

Works of The Order in Action!

The More You know Them, The More You Love Them

I have been so lucky to have served on the Governing Council of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch for approximately 10 years. The Council is the group of volunteers (who are elected or appointed) members of our Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese and has the responsibility of making many of the important decisions for the Order. They are hardworking and dedicated parishioners from all of our Dioceses of North America. I have had the pleasure to meet and work with these wonderful people and the more I got to know them, the more I admired and loved them. They travel all over the USA and Canada (at their own expense) to attend meetings and to accompany our Diocesan Bishops during their visits to the various parishes. As an east coast USA parishioner, I probably would have not had the chance to meet such wonderful people from various parts of North America had I not joined the Order. I am blessed to have had this opportunity.



As Very Rev. Joseph Antypas wrote recently in *The Word* "Orthodoxy is not a denomination. It is a way of life characterized by discipline, good character and a willingness to reach out to others", which, in fact, is a great description of the members of the Governing Council of the Order. You can see the influence of the Order in many areas. Parishes are very aware of the Antiochian Village Camp scholarships from the Order to our youngsters. There are however many other projects the Order supports financially, for example, the annual contribution of \$270,000 to the Retired Clergy Housing Allowance, \$130,000 for Missions & Evangelism, \$100,000 for Internet Ministry, the Married Seminarian Assistance, the Youth Ministry, Christian Education Fund, and many other worthwhile projects.

If you want to learn more about the Order, please ask your Pastor or talk to the Order Ambassador in your Parish or to a member of the Order. If you are not a member, I hope you join us and enjoy seeing the fruit of your contribution to the Order of St. Ignatius and perhaps eventually you will become part of the Governing Council and get to meet the wonderful brothers and sisters I have described above.

Elias K. Hebeka, Ph.D.
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