



Born May 7th, 1954, in Manchester, NH, Philip is the son of John A. Raczka and Lucille P. Prouix. Philip has one brother and three sisters: Ronald, Janice, Ellen, and Nancy.

Father Philip attended St. Francis of Assisi Parochial School and Manchester Memorial High School. At the age of fourteen he started attending the Melkite Church in Manchester MA, where Bishop John A. Elya was pastor.

He received his BA (Magnum Cum Laude) in History from St. Anselm College in Manchester on May 16, 1976. From 1976 to 1980, he was enrolled in St. Gregory Seminary and had summer pastoral assignments at St. George in Birmingham and St. Ann in Danbury. He received his Master degree in Divinity from the Boston Theological Union through Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary on May 17, 1980. He was ordained a priest on Pentecost Sunday, May 25, 1980 by the late Archbishop Joseph E. Tawil at Our Lady of the Cedars Melkite Church in Manchester, NH.

His first pastoral assignment from 1980 to 1983 was assistant pastor at St. Ann Church in North Hollywood, CA with Father Max Chalhoub, where he had special responsibility for the Sunday school and other youth work. He also worked at St. Paul Mission in West Los Angeles.

In November 1983 he was assigned the position of administrator of Holy Cross Mission in Orange County, CA. On April 1986, he supervised the purchase and renovation of the Mission's first church which was blessed, dedicated, and raised to parish rank on October 27th by Archbishop Tawil. At that time, the Archbishop appointed Father Raczka as the first pastor.

In 1988, Father Philip founded St. Philip Mission in San Bernadino, CA. In November 1989, he was transferred to St. Ann Church in West Paterson, NJ to succeed Bishop Nicholas Samra. A year later, he was also given the administrator responsibility of St. Demetrius Mission in Cliffside Park, NJ. He spent six and a half years working, assisted by two priests and four deacons. In 1995 he spent two months in Fremont, CA serving and evaluating the mission while they were between priests.

On December 3, 1995 Father Philip was elevated to Archimandrite by Bishop John Elya. In May 1997 he was transferred to a full-time position at St. Demetrius Mission in Cliffside Park, NJ. The Mission was in the process of building its first church that was dedicated by Bishop John Elya on May 17, 1997.

In May 1999 Rt. Rev. Philip was transferred to St. Joseph's Melkite Church in Akron, OH. Most recently he received a MA in Liturgical Studies from Notre Dame University in South Bend, IN on January 5, 2003. He speaks French, a little Italian, and some Arabic. He can read the liturgy Arabic.

He teaches Liturgics every year at our Melkite Deacon Training School at St. Basil in Methuen.

On December 1, 2004 RT. Rev. Philip was appointed by Archbishop Bustros as the Pastor of Our Lady of Redemption Melkite Church in Warren MI, where he celebrated his first liturgy jointly with His Excellency on Sunday December 5, 2004.

In June of 2008, Rt. Rev. Phillip will be serving as pastor of Saint Michael's Melkite Catholic Church in Hammond, IN.