National Philoptochos Report – January 2020

“...forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, Your Grace Bishop Apostolos, National Philoptochos President, Maria Logus, Members of the National Philoptochos Board,

It is my honor to greet you on behalf of the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos, I will miss being with all of you today in fellowship and as you prepare for the upcoming year in service together. My heart and prayers are with you. It is very likely that as you are meeting, I am spending time with my beloved new granddaughter!

I anticipate a wonderful 2020 in the Metropolis of San Francisco. I am humbled to continue as Metropolis of San Francisco Metropolis President alongside our newly elected Board. We will approach this new term distributing greater responsibility to the Executive Board with each member of the Board providing leadership in their perspective ministry. Our Chapter Presidents are ready to lead and have fresh new ideas that I am excited to see unfold throughout the year. It is my sincere hope that our good works not only touch the lives of the many that need it, but that the work being done serves as a beacon to women (and men) within our Metropolis so that they feel moved to join us in this movement in Membership. As the needs of the world grow, so does the need to increase in number to lead the way.

We are excited to report that our annual Light the Path – A Christmas Luncheon events supporting the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fundy on November 23, 2019 at Saint Paul’s Greek Orthodox Church and on December 3, 2019 at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in San Francisco, CA were a success! Both events were filled with the joyous holiday spirit of fellowship and generosity towards our Seminarians. Our Philoptochos Chapters donated exquisite items that added beauty and fundraising fun for all in attendance. We are honored to attend the 2020 Commencement at Hellenic College/Holy Cross joined with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, and for the first time, with His All Holiness Bartholomew and His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros this May to distribute almost $185,000 to our Students and Seminarians. We are grateful for the opportunity to support the future of our beloved church and always humbled by the incredible generosity of our people!

We remain committed to extending our Social Services ministry locally and at the National Philoptochos level by continuing to be at the forefront of ministries such as the Human Trafficking and Feeding the Hungry initiatives by provide opportunities and information with ways to educate and raise funds to help all those in need. Our Metropolis will host two regional Human Trafficking events to start the year. The first in San Diego, at Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church on February 29th and the second in Belmont, CA at Church of the Holy Cross on March 14th. We are also proud to announce that we will add $35,000 meals served to the Feeding the Hungry Initiative total at our upcoming Diakonia Project in conjunction with Feeding Children Everywhere at FDF on February 13, 2020 in Anaheim. This project is always fun and a perfect representation of Philoptochos by involving all ages and men to participate in helping those in need.
To kick off the Camp Agape fundraising season, Holy Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix, AZ will host the annual **Agape Ball** to celebrate our Arizona Camp Agape families on January 25, 2020. We will welcome ten Camp families as well as Camp Agape volunteers and Philoptochos members throughout our Arizona Chapters for this wonderful night in support of the Kids ‘n’ Cancer Ministry.

We will continue our fundraising efforts at the **Agape Celebration of Love** which will be held at the beautiful Newport Beach Country Club in Newport Beach, California on May 3, 2020. We are looking forward to celebrating the Kids ‘n’ Cancer ministry among friends throughout the Metropolis and families who have attended Camp Agape. We are grateful for the overwhelming support through gifts and steadfast prayers for this ministry. We look forward to the 2020 Camp Agape season!

The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos continues to support the Ecumenical Patriarchate in humble prayer and with financial gifts to help further the growth of our church by spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos 2020 Events**

- Agape Ball – Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ – January 25, 2020
- FDF (Faith, Dance, Fellowship) – Anaheim Marriot, Anaheim, CA- February 13-16, 2020
- Kids ‘n’ Cancer - Agape Celebration of Love- Newport Beach Country Club, Newport Beach, CA - May 3, 2020
- HC/HC Commencement - Brookline, MA - May 9, 2020
- Camp Agape - Orme School, Mayer, AZ - June 4-7, 2020
- Camp Agape- Camp Angelos, Portland, OR – August 1-6, 2020
- Camp Agape- Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center, Dunlap, CA - August 6-9, 2020
- Camp Agape – Whispering Winds, Julian, CA - August 20-23, 2020
- Light the Path-SoCal- Saint Paul’s Greek Orthodox Church, Irvine, CA – November 21, 2020
- Light the Path, Northern California – Location TBA – December 5, 2020

**Philoptochos**: Philanthropy, Fellowship, and Faith *in Action.*

“For with God, nothing is impossible." Luke 1:37

With Love in Christ,

Jeannie Ranglas, President
Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos