

Archbishop speaks at IOCC dinner

Greek Orthodox Archbishop Demetrios, Chairman of SCOBA, was the principal speaker at a dinner in Baltimore on April 18th marking the 10th Anniversary of IOCC. The event was preceded by a Pan Orthodox vespers service at the Annunciation Cathedral. In an inspiring speech, His Eminence described four conditions afflicting the modern world and how they are addressed by IOCC. "IOCC opened avenues for Orthodox activity where no one imagined we would ever go," he said. In summary, IOCC represents an Orthodox Christian response to a world increasingly filled with insecurity, need, alienation and despair. "We have responded to these challenges. May the Lord lead us into a beautiful, creative and amazing second decade of IOCC," he concluded.

"Race to Respond"

It's been 10 years since that first airlift of food from the Orthodox people of America to the suffering people of Russia. A decade has passed since the establishment of International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) by the spiritual heads of the Orthodox Church jurisdictions (SCOBA) on behalf of their flock.

IOCC's 10th Anniversary is truly a reason for us, the Orthodox people of this country, to pause, reflect and celebrate: More than \$140M in humanitarian aid to hundreds of thousands in need in more than 20 countries.

Help us get the message to your parishioners! A month ago we sent you information about the "Race to Respond" bike trip across America in August to observe IOCC's 10th Anniversary. Please send us the response form that was enclosed. Go to www.racetorespond.org on the Internet for more information. Call or e-mail us. We need your help!

"God ... has created us for a life of good deeds." (Ephesians 2:10)

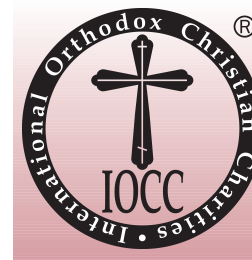
Upcoming IOCC events

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

- Chicago, IL, 8th Annual Pan Orthodox Banquet, June 2.
- Orange County, CA, 2nd Annual Benefit Dinner, June 9.
- Cleveland, OH, 10th Annual Banquet, June 10.
- Long Island, NY, Family Picnic, June 22

"This and That"

- Dan Christopoulos joined IOCC last fall as Development Officer and has been busy visiting parishes to thank them for their support of IOCC and apprise them of current IOCC activities. His major focus, in addition to making the ministry of IOCC better known, is to meet with current and prospective benefactors of IOCC's humanitarian mission. A graduate of Holy Cross School of Theology, he spent 14 years in parish ministry in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, including three as a missionary in East Africa.
- In the West Bank, IOCC is providing emergency relief (food parcels, hygiene items and blankets) to areas most affected by the violence. The work, supported by a grant from the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is being done in cooperation with the Greek Consulate in Jerusalem, the Greek affiliate of Medecins du Monde (Doctors of the World) and the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Go to www.iocc.org for details.



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

VOLUME 3, NO. 2 SUMMER 2002

Counseling service supports priests

The Orthodox Pastoral Emergency-Counseling Network (OPEN) being assembled by IOCC's U.S. Program supports clergymen with survivors of 9-11 victims in their parishes by making available to them volunteers from our communities with relevant training. In this disaster, professional counselors are needed to provide a safety net for people whose suffering may at some point exceed their ability to cope, and social service caseworkers are needed to help us define practical ways the survivors can be assisted. In one case we would like to emulate, when a parish priest learned that a 9-11 victim had gutted his house just prior to the tragedy, he organized his parish to finish the renovations so the family could move in. In the future, when parish priests and volunteers learn of ways to help, they can use OPEN to call on IOCC's staff and the entire Orthodox public. If we are to sustain our commitment over the emotional aftermath of the attacks — a period which will last many years — we will need to work together and in an organized manner, as OPEN encourages us to do.

IOCC staff and volunteer counselors support 17 SCOBA-jurisdiction clergymen and we are working to support nine additional cases. We are extending our assistance to non-SCOBA Coptic Orthodox communities and are working to extend Orthodox philanthropy effectively to the general public.

Keep in mind that OPEN organized assistance for 9-11 victims AND lays the foundation for a national pan-Orthodox emergency response network. The first five of 25 Orthodox clergymen who will serve as the network's "regional coordinators" will train in May. If you would like to attend the Seminars on Trauma Awareness and Recovery, please contact us. (The five-day seminars are being offered in Harrisonburg, VA, each month from May to December, 2002. Most expenses paid.) To join in this pan-Orthodox response, please contact: Robert Pianka, Director, U.S. Program at Rpianka@iocc.org; Fr. David Kossey, NYC Clergy Coordinator at IOCCNT@cs.com; or Rhonda Loucas, NYC Counselor Coordinator at rloucas@spec.net.

Fr. Jim Kyriakakis, Director of Quality Assurance

Moyar elected chairman

During its annual meeting in Baltimore, March 8-9, the IOCC Board of Directors elected Bert Moyar of Cleveland as its new chairman. Mr. Moyar, a prominent lay leader in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and immediate past vice chairman of the Board, succeeds two-term chairman Charles R. Ajalat of Los Angeles. He is president of MEI Hotels Incorporated, a hotel development firm based in Cleveland.

"I am humbled and honored to assume the chairmanship of IOCC," Moyar said. "I will seek to continue our past practice of prudent growth in countries and programs where we can do the most good, while maintaining the highest standards of responsibility to our donors and those we benefit."

Also elected were: Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky, Vice Chairman; Donna Haddad Conopeotis, Recording Secretary; Albert Foundos, Corresponding Secretary; and George M. Marcus, Treasurer. Mr. Ajalat, along with former chairmen Andrew Athens of Chicago and John Rangos of Pittsburgh, were elected Honorary Board Members.

Alert your college students

November 31, 2002 is the deadline for submitting application for a 2003 IOCC three-month internship. We ask priests to discuss our Honors Internship Program with college juniors, seniors and grad students in their parish and encourage them to apply. Details about the program, including a brochure and application form, can be found at www.iocc.org through the link "How Can I Get Involved?"

Four Orthodox young adults are now serving 2002 internships in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia/Herzegovina (two), and the Federal Republic of Georgia. They join earlier interns in gaining first-hand experience in non-profit management and the operation of an international humanitarian aid organization.

The IOCC Honors Internship Program has recently been added to the listing of internship opportunities at a number of colleges and universities, and is also available through the web site www.MonsterTRAK.com. Students applying for an IOCC internship may request academic credit through their respective department or university professor.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES
110 West Road
Suite 360
Baltimore, Maryland 21204 • USA



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

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR CLERGY OF ALL ORTHODOX CHURCH JURISDICTIONS

IOCC PROGRAMS COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

A Q U I C K O V E R V I E W - M A Y 2 0 0 2

What follows are selected highlights from among IOCC's projects in each country.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Since 1997, IOCC has helped rebuild an estimated 500 homes damaged in the 1992-1995 war. That work, enabling refugees to return to their pre-war communities, continues. With support from the U.S. State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration, IOCC's program supplies construction materials and teams of skilled workers to help returning families rebuild their homes - and their lives. The project provides a lasting solution for people who were displaced from their homes for as long as a decade.

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Encouraged by the success of last year's "Healthy Teeth-Beautiful Smile" project, IOCC expanded the dental hygiene campaign to eight schools (with a combined enrollment of more than 9,000 students) throughout Serbia. The project aims to improve both the oral health and the self-esteem of children who have lost hope after years of war. The project is made possible with the support of the Group 7 Vlade Divac Children's Foundation, founded by a group of Serbian professional basketball players. Children receive dental kits (toothbrushes, toothpaste and a zippered case), educational pamphlets and trading cards of their favorite basketball players.

Greece

Through the Greek affiliate of Medecins du Monde (Doctors of the World), IOCC is delivering much-needed medicine and medical supplies to hospitals in the West Bank. The doctors have accompanied IOCC personnel to the troubled areas of Jenin, Nablus and Ramallah in recent weeks, responding to the urgent requests for assistance from hospital officials.

Jerusalem/West Bank

In response to the current crisis in the West Bank, IOCC has been delivering emergency food, medicine and hygiene parcels to Palestinian communities most affected by the violence. IOCC has committed \$270,000 in emergency funds toward the effort, with the support of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Lebanon

School teachers and administrators in Beirut are reporting a change in their students since the start of IOCC's school lunch and education program in October. Children now concentrate better in classes and do better in their lessons thanks to a program that gives them nutritional meals early in the day. Thus, the program encourages underprivileged students to stay in school and offers them the prospect of a better education.

Republic of Georgia

Many public schools in southern and western Georgia are in a state of disrepair. IOCC's infrastructure rehabilitation project provides matching grants and planning assistance to local communities who want to improve their schools. The program also facilitates small-scale rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads, irrigation systems and drinking water systems, thus ensuring the delivery of basic utilities and services to neglected communities.

Romania

IOCC has just received approval for a \$335,000 project that will tackle the problem of child abandonment in Romania. IOCC's program aims to reduce the likelihood of child abandonment and the number of children in institutions in three southwest Romanian counties. With its partner, the Romanian Orthodox Church, IOCC will work to identify and support at-risk families through a variety of community-based services.



Russian Federation

The condition of orphanages in Russia varies from region to region, depending on the local economy and the priorities of the local administration. In the poorer regions only 35 rubles a day (about \$1.20) is allocated per child. This amount must cover salaries, food, medicine and other expenses. IOCC's "Food for Progress" program gets food staples to orphanages, and other institutions, in nine regions in and around Moscow, enabling them to address other pressing needs.

United States of America

Two new classes are being added to IOCC's successful pilot English-as-a-Second-Language project in the Washington D.C. area, in preparation for a national campaign to expand social service and outreach programs on the part of Orthodox parishes.