

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

THE MOST REVEREND METROPOLITAN PHILIP -- FOUNDER

"A SISTERHOOD SERVING CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OTHERS"



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

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN NORTH AMERICAN BOARD



VICE PRESIDENT & PROJECT COORDINATOR

KH. SUZANNE V. MURPHY

September 16, 2024

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

Dear Sisters in Christ,

*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this:
to visit orphans and widows in their affliction,
and to keep oneself unstained from the world.* (James 1:27)

Our 2024 PROJECT was expressly devoted to "helping widows in their affliction" as we sought to establish an endowment fund to benefit our beloved widowed clergy-wives. As the accompanying flyer attests, we not only met our initial goal of \$150,000, but because of your dedication and hard work, and the generosity of an anonymous donor, we raised \$395,712!

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA gives us his wholehearted blessing to continue this same fundraising program for 2025 and 2026 until we reach our ultimate goal of \$1 million dollars. After this initial effort, we are already more than a third of the way to our goal – Thank you!

Though this million-dollar goal may sound like a huge sum of money, in fact all these funds will form the core of the endowment fund and will not be expended. Only the yearly dividends generated by this principle will be used to give financial support to our widowed clergy-wives. This is the reason that we have set such a high goal – we want to be able to have enough return on investment each year to be able to make a positive contribution to the well-being of our beloved widowed Khourias. The return on even a million dollars, divided by the number of widowed Khourias, will only provide a modest gift – enough to perhaps offset some of their daily living expenses. So, the larger the endowment, the more we will be able to contribute to them each year.

*So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up,
the time will come when we will reap the harvest.* (Galatians 6:9)

My dear sisters-in-Christ, let us re-double our efforts in the next two years so that the harvest we reap will be bountiful and will show the depth of our love for our Church and for the women who devoted their whole lives in service to each of us as co-ministers with their husbands in our parishes. Now that their dear husbands have been called by God to life eternal, they are bereft of their lifelong companions. We must show them that they are not forgotten by us. Even though they have retired from active ministry in our parishes, they are our "spiritual mothers" – one can never retire from being a mother! We will not abandon or forget our Khourias. May God grant them many years! And may God strengthen us and give us success as we work to improve their lives in a practical way through this dedicated endowment fund.

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN – THE NORTH AMERICAN BOARD

❖ ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA ❖

Please contact me if you have any questions or if there is any confusion about our PROJECT. I am eager to help all of our local chapters understand our goal for this fundraising effort.

My contact information is on the Antiochian Women webpage.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With prayers for each of you and all our parish chapters in the year ahead,
Your servant and sister in Christ,
Kh. Suzanne Murphy

