

**DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES AND THE WEST**  
**PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE**  
**General Assembly Meeting**  
**June 29, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Kyra Pelachik, Fellowship President who greeted everyone. His Grace, Bishop JOSEPH led us in the opening prayer.

**ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN:**

Samia Habib, past Antiochian Women President, addressed the body. Twenty-five chapters were present and they had a nice brunch. Fr. David Hovik, Spiritual Advisor, gave a helpful homily. Chapter reports were made about the happenings in respective regions. She announced the election results: President Lucy Hanna, Vice President Bonny Carver, Secretary Georgette Maloof, Treasurer Judy Pappoff and Public Relations Officer Melinda Bentz. Coordinators will be elected by the new President. It's a blessing to know more and more people in the diocese. She thanked the hosts for this wonderful conference.

**TEEN SOYO:**

Lauren Malouf, outgoing president, addressed the body. Their morning meeting was amazing. There were 50 teens in a packed room. This weekend, they had a well-put together teen track and teen room: games and a ping pong table. A lot of the teens were ones who hadn't met before since those from the Northwest are usually so far away from the PLC. They will have a service project at a soup kitchen, after the oratorical there will be a teen discussion, and after Bible Bowl, there will be a teen dance. They had a fundraiser: selling wristbands for \$3 which say "Lord have mercy". All money will go to the general fund for teens of the diocese. New officers are Amanda Sahawneh, President; Lauren Maloof, Vice President; Katie Braun, Treasurer; and Elizabeth Mamey, Secretary. They're very happy with how the year turned out. All chapters for all the organizations are requested to please pay their dues annually.

**FELLOWSHIP OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE:**

President Kyra Pelachik, introduced Fr. David Sommer from Snohomish, WA, their new Spiritual Advisor. They had 10 chapters present and 26

members at their meeting. She described the three retreats the young adults put on this year. They were in Canada, Northern CA and Arizona. The fourth retreat didn't work out for Washington area; the interest may have been diminished because the date was for Superbowl weekend. They had a successful Young Adult Conference, designed to draw the whole diocese out at one event, in Oakland last September. In their meeting, members shared what young adults do in their parishes together: some groups might go river rock-climbing, others have book clubs or attend Vespers together. Their vision is to have a place for Young Adults to go to after their active experience in Teen SOYO.

### **CONFERENCE PLANNING and COORDINATION COMMITTEE (CPCC) :**

Ed Malouf presided, representing Lew Malouf, his brother. Five years ago, a few people felt the need to form their own committee to plan the PLC. They created a beautiful Planning Committee Handbook to help future parish planners. Members of the committee administrate the Creative Arts Festival, the Oratorical and the Bible Bowl. Ed acknowledged St. George Church of San Diego, who did a fabulous conference last year. He thanked Nektaria Blalock, this year's Parish Coordinator. He said, "It's not an accident that we had the conference up here." He hopes to have more conferences in this area.

The 2008 conference will be held at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Los Angeles. He said there would be a vote on next year's ticket book now because the Delegates Meeting will not include a chance to vote. Fred Milkey will be the Chairman. "Please be lenient on us, we don't have prices right now, since the hotel doesn't give prices until it's less than a year out." \$109 a night is a good rate. These prices below are tentative, but they should not go higher.

The ticket book will be increased by \$10. \$145 is the ticket book price for adults, \$115 for Teen SOYO. We'd like to have deals on meals if possible. Antiochian Women are \$40, clergy is probably \$40. It does not include parking, though there is a discount for this event; it was \$18/day, knocked down to \$8. The committee will vote on whether the Fellowship can have a brunch that can be switched to from the Awards Brunch. He made a motion to accept the prices, and it was seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Ed gave his thanks to Fr. Alban and his church.

The 2009 conference will be in Campbell, hosted by St. Stephen parish. Yolanda Spyrou will be the Conference Coordinator, and it will be at the Santa Clara Marriott. May 20-24<sup>th</sup> is Memorial Day Weekend. There is an Archdiocese Convention this year in Van Nuys, hosted by St. Michael Church, and we needed to give more distance between these conferences so we can enjoy them both.

Yaulanda Spyrou approached to speak. \$109/night is a very reasonable rate. Fireworks are expected at Great America on some nights of the weekend, and you can walk there from the hotel. The closest hotel is 4 miles away from the airport. There is shuttle service between Santa Clara Marriott and the airport. "Come pray with us and also enjoy a good time of fellowship." Ed Malouf will be the Conference Chairman.

The 2010 conference will be in Tucson, AZ at a 4 Star Resort Hotel for \$119.

The 2011 conference will be co-hosted by St. Mark in Irvine and St. Barnabus in Costa Mesa. There is a \$118 room rate.

**The Fall Delegates Meeting** has a new name; it is called the Fall Gathering. It has a new vision, which will add teaching, fellowship and service elements to the weekend, and there will be less emphasis on business. St. Athanasius Church is the host in their Sacramento, CA location. Dn. Polycarp is negotiating with the committee. There is a major political event happening that weekend, so many hotels are very booked. October 19-21<sup>st</sup> is the weekend. All will be on the Diocese Website within 30 days.

The CPCC members are: Fred Milkey, Michael Srour, Michael Habib, Ed Malouf, Lew Malouf, Georgette Malouf, Robyn Nicholas, Peter Samore, Louie Sadd, Kyra Pelachik, Nicholas Mamey, and Mary Patty Holly. Representatives from all the organizations are members to help with communication.

**Fr. Alban of St. George, the Parish Host Priest in Portland made an important announcement:**

"For many years, I was one of those priests that thought the prices for the ticket books were just terribly over-priced. We would hear from our clergy: 'Just send me the dates, don't purchase a ticket book for me; I'll only attend

the meetings and go home.’ But that was before we hosted a Parish Life Conference ourselves. This is an appeal to our clergy especially, but also for laity: please let’s go home, spread the word and let people understand how the economics of this event works. The ticket books are not designed to make the diocese or the parish wealthy. These expensive meals go to cover the expenses of the conference. The services, keynote talks, and meetings are free, but to pay for using these rooms we must charge more for the other events. These costs pay for all of what goes on at this Parish Life Conference. I did not understand this until I was on this side of the table. Please help spread the word to help parishioners understand the expenditures. Thank you very much.”

### **Bishop JOSEPH’s Address:**

His Grace began his address at 2:40pm. “My beloved clergy and faithful in Christ. Preparing for these future conferences is wonderful. The ad book is very special this year, and I thank those ladies that made it. Yolanda said, “come to pray with us” about the PLC in Campbell. This is what the conference is all about, prayer! If you think that unity is about creating a country club, you waste your time here. I am in pain, physical pain and I’m not trying to run a business. We are here to bring the people together and the children together. We are also here to solve problems. When you talk about the conference cost... it’s very expensive. But do you think it’s not worth it, to be here? **We have to build the unity and development of the church.** My ministry is to bring blessing, to encourage the clergy to take its ministry seriously. Orthros and Divine Liturgy are the crown of the conference. We don’t need to bring the world into the PLC, we need to bring Christ more into a gathering like this. Here on this Feast of Ss Peter and Paul, we need to strive for unity. If Jesus had not been with both of those apostles, there would be two churches instead of one. But now the church of Antioch is one because of their love and dedication. My ministry is to be with you and build a united family. I visited the teens today; they are wonderful blossoms. Please join me and let us commend each other and all our lives unto Christ our God. We have to take what we learn here and use it in our parishes. Let’s tell our parishes that it’s worth the money, because here we experience holiness. So we need all this to be understood by the clergy and by the people! So thank you for all of your hard work. Let’s thank God in a closing word of prayer.”

Bishop JOSEPH led us in prayer and left the room.  
The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyson d’Arms  
Outgoing Secretary  
Fellowship of St. John the Divine