

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN DIOCESE of WORCESTER & NEW ENGLAND

A Sisterhood Serving Christ Through Serving Others

June 2010 Parish Life Conference Sturbridge, Massachusetts

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

CALENDAR 2010

JUNE

18-20 PLC Sturbridge
Host-St George Worcester

JULY

23-25 Mid Summer Meetings
at Antiochian Village

AUGUST

21 To Nantucket - Worcester

SEPTEMBER

19 Celebration West Roxbury
(see page 4)

25-26 Mid-East Festival
Worcester

OCTOBER

8-10 Centennial Pawtucket
15-17 Bazaar WestRoxbury
30 Diocese Meeting

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A special and warm New England greeting to his Grace, Bishop THOMAS, who will be officiating at our Parish Life Conference this weekend. We are most pleased to welcome to our Diocese for the first time the President of the North American Board of Antiochian Women, Cindy Nimey. Cindy will be with us for our Meeting and Luncheon. Please introduce yourselves and make her feel at home!

It has been a busy fall and spring with summer quickly approaching. The work you have done in your parishes on a local level and in our Diocese has been very gratifying. From the 10% Tithe Diocesan Offering to NAC Teen SOYO Special Olympics, to your wonderful attendance at our Pre-Lenten Retreat with Mother Alexandra of the Convent of St. Thekla at Antiochian Village, to the passage of up-dated Policies, Guidelines and By-laws, to the many Archdiocese humanitarian causes that have been championed, to the parish work of Antiochian Women's Month in March, to your wonderful fund-raising efforts on behalf of our project: The Convent of St. Thekla at Antiochian Village, to your attendance and hosting of our fall and spring General Assembly Meetings, to those who attended our Spring Fling and to those of you in attendance at this Parish Life Conference General Assembly Meeting and Luncheon here in Sturbridge, MA.

Please remember to mark down Sunday, September 19, 2010 at 4 p.m. at St. George, West Roxbury, on your calendars as we take time to honor and thank Fr. Edward Hughes for all his efforts as our Antiochian Women Spiritual Advisor over the years. Thank you to St. George Cathedral for their wonderful work planning this Parish Life Conference. We pray you have a safe summer.

Your sister in Christ, Marilyn T. Robbat, President

SPRING FLING "ARABIA"

'Travel to the exotic and fascinating land of Arabia.

Explore the ancient tombs of a lost city; dive through the reefs of the Red Sea; and experience the Hajj — the largest gathering of people on

Earth. Discover an extraordinary culture and experience modern day Arabia in the midst of monumental change.' "Arabia" is a pictorial history of the area, a recap of the two Golden Ages they experienced previously and a snapshot of life there today. On May 1, sixteen of our women attended this giant-screen documentary at the Museum of Science in Boston in the Museum's Mugar Omni Theater. The trip was fun and the weather was beautiful. Following the movie they had lunch at the Food Court in the museum. It was a very nice day! Special thanks to Cindy Hayes, our Membership Chairperson for coordinating this trip.



ST GEORGE WEST ROXBURY Gladys Laham

Fifty years ago on May 29, 1960, Bishop ANTOUN was ordained a Priest. He and trice blessed Metropolitan KURBAN (at that time Fr. Illyas Kurban) were very dear friends, so trice blessed Metropolitan ANTONY BASHIR chose to ordain him as a Priest at the St George Orthodox Church on St George Street in the city of Boston. He served the Parish of St George in Philadelphia, the St George Parish in Toronto, Canada and St Nicholas Cathedral in Brooklyn, NY and now is the Bishop of Miami and assistant to Metropolitan PHILIP. When the Parish of St. George in West Roxbury realized that his 50th Anniversary was this year, they invited Bishop ANTOUN to come to this parish to serve at the altar of his ordination, but this time as a Bishop.



On Saturday evening May 29, 2010 a vespers was served with several Clergy of the Diocese and several Seminarians from the Holy Cross Seminary. After Vespers Bishop ANTOUN was entertained at a dinner with church board members and friends. Sunday morning May 30th he celebrated the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy.

An elaborate luncheon was planned and at that time, Father Timothy welcomed and presented to him a lovely Icon of Jesus for his new chancery in Florida from the members of St George Church and also an honorarium. Congratulations and a gift of \$250.00 was presented to him from the Antiochian Women of the Diocese. Due to the fact that our President Marilyn Robbat had a previous family engagement, the presentation was made by Violet Robbat, a member of the National Board. The Ladies Society of St George Church also presented him with a gift by co-presidents Joan Hanna and Gladys Laham. The Fellowship of St John the Divine presented him with a gift and seeing that the President was out of town that presentation was made by the treasurer Doha Heida. Fr. Timothy and the parish extended to him an invitation to return whenever he wishes.



Bishop ANTOUN thanked everyone for their love and thoughtfulness and stated that he was pleased that GOD allowed him 50 years in the vineyard of the Lord. He actually started to serve Him when he was a young teen at the age of 13. His mother (God rest her soul) and his sister Marie encouraged him to become a Priest and to this day Marie is always there when he needs her.

AXIOS AXIOS AXIOS Bishop ANTOUN

ST STEPHEN SPRINGFIELD Karen Slack

Dear Antiochian Sisters,

May we begin by expressing gratitude to our Lord Jesus Christ for leading us home. It is truly a miracle that we are now participating in the ancient tradition and liturgy of the faithful undivided body.

St Stephens has merged out of diverse theological and cultural backgrounds. In a time when many churches are dividing and closing, we are growing and partaking in the divine communion of the one holy Catholic and Apostolic church. The Women's Group at St Stephens is small and committed. We meet weekly for fellowship and to encourage one another in our faith. Being that we are new to Orthodoxy and desire to be well rooted, we have begun a study on church history.

We ask you for your prayers and guidance as we continue to grow. We look forward to meeting you at the conference!

Yours in Christ, St Stephens Womens Group





**DIocese MEETING
MARCH 6, 2010
ST MARY PAWTUCKET**



SAVE THE DATE...

The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women
of the
Diocese of Worcester and New England

Cordially invite you to a celebration to honor

V. Rev. Fr. Edward Hughes, Spiritual Advisor

Sunday, September 19, 2010
4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.
at

St. George Community Center
55 Emmonsdale Road
West Roxbury, Massachusetts

Hot and Cold Appetizers and Desserts

ST GEORGE LOWELL Hilda Zananiiri

Officers of the Ladies of St. George Antiochian Church:
Hilda Zananiiri, President.

Laurence Skaff, Vice President

Gwen Noonan, Treasurer

Carla Sabbouh and Reem Mikhael, Secretaries

The Ladies have been very busy recently. We had our fish luncheon in March. We also had an Easter bake sale, where we baked Ma'mool and Kaik.

Additionally, the Ladies had a road trip to Perkins Cove in Ogunquit, ME, where we spent the day shopping and sightseeing in this beautiful area. Lunch was at Jackie's Too restaurant overlooking the water and the view was fantastic.

At a recent meeting, we had a consultant representing Arbonne, lead a Swiss Beauty and Wellness Workshop. The Ladies were given some tips to minimize chemicals and toxins. It was a fun evening.

The Ladies will be fully involved in the Lowell Folk Festival in July, and we plan to make a decision in September to host a Holiday Fair in December.

ST GEORGE WORCESTER Delores George

The past several years, our June meetings have been "Cook-In's", with a special guest speaker. This year we welcomed Deacon Anthony and Ruth Payne, to talk to us about their journey to Orthodoxy. Deacon Anthony was born in England and moved with his parents to Rhodesia (Southern Africa) when he was 5 years old. Ruth was born to Missionary parents in Cape Town, South Africa. They met in Rhodesia and were married in the Anglican Cathedral in Salisbury, the capitol, in 1973. At the height of the bush war, they were forced to leave their beloved Africa, traveling to London, then Hong Kong and then Singapore, and they have spent time in California and Montreal, Canada, but the majority of their time in the US has been in the Northeast. They are both now US citizens along with their 2 grown sons. This son of devoted Anglican parents and Elder in the Presbyterian Church for 18 years, and this daughter of dedicated African missionaries were Chrismated into the Holy Orthodox Faith at the Feast of the Nativity in 1998 at St. Mary's Cambridge. Sixty members and guests were present at our meeting and we all enjoyed hearing from Deacon Anthony and Ruth, and seeing the many slides that accompanied their discussion.



SUMMER MEETINGS

The 2010 NAB Summer Meetings will be held at Antiochian Village in Pennsylvania July 23-25. Registration forms are available now. Six delegates may represent our Diocese. Contact President Marilyn Robbat immediately if you are interested in attending. This would be a wonderful opportunity to see the Village, and also to meet women from around the country, comparing notes about

all that we do in our parishes.



ST. THEKLA PILGRIMAGE

THE CONVENT OF ST. THEKLA invites the faithful to the St. Thekla Pilgrimage from September 24-26, 2010, for a weekend of prayer, workshops, and fellowship at the Antiochian Village. This year's theme is "Ascending the Mountain: It's a Family Road Trip". For more information visit www.antiochianvillage.org or contact the office at the Antiochian Village (724-238-3677).



Please send items of interest for the next Newsletter
Activities? Trivia?
Photos of your group?
Notes about Members?
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