

## 2008 Wrap-Up

Metropolis Philoptochos Report

### HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In February 2008, we held our first Metropolis Philoptochos Board Meeting of the year, at the annual Folk Dance Festival in Ontario, California on Saturday, February 16, 2008. It was an honor for Philoptochos to participate and support the FDF program with our presence there, whole heartedly supporting His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and His ministries.

We held our Annual Lenten Retreat/Spring Conference at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, California on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The theme was, "Let each of us light our lives with faith and good works and be ready to receive Christ." It was very well received, with over 64 women from all over our Metropolis attending. It was by far the best attended Conference with over fifty-six delegates attending. We thank all of you for taking the time to attend the Conference and many of you expressed that it was a wonderful spiritual renewal and learning experience. Our Saturday program was outstanding and we'd like to thank our guest speakers for that day, Rev. Fr. Demetrios-Earl Cantos, Chancellor of the Metropolis, who spoke on – Understanding and Living Holy Week; Rev. Fr. James Pappas and Presbytera Donna, from Saint George Church in Fresno, uplifting all of us with their – Marriage Can Be A Many Splendid Thing; Mrs. Cathy Lingas, Chairman of C.O.M.E. and Pennies and Prayers, and Dr. Eve Tibbs, Christian Education Chairman and her topic was "Busy Women, Prayer, and the Example of our Saints."

On Sunday, May 4, 2008, we celebrated the Annual Kids 'N' Cancer event at the home of Dr. Anthony and Mrs. Sophie Mastor in Los Angeles, CA. It was truly a glorious day in Bel Air, California as over three hundred supporters of Kids 'N' Cancer attended. The Mastor's home and grounds created one of the most beautiful ambiances ever. Many thanks to our gracious hosts for a lovely memorable afternoon and dinner that evening with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. Once again Chair, Jeanie Ranglas did an outstanding job. Kudos to Jeannie and her outstanding ladies, who not only worked so hard, but also helped whole-heartedly to raise over \$240,000.00. We are so blessed and thankful to the faithful of this Metropolis for their love and support of Kids 'N' Cancer program.

On July 11 – 18, 2008, the Metropolis of San Francisco attended the Biennial Clergy Laity Congress in Washington, DC. The theme this year was "*Looking forward.*" It is with great pride that our attendance surpassed any other Philoptochos Metropolis, with Fifty-four plus delegates attending. We, who came from over Three Thousand Miles, were also awarded First Place Nationally for the largest increase in Membership to Saint Anthony's Philoptochos in Reno, Nevada for a small Chapter, and First Place largest increase in Membership to Saint John the Baptist Church in Las Vegas, Nevada. Congratulations to the Chapter Presidents and their Membership Chairmen for excellence!!

This year was a banner year for the Camp Agape Programs, especially, **The Opening** of our newest Camp Agape, Camp Tatiyee in the White Mountains of Arizona on July 25 - 29, 2008. Congratulations to our Chairman of the new camp, Michele Genetos and her team, from the four Phoenix area Philoptochos Chapters. The families brought to camp this year were so grateful and happy to be able to experience and be apart of such a *wonderful program*. Kids N' Cancer Chairman, Jeannie Ranglas and I attended the new camp to assist Michele and her team. The setting for our newest venue is spectacular, and everyday was better than the first. This was truly a blessing for the people of Arizona.

Camp Agape, Saint Nicholas Ranch, Dunlap, California was held on June 19 -22, 2008. It was a full house and the theme this year was the, "Wild, Wild West" which was a barrel of fun for everyone - from lassoing steers to line dancing. Many thanks to Chairman Jeannie Ranglas, and volunteers Donna Blanas, Rose Sogotis and Patricia Aleck who attended the camp with me.

Camp Agape Northwest in Seattle was held on July 21-26, 2008 and Chairman Jeannie Ranglas attended that camp, and once again, raved of the success and the wonderful job that the Seattle Chapters accomplish year after year. Awards were given, back-packs for the children and gift bags for the Moms and Dads, gifts from the Metropolis, were enjoyed by all.

Camp Agape Portland, Oregon was held on August 2-6, 2008 at Angels Camp. I was delighted to be there with all our Philoptochos Volunteers in Portland who so dynamically run a most efficient Camp Agape. It is also wonderful to see so many parishioners from the Holy Trinity Cathedral who come to volunteer and cook. This was the first year that we gave the Medal Awards to this Camp and they were ecstatic.

Camp Agape San Diego at YMCA Camp Marston, was held on August 28-31, 2008. Chairman Jeannie Ranglas and her Southern California team experienced a huge turn out which kept everyone very busy from morning till night. Many thanks to the Emilio Nares Foundation for their assistance with the Camp as well as the Transport Program in San Diego County, which we partner with. Richard Nares, the Founder, has been a blessing to work with and we pray that we continue this wonderful program together.

The Annual Women's Health and Wellness Symposium was held on Saturday, October 11, 2008 at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California at the Ahmanson Lecture Hall. It was an exceptional focusing on cancer prevention and treatment. Many thanks to the prestige's panel of doctors from UCLA and Santa Monica Hematology. The response to this Symposium was amazing, as everyone proclaimed, "*they learned so much*". Kudos to our Chairmen, Agatha Felactu, Joan E. Pohas, and Sophie Mastor for a job well done, and thank you to Vice President Patty Chacopoulos for representing me.

On October 3 and 4, 2008 the Metropolis Offices were relocated to the Annunciation Cathedral. Four offices have been installed on the second level of the Cathedral Center, which has been a blessing to His Eminence and His staff.

On October 17, 2008 our Metropolis Philoptochos Board Meeting was held at the Annunciation Cathedral in preparation for our Fall Programs and our Feastday Celebration, which took place on Saturday, October 18, 2008. On October 19, 2008 the Metropolis Philoptochos Board was installed by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos at the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco, California and a luncheon was served in honor of His Eminence's Feastday.

Our first Metropolitan Gerasimos, Feastday Celebration Evening Gala was held on October 11, 2008 at Chateau Ste. Michele Winery in Seattle, Washington. The event was a huge success, and the four Chairmen, who also serve as Chapter Presidents, exceeded their goals and a huge congratulations to all the NorthWest Chapters for their involvement and commitment. The next two Feastday Celebrations were held in San Francisco, California at the Annunciation Cathedral on October 18, 2008. The last event was held in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Saint John the Baptist Church on October 25, 2008 in the Panos Hall. Both events were very well supported and attended, and we enthusiastically look forward to next years events. These events are in honor of His Eminence's Feastday to support the moving of the offices and the future of the Wellness Center.

On November 1, 2008 a Fall Regional Conference was held at Saint Katherine Church in Redondo Beach, California. It was a huge success with over 60 women attending and the theme was "the difficult times we are living in." Professional speakers were on board who were there to assist our women, with group discussions focusing on these times of crisis. Many thanks to the wonderful army of women who gave their time, talent, and commitment for the success of this wonderful seminar.

On December 13, 2008 our Annual Holiday Brunch was held at Saint Nicholas Church in San Jose, California. This year's theme was "*Christmas at Saint Nicholas*", with all the Bay Area Chapters involved in this very worthy event to support our Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund and our Students and Seminarians at Hellenic College Holy Cross Seminary. Congratulations to Chairman Patricia Aleck, Vice President of the Metropolis Philoptochos Board and our sincere thanks to President Pauline Ferrant and her dynamic Chapter for hosting one the best Holiday Brunch Events and for doing a magnificent job. Close to four hundred attended this very magical annual holiday event.

In closing, I believe that this exciting agenda of programs and activities truly proves the dedication, love and devotion that the women of the Metropolis of San Francisco are in the forefront of philanthropy nationally. Philoptochos provides our Women a unique opportunity to avail themselves with a wealth of knowledge, talent, and skill for the future of our faith.

**Philoptochos is the Heart of the Gospel**

Your loving sister in Christ,



Valerie Roumeliotas

Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos President