



GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

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PHILOPTOCHOS

Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society

"Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in the newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection."

Romans 6:4

Pascha 2014

Beloved Philoptochos Sisters and Stewards,

You are the willing examples of the Faith, as you walk in the light of Christ and offer your time, talent and treasure to those in need. Just as the Myrrh Bearing women of an age that went before us did, you take great comfort in believing in the task at hand. You understand that often it is necessary to put aside your personal goals in order to rescue someone who cannot provide life's essentials for his or her family. Your strength to persevere, as did the Myrrh Bearing women, lies in your Faith that tells you all things are possible through Christ's love.

As Greek Orthodox faithful, we know that it was the Myrrh Bearing women that went to Christ's tomb to anoint his body as part of a proper burial. It was these women that through their faith and belief in Jesus Christ as the Savior, feared not the implications of their deed and crossed through soldiers and persecutors to complete their task. The Lord made it possible that through His love they were the first to see the sacred miracle of the Resurrection. They were the first to be able to spread the word that the darkness had been lifted, Christ had Risen and that salvation was offered to all through the unconditional love of Our Lord.

As we begin Holy Week, let us experience Christ's Passion by participating as fully as possible in His journey towards crucifixion. As we await the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ let us forgive each other for our transgressions and look towards the blessed event that did and will continue to bring us out of darkness, into the light that is our Faith. As we celebrate Pascha, let us remember the hope He brings to all through His Glorious Resurrection.

Under the guidance and with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey and on behalf of the Metropolis of NJ Philoptochos, I thank you for your extraordinary service to Christ and His Church. I humbly extend my love and best wishes to you and your families. May the peace of Our Lord be with all of you and may His Love be a shining beacon to you as it was when He rolled the immovable stone from the Sacred Tomb of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, laying empty the cave and filling us with everlasting love.

In Christ,

Anastasia Michals, President