

# DIAKONIA

A NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA  
SPRING 2019



FEATURING THE DIOCESE OF WICHITA AND MID-AMERICA



ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA  
✧ A SISTERHOOD SERVING CHRIST THROUGH SERVING OTHERS ✧



# 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 Antiochian Women Hierarchical Overseer

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His Grace Bishop. JOHN, Spiritual Advisor

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### *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 in the months of September, December, March and June.

## PUBLICATION GUIDELINES:

### Deadlines

- Please submit your articles by the first of the month prior to the month of publication so we can be sure they are included.

To submit articles, e-mail as a Word attachment to:  
lucy.hanna@sbcglobal.net

### 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.

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In this issue of the DIAKONIA we highlight the  
**The Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America**

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.

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## 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>

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**Antiochian Women of North America**

His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

January 2019

Beloved Antiochian Women of our God-Protected Archdiocese:

We greet you as we have just left the holy season of our Lord's Nativity and Theophany and prepare to enter the all-holy season of the Triodion. These cyclical movements of the Church year remind us of an important theological and ontological reality. This reality is that while we take-leave of these seasons every year, we are nevertheless always assured that the God-man Jesus Christ, who was with the Father before the ages, is always with us and dwells with us and in us. Therefore, while the liturgical seasons come and go, the theological truths that we celebrate in them remain with us throughout the year. Let us follow the rhythm of these seasons as we pursue the Kingdom of God in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

Every year, the Metropolitan gives the Antiochian Woman a project for a charitable and worthy cause. Over the decades, we have helped those within and those outside the archdiocese, both here and overseas. This year we have a special project that will touch the lives of both adults and children in our archdiocese. That project is the building of a new Cathedral at the Antiochian Village.

This Cathedral will encompass and be part of the continued growth and expansion of the dream that started in the late 1970's under the inspiration of my predecessor of thrice-blessed memory, His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP. The first phase was a camp for our children. As you know, the camp is the jewel of our archdiocese and has inspired our children to become priests, to marry each other, to remain in the Church and to live their Christian lives in a world that too often encourages them to do otherwise. The next phase was the Heritage and Learning Center. The center boasts 100 sleeping rooms, conference rooms, a library, a museum and meal facilities for pilgrims, retreats, PLC's and the like and allows us to gather and worship in a holy setting at a reasonable price, rather than at a hotel or conference center.

Now we come to today and the dream of a new Cathedral. For many years, we have worshipped with a church for the camp and the chapel for the center, both of which are too small for our campers and our large gatherings like the Clergy Symposium or the Parish Life Conference for our Eastern Dioceses. Likewise, if we truly believe that the Antiochian Village is the "jewel" of our archdiocese as we say, then this "jewel" should have a traditional church large enough to accommodate our needs. Beyond the worship space itself, we intend to build a crypt under the altar for our reposed hierarchs so that our children and their descendants can come, see, and learn about them and their contributions to our archdiocese. We will have in the church itself a special place for the holy body of St. Raphael of Brooklyn so that everyone can venerate the relics of this holy saint who established our presence on these shores. This Cathedral will be built in the traditional

*"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)*

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Orthodox style, reflected the sacred art and proper architecture so that visitors can truly encounter heaven on earth.

Beyond the Cathedral, we have other phases in mind for the future like a monastery, a senior home and more. The Cathedral is the first step and this is the challenge I have given the Antiochian Women for this year so we can kick-off our fund-raising campaign in a good way. I encourage all of our women's groups throughout the archdiocese to do their best to work hard for this project, as they always do. We are grateful for your efforts and for the efforts of the Village Council and the staff at the Antiochian Village for their continued hard work as we begin our work and cooperative efforts to realize our dreams.

Finally, as we approach Antiochian Women's month in March, be assured you are in my prayers and thoughts.

Wishing you all a blessed Triodion period, I remain,

Your Father in Christ,



**+JOSEPH**

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

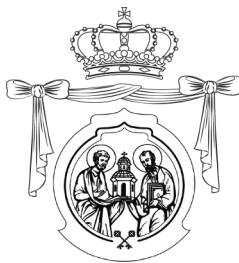


*"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)*

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His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan JOSEPH

The Right Reverend  
Bishop BASIL



Archbishop of New York and  
Metropolitan of  
All North America

Diocese of Wichita and  
Mid-America

## ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Spring 2019

Dear Sisters in Christ, the Officers and Members of the Antiochian Women of North America:

Blessings to you and your families from the Lord Christ. It gives me great joy to convey to you greetings and prayerful best wishes from the clergy, monastics and lay people – especially the Antiochian Women – of the fifty-one parishes and mission which comprise our Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America.

