

Bishop JOHN, Antiochian bishop for Worcester and New England

Bishop John was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. His home parish was St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church. From an early age, he had a desire to serve Christ through the holy priesthood and so, after college, he attended St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary near New York City. While in seminary, he became engaged to Joanne Josephs whom he was married in August 1978. He was ordained to the diaconate and priesthood shortly afterwards. Fr. John and Kh. Joanne are the parents of three children, Gregory, Joseph, and Maria.

On May 25, 2008, after a long battle with ovarian cancer, Kh. Joanne reposed.

After his ordination, Fr. John served St. George Antiochian Church in Little Falls, New Jersey, St. George Orthodox Church in New Kensington, Pennsylvania (16yrs), , and then St. George Cathedral in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (17 yrs), While In Western Pennsylvania Fr. John studied pastoral care at the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute earning Clinical Membership in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary earning a D.Min. in Pastoral Care. He facilitated a support group for widows and widowers called THEOS (They Help Each Other Spiritually) for 25 years. Fr. John also served as Dean of the Western PA Deanery from 1987 - 2011. Since 1997 he has been the editor of The Word magazine. Bp. John has also served as spiritual advisor to North American Board of the Antiochian Women and the North American (25 yrs) and before that the Fellowship of St. John the Divine (9 yrs). He taught Priestly Formation at the Antiochian House of Studies and worked as a mentor to the seminarians for the House of Studies program, bringing with him pastoral experience and practice. He also has taught for the Graduate School for the St. John of Damascus Institute of Theology in Lebanon.

After his wife's repose, Fr. John was elevated to the rank of archimandrite by His Eminence, Metropolitan PHILIP. In 2011, at the convention of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, Fr. John was elected to be the Antiochian Bishop of Worcester and New England and was consecrated by Patriarch IGNATIUS and 12 bishops at the Balamand Monastery on December 11, 2011.

Bishop JOHN co-authored **Building an Orthodox Marriage: A Practical Commentary on the Eastern Orthodox Marriage Rite** as well as several introductions to theological books and theological papers. Bishop JOHN serves on the Canonical Regional Planning and Theological committees of the Assembly of Bishops and chairs the committee on Clergy Matters. Bishop John also chaired the Assembly of Bishop's Task Force on Mental Health and is on the Advisory Board of Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology and Religion.