



GREEK ORTHODOX  
METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

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# PHILOPTOCHOS

*Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society* 215 East Grove Street,

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December 6, 2013

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. Isaiah 9:6-7*

Beloved Chapter Presidents, Metropolis Board Members and Philoptochos Sisters,

Under the guidance of His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, and with his blessing, I greet you with love in the name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On behalf of the Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos I extend my heartfelt gratitude and admiration for your steady work as Philoptochos Stewards.

As we await the Birth of Christ, we are more keenly aware of the blessings brought about by this Miracle and Gift. We also reflect on the needs of others in a world that continues to astound our senses with hardship and pain all around us. Yet our faith tells us, *'Trust in Him at all times, pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.'* Psalm 62:5-8.

This year, as in all times of challenge, the hope for salvation and rescue has been found in our faith. It serves as an answer offered to those who have found themselves in the direct path of disaster, such as those in the Philippines who are struggling to stay alive in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan. It serves as a path to healing, offered to those who have found themselves saying goodbye to a loved one after an agonizing struggle with illness. It serves as an offering of strength to all of us, as we find ourselves seeking the will to continue to offer our gifts of love, hope and charity to humankind.

Even as we celebrate our Christmas bounty, most of us will be thinking of what else we could have done before the Blessed Day to help ease the suffering of our brothers and sisters, not only in our own communities but also around the world. As the laughter and joy of our own families surround us, let us reflect on the needs of others. Family and friends will look at us knowing that indeed we are praying for God's Love and Blessings to be upon the needy that day in particular.

Under a blessed decade of the Arch-pastoral Ministry of our beloved Spiritual Father, His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos of New Jersey, we find the depth of faith and commitment to continue our philanthropic work for the Church. May the Lord continue to bless him with strength and wisdom as he leads our Holy Metropolis for the greater good and glory of God.

The Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos thanks all of you for exhibiting the understanding of your faith throughout the challenges we faced, both together and separately, this past year. It is our fervent prayer that you continue to open your hearts to those in the midst of struggle, no matter where and when you see it. As you give of yourself you will truly feel the blessings of the Gift of the Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ now and throughout the New Year.

With love in Christ,

Anastasia Michals, President