

Women's Group

The women of Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School
of Theology

(including alumni and wives of students)

Meeting September 28, 1981

7:00 PM

Our Group's Patron Saint: Saint Macrina the Younger, Virgin
(A.D. 379)

Macrina was the eldest of ten children of Saint Basil the Elder and Saint Emmelia. She was born at Caesarea in Cappadocia around the year 330. From the age of twelve, Macrina was a great assistant to her mother in educating her younger brothers (Basil the Great, St. Peter of Sebastea, St. Gregory of Nyssa) and sisters about prayer and the word of God. After the death of St. Emmelia, Marina dispersed all of their estate to the poor. Such was her poverty that nothing was found to cover her body when it was carried to the grave but her old hood and coarse veil. Saint Marina serves as a good example for our Women's Group because of her great humility and superb diakonia.

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| Faculty Advisor: | Dr. Louis Patsavos |
| Group Facilitator: | Koula FitzGerald |
| President: | Patricia Manuse |
| V.P./Treasurer: | Maria Koremenu |
| Corresponding Sec.: | Joanne Anton |
| Recording Sec.: | Christina Shaheen |

Purpose of Group: To provide a means by which the women of our community can develop an understanding and awareness of the woman's role and ministry in the Church. Also, to establish fellowship and community prayer among the women in both schools and to constitute inter/intra community consciousness of diakonia by suggesting potential areas for vocational and voluntary diakonia.

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| Proposed Activities: | a. New Skeet: Retreats |
| | b. Rosie's Place-Women's Refuge Center |
| | c. Workshop: Seminars, Lectures, Monthly Meetings |
| | d. Charity and Volunteer Work |
| | e. Complines and Bible Studies |

Potential Areas for Female Vocational Diakonia:

a. Parish and Diocesan Ministry

- b. Education Ministry
- c. Missions
- d. Communications Ministry
- e. Visitation Ministry
- f. Community Service Ministry

Women's Group Agenda

- I. Opening Prayer (see below)
- II. Introduction of Officers
- III. Brief History of our Group
- IV. Purpose and Goals of our Group
- V. Discussion- with specific feedback on:
 - A. Date for Mini-Retreat
 - B. "Diakonia" Newsletter
 - C. Name for Group
- VI. Refreshments
- VII. Closing Prayer (see below)

*I. O Lord, I know not what to ask of thee. Thou alone knowest what are my true needs. Thou lovest me more than I myself know how to love. Help me to see my real needs which are concealed from me. I dare not ask either a cross or consolation. I can only wait on thee. My heart is open to thee. Visit and help me, cast me down and raise me up. I worship in silence thy holy will and thine inscrutable ways. I offer myself as a sacrifice to thee. I put all my trust in thee. I have no other desire than to fulfill thy will. Teach me how to pray. Pray thou thyself in me. Amen.

*VII. O eternal God, King of all creation who has vouchsafed me to attain to this hour, forgive me the sins which I have committed this day in thought, word, and deed, and cleanse, O Lord, my humble soul from every stain of flesh and spirit. Grant me, O Lord, to pass through the sleep of this night in peace, to rise from my lowly bed, and to please thy holy Name all the days of my life, and to vanquish the enemies both corporeal and incorporeal that contend against me. Deliver me, O Lord, from the vain thoughts that stain me, and from evil desires. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, now and forever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

*Both prayers can be found in A Manual of Eastern Orthodox Prayers, published for the Fellowship of St. Alban and St. Sergius.