



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Sunday of Orthodoxy 2008

The Reverend Clergy

Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Esteemed Members of the Metropolitan Council, Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Societies, Faculty and Students of the Catechetical and Greek Afternoon Schools, Directors and Participants of all Youth Organizations, and all devout Orthodox Christians of the Greek Orthodox Communities of our Holy Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved,

"Come let us cleanse ourselves by almsgiving and acts of mercy to the poor, not sounding a trumpet or making a show of our charity. Let not our left hand know what our right hand is doing; Let not vainglory scatter the fruit of our almsgiving; but in secret let us call on Him that knows all secrets; Father, forgive us our trespasses, for Thou lovest mankind."

(From the Orthros of the Sunday of Orthodoxy)

On March 2nd, we commenced the period known in our Holy Orthodox Church as Holy and Great Lent in preparation of our Lord's Passion and glorious Resurrection. Likewise, we embarked on a special spiritual journey which will be filled with contemplation and prayer as well as fasting and repentance. However, our noetic preparation to receive our crucified and resurrected Lord into our hearts and souls, into our very lives, must be accompanied by our physical actions and deeds such as almsgiving. In this manner, our journey to Golgotha and the empty Tomb becomes complete and most meaningful.

Indeed, we are challenged once again during this Lenten season and as part of our spiritual journey to recall the admonition of St. Paul, that *"we should remember the poor,"* (Gal. 2:10). It is indeed most regrettable that many of our Christian brethren in this day and age of plentiful and abundance, do not have the financial means to meet their daily needs. Our Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos stands ready once again this year to meet the needs of those who so desperately need a little something extra.

To this end, I ask that a second tray be passed for the benefit of the philanthropic ministry of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey Philoptochos on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 8th, 2008, for the sole purpose of benefiting its Charitable Programs. I ask that all of you give generously to our Blessed Metropolis Philoptochos Society, so that they may continue their most needed work for all in our Holy Metropolis.

Your generous gifts of love and sincere concern will be blessed from above as St. John Chrysostom reminds us, for *“God protects and loves the charitable and philanthropic person.”* Furthermore, the Patron Saint of our Holy Metropolis has this to say concerning our charitable acts, *“Almsgiving above all else requires money, but even this shines with a brighter luster when the alms are given from our poverty. The widow who paid in the two mites was poorer than any human, but she outdid them all.”*

Thanking all of you for your most generous and caring gifts of love, and praying that your spiritual journey in celebration of His Resurrection will be blessed from above, I remain,

With Paternal Love and Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Metropolitan Evangelos". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered on the page. The background of the signature area is a light gray grid pattern.

† E V A N G E L O S
Metropolitan of New Jersey

To be read from the pulpit on Sunday, March 8th, 2008

Checks should be made payable to the GOMNJ Philoptochos Society