

## UN International Literacy Day



Today, Sept. 8, marks UN International Literacy Day, first observed in 1966.

This year's annual commemoration has been designated as a day of "Literacy teaching and learning amid the COVID-19 crisis and beyond".

On their part, Orthodox churches around the world have long promoted literacy programs by operating schools, especially in areas beset by poverty and deprivation.

The Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa, for instance, is on the forefront of efforts to combat illiteracy in sub-Saharan Africa, through its numerous missionary works.

The Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Greece, meanwhile, operates after-school tutorial classes and other educational initiatives, which after the outbreak of the pandemic are all conducted over the Internet.