

SPRING 2020

PHILOPTOCHOS PERSPECTIVE

Philanthropy • Fellowship • Faith in Action

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President's Corner

Dear Fellow Philoptochos Sisters:

On behalf of the Metropolis Board and myself I wish to thank all of you for being loyal, strong and faithful soldiers in carrying out the Mission of Philoptochos. We began 2020 with the Annual Vasilopita, thank you to St. George Chicago Parish and especially the Philoptochos and Evelyn Nisbett, President for hosting such a wonderful event. We were all together, less than 6 feet apart. We honored and celebrated the end of Pam's term as President, and her service to Philoptochos and the Metropolis. We thank Pam for being our leader, our friend and our beloved Sister. And then everything stopped.



When a crisis hits, Philoptochos Sisters band together and offer assistance. We put together food baskets, we called our fellow Parishioners, we assisted the elderly with grocery deliveries and medicines and most of all we supported our family and friends with strength and compassion. Our Metropolitan challenged us to do more. We began Masks Matter, distributing hand-sewn masks to date 7,600 masks to non-first responders. We donated to food banks to help the hungry. We kept our faith alive, though unable to enter our churches, we watched live stream services.

As we begin to open our cities, our work places and our churches, Philoptochos will continue to help those in need and those who can not help themselves. *"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.* Corinthians 13: 4-7. Stay safe, stay strong, separate but united.

Yours in Christ, Marilyn

METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO - Events You Won't Want to Miss!

2020 "Separated but United"

****Due to the Covid-19 Virus & restrictions of gatherings, there are many event changes.**

June

06/13 Saturday Metropolis/Chapter Presidents Meeting, ZOOM Virtual Meeting. 9:30 am

06/28 -07/03 National Clergy/Laity/Philoptochos Congress; **CHANGED** due to COVID-19 see new date August

06/28 Sunday St. George, Schererville, IN PURSE DRAWING ~benefit Fair Heaven Women's Ctr (**NEW date**)

August

21-22 Friday -Saturday National Philoptochos Congress; VIRTUAL **ZOOM MEETING**

September

09/19 Saturday METROPOLIS PHILOPTOCHOS SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON, VIRTUAL Event

October

10/24 Saturday, Holy Apostles, Westchester; Fashion Show; Drury Lane Oak Brook. **CANCELED**

10/31 Saturday St. Demetrios, Elmhurst: SS Cosmas & Damianos Great Vespers

November

11/01 Sunday St. Demetrios, Elmhurst: SS Cosmas & Damianos Feast Day Divine Liturgy

11/6 Friday Metropolis Servant Leadership Virtual Dinner

11/07 Saturday Metropolis Wide Dress A Girl Sew-a-thon @ St. Basil, Chicago

11/21 Saturday, Assumption, Madison, WI, Baklava Plus Sale

DECEMBER

12/07 Monday Holy Taxiari & St. Haralambos Christmas Party

2021

FEBRUARY

02/26 Friday SS. Peter & Paul, Glenview, IL. 6:30 pm FUNDRAISER

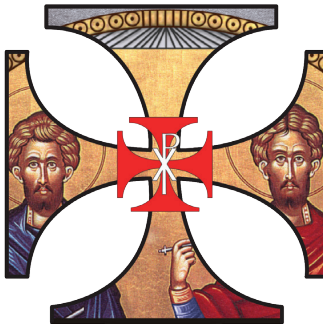
†☐ *Let's continue to Pray the Philoptochos Covid Virus Prayer, Nationally at 3pm eastern /2pm central time ***

Bold items Are a METROPOLIS EVENT AND SHOULD have all Chapters Attend

*Please Note: Every Chapter hosts Christmas & Easter Bake Sales, Palm Sunday Luncheons, Membership Drives and other usual internal events. Due to limitation of space, this calendar is **designed as a tool to notify chapters about citywide events, to encourage participation from our chapters' members, and as a vehicle for planning chapter events to assist in eliminating schedule conflicts whenever possible.***

To place your Chapter's events on the Calendar, please call or email:

philomocc@gmail.com (219) 789-4560 (Demetria Bakris)



Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos
Save The Date
Virtual Fundraiser
Saturday, September 19, 2020

Though this event will be different, our commitment in helping those in need hasn't changed. It is with your support and generosity that makes it possible for Philoptochos to be successful.

Invitations & Sponsorship letters and more details are forthcoming

"Sometimes it Takes Only One Act of Kindness and Caring to Change a Person's Life."



Dear Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Sisters;

All three of us are so excited to be hosting our 1st ever Virtual Luncheon on Saturday September 19, 2020. Our theme this year is **'Scatter Kindness.'** This theme says it all that **WE** are the ladies who scatter kindness to each other and to those in need. We plan to live stream our event and our goal is to have you join us with your church group or from your home.

Here are a few quotes we'd like to share:

"Kindness is having the ability to speak with love, listen with patience and act with compassion" RAKtivisit

***"Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference.
They bless the one who receives them and you, the giver." Barbara De Angelis***

With these thoughts we hope **YOU** will help us make this event a success. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 and we cannot do it without you. **Please save the date Saturday, September 19, 2020, Noon – 1:30pm.**

Whether you gather your ladies at church or have a group at your home it is with your generosity that we will be able to help benefit:



The Metropolis Philoptochos Philanthropic Endeavors



St. Iakovos Retreat Center



We will be sending out updates to be shared with your chapter regarding event. Thank you in advance for your support.

With sisterly agape,
Marilynn Jemas, Flora Dimitriou and Vonnie Karafotias



"More details will follow."

Masks – St. Demetrios - Chicago



Philoptochos can put your time, energy, creativity and donations to good use. There are no shortages of opportunities for each of us to help substantially.



Pitsa Antonakos is excited to have exceeded her goal of 1000 masks for the Metropolis/Philoptochos Mask Makers Project and also provided 60 masks for Niles Township.

Masks – St. Demetrios - Chicago



MASK DELIVERY TO SWEDISH HOSPITAL

MASK FOR THE 5K WALK

MASKS

Annunciation - Chicago



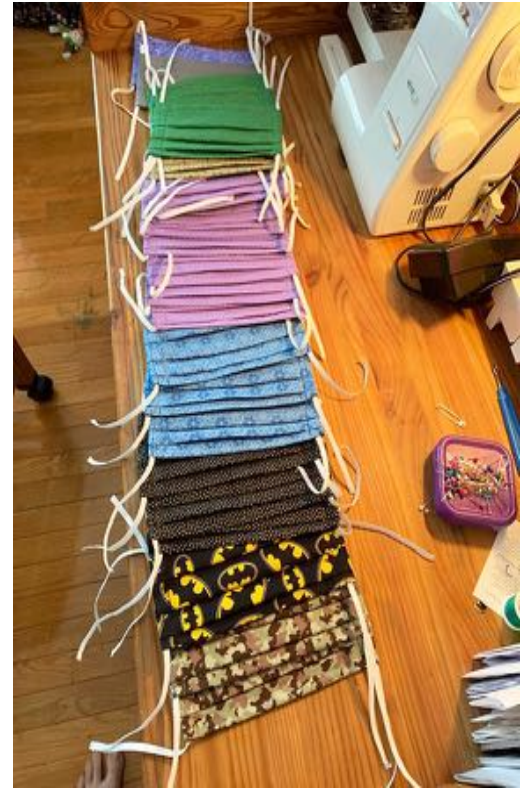
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St. John the Baptist – Des Plaines



