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Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America – Metropolitan Joseph Congratulates Eight 2020 Francis Maria Scholarship recipients



On Tuesday September 22, 2020, His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph met online via Zoom with the eight 2020 Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese Francis Maria scholarship recipients. Each of the eight students received $5,000 in scholarship money. Father Joseph and Khouria Kathleen Purpura represented the Francis Maria Scholarship Committee and the Maria family at the meeting, in which the students were congratulated and encouraged by His Eminence. The Zoom meeting also included several of the parents of the scholarship recipients.

Since 2003 the Francis Maria Scholarship has granted $317,500 in scholarships. Francis “Frank” Maria of Warner, New Hampshire established the Fund prior to his death. Originally an English teacher and coach in Massachusetts, Francis later served with the U.S. Marines and became an independent consultant and teacher, undertaking special assignments for government, industry and health care organizations. Mr. Maria served on numerous diplomatic, refugee relief and ecumenical initiatives.

In the 1950s, Frank presided over the Federation (predecessor to Senior SOYO) Convention in 1950 and represented the Antiochian Archdiocese several times at

the National Council of Churches. Metropolitan Philip awarded him the Antonian Gold Medal in 1993.

This year’s scholarship winners are:
Nadine Dababneh
Aiden Deighan
Said Dababneh
Zoe King
Sophia Kouri
Aliah Mahshie
Serena Rumman
Nicholas Saliby

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