

DIAKONIA

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA



FALL 2017

Introducing The 2017-2019 North American Board Officers and Coordinators

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

Is 40:8

MEMORY ETERNAL,
HIS GRACE
BISHOP ANTOUN
(1931-2017)



This issue includes:

A message from our Spiritual Advisor, His Grace Bishop JOHN, and Information on our 2018 NAB Project

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

A message from Rt. Rev. Bishop JOHN, NAB Spiritual Advisor

Sayidna JOSEPH received the Antiochian Women's Project poster with joy. The women have captured his vision for Church growth. Sayidna JOSEPH wants the grandmothers, God-mothers, mothers, aunts, sisters and friends to inspire, support, encourage and fund people to follow the Lord. As we pray in the ektenias, we are to call to mind our remembrance of the Theotokos and saints as we dedicate ourselves and each other to Christ our Lord. We can and must dedicate ourselves to Christ in whatever job that we choose because we are in Christ, put Christ on and receive Him in our minds and hearts. But many are called and chosen to serve the Church through many ministries including ordained ministry, service ministries, teaching ministries, youth ministries, music ministries, administration ministries, and monastic ministries. Sayidna JOSEPH follows Christ in calling the women to lead people through their holy example of life, teaching, nurturing and love. When crucified, it was the women who came early in the morning to care for Christ. Now the women are called to care for Christ's Church.

The Antiochian Women's project cannot be reduced to fund raising. Sayidna wants the women to lead young men and women into service. We are to make people aware of the needs of our shared ministry and to fulfill these needs. Our goal is nothing short of bringing God to the world and the world to God. This work needs to be accomplished in our smallest rural communities and our largest cities. It starts with each woman, applies to the geographical limits of our North American Archdiocese and extends in mission to Antioch and the world. We are each other's keeper, and we have the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us. No task is too great when we work with the Creator of all.

I have been blessed to have served the Antiochian Women as Spiritual Advisor for twenty years. I was drafted by my wife Joanne, appointed by our Metropolitan, and nurtured and supported by all of the leadership of the Antiochian Women. Together we have consistently surpassed every expectation and goal given us. No wonder Sayidna JOSEPH entrusted the future of the Archdiocese and the World to the Antiochian Women through asking them to develop future vocations.

I thank Sayidna JOSEPH for his confidence in us, and I thank the Antiochian Women Leadership for their devotion to God and consistent work and love.

With awe,

Bishop JOHN

Biography

Bishop JOHN was born in Boston Massachusetts and grew up there. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Suffolk University, he was accepted to study at St. Vladimir's Seminary. He married Joanne Josephs in 1978, was ordained and served as a priest in Little Falls, New Kensington and Pittsburgh. During his priesthood, Bishop JOHN studied and taught Pastoral care and psychology. God blessed Bishop John and Kh. Joanne with three children; Gregory, Joseph and Maria. After the repose of Kh. Joanne, Bishop JOHN was elected to serve the Diocese of Worcester and New England. In addition to serving the Antiochian Women, Bishop JOHN works on *The WORD* magazine and serves the Western Rite parishes. He recently co-authored the book *Building an Orthodox Marriage: a Practical Commentary on the Eastern Orthodox Marriage Rite* available from the Archdiocese Bookstore, St. Vladimir's Seminary and Internet booksellers.



The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women Of North America

His Eminence, the Most Reverend JOSEPH,
Archbishop of New York
and Metropolitan of All North America
and Hierarchical Overseer

NAB Board

His Grace Bishop. JOHN, Spiritual Advisor

Officers:

President:	Dianne O'Regan
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:	
Humanitarian:	Lauren Farris
Membership:	Mary Lou Catelli
Parliamentarian:	Anne Bourjaily-Thomas
Religious:	Kh. Dannie Moore
Scholarship:	Cindy Nimey
Finance Committee:	Laila Ferris
Widowed Clergy Wives:	Julia Kalyoussef

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 all 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 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>

"LIKE" and Follow us on Facebook:
[Antiochian Women North America](#)

Introducing the North American Board Officers for 2017-2019

Dianne O'Regan, President



Christ is in our midst!

Two years ago as NAB President, I sent my initial correspondence on the Great Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Theotokos. Now, two years later, I am sending you this letter as we approach another wonderful day in her honor, the Placing of the Most Venerable Belt of the Theotokos (August 30), as well as the start of the Ecclesiastical New Year on September 1. Thank you for allowing me to continue as NAB President over these

next two years and continuing to serve in this magnificent ministry.

Our thanks to the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast and St. George Cathedral in Coral Gables, Florida for hosting the Archdiocese Convention that was held from July 25–30 at The Diplomat Resort & Spa in Hollywood, Florida. We had about 120 attendees at the Antiochian Women's breakfast on Wednesday, July 26, which was followed by the NAB General Assembly. That same evening, the re-elected NAB Officers and His Grace Bishop John as our NAB Spiritual Advisor were sworn into office by His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph.

