

I do not consider myself to be special. For that matter, no one in the Bible at their calling was special by any means. I call to mind our great Forefather Abraham, the father of all believers, how greatly non-special and insignificant his position was, especially before his calling. Abraham expected nothing, and was comfortable in his comfort zone, tending and shepherding in Haran, until his calling came, and here I quote:

"Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him" Genesis 12: 1-4

My second term as the President of the Antiochian Women of the East is an honor and a great responsibility. This honor allows me to meet amazing women that spend their life serving others through serving God and building Christian friendships that will last forever. I am humbled by the commitment, dedication, and energy of my sisters in Christ who are on the board of the Antiochian Women of the East. We would like to thank and offer our gratitude to all the past presidents for their devotion and hard work in establishing and planting the seeds for our Dioceses. May God grant them many more years to come!

Rula was born in Taybeh (biblical name: Ephraim), Palestine during the Intifada, Rula grew up in a time of war. As a result, she grew close to her faith like many other suffering Palestinians in her all-Christian village. She is very proud of her own village, it is mentioned in John 11:54. "Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the people of Judea. Instead he withdrew to a region near the wilderness, to a village called Ephraim, where he stayed with his disciples."

She attended Birzeit University, majoring in Archeology. Soon after, she married her late husband, Osama Khoury and moved to New York. She found herself in a new country and went to college and received two separate Associates degrees: tourism management and bookkeeping. Rula has three children; Michael, a fourth-year student at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; Gabriel, a second-year

student at Georgetown Law; and Amal, a senior at George Mason University, studying Psychology.

Rula works full-time as an office manager at Hitachi STS in Herndon, Virginia. She owns her own travel agency, where she plans tours to the Holy Land. She is a member of Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Potomac, Maryland. Finally, she is an active member of National Arab American Women's Association in Washington, D.C. Rula and her children live their father's legacy every day and continue to make him proud with each life accomplishment.

During her time in New York, Rula and her family were very active in St. James Orthodox Church in Hyde Park, NY. Her husband, one of the founders of St. James, wanted to complete his father's dream (late Fr. Michael Khoury) and open an Arabic speaking church. With help from God, the mission became a large church community. Rula and her husband have a special love for St. James Church, watching the church grow from its first baptism, to establishing a Sunday School, to opening a new hall in Osama's name. Osama's love for working in the church and for his friends has touched Rula's heart and inspired her to continue his path for serving others through serving God. Rula's favorite Bible verse is "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13.

Rula has many favorite Saints. She grew up hearing her mom and grandma always asking St. George (Mar Jeries) for help and blessings. In Taybeh, there is an archeological Byzantine church called St. George church (Khadar) it is located in the middle of her village and across of her parent's house. She also loves the Archangels Michael and Gabriel and named her kids after them.

