

2012 Annual Clergy Conference



Holy Resurrection Church in Wayne NJ was the site of this year's Clergy Conference held on 21-22 August. The conference theme was *marriage counseling*, with a focus on "FOCCUS" (a valuable resource for pastoral pre-marriage preparation). Through the inspiration and with the blessing of Bishop Michael, the conference welcomed 28 diocesan priests as participants. Thanks to the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors [DDB] Program, funding for this event ~ "support for our existing parishes" ~ was available and certainly well-allocated. Complete information and an invitation to join the ever-growing list of DDBs are available on the diocesan website (nynjoca.org) in the "Vision for Our Future" section.

The conference facilitator/trainer was Maggie Hock. She is the North American Director of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America Department of Marriage & Parish Family Ministries. Khouriya Maggie is a fully licensed and credentialed Psychotherapist and Mediator (LMHP, CPC, LPC), specializing in crisis and trauma, individual, marital, parenting, group therapy and corporate dynamics. Her degrees include: B.A. in Organizational Management; M.A. in Management; M.S. in Counseling with a Superior Scholar designation at Creighton University. She is currently completing a Psy D. Maggie resides in Omaha NE along with her husband, Father Donald (Nectarios) Hock, who has served as pastor of Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church since 1992.



Clergy participants in the intensive 2-day conference training will receive certification to facilitate the FOCCUS© pre-marriage preparation program. The FOCCUS© Pre-Marriage Inventory is not a test and is not used to predict marital success or failure. Rather, it is a tool used to help couples identify, discuss and work through important relationship issues before they get married. Although the FOCCUS© Pre-Marriage Inventory is used by many educators and counselors, it is not primarily a

