

## National Philoptochos Society 2016-2018 President's Report



### Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos

*Crystal G. Thomas, President*

Your Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America,  
Your Grace Bishop Sevastianos, National President Maria Logus, members of the National Board and fellow Philoptochos Sisters, greetings from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh.

**“God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.”**

*St. John's First Universal Letter*

Here in the Metropolis of Pittsburgh we continue the Philoptochos mission of serving our fellow man. We have actively engaged in the National ministries and projects and worked within the Metropolis with our own special projects. Our ladies have had a very fruitful two years. We have dedicated ourselves to help those in need and to serve with humility. We have endeavored to aid all who have come to us for assistance. Here are a few examples of what we have accomplished in the past two years:

- We helped six members of the Metropolis of Pittsburgh receive Orthodox Christian burials.
- We have provided new safe housing for a special needs member of our community.
- We provided housing assistance to a family in a dire financial situation---helping them get back on their feet and find employment.
- We helped defray the cost of accommodations for a family of a young Greek Orthodox child receiving medical treatment for a devastating cancer diagnosis.
- We provided costly life-sustaining medication for a young woman who needed a multiple organ transplant.
- We helped relieve some burdensome bills of a young Greek Orthodox mother receiving medical treatment for a devastating medical diagnosis.
- We have aided a family with limited resources due to severe medical issues.

With the launch of the “Feed the Hungry” program, our National President Maria Logus had challenged all the chapters across the United States to provide a total of 250,000 meals in the months leading up to the July 2016 National Convention. In response, the Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos Society has embraced the challenge with remarkable success as we again meet for our National Philoptochos Biennial Convention in July 2018.

We have successfully embarked on a new financial campaign. The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Ladies Philoptochos Society has granted honorariums for the seminary students from the Metropolis of Pittsburgh who are attending Holy Cross School of Theology of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Our membership has aided the Nativity of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox of Saxonburg, Pennsylvania. We have also been informed by speakers on topics of youth homelessness, human trafficking, the scourge of opiate addiction, as well as how we can help women move into the work force and become financially independent.

As we embark on the coming year, we welcome all to the next annual Daffodil Luncheon to be held in the spring of 2019 in Canton, Ohio under the dedicated leadership of our Philoptochos sisters of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church.

The Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos Society is grateful for the contributions of its stewards and ever mindful of the duty it owes to be responsible caretakers of the funds entrusted to it. We have continually operated with fiscal responsibility and in a position of complete financial transparency and solvency. The generous contributions donated by our stewards for specific purposes have been disbursed only for those specifically designated causes. Appropriately, those funds are distributed in a timely manner. As Christ's hands and feet on earth, we ask our faithful stewards to continue trusting us with the awesome responsibility of performing our work with honor, respectfulness and clarity, aiding those who most need our assistance. We will continue our ongoing practice of fiscal responsibility to remain worthy of your continued trust and support.

In closing, I would like to thank His Eminence Metropolitan Savas for his unwavering support of the Philoptochos Society and my fellow Philoptochos sisters who work each day for the betterment of others and a world filled with Christ's love.

Metropolis of Pittsburgh Philoptochos  
Crystal G. Thomas, President