



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST *to* PRIEST

VOLUME 6, NO. 3 FALL 2005

Hearers of the Word become Doers

As participants in the ministry of Christ through the ordained priesthood, one of our sacred tasks is to preach the Gospel. However, our preaching is not an end in itself. Its goal and purpose is to encourage reflection and insight leading to action. The truths of the Holy Scripture are to be put into practice by faithful followers of Jesus Christ, lived-out on a daily basis. How often do we lament that our parish members have too frequently become spectators, not only in the divine services, but in the practice of the faith? St. James' admonition to "Be doers of the word and not merely hearers" (James 1:22) is particularly relevant in our contemporary parishes. Like you, I am often trying to find ways to engage my flock in meaningful participation in our Orthodox faith — to turn their Orthodox identity into the Orthodox way of life.

One of most useful tools in this effort is the Children's Prayer Journal published by IOCC and made available to us during the past two years. Orthodox religious education programs have produced excellent materials for our young people for many years. I believe *My Prayer Journal* is just the right tool to equip our children to become "doers of the word" and to build upon their religious education foundation. Although specifically written for children ages seven through twelve, the content, vibrant graphics and overall aesthetics of the journal make it suitable for those both younger and older. And it is perfectly suited for use in family devotionals and religious education in the "small church" which is the family.

The booklet encourages our youths to participate in a hands-on project with our partner Church World Service. Too often our Orthodox youths have remained idle while their friends have done service projects in their respective churches and synagogues. How gratifying it has been to hear stories these past two years of Orthodox kids inviting their friends to our churches to help assemble "Gift of the Heart" school kits for children in Lebanon, the Holy Land, the Republic of Georgia and elsewhere. Many of these same children returned when the Tsunami struck Southeast Asia to pack "Gift of the Heart" health kits for victims of that unimaginable tragedy.

Slowly, but surely, the IOCC Prayer Journal has become a catalyst for our young people's charitable actions. And as they have become inspired and engaged,

so too have their parents. In this edition of *Priest to Priest* you will find more information about this year's third edition of *My Prayer Journal* and how it can be effectively used in your parish. Whether it's through participating in the journal activity or the monthly online activities, I am convinced that it will have a positive impact on young and old alike.

Our children are not merely the future of the Church; they are full members of the Church right now. Our Church affirms their dignity as members of the Body of Christ by anointing them with the Holy Chrism immediately after their baptism, thus equipping them with the grace of the Holy Spirit for the fullness of life in Christ. Their enthusiasm, their child-like faith and their loving actions can be transforming for our parishes. Please prayerfully consider how you can incorporate *My Prayer Journal* in your youth groups, your religious education program and other suitable dimensions of your parish life.

With love in Christ,


Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky

Workplace Giving Encouraged

Each fall, Americans are invited to participate in a variety of workplace giving campaigns. These include the United Way, the Combined Federal Campaigns, and many state, local and private workplace campaigns. IOCC gives your parishioners an Orthodox choice for their philanthropy.

Please encourage your parishioners to help families in need around the world by designating IOCC as their charity of choice. IOCC is registered for most of these campaigns through Global Impact, an alliance of non-profit organizations. Use IOCC campaign code #0348 or write in IOCC's full name and address on the pledge form.

You can share this information with your parish by using the enclosed bulletin artwork, provided in three (3) sizes to meet your various space requirements. These announcements can be photocopied directly into your Sunday bulletins, monthly newsletters or other parish publications. An electronic version of this artwork is also available online at www.iocc.org/art.

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

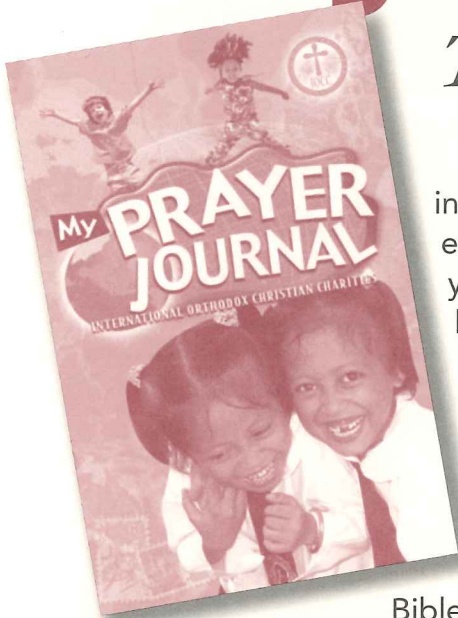
from the Church Relations Committee of the IOCC Board of Directors

Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky, Chairman, Very Rev. Michael Ellias

Very Rev. Robert S. Kondratick, Rev. Nicholas C. Triantafilou

IOCC Children's Prayer Journal

Third edition to be released in August



IOCC's third edition of the Children's Prayer Journal will be available in mid-August for the 2005 - 2006 church school year. The past two editions have proved tremendously successful as a tool for our young people to learn about the importance of actively caring for their brothers and sisters in need.

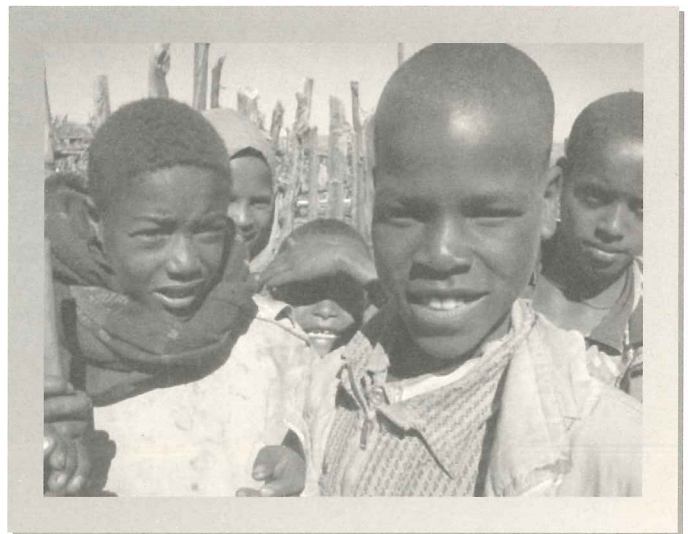
Titled "My Prayer Journal," the colorful 32-page book encourages children in their prayer life as they learn about other children around the world. Each month features a different country where IOCC is currently working.

Along with information about each country, the book contains Bible verses, quotes from the Church Fathers, excerpts from the Divine Liturgy, suggested prayers, activities and facts. Space is provided for children to write in their prayer requests and things for which they are thankful.

This journal is endorsed by IOCC's parent organization, The Standing Conference of the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA) which has said, "We encourage all of our faithful to take full advantage of this children's prayer journal so that our young people may practice the 'daily presence' of Jesus Christ in their lives and learn more about the needs of other children throughout the world."

The journals will be mailed to parishes and individuals in mid-August. If you would like to order an additional copy, please visit www.iocc.org/journal. To order multiple copies for your parish or church school, please contact the Department of Religious Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese at 1-800-566-1088. Shipping charges may apply.

Please also encourage your youth to visit the online version of the prayer journal each month at www.iocc.org/kids to learn more fun facts about the featured country, participate in the monthly activity and learn how they are helping others by supporting IOCC.



In conjunction with the Prayer Journal activities, IOCC asks that families and parishes participate in the "Gift of the Heart" School and Health Kit program. Church World Service, a long time partner of IOCC, makes it possible to send these kits to needy families throughout the world. The kits are accepted on an on-going basis as they are always needed.

TO SEND A KIT, PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

SCHOOL KIT:

1. Buy a 12-by-14-inch cloth bag with cloth handles (or a comparable knapsack of these dimensions or larger) and a closure (VELCRO®, snap, zipper or button) and fill it with the following items:
 - One pair of blunt scissors
 - One 30-centimeter ruler (12")
 - One pencil sharpener
 - Six new pencils with erasers
 - One large eraser
 - One box of 24 crayons
 - Pads or notebooks of ruled paper, approximately 8½-by-11 inches, containing 150-200 sheets of paper
 - Twelve sheets of colored construction paper
2. Secure the bag and pack it in a box. Secure the box with packing tape.
3. Clearly mark the outside of the box with the words "School Kit," apply the correct amount of postage and mail the box to the following address:

**IOCC / Church World Service
Brethren Service Center Annex
601 Main St. • P.O. Box 188
New Windsor, Md. 21776-0188**

HEALTH KIT:

1. Buy a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure and fill it with the following items:
 - One hand towel
 - One washcloth
 - One comb
 - One metal nail file or nail clipper
 - One bar of soap (bath size)
 - One toothbrush
 - One tube of toothpaste (4-7 ounces)
 - Six Band-Aids
2. Secure the bag and pack it in a box. Secure the box with packing tape.
3. Clearly mark the outside of the box with the words "Health Kit," apply the correct amount of postage and mail the box to the following address:

**IOCC / Church
World Service
Brethren Service
Center Annex
601 Main St.
P.O. Box 188
New Windsor, Md.
21776-0188**

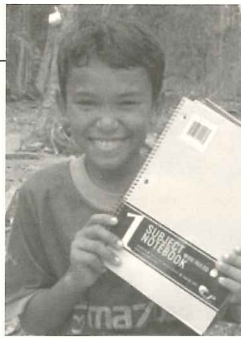


Be sure to include the name of the parish, group or individual sending the kits on the box.

More information on this project can be found either in the back of the prayer journal or online at www.iocc.org/kits.

IOCC's Gifts-in-Kind Program Needs You

As a priest in one of the many Orthodox communities scattered throughout the country, you are in a unique position to help IOCC's growing Gifts-in-Kind (GIK) program. This program focuses on matching quality material resources to the needs of individuals across the world.



The GIK resources that IOCC solicits **are not** the used clothing, blankets or other miscellaneous household items that well intentioned homeowners desire to donate. **It's important to note that IOCC is not seeking donations of used household products.**

IOCC is seeking container loads of new quality products that manufacturers or distributors wish to donate, such as blankets, linens, school supplies, vitamins, new English language or literature textbooks, tools, tractors, seeds, high-protein foods, quality pharmaceuticals and hospital equipment. **Because of your unique position in the community, you are often in contact with parishioners who may have these products or may be willing to donate money for their transportation.**

An average 40 foot container of quality products can be valued at \$400,000 with IOCC's costs for acquiring, handling, transport, shipping, storage and distribution averaging \$15,000. This is what makes the GIK program so efficient — **your community's or parishioners' \$15,000 donation could leverage over 25 times the value in quality products.**

How You Can Help

1. Help us to identify manufacturers and suppliers of suitable products who might be willing to support IOCC's GIK program.
2. Facilitate our introduction to the decision makers of these prospective donors. (Sometimes they may be parishioners, family, friends or neighbors).
3. Designate financial support from your community for shipping costs so that when a GIK is secured we will have the financial resources to deliver it overseas and distribute it effectively.

Should you have any questions about IOCC's GIK program, please contact Dan Christopoulos at DChristopoulos@iocc.org or 952-930-3286.

Upcoming Events Scheduled

The following events are being sponsored in the next few months by local Metropolitan Committees in support of IOCC's work. See more details at www.iocc.org/events.

- **RYE, NY**
September 10 - Banquet hosted by Greek Orthodox Church of Our Saviour with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Chairman of SCOBA, invited speaker
- **PHOENIX, AZ**
October 1 - IOCC Silent auction
- **ORANGE, CA**
October 2 - Wine Tasting Event sponsored by the IOCC Metropolitan Committee of Orange County
- **DETROIT, MI**
October 12 - IOCC event during the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit Clergy-Laity Conference
- **DEDHAM, MA (BOSTON)**
October 23 - IOCC Concert "Visions of the East II" at St. John Of Damascus Antiochian Orthodox Church
- **ST. LOUIS, MO**
November 12 - IOCC banquet with Bishop Dimitrios of Xanthos at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
- **SAN FRANCISCO, CA (OAKLAND)**
November 13 - 13th Annual "Remembering Home" Banquet and Silent Auction, hosted by the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension
- **HOUSTON, TX**
November 19 - 2nd Annual IOCC Dinner
- **NORTHRIDGE, CA (LOS ANGELES)**
November 20 - 2nd Annual IOCC Banquet hosted by St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
- **IOCC SUNDAY**
November 20 - observed nationally by all SCOBA parishes
- **MINNEAPOLIS, MN**
December 9 - IOCC Benefit Concert at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church



"The indifference of believers is something far more dreadful than the fact that unbelievers exist."

— Fr. Alexander Elchaninov from *Diary of a Russian Priest*