

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**
of North America

Held at the Wyndham Hotel and Resort, in Toledo, Ohio
October 31, - November 1, 2003

PRESENT were: Metropolitan PHILIP, Bishop Antoun, Rt. Rev. Paul M. Doyle, Dr. George J. Farha, Mr. Alan G. Abraham, Mr. Daniel J. Abraham, Mr. Nicola M. Antakli, Mr. Edward F. Assile, Dr. Anthony S. Bashir, Dr. David G. Bojrab, Mr. Daniel E. Braun, Dr. John D. Dalack, Mr. George G. Darany, Mr. Fawaz R. El Khoury, Mr. Philip A. Haddad, Mr. Joseph F. Hanna, Dr. Elias K. Hebeka, Dr. Donald C. Howard, Mr. Anton K. Khoury, Mr. Robert A. Koory, Dr. Sam H. Kouri, Mr. Robert H. Laham, Mr. William D. Morrison, Mr. William J. Nassir, Mr. George N. Nassor, Mr. Walter Parhamovich, Dr. Raymond J. Rishwain, Miss Jean Sam, Dr. Joseph J. Samra, III, Dr. Eugene J. Sayfie, Mrs. Gizelle "Gigi" B. Shadid, and Mr. Kory W. Warr; and Honorary Members: Abe Abraham, Mr. Walid K. Khalife, and Mr. Hafiz A. Nassar.

Guests were: V. Rev. Joseph Antypas, V. Rev. John Estephan, V. Rev. George H. Shalhoub, Rev. Fr. Paul E. Albert, Rev. Fr. Basil Koory, Rev. Fr. Michael Massouh, Rev. Fr. Michael Nasser, Archdeacon Hans El-Hayek, Mrs. Adele Abraham, Mrs. Kathy J. Abraham, Mrs. Virginia Antakli, Mrs. Arlene Assile, Mrs. Judy Braun, Mr. Peter Cox, Mr. Peter S. Dacales, Mrs. Dorothy Darany, Mrs. Gwenna Haddad, Mr. John A. Haddy, Mrs. Corinne A. Joseph, Mrs. Deborah Kaleel, Kh. Annmarie Koory, Mrs. Diane Koory, Mrs. Gladys Laham, Mr. Fouad Nassar, Mrs. JoAnn Nassar, Mrs. Julia Nassar, Mrs. Elsie Nas-sor, Mrs. Grace Mary Parhamovich, Mr. Ron Royhab, Mrs. Camelia Saba, Mr. Elias Saba, Mr. Abe Sal-loum, Mrs. Marlene Samra, Mrs. Suzie M. Sayfie, and Mr. Mark Saykaly.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., with the reciting of the Lord's Prayer, led by Metropolitan PHILIP. In his opening remarks, His Eminence welcomed all the Board members and guests who were present; and he extended the regrets of the following Board members who were unable to attend: Bishop Joseph, Bishop Basil, Bishop Demetri, V. Rev. Elias S. Bitar, V. Rev. Paul W. S. Schneirla, Mr. Charles R. Ajalat, Mrs. Laila R. Ferris, Mrs. Elaine Heider, Dr. Raymond J. Kyriakos, Miss Ruth A. Nimee, Mr. Mansour Rayan, and Mrs. Adele N. Soffa.

Before proceeding to the first item of business on the formal agenda, His Eminence spoke for everyone present when he announced what a blessing it was that Mr. Abe Abraham was able to attend, since he is our senior member, and has been on the Board since its inception. His Eminence also asked for a moment of silent prayer for the repose of the soul of V. Rev. Paul Romley. Since Metropolitan PHILIP was already en route to the Middle East, Bishop Antoun and Bishop Joseph officiated at the funeral. Fr. Paul was well loved, and he will be missed by all. MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!

