



Orthodox Christian PRISON MINISTRY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A prisoner recently posted OCPM's address on the bulletin board of the chaplain's office with this note: *"These people actually respond to your letter."*

OCPM always responds personally to every letter in a way that speaks to a prisoner's particular situation. We call our Correspondence Ministry a "visit by-mail."

Never was that ministry more crucial than in 2020. If you felt isolated and confined due to the lockdown, imagine what it was like to be in prison. You are confined to the same room for most of 24 hours in a day, and, because of the pandemic, you are denied the one-hour visit from a chaplain or a relative that represents your only loving human contact.

In 2020, your gift enabled us to minister to a total of 3,650 prisoners and former prisoners. Besides thousands of books, study courses, and spiritual reflections, 6,142 personalized letters were sent and received.

OCPM accomplished all of this with financial efficiency. It costs about \$35 per person per year to minister to a prisoner by mail. A prisoner heard from OCPM, on average, 120 times per year. This "visit by mail" is crucial to the incarcerated. As a former prisoner told me, *"a letter said to me that I was not forgotten by the outside world and that somebody cared."*

This Annual Report tells the story of our ministry during what was a trying year. Thank you for your vital support, which made it possible for us to fulfill our Lord's command to visit Him in prison.

In Christ,

Nicholas Petrogeorge
Executive Director





Orthodox Christian
PRISON MINISTRY

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



AN AMERICAN PRISON CRISIS

America has the largest prison population in the world with over 2.3 million incarcerated men and women. While prisoners have many spiritual and emotional needs, there is perhaps no greater need than having a consistent, loving, Christian presence in their lives. Many prisoners lack a human embodiment of the unconditional love of Christ.

WHAT OCPM DOES TO HELP

We serve the spiritual needs of incarcerated men and women.

- We correspond with prisoners and provide them with spiritual books, Bibles, pamphlets, study courses, and icons.
- We catechize them in the Orthodox faith through correspondence courses.

- We train Orthodox priests and laypersons to visit and counsel those in prison.
- We help parishes to reintegrate released prisoners back into the Church community.
- We lobby correctional facilities around the country to recognize the Orthodox faith so that Orthodox prisoners can receive the Sacraments and services.

WHAT SETS US APART

We form intimate relationships with people in prison over months, years and even decades in order to see them grow spiritually in the long term. By maintaining relationships with Orthodox and non-Orthodox prisoners through correspondence, we are then able to refer trained priests and lay people for in-person visitation and, after release, integration into parish life.

2020 AT A GLANCE

6,142

PERSONALIZED LETTERS
SENT & RECEIVED

11,043

ICONS SENT TO PRISONERS

40,723

BIBLE STUDIES, DAILY READINGS,
& SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS SENT
TO PRISONERS

6,827

BOOKS & BIBLES DISTRIBUTED
FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



ANDREI'S STORY

LIFE IN PRISON, BUT LIFE IN CHRIST

Andrei Belei was 21-years-old when he left the Ukraine hoping to start a new life in America. Instead he got involved with drugs, committed murder, and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

As Andrei slowly adjusted to life in a maximum-security prison with all its violence and restrictions, he felt immense guilt and shame for his crime. He was deeply alone, a foreigner in a foreign land.

"I had an emptiness inside that I couldn't quite fill," he said.

But Andrei's life changed 10 years ago when a friend recommended he get in touch with Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. ***"Without exaggeration, that changed my life," says Andrei.***

OCPM sent Andrei books, icons, an Orthodox Study Bible, and guided him in understanding the limitless forgiveness of our Lord. The ministry has corresponded with him regularly over the years. "I developed a much better understanding of our faith and discovered the beautiful depth of patristic writings," says Andrei.

Andrei is now 50-years-old. He will never get out of prison, but he says that he is confident that he can still live a life of peace and compassion. "I am not alone," says Andrei. ***"Through the patient and compassionate presence of OCPM in my life, I feel the presence of the Church and the light of the Lord that shines even on this sinner."***

Thanks to your generous support, we are able to do for thousands of prisoners what we did for Andrei: bring a sense of peace and restored order in their lives through the healing power of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

“OCPM has helped me find peace, purpose, and hope. I will never get out of prison but I know that I can live a life of peace and compassion no matter where I am; I can serve others; I can share the light.”

— ANDREI BELEI



FINANCIALS

2020 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Total Revenue.....	\$511,102
Total Operating Expenses.....	\$383,544

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

January 1st 2020.....	\$250,007
December 31st	\$293,638
Change.....	\$43,631

2020 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets

Unrestricted Cash.....	\$219,763
Restricted Cash	\$75,577
Total Assets	\$295,340

Liabilities.....	\$1,702
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Assets Minus Liabilities

(As of Dec 31st 2020)	\$293,638
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It costs about \$35 per person per year for OCPM to minister to prisoners by regularly mailing them books, Bibles, pamphlets, and icons. This means that a prisoner heard from OCPM, on average, 120 times per year.

OUR LEADERS

HIERARCHICAL LIAISON

His Eminence,

The Most Reverend Mark

Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, OCA

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nicholas Petrogeorge



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry is the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church and an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.



OUR MISSION

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry shares the love of Christ and His Church with those who are incarcerated and their families, and provides resources, training and support to our ministry partners so that lives are transformed and God is glorified.

www.theocpm.org

FOR DONATIONS AND GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

276 5th Avenue, Ste. 704-3183
New York, NY 10001

FOR THOSE IN PRISON WISHING TO CORRESPOND WITH US

P.O. Box 227
Rosemount, MN 55068

FOR SPEAKING OR PRESS INQUIRIES

communications@theocpm.org
(347) 868-6957

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