



Orthodox Church in America
P.O. Box 675
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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The word "gospel" in the New Testament Scriptures (evangelion) means "good news" or "glad tidings." It was a technical term employed by the Apostle Paul even before the four gospels were written. It was the word used at the time for a sovereign's solemn proclamation to his people that all enemies of his realm have been conquered and that his people are free to live in peace and joy, with great gratitude for their salvation.

In spite of the many trials facing our beloved Orthodox Church in America, we still enjoy God's blessing and command to proclaim His Gospel in His Son Jesus Christ and His Holy Spirit to all "who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death" in our fallen world.

None of us is excused or prevented from bearing witness to God's "good news" by our fervent prayers, our good behavior, our inspired words, our loving actions and our financial and material support for those among us whose fulltime occupation is to be an evangelizer.

I appeal to you to take up the challenge of the All-American Church Council last year in Seattle to give our greatest attention to the work of evangelization. It is the foundational work of all Orthodox Christians. Without it we are not the People of God that we are called to be.

Currently, the Department of Evangelization is concentrating its efforts on church planting and parish revitalization. May we receive your special sacrificial gift for this sacred work before the end of the year? We are counting on your kindness. Our Lord will surely bless you for it. Please note that your donation will be placed in a Restricted OCA fund to be used solely for the Department of Evangelization's Mission.

Yours in Christ our Lord,

Rev. John E. Parker III
Chairperson
Department of Evangelization