

A Message from Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos

Spiritual Advisor, National Ladies Philoptochos Society

There is something that happens when Philoptochos women gather that I have never been able to fully describe — only witness. It is the particular energy of women who have given themselves, year after year, to the work of mercy, and who recognize in one another not just a colleague but a sister.

This convention is a gift. It is a chance to step back from the daily rhythm of chapter life to come together and ask: Where is God, and where is our Church calling us next? What does genuine Christian love ask of us in this moment, in this country, in the world, in this Church?

With the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, Chair of our Philoptochos, I extend to each of you a warm and heartfelt welcome. Yours is a legacy formed over a century of selfless, sacrificial service, and you bear it with grace. The grace of God. My prayer for these days is simple: that you leave refreshed in spirit, strengthened in sisterhood, and renewed in the calling that first brought you to this blessed work.

With paternal love in Christ and gratitude,

† Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos