



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

GREEK ORTHODOX LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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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