

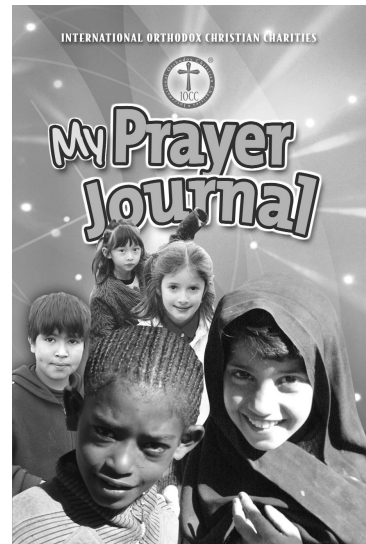
Workplace giving encouraged

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 designate IOCC as their charity of choice, to help families in need around the world. 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.

Camera-ready artwork suitable for use in your Sunday bulletins and newsletters is available for downloading at www.iocc.org/art or by calling IOCC toll-free at 1-877-803-4622.

New prayer journal available



Just in time for the new church year, IOCC is publishing the second edition of its popular children's prayer journal. The 32-page book features some new countries where IOCC is working, plus Orthodox daily prayers, fun facts, and quotes from the Bible, the Church Fathers and the Divine Liturgy. To order the prayer journal in bulk, please call the Department of Religious Education of the Greek Orthodox

Archdiocese of America toll-free at 1-800-566-1088. The book is free, but shipping charges may apply.

Sign up for regular updates

Did you know that you can receive IOCC news delivered to you via e-mail? Staying current about IOCC programs and volunteer opportunities has never been easier. Just go online at http://www.iocc.org/giving/webupdates_enews.shtml, fill in your e-mail address and click on the list(s) of your choice — volunteer and/or electronic news. Those on the volunteer news list receive monthly ideas for awareness-raising activities at the parish level. Electronic news updates go out whenever IOCC issues a press release — an average of once a week.

Upcoming events scheduled

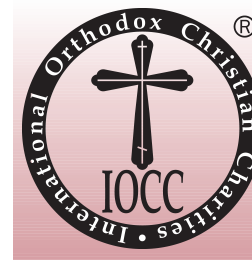
The following events are being sponsored in the next few months by local Metropolitan Committees in support of IOCC's work. See details at www.iocc.org/events about these and other events.

- **PITTSBURGH, PA**
John G. Rangos IOCC Golf Scramble and Dinner, Sept. 25, at Lindenwood Golf Club, McMurray, PA
- **PHOENIX, AZ**
Wine & Cheese event, 6:30 p.m. Sept. 25, St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
- **BROOKLINE, MA**
"Visions of the East: The Sacred Music and Art of the Orthodox Church," silent auction, concert and reception, 7 p.m. Oct. 2, Maliotis Center, Hellenic College
- **BRIDGEPORT, CT**
Annual banquet of the Fellowship of Orthodox Churches of Connecticut, Oct. 3. All proceeds to benefit IOCC
- **AKRON, OH**
Annual banquet, Oct. 10, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
- **BALTIMORE, MD**
"Wine Around the World," Oct. 14, Bin 604 Wine Cellar
- **ORANGE COUNTY, CA**
Annual banquet, Nov. 7
- **SAN FRANCISCO, CA**
12th annual "Remembering Home" banquet and silent auction, Nov. 14. Keynote speaker: Fr. Irinej Dobrijevic.

A tax-deduction for you... A hot meal for him.
DONATE YOUR CAR!
Help hungry and hurting people around the world by donating your used car to International Orthodox Christian Charities.



International Orthodox Christian Charities
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INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

VOLUME 5, NO. 3 FALL 2004

'I will not leave you as orphans'

These days, as we enter into the Ecclesiastical New Year, we are challenged in celebrating the words of Christ who said of Himself: *Behold, I make all things new (Rev. 21:5)*. Rejoicing in the newness of life, we are summoned to call to remembrance those who are destitute and forgotten, the orphaned of the world. Can we rise to the occasion of this sacred task?

