



# IOCC Sunday

## A DAY OF SHARING!

"IOCC's work in the world is a tangible witness of Christ's love and care."

Fr. Michael Rosco  
Perth Amboy, NJ

Join us on Sunday, November 22 in making IOCC better known and supported throughout our Orthodox churches

- Share the SCOBA encyclical on Nov. 22
- Share your resources with a special donation to IOCC on Nov 22
- Share in this life-changing ministry by visiting [iocc.org/getinvolved](http://iocc.org/getinvolved)

[IOCC.org/DayOfSharing](http://IOCC.org/DayOfSharing)

### IOCC Upcoming Events

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

- **SAN FRANCISCO** – 11/1/09, Remembering Home Banquet
- **AKRON** – 11/15/09, Basile the Comedian
- **CLEVELAND** – 11/13/09, Wine Tasting
- **PITTSBURGH** – 11/14/09, IOCC Retreat
- **PORTLAND** – 11/14/09, IOCC Awareness
- **ALBUQUERQUE** – 11/14/09, 1st Annual Dinner
- **MINNEAPOLIS** – 11/15/09, Annual Dinner
- **BOSTON** – 11/15/09, Wine Tasting & Jazz
- **BALTIMORE** – 11/22/09, Concert
- **LANCASTER, PA** – 11/22/09, Annual Dinner
- **INDIANAPOLIS** – 11/22/09, IOCC Sunday Presentations
- **GRAND RAPIDS, MI** – 12/13/09, Christmas Concert

### SPREAD THE WORD ON RADIO & TV!

Do you have a radio or TV program? Let IOCC provide you with free pre-produced content. Contact Amal Morcos at [amorcos@iocc.org](mailto:amorcos@iocc.org) or 1-877-803-IOCC (4622).

*"This is the truth, if a monk regards contempt a praise, poverty as riches, and hunger as a feast, he will never die."*  
— Blessed Macarius



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# PRIEST to PRIEST

VOLUME 10, NO. 4 WINTER 2009

*"Today, the Virgin bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach."*  
— from the Apolytikon of the Nativity Feast

Dear Brothers in Christ,

The Nativity of our Lord calls us to celebrate His Incarnation and to remember that when Christ took flesh from His most pure Mother and came into our world, He changed everything. The transcendent One consented to be born in the humility of a cave – to raise us to His glory in the heavens. He became what He was not so that we might become by grace what He is by nature.

As Orthodox Christians on this continent we may often feel that we too are in humble circumstances – spread across this vast continent in small numbers compared to other Christian denominations. And yet, empowered by God's humble incarnation, we can become a driving force in love and service to our fellow man, both at home and abroad. IOCC, from humble beginnings, is a living testament to God's life-changing power when we come together to fulfill His commandment to serve the least of our brethren.



November 22, 2009

We and our parishioners change lives! That is why I am asking you to participate in this year's **IOCC Sunday – A Day of Sharing**, November 22. Join us in helping to make the work of IOCC better known and better supported throughout our North American churches by:

• **Sharing** the SCOBA encyclical on IOCC Sunday, Nov. 22 ([IOCC.org/DayofSharing](http://IOCC.org/DayofSharing))

• **Sharing** your resources by making a special donation to IOCC on IOCC Sunday (Nov. 22)

• **Sharing** in this life-changing ministry by visiting our website and learning how you and your parish can more fully participate in the pan-Orthodox work of our Incarnate Lord.

Brothers, we are all IOCC. When our parishes share in the work of IOCC, we are lifting others from the humility of war, famine, disease, poverty, hatred, darkness and death to the transcendent heights of God's peace, health, hope, forgiveness, light and life!

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless you and your families this holiday season as we offer thanksgiving to Him, and prepare to receive Him anew in His Glorious Nativity.

Your Brother in Christ,  
*Fr. Michael Elias*  
Fr. Michael Elias

P.S. Visit [IOCC.org/DayofSharing](http://IOCC.org/DayofSharing) for useful resources including downloadable inserts for your bulletin.



IOCC's program to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS has reached more than 7 million Ethiopians since 2004. Learn more about IOCC's programs inside and at [iocc.org](http://iocc.org).

