



ARHIEPISCOPIA ORTODOXĂ ROMÂNĂ DIN CELE DOUĂ AMERICI
THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE IN THE AMERICAS

THE ASSOCIATION OF ROMANIAN ORTHODOX LADIES AUXILIARIES

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www.romarch.org

Biannual AROLA Report

*77th Congress of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the America – July, 1-4, 2010
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***“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither
bond nor free, there is neither male nor female:
for ye are all one in Christ Jesus”
(Galatians 3, 28)***

***Your Eminence,
Your Grace,
Dear Spiritual Father,
Dear Ladies,***

My words should be elaborated in an honest report based on the regular standards of a general evaluation. Reading and thinking about the above words and looking back at the last 2 years I understood that the contemporary women experience in the Church is in a contradiction in many regards. In essence, we should notice that, on one hand, the church, besides the saints and the angels, honors One woman, who is The Holy Virgin Mary our Mother of Jesus Christ; and on the other hand the position of the Christian woman today, in some of our churches is very modest. Pretty much, today, in our church and not only, the pride of being a woman, is reduced at the maternal heroism, the wife devotion, her patience and dedication, going to the humbled acceptance of an infinite prosecution.

Leaving alone my personal thoughts about these aspects, I shall start presenting some of the achievements of the 2008-2010 AROLA committee as well as those non finalized projects and not in the end some of our expectations and potential projects for the next AROLA committee, 2010-2012. The AROLA Committee 2008-2010, with the benediction of our Archbishop Nicolae, consists of:

President: Ms. Theodora Miller *Holy Trinity Church – Rochester, NY*

Vice-president: Ms. Elena Manole *St. Stephen Church – South Saint Paul, MN*

Cashier: Ms. Romanita Fuca-Tomescu *St. Nicholas Church – Woodside, NY*

Secretary: Ms. Carmen Vlad-Popa *St. John the Baptist Cathedral – Montreal (QC)*

Communication Resp.: Ms. Flavia Ene *Holy Trinity Church – Rochester, NY*

Spiritual advisor: Father Prot. Ioan Gherman *Annunciation Cathedral – Cleveland, OH*

Under the advice and directions of Fr. Gherman the Spiritual father of AROLA, as well as Fr. Daniel Ene, the Eparchial Council secretary, with the blessing of our Archbishop Nicolae, and of course the effort and dedication of our ladies committee, AROLA continued the mission received from the former AROLA board, becoming better and more active for the last 2 years.



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With little steps but firm ones, AROLA became a well known organization not only in our Archdiocese, but of many other associations and organizations with the same objectives. We were able to initiate small projects and finalize other, following, respecting and underlining the general mission of AROLA – The Association of Romanian Orthodox Auxiliaries in the Americas as stated in the AROLA Statute:

- Help the poor, elder, sick, orphans, widows, physically or mentally challenged, those without jobs, those in need, victims of disasters, and offer help to those who need it by collecting funds.
- Promote charity, philanthropy and the goals of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of the Americas through different instructional and educational programs, presentations, seminars and discussions.
- Keep and perpetuate the Christian Orthodox concepts and family concepts thus perpetuating Romanian Christian Orthodox faith and traditions according to doctrines, canons, discipline, practice of the divine cult with the appropriate traditions and regulations.
- With the cooperation of the priest and of the Committee, promote participation of the Romanian Orthodox Community to activities.

Going over the AROLA 2008-2010 projects we can enumerate some of our achievements for the last 2 years:

1. The promotion of the role of the woman in the orthodox church including the AROLA meetings into the annual deanery meetings, as well the active ladies participation during these meetings;
2. The active motivation of our ladies in the parochial councils to organize collection of funds through offering luncheons and dinners at the church.
3. The initiation of an intensive and continuous communication between the AROLA committee (the teleconferences during the 2 years for AROLA meeting preparations) as well as the communication with the ladies in our churches, through invitations to meetings, AROLA statute distribution, as well collection of all comments and suggestions for new projects, ideas or information on different and difficult situations encountered in the related churches; any idea or suggestion was and it is more than welcomed and considered;
4. The volunteer action that AROLA provided for IOCC – International Orthodox Christian Charity organization with the occasion of the event “The Taste of Baltimore” taken place on April 24th, 2010 in Baltimore, MD; this event brought together all the orthodox communities in the states MD, Virginia and D.C.; ladies members of AROLA prepared our traditional mici, sarmalutze and mamaliga with hot pepper, as well the donation of \$ 300.
5. The donation of \$1000 for the Romanian Patriarchate for the preparation of the Holy and Great Myrrh.



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6. The collection of an amount of \$4000 in the AROLA account during the last 2 years from July 2008 – June 2010.

AROLA Committee 2008-2010 makes a strong goal in wishing that this organization to become more active and very well known, not only in the Americas, and in each parish through the ladies dedication and their participation with the local committees, but in many other associations and organizations with the same objectives. For this to happen, we need our ladies help and their involvement in Romanian communities and parishes. This goal won't be possible to be achieved without the help and the moral, emotional and spiritual support from our priests towards their ladies committees in their parishes.

For more than 2000 years, in several monasteries, the women served to Jesus Christ, prayed for the people and helped the ones in needs. Since Nero's times to the communist years, whenever the Church was prosecuted, women had to pay their tribute with their own lives, to our belief and tradition, and that is why we have so many women saints, martyrs in the orthodox calendar. We have to always honor and remember their sacrifice. With this in mind, we wish and ask you continue to support and help the new AROLA committee 2010-2012 with the same love and dedication you showed on the last 2 years and not in the end to make your annual contribution of \$100 membership with AROLA, which according to the statute is mandatory. Any other donation you want to make are more than welcomed and always the funds will be used to reach the goals mentioned above, according to the statute and under the blessing of His Eminence Nicolae.

With all these being said, I would like to say thank you to the ladies in AROLA committee 2008-2010, and in local parishes, who supported and helped me during the last 2 years. May God bless and help them in their future activities. We all have to keep in mind that the orthodox women implication is a very deep provocation addressing not only to us, as women, but to the ecclesiastical conscience and it is also an extra reason for us to consider and reinstall the woman's role in the tradition of our Lord Jesus Christ Church.

I will finish my report using St. Talasie's very true words: "Don't talk, let your acts talk!" and the beautiful description of St. John Chrysostom of the woman in the church: "she doesn't talk, but shining and she prosecutes herself by listening".

God Bless and Help us all!

Theodora Miller - AROLA President 2008-2010

Theodora Miller