



# GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

## GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, Inc.

### HISTORIC OPENING THE PHILOPTOCHOS CENTER OF PHILANTHROPY A NEW ERA OF GIVING

**For immediate release:**

March 7, 2014

New York, NY. – Several hundred Philoptochos members, supporters and friends from across the United States joined His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America and President Aphrodite Skeadas on March 1, 2014 at the Ribbon Cutting and Blessing of the Philoptochos Center of Philanthropy at 126 East 37<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City.

The morning began with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy led by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Manhattan. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, special prayers were offered to Almighty God for past National Philoptochos Presidents, Directors, stewards and benefactors who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

National Philoptochos Vice Presidents Kathy Gabriel and Maria Stavropoulos chaired this milestone event noting that “Philoptochos arms are outstretched to everyone.” National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas expressed gratitude to Archbishop Demetrios on behalf of the Society’s 27,000 members. Mrs. Skeadas remarked that His Eminence’s encompassing vision, profound wisdom and earnest encouragement initiated the magnificent journey so that Philoptochos may expand its philanthropic and humanitarian mission. We extend gratitude to our beloved Hierarchs and to each Metropolis in the United States who raised critical funds along with major and minor donors who ignited the flame of giving and who keep the flame aglow.

The Philoptochos Chapters nationwide joined the campaign by donating a Chapter leaf on the Chapter Giving Tree that adorns the Center as a symbol of unity and love. The Giving Tree funds raised by the Chapters throughout the USA were matched by the generous Mary Jaharis Challenge Gift.

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios spoke of St. Paul’s message of love, joy, patience, peace, goodness, kindness and gentleness and stated, “Philoptochos sisters are called today to renew what it means to be a responsible Christian in 2014 and demonstrate their philanthropy, faithfully and prayerfully.” His Eminence commended Philoptochos for its philanthropy with prudence.

His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela, the National Philoptochos Advisor, the Honorable Consul General of Greece, Mr. Giorgios Iliopoulos and the Honorable Consul General of Cyprus, Ambassador Vasilios Philippou offered warm congratulations.

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The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America with 27,000 members nationwide. Philoptochos responds immediately to needs and crises and its philanthropic outreach extends to each area of the country and throughout the world. For the two year period of January 2012 through December 2013, National Philoptochos distributed an unprecedented \$3.102 million in philanthropic aid.

For more information contact: [philosny@aol.com](mailto:philosny@aol.com)