

## DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Carole A. Buleza, Director

[www.antiochian.org/christianeducation](http://www.antiochian.org/christianeducation)



### 2011 REPORT TO CONFERENCES AND CONVENTION

*The Director wishes to thank His Eminence and the Board of Trustees for their support, and her wonderful Staff Members for another successful year!*

#### 1. SURVEY OF ALL PARISHES

- We apologize for any difficulties encountered with our online survey. If you've been unsuccessful, please download the survey and send it in to the office. We cannot yet report on the findings.
- **Online:** After you press the button to submit, email Mark Klinski to let him know ([mkliniski@antiochian.org](mailto:mkliniski@antiochian.org)). For questions, contact Doug Cramer, (505) 603-3456. Thank you for your cooperation!

#### 2. ADULT EDUCATION 2010-2011

Among the successful continuing education events 2010-2011:

- **Orthodox Institute Southern California**, September 2010, St. Michael's Church, Van Nuys, California, Fr. Timothy Baclig, Pastor.
- **Orthodox Institute Ontario**, October 2010, St. George Church, Richmond Hill, Ontario, Fr. Iskander Younes, Pastor.
- **Fr. Andrew Damick** presented on "Sharing Our Faith," at both. 60 participants in Van Nuys, and 84 in Richmond Hill.
- **The Orthodox Institute at Antiochian Village**, November 2010, theme: "Icons, Windows to Heaven"
- Renowned iconographers, Niko Chocheli, and Cheryl Ann Pituch; Frederica Mathewes-Green, Keynote Speaker. 75 participants

#### 3. UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION:

**"SCRIPTURE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE HOLY LAND"**  
ORTHODOX INSTITUTE NOVEMBER 2011

- **Fr. Thomas Hopko**, Keynote Speaker. Dr. Maria Khoury, Dr. Nicolae Roddy featured presenters.
- **Costs:** Registration is \$60. The Conference Center charges \$245 for eight wonderful meals and lodging for three nights (in a 3-person room). We have worked hard this year, and will in the future, to offer practical, packaged programs, free gifts, and discounts that will benefit parishes, *making it well worth budgeting for the sending of a representative each year.*
- **The Holy Land is coming to Pennsylvania!** A 1,000 square foot exhibit—an interactive tour of the Holy Land—will be the highlight of the weekend!

#### 3. GOOD NEWS! COLLABORATION FOR EVENTS AND TRAININGS.

- The GOA, OCA and OCEC are now collaborating on all our Christian Education trainings and events beginning with the Orthodox Institute this November.
- Policy changes include: the Department of Christian Education will not be funding trainings, but rather host parishes will work with Mat. Myra Kovalak of the OCEC to establish a balanced budget for each event.

#### 4. HOLY LAND POSTERS: "Our faith is in a person who lived 2,000 years ago, and lives still"

- The project brings the reality of Jesus Christ to the children. *I'm asking every pastor/church school director to purchase*

*4 posters--all posters are \$5, both large and small--consider giving small posters as inspirational gifts (for framing or bookmarks). Prices will go up after November. The Holy Land is the heritage of our jurisdiction!*

#### 5. CREATIVE FESTIVALS REVISIONS

- **Administrator's Section.** Our work on revising the Creative Festivals--to be more satisfying to the children, and as efficient as possible for the administrators--is concluding. We have posted our revisions on the Creative Festivals webpage, under "Administrators." We look for feedback from the Fellowship, and will work with them to implement the revisions. We hope that these well-thought-out revisions will be given a chance, then we can assess their value.
- **Meditation videos:** Spend a few minutes being spiritually renewed with our videos featuring the children's Creative Festival projects from last year, on the Diocese of Toledo's website. We plan to have a video for every diocese.

#### 6. RESEARCH FOR A NEW CATECHETICAL SERIES

- **The Director.** It has been the task of the Director, over the last 11 years, to grow and administer our Christian Education efforts. After directing the publication of *The Way, The Truth, and The Life*, developing "Knowing Your Faith," and the "Passport for the Journey" curriculum-based programs, the Director turned to establishing a program of teacher training, that with the efforts of the departmental staff, has trained hundreds of teachers of all jurisdictions.
- **Spiritual Formation as the Goal.** With the intention of producing the ever-requested "engaging" new curriculum series, the Director has researched and continues to investigate what is required for an authentically Orthodox catechesis—one that has spiritual maturity as the goal. Her latest proposal in this regard can be found at the department's website, under the "Welcome" heading. *Carole Buleza holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education, and a Master's Degree from The Catholic University of America in Religion (concentrations in Catechesis and Orthodoxy).*

#### 7. CONFERENCES

- The Christian Education workshops will feature information on the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem.

#### 8. CONVENTION

- **The Christian Education Meeting, Wednesday at the Convention** will feature a roundtable discussion on the topic of spiritual formation, beginning with insights from the excellent book: *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*, (by Christian Smith and Melissa Lundquist Denton), and Carole's proposal for an authentically Orthodox catechesis. Anyone with interest in this discussion, please contact Carole at [aodce@aol.com](mailto:aodce@aol.com) for information.

#### Staff Members

*V. Reverend George Alberts*  
Diocese of Oakland,  
Charleston, and the  
Mid-Atlantic  
Diocese of New York and  
Washington, DC

*Mr. Robert Snyder*  
Diocese of Toledo and the  
Midwest

*Rev. Christopher Rigden-  
Briscall*  
Diocese of Ottawa, Eastern  
Canada and Upstate  
New York

*(Mrs. Carole Buleza)*  
Diocese of Eagle River and  
the Northwest

*Mrs. Vasiliki Oldziej*  
Diocese of Wichita and  
MidAmerica

*Mr. Joseph Tershay*  
Diocese of Los Angeles and  
the West

*Kh. Anna Timko-Hughes*  
Diocese of Worcester and  
New England

*Kh. Betty Randolph*  
Diocese of Miami and the  
Southeast

*Kh. Leslee Abud*  
Associate

*Kh. Gail Meena*  
Associate

*Mrs. Catherine Sullivan*  
Associate

*Mrs. Sandy Mitchell*  
Associate