



Orthodox Christian[™]
PRISON MINISTRY

ANNUAL REPORT

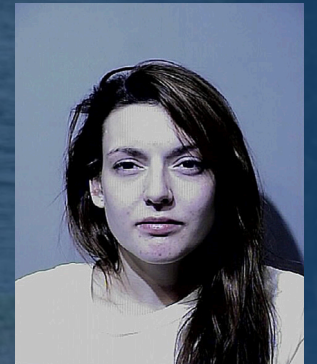
2025

THE MINISTRY PROGRAMS
YOU MADE POSSIBLE

PG. 2

FROM THE WANTED LIST TO
BECOMING A PRISON CHAPLAIN

PG. 3-4



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

By now, it's no secret Orthodoxy is growing in our country. The same growth is happening in prison as well. As we continue to receive more and more requests to bring the Orthodox Church into prisons, your financial commitments are what keeps OCPM striving to serve more people in prison and to serve them better.

Christ plainly tells us to minister to those in prison, and in our personal lives, we are blessed to experience prison ministry not as an abstraction, but through real relationships with incarcerated men and women. Their lives and ours are shaped by faithful presence, prayer, and friendship. We encounter God together.

In keeping with the commitments of everyone on the OCPM Board of Trustees, our hope is that OCPM continues to grow in faithfulness, reach, and impact without losing the humility and authenticity that defines it. Since its founding, OCPM has intentionally balanced pastoral sensitivity with operational rigor, always keeping the focus on the people we serve, rather than

on the organization itself. For any organization, but especially for one with a national scope, that combination is rare and worth protecting.

We hope to deepen our support for those who serve inside prisons, strengthen our partnerships within the Church, and continue to discern our next steps prayerfully and wisely. Through your support we have every reason to expect this from OCPM in the coming years.

In these pages, we hope you see the work you make possible every day. We are proud to be one small part of OCPM's quiet but steadfast witness to Christ's mercy and love for those who are too often forgotten. I hope you are, too.

As our friend Amanda so poignantly challenges us in her testimony (page 3), can we see Christ in those who are struggling right now? We thank God for giving us eyes to see Him in our brothers and sisters in prison, and we pray the same blessing for you this year.

In Christ,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Fitterer'.

Larry Fitterer
Chairman, Board of Trustees



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicholas Petrogeorge'.

Nicholas Petrogeorge
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry serves 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.



722

People in prison who received personal spiritual care from OCPM



357

Prison facilities served by OCPM



81

Orthodox churches participated in an OCPM Church Program



228

New case files of people in prison opened



65,336

Spiritual books, study courses, Bible studies, daily readings, and spiritual reflections sent



12

Orthodox clergy enrolled in the newly founded Clergy Corps visitation program



8

Graduates of the Certificate Program in Prison Ministry

106

GIVING BACK WHAT I RECEIVED: AMANDA'S TESTIMONY FROM REPEATED INCARCERATION TO PRISON MINISTRY

*I was experiencing hell on earth.
I felt completely separated from God.*

I was Portland's fugitive of the week. I was sleeping in alleyways and giving fake names to police officers because of a warrant out for my arrest. For a long time I had struggled with severe mental illness, inappropriate trauma responses, and a drug addiction. I was mad at God, my family, and everybody else I came into contact with.

Once I was finally arrested and extradited to county jail, facing felony charges and inevitably a lengthy prison sentence, I was terrified, hopeless, and alone. Before this arrest, I had already experienced previous incarcerations and several inpatient and outpatient treatment programs, but nothing seemed to work for me. I felt broken.

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I am a product of prison ministry. I often try to distance myself from my past; however, I do not want to be like the healed leper who, after he is healed, does not share what the Lord did for him. I want people to know what Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry can really do for people like me.



Still sitting in jail waiting for my prison sentence, I began attending various Bible studies, just to get out of the pod for an hour. Given my history of incarceration and treatment, there had been numerous attempts by several people to “evangelize me,” however it never seemed to take. Honestly, I'd been in about a dozen different jails, and many of them didn't feel sincere; they felt more about glorifying the people involved in the Bible study than about simply letting God work.

My first encounter with an Orthodox chaplain was different. I didn't know why at the time, but I was determined to understand. I requested a one-on-one session with the Orthodox chaplain, and to this day I am forever changed. She gave me my first glimpse of the pure love of Jesus, reflected to me through another human being. She didn't judge me. I could say raw things I was going through, and she would respond with forgiveness in her eyes. No conditions, no, "Well, if you do this..." She was just with me, with no other goal than reflecting the love and mercy of Christ.

I continued one-on-one sessions with her throughout my time in county jail, and even after I was sentenced and transported to the women's correctional institution, I remained connected to the Orthodox Church through OCPM. I worked my way through the self-study correspondence catechism, and I looked forward to the Dynamis newsletters of daily Bible readings and reflections. On holidays, I would receive so many letters and cards from OCPM volunteers that I was moved to tears.

Once I was released, I sought out the nearest Orthodox church and got involved right away. By the grace of God, I was baptized within a couple years of my release from prison, and the Orthodox chaplain I first met in jail is now my godmother. Eventually, I was even able to get my felony removed from my criminal record, go back to school, and graduate with a college degree.

Now, with the help of my godmother, I'm in the process of becoming a volunteer prison chaplain myself.

I feel called and ready to give back what I have received.



Amanda (above) enjoying coffee hour after Divine Liturgy in her home parish.

If you are feeling called to prison ministry, too, let me encourage you. First, it doesn't have to be complicated. Send a Christmas or Pascha card to someone behind bars, and I guarantee it will mean something to them. So many of us on the outside could be doing this through OCPM right now.

The second thing, though, is easier to say and harder to do. But it is essential. Can we see Christ in people when they are at the lowest moments of their lives? I didn't look like Christ at the time of my arrest, but He was still there in me. If you saw me today, you wouldn't think I had been a drug addict or a wanted felon. Can we see people not just as they appear at that moment but for the potential of who they can become? We have to try.

FINANCIALS

2025 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year Ended December 31, 2025

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$631,994
Total Assets	<u>\$631,994</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities	\$7,548
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	506,098
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	118,348
Total Net Assets	<u>\$624,446</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$631,994</u>

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2025

REVENUE

Contributions without Donor Restrictions	\$837,427
Contributions with Donor Restrictions	127,850
Program Service Revenue	19,600
Bookstore Revenue	5,156
Interest Revenue	10,787
Total Revenue	<u>\$1,000,820</u>

EXPENSES

Total Expenses	\$990,904
Change In Net Assets	\$9,916

NET ASSETS

Beginning	<u>614,530</u>
Ending	<u>\$624,446</u>

OUR LEADERS

HIERARCHICAL LIAISON

His Eminence,
Metropolitan Constantine
of Denver

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nicholas Petrogeorge

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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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.*

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

FOR THOSE IN PRISON WISHING TO CORRESPOND WITH US

276 5th Avenue, Ste. 704-3036
New York, NY 10001

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS OR PRESS INQUIRIES

communications@theocpm.org
(347) 868-6957



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