

December 13, 2016

Christ is in our Midst!

During this Advent period of our Orthodox faith we prepare ourselves in joyful anticipation for the Greatest Gift of all ... our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On behalf of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch Governing Council, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your membership but more importantly for helping us make a difference in countless lives. We pray that during this Blessed Season and in the upcoming year, you will experience good health, prosperity and the love of your family and friends. May God bless you and keep you under His watchful care.

During this time of year we are called to draw our focus to the Nativity of our Lord and His example of humility, compassion and love. The works of the Order emanate from these three principles and are also embodied in the words of St. Ignatius himself which serve as The Order's governing principle:

“Let no man's place, or dignity, or riches, puff him up; and let no man's low condition or poverty abase him. For the chief points are faith towards God, hope towards Christ, the enjoyment of those good things for which we look, and love towards God and our neighbor.”

As a member and in humility, you recognize that what you have is from God himself and it is your responsibility to give from your abundance to those in need. In compassion, you not only give of what you have but you also strive to do it in a spirit of compassion and love. As members of the Order you give without expecting anything in return and without recognition by the Order's recipients. Your gift is an unconditional, personal sacrifice. It is an act of Faith that is infinite in its effect.

In Fiscal year 2017 the impact of your gift to the Order has been felt by many and in many different ways. The Order's Fiscal Year 2017 budget included **\$325,000** to support our retired clergy, active clergy and seminarians, **\$403,000** for the youth of the Antiochian Archdiocese (including camp scholarships), **\$295,000** toward Archdiocese programs and departments for the development & growth of the Antiochian Archdiocese, and **\$185,000** in outreach to organizations including but not limited to the IOCC, Syrian Relief, Project Mexico and other grant requests for which the Governing Council budgeted.

Clergy	\$325,000	Youth Of the Archdiocese	\$403,000	Archdiocese Development & Growth	\$295,000	Outreach	\$185,000
Retired Clergy Housing Allowance	\$270,000	Summer Camp Scholarship	\$190,000	Missions & Evangelism	\$130,000	IOCC & Syrian Relief Combined	\$75,000
Married Seminarian Assistance	\$15,000	Youth Ministry	\$120,000	Planning & Future Development	\$40,000	Project Mexico	\$10,000
Clergy Symposium & Convention Assistance	\$40,000	SOYO Special Olympics	\$8,000	Parish Development Fund	\$25,000	Budget For Grant Requests	\$100,000
		SOYO Leadership & Youth Worker Training	\$30,000	Internet Ministry	\$100,000		
		Christian Education	\$40,000				
		College Conference	\$15,000				

On behalf of the Governing Council and the lives you help change with your support, thank you and God Bless you.

In His service,

Roger J. David
National Chairperson
The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch