

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC. METROPOLIS PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024 - 2026



Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos

Eleni Constantinides, President

2026 National Philoptochos Convention, Cleveland, Ohio

June 29 – July 2, 2026

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America,
Your Grace Bishop Athenagoras of Nazianzos,
Esteemed National Philoptochos President, Mrs. Debbie George,
Beloved Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of all the Philoptochos chapters of the Holy Metropolis of New Jersey, I greet you with love and respect.

Since our last National Convention in 2024, we have been blessed with many significant events throughout our Metropolis. Across all five regions of our Metropolis, our chapters serve as beacons of hope, providing aid to the vulnerable, uplifting those in distress, and fostering a deep sense of community. Every meal served, every family assisted, and every act of kindness is a testament to our unwavering dedication to philanthropy and faith.

In February of both 2025 and 2026 we gathered in the City of Brotherly Love to help with the Music and Dance Festival, rejoicing in the rich cultural heritage of our Greek Orthodox faith as expressed through music and dance. These traditions are more than melodies and steps—they tell the story of our people and remind us that, no matter where we are in the world, our Hellenic identity and Orthodox faith unite us.

In March 2026 we had our second “Walking with Christ” fundraiser. The proceeds from this event enable us to assist seminarians of the Holy New Jersey Metropolis who are studying at Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology with their educational expenses.

At our April 2025 Clergy Laity and Metropolis Conference, we elected our new Metropolis Board. Following the election of officers, His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos administered the Oath of Office. We welcomed new members on our Executive Board and look forward to working together as we continue to fulfill and honor the mission of Philoptochos. Through another fundraising initiative, “The Light of the Cross,” we raised vital funds to support the future of our beloved Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology.

In April 2026 we had an opportunity to meet the Evzones, Greece’s Presidential Guard. With immense national pride we joined them and our hierarchs and clergy in the Greek Independence Day Parades in New York City, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the Baltimore, Maryland.

In September 2025 we welcomed His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, VA. There, we were blessed to participate in the Patriarchal Doxology and were honored to meet and greet His All Holiness.

On November 22, 2025 we celebrated the Feast Day of Saint Iakovos Tsalikis of Evia, the Patron Saint of our Holy Metropolis. For the first time we had the opportunity to venerate the Epitracheleon of the Saint which was gifted to His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos by the Monastery of Saint David the Elder where Saint Iakovos lived and prayed.

In 2025 and again in 2026, His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos hosted regional banquets to recognize and honor members of our parishes whose dedication, faith and service have strengthened our communities and helped perpetuate our faith, traditions and Hellenism. Among the honorees were Philoptochos members. I was honored to join His Eminence as he congratulated these deserving individuals and presented them with commemorative plaques.

December brought us to our Metropolis headquarters in Westfield, New Jersey for the traditional Lighting of the Christmas Tree, a beautiful and well attended celebration enjoyed by all. Each December, we also conduct our annual Christmas Gift Giving Project. Through generous donations from our chapters and individual benefactors, we are able to assist families throughout our Metropolis who need a little extra support during the holiday season. Through this initiative, more than twenty families received gifts in 2025.

Perhaps the most notable development of 2025 was the establishment of three new Philoptochos chapters within our Holy Metropolis:

Chapter 1079, Holy Apostles, Dulles, Virginia
Chapter 1090, Transfiguration, Charlottesville, Virginia
Chapter 1100, Saint Demetrios, Williamsburg, Virginia

The Holy Metropolis of New Jersey is now forty-one chapters strong.

The women of Philoptochos continue to dedicate their talent, time and treasure in support of the Philoptochos mission. Our chapters remain faithful in meeting their Metropolis and National commitments while tirelessly serving their local communities by feeding the hungry, providing shelter to the homeless, and supporting and protecting women and children.

I feel truly blessed and honored to be part of this extraordinary Sisterhood.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleni Constantinides, President
Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos