

PHILOPTOCHOS 2014 HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS

The Year in Review - 2014 Top Stories

March 1, 2014 - Eighty-three years after Archbishop Athenagoras established Philoptochos as the philanthropic ministry of the Church in America, Philoptochos joined His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela for the Divine Liturgy at the Archdiocesan Cathedral in New York City followed by the blessing and ribbon cutting of the new Philoptochos home, the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy. Guests entering the building admired the magnificent Chapter Giving Tree of hand carved cherry wood adorned with a brass leaf engraved for each Chapter nationwide.

2014 National Biennial Philoptochos Convention– Philoptochos enjoyed the warm hospitality of the Metropolis of New Jersey in Philadelphia, PA where the highest level of delegate participation was recorded. Programs and speakers inspired and enlightened the delegates among which was the memorable and emotional Tribute to Veterans that reminded us of the importance to remember those who serve and have served for peace and freedom. A special highlight was the early morning breakfast where His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios along with each Metropolitan and all the Philoptochos delegates joined together to recognize outgoing National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas for her six years of service and leadership..

In Memoriam- National Philoptochos was greatly saddened with the passing of three Past National Philoptochos Presidents in 2014.

Evanthea Condakes of the Metropolis of Boston served as the Ninth National Philoptochos President from 1998 – 2002. She helped establish the Voice of Philoptochos page in the Orthodox Observer and offered dedicated service to Saint Basil Academy and the mission of IOCC. She brought her business acumen to the presidency and significantly increased the membership of the Society.

Dina Skouras Oldknow of the Metropolis of San Francisco served as the Seventh National President from 1990-1994. Her tenure was marked as a period rich in community service and outreach, the initiation of the Children’s Medical Fund and the adoption of IOCC as a Philoptochos ministry.

Beatrice Marks of the Metropolis of Chicago, the Fifth National Philoptochos President served from 1982 – 1986 and introduced modern institutional practices. She expanded National Philoptochos support for the Archdiocesan institutions and established higher education scholarships for Saint Basil Academy students.

May their memory be eternal!

Fifteenth National Philoptochos President – Archbishop Demetrios announced the appointment of Maria Logus of New York as National Philoptochos President at the inaugural meeting of the 2014-2016 National Board on October 17, 2014. Ms. Logus has served Philoptochos in numerous leadership capacities as well as serving on other national boards. Ms. Logus is an attorney for the New York State Unified Court System with three decades of legal experience. She stated in her acceptance that she looks forward to working with the dynamic national board members to advance the values and the mission of the Philoptochos Society “embracing new members as we continue to give honor to our founders.”

St. Nicholas Shrine – Philoptochos was honored to participate in the blessing of the St. Nicholas Shrine and has initiated a broad campaign in support of this important edifice for our faith.

Philoptochos Looking Forward– 2015 –National Philoptochos acknowledges the nationwide support that promotes the Philoptochos philanthropic mission and encourages Philoptochos to expand its reach and to participate together to build sustainable leadership for the future.

Christine Karavites, Chairman National Philoptochos History and Archives - January 2015