

METROPOLIS OF DENVER  
Philoptochos Monthly News Tips  
March 1, 2008

Dear Philoptochos Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents:  
March 10<sup>th</sup>, is the first day of Great Lent. “Kali Sarakosti” (“Good Lent”).  
Let us remember Great Lent is the time when more works of charity should be done for those less fortunate.

**METROPOLITAN MINUTE**

As we enter into the holy period of Great Lent, we should remind ourselves, and all whom we encounter, that it is the time for introspection. We have a unique opportunity to take inventory of ourselves in how we think and live and act. Associated with this is the fact that, knowingly or unknowingly, our lives impact the lives of others, either for good or not for good. God created us as societal beings, in order that we might interact with all whom we come into contact. Here the Golden Rule is definitely applicable: let us treat others, no matter who they are, as we wish to be treated.—Metropolitan Isaiah

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In the February edition of the “News Tips,” His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah stated “Would it not be a wonderful thing if our Metropolis Philoptochos Chapters would officially celebrate the Entrance of our Lord into the Temple every February 2<sup>nd</sup>, as the celebration of children who come into the world?”

For this reason, His Eminence has requested that each year we commemorate the dedication of our Lord in the Temple, on the nearest Sunday, to be a day dedicated to the protection of children from all kinds of suffering and abuse. Specifically, His Eminence has asked that each Philoptochos Chapter assist a particular local or regional Children’s Advocate Organization, which focuses on the preservation and well being of children. This request is certainly timely, in that Archdiocese Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries is in the process of implementing a national youth protection policy for all parishes within the Archdiocese.

Our Metropolis Philoptochos President, Barbara Latsonas asks that each chapter appoint a local chairperson to coordinate and facilitate this program. Please notify her of your chosen organization by October 1, 2008. Your efforts will be reported to His Eminence’s office. Thank you for your cooperation. Should you need assistance please contact Barb at [barblatsonas@comcast.net](mailto:barblatsonas@comcast.net).

## **METROPOLIS PHILOPTOCHOS PASCHAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL**

In an effort to continue the work each of us has been called to do in the ministry of Philoptochos, the Paschal Stewardship Appeal will be sent to each member and chapter in our Denver Metropolis at the beginning of Great Lent. As chapter Presidents we ask that you encourage your members and chapter to support this appeal. Let us all come together and continue the great works of Philoptochos. God bless each of you as you lead your chapter and may He bless each and every one of us as we prepare for His Glorious Resurrection!

## **CHAPTER NEWS**

Thank you to Helen Plummer, chapter president, Bayard, Nebraska and to Zoe White, chapter president, Omaha, Nebraska, for sending in chapter updates this month. These were the only two Philoptochos chapters to send in their updates!

### **Bayard, Nebraska**

The beautiful little church in Bayard has a very small Philoptochos chapter, but their ladies are always hard at work. Their Christmas outreach was the purchase and distribution of lap blankets and unscented lotions to the residence of the nursing home in Bridgeport. A large throw was also purchased for a parishioner in a nursing home in near by Scottsbluff. What a wonderful idea! Let us remember that part of our mission is to take care of the aged.

### **Omaha, Nebraska**

Congratulations to St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church on your Centennial Anniversary! Their Philoptochos hosted a dinner in honor of the church's name day and the kick off dinner for the centennial celebration of their church. Special guest artist Rip Kastaris was commissioned to do an icon for their church. Kastaris presented Philoptochos with a smaller Icon of Christ as a thank you.

“Red Heart Sunday” was a huge success. The church was decorated with red velvet bows and red roses and their fellowship hall was decorated with red hearts, balloons and heart shaped confetti. A table displaying Good Food Choices and Bad Food Choices was set-up. So guess what? All the bad choices (doughnuts, cookies etc) were gone, and the good choices (fruit, etc.) remained. Another table displayed informational pamphlets were physicians with stethoscopes and cuffs in hand ready to do blood pressure check ups. Everyone received red bracelets and the red dress pin. They encouraged their parishioners to make smart food choices, exercise, and follow up with their family physicians for continued blood pressure check. A life

may have been saved that day! A fun time was had by all. This is a great project that all chapters should consider. Should you have any questions, the chairpersons for this event were Liz Kreekos, [papoucrete@yahoo.com](mailto:papoucrete@yahoo.com) and Andi Firbas.

Mark you calendars for Omaha's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration June 13, 14, & 15, Double Tree Hotel. Special guests will include Archbishop Demetrios, Metropolitan Isaiah, Nicholas Gage author of "Eleni", and acclaimed opera singer James Anest. Alexander Payne director of Sideways will serve as emcee. For information please contact Zoe White [zmaspro@aol.com](mailto:zmaspro@aol.com) or Liz Kreekos.

## **LETTER FROM METROPOLIS PRESIDENT**

Dear Chapter Presidents and Members: Congratulations!

This congratulatory letter is directed to you, the Presidents of our great philanthropic organization, and in turn to the esteemed members of your boards and Chapters. As a result of the generous donation of your time and talent, you have contributed a record amount of monies enabling the National board of Philoptochos, on your behalf, to be most charitable in its donations.

In 2007, the National Board distributed a total of \$1,373,431 for the fund drives. Over \$169,098 was collected from the Chapters and forwarded to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, to the Hellenic Red Cross and the Metropolis of San Francisco for emergency relief efforts, such as the devastating fires in Greece and in Southern California. Your generosity allowed us to fund the transportation costs of pediatric wheel chairs, mobility devices and other durable medical equipment valued at over \$190,000 for over 200 children at the Jairos Jiri Association Southern Center, which is a rehabilitation center in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare.

Your magnanimous support of the eleventh National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon provided us with the means to donate \$150,000 to seven worthy children's hospitals and programs in the Metropolis of San Francisco, to donate \$20,000 to Autism Speaks/Cure Autism Now, which kicked off the National Philoptochos Autism Program, and to provide assistance in the amount of \$30,000 to the IOCC for its work with the Parktown Medical Clinic in the Archdiocese of Zimbabwe, which serves Children with various ailments.

National Philoptochos Convention Year! Please elect your delegates, President + two – All Chapters Should Be Represented- Love Barb

## **METROPOLIS OF DENVER PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD MEETING**

The Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos Broad Meeting was held in Euless, Texas on February 15, 2008. \$8,000 was disbursed to the following entities:

- ❖ \$3,000 Metropolis of Denver for Holy Week – Parishes without clergy
- ❖ \$1,000 Saint John Monastery for repairs
- ❖ \$1,000 OCMC Kenya Relief
- ❖ \$1,000 Fund for Deacon Daniel Payne
- ❖ \$1,000 Advocates 1000
- ❖ \$ 500 Prison Ministries – Father Stephen Powley
- ❖ \$ 500 National Philoptochos – Convention

The Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos Board is submitting a Resolution for consideration by the Review Committee, at the National Convention, proposing the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) be made a National, discretionary commitment for all Philoptochos Chapters.

## **PRESIDENT’S LEADERSHIP MANUAL AND HANDBOOK**

The President’s Leadership Manual and the President’s Handbook can now be found on the Metropolis of Denver website [www.denver.goarch.org/Philoptochos](http://www.denver.goarch.org/Philoptochos)  
We thank Father Luke Uhl for assisting us with this project and for updating the Philoptochos material.

## **MARCH COMMITMENTS**

National: Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)-Discretionary  
Hellenic College/Holy Cross – Proceeds from Lenten meal  
Metropolis: Youth Ministry

## **REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL AID**

Father Paul Patitsas of St. George in Albuquerque, New Mexico, e-mailed me and asked that I mention the fund raising effort for Evanthia Pappas. We are trying to help raise \$240,000 for her treatment for inflammatory breast cancer. Please send your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation to St. George Philoptochos Society – 5509 Dodd Place NE – Albuquerque, NM 87110. Please keep Evanthia in your prayers.

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE ABOUT EVANTHIA FROM  
MALISTA.COM**

## Help Save Evanthia



### SAVE A LIFE

James Cargas, former Detroit/Warren now Houston, TX, sent me this story and asked that I share with Malista.com readers. This could happen to anyone of us. If we all pitched in a little we might be able to make a huge difference in this persons life. Let Evanthia know that she is not alone in her battle. This is what he wrote:

"I am contacting you in your capacity as Editor in Chief of Malista.com. A very amazing young Greek-American woman from San Francisco was recently introduced to me by a friend from my days in Washington, DC. Her name is Evanthia Pappas and she is in Houston, where Dorina and I live, receiving some very intense treatment for her inflammatory breast cancer at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

The good news is that she is receiving some of the best treatment in the world. The bad news is that her insurance company (Kaiser Permanente) has denied her coverage for the treatment and many other expenses related to her condition. The attached one-pager provides more details.

Could you please spread the word to the Malista.com community about her need to raise the funds to pay for the debts that she is incurring? If everyone could send a little, it will quickly add up and be greatly appreciated."

Best Regards,  
Jim Cargas

Please help us save the life of Evanthia Pappas a 37-year-old Greek Orthodox San Francisco native who has Inflammatory Breast Cancer.

Evanthia was baptized at Holy Trinity Church, a student at Holy Trinity Parochial School, participated in the Annunciation Cathedral Dance Group, graduated from Lowell High School, UC Davis and Golden Gate University Law School.

She is a Deputy District Attorney in the Special Victims Unit in Sonoma County, a former San Francisco Assistant District Attorney of six years and Special Prosecutor for the San Diego District Attorney's Office. She also shares her knowledge and expertise by teaching other district attorneys in California and the United States through the National District Attorney's Association and California District Attorney's Association. She is also an adjunct professor in the criminal litigation department at Golden Gate University Law School.

Evanthia has Inflammatory Breast Cancer, has undergone multiple tests/scans chemotherapy and mastectomy. A few weeks ago, she received a Stem Cell Marrow Transplant. The cost is \$235,000, which, her HMO has declined to cover. Furthermore, this cost does not cover any additional necessary tests, treatment, housing and meals.

Please join the numerous other Greek Orthodox organizations who are working so diligently towards saving her life. Evanthia is a patient at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, the only Inflammatory Breast Cancer Hospital in the world.

Tax Deductible Donations may be sent to the woman's organization at her father's church:

St. George Philoptochos Society  
6509 Dodd Place NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Note on check should read "Evanthia Pappas Fund."

Non-Deductible Donations may be sent directly to MD Anderson at:

MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Attention: John Tietjen, Vice President Financial Services.  
1515 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77030

Note on check should read "Donation benefit Evanthia Pappas acct #1586838979.

Barbara is requesting each chapter send in a short update for April's "New Tips." Please contribute information about your chapter's special events, outreach, projects fund raisers etc., and e-mail them to me by the 24<sup>th</sup> of March.

Thank you to Father Luke Uhl for forwarding this e-mail to all of our Metropolis clergy each month.

In Christ,

Valerie Ranahosseini  
Philoptochos Metropolis Board Member  
[vranahosseini@yahoo.com](mailto:vranahosseini@yahoo.com) 303-770-1198