



YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK

Greece: IOCC and Apostoli, the humanitarian arm of the Church of Greece, are helping 24 co-ops in northern Greece succeed with assistance to increase their production and profits with agricultural and business training, as well as funding to buy supplies, equipment and machinery needed to sustain and grow their operations.



USA: At-risk youth in Alaska picked up new skills on and off the court at IOCC basketball and mentoring clinics held in Anchorage and the village of Napaskiak. The one-day events were aimed at providing a fun, sports-focused environment to reinforce healthy lifestyles and substance abuse prevention among Alaska Native youth.



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES
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IOCC EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS

- July 30, 2016 – Cleveland, OH
IOCC Baseball Night
- August 13, 2016 – Akron, OH
Race to Respond-Team Akron
- August 20, 2016 – Denver, CO
Pan-Orthodox 5K Walk/Run
- October 1, 2016 – Cleveland, OH
Fashion Show & Luncheon Tea
- October 15, 2016 – Baltimore, MD
Baltimore Running Festival

**FATHERS: PLEASE DISPLAY THE
INSIDE POSTER IN YOUR PARISH**

**School Kits
Are Needed!**

HELP A CHILD IN NEED.
Find easy to follow kit assembly
directions at ioc.org/kits



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES PRIEST *to* PRIEST

SUMMER 2016

Attaining the Kingdom of Heaven

The Kingdom of God is not a fluffy pillow or a down mattress. It is found by the nun sleeping on a board, or the elderly woman suffering in her hospital bed. The Kingdom of Heaven is a spiritual condition that no earthly situation can overcome. The nun sings songs, and the afflicted woman offers pure prayers. They both go through hardships that draw them closer to Christ.

You may ask yourself, "How can I suffer as they do?" You need not live in a monastery or a hospital to experience this growth; you can participate in the same perfecting journey by unconditionally loving and serving those around you. Do you hear bad things about someone? Then pray for them! Do you have a disagreement with someone? Then humble yourself and apologize! Loving your enemies and being modest are difficult tasks, yet they are perfecting works.

When God sees our struggles to put aside our ego, He will grant us strength. When He sees us acting on our desire to enter into the Kingdom of His love, then He will help us in our time of need. No one shall ever perish from seeking after God.

Beloved in Christ, we have been given so very much. It is now up to us whether we will grow more like Christ, or lose the Kingdom by conforming ourselves to worldly expectations. To grow in Christ, to grow in the Kingdom, means to be more loving, more forgiving, more generous, more supportive of others, more positive, more encouraging, more prayerful.

If we desire the Kingdom, then we desire the will of the King. Our Lord's desire is that His Kingdom be full, and so it is up to us to bring others in and keep those we have. There is a whole nation outside waiting to see the Kingdom. Let us all show them what it is like to grow in Christ.

Yours in Christ,

+Metropolitan Joseph
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

From the clergy of the IOCC Board of Directors:
His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae, Very Rev. Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky, Rev. Fr. Luke Palumbis, Very Reverend Fr. Nicholas Triantafilou

Put Your Faith Into Action

BECOME AN IOCC VOLUNTEER!



Since September 11, IOCC has worked side-by-side with the Church and relief partners to provide emergency relief to families in the US affected by disasters as well as ongoing social needs. Make a difference by joining us in the many hands-on activities available through IOCC.



BECOME A PARISH REPRESENTATIVE

Play an active and important role in IOCC's mission by generating support at the parish level. Plan a presentation, request a speaker, or organize an event. ioccc.org/parishrep

JOIN AN ORTHODOX ACTION TEAM

Help cleanup and rebuild storm-damaged homes for families left homeless by floods, hurricanes or other natural disasters. ioccc.org/actionteam



CREATE AN ONLINE CAMPAIGN

Give purpose to your passion and share what you love about IOCC through a personalized fundraising page! Dedicate a race, birthday, or special occasion to IOCC and raise money for those in need. ioccc.org/onlinecampaign



ORGANIZE AN EMERGENCY KIT DRIVE

Rally to the aid of disaster victims by assembling emergency kits filled with cleaning supplies, hygiene essentials and basic school supplies. ioccc.org/kits

.....> ioccc.org/volunteer <.....

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

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