

February 6, 2011

Dear Sister Parishioner,

It is time once again to make your annual stewardship pledge in support of St. Irene Philoptochos Chapter of St. John the Baptist parish for 2011. Why do you want to become a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest women's philanthropic organization in America? I'll tell you why!

Eighty years ago our mothers and grandmothers envisioned a better life for those immigrating to America by establishing themselves as "the arm of the church" and Philoptochos was born! Countless have been helped over the years in almost every way imaginable and it is our duty to carry on the efforts that began on this special anniversary of Philoptochos.

Your membership supports the various projects of the Society on a National and Metropolis level, and right here at home in our community. In the past year we have supported *Safe Haven of Tarrant County*, the *Texas Health Hospital system*, and *Shoes for Orphan Souls*, to name a few. This is only possible with the efforts you provide! One new area of service in 2010 was a visitation program aimed at anyone in our parish family who needs a friendly visit. We are defined as ready to provide assistance "for those who are poor in spirit, health, or in need of companionship" so this was truly the work Philoptochos was meant to do.

Our spring membership drive is an invitation to all women of the parish. Commencing with a Membership Tea on Sunday, February 20, location to be announced, along with a presentation by our own Dr. Karen Kinman. Her topic is related to women, their struggles and accomplishments. Again, all women of the parish are invited; we hope our work of the past inspires new members to join and be one with us.

We hold monthly meetings and ask for your attendance, but if you cannot be an active member, you can be a supportive member by merely fulfilling your annual Philoptochos stewardship pledge. We also have members who participate in a select project or function. Joining together as such, we become a strong and cohesive group!

Please complete the enclosed form and return it with your 2011 stewardship pledge. The amount you pledge is up to you; however, keep in mind that a minimum pledge of \$22 will be sent to the National Society (\$15) and the Metropolis Society (\$7). Anything above and beyond will be used for philanthropic projects our chapter participates in.

Your Sister in Christ,

Joanie Ruppel, Stewardship Chairman