The ministry of women within and to the Body of Christ, whether to Our Savior personally or to the least of His brethren, has been shown forth in so many Lives of the Saints – most especially of the Most Holy Mother of God, the Myrrh-bearing Women, and other female saints of the Church. I offer for your prayerful consideration this vignette from the life of the Holy Royal New Martyr Elizabeth the Grand Duchess of Russia who was executed on the night of July 5<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>, 1918:

“Cursing, shouting and beating the prisoners, the executioners – local Bosheviks – threw their victims into this pit. Unknown to them, a local peasant was a secret witness of all that happened. The Grand Duchess was the first to be thrown into the yawning darkness of the mine. The peasant saw that she was praying aloud and crossing herself, while repeating, “Forgive them, O Lord, for they know not what they do. The others (Secretary Feodor Remez, Nun Barbara, Prince Vladimir Paley, Grand Duke Serge, Dukes Constantine, Igor and John) – all still alive – were hurled down after her ... The Cheka then hurled hand grenades down the shaft ... Grand Duchess Elizabeth herself did not fall to the bottom of the pit. About fifteen meters down the shaft, her fall was broken by projecting logs. Duke John fell onto this same ledge, injuring his head. Suffering herself from head injuries, the Grand Duchess, careful lest she fall, managed in the pitch darkness to bandage his wound using her monastic veil ... The local peasant testified that he heard voices coming from the mine, singing the Cherubic Hymn from the Divine Liturgy. The singing was led by the Grand Duchess, who continued to sing hymns and speak words of comfort to the others until her soul left her body to ascend on high, where she was greeted by other paradisiac melodies, while over her head shone a martyr’s crown.” (*Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia* by Lubov Millar, pp. 219-220).

May we be instructed and encouraged by St Elizabeth’s example of steadfast Christian witness and selfless service, and by her holy prayers and those of all the Saints, may we all be saved!

In Christ,

+ Bishop Basil

+Bishop Basil  
Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America





## MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

Fr. Christopher Morris



*“God is with us, understand all ye nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us.”*

As you read this edition of the Diakonia, we find ourselves in the midst of the most wonderful season of the year: Great Lent. Even though it is a difficult season filled with taking up our cross more than usual—more fasting, more time in prayer, more church services, more opportunities for almsgiving—our lenten journeys can be the most blessed seasons of our life in Christ.

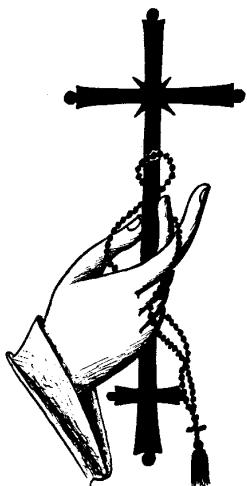
During a very beautiful lenten service called Great Compline, we hear the words above, echoing those of the Prophet Isaiah. God is with us! In these words, we find our greatest hope, and the greatest reason for taking up our cross each Lent, and each and every day. In the midst of our joys and sorrows, triumphs and trials, the God who created and rules over everything is beside us and within us.

This God has become one of us in order to triumph over the power of sin, death, and the devil. This God gives us not only every good thing in this life, but has prepared a home for us in the unspeakable glory of the Kingdom of His Father. This God loves us immeasurably—so much that we have no words or concepts to express how much. And He longs that we would love Him, too.

Because our God is with us, nothing can defeat us. Yes, we will fall, and we will get hurt. But in Christ Jesus, we have become more than conquerors.

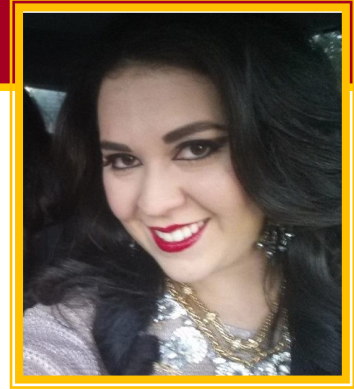
*“O Lord of Hosts, BE WITH US,  
FOR WE HAVE NONE OTHER HELP in  
times of sorrow BUT THEE;  
O Lord of Hosts HAVE MERCY ON US.”*

*- Hymn of Great Compline*



When our God comes again in glory to judge the living and the dead, the nations of this world will submit themselves, trembling in fear before His awesome majesty. Yet we, His beloved children, are given the great privilege to submit ourselves to Him here and now. And to do so with *godly* fear, with hope, and with great love. As we take up our lenten cross in our love for Christ, we will assuredly find that He is with us, and closer than we ever could have imagined!

