

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

Held at the Radisson Mart Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, in Miami, Florida
November 8, - 9, 2002

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. John D. Dalack, Mr. George G. Darany, Mr. Fawaz R. El Khoury, Mr. Philip A. Haddad, Dr. Elias Hebeka, Dr. Donald C. Howard, Mr. George O. Joseph, Mr. Robert A. Koory, Dr. Sam H. Kouri, Mr. Robert H. Laham, Mrs. Anne Glynn Mackoul, Mr. William D. Morrison, Mr. William J. Nassir, Mr. George N. Nassor, Mrs. Ruth A. Nimee, Mr. Walter Parhamovich, Mr. Mansour Rayan, Dr. Raymond J. Rishwain, Mrs. Marilyn T. Robbat, Dr. Eugene J. Sayfie, and Mrs. Gizelle "Gigi" Shadid; and Honorary Members: Mr. Ralph Abercia, Mr. George Elias, Jr., and Dr. Alan E. Matook.

Guests were: V. Rev. Elia Shalhoub, Rev. Fr. Kamal Al-Rahil, Rev. Fr. Nicholas Bargoot, Rev. Fr. Michael Massouh, Rev. Fr. Michael Nasser, Archdeacon Hans El-Hayek, Dn. David B. Nimer, Mrs. Virginia Antakli, Mr. Ziadeh J. Farhat, Mrs. Barbara Hebeka, Mr. Antoine Kandalaft, Mr. Anthony Khoury, Mr. Rex W. Moore, Mrs. Grace Mary Parhamovich, Mr. Al Salem, Mrs. Elaine Saliba, Mr. Abraham Sal-loum, Dr. Joseph J. Samra, III, Mrs. Marlene Samra, and Mrs. Suzie Sayfie.

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, Dr. David G. Bojrab, Dr. Yousif I. Hamati, Mrs. Elaine Heider, Dr. Raymond J. Kyriakos, Mr. Kenneth M. Laham, Miss Jean Sam, Mrs. Adele N. Soffa, and Mr. A. Ernest Younes.

His Eminence informed everyone that our Vicar General, V. Rev. Elias S. Bitar, suffered a mild heart attack yesterday. Thank God, his condition appears to be stable, and he seems to be doing quite well under the circumstances. We will all pray for his speedy recovery. We also should keep Miss Jean Sam in our prayers, since she was not feeling well enough to be present at this meeting.

Following a motion by Mr. Robert A. Koory, seconded by Mrs. Anne Glynn Mackoul, the minutes of the previous meeting of May 29, - 30, 2002, held at the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center, were accepted as printed and previously distributed to all Board members.

METROPOLITAN PHILIP'S REPORT

Metropolitan PHILIP indicated that what he wished to present to the Board concerning his historic trip to attend the meeting of the Holy Synod of the Patriarchate of Antioch has already been made available to everyone in the September, October, and November issues of the WORD Magazine. In particular, he encouraged the Board members to pay special attention to the thorough and detailed account written by V. Rev. Joseph Antypas in the September issue.

The delegation which accompanied His Eminence included V. Rev. Joseph Antypas, Dr. George J. Farha, Mr. Nicola M. Antakli, and Mr. Fawaz R. El Khoury. They offered whatever support they could,

but the meeting of the Holy Synod was extremely difficult. From Tuesday through Friday, discussions focused on one and only one topic: the Autonomy which Metropolitan PHILIP sought for our North American Archdiocese.

It seemed to be extremely difficult to get the members of the Holy Synod to understand that the Autonomy we are seeking amounts to nothing more and nothing less than the authority to nominate and elect our own bishops. Aside from this specific request, we are not seeking to change anything else. We want to maintain the close relationship and ties we have always had with the Patriarchate. We want our Metropolitan Archbishop to be nominated and elected in accordance with the procedures that have always been in place. Our intention is to make the Patriarchate stronger by making ourselves stronger.

The deliberations were finally brought to a halt when a resolution granting our Autonomy was introduced by Metropolitan GEORGE (Khodr) of Mount Lebanon and subsequently ratified by the members of the Holy Synod. The full text of this resolution was printed in both Arabic and English in the September issue of the WORD Magazine.

Some details still need to be worked out, and this task will be accomplished when a delegation consisting of Bishop Basil, V. Rev. Joseph Antypas, Dr. George J. Farha, and Mr. Charles R. Ajalat meets with a delegation from the Patriarchate in Geneva on the 20th, 21st, and, if necessary, 22nd of November 2002.

The remainder of the report of His Eminence dealt with the many services, state visits, receptions, special events, etc., which he and his delegation shared and participated in; and the members themselves had the opportunity to share their own observations and reactions to all that took place during the entire trip.

His Eminence was greeted and welcomed with great love and respect everywhere he went, by Christians and Muslims alike, including for example, our own Metropolitan ELIAS (Audi) of Beirut; as well as such officials as the President of Syria; the President, Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, and Speaker of the House of Lebanon; the President of Balamand University and the Dean of the Balamand School of Theology; and the Ambassadors from the United States to Syria and Greece, to mention only a few.

Especially inspiring was the occasion when His Eminence dedicated the Cultural and Athletic Complex at Balamand University which was a gift from our Archdiocese. The address he delivered was very well received by the students, and everyone was moved very deeply by the subsequent relay race held in his honor, in which a young man in a wheel-chair began the race, and the a young woman who ran last presented the baton to Metropolitan PHILIP.

It also happened that the birthday of His Eminence occurred during this trip, and, when the members of our Antiochian delegation expressed the desire to celebrate the occasion in some way, they honored his wish to do something for others. In response, they presented a donation of \$10,000 in his name to provide aid to the victims of a flood in North Aleppo.

NAC FELLOWSHIP OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE - PARISH LIFE CONFERENCES, 2002

Mrs. Gizelle "Gigi" 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 statistical summaries of the registration and participation figures for each of the seven Regional Parish Life Conferences that took

place in 2000, 2001, and 2002, as well as for the 2001 Archdiocese Convention that took place in Los Angeles; and a copy has been attached to the file copy of these minutes. Highlights of this report included the following:

The Fellowship has created and sponsored the PLC Database to assist Host Parishes with such tasks as scheduling, registration, and producing reports; and, next year in 2003, it will be used at six of the seven Regional Parish Life Conferences, as well as at the Archdiocese Convention in Miami.

At this year's Can-Am Region Parish Life Conference, 285 registrants, representing 12 of the Region's 16 Parishes, were in attendance, and there was a total of 9 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 6 Oratorical Contestants, a total of 486 Festival Entries, a total of 41 at the Order of St. Ignatius Meeting, and a total of 55 at the AOCWNA Meeting;

At this year's Eastern Region Parish Life Conference, 605 registrants, representing 26 of the Region's 36 Parishes, were in attendance, and there was a total of 12 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 16 Oratorical Contestants, a total of 774 Festival Entries, a total of 62 at the Order of St. Ignatius Meeting, and a total of 52 at the AOCWNA Meeting;

At this year's Midwest Region Parish Life Conference, 776 registrants, representing 37 of the Region's 47 Parishes, were in attendance, and there was a total of 26 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 11 Oratorical Contestants, a total of 851 Festival Entries, a total of 77 at the Order of St. Ignatius Meeting, and a total of 106 at the AOCWNA Meeting;

At this year's New England Region Parish Life Conference, 485 registrants, representing all 10 of the Region's Parishes, were in attendance, and there was a total of 23 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 9 Oratorical Contestants, a total of 300 Festival Entries, a total of 65 at the Order of St. Ignatius Meeting, and a total of 87 at the AOCWNA Meeting;

At this year's Southeast Region Parish Life Conference, 354 registrants, representing 22 of the Region's 28 Parishes, were in attendance, and there was a total of 17 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 6 Oratorical Contestants, a total of 197 Festival Entries, a total of 67 at the Order of St. Ignatius Meeting, and a total of 76 at the AOCWNA Meeting;

At this year's Southwest Region Parish Life Conference, 607 registrants, representing 35 of the Region's 42 Parishes, were in attendance, and there was a total of 23 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 9 Oratorical Contestants, a total of 401 Festival Entries, a total of 95 at the Order of St. Ignatius Meeting, and a total of 88 at the AOCWNA Meeting; and

At this year's Western Region Parish Life Conference, 1,192 registrants, representing 41 of the Region's 50 Parishes, were in attendance, and there was a total of 21 Bible Bowl Teams, a total of 13 Oratorical Contestants, a total of 361 Festival Entries, a total of 162 at the Order of St. Ignatius Meeting, and a total of 123 at the AOCWNA Meeting.

For several years now, the Archdiocese website (www.antiochian.org) has been a major project of the Fellowship; and, under the leadership of V. Rev. Nabil L. Hanna, Chairman of the Department of Communications and Information, the Fellowship and the Order of St. Ignatius are involved in a joint venture to upgrade this website, at a cost of almost \$60,000. The Archdiocese database and the WORD Magazine mailing list will be integrated into this website, and it is anticipated that all the updates will be implemented within the next month.

Efforts continue to complete the 2004 Library Ministry Project, the goal of which is to place 2004 Orthodox books in local libraries by the year 2004. With the help of Light and Life on this project, a special rate of \$145.30 for all 12 books has been established, and at this point, the goal will be reached as soon as another 167 sets of books are purchased.

V. Rev. Boniface Black has been the NAC Coordinator for the St. Philip's Prayer Discipline, and he has requested that a new Coordinator be named to replace him.

This past August, the 2nd Annual Young Adult Conference took place at the Antiochian Village, and the 30 young adults who attended responded most enthusiastically to the workshops, worship, fellowship and spiritual renewal which this conference provided for them.

The Fellowship continues in its efforts to provide programs and activities which will minister to the differing needs of Young Adults, Adults, and Seniors, and, at the same time, keep them actively involved in the life of their Parish.

During the discussion which followed, it was reported that efforts are currently in progress to find out exactly how many Fellowship Chapters there are throughout the Archdiocese.

Following a motion by Mr. Robert H. Laham, seconded by Dr. Sam H. Kouri, the report of the NAC Fellowship of St. John the Divine was accepted with an expression of thanks.

2003 ARCHDIOCESE CONVENTION PROGRESS REPORT

V. Rev. Elia Shalhoub, Host Pastor of the Cathedral of St. George in Coral Gables, Florida, and Mrs. Suzie Sayfie and Rev. Dn. David B. Nimer, Co-Chairmen of the Convention Committee for the 46th Archdiocese Convention, scheduled for July 20, - 27, 2003, at the Fontainebleau Hilton in Miami, Florida, distributed to each Board member a copy of their Convention Committee's Progress Report. Also included with this report were a room registration form, a convention registration form, and a form for the Commemorative Journal; and a copy of each has been attached to the file copy of these minutes. Highlights of this progress report included the following:

The rate for regular rooms with single, double, triple, or quadruple occupancy is \$119 per night; for Concierge Rooms in the Towers, the rates are \$170 with a bay view and \$195 with an ocean view; and the rates for suites are \$450 and up. The rate for Valet Parking is \$14 per night.

Ticket Book prices are: \$189 for an Early Bird Adult Book, \$199 for a Regular Adult Book, \$99 for an Early Bird Youth Book, and \$109 for a Regular Youth Book; and all books include Wednesday through Saturday night events.

The basic rates for the Commemorative Journal are \$100 for an eighth page, \$150 for a quarter page, \$250 for a half page, and \$500 for a full page; and, with the exception of the rate for the Back Cover which is \$10,000, various special pages are also available at rates ranging from \$750 to \$5,000.

The General Schedule is as follows:

On Monday, July 21: the Governing Council of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch will meet; tours have been planned; and, in the evening, there will be a visit to, and reception at, St. George Cathedral for Clergy and Board of Trustees and their spouses;

on Tuesday, July 22: Bible Study, Divine Liturgy, Clergy Breakfast, Spiritual Discussions and Educational Assemblies for the Youth, and the Clergy Wives Sisterhood will take place in the morning; the General Assemblies of the Clergy, the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch, the Fellowship of St. John the Divine, and NAC Teen SOYO will take place throughout the day; after Vespers, the Reception and Dinner of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch will take place; and bus transportation will be provided to Lincoln Road and South Beach;

on Wednesday, July 23: Bible Study, Divine Liturgy, Clergy Breakfast, and Spiritual Discussions and Educational Assemblies for the Youth will take place in the morning, followed by the AOCWNA Luncheon and General Assembly; all Department Meetings will be held throughout the day; and, following Vespers, the Bible Bowl will take place and be followed by a South Beach Hospitality Night at the Fontainebleau;

on Thursday, July 24: following Bible Study and the Divine Liturgy, the first session of the General Assembly of the Archdiocese will take place; and, after Vespers, the "Floribbean" Extravaganza will take place;

on Friday, July 25: following Bible Study and the Divine Liturgy, the General Assembly of the Archdiocese will continue and conclude; and, after Vespers, the Grand Hafli and Teen Dance will take place;

on Saturday, July 26: following Bible Study and the Divine Liturgy, the Oratorical Festival, the Board of Trustees Luncheon Meeting, the Jerusalem Task Force Meeting, the IOCC Meeting, and the Enlivening to Christ will take place; and, after Vespers, there will be a Reception, Dinner Dance, and Youth Dance and Dinner; and

on Sunday, July 27: the convention will conclude with an Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

Following a motion by Mr. Fawaz R. El Khoury, seconded by Mr. Mansour Rayan, the 2003 Archdiocese Convention Progress Report was accepted with an expression of thanks; and all Board members were urged to submit their Commemorative Journal ads, and to make their room reservations as soon as possible.

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE CAMP - 2002

Rev. Fr. Michael Nasser, Director of the Antiochian Village Camp, distributed to each Board member a copy of the Antiochian Village Camp report and two copies of a brochure entitled: THE FATHER JOHN NAMIE FUND FOR THE ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE; and a copy of each has been attached to the file copy of these minutes.

Highlights of this report included the following:

Fr. Michael received an e-mail message from the parent of a camper, and the following points were a part of this message: "...What is most astounding is that a two-week trip to your camp can alter their

perspective for the entire year (and hopefully their lives). I must admit, I am continually floored by the changes (and they are all positive), inspired by the Antiochian Village."

In July, Ms. Marge Scanlin, Standards Director of the national office of the American Camping Association (ACA), visited with the director of a nation-wide study of the long-term effectiveness of the camp experience. In this study, campers will be surveyed before, during, and at regular intervals after their stay at camp. There are more than 2,000 member camps of the ACA, and the Antiochian Village was one of the 100 camps chosen to participate in this study, and one of the five camps chosen to receive a visit for a more in-depth analysis. Because of the spirituality demonstrated by the campers and the staff, Ms. Scanlin indicated that she considered our camp to be "exceptional" and "absolutely unique."

Toward the end of summer, a rally was held for five cyclists of IOCC's Race to Respond, and they were presented with a contribution of \$1,730.75 which was donated by campers and staff.

At the end of this summer's camping season, Mr. Khalil Samara bid a fond but sad farewell to his position as Assistant Director, since he is to begin his studies at the Holy Cross School of Theology this fall; and His Eminence has appointed Mr. Marek Simon to be the new Assistant Director.

At the present time, we have a total of four camps serving campers. In addition to the Antiochian Village Camp, there is: Camp St. Nicholas in Los Angeles, St. Raphael Camp in Oklahoma, and St. John Cathedral Camp in Alaska; and Rev. Fr. Michael Nasser has oversight responsibility for all of them. As soon as all the necessary preparations have been completed, and pending the approval of Metropolitan PHILIP, we will soon have another camp in the Can-Am Region, and one in the Southeast Region. In this connection, the Antiochian Village Council is in the process of considering the proposal submitted by Council member, Dr. Joseph J. Samra, III, which addresses the issues and problems associated with the ever-increasing demand for appropriate oversight as the number of Antiochian Archdiocese Camps continues to increase.

