

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
METROPOLIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT
2022-2024



Metropolis of Chicago
Marilyn Tzakis, President
November 10, 2023

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos, National President, Arlene Siavelis Kehl, Members of the National Executive Board, and Fellow National Board Members:

On June 10, 2023, His Eminence Nathanael's Name Day was held at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. The Philoptochos Chapter President, Elaine Sakoufakis, along with her chapter Board and members, hosted a lovely reception.

On September 23, 2023, the Metropolis Philoptochos held its annual fundraiser, the September Luncheon. This year's theme, "From good roots, love flourishes," exemplifies the Philoptochos multi-generational members who have come before us and those to come after us. Philoptochos has a long history of mothers, grandmothers, daughters, nieces, and granddaughters all helping the mission of Philoptochos. We had a record-breaking crowd of almost 400 in attendance. All were intently listening to our keynote speaker, Yvette Manassis Corporon, and relating to her family's experience as it related to their experiences. Our beneficiaries were the St. Iakovos Retreat Center, International Orthodox Christian Charities, and Metropolis Philanthropic Endeavors. Tri-chairs Mary Baryo, Pat Gerbanas, and Kathy Katrakis kept us rooted with an atmosphere of philotimo throughout the afternoon. The centerpieces were also "green", arborvitae plants that were then donated to the Retreat Center to be planted near the chapel. Congratulations to our chairs and their committee on a very successful event!

On October 11, 2023, the Metropolis of Chicago held its biannual Clergy-Laity Conference and Philoptochos Assembly. Over 80 delegates were registered for this 2-day event. All Metropolis Board members participated and presented on their various committees. Our special guest was His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros. The keynote speaker, Marc Polymeropoulos, a former CIA, and Homeland Security officer, spoke on leadership to the entire Assembly. His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael presented his 5-year Vision Plan. Philanthropy is an important part of His Eminence's vision. Philoptochos delegates participated in break-out sessions with Clergy Laity delegates to discuss the Vision.

Philoptochos delegates had their own break-out session on Membership that was very successful. The chapter winners of the membership challenge for growth in membership were announced. Since the last Clergy Laity in 2021, membership growth increased by 10%.

We have had a steady increase in numbers since 2019. Additionally, we had a Philanthropy panel moderated by Kathy Siavelis, co-chair of the Metropolis Philanthropy Committee. The panel consisted of Kiki Korofigas, Tasia Phassos and Dena Taff. Each related a philanthropy case that

their chapter did. Open discussion included all chapters. Officer workshops were held on the second day. They were both informative and interesting. We kicked off the CMF Luncheon update with line dancing led by our Metropolis Treasurer and native Houstonian, Wanita Loupakos. Board Elections were held on the last day, and 16 members were elected. Many new presidents and first-timers attended. The consensus was that the conference was most eye-opening and enjoyable. A lot was learned by all.

All our chapters continue to support all their National and Metropolis commitments. Whenever our chapters are asked to assist, they are always there to help. The Chicago Philoptochos Sisterhood continues to be a body of dedicated women, helping those in need and assisting our Metropolis and our fellow Sisters in Christ.

We thank His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael and His Grace Bishop Timothy of Hexamilion for their continued support and spiritual guidance.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marilyn Tzakis".

Marilyn Tzakis
Metropolis of Chicago President