



March 25th, 2008; The Annunciation of the Theotokos

H. Paul Finley, Executive Director
Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center
140 Church Camp Trail
Bolivar, PA 15923

Dear and Esteemed Clergy; Hierarchs, Priests and Deacons of the Antiochian Archdiocese,

Christ is in our midst! I trust this letter finds each of you well as you continue on your Lenten journey. May this season of preparation bring spiritual renewal and the joy of Christ's Glorious Resurrection to you and those in your pastoral care.

By now, both you and your parish councils should have received notice of the **15th Biennial Clergy Symposium** to be convened here at the *Antiochian Village Camp and Conference Center* on Monday, July 21st, and to be concluded on Friday, July 25th. On a personal note, this will be my first opportunity to be present during the **Clergy Symposium** as your Executive Director of the *Heritage and Learning Center*. For me, it will be a time of joyful reunion inasmuch as I have not seen many of you for some years. I have so many things for which to be thankful; among the first, the opportunity to serve you who serve the faithful.

Most of you are familiar with the structure of the **Clergy Symposium**. This year the topic for consideration and discussion is "**Christianity and Islam.**" Enclosed, please find a schedule for your stay which includes opportunities for worship, instruction, dialogue, and fellowship. My prayer is that we will do our very best to provide true Christian hospitality in an Orthodox spiritual environment and that every good intention for this gathering will be fulfilled. Additionally, those graduating from the *Antiochian House of Studies* programs will receive their Degrees at the banquet on Thursday evening.

As you know, there are three beds in almost every room; therefore, you may choose the triple occupancy option instead of double occupancy if you wish to do so; we would even encourage you to do this, if the savings is of benefit to your parish. We cannot offer single occupancy due to the number of clergy now serving in the Archdiocese; however, a single occupancy option is available on the enclosed registration form at an offsite location. We have made a few changes in the main lobby area that I believe will make your stay more enjoyable. Even more, the *Heritage Museum* will have an interesting exhibition entitled "**East Meets West in Ligonier.**" Additionally, there is a flyer enclosed for the golfers among you who may want to arrive early and participate in a golf outing on Monday morning, July 21st, before the Symposium begins. As always, everything here is for your edification and convenience; the fitness center, meditation trail, hospitality room (this year in the new coffee shop and main lobby area), business center, bookstore, church supply vendor booths, and this God-given, beautiful setting.

Please know that I, along with our entire staff, look forward to your stay with us, and the opportunity to say, "**Welcome home,**" upon your arrival. We ask that you complete and return the registration form. If you have questions or need to make special arrangements, contact Amy Stiffler, Director of Event Services, by telephone 1(724) 238-3677 ext. 408 or by email (events@antiochianvillage.org). As always, I am available to you as well.

Your Servant in Christ,

Paul

H. Paul Finley, Executive Director
Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center

"Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths." Is. 2:3