



220 Mason Manatee Way  
St. Augustine, FL 32086

# INSIDE ►

Your new issue of *Mission*,  
with stories of how *YOU* are making disciples of all nations!

Window, Do Not Print

**SPECIAL  
PROFILES  
EDITION**







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

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



When you become part of the Support a Mission Priest (SAMP) program, your act of love and generosity will touch more lives than you can imagine!

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 pledge \$600 (just \$50 per month) a year to support a priest or deacon. 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.

Physician, companion of Paul the Apostle on his missionary journeys, and author of the Book of Acts and the Gospel that bears his name, much of what we know of the life of Christ and the early history of His Church comes from this Apostle and Evangelist's pen. Tradition also tells us he painted (or "wrote") the first icon, of the Most Holy Theotokos.



**Kontakion of Luke the Evangelist**  
As a disciple of the Word of God, with Paul you illuminated all the earth and dispelled the gloom in writing Christ's divine Gospel.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER

# MISSION

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

SPECIAL PROFILES EDITION

PROFILE OF A PROJECT

## Your Generosity Bears Real Fruit in Africa

In partnership with local leaders like His Grace Bishop Neofitos (left) and Fr. Gregory Wanjohi Kibui, your support of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center is creating a great harvest for the Church in Kenya!

### A trailblazing partnership multiplies the power of your giving to support Orthodox Christians in Kenya

Jesus often used the image of the seed as a way to explain the power of faith. Your support of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center helped plant literal seeds on the high plateau of central Kenya, and the Orthodox Faith and the Holy Orthodox Church are about to enjoy a great harvest!

With the blessing of His Grace Bishop Neofitos of the Diocese of Nyeri and Mt. Kenya — and your support — in partnership with Filanthropia of Finland, we launched the Laikipia Farm project to create a sustainable source of income for the Diocese and its members.

In spite of torrential rains during the growing season, the first year's crop of corn survived and is ready to be harvested. Half of the proceeds from its sale will be used to support a school operated by the Diocese, while the other half will be used to buy more farmland. In future years, that second half will

Continued on page 3

## 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   ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_

☐ I want to join the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Society with a monthly gift of: \$\_\_\_\_\_

To give online visit <https://donate.ocmc.org/FallNL>. Thank you!

Your gift is tax deductible. Please make your check payable to OCMC and send it to 220 Mason Manatee Way, St. Augustine, FL 32086. Please remember OCMC in your estate planning.

2018 FALL NEWSLETTER



God bless you for your faithfulness and generosity!

 **ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER** FALL 2018

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



Thank You for Being  
a Model of Christian  
Stewardship and Love

In this special “Profiles” issue of *Mission*, you’ll see several different facets of your Orthodox Christian Mission Center — a project you’re making possible, a priest you’re supporting, and a partner of yours in this ministry. I hope what you read here reminds you of the great work you’re doing around the world through your gifts of money, time, and prayer.

I have to admit, the Laikipia Farm Project, profiled on page 1, is very close to my heart. It’s a great example of an innovative and sustainable project that can really make a difference by strengthening the Church and Her witness in the world. I’m praying God will allow us to continue this work through many more projects like this.

While God is opening doors for these sorts of projects and partnerships, He is also leading us into new parts of the world. Just last month, for example, we sent our first-ever OCMC Mission Team to Jamaica! I look forward to telling you about their experience in a future issue of *Mission*.

As always, thank you so much for your partnership. As Christians, we are each called to make disciples of all nations by bringing people to Christ and His Church. Your support of OCMC is one of the ways you are fulfilling the Great Commission every day.

In Christ,  
  
Fr. Martin



Rev. Fr. Martin Ritsi  
Executive Director

PROFILE OF A MISSION PRIEST

Every Day, You and  
Fr. Kwame Serve God  
and His Church Together



Your giving to the SAMP program helps make possible the ministry of Fr. Kwame (left) and other priests in the Archdiocese of Accra.

Fr. Kwame Labi of the Archdiocese of Accra in West Africa says you are a vital partner in his difficult work. He thanks God for you, and for the essential help you are giving him and his brother priests through your giving to OCMC’s Support a Mission Priest (SAMP) program.

