



The Self-ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, Metropolitan PHILIP, Primate

DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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Kh. Gigi Shadid
Associate

Ms. Catherine Sullivan
Associate

Mrs. Sandy Mitchell
Associate

Mrs. Hollie Benton
Associate

The Department of Christian

Education is comprised of the Director, **Carole Buleza**, and the Administrative Assistant, **Rosemary Shumski**, dedicated volunteer **Diocesan Coordinators and Associates**, and talented people who agree to work on specific projects.

The major event of the Department is the Orthodox Institute at Antiochian Village the first weekend in November. We bring together renowned speakers on relevant topics for **the continuing education of the faithful**. A CD of all handouts, outlines and in some cases recordings and transcripts from the presenters is sent to each participant **for use at the parish level**. This year we will include discussion questions for the presentations on the CD.

Diocesan Representatives and Associates were present at the National Convention for the purpose of meeting with priests and parish representatives to plan trainings, visits, and events for the coming two school years. The Department works very closely with the O.C.E.C., the O.C.A. and the G.O.A. Dr. Anton Vrame of the G.O.A. and Mat. Myra Kowalak of the O.C.E.C. assisted us at this Convention.

VOLUNTEER STAFF UPDATE

After 24 years serving as a Diocesan Coordinator, **Joseph Tershay** of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West, submitted his resignation. We thank him and will miss him. We have added two associates since the last national convention. **Mrs. Hollie Benton** of Minneapolis works on curriculum projects and is presently composing a marriage unit for high school students and young adults. The second new associate is **Kh. Gigi Shadid** of Houston. Kh. Gigi writes

the Creative Festival lesson plans and songs, under the direction of **Mrs. Rosemary Shumski**, Creative Festivals coordinator for the Department.

“BLESSED IS THE KINGDOM: ACTS 2:42 AND TODAY”

Metropolitan Savas (Zembillas) of Pittsburgh will be the keynote speaker at the 2013 Orthodox Institute, “Blessed is the Kingdom.” The presenters will offer insight into **why the experience of witnessing, serving, liturgy, and community were so vibrant during the early decades of Christianity**. With a focus on the **servicing** aspect of Church, speakers will present **programs that will enhance parish life**, and will introduce us to organizations such as **FOCUS N.A.**



If the topic of ecclesiology, “Church”—its beginnings, ways to enhance parish life and service to the community—is of interest to you, mark your calendars for **October 31-November 3, 2013**, at Antiochian Village. Among our esteemed presenters are Fr. Thomas and Dr. Kyriaki FitzGerald.

THE HOLY LAND EXHIBIT

As a part of the 2012 Orthodox Institute, the exhibit, “Scripture through the Lens of the Holy Land” was created. It has traveled since then

to several cities: Tucson, Phoenix, Coral Gables, Niagara Falls, Syracuse and Minneapolis. The exhibit consists of 20 three- and four-foot retractable banners that extend to a height of 7 feet. **A miniature paper version is shown below. For hosting information, see www. antiochian.org/holylandexhibit.** Holy Land posters continue to be printed and information is at **www. antiochian.org/holylandposters.** Teachers are encouraged to use these and the childrens’ art to surround them with the reality of Christ.

NEW INITIATIVES

Several units for high school are being developed, and in particular one to address the challenges that college brings to one’s faith. The Department will also begin **filming** teaching demonstrations, and other presentations, for use on the website.

With my high school class, I will pilot the use of the internet during class. There is good Orthodox content on the web which can be used for education. I also continue to research my new model for Orthodox catechesis, based in part on transformative learning and experiential education. In that regard I was a guest of Antiochian Village camp during training week to observe the ropes course activities which greatly influence the campers.

As always, we are grateful to His Eminence, Metropolitan Philip and The Order of St. Ignatius for their continuing generous support of our efforts.