God bless each of you for the work, commitment, and dedication that you have given to this organization – and ministry – over these last two years. As we approach our final two-year terms, many faces will remain the same, although some will change. NAB Humanitarian Coordinator Dorothy Tampary and NAB Widowed Clergy Wives Coordinator Deana Bottei have done magnificent work, and we thank them for their service. Lauren Ferris and Julia Kalyoussef will be now filling these respective NAB positions.

Please help me in extending a welcome to these newly-elected Diocesan Presidents: Susanne Ziedan (Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada & Upstate New York); Rula Khoury (Antiochian Women of the East); Kh. Jeanette Gallaway (Diocese of Toledo & the Midwest); Mary Lou Catelli (Diocese of Worcester & New England); and Jaclyn Al-Hanna-Ferris (Diocese of Wichita & Mid-America). Dawn Evancho (Diocese of Miami & the Southeast) and Charmaine Darmour (Diocese of Los Angeles & the West/Eagle River & the Northwest) will continue to serve as Presidents of their respective Dioceses.

At the Antiochian Women's breakfast, we presented His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph with additional funds for the 2016 NAB Project, "Hungry Children At Home & Abroad," in the amount of \$17,397.90, bringing the total to \$175,051.33. For our 2017 Project, "Strengthening the Ministries of Our Church," a check was presented in the amount of Metropolitan Joseph is presented with 2017 Project check for \$116,915.37. \$116,915.37.

His Eminence also announced our 2018 Project, to be entitled, "Vocations," which will emphasize various ministries throughout the Archdiocese. Khouria Suzanne Murphy, NAB Vice President and Project Coordinator, will be forwarding you these materials shortly.

Listed below are highlights of some important events and upcoming deadlines. I urge the Diocesan Presidents to share this information with their Officers and Coordinators.

Outgoing NAB/Diocesan Officers and Coordinators – If newly-elected to your positions, please make arrangements with your successors for a smooth transition and forward your materials at your

Introduction message from Dianne O'Regan continued

NAB/Diocesan Roster of Officers and Coordinators – If you have not already done so, please submit your updated rosters to NAB Recording Secretary Sheryl VanderWagen and to me as quickly as possible. Diocesan Presidents are also urged to update the list of the Antiochian Women chapters in their respective Dioceses, along with the contacts at each parish.

Antiochian Women Stationery – Updated stationery for the new NAB Coordinators, as well as the individual Dioceses, will be sent to you under separate cover in both .pdf and Word formats. Please use this stationery for all official correspondence and reports, as well as following the “Guidelines for Correspondence” (which are also included, along with the Reimbursement Guidelines, Illness and Bereavement Guidelines, etc.).

Vision 20/20 (and the Three “T”s) – My challenge to the Diocesan Presidents in 2015 was to “talk” or “travel” to the individual chapters within their Dioceses (rather than just depending on email). Also included was a third “T” – to give at least 10-15 minutes each week to your Diocese (i.e., calling a chapter, writing a letter, organizing an event – you name it!). Even with our busy lives, we can find a small space in our day for this wonderful ministry.

“Vision 20/20” is a new challenge to the Diocesan Presidents (and their Officers & Coordinators) for this upcoming two-year term: By the Year 2020, every church and mission on the North American continent will have an active Antiochian Women’s chapter. This can begin now – by reaching out to those churches that are not participating (by either not paying NAB dues, or not participating in our annual NAB Project). Please contact these parishes to see if they need assistance; perhaps, there are only a few women who don’t know “where to begin.” Please feel free to contact me directly so that we can come up with ideas on how to get these women involved – remembering that all women in our Archdiocese are Antiochian Women.

2018 Mid-Winter Meetings – With the blessing of Metropolitan Joseph, the 2018 Mid-Winter Meetings will be held from Friday, February 16 through Sunday, February 18 at the Antiochian Village Conference & Retreat Center in Bolivar, Pennsylvania. Additional information will follow in the next few months regarding room reservations and meeting schedules.

Finally, the next two years will see us generating even more information throughout the Archdiocese, including updates to both our Membership Handbook and tri-fold brochure, materials posted on the Archdiocesan webpage and our Facebook site, and a new video to supplement the earlier DVD, “Yes, We Can.” We also hope to have an easier way to submit dues and Project payments via the Archdiocese website, and will continue to engage in Common “Acts of Mercy,” always remembering that we are a “Sisterhood Serving Christ Through Serving Others.”

Please do not hesitate to contact me with updates, as well as questions or concerns. God bless you!

Yours in Christ,

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

Photo on page 4 of Dianne with Very Rev. Fr. Alexander Atty of Blessed Memory.

