

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

THE MOST REVEREND METROPOLITAN PHILIP – FOUNDER
A SISTERHOOD SERVING CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OTHERS



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

❖ DIOCESE OF NEW YORK & WASHINGTON, D.C. ❖
❖ DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON, OAKLAND & THE MID-ATLANTIC ❖

DIOCESAN PRESIDENT



September 12, 2019

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

Your Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Your Grace Bishop THOMAS, Reverend Fathers and Beloved Sisters in Christ,

Happy Liturgical New Year!

May Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary bring to all of you good health and peaceful lives as we start a new Ecclesiastical Year. I pray that you and your families are well.

I am honored to be re-elected for a second term as the president of the Antiochian Women of the East (AWE). AWE consists of the Diocese of New York and Washington, D.C., under the direction of his Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, which includes 15 churches and missions. Including the Diocese of Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic, led by His Grace Bishop THOMAS, which includes more than 30 churches and missions.

With help from God and with support of our AWE Executive Board, I am humbled to serve you again as the president. We are also blessed to have the Very Reverend Father Don Shadid continue as our Spiritual Advisor. The 2019 – 2021 AWE Executive Board members include: Angela Saliby, (re-elected as Vice President), Nancy Tentzeras, Secretary, Khouria Kelly Purdie, Treasurer, Colleen McAfee, (re-elected as Public Relations Director), Leslie Deeb-Carter, (re-appointed as Humanitarian Coordinator), Barbara Fanik, Membership Coordinator, Rachel V. Szewczyk, Social Media Coordinator. *(Attached are introduction letters of the newly elected officers and coordinators of AWE Executive Board)*

We are still in need of a Religious Coordinator. Please reach out to me if the Holy Spirit moves you to volunteer. My contact information can be found in the enclosed 2019-2021 Roster.

I am blessed to already know many of you during my visits to dioceses' churches. One of my goals is to meet as many of the clergy and women from your parishes as possible during my second term in office. We have so much to share and learn from each other while building stronger relationships among the Antiochian Women of our dioceses.

NAB President (KH. SUZANNE MURPHY) suggests for Diocesan Presidents to reach out to their parish chapters **via video-chat using FaceTime or Skype**. I encourage AW presidents from each chapter to inform me (Rula Khoury) of their meeting times so that a video-chat can be arranged -- the goal is to encourage engagement and build relationships.

Another way for us to get to know more about each other is through **our Diocesan Newsletter** that is published twice a year – during Advent and Summer Seasons. Articles are welcomed on an endless variety of topics, from describing a special ministry team in your parish, visiting a monastery, submitting personal reflections, or sharing the activities of the women in your parish.

RULA OSAMA KHOURY ❖ PRESIDENT OF THE DIOCESE OF NY & WASHINGTON, D.C.
& THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON, OAKLAND & MID-ATLANTIC

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❖ ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA ❖

Now that the new church year has arrived, it is also time for annual dues to be submitted. Our dues serve multiple purposes. A portion is sent to the Antiochian Women North American Board (NAB), and a portion remains in our Dioceses. In both cases these funds cover both good works of the Antiochian Women (donations for mission priests, gifts for priests' widows, and for seminarians, etc.) as well as administrative costs incurred. Attached is a letter from our **Treasurer, Khouria Kelly Purdie**, with more information and a form to return with your dues payment.

Each year the Antiochian Women of our archdiocese are given a project by our Metropolitan. The Project in 2020 will focus on "**Fulfilling the Vision**". Metropolitan JOSEPH announced his desire to fulfill the initial vision for the Antiochian Village as it was originally proposed by Metropolitan PHILIP, of thrice-blessed-memory. That original vision has been slowly brought into reality over the past 40 years, but there are still aspects that need attention, and some things that need upgrading (such as camper cabins and the St. Ignatius Chapel). Raising funds for the cathedral, retirement home, meeting space and a Monastery at the Antiochian Village. At the Antiochian Women's Luncheon during the Convention in Grand Rapids, Dianne O'Regan presented His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH with a check in the amount of **\$125,336.05** for this project.

Sheryl Vanderwagen, NAB Vice-President & Project Coordinator, will send a letter within the next month with complete packets to each parish. Additionally, a full explanation of the project, along with posters and bulletin inserts, can be found on the Archdiocese web page.

AWE Vice President and Project Coordinator, Angela Saliby, will follow up with the churches within our two dioceses. **Project donations are due no later than May 1, 2020.** A donation check made payable to the Antiochian Women of the East (AWE) should be mailed directly to the AWE Treasurer, **Khouria Kelly Purdie** (see enclosed attachment). Please be aware that all the funds collected for this project will be tallied and then forwarded directly to the NAB by the AWE treasurer. A check for the total monies collected from all the dioceses is presented to Metropolitan JOSEPH at the Summer Meeting. **Please do not mail your check to the NAB or to anyone else.**

We hope the following information enables the Antiochian Women in your parishes to make plans and set goals for the coming months. Please mark your calendars:

AW Fall Gathering: 30 days away- We are pleased to announce for the first time ever in AWE history to hold a Fall Retreat & Gathering **October 12th, 2019** at Holy Protection Monastery in White Haven, PA. Come meet your Sisters in Christ from other parishes to spend the day with one another meditating in the beauty and silence of the monastery with worship, fellowship, and a spiritual discussion with Fr. Don Shadid as Keynote Speaker on **RESISTING TEMPTATION IN THE MODERN WORLD.**

Diakonia: is the newsletter of the North American Board of the Antiochian Women that is published quarterly. In December of 2019 it will be our dioceses' turn to participate in the Diakonia. All the articles and reports will be **due in November 1, 2019** (75 days away). Articles are welcomed on an endless variety of topics, ranging from describing a special ministry team in your parish, visiting a monastery, submitting personal reflections, to sharing the activities of the women of your parish. Poetry, artwork and/or iconography work, portraits are also welcomed!

2020 Mid-Winter Meeting- will be held **February 14-16, 2020**, at the Antiochian Village Conference Center, in Bolivar Pennsylvania. Additional information will follow in a few months regarding reservations and meeting schedule, we have to have six delegates from our dioceses.

Annual Lenten Retreat: will be held at the Antiochian Village Conference Center, **March 13-15, 2020.** Our guest speaker will be **Mother Gabrielle**, and the topic will be announced in the near future. Please share this information with your Orthodox sisters who are all welcome to join us for this enriching and rejuvenating weekend. We will send, by mid-October, more information regarding reservations and a schedule.

Eastern Dioceses 2020 Parish Life Conference: June 25-28, 2020, will be held at the Antiochian Village Heritage & Learning Center, Bolivar, PA and hosted by the Holy Cross Church, Linthicum, MD. In addition to services and classes, you will have an opportunity to visit and venerate the resting place of St. Raphael of Brooklyn.

Finally, as I mentioned at the beginning of this letter, one of my focus areas is to build stronger relationships among the Antiochian Women of our dioceses. I understand that women's groups in our parishes have different names including fellowship groups, ladies society, Martha & Mary groups, Hamelat El teeb, Myrrh Bearing Women, just to name a few, but as members of this God protected Antiochian Archdiocese, it is important to remember, that we are all Antiochian Women, a ministry of service - **"A Sisterhood Serving Christ, Through Serving Others."**

Please email me any updates in the contact information of your organization to: aweorthodox1973@gmail.com. Feel free to call me with questions or feedback concerning the Antiochian Women in our dioceses. I can be reached by phone at 724-799-1820 or via email. I look forward to serving you in any way I can.

I wish you and your families a blessed Liturgical New Year.

Your sister in Christ,
Rula Osama Khoury

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