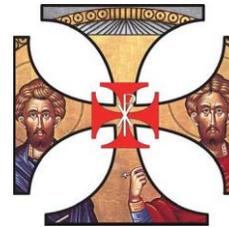


## National Philoptochos Society 2016-2018 President's Report



**Metropolis of San Francisco**  
*Jeannie Ranglas, President*

Your Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Geron of America, Your Grace Bishop Sevastianos, Maria Logus, National Philoptochos President, Philoptochos Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

**“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8**

It is with great joy, enthusiasm and love that I bring you greetings from the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos, under the spiritual leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. We are honored and privileged to join with our sister Metropolises and all the Chapters in our Archdiocese in our ongoing dedication and commitment to philanthropic outreach as we fulfill our mission of *helping those in need*. May God bless our time our time of fellowship here at the 45<sup>th</sup> Biennial Philoptochos Convention: *“All Things are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ.”*

I am delighted to report that the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos is 59 Chapters, spanning 7 states, and over 4000 members strong! I continue to be inspired by the work and commitment of these faithful women, who for decades have been helping others with heartfelt love and compassion.

Part of our growth is the exciting opening of our newest Chapter, at Saint Basil in San Juan Capistrano, CA, #4064. They have over 40 members who have embraced the mission of Philoptochos and are off to an enthusiastic start! I continue to visit Chapters throughout the Metropolis for a time of reconnection and renewal. It is my privilege to continue to participate in Membership Events and Regional Meetings throughout the Metropolis to strengthen relationships and encourage our Mission.

Our beloved ***Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape*** ministry continues to grow each year to help serve families with children afflicted with cancer. These precious families find needed commonality with other attending families to help form lasting relationships with each other and with our Philoptochos volunteers. Our ***Agape Celebration of Love*** has moved to the beautiful Newport Beach Country Club in Newport Beach, California, and is always a highlight of the year with an afternoon of fundraising, celebrating, and honoring our special families. The past two years our event has been filled with hope and true Agape with messages from our cancer heroes like “Julia” who reported to her father who was not able to attend camp, simply encompassing Camp Agape on a phone call, by shouting “This is AWESOME!”. They are awesome and we are humbled to be able to continue to offer these families and all-expense paid four days away to make memories to last a lifetime. We are currently in “camp season”, and we remain prayerful for the precious families attending our 4 Camps throughout the Metropolis. I am grateful to the Philoptochos Chapters for their inspiring efforts to support this ministry and all of those who generously *Give Their Heart to a Child*.

The ***Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund, Light the Path, a Christmas Luncheon*** supports the seminarians from our Metropolis by offering financial assistance as they graduate from their program of study. Through his vision, His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony, of blessed memory, established this endowment fund over 25 years ago, which has since contributed over \$1 million to students from the Metropolis of San Francisco studying for the holy priesthood. The Metropolis Philoptochos has been the guardian angel of this important project and we are honored to invest in the future of our church. Our, ***Light the Path***, events in support of this fund continue to usher in the Christmas holiday season with beautiful décor, sounds of the season, fundraising opportunities in exquisite Chapter-sponsored Christmas trees, and inspired messages from our Seminarians and Students. We are truly grateful to all our Chapter members that work diligently to support this important ministry. We are proud to have 10 graduates this year and distribute \$170,000 to a total of 20 students.

The **HC/HC Adopt a Student** program places a seminarian or student with a Philoptochos Chapter, other than his/her own, to be nurtured both spiritually and tangibly. The program has helped enrich communication and collaboration through the bond of Christian fellowship.

The mission of the **Women's Health and Wellness** ministry is to *Encourage, Mentor and Uplift* our women as we explore the spiritual, emotional, intellectual, interpersonal and physical issues of women. Various events throughout the Metropolis have focused on relevant women's issues, providing knowledge and tools aiming at saving lives of women.

**Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center** has been a place for spiritual renewal and reflection in our Metropolis for over 35 years. The Metropolis Philoptochos continues to be its special caretaker, especially the Lodge, which bears the name of Philoptochos. We held our **Fall Spiritual Conference** at the Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in October of 2017. It was a wonderful time to welcome new Presidents, Board Members and Philoptochos Sisters to share knowledge, celebrate the work of Philoptochos, and strengthen our relationships with each other through fellowship. Our keynote speaker, Cynthia Kostas, delivered an inspiring program *"Date with Destiny: Recognizing our Personal Destiny in the Body of Christ"* and National Philoptochos Assistant Treasurer, Georgia Vlitras, joined us for the second time for an informative look at all things National Philoptochos. We held Metropolis Philoptochos Board Elections on Saturday, October 14, 2017 and took Oath of Office on January 23, 2018 at the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco. I am looking forward to working with a vibrant, strong Board as we move forward in leadership.

The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board, FDF Management Team and volunteers gathered together to host the **Diakonia Project at FDF** in 2017 and 2018. We are proud to have assembled 40,000 meals in honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FDF in 2017 partnered with Feeding Children Everywhere. In 2018, 500 nylon cinch bags were assembled containing toiletries. These bags as well as gift cards as well as monetary gifts were given to benefit the San Francisco area homeless and at-risk families through Compass Family Services. It was a wonderful time of fellowship together in service.

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma were devastating for the families in Texas and Florida. The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos contributed to the **Hurricane Relief Fund** through National Philoptochos to support rebuilding in these communities. In addition, our Chapters activated their own fundraising efforts and collected gift cards at our Fall Spiritual Conference to be distributed to those affected. We were also humbled to give to those affected in the wildfires that raged through California and the mudslides that followed. This truly exemplifies our emphasis on Social Services, which starts at the Chapter level reaches to the National level to help in a way that gives hope and light in times of darkness.

We are committed to more "Hands On" philanthropy by supporting Initiatives such as **Feeding the Hungry** throughout the Metropolis by participating in local programs, Feeding Children Everywhere Program and Chapter supported programs that encompass multi-generational and interfaith hands to participate.

The Metropolis of San Francisco has embarked on an exciting journey through the recent completion of a new **Strategic Plan** to chart the course for its future. One component of the plan is a Task Force on Philanthropic Outreach, which will provide greater opportunities to expand the Ministry of Philoptochos and engage more women and men in this important work.

When I reflect on the last two years of the accomplishments within our Chapters, I am encouraged and inspired by their dedication, their capability, and their passion to love people and promote change in the world. Philoptochos is a constant and beautiful movement of women embracing their calling to follow Christ and to do His work here on earth. We make a difference! Truly, "All things are possible to the one who believes in Christ."

Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos  
Jeannie Ranglas, President