Metropolis of Detroit President’s Report
National Philoptochos Executive Board Meeting – January 31-February 1, 2020
Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy
New York, New York

Your Grace, Bishop Apostoles of Media
National Philoptochos President, Maria Logos
Members of the National Philoptochos Executive Board

On Behalf of the Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Board and its chapters, it is a pleasure to bring you greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

**2019 began with the cutting of the Vasilopita, the first of the National Commitments. All proceeds benefit St. Basil Academy.** Luncheons, auctions, trays passed after Divine Liturgy and a variety of other activities were held. The monies raised from the Vasilopita celebrations are typically greater than those of the other commitments. The chapters reported that the proceeds exceeded the amounts from previous years ranging from donations of $1,000 to $6,000. St. Basil Academy brings the light of Christ to young lives.

**On December 11, a Vespers Service was held and a Divine Liturgy on December 12 in commemoration of St. Spyridon to whom the Detroit Metropolis chapel is dedicated.** The festive and beautifully decorated Metropolis home created a lovely ambiance for the receptions hosted by the Metropolis Philoptochos Board.

**Many charities benefitted over the Christmas holiday. The Nativity of the Virgin Mary Chapter in Plymouth, Michigan was very busy through the entire season.** In October, the chapter raised over $1000 for the Karmanos Breast Cancer Research Center. In November they made 60 fleece blankets, and December they sponsored a program at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Detroit, and cooked a meal for over 175 people. In addition to the meal, they distributed the following items for those in need: 60 fleece blankets, 35 backpacks filled with men’s toiletries, 30 tote bags filled with kitchen essentials, several winter coats, new socks and t-shirts.

**The St. John the Baptist Chapter Sterling Heights, Michigan is well on its way with its Chapter Challenge Initiative.** The chapter provided Christmas for over 30 kids in foster care ranging from 8 months to 20 years old. The Christmas gifts were given to Friends of Foster Kids, a nonprofit organization founded in Macomb County MI in 2008. For nearly two years, they have raised funds, collected items and helped with various programs.

**This spring the Metropolis Philoptochos Board is planning a Facebook “No Show” fundraiser to provide support to our very important Metropolis charities.** His Eminence Archbishop Elpidoforos announced that May 17, the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, as Philoptochos Sunday. Through Social Media and the Detroit
Metropolis website, the Metropolis Philoptochos Board invites you to celebrate women who have inspired us in our mission and in life. From March 17 through May 17, we will be honoring and memorializing these women who are near and dear to us. Through chapter and individual donations, it is the hope of the board to fulfill our commitment in helping those in need.

Many of the chapters continue to embrace the National Philoptochos project “Operation Classroom.” The Annunciation Philoptochos chapter of Chattanooga, TN raised $450 for East Lake Elementary School. The donation assists in providing clothes to students who are in need.

The Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos Board along with the Stefanou family will once again offer the Florence G Stefanou Memorial Scholarship. Last year there were nine exceptional applicants. It is our hope that many more young people will take advantage of this opportunity.

The Orthodox Christian Fellowship Metropolis wide database has grown from 300 to 350 names throughout the Detroit Metropolis. The chapters are reminded to embrace the students in their area colleges by inviting them to church, dinner, and including them in parish activities.

The Metropolis of Detroit has expanded its use of Social Media with a new Social Media Coordinator. Along with Facebook, an Instagram page has been added. The younger generation is now on Instagram, and one post has already been liked 1,790 people.

The Board plans to sponsor two Small Chapters by paying their registration to the National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. The excitement is building, and a few of the small chapters are already inquiring about sponsorship opportunities.

We are the early stages of researching and planning a Seminarian Outreach Program. More information will be given as we continue this most worthy outreach.

The Metropolis of Detroit is excited and honored to be selected as the next location for the Children’s Medical Fund Luncheon. It will be on November 6, 2021 prior to the Christmas Lenten period.

In closing, I sincerely thank our beloved spiritual leader, His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas for his constant love, guidance, and support of our Metropolis ministries as well as the National Philoptochos ministries.

With Love and Respect,
Theone Dickos
Detroit Metropolis Philoptochos President