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Order now IOCC's *My Prayer Journal*, an exciting tool to teach your Sunday School kids and youth groups the importance of praying for children in need around the world.

To order multiple copies, please contact the Department of Religious Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America at 800-566-1088. *My Prayer Journal* is free, but shipping charges may apply. To learn more, visit www.iocc.org/prayerjournal.



"The way of humility is this: self-control, prayer, and thinking yourself inferior to all creatures." — Abba Tithoes



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES
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IOCC Upcoming Events

More details at www.iocc.org/events.

- DENVER – 8/8/09, 7th Annual Bike/Walk
- WASHINGTON, DC – 8/22/09, Wine Tasting
- PITTSBURGH – 8/29/09, One In Spirit Dinner
- CLEVELAND – 9/4/09, Indians vs. Minnesota Twins
- PHOENIX – 9/27/09, Wine, Cheese, Silent Auction
- CHICAGO – 10/3/09, 3rd Annual 5K Walk/Run
- VIRGINIA BEACH – 10/6/09, Golf Tournament
- LONG ISLAND – 10/10/09, Orthodox Retreat
- BALTIMORE – 10/16/09, Golf Tournament
- MINNEAPOLIS – 10/17/09, Annual Dinner
- ST. LOUIS – 10/18/09, Annual Dinner
- PITTSBURGH – 10/22/09, Wine Tasting
- WASHINGTON, DC – 10/25/09, Annual Banquet
- CHARLOTTE, NC – 10/31/09, 8th Annual Dinner
- LOS ANGELES – 10/31/09, 5K Run/Walk
- SAN FRANCISCO – 11/1/09, Remembering Home Dinner
- PITTSBURGH – 11/14/09, Retreat with Father Thomas Hopko
- PORTLAND – 11/14/09, IOCC Awareness
- ALBUQUERQUE – 11/14/09, 1st Annual Dinner
- BALTIMORE – 11/22/09, Concert

SPREAD THE WORD ON RADIO & TV!

Do you have a radio or TV program?
Let IOCC provide you with free pre-produced content.
Contact Amal Morcos at amorcos@iocc.org or 1-877-803-IOCC (4622).

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INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

VOLUME 10, NO. 3 FALL 2009

*"While it is still day, we must do the work of the One who sent me.
Night is coming. Then no one can work." – John 9:4*



Dear Brothers in Christ,

Amidst storms and waves a single ship finds guidance, when looking for the stability of a port, by seeking a lighthouse that guides the journey to the port's embrace. It is not by accident that ports traditionally offer another beacon of light to these pilgrims – churches and chapels bless ports all around the world, leading to the experience of peace through the presence of Jesus Christ, among the winds and rain of this world. As we enter into this Ecclesiastical New Year, may we all find peace through the presence of God found in our priestly vocation, and may the recognition of His presence be consistent as we strive to function within the greater mission of His Divine work and plan.

God is at work in our chaotic world through you, and He bids us also to work while it is still day. Through our co-ministry with IOCC we are educating at-risk boys in Louisiana; feeding displaced families in the war-torn former Soviet Republic of Georgia; repairing the homes of Orthodox Christians in Gaza; and building a new school in a town that never had one in northern Uganda through that country's Orthodox Archdiocese.

I feel honored and humbled to have recently been appointed to the IOCC Board of Directors and participate more strategically in its work. However, IOCC is not just a pan-Orthodox entity run by SCOBA outside of what you and your local parish are doing. IOCC is your tangible response to those who ask, 'do the

Orthodox care about a hurting world and are they willing to offer their resources and ability to respond?' Our answer is a resounding Yes through our actions! In this issue of *Priest to Priest*, we highlight just a few of our responses to those who need the most help in Africa, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and right here in the U.S.

Join us in our ministry to the world through IOCC, offering Light to those caught in the storms of this world. One way you can do that is by using the 7th edition of *My Prayer Journal* in your Catechetical School and youth programs. Aimed at children ages 7-12, *My Prayer Journal* will develop their prayer lives, introducing youth to the reality of Christ's presence in their life, while giving them practical ways to respond to those in need (see back cover for more details on ordering extra copies of *My Prayer Journal*).

As we step into our holy churches and into this new liturgical year, let us be enveloped by our Lord's peace and guided by the Holy Spirit to do His good works while it is still day.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. Luke Palumbis
St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church
Stockton, CA

FATHERS: PLEASE POST THE INSIDE POSTER IN YOUR CHURCH HALL

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

From the clergy of the IOCC Board of Directors:
Very Rev. Michael Ellias, Rev. Luke Palumbis, Very Rev. Michael Rosco, Rev. Nicholas Triantafylou



Helping Others Help Themselves



At-Risk Boys Become Leaders in New Orleans

Young boys who typically fall through the cracks in New Orleans' public school system get a fighting chance at building a better life through the education and mentoring they receive at Desire Street Ministries. Located in New Orleans' Upper Ninth Ward, the school helps young African-American males to fight the temptations of the street and difficult home lives to become leaders in their community. IOCC recently provided \$1 million worth of audio/visual equipment and books for their new library. While funding for the storm-battered Gulf Coast has tended to focus on emergency relief, IOCC is also supporting key local partners like Desire Street who focus on education and community development.



Kosovo Agricultural Projects Launched

How will isolated communities survive in Kosovo? Through good schools and good jobs. IOCC is at work to make sure that Kosovo communities can overcome barriers and achieve real reconciliation and cooperation with their neighbors. IOCC is launching a special initiative for Kosovo with an investment of \$190,000. In Serbian and Gorani villages in the northwest region of Kosovo, IOCC is repairing old school buildings and providing new computers and gym equipment. In Kos and Velika Hoca, IOCC is training farmers to make better use of their land and water, including the reclamation of old lands for larger harvests. About 100 families will also benefit from training seminars in marketing, mechanization, and farming techniques.



Gaza's Children Regain Joy Through Therapy

"We passed through a lot of pain, fear, and sadness. During the war we couldn't do what we wanted. It was like being in a prison. These activities provide relief, little by little," said a little girl who survived last January's war in Gaza and is now receiving art and play therapy to help her deal with the trauma. IOCC has been providing blankets, food, and hygiene kits to thousands of families who were affected by the conflict. Recently, IOCC held a summer camp that provided psychosocial therapy and recreational activities for about 200 children aged 8 – 15. IOCC is also reaching an additional 2,000 children and youth through other forms of activities including school-based interventions.



Park Town Clinic, A Refuge in Zimbabwe

Sister Nomhle Mtupha of Park Town Clinic provides what few people are getting these days in Zimbabwe: a proper medical diagnosis. With the assistance of one aide, she sees about 700 patients per month for illnesses that range from malaria to HIV/AIDS. Zimbabwe's financial chaos and complete breakdown in water and sanitation services has created a national health crisis. IOCC recently delivered to the clinic, which operates under the Orthodox Church of Zimbabwe, 200 boxes of antibiotics, intravenous fluids, and over-the-counter drugs. Since 2004, IOCC has been serving the health needs of Africans and strengthening the local Orthodox Churches to support their communities.

IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

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