

The Western Rite Vicariate

The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

The Right Reverend Bishop JOHN, Auxiliary Bishop
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2023 ARCHDIOCESE CONVENTION REPORT

The Western Rite Vicariate was established in 1958 by His Eminence Metropolitan ANTONY (Bashir) after consultation with His Beatitude Patriarch ALEXANDER III. The Vicariate has enjoyed the support and patronage of Their Eminences Metropolitan ANTONY, PHILIP, and JOSEPH. In 2012, Bishop JOHN was appointed the Auxiliary Bishop for the Western Rite parishes, a great blessing to the work of the Vicariate.

Since the previous Archdiocese conventions, the following items of note have occurred:

- Several parishes have been blessed with pastoral visits by Metropolitan JOSEPH, Metropolitan ANTONIOS, and Metropolitan SABA.
- Bishop JOHN has visited most of the parishes, ordained new clergy, and continues to offer encouragement and support.
- The Vicariate offered conferences in 2021 at St Patrick Church in Bealeton, VA; and in 2022 at St Michael Church in Whittier CA. Both were successful with attendance in-person and online. While the attendees in these conferences were primarily from Vicariate parishes, they also included Byzantine Rite persons from various jurisdictions as well as non-Orthodox clergy and laity who were inquiring about the Orthodox Church.
- The Vicariate and its parishes continue publishing an annual liturgical guide, liturgical materials, devotional books, and other items to encourage the faith and practice of Vicariate parishioners.
- The Vicariate regularly fields inquiries from non-Orthodox clergy, parishes, and groups. With each of these, the Vicariate continues to work closely with Fr. John Finley and the Department of Missions and Evangelism.
- With the encouragement and support of the V. Rev. Fr. Michel Najim, President of AHOS, the Vicariate offers a “Western Rite concentration” in the Antiochian House of Studies to aid instruction and scholarship in the Western expression of the Orthodox faith.
- The V. Rev. Fr Edward Hughes retired as Vicar General in August 2022. He had been Vicar General for 13 years. To assist the Metropolitan in determining the contours of the next chapter in the Vicariate’s work, the Rev. Theodore Pulcini has completed a survey of the Western Rite clergy and parishes.

Our clergy and laity are very grateful for the warm welcome and embrace of the Archdiocese; and we work had to integrate ourselves into the life of the Archdiocese by being active at Deanery meetings, Parish Life Conferences, the Clergy Symposium, the Archdiocese Convention, and all other activities.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rt. Rev. Bishop JOHN
The V. Rev. Fr. John W. Fenton