Vice-President Kh. Suzanne Murphy



Kh. Suzanne Murphy is the wife of the Very Rev. Fr. Gregory-Lazarus Murphy. They serve as the clergy family of St. Michael's Parish in Geneva, New York, which is in the Finger Lakes area of Upstate New York. Kh. Suzanne and Fr. Gregory have been blessed with four children: David, his wife Ani, and granddaughter Ekaterina Marina ("Ina"), and a second granddaughter, whose birth is imminent; Aaron, and his wife Claire; Adam, and Moriah.

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. Kh. Suzanne also serves as the Diocesan Music Coordinator for the Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate New York.

In the secular world, Kh. Suzanne has a full-time job as an elementary music teacher in the Geneva Public Schools. 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. Kh. Suzanne also sings in local and regional ensembles, including the Hobart and William Smith Colleges Chorale, the Syracuse Vocal Ensemble, and as an alto soloist in several productions sponsored by The American Landmarks Concerts Series. She is a board member of the Geneva Light Opera Company and recently sang the role of "The second lady" in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. Kh. Suzanne has also been a long-time member of the Boston Byzantine Choir.

In her spare time (whenever she can find any), Kh. Suzanne loves to knit and make handmade gifts for her family and friends.



Metropolitan Joseph is presented with 2017 Project check for \$116,915.37.



THE MOST REVEREND
METROPOLITAN JOSEPH
358 MOUNTAIN ROAD
ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07631

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

THE MOST REVEREND METROPOLITAN PHILIP -- FOUNDER

✦ A SISTERHOOD SERVING CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OTHERS ✦

❖ NORTH AMERICAN BOARD ❖



2018 ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN PROJECT

“Strengthening the Ministries of our Church”

❖ VOCATIONS ❖

VOCATION as defined as *“a strong feeling of suitability for a particular career or occupation; a calling, mission, or purpose.”* At our 53rd Biennial Convention in Miami, His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH told us that *“we are here for a purpose, and that purpose is to bring people together to praise God.”*

As we think of the definition of “vocation” in relation to the Church, we realize that it does not refer just to ordained or monastic vocations, but that there are many people who are doing holy work by dedicating their lives to ministries of various kinds. These ministries are inspired by the Holy Spirit and instituted by our Lord for the well-being of the Church and the salvation of souls. *“And Christ, Himself, gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Our Project this year will focus on these ministries and on supporting those who undertake them as a Godly VOCATION -- Our goal is to inspire and support vocations as well as to raise money to fund and encourage all of the excellent work that is being done throughout our Archdiocese by dedicated and self-sacrificing men and women.

His Grace Bishop JOHN wrote:

“Metropolitan JOSEPH has asked the Antiochian Women to promote vocations in our Archdiocese. The spiritual growth of our people as well as the success of the Metropolitan’s visionary plan for our Archdiocese depend on recruiting and developing people to enter into the various vocations of our Church. The vocations include but are not limited to service in the parish as pastors, youth workers, Christian educators, church musicians, monastics and administrators. Vocations also include serving the community as nurses, physicians, social workers, institution developers and administrators, as well as counselors. Some vocations will call people to other countries and traveling ministries as teachers, coaches, and missionaries.”

(DIAKONIA, summer 2017)

We want our Archdiocese to flourish; we want many more men and women to dedicate their lives to vocations of ministry in the Name of Christ Jesus. However, a firm financial foundation is necessary in order to support these ministries. Let us work hard this year to raise these needed funds. THANK YOU!

Kh. Suzanne Murphy
Vice President of the North American Board & NAB Project Coordinator

Kh. Suzanne Murphy ❖ VICE PRESIDENT of the North American Board & Projects Coordinator
3 Maxwell Avenue, Geneva, NY 14456 – (h) 315-789-7210 – SuzanneM@rochester.rr.com

❖ ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA ❖

❖ VOCATIONS ❖

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN 2018 NAB PROJECT

ORDAINED
MINISTRY



SERVICE
MINISTRY



TEACHING
MINISTRY



YOUTH
MINISTRY



Encouraging Supporting Funding

MUSIC
MINISTRY



MONASTIC
MINISTRY



ADMIN.
MINISTRY



Recording Secretary, Sheryl VanderWagen



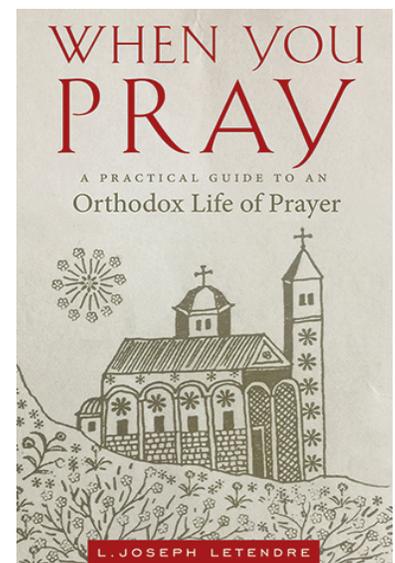
I am a member of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan where I am active in the Antiochian Women chapter (currently serving as the local Vice-President), retired Superintendent of the Sunday School, and sing in the choir. I also serve as the Religious Coordinator for the Midwest Antiochian Women. In June 2014, I was honored to receive the Midwest Metropolitan PHILIP Award. Along with my husband, Guy and two daughters, Abby and Emily, we have been members of St. George for 21 years. Guy and I will soon celebrate our 32nd wedding anniversary. Guy and I were both raised in and attended various Protestant churches before becoming Orthodox 21 years ago. I enjoy reading, cooking, and baking. Several years ago a very dear friend (may her memory be 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. My Patron Saint is St. Anna, the Mother of the Most Holy Theotokos. My middle name is Ann so this was a natural choice for me when I became Orthodox. Many times as I worry over my own children, I find myself turning to St. Anna asking for strength to follow her example and entrust my children to the care of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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 fifteen years. Before that I served as the Public Library Director for eighteen 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 Masters Degree in Library Science from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

I have been so privileged and blessed to have been a part of the Antiochian Women for so long, first as Midwest secretary for four years and then Midwest president for six years and NAB Secretary for the past two years. Lord willing, I am privileged to be able to again serve as NAB Recording Secretary for the next two years. 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 gone from being the only daughter of my parents to having a host of sisters all over North America. I am so very grateful to be part of this sisterhood, the Antiochian Women.

I encourage you all to consider taking an active role in the Antiochian Women in your local chapters and your dioceses by either volunteering to serve as a coordinator, run for an office or simply to help on a project. You won't be sorry, and you will gain so many beloved sisters and friends.

Finally I want to share a new favorite book with all of you called *When You Pray: A Practical Guide to an Orthodox Life of Prayer* by author L. Joseph Lentendre, recently published by Ancient Faith. It is not a lengthy book and in fact it took me about an hour and half to read completely. But in the few days since I have read this book, it has already had an impact on my own prayer life. He writes for those who have a difficult time keeping to a consistent rule of prayer as well as those who don't know how to begin. The author, reminds us that often when we don't have words, a simple "Lord have mercy", a memorized verse from the Psalms, the Jesus Prayer or simply the whispered name of a loved one is enough. God wants us to turn our hearts toward Him; He doesn't care about how many words we use.



Treasurer, Fadia Juzdan



Christ Is In Our Midst,

My name is Fadia Juzdan and I live in Woodland Park, New Jersey. I belong to Saint George Church in Little Falls, New Jersey. I have been married to my wonderful husband Ziad for 30 years, and we have four amazing children: Paul, George, Nicholas, and Janine.

I was born in Yaffa, Israel and moved to this country in 1987; I have been a member of Saint George Church ever since. I have been very active at my local parish and have held several different positions in the church. I have had the honor of becoming the first woman Parish Council chairperson at St. George. My family is very involved in church activities; my husband was the Parish Council President and my children are all active members of Young Adult Ministry and Teen SOYO. I work as a Senior Financial Analyst at Advan6. I enjoy cooking Arabic food and reading novels with a good cup of coffee by my side.

My patron Saint is the Theotokos. I have held a variety of positions on the Diocesan and Archdiocesan level of the Antiochian Women. I am currently the Treasurer of NAB and I am very excited to be a part of this organization that promotes the Orthodox Faith in America.

Public Relations: Melinda Bentz

I am grateful to be serving as Public Relations Director for a second term. To be able to share the work of the Antiochian being done across this Archdiocese through the Diakonia and our Facebook page is a blessing and a privilege.

How did I come to serve on the NAB? Simply a series of saying Yes! Yes, I could do a newsletter for my diocese and be the Public Relations officer. Yes, I would serve as Antiochian Women Vice President and Yes I would serve as the Antiochian Women President for the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West, Eagle River and the Northwest. Yes, I can serve as the Public Relations Director for the NAB. For me, it was simply a series of saying Yes to serving Christ through service to others. It has been an incredible experience to meet and work along side so many talented, loving, amazing women. It is my goal to bring even more stories, share more photos, and through the Diakonia, Facebook and *The Word Magazine*, bring greater awareness to the work we as sisters in Christ accomplish!

Who am I? I am a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a God-mother, a choir director, and a business woman. My friends know I am also the neighborhood crazy cat lady who somehow can't say no to a sweet (or not) fur-baby in need of food. Like many of my sisters in Christ, I find that I am often in the middle of coming and going all at once with church, family, and work commitments. It seems that in the most chaotic of times, the church seems to offer a calm respite. Whether it is a quiet Vespers service, a Lenten retreat, or simply the life of a saint brought to my attention, the Church offers peace through the constant movements of life. My favorite verse is from Psalms 3 v5 "I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me." This verse carries me through anything life throws at me. My Patron Saint, Prophetess Queen Esther, reminds me that even when things seem hopeless, to stop and pray because prayer works and God works miracles.