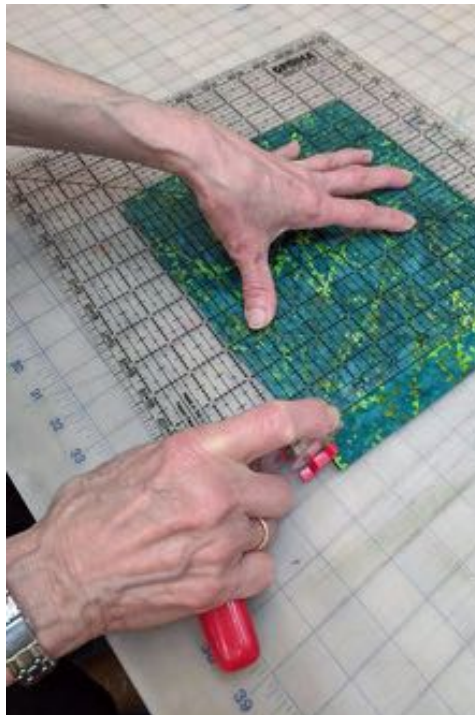
Philoptochos would like to hear what you're doing to help in your community during the Coronavirus Crisis. Please send your ideas and any stories you have, as we'd like to share them in the Perspective.



St. Basil – Chicago



St. Mary's – Minneapolis



**THE GOOD WORKS OF PHILOPTOCHOS
ARE LINKS THAT FORM A CHAIN OF LOVE**

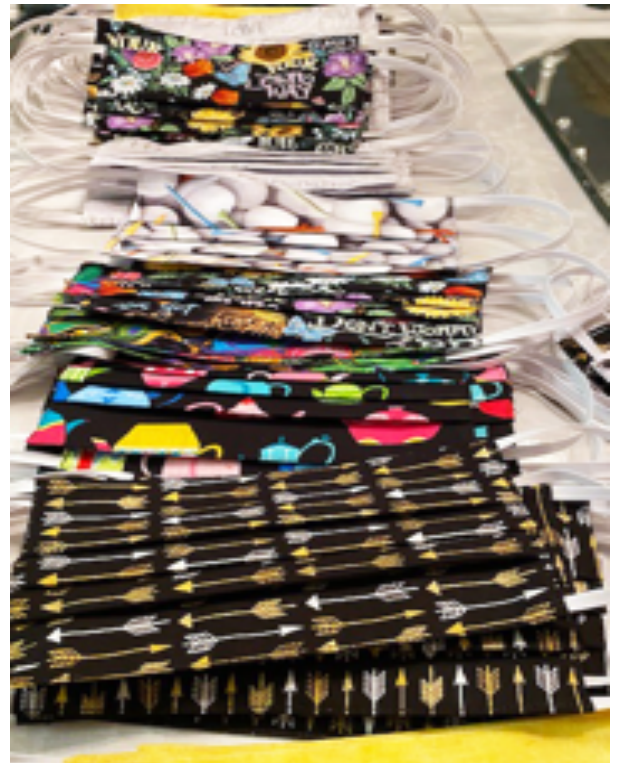
Three Hierarchs - Champaign



Annunciation - Milwaukee



Holy Trinity – Sioux City



Any help you can offer Philoptochos is positive and impactful.

Saints Constantine & Helen – Palos Hills



St. Helen is Keeping Their Members Safe. Handmade masks for the members were distributed. Every mask was made with special "Philo-love" to keep members safe and beautiful!

St. Nicholas – St. Louis



Friendship is the golden thread that ties Philoptochos hearts together.



Mask makers Presvytera Christina Papulis, Teresa Ferguson and Linda Nicozisin made 1100 masks, including this special clear front style for the hearing impaired.



SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR PHILOPTOCHOS MASK MAKERS

Holy Trinity – Sioux City

Sioux City Holy Trinity's neighbor across the street is Mercy One Hospital. Parish youth and Philoptochos painted a large message to the hospital to cheer patients and healthcare workers. The chapter also made and donated masks to Mercy and Unity Point Hospital, in Sioux City. Chapter also contacted the elderly and shut-ins in our community for those in need. The chapter also encouraged parish members to donate blood. Chapter President Mary Baryo was among those members donating blood.



Give blood. There is a severe shortage. Healthy donors are needed. One blood donation saves three lives. 1-800-RED-CROSS.



Food Drives – Getting Food to People in Need

Enthusiasm is the key ingredient in Philoptochos



St. Andrew's Chicago – Feeding the Hungry



**Annunciation Cathedral Chicago
Feeding the Hungry**

***Thank you to all who
volunteer for Feed The
Hungry projects.***



Saints Constantine and Helen – Palos Hills Feeding the Hungry

St. Sophia – Elgin

St. Sophia Philoptochos participated in their first outreach ministry in Elgin. Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the Vineyard Church of Elgin had to close its doors because they could not serve daily hot breakfasts indoors instead they shifted to handing out sack lunches to their patrons. St. Sophia Philoptochos quickly assembled 60 sack lunches and delivered them to Vineyard Church. Jim & Peggy Boyter and Spero & Pam Argyris coordinated the effort. The head of the ministry was overwhelmed that we were able to make 60 lunches and was very thankful to St. Sophia for the blessings that they were able to bestow to those less fortunate. Thank you to all who so graciously donated to this project. We are #PhiloStrong!



**It's possible to change
a life with one small
act of kindness.**



St. Sophia Philoptochos and youth, organized by President Pat Kolodziej, prepared health kits filled with hand towels, washcloths, toothbrushes, combs, nail clippers, band-aids & bars of soap for Make a Difference Day. 103 health kits were sent to IOCC to help victims of Hurricane Dorian.



St. Sophia – Elgin

St. Sophia Philoptochos Society visited the Greek American Rehabilitation & Care Centre where the residents enjoyed rice pudding & Koulourakia along with fellowship.



Feeding The Hungry Is Back!



*The Metropolis
of Chicago is
in the forefront
of serving in
this noble
project of
Feeding The
Hungry.*

St. Demetrios – Libertyville. Nancy Paganis, Nikki Katris, Katerina Pasinski, Niki Tziavaras



President Marilyn Tzakis, Vonnie Karafotias, Georgia Gavaris, Effie Panos, Alexandra Smirniotis, Antigone Campobasso & Penny Vitogiannis were all there for the reopening of the Feeding the Hungry Program which had been on Covid lockdown for three months. Feeding the Hungry will be every Tuesday morning serving sack lunches until further notice.

St. John the Baptist – Des Plaines



“He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and the Lord will reward him for what he has done.” Proverbs 19:17

St. Basil - Chicago

Decisions on what to serve for dinner were a little easier for parishioners who purchased food items for carry out from St. Basil Philoptochos. The fundraiser offered a large variety of Lenten fare freshly prepared, delicious and homemade. All proceeds will help them continue their good works.



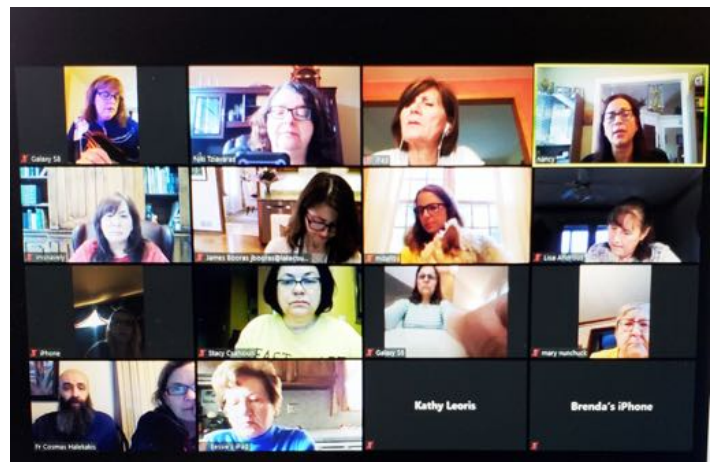
Yum!



***Your talent is God's gift to you.
What you do with it is your gift back to God.***

Zoom Zoom

During the COVID Crisis, the Philoptochos Board and many Chapters turned to Zoom Meetings to continue their good works.



Stay connected from home. Zoom is a good way to keep in contact while socially distancing.

St. Demetrios - Libertyville

PAM'S TESTIMONIAL DINNER



Philoctochos friendships are built on a thousand small kindnesses.



