This book, celebrating

25 years, is dedicated

to all of the members of

St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church

- past and present -

whose commitment,

faith, love and tireless

effort have made this

celebration a reality.





The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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June 18, 2006

The Reverend Father Elias Ferzli, Esteemed Members of the Parish Council and all Faithful of St. Philip Orthodox Church of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

"Rejoice in the Lord always, again, I say rejoice." (Phil. 4:4)

With these joyful words from St. Paul, we greet you and rejoice with you as celebrate the Twenty-fifth anniversary of your parish. I vividly remember the day in 1981 when we consecrated St. Philip's Temple as the first Antiochian Church in Western Canada. This is indeed a glorious day in the history of your parish because it is the culmination of much hard work, devotion, dedication and perseverance. We thank God for the wonderful things which He has done through you.

The founders of St. Philip's Parish surely deserve our prayers, gratitude and admiration for a task very well done. We thank your beloved pastor, the Reverend Father Elias Ferzli, for his dedication to your parish. We also commend your parish council and all the good people who have sacrificed of their time and means for the wellbeing of St. Philip's.

You have accomplished much in the past twenty-five years; however, your success in the years to come will depend on your response to the challenges of the future.

Congratulations and may the Almighty God continue to crown all your endeavors with success.

Paternally yours,

politan PHILIP Metropolitan

Primate The Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

MP:km



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Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

The Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

The Right Reverend Bishop JOSEPH Bishop of Los Angeles and the West

June 17, 2006

St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church 15804 98th Street Edmonton, AB T5P 4R9

The Reverend Elias Ferzli, Souheil Bitar and the esteembed members of the Parish Council, and the all faithful of St. Philip Church:

My most heart-felt congratulations to all of you during this celebration of your parish's 25th anniversary! As your Father in Christ, I am proud of you for the spiritual growth that has occurred within your community over the last few years. God is doing great things for you, and He will make you prosper as you continue to be purified through His grace and mercy. You will, through the power of the Holy Spirit, build upon the hard work and sacrifices of your founders to create a glorious future. May God bless them even as He blesses you!

I also salute my spiritual son, Father Elias, who has served God with honor and dignity since his arrival at St. Philip parish. He is a man of good character, blessed with many gifts from God, most especially his deep Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. His patient love for all of you has become a medicine to heal the wounded and encourage the faithful. He is supported by his beloved Khouriyeh, Nada, and their beautiful children, Adib, Mariam, Christina and Elena.

It is my most fervent prayer that all of you continue to grow both in terms of your spiritual lives and evangelization. I foresee a time when God will bless you with many, many more people seeking God's love and mercy, which they will see in your radiant faces. Do not cease to serve one another and your community, knowing that God is watching over you.

Remember my love for all of you, and the confidence I have in Christ that this community will become a center-point for spirituality in Edmonton.

Your Father in Christ,

+ JOSEPH Bishop of Los Angeles and the West Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



June 14 – 1981, is a very special and unforgettable day in the life of St. Philip Church. On that day, a small number of simple, innocent, honest, and faithful Orthodox people, rejoiced together with their beloved shepherd, Metropolitan Philip, when His Eminence consecrated St. Philip Church as the first Antiochian Orthodox Church in western Canada. That day is still inscribed in the memories, and preserved in the hearts of those who witnessed that joyful celebration.

Many of those, are dearly missed and remembered today, and some are joyfully present among us. Some of us were born into the church, and others joined the family of our church in different recent times, and I am one of them. But we are all one family, we have one Father, the Lord God, one Savior Jesus Christ, the same Holy Spirit guiding us, and we also have one mother, the Holy Church.

Today, as God have brought us together, as one family, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the consecration of our church, we rejoice, as we see the tree of our family, prospering, blossoming, bearing fruit, and having its roots deeply embed in the ground of Edmonton. We rejoice as we see new immigrants from the Middle East bound together in worship with Canadian born. We rejoice, as we see our Holy Orthodox faith spreading out, to a new Antiochian Orthodox mission in Fort Saskatchewan that shares with us our faith, and our life of worship, not being interrupted by the differences of language or culture.

My beloved, during my two years of serving St. Philip Church in Edmonton, I learned more than I taught. I experienced a Christian life, based on faith, love and blessing. These are the foundations on which St. Philip Church was built. The few people, who founded our church, had nothing but a strong faith, a sincere love, and a heavenly blessing, which they received through their spiritual father, Metropolitan Philip. They struggled a lot for many years before they built the church, and when His Eminence saw their faith, their commitment and their love, He gave them His blessing to start a mission, and in a very short time the church was built.

The power of faith, and the bond of love which they had, was enough to surpass all difficulties and face any kind of problems or temptations. That's what made St. Philip Church survive for 25 years, and that's what will make us survive in the years to come.

Your Grace Sayedna Joseph, we, the family of St. Philip Church, are very proud today, to celebrate with you and with all our friends, our silver Jubilee. We are very proud to declare our Holy Orthodox faith, to renew our commitment, to express our love to each other and to the world around us. We are also very proud to be blessed by your presence, your prayers, your leadership, and your fatherly love.

I said earlier that in Edmonton I learned more than I taught. I taught in words and I learned more by living the same words, with very loving, generous, and honest people. The deep experience of a true life of faith and love that I have in Edmonton, tells me today, and every day, that Christ is indeed in our midst, He is and He shall be for ever.

Fr. Elias Ferzli – Pastor.



صلاة شكر بمناسبة اليوبيل الفضي لتكريس كنيسة القديس فيليبس الرسول الأنطاكية الأرثوذكسية في أدمنتون.

"يا رب يا رب اطّلع من السماء وانظر، وتعهّد هذه الكرمة وأصلحها، التي يمينك غرستها"

يا رب يا رب، نقدم لك شكرنا الجزيل، في هذا اليوم المجيد الذي أهلتنا فيه لأن نبلغ الى هذا اليوم الذي تحتفل فيه "كرمتك" كنيستنا بيوبيلها الفضي السعيد.

أيها الرب إلهنا، يا من أنت هو الكرّام، وابنك "الكرمة الحقيقية"، ثبّتنا نحن الاغصان في هذه الكرمة المباركة على مستوى الغصن الثابت في الكرمة، لنصبح أعضاء حيَّة في المسيح يسوع ربنا، ولنكون أغصاناً مثمرة وأعضاء عاملة معاً بالمحبة لنأتي بثمر كثير لمجد اسمك القدوس. أهلنا أيضاً لنشرب من عصير هذه الكرمة الحقيقية، كأس الخلاص، وباسم الرب ندعو.

يا رب يا رب، إذ نسألك أن تبارك وتمنح راعي هذه الكنيسة، روح الحكمة والفهم، في إدارتها وخدمتها، نطلب أيضاً أن يحل روحك القدوس على الراعي والرعية معاً.

يا ربنا يا إله السلام، يا من أقمت من بين الأموات ربنا يسوع راعي الخراف العظيم بفضل دمه الذي ختم به العهد الأبدي، أهلنا لأن نعمل مشيئتك في كل عملٍ صالح، وأن تعمل فينا ما يرضيك، بيسوع المسيح الذي له المجد الى الأبد. آمين.

الأب المتقدم في الكهنة يوسف سمعان سكاب



THE RIGHT REVEREND IOV, BISHOP OF KASHIRA Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in Canada

10812 - 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 3A6, Canada, Tel/Fax: 1(780) 420-9945

June 17, 2006

Dear Fathers, Beloved Parishioners, Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I sincerely congratulate you on the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the foundation of St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church in Edmonton!

We rightly call the Antiochian Orthodox Church a missionary Church. Antioch was a place where Apostolic preaching about Jesus Christ started, and from there extended worldwide. Therefore, it is not surprising that 25 years ago, here in Edmonton, in one of the distant corners of the world, the Antiochian parish of St. Apostle Phillip was established.

In our day, the church service is formidably and responsibly. Looking at good fruits of the 25 years of your parish, we can, by a word of the Apostle, "always give thanks to God... because the message about Christ has become so firmly established in you that you have not failed to received a single blessing" (2 Corinthians 1: 6-7).

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

We believe deeply that your labours, which you contribute for the preservation and promotion of Orthodoxy among your countrymen and among people of other dominations, will always be successful, and that God's help will continue in the life of your church.

Once again I congratulate you, dear fathers, brothers and sisters, with today's glorious Anniversary; and I wish you God's mercy, blessed help, spiritual happiness, that you will keep your faith in the Apostolic way, continuing your unity "by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God" (2 Corinthians 6: 6-7).

On behalf of the first Orthodox parish in Edmonton, St Barbara's Russian Orthodox Cathedral, whose centenary we solemnly celebrated recently, we prayerfully sing to your young temple, which has very ancient roots of Orthodox belief and tradition: Many glorious and blessed years!

With love in the Lord,

IOV, Bishop of Kashira, Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes in Canada



A Message from Laurie Hawn, Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre

I am pleased to be able to offer congratulations to the St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church on behalf of myself, the Government of Canada, and the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada.

This is to honour the 25th Anniversary of the consecration of the first Arabic-speaking Antiochian Church in Western Canada. It has been the realization of a vision on the part of the Christian community in Edmonton and helps preserve both the faith and the ethnic heritage of its parishioners.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved with the anniversary celebration and the production of this souvenir book which commemorates the occasion.

In particular, I also wish to highlight the efforts of all the volunteers involved in this project. Their hard work illustrates the great civic spirit that is a hallmark of the city of Edmonton.

Please accept my own best wishes and encouragement for the future.

Sincerely,



Laurie Hawn, M.P. Edmonton Centre

Constituency Office: 11156—142nd St. Edmonton, Alberta T5M 4G5 Tel: (780) 442—1888 Fax: (780) 442—1891 Email: hawnL@parl.gc.ca







Maurice Tougas, MLA Edmonton-Meadowlark

CONGRATULATIONS St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church

On behalf of the Province of Alberta and the constituents of Edmonton-Meadowlark, it is my great pleasure to offer congratulations to your church on the occasion of your 25th anniversary.

A church is just another building until it is suffused with the spirit of those who believe. The construction of St. Philip 25 years ago was a great accomplishment, but it pales in significance to the building of a strong and thriving parish family. Bricks and mortar are strong, but not as strong as faith and love.

Congratulations and best regards.



Maurice Tougas

Maurice Tougas, MLA June 29, 2006

A History of St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church **Celebrating 25 Years**

Over twenty five years ago, approximately 17 Antiochian Orthodox Christian families residing in Edmonton, Alberta had a dream to establish a church that would allow them to observe their faith, and to establish a spiritual foundation for their children, and for generations to follow. While other Orthodox churches were in existence in the city, none conducted prayers, in whole or in part, in Arabic - the native tongue of these few families. Most members of the group were bilingual, however, many of the elder members were not fluent in English, thereby making it difficult to totally comprehend pastor sermons and prayers offered in English by other Orthodox churches. Hence, the road began to the set and implement goals that would make their dream a reality.

After only a few years of small scale fundraising, in September of 1978, the group established a Mission under the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. St. Philip Mission was the first step towards the establishment of a church. It clearly demonstrated the practical and the legal intentions to work towards the founding of a church, including the assignment of a full time pastor. From this point forward, much faith, dedication and hard work went into the realization of their dream.

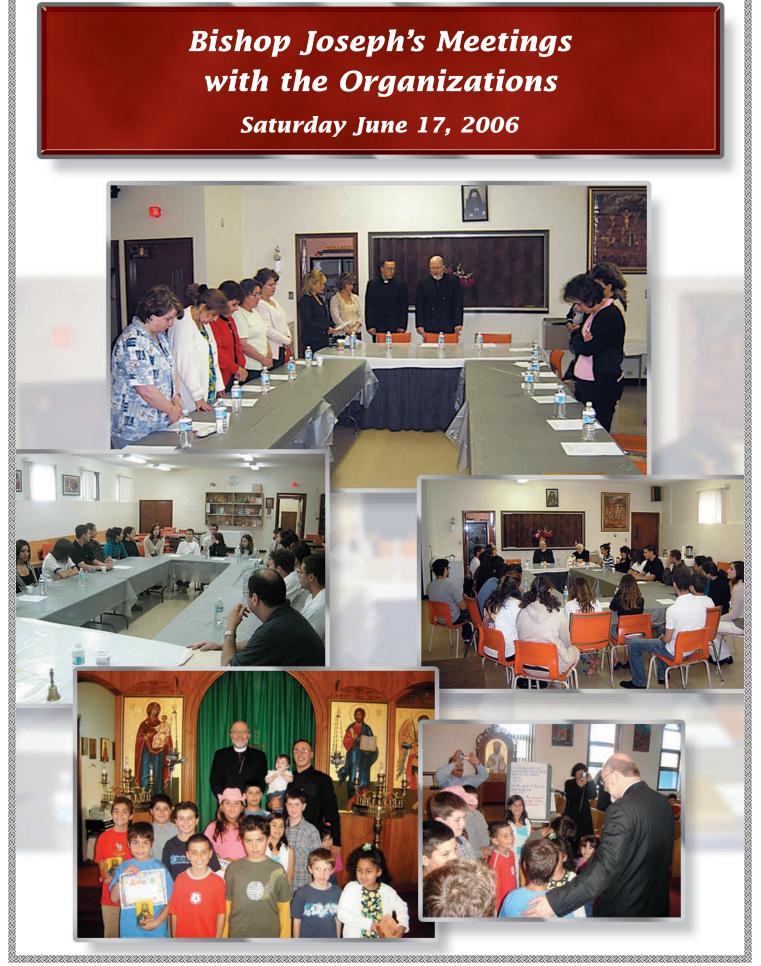
Through tireless fundraising by means of bake sales, raffles, charity dinners, and member donations, after only a couple of years, the status of the organization was elevated to that of Church. While an actual building did not yet exist, members took the opportunity to practice their faith by renting halls and church basements to conduct the Divine Liturgy every Sunday, and observe other Orthodox feasts and celebrations. In addition, organizations, including: the Antiochian Women; Church Choir; Teen SOYO; and, Church School were established to enhance and build upon the spiritual foundation of the Church. These years were also marked by members donating their time and services, and by leveraging their contacts for the donation of building materials and services – all of which led to the commencement of the construction of the Church building in 1980. The building was completed in June 1981, and on the 14th day of that month and year, St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church was officially consecrated by the Most Reverend Metropolitan Philip. It was the first Church in the Antiochian Christian Archdiocese of North America to be established in Western Canada.

Today, the Church building, itself, with a few renovations and improvements, survives in the City of Edmonton at 15804-98 Avenue. Since its inception, St. Philip has grown to include many families. Today the community consists of approximately 70 families, and over 170 individuals. Also, the organizations within the Church have grown and remain strong in the vital role that they play. Clearly, the Church serves as the spiritual foundation of the community; it caters to its bilingual population in both English and Arabic and to the new generation of youth in predominantly English; and, it also helps to preserve many cherished ethnic traditions. It is through cooperation, hard work, sacrifice, and a commitment to God that St. Philip Church is a dream come true – a reality celebrating 25 years. And, it is these qualities, and the will of God, that will carry the Church forward for many more years to come.

Events Commemorating the 25th Anniversary Celebrations of St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church

Saturday June 17, 2006 and Sunday June 18, 2006

Bishop Joseph's Meetings with the Organizations Saturday June 17, 2006



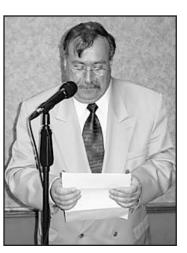
Hierarchical Vesper Service

Saturday June 17, 2006









Good Evening, Your Grace the Right Reverend Bishop Joseph El-Zahlawi, Bishop of Los Angles and the West, Your Grace Bishop Iov, **Reverend priests**, **Distinguished guests:** Mr. Maurice Tougas MLA for Edmonton Meadowlark, Mrs. Sonia Bitar Citizenship Judge for Northern Alberta, Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls.

On behalf of the parishioners, the Parish Council and all the organizations of St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church of

Edmonton, I would like to welcome you and thank you for attending our 25th Anniversary. I would like to start by reading what is written on the dedication plaque and I quote: "Consecrated to the glory of God June 14, 1982 by Metropolitan Archbishop Philip Saliba and very Reverend Father Paul Nimir Pastor, built to serve all the faithful Christian of this community. "A church that faith built with the hard work and support of God loving People".

Over the 25 years, we have worked together, learned together, and together we made a big difference for our church.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the planning committee of the 25th Anniversary under the leadership of our beloved Priest Father Elias Ferzli for making this event such a big success, please stand up to be recognized.

We have to remember our past priests, our brothers and sisters in Christ who passed away during the past 25 years, may their memories be eternal. The mission of St. Philip in Edmonton did not come to be a church without the hard work and dedication of the past and present members of this parish, giving of their time, talents, commitments, financial contributions and continuous prayers.

I am very proud of the great work, dedication, enthusiasm and contributions of all the organizations at St. Philip church namely the Antiochian Women, Sunday school, Choir, Fellowship, Teen Soyo and the Parish Council who made the difference in our growth and advancement throughout the past 25 years.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who through the years served on the parish council or any of the organizations of the church and all those whose work was not recognized, thank you for being there. Your support and contributions helped us through the past 25 years.

Enjoy the evening and God bless you all.

Parish Council Chairperson Souheil Bitar

Message from the Antiochian Women



In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit Amen.

Your Grace Bishop Joseph, Your Grace Bishop Iov, **Reverend Father Elias.** Very Reverend Father Joseph, Reverend clergy, distinguished guests, And brothers and sisters in Christ.

Good evening, my name is Rabiha Salloum, President of the Antiochian Women of St. Philip Church. On behalf of the ladies I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you in joining us for

our 25th anniversary celebration. I am grateful to have been a part of the organization since it started on July 25, 1978. On that evening, we held our first ladies meeting at the late George and Laure Abboud's home. The first committee was elected that same night.

These ladies immigrated to Canada from different parts of the Middle East. With God's guidance, faith and love we accomplished a great deal. We were committed to build a church to pass on the gift of our Antiochian Christian heritage to children and grandchildren. We held many bake sales in malls. We prepared the food at our homes. We catered banquets of up to 500 people; met monthly in members' homes.

25 years later, we continue to work hard serving our church and are committed to spiritual growth and fellowship.

Today, our main goal as an Antiochian women are to guide though example for the young women in our church and give them the gift of love, faith, support and strengthen to continue our legacy at St. Philip's for many more 25 anniversaries to come.

I ask you all to remember us in your prayers, to give us the strength and endurance to carry the tradition of our ancestors.

Thank you and God bless you all!

Rabiha Salloum President of the Antiochian Women of St. Philip Church.

Message from the Church School



Good evening, Sayedna Joseph, Honored guests, and Father Elias,

My name is Joanne Olsen and I have the privilege of being the Church School director for St. Philip Orthodox Church. I feel truly blessed to be able to work with the children, the future of our church, in this capacity.

I would like to start with a piece of scripture. In Matthew 19:14, it says, "And Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." We all know how much Jesus loves children and in Church School,

we strive for each child to get to know Christ and to love Christ. Let the children come to church to get to know Christ. Our mission is for each child to develop a personal relationship with God by learning his word.

As Christians, we believe that every child is a unique gift from God. That all children are created by God in God's image and are created good. All children are a gift to our whole community and are vital to the preservation of our church. As Christ modeled for us, each one of us plays a vital role in educating our children, this teaching happens on an ongoing basis, not just on Sundays. Use every opportunity you can to teach your child about Christ throughout the day. There is and can be no church without children and their families.

Just as God has nurtured the church, so too are we to nurture children in the love of God made manifest in Jesus Christ and to teach them about the love, grace and fellowship of God. We are called to teach them to know and love the Lord, encouraging their spirit and the work of the Holy Spirit, and tending to their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Let the children be conscious that they are members of Christ's family! Let the children come to church and grow to love church for they are our future.

