

2025
ANNUAL
REPORT



St Phoebe Center
FOR THE DEACONESS
orthodoxdeaconess.org

We educate and prayerfully advocate
for the revival of the ordained female diaconate
to help serve the ministerial needs
of the Orthodox Church and the world today.

+++

Prayer to St. Phoebe

*Most holy Phoebe, who was found to be worthy of the diaconate;
who was Paul's helper and carried his words to the people of Rome;
who is called the lamp of Cenchrea;
we now humbly ask that you intercede for us, and pray to Christ our God for us
as we discern His will for revival of the ordained female diaconate
for the upbuilding of the entire Church today.
Pray that we will be blessed and fruitful in our works this day and always,
to God's glory.
Amen.*

*The St. Phoebe Center practices tithing on an annual basis in which 10% of
its operating fund is donated to a worthy cause.*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers in Christ,
I am pleased to report that 2025 was yet another active year for the St. Phoebe Center! I offer a few highlights:



Events. We continued our mission to educate about and advocate for deaconesses in the Orthodox Church today by hosting several online Zoom events (which can be viewed on our [YouTube channel](#)).

Translation. Due to growing interest around the Orthodox world in reviving the order of deaconess, the St. Phoebe Center had several of our key documents translated into other languages. Our “Proposed Guidelines for the Revival of the Ordained Female Diaconate in the Orthodox Church Today” (which were created by the St. Phoebe Center to generate discussion within the Orthodox Christian community, to expand our imagination of what this ancient order might look like today, and to move forward together to ordain deaconesses once again) are now available in [Finnish](#), [Russian](#), and [Greek](#).

Grants. Our [African Women’s Grant](#), established in 2023, continues to grow in terms of applications and donations. We awarded six grants for a variety of projects, including supporting the education of several Orthodox women in Zimbabwe and Kenya and purchasing sewing machines for St. Catherine’s Monastery in Uganda.

Anniversary of 2024 Ordination. We celebrated the first anniversary of the ordination of the first Orthodox deaconess in the twenty-first century, Archdeaconess Angelic-Phoebe Molen, by raising funds for the African Women’s Grant and collecting letters of support for her from around the world.

In conclusion, the St. Phoebe Center offers this Annual Report as a glimpse of the work of our all-volunteer board and many supporters and volunteers. It is a gift to be able to work together to support the revival of the vital order of deaconess in the Orthodox Church. We are grateful for your continued support and prayers. May we be blessed and fruitful in our works this day and always, to God’s glory.

In Christ,
Carrie Frederick Frost, PhD
Chair, St. Phoebe Center for the Deaconess
chair@orthodoxdeaconess.org

2025: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The St. Phoebe Center governing board is comprised of dedicated and hard-working faithful Orthodox. Each board member puts hours of time, treasure, and talent into their role as a board member. The following list of events and accomplishments is a testimonial to their work as a board, and collaborating with other faithful Orthodox to educate and advocate for revival of the ancient order of the female diaconate for the upbuilding of the entire Church today.

- The Governing Board Welcomed New Members Barbara Harris and Andy Nosal
- Zoom Event: “Perspectives on Deaconesses with the Roman Catholic Church”
- Zoom Event: “Women Sharing the Good News”
- The One-Year Anniversary of Archdeaconess Angelic-Phoebe is Celebrated
- African Women Awarded Grants from the African Women’s Grant Program
- Zoom Event: “Young People in the Church Today: How Deaconesses Can Help”
- St. Phoebe Day Prayer and Fellowship Zoom Event
- Zoom Event: “Overworked Priests: How Deaconesses Can Help”
- Key St. Phoebe Center Resources Translated into Finnish, Russian, and Greek
- Liturgists Reaffirm the Female Diaconate
- Expanding the St. Phoebe Center Leadership
- Donations for our Annual Fundraiser: From as Far Away as Sweden & Australia!
- \$10,000 Donation received from the Fr. George Scoulas Memorial Fund
- Zoom Event: “Domestic Abuse: How the Church Has Responded & How Deaconesses Can Help”

