February 6, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

These extraordinary times brought on by the global pandemic have tested our local communities and the entire world at large. Its impact pushes every human being to acknowledge our vulnerability along with those of our family, friends, neighbors, and strangers alike both locally and globally. Collectively as one race, we must rise together to face the extreme hardships the pandemic raises and fight together in solidarity to address each others’ needs, allowing us to overcome the pandemic with resilience, hopefulness, and above all, faith in our future.

With that said, please pledge your support to be a member of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, which continues to fight on the frontline, with service to humanity for over 90 years. It is the only women’s organization recognized in the Uniform Parish regulations and a non-governmental organization registered with the United Nations. Given that its establishment took place amid a historic depression, it should be of no surprise that Philoptochos chapters have continued to respond wherever the need arises.

In late March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis, The National Philoptochos Society approved an immediate disbursement of $50,000. $25,000 to the Feeding America Network and $25,000 to Meals on Wheels America. In conjunction with meeting the needs locally, each chapter was asked to consider making donations to their local food bank. Our chapter provided a $250 donation to the following: Mass Food Bank, Open Pantry, The Springfield Rescue Mission, and the Enfield Food Shelf. Furthermore, our chapter purchased 50 $25 gift cards through Food OutReach to support families in need.

As the pandemic continues to challenge every church on so many levels, I’m happy to report that our chapter of Philoptochos continues to meet all National Ministry Commitments as well as all Metropolis Chapter Contributions. Meeting these commitments can only be attributed to a solid foundation rooted in love and a giving community that continues to support the Philoptochos ministry and the much-needed work we do collectively. This year’s Philoptochos Membership Drive needs to be supported. I’m asking each parishioner or every household to pledge the minimum of $35. There has never in our lifetime been a greater need for support. Philanthropy doesn't have a gender or age requirement, nor does the philanthropic programs Philoptochos supports. Faith in our mission is what unites and empowers us to make a difference in our local chapter, the metropolis, national, and ultimately impacting global responses, especially amidst a crisis brought on by a pandemic.

Today, our Board prays you or your family make the minimal nominal pledge of just $35, knowing that at this time, our ability to offer help and love collectively has never been more critical.

In Christ,

Melissa Kaitis, President
Vaceleci Zaharis, Treasurer
Rosanne Desautels, Recording Secretary
Evangelia Tsikrikis, Corresponding Secretary