Joanne Olsen

Message from the Fellowship



Your Grace Bishop Joseph Your Grace Bishop IOV Dear Fr. Elias Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy **Dear Friends**

From all the fellowship and the youth we would like to welcome His Grace Bishop Joseph, and thank him for joining us in this time of celebration.

Sayedna you have supported this church through thick and thin,

and you have always given us your blessing and your wisdom. Your commitment to the church and the Orthodox faith has continued to strengthen us and to allow growth in our church. By appointing our pastor Father Elias you reestablished our community. Not only was Father Elias able to reenergize our church, he was able to overcome the daunting task of reenergizing the young adults and youth.

We are reminded today by the words that Your Grace left us with, two years ago in your last visit, when you appointed Fr. Elias as our pastor, and you said that "Jesus comes from the *future*" and it is the future that stabilizes the church. At that time, we felt that your words were addressed to us directly, as we are the youth in the church, and I'm proud to repeat today the same words, and to declare the strong commitment of our "Fellowship of St. John the Divine" and "Teen Soyo" to work for the future of our church, truly worshiping Jesus Christ who comes from the future.

So from all the Fellowship and the Teen Soyo in our church, thank you and God Bless.

Phillip Ferzli



ST. PHILIP TEEN SOYO – EDMONTON

"So remember your creator in the days of your youth..." Eccl. 12:1

St. Philip Teen SOYO had a very successful year in 2005/2006 under the spiritual care of our priest, *Fr. Elias Ferzli*, and the under the guidance of *Fady Sakkab*, our Youth Director.

Some of our accomplishments for the past year are:

We have had record attendance in our weekly Bible studies. We really enjoyed our studies in the book of Acts of the Apostles and as a result, our team placed 3rd in the Bible Bowl at the Parish Life Conference in San Diego.

The SOYO started off the New Year with a fresh commitment to love, obey and to serve the LORD. We realize that the teens are the future of the church and as such we made a strong commitment to learn more about our faith and to show others how we can act in accordance with our faith. In addition to our weekly gathering, we had special full day retreats that covered a number of interesting topics. The first retreat we had was on the topic of the Sacraments of the Church. Another retreat that we really enjoyed was a special presentation by Archpriest Joseph Sakkab on the rich history and symbolism of the Holy Orthodox Church. Another retreat covered the topic of abortion as well as other issues that face the youth of today.

As a group, we were really happy to be able to sponsor a young needy two year old boy in Achrafieh, Lebanon; through the Orthodox Children's Relief Fund. It was a wonderful experience to know that we are making a difference in a child's life.

Teen SOYO with the assistance our Antiochian Women cooked and served a meal to about 320 people of Edmonton's homeless. What an experience that was! It was a true blessing to all involved.

The SOYO also is active in our church services. During the Lenten season, Teen SOYO participated in the worship by serving in the altar, reciting the readings and the chanting.

On this special occasion, the **25th anniversary** of our beloved church, we wish to express our gratitude to Almighty God for allowing our church to grow, and we pray that He will help us to continue to be strong participants in every aspect of our church for His Glory and Honor. We also like to thank his Grace Bishop JOSEPH for his guidance and prayers. And of course we can't forget to thank Fr. Elias, our priest and Fady Sakkab, our youth director, for all the time, effort, care and knowledge that they have given us during the past years. Also, we would like to thank our Antiochian women, and last but not least, we thank our parish council for their support and for allowing us the chance to compete in the Bible Bowl in San Diego.

CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY ST. PHILIP'S!!!

Gaby Ferzli, Teen SOYO president

Message from the Church Choir

> "Praise the Lord in His sanctuary. Praise ye Him in the firmament of His power. Praise ye Him for His mighty acts. Praise ye Him according to the multitude of His greatness. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet. Praise Him with the psaltery and harp. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord." (Psalm 150)



On the 25th anniversary of St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church, we renew our dedication to serving our church, and we invocate our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to grant us to praise and glorify His Holy name, "for meet it is that at all times He shouldest be praised with righteous voices."

Conaratulations & best wishes To our beloved Bishop Joseph El-Zehlawi To our priest Fr. Elias and his family, To all organizations, and all parishioners of our church.

The Choir, the chanters, and the readers of St. Philip Antiochian **Orthodox Church:**

Ghattas Freiha, George Salloum, Saad El-Hayek, Evelyn Gebran, George Ferzli, Marie Ferzli, Souheil Bitar, Sonia Bitar, Rabiha Salloum, Kaissar Estephan, Mouna Shoubeita, Joshua Funk and Vivian Abboud.



His Grace, Bishop JOSEPH's Remarks on the 25th Anniversary of **St. Philip Church**

June 17, 2006 Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Your Grace, Bishop IOV, the Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Reverend Deacons, esteemed officers and members of the Parish Council, officers and members of the organizations, and all the faithful of St. Philip Church:

This weekend, we celebrate the prayers, hard work and sacrifice so many of you and the founders of this parish have made for 25 years to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Building up a parish is one of the hardest challenges Christians can face. It involves cooperation with other, sacrifice of our own desires and total commitment to God's will.

Like a flower, a parish comes to be what it is through many stages. What starts off as a green bud gradually becomes a radiant and fragrant blossom, exploding with beautiful colors and captivating scent.

As any of us who have tended flowers know, it is not easy to keep healthy. They can never be taken for granted. Flowers need sun and rain, the right balance of fertilizers, and occasionally pesticides. What is true of plants is true of parishes, if they do not continue to constantly grow, they quickly die. New stems must come forth from the old ones, so that growth begets growth, and the plants build upon their previous seasons.

They must be tended to by a knowledgeable gardener, who knows when to let the plants throw forth shoots, and when to trim off dead branches. He waters and cultivates, pulling out weeds and planting new seedlings. With a watchful eye, he spots diseases and pests that can destroy growth and cripple a healthy plant.

For the last few years, Father Elias Ferzli has tended to this community, and I admire his dedicated service to God through his ministry to all of you. He has helped you, the good people of this community, get on the course set forth by the Gospel of our Lord. He has encouraged you in the Faith of your Fathers, the Holy Fathers who have proclaimed the Gospel from the beginning. He is a priest of the highest quality, and he will be here many, many years as this parish blossoms into the finest rose in the Spiritual Garden of this Diocese.

Keynote Address from the Right Reverend Bishop Joseph

Father Elias, I am confident in your talents as a physician and healer of the souls. Just as a doctor does not despair when his patients cry out in pain as he begins the treatments, I remind you to be long-suffering in the face of any adversity. After all, the treatment of a wound means we must often increase the pain of the patient for a short time, so that it will soon pass and the wound will disappear. The short-term pain will be forgotten once the patient is healed.

However, if we always try to find the 'pain-free' way to heal, we will get nowhere. If the wound is not treated for fear of the pain, it will slowly infect and kill the whole body. We cannot risk losing this beloved parish, and so I charge you, Father Elias, to heal the people, through education and care, and bring them into greater and deeper Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and His Body, the Church. God will not fail you.

Some are born into the Church, while others come as children and adults, yet we are all one family. We have one Father, the Lord God. We have one Savior, Jesus Christ. We have one Spirit, the Most Holy Spirit. We have one Mother, the Holy Church. We may come from Lebanon or Toronto or Edmonton, yet God loves all of us and desires to save all of us.

Each member of the family is like a petal in a flower. No one by himself is the flower, but a flower is the unity of many different parts. Some are colorful, while others are plain. Yet, every one of them is essential. As the flower grows, it builds up its existing parts while creating new ones.

Father Elias and I know that this parish has a wonderful future, so long as you continue to carry the message of the Gospel to the world around you and bring more and more people to the Holy Orthodox Faith. To do this, you must first be faithful to the Faith yourselves. Those of you who persevere in prayer, I urge you to continue on and encourage those who struggle with living out the Faith each day. If you desire God's joy and peace at the center of this community, then you yourselves must let God into your hearts and be transformed by Him. Let God cleanse you of your sins, so that you may be radiant with His glory.

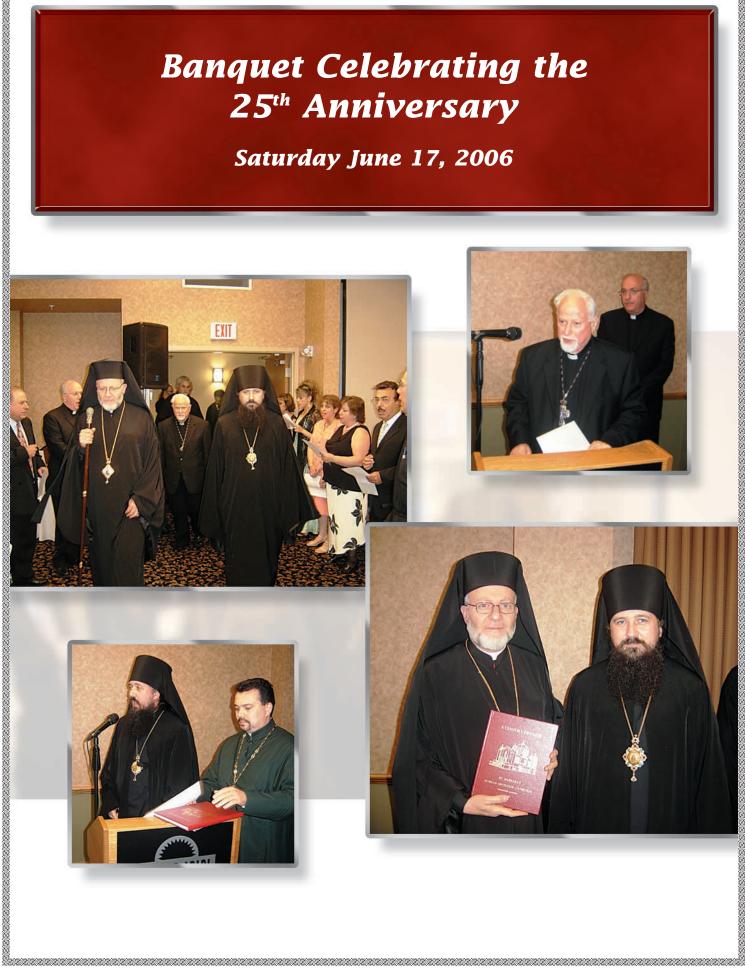
Just as the bee is attracted by the fragrance of the flower, people will be attracted to this community by its spiritual beauty and fresh growth. Allow God to prosper you by His grace, be open to the visitor and minister to the suffering. In loving others, you allow God to love you all the more.

You have much to share with the people of Canada. Do not think that you must 'protect' what you have. In fact, what you have will only increase if you share it with the community.

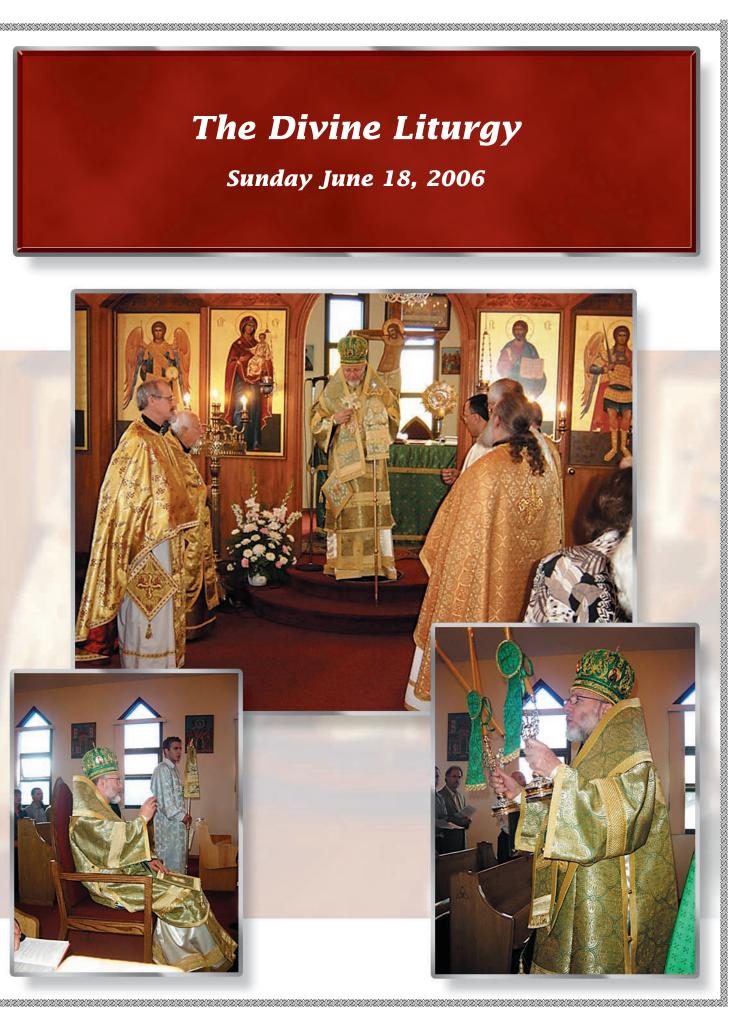
I rejoice that God has done a mighty work in building up this community, and I congratulate you for faithfully following Him. Never forget my love for all of you, and the joy we have in the Lord.

Banquet Celebrating the 25th Anniversary

Saturday June 17, 2006

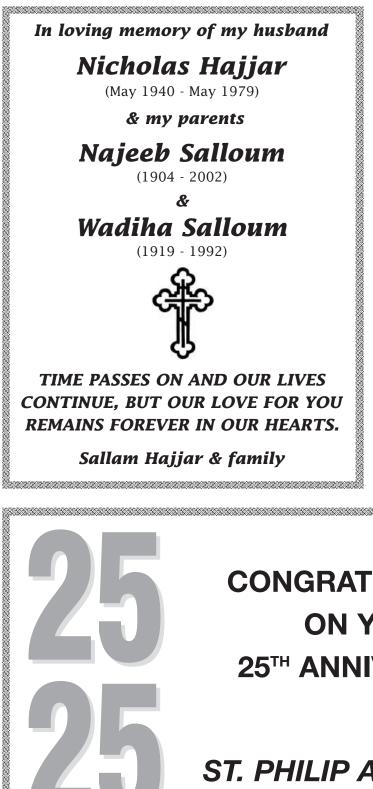








ST. PHILIP ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH





twenty-five years began

with one single step.

Congratulations on

the celebration of your

25th Anniversary!

Lorraine Salloum Ian, Tanya and Joshua Boyko

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

ST. PHILIP ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

BUD AND DAVID SALLOUM

It is with great pleasure that we express our congratulations to St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church on celebrating 25 years under the guidance of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



Kaissar and Najat Estephan and family Congratulations on your Silver Anniversary and continued success in spreading the word of God!

Sts. Constantine and Elena Romanian Orthodox Church of Edmonton

Congratulations St. Philip Church on your 25th anniversary!



May God's blessings continue to be bestowed upon you!

Joseph, Souad, James and Andrew GEBRAN "With True Faith, the Grace of God, and the Blessings of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ, All Dreams Come True on Earth as in Heaven"



CONGRATULATIONS To St. Phílíp's Antíochían Orthodox Church On the 25th Annívesary of the Church that LOVE Buílt

To Fr. Elias Ferzli, our Family, Friends and All Parishioners at St. Philip's, Edmonton Our Best Wishes for Many Years to Come, God Bless.

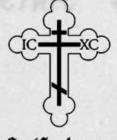
Joseph, Sanaa, Nicole, George & Demitri Salloum

St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church *Congratulations and best wishes on your 25th Anniversary!*



Jeff, Joanne, Jason & Andrew Olsen

Antiochian Orthodox Church of the Annunciation



of Calgary

Would like to extend our sincere gratitude and best wishes to Father Elias Ferzli and the St. Philip Antiochian Church for a blessed 25 years of consecrated worship. Your dedicated service and contribution to our community has provided an ideal example for all of us to follow.

"أحب المسيح الكنيسة وبذل نفسه لأجلها"، فالكنيسة التي هي جسده هي استمرار لعمله على الارض، هي الخميرة التي تخمّر العجين كله، والملح الذي يعطي للعالم طعمه الواحد.

On behalf of Father Ibrahim Chahoud , our church parish council, and congregation in Calgary Thank you and may our Lord grant you many more years!

www.antiochiancalgary.org



ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA ORTHODOX SOBOR Archdiocese of Canada OCA

9930 167St. Edmonton

Congratulates

St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church on its 25th Anniversary

St. Vincent of Lerins Orthodox Church

Fr. Elias, the Esteemed Parish Council, and faithful of St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church.

On behalf of the Parish Council and faithful of St. Vincent of Lerins Orthodox Church of Saskatoon in the Diocese of Eagle River and the Northwest we congratulate you on twenty-five years of ministry and service in the city of Edmonton. We pray that God will grant you a fruitful ministry in the future with many spiritual children.

Fr. Nectarios Bernard Funk

JAMES N. SHAMCHUK

CERTIFIED MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT

Jim Shamchuk, CMA

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> Providing a full range of accounting and tax services. Small and medium sized businesses our specialties.

Congratulations St. Philip Church on your 25th Anniversary



In loving memory of Emile & Fadia Gebran

Ask, and it will be given to you; Seek, and you will find; Knock, and it will be opened to you.



Matthew 7:7

Joseph, Cherry, Yvette, Edward & their families

Congratulations on reaching a very impressive milestone.

May we all celebrate another 25 years together.

In loving memory of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather,



Atef Elias Gebran (1943 - 2003)

الآب رجائي، والإبن ملجأي، والروح القدس وقائي، أيها الثالوث القدوس المجد لك.

Forever loved by his wife Samia Gebran, and children Marie, Nicoula, Toma (Tonya & Rheanna) and Essa.



In loving memory of our husband and father, FRANK GEBRAN, one of St. Philip's founding fathers.



It was dad's dream to see our church grow, so that the next generation would have a home to be welcomed, married, baptized, and blessed in. He was famous for saying "When they get married and have their own families, they will come back to the church."

We hope to see our father's vision of a strong dedicated community spirit continue through the ages.

As God wills.



Evelyn, Zahr, Elias, Khalil and family, George, Michael and family

In loving memory of Amira Gebran (1911 - 2003)



Congratulations on 25 years! The Gebran family "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting" Acts 2:2

In October of 1982, several parishioners of Saint Philip Church were led to Blind Man River and were fortunate to witness a great miracle, similar to what the Apostles experienced at Pentecost.

> Robert Salloum John Salloum Claudia Salloum Wadih Salloum Emile Gebran Basil Solounias

God Bless Saint Philip Church on her 25th Anniversary!

From Robert, Rana and Matthew Salloum

In loving memory of **Elias Salem Salloum**



By his loving wife Josephine & his children Ghassan, Zeina, Maha, Hyam, Sana, Rita & their families

Congratulations to St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church



Preserve them O Lord our God.

Make them Children of the light that they may walk in thy ways. Establish them in thy commandments holding steadfast within themselves the remembrance of thy judgements.

Preserve O Lord all the families of our parish, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and forever, Amen.

We have been blessed to be a part of the family of St. Philip Church.

Saad, Ramona, Johanne, Josette, Phillip and Janel El – Hayek

The faithful of "Holy Nativity Mission" In Langley, BC

Rejoice with faithful of St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church at your 25th Anniversary.

May God grant you many more years of service and ministry.

"I was glad when they said to me; Let us go into the house of the Lord."



Congratulations and best wishes on the 25th Anniversary of St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church. May our Lord Jesus Christ, in His infinite wisdom continue to guide and bless you. Amen.

Deacon Simon, Mary Sakkab and Family

"And I also say to you that you are Peter And on this rock I will build my church And the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16: 18)

May the Lord grant St. Philip Church that was built on the rock of faith many more years of spreading the word of God and serving His people.



Congratulations & best wishes to the family of **St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church** on its 25th Anniversary.

Ghassan, Najah, Peter, Paul, Patricia & Patrick El-Hayek

they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God." Ps. 92:12&13

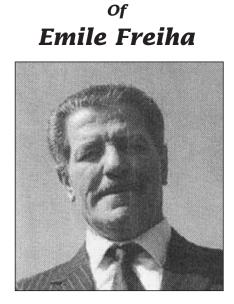


May the parish of St. Philip continue to grow and may its parishioners flourish in righteousness and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY!

Fady & Summer Sakkab

In loving memory



Forever loved His wife Salma



& His Children: Elie, Ghattas, Sanaa, George, Mariam & their families

June 14, 2006



June 14, 1981

25th Anniversary

في مثل هذا اليوم المبارك، منذ خمسةٍ وعشرين عاما، التف الأرثونكسيون الأنطاكيون في أدمنتون حول أبيهم الروحي وراعيهم الجليل، سيادة الميتر وبوليت فيليبس صليبا، مع خادمهم في الرب في ذلك الوقت، قدس الأب بولس نمر رحمه الله. وإذ نحتفل اليوم بيوبيلنا الفضي، نذكر الذين رقدوا من أبناء هذه الكنيسة: نقولا الحجار، نجيب ووديعة سلوم، وديم وأديبة سلوم، جورجيت سلوم، يوسف ونبيهة عبود، موسى وسارة وروز الفرزلي، بربارة أسطفان، إميل وفاديا جبران، عاطف وأميرة وفرانك جبران، وركن ومرتل الكنيسة جورج عبود وزوجته لور، الياس سالم سلوم، أليس الطويل، جورج ديب، وردة يوسف، ومريم مسلم. هزلاء كلهم نفتقدهم اليوم، وإن كانوا غانبين عنا بالجسد إلا أنهم حاضرون دانما في ذاكرتنا، وفي أفراحنا وصلواتنا. كما ونتعزى بوجود العديد من الإخوة والأصدقاء الذين لا يز الوا موجودين في الكنيسة منذ تأسيسها، أنكر منهم الأخ جورج سلوم صديقي وزميلي الذي قدم الكثير من أمواله وأتعابه. وإذ كنت رنيسا لمجلس الرعية في يوم تكريسها، وكان لي شرف استقبال سيادة الميتروبوليت فيليب صليبا بكلمة ترحيبية منذ خمسة وعشرين عاما بعد القداس الاحتفالي والكلمة الروحية التي توجه بها سيادته الى كل أبناء الجالية بمختلف طوائفها وفعالياتها التي حضرت وهنأت سيادته بهذه المناسبة. هذه الذكري تتكرر اليوم بوجود سيادة الأسقف جوزيف الزحلاوي بيننا، وهذه شهادة حية لأب روحي يرشد، وراع صالح يسهر على رعيته ويحفظها بنعمة ومحبة المسيح. أحباني، إن الله الذي أعطى بطرس وبولس ويوحنا وفيليبس نعمة الروح القدس ليبشروا باسمه، هو قادر ان يوجهكم في كل حين لتبشروا باسمه، وتجعلوا من هذه الكنيسة منارة تشع منها المحبة والتواضع. وأنا أعرف جيدا إنكم ضحيتم من أموالكم وأتعابكم، هذا منكم لله وليس لأحدٍ منا على الأرض، وإني هنا أوجه رعيتك فداءً يطفح من قلب لم يعرف الا المحبة والتسامح. أناشدكم باسم المسيح الذي تتبعونه أن تعطوا يدا قوية لنتضموا حول راعي الكنيسة، قدس الأب الياس الفرزلي. إن عمل الخير ضروري في حياة الإنسان لكل فرد منكم، ولا يسعني إلا أن أتقدم بالشكر ألى رئيس وأعضاء مجلس الرعية رجالا ونساءً، شبابا وشابات، تحيةً الاحترام والتقدير لما يبذلونه من جهد لرفع مستوى هذه الجالية. أطلب منك يا رب، أن تقدس وتبارك عبيدك الذين يتعبون ويقدمون ويرتلون في هذه الكنيسة المقدسة. أخيرًا، بعد خمسة وعشرين سنة،أتقدم باسمى وبإسم زوجتي أماليا وأبناني إيلي، طوني، لور، وريما، وعانلاتهم، الى جميع المسؤولين وجميع أبناء رعيتنا بهذه الكلمة، راجياً من الجميع أن نسير قدما الى الأمام. هذا ما أوصانا به السيد المسيح وعلمنا أن نواصل ولاعنا له عبر خدمتنا في هذه الكنيسة المقدسة. وكان في نفسي أجمل الإنطباعات وكلما أقمنا القداس الإلهي أطلب من الله أن يثبت الإيمان فيكم لكي تحافظوا على البيعة والأمانة التي انتمنها الله عليكم.

فايز عبود

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Abouna Elias Ferzli for his love and care. My family will never forget your kindness. You are much more than a pastor; you are a friend that was there for me when I needed you. Thank you for your prayers, may God bless you and your family. Also, I would like to thank all the people in our parish who have prayed for me.

Nehme Rahbani and family



In loving memory of Khalil & Azeezeh Hajjar Salim & Nazeemeh Hajjar

Congratulations & best wishes, on the 25th Anniversary of

St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church.

Frank & Samiha Hajjar

In loving memory

of

Moussa, Sara, and Philip Ferzoli

&

Roze Shahda.

Forever loved, and forever remembered.



Congratulations and best wishes

on the 25th Anniversary

of

St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church.

May the Lord grant us all,

to celebrate the 50th Anniversary together.

The Ferzoli family

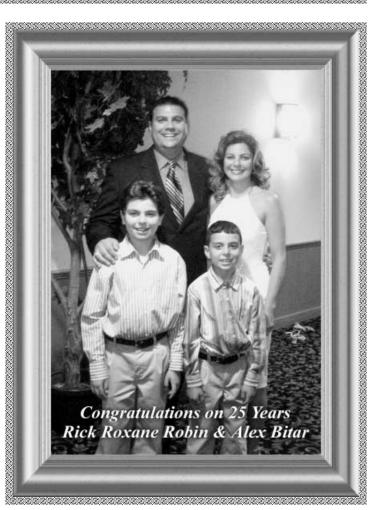
The Ferzoli family

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving". (Colossians 3:23)



To the parish of St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church, congratulations and best wishes on your 25th Anniversary.

Shukry, Pauline, Stephanie and Fuad Sakkab



باسم الآب والإبن والروح القدس، الإله الواحد، أمين.

