



GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE ^{OF} AMERICA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Philoptochos Prioritizes Fiscal Responsibility and Physical Well-Being!

San Diego, CA – July 15, 2024 – The National Philoptochos Convention continued its vital activities on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, featuring ministry updates and insightful presentations. His Grace Bishop Athenagoras offered his daily spiritual reflection focused on Psalm 133, which beautifully articulates the joy and blessings of unity. His Grace emphasized that just as the precious oil and the dew bring refreshment and sanctity, unity among brethren brings blessings and life. He also shared the inspired teachings of Mother Maria of Paris (Saint Maria Skobtsova), who eloquently spoke of love and unity. His Grace concluded by encouraging everyone to embody this path of love and unity in their daily lives as we walk the path to Theosis, reflecting on the divine unity of the Holy Trinity.

Rev. Paul Zaharas represented International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) by providing an informative partnership update. He emphasized that Philoptochos and International Orthodox Christian Charities are partners in service and Christ, followed by Eva Konstantakos, who shared developments on behalf of Youth/Young Adult ministries and expressed her thanks that YAL and Philoptochos partnered in Diakonia. Deacon Marek Simon delivered a detailed update on behalf of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF). Dr. Demetrios Katos presented the latest news from Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology (HCHC). He emphasized his commitment to HCHC's longtime relationship with Philoptochos. Further, he said he hopes our relationship will become stronger and even closer.

Barbara Pasalis conducted a crucial session on Fiscal Fitness, underscoring the significance of meticulous bookkeeping and financial detail. Her presentation, "Preparing a Chapter Budget," provided invaluable insights into effective financial management for chapters. Barbara emphasized tracking how funds are accounted for and allocating them appropriately. She encouraged treasurers to maintain detailed records and regularly review financial statements to foster transparency and accountability within their chapters. By adhering to these practices, she stressed, chapters could better achieve their financial goals and support their philanthropic missions.

Our keynote speaker, Vas Kypreos Priebe, captivated the audience with an inspiring address that resonated deeply. With a rich background as a competitive gymnast, Pilates instructor, and health coach, Vas is a seasoned educator. Her journey in health and fitness is deeply rooted in her upbringing at Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church in Pasadena, California, where her mother, Maria Kypreos, has been a steadfast Philoptochos member, influencing Vas's commitment to the organization over many years.

Vas's message is built on the social services panel dedicated to caregiver support, held on Tuesday, July 2. Vas articulated the importance of personal well-being while attending to others' needs.

Vas eloquently conveyed that true wellness begins from within. Her engaging presentation encouraged attendees to participate actively in brief, impactful breathing and movement exercises.

Stella Piches, chair of the highly successful 2023 Children's Medical Fund Luncheon in Houston, TX, provided a comprehensive wrap-up report. Metropolis of Atlanta President Irene Politis presented the plans for the 2025 Children's Medical Fund Luncheon, scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025, in Buckhead, Atlanta, Georgia, and extended a warm southern welcome to what promises to be a stunning and impactful event.

Looking ahead, Philoptochos remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering women by providing opportunities for leadership and growth, advancing philanthropic efforts through community engagement and support, and building a future of kindness and compassion. Having powerfully inspired women, together we impact the world!

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The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America that has offered over 90 years of philanthropy through fundraising and charitable programs. Over 400 active chapters impact the lives of those in need within the United States and throughout the world. Website: www.philoptochos.org