

DIAKONIA

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



FEATURING THE DIOCESE OF DIOCESE OF WORCESTER AND NEW ENGLAND



And the angel said, Why do you seek the
living among the dead, He is not here but

‘He is Risen!’

Luke 24:5-6

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.

In this issue of the DIAKONIA we highlight the
The Diocese of Worcester and New England

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"**.

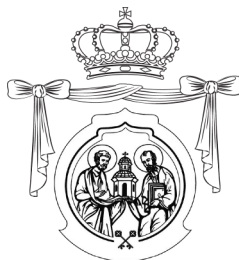
To read the DIAKONIA online, or for general information regarding the Antiochian Women, please go to the Antiochian Women website at:
<http://www.antiochian.org/women>

To read past issues of DIAKONIA, go to:
<http://www.antiochian.org/AW-DIAKONIA>

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Antiochian Women of North America

His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH

The Right Reverend
Bishop JOHN



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

Diocese of Worcester
And New England

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

Summer 2019

*We give thanks unto thee, O God; we give thanks, for thy name is near:
men tell of thy wondrous works. Psalm 75*

The project for this year is the Antiochian Village. The Antiochian Women have been asked to help add to the buildings of this, our learning and spiritual center, new buildings and a cathedral to meet the growing needs of the Archdiocese. I am pleased with this project and believe the women of the Archdiocese are up for this task.

I have been blessed by the Antiochian Village for the last 40 years. The Village has given me opportunities to learn, share, make friends, and encounter God. The Village has been for me the primary place of beauty, solitude, prayer and learning. At our Village I have met fellow God-fearing people from all over the Antiochian Church in America and abroad, Orthodox of other jurisdictions and Christians from many backgrounds. Each encounter has enriched my life and taught me about God, myself, and others.

I thank God for the foresight of Metropolitan PHILIP in founding this Antiochian Village, the Vision of Metropolitan JOSEPH to further develop this spiritual and educational center and our Archdiocese leaders and faithful for their support of this village.

It is my sincere prayer that the further development of the Antiochian Village which has inspired generations of church leaders and members will continue to inspire and develop future generations of our God-protected Archdiocese. I encourage everyone to use its library and museum and to take advantage of the many Archdiocese programs offered there.

Antiochian Village is enriched by the prayers and relics of Saint Raphael, Metropolitan Philip, Bishop Antoun and other Archdiocese leaders. When we gather with them, we are inspired to continue their legacy which continues the very legacy of our Savior Jesus Christ as delivered by the founders and our Patriarchate, Saints Peter and Paul and grounds us as we walk into the future and eternity.

In Christ,

Bishop John

Diocese of Worcester and New England



MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

V. Rev. Fr. Edward Hughes

And the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things. Luke 23:49

And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him. Matthew 27:55

There were also women looking on afar off: ... Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him and ministered unto him; and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem. Mark 15:40-41



Jesus journeyed from Galilee to Jerusalem in order to raise Lazarus from the dead. That journey is over 100 miles following the established roadways. It would be a two hour trip by car, but at least four days by foot. Four days! Imagine walking eight hours a day for four days; certainly five days with rests and meals. These women walked for five days following Jesus up to Jerusalem from Galilee. When we read or hear the scripture accounts of Jesus' ministry, it is easy to imagine travel as we know it, by automobile or airplane. Distances don't count as much now as they used to. We need to think, to imagine what it really was like for these people to travel around. A five day trip involves food and lodging besides the travel itself. How much can one carry with one for five days on foot? Luggage as we know it would be out of the question. They would only be able to take a minimum amount of things with them. The inconvenience would be extreme. Who would be motivated to make such a journey? We know that the 12 disciples made such journeys with Jesus all the time. It was part of their lifestyle for the several years of Jesus' public ministry. Jesus had no permanent residence. Perhaps he lived with his Mother when he was near home, but He Himself says: "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." (Matthew 8:20) His was a ministry spent on the road, quite literally, and those who followed Him, accepted that as part of it. This was why He

needed people to "minister to Him". These women of Galilee provided for his daily needs: food and places to stay. Without their good-hearted generosity towards Jesus and His disciples as well, His ministry would not have been possible. As poor as people would have been in that area in those days, these



women's generosity is a very great thing. And they are generous not only with their substance, but with their time as well. They had no "labor saving devices" as we now have. All of their chores and work would have been done the hard, old-fashioned labor-intensive way, and would have taken all day. When they gave of their time to care for Jesus and His disciples' needs, they took this time away from their work. So when they were ministering to Jesus, their families were sacrificing as well.