The Metropolitan PHILIP Welcome Lodge and the new Maintenance Facility were dedicated this past May when the spring meeting of the Archdiocese Board of Trustees took place at the Antiochian Village. Thanks to the continued generosity and support of the Order of St. Ignatius, the aging, cramped, and deteriorating girls' cabins will be replaced by nine new double cabins; and the first of these has already been completed.

Since there is a continuing need for extensive renovations, and possibly even some new construction, His Eminence has charged the Village Council with the task of raising the approximately \$1,700,000 which will be needed to complete the necessary work. A good portion of this total amount is already available, thanks to the Metropolitan PHILIP Endowment Fund, the General Fund of the Archdiocese, the Order of St. Ignatius, and the Edward Cain Trust Fund.

The Villagers Alumni Fellowship held the First Alumni Fellowship Weekend this summer, and their plan is to make it an annual event. The 50 participants decided to establish local committees of Villagers to facilitate year-round fellowship among alumni in different areas across the Archdiocese. Also, \$70,000 was pledged toward the Villagers' total commitment of \$700,000 to support the Camp's renovation program.

With respect to the THE FATHER JOHN NAMIE FUND FOR THE ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE, Fr. Michael asked that all the Board members take the brochures back to their home Parishes and share them with former campers and any others who might be interested.

During the discussion which followed, it was reported that a committee has been established in Southeast Region to locate potential sites for a camp in that Region, and one possibility has been identified in Alabama. Efforts will continue to identify other possibilities, and, when a final decision is made, it is important that the following points be remembered and strictly adhered to: on the one hand, those who are directly involved in the camp will be responsible for carrying out their own counselor training, program development, etc.; and, on the other, all their decisions and activities must conform to the guidelines that have been developed by Fr. Michael and his staff, since every aspect of what goes on will be under Fr. Michael's supervision.

It was also reported that, since the pool at the Antiochian Village Camp is serviceable and will be ready for use during the 2003 camping season, there does not seem to be any reason at this time to consider any kind of extensive work or significant expenditures.

Following a motion by Mr. Walter Parhamovich, seconded by Dr. Raymond J. Rishwain, the Antiochian Village Camp report was accepted with an expression of 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:

Total revenues for this fiscal year are expected to exceed \$1,300,000, the highest in the Center's history, and an additional increase of approximately 15% is anticipated for next year. With very few exceptions, the Center served groups of varying sizes on an almost nightly basis during the months of July, August, September, and October. As a result, there were many stretches of time when the limited staff had to put in rather long work days on a seven-day-a-week basis; and while this kind of continuous activity had a favorable effect on revenues, it put an enormous strain on personnel and resources, in general. In fact, the Conference Coordinator who was hired in April left in October.

Much of this increased volume is attributable to the successful efforts of the Marketing and Program Development Director who was hired last year.

Meetings of the St. Vincent Seminary Faculty have taken place here at the Center for several years now; this year, Robert Morris College has held a number of leadership conferences here; and it is expected that, next year, the Center for Liturgical Studies at Georgetown University will also hold a conference here. Golden Triangles, an arts and crafts group which has been booking approximately 30 rooms for the past few years, has booked 59 rooms for this year and plans to book 79 rooms for four days next year.

In addition to the Elderhostel Seminars which took place this summer and this fall, another seminar on the Origins of Christmas Traditions has been planned for December 10, 2002, and another on Christian-Muslim Relations has been planned for March 2003.

As for our own Orthodox groups, the Clergy Symposium, Sacred Music Institute, Camper Alumni, Young Adult Conference, Antiochian House of Studies, Ss Thekla and Raphael Pilgrimage, Christian Education Institute, and Parish Council Symposium have already taken place at the Center. Other

Orthodox groups included are a committee meeting of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), and a board meeting of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC).

Since we have experienced an increase in demand for the use of our Center, we now have to plan appropriately for a corresponding increase in staff and other resources to accommodate that increase.

During the discussion which followed this report, a good deal of concern was expressed over the fact that only 26 Parishes were represented at the Parish Council Symposium. Hopefully, the Center and the Archdiocese Headquarters will coordinate efforts to increase attendance and participation for next year.

Following a motion by Dr. Elias Hebeka, seconded by Mr. William D. Morrison, the report of the Antiochian Village Heritage and Learning Center was accepted with an expression of profound thanks and appreciation.

ANTIOCHIAN VILLAGE COUNCIL

Mr. Robert H. Laham, Chairman of the Antiochian Village Council, reported that, as far as programs and finances are concerned, both the Heritage Center and the Camp seem to be doing relatively well. However, there continue to be issues which deserve attention, and the Council has formulated the following recommendations or proposals to deal with them:

First, the Council requested the permission and approval of His Eminence to obtain the assistance and consultation of an expert who can help us with our short-term and long-term planning, who can help us ensure that the work which needs to be done in the short-term is carried out in a well organized fashion, and who can help us see to it that such work is well integrated and well coordinated with plans for the long-term.

Since much of the work that goes on is reactive, i.e., making repairs as needs and emergencies arise, and tends to take on a kind of patchwork quality, since we now know that, because of the weather and the remoteness, the Antiochian Village is not a suitable location for an old age home, and since some important questions have arisen concerning the most advantageous placement and positioning of such items as cab-ins and the pool, for example, the Council felt that it is wiser to seek expert advice sooner, rather than later.

Next, the Council requested the permission and approval of His Eminence to make a 403(b) Retirement Plan available to all the non-clergy employees of the Archdiocese, especially those at the Antiochian Village. Since 1991, this plan has been in place for non-clergy employees at the Archdiocese Headquarters, and it is now time for the appropriate committee to be established and the necessary steps to be taken, so that all other non-clergy employees may be informed and may have the opportunity to choose whether or not they wish to participate in this plan.

Third, the Council requested the permission and approval of His Eminence to participate in a program that will make it possible for the Antiochian Village to receive donations online through the Camp Website. Council member, Dr. Joseph J. Samra, III, has provided the information that a company named the Network for Good will track donations, send letters of verification to donors, and provide this service without charge.

The only charges which might apply are a \$15 to \$20 registration fee in each of four states. The Archdiocese is exempt in the other 46. Information was not provided concerning Canada. The possibility also exists for the Archdiocese and all its departments to receive donations by this method.

His Eminence gave his permission and approval for all three of these Antiochian Village Council requests.

The plans for the Museum and the Library are about 90% completed, and, as soon as they are entirely complete, probably within the next week or two, the request for bids will go out. At this point, it is estimated that the total cost will be in the \$2,250,000 to \$2,300,000 range, but the actual figures will not be available until the bids have been received. The plans which are ready will be posted for Board members to inspect when the meeting reconvenes tomorrow morning. It is estimated that, once it begins, the job itself should be completed in approximately eight months. At this point, the payments on pledges seem to be up to date, but it was requested that, if at all possible, those who have pledged should try to complete their payments as soon as possible.

In closing his report, Mr. Laham commended the staffs of both the Camp and the Heritage and Learning Center for the outstanding job they are doing; and he expressed his thanks and appreciation to all the members of the Antiochian Village Council, namely: Bishop Antoun, V. Rev. Joseph J. Allen, Rev. Fr. Michael Massouh, Rev. Fr. Michael Nasser, Mr. Peter S. Dacales, Mrs. Elaine Heider, Mr. Kenneth Kaleel, and Mr. Robert A. Koory, Mrs. Evelyn A. Koury, Mr. Steven Koury, Mrs. Anne Glynn Mackoul, Mr. George N. Nassor, Mr. Walter Parhamovich, Dr. Joseph J. Samra, III, and Mrs. Gizelle "Gigi" Shadid.

Following a motion by Mr. George G. Darany, seconded by Mr. Alan G. Abraham, the report of the Antiochian Village Council was accepted with an expression of profound gratitude and appreciation.

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 nine month period ending October 31, 2002; and a copy has been attached to the file copy of these minutes. The summary of Individual Contributions to Archdiocese funds, which is usually attached to this report, had not been prepared in time for presentation at this meeting.

As presented, the total of receipts thus far are running ahead of the receipts for the comparable period last year: \$2,487,229 vs. \$2,426,463; but it is essentially within budget guidelines and expectations for this time of year. Likewise, the total of expenditures is also running ahead of the expenditures for the comparable period last year: \$2,489,931 vs. \$2,411,113; but it also is essentially within budget guidelines and expectations for this time of year.

