

Kontakion of Pentecost Plagal of the Fourth Tone

When the Most High came down and confounded tongues of men [Babel], He divided the Nations. When He dispensed the Tongues of Fire, He called all to unity, and with one voice we glorify the Most Holy Spirit.



There's a Place for YOU in Missions!

We love telling you about the work you make possible through your support of OCMC and our ministries. But there is a group of people who contribute to these ministries in a special way: **The Sts. Cyril and Methodius Society!** These very special champions of Christ's Great Commission have committed to support our programs and volunteers through their regular monthly gifts. Joining this society today is a great way to help make disciples of all nations for years to come!

To become part of the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Society, simply check the box on the enclosed coupon and return it with your first monthly gift. Thank you for your generous partnership!

MY NEXT GIFT TO SUPPORT ORTHODOX MISSIONS

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

\$XX1 \$XX2 \$XX3 \$_____

I want to join the Ss. Cyril & Methodius Society with a monthly gift of: \$_____

To give online visit www.ocmc.org/donate. 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.



Holy Pentecost

Celebrated on June 12. After the Savior's Ascension into Heaven, the Apostles, the most holy Virgin Mary, and other disciples were gathered in the upper room of a house in Jerusalem when suddenly the house was filled with a sound like a rushing wind. Tongues of fire rested on the heads of each, and each was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking and proclaiming the Gospel in many different tongues. This represents their ordination and the start of their ministry of preaching the Good News to the nations of the world. This is a mission and a calling we faithfully to carry out to this day, following the holy example of those first ordained on Holy Pentecost.



God bless you for your faithfulness and generosity!

2022 SPRING NEWSLETTER

MISSION

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



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

Your Generosity Feeds Hearts and Bodies in Kenya

Thanks to your support of OCMC, the Church in Kenya is reaping the harvest in a "mission field," and sharing their blessing with others.

By giving to the Orthodox Christian Mission Center as faithfully as you do, you are touching hearts, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and changing lives around the world. Supporting our missionaries and mission ministries like this exciting project in the Diocese of Nyeri and Mt. Kenya in Africa are a big part of how your gifts are put to work!

For the past few years, the Diocese has been operating a farm in the community of Laikipia, growing

corn, beans, and peas in the rich soil of central Kenya. The land for the farm was purchased in 2017, with the help of OCMC and Filantropia, the international service and missions agency of the Orthodox Church of Finland.

The farm benefits the Diocese and surrounding community in a variety of ways, explains Rev. Fr. Cyprian Koech, the farm's manager. For one, it provides steady work and wages for farm laborers, some of whom also receive a portion of each harvest with which to feed their families.

Much of the harvest is given to two schools and several orphanages operated by the Diocese, so the children will have enough healthy food to eat. The remainder is sold to the public, with the funds being used to support the work of the Diocese.

"We are very grateful to OCMC for helping us purchase this land," Fr. Cyprian adds. "You have assisted us in achieving many of the Diocese's goals."

Fr. Cyprian also benefits from our Support a Mission Priest (SAMP)

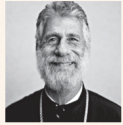
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Go and make disciples of all nations. — MATTHEW 28:19

A SPECIAL INVITATION JUST FOR YOU See page 4!

You Are Empowering the Church to Be the Church



Rev. Fr. Martin Ritsi
Executive Director

Even during the peak of the pandemic, when most of the world had shut down, your generous support helped prepare missionaries, support mission priests, and make projects possible around the world.

These missionaries and projects have helped transform the lives of the people they serve. In each case, we can draw a direct connection between your generous support and these transformations!

These tangible expressions of Christ's love and making disciples are the living witness of the Church in the world.

I am very grateful for your prayers and your financial support. And I invite you to help make more of this work possible by becoming part of the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Society. The regular monthly gifts from Society members are the strong foundation on which our plans and programs are built, and we would love to welcome you as part of this special group! Please see page 4 for more information. Thank you very much!

Fr. Martin Ritsi

Fr. Martin Ritsi

YOUR Support Makes All the Difference!

When we say your giving makes OCMC's work possible, we really mean it. Your generosity is the engine that trains and sends OCMC Missionaries around the world every year to work on and lead projects and ministries specifically requested by our Orthodox hierarchs and the growing body of faithful in the field. Every one of those endeavors is underwritten by committed friends like you. Without that financial support, particularly from our generous sustaining partners in the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Society, they just couldn't happen!

YOUR GIVING:



Connects you and your parish to the global mission work of the Orthodox Church.



Helps Orthodox Christians called to missionary service be faithful to God's will for their lives.



Puts your money to work supporting the things most needful and that matter most to you.



Honors Christ's command to share His message with the world!



In Guatemala, Catechists Share Their Faith in Remote Villages

In previous issues of MISSION, we've told you about the progress being made in building the Sts. Peter and Paul Seminary and Mission Training Center in Huehuetanengo, Guatemala. But even as the new building goes up, eager catechists from Mayan villages are already learning more about the faith and enthusiastically sharing what they learn with their communities.

Catechists often travel long distances from their remote homes in the mountains to attend seminars at the Mission Training Center, and even sleep outside if there isn't enough room in the Center's facilities. During these seminars, OCMC Missionaries Fr. Thomas Manuel, Fr. Juvenal Repass, and Fr. John Chakos, in concert with local Orthodox clergy, are able to guide them into a deeper knowledge of the Orthodox Faith.

These catechists, who are often respected elders and leaders in their communities, in turn play a vital role in the Church. Currently, there are only five Mayan clergy in Guatemala, meaning most villages only see a priest every few months. But because there are two or three catechists per village, on average, they are able to share Church teachings, prepare villagers to receive the sacraments, and even serve as worship leaders, preaching and leading songs and prayers when there is no priest.

Wonderful work is being done in Guatemala, and your support of OCMC makes you a vital part of it! Thank you for remembering OCMC Missionaries and the priests and catechists of Guatemala in your prayers, and through your generous giving.

"Your Generosity Feeds Hearts and Bodies in Kenya" continued from page 1

program, which means he and his family receive regular financial support from OCMC donors like you.

Fr. Cyprian, his wife Papadhia Joyce, and their four young daughters Viona, Joan, Daisy, and Sophia thank you for your generosity.

From parish work, to education, to feeding both hearts and bodies, your support of OCMC is bearing powerful witness to God's love and grace in Kenya. Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and most of all, for your love for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Africa and around the world!



Fr. Cyprian Koech (left) with His Grace Bishop NEOFITOS (right) thank you for the difference you are making in their community through your support of projects like Laikipia Farm.