



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST *to* PRIEST

VOLUME 1, NO. 4 WINTER 2000

With Your Help...

IOCC's mission continues to be extended to more people around the world.

This summer a needs assessment was completed in Bulgaria, an assessment team departed recently for Ethiopia, and another team is preparing to leave for India. A new IOCC office was opened earlier this year in Romania and work has advanced swiftly in that country. Long-term development projects are addressing entrenched poverty in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Recently approved major funding is enabling IOCC to continue and increase direly needed aid in the Russian Federation, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina (Republika Srpska).

The commencement of IOCC's U.S. Program, added to everything else being done, brings Orthodoxy's humanitarian aid organization into a new and exciting generation of service to fellow man. This service is the direct result of the generosity and support of the Orthodox faithful throughout America, as well as our Orthodox parishes and their organizations.

Please be certain, father, that this growth in support from our people across the country is due in large part because of your efforts to bring the message of IOCC to the attention of the faithful. Awareness of IOCC as the humanitarian aid organization of the Orthodox Church is the cornerstone of our growth and progress over the past 8 years. Everything you do at the local level — including our appeals in your newsletter, making pulpit announcements, showing the IOCC video at parish gatherings, encouraging the members of the IOCC Metropolitan Committee in your area — contributes beyond measure to that progress. I want to take this opportunity to thank you as a brother priest for all that you have been doing.

Finally, a request. Let the people know of our progress, and inform them that it is their response to the call of Jesus Christ that has made this progress possible. On behalf of the Board, staff and constituents of IOCC, thank them and encourage their continued support.

Fr. Jim Kyriakakis, *Director of Development*

Position Postings

IOCC is interviewing applicants for two positions and would welcome referrals of eligible candidates from priests throughout the country. Feel free to talk to individuals you believe would make good candidates, or post a notice in your parish newsletter or bulletin. The applicants would be required to relocate to Baltimore. The need to fill both positions is immediate. If you have questions, please call toll free at 877-803-4622, or you can email us at relief@iocc.org.

U.S. Program Director

Requirements: 3-5 years humanitarian relief and development programs; solid administrative and financial skills; experience with U.S. government and other donor contracts; excellent communications and interpersonal skills; ability to work in challenging environments. Salary commensurate with experience, plus benefits. Submit cover letter, salary requirements and resume to IOCC, 711 West 40th Street, Suite 306, Baltimore, MD; Fax: 410-243-9824; Email: relief@iocc.org.

Financial Assistant

Requirements: BS in accounting with 3-5 years experience; working knowledge of Excel & Windows environment a must; working knowledge of the Blackbaud accounting system and non-profit accounting a plus. Salary commensurate with experience, plus benefits. Submit cover letter, salary requirements and resume to IOCC, 711 West 40th Street, Suite 306, Baltimore, MD; Fax: 410-243-9824; Email: relief@iocc.org.

Revised Lesson Plan Available

The IOCC lesson plan reported on in the last issue of Priest to Priest and used by a number of Orthodox Summer Camps has been revised for use with Sunday School youngsters. Based on the parable of the Good Samaritan, the lesson plan could be an excellent tool for educating our children about the concept of giving and about the mission of IOCC. Ideally, it could be used in Sunday School classrooms on IOCC Sunday, November 19th. The lesson plan is available on IOCC's web site (www.iocc.org) for younger (Level 1) and older students (Level 2), with Teacher's Guides incorporated in the lesson plan. Discussions are currently being held to make the lesson plan a part of each Orthodox Church jurisdiction's Sunday School curriculum.

IOCC Sunday, November 19th

As in past years, the venerable Hierarchs of the Standing Conference of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the Americas (SCOBA), have declared the Sunday before Thanksgiving (November 19th) to be "IOCC Sunday" throughout the land. The parish priests of all Orthodox jurisdictions in America soon will receive a copy of the Archpastoral Encyclical issued by SCOBA, to be read in Church on November 19th following the Divine Liturgy.

With your help, father, the message of IOCC as conveyed by our Bishops will be brought before the Orthodox faithful across America on that day. Perhaps you can further enhance the effort by offering your own words of support following the reading of the SCOBA encyclical. IOCC Sunday is an excellent opportunity for the people worshipping together at the Divine Liturgy to make a contribution in support of IOCC's work among those in need throughout the world.

MC Chairpersons to Meet

Twenty chairpersons of IOCC Metropolitan Committees across America will meet in Chicago, November 17-19. The agenda will encourage interactive discussion of ideas for accomplishing the work of committees in different metropolitan areas of the country. In addition to the chairpersons of about 6 metropolitan committees that have existed since the very first years of IOCC's existence, those committees established over the last 18 months will also be represented.

A highlight of the gathering will be the opportunity to interact with the members of IOCC's Board of Directors, who will be gathered at the same time for their Fall, 2000 meeting. On Sunday morning, November 19th (IOCC Sunday), the Metropolitan Committee Chairpersons and IOCC Board Members will worship together at the Holy Resurrection Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Chicago.

"This and That"

• Michael Tsakalos, IOCC's Volunteer Services Coordinator, is in Colorado Springs for the fall semester to study, and will be assuming new duties upon his return. Mike is covering a reduced workload while away.

• Coming to you soon:

1. The Thanksgiving **Lunchless Lunch Appeal** asks people to give a gift of \$20 or more to IOCC, thereby setting an extra place at their table for the world's hungry. Info will be sent to you for inclusion in your November newsletter and Sunday bulletins.
2. The **Gift of Love Appeal** is IOCC's annual Christmas fundraising drive. This year's holiday stickers and IOCC Christmas cards will feature a 14th century icon of the Nativity from Decani Monastery in Western Kosovo. We will have newsletter/bulletin materials to you by the beginning of November.
3. The **Souper Bowl Appeal**. The presence of the Orthodox Church in the national "Souper Bowl of Caring" will be greater than the past two years, as our youth in parishes across the nation take the Souper Bowl Appeal to the people on Super Bowl Sunday, January 28, 2001. This year's Souper Bowl Appeal is being coordinated with the National Youth Directors of the Orthodox Church jurisdictions, who will provide the materials to all parish youth organizations. Look for the mailings during the month of December, and encourage your youth group to participate.

Your support, my brothers in Christ, is the critical element needed for success of these three appeals. They are designed to be very special opportunities for our people to actualize their faith and to "respond to the call of our Lord Jesus Christ to minister to those who are suffering and are in need throughout the world..." If you have questions or suggestions, please call me toll free at 877-803-4622, or you can email me at frjim@iocc.org.

"A rich man is not one who has much, but one who gives much." (St. John Chrysostom)

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