



Remarks of the Parish Council Chair

St. Philip Annual Meeting, October 22, 2017

Colin Miller

This past summer we remembered our beloved Father Boniface on the one-year anniversary of his passing from us. Earlier this month we said Memory Eternal for our beloved Bishop Antoun. In this year of 2017 we can look back on the story of St. Philip's Church here in Souderton which, historically speaking, is still very short. But we know that there are really no short stories, just smaller portions of the great story of God and his creation.

Over two millennia ago Christ established His Church on Pentecost in Jerusalem. Before this there was a great deal of history that led up to the Incarnation, but we have to start somewhere. This church grew and spread through that part of the world. It was in Antioch where this first generation was first called Christian. Soon after this, in a town sort of between Jerusalem and Antioch called Damascus, St. Paul received his vision and his life took a great turn for the good.

Since it is never possible to really tell the whole story, we will just say that many centuries and many generations later there was still a church in Damascus. In 1931 a child named Antoun Khouri was born there and raised on the Street called Straight where he received his vision of bringing the ancient church to the new world. In 1959 he arrived here in America and was soon ordained as a priest and eventually bishop.

In 1931 another child was born, in Quincy, Illinois. After a journey many of us are familiar with, he would also eventually become a priest, our Father Boniface. It was in Philadelphia that he received his vision of the ancient church as had existed in the old world of Damascus, Antioch, and Jerusalem.

St. Philip's Orthodox Church was born in 1978, grew in the 1980's and found its place here in Souderton in 1991. The children born during those times and raised in the sacraments here are now grown and having children of their own. We pray for the preserving grace of God that this newest and most vulnerable generation will also be raised in the sacraments and grow strong. Their story begins here.

In the coming year let us work hard to ensure that when our stories are read someday, it will be clear that the faith handed down to us did not end here, but was carried on to the generations that came after us.