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

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

From the clergy of the IOCC Board of Directors:  
Very Rev. Michael Elias, Rev. Luke Palumbis, Very Rev. Michael Rosco, Rev. Nicholas Triantafilou





# Helping People Help Themselves



## Africa's Orphans Get An Education

Fifteen percent of Uganda's children are orphans, the result of a long running civil war and HIV/AIDS. "Both my parents were killed during the violence," explains 16-year-old Patricia, who is the fourth of nine children. "My brothers and sisters and I were taken in by our uncle, but without much salary he cannot afford school fees." IOCC is creating opportunities for children throughout Uganda just like Patricia. As part of IOCC's new Africa Initiative, IOCC is building a new school in the northern region of Gulu and improving an orphanage in Katente, both of which are run by the Orthodox Church in Uganda. In Katente, IOCC will build a chicken farm that will teach students how to keep livestock and provide extra income so that the Orthodox Church can provide more orphans with scholarships.



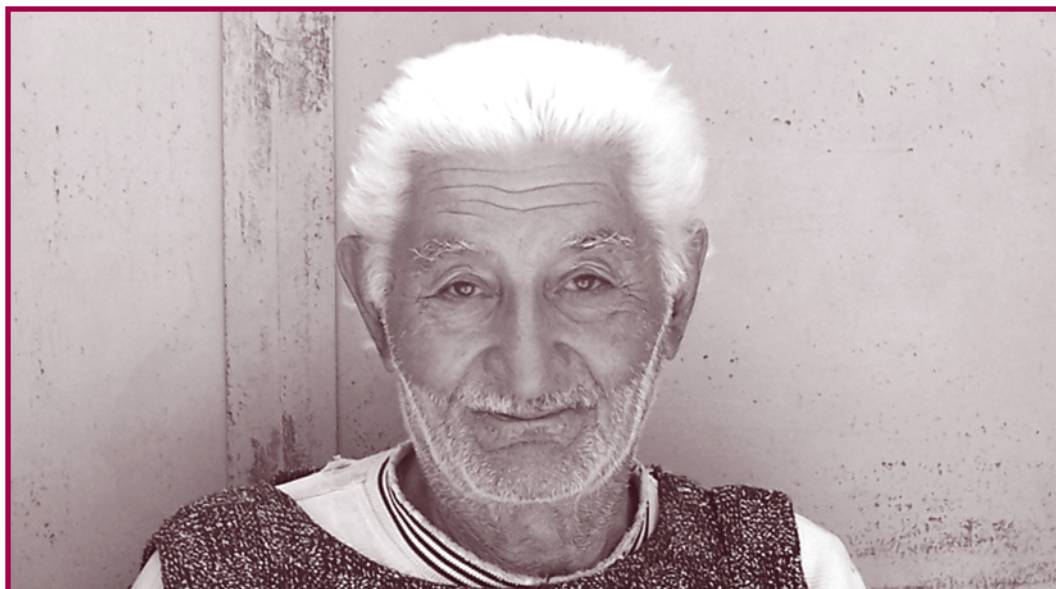
## Science Labs Enhance Lebanon's Public Schools

Wala, 13, used to attend a private school in Brummana, Lebanon, but her father's restaurant wages were cut and she and her two sisters had to attend the town's public school. Most poor and lower middle class families in Lebanon are forced to send their children to the nation's public schools, which are woefully underfunded by the central government and lack proper facilities. Fortunately for Wala, her school is one of 13 in Lebanon that has received a science lab from IOCC. Labs are supplied with microscopes, magnifiers, thermometers, flasks, test tubes, and equipped with water, electricity, and gas. "Today, I race with my classmates to reach the lab first," says Wala who dreams of becoming a doctor. IOCC is improving the educational environment in 213 public schools throughout Lebanon.



## IOCC Battles Domestic Violence in the U.S.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, nearly 1 in 3 adult women are assaulted by a husband or partner. In 2008, about 1,000 women and their children received some form of help from Penelope House, an IOCC partner ministry located in Mobile, Alabama. IOCC recently provided a \$19,000 grant to Penelope House's Prevention Education program for grades K-12. Counselors from the shelter teach Mobile schoolchildren to cope with stress at home, learn what safety measures to take when there is violence, and know where they can go for help. In the 2008-2009 school year, they reached 20,000 children with messages of prevention.



## After Georgia's War, Families Rebuild Their Lives

IOCC is distributing boxes of food to about 35,000 individuals in Georgia who were affected by last summer's war in South Ossetia. Active in Georgia since 1994, IOCC was well prepared to respond to the humanitarian crisis. Since then, IOCC has been working with the UN's World Food Programme to distribute food to war-torn regions throughout the country, and has also teamed up with the Georgian Orthodox Church to provide counselors to the traumatized. Individuals being helped include 76-year-old Gaioz who had dreamed of retiring to his home village in the Shida Kartli region when the war forced him and his family to flee. Gaioz and his wife were the lucky ones as they were able to return to their village. Today, they are rebuilding their lives with the help of IOCC.

*IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.*

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