*The St. Phoebe Center strives to support the **numerous calls within the Orthodox Church for the restoration of the female diaconate for the past one hundred years, particularly the most authoritative call issued in Rhodes, Greece, in 1988, by an inter-Orthodox consultation attended by bishops and academics of twelve of the autocephalous Churches.** The conclusion issued by the consultation states: “The apostolic order of deaconesses should be revived . . . Such a revival would represent a positive response to many of the needs and demands of the contemporary world in many spheres.”*

2025 BOARD MEMBERS

Carrie Frederick Frost, Ph.D.,
CHAIR

Helen Creticos Theodoropoulos, Ph.D.,
SECRETARY

Gust Mecera, TREASURER

Ann Marie Mecera, FOUNDER &
CO-CHAIR

Barbara K. Harris, M.A., M.A.

Andrew Nosal, Ph.D.

Mardi Kring Perry

Teva Regule Ph.D.

Sara Tsugranis

Board Members of Eternal Memory

Susan Smoley, M.B.A.

2025 ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Metropolitan Seraphim of Zimbabwe

Fr. Radu Bordeianu, Ph.D.

Dr. Lori Peterson Branch

Fr. Marc Dunaway

Deacon Salvatore 'Sal' Fazio

Deacon Perry T. Hamalis, Ph.D.

Demetra Jaquet, D.Min

Valerie A. Karras, Th.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Cary J. Limberakis

Very Reverend Professor
John Anthony McGuckin

Paul Meyendorff

V. Rev. Dr. Stelyios Muksuris, Ph.D.

Jennifer Nahas

Dr. Elizabeth H. Prodromou

Fr. Philip Zymaris

Advisory Board Members of Eternal Memory

Metropolitan KALLISTOS of
Diokleia +

Archpriest Very Reverend Father
Daniel Rentel +

Income Statement (Profit and Loss)
 St. Pheobe Center for the Deaconess
 For the year ended December 31, 2025

Account	2025
Income	
Donation check	5,200.00
Donations earmarked for African Women's Grant	8,061.59
Merchandise (donor gifts)	(397.34)
PayPal	30,057.79
Total Income	42,922.04
Cost of Goods Sold	
Total Cost of Goods Sold	498.00
Gross Profit	42,424.04
Operating Expenses	
African Women's Grant & wire fees	6,405.00
Subcontractors - translations	498.00
Bank Service Charges	50.00
Business License & Fees	100.00
Charity - (tithe of 2024 income) Deaconess Angelic-Phoebe stipend	2,640.00
Google - board communication platform	36.99
Three-day In-person board meeting (travel, lodging & food)	9,443.75
Internship - support board activities	5,310.00
Mailchimp - communications platform	552.93
Miscellaneous - printing	455.03
Other Expense - mailing	248.00
PayPal fees	992.38
Reimbursable Expense	285.00
Slack - board communication platform	935.86
Website - public interaction	2,429.05
Xero - accounting tool	255.00
Zoom - online presentations & meetings	2,199.00
Total Operating Expenses	32,835.99
Operating Income	9,588.05
Net Income	9,588.05

AFRICAN WOMEN’S GRANT REPORT

We are proud to report that in 2025, the St. Phoebe Center paid out a total of \$7,540 for continuing education and projects as part of the Africa Women’s Grant program. Grant applications were received from South Africa, Uganda, Kenya and Zimbabwe. We continue to support ongoing higher education at the bachelor’s and master’s levels for five deserving women. In addition, we supported efforts enabling women to learn new skills to provide income for themselves and their families. These projects involved sewing clothing for family members and to sell as well as making soap and detergent and raising rabbits and chickens.

2025 Total Grant Amount	\$7,540	
2025 Total Projects Funded	2	St. Catherine's Monastery x 2 - sewing project: sewing machine, fabric and electricity
\$\$	\$1,955.00	Lead Wambui - Soap & detergent making; sanitary pads/ rabbits & chickens
2025 Total Education Funded	5	Deaconess Angelic, Zipporah Mwaura, Anastasia Moeketsi, <u>Ontathile Thamaga</u> and Emily <u>Kanorio</u>
\$\$	\$5,540.00	

The figures show above reflect the dollar amount of awards approved in 2025. Actual awards are made upon receipt of banking information from recipients and will include wire transfer fees not reflected in this report.



Above: Ontathile Thamaga had the opportunity to stand in for one of the lecturers in the philosophy department and taught a first-year philosophy class on Ubuntu, an ancient African philosophy that translates to "humanity to others."



Mother Thavoria from St. Catherine’s Monastery instructs women on sewing techniques and machine usage. They use their skills to make clothing for themselves and as a livelihood.

AFRICAN WOMEN'S GRANT REPORT

continued



“As we commemorate the International Day of Clean Energy, celebrated under the theme “Clean Energy for People and Planet,” the Conservation Sisters at Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU) conducted a tree-planting exercise at the Hatcliff campus. The activity underscored the strong connection among clean energy, environmental sustainability, and collective responsibility for protecting the planet.” Archdeaconess Angelic-Phoebe Molen (seated, right).

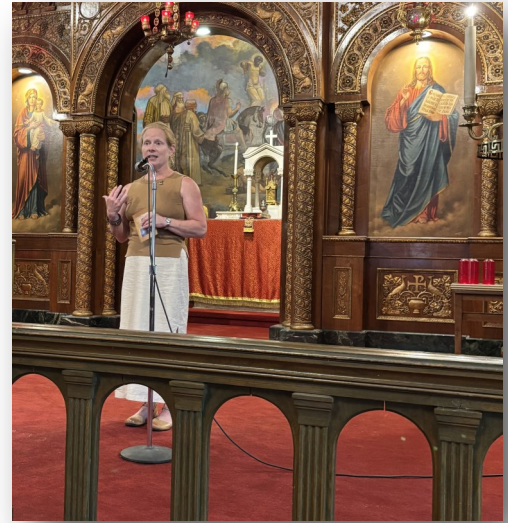


Emily Kamakia was able to attend a formation lecture at the Kenya Methodist University (KeMU) Google Gemini Academy.



Kithabile Moeketis from Kenya received tuition towards her bachelor's degree at Cavendish University.

2025 IN PICTURES



St. Phoebe Center Chair speaks at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in St. Louis.



St. Phoebe Center in-person board meeting in St. Louis.

St Phoebe Center
FOR THE DEACONESS

Tuesday, November 11th
7:00 pm EST • Zoom

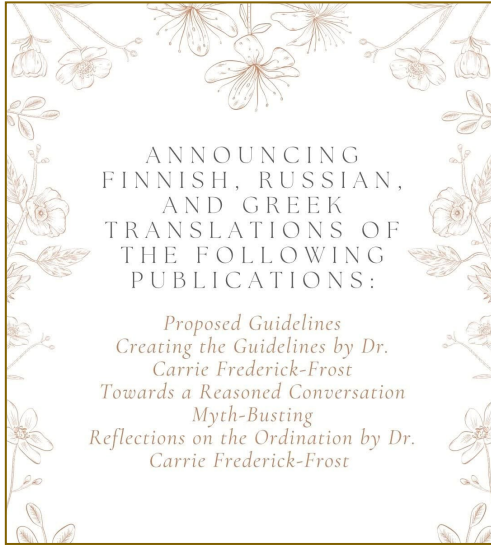
DOMESTIC ABUSE:
How the Church has Responded and How Deaconesses can Help

The Panelists:
Dr. Helen Theodoropoulos, Varvara Gulina, and Rev. Dr. Harry Pappas
Moderator: Barbara Harris



Archdeaconess Angelic-Phoebe speaks to her parish in Zimbabwe.

2025 IN PICTURES



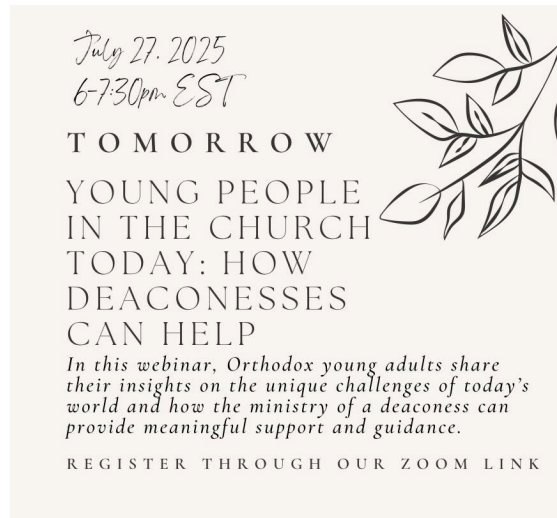
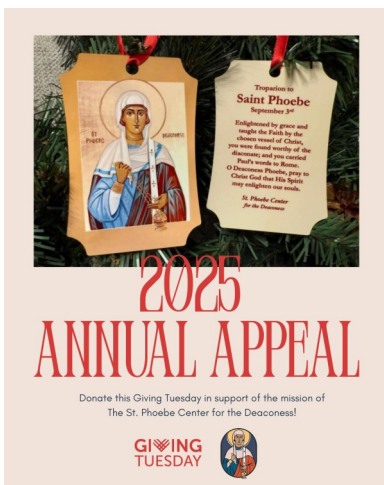
Sewing machines purchased for St. Catherine's Monastery in Kiyindi Town, Uganda with funds from the African Women's Grant.



The St. Phoebe Center exhibits at OCAMPR



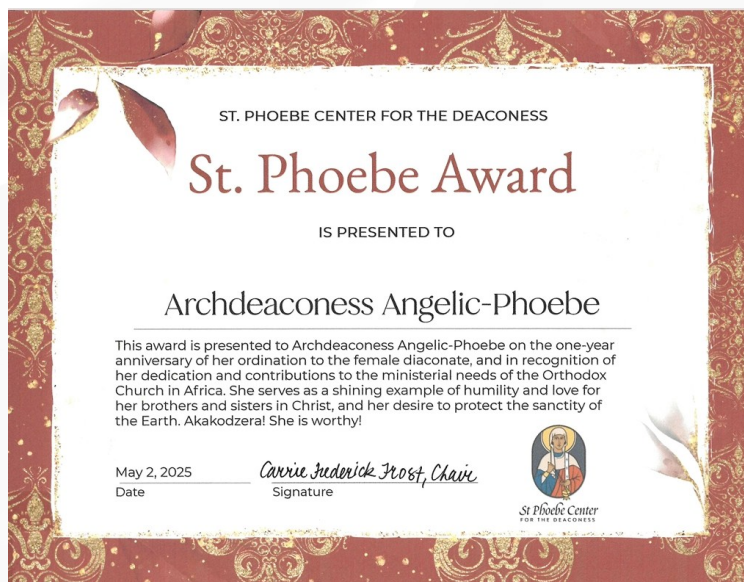
Panelists for the Zoom event "Young People in the Church Today: How Deaconess Can Help."



2025 ST. PHOEBE AWARD RECIPIENTS

The St. Phoebe Award is an occasional honor bestowed on those who have offered exceptional energy and talent towards the reinstatement of deaconesses in the Orthodox Church. We are honored to recognize the work His Eminence Metropolitan Serafim and Archdeaconess Angelic-Phoebe have done in Africa to use the gifts, talents, and experiences of its Orthodox women for the building up of the Orthodox faith in Africa.

Axios! Axia!



The St. Phoebe Center is the largest online resource for the female diaconate.



St Phoebe Center
FOR THE DEACONESS
orthodoxdeaconess.org