Following a motion by Dr. Elias K. Hebeka, seconded by Dr. Sam H. Kouri, the minutes of both the previous meeting of May 30, - 31, 2003, held at the Clinton Inn Hotel in Tenafly, New Jersey, and the previous meeting of July 26, 2003, held at the Fontainebleau Hilton in Miami, Florida, were approved as printed and distributed to all Board members.

METROPOLITAN PHILIP'S REPORT

In this report, Metropolitan Philip reviewed the highlights of his trip to Middle East to attend the meeting of the Holy Synod of Antioch. Despite a most painful dental problem which occurred when His Eminence

first landed in London, and which required several days of treatment before he experienced any relief, and despite the many tense and difficult moments which arose during the deliberations of the Holy Synod, the final outcome was both pleasing and successful. Self-Rule, the term which His Eminence considers to be more suitable than that of Autonomy, has been established in accordance with the Resolution which was approved by the Holy Synod and blessed by the Patriarch, and which has already been sent to all Parishes, Pastors, and members of the Board of Trustees.

During the deliberations of the Holy Synod, His Eminence realized that he had to deal with, and modify, several misunderstandings or misconceptions held by some members of the Holy Synod concerning the desires and intentions of our Antiochian faithful in North America. With patience and diligence, Metropolitan PHILIP made it clear that: a) our people have voted almost unanimously for Self-Rule on more than one occasion, b) no one ever had to be persuaded to vote for it against his or her will, and c) we do not wish to "break away" or become a separate entity, since we are united in our wish to maintain our historical ties to the Patriarch and the Patriarchate of Antioch.

When His Eminence then conducted a paragraph-by-paragraph review and discussion of the Resolution, the following points emerged: our bishops will no longer be titular bishops; each bishop will be associated with his own city, as in Bishop of Wichita and Dependencies, Bishop of Miami and Dependencies, etc.; as a rule, bishops would not be transferred from one diocese to another except under the most extreme and unusual of circumstances; priests will be assigned and/or transferred by the bishops in consultation with the Metropolitan and the Ordination Review Board; the Local Synod has the authority to take whatever action is deemed necessary, while each diocesan bishop has the right of appeal to the Patriarch and the Holy Synod; our Archdiocese is to remain intact and never to be divided; the procedures for electing, consecrating, etc. a Metropolitan remain the same as they have always been; two or three Metropolitans from the Holy will travel to be present with us when we are ready to consecrate a new diocesan bishop; and, if we do not have enough of our own candidates for bishop, candidates from the Patriarchate will be available to us.

During the discussion which followed this review, the consensus was that the amendments required to incorporate the relevant elements of the Holy Synod's Resolution into the Archdiocese Constitution need to be drafted in time for review and approval by the Board at the 2004 spring meeting. Approval at that meeting would allow sufficient time for the proposed amendments to be sent to the Parishes, and for the Parishes, in turn, to prepare their delegates to ratify them at a Special Meeting of the General Assembly which could be held in conjunction with the beginning or ending of next summer's Clergy Symposium. Ratification of these amendments would then make it possible for the delegates to elect three candidates for bishop while the Special Meeting was still in session.

Dr. Eugene J. Sayfie then moved that this Archdiocese Board of Trustees ratify the agreement which was approved by the Holy Synod, and instruct the Chancellors to draft the necessary amendments to incorporate the contents of the agreement into the Archdiocese Constitution. Mr. Fawaz R. El Khoury seconded, and, after minimal additional discussion, this motion was approved unanimously.

His Eminence was accompanied on this historic trip by V. Rev. Joseph Antypas, Dr. George J. Farha, and Mr. Fawaz R. El Khoury; and Mr. Nicola M. Antakli joined them after their arrival. He thanked them for the countless ways they were of help and support to him, and they, in turn, expressed their thanks to His Eminence for allowing them to be a part in this historic event. Each in his own way reported that it was Metropolitan PHILIP's God given wisdom, patience, and eloquence which made Self-Rule a reality.

NAC FELLOWSHIP OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE - PARISH LIFE CONFERENCES, 2003

Mrs. Gizelle "Gigi" B. Shadid, President of the NAC Fellowship of St. John the Divine, distributed to each Board member a copy of the NAC Fellowship Report, which included a statistical summary of the registration and participation figures for each of this year's Regional Parish Life Conferences, as well as a summary of the results of the Parish Life Conference (PLC) Survey which was distributed at all of this year's regional conferences; and a copy has been attached to the file copy of these minutes. Highlights of this report included the following:

At this year's Can-Am Region Parish Life Conference, 15 of 16 Parishes were represented; and there were 301 registrants, 46 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 53 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 8 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 8 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 430 Festival Entries;

At this year's Eastern Region Parish Life Conference, 33 of 36 Parishes were represented; and there were 670 registrants, 83 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 65 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 23 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 20 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 830 Festival Entries;

At this year's Midwest Region Parish Life Conference, 41 of 45 Parishes were represented; and there were 889 registrants, 132 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 95 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 21 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 7 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 995 Festival Entries;

At this year's New England Region Parish Life Conference, 10 of 11 Parishes were represented; and there were 335 registrants, 51 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 56 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 12 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 4 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 300 Festival Entries;

At this year's Southeast Region Parish Life Conference, 23 of 30 Parishes were represented; and there were 365 registrants, 94 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 61 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 18 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 6 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 177 Festival Entries;

At this year's Southwest Region Parish Life Conference, 39 of 47 Parishes were represented; and there were 483 registrants, 44 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 82 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 14 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 6 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 405 Festival Entries; and

At this year's Western Region Parish Life Conference, 33 of 50 Parishes were represented; and there were 868 registrants, 101 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 111 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 19 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 11 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 457 Festival Entries.

There were 201 (12% of 1,681) responses to the survey prepared and distributed by the PLC Task Force (which consisted of members from the Fellowship, AOCWNA, and Teen SOYO). Included among the results were the following highlights:

Fellowship/Social Interaction, 27.36%, and Regional Meetings, 20.40%, were the most frequently cited reasons for coming to Parish Life Conferences; 31% indicated that Parish Life Conferences also served as family vacations; 78.11% traveled by car; travel times ranged from 7 to 17 hours; 63.18% preferred that the Parish Life Conferences continue to be held every year, while 32.84% preferred that they be held every other year; among those who attended by themselves, 62.69% felt that the cost of attending was reasonable, while 36.82% felt the cost was too expensive; among those who attended as a family, 47.76%

felt that the cost of attending was reasonable, while 51.74% felt the cost was too expensive; and 21.89% of those attending alone felt that cost was a very important consideration in deciding whether or not to attend, while 35.32% of those attending as a family felt that cost was a very important consideration.

In Miami, the NAC Fellowship Council voted to donate \$1,000 to each Regional Camp, three \$500 donations to Western Region's three camps, and to allocate \$500 to each region to be used for retreat speakers.

With the blessing of His Eminence, a Young Adult Retreat will take place in the fall of each year, sponsored in alternate years by our Fellowship and the Greek Young Adult League (YAL).

At a recent YAL Retreat in Boston, the NAC officers and Spiritual Advisor had the opportunity to meet and discuss such significant issues as: the future of Young Adult Ministry in our Archdiocese and in Pan Orthodoxy, training future leaders, and leadership transitions, to mention only a few.

A "Fellowship Footnotes" article will be appearing each month in the WORD Magazine; pins and visors to promote the Fellowship are now available; the Fellowship banner was displayed at the Miami Convention; and, hopefully, each Region will soon have its own fellowship banner.

Transforming the Fall Delegates' Meetings into retreats appears to be a relatively new trend, as reflected last weekend at the Midwest "Fall Encounter" which included a sharing of chapter success stories, a mission panel discussion (the Midwest raised \$90,000 for missions this year), a keynote speaker, and church services.

During the discussion which followed this report, it was suggested that PLC attendance and participation figures from at least the previous year be included, so that comparisons can be made.

Following a motion by Mr. Nicola M. Antakli, seconded by Mr. George N. Nassor, the NAC Fellowship Report was accepted with an expression of thanks.

2003 ARCHDIOCESE CONVENTION FINAL REPORT

Mrs. Suzie M. Sayfie, General Chairman of the Convention Committee for the 46th Archdiocese Convention, which took place from July 20, - 27, 2003, at the Fontainebleau Hilton in Miami, Florida, distributed to each Board member a copy of her Convention Committee's Final Report; and a copy has been attached to the file copy of these minutes.

With almost 1,900 registrations, the excess of income over expenses was \$117,493.36, of which 60%, or \$70,496.02, was the Host Parish share, while 40%, or \$46,997.35, plus the registration proceeds of \$18,600, was the Archdiocese share of \$65,597.35. The net proceeds from the souvenir book were \$131,699.46.

This report also presented the income figures for each event, along with a summary of all convention expenses.

Following a motion by Mr. George G. Darany, seconded by Dr. Raymond J. Rishwain, the Final Report of the 2003 Convention Committee was accepted with an expression of profound thanks and appreciation

for an outstanding job.

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE CAMP

Rev. Fr. Michael Nasser, Director of the Antiochian Village Camp, distributed a copy of the Antiochian Village Camp report to each Board member, and a copy has been attached to the file copy of these minutes. Highlights of this report included the following:

The 2003 camping season was one of the safest and healthiest on record, and most of the credit for this accomplishment belongs to the Camp Nurse, Mrs. Patricia Gombita, who was honored by His Eminence with a Certificate of Meritorious Service, presented to her by Bishop Antoun on the occasion of her tenth year as camp nurse.

The experiment of splitting the final two weeks into two one-week sessions instead of one two-week session was not very successful because, after all these years, there does not seem to be very much of a demand for one-week sessions. Therefore, there will be a return to the more familiar schedule of four two-week sessions, although every effort will be made to accommodate the needs of younger and/or first-time campers, should parents make a special request for a one-week session.

In keeping with the recommendations of the special committee appointed by His Eminence to address the concerns associated with the continuously increasing demand for an Antiochian camping experience, seven additional camps are now operating in other locations across the Archdiocese. More than 700 campers attended these additional camps, and, as a result, almost 1,700 children attended Antiochian camps this summer.

Since safety and appropriateness of the programs provided continue to be the highest priorities, His Eminence has appointed Khalil Samara, the former Assistant Director of the Antiochian Village Camp, to visit each of these seven additional camps this past summer, to observe their activities, and to offer whatever assistance and support they might need. Based on the information he gathered, a comprehensive 30 page report has been prepared to monitor the progress of each of these Antiochian camping programs, with respect to the following areas: organizational structure, healthcare, training, insurance, financial practices, facilities, emergency procedures, Christian Education, spiritual life, camper supervision, and readiness for ACA accreditation. In the next few months, this report will be discussed with His Eminence, the Village Council, and each of the different camps, so that all of our camping programs can be as safe and effective as possible.

This coming January, all of our camp directors will join their counterparts from the other jurisdictions for the Second Annual Orthodox Camp Directors' Conference. Thanks to a generous grant from the Order of St. Ignatius, our Archdiocese will be hosting this year's conference.

With respect to our Village Alumni Fellowship -- the Villagers -- local gatherings have already taken place in Boston, New York, and Pittsburgh; and there was also a special gathering in Miami at the Archdiocese Convention. Villagers are providing much of the staffing for their local camps, as well as for the off-season programs of Family Camp and Winter Camp.

The first ever *Village at Home* program will take place this December 6, at St. George, Little Falls, New Jersey. Staffed by Villagers, its purpose is to make a day long camp experience available to the local com-

munity, and the long range goal is to hold two such day long *Village at Home* programs a year in every deanery of the Archdiocese.

The celebration of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Antiochian Village Camping Program will take place at the Antiochian Village over the weekend of June 4, - 6, 2004, in conjunction with spring meeting of the Board of Trustees. Metropolitan PHILIP and his vision will be honored at the Twenty-Fifth Anni-versary Banquet which will be both retrospective and forward looking.

During the discussion which followed this report, Fr. Michael was asked to identify the other six camps, and he named them as follows: Transfiguration Camp in Montreal, St. George Camp in Iowa, St. Raphael Camp in Oklahoma, St. John Camp in Alaska, the Deanery Camp in northern California, and Camp St. Nicholas in southern California. Information about these camps will eventually be included as a part of Fr. Michael's report on Summer Camping.

Following a motion by Mrs. Gizelle "Gigi" B. Shadid, seconded by Dr. Anthony S. Bashir, the Antiochian Village Camp Report was accepted with an expression of profound thanks and appreciation.

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE HERITAGE AND LEARNING CENTER

Rev. Fr. Michael Massouh, Executive Director of the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center, distributed to each Board member a copy of the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center report, and a copy has been attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Highlights of this report included the following:

Just as the Antiochian Village Camp has been assisting campers, counselors, staff, and volunteers as they make their spiritual journey to the Kingdom of God, so too has the Heritage and Learning Center been assisting Orthodox and non-Orthodox adults of varied ages, not only from the continental United States and Hawaii, but also from Canada and Ireland.

Among the 187 students who participated in the Antiochian House of Studies, there were, along with our own Antiochian students, representatives from the Bulgarian, Greek, OCA, Rumanian, and Ukranian jurisdictions. Also in attendance were Byzantine Catholics and Protestants.

The biennial conference of the Department of Missions and Evangelism was very well attended by Ortho-dox who wanted to learn more about their faith and about evangelizing, as well as by non-Orthodox who are potential converts to Orthodoxy.

Three bishops, several professors, and almost a dozen clergy provided the instruction and leadership for these inspirational programs; and, in addition to his already busy schedule, Bishop Antoun chrismated a woman from Ireland into the Orthodox faith, ordained a student to the Holy Deaconate, and inducted one individual into the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch.

Other activities at the Heritage and Learning Center included the Ss Thekla and Raphael Pilgrimage, the National Sisterhood of Greek Presvyteras, and the Eastern Region Delegates Meeting, as well as meetings, seminars, and retreats for Episcopalians, Ukrainian Orthodox, Byzantine Catholics, Roman Catholics, and a number of different Protestant groups.

The Heritage and Learning Center has already begun to host and sponsor its own programs, such as the Byzantine Chanting and Marriage Enrichment Workshops; and conferences and workshops planned for the future will deal with such diverse topics as Orthodox Writing, an Orthodox Perspective on the Environment, and Orthodox Women's Lay Missions. Summer Family Vacations and Men's Retreats are also being planned.

Despite a 10% increase this year in the number of groups which have come to the Center, there has been a decline in revenues because the groups have tended to be smaller and to stay fewer nights. It is anticipated, however, that two major groups will be coming to the Center next year.

Work is currently in progress on the Museum's new wing, the Camp's water system and pool, Phase I rooms, and the game room which will soon be a multipurpose lounge, meeting room, and coffee bar.

Following a motion by Dr. Eugene J. Sayfie, seconded by Dr. Raymond J. Rishwain, the report of the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center was accepted with an expression of thanks.

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE COUNCIL

Mr. Robert H. Laham, Chairman of the Antiochian Village Council, reported that, despite the decline in revenue already mentioned in the Heritage and Learning Center report, the Center is still operating in the black, thanks to the efforts of all concerned; and that all the work currently in progress, also outlined in the Heritage and Learning Center report, should be completed by March 1, 2004.

When the question arose, Mr. Laham indicated that the Council has not dismissed entirely the idea of exploring ways to increase the number of campers served at the Antiochian Village each summer. A plan currently under consideration would expand the total number of campers by, in effect, establishing two separate camps: one for 9 to 12 year olds, and the other for 13 to 17 year olds. Additional cabins and other facilities would be needed, but each group would worship and eat separately.

In response to this information, those Board members who had previously made it clear that they were in favor of expanding the number of campers expressed their support for this, or any other, plan that would enable more campers to attend each summer; while those who had previously made it clear that they were not in favor of expanding numbers beyond the present attendance levels because doing so would make it impossible for the Camp to continue having the kind of impact it has had over the years expressed their lack of support.

Following a motion by Mr. Philip A. Haddad, seconded by Mr. William J. Nassir, the report of the Antiochian Village Council was accepted with an expression of profound gratitude and appreciation.

The meeting recessed at 10:45 p.m., and reconvened at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, November 1, 2003.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Robert H. Laham, Treasurer and Chairman of the Department of Finance, distributed to each Board member a copy of the interim financial report for the eight month period ending September 30, 2003, together with an updated summary of Individual Contributions to Archdiocese Funds; and a copy of each has been attached to the file copy of these minutes.

As presented, the of total receipts thus far is a bit larger than the total of receipts for the comparable period last year -- \$2,398,843 vs. \$2,215,179. Likewise, the total of expenditures thus far is also a bit larger than the total of expenditures for the comparable period last year -- \$2,396,775 vs. \$2,127,116. As a result, there is, at this time, an excess of receipts over expenditures amounting to \$2,068, which is a good deal less than the excess of receipts over expenditures of \$88,063, noted last year at this time. Nevertheless, all of these figures were not appreciably out of keeping with budget guidelines and expectations for this time of year.

Mr. Laham then read the names of all those who have made contributions to the General Fund as well as to other departments, organizations, etc. To date, the total amount of \$126,000 has been contributed to the General Fund, and the total amount of \$34,054 has been contributed to Other Funds and Charities. His Eminence urged those of us who have not done so, as yet, to please submit our contributions as soon as possible. At the same time, it was again recommended that we each give serious consideration to the idea of increasing the amount we contribute.

During the discussion which followed these reports, it was pointed out that there will soon be two positions to fill and another department to fund. That is, a full time Director for the Website will be hired in the very near future, and, as will be discussed during this meeting under NEW BUSINESS, a committee will be established to search for a new Director of Development, and the responsibilities of this director will include the re-activation of the Department of Development. Likewise, now that self-rule has been achieved, we will soon need be needing new bishops and a new Chancery for each.

Following a motion by Mr. Philip A. Haddad, seconded by Dr. Sam H. Kouri, the eight month interim financial report was approved with an expression of special thanks and commendation to Mr. Robert H. Laham and all the members of the Department of Finance who donate their time and their talent to the preparation of the budget and to the monitoring of the finances of the Archdiocese.

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN WOMEN OF NORTH AMERICA

In the absence of Mrs. Laila R. Ferris, the President of AOCWNA, Miss Jean Sam distributed to each Board member a copy of the AOCWNA report, along with a letter from Mrs. Ferris which outlined the tragic event that kept her in El Paso; and a copy of each has been attached to the file copy of these minutes. Highlights of the report included the following:

During the AOCWNA Luncheon and Meeting this past summer at the Archdiocese Convention in Miami, two checks were presented to Metropolitan PHILIP. The first was in the amount of \$128,732.92, for the 2003 Orphanage Project and the Katherine Ajar Endowment Fund for Orphans. The goal of this Endowment Fund is \$1,000,000, and, thanks to the generous donation of \$447,000 from the estate of Katherine Ajar, the current balance of the fund is \$858,023.

The second check, in the amount of \$17,469.05, was the result of a direct appeal to increase the balance of the Married Seminarians' Fund, which provides married seminarians with a gift at Christmas time. This fund now has \$45,000 in its account.

