



# Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of Ss. Peter & Paul

9980 Highway 9, PO Box 458  
Ben Lomond, CA 95005

V. Reverend Father Andrew Beck, Pastor

## Minutes for Meeting on: Sunday, April 14, 2013

**Time:** During coffee hour

**Location:** Church Sanctuary

**Members Present:** 9

**Treasurer's Report:** Current Balance = \$3,972.86

### 1. **Retreat:**

- a) The Women's group will again sponsor George Papageorge who has agreed to return in the fall of this year for another retreat

### 2. **Charities**

- a) Sienna House: Janelle will take over organizing for their May Mother's Day Event; it was noted that what they need the most are volunteers (they do not need monetary or clothing donations)
- b) Holy Assumption Monastery, Calistoga: we voted to adopt the Monastery as a Women's Group Charity and to send them \$200 yearly.

### 3. **Sharing**

- a) Instead of addressing the remaining 6 items on the proposed agenda we spent time listening to each other's concerns and thoughts. Several members felt it was important to share their misgivings about the Women's Group new mission statement. It was apparent that not everyone is on-board or comfortable with this new direction of "fellowship, charity and spiritual enrichment". Several expressed their conviction that the Women's Group has to be in charge of parish events; otherwise nothing will happen unless they are organized by the group and, more importantly, headed up by the officers.

It is important that as sisters in Christ, we all love one another and support each other. Regarding our Women's Group, there is no right or wrong way to do anything. We all need to strive to hear each other's opinions without judgment or condemnation. Our meetings should be a place of comfort and safety where we all feel free to express our heartfelt thoughts. It is vital that we continually pray for each other and for our Women's Group.

In Archbishop JOSEPH words: *"Remember that our ministries and our service are nothing if they lack the blessing and the presence of our Lord. No matter what arguments and divisions bombard us even in our parishes we must carry on, repent, forgive, and double our efforts in the Holy Orthodox Christian Faith. We hold steadfastly to the Church because it is the gateway to Heaven. Jesus Christ endured the Cross and death, the Saints endured torment and martyrdom, and we endure our own daily struggles which must refine us, not weaken us. We do not flee crises we excel in them"*.

### 4. **Handout:**

- a) Spiritual Reflections for April 2013 was on "Disharmony", from Mother Melania's spring newsletter

**Next Meeting Date:** to be determined, as the second Sunday in May is Mother's Day

#### Officers:

•President: Leanne Albers •Vice-president: Monica Zweers •Treasurer: Kh. Ellen Steiger •Secretary: Linda Young