



Philanthropy Witness



The Official Newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society

Volume 1 Issue 1

March 2013

Spiritual Reflections

Bishop Sevastianos of Zela

My most beloved co-workers in the vineyard of our Lord,

I give thanks to God for your ministry to our Holy Church. Your love, dedication and tireless efforts to fulfill the mission of our Philoptochos is a continuous praise to God.

I also congratulate you for establishing this newsletter to spread the news on the work of Philoptochos. May it be spread on the “wings of angels” to every heart that thirsts to serve the Lord and hears the “good news” of the Gospel.

As we prepare to enter the Great Lent I take this opportunity to wish you a blessed and spiritually renewing fasting period. Our Church in her wisdom is aware that we are always “on the go” and preoccupied with daily cares, and most often we lose sight of our direction and we miss what is really important in our lives. For this reason the Church provides for us an opportunity to “be still,” to stop and reflect on the meaning and purpose of our lives. During Great Lent we can participate in the most wonderful services of our Church: The *Great Compline*, the *Presanctified Liturgy*, the *Salutations to the Theotokos*, and the *Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great*. All these Services are available for us so that we may rediscover ourselves, strengthen our relationships with each other and make God the center of our lives. However, our worship needs to be genuine, participatory and if I may say “existential,” otherwise it will be irrelevant and superficial.

Another opportunity for our spiritual renewal is fasting as prescribed by the Orthodox Church. More often we concentrate, if at all, on the food dietary restrictions and ignore the most important part of fasting. In the liturgical texts of the first day of Lent, we are reminded how we should fast: *Let us observe a fast acceptable and pleasing to the Lord. True fasting is to put away all evil, to control the tongue, to refrain from anger, to abstain from lust, slander, lying and perjury. If we renounce these things, then is our fasting true and acceptable to God.* (Hymn from the Vespers of the first week of Lent)

My beloved sisters in the Lord, men and women cannot be of God if they are not rooted in the worshiping experience of the Church and do not have a genuine sacramental life. Do not let this Lent go by like any other; take the opportunity to renew your minds and spirits so that you can truly bear fruit in His Name.

In the service of our Lord,
+Bishop Sevastianos

President's Perspective

Aphrodite Skeadas



Welcome to the Philoptochos e-newsletter *Philanthropy Witness*. I extend heartfelt greetings as we introduce you to our premier issue. This online e-newsletter merges our efforts to be both green and efficient when communicating among Philoptochos Stewards and friends. It is meant to complement our Philoptochos Blog, Facebook Page and all our traditional written communications with you. We hope you find the contents interesting, inspirational and entertaining as we use words to connect with our faithful Philoptochos Stewards, “*doers of the Word*”.

As Philoptochos Stewards we aspire to positively impact young people beginning their journeys and encourage them to participate in their Chapter Philoptochos by volunteering their many and varied talents to benefit those less fortunate.

For more than 80 years the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society offers healing, peace and hope. With the inception of this online newsletter it is appropriate to reflect upon and cherish the Philoptochos women of sterling integrity whose lives, accomplishments and visions serve as inspiration to better ourselves and those whose lives we touch.

Please read and share this e-newsletter with friends and family so they also will be aware of the happenings that the Philoptochos women (and men as associate members) are creating. Through sharing we can make positive changes in our communities and everywhere.

I hope you enjoy this new communication format and hope you will submit news and special interest articles on the heroes in our Chapters. We also welcome your suggestions to continually improve. Our goal is to strengthen the Philoptochos presence, communicate effectively and grow our membership. We look forward to hearing from you and about you and your great works!

On behalf of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society and Staff, I thank you—our beloved and faithful Philoptochos Stewards.

Co - Editors Greetings
Helen Ballerano & Valine Georgeson

With the publication of this e-newsletter *Philanthropy Witness* the Philoptochos Public Relations Committee is seeking to bring the words and works of our Sisterhood to all Stewards on a regular basis.

As thousands of women work in their local parish Philoptochos Chapters, it is often easy to see Philoptochos as a local group working to do good things within their community. But it is important to remember that we are also a national organization, with approximately 27,000 members. Yet each Chapter is unique and each Chapter offers its special brand of philanthropy.

