

Antiochian Women
Diocese of Los Angeles & the West



Most Reverend
Metropolitan PHILIP
Founder
358 Mountain Road
Englewood, New Jersey
07631

Right Reverend
Bishop JOSEPH
Bishop of Los Angeles & the West
454 South Lorraine Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Fall/Winter Newsletter
2005

Important Dates to
Remember!

Antiochian Women's Month

Month of March 2006

Antiochian Women's
Spring Retreat 2006

St. Nicholas Camp
April 7-9

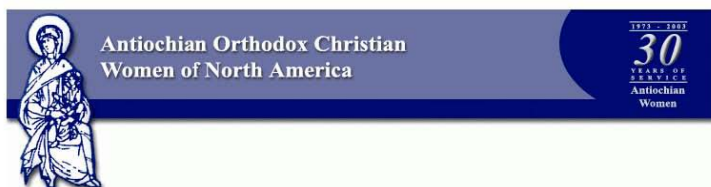
2006 Parish Life Conference

St. George, San Diego
May 25-28



For additional information,
Please visit:

www.antiochianladiocese.org



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.

IN THY BIRTHGIVING, O THEOTOKOS

(Troparion of the Dormition)

Tone 1

arr. Joyce E. Black

In Thy birth-giv-ing, O The-o-to- kos, Thou didst
keep and pre-serve vir-gin-i-ty, and in Thy fal-ling a-
sleep Thou hast not for-sa-ken the world; for liv-ing Thou
wast trans-la-ted, be-ing the Mo-ther of Life. Where-
fore, by Thine in-ter-ces-sions, de-liv-er our souls from death.

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Dear Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West,

Christ is in our midst. He is and ever shall be.

I hope this message finds all of you in the best of health as we move into the Advent Season in preparation for the Birth of Christ.

We had a wonderful Fall Delegates Meeting in San Dimas, CA., hosted by St. Peter the Apostle Orthodox Church. They were such gracious hosts, and a total of 150 delegates registered and attended our 3 organization meetings and worship time together. The Antiochian Women had 18 parishes represented, and we accomplished a great deal of business in just a couple of hours. We were honored, as always, with the presence of His Grace, Bishop JOSEPH, who presided over the weekend and gave us several spiritual teachings. We heard reports from all of our Executive Board, who are working so hard this term to get their tasks completed. We also discussed upcoming events, and received written reports of several Chapters' activities for the past few months.

In the joint meeting, His Grace gave his formal address to everyone in attendance, and we were also informed of the upcoming Parish Life Conference in San Diego over Memorial Day Weekend. The delegates approved the schedule and event costs for the conference, and we look forward to a wonderful time together. Please plan to break bread with us for our Annual Antiochian Women's Brunch and Meeting in San Diego on Friday, May 26, 2006, at 10:15 a.m. Registration forms will be available shortly, and the deadline is May 1, 2006. It is not too soon to begin selecting 3 delegates from each chapter to represent you at the meeting.

In the evening, our Board met with Bishop JOSEPH for about an hour to get some direction from His Grace on projects he would like us to undertake this term. We will be visiting as many parishes in our Diocese as possible, and keeping in touch by phone, e-mail and snail mail with the other parishes. We hope to set up a women's retreat in each Deanery, so that all women will have the opportunity to attend at least one retreat every year. We also look forward to using some of the recommended books on our website for future study and education of all of our faithful.

I welcome all of you to be a part of this growing Diocese, and to become active in your parish chapter of Antiochian Women. We are the backbone of our churches, and it is up to us to be the role models for the future generations of our faith. If we can be of any help to you during the coming 2 years, please contact any member of our Executive Board - see roster in this issue - and we will be happy to work with you in making your program the best that it can be.

I wish all of you a very blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year of 2006. Looking forward to seeing you at the Spring Retreat and at the Parish Life Conference.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

In His Love,
Samia Habib
President
Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America
A Sisterhood Serving Christ through Serving Others

Individual Women's Groups Reports

(Please see the following Ladies President Roster for contact information for each parish)

The Antiochian Women of St. Luke

Garden Grove, CA 92840

Greetings to all the Antiochian Women of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West!

The Ladies of St. Luke continue to have a fruitful and blessed year. In February, we hosted pre-lenten retreat on "The Historical Development of the Divine Liturgy". Dr. Paul Meyendorff, The Fr. Alexander Schmemmann Professor of Liturgical Theology at St. Vladimir's Seminary, was the guest speaker. Through the generosity of our parishioners, proceeds from our annual Faberge-style Egg Raffle were divided between two monasteries which are very dear to all of us – St. Barbara Monastery in Santa Barbara, CA and St. Paisius Monastery in Safford, AZ. Both Mother Victoria and Mother Michaela have been speakers at our Lenten Ladies Retreat. This past August, the ladies sponsored a luncheon for the Feastday of the Holy Dormition of the Theotokos. On October 17th, we celebrated our patronal feastday (The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, Oct. 18th) with the Evening Divine Liturgy followed by a potluck dinner. Many clergy from our sister parishes were able to celebrate with us. The festivities continued on the following Sunday with a parish picnic following Divine Liturgy. We continue to host a monthly coffee hour on Sundays following the Divine Liturgy; and at family's request, provide refreshments following funeral services. Wherever there is a need, the Ladies of St. Luke are there. This year we were able to purchase a set of white and purple Altar Servers robes, all thanks to the kindness of our parishioners. Upcoming activities include sponsoring our Parish Christmas card, selling Angels to adorn our church's Christmas tree, and co-hosting the annual St. Nicholas Day luncheon with our Teen SOYO. We send all the ladies of our diocese our prayers and best wishes for a peaceful, prayerful Holy Advent and Nativity Season. In anticipation – "Christ is born!" "Glorify Him!"

The Antiochian Women of Holy Cross

Palmdale, Ca

The Antiochian Women of Holy Cross Palmdale, California have been serving the homeless at Our Lady Charity for the past year now. What a blessing it is to be able to serve with our families and other members of our parish. We also have continued to collect food for other local food banks. As we all continue with our different charities throughout the year may our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless us and our communities.

The Antiochian Women of St Athanasius

Goleta, CA 93117

The women of St. Athanasius have been busy with projects to give Christmas gifts to the mentally challenged people at the Deveroux Foundation, a large local organization in our own neighborhood serving young teens through 44 year old adults. Carol Ichinose, Marilyn Gillquist and Jill Wallerstadt have been very creative with their gift giving ideas. They have gathered the women & children to decorate gift bags, stuff stocking caps or socks while sipping on holiday teas and partaking of delicious treats. These are truly special times of fellowship with one another while contributing to the true meaning of Christmas which is love. In the past we would gather for Christmas programs which were wonderful but have since turned our focus to working on charitable projects that have worked out beautifully and has blessed all participants.

Please send all articles to jan_finley@yahoo.com for submission to website.

Remember, please submit your individual reports to be included in our Spring Newsletter to Jan Finley by April 1, 2006. If possible, please email article in Microsoft word form.