

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

Held at the Naples Hilton and Towers in Naples, Florida
October 29, - 30, 2004

PRESENT were: Metropolitan PHILIP, Bishop Antoun, Bishop Joseph, Rt. Rev. Paul M. Doyle, Dr. George J. Farha, Mr. Alan G. Abraham, Mr. Daniel J. Abraham, Mr. Charles R. Ajalat, 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, Mrs. Laila R. Ferris, 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, Miss Ruth A. Nimee, Mr. Walter Parhamovich, Dr. Raymond J. Rishwain, Miss Jean Sam, Dr. Joseph J. Samra, Mrs. Gizelle "Gigi" B. Shadid, and Mr. Kory W. Warr; and Honorary Members: Mr. Ralph Abercia, Mr. Walid K. Khalife, and Dr. Alan E. Matook.

Guests were: Rt. Rev. Thomas Joseph, V. Rev. Joseph Antypas, V. Rev. Joseph F. Purpura, V. Rev. Joseph M. Shaheen, V. Rev. Elia Shalhoub, Rev. Fr. George D. Kevorkian, Rev. Fr. Michael Massouh, Rev. Fr. Michael Nasser, Rev. Fr. Thomas Zain, Archdeacon Hans El-Hayek, Archdeacon David B. Nimer, Dn. Elias Hamaty, Mr. Robert M. Aber, Mrs. Kathy J. Abraham, Mrs. Virginia Antakli, Mrs. Arlene Assile, Mrs. Judy Braun, Mrs. Carole A. Buleza, Mr. Peter S. Dacales, Mrs. Thelma Dacales, Mrs. Barbara Hebeka, Dr. Richard S. Kattouf, Kh. Hind Kevorkian, Mrs. Cheryl Khalife, Mrs. Diane Koory, Mrs. Gladys Laham, Mr. Raymond G. Mansour, Mrs. Josie A. Morrison, Mrs. Hazel Nassir, Mrs. Elsie Nassor, Mrs. Cynthia Nimey, Mrs. Grace Mary Parhamovich, Mr. Elias Saba, Mr. Al Salem, Mr. Abraham Salloum, Mrs. Marlene Samra, Kh. Odette Shalhoub, Mr. Robert Shalhoub, and Mrs. Anne Bourjaily Thomas.

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 for this Board meeting which coincides not only with the ground breaking for the new Church of St. Paul's here in Naples, Florida, but also with the historic meeting of our Local Synod to elect three new Diocesan Bishops for our Self-Ruled Archdiocese; and he extended the regrets of the following Board members who were unable to attend: Bishop Basil, V. Rev. Elias S. Bitar, V. Rev. Paul W. S. Schneirla, Mrs. Elaine Heider, Dr. Raymond J. Kyriakos, Mr. Mansour Rayan, Dr. Eugene J. Sayfie, and Mrs. A-dele N. Soffa.

His Eminence asked that we pray for the health of both Mrs. Elaine Heider, who was unable to attend this meeting, and Mr. Ernest J. Saykaly, our Vice Chairman Emeritus, who had planned to be with us, but who was admitted to the hospital last night. Fortunately, Mr. Saykaly is doing well, and he should be re-turning to Montreal very soon.

His Eminence also asked for a moment of silent prayer for the repose of the soul of Mr. Charles Dowd, who served for several years on this Board of Trustees. His funeral will take place this coming Tuesday at St. George Cathedral in Worcester, Massachusetts, and we extend our condolences to his widow, Denise. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

Following a motion by Mr. George G. Darany, seconded by Mr. Robert A. Koory, the minutes of the previous meeting of June 4, - 5, 2004, held at the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center, were ap-

proved as printed and previously distributed to all Board members.

METROPOLITAN PHILIP'S REPORT

(a) The Holy Synod Meeting

On Wednesday, October 6, 2004, Metropolitan PHILIP left for the Middle East, accompanied by V. Rev. Joseph Antypas, Dr. George J. Farha, Mr. Nicola M. Antakli, Mr. Fawaz R. El Khoury, Mr. Walid K. Khalife, and Mr. Anton K. Khoury. They were welcomed in Beirut by the Metropolitan of Australia and New Zealand on the evening of Thursday, October 7th, and, much later that evening, His Eminence and his delegation arrived at the Sheraton Hotel in Damascus.

On Friday, October 8th, His Beatitude Patriarch IGNATIUS, IV was informed that Metropolitan PHILIP and the North American delegation had arrived, and, on Saturday, October 9th, His Eminence and the entire delegation paid a social visit to His Beatitude. Following the Divine Liturgy at the Patriarchal Cathedral on Sunday, October 10th, His Beatitude hosted a lunch at the Patriarchate for the entire North American delegation.

On Monday, October 11th, Metropolitan PHILIP had a private meeting with His Beatitude, and V. Rev. Joseph Antypas took minutes. The purpose of this meeting was to confirm that the actions required by the Resolution adopted by the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Antioch on October 9, 2003, had been carried out. That is, this Resolution, which granted Self-Rule to our Antiochian Orthodox Christian Arch-diocese of North America, made it necessary, as a consequence, for the Constitution of our Archdiocese and the Constitution of the Patriarchate of Antioch to each be amended to incorporate the relevant elements of the October 9th Resolution.

Metropolitan PHILIP had with him, so that they might be discussed, the Resolution of October 9, 2003, and the Constitution of our Archdiocese, as amended unanimously by the General Assembly on July 16, 2004, at the Special Archdiocese Convention which took place in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Likewise, in keeping with the October 9th Resolution, His Eminence expected that an amended constitution of the Patriarchate would be on the agenda for review and approval by the Holy Synod.

Unfortunately, however, there seemed to be little interest in the October 9th Resolution, and an amended constitution of the Patriarchate was never forthcoming. In fact, the Meeting of the Holy Synod, which involved Tuesday, October 12th, Wednesday, October 13th, and Thursday, October 14th, was devoted almost exclusively to the presentation and review of a rather large number of amendments to the already amended Constitution of our North American Archdiocese.

When the Holy Synod then proceeded to vote on these additional amendments to our already amended constitution, His Eminence made it clear that it was necessary for him to abstain because, in our Archdiocese, we operate according to a clear and firmly established practice which includes prior discussion and consultation with both the Local Synod of our Archdiocese and the Chancellors and Department of Legal Affairs, approval by the Board of Trustees, and ratification by the General Assembly which will not meet again until July of 2005, in Dearborn, Michigan.

Late in the afternoon of Friday, October 15th, His Eminence and the North American delegation paid a farewell visit to the Patriarch. Then, on Saturday, October 16th, the entire delegation traveled to Lebanon

as a group, and, on Sunday, October 17th, the members of the delegation went their separate ways. Metropolitan PHILIP remained in Lebanon until Thursday, October 21st, when he left Beirut for London and continued on to the United States.

The re-amended (by the Holy Synod) version of the already Amended Constitution of our Archdiocese, hereinafter referred to as the Damascus Document to avoid confusing it with our Amended Constitution, was distributed to each Board member for review, and a copy has been attached to the file copy of these minutes. It was discussed briefly, but no action will be considered until it has been reviewed by both our Local Synod and the Department of Legal Affairs.

In addition to the activities associated specifically with the meeting of the Holy Synod of Antioch, the following official and social events also took place: a visit with the President of Syria, Dr. Bashar Al-Assad; lunch with Metropolitan ELIAS of Beirut; lunch with the Metropolitan of Zahleh and Bishop Niphon of Moscow; visits with the Metropolitan of Mexico and the Metropolitan of Australia and New Zealand; a sumptuous dinner at the home of the mother of Mr. Walid K. Khalife; visits with the President of Lebanon, General Emile Lahoud, and the Deputy Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mr. Issam Fares; dinner with many friends and government officials at the home of Dr. Ghassan Skaf and his wife, Maysaam; an interview by Dr. Adib Farha for NBN TV; a concert and dinner at the home of Bank Audi President, Mr. Raymond Audi; an interview by LBCI; and dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Moufarrej, also attended by the Deputy Speaker of the House of the Lebanese Government.

(b) The Enthronement of Bishop Joseph

The Enthronement of Bishop Joseph as Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles and the West took place on Sunday, September 12, 2004, which was a beautiful day. The Liturgy and the banquet which followed were both very well attended, and we all join together in offering our prayers and congratulations to Bishop Joseph, the first of our Diocesan Bishops to be enthroned. GOD GRANT HIM MANY YEARS!

(c) The Consecration of St. George Church in Portland, Oregon

After the Enthronement of Bishop Joseph, Metropolitan PHILIP and Bishop Joseph traveled to Portland, Oregon, where they consecrated the new St. George Church which will be featured on the cover of the November (04) issue of the WORD Magazine.

(d) The Local Synod Meeting

Our Local Synod met this morning to discuss Metropolitan PHILIP's trip to the Middle East and the Damascus Document, and to elect three new Diocesan Bishops, as per the action of the General Assembly at the Special Archdiocese Convention which took place this past July in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

After discussing the Holy Synod Meeting and the Damascus Document, our Local Synod decided to draft a statement in response to the Patriarch and the members of the Holy Synod of Antioch. Rev. Fr. George D. Kevorkian read this statement and indicated that it would be sent to His Beatitude and the Holy Synod over the signatures of our entire Board of Trustees. When it had been read, a number of additions, deletions, and modifications were suggested, and His Eminence requested that our Chancellors, Mr. Charles R. Ajalat and Mr. Robert A. Koory, modify the statement accordingly, and re-present it tomorrow morning for final approval, attachment of signatures, and transmission to the Patriarch and Patriarchate.

The election of bishops proceeded efficiently and with unanimity. On each of the three ballots, four votes were cast for the same individual, and the results were as follows: Rt. Rev. Thomas Joseph was unanimously elected to become the Bishop of Pittsburgh and the Diocese of the East; Rt. Rev. Mark Maymon was unanimously elected to become the Bishop of Toledo and the Diocese of the Midwest; and Rt. Rev. Rafeek Mufarrij was unanimously elected to become the Bishop of Ottawa and the Diocese of Eastern Canada and Upstate New York. Bishop Antoun has already called and notified all three Bishops-Elect, and they have all agreed to serve our Archdiocese as Diocesan Bishops.

NAC FELLOWSHIP OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE - PARISH LIFE CONFERENCES, 2004

Mrs. Gizelle "Gigi" B. Shadid, President of the NAC Fellowship of St. John the Divine, distributed to all Board members a copy of the NAC Fellowship Report, which included a statistical summary of the registration and participation figures for each of the Regional Parish Life Conferences in 2004 and, for comparison purposes, in 2003; a complete schedule of the *Footlamps Program*, planned by the Fellowship in the Diocese of Worcester and New England; and the copy of an article about the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center and the NAC Fellowship's Library Project accomplishments in Greensburg, Pennsylvania; and a copy of each 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, 14 of 16 Parishes were represented; and there were 542 registrants, 39 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 66 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 15 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 5 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 550 Festival Entries;

At this year's Eastern Region Parish Life Conference, 32 of 36 Parishes were represented; and there were 559 registrants, 81 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 84 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 20 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 14 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 943 Festival Entries;

At this year's Midwest Region Parish Life Conference, 36 of 45 Parishes were represented; and there were 727 registrants, 64 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 79 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 27 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 9 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 1,017 Festival Entries;

At this year's New England Region Parish Life Conference, 10 of 11 Parishes were represented; and there were 415 registrants, 76 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 66 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 12 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 10 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 322 Festival Entries;

At this year's Southeast Region Parish Life Conference, 27 of 30 Parishes were represented; and there were 235 registrants, 32 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 44 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 19 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 3 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 201 Festival Entries;

At this year's Southwest Region Parish Life Conference, 35 of 47 Parishes were represented; and there were 522 registrants, 59 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 72 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 18 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 5 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 487 Festival Entries; and

At this year's Western Region Parish Life Conference, 44 of 50 Parishes were represented; and there were 1,118 registrants, 102 at the Order of St. Ignatius Luncheon, 78 at the AOCWNA Luncheon, a total of 25 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 11 Oratorical Contestants, and a total of 565 Festival Entries.

In the Diocese of Worcester and New England, the Fellowship has initiated its *Footlamps Program*, which will present seven workshops at different Parishes between September 2004, and April 2005; the New Fall Format for the Fellowship in the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America involved a retreat in Oklahoma City; the Fellowship in the Diocese of New York and Washington, D.C. sent care packages to Orthodox soldiers overseas; and next month in the Diocese of Eagle River and the Northwest, the Fellowship will sponsor a Canadian Pan-Orthodox Young Adult Retreat in Edmonton, Alberta. For Seniors, the "Young at Heart" Program in Wichita provides luncheons and opportunities for fellowship, and the "Golden Years" Program in Houston provides trips, lunches, and various recreational activities.

With 121 Parishes responding, a recent Fellowship survey indicates that: 40 (33%) have an official "Fellowship" Chapter; 82 (68%) know they received a Fellowship Resource Book; 60 (50%) have "Parish Ministry Teams"; 58 (48%) have a Young Adult group; and 25 (21%) have a program for Seniors.

Following a motion by Dr. Sam H. Kouri, seconded by Mr. Robert A. Koory, the NAC Fellowship Report was accepted with an expression of thanks.

2005 ARCHDIOCESE CONVENTION PROGRESS REPORT

V. Rev. Joseph Antypas, Host Pastor, and Mr. George G. Darany, General Chairman of the Convention Committee, distributed to each Board member a copy their Convention Committee's progress report on the 47th Archdiocese Convention, scheduled for July 24, - 31, 2005, at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn, in Dearborn, Michigan. Contained in this report were welcome letters from the Host Pastor and the convention hotel, a summary of hotel amenities, a Room Reservation Form, a Souvenir Journal Order Form, and a complete listing of the Convention Committee; and a copy of each has been attached to the file copy of these minutes. Highlights of the report included the following:

The guaranteed room rate for up to four occupants is \$129.00 (plus taxes) per day; parking is free; and Souvenir Journal contributions range from \$100.00 for a Patron Listing, and \$500.00 for a regular Full Page, up to \$5,000.00 for the Back Cover.

All costs and the complete schedule of events have not been finalized, as yet, but they will be by the Spring 2005 Board meeting. At this point, the general plan is to transport everyone by bus to Troy on Monday evening for Vespers and Dinner at St. George, to hold the Order of St. Ignatius Dinner Meeting on Tuesday, with a dance on Wednesday, two Arabic Music events on Thursday, a Hafli on Friday, and two banquets on Saturday. The cost of the ticket book will probably be around \$200.00.

During the discussion which followed, it was clarified that the Concierge Rate is \$175.00 (plus taxes) per day.

Following a motion by Miss Ruth A Nimee, seconded by Mr. William D. Morrison, the 2005 Archdiocese Convention Progress Report was accepted with an expression of thanks, and all Board members were encouraged to make their room reservations and submit their Souvenir Journal ads as soon as possible.

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 the minutes.

Highlights of this report included the following:

For most of its 25 year history, the Antiochian Village Camp has lacked winterized facilities, making it necessary for all of the activities -- traditional summer camping program, Service Weekend, Special Olympics, Family Camp, and the American Camping Association Certification week which took place for the first time this year -- to take place within the limited period of four months.

Over the past four years, however, winterized cabins have been built, as well as the fully winterized Metropolitan PHILIP Welcome Lodge which contains year-round offices and two meeting rooms; and the camp's water system has also been fully winterized. With the addition of a Dining Hall that has year-round capabilities and the replacement of the older girls' cabins with insulated and heated cabins, the Camp will soon be able to provide programs on a year-round basis.

Thanks to the hard work of two interns, a new website is being designed to provide information and ongoing communication with campers, parents, staff, volunteers, and alumni. Each page of this website will contain information not only about each program, but also about the various ways in which readers can participate in different aspects of its preparation, register and attend, and donate needed funds toward it. In this connection, special thanks were extended to Mr. Sean P. Buscay who is a member of the Archdiocese Department of Communications and Information.

Two new programs will be added to the 2005 Summer Camping Program. The first, called "VilEdge Roadtrip," will take 18 older campers and 4 counselors to visit older parishes and new missions, providing our young people an opportunity to make connections between the sacrifices of the past and the responsibilities of the present and future. The second, called "Extreme VilEdge," will involve hiking for a day of caving in Laurel Caverns, a day on the Youghiogheny River, and a day on the Antiochian Village Challenge Course. As these programs become established, it is hoped that they can be expanded to include many additional destinations on a year-round basis.

Noteworthy events of this past summer include the weekend celebration, in early June, of the camping program's 25th Anniversary, and the accumulation of 3 inches of rain within a 20 minute period on the opening day of Session 3, which coincided with the beginning of the Clergy Symposium.

During the discussion which followed this report, Fr. Michael thanked Board members Dr. Anthony S. Bashir and Dr. Donald C. Howard for their service as volunteers this summer, and he also indicated that the St. Thekla Camp in Tennessee had a wonderful first season under the outstanding leadership of Paul Finley.

Having learned that the Camp needs a new truck, Mr. Nicola M. Antakli announced that he and the other Board members who accompanied His Eminence to Damascus, Mr. Fawaz R. El Khoury, Mr. Walid K. Khalife, and Mr. Anton K. Khoury will buy that truck for the Camp.

Following a motion by Dr. David G. Bojrab, seconded by Mr. William J. Nassir, the Antiochian Village Camp Report was accepted with an expression of thanks.

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE HERITAGE AND LEARNING CENTER

Rev. Fr. Michael Massouh, the Executive Director of the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Cen-

ter, 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:

In addition to the several construction projects which have been completed this past year, the dedication and grand opening of the Antiochian Village Heritage Museum this past June was a most moving and inspiring event for all who attended.

A group of 19 judges and judicial educators from throughout the country responded to their six days at the Center by asking to learn more about the Orthodox faith, and several bought books on Orthodoxy in the Bookstore. A new group, which included police officers, court officials, and social workers who investigate the deaths of children, all of whom represented every county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, was also very impressed with, and appreciative of, the facilities and the services provided by the Center.

The Clergy Symposium again took place at the Center this year, and it was an outstanding experience for everyone involved. Likewise, this year's Antiochian House of Studies was also a very enlivening experience for the 196 students who came from Ireland, Brazil, Canada, and 35 states.

During the discussion which followed the report, it was pointed out that the Gibran exhibit was the highlight of the Heritage Museum dedication and opening. Although everyone knows of his writings, very few knew that Gibran had also left many drawings which Mary Haskel kept with her after his death in 1931. It was truly a surprising and overwhelming experience for all those who saw the exhibit.

The new exhibit will display costumes from the Middle East. It was also noted that the Heritage Museum has been added to the cultural map of Westmoreland County.

Those who still have a balance on their pledge for the museum will be notified.

Following a motion by Mr. Fawaz R. El Khoury, seconded by Mr. Edward F. Assile, 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, thanks to both Fr. Michaels, the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center and the Antiochian Village Camp are operating in the black.

As previously reported, a new dining hall and kitchen will be constructed for the Camp, the cost of which is expected to be between \$1,000,000 and \$1,100,000. \$600,000 is already on hand for this project, and the Order of St. Ignatius has also pledged an additional \$250,000. Likewise, five new winterized cabins will be constructed to replace existing cabins, and two new year-round double cabins -- one for boys and one for girls -- will be added as well. Mr. George Zakzak of South Florida has pledged \$500,000 to help cover the costs of these cabins, and his thoughtfulness and generosity are most appreciated.

In response to a question about the pool, it was stated that all the necessary work has not been completed as yet, but it soon will be.

Following a motion by Mr. Alan G. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Nicola M. Antakli, the Antiochian Village Council Report was accepted with an expression of thanks.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Robert H. Laham, Treasurer, Comptroller, 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, 2004, 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 -- \$2,474,857 vs. \$2,398,843. On the other hand, the total of expenditures thus far is a bit less than the total of expenditures for the comparable period last year -- \$2,354,572 vs. \$2,396,775. As a result, there is, at this time, an excess of receipts over expenditures amounting to \$120,285, which is considerably larger than the excess of receipts over expenditures of \$2,068, noted last year at this time. For the most part, though, 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 \$95,000 has been contributed to the General Fund, and the total amount of \$5,300 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 serious consideration be given to the idea of increasing the amount of our contributions.

Following a motion by Mr. George G. Darany, seconded by Dr. David G. Bojrab, 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

Mrs. Laila R. Ferris, President of AOCWNA, distributed to each Board member a copy of the AOCWNA Report; and a copy has been attached to the file copy of these minutes. Highlights of the report included the following:

Officers of the North American Board were able to attend the AOCWNA meetings and luncheons at all seven of this year's Regional Parish Life Conferences. At the Summer Meeting which took place this past July in Pittsburgh prior to the historic Special Archdiocese Convention, the Antiochian Women made an historic announcement of their own: with the 2004 Orphanage Project proceeds of \$128,488.05, the *Antiochian Women and Katherine Ajar Endowment Fund for Orphans* has reached its goal of \$1,000,000. Thanks to the efforts of all our Antiochian Women and the generous bequest from the estate of the late Katherine Ajar -- May her Memory be Eternal -- approximately \$50,000 will now be available each year to benefit orphans around the world.

Also at this meeting, a scholarship of \$750 was presented to each of three deserving Orthodox women who, despite various interruptions, are now taking the time and making the effort to complete their higher

education.

With the blessing of His Eminence, the shortened reference to the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of North America will no longer be: "AOCWNA." It will now be: "Antiochian Women," and the new slogan will be: "Antiochian Women: A Sisterhood serving Christ by serving others." In addition, the description of "Purposes," as contained in the brochure and first identified by Metropolitan PHILIP, will now be the official "Mission Statement" of the Antiochian Women.

Looking toward the future, the Antiochian Women have accepted the challenge of raising \$500,000 over the next five years for the benefit of the Retired Clergy Housing Allowance Fund, and the slogan for this Project is: "Caring for those who care for us."

Following a motion by Bishop Antoun, seconded by Rt. Rev. Paul M. Doyle, the Antiochian Women Report was accepted with an expression of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND TITHING

Mrs. Carole A. Buleza, the Director of the Department of Christian Education and Tithing, distributed to each Board member a copy of the Department of Christian Education and Tithing Report, which included a summary of the department's services and resources; an introduction to the "To Tithe is To Love" Program, to teach children to tithe; an article entitled "To Tithe is To Love"; and a card with an excerpt from the St. John Chrysostom Homily on Ephesians; and a copy of each has been attached to the file copy of these minutes. Highlights of this report included the following:

The name of the department has been changed to include tithing in its title, and the Christian Education curriculum will now teach our children about tithing, so that, with God's help, they will begin tithing at an early age and for the rest of their lives. We will continue to encourage adults to tithe, but the thrust of our educational efforts will focus on the young, linking tithing to love and the love of God, and fostering the spiritual qualities of trust, stewardship, obedience, and giving oneself to God.

By way of preparation, tithing was the topic of the department's workshop at all of this year's Parish Life Conferences, and the same workshop will be presented next weekend at the Antiochian Village for a joint session of teachers and church school directors attending the 2004 Orthodox Institute and of parish council members attending this year's Parish Council Symposium.

The program for instruction in the classroom will take the form of a ten minute lesson added on to the lesson the teachers already have prepared for each week, and all Church School Directors should receive the instruction kit for the program in November.

Church School Directors, Teachers, Parents, and "Seekers" can find information about the department's many services and resources on its website: www.antiochian.org/christianeducation.

During the discussion which followed this report, Mrs. Buleza indicated that the OCEC publication entitled: ***THE WAY THE TRUTH THE LIFE*** is now available, and she presented a copy to Metropolitan PHILIP. It offers an informative and very readable overview of the basics of Orthodox Christianity, and the Icon on its cover was written by Mrs. Diane Koory. It was also suggested that a letter be sent to all Pastors, to let them know about the inclusion of tithing into the Christian Education curriculum, and they,

in turn, would then be able to inform the entire Parish by reading the letter from the pulpit.

