



Philanthropy Witness



The Official Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society

September 2015

New Year Ecclesiastical Message

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America



September 1, 2015

Dear Miss Logus and Ladies of Philoptochos,

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ (1Thessalonians 1: 2-3)

Faith, love and hope are theological and missional virtues that appear in Apostle Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, one of the earliest pieces of Christian writing that has been preserved. These virtues that exist together as a triad from the very beginning of the Christian faith have the corollary practices of work, labor and remaining steadfast associated with them.

I mention this to you, the dedicated, industrious

and enterprising ladies of Philoptochos, as you understand how essential faith, love and hope are to the life in Christ. The new liturgical year, which begins September 1st, opens wide the opportunity to embody in a renewed way these virtues that are at the root of the Gospel, the heart of your Christian identity, and the center of your noble mission as the Philoptochos organization.

With my prayers that your lives continue to be filled with Christian purpose and philanthropic effort, and overflowing in the spiritual blessings of God Who acts faithfully, loves unconditionally and generates hope to every generation, I remain

With paternal love in Christ,

+ DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America

Children's Medical Fund Luncheon Details on Page 3 - 5



*Beginning of the Ecclesiastical New Year
Day for the Protection of our Natural
Environment*

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America



September 1, 2015

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this Feast of the Indiction which marks the beginning of the New Ecclesiastical Year, we are led by our beloved Ecumenical Patriarchate in observing the Day for the Protection of our Natural Environment. The relationship of our commemoration and observance is significant due to the changing of the seasons, our agrarian heritage in relation to marking time, and the strong foundations of our worship and theology in the relationship of our Creator to His creation. We affirm this in the hymns of this day as we sing, "In wisdom You have wrought all things and have established proper times and seasons for our lives" (Praises of Orthros), and "Author and head of all creation, under whose power lie all times and seasons, O compassionate Lord: crown the cycle of this year with Your generous blessings" (Exapostilarion of Orthros).

It is in the divine act of our creation that our relationship to the created order is revealed. Through the power and grace of the Creator bringing all things into existence and in His creation of humankind in His image, we see our unique role as stewards of all that God has made. As Adam and Eve were created and placed in the garden to "tend and keep it" (Genesis 2:15), we have the responsibility to care for and protect His creation. As man and woman were directed by God to "be fruitful and multiply" and to "have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of

the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:28), we have the authority to manage the created order prayerfully and respectfully to sustain life and to address human and environmental needs. We must also affirm in our relationship with God that through His wisdom and our creative potential, we are able to sustain and protect the natural environment while addressing the environmental challenges and stresses of technological innovation, economic forces, population growth, and natural disasters.

Created in God's image as stewards of the natural order, we are witnesses of the goodness of creation. He saw that all He created was very good (Genesis 1:31), and He established and sanctified time through the order and process of creation (Genesis 2:3). Our awareness of this inherent goodness in all that God has made is known first in our relationship with Him. We also marvel at the beauty, complexity, and function of creation, recognizing divine origin, purpose and goodness. We proclaim the Gospel, guiding all to the revelation of God's grace through Christ. We offer a ministry of hope and transformation, as we help others find healing, assurance, and salvation in Him. Through the prayers and liturgical life of the Church, we journey through each day, each week, the full cycle of the year and our lives toward the glorious fulfillment of time and eternal life in communion with God.

As we commemorate this Feast may we commit our time to the feasts and observances of the Church, to a daily life of prayer and communion with God, and to sustaining our spiritual lives through the disciplines of our faith. May we also affirm that we are created and called as stewards of the created order. From our relationship and communion with God, may we offer a witness of the goodness of His creation and the sanctity of life.

With paternal love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Archbishop Demetrios of America". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

†DEMETRIOS

Archbishop of America

UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF

HIS EMINENCE

Archbishop Demetrios

OF AMERICA

AND

HIS EMINENCE

Metropolitan Methodios

OF BOSTON

THE NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY PRESENTS

Let us Rejoice and

Embrace The Children

FIFTEENTH CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, THE THIRTY-FIRST OF OCTOBER

TWO THOUSAND FIFTEEN

RECEPTION: ELEVEN O'CLOCK

LUNCHEON: TWELVE NOON

DONATION: \$125.00

RENAISSANCE BOSTON WATERFRONT HOTEL

606 CONGRESS STREET

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

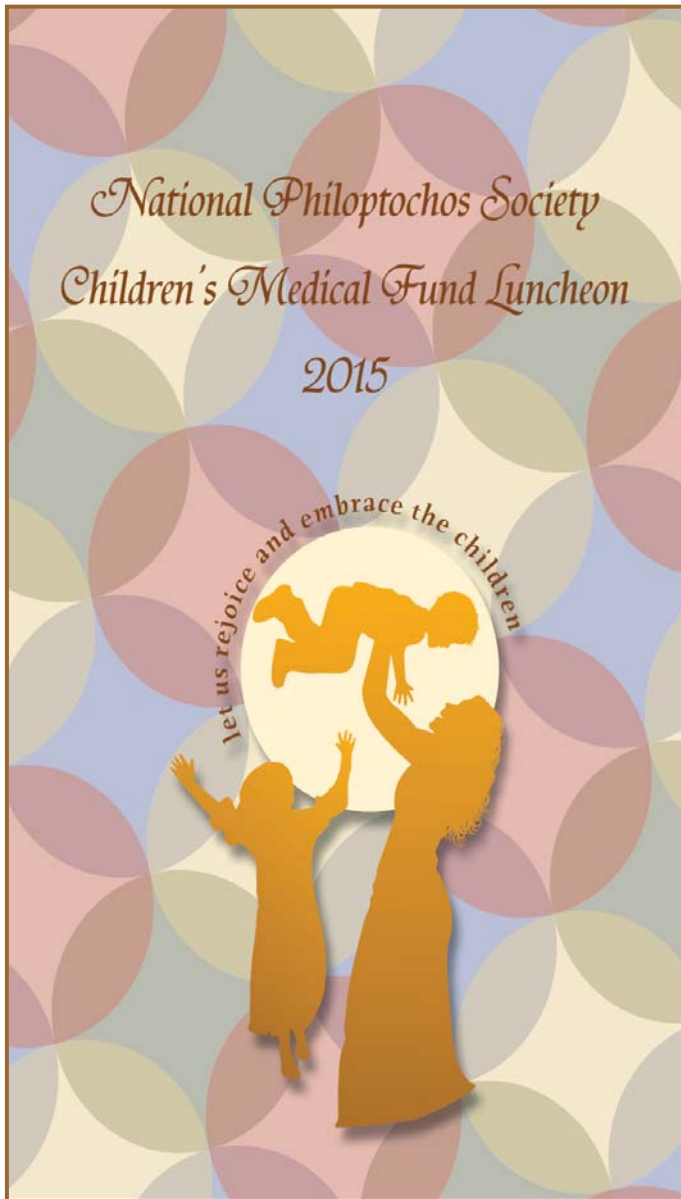
Maria Stephanos

NEWS ANCHOR, WFXT-TV FOX 25 IN BOSTON

HONOREE

Rosemary Nikas

2013 LUNCHEON CHAIR



National Philoptochos Society Children's Medical Fund Luncheon
RENAISSANCE BOSTON WATERFRONT HOTEL - BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2015

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I/WE ACCEPT WITH PLEASURE YOUR INVITATION TO ATTEND THE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND LUNCHEON. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____ FOR _____ TICKETS AT A COST OF \$125 EACH.

I AM/WE ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, BUT WISH TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND. ENCLOSED IS A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____.

KINDLY RESPOND BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2015.
MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO CHILDREN'S MEDICAL FUND.
CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AS PERMITTED BY LAW.

Please Mail Your Response To:
2015 Children's Medical Fund Luncheon
c/o Mrs. Fran Giannakopoulos
1319 High Street
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

Seating is Limited

WHEN RESERVING A TABLE, PLEASE ENCLOSE ALL CHECKS IN ONE ENVELOPE.
LIST NAMES OF GUESTS WITH WHOM YOU WISH TO BE SEATED.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL PASSKEY RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY AT (877) 901-6632 BY OCTOBER 1, 2015 AND MENTION "NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY" TO OBTAIN THE SPECIAL RATE OF \$289.
PASSKEY LINK: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/MetropolisBostonPhiloptochos>

Come Rejoice and Embrace the Children!

The National Philoptochos Fifteenth Children's Medical Fund Luncheon will take place on October 31, 2015, at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel. Since its inception in 1989, this bi-annual event has raised and distributed close to \$3 million dollars to programs that serve the needs of ill and fragile children, to children who need medical care, and to their families for assistance with paying for their care.

Why not plan to spend the weekend in the historic city of Boston? The Metropolis of Boston has worked diligently to plan an exciting itinerary of events. Hotel reservations at the Renaissance can be made at the special rate of \$289 by contacting: Passkey Reservations (877) 901-6632 and mention "National Philoptochos Society" or online at: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/MetropolisBostonPhiloptochos>. This reduced rate will be available until October 1, 2015.

On Sunday, November 1, 2015, in commemoration of the Feast Day of the Patron Saints of Philoptochos, Saints Cosmas and Damianos, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios will preside at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios, His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela and Rev. Dr. Demetrios Tonia, Dean of the Annunciation Cathedral. The Annunciation Philoptochos will host a reception following the Divine Liturgy.

As always, the success of the Children's Medical Fund depends on support from its members, chapters and friends of Philoptochos throughout the United States. Through the generosity of its stewards, National Philoptochos hopes to generate significant contributions to benefit children within the Metropolis of Boston, across the United States, and throughout the world. Sponsorships and donations to the Fund can be mailed to the National Philoptochos Office or submitted online at: <http://bit.ly/1MpMsF3>.

The planning committee, under the direction of General Chair and National President Maria Logus, Luncheon Chair and Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos President Frances Levas, and Co-

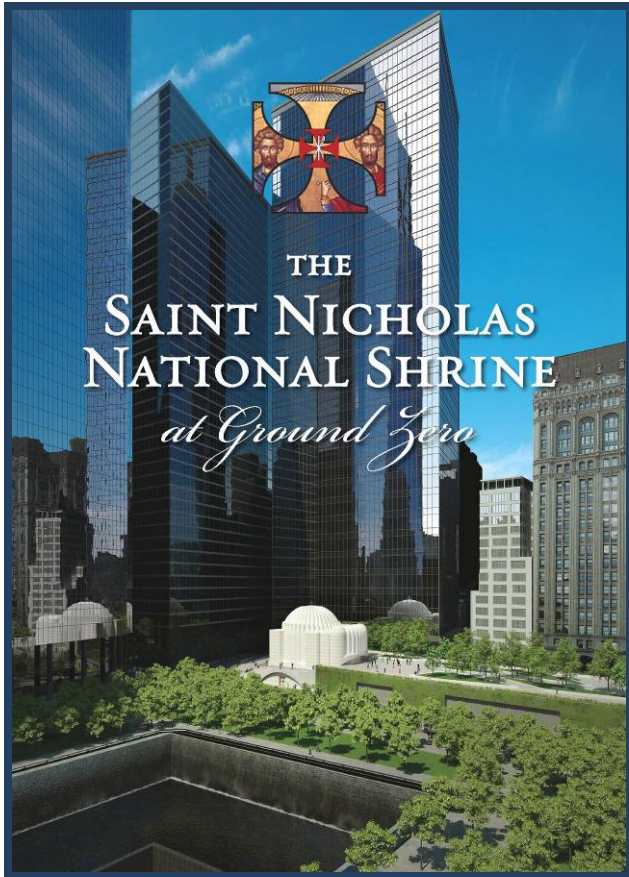
Chairs, Christine Karavites, Elaine Kevgas and Georgia Lagadinos, cordially invite all friends of Philoptochos to gather in the historic city of Boston on October 31st *to rejoice and embrace the children.*



Raffle tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25.00 and may be obtained by sending an email to: cmf2015@philoptochos.org. Prizes include:

- American Express, VISA, Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom, Macy's and Cumberland Farms Gift Cards
- Fox Trimmed Cape
- Chanel Watercolor Print Silk Scarf
- Louis Vuitton Chale Monogram Scarf
- Konstantino Mother of Pearl 18K Gold Bracelet
- Ippolita Sterling Silver Mother of Pearl and Black Onyx Pendant
- Effy Green Amethyst Ring in 14K Gold with Diamonds
- Tiffany Sterling Silver Bangle
- Apple iPad Mini with Case
- 2 Fitbits
- Tory Burch Collection: Weekender Tote, Swing Pack, Shoulder Bag, Sunglasses, Umbrella and Scarf
- Tumi Luggage, 2-piece set
- Kate Spade Handbag
- Tory Burch Handbag and Wallet
- Weekender Package in Historic Boston, including Hotel, Restaurants, Museums, and Tours

Marking An Historic Commitment
Jennifer Constantin ~ Arlene Siavelis Kehl ~
Anne Michals, Co-Chairs



Looking back on a fateful day, the National Philoptochos continues to work to inspire compassion and motivation throughout our Parishes and Chapters towards recognition of 9/11 and through its efforts to raise funds for the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center.

On September 11, 2001, a day that will live in infamy, every American understood that life would never be the same, either in our country or around the world. Within a period of two hours, both 110-story Twin Towers collapsed, taking with them all other buildings in the World Trade Center complex, including Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. On that day 2,753 unsuspecting people lost their lives.

Bringing about an understanding that it is time to do something, something personal, to promote

healing, is the message that Philoptochos members are asked to embrace. It is time for all members to show support for the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine by offering their personal contributions or by working alongside their Philoptochos sisters to help reach a goal. Our focus is on the rebuilding of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and the creation of the National Shrine. What greater tribute and remembrance to the victims at Ground Zero could there be than the resurrection of a church, a re-establishment of a house of worship, the birth of a place of healing for the world to know on this hallowed ground.



To mark the historic building of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine, Philoptochos has commissioned the crafting of a beautiful Sterling Silver Charm. The Charm, which is shown below and will be made available for purchase in the new Ecclesiastical Year, will serve to commemorate the building project and to stand as a symbol of our unity, as together we work to bring about its resurrection. All proceeds from the sale of the Saint Nicholas Charm will be directed towards the benefit of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine.



Ideas to Increase Philoptochos Membership

Alexis Limberakis and Maria Tamvakologos,
Co-Chairs

1. At the time of membership enrollment, request comments and suggestions to be returned to the board. Ask for feedback on programs, activities and meeting hours. What is their interest and areas of expertise? Those who feel a part, take a part!
2. Meet early with the membership committee to set realistic membership goals. Make every effort to achieve them. Ask your priest to speak from the pulpit about the importance of membership.
3. Identify a real need either in your parish or greater community. A cause around which people can rally is likely to increase membership.
4. Every September at the start of the new ecclesiastical year, sponsor a Philoptochos "Open House" after Liturgy and distribute an information sheet to potential members.
5. Ask those unable to attend meetings, to sign a 'CALL ME ONCE' sheet, where they are asked to volunteer just one time during the year. Being called to help on a limited basis can be manageable for even the busiest person.
6. Welcome new families and brides in your community with a phone call and invitation to join Philoptochos. Make sure new members are always introduced at meetings.
7. Challenge each board member to recruit a woman who has never been a Philoptochos member. All board members are on the membership committee!
8. Keep accurate membership records. Check last year's membership against the current year. Email, call or send a reminder note to members who have not renewed their membership.
9. Philoptochos mailings and emails should be sent regularly, keeping members informed of activities. Create a yearly Philoptochos events calendar, so members can plan accordingly.
10. Seek out young members of the parish that are technologically savvy to help create a chapter Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram accounts! (Great community service credit for students).

Hellenic College Holy Cross September Scholarship Appeal

Marian Catechis and Philippa Condakes, Co-Chairs



This year marks a new era for our beloved Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology as the V. Rev. Christopher Metropulos will be installed as its new president in October. We look forward to participating in this very momentous occasion.

This past May, a total of 19 students graduated from Hellenic College and 29 from Holy Cross. There are currently 187 students enrolled in both schools with tuition, room and board starting at \$38,132.

Each September, National Philoptochos has its Scholarship Appeal, which benefits worthy students in the school with twice yearly scholarships. In the spring of 2015, Philoptochos awarded 24 scholarships of \$1,500 and 4 merit scholarships of \$1,000 each. The more money sent to the National Office for this appeal, the more is given out to each student. Over the past ten years, thanks to all our chapters, a total of \$798,700 has been awarded in scholarships including \$79,600 in 2014.

We thank all the Philoptochos chapters for their commitment to the education of our young adults and future spiritual leaders. These students are the future of our Greek Orthodox Church!

*Retired Clergy and Widowed Presvyteres
Benevolent Fund*

+Bishop Andonios of Phasiane, Chancellor



Honor your father and mother which is the first commandment with promise that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth (Ephesians 6:2-3)

Each year, the second Sunday of May and the third Sunday in June are designated to honor our mothers and our fathers. While these holidays are an occasion to remember our parents who raised and nurtured us, as Orthodox Christians we know that it is our sacred obligation to honor our mother and father not just on one or two days a year, but rather to show our appreciation continuously.

In addition to the parents who gave birth to us, there are other individuals who play central roles in our spiritual life and of course, I am referring to our local parish priest and his presvytera. Across this nation, it has been these Fathers and their wives who have raised up countless generations in the Orthodox Faith and nurtured children of the Church with the teachings of Christ and His gospel. Some of these Fathers and Presvyteres, who served during the early years of our Archdiocese before the various pension programs were established, have retired from active ministry and are subsisting on meager pensions.

For this reason, Retired Clergy and Widowed

Presvyteres Benevolent Fund was established and has been sending them a monthly stipend to augment their income. During the past six years since my office assumed responsibility for this Fund, over \$325,000 has been collected and distributed in monthly subsidies to a number of clergymen and widowed presvyteres most of whose total annual retirement incomes range from \$14,500 to \$21,000!

National Philoptochos has designated the month of September as the opportunity for the ladies to make a special collection for the Retired Clergy and Widowed Presvyteres Benevolent Fund and I trust that you will all honor these spiritual Mothers and Fathers by once again generously responding to this year's appeal so that the Fund can continue to offer them the assistance they so need and deserve! Without this assistance, the quality of their life would be greatly diminished. As always, be assured of the heartfelt appreciation of the Archdiocese for all you do as the philanthropic arm of the Church. May you and all your loved ones enjoy a very blessed and productive new ecclesiastical year, filled with the abundant blessings of our Lord.

*A Blog for Philoptochos
Philanthropy by Philoptochos*

Seeking Blog Entries!



We hope that our readers have taken the opportunity to click on **PHILANTHROPY BY PHILOPTOCHOS**, which features blog entries from Philoptochos members throughout the country.

The Communications committee has been working hard to increase the number of submissions.

Each of us has a story, and we would love to receive **YOUR** blog so that it can be shared with others.

Your entry can be humorous, poignant, exciting, wistful etc., recalling an event or a moment that was particularly memorable to you. It is your singular voice that interests us. The basic requirement is that all submissions have some connection to Philoptochos.

Additional blog guidelines are posted on the blog itself, and the entire process is a very simple one. Our goal is to receive new blogs every month.

To view blog entries and guidelines for submissions:

a. Log on to the Philoptochos website, www.philoptochos.org and on the left side of the home page, click on Philoptochos Blog right under the Orthodox Observer

b. You can also use this link:
<http://philanthropybyphiloptochos.blogspot.com/>

If you have always wanted to be a published author, here is a golden opportunity for you to start! You will certainly have a national audience.

Thank you for your interest and support.

*Get E-Mails from the Greek Orthodox
Archdiocese of America*



If you would like e-mail updates from the Archdiocese, click on the link to see the various releases and to subscribe (or unsubscribe):
<http://www.goarch.org/listserv/>.

E- Mail Address for Communications



The PR/Communications Committee would love to hear from you! Please send us Philoptochos related news or announcements or submit articles (up to 300 words) and photographs (in JPG form) to our new group email address, communications@philoptochos.org. If you have ideas you would like to share with the Committee, send them our way!

Media Links



<http://www.philoptochos.org/news/blog>



<http://www.facebook.com/philoptochos>



<https://twitter.com/Philoptochos1>