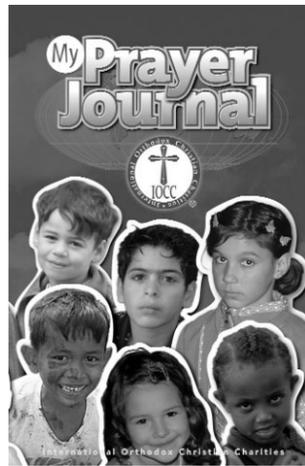


*Pre-Order Your IOCC  
Children's Prayer Journal*



This year's Prayer Journal will be ready in early August. Pre-order your individual copy online now! To order multiple copies, contact the Department of Religious Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America at 800-566-1088. The prayer journal is free, but shipping charges may apply. To learn more, visit [www.iocc.org/prayerjournal](http://www.iocc.org/prayerjournal).

**APPOINT AN IOCC  
PARISH REPRESENTATIVE!**

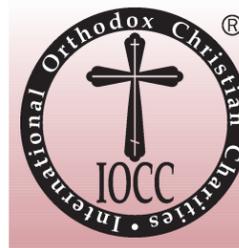
Parish Representatives play a vital role in generating support for IOCC at the parish level in just a few hours per month. Everything necessary for this job can be provided by IOCC. Send contact information for your parish representative, or questions, to:

**Vasi Jankovich, IOCC Outreach Coordinator**  
[vjankovich@iocc.org](mailto:vjankovich@iocc.org)

*IOCC Upcoming Events*

More details at [www.iocc.org/events](http://www.iocc.org/events).

- **CHICAGO, IL**  
14th Annual Banquet, May 8, 2008
- **ATLANTA, GA**  
8th Annual 5K Run/Walk, May 10, 2008
- **CLEVELAND, OH**  
16th Annual Banquet, May 18, 2008
- **OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**  
Oklahoma City Dinner, June 7, 2008
- **HOUSTON, TX**  
Annual Dinner, June 8, 2008
- **PITTSBURGH, PA**  
One In Spirit Dinner, June 21, 2008
- **WASHINGTON, DC**  
Wine Tasting, August 23, 2008
- **ORANGE COUNTY, CA**  
Annual Dinner, Date TBD
- **PHOENIX, AZ**  
Wine, Cheese, Silent Auction, Sept. 29, 2008
- **CHICAGO, IL**  
5K Run/Walk, October 4, 2008
- **BALTIMORE, MD**  
Orthodox Taste of Baltimore, October 11, 2008
- **CHARLOTTE, NC**  
7th Annual Dinner, October 25, 2008
- **WASHINGTON, DC**  
Annual Dinner, October 26, 2008



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

**PRIEST to PRIEST**

VOLUME 9, NO.2 SUMMER 2008



Dear Father,

The air crackled with excitement and joyful faces filled the crowd. The children in the front row squealed with glee as they clung to their parents. It was a memorable occasion for five local families in the New Orleans area. Ravaged by storms and floods, these families, as well as thousands like them, struggled to rebuild their fragile lives. The day was February 25th, and we had gathered to dedicate five new houses to their new owners. I can't say which family needed the house more, the family of seven, or that of the young girl confined to a wheelchair. It really didn't matter, for all the families would soon be living in a safe, comfortable house. Built by hard-working volunteers, supervised by the competent staff of Habitat for Humanity and paid for by the faithful supporters of IOCC, the newly constructed houses stood as a testament to the life-giving power of Orthodox philanthropy.

Orthodox philanthropy is the hallmark of IOCC, and this is precisely why I support its mission to soothe the hurt and oppressed. In this post Pascha period we have just read about the lonely paralytic at Bethsaida who had no one to put him into the water to be healed – so Christ Himself raised him up to health. Through the risen Christ we also have the power to raise up our fallen neighbors. As we blessed the house for the young family, I knew that the paralyzed daughter, Christine, would

finally have a stable home and the wooden ramp for her wheelchair, built so lovingly, would be a blessing.

As part of my third IOCC volunteer trip, I am continually rejuvenated as a worker in the Lord's vineyard. Through IOCC we can extend the ministry of Jesus Christ in our local community and impact thousands of people just like Christina. For example, IOCC recently delivered 160 wheelchairs and other ambulatory devices to Zimbabwe through a partnership with UCP Wheels for Humanity and funding from the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. Every needy child received a custom-fitted wheelchair. In this issue of *Priest to Priest* you will also learn about equally important programs in Kosovo, Iraq and Georgia.

The healing work of the risen Jesus Christ continues through us. We are the "pencils" through which His "love letters" are written. Indeed, we are instruments of His divine grace. You can help us mend the broken and raise up the paralyzed and fallen. Join us in this resurrectional work of our Lord and Savior! May you have a blessed Pentecost!

Your Brother In the Risen Christ,

*Fr. Michael Rosco*

Fr. Michael Rosco

"Whoever loves God, must also love his brother." — I John 4:21



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

**YOUR PARISH CAN SUPPORT IOCC**

1. Make IOCC a line item on your church budget. Go to [www.iocc.org/aboutiocc](http://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](mailto:dchristopoulos@iocc.org).
3. Sign up for IOCC's Email Alerts. Go to [www.iocc.org/updates](http://www.iocc.org/updates).

**FATHERS: PLEASE POST THE INSIDE SPREAD IN YOUR CHURCH HALL**

**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

## ★ IRAQ

IOCC resumed its operations in Baghdad by distributing food and hygiene kits to 2,000 families in Baghdad. The families include needy internally-displaced people, invalids, extended families, single-headed households, and the elderly. Each food and hygiene parcel is designed to supplement the basic nutrition needs of approximately three people during a one-month period. Families who have more than three members will receive additional parcels. IOCC purchased all the supplies from local markets in order to support the local economy. IOCC had suspended operations due to Iraq's security situation.



## ★ KOSOVO

Nine years after the conflict ended in Kosovo, about 15,000 of the estimated 230,000 internally displaced persons living in Serbia and Montenegro have returned to Kosovo. IOCC Belgrade, in partnership with the Visoki Decani Monastery, recently contributed to the return process of Vinka and Sasa by providing them with household appliances and basic food supplies. IOCC has been implementing community development and relief programs in Kosovo since 1993. Recent projects in the region are designed to give people in such isolated communities hope and opportunity. IOCC is building a community center in Velika Hoca with a special meeting place for youth clubs, a gym facility, an internet center, and computer-equipped classrooms.



"We hope to stay here and start from the beginning. I hope more people will return, and my children will not be alone." Hopeful words from Vinka, pictured above with her husband, Sasa and twin sons. The family recently returned to their hometown in Kosovo after living in central Serbia since the 1999 conflict. With the help of IOCC and Visoki Decani Monastery, the family has received appliances and basic food supplies. Photo credit: N. Prelevic/IOCC Serbia

## ★ U.S. GULF COAST

The Volunteer in the Gulf project of the US Program will continue **only through July 26th**. If you or your parishioners wish to attend, you must act **now** to secure a place. The total cost per team member, including transportation, room, and board is \$300 **due one month prior to departure**. For more information on this program, contact Pascalis Papouras at [ppapouras@iocc.org](mailto:ppapouras@iocc.org) or toll free at 1-877-803-IOCC (4622) or visit our website at [www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org) and click on *Get Involved*.



## ★ GEORGIA

IOCC Georgia has launched two new programs. The first, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), will train clergy of the Georgian Orthodox Church and public school teachers to combat drug abuse by learning to identify risky behaviors and to facilitate educational and prevention activities among young people and parents. The one year campaign targets the most impressionable group of Georgians: youth between the ages of 11 - 21. The program will also include a mass media campaign to raise awareness on drug abuse by using faith-based messages. *An estimated 1.35 million Georgians will be reached through the media campaign alone.* The second program involves an agreement between IOCC and the Patriarchate to create a model cattle farm in southern Georgia. The farm will teach new farming methods to help Georgian farmers raise better quality beef.



# IOCC®

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

Headquarters: 110 West Road, Suite 360 • Baltimore, MD 21204 USA  
Tel: (410) 243-9820 • Fax: (410) 243-9824 • E-mail: [relief@iocc.org](mailto:relief@iocc.org) • <http://www.iocc.org>