

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



Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos

Irene Politis

May 2023

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos,
Madame President Arlene Siavelis Kehl, National Board members

Xristos Anesti!

Greetings from the Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos!

The Metropolis of Atlanta is comprised of 64 Chapters with around 3,000 members. A lot of our Chapters have small memberships, but they have big hearts! Our Chapters have continued to work together to fulfill the mission of Philoptochos. We have an informative website where information is posted about Chapters and what is going on in the Metropolis. Presidents are kept informed with monthly emails.

Some of the different projects that Chapters have been involved in are:

- Passing out icons of special feast days to parishioners.
- Have a Philoptochos bulletin board with information.
- Collecting peanut butter to feed the children during the summer months, “Spread the Love Project.”
- Honoring Mothers and Fathers, honoring the oldest mother in the community.
- Honoring veterans
- Hosting family fun days, visiting shut-ins.
- Assembling IOCC hygiene kits
- Chapters still continue to be involved with “Operation Classroom” and “Feed the Hungry.”

Hurricane Ian made landfall on September 28, 2023, in the Fort Myers area. The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Fort Myers had several families that were impacted by this terrible hurricane. Per the direction of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, Chapters were asked to raise funds to send to our Metropolis treasury so that we can help. Over \$55,000 was raised by our Chapters. Money was also sent to the National office. So far National has assisted with donating funds (\$21,655.00) to help those that were devastated by Hurricane Ian. This special assistance is continuing, with the social services committee from our Metropolis. This disaster pulled together all the Metropolis Chapters to help those in need and continue the tradition of Philoptochos.

“The Role of Women in the Greek Orthodox Church” was the topic of our zoom Spiritual Retreat that was held on March 18th. Father Gregory Georgiou was the presenter. Individual Chapter

members and groups gathered on zoom to watch the retreat. Thirty-five women enjoyed Father Gregory's presentation.

With elections taking place this month, presidents are asked to review all the procedures and bylaws for their Chapter to be ratified.

The Metropolis Clergy-Laity and the Philoptochos conference will take place in Tarpon Springs, Florida on June 21-25. The theme of the conference is "One Faith, One Body, One Family" Chapters are asked to send at least one delegate. Two Chapters have offered to pay the registration fee (\$450) for two delegates from small Chapters to attend.

Our upcoming fundraiser, the Agape Luncheon, will take place in Raleigh, North Carolina on September 16, 2023. The guest speaker will be His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa. The presentation will be "My dear Sisters, Let's be Real and Orthodox in our increasingly Pagan Society." This event will benefit education and youth programs in the life and growth of our Metropolis.

Our Metropolis has three seminarians attending Holy Cross and eight students at Hellenic College. Every year we distribute some scholarship money and a monetary gift at Christmas. These gifts show our love and encouragement in their studies for the school year.

We are very fortunate to work under the spiritual leadership and guidance of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios. We thank him for his love and support!

In His Service

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irene Politis".

Irene Politis, President