

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK



PHILIPPINES: Typhoon Haiyan's epic force left one million family homes in ruins and 13 million people across the Philippines in an ongoing struggle for shelter, food and water. IOCC and church partners in the Philippines are providing construction supplies and repair assistance to 1,000 homeless families. IOCC is also responding to more than 8,000 storm survivors with food parcels, medicine, emergency first aid, and water purification tablets to improve access to safe water for drinking and cooking. The need for emergency hygiene kits continues to grow. Instructions on kit assembly can be found at www.iocc.org/kits.



SYRIA RESPONSE: Malnutrition is on the rise among Syria's youngest refugees. IOCC, with support from UNICEF, is working to screen 60,000 at-risk Syrian refugee children under age five, the most vulnerable age group. IOCC has already identified 100 malnourished children in the 1,000 they have screened, and is providing a treatment of specially formulated foods to improve their condition. The screenings and treatment are part of a larger effort by IOCC, a member of the ACT Alliance, to ensure the health and well-being of Syria's youngest refugees. Since March 2012, IOCC has assisted more than 890,000 Syrian people displaced in their own country or living as refugees in Lebanon, Jordan Iraq and Armenia.

IOCC EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **January 25, 2014** – Milwaukee, WI
BRATfest to Benefit IOCC
- **February 1, 2014** – Tenafly, NJ
5th Annual St. Anthony/
Cathedral of St. John Wine Tasting
- **February 13, 2014** – Pittsburgh, PA
Cigar and Whiskey Tasting
- **February 22, 2014** – Denver, CO
IOCC Awareness Dinner



iocc.org/souperbowl
Sunday, Feb. 2, 2014



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

Preserving Our Orthodox Faith

Winter 2014



Displaced Syrian children who have missed school due to the ongoing civil war attend a remedial class provided by IOCC and church partner, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East. Photo: IOCC

Unfortunately, for many Orthodox Christians, knowledge of their faith is limited to what they learned in Sunday school. This is especially true when it comes to Holy Scripture. Our devoted teachers do a tremendous job, however, they have no choice but to bring down the level of biblical stories to what a child can comprehend. The problem is that few of our people continue to study Holy Scripture and their faith as grown-ups.

As most Russian émigrés, my parents closely followed everything that developed in the Soviet Union, and I was privy to what was discussed at home. I remember that I was always intrigued by the faith of the Russian people, living in an atheistic state. They had no church schools, religious literature was almost impossible to obtain, and yet Orthodoxy was not only alive, but these people knew their faith. What was the source of this knowledge?

It was only at Holy Trinity Seminary, when our rector, the late Archbishop Averky, once stated in class that our divine services contain everything we need to know about Orthodoxy, that I understood what "schools" the faithful of the Soviet Union attended. In communist Russia many churches were closed or destroyed, but in those few that remained, divine services were conducted zealously and diligently, often for hours. These services were the source of knowledge about Orthodoxy.

Our services tell us the entire history of our salvation, taken both from the Old and New Testaments. The forefathers, the great leaders of the chosen people, the prophets, events of the New Testament from the Nativity of St. John the Baptist to our Lord's Ascension, the apostles and their missionary work, all come alive and pass before us in our minds. And how much is opened to us in the hymns and canons of the church. Everything is there: dogmatic theology, moral theology, comparative theology, patristics, the history of the Holy Church, the lives of saints...

We all are concerned how best to preserve our precious Orthodox faith, being surrounded by an ever more secularized world, and to pass it on to the next generation. What better way is there than through our divine services, performing them the way they were written, and in the way they were meant to be served. Yes, living in America we sometimes have no choice and must make sacrifices. This can mean shortening our services. However, in doing so, let us be careful and not go too far. Let us not throw out the proverbial child with the bath water. If we lose the beauty and deep spiritual meaning of our services, we will lose our "schools", and the next generation could become "Protestants of the Eastern-Rite."

+Bishop Peter of Cleveland
Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

Fathers: Please display the inside poster in your parish

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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

From the clergy of the IOCC Board of Directors:

His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae, Very Rev. Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky, Rev. Fr. Luke Palumbis, Very Reverend Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou

Since 2003, IOCC has worked to improve the lives of Ethiopia's families.

Your support makes it possible for IOCC to improve access to food, water, education and job opportunities for Ethiopia's most vulnerable, as well as initiate health programs to combat the country's HIV/AIDS and podoconiosis epidemics.



HIV/AIDS Prevention

IOCC is helping to protect mothers and infants from an epidemic that has orphaned 900,000 Ethiopian children by educating pregnant women about the importance of getting tested for HIV and preventing transmission of the life-threatening virus to their unborn children.



Empowering Ethiopia's Disabled

With ready access to wheelchair assembly parts and job training for production workers and wheelchair recipients, the lives of more than 18,000 people will be uplifted by the positive impact of this effort to restore movement and hope to the lives of Ethiopia's disabled.

Podoconiosis Prevention and Treatment

Since 2009, IOCC has been providing shoes, treatment and foot care supplies to Ethiopians suffering with podoconiosis, a crippling but reversible condition that afflicts more than one million Ethiopians and threatens 11 million more.



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

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