

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023 – HOUSTON, TX
NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD MEETING



Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry

Chair: Martha Driscoll

Members: Vasilianna Fakiris, Marilyn Jemas, Savina Prokopios-Davos

Mission Statement: In the spirit of Christ's teaching "...I was in prison, and you visited me" (Matthew 25:36), the mission of this committee is to offer an opportunity to positively affect the lives of both those who are incarcerated and their families through identifiable acts of compassion and love.

- **Objective:** To strengthen awareness and facilitate outreach to those affected by incarceration. The committee is initiating a movement to encourage chapters to consider establishing a **new National Commitment** which would require chapters to support National outreach either through the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry or similar organizations.
- **Awareness:** Review and inform chapters of the process for establishing a new National Commitment as dictated by the National By-Laws. Reference the current information, services, and suggestions offered by the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. **<https://theocpm.org>** Research local and national programs/agencies that offer support and services to families of those incarcerated.
- **Action:** Survey chapters to initiate interest in supporting a new National commitment to support those who are incarcerated and their families. Survey chapters for programs currently supported in their ongoing outreach for those incarcerated and/or for their families including support to parish families affected by incarceration. Provide guidance for identifying and contacting local and national agencies/ organizations that offer services to area prison populations ex. **<https://www.bedfordny.gov/340/Soap-Is-Hope>** - a program that distributes needed items to female prisons, i.e. soap, shampoo, yarn.