

2006-2007 IOCC Prayer Journal
available for preorder

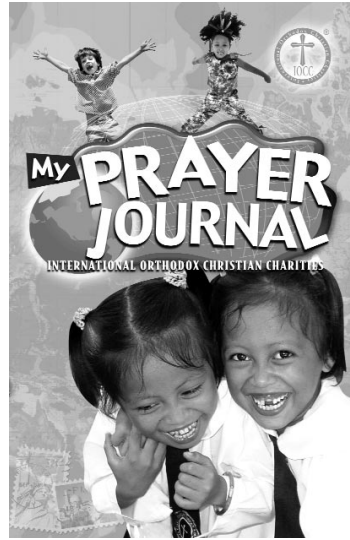
The fourth edition of the IOCC children's prayer journal, a free resource for Orthodox children ages 7-12, will be available in August.

IOCC is pleased to offer a new journal for the 2006-2007 church and school year. To preorder a single copy, please visit www.iocc.org/prayerjournal.

To preorder more than one copy, please contact the Department of Religious Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, which is partnering with IOCC in the distribution of the journal to parishes of all jurisdictions. You may reach the

Department by calling toll-free 1-800-566-1088. The prayer journal is free, but shipping charges may apply.

Thank you for making the IOCC Prayer Journal a success!



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.

- **MAY 20 - SYRACUSE, NY**
IOCC Car-Wash Fundraiser
- **MAY 21 - CHICAGO, IL**
Annual Grand Banquet
- **JUNE 3 - PITTSBURGH, PA**
Annual Golf Scramble
- **JUNE 11 - LOS ANGELES, CA**
Benefit Dinner
- **JUNE (DATE TBD) - CHICAGO, IL**
IOCC 2nd Annual Wine Tasting
- **JULY 17 - BALTIMORE, MD**
Ironbirds Baseball IOCC Fundraiser
- **AUGUST (Date TBD) - DENVER, CO**
Bike/Walk Race

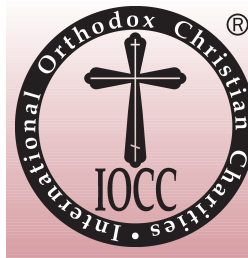
**"Whatever is generously given away becomes the first fruit of the soul.
It therefore becomes the soul's wealth." — St. Clement of Alexandria**

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INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

VOLUME 7, NO. 2 SUMMER 2006

'Feed my lambs...'

Christ is Risen!

As we collectively traveled to the foot of the life-giving cross during our annual Lenten pilgrimage, we were constantly immersed in the theme of spiritual readiness and watchfulness. This theme was brought to a crescendo during the Matins services of Holy Week with the beautiful chanting of the Bridegroom Apolytikion: "Behold the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is the servant whom He finds watching..."

While our spiritual preparedness is of paramount importance, we live in a time and age where forethought and preparedness in our daily living is also valuable. The hurricanes that ravaged our coastal region last fall, the tsunami that struck South Asia, and even the tragedy thrust upon our nation on Sept. 11, 2001, have taught us that preparedness can be life-saving. In this edition of Priest to Priest, our IOCC staff has prepared a useful section on "Emergency Preparedness in the Home." Please post it in your parish and share it with your parishioners.

While physical preparedness might ready us for a potentially life-changing disaster, our spiritual attentiveness prepares us to receive a life-changing person — our Risen Christ. Our Lenten journey does not end at the foot of the cross, or even at the empty tomb. Our annual sojourn culminates in the face-to-face encounter with the Lord. Our encounter with the Resurrected Savior is just like that of the Apostle Peter described in John 21:15, "Simon, son of John, do you love me...Then feed my lambs."

Our love of God is manifest in taking care of our brothers and sisters. As we feed His lambs, clothe our brethren, give drink to the thirsty, and visit the sick and imprisoned, we are loving God. And it is His love that changes our life. This loving *diakonia* is exactly the mandate of IOCC.

Allow the young people in your parish to experience God's love by ordering and using the 4th edition of the IOCC Children's Prayer Journal described in this newsletter. See how your loving response to the hurricanes in our own country has resulted in IOCC delivering nearly \$4 million in assistance to the five-state gulf region. Learn more about the critical work of IOCC by attending with your parishioners one of the IOCC events

in your area over the next months. And if you are able, sign up to be a member of one of this year's two IOCC Study Trips to Serbia and Bosnia in September, or the Holy Land in November. You can see with your own eyes how your active love has changed peoples' lives.

Our Lord came into the world to bring us the opportunity for new life. As people who have been risen with the Lord, we have the opportunity through IOCC to raise up our struggling brothers and sisters to new life and boundless hope. Thank you for joining us in this holy task.

May our Resurrected Savior fill you with His love and envelop you with His peace and compassion.

Rev. Nicholas C. Triantafilou

JOIN US FOR THE 2006 IOCC STUDY TRIPS



Serbia-Montenegro & Bosnia-Herzegovina

September 5 - 13

Jerusalem & the West Bank

November 7 - 14

Learn first-hand how your support makes life changing differences for people in these countries and throughout the world.

Approximate cost — \$2500.00

For more information, contact Dan Christopoulos:
email DChristopoulos@iocc.org • phone 410-243-9820.

www.iocc.org/studytrip

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

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

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IOCC 2005-2006 Hurricane Program Situation Update

IOCC is actively providing assistance to people affected by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

IOCC's hurricane response plan consists of two phases:

- 1) **Phase One Emergency Assistance:** emergency coordination, evacuation, distribution of relief supplies, trauma counseling and various other services as needed.
- 2) **Phase Two Recovery Assistance:** livelihood recovery initiatives, reconstruction assistance, parishioner and community support grants, psycho-social counseling, relocation and return support and various other services as needed.



Phase One activities ran from September 1, 2005 through November 18, 2005 for all three hurricanes and Phase Two activities are scheduled to continue through the end of 2006, or until IOCC fulfills all of its commitments. Emergency and recovery assistance for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma has been provided in five states: Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

IOCC anticipates delivering \$4 million of services at the conclusion of both phases. To date, IOCC has expensed over \$3.3 million in cash, goods and services reaching more than 400,000 people. In addition to working with the Pan-Orthodox parish network, IOCC partnered with Catholic Charities, Catholic Community Services, Second Harvest, Missions of Mercy, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, LaPorte Indiana Hospital, Purlington Mississippi Medical Center and the Waveland Mississippi Medical Center.

Activities implemented by IOCC include:

- The purchase and provision of items including:
 - More than 43 tons of food and water
 - 37,000 personal hygiene kits
 - Cleaning supplies for 3,200 households
 - Household reconstruction and roofing supplies
 - Chainsaws and electric generators
 - 32,000 quilts
 - More than 14,000 school kits for children
 - Prescription and over the counter medicines
 - More than 200,000 doses of multi-vitamins for children and adults
 - Miscellaneous emergency relief items, including food, drinks, shoes, a/c units, refrigerators and tools
- Cash grant programs to parishioners in 27 Orthodox communities.
- Direct support to Orthodox emergency distribution sites at parish and community levels that distributed food, water, cooking appliances, hygiene items and other relief supplies.
- Provision of medicines, medical personnel and facilities for care and treatment of victims including the operation of a mobile medical clinic in New Orleans.
- Psychological trauma counseling, pastoral care and support to Orthodox families affected and displaced by the emergency.
- Psychological trauma counseling for emergency workers, police and firemen in New Orleans.
- Social services, FEMA and insurance claims assistance for Orthodox families.
- Purchase of replacement computer equipment for Orthodox parishes damaged by the hurricane.
- Support of youth rallies and retreats to help Orthodox youth cope with the disaster.
- \$10,000 contribution to the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Appliance Purchase Program.
- \$50,000 in return assistance to Katrina-evacuated families living in Perth Amboy, NJ.



Photo by Michael Rieger-FEMA

IOCC U.S. Emergency Preparedness Guidelines

Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate or cut you off from basic services in your own home. In a large-scale emergency, it might take days until you are reached. Are you prepared?

The following steps can help you plan for an emergency and make sure that you and your family know what to do, how to do it and when to do it.

1. Know which disasters could occur in your community. Learn about these hazards, the risks you face and your community's plans for warning and evacuation. Check with your local emergency management office or the local chapter of the American Red Cross.



2. Develop a family disaster plan. Be prepared to assess the situation and use common sense to take care of yourself and your loved ones. Think about the places your family frequents: school, work, etc. Ask about their emergency/communication plans. If they don't have a plan, help develop one.

Create a communication plan in case your family isn't together when disaster strikes. *Note: It may be easier to make a long-distance phone call than to call across town, so an out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members.*

3. Staying Put or Evacuating? Plan for both possibilities. There are some situations where staying put and creating a barrier between yourself and contaminated air outside, a process known as *sheltering-in-place and sealing the room*, is a matter of survival. Choose an interior room or one with as few windows and doors as possible.

Use available information to assess the situation. If you see debris in the air, or if local authorities say the air is contaminated, you may want to shelter-in-place and seal the room.

Plan how you will assemble your family and where you will go. Choose several destinations in different directions so you have options. If you have a car, keep at least a half tank of gas in it at all times. Become familiar with alternate routes as well as other means of transportation out of your area.

Talk to your neighbors about working together. Find out if anyone has specialized equipment like a power generator, or expertise such as medical knowledge.

4. Assemble a disaster supply kit. Include enough supplies for at least three days. Think first about fresh water, food and clean air. Remember to include, and periodically rotate, medications you take every day such as insulin and heart medicine. Store items in an easy-to-carry bag.

If you live in a cold weather climate, think about warmth. It's possible that the power will be out in your area and you won't have heat. Have warm clothing for each family member in your supply kit, including a jacket or coat, long pants, a long sleeve shirt, sturdy shoes, a hat and gloves. Have a sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person.

Think about your family's unique needs. Pack diapers, formula, bottles, prescription medications, pet food, comfort items, books, paper, pens, small games or other forms of entertainment.

Recommended basic kit supplies include:

- **Water** - one gallon of water per person per day, for drinking and sanitation
- **Food** - non-perishable, at least a three-day supply
- **Battery-powered radio and extra batteries**
- **Flashlight and extra batteries**
- **First Aid kit**
- **Whistle** - to signal for help
- **Dust mask** - or cotton t-shirt, to help filter air
- **Moist towelettes**
- **Wrench or pliers**
- **Can opener**
- **Plastic sheeting and duct tape** - to shelter-in-place
- **Infant formula and diapers**
- **Garbage bags and plastic ties**
- **Other unique family needs**



**For a complete emergency preparedness guide, contact the IOCC U.S. Program:
1-877-803-4622 • www.iocc.org**