

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK



GREECE: These young wards of a Church-run orphanage in northern Greece stayed warm this winter with the help of heating oil provided by IOCC. Support for the emergency distribution of heating fuel to 35 social institutions across 15 prefectures in northern Greece was made possible through the generous support of The Jaharis Family Foundation, Inc., which has pledged to match up to \$1 million in contributions to IOCC for its efforts to address hunger and poverty in Greece. Learn more at iocc.org/Greece.



SYRIA RESPONSE: Lebanese women cook side by side with Syrian refugee women to prepare lentil soup that will feed 240 Syrian refugee families living in the Akkar district of northern Lebanon. Most of the refugee families receiving the delivered hot meals do not have kitchens needed to cook. IOCC created the community kitchen as part of its ongoing efforts to stave off the threat of malnutrition among refugee families. Here's how you can help: iocc.org/Syria.

IOCC EVENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **May 4, 2014 – Rochester, MN**
YOUR FAITH IN ACTION –
A Special Presentation
Holy Anargyroi
Greek Orthodox Church
- **May 5, 2014 – Cleveland, OH**
22nd Annual IOCC Benefit
Ss. Constantine and Helen
Greek Orthodox Church

HYGIENE KITS NEEDED

The need for hygiene kits is great for vulnerable families in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Cameroon. Find easy assembly instructions at www.iocc.org/kits.



Fathers: Please display the inside poster in your parish



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

Preserving Our Orthodox Faith

Spring 2014

DIALOGUE AND CHARITY

Throughout my ministry, I have been very active in ecumenical and interfaith dialogues. I always recall, in such encounters, the icon of the *Hospitality of Abraham*, when the patriarch greeted three strangers at the Oak of Mamre (*Genesis 18*), who through their actions and words revealed the Divine will. In Orthodox tradition this is seen as a “foreshadowing” of the Holy Trinity. Yet it all started with a meal, with a willingness of Abraham to open his household to the strangers, to feed them and to extend to them his hospitality.

It is no coincidence that the most important biblical dialogues, the movement and encounter “by word,” often occur in the context of a meal. From the depths of human history, the sharing of a meal has always carried more significance than we often realize. It is an activity in itself carried on under the dialogue of words. It is a shared experience that magnifies and deepens the conversation. In sharing in the action of eating, most basic to our survival, it is a sharing of life itself.

We do live in troubled times, and the necessary dialogue to restore social justice, to achieve peace among enemies, and to bring healing to our world requires an honest conversation that cannot avoid the unpleasant realities facing our sisters and brothers who are *hungry*: literally for food, or for



Working in cooperation with the Holy Orthodox Metropolis of Cameroon, IOCC is helping to improve education for Cameroon's school-aged children with the distribution of textbooks and school kits filled with notebooks, pencils and rulers.

security, or for peace, or for justice, or for unity in faith. For the Orthodox Christian, doctrine and dogma are not theoretical principles, but the expressions of our experience of revelation and relationship with our God, who is our life. Religious dialogue—for the restoration of Christian unity or for interfaith understanding—is not separate from our charitable endeavors. In fact, it is simply another of our charitable tasks, for it is a task of love.

*Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

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

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IOCC Building Resilient Communities in Kosovo

Fifteen years after NATO bombings and ensuing conflicts in Kosovo, poverty and isolation continue to challenge thousands of families returning to their homes. Your support helps these vulnerable families grow more productive farms, create a better learning environment for their children, and improve their quality of life.



Visoki Dečani Monastery

Upgrading Access to Water

Working with the Serbian Orthodox Church Diocese of Raška and Prizren, and Visoki Dečani Monastery, IOCC is responding with the digging of new wells to improve access to clean water for families living in remote rural areas in Kosovo.



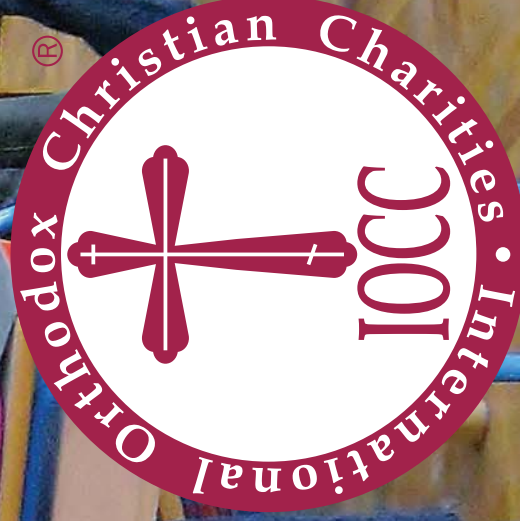
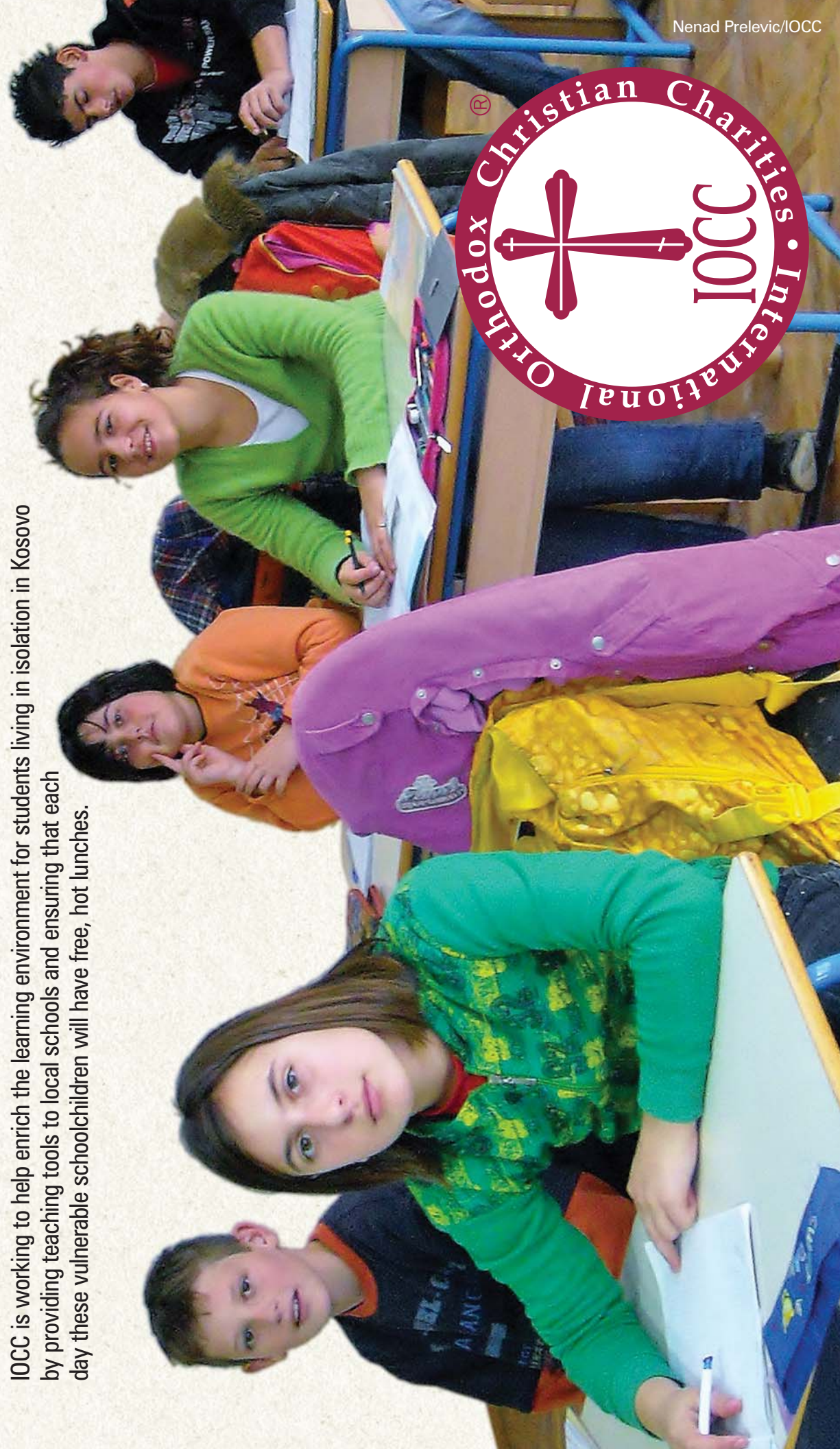
Nenad Prelevic/IOCC

Making Farms More Productive

IOCC is helping local villagers establish a greenhouse production business that will allow farmers to extend their growing season and reap more income to support their families and their communities.

Improving Access to Schools

IOCC is working to help enrich the learning environment for students living in isolation in Kosovo by providing teaching tools to local schools and ensuring that each day these vulnerable schoolchildren will have free, hot lunches.



Nenad Prelevic/IOCC

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

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