

YOUR PARISH CAN SUPPORT IOCC

1. Make IOCC a line item on your church budget. Go to www.iocc.org/aboutiocc
2. Invite an IOCC representative to speak to your Church. Contact Dan Christopoulos at 1-877-803-IOCC (4622) or dchristopoulos@iocc.org.
3. Sign up for IOCC's Email Alerts. Go to www.iocc.org/updates.

EMERGENCY KITS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED



In preparation of Lent, please encourage your parish youth group to help families in need by assembling IOCC Emergency Kits. Instructions and details are available online at www.iocc.org/kits.

Health Kits & Baby Kits are desperately needed.

IOCC Upcoming Events

More details at www.iocc.org/events.

- **HOUSTON, TX**
Feb. 8, 2009 – Annual Dinner, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
- **CENTRAL NEW JERSEY, NJ**
Feb. 21, 2009 – Mardis Gras Dinner Dance, St. Stephen the Protomartyr Antiochian Hall
- **PORTLAND, OR**
March 8, 2009 – Sunday of Orthodoxy, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
- **WASHINGTON, DC**
March 15, 2009 – Russian and Serbian Concert, St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral
- **ATLANTA, GA**
May 2, 2009 – 9th Annual Run/Walk, Century Center Plaza Office Park
- **DENVER, CO**
May 9, 2009 – 1st Annual Dinner, St. Katherine GOC
- **CLEVELAND, OH**
May 11, 2009 – 17th IOCC Annual Banquet, St. Constantine and Helen Church
- **CHICAGO, IL**
May 14, 2009 – 16th Annual Dinner, Rosewood Restaurant and Banquets

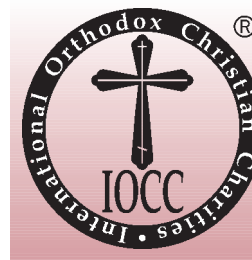
“All my desire is to learn humility and the love of Christ, that I may offend no man but pray for all as I pray for myself.” — *St. Silouan the Athonite*



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INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

VOLUME 10, NO. 1 SPRING 2009

“Let us flee from the boasting of the Pharisee and learn through our own sighs of sorrow the humility of the Publican.” – Kontakion in the Fourth Tone

Dear Brothers in Christ,

With bombs dropping everyday, a young child in Gaza joins thousands of displaced people in their daily fight to survive; to find something to eat. Hearing the child's sighs of sorrow, God leads him to an IOCC distribution point in the Jabalian refugee camp. Seeing the crowds gathered he gets in line to see what everyone is waiting for and when it is his turn, he is given a sack of nourishing, fortified biscuits. Though uncertainty and fear lurk around every corner, God provided this young boy with hope for another day through the aid of IOCC.

Representing the Orthodox faith to a suffering world, IOCC has boldly offered assistance, sometimes under the harshest of circumstances, to those who have lost much. Through your support and love, IOCC impacts the lives of suffering people on a daily basis. As we approach Great Lent, we must prepare ourselves for the spiritual struggles of virtue. Our Church Fathers teach us that humility and service will bring virtue while pride is the greatest hinderance to achieving our goals. To focus on obtaining virtue, the Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a time to gird ourselves with the faith, prayer and service to others that will see us to a victorious Pascha.

We invite you to join IOCC in some hands-on projects in service to those who are suffering around the world and here in our own country. Come and lead a team to the Gulf Coast this Lent where you can help rebuild homes that were destroyed by devastating hurricanes. If you can't go yourself, support your parishioners in gathering a team to travel to Louisiana for one week. This is an especially valuable experience for your older youths and young adults. *More details are inside this issue.*

This issue of Priest to Priest also highlights IOCC's work in Gaza, Zimbabwe, and Greece. The emergency response in Gaza and Zimbabwe are absolutely vital in providing people with hope for a better future. Now armed with a grant from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, IOCC is able to provide a two month supply of feed for up to 80,000 animals, benefiting 1,000 farming families whose lands were completely destroyed by the fires of 2007.

During this Lenten period I pray that we can flee from the bombs of pride and seek shelter under the wings of humility. I believe the stories we read about suffering people around the world exemplify the heights of humility. Through IOCC we can join in their humility and aid in the struggle to survive.

Your Brother in Christ,

Fr. Michael Rosco

(The Very Rev.) Michael Rosco



FATHERS: PLEASE POST THE INSIDE POSTER IN YOUR CHURCH HALL

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

from the Church Relations Committee of the IOCC Board of Directors: Fr. Michael Elias, Chairman; Dr. Lila Kalinich; Anne Glynn Mackoul; George Marcus; Fr. Luke Palumbis; Fr. Nick Triantafilou; Gayle Woloschak

★ GAZA

IOCC is providing fortified biscuits and milk for about 23,000 children in Gaza. IOCC delivered these supplies to the southern areas of Khan Yunis and Rafah. The conflict displaced more than 20,000 people from their homes in the first two weeks of fighting. IOCC will also provide a shipment of quilts to Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City. East Jerusalem YMCA, a long time partner, will assist in delivering IOCC supplies. While news agencies are reporting that forces have agreed to suspend fighting for three hours each day to allow humanitarian aid to enter the Gaza Strip, it still remains dangerous to move supplies.

IOCC has been working in cooperation with Action by Churches Together (ACT) member agencies to coordinate a response to the current crisis. Since 1997, IOCC has implemented a variety of educational, employment and school repair programs in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.



★ GREECE

IOCC has announced a new program that will help farmers in Greece's Peloponnese region to significantly increase their production yield. Through a \$1.3 million grant from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and support from the Pancretan associaton, IOCC will construct a soil lab in the Peloponnese to help farmers analyze the condition of their soil and water in order to determine what crops to cultivate and what kinds of fertilizers to use.

This latest grant from the Archdiocese will also provide a two month supply of feed for up to 80,000 animals, benefiting 1,000 farming families whose lands were completely destroyed by the fires of 2007. "We are grateful to the Almighty for the devoted faithful of our Archdiocese of America whose magnanimous generosity enabled us to respond in such a substantial way from the onset of this catastrophe," said His Eminence Archbishop DEMETRIOS of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.



★ ZIMBABWE

IOCC is responding to the rapidly deteriorating public health crisis in Zimbabwe which threatens to become a catastrophe unless urgently needed medicines and supplies are rushed to the growing numbers of victims. Over 16,000 people have already been stricken and over 1,000 have died since last August. Health experts are warning that half of the country's population of 12 million is at risk.

IOCC sent eight complete medical kits, valued at over \$380,000 and approved by the World Health Organization (WHO), for the treatment of approximately 5,600 patients. While the bulk of these supplies will be targeted to the outlying areas where the need is greatest, IOCC will also supply its partner in Harare that can treat victims in the capital.



★ U.S.A.

The US Program of IOCC will continue its recovery efforts in the Gulf Coast in 2009. The *Volunteer in the Gulf* project will begin weekly visits from March 8 through July 26. Team sizes range from 10 to 20 volunteers from all over the country and will work for a full week alongside the professional staff of Habitat for Humanity.



The total cost per team member, including transportation, room, and board is \$500 due one month prior to departure. For more information on this program, contact Pascalis Papouras at ppapouras@iocc.org.



IOCC®

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