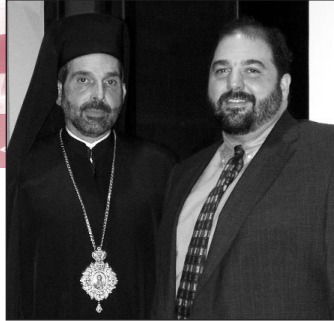


**New Metropolitan Committee  
Hosts Successful Dinner**



Almost 150 IOCC supporters from various jurisdictions attended the inaugural Washington, DC IOCC Metropolitan Committee Dinner at Sts. Peter and Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church in Potomac, MD on Sunday January, 29. Keynote speaker was His Grace Bishop Andonios, Director of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Philanthropy, with IOCC Executive Director Constantine Triantafilou giving an update on IOCC's work. The highly successful event was the first effort of the newly-established Washington, DC Metropolitan Committee, brought together Orthodox clergy and laity from the region and raised funds for, and awareness about, IOCC's world-wide work. If you would like to establish a Metropolitan Committee in your area, or host an event at your parish, please contact IOCC Outreach Coordinator, Sylvia Araj toll free at 1-877-803-4622 or [saraj@IOCC.org](mailto:saraj@IOCC.org).

**Upcoming events scheduled**

The following events are being sponsored in the next few months by local Metropolitan Committees in support of IOCC's work. See details at [www.iocc.org/events](http://www.iocc.org/events) about these and other events.

- **MAY 6, 2006 - ATLANTA, GA**  
6th Annual IOCC 5K Run/Walk  
Hosted by the Atlanta Metropolitan Committee
- **MAY 15, 2006 - CLEVELAND, OH**  
Annual IOCC Banquet  
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church Hall  
Hosted by the Cleveland Metropolitan Committee
- **MAY 21, 2006 - CHICAGO, IL**  
12th Annual Pan Orthodox Grand Banquet  
The Carlisle - Lombard, IL  
Hosted by the Chicago Metropolitan Committee
- **JUNE 3, 2006 - MCMURRAY, PA**  
The Third Annual John G. Rangos -  
IOCC Golf Scramble at Lindenwood Golf Club  
Hosted by the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Committee
- **JULY, 2006 - DENVER, CO  
(DATE TBD)**  
Annual Bike/Walk Race  
Hosted by Rocky Mountain  
Orthodox Charities  
and Missions



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

**PRIEST to PRIEST**

VOLUME 7, NO. 1 WINTER/SPRING 2006

**'For I was hungry and  
you gave Me food...'**

In a few weeks we will gather as Orthodox Christians throughout the world to celebrate the Sunday of Orthodoxy when we proclaim our fidelity to the true faith and our connection with the venerable fathers who have preserved Orthodoxy.

The fathers and mothers who fought and died for our faith never meant it to be preserved like a museum piece. Their Orthodoxy was not some philosophy of the "right belief," but a way of life — a life of Christ-like actions and service. Their Orthodoxy, their correct belief, was steeped in their Orthopraxy, their correct actions. The challenge facing us today as Orthodox believers is to become Orthodox doers.

While we sometimes equate our correct actions only with how we abstain from certain foods, how we cross ourselves or how we dress, the Fathers of the Church have always understood our correct actions as how we treat our brothers and sisters as part and parcel of the Church's mission. St. Basil instructs, "He who takes another's clothing is called a thief, but he who fails to clothe the naked, if he could deserves the very same name. The bread in your box belongs to the hungry; the cloak in your closet belongs to the naked; the shoes that you do not wear belong to the barefoot; the money under your bed belongs to the penniless."

Even fasting, a hallmark of Orthodoxy is put into perspective when we read Isaiah 58:6, "Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen; to loose the chains of injustice ... to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter — when you see the naked to clothe him." And St. John Chrysostom adds: "Do you fast? Prove it to me by your works. If you see a poor man, take pity on him."

Since 1992, IOCC has delivered more than \$200 million in humanitarian assistance to some of the most vulnerable people in 30 countries around the world. IOCC is an efficient, effective, and professional conduit for our Orthodox action. By pooling the resources of all

Orthodox Christians in the Americas, IOCC is able to leverage monies from federal governments and other funding sources at a rate much higher than individuals or local churches. For every dollar raised from Orthodox people, churches and institutions, IOCC has historically been able to leverage almost \$8. And, it has done this while keeping its overhead costs to 8%, meaning that \$.92 on every dollar goes directly to programs and services.

Mother Maria of Paris of blessed memory accurately stated: "The way to God lies through love of other people and there is no other way. At the Last Judgment I shall not be asked if I was successful in my ascetic exercises or how many prostrations I made in the course of my prayers. I shall be asked, did I feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the prisoners: that is all I shall be asked."

This Holy Lenten season, let us live our Orthodox faith through the Orthodox actions of increased prayer, fasting, and almsgiving and acquaint our parish communities with the critical life-changing work of IOCC.