## MESSAGE FROM JACLYN AL-HANNA-FERRIS DIOCESAN PRESIDENT



It is with great pleasure and excitement that I bring you greetings on behalf of the Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America. It has truly been a blessing to have served the Antiochian women of DOWAMA this past year. I am so proud of our current board who has served with their whole heart. Our current board is as follows: Laila Ferris-Vice President, Kh. Susan Wallace-Recording Secretary, Jamie Isaac-Treasurer, Zayna Heredia-Public Relations, Sherrie Massad-Religious, Lisa Bond-Humanitarian, De Bottei-Membership & Immediate Past President, Joan Katrib, Widowed Clergy Wives, and myself as President and Product Sales Coordinator. I thank them from the bottom of my heart for their hard work and commitment to this diocese. A woman's strength should be spent on her God. The scriptures say in Proverbs 31:25, "strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in the time to come." Our board is a true representation of this.

As always, our sincere thanks are offered to Bishop BASIL, and Fr. Christopher Morris, Spiritual Advisor for the DOWAMA Antiochian Women, for the support and direction they have provided to us in our many undertakings.

Our diocese encompasses 10 States (South Dakota 1, Wyoming 1, Nebraska 3, Iowa 1, Colorado 7, Kansas 9, Oklahoma 4, New Mexico 1, Louisiana 2, and Texas 21), 50 Parishes and Missions total. South Dakota, Wyoming and a parish in Kansas were given a visiting priest at this past PLC in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It is wonderful to hear from each parish about the wonderful work that is done.

Our 2019 Parish Life Conference will be hosted by St. Peter Church in Fort Worth, TX from June 18-23, 2019. We hope to see many of you there as we come together as brothers and sisters in Christ. May God continue to bless all our women in our Archdiocese as we continue to do His Work. Please "like" our Diocese Facebook page: *DOWAMA Antiochian Women*. We would like this to be a platform for the women of our diocese to showcase the good works that are taking place in your parishes.

I would like to close with this verse, "How all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever!" Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

With Love in Christ,  
Jaclyn Al-Hanna-Ferris  
President of the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America

**"LET MY PRAYER ARISE  
IN THY SIGHT as incense,  
and let the LIFTING UP OF MY HANDS  
BE AN EVENING SACRIFICE."**

- Psalm 140:2, LXX (sung at the Presanctified Liturgy)

**Introducing  
The 2017 - 2019  
Board of Antiochian Women  
of the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America**



***Father Christopher Morris, Spiritual Advisor***



Fr. Christopher was raised on the Great Plains in the great state of Kansas, 45 minutes north of the city of Wichita. He was catechized and received into the Orthodox Church during his college years by the Very Reverend Chad Hatfield at the parish of All Saints

Orthodox Church in Salina, Kansas.

A year after finishing a graduate degree at Kansas State University, he moved to Kodiak, Alaska with Fr. Chad and Kh. Thekla Hatfield and attended St. Herman Seminary for a wonderfully adventurous year. After St. Herman's, Fr. Christopher attended St. Tikhon Seminary in South Canaan, Pennsylvania. There, he was privileged to study under many fine professors including Archbishop Michael (Dahulich), Dr. Christopher Veniamin, Dr. Harry Boosalis, and Drs. David and Mary Ford.

During his years at St. Tikhon's, Fr. Christopher was assigned as a archdiocesan seminarian to St. Mary Orthodox Church in Wilkes-Barre under the fine pastorship of the Very Reverend David Hestor. Between his first and second year of seminary, he was married to Anastasia (Sault) Morris at St. Anne's Orthodox Church in Oak Ridge, Tennessee by Archbishop Michael, Fr.

Stephen Freeman, and Fr. Chad Hatfield. Anastasia joined her husband at St. Tikhon's and enrolled as a part-time student herself. Fr. Christopher remembers well how often his seminary professors commented that Anastasia was one of the finest students they had ever taught. After noticing her husband standing silently beside her, they would sometimes say (somewhat awkwardly), "Oh. You're nice, too."

Fr. Christopher was ordained to the diaconate between his second and third year of seminary by Bishop Basil of Wichita at the diocesan cathedral of St. George. Some months later, on February 18th, 2006, Bishop Basil ordained Fr. Christopher to the holy priesthood at St. Tikhon's Seminary, together with the Very Reverend George Shawareb, who was ordained to the holy diaconate that day.

After his seminary graduation in May of 2006, Fr. Christopher was assigned to St. George Orthodox Church in Kearney, Nebraska where he remains pastor to this day. Fr. Christopher and Kh. Anastasia have four delightful children: Gabriella, Juliana, Joseph, and Elizabeth.

The Morrises are blessed with a beautiful family and a warm and loving congregation. Fr. Christopher is also blessed to have been the diocesan spiritual advisor to the Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America since 2007. They are exemplary people who sincerely love the Lord and faithfully serve His Church. May God continue to grant His great blessings to them all!

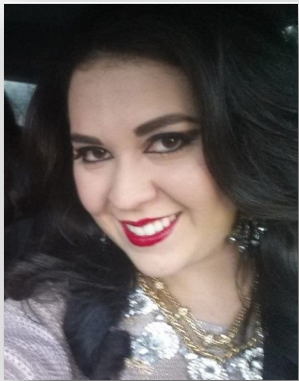


*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
have mercy on me, a sinner".*



## 2017 - 2019 Diocesan Board, (cont.)

### *Jaclyn Al-Hanna-Ferris, President*



My name is Jaclyn Al-Hanna-Ferris. I have been married to the love of my life PJ Ferris for 4.5 years and we are currently parents to four furry children and are expecting our first child in September 2019. We are truly blessed and excited for this new milestone in our life. We

live in El Paso, TX and attend St. George-El Paso. I have served as the secretary of the women at the parish level, Secretary at the Diocese Level, Vice-President at the diocese level and I am now the current President of the Antiochian Women of DOWAMA.

I received my bachelor's degree of Interdisciplinary

Studies with a concentration in Early Childhood through Fourth Grade in 2010 from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and completed my master's degree in Educational Technology & Bilingual Education in 2015. I am now currently pursuing my PhD in the Teaching Learning and Culture Program at UTEP with a focus in the area of Biliteracy.

I have been an educator for 10 years. I am a Teacher Leader for the department of Connecting Languages in El Paso Independent School district. I currently provide Professional Development for teachers in grades Kindergarten through Second Grade in dual language education. Prior to that, I was both a Monolingual and Dual language Kindergarten Teacher. Education is my passion and I truly love what I do. It has truly been a blessing to have served the Antiochian women of DOWOMA this past year. I humbly ask that God continue to give me the strength to continue to do his good works.

### *Laila Ferris, Vice President/NAB Project*



My foundation in serving my Lord and faith was established by my late parents, Peter and Skee Rizk. This love has grown as I moved from childhood to adulthood. Presently, I have the honor of serving as Vice

President of DOWAMA. I have also had the privilege to serve the Antiochian Women in various positions at the local, diocesan, and NAB levels: Recording Secretary at St. George in El Paso, Texas; President, Vice President, and Cultural Coordinator for the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America; and President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Finance Coordinator of the NAB. I also serve as my parish's Church School Director and am a member of the Parish Council. I have been married

to my husband, Paul Ferris, for 38 wonderful years. We have been blessed with our children – Paul, Jr. (PJ) and his wife, Jaclyn, Christopher, and Lauren – who also serve their Lord, faith and Church, in a variety of ways. I presently serve as the dual roles in the El Paso Independent School District. I serve as Principal of the Mesita Early Childhood Development Center and Mesita Elementary School, as well as the Interim Chief of the Division of Connecting Languages and Dual Language. I am truly blessed to serve others through this pathway in my life, as well.

I also believe that serving the Antiochian Women is a privilege and a blessing that my Lord has bestowed upon me. I have had the opportunity to meet and work with some of the most amazing, caring, and talented women who consistently prove, that with strong faith and love of our Lord, along with the love and support we give to each other, as a Sisterhood serving Christ through serving others, this Sisterhood can accomplish all that is given to them.

## 2017 - 2019 Diocesan Board, (cont.)

### ***Kh. Susan Wallace, Recording Secretary***



Since her conversion to the Orthodox church 11 years ago, Kh. Susan has always been involved in some capacity with the Antiochian Women. It seemed natural for her since she led women's Bible studies and spoke at women's retreats for 20 years prior to becoming Orthodox.

"I have always believed women are a beautiful icon of the Bride of Christ."

Kh. Susan and Fr. Mark celebrated their 41st anniversary on February 25. They reside in Oklahoma City but Father pastors St. James in Stillwater (about an hour north of OKC). They have 3 married daughters, Andrea and Brandon Baca, Allison and Marek Simon and Amy and Edward Deeb. They are also blessed with 5 granddaughters and 3 grandsons. She is employed as an Executive Assistant for an Oklahoma State Senator but spends her weekends journeying to Stillwater to be a part of St. James. In her limited spare time she loves to cook, entertain and travel. Her children have all moved to various places across the nation so she now travels much more.

### ***Jamie Isaac, Treasurer***



I was born in Birmingham, Alabama, but moved to El Paso at the age of 3 when my dad died, and have lived here ever since. I have been an Orthodox Christian at St. George since 2nd grade, having been Baptized Melkite Catholic. I was active as a Sunday School teacher, Teen Advisor,

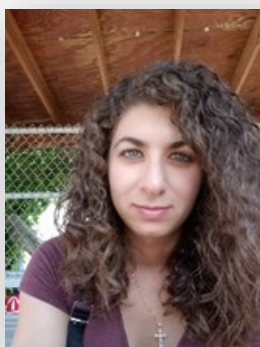
member of Senior SOYO, Ladies Society, and Parish Council, serving in various offices, including church treasurer, NAB Religious and Humanitarian Coordinator. I am also a member of the Choir,

DOWAMA Treasurer and DOWAMA Co-Chair of the Order of St. Ignatius.

I graduated from UTEP with a Masters in the Art of Teaching Math after teaching high school math for 27 years. Then I continued to teach at the University, Park University at Ft Bliss, El Paso Community College, Dona Ana Community College-NMSU, where I am now Adjunct Faculty.

I have 3 married awesome children, James, Joseph and Tiffany, 7 grandchildren, and one more on the way. Their children are active in the church as they were, going to camps, serving altar and teen groups. All three of my children are members of THE ORDER. How grateful am I to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His Blessings, Love and Mercy!!!

### ***Zayna Heredia, Public Relations***



I have been a member of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in El Paso, TX my entire life and have been in the choir for about 20 years. I have been living in Las Cruces, NM (which is about 45 minutes away) for 7 years where I sometimes attend St. Anthony of the Desert Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

I have been married for 2 years to my wonderful husband who converted to Orthodoxy from

Catholicism. I have a BS and an MS in Mechanical Engineering and have been working at the NASA White Sands Test Facility for 7 years.

I have been honored and privileged to serve as the Public Relations Officer for DOWAMA under Jaclyn Ferris who is just a terrific president with whom I am lucky enough to attend the same parish. I took this as an opportunity to try and be more active in my diocese since living in a different city makes it more difficult to participate in events at my church during the week. We have been working on keeping the DOWAMA Antiochian Women's Facebook page up to date, so please "like" and "follow" the page for the latest news.

## 2017 - 2019 Diocesan Board, (cont.)

### ***Lisa Bond, Humanitarian Coordinator***



Lisa Bond is a life long member of St. George in El Paso, Texas. At St. George. Lisa is was an active Board Member and Sunday School teacher. She has two children, Victor, age 23 and Camille age 21. Lisa and her

husband Keith relocated to San Antonio, Texas two years ago where she attends St. Ephraim. Lisa is a Marketing Director for a commercial furniture manufacturer and enjoys being closer to her kids, getting involved with the San Antonio community, and exploring central Texas.

### ***Deana Bottei, Immediate Past President and Membership/Missions Coordinator***



DOWAMA is a great diocese and I am so blessed to be part of it! I am a lifelong member of St. Thomas Orthodox Church in Sioux City, Iowa. I have been a member of our choir for the past 20+ years, director of our choir for the past eight years, and a member of our Antiochian Women's group for the past 15 years. I have previously served as Sunday School Superintendent as well as a teacher.

My commitment to DOWAMA began ten years ago when I took on the position of Public Relations Coordinator. Two years later I was elected President of our amazing diocese and served in that capacity for three terms. Currently I hold the position of Membership Coordinator. I have also served as the NAB Widowed Clergy Wives Coordinator. Serving the church is one of my greatest passions.

My beautiful daughter, Sadie, is thirteen years-old and is another great passion. You will often find her tagging along with me to Antiochian Women meetings, both local and national. She is in eighth grade this year and enjoys school. Sadie keeps me on my toes, as she is involved in many activities. Sadie is a Girl Scout Cadette and I serve as her troop leader.

