

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



Metropolis of Detroit  
Debbie George  
November 2023

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America  
Your Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah  
Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos  
National Philoptochos President Arlene Siavelis Kehl  
Members of the National Board

***“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” ~1 Peter 4:10***

Greetings from the Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos! On behalf of the women of our Metropolis Board and our 37 chapters spanning seven states (Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Tennessee), I am pleased to extend our best wishes to all. I give a special thank you to His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah and to the Philoptochos women of the Metropolis of Denver for their gracious hospitality. I know that being together in Houston has been something we have all looked forward to, culminating in the Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon showcasing the mission of Philoptochos.

Over the past five months, our dedicated Philoptochos Board and sisters have continued to work tirelessly for the needs of those in our unique parish communities and for the needs of those nationally and internationally. Through our Metropolis Emergency Fund, we have addressed specific and various needs within our Metropolis and assisted the Maui Wildfire Relief Fund and the National Philoptochos Floods & Fires Relief Fund. Our chapters enthusiastically respond when asked and always aspire to make a difference.

Another Metropolis commitment is the Partners in Philanthropy Fund. We have discreetly assisted with medical, housing, and funeral needs when identified throughout the year. Needs are identified on the parish level by each Philoptochos chapter and Parish Priest and conveyed to our committee chair. Where we see need, we act; when asked, we respond. All our chapters continue to honor our mission and respond generously to all requests for assistance.

Our Florence G. Stefanou Memorial Philoptochos Scholarship, offered through the Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos and sponsored over the past five years through the generosity of the Stefanou family, was awarded to Nicole Sophia Petrutiu in early summer. Nicole recently began her college experience at Michigan State University, attends Saints Constantine & Helen in Westland, MI, and is the daughter of Father Teodor and Presvytera Roxana. Nicole was also the 1<sup>st</sup> Place recipient in the Senior Division of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Axia!

We held our Metropolis of Detroit Clergy-Laity and Philoptochos Conference in Ann Arbor, MI in September. The spring and summer planning and implementation helped ensure a successful and educational event for the Delegates. Our guest speakers, Presvytera Kerry Pappas (Center for Family Care), Eva Konstantakos (Y2AM), and Rhea Ballas (Youth and Safety Compliance), each represented their respective departments within the Archdiocese Department & Ministries and enlightened us with their informative discussions. We were both blessed and fortunate to have them as part of our Conference.

Currently, we are planning our two annual Metropolis receptions held in December. We start with an Open House honoring His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas for His Name Day. We end the year with vespers and a reception honoring St. Spyridon at the Metropolis Chapel. It is good to share our hospitality during the holidays with those from around our Metropolis.

Our goals and objectives for the upcoming fiscal year are three-fold. First, we will continue looking for more opportunities to connect, whether through hands-on activities, service projects, forums, the 2024 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention, etc. Connections strengthen our bonds and make achieving our mission easier. Secondly, we will continue to work on growing our membership. Sharing metrics, challenging our chapters, and working toward reaching out to existing and potential members in an open and creative fashion while maintaining our integrity is a must. This is a continual process that has lasting effects. Lastly, our Metropolis Philoptochos will strive to remain visible in the hearts and minds of our communities, whether it be sharing events and photos via social media or making our individual parishes truly aware of all we do. Our increased communication via liaisons, chapter newsletters, activity calendars, etc., all help promote our cause and encourage others to 'join us'.

We have an incredibly strong Metropolis Philoptochos, but we know more is needed to remain the status quo. Leadership in our National office has set a high bar, and collectively, we are chartered to continue with this great effort to fulfill our Philoptochos mission. We can do anything we set our minds to.

I am honored to serve in a wonderful Metropolis led by His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas. His guidance and support and the backing of my Metropolis Board are invaluable. I give thanks for the incredible support of all Philoptochos women who are faithful and dedicated, creative and resourceful, and possess a common drive to help the less fortunate. We are blessed to be part of this wonderful organization.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie George". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Debbie George, President  
Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos