



PHILOPTOCHOS CHAPTERS TO REMEMBER THE FALLEN ON 9/11



The term *Ground Zero* is used in the literal sense to describe a point directly above, below, or at which a nuclear explosion occurs. For Americans, Ground Zero, singularly describes the point at which nineteen (19) al-Qaeda terrorists committed suicide attacks, using as their weapons, American Airlines Flight 11, and United Airlines Flight 175. These 'mega planes,' filled with jet fuel and passengers, were flown into the North and South towers at the World Trade Center. Within a period of two hours, both 110-story towers collapsed, taking with them all other buildings in the World Trade Center complex, including Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and 2,753 unsuspecting people.

Looking back on that fateful day, the National Philoptochos is working to inspire compassion and motivation throughout our Parishes and Chapters towards recognition of 9/11 and through its efforts to raise funds for the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center.

As chapters prepare to celebrate the beginning of the new Ecclesiastical Year, National Philoptochos urges all Chapter Presidents to lead a day of tribute to those who lost their lives in the 9/11 tragedy, as well as to remind parishioners of the destruction that took place in the attacks, including the destruction of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. Events can take place anytime from September 11, 2015, through the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas, December 6, 2015, in honor of Saint Nicholas, the Wonderworker.

On that day of infamy, every American understood that life would never be the same, either in our country or around the world. Bringing about an understanding that it is time to do something, something personal, to promote healing, is the message. Our focus is on the rebuilding of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and the creation of the National Shrine. What greater tribute and remembrance to the victims at Ground Zero could there be than the resurrection of a church, a re-establishment of a house of worship, the birth of a place of healing for the world to know on this hallowed ground?