

GETTING STARTED

STEPS TO COORDINATING A WALK

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- 1) Choose a Walk Coordinator, and if your parish has an OCMC Ambassador, consider that individual to oversee this event.
- 2) Pull together a small committee to assist the Walk Coordinator, and meet on a regular basis (at least once or twice a month) to check in on the progress of the walk preparations.
- 3) Choose a date for your Walk for Missions, in coordination with your parish priest and parish council.
- 4) Decide if gifts will be made out to the OCMC directly OR will be made out to the parish. In the latter scenario the parish will then take responsibility for processing all gifts, issuing tax receipts, and then sending one check to OCMC after the walk. If the donations are made out to the parish, please include a list of the names and addresses of donors so that OCMC can acknowledge them with appreciation following the walk.
- 5) A well planned route is essential. Select a safe place for the walk that is well visible by the community. This is a wonderful opportunity for the parish to exemplify their Orthodox faith in action. Walks need not be marathon events involving extremely long distances – in fact longer walks could discourage both the very young and/or senior aged walkers. Five kilometers (3.1 miles) is an adequate distance for most walks.
- 6) In some cities a permit may be required for your walk. Check with local authorities.
- 7) In most cases, the parish's existing insurance is adequate coverage. Call your insurance agent to verify this coverage.
- 8) Consider setting goals for the number of walkers and the amount of money you wish to raise for your walk. An average amount raised is \$2,500 - \$5,000, but this varies greatly based on the size of your parish. Having these goals can provide something additional to celebrate at the conclusion of the walk.

RECRUITING WALKERS

STEPS TO COORDINATING A WALK



- 1) Recruit walkers by setting up a table in the church, placing information in the weekly bulletin and/or monthly newsletter, and through flyers on a prominent bulletin board or one distributed throughout the Sunday School classes or Bible studies.
- 2) Set a deadline for walker registration.
- 3) Create a packet for all walkers to use for fundraising following their submission of an entry form and commitment to walk. You may utilize the enclosed forms as models – Walker Entry Form, Sponsor Form, and Walker Instruction Form.
- 4) Encourage walkers to find sponsors who will pledge donations on their behalf. Remind everyone to be sure that the name and address of each sponsor is complete and legible. Remember, donations should be made payable to either the Orthodox Christian Mission Center or to the host parish, depending on the decision of the parish.
- 5) Publicize your event by notifying local newspapers, radio and television stations. Sometimes blocks of time or space are provided free as a public service.
- 6) Obtain or create a map of the area where the walk will take place and make copies to provide to all of the walkers.
- 7) Remind walkers to dress accordingly with comfortable clothes and sneakers.
- 8) If the parish has established goals for the number of walkers or amount of money to raise, consider a sign or bulletin board tracking progress toward these goals.
- 9) Consider the creation of T-Shirts to commemorate the walk.

ON WALK DAY

STEPS TO COORDINATING A WALK



- 1) The Walk Coordinator and Committee should arrive early to: 1) set up a registration and pledge collection table and chairs; 2) set up extra chairs for elderly non-walkers; and 3) set up a refreshment area.
- 2) You may want to organize a celebration or social activity for the day of the walk. This could include prayers, music, a speaker on missions, and/or a 'mission meal' (picnic, potluck, BBQ, etc).
- 3) If the parish decides to create walk t-shirts, encourage walkers to wear them, and suggest to families with youngsters to decorate their strollers and/or wagons.
- 4) Offer refreshments prior to the walk, and water along the walk route.
- 5) Offer prayers for the walkers, those who made pledges, and for the missionary work that will be supported by the walk.
- 6) Consider a group photograph to commemorate the walk (and provide an extra copy of this to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center).
- 7) Thank everyone! Provide participants with a certificate commemorating their help in raising awareness and funds for the growth of the Orthodox Church throughout our world!