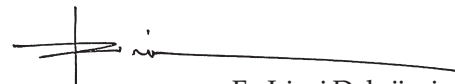
If anything can be said of the mission of IOCC, it is that IOCC serves the world's forgotten people — the poor, the displaced, the disabled, the orphaned, the widowed and the elderly. According to one dictionary definition, to "forget" is to fail to become aware at the proper moment, *kairos*. In considering the work of IOCC over the past 12 years, I can think of many times that IOCC has been able to bring help at just the proper moment, when all hope seemed lost.

I have been involved with IOCC since its inception. I also have the privilege of serving on its Board of Directors, and I've traveled abroad to witness and work in its humanitarian programs. Now that I've relocated to Belgrade to serve under His Holiness Patriarch Pavle as a Consultant to the Holy Synod of Bishops on International and Interchurch Affairs, I understand even more the importance of IOCC's mission in places, especially in traditional Orthodox lands, that appear forgotten by the world.

Our Lord set the example by ministering to those who had been forgotten, and he calls us to do the same: *Whatever you have done for the least of these, you have done for me (Matt. 25:40)*. In Kosovo, where the widespread destruction of lives and property in the March pogrom was met by a collective shrug in the West, IOCC has been serving those forgotten and abandoned in the presence of the International Community.

In Serbia and Montenegro, host to Europe's largest refugee community (approximately 550,000), IOCC is bringing new hope and opportunity to these forgotten refugees. Since 1999, IOCC and its partners have helped more than 2,100 expelled families return to their pre-war homes in Bosnia-Herzegovina. That work continues.

Elsewhere — in Iraq, Ethiopia, Sudan and beyond — IOCC is answering Christ's call to serve the neighbor. As in the parable of the Good Samaritan, our neighbor is, more often than not, the dispossessed and forgotten of the earth. May we all rise to that challenge of offering one and all the newness of life in Christ's holy embrace, where no one is forgotten.


Fr. Irinej Dobrijevic

IOCC work expanding in Africa

A campaign of ethnic cleansing against the natives of Darfur, Sudan, has displaced more than 1 million people and left hundreds of villages destroyed or damaged.

IOCC, through its longtime partner Norwegian Church Aid, is responding with distributions of temporary shelters, water, toilets, public health messages and supplementary food. Cold temperatures, the rainy season and locusts pose a threat to the emergency relief efforts.

In neighboring Ethiopia, IOCC is training people in agricultural skills that will make them more self-sufficient and less dependent on humanitarian aid. An HIV/AIDS education campaign, led by IOCC and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, also is moving forward.

To support either effort, send checks to IOCC, P.O. Box 630225, Baltimore, MD 21263-0225, donate online at www.iocc.org, or call toll-free 1-877-803-4622.

Church bombing victims get help

Christians in Iraq were left reeling by the August 1 car bomb attacks on their communities. The attacks in Baghdad and Mosul left 11 people dead and were the first of that scale since the Iraq war began. Several of the damaged churches in Baghdad are part of an ecumenical network of IOCC partners that has been distributing food and hygiene kits to Iraqis in need over the past year.

In the days after the attacks, IOCC staff met with victims and their families and interviewed the affected priests and bishops. Following a needs-assessment, IOCC began distributions of emergency relief supplies to the victims, depending on their needs. The supplies included food parcels, hygiene kits and other forms of assistance.

Christians, including Orthodox, constitute about 3 percent of the population in Iraq. All of IOCC's assistance is delivered solely on the basis of need. To support this effort, send checks to IOCC, "Middle East Crisis," P.O. Box 630225, Baltimore, MD 21263-0225, donate online at www.iocc.org, or call toll-free 1-877-803-4622.

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

from the Church Relations Committee of the IOCC Board of Directors
Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky, Chairman, Rev. Irinej Dobrijevic, Very Rev. Michael Ellias
Very Rev. Robert S. Kondratick, Rev. Nicholas C. Triantafilou

"Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream." Amos 5:24

IOCC PROGRAMS COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

A Q U I C K O V E R V I E W - S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 4

THE FOLLOWING ARE SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS FROM AMONG IOCC'S PROJECTS. PLEASE POST IN YOUR PARISH

Bosnia and Herzegovina

As part of its work in Bosnia-Herzegovina, IOCC supports numerous social service organizations that help Bosnians in need. Youth House, an IOCC partner since 1999, implements many projects in the war-torn county of Sanski Most in northwest Bosnia. Among them is a youth-led service for pad-printing and applications on linen, which allows young people to design and develop their own T-shirts, caps, flags and other items for their own use or to sell as souvenirs.

Ethiopia

In northern Ethiopia, IOCC is training people in agricultural skills that will make them more self-sufficient and less dependent on humanitarian aid. Already under way are projects involving micro-irrigation, roof water supply, bee keeping, rain-fed agriculture and deep-well construction. Most of the land is being provided by Ethiopian Orthodox monasteries. Also, throughout the country, an HIV/AIDS education campaign, administered by IOCC and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, is moving forward.

Iraq

The broken stained glass has been swept up, the structural damage is being repaired, but the Christian community of Iraq is still reeling from the August 1 car bomb attacks on their churches. Several of the damaged churches in Baghdad are part of an ecumenical network of IOCC partners that has been distributing food and hygiene kits to Iraqis in need over the past year. Victims of the recent attacks will receive food parcels, hygiene kits and other forms of assistance from IOCC, depending on their needs.

Jerusalem/West Bank

For a growing number of women in the Holy Land, honey production is becoming a source of income, nutrition and collective action. IOCC began training women in the West Bank in bee keeping in 2002. Now that training is being expanded to 16 new villages in partnership with the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation. "I don't want to live on charity. Give me training and bees, and my life will be as sweet as honey," said one of the trainees, a woman from Jenin.

Republic of Georgia

There was a time when Lali and her husband, Vasil, couldn't even afford the bus fare to church. That was before the couple expanded their blacksmith shop with the help of an IOCC small-business loan. With the money, the couple moved their business to a better location and soon saw an increase in their customer traffic. After paying back the loan, they applied for another loan and were approved. A third loan of \$2,000 made it possible for them to purchase more equipment and grow their business, giving greater economic security to themselves and their employees.

Romania

At recent meetings in Detroit and Chicago, Romanian-Americans reaffirmed their support for the humanitarian work of IOCC in Romania. U.S.-based Romanian hierarchs Archbishop Nicolae and Archbishop Nathaniel committed their respective communities to raising \$50,000 toward new initiatives planned by IOCC in Romania, including a proposal to work with the Romanian Orthodox Church on the problems of HIV/AIDS, alcoholism, human trafficking and family violence.

Russian Federation

The Ostashkov Social Rehabilitation Youth Center shelters more than 100 homeless children, children with special needs, and children from dysfunctional families. Recently, the center's children received bed linens, clothes, shoes and other forms of assistance from IOCC. The distribution makes it possible for the center and institutions like it to devote their meager resources to other aspects of the children's care.

Serbia and Montenegro

This spring, the Vlade Divac Group Seven Children's Foundation and IOCC initiated the "Connected Kids" project to promote computer literacy, foster inter-ethnic understanding and create opportunities for adult continuing education. Computer centers are being established in 17 rural and suburban schools — nine in Serbia and eight in Bosnia — to provide basic computer training and classroom support to hundreds of teachers and students and to connect youth across Serbia and Bosnia.

Sudan

More than 1 million people have been displaced from their homes, and more than 200,000 have fled across the border into Chad as a result of fighting between rebel groups, the Janjaweed militia and Sudanese government forces. Through its partner, IOCC is bringing emergency relief to those displaced by the violent raids in the western Darfur region of Sudan. So far, the assistance includes shelter, water, toilets, public health messages and supplementary food distributed in refugee camps and host communities.

Syria

Christians and Muslims have been coexisting in the Middle East for centuries. In Sydnaya, Syria, IOCC is supporting a new initiative by the Patriarchate of Antioch to foster dialogue between Christians and non-Christians. The new educational and social center at St. Christophoros Monastery hosts training workshops, ecumenical meetings and other activities that promote tolerance, peace and human rights.