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, American 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 (43 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. My Patron Saint is the Theotokos – “The Dormition of the Theotokos” celebrated on August 15. My favorite Bible verse is from the Gospel of Matthew, “...if you have faith as a mustard seed, ...nothing will be impossible for you.” (17:20)

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 and am the current Religious Coordinator. On the NAB Level, I have been honored to serve as Public Relations Director, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President.

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

Widowed Clergy Wives Coordinator, Julia Kalyoussef

My name is Julia Kalyoussef, and I am honored to be serving as the new Widowed Clergy Wives Coordinator for the North American Board of the Antiochian Women. I am happy serving this organization with these amazing women, at the same time we are all serving God. I was previously the Ladies Society Vice President for two terms, and the Vice President of the Eastern Diocese Antiochian Women for two terms as well. This year I joined the church choir.



I was born and raised in the beautiful city of Aleppo, Syria, and I was a very active member in my church there. I am an undergraduate from law school and taught for eleven years in Aleppo’s public school system. I moved to the United States in 1988 and married my husband, Joseph Kalyoussef of Little Falls, New Jersey. I am a proud mother of two sons, Jack and Spero, and a proud grandmother to Rose and Sebastian.

I am an active member of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Little Falls. In my spare time, I like to help out with the church functions. I like sewing, knitting, reading, and gardening. Currently, I work with special needs children as a personal aide in the Paterson Public School system.

Humanitarian Coordinator, Lauren Ferris

I am appreciative of the opportunity to serve as your new NAB Humanitarian Coordinator. Dorothy Tampary, our previous NAB Humanitarian Coordinator, did an outstanding job in her position, and I humbly pray to follow her example to continue spreading the word of Christ through our actions and help for others.



As a little introduction about myself, I live in El Paso, Texas and attend St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church. I work as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of El Paso, and have done so for over five years now. Throughout my life, I have volunteered and worked with non-profit organizations or causes. It started when I was young and would go to various Lion's Club events with my grandparents, volunteer at our annual senior citizens dinner, stuff stockings for Christmas for those less fortunate, visit with Teen SOYO, local homeless shelters, and raise funds for various organizations or projects in need. During my time in law school, I volunteered hundreds of hours in community service work (earning the Dean's Certificate of Distinguished Service) as well as being the Chairperson of the Community Opportunity Outreach League (C.O.O.L) committee, in which I oversaw and initiated numerous volunteer activities for all of the law students in the community. During my time working with the City of El Paso's Community and Human Development Department, I engaged and interacted with various local, non-profit agencies and completed grant and contract documents for the organizations to provide resources for those in need in the area. It has always been a passion of mine to aid and serve others, as this is how I was raised.

As part of my role as the NAB Humanitarian Coordinator, I am to recommend a "Common Act of Mercy" for all of our Antiochian Women chapters, so that, we, as a Sisterhood in Christ, have a common thread that ties us in the service of others. In the recent past, the "Acts of Mercy" included preparing/supplying IOCC Emergency Kits and FOCUS on Love through FOCUS North America. I have received positive feedback and heard the reports at the Archdiocese Convention in July, that the FOCUS on Love Act of Mercy was a great success. With that said, I propose to continue working with FOCUS for our Acts of Mercy. As I receive more information from our FOCUS contact, I will distribute it to the individual chapters. There may be more than one Act of Mercy as the needs of the organization and communities may change throughout the year.

It is my goal to have multiple campaigns or activities throughout the year to encourage more women to participate, in and through their chapters, with the Acts of Mercy. I would like us all to become more involved with "hands-on" activities, in addition to the collection of funds for the Acts of Mercy. For example, in the past, chapters have been encouraged to participate by sending cards and/or visiting shut-ins and the sick, visiting nursing homes and those individuals that may have no one else, participating in a local charity event such as Habitat for Humanity, and any other local Acts of Mercy as the individual chapters determine is needed.

I greatly appreciate this wonderful opportunity and look forward to serving with you over the two years. Please let me know if you have any other suggestions, comments, or questions.

Resources for Humanitarian efforts: www.focusnorthamerica.org

September 20, 2017

Dear Antiochian Women Chapter President,

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be!

Greetings to you as we embark on the new liturgical year. Enclosed is an icon of St. Macrina, a woman whom many afflicted with breast cancer have found encouraging, and have asked her intercession for healing.

This icon is a gift from the North American Board (“NAB”) of the Antiochian Women to each women’s chapter throughout the Archdiocese. Hopefully, you will display this icon of St. Macrina during your meetings, and it will serve as a reminder for us all to join with others in our communities to support those suffering from breast cancer. The faithful may also choose to pray for those women in their parish who are suffering from breast cancer using St. Macrina for inspiration.

October is “Breast Cancer Awareness Month,” so please investigate avenues on how your chapter can participate in this important cause. You may want to go to the

Susan G. Komen site, and there are other excellent ideas via:

www.thedsmgroup.com/breast-cancer-awareness-month-ideas.

Thank you, and God bless you for your efforts to improve the lives of all our brothers and sisters.

Your Sister in Christ,

Mary Lou Catelli, Membership Coordinator
North American Board of the Antiochian Women

St. Macrina, the Sister of Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory of Nyssa

Patron Saint of those afflicted with Breast Cancer

Commemorated July 19

St. Macrina was the sister of the holy hierarchs Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa, and was born in Cappadocia in the early fourth century. Her mother, Emilia, saw an angel in a dream and named her unborn child, Thekla, in honor of the holy Protomartyr Thekla. Another daughter was named Macrina, in honor of a grandmother, who suffered during the persecutions under Emperor Maximian Galerius.

Besides Macrina, there were nine other children. St. Emilia became responsible for the upbringing and education of her elder daughter. She taught her reading and writing from the Scriptural books and Psalms of David, selecting examples from the sacred books which spoke of a pious and God-pleasing life. St. Emilia taught her daughter to pray and to attend church services. Macrina was also taught how to run a household and learned various handicrafts. She was never left idle and did not participate in childish games or amusements.



When Macrina was a teenager, her parents betrothed her to a pious young man, but the bridegroom soon died. Many young men wished to marry her, but Macrina refused them all, having chosen the life of a virgin and not wanting to be unfaithful to the memory of her dead fiancée. Macrina continued to live in the home of her parents, assisting the servants with household tasks, as well as helping with the upbringing of her younger brothers and sisters. After the death of her father, she became the chief support for the family.

After her other siblings grew up and left home, Macrina convinced her mother to settle in a women's monastery. Several of the servants followed their example. Having taken monastic vows, they lived together as one family – they prayed together, worked together, and possessed everything in common.

After the death of her mother, St. Macrina guided the sisters of the monastery. She enjoyed the deep respect of all who knew her. Strictness towards herself and temperance in everything were characteristic of the saint all her life. She slept on boards and had no possessions.

She was also granted the gift of wonderworking. There was an instance (told by the sisters of the monastery to St. Gregory of Nyssa after the death of St. Macrina) when she healed a girl of an eye-affliction. Through her prayers, there was no shortage of wheat at her monastery in times of famine.

St. Macrina died in 380, after a final prayer of thanks to the Lord for having received His blessings over all the course of her life. She was buried in the same grave with her parents. www.antiochian.org

As St. Gregory of Nyssa tells the story of his sister's life, St. Macrina discovered that she had a tumor on her left breast. Refusing to let a doctor touch or operate on her, since at that time surgery meant death for most patients, she asked her mother to trace the sign of the cross on her near-gangrenous breast. According to St. Gregory, her mother begged her many times to seek medical treatment. According to the testimony of St. Gregory, God himself cured her, leaving behind only a little scar, like a small needle. St. Macrina finally died on July 19, 378, at the age of 51 years, with that mark on her left breast as a reminder of God's help.

St. Macrina, the Patron Saint of Modern Oncoplastic Surgery? Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/282418478_St_Macrina_the_Patron_Saint_of_Modern_Oncoplastic_Surgery .



Membership Coordinator, 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 forty years. I am the eldest of four children, my siblings being Kh. 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.

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 Coordinator, Kh. Dannie Moore



Many years ago, I received a degree in Nursing School at Crawford W. Long in Atlanta, Georgia. Then came marriage and children and our journey to the Orthodox Faith.

My husband, Fr. Andrew, and I have lived in Hiram, GA for thirty years. We are located on twenty-five acres with the Church and cemetery on three acres and some of the parishioners living on the property as well. We have been married for 57 years (in January) and have six grown children, 17 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. We were with the Evangelical Orthodox Church in 1987 when Metropolitan PHILIP, of thrice-blessed memory, said to the EOC, “Welcome Home”. We will always be thankful for his kindness. For almost 25 years it has been a privilege to serve with the Antiochian Women. In the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast it has been an honor to serve as Humanitarian and Membership Coordinator; and also as Vice-President and President of our Diocese. On the national level, it has been a privilege to serve as NAB Humanitarian Coordinator for four years and I am currently serving the second two-year term as NAB Religious Coordinator. I cherish these opportunities because serving Christ and His Holy Church with sisters in Christ brings a closeness to the first Holy Myrrhbearers who served Jesus as He was on the earth.

Our goals for this year: Praying various Akathist together, reading the lives of the Saints, reading the Psalms together, remembering the Feast Days of the Church, reading and discussing our Book Club selection.

The days of my life are filled with keeping grandchildren, playing the piano and reading.

Although every word of Holy Scripture is precious, one of my favorite verses is:

“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

St Juliana of Lazarevo (Russia) has been an inspiration to me.



