

Volunteer in the Gulf Coast



IOCC is sending volunteer teams every month through July 2007 to build new homes for families who were devastated by the 2005 Hurricane season. You do not need to be skilled — just energetic! Activities vary depending on location and construction schedules, but can include siding, roofing, framing, landscaping and support.

For only \$300 (includes airfare, room and board) you can participate in this life changing experience and help those who truly need your support.

Find out how you can serve on a one-week work crew at www.iocc.org/gulfcoast, or call 1-877-803-IOCC (4622).

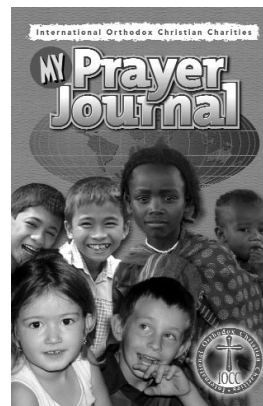
Upcoming Events

The following events are being sponsored by local Metropolitan Committees in support of IOCC's work. See more details at www.iocc.org/events.

- **ORANGE COUNTY, CA**
Wine Tasting, August (Date TBD)
- **DENVER, CO**
Annual Run/Walk for IOCC, August 25, 2007
- **CHICAGO, IL**
Run/Walk for IOCC, September 22, 2007
- **PHOENIX, AZ**
Wine, Cheese and Silent Auction, September 29, 2007
- **PITTSBURGH, PA**
Basile the Comedian Event, October 25, 2007
- **REMEMBER THE DATE: IOCC SUNDAY**
November 18, 2007

Pre-Order Your IOCC Children's Prayer Journal

A great tool to help your parish's young people pray and care for others in need. Place your order for the next edition, ready to ship by August 15. The prayer journal is free, but shipping charges may apply. To pre-order, visit www.iocc.org/prayerjournal.

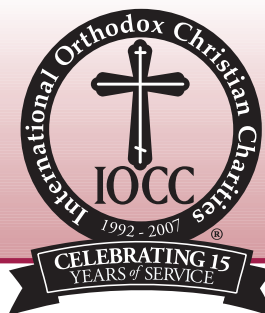


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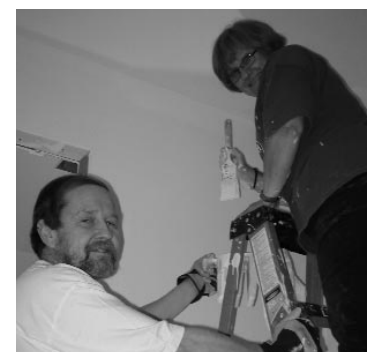


INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

VOLUME 8, NO. 2 SUMMER 2007

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all of Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1.8)



Father Rosco (pictured here working at a construction site) has led two teams of fellow clergy and parishioners from the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox diocese to Covington, Louisiana in January and April to build homes as part of IOCC's "Volunteer in the Gulf Coast" program. Volunteers are still needed in the program which continues through July. (See the back cover for more details)

the suffering, His ears for hearing their pains, His mouth for speaking for the disenfranchised, His heart for loving the unlovable.

Having just returned from a second IOCC trip to the Gulf Coast to rebuild a home, I can think of no better way to participate in this continuing ministry of Christ, beyond your own parish, than by supporting the work of IOCC. Our work in Ethiopia and Africa, the Balkans, the Russian Federation and Georgia, the Middle East and Asia, and here in the United States is a tangible witness of Christ's love and care.

In this issue of *Priest to Priest* you will not only see concrete ways that you and your flock can help participate in Christ's continuing ministry to the needy, but you will also *hear* the voices of our fellow clergy who witnessed IOCC's life-changing work in the Holy Land during this past February's Study Trip.

It is our hope that you too will be able to witness in these tangible ways. Have a blessed Pentecost!

In the Risen Christ,

Fr. Michael Rosco
Fr. Michael Rosco

My Dear Co-workers in the Lord's Vineyard:

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

In this beautiful season between Pascha and Pentecost we read how the Apostles continued Christ's work through the power of the Holy Spirit as recorded in the Book of Acts. Indeed we clergy, and lay alike, are called to be witnesses of Christ "to the end of the earth."

Witnessing Christ's work actually takes on several forms. Proclaiming the Good News of Christ's salvation is an evangelical function that is incumbent upon all Christians. In the eighth chapter of Acts Philip brings the Ethiopian eunuch to the true faith by telling him the good news of Jesus (Acts 8.35).

Witnessing Christ, however, also comes through our daily actions. The original role of the deacons was to do the daily distribution to the needy, especially the widows (Acts 6). Indeed, the *antidoron* (Greek - "instead of the gift") distributed at the end of the Divine Liturgy, recalls this ancient tradition of the daily distribution.

