

Kits for Kids!

SEND NEEDY CHILDREN BACK TO SCHOOL WITH SUPPLIES TODAY!

Looking for a great back-to-school service project that will provide kids around the world with supplies that they desperately need?

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) is challenging its supporters to assemble 10,000 school kits by Fall 2010 as part of its "Kits for Kids" campaign. Complete instructions for assembling an IOCC School Kit can be accessed at iocc.org/schoolkits.



"God sells his righteousness at a very low price ... a little piece of bread, a cloak of no value, and a cold cup of water." — St. Epiphanius of Cyprus

IOCC Upcoming Events

More details at www.iocc.org/events.

- WASHINGTON, DC – 10/1/10
Wine Tasting at Serbian Embassy
- CHICAGO, IL – 10/2/10
5K Run/Walk
- VIRGINIA BEACH, VA – 10/5/10
Golf Tournament
- PERTH AMBOY, NJ – 10/8/10
IOCC Banquet
- BALTIMORE, MD – 10/9/10
5k Walk
- CHARLOTTE, NC – 10/16/10
Annual Banquet
- DETROIT, MI – 10/17/10
IOCC Concert
- SEATTLE, WA – 10/17/10
IOCC Banquet
- CLEVELAND, OH – 10/23/10
Fashion Show
- PITTSFIELD, MA – 11/6/10
IOCC Dinner
- WASHINGTON, DC – 11/7/10
Annual Banquet
- PITTSBURGH, PA – 11/13/10
Pre-Advent Ball
- MINNEAPOLIS, MN – 11/13/10
Annual Banquet
- KANSAS CITY, MO – 11/13/10
IOCC Dinner
- L.A./ORANGE CO., CA – 11/13/10
2nd SoCal Step Up
- ST LOUIS, MI – 11/14/10
Annual Banquet
- SAN FRANCISCO, CA – 11/14/10
Remembering Home Dinner



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

VOLUME 11, NO. 3 FALL 2010

*"He who would follow me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.
For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?" – Mark 8:34-35*

Dear Brothers:

As we enter the new ecclesiastical year, the Church, in her wisdom, immediately sets the cross before us. It is the ultimate symbol of God's active love for us and ushers in the New Year within that context. But it also puts to us the question, "how do we respond to that Love?"

On the one hand, the cross is God's greatest sign of His love for us – for all humanity. With God, all things are possible. With His Love, hatred is overcome. With His forgiveness we are healed. With His resurrection we are lifted up to eternal life.

But for a moment, visualize the cross as an intersection of different roads. We are driving along on the road of life and then we come to this intersection: this point of decision. We can go left, right, or straight. Our decision should be guided by our final destination.

Too often, we are self-centered and therefore selfish. Every road we take, every decision we make is simply about **me** and making **me** happy. Remember the adage of the "me" generation, "if it feels good, do it." But, Christ says, "*deny yourself...and follow me.*"

Too often we are primarily concerned about our image and profile in the world. We travel a road of consumerism and consumption, power and prestige that, in our minds, wins us the world and the applause of our peers. But, Christ's question brings us back to

reality: "*For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?*"

Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Christ is also our final destination. When we live our life **in service to Him** (whom we love with all our heart, mind, strength and soul) and our neighbor (who is our brother and our sister) then we don't lose our soul. On the contrary, we gain eternity.

We have been called to serve, co-ministers with each other, in the Ministry of Christ. Your self-denial – your **sacrifice** – bring **positive** results to those whom you serve. Thank you for your service to the least of your brethren, at home and abroad, through the work of IOCC. Inside this edition of Priest to Priest you will once again come face-to-face with people, this time in the Holy Land, whose lives your service changes. When we respond to His love by taking up our own cross and following Him, we save our souls and we enrich and add to their lives.

Please re-commit, this ecclesiastical New Year, to join us in this common work of the cross. May you be strengthened in your self-less service, and protected by the power of His cross.



With Brotherly Affection,

Leonid Kishkovsky
Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky

FATHERS: PLEASE DISPLAY THE INSIDE POSTER IN YOUR PARISH

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, Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Baltimore, Maryland 21204 • USA

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

110 West Road
Suite 360



Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Baltimore, MD
Permit No. 4280



REMOVING THE BARRIERS *to a* BETTER LIFE

In an isolated corner of the West Bank, many families are unable to access their farm lands. With no way to cultivate their lands and few resources to provide food for their families, your support is making a critical difference.



IOCC's innovative agricultural program in the West Bank is giving hope and a sustainable source of nutrition to villagers in the regions of Qalqiliya and Nablus. (above left) Women of Qalqiliya and Nablus learn to keep bees, produce honey and market their final product. IOCC provides the participants with the tools, seeds, and training to get them started. The project provides a sustainable source of income for women and their families. (above right) Over the years, IOCC has renovated crumbling West Bank schools and constructed new community centers. Recently, IOCC provided support for the Four Homes of Mercy, a residential facility for the physically and developmentally disabled, to care for 90 patients. Additionally, IOCC repaired and renovated the Bethany Orthodox School for Girls and the Beit Jala Municipal Sports Field. The work not only helped improve the educational and recreational environment for children in the West Bank, but also provided more than 2,000 days of paid work for men and women in a region with unemployment near 20%. (below) A West Bank mother shows the fruit of her efforts. IOCC is helping 180 such families to establish home vegetable gardens that provide up to 30% of their food needs. Excess produce can be sold in markets for extra income.

Through IOCC, your support is helping families in the West Bank by providing:

- Home gardens equipped with tools, seeds & training that provide a stable source of nutrition for families.
- Training in beekeeping, agricultural production and animal husbandry that provide a stable source of food for families.
- Improvement of schools, health clinics and community centers that provides safety for children and employment opportunities for adults.
- Civic education and training in health and environmental education especially designed for women.
- Emergency relief assistance for vulnerable communities.



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

HEADQUARTERS: 110 WEST ROAD, SUITE 360 • BALTIMORE, MD 21204 USA
Tel: (410) 243-9820 • Toll Free: 1-877-803-IOCC (4622) • E-mail: relief@iocc.org • Online: www.iocc.org