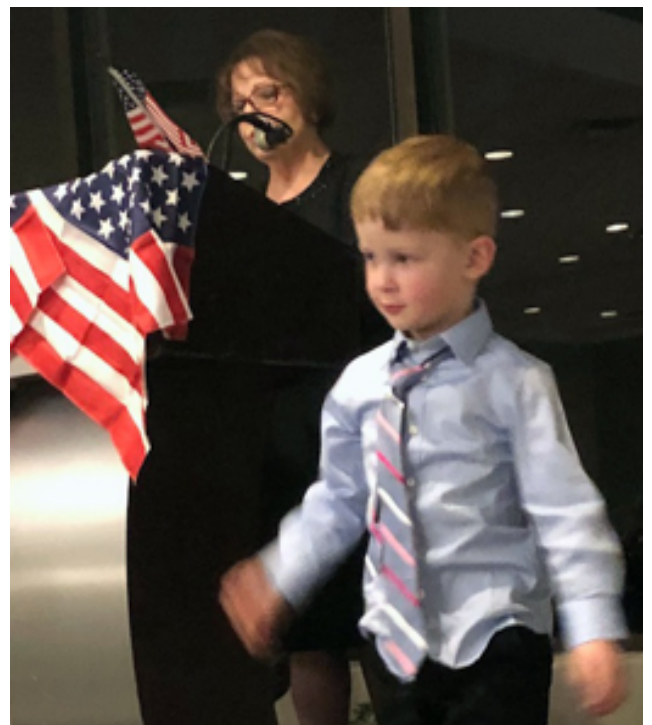


Dear Philoptochos Sisters and Friends,

Thank you for your support, your enthusiasm, your kindness and the love you have shown to me over the past four years. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos president. Thank you to Metropolitan Nathanael and our Chancellor, Very Reverend Fr. Timothy, for their support, encouragement and their belief in the good works of Philoptochos. Thank you for facing the challenges of the past four years with me and for being a force for change. Together we will face the challenge of continuing to help those less fortunate in as many ways as possible.

Congratulations to your new president, Marilyn Tzakis, and to the entire 2019-2021 Metropolis Philoptochos Board. I know that you will continue to support their efforts and endeavors in fulfilling the mission of Philoptochos. They are a dedicated group of women who will go out of their way to help and advise all our chapters in this wonderful Metropolis. Let us continue to work together to fulfill Christ's admonition to us..."For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me..." Mathew 25:35-36. Together we can strive to make the world a better place.

With agape, Pam





Philoptochos Enthusiasm Bubbles Over



When counting your blessings, be sure to count all your Philoptochos friends!



It takes a lot of caring to be a Philoptochos Friend!



**Combine Your Passions With
Your Contributions**



Philoptochos Women Still Are An Untapped Reservoir



Presidents Meeting – All Saints - Joliet



Charity is the root of all good works.







Thank you to our hosts in Joliet.



***Philoctochos
Women of all
ages are
driven by
faith and
fellowship.
They improve
lives by
mobilizing &
multiplying
their caring
power.***



Philoctochos Members Value Results and Relationships





Good works are worth much, and cost little.



St. Demetrios – Chicago

St. Demetrios Philoptochos donated ten infant car seats to Swedish Hospital for those that can't afford to buy an infant car seat for their newborn.



Lenten Retreat – Ark of the World Charity

While the Lenten Retreat at Saints Constantine and Helen, which was to have been chaired by Demetra Bakris and Christina Hiotis, had to be canceled due to the Coronavirus Crisis, the Philoptochos Metropolis Board still was able to donate \$1,000 to the Ark of the World Charity. Info at link below:

<https://www.kivotostoukosmou.org/>

KIBOTOS
TOY KOSMOU

HOME ARK OUR NEEDS SUPPORT US PUBLICATIONS VOLUNTEERING NEWS EVENTS CONTACT US

ARK OF THE WORLD - VOLOS

READ MORE

Ark of the world

VOLUNTARY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OF MOTHER AND CHILD PROTECTION
ZINODOROU 3 & KALLIKLEIDUS, P.C. 10442 - ATHENS (KOLONOS)

St. Mary's – Minneapolis

LOVE: Two Reflections from Philoptochos Members

Coming to St. Mary's from a fairly small parish was a bit overwhelming at first, but I knew the best way to meet people was to get involved. I chose to join Philoptochos and quickly found a group of exceedingly kind and welcoming women who fulfill the Philoptochos mission by joyfully serving the church and community. I have been able to participate in a few activities since joining and have had so much fun getting to know some of the ladies while being inspired by their hard work and dedication to serve the Lord. I would encourage anyone who's thinking of getting involved to take a look at joining Philoptochos. I feel blessed to be a part of this organization and am looking forward to taking advantage of more of the many opportunities it offers to serve the poor and be involved in the life of the Church.

Sarah Schwark – Previously at Assumption GOC, Madison



Kudos to whoever is responsible for this pearl of wisdom, "It is better to give than to receive."

I was a homemaker with two daughters in school all day and so I had the time, the energy and the desire to do something helpful outside of my home. I turned to my church for the answers. Sure enough there was a vehicle for my pursuits and it's called Philoptochos, which means friend of the poor. In the Gospel, numerous times, Jesus instructs His followers to help the poor. I became involved in Philoptochos and in the sixties was elected president. Today as a centenarian I look back on those years as the happiest and most productive of my lifetime, not only fulfilling the mission prescribed by our Lord and Savior but basking in the pleasure of the warm hearted friends I made and the knowledge of helping a cause to the best of my ability.

Joan Spell - Celebrated her 102nd birthday in March



Baby Bottle Banks for Tandem: Philoptochos has long supported TANDEM, an organization that focuses on generational poverty and single motherhood during pregnancy and beyond. For the last six years during Lent, parishioners have been invited to take a Baby Bottle Bank to fill with coins, dollars and checks to help *mamas and littles* purchase many supplies needed in adverse circumstances.



St. Anthony – Springfield, IL



President Maria Kypreos made the beautiful Vasilopita cake. We have a lot to be thankful for. The chapter had a very successful December luncheon/fashion show.

St. Athanasios – Chicago



St. Athanasios held their annual “Vasiloptia Throwdown” to raise funds for St. Basil’s Academy. Volunteer bakers had their Vasilopitas judged by the community. This year it was a tie between two of our youth raising over \$7,000.

Metropolis Vasilopita – St. George – Chicago



***Cultivate
your beautiful heart.
Nourish every inch of it.
Fill it with love.
Fill it with kindness.
Fill it with compassion.
Make your loving heart the
most beautiful thing about you.***



***St. George Philoptochos
President, Evelyn
Nesbitt, hosted the 2020
Metropolis Vasilopita
Celebration. 380 people
attended and were
served. Evelyn thanks
everyone for supporting
this event.***

St. Andrew – Chicago – Sports Glendi



There is no friend like a Philoptochos friend.



Do something good each day that your future self will thank you for.

Assumption – Town & Country - Vasilopita



St. Haralambos - Niles - Vespers



Philoptochos – We Do Good & We Have a Good Time Doing It!

St. Haralambos - Niles

Visiting the Greek American Rehabilitation and Care Centre in Wheeling, IL



Saints Constantine & Helen – Palos Hills

Farewell Celebration for Fr. Chris and Best Wishes in Joliet.

When one door of
happiness closes...



...another door opens
for you.



St. Nectarios – Palatine – Go Red



St. Basil – Chicago – Go Red



**It's a lot easier to do
good work when you
have good words to say
and work with good
people.**

St. Demetrios – Hammond, IN – Go Red



Look back & be grateful, look forward and be hopeful, look around and be helpful.



Philoptochos members are aware that a little progress each day adds up to big results.

St. John the Baptist – Des Plaines – Go Red



To strengthen your heart, reach out and lift others up.



Philoctochos members smile more and are grateful for all the big and little things.

St. John the Baptist – Des Plaines

Always Doing Positive Things to Help Others!



**Philoptochos
members
always find
time for the
things that
make them
feel so happy
to be alive.**



Metropolitan's Open House



I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.