The Apostles, empowered by the Holy Spirit, continued the miracles of Christ: healing, forgiving, loving and serving. By virtue of our baptism, and the laying on of hands bestowed in the Mystery of Holy Orders, we participate in Christ's Royal Priesthood and the priesthood of all believers. His work must continue through us. We are His hands for helping

GET YOUR PARISH INVOLVED IN IOCC TODAY

1. **Make IOCC a line item in your budget**
2. **Assign an "IOCC Representative" from your parish**
3. **Have your youth group or Sunday School assemble "Gift of Heart Kits"**
4. **Lead a team in June or July to rebuild a home (See Back Cover)**
5. **Use "My Prayer Journal" in your Church Education/Youth programs (See Back Cover)**

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. Michael Rosco, Rev. Nicholas C. Triantafilou

IOCC 2007 STUDY TOUR — JERUSALEM / WEST BANK



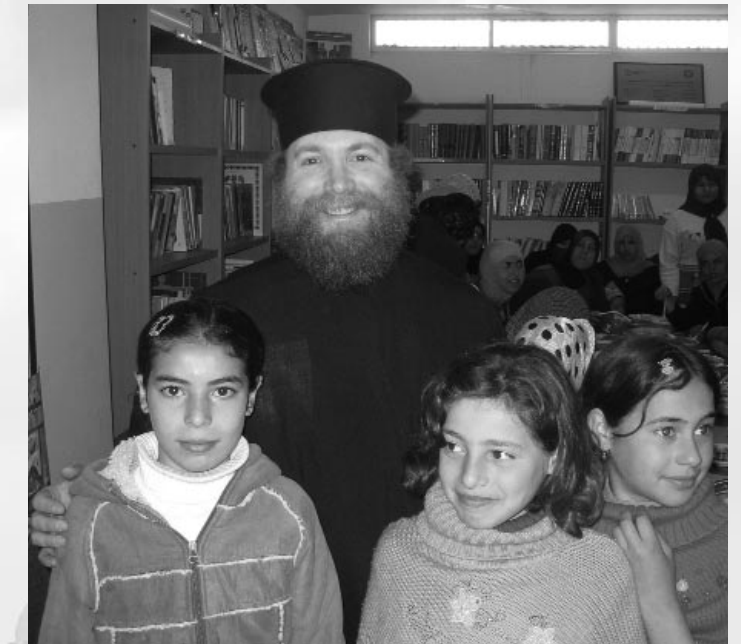
Jeanne Shreve

From L to R: Fr. Miroslav Schirta, Fr. Thomas Chininis, Fr. Stephen Plumlee, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos of Jerusalem, Fr. Luke Uhl, Fr. David Moretti, Dn. George Lehman



"My participation in the IOCC Study Trip to the Holy Lands provided me with first hand knowledge of just how valuable the work is. As we visited the various locations in Jerusalem and the West Bank we could see how people's lives are profoundly changed for the better."

Fr. Thomas Chininis,
Nashua, NH



"IOCC has given us the opportunity to visit the very places our Lord walked, talked and ministered but more importantly we had multiple opportunities to interact with those "living stones" who are the real legacy of our Lord's ministry. Each and every day we saw the people touched by the ministry of IOCC."

Fr. David Moretti,
St. Tikhon's Seminary



"It was one of the best trips I have ever had, I cannot describe it in words. The whole itinerary was a dream come true. Keep on doing the great work that you do."

Fr. Miroslav Schirta,
Bayonne, NJ

"The trip taught us so much about how IOCC follows Christ's imperative with compassionate care for those in need. The method of supportive partnerships with local people as developers and leaders of solutions to their own need is brilliant! I was inspired immediately to teach others to support the wonderful opportunity for service through IOCC."

Fr. Stephen Plumlee,
Sarasota, FL



"Seeing IOCC in action, I have gained the highest regard for our Orthodox institution, and I am proud of the work being done in my name and in the name of all Orthodox Christians in this country. There is absolutely no question in my mind that every dollar we donate to IOCC is well spent by dedicated, highly-accomplished professionals."

Fr. Luke Uhl,
Denver, CO

Fr. Thomas Chininis



"The Christian presence in the Holy Land is diminishing, and our members there endure hardship and hostility. IOCC helps to show their neighbors who they are; IOCC is shining the light of Christ and showing compassion in a land of suspicion and resentment. Being identified with IOCC gave us study trip members extraordinary access."

Deacon George
(Charles) Lehman,
Westminster, CA

From Feb. 12-20 six clergy and fourteen lay supporters of IOCC traveled with IOCC's Fourth Study Trip, the first to the Holy Land, to get a first-hand look at IOCC's projects.