

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN MONTH
“MESSAGE”
(March 2018)



Good morning!

Christ is in our midst!

I am so glad that I can speak to all of you today on behalf of our (*name of parish*) chapter of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America. I would like to take this opportunity to briefly tell you about the important work we have been given by His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH for our 2018 PROJECT.

This year, Metropolitan JOSEPH wants all of us to be more aware of the vast amount of work that has to be undertaken by all of us if our Archdiocese is to fulfill our mission of proclaiming the Gospel by word and deed. We use the word “ministry” to describe the work of the Church in the world. “Ministry” is the work of service that we undertake in the Name of Jesus Christ to bring healing, peace, and joy to a fallen and broken world. The successful proclamation of the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ happens when we reach out in love to each other: this is MINISTRY.

As Christians, each one of us must be engaged with acts of ministry each and every day of our lives. Our beloved Metropolitan JOSEPH would like each of us to become more engaged with the work of ministry in our own parish. Each of us should seek ways to volunteer for the ministries that support our life together here at (*name of parish*) -- teaching adults or children, singing in

the choir, helping with the youth group, serving at the Holy Altar, helping in the church office, helping with the upkeep of the building and grounds, and by being active in our organizations: the Order of St. Ignatius, the Parish Council, and the Antiochian Women.

However, there are some among us who feel called to devote our entire lives in ministry. Those members of our Church who devote all of their time, talents, and skills in service to others are said to have a “Vocation.” It is, specifically, the “Vocation of Ministry” that our 2018 Antiochian Women PROJECT seeks to support.

His Eminence has given the Antiochian Women the task of focusing our attention on those who have devoted their entire lives and careers in service to others in the Name of Christ. Those who have accepted the call to serve in such ministries on a full-time basis can only do this with our support. Our goal this year is to inspire and support VOCATIONS. Through our 2018 PROJECT, we will raise money to fund and encourage all the excellent work that is being done throughout our Archdiocese by many dedicated and self-sacrificing men and women. Thank you, in advance, for your dedicated efforts to make our 2018 PROJECT a success.

Finally, I would ask for your prayers for our Antiochian Women. We thank all of you for your generous support. May God bless this parish, and the work of the Antiochian Women. Amen. ❖