Following a motion by Dr. Anthony S. Bashir, seconded by Miss Jean Sam, the report of the Department of Christian Education and Tithing was accepted with an expression of thanks.

The meeting recessed at 10:30 p.m., and reconvened at 9:30 a.m., on Saturday, October 30, 2004.

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND PARISH MINISTRY

V. Rev. Joseph F. Purpura, the Chairman of the Department of Youth and Parish Ministry, distributed to each Board member a copy of Department of Youth and Parish Ministry Report, and a copy has been attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Included in this report were: the 2005 Conference and Convention Theme ["Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind (Romans 12:2)] as well as the guidelines for the Bible Bowl and the Oratorical Festival; registration forms for the 2004 West Coast Inter-Orthodox Youth Workers Conference, scheduled for November 5, - 7, 2004, at Camp Angelos in Corbett, Oregon, and the 2004 East Coast Inter-Orthodox Youth Workers Conference, scheduled for November 12, - 14, 2004, at the Antiochian Village; registration information for the Midwest Pan-Orthodox Service Project of OYO (Orthodox Youth Outreach) scheduled for November 5, - 7, 2004 in Chicago, Illinois; a complete listing of all the 2004 - 2005 Officers and Advisors of Teen SOYO; an outline of curricula for the St. Stephen's Course - Youth Ministry Concentration and a description of that programs's course on Practical Aspects of Youth Ministry: Moral and Ethical Issues Confronting Orthodox Youth; and a contribution form for the NAC Teen SOYO St. John Chrysostom Youth Worker Fund which will provide scholarships for youth worker training when the fund, which now stands at \$52,000, reaches its goal of \$250,000.

Other highlights of this report included the following:

The 2002 Teen Parish Survey indicated that 47% of the teens in our parishes were active in Teen SOYO, that there were 18 paid and 449 volunteer youth workers across the Archdiocese, and that the total amount budgeted by all parishes for youth ministry was \$370,335. Our young people want educated youth workers because they see the difference between those who have been trained and those who have not, and, as reflected in the St. Stephen's courses and the scheduled conferences described in the report, the Department is making a concerted effort to recruit and train youth workers.

The third edition of the *Orthodox Youth Worker CD*, which contains extended Youth Ministry Material from the OCA, Greek, and Ukrainian Youth Offices, will soon be available; an interactive study guide on CD is being developed for Bible Bowl participants; and the Youth Department and NAC Teen SOYO sections on the Archdiocese Web Site have been expanded, and work is under way to assist the Regional Teen SOYO's in the development of their sites.

For the second year, funds donated by the Francis Maria Foundation have provided scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 to young people who excel in Church and Community Service. This year's recipients were: Elaina Matook of St. Mary in Pawtucket, Rhode Island; Sarah Wolf of St. George in Kearney, Nebraska; Robyn Joyce Haas of Holy Trinity in Corpus Christi, Texas; and Nicholas P. Abud of St. George in Flint, Michigan.

This coming summer, in 2005, NAC Teen SOYO will celebrate the **25th Anniversary** of its sponsorship of the Special Olympics Sports Camp at the Antiochian Village. Special Olympics Awareness Day 2004 took place on the 17th of this month, at which time, Teen SOYO raised \$36,796 which, when combined with the annual \$8,000 contribution from the Order of St. Ignatius, almost covered the actual costs of this past summer's program which amounted to \$45,413.90.

The Teen SOYO Music CD, entitled: **Sing Praises: Orthodox Christian Hymns Sung by members of Teen SOYO**, will be available for distribution as soon as His Eminence gives his final approval.

During the discussion which followed this report, Mr. Charles R. Ajalat shared the fact that participation in the OYO Program was a very positive and enlightening experience for his sons, and Mr. William J. Nassir also shared the fact that, after visiting the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center and the Museum and the Camp, his son said he wanted to attend the Antiochian Village Camp next summer.

Following a motion by Mr. Charles R. Ajalat, seconded by Dr. George J. Farha, the report of the Department of Youth and Parish Ministry was accepted with an expression of thanks.

ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

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

The Order now has almost 3,100 members, including 225 Life Members. At least one North American officer attended each of this year's Parish Life Conferences, and this practice will continue since it encourages the regional officers and improves communication.

V. Rev. Peter E. Gillquist joined Chairman, Mr. Edward F. Assile, and Vice Chairman, Mr. Daniel J. Abraham in presenting an elective seminar at the Clergy Symposium this past July. Suggestions made during the discussions included the following: that there should be a lay representative in each Parish, and the newly established position of Order Ambassador (OA) provides such a representative; that information about the work of the Order should be presented to our people as often as possible; that the Order should sponsor regular events in each Deanery; that greater emphasis should be placed on what the Order can do for the Archdiocese in the future, as opposed to focusing entirely on past accomplishments; that there should be a higher membership category, or categories; and, to minimize possible competition with Church School Christmas programs, that Pastors should have the option of changing St. Ignatius Sunday from the Sunday before Christmas to the first Sunday in December.