The excess of expenditures over receipts at this time, which amounts to (\$2,702), represents a less favorable position than the excess of receipts over expenditures amounting to \$15,350, noted last year at this time; and the two main reasons for this are: first, since there has been a decline in the total economy, there has been a corresponding decrease in receipts from Tithing Parishes; and, second, since there has been a substantial increase in the total number of seminarians, there has been a corresponding increase expenditures for Theological Education.

Even though the specific names and figures with respect to the contributions from individuals to the General Fund and to the various other departments, organizations, etc., were not available for presentation at this meeting, those Board members who have not made their contributions as yet were encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

During the discussion which followed, it was requested that every effort be made to expedite, and even complete if possible, payments on the five-year pledges that were made two years ago.

Following a motion by Mrs. Ruth A. Nimee, seconded by Mr. George O. Joseph, the nine month interim financial report was approved with an expression of special thanks and commendation to Mr. Robert H. Laham and to all the members of the Department of Finance: Bishop Antoun, Rev. Fr. Michael Massouh, Rev. Fr. Michael Nasser, Dr. George J. Farha, Mr. Peter S. Dacales, Mr. Sabry J. Mackoul, Mr. George N. Nassor, and Dr. Raymond J. Rishwain, who contribute 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. Marilyn T. Robbat, the President of AOCWNA, distributed a copy of her 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 Summer Meeting at the Antiochian Village this past July was well attended. The session was blessed by a visit from Metropolitan PHILIP and Bishop Antoun, and by a presentation from Bishop Joseph who spoke to the women about their Patron Saint: "MARY THE THEOTOKOS - LIFE AND VIRTUES."

On that occasion, the Antiochian Women presented Metropolitan PHILIP with a check for \$158,732.06, which, thanks to the efforts of Laila Ferris, the NAB Vice President and Project Coordinator, and Cynthia Nimey, the NAB Treasurer, was raised by all of our women throughout the Archdiocese, for PROJECT 2002: ORPHANAGES AND THE ORPHAN ENDOWMENT FUND. Of this amount, \$95,000 will be added to the ORPHAN ENDOWMENT FUND, increasing that fund to \$300,000; and the remaining \$63,732.06 will be distributed among a number of orphanages.

Also on this occasion, thanks to the efforts of Grace Mary Parhamovich, the NAB Scholarship Coordinator, six scholarships of \$500 each were awarded to deserving women who are continuing their education.

A letter requesting contributions to the Married Seminarian Fund has been sent to the AOCWNA chapter in every Parish and Mission of the Archdiocese. Originally established with \$15,000 from Project 1984 proceeds and \$22,898 from Project 1986 proceeds, this fund currently stands at \$45,000. This recent solicitation was deemed necessary, because the number of married seminarians has increased, while interest rates have decreased. Since its inception, this fund has provided a total of approximately \$75,000 in Christmas gifts to more than 100 married seminarians.

The Mid-Winter Meeting will take place on the weekend of February 7, - 9, 2003, at the Antiochian Village.

The 30th Anniversary Celebration of AOCWNA (1973 - 2003) will take place at the 2003 Archdiocese Convention, this coming July, in Miami, during the AOCWNA Luncheon Meeting. Everyone is invited to join in this celebration.

During the discussion which followed this report, the Board was informed that, even though all of our seminarians receive a full scholarship, plus a monthly allowance, the married seminarians are most appreciative of the additional help they receive from AOCWNA at Christmas time; and the December issue of the WORD Magazine will present some of the powerful letters which have been received in response. Also, it was clarified that the average cost, per student, across the four seminaries in which our seminarians study, is approximately \$15,000 per year.

Following a motion by Mrs. Ruth A. Nimee, seconded by Mrs. Anne Glynn Mackoul, the AOCWNA Re-port was accepted with an expression of thanks.

The meeting was recessed at 10:30 p.m., and it was reconvened at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, November 9, 2002.

ORDER OF ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

Dr. Raymond J. Rishwain, 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:

Since the spring meeting of the Board this past May, 128 new members have been inducted into the Order, and, if we include the number of inductions planned for this weekend both here in Miami and else-where in the Archdiocese, our total membership is now very close to 2,800. The number of Life Members now stands at 191, and there is every reason to believe that we will reach our goal of 3,000 members by the 2003 Archdiocese Convention in Miami.

It is hoped that all members of the Order will think very seriously about: a) upgrading their membership if at all possible; and b) encouraging their spouses who are not already members of the Order to consider becoming members in the very near future.

One or more members of the Governing Council attended all seven of this past summer's Regional Parish Life Conferences, and they had the opportunity to deliver the message of the Order to everyone who was at the conference.

Our Chaplain, V. Rev. Joseph J. Allen, was honored recently for his thirty-five years as a member of the Clergy in our Archdiocese, and this celebration coincided with the celebration of the 45th Anniversary of his Parish of St. Anthony, in Bergenfield, New Jersey.

During the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that, in particular, Mr. Edward F. Assile, our Vice Chairman, and Mr. Daniel J. Abraham, our Membership Chairman, have been traveling a great deal, and working very hard to attract new members; and their efforts have been quite successful.

Following a motion by Mr. Nicola M. Antakli, seconded by Dr. Sam H. Kouri, the report of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch was accepted with an expression of profound thanks.

OLD BUSINESS

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Mrs. Anne Glynn Mackoul, our Patriarchate's representative to the World Council of Churches, distributed to each Board member a copy of her report which updated recent activities of the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches, as well as an outline of the agenda for next week's meeting in Tampa, Florida, of the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches; and a copy of each has been attached to the file copy of these minutes. Highlights of this report included the following:

A summary of the decisions and recommendations approved by the World Council of Churches Special Commission on Orthodox Participation appeared in the November issue of the WORD Magazine.

Since the notion of common prayer is problematic for the Orthodox (praying with heathens, as it were) the document which emerged sought to foster a more conciliatory attitude that was respectful of all traditions and to open the door to decision making by consensus instead of by vote which divides a group into winners and losers.

As a result, each denomination or jurisdiction can decide whether or not to participate in common prayer, to leave and have no involvement of any kind, to remain as a non-participating observer, etc. Likewise, the door was opened to enable non-members to remain connected and to participate in the dialogue.

With respect to the National Council of Churches, both Mrs. Mackoul and V. Rev. Olof Scott are planning to attend next week's meeting in Tampa, and it is anticipated that a strong position will be taken in support of the efforts of the Palestinian people to be treated with dignity and justice in keeping with United Nations resolutions.

During the discussion which followed, it was clarified that approximately 25% of the 150 representatives are Orthodox, and that the Orthodox are often negligent in paying their dues, although our Patriarchate does contribute the required 1,000 Swiss francs a year, and more.

Following a motion by Mr. George N. Nassor, seconded by Mr. Robert A. Koory, this update on the activities of the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches was accepted with an expression of thanks.

NEW BUSINESS

OPEN DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT OF AUTONOMY

The open discussion on the subject of Autonomy which took place at this point in the meeting focused primarily on the issues and details which, as reported earlier, still remain to be clarified and worked out at the meeting in Geneva, scheduled for later this month; and the critical points made during that discussion can be summarized as follows:

It was considered to be essential that the members of our delegation to Geneva have with them and be prepared to present the draft of a constitution that spells out the intentions and the thinking and the vision of Metropolitan PHILIP concerning the way our Autonomous Archdiocese will function and

operate and relate to the Patriarchate of Antioch, of which we will continue to be an integral and vital part.

In response, His Eminence indicated that, with invaluable assistance from Mrs. Anne Glynn Mackoul, he has been working on such a draft for our delegation to present in Geneva. In response to this information, it was definitely the consensus of the Board members that our Antiochian Archdiocese should always remain a single, united, and undivided entity with a strong centralized governing administration.

The tentative date for the Spring Meeting of the Board is May 30 - 31, 2003, in Englewood, New Jersey.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John D. Dalack, Ph.D.,
Secretary