



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

PHILOPTOCHOS

Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society

The Angel stood by the tomb and cried out to the women bringing ointment: "Ointments are for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself not subject to corruption; so now cry out: "The Lord is risen, bestowing great mercy upon the world."

TROPARION

Pascha 2015

Beloved Philoptochos Sisters and Stewards,

As we begin Holy Week, together 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 bring us out of darkness, into the Light that is Our Lord.

As Philoptochos women you are willing examples of his Word. As the Myrrh Bearing women of an age that went before us did, you take great care to believe in the task at hand. You understand that often it might be necessary to put aside your personal agenda 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, which reminds us that 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 celebrate Pascha, let us remember the hope He brings to us 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 New Jersey Philoptochos, I thank you for your extraordinary service to Christ and His Church. We humbly extend our 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