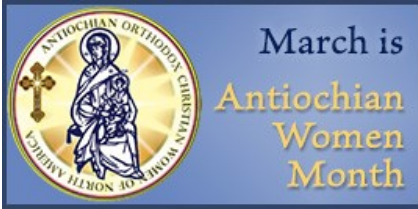
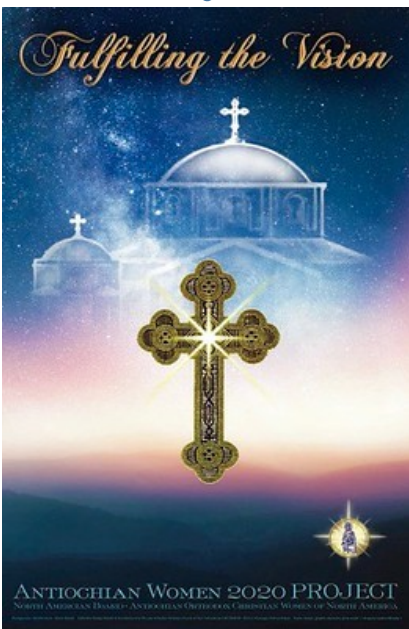


St. George Antiochian Women's Project

“Fulfilling the Vision”



March 2020 Project



“We must build on the past and build the present and the future” His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH gave this charge to the Antiochian Women at their luncheon at the 2019 Archdiocese Convention as he prepared to outline the 2020 NAB PROJECT. Since giving the charge to begin raising funds to build a new cathedral at the Antiochian Village in the 2019 NAB PROJECT, His Eminence has more fully developed his own vision for the Antiochian Village building on the foundation laid by Metropolitan PHILIP of thrice blessed memory and others who laid the foundation for what we have there today. The Cathedral is the first phase of the project. His Eminence has chosen the location and will have plans to unveil soon. The Cathedral will hold 1,000 people in worship and 1,000 people in the adjoining conference room. There will be enough space to hold large gatherings of the Faithful including Parish Life Conferences, Clergy Symposiums and other groups of the Faithful. As we enter the Cathedral, to the left we will see a crypt where our Hierarchs will repose including Metropolitan PHILIP, along with Metropolitan ANTHONY Bashir, and Archbishop MICHAEL Shaheen who will be moved to the new Cathedral. To the right of the entry we will see a large baptistry for infants and for adults. There will also be a very special place for the sacred body of St. RAPHAEL of Brooklyn, which will allow the Faithful to properly venerate our great Father-among-the-Saints. The second phase will include building a residence for our bishops, so they will have a place to stay when they come to the Village for conferences, etc., and as a place to live after they retire from active diocesan oversight. Our bishops are men of prayer and ministry. Once they retire from their diocesan duties, they have a vocation of prayer and spiritual guidance. A regular hotel-

room accommodation is not suited to their special role as our Fathers-in-the-Faith. Visiting hierarchs will also have quarters in this structure so their spiritual discipline will not be hindered as they journey to the Village for conferences and symposia. The third phase is to bring a monastic presence to the Antiochian Village in a women's monastery. A monastic presence is necessary for the growth of the Church in North America. It is the way that we will grow the church; by the holy prayers of a monastic community. We need more bishops and priests to serve the Faithful and a monastic presence is necessary to achieve this growth. We often refer to the Antiochian Village as being our “holy mountain.” A mountain is high and visible to all who look up to it. The expansion of the Antiochian Village, its cathedral with all the other facilities will announce the presence of the Orthodox in this community. It will be a beacon to draw us closer to our spiritual roots; a place of pilgrimage; and a witness to our holy Orthodox faith. So, let's immediately start our fundraising for this inspirational building Project. Fulfilling the vision of Metropolitan PHILIP, Fr John Namie and others who have gone before us. Let us “build the present and the future.” On behalf of the entire North American Board of the Antiochian Women, I thank you in advance for your tireless labor for this worthy cause.

Yours in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Sincerely,

Sheryl Vander Wagen