

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



**METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO PHILOPTOCHOS**

*Jeannie Ranglas, President*

August 22, 2020

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Your Grace Bishop Apostolos, Maria Logus, National Philoptochos President, Philoptochos Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“And the Lord, He is the One who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.” Deuteronomy 31:8*

It is with great joy that I bring you greetings from the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos under the spiritual leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. We consider it our privilege to join our sisters from Chapters throughout all Metropolises in our Archdiocese to celebrate the ongoing Philanthropic work being done to fulfill our mission of *helping those in need*. May God bless our fellowship at the 46th Biennial Philoptochos Convention: “Together Apart”.

2020 has proven to be a year of challenge as we fully come to understand “Together Apart”, during this unprecedented time surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. We continue to pray and grieve with those who have lost friends and loved ones to this virus and hold on to hope that a vaccine will be available soon. While we learn to process loss and change, we have also had the opportunity to slow down, refocus and reevaluate our time. It is abundantly clear that we need each other! Smiles, hugs, shared meals... it is the relationship with others that weaves meaning throughout our lives. At the heart of Philoptochos is relationship... forever friendship and sisterhood in Christ. It is truly a blessing to me to be a part of this movement of love that does not lose hope, does not give up, and does not miss an opportunity to make a difference even when it seems impossible.

We have become Zoom champions within the Metropolis of San Francisco as we have taken to the computer screens to stay connected. Chapters have hosted Philoptochos meetings, coffee hours, happy hours, and cooking classes to name a few. It has been a wonderful time to spend conducting business, brainstorming ideas, sharing laughs and encouraging each other when we cannot be physically close. It has been especially nice to connect with Chapter Presidents all at once, from all regions without boarding a plane!

Our beloved *Kids 'n' Cancer/ Camp Agape* ministry continues to grow each year to help serve families with children afflicted with cancer. These precious families find needed commonality with other attending families to help form lasting relationships with each other and with our Philoptochos volunteers. Our *Agape Celebration of Love* was held on May 5, 2019 at the beautiful Newport Beach Country Club in Newport Beach, California, and as in years past, always a highlight within our Metropolis as we hosted an afternoon of fundraising and celebrating our special families. Sadly, this year, we had to cancel and host a virtual event.

We are truly grateful for the generosity of our people who faithfully give as if they were in attendance. We are currently in “virtual camp season”. We have had reunions, scavenger hunts and a dance party, complete with a DJ – what an adventure to do it all on the computer! We will continue virtual Camp Agape throughout the summer as well as provide assistance and care packages to all. We remain prayerful for our precious families. I am grateful to the Philoptochos Chapters for their inspiring efforts to support this ministry and all of those who generously *Give Their Heart to a Child*.

The ***Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund, Light the Path, a Christmas Luncheon*** supports the seminarians from our Metropolis by offering financial assistance as they graduate from their program of study. Through his vision, His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony, of blessed memory, established this endowment fund over 27 years ago, which has since contributed nearly 2 million to students from the Metropolis of San Francisco studying for the holy priesthood. The Metropolis Philoptochos has been the guardian angel of this important project and we are honored to invest in the future of our church. Our, *Light the Path* events in support of this fund continue to usher in the Christmas holiday season with beautiful décor, sounds of the season, fundraising opportunities in exquisite Chapter-sponsored Christmas trees, and inspired messages from our Seminarians and Students attending Hellenic College/Holy Cross. We are truly grateful to all our Chapter members that work diligently to support this important ministry. We are proud to have 5 graduates this year and distribute \$151,000 to a total of 14 students. As part of the ministry, the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board accompanies His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos to Brookline each year, to attend Commencement and celebrate. This year, unable to attend, we held a virtual Zoom Commencement Dinner on May 7, 2020 with our Seminarians, Students and their families to share a meal, celebrate and fellowship across the miles, even Jerusalem!

The ***HC/HC Adopt a Student*** program remains a vibrant ministry that places a seminarian or student with a Philoptochos Chapter, other than his/her own, to be nurtured both spiritually and tangibly. It is a blessing to for all involved to follow our Seminarians and Students and provide support through their scholastic journey.

The ***Women’s Health and Wellness*** ministry *Encourages, Mentors and Uplifts* our women as we explore the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, interpersonal and physical issues of women. Various events throughout the Metropolis focused on relevant women’s issues, providing knowledge and resources aimed at saving lives and providing tools to help to educate others. Our Metropolis held several regional events targeting Human Trafficking in 2019 as well as various health topics.

***Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center*** has been a place for spiritual renewal and reflection in our Metropolis for over 37 years. The Metropolis Philoptochos continues to be its special caretaker, especially the Lodge, which bears the name of Philoptochos. We held our ***Fall Spiritual Conference*** at the Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in September of 2019. It was a wonderful time to welcome new Presidents, Board Members and Philoptochos Sisters to share knowledge, celebrate the work of Philoptochos, and strengthen our relationships with each other through fellowship. We held Metropolis Philoptochos Board Elections on Saturday, September 21, 2019 and took Oath of Office in January of 2020 at the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco. I am blessed to be working with a vibrant, talented Board with many new faces as we move forward in leadership.

The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board, FDF Management Team and volunteers gathered together to host the ***Diakonia Project at FDF*** in 2019 and 2020. It is always a fun-filled time together in service spanning all ages of children, women, and men. We are proud to have assembled 75,000 meals partnered with Feeding Children Everywhere, continuing our support for the ***Feeding the Hungry*** initiative. Our total meals served has surpassed 200,000!

We remain committed to extending our ***Social Services*** ministry locally and at the National Philoptochos level. In addition to supporting the National Philoptochos COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund we created our own Metropolis-wide campaign distributing Philoptochos Masks to promote safety and raise funds for COVID-10 Relief. We have shipped over 1000 masks to date with more orders to be filled!

We are prayerfully anticipating the completion of the ***Saint Nicholas Church and National Shrine***. The Metropolis of San Francisco completed its pledge of over \$360,000 towards this worthwhile project that will be a beacon of hope, love and light to all who visit!

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

It is impossible to shine a large enough light on the accomplishments within our Chapters. The Metropolis Ministries are supported by each and every one of them in addition to their remarkable local community work. I am encouraged and inspired by their dedication, their innovation, and their passion to love people and promote change in the world. Philoptochos is a constant and powerful movement of women embracing their calling to follow Christ and to do His work here on earth, no matter the challenge. *Love cannot be contained!*

I am forever grateful and inspired to know and share this life with all of you!

Jeannie Ranglas, President  
Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos