

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
METROPOLIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT
2022-2024



Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos

Jeannie Ranglas, President

May 2023

The **46th Annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Folk Dance and Choral Festival** was held February 2023 in Phoenix, Arizona. FDF and the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Diakonia Project was focused to help Sojourner Center, a safe haven from domestic violence for both women and children in Arizona. We decorated and assembled bags of donations items needed by the Sojourner Center, which provides shelter and support services such as a residential program, counseling, youth support services, children's programming, and community-based services. The Metropolis Philoptochos hosted a clergy family luncheon in honor of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros where we presented him with an Omophorion vestment set and a \$5,000 check to support the Archdiocesan Clergy Pension Fund.

In February 2023, the National Philoptochos Society unanimously approved an emergency disbursement to the **Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Earthquake Relief Fund**. These funds come from the National Philoptochos Emergency Fund, which enables the Philoptochos Society to immediately respond to those in need in times of national or international crisis. The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board along with its chapters from throughout the Metropolis immediately responded to this plea for help and contributed a significant amount of funds to support this devastating cause.

In July 2022, the **National Philoptochos Convention** was held in New York in conjunction with the Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress. Our Metropolis was well-represented by our delegates who brought spirit and energy from the west coast to our sisters across the Archdiocese. The Saint Demetrios Philoptochos Chapter in Seattle, WA was selected as a National Agape Award winner and was recognized at our annual Agape Breakfast.

In May 2022, five members of the Metropolis Philoptochos Board traveled to Brookline, Massachusetts to participate in the **Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology** commencement festivities for our students. During our time on campus, we presented a check for over \$120,000 to support the seminarians and students from our Metropolis. It is always uplifting to visit "The Holy Hill" and to share in fellowship with these wonderful men and women who are pursuing higher education at Hellenic College Holy Cross and encourage them as they pursue service to our Church.

In May 2023, seven members of the Metropolis Board Philoptochos will travel to Brookline, MA to support our Metropolis seminarians and students for graduation and celebrate this milestone in their lives. We will present them with over \$160,000 in grant money to offset their tuition, and school related expenditures.

A Kids ‘n’ Cancer Ministry, Camp Agape. The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Kids ‘n’ Cancer – Camp Agape Ministry is dedicated to providing support for children afflicted with cancer and their families. This beloved ministry offers a compassionate and caring environment, exemplary of Christ’s unconditional love, along with an opportunity to shape meaningful friendships and create precious memories. The Metropolis Philoptochos oversees four Camp Agape programs throughout the Metropolis – one each in San Diego, Dunlap (Ranch), Arizona, and Portland. Because these children have significantly compromised immune systems, we were not able to engage in full camp programs due to ongoing COVID concerns. However, our shortened camps were still met with much enthusiasm, and we were able to provide camper care packages for families who were not able to attend. We are looking towards the summer of 2023 and will develop appropriate programming to keep this ministry going. We raised over \$325,000 in support of this ministry at our recent Agape Celebration held at the Newport Beach Country Club on May 7, 2023.

The ***Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund*** has been a vital source of support for our seminarians and students. In the past 15 years we have offered over \$1.5 million in financial assistance. Each year, our Light the Path Christmas Luncheon brings together our clergy and faithful for an afternoon of Christmas cheer – complete with beautiful decorations and the sights and sounds of Christmas. Light the Path was held on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at Saint Paul Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine and featured presentations from His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, a panel discussion with HCHC seminarians from our Metropolis, and special entertainment from the Citrus Singers from Citrus College in Glendora, CA. We plan to host the Light the Path Christmas Luncheon event in Northern California in 2023.

Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center is a beloved place in our Metropolis, and Philoptochos has been a loving caretaker, not just of the Philoptochos Lodge, but many aspects of the facilities. We were pleased to provide funding for all new mattresses for the Lodge rooms, plus new bedding, and bath linens. The rooms look beautiful, and we can’t wait for you to visit!

Join the ***Women’s Wellness and Awareness Ministry*** of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos on April 29, 2023, for an engaging keynote presentation by guest speaker Jamie Nunez, the Western Regional Manager at Common Sense Media, addressing digital media use and early childhood learning. Mr. Nunez through Common Sense Media brings with him an extensive background through support of state education agencies, school leaders and parents across the western region of the U.S. in their efforts to address digital literacy skills.

The ***Social Services Ministry*** embodies the spirit of Philoptochos by assisting those in need of caring, kindness and compassion. The need for such a ministry is paramount to our mission as Philoptochos women touch others both financially and spiritually in a manner which provides hope and preserves dignity. Our mission is to assist those locally, throughout our Metropolis, and on a National level, who are encountering crisis or in a position that is less fortunate. The continuation of such a ministry is essential to achieving our goal. This need was pronounced during the COVID pandemic, and we remain vigilant in helping now more than ever in touching hearts.... and changing lives.

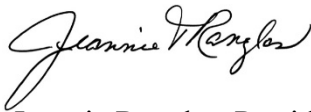
For the third consecutive in-person conference, the Metropolis Philoptochos has partnered with the ***Young Adult Conference (YAL)*** for the annual Diakonia project over Labor Day weekend 2022. This year we sponsored a backpack project with personal care products, snacks, books, and a copy of the Orthodox Military Bible. These were donated to San Diego 211, an organization that provides support for those serving in the military, and for veterans and their families. Over 500 backpacks were filled, and the organization was overwhelmed with the generosity and kindness of our young adults.

The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos continues to support the ***Ecumenical Patriarchate*** and the God-pleasing ministry of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew through contributions to benefit philanthropic endeavors including the Balukli Hospital and nursing home, schools, shrines, and parishes in Constantinople and the surrounding area.

The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos is planning to host its ***Fall Spiritual Conference*** at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center on September 15-17, 2023, to celebrate Philoptochos ministries, share information, spend time in fellowship to nurture our relationships and spiritually renew. We treasure this time to get to know newly elected and returning Chapter Presidents, and members from all over the Metropolis and conduct our annual organizational business matters.

We are delighted and honored to host the ***2024 Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress and National Philoptochos Convention*** in San Diego from June 30 – July 4, 2024. We look forward to sharing our west-coast hospitality and are eager for your enthusiastic participation.

In His Service,



Jeannie Ranglas, President
Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos