



# Philadelphia

PENNSYLVANIA

## 2014 NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS BIENNIAL CONVENTION

*The Orthodox Christian Family: A Dwelling of Christ and a Witness of His Gospel*

Dear National Board Members, Metropolis Presidents and Boards, Chapter Presidents and Boards, Philoptochos Sisters and Stewards,

Christos Anesti! I greet you with great anticipation and excitement as preparations move forward to the time we welcome you in Philadelphia as Philoptochos celebrates 83 Years of Philanthropy. The Biennial Convention is a gathering of Sisters in Christ representing, as His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios has stated, “the army of women”, to learn, to experience, to be challenged and to renew our commitment to our mission. As we take the opportunity to acknowledge Philoptochos accomplishments, we will work each day to plan for the future.

Our Convention Tri-Chairs, Anne Michals, Martha Stefanidakis and Evellyn Tsiadis, in coordination with Convention Program Chairs, Christine Karavites and Evan Mekras Scurtis, have successfully prepared an agenda complete with informative panel discussion groups, testimonials, guest speakers and opportunities for each Philoptochos delegate to enrich her knowledge of what it means to be an active participant in one of the great Ministries of our Church. Below is the tentative Agenda with highlights of the Program.

### Sunday, July 6

- Hierarchical Divine Liturgy – St. George Cathedral, Philadelphia, PA
- 2014 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention Opening Ceremonies
- Blessings and Greetings from His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America
- Bylaws & Resolutions Presentation
- Budget Preview

### Monday, July 7

- Divine Liturgy
- 42nd Biennial Clergy/Laity Congress Official Opening with Keynote Address of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America
- 2014 National Philoptochos Convention General Assembly
- Bylaws and Resolutions Report
- Children's Medical Fund Report
- 2014 Chapter Challenge Presentations
- Social Service Panel Discussion-Mental Illness: *Our Community's Journey to Understanding, Compassion & Hope*
- Presentation- *Engaging Emerging Leaders*
- Evening Cultural Event at the famous Waterworks Restaurant for all Clergy/Laity and Philoptochos participants

### Tuesday, July 8

- 2014 National Philoptochos Convention General Assembly
- Treasurer's Report- *2015-2016 Budget Adoption*
- Presentation-*The Environment On Earth As It Is In Heaven*
- 2014 Chapter Challenge Presentations
- Ministry Testimonials
- *AGAPE Award* Presentation
- Presentation-*Family Health and Nutrition*
- *Defending the Faith – Religious Freedom, The Ecumenical Patriarchate* -Michael Emmanuel, Chief Congressional Correspondent, Fox News
- *Human Trafficking Presentation* –Rachel Lloyd, Founder of GEMS
- Reception-*Philadelphia Style*
- An evening of Education/Philanthropy & Service
  - Chapter Presidents' Forum and Delegate Workshops-Team Building - Meeting with Meaning

### Wednesday, July 9

- Divine Liturgy
- 2014 National Philoptochos Convention General Assembly
- Honoring Our Military/Veterans – *The Brave Ones* Presentation
- Inspirational Enrichment Presentation
- Special video presentation – *Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy*
- 2014 Chapter Challenges Presentations
- *SNAP ( Special Needs Athletic Programs)* Presentation
- Chapter Awards Program
- Grand Banquet

Don't miss out! Please make every effort to send at minimum one delegate from your chapter to this noteworthy Convention. I am confident that this gathering will be a rewarding and memorable experience for each and every delegate. Let's share this great experience together in love, peace and unity.

With love in Christ,



Aphrodite Skeadas  
President