This newsletter has been created to strengthen the bonds of sisterhood among all Philoptochos Stewards in America. Sharing ideas among Chapters, reporting on the work of National Philoptochos, imparting information on the monthly national ministry commitments, and their importance, promoting assorted Metropolis and National events, offering practical information on Chapter procedures, By-laws and protocol; the topics that can be addressed are limitless.

As Philoptochos sisters, we are all linked together by our Orthodox faith and philanthropic works, which is why *Philanthropy Witness* needs to speak to each of us. We hope you will embrace this newsletter with interest and enthusiasm. More importantly, we want to hear from you. Your questions, comments and suggestions are vital to making *Philanthropy Witness* an important and useful communications tool. Simply e-mail us at news@philoptochos.org to share your input.

While no doubt the format of this newsletter will be a work in progress, its intent and mission will remain constant: *to witness our faith through our philanthropic works* that serve Christ and His Church.

Women Leaders of the Church Lecture

On Tuesday, March 26, 2012 at 1:00 p.m., National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas will be speaking on Philoptochos women through the years who served in leadership roles. This lecture will take place at the Archbishop Iakovos Library and Resource Center at Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology in Brookline, Ma. For more information contact Anna Colis at 617.850.1312 or acolis@hchc.edu. You may view this lecture live on your computer at www.hchc.edu.

Upcoming Events

Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos

Agape Luncheon

Sunday, March 10, 2013

Proceeds benefit Hurricane Sandy Relief and the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy

For details, click here:

<http://www.philoptochos.org/assets/files/metropolises/DAD%20Agape%20Luncheon%202013.pdf>

Great Lent Begins

Monday, March 18, 2013

For details, click here:

<http://www.goarch.org/ourfaith/pascha>

National Philoptochos Spring Board Meeting

Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6, 2013

Brookline, Massachusetts

Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society

Pilgrimage to Constantinople

In Celebration of

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's

Name Day

June 8-14, 2013

7 Days/5 Nights

For details, click here:

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

National Philoptochos Society

Children's Medical Fund Luncheon

Saturday, October 12, 2013

Fairmont Pittsburgh

510 Market Street Pittsburgh, PA

The National Philoptochos Society's Children's Medical Fund was established in 1989. A major luncheon is hosted by a different Metropolis biennially to support this program. The funds raised are given as grants to hospitals at the forefront of innovative programs and/or research and to provide financial assistance to pay for medical care of critically ill children.

March National Commitments

Hellenic College Holy Cross Lenten Appeal

Diane Mimos, Chair

Philoptochos has a great and long tradition of offering love and financial support to the seminarians and students of Hellenic College Holy Cross School of Theology. The annual Lenten Appeal ministry commitment is designated for capital improvements on the campus of this very special school. In recent years the Lenten Appeal has provided funding for a computer lab, handicapped access bathrooms, new desks and chairs, carpeting, air-conditioning and dormitory furniture.

The current request that the Society has been asked to help fund through the Lenten Appeal is the "Campus One" card system that would greatly improve campus security and also be used by students to access the cafeteria and assorted services. With necessary funds, Phase I of this project would be implemented this year.

Thank you for your continued commitment to and promotion of our beloved "Scholi".

Orthodox Christian Mission Center Support - a - Mission Priest

Marty Driscoll, Chair

March is "Missionary" month for Philoptochos Chapters who are encouraged to fulfill their commitment to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center and Support a Mission Priest. Our support enables Orthodox mission teams & mission Priests to strengthen their outreach in spreading the message of the Gospel. Orthodox missionaries currently serve in Albania, Guatemala, Kenya, Moldova, Mongolia, Romania, Tanzania and the United States.

One young couple who will benefit from Philoptochos support will be Stephanos & Alexandria Ritsi. Both HCHC graduates, they are dedicating their lives to serve as career missionaries in Albania. They are learning the language and culture of Albania and will work under His Eminence Archbishop Anastasios of Albania as teachers, reaching out to students of all ages.