With love in Christ,

*Fr. Michael Rosco*

Fr. Michael Rosco

**Parish Activities during Great Lent**

You can incorporate IOCC into your parish's philanthropic outreach by:

1. **PRAYING** for IOCC, its staff, and its beneficiaries on a regular basis;
2. **LEARNING** more about IOCC by visiting its web site ([www.iocc.org](http://www.iocc.org)) and reading the *Priest to Priest* newsletter sent to you quarterly;
3. **PREACHING** about IOCC and its diakonia;
4. **SUPPORTING** IOCC financially; and
5. **ASSIGNING** a parish representative as your liaison to IOCC. For more information, visit: <http://www.iocc.org/parishrep>

**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. Robert S. Kondratik, Very Rev. Michael Rosco, Rev. Nicholas C. Triantafilou

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# IOCC PROGRAMS COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY

PERSONAL GLIMPSSES - FEBRUARY 2006

THE FOLLOWING ARE STORIES FROM PEOPLE WHO HAVE FOUND RELIEF THROUGH IOCC PROGRAMS. PLEASE POST IN YOUR PARISH

## Bosnia-Herzegovina

Milada Majstorovic lives in Novi Grad, a small town in northwest Bosnia-Herzegovina, on the border with Croatia. Before the war, Novi Grad was an important commercial town known for its production of furniture and textiles. Now the unemployment rate is nearly 60%.

Milada and her husband used to run a business producing pasta and dough - the first of its kind in Novi Grad. When the war broke out in 1991, they were forced to close down their business. At the end of 1995, the war was over and they decided to re-open the business once again; however, Milada and her husband divorced shortly thereafter, leaving her to run the business by herself with little resources.



Now she lives with her parents and her daughter in an apartment with only her income to support all of them. She applied for her first IOCC loan in 2003 to purchase raw materials to make more dough. When she paid back the loan, she applied and was approved for a second loan in order to increase her stock of flour and purchase equipment to modernize her production workshop. She has since repaid that loan in full and just been approved for a third with plans to develop her workshop further.

Through the support of IOCC's micro-credit loans, Milada has been able to secure a steady source of income to support her family while insuring that her business will continue to grow well into the future.

## Lebanon

Mr. Maurice Bou Habib, Director of the Public School of Antelias, was in his office preparing for the start of the new school year when less than 50 meters away, an explosion targeting Lebanon's Minister of Defense shook his school, blowing out most of the windows and doors. Luckily no one was hurt, but the school was left badly damaged.

"After realizing the size of the destruction, I automatically thought that my school will have no future; no one will be able to recover all the damage before the start of the school year ... and my students will not have the chance to attend classes anymore. It was the end of the world for me. I was so desperate. But, something triggered me to call IOCC saying to myself maybe they can help," said Mr. Bou Habib.

The IOCC team rushed to the school, assessed the damage, and within three days the rehabilitation work was ready to start. After thirty-five days of continuous hard work, all of the windows and doors were fixed or replaced.

"We are very grateful for the effort done, and if IOCC did not intervene, we wouldn't have been able to resume our school year as scheduled," expressed Mr. Bou Habib. Words of thanks were not limited to the director or the management of the school, but students also wanted to say, "thank you" to IOCC in their own way by painting a picture of children saying "Merci IOCC."

The Public School of Antelias is considered one of the premier schools in Lebanon for excellent student performance, despite its poor building and infrastructure. It has also benefited from IOCC's School Feeding and Education program for the past two years.

## Jerusalem/ West Bank

Maha Ziadeh lives in Madama village in Nablus. She is a young mother of four whose husband, like most men in her village, can't find work. With living expenses and mouths to feed, her husband encouraged her to pursue her dream of having a job.

Five years ago, she joined the Madama Health Education Training program funded by IOCC, where she learned to teach sound health practices to a community in need of public health awareness and a safe, clean environment. For three years she worked on a voluntary basis and found it extremely rewarding, but kept her hope alive to find a paying job, help her family and study at the university.

During those three years, Maha gained the respect and appreciation of her village for whom she volunteered so much time. Then, at the end of 2004, her village received a grant to start a computer center and a library. The village elected Maha to be the computer trainer for the center. After she started this job, she continued her voluntary health education training and started attending the university in Nablus. Her income from her job at the computer center pays for some of the family expenses and her university fees. She says she is grateful for her education and her role in the community, which has assisted her and her family.

The Madama village community center was constructed with and continues to receive funding from IOCC and its partners.

## Ethiopia

Tadeleu contracted HIV from her husband, who has since died. Her two children, who are HIV negative, live with Tadeleu's mother. She tearfully tells of the stigma that she faces, both personally and socially. "When I found out I had the disease, all I could think about was how much I hated myself, and I kept denying that I had the disease" she says. "I do not want to [get to know] people, because I fear they will find out my status."

When Tadeleu discovered she had HIV, she started attending support meetings at the Hope Center, established by IOCC and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. There, she found a sense of community and a program that would change her life. The Hope Center provided her with skills training and the start-up capital for her to begin a small business.

Now she is too busy to feel stigma from her neighbors. She works every day from sunrise to sunset at her self-powered sewing machine. Orders come in regularly giving Tadeleu confidence in her work and a sense of security. Amidst her tears, a smile breaks out, and she says, "I am happy that the Church has provided support. This program has given me life."

