Christmas 2016

To the members of the National Philoptochos Board, the Metropolis Boards, Chapter Presidents, Stewards and Friends of Philoptochos,

At a recent soup run on a cold and windy night in New York City, Philoptochos members enthusiastically filled sustainable bags with hot meals, healthy sandwiches, personal hygiene items and fresh, warm clothing, for the hungry and homeless. Just before leaving, one of our guests, a young man, smiled sweetly, turned and observed, “When you’re here with us, it’s just like Christmas Day.”

The Feast of the Nativity should cause each of us to reflect not only on the humble and extraordinary birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, but also on the continuing significance of His birth to all of us. For our young guest at the soup run, the comfort of the meal, the warmth of the clean clothing and the kindness and love shown to him by strangers fully embodied the meaning of Christmas.

As members of Philoptochos, we know the joy of helping others. We know that whatever we give comes back to us one hundred fold. Our guest was right - love for one another and kindness extended to someone in need, coupled with the hope of salvation, should be central to our understanding and our celebration of Christmas. Fulfilling the mission of Philoptochos, and more importantly, living our faith through philanthropy, enables us to reaffirm that message in ourselves and to instill that belief in our children and youth.

As we celebrate Christmas and the joyful commemoration of God’s love for us, my prayer is that our hearts will overflow with humanity and with love for one another and that we will fully experience and embrace the beauty and grace of the Nativity.

With Love in Christ,

Maria Logus
National Philoptochos President