

**GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.  
METROPOLIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
2018-2020**



**DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT**

*Jennifer Constantin, President*

August 2020

***With Gratitude...***

Thank you for all you do in support of Philoptochos!

Our Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos Chapter members are a faithfully dedicated group of women who selflessly give back to our communities and our parishes, both in our own neighborhoods and around the world. Wherever there is need, there is Philoptochos.

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros has officially appointed V. Rev. Fr. Chrysostomos Gilbert, parish priest of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in New York City, to serve as the spiritual advisor to the Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos. We warmly welcome Father Chrysostomos into the Philoptochos family.

“...for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2Cor.9.7b)

- Our Direct Archdiocesan Philoptochos chapters have enabled us to assist the three commitments from our District on an ongoing basis, they include:
  - St. Michael's Home, which for more than 60 years has given loving, quality care to the elderly in our community.
  - Hellenic Cultural Center in Astoria, Queens, which holds cultural and educational events for our entire community.
  - Panaghia Perivleptos Scholarship Fund, supporting our Holy Cross Seminarians.

***Key Programs...***

“To aid the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church...”

- **Social Services** - Responding to the needs of the poor is the heart of our organization; over the last two years and through the generosity of our chapters, we have distributed funds to individuals and families in need throughout our area. We assist by paying rent and mortgages, utility bills, medical bills, offer grocery gift cards, along with donations of clothing, furniture, diapers, and most often, burial assistance. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen an extreme increase in need in our area. The board developed a method for those in need to reach out to us directly, and the **Philoptochos Connection** was born. The Philoptochos Connection helpline received more than 50 calls from early April to the present. The need is great and we are still answering requests for assistance. We thank

our chapters who have given above and beyond to assist those in need. We couldn't provide all the help we do without you.

- **Pen Pal Program** - Handwritten notes and hand drawn pictures are having a moment to brighten the day for seniors and others in isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic. This program brings together the youth and our elderly.
- **Covid-19 Time Capsule Workbook for Kids** - Our children are living through history right now; it's a strange time and its happening all over the world. We want our youth to take a moment to fill in the pages and have something to look back on.
- **Our AGAPE Luncheon** - The biennial Agape Luncheon to benefit St. Michael's Home expansion fund was held on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Crest Hollow Country Club on Long Island. To date, our chapters have collectively donated over \$220,000 towards this fund.
- **Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Lenten Retreat** was held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 at St. Basil Academy in Garrioso, N.Y., where Dr. Mary Kentros presented a program about coping with anxiety and stress, Cathy Florakis presented on physical health and fitness, and Stamatia Pappas presented on NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Retreats have been held in the Bronx, Poughkeepsie, Astoria, Port Washington and Cathedral Holy Trinity.
- **Regional Meetings and Board Workshops** - Several times per year Regional Meetings and Board Workshops are held and always bring together a crowd of faithful women looking to further the mission of Philoptochos, to make a difference in the lives of others, and to serve God. Locations in New York include Flushing, Albany, Hempstead, Brookville, Cathedral Holy Trinity, West Nyack and Annunciation NYC. Locations in Connecticut include Orange, Norwalk, Hartford, Stamford and Danbury.
- **Chapter Presidents Luncheon at the Archdiocese** - A lovely, well-attended luncheon was held on January 3, 2020 to honor the Presidents of the Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos Chapters. His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and His Grace Bishop Apostolos made the day a special one.
- **Virtual Fundraising** - At a time when we need to be creative about fundraising, we know that virtual fundraising events will be a large part of our future. Our chapters have asked for a list of possibilities. There are so many wonderful ideas from around the country and we are excited to develop this new way of fundraising.

### *Looking Ahead...*

**GOALS FOR THE REST OF 2020** – Our goals for the coming months are to;

- Continue to provide much needed support to those in our communities who are struggling.
- Encourage more young women to become active Philoptochos members.
- Our Philoptochos sisters look forward to the prayers and assistance of each and every Hierarch, Parish Priest and Parish Council member in our Archdiocese.

Jennifer Constantin, President  
Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos