

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



Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos Society

Stella Piches, President

May 2023

Christ is Risen! - Χριστός Ανέστη!

Philoptochos is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. In the Metropolis of Denver, we are over 1,400 strong across thirteen states spread over 1.3 million square miles. Nationally, we are over 25,000 strong spread across our beautiful States.

We are growing and we recently added a new Philoptochos Chapter in Sandy, Utah at St. Anna's Greek Orthodox Church. We have had tremendous growth in our Chapters such as St. John's the Baptist in Omaha, Nebraska that went from approximately 15 ladies to over 60 in the last two years. We also recognize that our Chapters are the backbone of Philoptochos and without them, none of our good works could have been accomplished. We recently had our Clergy Laity Philoptochos Conference, and I was approached by at several Parish Priests who wanted to either re-invigorate the inactive chapter in their community or start a new chapter in their parish. We are growing and as I mention to everyone I speak with; all women of the parish should be Philoptochos members. We are the philanthropic arm of the Church.

The ladies of Philoptochos respond to need whenever and wherever it arises. ***We live our faith actively.*** As our world changes and evolves, we will develop new programs to meet new and unforeseen challenges in the modern world. As the Lord said, ***"I came to earth not to be served, but to serve."*** This is the heart of Philoptochos.

We are very pleased to have the opportunity to gather once again in person in the Metropolis of Denver. As we gathered for our 1st Clergy Laity Philoptochos Conference since 2019, we shared with our delegates the Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos' theme for the year - "Let's Embrace the Children" which is in line with the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon we are hosting in Houston, Texas, November 11, 2023.

I would also like to share some of the good works of Philoptochos. During the past two years, the Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos has contributed over \$80,000 to the various ministries within our Metropolis such as:

- Missions Fund – to assist our mission parishes and smaller parishes, in any way that is needed.
- Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) – to help keep our college age youth involved and connected to their faith.
- St. John Oratorical Festival – to help provide scholarships to winners in each division.
- Bishop Anthimos Scholarship Fund – Annual scholarships available to those who desire to pursue spiritual education at Holy Cross School of Theology.
- Youth Ministries Fund - help offset the cost of youth programs, camps, retreats, and

activities to keep registration costs affordable.

- Youth Endowment Fund - funds provided for the purpose of youth ministry in the Metropolis of Denver.
- St. John's Woman's Monastery – to help provide housing to support women engaged on the spiritual pursuit of Orthodox monasticism.
- Social Services Fund - This fund is available for assistance when the local Chapter does not have enough funds to cover the need(s).
- Advocates 1000 – Help support the Metropolis Center.

The above-mentioned ministries do not include all the monies donated to the National Philoptochos by our Chapters for the Missions of National. These missions include supporting IOCC, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, HC/HC Scholarship Fund, Vasilopita which supports St. Basil's Academy, Retired Clergy/Widowed Presvyteres Benevolent Fund plus many more. The chapters of Philoptochos donated over \$225,000 just for the year of 2022 alone!

In addition to the donations to the Metropolis and National, the chapters are doing great things within their own communities. For example, Saint George Philoptochos in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma was recently featured in the National Philoptochos Newsletter, The Philanthropy Witness for "Buzzed with Blessings" a program that was created by the local chapter to spread joy and love around their community.

This is another testament to the good works of all our faithful stewards of Philoptochos. If you weren't aware of the scope of our philanthropy, it is because we stay true to our mission, which calls upon us to perform our work with discretion, courtesy, and kindness.

In His Service,



Stella S. Piches
President
Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos

