

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
November 2023



Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology

Chairperson: Jeannie Ranglas, Metropolis of San Francisco

Members: *Marian Catechis (Denver), Philippa Condakes (Boston), Stacia Counelis (SF), Vickie Demos (SF), Mari Lou Diamond (SF), Kathy Gabriel (SF), Patricia Gogos (DAD), Athena Kalyvas (Boston), Elaine Kevgas (Boston), Katherine Kotsis (Detroit), Eugenia Kourlos (Boston), Helen Malachais (Atlanta), Matina Pappas (Boston), Irene Politis (Atlanta), Christine Psefteas (SF), Eleni Stamboulidis (Boston), Chrissy Zografos (DAD)*

COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY:

On March 22, 2023 National Philoptochos hosted the seminarian students of *Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology* at the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy as part of their visit to New York City. His Grace Bishop Athenagoras, Philoptochos Spiritual Advisor, joined the evening to offer his pastoral guidance and prayer for the group. They enjoyed a presentation from Second Vice President and Metropolis of San Francisco President, Jeannie Ranglas, Secretary Philippa Condakes, National Philoptochos Director, Amy Kalogeropoulos, and Director of Social Services, Paulette Geanacopoulos, who talked "Philoptochos" with the young seminarians, educating them on the Philoptochos mission and how integral it is for a parish community to work in consultation with Philoptochos women in their future parishes. The two-way dialogue also provided the ladies with provoking questions and ideas for the future of the Philoptochos ministry.

One of goals of the National HCHC Philoptochos committee is to educate the seminarians in all that is Philoptochos. This is now becoming a reality! Currently in development is a course curriculum in Pastoral Ministry which National Philoptochos we will be able to participate as guest speakers at HCHC. We will give two presentations a year, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. More information will be available once the class syllabus is finalized.

Scholarships Distributed by The National Executive Philoptochos Board

- Fall 2022 Scholarships to 22 students totaling \$34,000 (\$2,000 each)
- Spring 2023 Scholarships to 16 students totaling \$40,000 (\$2,500 each)
- Graduation Funds 2023 – awarded to 12 students totaling \$55,000

A discussion followed on how we can better engage and with the all the HCHC students who will be our future Priests, Deacons, Lay Leaders, Teachers and Volunteers.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Coordinate and develop Philoptochos segment in Pastoral Ministry Class at HCHC currently in development.
2. Explore opportunities to integrate Philoptochos into the daily life at HCHC
3. Establish regular and meaningful programs and events to aid direct contact with Students and Seminarians to develop personal relationships and provide Philoptochos Ministry education and awareness. This will further demonstrate that Philoptochos has truly embraced them and their families with love and compassion.
4. Establish regular and meaningful programs to aid direct contact with female students and future Presvyteres to develop personal relationships and provide Philoptochos Ministry education and awareness.

CONSIDERATIONS & ACTION ITEMS:

Philoptochos Education & Awareness at HCHC:

- ❖ Use the “Join Us” video to help educate and utilize a library of videos for all different aspects of Philoptochos to educate and raise awareness and also use the new video produced for the 90th Anniversary of Philoptochos.
- ❖ Set up a Philoptochos Ministry Fair and attend and participate in the overall Parish Ministry Fare.

Financial, Personal Outreach and Relationship Development:

- ❖ Seminarian Financial Support:
 - Establish an annual fundraising event through each Metropolis to financially support their respective Seminarians and HCHC students via the HCHC Financial Aid Office.
 - Establish an endowment fund by Metropolis for long term planning and financial support to alleviate a portion of their financial burden to offset tuition, housing, and books through the Financial Aid Office.
- ❖ Adopt A Student Program:
 - Mentoring, adopting a student/seminarian/family to give support – not just financial – care packages, a note, gift cards.
 - Provide regular communications about their respective Seminarians attending HCHC introducing them and their life story, their families (if applicable), home parish, prior education or work history, service in the church, etc. to Metropolis Chapter President’s & Chapter Membership so they get to know them. Send greeting cards on holidays, Saint’s Feast Day and Birthday.
 - Create fundraisers by a Chapter and Metropolis to help students with small gifts or with tuition.
- ❖ Graduation Annual Dinner Celebration by Metropolis:
 - Make a commitment to have Metropolis Board members attend HCHC graduation in support of your respective Metropolis graduates and encourage your respective Metropolitan to attend each and every year.
 - Coordinate and host an annual Graduation Celebration Dinner the Thursday night prior to graduation in honor of your graduates (& their families) by Metropolis.
- ❖ HCHC / Philoptochos Annual Conference: “Day of Sisterly Love in Service”
 - Host an annual mini-conference at HCHC between Presbyteres, female students and Philoptochos representatives by respective Metropolis to foster personal relationships and shared experiences. The agenda could emphasize Women’s Health & Wellness concepts, Servant Leadership and Service in Parish Life, Philoptochos Education & Awareness and social activities.