



GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE ^{OF} AMERICA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGAPE Awards Breakfast Celebrates Fellowship and Philanthropy

San Diego, CA – July 2, 2024 -- The AGAPE Awards Breakfast hosted by the National Philoptochos Society this morning was exceptional. Attendees filled the event ballroom with lively conversations that bridged distances between parishes across the country and fostered a vibrant atmosphere of fellowship, faith in action, and connection.

Established in 2008, the Agape Awards have expanded to spotlight chapters across the United States for their leadership, innovation, resilience, and resourcefulness in sustaining philanthropic endeavors in the face of challenges, as noted by Arlene Siavelis Kehl, the National President of the Philoptochos Society. Today, we celebrate the 2024 AGAPE recipients from all eight Metropolises and the Archdiocesan District, acknowledging their exemplary efforts.

During the AGAPE Breakfast, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America remarked, "These AGAPE Awards are an inspirational and motivational challenge for all chapters across the country. While only one chapter from each Metropolis is recognized, the joy of all is shared in the fellowship of love that envelops this event."

The invocation was delivered by His Eminence Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain, who were two honored patriarchal representatives. The event commenced with a stirring vocal performance by Teadora Brown, a high school student and member of the St. Spyridon Youth Choir in San Diego.

Notable attendees also included Patriarchal Representative His Eminence Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia, Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, alongside other hierarchs of the Holy Eparchial Synod, and Margo and John Catsimatidis, Vice Chair of the Archdiocesan Council. National Philoptochos is delighted that monastic representatives joined us at the AGAPE Breakfast for the first time.

In his address, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America emphasized the enduring spirit of generosity and service that the AGAPE Breakfast celebrates. John Catsimatidis, moved by the chronicle of philanthropy displayed by all nine chapters, responded with a gift of \$5,000 to each of the nine winning chapters, demonstrating his commitment to supporting their philanthropic endeavors.

The AGAPE Breakfast honors Philoptochos' legacy of generosity and service, embodying its mission—a legacy passed down through generations. This gathering pays homage to our predecessors' philanthropic spirit and recognizes leaders who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and creativity in the face of challenges.

The 2024 AGAPE Award recipients have exhibited outstanding leadership, membership growth, service, and commitment to Philoptochos' mission. Their contributions reflect the convention theme of "inspiring women, impacting the world." Confronting unprecedented challenges, they have shown remarkable leadership, creativity, and devotion. Their dedication to philanthropy underscores the boundless power of collective action.

As we celebrate the chapter recipients of the 2024 AGAPE Award, let us draw inspiration from their example and recommit ourselves to the mission of making a difference, one chapter at a time—an army of Agape. Congratulations to each of these deserving recipients.

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The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America that has offered over 90 years of philanthropy through fundraising and charitable programs. Over 400 active chapters impact the lives of those in need within the United States and throughout the world. Website: www.philoptochos.org