



SECTION V

OUR PHILOPTOCHOS

“ANAGENNISIS” PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF CORONA



The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Their mission is to help the poor, the hungry, the orphaned, the victims of disasters, and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fund-raising. Each Parish of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has a Chapter of the Society.

Prior to the official establishment of the Transfiguration community in 1926, a small group of pious ladies that lived in the vicinity of Corona had already began to meet regularly, with one and only goal: their contribution to the general progress of their parish.

The Philoptochos Society of Corona was officially established in 1928 under the name “Anagennisis Philoptochos Society of Corona”. The word “Anagennisis” in greek means “Rebirth”, which signifies the spiritual transformation initiated through Holy Baptism and perfected through a life in Christ. It refers to a sacramental and ontological change—a new life in the Holy Spirit. Mrs. Despoina Spanou was elected as the first president of the Philoptochos

During the first few years of the formation of "Anagennisis," the Philoptochos women frequently faced what at times seemed to be an insurmountable task of endless deeds to be achieved.

Mrs. Victoria Stathos who served as president to three consecutive terms during the Thirties idly recalls the bitter years of the Depression. During the early Thirties when Philoptochos Chapters were founded in various parishes, their specific purpose was to help the poor and needy immigrants. During the Depression, feeding programs were set up in parish halls and elsewhere, and lectures and socials were sponsored to raise money for the economic needs of those who sought shelter. And they comforted those who came to the church for moral support.



*Mrs Victoria Stathos
President of Philoptochos
1935-1937*



Anagennisis Philoptochos Society of Corona, 1935

Frequently, the Philoptochos Society arranged for return passage to Greece for many victims of the Depression. They gave them clothing and money. They took care of funeral arrangements for destitute families when a loved one passed away. They established contact and rapport with American government and civil authorities, and especially with the immigration authorities, in order to be of service to immigrants returning to Greece.

Exemplary of the fine spirit that has persistently prevailed, Mrs. Despina Kazazi is another pioneer member of the Corona branch who has wholeheartedly devoted herself to the welfare of those in need.

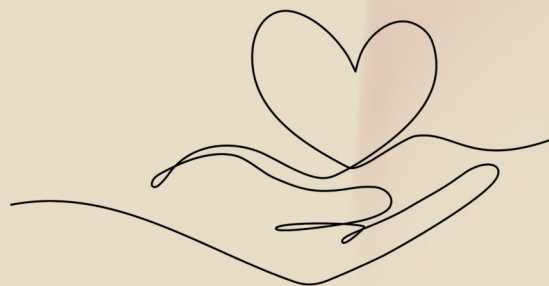
The late Mrs. Despina Vrachopoulos, largely identified as "The Mother of Philoptochos" began a lifetime of charity work with the Corona Chapter and for many years continued her activities on a national level.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Corona is widely acclaimed for its unending devotion to the various causes of the community.





The ever-memorable Patriarch Athenagoras with ladies from the Philoptochos of our church in 1935.



The Anagennisis Philoptochos Society with Father Gerontidakis in 1950.



The Anagennisis Philoptochos Society with Father Tselentakis in 1957.

The Philoptochos' charity work went beyond the Greek community of New York, reaching broader spheres and providing financial support to those in need and ill fellow men and women, strengthening the spiritual and renovation efforts of the community, granting scholarships to students of the day and afternoon schools of Transfiguration, organizing community events and luncheons, and beautifying the church and the school.



The ladies of Philoptochos standing in front of the epitaphios of the new church, in 1956.



A photo from the Philoptochos' visit to the Archdiocese, in 1957.



Father Tselentakis with members of the Philoptochos, in 1957.

*Members of the
Philoptochos in the kitchen
of the newly built church
hall, in 1958.*



*Members of the Philoptochos with Mr. Sklavos at
the cutting of the vasilopita in 1958.*



Father Tselentakis with members of the Philoptochos, in 1964.



Members of the Philoptochos with Fr. Tselentakis and Fr. Nedelson, in 1979.



Members of the Philoptochos with Father Tselentakis, in 1976.





Philoptochos Luncheon, 1977



The ladies of Philoptochos, assisting in the community festival, in 1979.



Father Tselentakis and the assistant priest Fr. Kotsonis with members of the Philoptochos, in 1980.



Father Tselentakis with the Philoptochos board members, in 1980.



Philoptochos Members with Archbishop Iakovos and Father Antokas, in 1993.

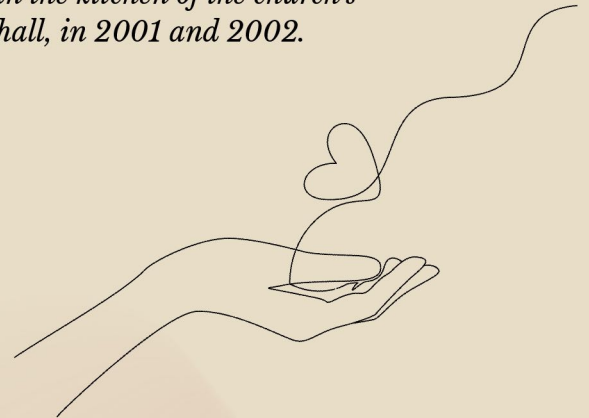


Past Philoptochos President, the late Mrs Voula Ganos, along with members of the Philoptochos and parish council, preparing the 2000 Paschal luncheon.

Members of the Philoptochos in the kitchen of the church's hall, in 2000.



Members of the Philoptochos in the kitchen of the church's hall, in 2001 and 2002.





Philoptochos Board Members with Archbishop Demetrios, in 2003.



Three longtime Philoptochos members, Mdms. Christine Poll, Alexandra Leontis and Vasiliki Skoubas.



*Longtime
Philoptochos
members.*



The ladies of Philoptochos making palms into crosses for Palm Sunday, in 2011 (top), 2025 (right) and 2016 (bottom).





*Oath of office for
the ladies of
Philoptochos, in
2016.*

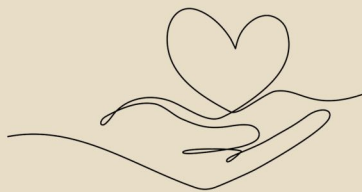


*Oath of office
for the ladies
of
Philoptochos,
in 2025.*

The Philoptochos most deservedly holds the title of *mother of the community*, bestowed upon them due to the immeasurable support offered by its members in all the areas of our community life.

In recent years, certain fundraising efforts of the Greek Ladies Philoptochos Anagennisis of Corona include: Makaronada Luncheon, Fasolada Luncheon, Bake Sales, Flea Markets and the Community Christmas Card. All proceeds go to worthy causes that affect others inside and outside of our community. They benefit the vulnerable and people in need, such as those that are affected by the floods and fires in Greece, or the high cost of living in the wider NY area.

The proceeds from the above Philoptochos' initiatives have benefited, inter alia, St. Michael's Home for the Aged, Hellenic College Holy Cross, St. Basil's Academy and Camp Saint Paul.



Members of the Philoptochos at the Fasolada Luncheon, in March 2026.



Members of the Philoptochos supporting people in need by organizing a flea market (2023), donating toiletries to a shelter (2025) and hosting a bake sale before Christmas (2025; left)





Members of the Philoptochos with Father Pedro donating food before Christmas, as part of the Spanish Ministry, in 2024.





Archbishop Elpidophoros with members of the Philoptochos during Great Lent, in 2024.



Bishop Andonios and Father Chrysostom with members of the Philoptochos on Palm Sunday, in 2023.



Father Chrysostom with members of the Philoptochos, in 2026.



The Philoptochos Executive Council, with Father Chrysostom, honoring select members of the Parish Philoptochos, in 2025 (left) and 2024 (right) for their longtime service.

The charitable work of the Anagennisis Ladies Philoptochos of Corona to help the poor, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the victims of disasters, and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fundraising efforts, as well as to promote participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, have been recognized by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. They were recognized for their essential role in impacting the world and making a difference in the lives of people in the United States and throughout the world. The Anagennisis Greek Ladies Philoptochos of Corona has always maintained human dignity and improved the quality of life of those in need. For the members of Anagennisis Philoptochos every person has intrinsic worth and deserves to be treated with respect and honor.

