

National Philoptochos Society 2016-2018 Committee Report



Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology

Chair: Arlene Siavelis Kehl
Liaison: Barbara Pasalis
Members: Marian Catechis Agatha Felactu
Philippa Condakes Katherine Kotsis
Mary Doreza Irene Politis

Philoptochos Supports HCHC Students in Countless Ways

Philoptochos chapters across the country understand well the importance of Hellenic College, the only fully accredited Orthodox Christian college in the western hemisphere, and Holy Cross, the oldest and largest Orthodox Theological institution in America to our Church. They are committed to providing scholarships for its students, helping with operational expenses of the school, and offering support to the students while they are on campus or back home during school breaks serving the churches in their respective metropolises.

In September of each year, on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, chapters support our Scholi by fulfilling their national ministry commitment to our Hellenic College Holy Cross (HCHC) Scholarship Fund. Over the course of 14-1/2 years for the fall and spring semesters, from 2004 through the spring semester of 2018, National Philoptochos has awarded \$1,149,600 in tuition scholarships which is approximately \$80,000 per year to male and female students. Over the course of any given year, we award approximately 35 – 45 need-based scholarships, and every spring semester at the time of the HCHC graduation, we award 4 scholarships based upon merit.

In addition to the National Philoptochos HCHC Scholarship Fund, Metropolis and Chapter Philoptochos Programs provide financial support through scholarship assistance programs which assist seminarian students with tuition, room and board, and/or books and incidentals.

Then in March of each year, on the Feast of the Veneration of the Holy Cross, chapters support our Scholi by fulfilling their national ministry commitment to our HCHC Lenten Appeal. For the 13-1/2-year period from 2004 through the spring of 2017, National Philoptochos' support to HCHC for operational expenses and infrastructure projects totals \$1,066,400 which is approximately \$79,000 per year. Necessary infrastructure projects funded by Philoptochos over the years include: HVAC, freezer, carpeting and flooring, painting and refurbishments of classrooms, dormitories and other areas, updating and refurbishing the library and learning resource center, a Campus One Control System (for security, class attendance, resources, library and student payments), essential information technology, and athletic equipment for the gymnasium.

Finally, Philoptochos members and chapters offer moral support to HCHC students while they are on campus by staying connected with them through their visits, hosted dinners, and by sending them special letters and care packages. When the students are back home during school breaks serving churches in their respective metropolises, it is the pleasure of Philoptochos members to see them, catch up on their school experiences, and encourage them on their career paths. Philoptochos members recognize that these students are our future priests, our future lay leaders including religious educators and youth ministers, are so important to the future of our Greek Orthodox Church in America, and they need to help ensure their success.