

September 2001

September FOS Outreach Appeal Underway!



Dear FOS Brothers and Sisters,

With the start of the new Liturgical Year in September, the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards also begins its annual FOS Outreach Appeal. Each September we invite our friends and fellow parishioners to join us as FOS members and supporters.

This year, the FOS Outreach Appeal will be conducted with a Church-wide mailing as part of the July/August issue of *The Orthodox Church* newspaper. Additionally, 167 parishes of the Church will participate in a direct mail campaign in which FOS members in those parishes, working with their parish priests, will be inviting their fellow parishioners to join FOS. We are encouraged by the possibilities of adding hundreds of new FOS supporters. And why is this so important?

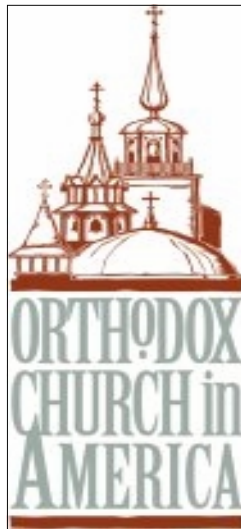
By mandate of the 11th All American Council, all Outreach Ministries of the Church must be funded by freewill gifts. These voluntary gifts, primarily offered through FOS currently support 70% of the funds needed by our Outreach Ministries. But we are being called to raise that level to 100%. Without additional voluntary gifts, our current outreach efforts will have to be reexamined, not to mention any new programs, many of which are on hold until new gifts can be realized.

As a current FOS supporter, you can do your part by renewing your FOS gift—and if possible, increasing it by 10%. We have been blessed by a truly faithful response by FOS members who traditionally renew their support year-after-year. We are grateful beyond words for your loving support.

In this issue of **THE STEWARD** you will read about how FOS continues to fund the *OCA Resource Hand-*

book, which recently mailed out its latest installment. You will also read about *The Hub*, the new interactive CD-Rom. It is filled with hundreds of ideas for youth and young adult activities.

There are a couple of other exciting and new things I would like to share with you. For those of you who have a computer, or have access to one, I encourage you to log on to the OCA Website at www.oca.org. Once at the OCA homepage, click on “The Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards.” This section of our OCA Website has been totally revamped. It will continue to be expanded with more news and activities that FOS supports.



Also on the OCA website, you will now be able to offer your FOS gift (and gifts to all the OCA Appeals) via the internet. Gifts given over the internet are made via the Verisign Secure Site protocol. This system helps keep your credit card information safe. A person recently asked me, is giving over the internet safe? I said to him, “its safer then giving your credit card to a waiter, who leaves with it into a back room and comes back with it several minutes later!”

We are offering this credit card service in response to many calls by FOS members to do so. We hope it is helpful to you.

In closing, I hope you enjoy this issue of **THE STEWARD**. It is our joy to bring it to you and share the many good things that your FOS support is making possible. God bless you and thanks again for all you do.

Yours in Christ

Fr. Joseph

OCA Resource Handbook 19 Years and Going Strong!

When FOS was just getting started one of the first outreach programs that it funded was the development, printing and distribution of the *OCA Resource Handbook*. Since then, hundreds of articles have been shared with thousands of people to effect growth and outreach in our parishes.

The Resource Handbook's most recent installment includes articles entitled: "**Development of an Orthodox Parish Nursing Ministry**"; "**Providing Disaster Relief with 'Gift of Heart' Kits**"; "**Ministering to Residents of an Adult Foster Care Home**"; "**Ss Cyril and Methodius in Milwaukee—A Multicultural Parish**"; and "**Becoming Part of the Junior Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America (Jr. FOCA)**."

The *OCA Resource Handbook* offers tried and tested programs that parishes have used to reach out to others and to minister in a Christ-like manner. It is impossible to measure the positive benefit the *Resource Handbook* articles have had over the past 19 years, but it is safe to say that countless lives have been touched with the love of Christ through the efforts of our parishes and parishioners who have taken the *Resource Handbook* ideas and put them into action.

Because of voluntary FOS gifts, the *Resource Handbook* continues to be one of the cornerstones of Orthodox Lay Ministry in North America. Its circulation goes far beyond OCA parishes. It is truly an outreach ministry that FOS members and supporters can be proud of.

Many thanks go to Mrs. Arlene Kallaur, the OCA Director of Humanitarian Aid, who also serves as the one person who makes sure the *Resource Handbook* continues. Thanks Arlene for a job well done!

The Hub is Circulating!



If the *Resource Handbook* is one of the first outreach programs FOS ever funded, *The Hub* is one of the latest.

Filled with ideas on how to reach out to the youth of our Church—the youth in your parish—*The Hub* takes advantage of the latest computer technology to answer the "age-old" question, "*What are we doing for our youth?*"

The Hub is a great tool for parish priests, youth directors, and church school teachers. The CD-ROM features a wealth of youth ministry resources, including discussion guides, "how to" articles and ideas on how to better include and involve the youth and young adults in our parishes. *The Hub* is also proving to be a great benefit to those working with our young people and helping them live an Orthodox life in a secular world, especially college students.

Gifts to the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards paid for all the costs associated with the research, production and distribution of *The Hub*. This means that every parish priest, church school coordinator and youth coordinator will receive a **FREE** copy of *The Hub*. A second edition of *The Hub* is already being worked on and is scheduled to be released in early 2002. For more information please contact Fr. Michael Anderson at 516.922.0550 or via email at mike@oca.org.



FOS GIFTS NOW CAN BE OFFERED ON-LINE

Contributions to the Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards can be made on-line. Go to the OCA website at www.oca.org and click on the "Donate On-line" button. Using your Visa, Mastercard, or American Express credit card, you can make your FOS donation via our secure internet connection. Try it out.