

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Paulette Geanacopoulos
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**NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS ANNOUNCES A NEW PROGRAM:
AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN TELEPHONE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**

New York, NY. November 28, 2017

A telephone cancer support group for **Orthodox Christians, 21+**, who are undergoing cancer treatment is being initiated by the National Philoptochos Department of Social Services.

Via conference call and at no cost to participants, the discussion group will be accessible to members of our community **nationwide** on six consecutive Thursday evenings beginning **January 11 - February 15, 2018, 7:00pm – 8:00pm, EST**. The group will be facilitated by Theodora Ziongas, M.A., who has a strong background in cancer patient services through positions she has held at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the American Cancer Society and CancerCare.

Evidence-based studies have demonstrated that support groups improve patients' survival outcomes, help them feel better and more hopeful, and give people facing similar experiences the opportunity to connect and share their innermost thoughts and feelings in a **confidential, safe, supportive and non-judgmental setting**.

Discussions will include when and how to reveal diagnosis and treatment information to family, friends, employers and others; effectively communicating with medical personnel; mechanisms for coping; adjusting to a new image of self and body, and more.

While many organizations sponsor cancer support groups, ours will stand apart by addressing our community's unique cultural issues that can be barriers to accessing mainstream services, and enabling participants to examine their spirituality and faith-based concerns in the face of a potentially life-threatening illness.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Persons interested in joining the discussion group can pre-register by emailing **supportgroup@philoptochos.org**. To maintain confidentiality - a foundation for all of our social services - this email address is designated specifically and solely for this program.

For more information, contact Paulette Geanacopoulos, LMSW, Director, National Philoptochos' Department of Social Services at **PauletteG@philoptochos.org**, or by telephone at (212) 977-7782.

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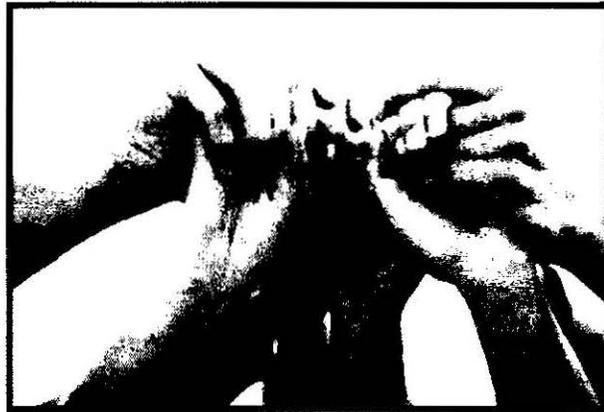


GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, INC.
THE NATIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
IS SPONSORING A CONFIDENTIAL



TELEPHONE DISCUSSION GROUP FOR MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY UNDERGOING TREATMENT FOR CANCER

Facilitator: Theodora Ziongas, M.A.



- *Do you wish you could share your concerns and questions with others who understand your culture and community?*
- *Do you want to hear from others how they communicate with their medical team, family, friends, or at work?*
- *How much do others share and when?*
- *What helps you cope?*
- *How do others cope?*

SIX CONSECUTIVE THURSDAY EVENING SESSIONS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018 - FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Call-in phone number for discussion group will be provided upon registration

*To pre-register and for more information,
please email: supportgroup@philoptochos.org*