Philoptochos support helps missionary families who are dedicating their lives to Christ's teachings and Orthodox Christian concepts.

Hurricane Sandy Relief

Adopt - a - Family Project **Dee Nicolaou, Chair**

The National Philoptochos Society Adopt-a-Family Project is a voluntary project that addresses the immediate and long-term needs of victims of the tragedy left in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

A list is being compiled with information about each family, along with a registry of their needs. Their needs are vital, basic and beyond imagination. Many families have lost items we take for granted. National Philoptochos will partner your Chapter with one family in need. You will be able to assist a family with a donation of a gift card or cards to stores such as Target, Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Sears, Home Depot or Lowes, where they can directly purchase what they need.

With your assistance, we can offer these families the strength to endure, the grace to look beyond the loss, and the hope for a brighter future.

If your Chapter would like to participate please contact: Dee Nicolaou, National Philoptochos Disaster Relief Chair at 813.991.9026 or nicolaou@msn.com for further information and assistance.

Volunteer to Help Re-build **Constantin Ursache, Associate Director** **Archdiocese Department of Philanthropy**

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, together with Parishes and Philoptochos continue to work to offer assistance to those affected by Hurricane Sandy. Many families in our Archdiocese were affected by this disaster and we are currently planning ways to offer them tangible assistance. Specifically, we hope to organize teams of volunteers to help with the renovation of damaged homes. To this end, we are currently recruiting volunteers who can offer their time and talent to provide skilled labor in construction related areas (flooring, drywall, painting, etc.) as well as those without construction experience who are willing to offer their hard work. Ideally, the volunteers will spend a day (or more), most likely a Saturday, taking on specific projects to repair homes. A sign-up form for prospective volunteers can be found at www.philanthropy.goarch.org. You can also contact the Department of Philanthropy of the Archdiocese via phone: 212-774-0283 or email: cursache@goarch.org for more information.

Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy

Christine Karavites

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, the loving support of the Holy Eparchial Synod, the Philoptochos Chapters, stewards nationwide, and grand benefactors, the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society purchased its permanent home at 126 East 37th Street in New York City on Tuesday, November 27, 2012. This historic event culminates three years of planning and fundraising to ensure that Philoptochos, the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, has the ability to fulfill its philanthropic mission, expand its ministries and secure its legacy for future generations.

The modest five story townhouse originally constructed in 1868 is located in the Murray Hill historic district between Park and Lexington Avenues. The property is currently occupied and generating income until May 2013. It is expected that the National Philoptochos office will move from its temporary location at the Presbyterian Church to its new permanent home in early summer.

The Philoptochos Chapters nationwide continue their loving response to raise additional funds through the Chapter Giving Tree Campaign where each Chapter will be individually memorialized on a leaf on the Tree by donating \$1,000. National Philoptochos, Metropolis Presidents and Chapter Presidents are working together so that none of the 485 Chapters will be left out and all will be represented on the Philoptochos Chapter Giving Tree. In this final campaign we give thanks for the munificent ***Mary Jaharis Challenge Gift*** that is matching every \$1,000 leaf with another \$1,000 up to a total of \$500,000. We kindly ask you if you have secured your Chapter's leaf to reach out and assist small Chapters so that our Tree will be complete, representing our entire sisterhood and Archdiocese.

Philoptochos Donates \$20,000 To End Child Trafficking

The National Board of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society approved a \$20,000 donation in their first meeting of the year in Tampa, Florida this January. The donation will go to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF's End Trafficking project but more specifically towards ending child trafficking and exploitation in the U.S. The End Trafficking project is the U.S. Fund for UNICEF's initiative to raise awareness about trafficking; it aims to mobilize communities to take meaningful action to help protect children.

As reported by UNICEF, 5.5 million children worldwide are victims of forced labor and child trafficking. They are bought and sold, forced into prostitution, or made to work at grueling jobs with little or no pay. Thousands of children are right here in the United States.

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society has long supported UNICEF as a National Ministry Commitment, donating \$360,000 since 1991.

To learn more about human trafficking in the United States and how your Chapter can participate in raising awareness, read the *Philanthropy by Philoptochos* blog post "Human Trafficking – In Your Backyard," at <http://philoptochos.posterous.com/human-trafficking-in-your-backyard>

2012 Philoptochos Reflections **Archives and History Committee** **(Edited Version) Christine Karavites, Chair**

February 2012 – A \$25,000 donation from the National Philoptochos Emergency Fund was expedited through IOCC to those in need in Greece.

March 2012 – Philoptochos welcomes His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela as National Philoptochos Spiritual Advisor.

June 2012 – \$160,000 is distributed from the Aid to the People of Greece Appeal to five organizations in Greece for the relief of those suffering due to the economic crisis.

July 1 – 4, 2012 – National Philoptochos Biennial Convention is held in Phoenix, AZ with a record number of delegates.

2012 Convention Highlights:

- 80th Anniversary Celebration hosted by the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos at the Musical Instrument Museum recognizes the service of nine AGAPE Award recipients.
- Delegates raise over \$205,000 for the purchase of the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy.
- The Chapter Giving Tree Campaign is presented, each Chapter to be represented on a leaf with a \$1,000 donation.

- His Grace Bishop Sevastianos offers new Philoptochos Prayer.
- New Social Media pages are launched :
 Blog: <http://philoptochos.posterous.com/>
 Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/philoptochos>
- Delegates donate gift cards valued at over \$8,000 for the non-profit United Methodist Outreach Mission New Day Center in support of the homeless and hungry in Phoenix, AZ.
- Donations of \$2,853,158 for the period from 1/1/2010 - 12/31/2011 and Disbursements of \$13,956,459 from 1/1/2002 – 12/31/2011 are announced.

October 2012 – His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios convenes the 2012-2014 National Philoptochos Board and appoints Aphrodite Skeadas to a third term as National Philoptochos President.

The Mary Jaharis Foundation generously pledges to match each \$1,000 leaf on the Chapter Giving Tree for the purchase of the Center of Philanthropy.

November 2012 – \$15,000 donated to the Direct Archdiocesan District and \$15,000 to the Metropolis of New Jersey from the National Philoptochos Emergency Fund following Hurricane Sandy. The National Philoptochos Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund is established to further assist victims.

November 27, 2012 – With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society purchases its home in Manhattan, the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy. This historic milestone is achieved through the great generosity of Philoptochos members, Chapters, parishes and friends nationwide.

December 2012 - \$25,600 in \$200 “Christmas Blessings” gift cards are distributed to individuals and families in the Direct Archdiocesan District and the Metropolis of New Jersey affected by Hurricane Sandy with an additional \$12,000 being sent to both areas for direct aid from the Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund.

2012 Philoptochos Reflections (original version) at <http://www.philoptochos.org/index/history>

Environment Responsibility

Green Tips

Theone Dickos, Chair & Diane Saphos, Co-Chair

“We are treating our planet in an inhuman, godless manner precisely because we fail to see it as a gift inherited from above. Our original sin with regard to the natural environment lies in our refusal to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and neighbor on a global scale. It is our humble conviction that divine and human meet in the slightest detail contained in the seamless garment of God’s creation, in the last speck of dust.”

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

To promote and boost environmental awareness, the Environment Responsibility Committee continues its dedication to offering a bimonthly communication of *Green Tips* to share.

1. **IN THE MORNING** - Brew “certified” coffee. A USDA CERTIFIED ORGANIC label means it was grown using sustainable standards. If you are not brewing at home, take a travel cup to your favorite coffee house, and they may fill it at a discount. This results in less waste in the form of a paper or Styrofoam coffee cup. Coffee grounds are also proven to be great fertilizer for gardens.
2. **AT WORK** - Double up and configure your office printer or copy machine so it prints on both sides of the paper. Make sure to recycle “mistakes” or unneeded copies.
3. **WHEN RUNNING ERRANDS** - Bring your own reusable bags or recycle plastic ones. Plastic bags are not biodegradable. They clog waterways, spoil the landscape, and end up in landfills where they may take 1,000 years or more to break down. Plastic bags also pose a serious danger to birds and marine mammals that often mistake them for food. Thousands die each year after swallowing or choking on discarded plastic bags.
4. **BEFORE BED** - Turn off electronics. Plug your devices- the TV and DVD player, the computer and printer- into a UL certified power strip. Switch the whole group off for the evening to prevent phantom electrical draw.

