



# the plan Strategic

## Release Announcement

Effective November 9, 2015

### Parish Signature Outreach



**Strategic Area:** Philanthropic Outreach

**Goal:** Each Parish will implement at least one Signature Outreach ministry.

**Coordinators:** Fr. Aris Metrakos, Holy Trinity Church, San Francisco, CA

**Metropolis Philoptochos President:** Jeannie Ranglas, Saints Constantine and Helen, Cardiff-By-The-Sea, CA

**“Oh, that’s the church that...”**

**Program Description:** Most parishes within our Metropolis engage actively in philanthropic outreach, touching the lives of those who live in the local community, or sometimes, the international community. Both on the parish and Metropolis levels, the Philoptochos remains the pacesetter in this type of ministry. However, this particular strategic goal challenges each parish to prayerfully reflect on its ability to utilize its people and its resources to establish a local and significant Outreach Ministry which can effect positive change and, if applicable, increase parish visibility within the greater community they serve.

When a parish becomes identified with a specific ministry, it can help attract new members, increase the credibility of the Church in a particular region, and instill a sense of self-confidence and connection amongst the congregation. Ideally, each parish of the Metropolis would initiate and support at least one ministry about which their neighbors could say, “Oh, that’s the church that...”

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” - Matthew 25: 35-36*

**Current Status:** Over 36 parishes within our Metropolis have active and engaged outreach programs they will be happy to share. And of those, a third have identified a ministry for which they are known outside of the Church. Several parishes work closely with local soup kitchens. Two churches actively support local Pro-Life efforts. Another two have joined forces to drill water wells, and bring fresh water to children and their families, in Tanzania. Other churches support local youth living in poverty or in the foster system. One parish brings dozens of non-member volunteers on campus to provide persons and families of limited means with studio quality portraits. The list of ways to help, is, frankly, endless. In each of these cases, all it took was one person saying “here is something I care about and I’m willing to support.” When this is the case, mobilization soon follows.

**Recommended Parish Action:** Which phrase describes your Parish the best?

- † **Limited philanthropic outreach today:** form a team to develop a key ministry to provide local support.
- † **Engaged in numerous outreach activities:** select at least one to be the Parish’s signature outreach ministry.
- † **Have not joined the Philanthropic Outreach Information Exchange:** Please join ,and if you have questions, please contact Fr. Aris Metrakos directly at [fr.aris@yahoo.com](mailto:fr.aris@yahoo.com) 1.415.308.4851 .
- † **Already have a Signature Outreach Ministry :** Please share your ministry with other parishes via the Metropolis of San Francisco’s Philanthropic Information Exchange ,so that we can learn from one another.