In the spare time that I do have I love to read, do crossword puzzles, sing and play my violin. My husband, Ed, Sadie and I enjoy traveling as a family and experiencing new adventures. During the summer we spend lots of time outside, riding our bikes and swimming in our pool. When the cold Iowa winter takes its toll we spend our time indoors, cuddled up watching a good movie, playing with our four puppies, or having a family game night.

I am so thankful for my involvement with this fantastic organization. I look forward to our time together with every meeting. Keep up the great work at your local parish level, and remember....we are ALL Antiochian Women!

### ***Joan Katrib, Widowed Clergy Wives Coordinator***



My name is Joan Katrib. My husband and I are members of St. George Orthodox Church in Houston, Texas; where I taught Sunday School for twenty five years.

We have five children who are now married, so we now have ten children and nine grandchildren, thank God. I am honored to serve as the Widowed Clergy Wives chairperson for the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America.



## 2017 - 2019 Diocesan Board, (cont.)

### ***Sherrie Massad, Religious Coordinator***



My husband Jeff and I have been married for 36 years, our home parish is St. Elijah in Oklahoma City where I converted 38 years ago. We are blessed with four wonderful children, Erich, Alexandra, Sophia, and Samia, and our first grandson Levi !!

It's been an honor for me to serve the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America for two terms as Vice-president, Membership Coordinator, and currently as Religious Coordinator, and also serving in our

parish AW Chapter in various board offices including President and Vice-president.

At St. Elijah it has been a joy teaching the precious young children in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Family Nights, and wonderful being involved with the creation of our Mom's Day Out program serving as MDO Board Facilities Coordinator. I've also enjoyed being a Choir member, an Altar Guild member, and serving at our annual Mediterranean Food Festival and Bake Sale!

It's truly an honor to be a part of this wonderful sisterhood of women who give of their time and talents so unselfishly. May God continue to bless the efforts of the Antiochian Women as we serve Him.



Mark your Calendars

## DIOCESE OF WICHITA AND MID-AMERICA *2019 Parish Life Conference*

Hosted by St. Peter Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Fort Worth, TX

Westin Dallas Fort Worth Airport, June 18-23, 2019



For more information go to: [www.antiochianevents.com/wichita.html](http://www.antiochianevents.com/wichita.html)



## *Happenings Around The Diocese Of Wichita and Mid-America*

### **St. Peter Orthodox Church - Fort Worth, TX (Western Rite)**

by Joan Wylie

Our ladies have had a busy year. St. Peter had the opportunity to host the Western Rite Conference last August. Our ladies provided all of the food for the conference. Metropolitan Joseph, and Bishop John of the Diocese of Worcester and New England, attended. Since it was during the Dormition fast, all the food was Lenten and thanks to our great cooks, it was delicious.

In October we hosted a fall festival, including Trunk or Treat and a chili cook-off. We had a great turnout and folks from all over the neighborhood attended.



At our January meeting one of our ladies gave a program on women's self-defense. The program included safety tips for all of us, including wheel chair or cane use.



The highlight of our coming year at St. Peter is hosting the PLC in June. Our ladies are looking forward to serving in many capacities at the conference.



## *Happenings Around The Diocese Of Wichita and Mid-America (cont.)*

### **St. George - El Paso, TX**

by Jaclyn Al-Hanna Ferris

St. George El Paso, TX prepared meals for the immigrants of South America that were being housed at the Annunciation House of El Paso, TX. Many of these people traveled so far in search for a better life and many come with nothing. The meals that we served put a smile on their faces.



Matthew 25: 35-36 *“For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me”.*





## **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 [lucy.hanna@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lucy.hanna@sbcglobal.net) 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.
5. Map outlining the geographical area of your diocese.

	<b>Diocese</b>	<b>Date of Publication</b>	<b>Date Due</b>
1	NAB Board (His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, and His Grace Bishop JOHN)	September 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	Done
3	Diocese of Los Angeles and the West and the Diocese of Eagle River and the Northwest (His Eminence Archbishop JOSEPH)	March 2018	Done
4	Diocese of Miami and the Southeast (His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS)	June 2018	Done
5	Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern Canada and Upstate NY (His Grace Bishop ALEXANDER)	September 2018	Done
6	Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest (His Grace Bishop ANTHONY)	December 2018	Done
7	Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America (His Grace Bishop BASIL)	March 2019	Done
8	Diocese of Worcester and New England (His Grace Bishop JOHN)	June 2019	May 1, 2019

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



## ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

Lucy Hanna  
1853 Kensington Road  
Corona, CA 92880

