



**Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos  
Chapter  
Reaches \$22,000 Goal in Under Four Months  
In the Noble Effort to Build  
Saint Nicholas National Shrine**



Combining team work with a remarkable ability to promote a vision, the Holy Trinity Philoptochos Chapter in Westfield, New Jersey, kicked off the National Philoptochos Initiative to raise funds for the building of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine at the World Trade Center with passion and determination. Having reached the chapter goal of \$22,000 within four months, the Holy Trinity Philoptochos Chapter now serves as an example of what Philoptochos women can do when they act with love to support such a worthy cause.

Through the noteworthy leadership of Chapter President Penny Pefanis and her dynamic Committee led by Chairman Janet Zervakos O’Sullivan, the Chapter developed a plan to promote the Initiative. National Philoptochos Executive Board Member Anita Kartalopoulos gave an engaging video presentation to familiarize members with the national program. The committee then established a series of simple steps, including messages in the church bulletin, email blasts, tools to illustrate progress toward the goal and recognize donors, and flyers that give donors the opportunity to make donations in recognition of holidays and personal milestones.

A key element of the Chapter’s plan was to build a team comprised of Board Members, each with their own assignments. A personal “invitation to contribute” was designed and packaged together with the Saint Nicholas Icon Card and Genesis of a Resurrection Pamphlet. This package was personally handed to each potential donor as a precursor to a heartfelt but simple conversation between women about the importance of the Saint Nicholas building project, how it will be a national presence for Orthodoxy in the United States, and the significance it will make in the lives of all Americans.

Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos President, Anne Michals, praised the work of the Chapter, stating, “The vitality and commitment of these dedicated ladies manifests itself in everything they do, but never more than in their simple, yet inspiring, promotion of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine fundraising initiative.”

For information and resources, visit [www.philoptochos.org/news/saintnicholas](http://www.philoptochos.org/news/saintnicholas).

To be part of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine Philoptochos Fundraising Initiative, please donate directly to your local Philoptochos Chapter or your Metropolis Philoptochos.