THE MOST REVEREND
 METROPOLITAN JOSEPH
 358 MOUNTAIN ROAD
 ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY 07631

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

THE MOST REVEREND METROPOLITAN PHILIP – FOUNDER

☞ A SISTERHOOD SERVING CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OTHERS ☞

❖ NORTH AMERICAN BOARD ❖



September, 2017
 Nativity of the Theotokos

Bishop JOHN, Reverend Clergy, Sisters in Christ,

Glory to God!

For the last two years it has been a privilege to serve as the Religious Coordinator for the North American Board. God willing, for the coming two years you will be receiving information again from me.

Below is a brief introduction. It is the same as the last several years. The only change is the number of years Fr. Andrew and I have been married!

My husband, Fr. Andrew, and I have lived in Hiram, GA for thirty years. We are located on 25 acres with the Church and cemetery on 3 acres and some of the parishioners living on the property as well. We have been married for 57 years (in January) and have six grown children and 17 grandchildren. We were with the Evangelical Orthodox Church in 1987 when Metropolitan PHILIP, of thrice-blessed memory, said to the EOC, "Welcome Home". We will always be thankful for his kindness. For almost 25 years it has been a privilege to serve with the Antiochian Women. In the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast it has been an honor to serve as Humanitarian and Membership Coordinator; also as Vice-President and President of our Diocese. The days of my life are filled with keeping grandchildren, playing the piano (when I get a few minutes), reading here and there and learning to pray without ceasing.

This coming year the mailings will consist of Akathists for us to pray together, reading together the lives of the saints, reading the Psalms together again and reading our Book Club selection. The study questions for the Book Club will be sent. Also, as Advent and Lent draw near some information will be sent.

Included in this mailing is a reminder of the feasts of our Lord and the feasts of the Mother of God. Most of these you have from last year. The two that were not sent: The Feast of the Transfiguration and the Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple. These will be sent at the appropriate time.

Please let me know if you do not have the information sent the last two years about the Feast Days. With new women in the local AW Chapters, perhaps it should be sent again.

(over)

Kh. Dannie Moore – Religious Coordinator
Phone: (770) 489-0010; (770) 262-9476

130 Holy Cross Path Hiram, Georgia 30141
Email – khdannie@gmail.com

❖ ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA ❖

To be sure you have the two major feast days for September, they are included with this letter. Also are readings about St. Cassiana of Constantinople (September 7) and St. Thekla of Iconium (September 24).

Bishop JOHN has given his blessing for the Book Club selection. Also, our President, Dianne O'Regan has approved. The book will be "Becoming a Healing Presence" by Albert Rossi. The book can be ordered from Ancient Faith Bookstore.

Dr. Albert Rossi is a licensed clinical psychologist and Christian educator who has spoken and written widely on these topics. He is currently Director of Field Education and serves as the resident clinical psychologist at St. Vladimir's Seminary.

A quote from Dr. Rossi from the conclusion of the book: *"Becoming a healing presence" is a code phrase for loving others as best we can. It is code for actively listening to others, intuiting their needs, and serving them in whatever way we can.*

We become a healing presence because Christ is the healing Presence through us. He is "all in all" through us to others. We can't give what we don't have. We can't give Christ's healing presence to others if we are not intimate with Him ourselves. We grow in intimacy with Him through stillness and prayer.

St. Theophan said that the essence of the Christian life is to keep the mind in the heart before God. Christ moves through us as a healing fire to the extent that we allow ourselves to be open and available to Him. We need to spend quiet time with Him, gently speaking His name or saying the Jesus Prayer, and we need to do all we can to have conscious contact with Him all day and when we awake during the night.

Thank you for passing this on to the Antiochian Women Chapters in your Diocese. This is being sent only by email. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would also like a hard copy.

Trusting we will be given joy and peace as we serve together.

Your sister in Christ,

Dannie Moore

Kh. Dannie Moore

NAB Religious Coordinator

Cc: : Metropolitan JOSEPH
Bishop BASIL
Bishop THOMAS
Bishop ALEXANDER
Bishop JOHN, NAB Spiritual Advisor

Bishop ANTHONY
Bishop NICHOLAS
Dianne O'Regan, NAB President
NAB Officers and Coordinators
Diocesan Spiritual Advisors
Diocesan AW Presidents

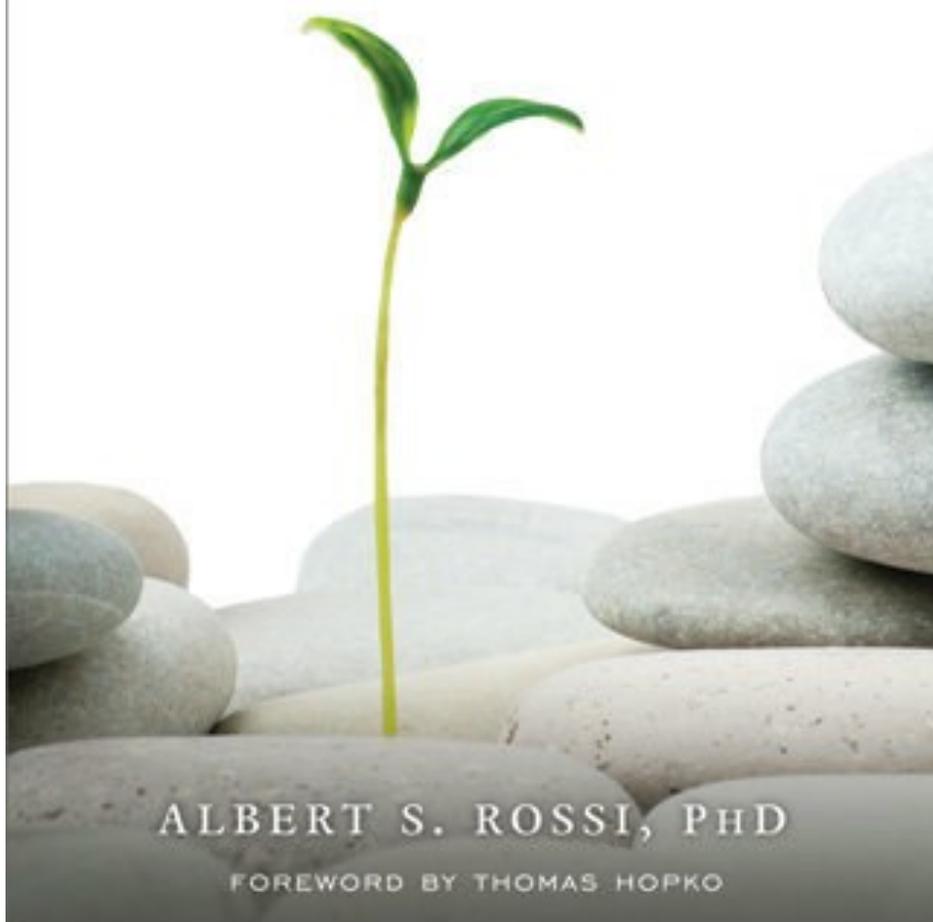
Kh. Dannie Moore – Religious Coordinator
Phone: (770) 489-0010; (770) 262-9476

130 Holy Cross Path Hiram, Georgia 30141
Email – khdannie@gmail.com

❖ ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA ❖

Introducing the Antiochian Women Book Club Selection

BECOMING A HEALING PRESENCE



Look for discussion questions to follow from Kh. Dannie Moore, our Religious Coordinator.

Order your book now and join the discussion.

Ancient Faith Store:

<http://store.ancientfaith.com>

Eight Day Books:

www.eighthdaybooks.com

Watch Dr. Rossi discuss being a healing presence:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pvkJ5K--qY>

“In order to become a healing presence for others, we must first be healed ourselves—through an active relationship with the great Healer, Christ. Drawing on the teachings of the Fathers and saints of the Church, Dr. Rossi gently points the way toward deepening our love for God and for each other so that others may experience Christ through us.”

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 Grace Bishop JOHN)	October 2017	Done
2	Diocese of New York and the Archdiocesan District, His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Diocese of Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic (His Grace Bishop THOMAS)	December 2017	Nov. 1 2017
3	Diocese of Los Angeles and the West and the Diocese of Eagle River and the Northwest (His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH)	March 2018	Feb. 1, 2018
4	Diocese of Miami and the Southeast (His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS)	June 2018	May 1, 2018
5	Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate NY (His Grace Bishop ALEXANDER)	Sept. 2018	Aug. 1, 2018
6	Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest (His Grace Bishop ANTHONY)	December 2018	Nov. 1, 2018
7	Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America (His Grace Bishop BASIL)	March 2018	Feb. 1, 2018
8	Diocese of Worcester and New England (His Grace Bishop JOHN)	June 2018	May 1, 2018

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

A NOTE TO ALL OUR READERS:

As we head into autumn , the busy pace of summer calms into the predictable rhythms of fall. We are encouraged to pause, reflect and prepare for the Nativity Fast. With the repose of our beloved Bishop ANTOUN, the wild fires across the Northwest, the hurricanes across the South and the East, and the earthquakes, our only comfort is found in the prayers of the Church. We remember all those suffering around our Archdiocese and the world and beseech our Ever-Virgin Mother to intercede for all of us.

As we begin the next term of service, each of us on the NAB are here to support your ladies in anyway we possibly can. Please feel free to reach out to any of us for help with membership, the book club, humanitarian efforts, the NAB Project or any other need where we can be of assistance to you.

In Christ,
Melinda Bentz, NAB Public Relations Director