



**Philoptochos Donations for the Rebuilding of
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
and National Shrine
Exceed \$1,000,000**



On Tuesday, March 8, 2016, in a long standing tradition of the Greek Orthodox Church, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios Geron of America celebrated the *Agiasmo Service* at the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy, bestowing God's blessing on the Center, those present and all the members of Philoptochos nationwide. His Eminence prayed for all those who through their philanthropic work provide care and healing for those in need.

Present at the Agiasmo Service were, His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, National Philoptochos President Maria Logus, along with the National Philoptochos Past President Aphrodite Skeadas, National, Direct Archdiocesan District, and Metropolis Board Members, and local Chapters Members.

Following the Agiasmo, His Eminence briefed those who were present about the upcoming Pan-Orthodox Great and Holy Synod and asked for the prayers and support of Philoptochos. His Eminence also spoke about the ongoing efforts in aiding our brothers and sisters in Greece and Cyprus, still affected by the recent economic crisis. In conclusion, His Eminence gave an update of the progress of the rebuilding of the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. After His remarks His Eminence presented to the National Philoptochos a rare, if not the only existing, hand painted icon of all twenty Anargyroi Saints. In response National Philoptochos President Maria Logus, thanked His Eminence for this great gift that will adorn the National Philoptochos Center and for His constant love, support and guidance for Philoptochos.

Ms. Logus was then joined by the Tri-Chairs of the fundraising effort for St. Nicholas, Jennifer Constantin, Arlene Siavelis Kehl and Anne Michals, and presented a check in the amount of \$400,000 to His Eminence. Ms. Logus added that through the efforts of the Tri-Chairs, Metropolises Presidents, Philoptochos Chapters and many others throughout the country, Philoptochos has collectively raised over \$1,000,000 towards the rebuilding of a monument that will be a *Beacon of Hope and Faith*. The donation was the third offering in support of the rebuilding of Saint Nicholas.

The unified and creative work of the women of Philoptochos to raise funds for this National Philoptochos initiative is a testament to their understanding that we are One Church, whether on the east coast or west, and our inspiration is the Word of God.

As we faithfully watch Saint Nicholas being built before our eyes, we hope that all Philoptochos chapters around the country will respond to the call, if they have not done so already, and be a part of this once in a lifetime opportunity to be a part of this historic endeavor that will proclaim the peace and love of God to all those who visit it.

For information and resources, visit www.philoptochos.org/news/saintnicholas. To be part of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center Philoptochos Fundraising Initiative, please donate directly to your local Philoptochos Chapter or your Metropolis Philoptochos.



Left to Right: Anne Michals, Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, Aphrodite Skeadas, Archbishop Demetrios of America, Jennifer Constantin, Maria Logus, Arlene Siavelis Kehl