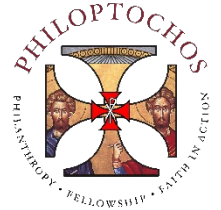




GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA



**National Philoptochos Greets His Beatitude Patriarch Theodoros II
to America with a Welcome Breakfast**

For Immediate Release: October 7, 2022

New York, NY – Today, the Executive Board of the National Philoptochos Society was honored to welcome His Beatitude Pope and Patriarch Theodoros II of Alexandria and All Africa at a private breakfast at the Harvard Club of New York City. The Philoptochos was pleased to have the opportunity to receive His Beatitude for his historical visit, the first of any Patriarch of Alexandria to America. His Beatitude was accompanied by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, National Philoptochos Spiritual Advisor Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos, His Eminence Metropolitan George of Guinea, and His Eminence Metropolitan Nikodimos of Memphis. Rev. Sub-Deacon Moses Kariuki Maina, who traveled with His Beatitude from the historic Patriarchate of Alexandria, also attended the event.

His Beatitude was joined by the following members of the Philoptochos Executive Board: National Philoptochos President Arlene Siavelis Kehl, Vice Presidents Anita Kartalopoulos and Stella Pantelidis, Protocol Officer Aphrodite Skeadas, the President of the Direct Archdiocesan District, Jennifer Constantin, and New Jersey Metropolis President, Eleni Constantinidis. The National Philoptochos staff, other Presbyters of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and guests were also in attendance for the meal.

The breakfast commenced with an invocation from His Beatitude Theodoros II of Alexandria. National President Arlene Siavelis Kehl addressed His Beatitude and guests, and expressed, “As Philoptochos has our mission to help those in need and the less fortunate among us, we are inspired by Patriarch Theodoros II’s ministry activity, including the building of churches, schools, and hospitals, as well as helping many Africans and Hellenes.”

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros in his message shared that, “National Philoptochos, one the women’s largest auxiliaries in the United States, is committed to philanthropy, not only here in our nation, but around the Orthodox world as well.”

Vice President Anita Kartalopoulos shared a greeting from National Philoptochos in Greek and commented that our mutual love of our Christian faith, our heritage and our fellowman has been richly evidenced by His Beatitude’s work in Africa. President Siavelis Kehl and Vice President Kartalopoulos presented a gift to His Beatitude commemorating Philoptochos’ 90 Year Anniversary.

His Beatitude responded with gracious remarks, recognizing the great philanthropic work of the Philoptochos, stating, “Madam president, how beautiful that the name of your organization is Philoptochos, a beautiful Greek word, meaning friends of the poor. Who else was a true friend of the poor but Jesus Christ.”

He thanked the group expressing, “I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this program today, not only to be thankful for this nice breakfast and gathering, but that you know, I am always with you, the Patriarch of the poorest region in the world, Africa. As I make my journey, I will always live my ministry which is indeed to be a philanthropist, a friend of the poor.”

His Beatitude Pope and Patriarch Theodoros II is visiting the United States to receive the Athenagoras Human Rights Award from the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarch in America. His visit to America is scheduled to continue through October 12, 2022, which includes a trip to Washington D.C. to meet with governmental officials as well as local clergy.

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The Society has historically responded immediately and generously when floods, hurricanes, devastating fires, and other disasters affect those around us. For more info, check out www.philoptochos.org.