



THE MOST REVEREND
METROPOLITAN JOSEPH
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ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

THE MOST REVEREND METROPOLITAN PHILIP – FOUNDER

☞ A SISTERHOOD SERVING CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OTHERS ☞

❖ NORTH AMERICAN BOARD ❖

◆ PRESIDENT ◆

53rd Biennial Antiochian Archdiocese Convention

Diplomat Resort & Spa, Hollywood, Florida

July 23-30, 2017



“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations” (Mark 11:17)

Esteemed Hierarchs, Reverend Fathers, and Brothers and Sisters in Christ –

Christ is in our midst!

On behalf of the North American Board (“NAB”) – and all Antiochian Women across the United States and Canada – I would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks and greetings to the churches and missions across our beloved Antiochian Archdiocese for their support. It was the women at the tomb who were first told of the news of Christ’s Resurrection, and the Antiochian Women strive each day to be worthy of the blessings that Our Lord and Savior bestows on us – then and now.

The NAB – and the women in the Dioceses and local chapters – have been busily working “behind the scenes.” Last year, Christmas gifts of \$500 were sent to each of our Married Seminarians via Archdiocesan Headquarters. Treasurer Fadia Juzdan continues to receive dues and Project monies from churches across North America. PR Coordinator Melinda Bentz continually updates our Facebook page and will be publishing the next edition of our NAB newsletter, DIAKONIA, before the Archdiocese Convention. Humanitarian Coordinator Dorothy Tampary urges the women throughout the Archdiocese to show “Acts of Mercy” – including a new partnership with FOCUS where one Sunday was devoted in helping to feed children in need in North America. Membership Coordinator Mary Lou Catelli has urged the women in the local chapters to “gift” an Antiochian Women’s pin to young women of the Archdiocese upon their graduation from high school. Religious Coordinator Kh. Dannie Moore prepared questions for our Orthodox Book Club selection and continually sends us wonderful information regarding feasts and holy days. And Deana Bottei sent gift cards and greetings for the Nativity and Pascha to our Widowed Clergy Wives.

On February 24-26, 2017, the women – along with NAC Teen SOYO – held our Mid-Winter Meetings at the Antiochian Village Conference Center. Our NAB meeting was very productive, and we accomplished all of our work – and discussions – by lunch on Saturday (a first!), and shared a lovely meal with the teens that evening. At our meeting, the young women of NAC Teen SOYO visited to show us their newest CD as well as their knit caps with the lovely insignia of “ICXC” – our ladies purchased several of these items. In the past, the teens have joined us to send cards to our Widowed Clergy Wives and to assist with our Antiochian Women’s Month mailings. It’s always a wonderful thing to have these young men and women – the future of our Archdiocese – with us.

Again, throughout February and March, I worked on the NAB’s report – and PowerPoint presentation – for the Archdiocesan Department/Organization Heads meeting as requested by Metropolitan JOSEPH. NAB

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❖ ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA ❖

Immediate Past President Violet Robbat presented the report on our behalf at that event in April, which was warmly received.

Antiochian Women's Month in March was a success – as always. Women throughout the Archdiocese read the Epistle, took up the collections, and raised funds for the 2017 NAB Project, ***“Strengthening the Ministries of Our Church.”*** The NAB materials sent to each church included Metropolitan JOSEPH's letter, NAB VP/Project Coordinator Kh. Suzanne Murphy's cover letter, our tri-fold brochure, the NAB 2017 Project Poster, our message to the faithful (once known as the “Sermonette”), and the NAB's Scholarship/Grant Application. All of this information was also posted to the Archdiocese's website. As in the past, the NAB gave each woman a “gift.” This year, it was our updated Spiritual Aid bookmarks, which were originally generated over a decade ago. The chapters consistently asked us for these bookmarks to the point that we completely depleted our inventory. This year, rather than the NAB Vice-President mailing these gifts, they were forwarded to the Diocesan Presidents, since we have urged them to be more in touch with their local chapters. This mailing also helped to get the Diocesan Presidents involved on the NAB level.

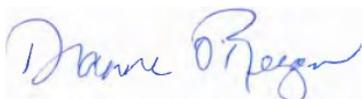
Many of our Diocesan Presidents have been taking to heart my earlier challenge of “The Three ‘T’s’” – time, talk, and travel. At the 2015 Archdiocese Convention, I encouraged them to give their “time” to the organization (just 10 minutes a week), to “talk” to the women in their Diocese on the phone (not just depending on emails for “communication”), and to “travel” to meet with the women face-to-face. Over the past two years, numerous parishes have had visits from their Diocesan Presidents, including churches that had “inactive” chapters; our ladies were welcomed with open arms

We are still continuing to place our “footprint” on social media; updating our webpage; revising our Membership Handbook (last published in 2011); and revising our tri-fold informational brochure. We also continue to reach out to those churches whose women are “inactive” and are helping them to “re-boot” this worthy organization and ministry.

We look forward to our journey to the 53rd Biennial Antiochian Archdiocese Convention in July as hosted by St. George Cathedral in Coral Gables at the Diplomat Resort & Spa in Hollywood, Florida. We are still working on the logistics – including our breakfast and meeting following Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, July 26, the presentation of our NAB Project monies to His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, and some other “surprises.” We are hoping for an excellent turnout of women across our Archdiocese – we hope to make it a day to remember!

Our continued thanks to His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, our NAB Spiritual Advisor His Grace Bishop JOHN, our Reverend Clergy, and our brothers and sisters in Christ for their love, commitment, and support. The Antiochian Women continue to strive to live each day as a “Sisterhood Serving Christ Through Serving Others.”

Yours in Christ,



Dianne O'Regan, President
North American Board of the Antiochian Women