



You can make a life-changing difference for an Orthodox priest

By providing regular support for an indigenous priest in a poor part of the world, you’ll allow him to serve the needs of his flock and spread the Gospel in his community.

You know what a difference your prayers and support make for your own priest. Imagine having that same impact in the life of a priest thousands of miles away, serving a parish in one of the poorest parts of the world. That’s what you can do through OCMC’s Support a Mission Priest (SAMP) program. SAMP donors provide monthly assistance to 376 indigenous priests who are sharing Christ’s love in lands of extreme poverty. Because they receive SAMP support, they’re better able to provide for their families, care for their parish flock, and share the Gospel.

SAMP donors have pledged \$600 a year to support a priest. Gifts may be made monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. To learn more or to sign up, visit [ocmc.org](http://ocmc.org) and click “Get Involved” at the top of the page.

MY NEXT GIFT TO SUPPORT ORTHODOX MISSIONS

Yes, Fr. Martin! You can count on me to continue to share the Gospel and sustain Orthodox Missionaries through my prayerful support of OCMC. Here is my gift of:

☐ \$25    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_

For credit card gifts, please call or give online at [www.ocmc.org/donate](http://www.ocmc.org/donate). Thank you!

“If you wish to see a living saint, go to Fr. John.”

St. John (Maximovich) of Shanghai and San Francisco is one of the most beloved of modern-day saints. He was born in the village of Adamovka in what is today Ukraine. He earned a law degree in 1918, but fled the Communists with his family and was ordained a hieromonk in Yugoslavia. Even when he was a young teacher, his bishop, the future St. Nikolai Velimirovich, would tell others, “If you wish to see a living saint, go to Fr. John.”



John was ordained as Bishop of Shanghai in 1934 and Archbishop of China in 1946. He was tireless in his attempts to heal the divisions between Orthodox Christians in China, but was forced to lead his flock out of Shanghai after the Maoist revolution in 1949. In 1951, he became Archbishop of Western Europe and in 1962 Archbishop of San Francisco. Once again, he worked hard to heal the disunity in his community.

He reposed during a visit to Seattle on July 2, 1966, and was glorified in 1994. Many miracles have been attributed to his intercessions. Today, St. John’s incorrupt relics lie in the cathedral he built, the Cathedral of the Most Holy Theotokos, “Joy of All Who Sorrow,” in San Francisco, and are open for veneration. Other relics of his are venerated in locations around the world. His feast day is July 2. Holy Hierarch and Wonderworker John, pray to God for us!



God bless you for your faithfulness and generosity!

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER

MISSION

Reports from around the world for supporters and friends of Orthodox Christian Mission Center

Your Love Reaches New Orthodox Believers in Indonesia

Thanks to you, an Archbishop’s call for a mission team was answered

Orthodox Christians in Indonesia were overjoyed to welcome the OCMC mission team your support helped send to them. Thank you for your generosity that reaches around the world.

Recently, the Orthodox Christian Mission Center received a request from His Eminence Metropolitan Constantine of Singapore and South Asia to teach Orthodox belief and practice to the faithful in Indonesia. Your generous support of the OCMC allowed us to answer this hierarch’s request by sending a mission team last June. The team had a special focus

on family issues and shared the Christian understanding of marriage, family life, and raising children, as well as basic Orthodox catechism. Team members taught at St. Thomas House in Singaraja and St. Paul’s school in Medan, where they assisted Fr. Chrysostomos of St. Demetrios Church. “It was a very humbling experience to see the children and adults’ love

and respect for our faith,” recalls team member Evgenia Vasiliades. “I admire them greatly. They are young in the Faith, and yet so strong! Our prayers will be with them always.” On Bali, where St. Thomas House is located, Christians make up less than 2 percent of the population. While Bali is predominantly Hindu, Islam is the dominant faith

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GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS. — MATTHEW 28:19



I recently returned from a mission trip to Asia and was deeply affected by the needs I saw there. Honestly, our OCMC missions in Asia are struggling. Not because our missionaries and the local Church lack zeal for the Faith. Far from it! The trouble is that the Asian Church, and our OCMC teams, simply don't have the resources they need to perform outreach and evangelism effectively.



Rev. Fr. Martin Ritsi  
Executive Director

Estimates are that most of the 1 billion unreached people in the world live in Asia. That's why this is such an important field for OCMC's work — and why your gifts matter so much. You are a vital part of this work through your prayers, your financial support, your volunteer efforts, and more. Your gifts translate directly to a growing Church in Asia and around the world.

When I look at the beautiful faces of our Orthodox brothers and sisters in other lands — either in person or in the photos our mission teams send back — I'm reminded again that ours is a universal Church. Every day, every hour, our beautiful sacred Liturgy is celebrated in countless languages, in vast cathedrals and tiny huts, under God's heaven and in secret hiding places. It's deeply humbling ... but also powerfully motivating! I hope you feel the same way.

In Christ,

Fr. Martin

P.S. If you've been looking for an exciting new way to fulfill the Great Commission and help make disciples of all nations, I hope you'll consider becoming part of our **Support a Mission Priest (SAMP)** program. You can read more about this exciting opportunity on page 4. And again, thank you for your prayers and generosity!



Fr. Paul Patitsas, an OCMC missionary, baptizes a child at the first Orthodox church in Tonga. Thank you for helping spread the Gospel in Tonga and throughout the South Pacific!

## First-ever Orthodox Church in Tonga Grows with Your Help

Thousands of miles southwest of the United States lie the 170-plus islands that make up the Kingdom of Tonga, an independent nation in the South Pacific. Even in this faraway land, your love and your commitment to sharing our beautiful Orthodox Faith are touching lives and transforming them for all eternity!



Your support of the OCMC has done so much to help Orthodox Christians in Tonga. They say mālo 'aupito ("thank you very much" in Tongan), and so do we!

Tonga is now home to OCMC's newest long-term missionary, Tyrone-Stavros Emery. Tonga is a predominantly Christian country, but the very first Orthodox church is only now under construction. Fr. George Pillay, from Fiji, is the priest at the new parish. Stavros will be serving with him, alongside Fr. Paul and Pres. Katerina Patitsas, OCMC missionaries from New Zealand.

Over the last few years, your prayers and financial support of the OCMC has allowed us to expand our missionary efforts in Fiji, Samoa, and New Zealand, as well as Tonga. Please keep these hardworking missionaries and their growing flock in your prayers as they share the Orthodox Faith throughout the South Pacific!

## OCMC Projects in Indonesia

Your support of OCMC shares the Gospel in the vast nation of Indonesia ... and your work is bearing fruit! Here are some of the major projects you're making possible in Indonesia.

**YOUTH TEAMS** Your generosity funds short-term mission trips like the team visit to Medan (see page 1). The team offered retreats and presentations at several schools.

**HEALTHCARE TEAM** Another way your giving supports our Orthodox brothers and sisters in Indonesia is by making it possible to purchase medicines for a medical mission team providing healthcare at the Rumah Sakit Umum Theotokos, a hospital in Medan.

**ST. THOMAS HOUSE** This is a children's group home in Bali overseen by Fr. Stephanos Boik Nino. Your kindness helps cover the day-to-day expenses of caring for the children.

**WATER PURIFYING BUSINESS** Fr. Stephanos also has formed a water purifying business that will provide employment opportunities for local Orthodox youth and income to assist the community. Your support has established a revolving loan fund: once the initial loan is paid back, another project will receive assistance.



**Population:** 264 million (4th largest in the world)

**Languages:** Indonesian (official), Malay, English, Dutch, more than 700 local languages and dialects.

**Religion:** Islam (87%), Christian (10%), others.

**Government:** Constitutional republic with an elected president.

The Orthodox Church in Indonesia is under the spiritual omophoron of His Eminence Metropolitan Constantine of Singapore and South Asia.

Sources: U.S. Department of State; Wikipedia.



## New Orthodox believers continued from page 1

in the nation as a whole. Activities of other faiths are limited, though outright persecution of Christians is rare in most of the country. Economic challenges are larger problems.

**Please remember the Orthodox Christians of Indonesia in your prayers. Your continued support of OCMC helps them live and grow in their faith every day!**

◀ Fr. Chrysostomos and some of the students of the St. Paul school in Medan give some big thumbs up for your support of the OCMC. It's helping them grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord!