

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



Orthodox Prison Ministry

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Mission Statement:

In the spirit of Christ's teaching "...I was in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:36), the mission of this committee is to offer an opportunity to positively affect the lives of both those who are incarcerated and their families through identifiable acts of compassion and love.

Objective:

To strengthen awareness and facilitate outreach to those affected by incarceration, instilling spiritual guidance and support for renewal through faith and love.

The committee hopes to establish the groundwork for chapters to embrace and engage in the newly initiated ministry to support Orthodox prison outreach. The Orthodox Prison Ministry Commitment was duly approved at the 2024 National Philoptochos Convention.

Awareness:

Reference for implementation of the current programs, services and suggestions offered by the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM), "an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States. For Orthodox Christians who have been arrested for crimes, OCPM helps them return to the Faith, offering forgiveness and reconciliation with Christ. For both Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike, OCPM provides spiritual care, enabling people in prison to find hope and purpose in their lives." <https://theocpm.org>

Action:

A virtual blast was created and sent to chapters, asking them to reach out to prisoners during Lent through the OCPM "Easter Card Toolkit" program, an easily-implemented activity for Philoptochos members to send a Pascha card with a personal message to prisoners. The toolkit offered simple guidelines to "visit" and show a prisoner an act of love and compassion:

- 1) Print the OCPM Pascha template
- 2) Collect materials to create the Pascha card (black ink pen/pencil and white paper)
- 3) Say a prayer so that God will bless your efforts and message (see suggestions)
- 4) Gather and send cards in one package to OCPM: Easter Cards

Action:

Chapters are also encouraged to implement the OCPM "Christmas Card Toolkit" to be completed by members in the fall. <https://theocpm.org> OCPM Christmas Card Toolkit.pdf

Prison Awareness Sunday is July 26, 2026 and chapters are invited to review and share the information for parish awareness and support of the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry programs which "introduce people in prison to the fullness of the Orthodox Faith and help Orthodox Christians who have been convicted of crimes to return to the Orthodox faith and find healing and reconciliation." <https://theocpm.org>

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Driscoll, Chair
Orthodox Prison Ministry Committee