**The environment is a work of God.
 We must act responsibly so that it will be sustained.**

Family & Society/Interfaith

Theone Dickos, Chair & Diane Saphos, Co-Chair

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is committed to preserving our Orthodox Christian family. One of the goals of the committee is to gather, identify, and develop successful programs in the following two categories:

1. Marriage Enrichment Programs including Interfaith Marriage
2. Parenting Teenagers

A survey conducted by the Archdiocese revealed that the above categories were two of the greatest needs within parish life.

Theone and Diane kindly request that you share the projects or programs you are working on in your parishes. They will pick a few projects to share with Chapters nationwide. The family is the foundation that sets the example for consistent attendance to church.

If you would like to submit a project or program, please fill out the form, labeled Family and Society/Interfaith Committee – project form at:

<http://www.philoptochos.org/news/correspondence> or contact Theone at tdickos@aol.com or Diane at dsaphos@msn.com.

New Online Election Form

Check out the new Online Election Form – a quick, easy way for you to enter your election results. You will find all the information you need at:

<http://www.philoptochos.org/resources/membership>.

In order to be ratified, after your elections, you will need to do two things:

- Enter your election results on the Online Election Form. If you are unable to enter them, please ask a fellow Chapter member or a fellow parishioner for assistance.
- Print the Chapter Officer Confirmation page
 - Fill it out
 - Send it one of three ways:
 - Scan and attach the completed form to an e-mail and send to: elections@philoptochos.org
 - Fax the completed form to 212.977.7784
 - Mail it to the National Philoptochos office:

May through June:

7 West 55th Street 7th Floor New York, NY 10019

July onwards:

126 East 37th Street New York, NY 10016

Stewardship Drive Tips

The Philoptochos membership (stewardship) drive is on! Starting in January and continuing into April we want to invite women of all ages to join in the mission of Philoptochos. Philoptochos stewards make a difference in their communities, the nation, and the world and act as beacons of hope for those in need. Being a steward of Philoptochos means being a part of something greater than you, it means making the world a better place.

This is the year to become a steward of Philoptochos, a milestone year, which includes the purchase of the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy, the headquarters and home of the organization.

Below is a list of tips in order to aide in the process of recruiting new stewards with coveted skills, fresh ideas and a love of philanthropy:

1. **Evaluate your Chapter** – hold a brainstorming session with your stewards – review goals and priorities, evaluate what is working and what isn't and come up with a re-evaluated vision to act as your driving force

2. **Survey women who are not stewards** – create a roster of prospective stewards - brainstorm questions to find out more about what they are looking for – discuss the results within your Chapter – is it possible to implement some of their needs?

3. **Be warm and welcoming** – introduce yourself to prospective stewards, take an interest, and introduce them to other members – create an atmosphere of camaraderie

4. **Make every event a “media” event** – Take a picture(s) at all your events and create a press release that can be sent to local newspapers, published in your Church bulletin, and posted around your Church to let those outside your Chapter know about the ministries of Philoptochos and the local projects you are involved in

5. **Encourage involvement in committees and projects** – Everyone brings with them a variety of different skills and talents that they can contribute to a project and those skills and talents in-turn lead to a successful outcome

6. **Stewardship Contest** – A fun idea for increasing your stewardship is to encourage every steward to bring in a new steward those who do can put their name in a box, when the Stewardship drive is completed, pick a name and give away a coveted prize

7. **Bring a friend** – This will be a great introduction to the prospective steward and an easy way to receive feedback about how your meetings are run

8. **Spread the word about Philoptochos** – Collaborate with other organizations in your area so that you may speak to your community about the mission of Philoptochos, network, make connections and see where it takes you

9. **The personal touch** – Ensure you meet with anyone who shows interest face to face or over the phone – speak to them about the mission of Philoptochos and the projects that your Chapter engages in – why should they join?

