



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

## GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, Inc.

February 1, 2017

Dear National Board Members, Metropolis Presidents, Chapter Presidents and Beloved Philoptochos Stewards,

*The Logos transcending all essence, who has appeared to the world, who was eternally fathered and temporally mothered, becoming flesh has taken the form of a slave, losing not His Divinity. And in the womb of the woman who without seed has conceived Him He refashions man. (Ainos from the Feast of Annunciation)*

The stewards of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society are limitless in their compassion for serving the sick, the hungry, the weary and the disenfranchised. Since the crisis began in Greece and Cyprus, the Philoptochos Chapters have demonstrated their love and concern for our brothers and sisters in Christ, numerous times. The intense ongoing crisis may be rooted in economics, but the effects are felt not only in the lack of tangible goods and comforts, but also spiritually and emotionally. The distress crosses multiple generations, with perhaps the most vulnerable being the young and the elderly. No one wants to imagine a child scavenging in desperation, or a grandparent freezing with no source of home heat, but these somber and grave circumstances exist today in Greece and Cyprus.

Through your generosity, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been donated to provide much needed assistance for the people of Greece and Cyprus. Most recently, the National Philoptochos Society disbursed \$20,000 for aid in Greece and \$15,000 for aid in Cyprus. The funds were used to clothe 60 children in Moschato, Athens, 200 children in occupied Cyprus and 40 senior citizens in Karellio, as well as to provide monthly food packages for the very poorest families.

This year in our **Heart to Heart** Campaign, we prayerfully ask you to renew your commitment by commemorating Greek Independence Day, (March 25) and OXI Day, (October 28) with a fundraising event. These two noteworthy dates are examples of the Greek and Cypriot distinguishing ethos and character seeking solutions when facing extreme adversity. They declared NO to outside rule and we say NO to a different form of oppression: no to poverty, no to sickness, no to hunger, no to homelessness.

For the Greek Independence Day fundraising event, we suggest your Philoptochos Chapter host a speaker on Hellenic Culture or a poetry reading followed by light refreshments after the Liturgy on Sunday, March 26, 2017. For the OXI Day fundraising event, we offer the suggestion of hosting a loukoumades and coffee fellowship following Liturgy on Sunday, October 29, 2017.

However you choose to act, the end product is your commitment to participate so that adequate food, warm winter clothing, required medicines and other basic necessities may be provided. Please ask your Parish Priest to bless this endeavor and to inform the community about the severity of the situation to encourage Parish involvement. Please mark your calendars with these two Philoptochos **Heart to Heart** dates as we bring our hearts close to the hearts of all those in Greece and Cyprus and please pray for their wellbeing.

Please send your Philoptochos Chapter collections marked "Aid to Greece and Cyprus Campaign" to the National Philoptochos Society at 126 East 37<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10016.

In His Service,

Maria Logus, President

Aphrodite Skeadas, Chairperson