela Mashburn, Dn. James Elliott, John McGee. Back row: Fr. Nikolai Meyers (current assistant priest, but not in the original 42 members), Dn. Charles McKelroy, Dn. Timothy Mashburn. Fr. John Troy Mashburn. They were honored by the parish following the Divine Liturgy on March 18, 2012.

## St. Helena's Ladies Guild of Holy Cross Orthodox Church

Ormond Beach, Florida

Our Ladies Guild consists of a small group of women, usually 8 or 10, who meet on a monthly basis to plan events, projects, and celebrations, all part of our mission as Orthodox Christian women. The best part of "us" is what we do as a dedicated, hardworking, and committed "family." Everything we do, by the Grace of God, is in His Name. Following are a few examples of our efforts.

Our outreach projects include "feeding the hungry", and we accomplish this in partnership with another Christian church in our neighborhood. This "sister" church actually has a group of individuals who personally minister to the homeless by going out twice per week to areas where the homeless gather, bringing food, water, clothing, and other items. Our Guild's role in this act of kindness and charity is to help provide these essentials. This partnership came about through the efforts of one of our members who saw a need and took action.

Each year, our "Guild" hosts a Christmas Tea for all of our parish ladies. Each attendee is asked to purchase and donate a gift certificate from local stores (i.e. Walmart, CVS, Target, etc.). This past Christmas, those donated "gifts" were forwarded to the Domestic Violence and Abuse Council of Daytona, an agency providing safety and shelter to women and their children who had escaped violence.

Included in our works of charity is our continuous support of our parish's Prison Ministry. Recently, we were able to purchase Prayer Ropes to be distributed by our Father Michael to the many prisoners he has pastored and who have converted to Orthodoxy, or who are presently catechumens preparing for Chrismation. We also support our parish's St. Nicholas Charity Fund which provides discretionary funds for Father Michael to utilize in assisting parishioners and others in need.

One of our most joyous events came this past February as we joined with Father Michael in celebrating his Silver Anniversary as an Orthodox Priest. In gratitude and with great love, our Parish presented him with a Silver Cross in commemoration of this wonderful milestone. We, as a Parish, are greatly blessed by his presence and his guidance. (See picture.)





**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA**

Lucy Hanna  
1853 Kensington Road  
Corona, CA 92880



**A REMINDER 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 [lucy.hanna@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lucy.hanna@sbcglobal.net) 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 diocese or parishes.
4. Notices of diocesan gatherings, retreats, conferences, etc.

	<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Date of Publication</b>	<b>Date Due</b>
1	NAB Board	September 2011	Done ✓
2	Diocese of New York and Washington, D.C., Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic	December 2011	Done ✓
3	Diocese of Los Angeles and the West and the Diocese of Eagle River and the Northwest	March 2012	Done ✓
4	Diocese of Miami and the Southeast	June 2012	Done ✓
5	Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate NY	September 2012	August 1, 2012
6	Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest	December 2012	November 1, 2012
7	Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America	March 2013	February 1, 2013
8	Diocese of Worcester and New England	June 2013	May 1, 2013

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