

The Antiochian Orthodox Institute



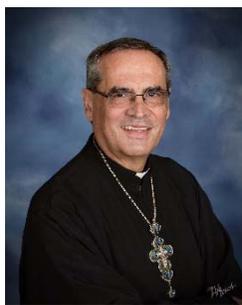
1020 Baseline Road, La Verne, CA 91750

Website: <http://taoi.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TAOICA>

The Antiochian Orthodox Institute (TAOI) has come into existence with the blessing of our father in Christ, Metropolitan Joseph, Primate of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, and with the accreditation from the California State Bureau of Post-Secondary Education. The Institute is administered by a board of Trustees, including a prominent member of the Board of Trustees of the Antiochian Archdiocese, Dr. George Madanat, who has been appointed by his Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph, as liaison between the Archdiocese and the Institute.

His Eminence has appointed the V. Rev. Michel Najim as Director of the Institute:



Purposes for TAOI:

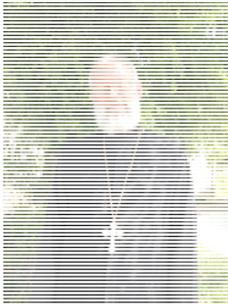
This Institute has five purposes, all interrelated:

1. TAOI advances the education of clergy as a required supplement to seminary education acquired at any theological school. The completion of this supplementary program will be required before reception of candidates for ordination or transfer of other clergy into our Archdiocese can take place.
2. TAOI also houses a PhD Program of the highest academic caliber—the only such program in existence in North America, under any Orthodox auspices. The PhD Program in Orthodox Studies is designed to offer students the hitherto now rare opportunity of doctoral research under the instruction and supervision of an eminent team of specialists, whose specific aim is to transmit the wisdom and ethos of the Orthodox Biblical and Patristic tradition to future theologians, pastors and educators in the Orthodox tradition. The faculty of the PhD Program currently consists of four core members: the Very Rev. Dr. Michel E. Najim, Professor of Patristics and Church History, and Director of the PhD Program; Dr. Christopher Veniamin, Professor of Patristic Theology and Dogmatics, and the Assistant Director of the PhD Program;



the Most Rev. Metropolitan Hierotheos (Vlachos) of Nafpaktos and St. Vlassios, Professor of Patristics and Orthodox Spiritual Life; Dr. Renos K. Papadopoulos, Professor of Psychology.

3. TAOI is in the process of developing certificate programs for clergy and laity, in areas such as Church music, iconography, biblical and patristic languages, and will conduct educational seminars, including liturgical and pastoral colloquia, premarital classes, and other areas as needed on various levels of competency.
4. TAOI produces and publishes hierarchically authorized liturgical service books. These services books contain thoroughly revised and accurate translations, with historical and critical notes, and full appendices for the enrichment and deepened knowledge among the clergy and laity, such as readers, chanters, pious faithful, as well as for seekers and scholars from all traditions and backgrounds. The Institute hosts the Archdiocesan Department of Translations. The V. Rev. Patrick O'Grady, a fellow of the Institute, is the Co-chairman of the Department of Liturgical Translations, and teacher of Biblical Languages.



5. TAOI is set to provide a formal and responsible ecclesiastical and academic liaison with other churches (Orthodox jurisdictions, as well as non-Orthodox), universities, colleges and other academic institutions for the promotion of our Antiochian Orthodox faith and heritage.

Through TAOI, our Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese raises the standard of theological education, training and ecclesiastical publications to a high level, putting our Antiochian Orthodox Church in the lead among other Orthodox churches and strengthens our outreach to

all. This heightened standard of theological and liturgical resources and training is much in demand so that our clergy may be fully equipped to meet the spiritual, moral, and intellectual challenges which today's clergy and lay leaders must address. Through His Eminence's blessing, our Archdiocese now takes up this challenge with faith and effort!

Achievements to date:

In 2016, in partnership with the Antiochian House of Studies, TAOI initiated the first cohort consisting of eleven PhD students. Arriving from as far away as New Zealand, the students attended their first academic residency in late summer 2016 at Antiochian Village. The students offered very positive and glowing assessments of the quality of instruction and the vision of this PhD Program.

The TAOI staff, Frs. Michel Najim and Patrick B. O'Grady, have been constituted as the Archdiocesan Department of Translations. With Metr. Joseph's blessing, they have completed work on the first liturgical service book, The Services of Initiation into the Holy Orthodox-Catholic and Apostolic Church. This book is due to be shipped and ready for distribution in March 2017. It is the first of several liturgical books yet to come which will provide our clergy with corrected texts containing vastly improved and enriched liturgical and pastoral theology for the spiritual therapy of our Antiochian Orthodox faithful throughout the Archdiocese and beyond. Currently TAOI staff are working on the new service book for the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom.

TAOI is currently preparing to hold regularly occurring on-line, interactive, distance learning virtual classroom instruction for clergy praxis and general academic and language instruction to deepen the life and experience of our Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese on every level.

Challenges before us include the raising of needed funds to construct our training church on the La Verne, California, campus, the renovation and

development of the existing structure, as well as to put in place the necessary infrastructure to support the distance learning classroom environment throughout the world.

Budgetary Considerations and Budget Request for 2017-2019

The Antiochian Orthodox Institute operates on a cash basis, without a budget, up until the present. Frs Najim and O’Grady serve part-time under Sayidna’s blessing, without any financial compensation whatsoever. Thanks to the fruit of mostly local fund-raising, TAOI pays for day-to-day operations (utilities, etc.). Without a budget, our work is very limited. In order to achieve the full purpose for which Sayidna established this ministry, we require an infusion of capital funding to develop the site, including the construction of a church for training purposes.

The Institute is planning to build a chapel attached to the existing building for educational and liturgical purposes and for serving the spiritual needs of its students both clergy and laity. The following is a budgetary analysis and cost spreadsheet with the details for the accomplishment of this fundamental necessity.

Therefore, we request a budgetary line item, identified as “The Antiochian Orthodox Institute.” We recommend that the capital expense for this development be budgeted over three years as follows. This allows for variances on permits, etc., to allow for a three-year construction project.

Year 2017:	\$272,500
Year 2018:	\$893,000
Year 2019:	\$1,450,000