Metropolis of Chicago
*Christmas
Open House*
at the National Hellenic Museum

Sunday, December 15, 2019
3 pm to 7 pm

Light appetizers and refreshments will be served.
No reservations necessary. This event is our gift
to our community. For more information,
please email kathas@hellenicmuseum.org.

NATIONAL
HELLENIC
MUSEUM

3335 Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60661



***The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."
Psalms 32:8***



Everyone had a jolly time.



Saint Andrew – South Bend, IN

At The Children's Medical Fund Luncheon in Chicago, Beacon Children's Hospital of South Bend was awarded a \$13,000 grant to fund ten Neopuff infant resuscitators and one vein finder. These tools will improve respiratory management, sedation and IV practices for critically ill children and premature babies.



This group also delivered sixty winter coats to Hope Ministries and collected items (fuzzy socks, slippers, hand lotion and lap blankets) for the Wellbrooke Assisted Living facility in South Bend. They also disbursed \$1,400 in Meijer food cards to parish and community members in need.

*Philoptochos Really
Likes What You Are Doing.
Keep Up The Good Work!*

Assumption – Town & Country, MO

A Merry Heart Does Good Things



***GIVE
THE
GIFT
OF
YOUR
TIME.***



***THE REWARDS
ARE
CONSIDERABLE
ON BOTH SIDES.***



Ascension of Our Lord – Lincolnshire

Ascension of Our Lord has stepped up during the COVID issue. They have delivered snacks and milk shakes to the Greek American Nursing Home. They have also matched volunteer members to our senior/isolated members. Volunteers contact the seniors with frequent "check-ins," to provide companionship and/or run errands. They also delivered Pascha baskets to families, Mother's Day gifts of tulips and fruits to our parish's "senior moms" and Father's Day gifts of ouzo and mixed nuts to our "senior dads."

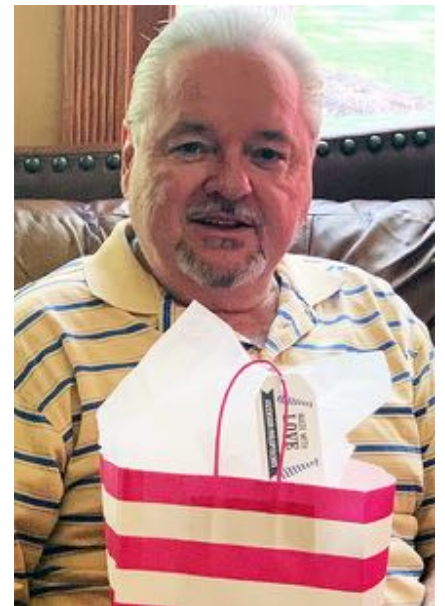


Honoring those who put the welfare of others above themselves.





It's great to show gratitude.



Our Philoptochos Perspective Needs You!

Help the Perspective bring our good works and accomplishments to all in our Metropolis.

Thank you to all chapters that emailed their events and photos to the Perspective for this issue. We are starting work on the next edition of the Perspective.

We will be changing the format of the Perspective in the near future and will need your assistance. We will be publishing more frequently. Please send your submissions to me as soon as your event is completed so that I can publish the Perspective in a timely manner.

When submitting please email the highest resolution photos you have along with the name of the church & event and any other details on your event.

I am anxiously awaiting your emails, articles and photos for our next Perspective.

**Share your Chapter News and Events
with the Perspective!**

Share the Perspective With Others!

Email your submissions to:

marilynnjemas@gmail.com



Marilynn Jemas,

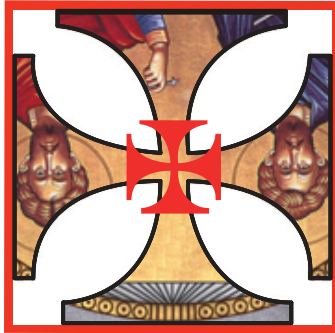
Your Perspective Editor

***THE BEST IDEAS COME
TO US WHEN WE LEAST
EXPECT THEM.***

***SO HAVE YOUR SMILES
AND CAMERAS READY!***

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