

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



Archdiocesan District Philoptochos  
Irene Hotzoglou  
October 31, 2023

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Your Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah, Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras, National Philoptochos President Arlene Siavelis Kehl, and Sisters of the National Philoptochos Board.

I am honored and humbled to represent the Archdiocesan District Philoptochos as the new President. Our elections took place at the Biennial Conference on May 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Church of our Savior in Rye, where we had an excellent attendance with over 100 ladies. There, we reported on Social Services, our endeavors, and initiatives.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Archdiocesan Chapel, the officers were appointed to the newly elected Archdiocesan District Philoptochos Board by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, where the Oath of Office was officiated.



**Feed the Hungry** Our Program continues to be very successful. Every last Tuesday of each month, a chapter volunteers, sometimes in conjunction with their parish or another Philoptochos chapter, to come and distribute food, clothing, toiletries, hand-knitted hats and sweaters, new undergarments, and socks to the underserved and homeless of New York City. Those served are very grateful for everything we provide, and it is truly a humbling experience for all those who volunteer.

**Social Services** This fall, we continue our Domestic Violence initiative with a drive for all chapters to participate in that will run between October 15 – December 15, 2023. Each Chapter will choose a shelter of their choice where they will collect Gift Cards, Diapers, Baby Wipes, Feminine Hygiene Products, Toiletries, Duffle Bags, and Backpacks to help domestic violence survivors. These drives bring the faithful together with a common goal of doing good work and helping the destitute. Aiding those in need is the heart of Philoptochos.

**Saint Michael's Home** Construction is moving forward on the Uniondale site in Long Island, NY. This new magnificent state-of-the-art facility will be able to accommodate more residents, offer additional services and additional spaces for the enjoyment of all, but most importantly, will provide higher levels of care to the ever-increasing needs of our elderly. The Archdiocesan District Philoptochos chapters are devoted to supporting this ministry. On Sunday, November 12, 2023, the

Saint Michael's Home will be holding its Annual Name Day Gala at the Metropolitan Club in NY, celebrating the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its home.

**Beacons of Hope Seminarian Scholarship Fund** We are pleased to continue to support our seminarians in their journey to the priesthood. With the blessings of Archbishop Elpidophoros, this ministry was created to bring financial relief to seminarians attending Holy Cross from the Archdiocesan District. Beacons of Hope is so incredibly important because it will help ensure the future of our Church. We distribute funds twice a year at the beginning of the Fall semester and the beginning of the spring semester. Many individuals and several chapters have donated and held fundraisers and embraced our Beacons of Hope Scholarship Fund.

**Sisterhood of the Traveling Philoptochos Part 2** Since these gatherings were so successful last year, we plan to continue having them this year. These events are free and purely social, for a bit of brainstorming, questions, answers, and just getting to know each other. They are held in various regions and hosted by chapters throughout the district to accommodate our 54 chapters and over 3000 members.

**Agape Luncheon** Our Agape Luncheon was held on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at The Surf Club on the Sound in New Rochelle, NY, which was very successful. His Grace Bishop Andonios of Phasiane spoke passionately about the new St. Michael's Home in Uniondale, NY, and expressed the need for everyone in the country to embrace the home. The proceeds of the event of \$70,000 benefited the Expansion Project. Our next Agape Luncheon is Scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2025, and we hope to raise the bar at that event to \$100,000 to benefit St. Michael's Home.

**Project Review Grants** In July 2023, the Archdiocesan District Philoptochos visited St. Mary's Hospital for Children, Bayside, NY, to present them with the \$25,000 grant that the National Philoptochos approved. The funding will cover 54 Locomotor Training sessions and one partially funded session. This program offers intense and specialized physical therapy to children who have medical conditions that affect their mobility, such as spinal cord injury. The program has helped these children regain lost mobility and improve their overall quality of life.

The Archdiocesan District Philoptochos Board looks forward to continuing to promote the beautiful Philanthropic endeavors by working together harmoniously and diligently with love. We are excited to launch some outreach events and workshops and help guide our chapters to continue the good works and the mission of the Philoptochos.

- We have joined the ranks of Constant Contact for email communication and are updating our website and rebranding our logo.
- We have planned a "Meet and Greet" for our Presidents and their board members on December 2, 2023
- Our board has invited our chapters to a recreational event, Chelsea Market High Line, Chelsea Yards Food Social Event, on Saturday, December 9, 2023.
- With the blessing of HE Archbishop Elpidophoros, we have launched a "Vasilopita Coin of St. Basil" for purchase, where the sales proceeds will benefit our Social Services.

In His Service,

*Irene Hotzoglou*

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Archdiocesan District Philoptochos President