من فلسطين إلى جمهورية مصر العربية، ثم الكويت فادمنتون. كان سروري عظيما جدا عندما التقيت بالصدفة عام 1989 بالأب جوزيف سكاب الذي كان راعي كنيسة القديس فيلييس في ذلك الوقت، والذي علمت منه أن هناك كنيسة أرثونكسية وتقيم القداس الإلهي الأرثونكسي. لقد نشأت في عائلة أرثونكسية ونهلت التعليم الأرثونكسي في مدارس وطني الأول. ولا أنسى ما كان يقوم به الاب جوزيف سكاب من جهود مشكورة في خدمة الكنيسة في أدمنتون وكالغيري التي كلف بتأسيسها وذلك لكى تبقى الكنيستان مفتوحتين للرعيتين لاستماع كلمة الرب لقد عانت الكنيسة من صعوبات كثيرة، ولكن الأب الياس الفرزلي استطاع بحكمته وتضحيته وطول أناته، أن يلمَ شملها ويحطم القيود آلتي كانت تعتريها وتمر بها. إني أكن له كل احترام وتقدير لأنه استطاع بخبرته، وذلك من أجل ترقية الطانفة دينيا واجتماعيا وأدبيا، وتقوية الروح المسيحية وتوحيد

كلمتها. وها هي كنيسة القديس فيليبس الرسول كالصرح الشامخ، باقية كشجر الزيتون، رافعة الرأس، وقد مضى على

تأسيسها خمسة وعشرون سنة والله نسأل أن يوفقنا دائما الى ما فيه خدمة كنيستنا. وأطلب من رب المجد أن يمد يده ويرعى هذه الكنيسة بالبر والتقوى

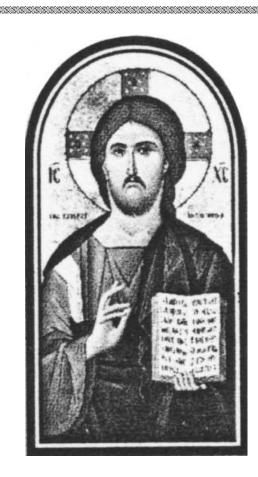
From the bottom of my heart, I congratulate St. Philip Church on its 25th Jubilee. Salwa Shuhaiber Shubeita – 2006 "Blessed art Thou, O Christ Our God, who has revealed the fishermen as most wise having sent upon them the Holy Spirit. And through them Thou hast fished the universe. O Lover of mankind, Glory to Thee!"



CONGRATULATIONS St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church on your 25th Anniversary and we wish you a future full of love and success.

> Mike, Samia, Dianne, Norman, Vivian, Brianna, Michael, and Nicholas Abboud

46



"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24)

Congratulations on your 25th **Anniversary,** St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church.

Yvette Gebran

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord" (Psalm 127:3)



Honoring my dear nephews David Asfar, James & Andrew Gebran, whose future is in the church.

Yvette Gebran

"Delight yourself in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart."

Psalms 37:4



Congratulations on your 25th Anniversary. Tony, Julie, Christine, Jaclyn & Daniel Salloum

Best wishes on the 25th Anniversary of St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church;

and many years to come.



THE BITARS: Souheil & Sonia Shafic, Jennifer & Jessica Marc, Joanna, Emma & Anthony Robin & Carina

Congratulations on the 25th Anniversary of



St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church. Many, many more years to come.

Ghattas, Marie and Michaella Freiha



A special dedication to the Lord's little shepherd – Michaella – from Mom and Dad with love.



In loving memory of our dear and caring parents



George & Laure Abboud



Congratulations on the 25th Anniversary of St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church. May the Lord continue to guide the spiritual growth of the parish with love and togetherness.

Youseff Abboud Marie Freiha Anthony Abboud Samira Small Michael Abboud God bless the founders, servers and parishioners of St. Philip Church and their families.

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33.



May the Glory of the Lord shine upon you! With love, Jack, Nellie, Anna, Stephen and Michelle Salloum

"And upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" Matthew 16:18

Congratulations Saint Philip Church on your 25th Anniversary!



In Loving Memory of:

Wadih Salloum Adeebe Salloum Georgette Salloum Fadia Gebran

From Elias, Samia, Sami, John and families

إليهم جميعاً أرسل شكري وتقديري، ومعهم جميعاً أرفع صلاتي وابتهالي الى ربنا وإلهنا ومخلصنا يسوع المسيح، ليكون هو الكل في الكل، فنحيا معاً، لا نحن بل المسيح يحيا فينا، كنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية. الأب الياس الفرزلى



In memory of our loving grandparents Najeeb & Wadiha Salloum



He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.

With love

Nellie, Tony, Lorraine, Dwayne and Nowell Salloum Joanne, David, Raymond and Dawna Hajjar



CONGRATULATIONS, St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church on celebrating your 25th Anniversary.



Bible verse to come.

David, Michelle and Vanessa Estephan

"Most Holy Theotokos save us"



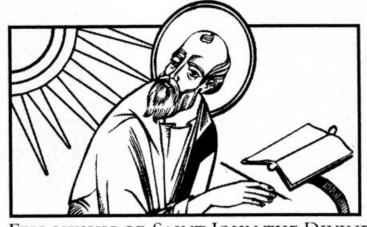
CONGRATULATIONS, St. Philip Antiochian Orthodox Church on your 25th Anniversary.

Best wishes for another 25 years to come!

From all the of the "Antiochian Women" of St. Philip Church.

In memory of the beloved members who have passed to be with our Lord.

"The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus Our Lord" (Rom 6:23)



Fellowship of Saint John the Divine

Living the Orthodox faith in Christ through:

- Worship
- Witness
- Service &
- Fellowship!

Congratulations St. Philip's on creating a 25 year holy history. It is an incredible milestone, which without,

it is an increaible milestone, which without, we would not be the group we are today.

The Fellowship of St. John the Divine:

Christine Salloum, Amanda Salloum, Jaclyn Salloum, Tony & Rita Estephan, Joshua Funk, Philip Ferzli, Gaby Ferzli, Marc Salloum, Anna Salloum, Stephen Salloum, and Dereck Abboud. "Let the Children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, will by no means enter it."

(Mark 10: 14- 15)



May the Lord grant St. Philip Church to remain a true image of the Kingdom of God on earth &

may He grant us all to receive the Kingdom of God as little children.

> **Congratulations "St. Philip Church"** on your 25th anniversary

> > The Church School





O Holy Apostle Philip, intercede with our merciful God, to grant our souls, forgiveness of sins.

أيها الرسول القديس فيليبس تشفع الى الإله الرحيم أن ينعم بصفح الزلات لنفوسنا.