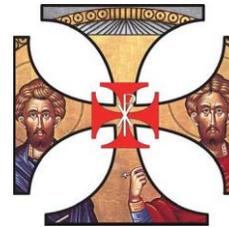


## National Philoptochos Society 2016-2018 Committee Report



### Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)

Chair: Theone Dickos

Liaison: Frances Levas

Members: Pam Argyris                      Alexis Limberakis  
                  Mary Doreza                      Irene Steffas

***Philoptochos will actively promote awareness of Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) within all church communities, encouraging students to remain connected to their faith during their college years. Philoptochos societies shall support and remember our graduates, as they transition from high school to college, and from college into the workforce. Philoptochos will provide spiritual nurturing for college students and open communication.***

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) is the official collegiate campus ministry program under the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America. OCF is charged with connecting Orthodox College Students-and those interested in the Orthodox Christian faith-to Christ and His Church. In partnership with Philoptochos, OCF strives to:

- Support fellowships on college campuses, whose members experience and witness to the Orthodox Christian Church through community life, prayer, service to others, and study of the Faith;
- Provide a variety of thoughtful and innovative programming including College Conference and Real Break domestic and international service projects, and,
- Train lay and clergy volunteers as well as students for leadership roles on campus and beyond (Quoted from the OCF website)

The National Board OCF Committee continues to be in communication with Donna Levas, National Programs Manager and Christina Andersen, National Chapter Relations Manager, to gain further insight and foster awareness of OCF within our Philoptochos chapters across the country.

In 2017, OCF requested and was granted \$33,700 in funds from National Philoptochos to help underwrite the Summer Leadership Institute for the 2017-2018 academic year. The curriculum is based on the needs and concerns of our Orthodox college students and the ministry of OCF. The Summer Leadership Institute provided students with opportunities for prayer and reflection, teambuilding, ministry orientation and programmatic and strategic planning, and is completely free to all students attending. It was an expectation that SLB members take what they have learned and apply their training to organize regional and local events.

As this report is being written in May of 2018, James P Gianakis, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship is preparing a grant proposal for the National Philoptochos to again underwrite the Summer Leadership Institute for the 2018-2019 academic year. It will be presented to the National Philoptochos Finance Committee on May 22, 2018.

## Orthodox Christian Fellowship Committee (continued)

October is OCF Awareness month, and we need to promote all of the programs, including **College Student Sunday**. **The Assembly of Bishops has designated a day in October as College Student Sunday**. Parishes and Philoptochos chapters are asked on this day (or any Sunday that your church calendar permits) to recognize their college students by allowing students to share their experiences in Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Parishes are also asked to pass a second tray to support the ongoing and essential work of Orthodox Christian Fellowship as the official campus ministry organization of the Orthodox Church in the United States and Canada.

The transition from high school to college is crucial. It is easier to keep our young people connected than to get them back. The following suggestions and ideas are from a successful OCF Program from the Philoptochos of The Annunciation Cathedral of Atlanta.

- Reach out to the 12<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School Teacher and ask if you can come to class one day or ask the teacher to share information with high school seniors about OCF and Philoptochos College Outreach. It is a team effort keeping young people connected to Orthodoxy as they transition into college.
- Take a laptop with you and have them register for OCF or ask them to do it on their own mobile device. Spend some time on the OCF website and see if their universities have active OCF chapters. If not, encourage them to start a chapter at their college.
- Watch/share OCF Transition video with high school seniors and their parents. It is an 8 minute must see video on You Tube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cB89h6rZgMg>
- Visit class or email / and or send a letter and start collecting information (For example: Student name, College Name, Student's College Address, Birthday, Email address, Cell phone number, Name Day, Parents Names, Home Mailing Address, Parents Email Address)
- Follow-up with a letter/ email or phone call to the parents of the graduating class.

Please continue to support our OCF ministry commitment in May/June. We must continue to nurture our young college students to keep them connected to our Orthodox Faith. Visit the Orthodox Christian Fellowship website, [www.ocf.net](http://www.ocf.net) for more information.