



Dear Fellow Orthodox Priest and Parish Leaders,

I pray you, your immediate family, as well as your parishioners are well. This letter comes to you in the form of my personal outreach to assist you in the delivery of your sacred ministry for faithful entrusted to your care. I believe after you read this, you will be asking yourself a question. What is taking me so long to set up a media arm in my parish to reach the faithful in a cost effective way?

The Orthodox Christian Network is here to assist you and your community in spreading the message of our sacred faith to the world. Some facts from outside OCN that may cause you to rethink and move into action by getting OCN involved as a partner in your ministry are listed below. If you are already partnering with us, this letter will simply drive home the point that you have made a good decision.

Orthodox Christians represent less than 1% of the entire population in America. This means we are about 500,000 Orthodox Christian in America. Our deaths are up and our baptisms are down. We are not in trouble but we are on a slippery slope; if we don't do something fast, it may be too late to hold on to our sacred faith and mission.

**Just look at these statistics:**

**Teens spend 72 hours on average per week connected to electronic media**

**141 MILLION Americans listen to religious radio at least once a month.**

**80 MILLION Americans listen to Internet radio.**

**23 MILLION Americans download at least one podcast every month.**

**40 MILLION Americans use the Internet to access Church-related audio content.**

**70% of Americans under the age of 30 regularly watch videos on the Internet.**

**31 BILLION Google searches each month**

**Number of text message sent and received everyday exceeds the entire population of the earth.**

**The Internet achieved 50 million users in 5 years. It took the radio 38 years and it took the TV 13 years to reach the same figures.**

**There are about one billion websites running all around the world.**

**Other Christians Media Ministries Annual Budgets-** While other Christian communities continue to grow and prosper because of well-funded media ministries, we continue to "clunk along" trying to do our best with very limited funding.

Approximate annual budgets

**OCN - \$200,000.00**

**EWTN- \$150 Million**

**Focus on the Family- \$250 Million**

## Orthodox Christian Network Facts

Premier Source of Orthodox Christian content

Media Agency of SCOBA and now recognized by the Episcopal Assembly of America

Assistance Ministry to Priests and Parishes to carry the message of the Gospel

Producers of Come Receive the Light- the internationally known weekly radio program

Three Internet Radio Stations 24/7 - Rudder (Traditional), Ark (Contemporary) and Anchor (All Talk)

Customizable Internet Radio Stations for Parishes- the most cost effective way to communicate with the faithful in your parish 24/7. For \$8.22 a day you can have your own 24/7 Parish Radio station.

Travel Blogs- embedded representatives reporting from around the world of Orthodoxy about interesting topics of interest and events.

Web Casts- for shut in, home bound or for those who have to work Sunday mornings to stay connected in some way with their church.

20 Channels of Podcasts including topics such as parenting and spirituality

Over 8000 followers on Facebook and Twitter

Special Assistance to Parishes

DVD Educational Program for Parish Council Members

Posters for Seekers and Believers

Youth Podcasts

Work with and support the ministries of all Orthodox Christian Churches in America and beyond. Also work to promote Episcopal Assembly Agencies (IOCC, OCMC, OCF, OCPM, OCEC).

## How can you promote the use of media in your parish?

Each year parishes across the nation have an annual celebration of **Share the Light Sunday**. This year the date is **January 15, 2012**. Set aside this day to highlight to the faithful the need for and what OCN offers your faithful in the way of keeping them connected to their church. If you cannot celebrate it on January 15 you may choose any other Sunday you want. Please visit our web site for details.

## New Programs in 2012

The New OCN Blog "The Sounding"

OCN Hero

Therefore, my brother in Christ, what are you waiting for? Call us, write us or E-mail us today to see how we can assist you in your sacred ministry. Allow us the opportunity, dear and beloved brother, to serve and aid the spreading and strengthening of our faith.

For the spread of Orthodoxy,

Rev. Dr. Christopher T. Metropulos

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