Fr. Kwame grew up a member of the African Universal Church. When that church was received into canonical Orthodoxy through the Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa in 1982, Fr. Kwame was one of the first men to be ordained to the priesthood.

Today, Fr. Kwame and his 16 brother clergy in Ghana are all sponsored by the SAMP program. They couldn’t continue their work or support their families without it.

Fr. Kwame says his Archdiocese faces significant challenges. For one thing, because there are so few priests, training for the priesthood is brief. As a result, young priests need more training so they can become good evangelists, and so they can offer guidance to young people who come to them for answers.

Your giving to the SAMP program allows Fr. Kwame and his brother priests to serve their flock full-time. Please remember Fr. Kwame, His Eminence Metropolitan Narkissos of Accra, and our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Archdiocese of Accra in your prayers!

**For more information on the Support a Mission Priest (SAMP) program and why your giving matters so much, please see page 4.**

PROFILE OF A PARTNER

For Decades, She Stood Alongside You  
in Supporting Orthodox Missions

Eugenia (Jean) Macris, of blessed memory, lived a life devoted to philanthropy — a tradition of giving and generosity. Her philanthropic love was extended not only to her own St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Seattle, but also to the worldwide mission of the Church, through her many years of generous support of the OCMC.

In 1991, Eugenia started placing OCMC Agape Canisters in businesses around her community of North Bend, WA, collecting donations to support our work. In 2008, she became St. Demetrios’ OCMC Parish Ambassador, drawing attention to our work around the world through displays in the church, articles in the church bulletin, speakers at Mission Sundays, and presentations to the thousands of people from across Western Washington who come to St. Demetrios’ annual Greek Festival.

She was also personally generous to OCMC. When we opened our new headquarters building in 2009, Eugenia and her family funded furnishings for one of the offices.

When Eugenia reposed last year, her family requested that friends and loved ones give memorial gifts to OCMC in lieu of flowers. Her son Chris Macris, and daughter-in-law Paula, followed her example by becoming St. Demetrios’ new OCMC Parish Ambassadors.

**We deeply appreciate Eugenia’s decades of devoted service and personal generosity to OCMC, and the powerful model of philanthropy that she continues to be for all of us. May Eugenia Macris’ Memory Be Eternal!**



Eugenia Macris’ displays at St. Demetrios Church’s popular Greek Festival in Seattle brought the work of OCMC to the attention of thousands of visitors each year.

Profile of a project... continued from page 1

be used to fund other projects in the Diocese.

The Laikipia Farm is a model for future OCMC projects, says Executive Director Fr. Martin Ritsi. “If this is successful, it can be repeated in different places. This is where we hope things are moving in the future.”

**Your generosity is truly bearing fruit in Africa! Our Kenyan brothers and sisters in Christ thank you for helping them, their children, and our Church grow, flourish, and reach out to others with the truth of our Orthodox Faith. We thank you too!**

His Grace Bishop Neofitos sends his thanks for the difference your support is making for his flock in Kenya.



# 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:**

☐ \$XX1    ☐ \$XX2    ☐ \$XX3    ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Mr. and Mrs. Demetri Samplopoulos**  
6559 15th Avenue NW #102  
Seattle, WA 98117  
Barcode



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St. Augustine, FL 32086  
877-463-6784 • [ocmc.org](http://ocmc.org)

For credit card gifts, please see reverse or give online at <https://donate.ocmc.org/FallNL>.  
Thank you!

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Thank you!

## I'm making my donation by credit card.

I authorize Orthodox Christian Mission Center to charge my ...



CREDIT CARD NUMBER

NAME ON CARD (Please Print)

EXP DATE

CARD HOLDER SIGNATURE

Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_ ☐ One Time ☐ Monthly

To keep you informed, and so that you can receive stories about the people you help with your gift, please share your email address:

EMAIL ADDRESS

CELL PHONE

## My prayer request

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**Most Holy Theotokos, Ever-Virgin Mary,  
Mother of God pray for us!**

OCMC is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization eligible for tax-deductible contributions. As faithful stewards of your donations, we apply all funds received as designated. Please note that in the event the missionary, project, or fund you designate is over-funded or no longer applicable, your donation will be applied to the area most needed to continue the work.

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2018 FALL NEWSLETTER



PLEASE  
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