At its meeting yesterday, the Governing Council approved a grant of \$25,000 over two years for the Old Testament Project, and a grant of \$250,000 over four years for the Antiochian Village Camp.

During the discussion which followed this report, Bishop Joseph explained how surprised and moved he was during his enthronement to be inducted into the Order as a Life Member, and he expressed his profound thanks to all those who made it possible. In this connection, the membership goals of the Order at this point in time are to reach the total of 5,000 members, and to double the number of Life Members.

With respect to the mention of higher categories of membership, the two ideas currently under considera-

tion by the Governing Council are to increase the Life Member contribution from \$15,000 to \$20,000, and/or to establish a new level, or levels, of membership between \$1,000 and \$15,000.

It is expected that there will be at least five, and possibly six, inductions during tomorrow's Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

Following a motion by Dr. Elias K. Hebeka, seconded by Mr. Daniel J. Abraham, the report of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch was accepted with an expression of profound thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS REPORT

Dr. Joseph J. Samra, Chairman of the Search Committee to recruit a Director for the Department of Planning and Future Development, distributed to each Board member a copy of his committee's progress report; and a copy has been attached to the file copy of these minutes. Highlights of the report included the following:

The Search Committee, which includes Mrs. Arlene Assile, Mr. Edward F. Assile, Dr. Anthony S. Bashir, Mr. Fawaz R. El Khoury, Mr. Robert H. Laham, and Miss Ruth A. Nimee, met on two occasions during the Special Convention in Pittsburgh this past July. At the first meeting on Friday, July 16, Mrs. Sheryl Bourisk, Mrs. Suzie Sayfie, and Mrs. Ruth Ann Skaff were also present, as were Mr. Charles R. Ajalat, Mrs. Marlene Samra, and Dr. Eugene J. Sayfie. Various general and specific topics were discussed.

At the second meeting on Saturday, July 17, two applicants were interviewed. When these interviews were completed, it was decided that the search should continue. Notices of this position appear on the website of the Archdiocese, in the WORD and AGAIN Magazines, and in a professional publication en-titled CHRONICLE OF PHILANTHROPY.

The discussion which followed this report may be summarized as follows: in addition to skills and experience, the individual finally selected for the position must have a passion for the work which has to be done; the Committee intends to proceed cautiously and to continue searching for the right person; and all qualified candidates, Orthodox and non-Orthodox, will be considered.

While establishing endowments, encouraging estate planning for the benefit of the Archdiocese and local Parishes, and obtaining grants from foundations are all considered priorities of the department, it should be understood that they cannot be addressed all at once, and that the efforts of the new director will have to proceed in a gradual step-wise progression.

The Committee is eager to receive and consider any ideas, suggestions, or recommendations that members of the Board might have.

Following a motion by Dr. Raymond J. Rishwain, seconded by Mr. William J. Nassir, the progress report of the Search Committee to recruit a Director for the Department of Planning and Future Development was accepted with an expression of thanks.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

In the absence of V. Rev. Nabil L. Hanna, Chairman of the Department of Communications and Informa-

tion, Rev. Fr. George D. Kevorkian, the department's Information Officer, distributed a copy of the Department of Communications and Information 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:

A content management system developed for our Archdiocese website was launched on May 1st. Efforts are ongoing to add content and improve different aspects of the Archdiocese website, and, since the beginning of 2004, our Google search rank has moved up from 15th place to its current 7th place. Approximately 100 individuals have been trained to post information about their Parish, organization, department, etc., and the training of additional individuals will continue. Hardware and software at the Archdiocese Headquarters have been upgraded, and continuing assistance is provided as needed.

A new server has been installed at the Antiochian Village, and efforts continue to reduce support needs, enhance security, and extend the life of equipment at existing workstations; and consultations continue to redesign the network and telephone systems in order to save money each month, and to provide teleconferencing and wireless Internet access in both meeting and guest rooms. To assist the department, an advisory council has been established, and the members are: Rev. Fr. George D. Kevorkian, Mr. Sean P. Buscay, Mr. Daniel J. Abraham, Mr. Edward F. Assile, Mr. Ruston Miles, and Mr. Andrew Nassir.

A contract with e-Tapestry, Inc. has been established, and work is proceeding to set up a new database, and to convert old data to this new database. Difficulties with the previously contracted Oxcyon Internet Services, Inc., cost us money, lost us time, and resulted in the initiation of a lawsuit against us, and in our initiation of a countersuit. Although our case seemed very strong, when Oxcyon offered to drop its suit if we dropped our countersuit, we decided to agree.

Our website has grown to the point where it is no longer reasonable for us to share our server with the sites of other organizations, and we expect to have our own server in about a month. At the same time, efforts have also begun to develop a network of communications officers in every organization and diocese to update information and photos. Likewise, research continues for the best and most economical options for e-commerce that we can use for bookstore sales, conference registrations, receiving donations, etc.

It would be to everyone's advantage and benefit if this department were first consulted before money and time are spent on new equipment or on the upgrading of existing equipment.

During the discussion which followed, it was suggested that it would be very helpful if the website contained prayer references and an index for daily readings, similar to that listed in the WORD Magazine, as well as a cycle of day-by-day meditations based on prayer or scripture. Likewise, it was urged that we work toward having a communications officer in every Parish and Mission. It was also announced that a Webmaster Conference is scheduled to begin this coming Wednesday at St. Vladimir's Seminary.

Following a motion by Mr. Edward F. Assile, seconded by Dr. Donald C. Howard, the report of the Department of Communications and Information was accepted with an expression of thanks.

STATEMENT OF THE LOCAL SYNOD, CONTINUATION

In keeping with the suggestions offered during last night's session, the draft statement of the Local Synod was revised. A copy of this revision was distributed to each Board member, and a copy has been attached

to the file copy of these minutes. The complete text is as follows:

October 30, 2004

His Beatitude Patriarch IGNATIUS IV
and Members of the Holy Synod of Antioch

Your Beatitude and Your Eminences:

As the Board of Trustees of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, we greet you in love and seek your blessings for the Archdiocese.

We again thank you with heartfelt feeling for granting the Archdiocese to be a self-ruling archdiocese pursuant to the Decision of the Holy Synod Regarding the Status of the Antiochian Archdiocese of North America, dated October 9, 2003. As you know, pursuant to the October 9 Resolution, the Archdiocese, through its department of Legal Affairs, Board of Trustees, and ultimately the General Assembly, amended its Constitution unanimously in Pittsburgh, July 16, 2004, after following the required procedures. This Amended Constitution is binding upon the Archdiocese under New York law.

We have received the Damascus document making suggested changes in our Amended Constitution which Metropolitan PHILIP submitted, on behalf of the Archdiocese, on October 12, 2004. We have taken it under advisement, submitting it to the Department of Legal Affairs for review, to be properly addressed by the Board of Trustees at its Spring meeting in June, 2005. At that time, the Board will make a specific recommendation regarding it to the General Assembly, which will be convened in Detroit in July, 2005. It is the General Assembly which must decide and approve any amendments to the Archdiocesan Constitution.

Pursuant to Section 4, Paragraph B of the October 9, 2003 Resolution and Article 1, Section 6, Paragraph C of the Amended Constitution of the Archdiocese, which two documents are the only valid and legal documents binding on the Archdiocese, our Synod has elected three Diocesan Bishops. The Patriarch and the Holy Synod opted not to delegate three Metropolitans to participate in the election.

Pursuant to our Amended Constitution, as a matter of conciliation at this time, the Archdiocese will send the three current bishops-elect to Damascus for consecration, which we pray may take place no later than December, 2004.

Asking again for your blessings,

The Members of the Board of Trustees of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America (Signatures attached)

Mr. William D. Morrison then made the following motion: that the Board of Trustees of the Archdiocese approves the contents of the letter, as presented, and recommends that it be sent to the Patriarch and the members of the Holy Synod of Antioch, as soon as possible; and Mr. Fawaz R. El Khoury seconded. After minimal additional discussion, during which His Eminence agreed that he would call the Patriarch, as soon as it becomes feasible to do so, and discuss with him the matters dealt with in the letter, the motion was approved unanimously.

With respect to the "Damascus Document," it will be reviewed by the Chancellors and the Department of Legal Affairs and then presented to the Board of Trustees at the Spring 2005 meeting for whatever action may be indicated. If warranted, it will then be presented for consideration by the General assembly at the 2005 Archdiocese Convention in Dearborn, Michigan.

At this point, Rt. Rev. Paul M. Doyle, the Protosyngellos and Dean of Clergy, requested and was granted the floor, so that he might make the following statement:

"Your Eminence:

As Protosyngellos, I want to express the gratitude of all our Clergymen for your leadership and for all your efforts on behalf of our beloved Archdiocese. We stand behind you. May God grant you many years as our Chief Shepherd.

The Rt. Rev. Paul M. Doyle,
Protosyngellos"

NEW BUSINESS

FALL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

In anticipation of the Spring Board Meeting which will be held at the **New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge**, in Brooklyn, New York, on June 3, - 4, 2005, Rev. Fr. Thomas Zain, Dean of St. Nicholas Cathedral, distributed to each Board member a letter of invitation from the 110th Anniversary Chairperson, a Journal Ad form, and a hotel brochure; and a copy of each has been attached to the file copy of these minutes.

The room rate is \$169.00 plus tax per night, and, on Saturday evening, there will be a Grand Banquet at the Hotel. The nearest airport to the hotel is LaGuardia.

Next fall's meeting of the Board is scheduled for October 7, - 8, 2005, in Potomac, MARYland.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Dalack, Ph.D.,
Secretary