Thinking of all of this, what a great thing is their going up to Jerusalem to follow Jesus! They were planning to be away from home for about two weeks. (Five days journey each way). They left their families to fend for themselves, or arranged for others to cover for them and provide for their families as well as for their own. They were spending precious money for the expenses of the journey, and were prepared for the physical exhaustion of the journey as well. These women were committed to an exceptional degree to Jesus, and were freely spending themselves in order to be with Him during these

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

precious last days of his earthly ministry. And they were “many”. Two of the Evangelists make the point that there were many of them. More than His 12 disciples. How many? Who knows, but “many”.

You, my beloved Antiochian Women, walk in the footsteps of these precious women today. You sacrifice of your time, energy, and substance to minister to the Body of Christ, the Church. You, being so very busy in this very busy day and age, take time away from your families in order to minister to

Jesus in His Church. You spend yourselves freely and unselfishly, working and “striving” (as the Antiochian Women’s prayer puts it).

May God strengthen you as you serve Him with your whole being. May He comfort you when you feel that you must allow yourselves rest. May He be always with you as you journey with Him in this world; and may He reward you with the joy and beauty of His light bearing presence through your whole lives and in the world to come as well.

MESSAGE FROM MARYLOU CATELLI DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

As I reflect on my Presidency, I am filled with pride for efforts of the Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Worcester and New England (DOWNE). Although we are small, 11 parishes, we are quite accomplished in fulfilling religious, humanitarian, and educational endeavors. We never say No; rather, we react by saying we can do that! And we do! We begin each year by introducing our seminarians to the Diocese at a reception in their honor.



We join together for our Family Lenten Retreat, this year featuring His Grace Bishop ANTHONY. Each Ladies group supports a food pantry, homeless outreach, and children in need. At our PLC we enjoy sharing our experiences as we report our accomplishments. We work tirelessly to support our annual Project and do so with much love as we “serve Christ through serving others.”

The Antiochian Women of DOWNE are a delightful group of women fulfilling the goals set forth in our mission statement. It is a pleasure serving as their president.



The Antiochian Women of DOWNE at one of the Diocesan Meetings where they plan and implement ways to “serve Christ through serving others”.

Introducing The 2017 - 2019 Board of Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Worcester and New England



V. Rev. Fr. Ed Hughes, Spiritual Advisor



I was born in Kingston, Pennsylvania and graduated from Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA in 1977 with a BA in Religion, Near East Culture and Archeology, and from St. Vladimir Seminary in 1980. I worked full time with Fr. John Namie during the

first three seasons of the Antiochian Village Camp. In May, 1982, I was married to Anna Timko and then was ordained deacon and priest in July at the Antiochian Village by Metropolitan Philip. In August, 1982, I was assigned to St. Michael's in Beaumont TX where I also served as the Ladies' advisor to the SW Region. In 1985, I was assigned to St. Mary's in Wilkes-Barre, PA.

I have served as Antiochian Women's Spiritual Advisor in the Southwest, Eastern, and New England Regions. In 1989, I was assigned to St. George in Lawrence, MA where I started out as the

Senior SOYO advisor and later was appointed Ladies advisor for the NE Region, now the Diocese of Worcester. In addition, I was appointed Dean of the Clergy of New England after Fr. Niphon Abraham's retirement in 1995. From 1989 until 2015, I served the Archdiocese as the chairman of the Department of Liturgics and Translations. In 1986, I became Commissioner and since January 2009 the Vicar General of the Western Rite. I also serve as adjunct professor of Antiochian Studies at Holy Cross Orthodox Seminary in Brookline, MA, teaching Arabic and Liturgics.

We have four children – Sarah, Michael, Martha and Elizabeth. Sarah is married to Fr. Philip Begley and lives in South Glens Falls, NY; Michael lives in Williamsport, PA and cares for my 92 year old mother; Martha is married and lives in Mansfield, PA and gave us our first grandchild in December 2014; Elizabeth will be a senior at Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA. Matushka Anna teaches high school and also serves on the Archdiocese Department of Christian Education and on the Orthodox Christian Education Commission.

MaryLou Catelli, President



I am Mary Lou Josephs Catelli, currently serving proudly as the President of the Diocese of Worcester and New England. I have been blessed with a slate of officers who are dedicated, hardworking, and humble. I am a lifelong member of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church in Pawtucket, RI and, with

my husband, Bill, are members of St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Norwood, MA.

My career as a Special Educator was rewarding and fulfilling and, after 35 years, I retired and joined the

faculty at Providence College, retiring this year. Both were lifelong dreams! My involvement in my church includes singing in the choir, member of St. Ignatius, former Ladies Society President, Sunday School teacher and superintendent, teen advisor, and choir director.

My commitment to the Antiochian Women follows that of my grandmother, mother, and sister, all of whom set an example of service to fulfill God's will. I am the present Membership Coordinator of the North American Board of the Antiochian Women. Through my association with all these delightful ladies, locally, Diocesan, and NAB, I have learned a great deal and made lasting friendships. May God continue to bless and inspire the Antiochian Women.

2017 - 2019 Diocesan Board, (cont.)

Valerie Irving, Vice President/NAB Project



What a joy it is to serve as Vice President of our Antiochian Women, Diocese of Worcester and New England (DOWNE)! We are comprised of 11 parishes, all in close proximity, under the leadership of Bishop JOHN and our spiritual advisor, Fr. Ed Hughes.

We meet together quarterly for Holy Liturgy, fellowship, and a business meeting.

The duties of the Vice President consist mainly of coordinating the Annual Project, and being a support to the other officers. Our Project is chosen for us annually by Metropolitan JOSEPH. This year's project is helping to build a cathedral at the Antiochian Village. Each of our parishes raised

funds for the new cathedral through a variety of ways. Most chapters took a second collection during Ladies Month in March, and many held dinners or sold cook books or other items through their chapters. It is exciting and rewarding to be a part of this process and to see the results of our continued hard work and effort. I treasure the friendships I have made along the way and I look forward to continuing to serve as I am needed and able. When I am not engaged in AW DOWNE events, I am caring for our children with my husband, Sub-deacon James, serving as an officer in our parish chapter, St. George of Boston, and working as a sole practitioner trial attorney handling child custody cases in Juvenile Court. God has blessed us in so many ways and continues to bless us. Converting to Orthodoxy in 2002 was the best life decision we ever made. I urge you to be involved with your local and diocesan AW groups, for your own benefit, and for the benefit of the whole body of Christ

Cindy Hayes, Treasurer & Immediate Past Pres.



Sometimes you have to wear two or three hats in life to keep things going. I have become very proficient at wearing many hats and devoting my time to good things. These past two years I have been the Past President of the Antiochian Women of DOWNE as well as the Treasurer.

On the Parish level, I have been the Secretary of both my Parish Council and Ladies society. Having retired from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation in January of 2018, after 33 years, I thought I would be bored and have to look for a job,

but God had a plan for me and I am happily busy! Working for the church has become second nature for me; I have always been involved and highly recommend it to everyone because you are able to make wonderful friendships volunteering with the Church, whether it is to serve on a board or committee, chant or sing in the choir, teach Church school, cook for the Vacation Bible School week or for the Annual Christmas Bazaar, there are plenty of opportunities to be involved.

On a personal note, I have been blessed with an addition to my family, as my son Donald and Lauren were married this past October! God is Good, as they are so happy and we are too! God continues to bless me with so many good things; my three children and now a daughter-in-law; my Mom Mary (91 years young); my siblings and their families; and my many relatives and friends! I pray that God continues to Bless you all too and I keep you in my prayers!



2017 - 2019 Diocesan Board, (cont.)

Katie Birtwell, Recording Secretary



I converted to Orthodoxy nearly 15 years ago, and the Antiochian Women group and sisterhood has been an important part of my spiritual life from the beginning. I am a retired lawyer and science

teacher. My husband of 42 years, a son and daughter, and three darling granddaughters keep me busy. I also served my parish, St. George Orthodox Church in Norwood, Massachusetts, as Ladies President for ten years. The work we do is important and I am delighted to serve as an officer for the Antiochian Women in our diocese!

Pamela Samara, Public Relations



My husband George and I are lifelong members of St. George Cathedral in Worcester, MA. Our children are Leila (and Joshua), Subdeacon Khalil (and Mariah), and Jamil. I am Sitoo to Christian, Cecilia,

Nadine, August, Jonah and Lily. I was a Family & Consumer Science (Home Economics) teacher in Worcester and volunteered for 25 summers at Antiochian Village Camp. I have been a Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent, Women's Club Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, Diocesan Humanitarian Coordinator, Recording Secretary, and am now Public Relations Coordinator.

Violet Robbat, Religious Coordinator



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 (45 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 15th. 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 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, and am currently the Immediate Past 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.

2017 - 2019 Diocesan Board, (cont.)

Marilyn Robbat, Religious Retreat Coordinator



Marilyn T. Robbat is presently serving as Diocesan Religious Retreat Coordinator, along with Kh. Erin Kimmett. Marilyn is a member of St. Mary Orthodox Church, Cambridge, MA. She was the Church Secretary for 25 years and has directed and

sung in the church choir for many years. Marilyn has served St. Mary Women's Club as president (a number of times) and in other capacities. She has also been active with Antiochian Women on a Diocesan level and North American Board as well, serving in many coordinator positions as well as President. She has been married to Michael Robbat for 45 happy years and has also been blessed with three lovely daughters, their wonderful husbands and five grandchildren--all under five!! She enjoys reading and quilt making in her spare time. God is Good!

Kh. Erin Kimmett, Religious Retreat Coordinator



Kh. Erin (Farha) Kimmett was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas where she was an active member of St. George Cathedral. In 1993, she was blessed to meet and later marry her wonderful husband, Fr. Joseph Kimmett. They were assigned to Saint George Orthodox Church in

Norwood, Massachusetts where they have lived and served for the past 25 years. They are blessed to have two sons, Nicholas, 22, and Zachary, 20.

Inspired by her Sitty's heartfelt love and dedication to parish work, Erin is involved with the Antiochian Women in the parish and the diocese, she loves to chant and sing in the choir, and of course, as with her Sitty (known to many as "Aunt Vi"), you will often find her in the kitchen! Honoring her Sitty, Erin has recently written a book, "Hospitality and Joy", which is a collection of her favorite hostess recipes along with a series of short stories about growing up in her Sitty's kitchen.

Erin is a trained Byzantine iconographer and has written icons for churches and individuals for more than 25 years; she also owns the Annunciation Press.

Kay Caruso, Humanitarian Coordinator



I became an Orthodox Christian in 2008. Before that, I lived in Waltham, MA, a suburb of Boston. My husband and I raised 4 children there before moving to Warren, MA. After my husband passed, I found Emmanuel Orthodox Church and knew that was where I

belong. Eleven years later, I am the President of the Parish Council, the head of the Women's Group, and pretty much the kitchen supervisor. It may sound like a lot of work, but the church is my family and all I do is out of love. And I have wonderful people at the church to work with. In my spare time, I like to sew and make quilts.

2017 - 2019 Diocesan Board, (cont.)

Leeann Plouffe, Website Coordinator



Leeann Plouffe attends St. George Church in Norwood, MA, where she was born and raised. At St. George, she is an active member of the choir, Ladies society and Parish Council. She is blessed to reside in Westwood, MA with her husband, Richard, and two children, Owen (19) and

Sophia (16). She has traveled each summer, since 2012, to the Antiochian Village to volunteer during Session 3. She has a B.S. in Early Childhood Education from the University of New Hampshire. She currently works for the Westwood Public Schools as the Assistant to the Director of Student Services. Previously, she was the Director of Theophany School, an Orthodox School serving Boston area children in preschool and kindergarten. In her spare time she enjoys spending time in the kitchen cooking and baking, reading, and gardening.

Marilyn George, Membership Coordinator



I was born in Worcester, MA. My family were members of St. George Cathedral. After college, I returned to Worcester and worked as a Medical Technologist at Worcester Foundation for Experimental

Biology for the man who discovered the birth control pill. Wanderlust got the best of me and, after the pill was on the market, I moved to Denver, Colorado. During that time, I became interested in Native American Art and I am now a certified appraiser of American Indian Art. I moved back to New England in my old age and now reside on Cape Cod.

Mark your Calendars

DIOCESE OF WORCESTER AND NEW ENGLAND

2019 Parish Life Conference

Located at St. George Church; Norwood - June 8

And

St. George Church of Boston - June 22, 2019

Hosted By: St. Stephen Church (Springfield) & Emmanuel Church (Warren)



For more information go to:

<https://www.antiochianevents.com/www.antiochianevents.com/worcester.html>

Happenings Around The Diocese Of Worcester and New England

St. Mary Church - Cambridge, MA

No Photos available

The St. Mary's Cambridge Women's group has approximately 10-15 members. We keep busy during the year by raising money for Saidnaya Convent in Syria by having bakes sales. We also support our local YWCA battered women's shelter by buying blankets, sheets and comforters for the shelter as well as household supplies that are given to the women when they leave the shelter. We prepare hygiene kits for refugees, which are distributed by the IOCC internationally. We also raise funds to support the Antiochian Women's Project through a Community Christmas greeting card sent to all parishioners. We also support the Church School and provide any funding they need for supplies/books, gift cards for the teachers at Christmas and end of year gifts for the students. In the fall we cooked kibbeh and grapeleaves for the Christmas season, and in the spring we prepared spinach pies.

St. Michael Church - Cotuit, MA

During January, we collected and donated Winter clothing and small household items for The Family Pantry of Cape Cod. We sold 50 hand knitted scarves to benefit our outreach projects. The scarves not sold were donated to Duffy Center and were hung with notes of encouragement for the homeless in downtown Hyannis, MA by kids from the church.

We have a seminarian and his family who we keep in our prayers. In February, we collected items for Valentine Care Packages, for women and their babies at Emerson House (N. Falmouth) and to the families at The Village at Cataumet. These were filled with a variety of toiletries, as well as children's books and treats. In March, we had our third Fish Feast Dinner. All proceeds help ZOE House in Parma, OH, a ministry of ZOE for Life!, a pan-Orthodox outreach that supports women in crisis pregnancies. This is a worthy cause, and our Fish Feast is a welcome treat during the Fast.



Happenings Around The Diocese Of Worcester and New England (cont.)

St. John of Damascus Church - Dedham, MA

The Virgin Mary Antiochian Women of St. John have been busy. We participated in reading the Epistle & taking the collection in March for Antiochian Women's Month. We had a special collection for the Women's Project along with a Lenten luncheon to raise funds for the Antiochian Women's Project: *Build a New Cathedral for our Archdiocese at the Antiochian Village*. We also sponsor a child in Lebanon. We held a sfeeha sale in May and will soon start planning and cooking for our Annual Bazaar in November.



St. George Church - Lawrence, MA

The Ladies of St. George, Lawrence, MA have sponsored and worked on several projects this year. We took the collection in March for Antiochian Women's Month. We also had a special collection along with a Lenten luncheon to raise funds for the Antiochian Women's Project.

This year we have adopted two Seminarians with whom we keep in touch and have remembered them on their special occasions. Our group may be small but all the ladies of our parish who can, help out when we need them. Our numbers have increased by three ladies this year and pray that number will grow in the coming year.



Happenings Around The Diocese Of Worcester and New England (cont.)

St. George Church - Lowell, MA

The Ladies of St. George Lowell sponsor an annual Spring Luncheon in May following Liturgy in the Church hall. Along with dinner, we have a large raffle. Also in May, we hold an Arabic Easter recital. In December we have our annual Arabic Dinner. During the year, we host coffee hours, and in July we participate in the Lowell Folk Festival.



St. George Church - Norwood, MA

No Photos available

The Ladies at St. George, Norwood are a small, but powerful group of women dedicated to providing support to our church and parishioners. Though a small group, we host ongoing events throughout the year in an attempt to spread fellowship. Recently, we hosted our annual bake sale on Sunday, April 21. We were blessed to offer a variety of homemade breads, delectable cakes, cookies, baklava and zataar to our parishioners and church friends. Our volunteers were very gracious to offer their time and talents to make our bake sale a huge success.

St. Stephen Church - Springfield, MA

The St. Stephen women are focused on planning for the upcoming Parish Life Conference that we will be co-hosting with Emmanuel Church to be held at St. George in West Roxbury, MA on June 22, 2019.



Emmanuel Church - Warren, MA

Emmanuel Orthodox Church is a Western Rite parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. We are located in western Massachusetts in the small town of Warren. Though we are small in size, we are a very loving and caring group. The women meet on the third Tuesday of each month. We have one basic fundraiser per year, a Christmas Fair, held on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. We use some of the profit from the Christmas Fair to pack and ship school kits and health kits to the IOCC. On a separate note, we have a community meal, free to the public, on the first Tuesday of the month. We serve approximately 115 people at each meal. It is a wonderful time for folks to be social.



Happenings Around The Diocese Of Worcester and New England (cont.)

St. George Church - West Roxbury, MA

The Antiochian Women at St. George of Boston promotes religious, humanitarian and social programs that contribute to the life and growth of our parish. The Antiochian Women assist with numerous charitable causes throughout the year. They also minister to bereaved families by preparing and serving the Mercy Meal at funerals. They host fundraising events for the church's operating budget. This year, they introduced their Oral History Project to collect personal and valuable histories from women in our parish.



St. George Cathedral - Worcester, MA

In 1928, the Women's Society of St George was formed. The women in those days worked tirelessly to help support our church through fund raising and social activities. Presently we are known as the St George Women's Club, but we continue today with the same focus. Our major events in recent years have been Lenten Dinners, Fashion Shows, and Bazaars. We hold monthly dinner meetings, with guest speakers, and monthly Bake Sales after Liturgy. We participate in March Women's Month, help with Parish Dinners, Christmas Food Baskets for the community, and the Parish Christmas Card. We have put together several Kits for IOCC and sponsor a child through the Children's Relief Fund. Our newly remodeled Gift Shop sells books, icons, gifts, jewelry and children's items. We are now helping prepare for our Parish's Middle Eastern Festival. Our membership covers all age groups, from college to very senior members. No matter the ages, all are as dedicated to our church as much as those who began over 90 years ago.



St. Mary Church - Pawtucket, RI

The Ladies of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church in Pawtucket have had another fruitful year. We were very busy during Lent and Holy Week, helping with cleaning the church and participating in the services. One of our favorites is the Un-Nailing service.

We were also blessed with having His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH and His Grace Bishop JOHN with us to sing the Akathist service on Friday March 29, as well as having Bishop JOHN with us for the Feast of the Annunciation and Holy Saturday Morning

This past year, we purchased a new set of Altar server robes for our growing number of children serving and by God's grace we will purchase another set this year. We have had several very successful cooking sessions this past year making string cheese, sfeehe, kibbee and Yabraa.

Our Outreach Committee continues to prepare box lunches on the third Sunday of each month. A new project is to distribute groceries from our new Food Pantry on the last Sunday of the month. We are in contact with our child Lorda in Palestine, whose school tuition we support each year. And we have begun a scrap book of pictures and the Pen-Pal letters from our Church School children.



Thank you to all the Diocesan Public Relations Directors and to everyone who contributed material for publication. This issue is the final issue for the 2017 - 2019 term. New NAB officers will be elected at the Archdiocese Convention this coming July. The new NAB Public Relations Director will be taking over the publication of this Newsletter "DIAKONIA". May God bless all the new officers and grant them guidance to fulfill their duties to His Glory.

| | Diocese | Date of Publication | Date Due |
|---|---|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 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 Met. 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 | Done |



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