

**GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT
2026 NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS CONVENTION
CLEVELAND, OHIO, JUNE 29 – JULY 2, 2026**



Spiritual Enrichment Committee

Chair: Joyce Spanakis

Committee Members: Athena Kalyvas, Deborah Pries, Vickie Scaljon, Billie Zumo

June 2026

Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos,
National President Debbie George,
Members of the National Board and fellow Philoptochos Sisters,

"I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer."

~Psalm 17:6

"Do you take prayer requests?" This straightforward question arrived by email at the National office in October 2025 and sparked the development of our newest National ministry, ***The Power of Prayer Ministry***.

With the blessing and guidance of His Grace Bishop Athenagoras, the Spiritual Enrichment Committee researched existing online parish and monastery prayer ministries to develop a model for use on the National Philoptochos website.

Guided by His Grace, prayer requests are received through his email and shared with his network of clergy. Currently, this ministry is available under both the *Resources* and *Faith in Action* tabs of the National website, with a brief and user-friendly form.

The committee hopes this ministry will grow and inspire local chapters to create similar prayer initiatives. For chapters without an online presence, this ministry offers a meaningful opportunity for new mothers, mothers of young children, or elderly members to participate from home by praying for fellow members, family, and friends.

His Grace Bishop Athenagoras stated that since the Power of Prayer Ministry launched in January of 2026, he has received seventy-two requests. Requests can be submitted on behalf of both Orthodox or non-Orthodox persons, living or reposed. This ministry is not limited to prayer requests for healing or other urgent needs but is also meant to be a place to send up prayers of thanksgiving, peace, and comfort.

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." ~Ephesians 6:18

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Spanakis, Chair
Spiritual Enrichment Committee