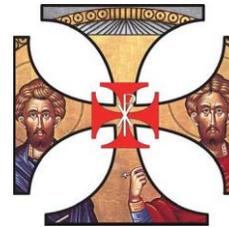


National Philoptochos Society 2016-2018 President's Report



Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos *Pam Argyris, President*

It is my pleasure to bring you greetings from the Metropolis of Chicago to all the delegates and attendees of the 2018 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention. The Metropolis of Chicago includes the states of Illinois, western Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, northern Missouri and Wisconsin. It is with much enthusiasm and gratefulness that we participate in this convention and the 44th Biennial Clergy/Laity Congress: **“All Things Are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ”**. We offer our sincere congratulations and thanks to the Metropolis of Boston and the National Convention Committee for the time and effort put forth in planning this wonderful convention.

All the 56 Philoptochos chapters within the Metropolis of Chicago warmly welcome His Eminence, Metropolitan Nathanael to our Metropolis. We were so happy to be able to welcome His Eminence at the Enthronement Luncheon on March 24, 2018, which was attended by over 800 faithful from across the Metropolis. We look forward to many years of working with Metropolitan Nathanael as our spiritual shepherd to help us fulfill the mission of Philoptochos and welcome his forward-thinking ideas.

The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos chapters are committed to the mission of Philoptochos and embrace and support all our National Commitments and Programs, as well as the following Metropolis endeavors:

- Metropolis-Wide Vasilopita Celebration
- Saint Antonios Vespers and Feast Day Celebration
- Metropolis Lenten Retreat
- Quilt-a-Thons
- Annual Philoptochos September Luncheon
- Saints Cosmas & Damianos Vespers and Feast Day Celebration
- Metropolis Christmas Open House
- Bishop's Welfare Fund
- Philoxenia House in Rochester, Minnesota
- Metropolis Philoptochos Philanthropy Fund
- Feed the Hungry Program
- Perspective Newsletter
- Presidents' Meetings
- IOCC
- Metropolis Oratorical
- Metropolis Junior Olympics

Our annual September Luncheon remains the main fundraiser for the Metropolis Board and is the official kick-off event of our Philoptochos year. This year the September Luncheon, *“All Things are Possible with Faith and Love”* will be held on Saturday, September 22, 2018 at Café Le Cave Banquets. The proceeds of this luncheon, usually attended by over 300+ guests, will help to support our St. Iakovos Retreat Center, our Metropolis Philanthropy Fund and the many philanthropic endeavors of the Metropolis Board. The success of this annual luncheon is made possible through the commitment of the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Board members and the generosity of our guests, donors and supporters.

We continue to plan and host three Presidents'/Regional Meetings yearly, in which chapter members attend sessions focusing on membership, officers' workshops and guidelines/procedures. These meetings, hosted by various chapters throughout the Metropolis, allow our members to meet, discuss and share ideas to enrich our Philoptochos experiences. The Presidents' Meetings are a way to assist our chapters and their members in fulfilling the mission of Philoptochos. In addition to the Presidents' meetings, this past Fall (2017) a workshop was offered to all Chapter officers which was held at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Oak Lawn, Illinois. The workshop allowed all the attendees an opportunity to learn more about the roles and duties of the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers. During the workshops we reviewed procedures, commitments and other materials to help the officers have a successful term in office.

It has been a busy spring with several Philoptochos events taking place. Our annual Lenten Retreat, which is sponsored by the Metropolis Philoptochos Board, was held on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, Illinois. The theme for the retreat was *The Body: Temple of the Holy Spirit*, focused on raising diabetes awareness and featured two priests and two doctors speaking simultaneously in English and in Greek. We thank Rev. Fr. Athanasios Minetos and Dr. George Bakris (speaking in Greek) and Rev. Fr. Anastasios Theodoropoulos and Dr. Siri Greeley (speaking in English) for their thought provoking and exceptional delivery of that message. We also thank Very Rev. Fr. Timothy Bakakos, as our Retreat Master, and the Assumption Philoptochos Chapter for their wonderful warmth and hospitality in providing breakfast and lunch for our guests. This annual Retreat is a wonderful way to give us spiritual strength as we continued our Lenten journey.

In addition, our two Quilt-A-Thons were held on April 3, 2018 at SS. Peter & Paul Church in Glenview, Illinois and on March 17, 2018 at SS. Constantine & Helen Church in Palos Hills, Illinois. These events were attended by many Philoptochos members from across the Chicago metropolitan area, exemplifying the meaning of working together to help those in need. Over 600 quilts were made and will be distributed to children afflicted with life threatening diseases in several area hospitals throughout the Metropolis.

With the passing of his Eminence, Metropolitan Iakovos, of blessed memory, the past year has been one of transition for the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos. We lost a strong advocate of all our Philoptochos programs who always encouraged us with the words, "You must do more!" May his memory be eternal.

Thank you to His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael for his support, love, encouragement and guidance of our Metropolis Philoptochos. Thank you also to our Metropolis Clergy who support the work that we do for those less fortunate. I would be remiss if I didn't thank the Metropolis Philoptochos Board for their love and support, the Chapter Presidents for their commitment and all the Philoptochos members throughout the Metropolis for their hard work and dedication to assist those less fortunate.

Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos
Pam Argyris, President