



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST *to* PRIEST

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Ministry Tools for the Parish Priest

With the support and cooperation of the priests in our parishes throughout the United States, IOCC's mission is being brought to the attention of our people. Through sermons, Church bulletins and newsletters, Bible studies and religious seminars, gatherings with the young and old and in many other ways, you unceasingly teach the Gospel message of Salvation in Christ. The mission and work of IOCC is a critical manifestation of the Gospel message and, as such, it is intended to be supportive of your ministry. IOCC's Board, staff, volunteers and beneficiaries thank you for the enormous help you have provided.

Soon you will receive a special "Ministry Tools" package. The purpose of these materials is to help you communicate the message of philanthropy to the faithful in your parish. We hope that these resources will be useful in your mission to convey the Church's message of love for all people as taught by the Lord. The "Ministry Tools" package includes:

- A new IOCC video, **Expressions of Hope**, which illustrates how the compassion of our people toward children and families in need can change the expressions on their faces from despair to hope. Please use it widely in your parish.
- The **2000 annual report** provides valuable data about IOCC's continued success.
- An assortment of **bulletin art**. Please use it to enhance an article you might include in your parish bulletin or newsletter; perhaps you will choose to use it in a special mailing or in a handout following a sermon on philanthropy and the work of IOCC; or, you can enlarge it for posting on your bulletin board.

As you can imagine, your use of these materials will ultimately bear fruit in the response of your people to IOCC's appeals for assistance. For this I thank you and embrace you in the Lord.

Fr. Jim Kyriakakis, *Director of Development*

IOCC Honors Internship Program

Made possible by a grant from the Virginia H. Farah Foundation, the IOCC Honors Internship Program provides college students and recent graduates with educational and practical exposure to the areas of nonprofit management and humanitarian aid in an Orthodox setting. Serving 3-month or 12-month internships, young people become part of IOCC's direct humanitarian work with people in need throughout the world. An intern learns first hand of demoralizing human conditions and plays an important part in the effort to restore hope in the lives of victims of war, natural disasters and depressed economies. Three recent interns are now IOCC staff members in our international programs. We look to the Internship Program as a viable source of future qualified staff for IOCC and, therefore, seek to increase its effectiveness.

As spiritual leaders across America, you can help with this effort. First, you can bring the Honors Internship Program to the attention of your college youth and suggest that they apply. Have them call or write us for an application form. Secondly, you can be the key in obtaining a scholarship for a qualified student to become an IOCC intern. Perhaps the parish, the parish's Philoptochos or other ladies' auxiliary, or a local federation or organization of Orthodox people, would be interested in sponsoring a youth of the parish.

A copy of the Internship brochure will be included in the "Ministry Tools" package to be mailed shortly. Information can also be viewed on our website at www.iocc.org.

We have designed comprehensive plans for funding and marketing the IOCC Honors Internship Program and will begin those efforts in earnest very shortly. However, it is you, the priests of our local parishes, who can best help us recruit outstanding candidates for internships and who can provide needed financial assistance at the parish level for the program.

Should you have questions about this program or would like to discuss a particular youth in your parish who might be interested, please feel free to call me toll free at 877-803-4622.

IOCC Refugee Resettlement Continues

Following the armed conflicts in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, first in Bosnia in the early 1990's and later in Kosovo, IOCC has been continuously present providing relief and hope to the thousands of people left homeless and destitute. The commitment of the Board and staff of IOCC remains resolute, to do everything possible to resettle the refugees and return those left internally displaced to their homes.

Notification was received very recently that two IOCC grant proposals to the U.S. Department of State have been approved for: **1. Refugee return facilitation in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, \$740,000 for one year, to conduct shelter activities and to provide agriculture grants for returnee families. **2. Training, Support and Social Services in Serbia**, \$1,100,000 for one year, to provide information to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in Serbia regarding opportunities for voluntary repatriation and reintegration and to provide health and social services to the most vulnerable in Kosovo and Serbia through IOCC's network of local non-governmental organizations.

In a climate of limited funding for international humanitarian aid, these awards are **indications of trust and confidence** in the ability of IOCC. The support of our people across America, leveraged against available public funding, allows IOCC to expand its mission to new countries around the world and bring help to thousands of additional people in need. Please convey our gratitude to your parishioners for their support.

"This and That"

- Robert Pianka, IOCC's U.S. Program Director, writes: "Greetings from IOCC's new U.S. Program. To complement your efforts to teach the message at the core of Orthodox Philanthropy, we may be able to help your parishioners supply food to the needy and/or teach English-as-a-Second-Language to new immigrants and refugees in your community. Please let us know if you are active, or would like to be active, in these areas. As always, we ask you to guide and strengthen IOCC's Metropolitan Committee in your area so that we may better focus the combined efforts of the Orthodox faithful against poverty and alienation in the United States."
- The IOCC newsletter, *News & Needs*, issued three times a year, is a valuable source of information for you. Projects in different parts of the world, human interest stories, Metropolitan Committee activities — all are covered in *News & Needs*. If you have not been getting a copy, let us know today. This informative publication provides excellent talking points for your sermons on philanthropy and giving.
- As the Church calendar moves past the 50-day period from Pascha to Pentecost, I wish to make a very special request of you, my brothers in Christ. **Please remember IOCC — its beneficiaries, Board members and staff — in your private and liturgical prayers.** In addition to all you do in support of IOCC's mission, your priestly prayers are needed and appreciated.

"The superfluities of the rich are the necessities of the poor." St. John Chrysostom

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