Also at the Convention this past July, three \$1,000 scholarships and three \$500 scholarships were presented to six deserving Orthodox women who, despite interruptions of one sort or another, are now taking the time and making the effort to complete their higher education.

A Review Committee has been established, and, in the coming year, this committee will review and evaluate current practices, for the purpose of enhancing the ways AOCWNA serves our Archdiocese and the women of our Archdiocese.

During the discussion which followed this report, the point was made that visitors are welcome, and those who have visited orphanages in the Middle East have been pleased with what they saw. The children seem happy and well cared for, and the nuns appreciate very deeply and sincerely the help they receive from us. However, they do not send pictures or offer any other kind of information about the children we are helping; we hear nothing about where they go or how they do after leaving the orphanage; and we seldom, if ever, receive thank you notes. It is possible that, if they did, they might receive even more in the way of donations, but doing so does not seem to be a part of their style.

Following a motion by Mr. Walter Parhamovich, seconded by Mr. Edward F. Assile, the AOCWNA Report was accepted with an expression of thanks.

ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

Mr. Edward F. Assile, the Chairman of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch, distributed a copy of his report to each Board member, and a copy has been attached to the file copy of these minutes. Highlights of this report included the following:

The Order now has 2,918 members, including 215 Life Members, and it is anticipated that we will have close to 3,000 members by the end of the year. At the Archdiocese Convention in Miami, a plan to set a membership objective for each Parish was approved, and the position of Order Ambassador (OA) was established. Each Parish will have one or more OA's, whose function will be to promote the message of the Order and encourage fellow parishioners to become members of the Order.

Mr. Daniel J. Abraham, Vice Chairman of the Order, will be chairing a committee dedicated to increasing the number of Life Members. The Life Membership Fund now stands at almost \$3,000,000, and, in effect, this fund represents a permanent endowment for the Archdiocese.

It has been learned that some members of the Order are not fulfilling their financial obligations to their own Parishes, and a determined effort will be made to educate all parishioners that their obligations to the Parish should come first, and then be followed by their obligations to the Archdiocese.

During the discussion which followed this report, there was further delineation of the ways in which OA's can help to motivate parishioners to become members of the Order, in anticipation of a bishop's visit to the Parish, by highlighting such Order-assisted accomplishments as: the Antiochian Village Camp, Special Olympics, and Clergy Insurance and Housing Allowance, for example. If it is our hope to see this Clergy Housing Allowance grow beyond \$700 per month (or \$525 for widows), we will need to increase substantially membership in the Order.

As this discussion continued, three different thrusts were elaborated. The first of these was to incorporate into the Christian Education curricula, as part of the education and training of our children, the notions of giving and tithing, in general, and of eventually joining the Order of St. Ignatius, in particular. The second was to incorporate the same ideas into the educational curriculum at the Camp, and the third was to encourage other family members, such as spouses, parents, children, grandparents, etc., to become active and vital members of the Order of St. Ignatius family.

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Following a motion by Mr. Nicola M. Antakli, seconded by Mr. Daniel J. Abraham, the report of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch was accepted with an expression of profound thanks.

OLD BUSINESS

Since we have an ever-increasing need for funds to continue doing God's work, Metropolitan PHILIP felt that it is time for the Department of Development to be re-activated. Therefore, he appointed the trustees from New England, namely, Dr. Anthony S. Bashir, Mr. Fawaz R. El Khoury, Mr. Robert H. Laham, and Miss Ruth A. Nimee, to serve on a Search Committee, Chaired by Dr. Joseph J. Samra, III. The mission of this committee will be to identify a competent Director of Development, hopefully a member of our Archdiocese, who will be able to encourage our people to make substantial donations for the support of current and future projects of our Archdiocese.

The tentative date for the Spring Meeting of the Board of Trustees is June 4 - 5, 2004, at the Antiochian Village.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Dalack, Ph.D.,
Secretary