



The Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch

The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

Works of The Order in Action!

Message from The North American Chairman

Thirty-seven years ago, His Eminence Metropolitan PHILIP created The Order of St. Ignatius to enable the laity of our Archdiocese to organize and raise funds for provision to various philanthropic endeavors that would make a difference in the lives of many. Indeed, there is nothing more humbling in life than to learn that an act of charity or philanthropy has made a difference in the life of another person.

Over the past several months, you have had the opportunity to read articles prepared by some of the grant recipients of The Order. These Orthodox organizations and departments represent a mere fraction of the organizations that receive funds from The Order. The four specific projects referenced in the articles have received from The Order \$267,340 this year alone.

From the inception of The Order to date, International Orthodox Christian Charities has received \$260,000; \$34,600 has been provided in scholarships for Orthodox college students to attend Orthodox conferences, our clergy have received \$350,000 in assistance to enable them to attend parish life conferences, our Archdiocese conventions and clergy symposiums and over \$2 million has been used to fund scholarships for our children to attend our camping programs.

Every parish and mission in our Archdiocese has received some form of assistance from The Order. Since its organization in 1975, The Order has disbursed more than \$25 million for various charitable projects. Every one of our Antiochian parishes and missions has received scholarships for our children to attend one of the eight Antiochian Orthodox camping programs run by our Archdiocese, our college students have received scholarships for Orthodox college conference programs, monetary relief has been provided to International Orthodox Christian Charities to help our brothers and sisters around the world, suffering from natural disasters or war, funds have been provided to assist mothers in need with basic necessities for newborns, funds have been provided to assist with missions and evangelism, aid has been made available to married seminarians to ease the financial burden experienced while in seminary and assistance has been provided to our clergy and their wives as they retire in the form of a housing stipend. These are just a few of the projects supported by The Order.

The Order enables us to assist our Antiochian brothers and sisters in our Archdiocese and in the worldwide Orthodox community. The extent to which The Order is able to do so depends upon our membership.

Richard Baxter, a seventeenth century English Puritan and poet wrote "In necessary things, unity, in doubtful things liberty, and in all things charity."

As Antiochian Orthodox Christians, I ask you to consider becoming a member of The Order to help us continue to solidify this unity of Antiochian Orthodox brothers and sisters who, by charitable giving, ease the burden of so many. When you choose Orthodox unity and charity, you are working side by side with your fellow members of The Order to make a difference in the lives of the Orthodox community in our Archdiocese and throughout the world.

The Order humbly thanks those 4,500 men and women, who have become members and ask that you consider joining with us to help make a difference in the lives of others.

Mary Winstanley O'Connor
North American Chair of The Order of
St. Ignatius of Antioch