10. **Special events** – creating a diverse schedule of events that appeal to a wide range of personalities will ensure that your reach is wide and you will attract women with a variety of skills and interests

11. **Cultivate “customer” service** – Send out thank you letters to stewards who have renewed their stewardship and to stewards who have recently joined

12. **Value-added partnerships** – partner with local organizations and stores to offer deals for your stewards

13. **Newsletters** – create a monthly or yearly newsletter to alert members and non-members alike to the good works your Chapter engages in

14. **Social media** – create a Facebook page for your Chapter – encourage your stewards to “Like” your page and then to engage in conversations on your wall and share posts with friends – it’s also a place to post information about upcoming meetings and events

15. **Feedback** – it is important to ask for feedback so your Chapter will continue to be relevant – ask for comments and ideas of what projects members wish to pursue

16. **Include a call to action** – invite stewards to take action by joining in a specific activity or by taking responsibility of a specific event or project.

17. **Marketing** – the Philoptochos website offers several marketing flyers and a brochure you can use to appeal to prospective stewards:

<http://www.philoptochos.org/resources/membership>

Philoptochos Mission Statement

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc. is the duly accredited women’s philanthropic society of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The mission of the Society shall be:

- To help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fund raising efforts; and
- To promote the charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through instructional programs, presentations, lectures, seminars and other educational resources;
- To preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian concepts and the Orthodox Christian Family, and through them, to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions in accordance with its doctrines, canons, discipline, divine worship, usages and customs;
- To promote participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, with the cooperation of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council.

The charitable work of the Society shall be performed with discretion, courtesy and kindness.

Joining Philoptochos...

We know your situation. You believe in helping others, you admire the work that Philoptochos does, you really want to participate, but somehow.....well, it just hasn’t happened yet.

We recognize that you are a busy person with work commitments, raising a family, perhaps helping your parents more than in years past. The list is long and there is only so much time in the day.

Can we tell you that Philoptochos is composed of thousands of women just like you - busy, involved and very scheduled! Your presence and/or financial support can truly make a difference in what your Chapter can do to help others whose challenges are staggering and often life altering.

Take time to call or e - mail your Chapter President or parish priest and ask about how you can best help out. Their answer may surprise you and enable you to help in ways that you had not imagined.

We are all called to serve the less fortunate amongst us, but serving can be defined in many ways. Your call or e-mail will not only change your life, but the life of someone whom you may never meet. You will be welcomed with open arms!

Searching for E-Mail Addresses!

One of the great advantages this e-newsletter provides is free distribution; no postage costs, no envelopes and no printed paper! This not only helps conserve Philoptochos funds, but is an environmentally responsible action.

But there is one catch, we must have e-mail addresses! The National Philoptochos office has a large base of e-mail addresses for our members. But we need **ALL** member e-mail addresses to ensure that we reach as many members as possible in a timely and cost efficient way.

If you have received this newsletter, please forward it to as many of your Philoptochos sisters as you possibly can and encourage them to send in their e-mail address as well. E-mail information is not shared and is used strictly for communication purposes.

Send E-mail addresses to membership@philoptochos.org. Not only will your e-mail address help you to receive all current Philoptochos news, but will enable us to be good stewards of our earthly resources.

Acknowledgments

A special acknowledgment is extended to the entire Public Relations Committee for making the vision of this National Philoptochos newsletter a reality. Under the leadership of our esteemed National President, Aphrodite Skeadas, the guidance of our Spiritual Advisor, Bishop Sevastianos, the National Philoptochos Director, Helen Lavorata, and the President of each of the Metropolises, the members below serve Philoptochos with untiring dedication and faithful commitment to our Sisterhood. Thank you!

Helen Ballerano and Valine Georgeson

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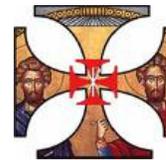
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Look out for a new post every Thursday!



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National Philoptochos Web Page

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