

20 November, 2014

“And all who believed had everything in common, giving to each as he had need” (Acts 2:44-45). **“He who gathered much had nothing in excess. He who had little, ... experienced no lack”** (II Co. 8:15). **God will richly reward your faith** (II Co. 5:7)!

Dear Reverend Fathers, your blessings!
Brothers and Sisters, we pray you are well.

We invite you to participate in Share The Faith (STF), a Pan-Orthodox Christian charity dedicated to raising funds for struggling clergy faithfully serving in North American missionary situations with great financial need to properly take care of their families and flocks. Many Orthodox Christian priests who have been assigned or called to such very low income situations in America struggle heroically and it is our prayer that you will share their burden, which they faithfully have borne for us.

“I wish your dream to become reality”

– Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago, GOA

“I commend your Orthodox compassion. May God grant you great favor”

– His Grace Bishop Longin, Serbian Orthodox New Gracanica Metropolitanate.

“Share The Faith does something about the tragedy of some Orthodox priests not making but a small percentage of what other priests are able to be compensated”

– Fr. Michael Romanchak, recently passed to life eternal, priest of blessed memory
[Letters available upon request.]

Challenges We Face

We recently heard an OCA hierarch stating that he has at least, 16 priests or priestly candidates in his respective diocese needing assignments but ...there is no provision to offer them. Southern Baptists have over \$50 million devoted each year just for outreach in the United States, while the Church which gave us the Bible with all jurisdictional funds combined, has not allotted 3% this amount! Optimum missionary outreach on this continent requires funds.

To fulfill our Lord's command to help and invite all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth, we need examples who will sacrifice for such a fund to be provided for our clergy ready and willing to give their all. Our volunteer, inter-jurisdictional Board of Directors is only able to deliver grants to such men applying for funding with their respective hierarch's blessing when we have the resources to assist.

Solutions & Goals

While our first goal is doing our part to evangelize America through the production of

heartfelt, simple yet powerful STF written and video blogs, our secondary goal is to direct people to their nearest Orthodox parish whether they are lapsed, baptized who have not yet been motivated to attend and/or seeking non-Orthodox. Both these endeavors lead however, to the need-opportunity of using fully capable men able to offer more full-time ministry but in great need of just one thing to justify this.

Resources: You are the difference maker

With your donations, front-line clergy with families to provide for will be able to offer Christ *and* His saints in places that few if any Orthodox have gone before. Your gift equips these men with the means to be able to lay aside other secular jobs (on loading docks, grocery stores, driving trucks, hard manual labor, bowling alley concession stands, etc.) and put in the necessary hours to spread the full (Orthodox Christian) Gospel of our Lord's light throughout the North American continent, section by section.

We can and will fulfill this vision through *seed monies* that will propel our common dream to success. At least, \$25,000 are needed for us to get adequately organized and effectively market this crucial message. \$2100 are needed to perfect our online presence through social media and web design. \$3400 will enable us to soon produce the very compelling Transfigure America with a main focus on "Solving *Rich Church/ Poor Church: Some Parishes & Married Priests with Families to provide for in Peril*" video bringing national awareness to the dichotomy of some clergy families living in near poverty, in cases, not making 3% of what some of their more fortunate brothers are blessed to be compensated with for church work. Conveying this startling reality alone has the potential to bring our joint work to someday, being a multi-million endowment to the glory of God. Finally, we need a minimum \$300,000 to make available in actual 2015 grants to worthy clergy with families to provide for. To see but a few photos and compelling stories with future progress reports, <http://sharethefait.net/why-give/>.

Will you then, dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, kindly make a donation and/or monthly pledge today to our Orthodox Missionary Priest (OMP) Fund either online via [paypal \[link\]](#) or by regular mail at the above address? As we very possibly, will have devout a Orthodox Christian (perhaps, two) who have committed to matching every donation by March 15th up to \$40,000. Your monthly pledge and/or one-time gift could thus, double!¹ For helpful ideas, see **Transfigure America first 6 months Pledge targets.**

¹ 3/24/15 Important Update: While since the writing of this letter, we have helped four other clergy and advanced administratively, not one penny has yet to be sent from either of these good people: why we need you to consider dear friend of the poor, your best gift and pledge.

Giving generously will give hope to heroic clergy families as well as the people they can reach for all eternity. Help thus, today please, as so many precious people are literally, in the balance of life and death. Together... we can and will make this dream reality!

Respectfully in Christ, Board of Directors for Share The Faith Ministries,² vowing to work for the very maximum effectiveness of your hard-earned donations

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² Newly established non-profit in the state of Illinois and awaiting approval of recently submitted application for 501c3 status with the IRS, which will make your donations fully tax-deductible, STF Ministries' goal is to earn the endorsement of the Assembly of Bishops ideally, within 2 years. We welcome and need your support in all ways including possibly, serving:

* As a member of our *Board of Directors*

* On our *Advisory Council* as well as

* As a Connector of people in your area of Canada, the US or Mexico via our **Orthodox America** Fellowship of Jesus Christ and all saints of North America [**Orthodox America coordinator app**]
Or *Any other ways you feel called* to share time, talents and treasures for the kingdom of God.