

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN MONTH
“MESSAGE”
(March 2020)



Good morning!

Christ is in our midst!

I am so glad that I can speak to all of you today on behalf of our (*name of parish*) chapter of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America. I would like to take this opportunity to briefly tell you about the important work we have been given by His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH for our 2020 PROJECT, “Fulfilling the Vision.”

“We must build on the past and build the present and the future.” His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH gave this charge to the Antiochian Women at their luncheon at the 2019 Archdiocese Convention as he prepared to outline the 2020 NAB PROJECT.

Since giving the charge to begin raising funds to build a new cathedral at the Antiochian Village in the 2019 NAB PROJECT, His Eminence has more fully developed his own vision for the Antiochian Village building on the foundation laid by Metropolitan PHILIP of thrice blessed memory and others who laid the foundation for what we have there today.

In addition to the new cathedral, which is the first phase of the building project, two additional phases have been outlined by His Eminence. The second phase will include building a residence for our bishops, so they will have a place to stay when they come to the Village for conferences, etc., and as

a place to live after they retire from active diocesan oversight. Visiting hierarchs will also have quarters in this structure so their spiritual discipline will not be hindered as they journey to the Village for conferences and symposia.

The third phase is to bring a monastic presence to the Antiochian Village in a women's monastery. A monastic presence is necessary for the growth of the Church in North America. It is the way that we will grow the church; by the holy prayers of a monastic community.

We often refer to the Antiochian Village as being our "holy mountain." A mountain is high and visible to all who look up to it. The expansion of the Antiochian Village, its cathedral with all the other facilities will announce the presence of the Orthodox in this community. It will be a beacon to draw us closer to our spiritual roots; a place of pilgrimage; and a witness to our holy Orthodox faith.

Thank you all for your support in our fundraising efforts. Fulfilling the vision of Metropolitan PHILIP, Fr John Namie and others who have gone before us. Let us "build the present and the future."

Finally, I would ask for your prayers for our Antiochian Women. We thank all of you for your generous support. May God bless this parish, and the work of the Antiochian Women. Amen. ❖

