**Seek the Welfare of the City:**

**The Philanthropic Work of the Church in Byzantine Society**

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**Directed Project for St. Stephen’s Course of Study in Orthodox Theology, Year 1**

A clear, single-sentence proposition that summarizes each of the main headings:

“This essay will attempt to trace the philanthropic work of the Church in Byzantine society from its historical antecedents through the thousand years of Byzantine history, and draw practical lessons that can be applied to the Church today.”

**OUTLINE:**

I. Historical Preconditions

 A. In the Old Testament

 B. In Ancient Greece

 C. In Early Monasticism

II. Philanthropy by the Church and by the State

 A. Positive Features

 B. Negative Features

III. The Involvement of Others in Philanthropy

 A. Deaconesses

 B. Laity

IV. Practical Application of Philanthropy for the Church Today

 A. Church-Based Voluntary Philanthropy

 B. Cooperation with or Cooptation by the State