



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Quarterly Update

October-December 2023



Director's Update

Dear Friends,

The final three months of 2023 have been exciting!

On Giving Tuesday, we received over \$1,700 for our Accessibility Ministries and about \$1,500 for operating expenses. Additionally, the Inter-Parish Association Program received a **major grant**. We are so grateful for the continued support for our important Ministries.

Our Mental Health Ministries continued training Clergy and Lay Leaders through Peace of Mind. We also finalized content drafting for the Living Well Book series, which is expected to be published in Q3 2024.

The Liturgy Committee is working on an official Sunday of Orthodoxy vespers service. The Ecumenical Committee sent a delegation to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' annual meeting. The Committee for Agencies & Affiliated Ministries completed the 2023 annual reviews. And the Legal Committee continued to monitor various cases around the country that could impact religious freedom.

The Executive Committee met on December 14, 2023 and received the statement of the Orthodox-Catholic Theological Consultation entitled "The Pastoral Care of Mixed Marriages: Neither Yours nor Mine – but Ours" for publication. After hearing updates on the Inter-Parish Association program and Mental Health Ministries, the Bishops approved the 2024 budget.

Please consider helping the Assembly of Bishops meet our immediate programmatic needs: \$50,000 by March 1, 2024 for our Mental Health Ministries; \$30,000 by March 1, 2024 for our Sign Language & Braille Translation Project.

Wishing you a blessed Nativity and a Happy New Year, I remain

Prayerfully yours,

Rev. Nicholas Anton
Director of Operations



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Peace of Mind Update

The Assembly successfully coordinated 7 Peace of Mind events, training a combined total of 141 leaders (69 clergy and 72 lay ministry leaders) in the program's curriculum of Orthodox Bridging and Mental Health First Aid. Since the launch of the program in 2022, the Assembly has now trained a total of 233 leaders and subsidized three events. Projected program development includes a curriculum for youth workers, partnerships with seminaries, and a continuing education course exclusively for clergy who have completed Peace of Mind. Additionally, AoB's Directory of Orthodox Mental Health Professionals has added 35 new clinicians this year and development of a forthcoming book series on faith and mental health is underway.

[Book your Peace of Mind Training Today!](#)

Wisdom on Wheels



Interview with Bishop Nathaniel dropped this quarter!

[View Now](#)

News From Our Agencies



Providing Much-Needed Shelter and Support

IOCC programs in Syria include providing shelter and supplies to people affected by the earthquakes that hit nearly a year ago.

[Learn More](#)



Reimagining Orthodox Campus Ministry

Introducing Campus Missionaries: Campus-Based Staff Dedicated to Guiding Students & Building Disciples

[Learn More](#)



Supporting Local Clergy to Serve Their Flocks

OCMC has long supported local priests through its Support a Mission Priest (SAMP) program, and now new support is being offered to dioceses so that income-generating projects can provide sustainable sources of income for local clergy.

[Learn More](#)



Miracles Take Time

The Very Rev. Fr. John Kowalczyk retells a story of how praying the Jesus Prayer with Ezra in the Mental Health Unit miraculously healed him and brought the two of them together in a beautiful, spiritual bond.

[Read Now](#)



The Child and a child

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, we at OVC remember another child—and a year of growth for our ministry.

[Learn More](#)



Starving to Death in the Cereal Aisle

Overwhelmed by choice and loneliness, young people are facing deep relational poverty. In this post, we see that the Church has a unique opportunity to stand in the gap and welcome young people home.

[Read Now](#)



LATEST NEWS

Assembly of Bishops' Inter-Parish Association Program Receives Major Grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc.

November 29, 2023

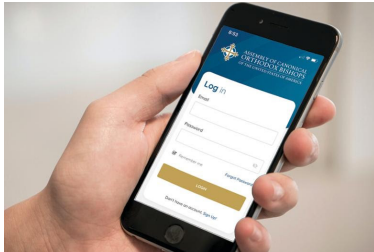
Assembly of Bishops Sends Observers to the USCCB General Assembly

November 14, 2023

Humanitarian Relief Sunday 2023

November 1, 2023

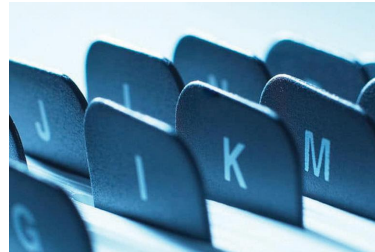
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Assembly of Bishops Mobile App

The Assembly has been looking for a way to better communicate with, and hear from, the faithful. Our new app is now available for download on the Apple App Store and Google Play.

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AoB Directories

Our directories include: Jurisdictions, Bishops, Parishes, Mental Health Professionals, Monastic Communities, Military Chaplains, Theological Schools, Camp Programs and International Assemblies.

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